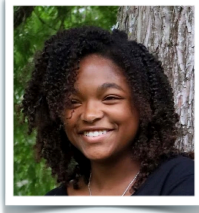




Take a Quack at
It!

CLUB MEMBERS
ASKED TO VOLUNTEER
AT A DUCK ADOPTION
DRIVE AT THE
NOCATEE YMCA



TEACHER & STUDENT OF
THE YEAR

OUR CLUB RECOGNIZES
TWO OUTSTANDING
PEOPLE THIS TUESDAY



WELCOME ABOARD!

TWO NEW CLUB
MEMBERS WILL BE
INDUCTED THIS MONTH



NEXT REGULAR CLUB MEETING

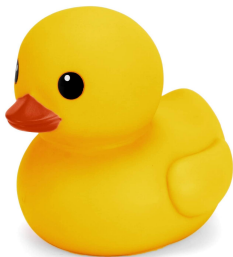
TUESDAY, MAY 2 AT 7:30AM

TREYLOR PARK RESTAURANT IN
NOCATEE

ZOOM: ID - 831 0429 0873; PASSWORD -

THE.32081.ROTARIAN

Rubber Duck Race Volunteers Migrate to the Nocatee YMCA



Are you free 8:30am-11:30am Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of next week? If so, our club needs you!

The Director of the Nocatee Y (and fellow club member), Sarah Schmitt, has invited us to set up a table at the facility to solicit duck adoptions. In order to do so, we need at least 1 club volunteer each day to staff the table.

If you're able to help, please go to [this Signup Genius](https://tinyurl.com/YMCADuckVolunteerShifts) and reserve a shift. You can also scan this QR code or simply cut and paste this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/YMCADuckVolunteerShifts>. Thank you, Rotarians!



Who are These Charities We're Raising Money For?

As mentioned above, the Rubber Duck Race not only helps build our club Foundation, it also helps 3 specific charities in our area. Club members selected these organizations as benefactors of the Race earlier this Rotary year. But what exactly do these charities do and who are the people involved in them? Read on.



Bit of Faith Ranch is a Ponte Vedra-based horse ranch that gives families impacted by autism & related disabilities a chance for horseback riding, recreation & respite.

"I love being able to share horsemanship skills and equestrian appreciation with the upcoming generations, and to be able to do that while promoting inclusion is the absolute best." - *Tammy Romanczuk, Founder*

Learn to Read of St. Johns County is a volunteer-based organization that provides free one-on-one literacy & English as a second language (ESOL) to individuals in St. Johns & Putnam Counties.

"I can't say enough about Learn to Read. They are ready to embrace and help anyone who wants to learn or increase their English skills. They also have classes for GED students and people working to become citizens. All of their services are free of charge, and the tutors are all volunteers. I am proud to be part of that organization!" - *Barb Horton, Volunteer*



Port in the Storm is a St. Augustine-based center that provides shelter, food clothing & programs for homeless youth.



"It's an important program. We're giving these kids a chance to not start a cycle of long-term homelessness, to change their trajectory into one of stability." - *Judy Dembowski, executive director of St. Augustine Society, the nonprofit that runs Port in the Storm*



Thank You Rubber Duck Race Sponsors!!

Silver Sponsors



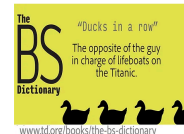
The Erickson
Family



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The BS Dictionary

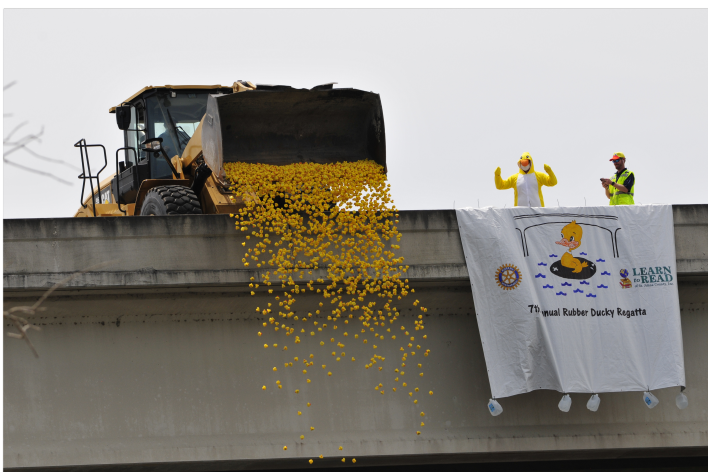


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Bronze Sponsors



THE MORRIS CENTER
Unlocking Learning Potential



Teacher & Student of the Year

This Tuesday morning, May 2, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra will honor our local Teacher and Student of the Year. Our friends at Investing in Kids (INK!) Identified these two as our worthy recipients.



2023 Teacher of the Year Melissa Fifield

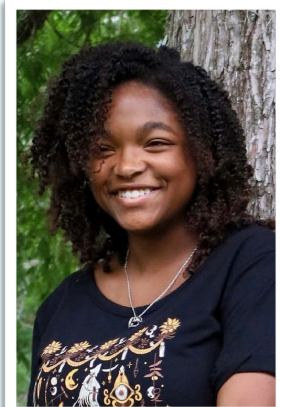
Melissa was originally an accounting major in college when her roommate asked her if she wanted to help with a 4th grade science fair at the school across the street. She did and changed her major to education at the end of the semester.

