



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 05

March 15, 2023



Guest Speaker Series

On March 8th our guest speaker was Wayne Eseltine, Building Official and Fire Marshall for the City of Sebastian. Wayne has been with the city for 18 years, having joined in August, 2004 just after the Hurricanes Francis and Jean visited our coast. So he began his position by embarking on a 5 year recovery effort.

The Building Official's job is to enforce the Florida Building Code in issuing permits. There are eight separate code books issued by the state depending on the nature of the improvements – ranging from interior and exterior renovations to all new construction. The department reviews the applications and plans for approval and completes inspections to issue final approval and certificates of occupancy. In situations that are difficult to interpret the codes there are collaborative groups like the Treasure Coast Builder's Association and The Building Officials Association of Florida that can be consulted. Information can be documented to use moving forward.

Inspectors are difficult to find. Each must have at least 5 years of experience and then pass a rigorous exam demonstrating knowledge of the codes. Last year 4226 permits were issued of which 226 were for new family homes. The department averages 71 inspections per day. Plan review time goal is 2-30 days depending on the size of the project.

The Fire Marshall position was created in 2018 to take the burden from Indian River County and have a more streamlined one stop shop. The Fire Marshall conducts inspections and reviews of critical facilities to ensure safety using compliance engineering programs. A life safety tracking system is in place throughout the city to make sure all is in order.

Wayne warned about using unlicensed contractors. Without a licensed contractor who is bonded and insured an individual could be held liable for injury or damage to property and risk having shoddy work. The goal of the Building Official and Fire Marshall is to continue to keep Sebastian a safe place to work and play."



Wayne Eseltine with Ali Qizilbash



Students of the Month



Acting Student Coordinator Ali Qizilbash with Isaiah Cummings, Kathleen Bender, Grace DeVarney, Lawrence Kim, Morgan Ransom and President Fred Jones

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

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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 March were **Grace DeVarney** of **Sebastian Charter Junior High School**, **Isaiah Cummings** of **Sebastian River Middle School**, **Kathryn Bender** of **Storm Grove Middle School** and **Lawrence Kim** and **Morgan Ransom** of **Sebastian River High School**.

Grace DeVarney takes advanced and high school courses all while maintaining straight A's. She is naturally gifted in math. Not only is she an exceptional student, but Grace is also an active member of her school community. She is a member of the Excel Club and volunteers her time before, during, and after school. When one thinks of character traits—respect, responsibility, caring, trustworthiness, citizenship, fairness. Grace encompasses them all. She is kind and helpful to everyone. She is also very observant about the world and is firm in her beliefs. When met with a challenge, Grace is determined to succeed and meet any goal she has set for herself. She is a model citizen with a curious mind, sweet disposition, and kind heart. She has an extremely bright future ahead of her. She is becoming a strong person and is going to do great in high school and beyond.

If you engage Grace in conversation you'll sense genuine compassion in her bright eyes. You'll also find that Grace is inquisitive, reflective, and passionate about school and life. Academically, Grace holds herself to the highest of standards. She uses a steady approach to achieve high academic goals and leverages the ability to be both a friend and a helping hand to those around her. She is the epitome of the quote "Character is what you do when no one is watching." In accepting her award Grace admitted she was challenged when her family moved back to Sebastian during her 8th grade year. She acknowledged her parents and teachers for their support in "getting me where I am today."

Kathryn Bender is a diligent student and all around great student. She is humble, amenable and always a pleasure and easy to talk to. She is always willing to help others. She is a member of Storm Grove's Florida Future Educators of America Club and loves to play beach volleyball. In accepting her award she thanked our club her friends, teachers and family for "always being there for me and pushing me to be who I am today."

Isaiah Cummings is a wonderful young man and an excellent and very mature student who is highly cooperative and hard

working. Moreover, Isaiah's academic performance stands within the top of SRMS' 8th grade class. He has shown a remarkable willingness to participate and lead other students to perform better. He likes to eloquently participate in class discussions, and provides a great role model for other students to emulate. He does his best every day and works hard to be a successful student. Isaiah will ask questions and has the determination to work through difficult content. That kind of perseverance will serve him well in both his academic future and his life beyond school.

Isaiah is a very balanced student. He knows how to balance the rigors of his advanced classes with the rigors of his extracurricular activities. Not only is Isaiah a member of the IB program at Sebastian River Middle School, he is also a 3-year member of the SRMS Band, a 3-year member of the SRMS Boys' Basketball team (having made the team as a 6th grader, which is very difficult to do), and a member of the Indians Recreational Football Team. Isaiah possesses many wonderful talents. He is intelligent, articulate, and extremely athletic. He is a hard-working, focused young man. His positive leadership is a valuable asset in the classroom. He understands what it means to have good character, credibility and integrity. Isaiah is the epitome of what an IB student should be. He is well-deserving of this honor. In accepting his award. In accepting his award Isaiah thanked our club, his teachers and family for "encouraging me to achieve the greatest."

