

Rotary



Club of Stuart-Sunrise

Club Meeting

Stuart-Sunrise
Meets at Banyan Creek
Country Club
1701 SW Crane Creek Ave
Palm City, FL 34990
Time: Thursday at 07:30
AM

Speakers

Birthdays



HB Barrett
January 10th

Club Member Anniversaries



Michael L
Costopoulos
02-01-2015
9 Years



John Robitaille
01-10-2019
5 Years

Rotary News for January 4, 2024

The Tennis Tournament has been cancelled, but the Super Bowl Squares game will go on. \$50 a square. Members are requested to sell a square to co-worker, friend, acquaintances. Invite them to a meeting. Letters verifying the donation to the club Foundation are available. The club can have a social event to present the winners check. John mentioned working with the Boys & Girls Club and Banyan Creek to put on a golf tournament.

Dues are due.

Take Two on the club family social event January 24, 2-4pm at the Whittingtons. Bring your own beverages and an appetizer to share. The sign-up sheet will circulate at the next two meetings.

HB reviewed his conversation with Martin County School District administrator Mark Cowles, about the dictionary project. Member concerns about the varied responses and preparation from the elementary schools were relayed. Per Mark, in the less affluent schools the dictionaries are more likely to be incorporated into the curriculum. Unfortunately, with constantly changing curricula and standards, the dictionary often gets lost. Mark recommended that contact be made via email to the office manager and principal. If no response, contact Mark. Mark plans to invite school board members to presentations, making them more visible. As part of the discussion, HB relayed his concern that Honor Flight information was not getting to all the juniors, as they are not all at the presentations. Mark will arrange to have Honor Flight information be universally available.

Happy Dollars were given by Jason, in honor of his youngest beginning preschool, Justin, in honor of his house still standing now that Nicholas is walking, the beginning of basketball season, the upcoming college football final, the Rams beating the Seahawks, the return of John Fedorek's phone 45 days after it was lost at Newark Airport, Gene and Judy's 59th anniversary and our speaker, Jenny Fields gave a Happy Dollar in honor of her 3rd anniversary in her role as County Appraiser.

Butch won the 50-50.

Jenny Fields, CFA Martin County Appraiser

By Beth Brownell on Thursday, January 4, 2024

Jenny, who is now in her third term as appraiser, updated the club on initiatives taken by her office to bring property tax information to residents. There is a monthly online newsletter which will list any deadlines, exemptions, changes to the tax code as well as any pending legislation that may impact taxes. Information for new homeowners is important as taxes previous owners pay will increase once new homeowners take possession. Taxes are assessed on the market value of the home at the time of sale. Previous owners may have had the Homestead Exemption for years, which limited the amount their taxes were increased. New owners may face a tax bill thousands of dollars higher than they were expecting. Taxes may be affected by marital status, as taxes change with divorce or widowhood. The office is proactively contacting newly married couples to protect them from increased taxes and penalties when they become homeowners.



Jenny review information in the TRIM notices. On July 1, the taxable amount available in the county is sent to the 5 taxing jurisdictions, so budgets can be set. The tax rates are set based on the budgets the jurisdictions have set. If the budgets go up, so does the tax rate.

The Martin County Appraisers Office is available to answer any questions you may have and has a robust online presence where you can sign up for the e-Newsletter. You may also reach them at 772-288-5608