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The Rotary Fountain, Downtown Beaumont

Photo by Mark Low Imagery



Photo by Steve Buser

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Vol. 94 No. 25, January 12, 2005

A Message from our President

Happy New Year! It's good to see everyone back at Rotary. Those who have not been coming have been missed!

If you have not come for a while, come and try the excellent food that we are now having. We have a choice of two entrees every week and when we have broccoli, it is actually green. There is also an inviting dessert table to test your New Year's resolutions. I think that you will agree with me that there has been a huge improvement in the meals. I know that you will enjoy the excellent programs as well.

(Continued on page 2)

Patrick Swain



Patrick Swain has served as Jefferson County's Auditor for eight years.

He was born and raised in Beaumont and graduated from Lamar University in 1986 with a BBA in accounting.

He worked in public accounting in Houston and Beaumont for seven years before starting with Jefferson County ten years ago.

He resides in Beaumont with his wife and three children.

Head Table



INVOCATION
NANCY BEAULIEU



PLEDGE
RODNEY MARTIN

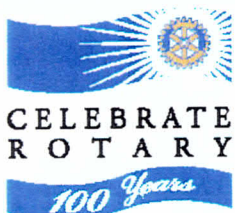


4-WAY TEST
MICHELLE HARRIS



GUEST INTRODUCTION
MELINDA MCNEELY

From the chef: Baked Fish or Pork Chops



The 10 Rotary Clubs of Jefferson and Orange County are hosting the
 Rotary International Centennial Celebration

Beaumont Civic Center

Wednesday, February 23rd

Tickets (\$25 each) will be available at all Rotary meetings

**ROTARY CLUB OF BEAUMONT
OFFICERS**

Maurine GrayPresident
Terry Bourdier President-Elect
Allison Golias Vice President, Programs
Carol Flatten.....Secretary
Bobbie Applegate..... Treasurer
Lee Freeland Sergeant at Arms
Lois Ann Stanton..... Past President, Advisor

DIRECTORS

Bobbie Applegate.....Budget & Finance
Danny Babineaux..... Family of Rotary
Paula Bothe..... Community Service
Travis Brewer Centennial Project
Jim Broussard, Jr. Inter-Club Relationships
Marvin Dunnam Fellowship
Carol Flatten..... Membership
Roy Huckaby.....International Service
Becky Mason..... Youth Service
Carole Reeves..... Camp Enterprise
Jim Rich Membership
Robert Turner..... Fellowship

BEAUMONT ROTARY FOUNDATION, INC.

Terry Bourdier
Maurine Gray
Azim Keramati
David Gaultney
Benny Hughes
Floyd McSpadden

Bessie Chisum, RotaryGram Committee Chair

Alexine Boutin, Executive Director
Office Hours: Weekdays 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
409-842-1913 • Fax: 409-842-5613
rotarybmt1@yahoo.com
Meets Wednesdays at Noon
Elegante' Hotel • International Ballroom

Future Programs

January
19th Emy Pettersson
& Camp Enterprise update
26th Marvin Dunnam

Make-ups

Monday:

No. Port ArthurHoliday Inn Hwy 69
Vidor.....Hibernia National Bank

Tuesday:

Spindletop.....Holiday Inn 11th St.
Orange.....Sunset Grove
Port Neches.....Pompano Club

Wednesday:

Groves.....Pompano Club

Thursday:

Port Arthur.....Holiday Inn Hwy 69

Friday:

Nederland.....Sanderson's

On-line: www.rotaryclubone.org
(limit 3 times in each quarter)

Program Review

Our guest speaker last week was Allan Vella, General Manager of Ford Park for SMG Management Corporation. He shared with us a little about SMG, co-owned by Hyatt Hotels, a little about his background in sports and event management and a lot about the history and vision for Ford Park.

SMG is the largest event management corporation in the world, managing 160 facilities, with 1.4 million seats. In 2004 their facilities hosted over 9,000 events from music concerts to sports events to fairs. Over 32,000,000 attended these events.

As for Allan himself, he has over twenty years in facility management experience, managing everything from hockey arenas to major league baseball stadiums. He moved to Beaumont from Saginaw, Michigan where he managed a facility which they renovated for 14 million dollars and then spent four years significantly reducing the debt.

So what about Ford Park itself? During its first year of operation the park hosted over 600,000 people at twenty concerts (four of which were sold out), twenty family shows, thirty-six hockey games, as well as softball games, boat shows and the YMBL Southeast Texas State Fair which alone hosted more than 400,000 people.