Morgan Ransom is an IB Diploma Candidate ranked 16th in her class. She is the treasurer of the SRHS National Honor Society, an Honors Graduate with Merit Diploma Designation. She has been accepted into the FAN Program at UNF (Freshman Admit Program) which is extremely competitive nursing program. She assisted Harbor Branch (Florida Atlantic University) to help the Indian River Land Trust figure out the best viable way to conserve and care for the native Giant Blue Crab, and was in their Junior Scientist Program in 2021-22. Morgan is a member of the SRHS Excel Club and a Varsity Athlete in Weightlifting and Lacrosse. She has volunteered in beach cleanups, has been a Science Fair judge, and assisted in helping the elderly cleanup after hurricanes. Her hobbies include going to the beach and paddleboarding. In accepting her award she thanked her parents, teachers and advisors and our club "for the opportunity to be here."

Lawrence Kim is an IB Diploma Candidate in the top 5% of his class. He is a member of the National Honor Society, is a Florida Boys State Delegate and a 2022 Naval Academy Summer Seminar Candidate. Lawrence is a member of NJROTC and is an Instructional Technologies Officer, a National Scholar Recipient

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.*

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Secretary - Eva Chapman Treasurer - Diana Best
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and an Executive Officer of the Air Rifle Team, Academic Team, and Cyberpatriot Team. He earned the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal. He holds a 1st Degree Karate blackbelt and participated in the International Sport Karate Association Tournament finishing as Grand Champion in sparring; and in forms. He was a Bronze medal winner at the International Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Federation Tournament. He is also a varsity tennis player. ROTC Commander Bissonnette says Lawrence far exceeds meeting the challenge of doing the right thing every day. In accepting his award, Lawrence announced that after graduation he will be attending the US Naval Academy and study engineering. He thanked our club, his advisors and his parents for their support saying, "this is a true honor and great milestone."



Community Outreach

On March 10th several of our members participated in the Community Resource Fair sponsored by United Against Poverty with many non-profits participating. Our club was the only north county non-profit organization attending. The event was open to the public for information about what is offered the County.



Sebastian Police News

Chief Daniel Acosta and Mayor Fred Jones were among the dignitaries in attendance for the recent unveiling of a new POW * MIA statue in the City of Sebastian. The project has been in progress for a couple of years and many citizens were in attendance for the special ceremony.

Past Commander Peter Puzzo spoke about the Prisoner of War/Mission in Action monument. "Today, we specifically honor those heroes and Patriots," said Puzzo. "We keep their memories alive until they are all brought home."

Puzzo said the brass stars on the Prisoner of War/Mission in Action monument are melted-down brass made from the grommets of American flags retrieved after they were retired from service. "Thereby showing that our flag never dies," he

said. In 2014, the idea to bring a stone monument honoring those of POW/MIA was from Puzzo, funded through local donations. Since WWI, more than 82,000 Americans are still unaccounted for from wars and conflicts.



Sebastian Police Chief Dan Acosta with Sebastian Mayor Fred Jones

The Sebastian Police Department COPE Unit also attend the Indian River County Sheriff's Barbeque during the month of February.



Sergeant Todd Finnegan, Officer Donald Hart and Officer Bill Jursek with cadets and other police department employees attending the IRC Sheriff's Barbeque Event



Community Giving

On March 15th we presented SRHS Principal Cummings and Assistant Principal Van Bremmer with a check for \$1,000 for the 2023 Academic Excellence Awards Ceremony. This is the second year for this program which recognizes those students who achieve good grades throughout the year. Mr. Van Bremmer thanked our club and members in the business community for supporting this program. Our club covered 1/3 of the cost last year. Mr. Bremmer said, "We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity."

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Blue Water Open

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. **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. We have collected \$5,600 in sponsorships so far with \$7,000 committed!** Committee meeting dates will be announced soon. Rachel Cannon has volunteered to head up trip ticket sales. Tickets are in for the raffle with a choice of 3 destinations valued at \$5,000 each or \$3,500 in cash. See Rachel to get your tickets.



Sebastian River High School Assistant Principal Kevin Van Bremmer and Principal Christopher Cummings accepting our contribution

This and That

Joy Votrobek announced an upcoming 5K run on May 26th at the North County Aquatic Center to benefit the American Security Council. You can sign up at www.ascf.us or contact Joy for further information at 772-388-2490.

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. We will also have the Memory Field Flag display at Riverview Park from April 1-15th. Volunteers will be needed to help set up the flags.

