



THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF SEBASTIAN, FL

~~~ NEWSLETTER ~~~

Meeting 12 Noon, 2nd - last Wednesdays of the Month

Captain Hiram's Tiffany Room, Sebastian, Florida

Volume 22, Issue 14

July 31, 2022



Youth Guidance C.A.P. Center

Phil Barnes reports that the Youth Guidance facility is officially becoming a C.A.P. (Child Abuse Prevention) Center by the end of this month! It will be the only center in Indian River County, since the Exchange Club C.A.S.T.L.E. was dissolved. Our club made a \$15,000 donation at our July 13th meeting for the new C.A.P. Center. The center encourages parent involvement offering training in homes as well as programs at the facility and with community partners for building life skills. The facility is located at 1028 20th Place in Vero Beach. A capital campaign will begin soon for much needed renovations for a face lift and to make more usable space for programs. A core component of Youth Guidance is an at home intervention staff who give parent coaching and support. Phil has completed training and will be working with staff to train them as Parent Aides who will spend 2 hours a week giving in-home support to the families to advocate for the kids. If you are interested in becoming a Parent Aide or serving on the Youth Guidance Board of Directors, contact Phil for more information.

This and That

Ali Qizilbash needs assistance with booking speakers. Suggestions are appreciated. Please contact Ali if you are able to help him find interesting speakers.

Phil Barnes says the Junior Blue Water Open is scheduled for October. Meetings will begin in August. Contact Phil to assist.

Michelle Morris is challenging each member to sell five of our Blue Water Open T-shirts. Due to the rainy weather during our tournament our sales were down. There are V-neck, long sleeve and short sleeve available priced at \$20 long sleeve and \$15 short sleeve.

Rene VanDeVoorde says the Fellsmere Club is planning to celebrate their 15th Anniversary. More information about a celebration will be announced.

Margie Duffell and Kathy Burns need assistance with the two Excel Club meetings which will meet once a month at each school beginning this fall. Diane Croteau has offered to assist. Contact Margie or Kathy if you can help, too!



Phil Barnes, Executive Director of Youth Guidance accepts our \$15,000 donation from President Fred Jones



Excel Club of Sebastian River High School



Jr. Excel Club of Sebastian Charter Junior High School

Student orientation is on Wednesday August 3rd. We have several volunteers who will man our booth to promote new membership.

Volunteers are needed to assist with helping the students at both schools achieve activities which represent the four pillars of Exchange. Any member willing to assist should contact Margie Duffell or Kathy Burns.

The Exchange Club of Sebastian, P.O. Box 781155, Sebastian, FL 32978-1155

Find us on Facebook

Community Giving

On July 13th we presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Donald Hart, Hart & Soul. Donald heads up this mentoring program for boys ages 10-18. Working through area schools and with parents, Hart and Soul mentors encourage the boys not to accept failure, but instead to focus on what they can achieve in life.



Donald Hart with Fred Jones



Guest Speaker Series

On July 20th our guest speakers were Angel Pietsch, Executive Director and Cheryl Goff, Director of Little Birthday Angels. Little Birthday Angels began in 2014 when Angel and her family learned that a local shelter did not have funds to celebrate a young girl's birthday. That was the inspiration from which the organization grew that is now celebrating one birthday at a time for homeless children living in our community.



Angel Pietsch and Cheryl Goff with Fred Jones



August Birthdays

Laura Luetzger	08/01
Scott Thiel	08/05
Lori Reilly	08/15
Ellen VanDeVoorde	08/22
Eva Chapman	08/23
Kathy Gutierrez	08/24



August Anniversaries

Phil Barnes (Youth Guidance)	5 Years
Sebastian Police (Dan Acosta, Donald Hart, Todd Finnegan)	6 Years
Kathy Gutierrez	37 Years

There are over 3000 homeless kids grades K-12 in Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin Counties. Birthday Angels is a 501(c)3 organization which now serves 550 homeless kids through 40 schools and 6 shelters. Through connections with shelters and the school districts Birthday Angels provides celebrations for these children. Those in shelters are given cupcakes, goody bags and birthday gifts in a decorated party room. Through the school district's homeless advocate, children are provided with a large duffel bag full of new necessities – toiletries, socks, a bible, devotional reading book, stuffed animals, an outfit, sneakers, blankets, school supplies,

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2022-2023 Officers for the Exchange Club of Sebastian

President - Frederick Jones President Elect - Susan Baran
 Secretary - Eva Chapman Treasurer - Diana Best
 Foundation Treasurer - Kathy Burns Newsletter Editor - Margie Duffell
 Division Director (District 7) - Rene VanDeVoorde District President – Steve Rawlins
 District Treasurer – Jose Ortiz District Secretary – Shirley Sims
 District President Elect – Gem Mann
 District Immediate Past President – Joe Walsh

lap desk and items from a personal wish list providing age, gender and sizes. There is a Birthday Work Shop at the Indian River Mall where volunteers wrap, package and distribute items. The workshop has a drop off area for donations or volunteers can pick up. There is also an opportunity to shop on Amazon and have the items delivered directly to them. Angel says "Every homeless child deserves to feel special on "their" day. "Their" day is a gift from God that deserves to be celebrated."

