



# THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF SEBASTIAN, FL

## ~~~ NEWSLETTER ~~~

Meeting 12 Noon, 2<sup>nd</sup> - last Wednesdays of the Month  
Captain Hiram's Tiffany Room, Sebastian, Florida

Volume 23, Issue 06

March 31, 2023



### Guest Speaker Series

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> our guest speaker was Wesley Davis, IRC Property Appraiser. Wesley is a native of Indian River County and a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer. In 2020 he was elected as property appraiser. Wesley is a member of the Florida Property Appraisers Association and has served as an IRC Commissioner for 12 years. He has also served on the IRC School Board and as a Sebastian River Medical Center Trustee among other community involvement roles.

On the web site a property search can be made by name, address, or community name. The site is updated on a nightly basis and is current within the last few weeks. It includes information such as maps, tax roles (including distribution of taxes even a tax estimator), ownership history and public records. He hopes that the history of permitting will soon show who pulled the permits. He hopes for it soon to be a one-stop shop for all county real estate records. He encouraged everyone to view and use the site to file for homestead and other exemptions. There is also a new Florida provision for those who are reservists who are called for active duty to receive an additional exemption. Contact his office for more information on the reservists' exemption 772-226-1133.

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Wesley Davis with Fred Jones



On March 29<sup>th</sup> our guest speaker was our member Phil Barnes, Executive Director of Youth Guidance. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio. He moved to Jupiter, Florida nine years ago to work as an editor for a large publishing company. He enjoyed that job but wanted to see his writing make more of an impact. So he made the transition to the nonprofit sector -- working first as a grants

manager and then as Director of Resource Development for the Boys & Girls Clubs. In March 2020, one week before the COVID-19 government shutdown, he became the Executive Director of Youth Guidance.

Wesley spoke about the newly revised tax assessors web site and its many user friendly capabilities. Some of its features are a map with geo locate ability, a chat box with email dialog to his office and a fraud alert link connected to Jeff Smith Clerk of the Court. When a property owner signs up for this safety feature he/she will be automatically alerted via email when any document is filed on their property. (Wesley used this feature and was notified of some fraudulent documents filed on his property and circumvent a potentially harmful situation.) He is going to send an email to all licensed IRC Realtors to advise them of this feature.

Youth Guidance Mentoring Academy is celebrating 50 years this year, 2023. YG was started in 1973 by Rita Dion. Ryan Connelly was the first youth to utilize the services of YG and he is now a mentor himself at YG. YG offers Group Mentoring Programs, On-on-One Mentoring, Parent-aid and Pre-Apprenticeship. YG's focus is Life Skills, Academic Enrichment and Vocational Training. YG serves youth ages 5-24, offers After-School and Summer Programs and free nutritional meals are served daily.

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The One on One program at YG is similar to the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization. The youth is matched up with an adult mentor. The mentors have to spend at least 8 weeks volunteering at YG before they can become a mentor. Some One on One pairs have been together for 20 plus years.

Parent-aid has been around for 40 years and is in 23 States. YG can only control the youth's environment during the day at the YG Center. Parent aide allows control in the home since they are working with the parents as well.

YG is now a CAP Center (Child Abuse Protection Center). There are 3 components to the CAP Center; 1) Parent Aide where the curriculum is nurturing parenting. Mr. Joseph is the 1st full time parent-aide group leader. He can lead up to 6 families but currently has one family. 2) Parent Workshops where parents learn stress coping skills and how to handle the feeling of being overwhelmed. 3) Parent Integration where the parents can learn along side their children.

Group mentoring covers academics, homework, reading and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) YG Life Skills program has a success rate of 93% of the youth scoring 80% or higher on proficiency evaluation. The Life Skills programs include Tutoring, Vocational Training/Pre-Apprenticeships, HVAC, Electrical, Plumbing, Welding, Carpentry, Farming and Camping, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), Computer Training and web design, Culinary Arts, Sewing Gardening, Bicycle Repair, Woodworking, Recreational Activities and Field Trips.

Since starting the vocational training 33 youth (ages 16-24) have received professional certification in pre-apprenticeship programs. They can graduate with up to 6 certifications. 7 pre-apprentice students have obtained or maintained employment in the trades. 73% of YG students 16 and up are employed or enrolled in a tech college or university. There are 1633 trades contractors in Indian River County whose average annual wage is \$55,588. Trades are expected to grow 13% in the next 5 years employing almost 13,000 workers in Indian River County.

There are 208 youth (5-24 years old) enrolled at YG. 300 students are anticipated by 2024. YG currently serves 50 youth daily and expects to increase that to 75, YG expects to increase pre-apprenticeship participation to 60 youth. YG

expects to grow the Parent-Aide program to 6 families but the end of 2023 and double that by the end of 2024.

100% of the youth come from low income households and most come from single parent households. There are 5178 children in poverty in Indian River County. That is 26.3% of the total youth population which indicates just how tremendous the need is.

The building is soon to be renovated which will allow for the growth. The building was built in 1961 and renovated in 1990. Its current capacity is only 50 youth. The cost of the renovation will be \$1.5 million and will take one to one and a half years to completion. YG will be utilizing a few local school and a church locations during renovations.



### [Youth Guidance CAP 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 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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



## Community Outreach

Karen McElveen reports that our toiletry drive for the Chum Bucket was another huge success. Chum Bucket organizers were extremely grateful and appreciative of our efforts. Thank you again Karen and Terry Gardner for heading up this event!

## This and That

Joy Votrobek announced an upcoming 5K run on May 26<sup>th</sup> at the North County Aquatic Center to benefit the American Security Council. You can sign up at [www.ascf.us](http://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 1-15<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be needed to help set up the flags.

Rene VanDeVoorde announced that the scholarship awards recipients have been selected. Names and date of presentation to be announced.



## 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 a bit over \$12,000 in sponsorships so far with \$3,000-\$5,000 committed! We have also sold \$1,000 in trip tickets.** Rachel Cannon has volunteered to head up trip ticket sales. Tickets offer a choice of 3 destinations valued at \$5,000 each or \$3,500 in cash. See Rachel to get your tickets. **Yard signs are now available – see Michelle. And don't forget to pick up your posters for display.** There are still 2022 BWO T-shirts available - \$10 short sleeve and \$15 long sleeve. Contact Michelle to order yours.

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!

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.



## 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 (Pillar – Youth). 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 19<sup>th</sup>.



## 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 Avery Locuiao, and Historian Haley Macleary

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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, Calvary  
(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)



Calendar of Events

April

- 04/01 - Memory Field Flag Setup  
9:00 a.m. Riverview Park
- 04/05 - No Meeting (Board Only)
- 04/12 - Dr. Jeff Carrier, Shark Researcher
- 04/15 - Memory Field Flag Takedown  
9:00 a.m. Riverview Park
- 04/22 - TBD
- 04/29 - TBD

May

- 05/03 - No Meeting (Board Only)
- 05/05-05/07 - Florida District Annual Convention  
Hilton DoubleTree, Jacksonville Riverfront  
For Reservations call 800-222-8733



April Birthdays

- |                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| Rene Van De Voorde | 04/20 |
| Marilyn Waldis     | 04/22 |
| Michelle Morris    | 04/29 |



April Anniversaries

- |                |          |
|----------------|----------|
| Janice Malcolm | 1 Year   |
| Laura Petersen | 1 Year   |
| Paul Reeves    | 17 Years |
| Adam Preuss    | 25 Years |



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