(Continued from page 1)

I want to ask you to help your Rotary Club. The Elegante' Hotel has asked us to begin guaranteeing 125 meals each week. We have been guaranteeing 115 meals and enough members have been eating to make the guarantee, but last week we only had 105. If we do not make our guarantee, we must use club funds to make up the difference. Therefore, if we do not make our guarantee, we may

Why isn't Ford Park supporting itself yet? The entertainment industry is a non-essential industry. When money became tight after 9/11/01, people could eliminate this spending from their budgets before other more necessary spending. Also, the record industry is not promoting as many new artists and a lot of the more famous artists are getting older and limiting their work to the thirty or so major venues in the United States. Houston is number four and Beaumont is number 107.

Having said all of this, Vella believes that Ford Park is a good thing for Jefferson County and that it has the potential to be successful financially as well as an asset to the quality of life in our community. The park can provide jobs and tax money to our community and it can help attract new people to our community, and perhaps even help some of our children stay in the area. He mentioned that the population of Jefferson County had remained steady through the last forty years while the population of Texas grew from 9 million to over 22 million during the same period.

So in 2005, look for the circus, Disney on Ice, concerts in both the arena and in the amphitheatre, motor sports, softball and the YMBL Southeast Texas State Fair.

Support local entertainment and support Ford Park.

have to increase the price of the meals.

Please consider having a good lunch with the rest of us so we can maintain our annual budget and not have to raise the meal price. And please remember to put your meal ticket in the basket.

I hope to see you every Wednesday at Rotary!

President Maurine

**Wathen,
DeShong
& Juncker,
L.L.P.**

Certified Public Accountants

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by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
JOE BROUSSARD -
Board Certified, Texas Planning and Probate Law
by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
THOMAS MAYO

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Board Action

Your Board of Directors met Wednesday, December 15th, and approved the following:

New Members:

Marvin D. Brailsford
Lt. General
U.S. Army (Ret)
"U.S. Government – Armed Forces
- Army (Ret)
Proposed by **Earl Hines**

Douglas Conner
Physician – Radiologist
Radiology Associates
"Medical – Radiology"
Proposed by **Macon Ware**

Marlene Crawley
Assistant Director
Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies –
Lamar University
"Education – University –
Entrepreneurial Studies"
Proposed by **Henry Venta**

Joe Domino
President
Entergy Texas
"Public Utilities – Electric"
Proposed by **Norman Lee**

Randall Fluke
Assistant U.S. Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice
"Law – U.S. Attorney"
Proposed by **Guy Goodson**

Jarren Garrett
Administrator for Business
Development
Memorial Hermann Baptist Hospital
"Medical – Institutions & Hospitals
Hospital Administration"
Proposed by **David Teuscher**

Keith Giblin
Magistrate Judge
U.S. District Court, Eastern District TX
"Law – Judiciary – U.S. Magistrate
Judge"
Proposed by **Ron Clark**

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Birthdays

12th Bobby Celli, Jr. (83)
President,
ISI Commercial Refrigeration



Born in Galveston, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Sara are the parents of Tiffany and Christy. He enjoys playing tennis, traveling and participating in community projects.

12th Julie Joffrion (04)
Vice President - Senior Trust Administrator, Wells Fargo Bank



Born in Beaumont, she is a graduate of the University of Houston and South Texas College of Law. She is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church. She enjoys sewing, reading, attending theatrical events and socializing

Melody Pettitt
Attorney
Melody Pettitt, Attorney at Law
"Law – General Practice"
Proposed by **Mark Ferris**

Unless written objections to the Board of Directors are received by Friday, January 14th, the candidates listed above will be considered elected to membership.

Returning Member:

Vel Martin
President
Martin Home Builders, Inc.
"Construction – Building Contracting
- Residential"
Proposed by **Paula Bothe**

Resignations accepted with regret:

Donna Blanchette - career change
Emily Compton – business transfer
David Hitt - moved

13th Philip Long (01)
Owner,
Long Architects



Born in Birkenhead, England, he is a graduate of Texas A&M University. He and his wife Kimberly Ann are the parents of Ryan, Aaron, Daniel and Patrick, and are members of First Baptist Church of Fannett. He enjoys camping, backpacking, soccer and sky diving.

13th Jay Spencer (03)
Owner,
Go 4 It Resources



Born in Jasper, he is a graduate of Texas A&M University. He and his wife Suzy are the parents of Keenan and Karsen, and are members of St. Stephens Episcopal Church. He enjoys hunting and fishing.

14th Linda Moore (98)
Public Relations,
Cowboy Harley Davidson/Morris
Moore Chevrolet/Cowboy Honda



Born in Toledo, Ohio, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She and her husband Morris are the parents of David Smith and Danny Moore, and are members of St. Anne's Catholic Church. She enjoys motorcycle riding, skiing, decorating, fishing and traveling.

17th Kathleen Jackson (97)
Public Affairs Manager,
Exxon Mobil Corporation



Born in Pensacola, Florida, she is a graduate of North Carolina State University. She and her husband Tom are the parents of Tommy, Kit and Thea, and are members of Amelia Baptist Church.



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