



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 08

April 30, 2023

Youth of the Year and ACE Awards

On April 19th we celebrated the **Youth of the Year** and **ACE Award** recipients. The **Youth of the Year Scholarship** recognizes students who have attained high levels of scholastic achievement, community involvement, and leadership. The Youth of the Year recipients are chosen from the **Sebastian River High School** seniors who were winners of the Student of the Month program throughout the current school year. In addition, to receive this honor, each applicant must write an essay about someone who has greatly impacted their life, reflecting on the qualities most admired by them. This year's recipients of the **Youth of the Year** awards are **Christopher Cummings** and **Desiree White**.

Christopher Cummings is an K-12 IB Diploma Candidate with a weighted GPA of 4.675 and class rank of 3rd. On the application, the student was asked to tell of their most outstanding accomplishment and Christopher said his was when he was bestowed the Congressional Medal of Merit, for showing outstanding achievement in academics and service. For Christopher's essay that assisted him in garnering this honor, he chose to write about his grandfather, who made, in his words, "the greatest contribution to my behavior". Christopher plans to attend the University of Florida, majoring in Biomedical Engineering. He is not yet sure if he'll lean toward medical or engineering..

Desiree White is an IB Diploma Candidate with a 4.53 GPA and ranked 14th in her class. She is a member of the National Honor Society, is the current President of the SRHS Excel Club and Editor-in-Chief of the Yearbook. Her application essay was a great tribute to her older brother who has impacted her life in such an amazing way. Her story, as well as being inspirational and moving, was well thought out, expertly written, and shows a maturity beyond her years. She is a model student, leader, compassionate, and a young woman that is going places! Desiree plans to attend University of South Florida, majoring in Exercise Science/Dance. In accepting her award she thanked her parents, teachers & counselors and our club for "this great honor."

The **A.C.E. Scholarship** (Accepting the Challenge of Excellence) nominees have made dramatic changes in their attitudes and performances throughout high school, often overcoming educational, social, and personal obstacles. The

A.C.E. Youth of the Year is a senior chosen by **Sebastian River High School** counselors and teachers for the ability to rise above circumstances and obstacles to achieve excellence. This year's recipient is **Joshua Nevarez**.

Joshua Nevarez is an amazing young man whose road to success has not been easy. He was born with a hearing loss and spoke only Spanish at home and English at school. Josh had to learn a language that he struggled to hear and comprehend. However he worked diligently in speech and language therapy and developed an incredible vocabulary. He would not allow his disability to hold him back. Determination and grit are key components of his personality. Josh is a deep thinker and a curious young man who desires to know more. Josh embodies the requirement for Accepting the Challenge of Excellence. He has never allowed his disability to stop his success. He will graduate 5th in his class of 411 which includes two National Merit Scholars. He plans to study to become a national cyber security specialist and help protect the world against cyber attacks. He would also become an advocate for developing tools for people with disabilities in their cyber defense. He also hopes to learn networking knowledge in order to set up high speed internet infrastructure in the rural areas of Indian River County. Josh will be attending UCF and hopes to major in Computer Science.

All of these outstanding students received a \$1,000 scholarship from our club and the opportunity to advance to the District and National levels.



Fred Jones, Joshua Navara, Desiree White, Christopher Cummings and Adam Preuss

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Children's Memory Field

The Children's Memory Field flags were on display at Riverview Park from April 1st through April 15th. These flags represent the children who have died in Florida from child abuse during this past year. Sadly, 96 flags have been erected bearing the names of these children. Our club participated in a collaborative effort to set these flags up on April 1st. The flags were removed and reset at a Vero Beach location on April 15th.



Our Local Club Members who helped setting up Memory Field Flags



Guest Speaker Series

Our guest speaker on April 26th was Siobhan McGoorty of Be Believed Here (BBH). Siobhan (Shavon) is the Community Outreach Coordinator for the Sexual Assault Assistance Program, local rape crisis center in the 19th judicial circuit. She has been with the program for over 7 years. The name "Be Believed Here" was adopted due to the negative connotations from the name "Sexual Assault Assistance Program".

Siobhan grew up in Florida and has been here ever since. In 2018, Siobhan received her master's from Nova Southeastern University in Behavioral Science. She hopes to one day

achieve her doctorate in the future. Siobhan is great with kids and is currently housed at Indian River State College where she is able to be there for college students daily. She loves helping others and hopes to provide a world where we are free from sexual violence and abuse.

Be Believe Here is serving Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. Offices are on Indian River State college campuses within these counties. Programs offered are a 24-hour helpline, Crisis Intervention, Advocacy, Therapy, Community Outreach, and Prevention Education. Workers accompany the person through the process of reporting rape. Clothing is provided after the examination, since the victim's clothing is kept for forensic reasons. Support groups for survivors of abuse, and therapy sessions are also provided.

Every 68 seconds and American is assaulted. BBH works with law enforcement, DCF and medical staff. "In this field we must always remember to unplug from work and really practice self-care."

Offices are located at the Child Advocacy Center in St. Lucie which was built by Guardians for New Futures, a recipient of a generous contribution from our club.



Susan Baran with Siobhan McGoorty

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Welcome New Members

On April 12th we Installed Marybeth Verde as our newest member representing Marine Bank. Please make an effort to introduce yourself to Marybeth and welcome her to our club!



Fred Jones with Marybeth Verde representing Marine Bank



Youth Guidance CAP Center

Youth Guidance Mentoring Academy is celebrating 50 years this year, 2023. YG offers Group Mentoring Programs, One-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. 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 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 20th Place in Vero Beach. 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.