Cheryl Goff told us about an upcoming fundraising event, "Battle of Realtors - Celebrating Homeless Children" Bowling Tournament to be held on October 13th at Vero Bowl. Sponsorships are available. For more information about how you can help visit www.littlebirthdayangels.org.

On July 27th our guest speaker was Kathy Hill, Deputy Director of One Lagoon, the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program. National Estuary Programs (NEPs) function under a unique governance structure called a Management Conference that gives local partners a voice in the decision-making process. NEPs involve and coordinate among stakeholders at all levels: federal, state, county, city, and citizen to ensure that local issues are managed by bringing all stakeholders to the table to work out solutions that are consensus-driven and based on sound science. The goal is ecosystem restoration.

The Indian River Lagoon is 156 miles long with 5 inlets and 2285 square miles. It encompasses 7 counties and generates \$1.7 billion in annual revenues. There are two types of impacts that effect the quality of the lagoon ecosystem:

- Shocks - (Storms, hurricanes, discharges)
- Chronic – (nutrients, habitat loss, muck, wetland loss, invasive species, toxicants, global climate change)

The crux of the problem is increasing population, houses and channels. Lake Okeechobee's dikes must have water released when the water level rises above 17 feet. These discharges often contain nutrients. However, there have been no releases from Lake Okeechobee since 2020.

In 2009 the seagrass growth was at its peak. In 2011 the superbloom began to stunt the seagrass growth, and there have been numerous impacts on the lagoon. More currently in 2020-21 the manatee had an unusually high mortality rate which continues into 2022. The Florida Wildlife Commission may decide to continue feeding the manatee again this year. Although seagrass growth is still struggling, algae bloom and fish kill have lessened and there have been fewer manatee deaths. Ms. Hill says now the lagoon progress "is in a good place, and we are hopeful to keep it in place."

For more information visit the facebook page for One Lagoon or www.onelagoon.org.



Kathy Hill, Deputy Director of One Lagoon with Ali Qizilbash



Sebastian Police COPE News

Our club has donated \$250 to the upcoming Community Oriented Policing Endeavor (C.O.P.E) Unit's **Back to School Fun Day** at the Barber Street Sports Complex. In accepting our contribution, Chief Dan Acosta thanked us for our continued support as one of the C.O.P.E. Unit's biggest contributors to its mission of bringing 'Unity to the Community!' Chief Acosta said our support helps to "give back to the community and to the children."

On August 5th there will be a live DJ and free hotdogs, chips, popcorn, and even snow cones! There will also be some games and water activities, as well as giving away some school supplies. Bring the kids and come on out!



Sebastian Police Chief Dan Acosta with Fred Jones

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2022-2023 Board of Directors

Congratulations to our new board and thank you all for serving our club:



Top Row L-R Diana Best, Secretary, Scott Theil, Karen McElveen, Phil Barnes, Eva Chapman, Secretary, Kathy Burns.
Seated L-R Rene VanDeVoorde Division 7 Director & Installing Officer, Johnathan Rhodeback, Past President, Susan Baran, President-Elect, Frederick Jones, President, and Michelle Morris.



District Director Rene's Corner



Scholarship awards were given on Tuesday April 19th at the Sebastian River High School Performing Arts Center. Total scholarships for this year total \$10,000. The Scholarship Committee has chosen the following graduating seniors for this year's awards:

Logan Berman	\$2,000
Lucas Busch	\$2,000
Adam Chester	\$1,000
Marilyn Chrobak	\$1,000
Lillian Denning	\$2,000
Taylor Sturgeon	\$1,000
Andrea Zamus	\$1,000 (The Rappy Perez Award)



3rd Qtr. Visitors - Please Come Again!

07/20/22 - Brent & Emily Bowers (Susan Baran)
07/20/22 - Bobby Murphy (Susan Baran)
07/27/22 - Lezlee Sabo (Kathy Falzone)
07/27/22 - Aam Gouldsberry (Kathy Gutierrez)



Calendar of Events

August

08/03 - No Meeting (Board Only)
08/10 - TBA
08/17 - Verna Wright, Daisy Hope Center

Stay Cool!



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