



THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF SEBASTIAN, FL

~~~ NEWSLETTER ~~~

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

Captain Hiram's Tiffany Room, Sebastian, Florida

Volume 23, Issue 02

January 31, 2023



Students of the Month

OUR YOUTH OF THE MONTH AWARD recognizes hard-working pre-high school and high school students who attain high levels of scholastic achievement, community involvement and leadership, and daily demonstrate good citizenship both at school and at home. Students recognized for the month of January were **Melanie Sanchez** from **Sebastian River Middle School**, **Giovanni Russo** from **Sebastian Charter Junior High School** and **Christopher Cummings** and **Kaley Hellyer** from **Sebastian River High School**. Also joining us was **E'Mani Pryor**, December student of the month from **Storm Grove Middle School**.



Fred Jones, E'Mani Pryor, Melanie Sanchez, Kaley Hellyer, Christopher Cummings, Giovanni Russo with Adam Preuss

Melanie Sanchez is a pleasure to have class this year. She is a wonderful example of the IB MYP program by being a role model to her peers and helping her teachers. She always enters class with a positive attitude and often gets right to work, which shows her hardworking attitude and determination to succeed. She's an excellent communicator, she's caring, she principled, she's balanced, and she's a risk-taker. She's the type of student that you wish you had a class full of students like her. Melanie's willingness to advocate for her needs whenever she does not understand an assignment or lab procedure is admirable.

Melanie spent a vast amount of time and effort into her Science Fair Project this year, confidently presenting it. As a result she will be representing SRMS at the District Science Fair at the end of this month. Outside of the classroom, Melanie is also a kind young woman with a bright future ahead of her. She is well deserving of this honor.

Giovanni Russo is respectful, responsible, inquisitive and a strong leader. He is enrolled in all advanced courses and works hard to maintain his A-Honor Roll grades. He exhibits man outstanding character traits. Even with challenging tasks he is determined to succeed in anything that he does and never gives up. Not only is he a model student, but he is also always willing to help others. His classmates and friends also used the terms stellar, respectful, outstanding to describe his demeanor and upstanding character. He is an executive officer of National Junior Honor Society and his collaborative efforts have helped to redefine that organization. He is always smiling and brings positivity each and every day. He is trustworthy, dependable and understanding. His leadership and citizenship shine at SCJH as a role model to peers. He is a young man that has made great strides. In accepting his award he thanked our club, his teachers and his parents for their support and said, "I am extremely grateful."

Kaley Hellyer is a K-12 IB Diploma Candidate with a weighted GPA of 4.561 and class rank of 15th. She is a member of the National Honor Society and has received the SRHS Scholar Athlete Award for Lacrosse and basketball (all 3 years). She is a Varsity Athlete in both lacrosse and basketball and was Captain of both her junior year. Kaley tutors all subjects for classmates and other students at SRHS. She volunteers with food drives and beach cleanups and is organizing a lacrosse camp for middle school girls. She also works 3-4 days per week at Mr. Manatees. She has been accepted to UNF, Rollins, FL Gulf Coast and waiting to hear from Miami and UF. In accepting her award Kaley thanked our club and her advisors and her parents for all their support on this "wild ride" to her senior year.

Christopher Cummings Is also a K-12 IB Diploma Candidate with a weighted GPA of 4.675 and class rank of 3rd. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Excel Club, an AP Scholar, a 4-year percussion member of the SRHS Pride and Marching Sharks Band, a varsity athlete in track for 4 years, and varsity basketball for 3 years, serving as captain his sophomore and junior years and is senior class representative.

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

Find us on Facebook

He volunteers at his Church by playing the piano and drums and helps prepare Thanksgiving baskets for the needy. He also works at Casual Males outlet in Vero Beach. In accepting his award Christopher thanked our club, his advisors "for his prestigious award," and his parents who are "his backbone." **Christopher** has applied to UF, Miami, UNF, USF and Georgia Tech to study pre-med.

E'Mani Pryor is a stellar leader at Storm Grove Middle School. She is a member of the volley ball team and basket ball teams. She accepts last minute assignments willingly. She has been partnered to mentor 6th graders and reaches out to help her peers. Her future is "super bright." In accepting her award E'Mani thanked her mom and dad, teachers and our club for this honor.



Guest Speaker Series

On January 25th our guest speaker was Kim Frodge, Executive Director of Nana's House, a 501(c)3 organization which provides a safe and loving Christian home environment for foster children ages 0-19. Ms. Frodge's dream of creating this facility began 17 years ago. The first home was purchased as a foreclosure needing extensive renovation. This and all future dwellings were completed by 100% donation of money and or materials and labor. Today the 7-acre gated community consists of 8 homes which each shelter 5 children and their foster parents in traditional family style. The homes are designed with open spaces for full family interaction. There is a community building with a music & dance center area, and where life skills like cooking and sewing are taught. There are also a pavilion, playground area and swimming pool where swimming lessons are taught to all the kids. Now Nana's House partners with **One More Child** and is serving 13 families, both in and off campus. Siblings are kept together in the homes.

All donations continue to be used 100% for the kids and their needs. Gifts of money, meals, essential supplies are greatly appreciated. Volunteers are also needed to man the thrift store.

For more information on this organization follow them on Facebook @NanasHouseBrevard or contact 321-724-5111.

