



Getting Our Ducks in a Row

THE LATEST ON OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FOR THE RUBBER DUCK RACE ON MAY 21



IT'S CLOTHING TIME
MONTH LONG CLOTHING DRIVE FOR NEW AMERICAN WELCOME CENTER ENDS THIS TUESDAY MORNING



APPETITE FOR INDUCTION
MIKE DEMARCO INDUCTED THIS WEEK; TOM HAMILTON AT THE NEXT MEETING



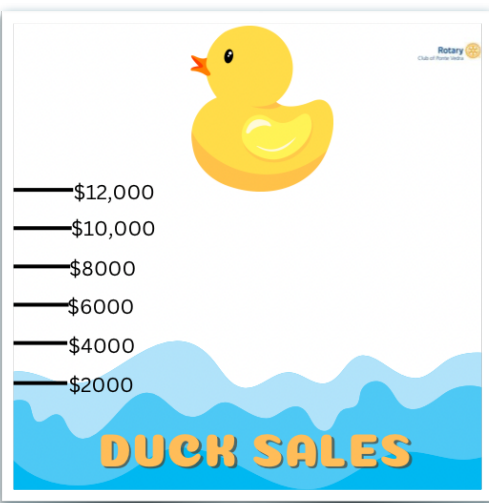
NEXT REGULAR CLUB MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 16 AT 7:30AM
TREYLOR PARK RESTAURANT IN NOCATEE
ZOOM: ID - 831 0429 0873; PASSWORD - 252056

THE.32081.ROTARIAN

It's Always Duckest Before the Dawn

We have 6 days left to try to reach our duck adoption goal of 3000 ducks worth \$12,000. As of this writing, we're sitting at just over 1000 ducks and almost \$4000 raised.

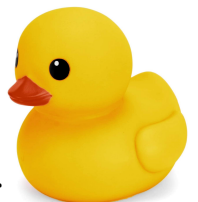
There's no doubt we have our work cut out for us, but I believe we can do it! Please support our duck race by adopting ducks for the race this upcoming Sunday, May 21, 11am-1pm at PVO Bar & Grill.



Duck sales as of 5pm on 5/14/23.



Watch a 2-minute recap video of last year's Rubber Duck Race by clicking on the above image.



Click on this duck to go to our website

Who Our Rubber Duck Race Helps



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.



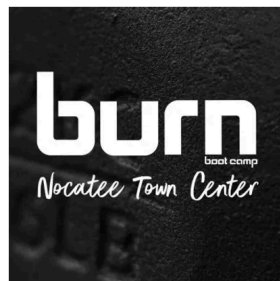
"It's an important program. We're giving these kids a chance to not start a cycle of long-term homelessness, to change their trajectory into one of stability." - *Judy Dembowski, executive director of St. Augustine Society, the nonprofit that runs Port in the Storm*

Thank You Rubber Duck Race Sponsors!!

Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Patron Sponsors



The Baldwin Family



Linda Lomax



The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra Teacher of the Year



Club President, Bob Wiltfong, with Melissa Fifield and her award for "Teacher of the Year."

2023 Teacher of the Year Melissa Fifield - Nease HS

On May 2, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra presented its "Teacher of the Year" award to Nease High School's Melissa Fifield. Melissa is a 23-year veteran of the teaching profession and currently instructs geometry, algebra 1 and algebra 2 at Nease.



2023 Student of the Year

Celine Taylor - Nease HS, Class of 2023

On May 2, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra presented its "Student of the Year" award to Nease High School senior, Celine Taylor. Celine is graduating with a weighted grade point average of 3.9+, and will be attending Florida Polytechnic University in Lakeland beginning this Fall.



Club President, Bob Wiltfong, with Celine Taylor and her award for "Student of the Year."



Last Call for Our Clothing Drive

The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra will conclude its clothing drive in support of the YMCA New American Welcome Center (NAWC) this Tuesday morning at our regular club meeting (7:30 am at Treylor Park restaurant in Nocatee). The NAWC (7373 Old Kings Road South in Jacksonville) helps immigrants make the challenging transition into American society.



Some of the people helped by the YMCA's NAWC.

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.