A 23-year veteran of the teaching profession, Melissa spent her first 15 years in New Jersey, mostly instructing 6th-grade math. For the last 8 years she's been here in St Johns County. She teaches geometry, algebra 1 and algebra 2 at Nease High School

Melissa's teaching peers at Nease voted her as the 2023 Teacher of the Year, and she was recognized at the SJC Teacher of the Year Celebration in February 2023, along with all 45 teachers from the SJC School District schools.

2023 Student of the Year Celine Taylor

Celine is a member of the Class of 2023 at Nease High School. She's graduating with a weighted grade point average of 3.9+, and has completed all coursework in the Engineering Academy at Nease, as well as eight Dual



Enrollment courses at St. Johns River State College. She'll be attending Florida Polytechnic University in Lakeland beginning this Fall.

Celine participated in Band at Nease for all four years. Additionally, she has completed over 200 hours of community service while in high school. She attended Valley Ridge Academy before matriculating to Nease. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Taylor.

Celine is a graduate of the Take Stock in Children-St. Johns County scholarship and mentoring program at INK!, earning a scholarship worth over \$6500 for college.

Spring Clothing Drive Continues



Some of the people helped by the YMCA's New American Welcome Center.

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra at Nocatee is continuing its enthusiastic support of the YMCA New American Welcome Center (NAWC) with a Spring Clothing Drive. For those new to our Rotary Club, the NAWC (7373 Old Kings Road South in Jacksonville) helps immigrants make the

challenging transition into American society. This is a prelude to their becoming fully contributing new American citizens. Our club has already made generous contributions to NAWC through their Oates Community Food Pantry. The new Spring Clothing Drive will nurture and strengthen our Club's relationship with them further.

The drive began on Tuesday, April 18th and will end at the Treylor Park at the conclusion of our regular meeting 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 16th. We are seeking new or gently used, clean clothing of all sorts that is free of stains or rips and tears (for men, women, kids or infants). Paired shoes and handbags, linens and towels, stuffed animals or small toys will also be eagerly sought and appreciated by our NAWC friends.

What better way can one find to start Spring Cleaning at home? Our suggestion is that each of us attempt to select at least a paper shopping bag's worth of unneeded or excess clothing. Once the process is started we fully expect the mood of sharing and giving to gain momentum, with each of us finding much more to donate from the bounty of our lives in this blessed land of plenty than we expected.

Have some questions? Need a special pickup arrangement? Call or text Andy Erickson at 401-263-7625 (C). Start now to spread the word to your family and friends!



Follow the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra



Pet Food Collection Service Event on May 6

Club members are gathering at the Publix at the Palm Valley roundabout this Saturday, May 6, to gather pet food on behalf of SAFE Pet Rescue in St. Augustine. From 10am-2pm, we'll be inviting patrons of Publix to purchase an extra bag or two for the effort. The Rotary Club of Palm Valley has been engaged in this project for a couple of years now and has been kind enough to ask us to join them! Talk to Community Service Chair, Denny Baldwin, for more details.

New Members in May

This Tuesday, May 2, our club will induct a new member! Tony Mazuto's nomination was unanimously approved by our current membership. In addition, Mike DeMarco will join the club on May 16 as his nomination was passed without objection. Please welcome Tony and Mike to the one of the greatest fellowship and service organizations in the world!

UPCOMING CLU EVENTS & SPEAKERS

May 2, 7:30am-8:30am: CLUB MEETING Guest Speaker - Kelly Barrera, St. Johns County School District Board; Honorees - Student & Teacher of the Year Recognized

May 16, 7:30am-8:30am: CLUB MEETING Guest Speaker - TBD; End of Clothing Drive for YMCA's New American Welcome Center

June 6, 7:30am-8:30am: CLUB MEETING Guest Speaker - Dom Sanfilippo, President of CMIT Solutions of Jax Cybersecurity)

Celebrations

- April 24** Happy Birthday to Kelly Altosino-Sastre!
- April 25** Happy Birthday to Bob Wiltfong's wife, Jill!
- April 26** Happy Birthday to Jim Huster's wife, Sally!
- April 29** Happy Birthday to Denny Baldwin's wife, Gail!
- May 4** * Happy Birthday to Eli Tavarez's wife, McKenna!
* Happy 2 Year Anniversary to Jim Huster for being a Rotarian!
- May 8** Happy Birthday to George Postell!

Mark Your Calendars!

MAY

May 2: Regular Club Meeting, 7:30am-8:30am

May 3: Club Board Meeting, 6:30pm-8pm, President Bob Wiltfong's House (749 Old Bluff Drive in Coastal Oaks, Nocatee)

May 6:

May 12: [District Training Assembly](#), Trinity Parrish/Flagler College, St. Augustine

May 12-13: [District Conference](#), Trinity Parrish, St. Augustine

May 13: RYLA Act III: St. Augustine, 8-4:30pm

May 16: Regular Club Meeting, 7:30am-8:30am

May 21: Our annual [Rubber Duck Race](#) event, Noon, Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill

May 27-31: [2023: Rotary International Convention, Melbourne, Australia](#)



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Bob Wiltfong



Secretary
Rosemary Lorenz



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Josh Hull



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Denny Baldwin



Membership Chair
MaryBeth Murray



Sergeant-at-Arms
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Karen Everett



**Rotary Foundation Chair/
International Service Chair**
Andy Erickson



General Counsel
Edward Sarnowski

Comments, questions or inquiries about the 32081.Rotarian?
Please contact the Editor, Bob Wiltfong, at rotarybob1@gmail.com.

Interested in joining the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra?
Please contact our Membership Chair, MaryBeth Murray, at (904)-657-9393 or email us at pontevedrarotary@gmail.com.

