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SERVICE Above Self

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Mattresses and Bedding Needed
Bo Weinbaum is working with a group
 collecting mattresses and bedding for
 hurricane evacuees. Please call him
 at 651-4911 if you have anything to
 donate or know of a source.

ROTARYgrams

Photo by Steve Buser

A Publication of the Rotary Club of Beaumont, Texas - Club 72 Vol. 95 No. 10, September 7, 2005

Beaumont Rotarians Mobilize Hurricane Relief Efforts

Members of our club have jumped into action to bring relief to hurricane victims:

South East Texas Relief Fund

The South East Texas Relief Fund has just been set up. Donations will go directly to the Red Cross.

Regina Rogers and **Joe Penland** each wrote a \$25,000 check to start the fund. The fund resides at all Texas State Banks. Please make donation checks payable to SETRF, Account #280175362, P. O. Box 7888, Beaumont, TX 77726-7888. Contact **Dan Parker**, Texas State Bank downtown, 409-981-7003

(Continued on page 2)

Commander Verne Gifford - U.S. Coast Guard

Editor's Note - At press time, we are not certain if Commander Gifford will be able to attend our meeting due to the hurricane.

Commander Verne Gifford assumed the duties of Executive Officer at Marine Safety Office Port Arthur - the second in command after the Commanding Officer - in June 2004. Prior to that, he served as the Chief of Operations at Marine Safety Office New Orleans from June 2002 to May 2004.

He served as the Deputy Project Manager for the Marine Information for Safety and Law Enforcement Project, a \$60 million

(Continued on page 3)

Head Table



INVOCATION
Beverly Hatcher



PLEDGE
KEITH GIBLIN



4-WAY TEST
Gerald Flatten



GUEST INTRODUCTION
RIX GAREY

Chef's Choice

LOCAL RELIEF FUNDS

Make checks payable to:
American Red Cross, Beaumont Chapter
 706 Magnolia
 Beaumont, TX 77701
 Call 409-832-1644 to volunteer

Make checks payable to:
Salvation Army, Beaumont
 2350 I-10 East
 Beaumont, TX 77703.
 Call 409-896-2363 to volunteer

Make checks payable to:
South East Texas Relief Fund
 Texas State Bank, Account #280175362
 P. O. Box 7888
 Beaumont, TX 77726-7888

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 rotarybmt1@yahoo.com
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 MCM Elegante' Hotel • International Ballroom
 2355 IH-10 South

Future Programs

September
 14th Dan Fontaine - M.D. Anderson

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)

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or Lois Ann Stanton, 409-981-6038 for more information.

American Red Cross, Beaumont Chapter
Jo Ann Block is Executive Director of the American Red Cross, Beaumont Chapter. Please make donation checks payable to "American Red Cross, Beaumont Chapter" and note "Katrina relief" on your check notation.

The mailing address is 706 Magnolia, Beaumont 77701. Call 409-832-1644 to volunteer your time at Ford Park and other Red Cross shelters.

Salvation Army

Luther Dobbins is Director of Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club. Please make donation checks to Salvation Army, Beaumont. Mail or take to 2350 I-10 East, Beaumont 77703. Phone is 409-896-2363.

Boy Scouts adopting a family

Vesta Brandt reports: *This came to me via Jack Crawford of the Boy Scouts, but this request is not only for those involved in scouting -- of course, they will accept help from the general public. It seemed worth a try to pass this on to you good people -- perhaps some of y'all have extra room! If you are able to help, contact Jack Crawford at threerivers578@yahoo or Katie Donovan at kdonovan778@yahoo.com; or call the scout office at 842-5240.*

Many hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced by the recent hurricane. Many of these people do not have the resources to pay for hotel rooms for an extended stay (\$100+/ night). Some are living out of their cars with infants. This has affected all types of families.

If you are willing to board a family of any size please email us at the scout office and we will coordinate finding families in need that you may want to accept. We will have a form that they will complete with number of family members, ages, race and other info you might want. We will meet these people and screen for those trying to take advantage. We have already housed over 25 people at Camp Urland. These families are not allowed to return to their homes and their entire families lived in the effected areas.

Their stay may last a few days or it could be 5 weeks -- possibly more. You can set a restriction as needed up front. This is an opportunity to show compassion and generosity to those affected by a circumstance not of their making. If you are willing, you

will be able to see their information and maybe even a picture before you communicate with them. It is your decision to ask them in or not.

If you have a spare bedroom and can take a family, elderly couple, young couple with an infant, please email us and give us specific instructions about what you are able to do.

Another option is to go to an area hotel and identify a family yourself, it isn't very difficult. There are many families at Ford Park as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

BISD School Volunteer Program for refugee children enrolling in school

"BISD will enroll children who have evacuated from Hurricane Katrina. We are not sure how many children will enroll, but we expect refugee numbers to increase over the next couple of weeks. The students could be with us for 6 weeks up to 4 months. We are in planning stages to do whatever we can to accommodate the children and their families.

"I wanted to alert all of you to this because you are generous and devoted advocates of education. I have called key partners and agencies to alert them as well.

"We anticipate the children will need school supplies, clothing and hygiene articles. If they are here for an extended period of time, they will need warm clothes.

