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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. 26, January 19, 2005

Emy Pettersson - International Exchange Student & Camp Enterprise Preview



Emy Pettersson, our International Exchange Student from Sweden, will join us for an update on her first six months in Beaumont. Emy is currently living

with International Exchange Chair **Ted Moor III** and his family.

Camp Enterprise Chair **Carole Reeves**, Co-Chair **Robert Peavey** and Executive Committee Members **Becky Mason**, **Chuck Mason**, **Russ Schultz** and **Henry Venta** have been hard at work since last summer.

Henry, Dean of the College of Business, and Russ, Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication at Lamar University have been designing a new Camp Enterprise program based on business models which will introduce the Camp Enterprise participants to aspects of business planning with interesting guest lecturers and entertaining exercises. Camp Enterprise will be held at the Holy Family Retreat Center from Thursday, March 3rd through Saturday, March 5th. Our Rotary meeting that week will be held there on Friday, March 4th. Please plan to attend.

Head Table



INVOCATION
WYATT SNIDER



PLEDGE
LUTHER DOBBINS

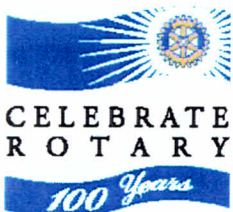


4-WAY TEST
JAY SPENCER



GUEST INTRODUCTION
ROBERT THOMPSON

From the chef: Cheese Enchiladas & Tacos



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

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 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

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 David Gaultney
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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

26th Marvin Dunnam

February

2nd Cindy Fertitta - Family Services

Make-ups

Monday:

No. Port Arthur Holiday 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 Patrick Swain, Jefferson County Auditor. He informed us about what a county auditor does and how a county auditor is selected. He also provided us with insight about Jefferson County's financial state of affairs: past, present and future.

Patrick is a native of Beaumont. He graduated from Kelly High School and Lamar University. He worked in public accounting in Houston and Beaumont for seven years before starting with Jefferson County ten years ago. He has been the county auditor for last eight years.

The County Auditor has the responsibility for all financial transactions of the County. The County Auditor is appointed for a two-year term by the Board of District Judges. This method helps to ensure the Auditor's independence.

The County Auditor is the Chief Financial Officer for the County. The Auditor's office does all financial reporting and accounting such as payables and payroll. Another important function of the Auditor is to monitor expenditures for conformity with budget guidelines as well as state rules and regulations.

Until two years ago, the County Auditor prepared the budget. Now Jefferson County has a Budget Office that prepares the budget. The County Auditor, however, still continues to play a major part of the budgeting process. The County Auditor determines the amount of money available to spend. In Texas, state law requires a balanced budget must be adopted, which means that expenditures cannot exceed your available funds plus expected revenue.

The Jefferson County Budget for fiscal year 2005 is: (1) General Fund

revenues - \$80 million and expenses - \$79.5 million and (2) Debt Service Fund - \$7.4 million. Over eighty percent (80%) of the revenues will come from property taxes (\$55.8 million) and sales taxes (\$14.1 million). The other twenty percent (20%) of the revenue will come from other sources such as the road and bridge taxes. Approximately seventy percent (70%) (\$55.65 million) of the County expenses are attributable to salaries and benefits. The remaining thirty percent (30%) (\$23.85 million) is spent various items such as construction and contracts.

The six percent (6%) property tax increase was necessary per Mr. Swain because of the declining general fund balance. Four years ago the fund balance was approximately \$23 million and at the start of this fiscal year the fund balance was only \$700,000. A healthy fund balance is necessary to help provide a cushion for a "rainy day" such as Jefferson County being hit by a hurricane. Several factors have contributed to the declining balance such as increasing costs of medical and legal indigent care.

Mr. Swain assured us that Jefferson County was heading in the right direction. We appreciate the time and information Patrick shared with us and we thank County Commissioner **Eddie Arnold** for arranging the program.

Lost & Found



Did you or your guest lose the pair of reading glasses modeled at left by Sharon at the Holiday Party? They are designed by Andrea Jovine and are lavender with a green tinge. Please call the Rotary office to claim them.

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

Certified Public Accountants

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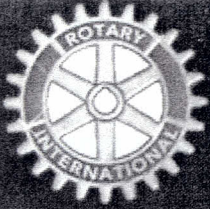
ROGER MCCABE - Rotary Past President
 Board Certified, Personal Injury Trial Law
 by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
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 Board Certified, Estate Planning and Probate Law
 by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization
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MEHAFFYWEBER ATTORNEYS

A Professional Corporation
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One Allen Center
 500 Dallas Street
 Suite 1200
 Houston, Texas 77002
 713.656.1200
 Fax: 713.656.0222

2816 Caldar
 Suite 800
 Post Office Box 18
 Beaumont, Texas 77704
 408.835.5011
 Fax 408.835.5177



ROTARY CLUB OF BEAUMONT, TEXAS

CLUB #72

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Kari Dolan has designed our new website! Although she says it is still a "work in progress", it currently includes links to the Rotary International and RI Centennial websites as well as lots of information about our club.

We are planning a password-protected link to the Roster and other features.

Visit it soon and let us know what you think! Thanks, Kari!

Birthdays

In expectation of introducing several new members at this week's meeting, we are including birthdays for the rest of January in this issue so we can publish the new member information next week.

21st Lum Edwards, Jr. (57)

President,
J.S. Edwards & Sherlock Insurance



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of the University of Texas. He and his wife Mary Ann are members of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. He enjoys golf and tennis. Lum is a Paul Harris Fellow.

21st Mary Ellen Robertson (93)

Owner,
Mary Ellen Robertson, CPA



Born in Beaumont, she is a graduate of Lamar University. She and her husband Denny are the parents of Annie, Erin and Jody, and are members of Trinity

United Methodist Church. She enjoys shopping for antiques, reading, sewing and skiing.

23rd Michelle Harris (00)

Executive Director,
Buckner Children & Family Services



Born in Detroit, Michigan, she is a graduate of the University of Michigan. She is a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church.

26th Scott Mann, Jr. (85)

Partner,
Germer & Gertz



Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, he is a graduate of the University of Texas and the University of Texas School of Law. He and his wife Lee are the parents of Elizabeth, David, Scotty and Mary Caroline, and are members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

27th Joe Chambers (03)

District Manager,
CenterPoint Energy



Born in Waynesville, North Carolina, he is a graduate of San Jacinto College and the University of Houston. He and his wife Angela are the parents of Jerred, Jason and Brandan, and are members of First Baptist Church of Silsbee. He enjoys weight training.

28th Lorrie Hayes (03)

Executive Director,
Junior Achievement of the



Golden Triangle
Born in Corbin, Kentucky, she is a graduate of Bowling Green State University She enjoys bowling.

29th Buz Brown (93)

Marketing Manager,
Bill Clark Pest Control



Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, he and his wife Donna are the parents of Von and Gary, and are members of Trinity United Methodist Church. He enjoys playing golf. Buz is a Paul Harris Fellow.

30th Marleen Swerdlow (04)

Professor of Law,
Lamar University



Born in Tyler, she is a graduate of Newcomb College of Tulane University and Bates College of Law of the University of Houston. She is the mother of Matthew, and is a member of Temple Emanuel. She enjoys gardening and needlepoint.

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ISUZU
at the airport

Our People Make the Difference

KBTV
4
Hometown News

CHISUM
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MANAGEMENT

SUPPORTS
THE LAMAR BASKETBALL TEAM
GO, CARDINALS!