

Birthdays & Anniversaries Upcoming Events Announcements

Did you know? **Rotary's Learning Center** offers many courses to help you build leadership skills, be a more effective fundraiser, learn how to be a mentor, and much more. Start the new year by developing a new skill. Go to www.rotary.org, sign in to your account (or create one if you haven't already), click on "Learning and Reference", then "Learning Center" from the drop down list, and see all the topics. It's easy and informative!

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Brawley is now accepting orders for **2023 CA Labor Law Posters**. Don't risk noncompliance and steep penalties for not informing employees of their current rights in the workplace. CalChamber's convenient 28" x 46" all-in-one poster contains the 18 state and federal employment notices that California employers must post, even if you only employ one person in California. Be sure to display a poster in each business location and jobsite where employees can easily see it and read it. You'll need both English and Spanish versions if you have Spanish-speaking employees. Call the Chamber to preorder yours at (760) 344-3160 or email lissbeth@brawleychamber.com.

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- December 28th: DARK
 - January 4th: Tim Kelley, Development in Imperial County
 - January 11th: Sean Wilcock, StateVolt battery project
 - January 18th: Alessandra Muse, USDA 502 loans
 - January 25th: Laura Benson Vandeweghe, Chief Innovation officer for Decro Corporation, indieDwell housing project
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- January Birthdays:**
- 28th: Bob Shank
- Member Anniversaries:**
- 1st: Jeff Jones, 25 years
 - 1st: Robert Trimm, 25 years
 - 24th: Greg Smith, 32 years

- Wedding Anniversaries:**
- 7th: Sam & Wanda Couchman, 10 years
 - 11th: Sal & Diane Ortiz, 36 years
 - 20th: Robert & Betty Trimm, 32 years

This Week's Meeting

Recognitions: **Sam Couchman, Bill Gates, Simon Canalez and Annette Fortier** each paid \$10 for their Rotary membership anniversaries. **Simon** paid \$20 for attending Dr. Temple Grandin's presentation on autism. **Robert Trimm** said that he and Betty attended as well, and enjoyed her presentation. Autographed books are available, see President Simon if you would like one.

Program: Our program today was our very own Sam Couchman, who has resigned as Mayor of the City of Brawley as of last week. Sam served on the City Council for 13 years. After retiring from 35 years at the County of Imperial, he decided to run for City Council, and served for 13 years. Even after announcing his retirement last week, people still refer to him as Mayor. Here is his update on the State of the City of Brawley. The fire department had 244 incidents and 144 EMS calls in November. During Covid, they were getting about twice that. The library has a new project called the Palace Project, which is a free digital lending program. There are 300 kids signed up at Parks and Recreation for basketball. There were problems last season with fighting, and now there is zero tolerance for fighting this season. They are currently getting bids for shades at Alyce Gereaux Park. Banners on the light posts on Main St are coming. Capt Scott Pace Park will be receiving more playground equipment. New picnic tables are coming at Plaza Park. Funds are coming for roof and pool repair at the Lions Center. The tennis courts at Meserve Park may be converted to pickle ball courts. They received a \$33k grant for field equipment for Pat Williams Park. Computer and IT upgrades and battery backups are in progress citywide. The budget looks pretty good for this year, with the general fund having 2.7 million in reserves, which is close to the 15% that the City Council has mandated. The police department got a new canine which is trained to sniff out currency and guns. They have an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with BUHS and Elementary schools for school resource officers. There are new officers coming on board and they are almost fully staffed. New building projects include La Paloma on Malan; the La Paloma middle school; Latigo Ranch; Victoria Park Subdivision, Malan Park Subdivision; Palomino Apartments; Spring House; Housing Authority sidewalk improvement project, the IndieDwell project, the Hampton Inn is expanding; the Vo Medical Center (in the old Union Bank location) is being worked on, and a new C & G fueling station near the bypass is going up. AT&T, IID, Spectrum, and So Cal Gas, are updating their lines to upgrade their services. Legion Rd is being extended to behind Walmart to allow for more access. Traffic signals are being monitored and improved. The Main Street water line project is a multi-million dollar project that will start in 2023. He urged us to support local Brawley businesses. Thank you, Sam, for a great program!

Quote of the week: "I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians."
—Charles de Gaulle