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

SEBASTIAN EXCHANGE CLUB CHARITY RAFFLE
BLUE WATER OPEN CHARITY RAFFLE
WIN A DREAM VACATION!

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO Aug 5-7, 2023
 3 Nights • 4 Nights • 5 Nights • 6 Nights • 7 Nights • 8 Nights • 9 Nights • 10 Nights • 11 Nights • 12 Nights • 13 Nights • 14 Nights • 15 Nights • 16 Nights • 17 Nights • 18 Nights • 19 Nights • 20 Nights • 21 Nights • 22 Nights • 23 Nights • 24 Nights • 25 Nights • 26 Nights • 27 Nights • 28 Nights • 29 Nights • 30 Nights • 31 Nights • 32 Nights • 33 Nights • 34 Nights • 35 Nights • 36 Nights • 37 Nights • 38 Nights • 39 Nights • 40 Nights • 41 Nights • 42 Nights • 43 Nights • 44 Nights • 45 Nights • 46 Nights • 47 Nights • 48 Nights • 49 Nights • 50 Nights • 51 Nights • 52 Nights • 53 Nights • 54 Nights • 55 Nights • 56 Nights • 57 Nights • 58 Nights • 59 Nights • 60 Nights • 61 Nights • 62 Nights • 63 Nights • 64 Nights • 65 Nights • 66 Nights • 67 Nights • 68 Nights • 69 Nights • 70 Nights • 71 Nights • 72 Nights • 73 Nights • 74 Nights • 75 Nights • 76 Nights • 77 Nights • 78 Nights • 79 Nights • 80 Nights • 81 Nights • 82 Nights • 83 Nights • 84 Nights • 85 Nights • 86 Nights • 87 Nights • 88 Nights • 89 Nights • 90 Nights • 91 Nights • 92 Nights • 93 Nights • 94 Nights • 95 Nights • 96 Nights • 97 Nights • 98 Nights • 99 Nights • 100 Nights

ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA Sep 16-18, 2023
 3 Nights • 4 Nights • 5 Nights • 6 Nights • 7 Nights • 8 Nights • 9 Nights • 10 Nights • 11 Nights • 12 Nights • 13 Nights • 14 Nights • 15 Nights • 16 Nights • 17 Nights • 18 Nights • 19 Nights • 20 Nights • 21 Nights • 22 Nights • 23 Nights • 24 Nights • 25 Nights • 26 Nights • 27 Nights • 28 Nights • 29 Nights • 30 Nights • 31 Nights • 32 Nights • 33 Nights • 34 Nights • 35 Nights • 36 Nights • 37 Nights • 38 Nights • 39 Nights • 40 Nights • 41 Nights • 42 Nights • 43 Nights • 44 Nights • 45 Nights • 46 Nights • 47 Nights • 48 Nights • 49 Nights • 50 Nights • 51 Nights • 52 Nights • 53 Nights • 54 Nights • 55 Nights • 56 Nights • 57 Nights • 58 Nights • 59 Nights • 60 Nights • 61 Nights • 62 Nights • 63 Nights • 64 Nights • 65 Nights • 66 Nights • 67 Nights • 68 Nights • 69 Nights • 70 Nights • 71 Nights • 72 Nights • 73 Nights • 74 Nights • 75 Nights • 76 Nights • 77 Nights • 78 Nights • 79 Nights • 80 Nights • 81 Nights • 82 Nights • 83 Nights • 84 Nights • 85 Nights • 86 Nights • 87 Nights • 88 Nights • 89 Nights • 90 Nights • 91 Nights • 92 Nights • 93 Nights • 94 Nights • 95 Nights • 96 Nights • 97 Nights • 98 Nights • 99 Nights • 100 Nights

CELEBRITY BEYOND CRUISE Feb 9-19, 2024
 10 Nights • 11 Nights • 12 Nights • 13 Nights • 14 Nights • 15 Nights • 16 Nights • 17 Nights • 18 Nights • 19 Nights • 20 Nights • 21 Nights • 22 Nights • 23 Nights • 24 Nights • 25 Nights • 26 Nights • 27 Nights • 28 Nights • 29 Nights • 30 Nights • 31 Nights • 32 Nights • 33 Nights • 34 Nights • 35 Nights • 36 Nights • 37 Nights • 38 Nights • 39 Nights • 40 Nights • 41 Nights • 42 Nights • 43 Nights • 44 Nights • 45 Nights • 46 Nights • 47 Nights • 48 Nights • 49 Nights • 50 Nights • 51 Nights • 52 Nights • 53 Nights • 54 Nights • 55 Nights • 56 Nights • 57 Nights • 58 Nights • 59 Nights • 60 Nights • 61 Nights • 62 Nights • 63 Nights • 64 Nights • 65 Nights • 66 Nights • 67 Nights • 68 Nights • 69 Nights • 70 Nights • 71 Nights • 72 Nights • 73 Nights • 74 Nights • 75 Nights • 76 Nights • 77 Nights • 78 Nights • 79 Nights • 80 Nights • 81 Nights • 82 Nights • 83 Nights • 84 Nights • 85 Nights • 86 Nights • 87 Nights • 88 Nights • 89 Nights • 90 Nights • 91 Nights • 92 Nights • 93 Nights • 94 Nights • 95 Nights • 96 Nights • 97 Nights • 98 Nights • 99 Nights • 100 Nights