UPCOMING CLUB EVENTS & SPEAKERS

May 16, 7:30am-8:30am: CLUB MEETING Guest Speaker - Scott A. Grant, Local Historian,; 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 Expert

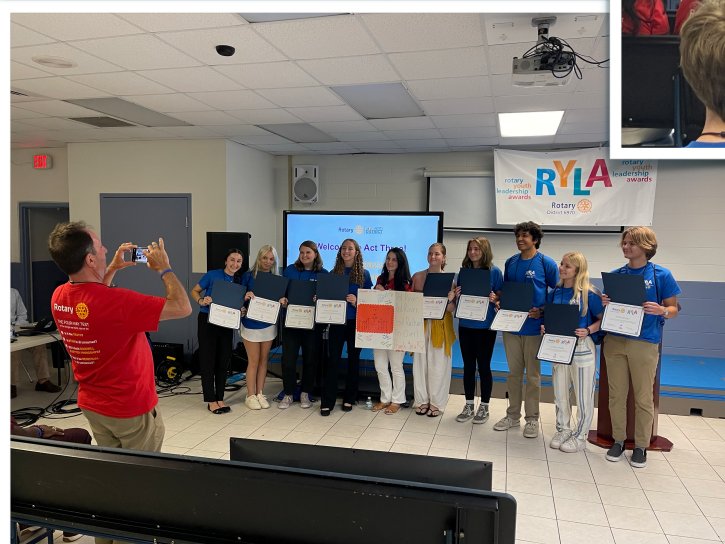
Buy Your Food Gift Cards for the Rubber Duck Race

At our club meeting this Tuesday morning, May 16, we will have gift cards for Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill that will allow you to eat at the restaurant during the Rubber Duck Race. We'll fill in the details at the meeting, but bring money with you!

Rotarians: People of Action



Club members, Sarah Schmitt, Linda Lomax and Denny Baldwin joined fellow Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Palm Valley on May 6 to collect dog food on behalf of SAFE Pet Rescue in St. Augustine.



2021 Time Kid of the Year, Orion Jean, addresses participants of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) event in St. Augustine on Saturday, May 13. Our club sponsored two high school students from our area to attend. Club President, Bob Wiltfong, emceed.

New Member Inductions



Tony Mazuto and his wife stand with his club sponsor, Kelly Altosino-Sastre, and club President, Bob Wiltfong.

On May 2, the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra inducted its newest member, Tony Mazuto! This Tuesday, May 16, we'll induct Mike DeMarco as a Rotarian, and on June 6 we'll welcome Tom Hamilton into the club!

If you know someone who embraces Rotary's "Service Above Self" mantra and enjoys fellowship and fun in the process, contact our membership chair, MaryBeth Murray, at (904)-657-9393 or email us at

pontevedrarotary@gmail.com.

Celebrations



May 16 Sean Smith's wife, Colleen, celebrates her birthday!

May 17 Luis Monegro celebrates 1 year as a member of our club!



From the President's Desk



Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra President,
2022-23, Bob Wiltfong.

"Somebody ought to..."

You hear that phrase a lot on Mother's Day, as in *"Somebody ought to give Mom a break and wash the dishes for her."* or *"Somebody ought to call Grandma and wish her a happy Mother's Day."*

I also hear that phrase in Rotary from time to time. Matter of fact, I've heard it a couple of times this past week. In one instance, a fellow Rotarian came over to me at the RYLA event this Saturday and said, *"Somebody ought to go over to that kid sitting by himself and talk to him."* When I said, "I agree. How about you?" He said, "I can't. I'm busy." And he walked away. I ended up going over to Lucas and introducing myself to him. Lovely kid.

The other time I heard the phrase was at a committee meeting for our Rubber Duck Race, followed by *"...see what's going on with that sponsorship check."* And *"...go on our website and get these listings fixed."* And *"...figure out how much money we've received from duck adoptions."* I think you can guess by now what I think of the phrase, "Somebody ought to..." It's for the birds.

Anyone can sit off to the side of things and say, "Somebody ought to..." but Rotarians are People of Action. We are doers. When something needs done, we do it...or at least I think we do. The next time you find yourself saying those words — "Somebody ought to..." — do me a favor and change the word "somebody" to "I" and start noticing how much more you're able to do. I think you'll find you're more capable than you give yourself credit for.

Follow the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra



facebook



Instagram



twitter

LinkedIn

YouTube



President
Bob Wiltfong



Secretary
Rosemary Lorenz



Treasurer
Sean Smith



President-elect
Josh Hull



Community Service Chair
Denny Baldwin



Membership Chair
MaryBeth Murray



Sergeant-at-Arms
Linda Lomax



Program Chair
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.

