Meeting Notes – Oct. 24, 2023

The LaFayette Rotary Club met on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, for its weekly meeting. Our guest speaker for the week was Rachel Snoddy, the Chambers County Extension Coordinator (pictured on the left). Rachel spoke to us about the Chambers County Community and Wellness Center located near the Department of Human Resources building in LaFayette. The Chambers County Community and Wellness Center is designed to be "a health and wellness project for increasing access to health care in a rural community". The center is open 8 AM-8 PM, Monday through Friday. The hours have recently changed from 7 AM-8PM on weekdays. The Auburn University Speech and Hearing Clinic offers free speech and hearing screenings every other Friday, no appointment necessary. Appointments for hearing screenings can be made for the other Fridays. A multi-disciplinary team will be at the center on Friday, October 27, to offer citizens information on and answer questions about topics such as medication and nutrition.

During the month of August, 64 visits were made to the clinic. In September, 66 visits were made. Thus far in October, the number of visits has exceeded those of each of the previous two months. Open house visits to the center have been made for various organizations and businesses in the community.

The Chambers County team responsible for the center was recognized at the AU/Ole Miss game last Saturday. Also, the center recently applied for and received a grant. It will be used to build an outdoor pavilion at the back of the center.

The center is sponsoring two vaccine clinics. One, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, will offer flu, COVID, TDAP, and HPV vaccines. The second clinic will be held at Rockingfest on Saturday, November 18. Flu and COVID vaccines will be offered there.

The center is part of the Auburn University Rural Health Initiative. Our center was its first site. Four more sites are planned around the state. There are also plans for 11 telehealth carts, portable telehealth stations to be made available in East Alabama. The funding for this project is available for two years. After that period, AU will continue to pay for the on-med station. Other funding will need to be secured by the county to cover other costs, such as utility costs. AU plans to keep the center operating at no cost to the patients.

For more information about the center, visit their Facebook page (Chambers County Community and Wellness Center).

Diane Sherriff