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. YG 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 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-one-half years to completion. YG will be utilizing a few local school and a church locations during renovations.



Community Outreach

Many of us participate in out-of-club volunteer activities, and we are recognized for that on our club banner. Secretary Eva Chapman sends information each quarter to National Exchange listing any volunteer hours that members give outside of our club. On February 2nd member Ron Smith delivered 25 Blue Bags to the Palm Bay Police Department to be distributed to children who are being removed from their homes. Thank you Ron for your tireless efforts in this and other projects that you take on:



Ron Smith (2nd from right) with the Palm Bay Police Department members accepting the Blue Bags for distribution.

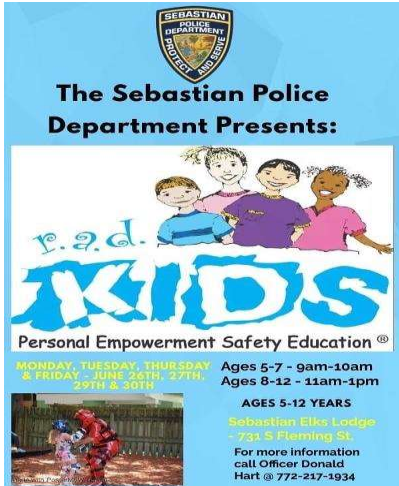
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SPD Community Outreach

Officers with our Community Oriented Policing Endeavor will be hosting a R.A.D. Kids class at the end of June! See below flyer for more details



Officer Raps reached this milestone on April 16, 2023. Officer Raps came here with previous experience and after he retired from another police agency in New Jersey. He is recognized for his dependability, his work ethic and his passion for School Resource at the Sebastian Charter Junior High School! Congratulations to Officer Raps for reaching this remarkable achievement!



Community Giving

On April 19th we presented a check for \$5,000 to the Gifford Youth Achievement Center. In thanking us, Executive Director Freddie Woolfork said the acronym is "Giving Youth A Chance."



Freddie Woolfork, Fred Jones and Angela Perry

This and That

Rene VanDeVoorde announced that the scholarship awards recipients have been selected. The Awards were presented on Tuesday April 18th at 6:00 p.m. at the Sebastian River High School Performing Arts Center. We awarded a total of \$8,000 to this year's winners:

Briony Weragoda	\$1,000
Arabeka Helper	\$1,500
Piper Patterson	\$1,500
Desiree White	\$3,000
Kathy Braun	\$ 500
Lana Kish	\$ 500

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Ali attended the Ceremony of Excellence at the SRHS. Seniors and Juniors with a 3.5 GPA or higher were honored as well as teachers who were selected by the students. Ali was there as an Exchange Club representative since we donated funds to this event. Ali was also there because he daughter was honored as a Junior. Congratulations to Zara!

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

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 is doing a great job of lining up interesting speakers, but he is always looking for recommendations. If you have someone of interest please let him know. Suggestions are appreciated.



[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.**

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.



[2nd Qtr. Visitors - Please Come Again!](#)

04/12 - Rob Mc Cullum (Susan Baran)
 04/12 - Eric Urso, Crystal Pools & BSO Sponsor (Ali Qizilbash)
 04/19 - Cristan Mariano (Michelle Morris)
 04/19 - Rappy Perez (Diana Best)
 04/19 - Mark & Kim Wieleba (Ali Qizilbash)
 04/26 - Kathryn Rapach (Adam Ogilvie)



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

Club members have earned 13 patches since the beginning of the school year, at least one in each of the 4 Pillars of Exchange! At the April meeting members elected the officers for the 2023-2024 school year. The May meeting will be a celebration of all the accomplishments this club has made. The School Advisor is Skye DeVarney who is enthusiastic about rebuilding this club!



Excel Club of Sebastian River High School



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

In April they displayed the Prevention of Child Abuse Flag in the school courtyard. The club has earned 8 patches since the beginning of the year in all of the 4 Pillars of Exchange! The 2023-2024 officers were elected in April and a pizza party was held to celebrate the club's accomplishments and bid farewell to graduating seniors. The School Advisor is Jaime Sturgeon who is enthusiastic about rebuilding this club!

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May Birthdays

Dan Acosta 05/18
Joy Votrobek 05/26



May Anniversaries

Vault Mindset, LLC (Francis Papinou)	1 Year
Johnathan Rhodeback	5 Years
iThink Financial (Diana Best)	7 Years
Rick Giteles	36 Years

April Showers



*"Life is not a highway strewn with flowers,
Still it holds a goodly share of bliss,
When the sun gives way to April showers,
Here is the point you should never miss."*

*Though April showers may come your way,
They bring the flowers that bloom in May,
So if it's raining have no regrets,
Because it isn't raining rain you know, it's raining violets."*

*"And where you see clouds upon the hills,
You soon will see crowds of daffodils,
So keep on looking for a bluebird,
And list'ning for his song,
Whenever April showers come along."*

("April Showers" is a 1921 popular song composed by Louis Silvers with lyrics by B. G. De Sylva.)



Calendar of Events

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
05/10 - Blue Water Open Planning Meeting
05/17 - TBD
05/24 - TBD
05/31 - Blue Water Open Planning Meeting

June

06/02 - Blue Water Open Captains' Meeting
06/03 - Blue Water Open
06/07 - No Meeting (Board Only)
06/20 - Annual Installation Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Captain Hiram's Tiffany Room

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