\$5000.00 TOTAL VALUE
\$3500.00 CASH VALUE
Grand Prize Drawing
JUNE 3, 2023 6:00PM
at CAPTAIN HIRAM'S RESORT
 \$25 per entry - \$100 gets 5 tickets
 *Do Not Have To Be Present To Win

PUT TOGETHER YOUR OWN VACATION
 You Pick - Justine or Seaworld
 \$5000.00 Towards Any Travel Options
 Custom Take Your Own Vacation or Join a Pre-Packaged Trip
 If The Grand Total is Over \$5000.00, Winner Pays Difference

Proceeds dedicated to prevention of child abuse and other related activities

Diana Best and Terry Gardner will be working on volunteers – if you have a favorite spot let them know so your place will be reserved!

Karen McElveen is making up our raffle baskets. These baskets are a huge addition to our income and items are needed. Please collect items for the basket and when you are out and about pick up restaurant gift certificates and coupons too!

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Johnathan Rhodeback is collecting for our Cooler of Cheer, another huge money maker for our BWO. Please bring your donation of fine wines or liquors to Johnathan at any luncheon meeting or at his office.

There are still 2022 BWO T-shirts available - \$10 short sleeve and \$15 long sleeve. Contact Michelle to order yours.



Welcome New Members

On March 8th we installed Sherrie Matthews as our newest member. Please introduce yourself to Sherrie and welcome her to our club!



Fred Jones with Sherrie Matthews



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)
- 02/08/23 Sherry Matthews (Michelle Morris)
- 02/15/23 Lou Navarro reMax Crown (Jan Malcolm)
- 02/15/23 Charla Frederick (Joy Votrobek)
- 02/22/23 Debbie Butler & Melissa Winstead (Karen McElveen)
- 02/22/23 Angelia Perry GYAC (Ali Qizilbash)
- 03/08/23 Pastor Craig Szeman, Calvery (Susan Baran)
- 03/08/23 Frank Nolan (Adam Preuss)
- 03/15/23 Marybeth Verde, Marine Bank (Eva Chapman)
- 03/15/23 Leigh Swanson (Margie Duffell)



Youth Guidance C.A.P. Center

The Youth Guidance facility is the only CAP (Child Abuse Prevention) center in Indian River County. Our club was the sponsor for getting Youth Guidance set up as an official CAP center. The center encourages parent involvement

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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. The goal is to have 6-8 families this first year. Youth Guidance is working with the Children's Healing Institute and other National Exchange CAP centers to tap in on ideas.



Jr. Excel Club of Sebastian Charter Junior High School



Sebastian Police Officer Donald Hart flanked by members of the SCJHS Junior Excel Club

In March Officer Donald Hart presented on his mother's and father's legacy in the Gifford area, on the SPD COPE unit role in the community and his organization **Hart & Soul** (Pillars – Americanism & Community). They are also planning a school wide Easter Egg hunt in April. Club members have earned 9 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 is enthusiastic about rebuilding this club! The next meeting will be held on April 19th.



Excel Club of Sebastian River High School

In February members made and distributed Valentine cards for Senior Citizens and made posters to display at the school celebrating Black History Month (Pillars – Community and Americanism). In March they conducted a beach cleanup.

They are planning more events which fall under the four pillars of Exchange. The club has earned 7 patches since the beginning of the year in 3 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 Averey Locuiao, and Historian Haley Macleary

April

04/01 - Memory Flag Setup
9:00 a.m. Riverview Park
04/05 – No Meeting (Board Only)
04/12 - TBD
04/15 - Memory Flag Takedown
9:00 a.m. Riverview Park
04/22 - TBD
04/29 - TBD

SAVE THE DATE

Exchange Club Florida District
Annual Convention

WHEN

May 5-7, 2023

WHERE

DoubleTree by Hilton
Jacksonville Riverfront

Save your room now -
reservation cut-off date is
midnight April 14, 2023
1-800-222-8733



March Anniversaries

Captain Hiram's (Jose Fas-Santiago)	4 Years
Justin LeFebure	5 Years
Karen McElveen	18 Years



Calendar of Events

March

03/22 – Wesley Davis, IRC Property Appraiser
03/29 - TBD

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May the Luck of the Irish be with you!