



Mar. 1, 2023 – Zoom Meeting, 12:15

President-elect Kathy F. led the meeting today and welcomed all to the greatest Rotary Club!

Thanks to Harry & Marion C. for picking up lunch (tasty wings!)

Program – County Commissioner George Maglaras

George Maglaras discussed his vision for 1.) a new 215-bed nursing home; 2.) repurposing current Riverside Rest Home into 150 +/- transitional housing units; and 3.) supporting development of 750+ regional units of new obtainable housing.

He described his plan as a 3-legged stool: all must happen, or the stool cannot stand. He also shared many eye-opening statistics:

Forty years ago, only 5% of Riverside patients had Alzheimer's.

Currently it's 85% and the facility was not built for this kind of long-term care. Four adults must share a toilet, and 42 adults must share a bathtub. 80% of patients are wheelchair bound and the doorways (which cannot be altered because of interior asbestos) are not wide enough. Today's patients would have been in hospitals 30 years ago, but with changes in the healthcare system, they are discharged to nursing homes. Counties are responsible, by State law, for absorbing this cost shift. 400 residents are now being paid for by counties. There are 600 nursing home beds in Strafford County. Right now, 20,000 people are over the age of 65. In 10 years, it'll rise to 50,000. A "Silver Tsunami" is coming.

1st leg: The new nursing home model involves keeping people at home for as long as possible with more home- and community-based services and telehealth. Other therapies and services to be paid for by Medicare

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Meetings:

Mar. 8: Sherry Lee and Simone Dubay, DEI Committee Members of Wentworth Health Partners, will talk about pronouns (he, she, him, her) what and why we use them.

Mar. 15: OPEN

Mar. 22: Business meeting and mini-classifications

Mar. 29: No noon meeting. We will meet in Portsmouth for a "Black Heritage Trail" walk. Time and location TBD

Guests Genevieve Johnson, Dover, HS Interact President & Kathy Spencer, Interact Advisor

Pledge: Melissa L.

4-Way Test: Gregg D.

Today's newsletter authored by Cathy B.

(not Medicaid). The cost to build a new nursing home now would be \$15 million, but predicted to rise to \$70-\$90 million in 10 years. George is committed to keeping the county tax rate below municipal tax caps.

2nd leg: Use Crossroads (Portsmouth) model to repurpose old Riverside into transitional housing. (Right now, 40% of Crossroads dwellers are residents of Strafford County.)

3rd leg: 750 units of new obtainable housing. NH is currently 30,000 units shy of demand. Work with private developers: they make money in development while offering 10% of units at 30-40% of HUD rate. Zoning needs to change to allow this. Create mixed-use developments at old mall sites. Dover Housing Authority currently has a 6-year waiting list.

Questions:

Kathy F.: The vote by the county delegation lost the first time. When will another vote happen?

George: we lost by 2 votes but did allot \$6 million for design of the facility. Plus getting \$15 million in ARPA funds. Working with HHS and CMS.

Nick P.: Why does design cost \$6 million?

George: soil studies, location studies, test borings, wetland studies, wildlife studies, land use studies, many hoops to jump through before architectural and engineering designs can happen.

Malcolm M.: 1.) Thank you for your decades-long service to the county; and 2.) How to combat NIMBY?

George: Use the private sector for new housing construction on sites like Ames and malls. Have the county take on role of "Air Traffic Controller", screening and approving and monitoring residents for the landlords.

Announcements:

Willand Warming Center still needs meals. To help: <https://signup.com/go/xaWRjPB>

Saturday 3/4 ---District 7780 International Café 9:30-11 via Zoom.

Committee Reports:

Bingo--- Cancelled on February 23 due to weather. Phil R. presented check for Jan/Feb bingo receipts: \$29,000.

District Grant Training---Jim M. mentioned that training is 3/20. Each club must send two representatives to the training in order to be eligible to apply for District Grants next year. (We do have two signed up already, but more are welcome to participate.)

50/50 Drawing: \$197 in the pot. The winning ticket was Cindy I's but her 8 of hearts was not the winner.