"If you want to make a monetary donation, please send it to the School Volunteer Program, c/o Beaumont ISD, 3395 Harrison, Beaumont, TX 77706. I will ensure funds are used to benefit the children. I am working with school/business partners to either donate materials or give us a discount on supplies we need to purchase."

Joy James, Beaumont ISD, 409-981-7826

Beaumont Museums

Dean Conwell of Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau has announced that the following Beaumont museums will throw open their doors free of charge to visitors who are stranded in our area due to Hurricane Katrina:

The Art Museum of Southeast Texas, the Fire Museum of Texas, the Edison Museum, Spindletop Gladys City Boomtown Museum, the John Jay French House and Museum and the Texas Energy Museum.

If you have any contact with displaced persons, please let them know that Beaumont's museums are here for them.

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Board Action

Your Board of Directors met Thursday, August 25th and the following resignations were accepted with regret:

Julie Joffrion
Business Pressure

Rhonda Perkins
Moved out of area

Ray Pregeant
Retirement

Larry Walker
No reason

Eddie White
Disinterest

REVIEW

Chuck Whitlock, the world's leading scam-buster, author of 12 books and known to viewers of Oprah, Inside Edition, Oprah and Hard Copy gave us a fast course in how we can be scammed everyday. He has a serious message about how the al Qaida terrorists are being funded by scams.

He had examples of scams like the New York taxi driver taking air out of his left rear tire so he could get extra ticks on the meter. Of con men reading obits and going to the widow of the deceased with a \$3500 ring her husband had paid \$1500 down on and asking her for the \$2000 balance.

He cautioned us to do background checks on the people we hire because many times as prisoners leave the lock up they are met by accomplices with fake IDs and credentials that enable them to go to work for accounting firms or as bookkeepers where they set up fake payroll accounts and even branches they fund and siphon off the money. He warned about the person who never takes a vacation and allowing the purchasing agents to also approve payments.

His "The Best of Chuck" video showed some con artists fighting back after being exposed by Chuck and he explained that the TV shows love those bits.

Chuck told of many boiler room scams like you pay \$275 for a credit check to obtain a loan. They keep the money and you never get your loan.

All the way through the important lesson was "if it sounds too good to be true, it probably

Birthdays

7th Becky Ames (98)

Executive Director,
Atria Senior Living Group - Collier Park



Born in Newport News, Virginia, she attended Texas A & M University. She and her husband Rodney enjoy traveling, cooking and gardening.

8th Benny Hughes, Jr. (66)

Of Counsel,
Orgain, Bell & Tucker



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of the University of Texas. He and his wife Allison are the parents of Seth Edward, Gene and John Charles, and are members of St. Stephens Episcopal

Church. He enjoys fishing and playing handball. Benny is a Paul Harris Fellow.

is". Always check with your financial advisers and sources like the Better Business Bureau when doing business with new businesses. If you don't know a new doctor, get a second opinion and ask for references.

Due diligence is what it is all about and remembering that con men know all the emotions to prey on like fear, greed, and loneliness. Stay alert because the next terrorist attack will be funded by fraud – don't contribute.

We wish to thank **Michael Clayton** for arranging the informative and entertaining program.

(Continued from page 1)

effort that has successfully modernized the Coast Guard's primary information system for its two largest programs, marine safety and operations.

Commander Gifford is a 1987 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He holds masters degrees in business administration and in computer science from the University of Rhode Island. His earlier tours of duty include the Coast Guard Ice Breaker POLAR STAR, Marine Safety Office Baltimore, the Eighth Coast Guard District of New Orleans and Marine Safety Office New Orleans.

He is married to the former Allison Neville of New Orleans and they have two children, Jack and Stella.

9th Mark Theobald (93)

Vice President and Trust Officer,
Hibernia National Bank



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Julie are the parents of Sarah and Abby, and are members of Westgate Memorial Baptist Church. He enjoys hunting, fishing, playing golf, running and, most of all, being a Dad.

10th Gerald Condon (98)

President/CEO,
Collision & Classics

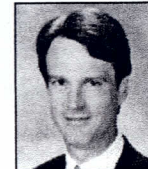


Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He has a daughter, Michelle, and he and his wife Jennifer are the parents of Molly. They are members of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. He enjoys playing

golf, motorcycles, gardening and woodworking. Gerald is a Paul Harris Fellow.

11th Ben Thacker (99)

CFO,
Amtex Bancshares



Born in Beaumont, he is a graduate of the University of Houston, Lamar University and the University of Texas. He and his wife Lisa are members of Christ Community Church. He enjoys working with the non-profit boards he serves on, gardening, church work and going to the movies.

12th R.J. Demahy (96)

Partner,
Theobald, Demahy



Born in Port Arthur, he is a graduate of Lamar University. He and his wife Diana are the parents of Rod and Tammy, and are members of St. Pius X Catholic Church. He enjoys hunting.

13th Bill Brown (86)

Owner,
WFB Enterprises



Born in San Antonio, he is a graduate of Trinity University and the University of Texas. He and his wife Dorothy are the parents of Nancy, Billie, Anne and Mary. He enjoys collecting stamps and masks, photography and writing.

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