On January 25th we presented Ms. Frodge with a check for \$5,000 for Nana's House. In accepting her check she said, "Thank you for all the years of providing to us. We could not do without and truly appreciate it. Thank you for blessing the children – we will use this frugally."



Kim Frodge with Johnathan Rhodeback



Sebastian Police News

On February 25th we awarded \$1,000 to the Sebastian Police Special Response Team to assist with purchase of needed equipment for their work. In accepting the check Captain Tim Wood thanked us saying, "We are grateful for this generous gift allowing us to purchase special equipment."



Johnathan Rhodeback presents to Corporal Mark Richards and Captain Tim Wood

The Exchange Club Mission Statement: *Exchange, Americas' Service Club, is a group of men and women working together to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, Community Service, Youth Activities, and its' national project, the Prevention of Child Abuse.*

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 7/8) – Nancy Madsen District President – Steve Rawlins
 District Treasurer – Jose Ortiz District Secretary – Shirley Sims
 District President Elect – Gem Mann
 District Immediate Past President – Joe Walsh
 Region 9 Vice President – Kim Prado



Hart & Soul Update

On January 11th Donald Hart gave us an update on his organization, Hart & Soul, a 501(c)3 mentoring program he organized in 2020 for boys ages 10-18. This is an in-school program where mentors work with the kids (and families) to develop leadership skills, personal life skills and financial literacy. The kids are treated to a special event day before school starts, holiday meals for their families as well as shopping outings where they can practice budgeting skills. There are currently 25 kids in the program, 17 of which attend Vero Beach High School. The total cost to sponsor a child is \$50 which includes a tee-shirt. Donations are needed and very much appreciated. If you are interested in assisting, contact Donald at 772-633-4642.

This and That

Donald Hart announced the Sebastian Police Department will begin its Citizens Academy on February 20th. It will run each Thursday evening from 6-8 p.m. through May 11th. This educates citizens on how the police department functions. If you are interested contact 772-589-5233.

Joy Votrobek announced an upcoming 5K run on May 26th to benefit the American Security Council. Contact Joy for more information at 772-388-2490.

Michelle Morris says that the 2023 Blue Water Open will be held on 06/02/23 and 06/03/23 with a rain date of 06/10/23. She will need someone to chair the trip ticket sales effort. **We will need all new logos from sponsors this year. The format can be Ai, vector, png or pdf (NOT JPEG), so please secure these from your sponsors.** Committee meeting dates will be announced soon. Rachel Cannon has volunteered to head up trip ticket sales!

Ali Qizilbash needs suggestions for booking speakers. If you have someone of interest please let him know. Suggestions are appreciated.

Fred Jones announced that our club will participate in another collaborative effort in funding a Freedom Shrine at the Bracket Library in Vero Beach.

Rene VanDeVoorde is asking for volunteers to assist with selecting students that will receive scholarships. Applications will be reviewed based on merit and need. Contact Rene if interested.



1st Qtr. Visitors - Please Come Again!

- 01-11-23 Judy Landgrave, District 7/8 Awards Chairman
- 01-11-23 Nancy Madsen, District 7/8 Division Director
- 01-25-23 Nancy Eisele (Joy Votrobek)
- 01/25/23 SPD Capt. Wood & Corp. Richards (Rachel Cannon)



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! It is 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. The first Parent Aide has been paired with a family and will spend 2 hours a week giving in-home support to the families to advocate for the kids. They will start with one family and build from there.



February Birthdays

Jan Malcom	02/02
Johnathan Rhodeback	02/04
Terry Gardner	02/06
Eric Flowers	02/17



February Anniversaries

Seacoast Bank (Terry Gardner)	7 Years
Paul Williamson	10 Years



Calendar of Events

February

- 02/01 - No Meeting (Board Only)
- 02/08 - Pastor Joe Everington, Chum Bucket
- 02/15 - Students
- 02/22 - Freddie Woolfork, GYAC
- 02/29 - TBD

March

- 03/01 - No Meeting (Board Only)



Jr. Excel Club of Sebastian Charter Junior High School



2022-2023 Club Officers L-R: Treasurer Allie Boogaerts, Secretary Giovanni Russo, President-Elect Maya Corley and President Shane Corley

In January they planned upcoming speakers and events. In February Officer Donald Hart will present on his Mother's and Dad's legacy in the Gifford area and on his organization Hart & Soul (Pillars – Americanism & Community) They are also planning a school wide Easter Egg hunt in April and will be planning that in February and March (Pillar - Youth). Club members have earned 7 patches since the beginning of the school year, at least one in each of the 4 Pillars of Exchange! The School Advisor is Skye DeVarney who has returned this year and is enthusiastic about rebuilding this club! The next meeting is January 18th.



Excel Club of Sebastian River High School

At our January meetings members planned more events which fall under the four pillars of Exchange. The club has earned 4 patches since the beginning of the year in 2 of the 4 Pillars of Exchange! Meetings will continue every other Wednesday at the school at 2:00 p.m. The School Advisor is Jaime Sturgeon who is enthusiastic about rebuilding this club!



2022-23 Club Officers L-R President Desiree White, President-Elect Conrad Silvester, Secretary Margaret Alexandre, Treasurer Aveyrey Locuiao, and Historian Haley Macleary



SCJHS 2022 Christmas Parade Entry

happy Valentine's day

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