

Mar. 12, 2008

Spotlight your business at a club meeting

Got an idea for a weekly Rotary Club program? If so, Program Chair Mick Schaible would like to hear from you. Keep in mind: You can BE the program. Tell members about your field. Expand our knowledge and showcase your expertise. Contact Mick at mickschaible@yahoo.com.

Multi-club dinner, April 22

Members of all five Hunterdon County Rotary clubs will gather April 22 for an "InterCity Dinner" at Beaver Brook Country Club in Clinton. The night's program will be the Group Study Exchange of Rotary International Foundation, the cultural and vocational exchange program for young business and professional people.

The incoming GSE Team from Italy will be in Hunterdon from April 20 to 27, and in New Jersey for a full month. District 7510, in turn, will send a GSE team to Italy from May 12 to June 9.

Rotary member proposes local Habitat ReStore

John Bohnel of the North Hunterdon Rotary Club has proposed establishing the first Central Jersey location for Habitat ReStores.

ReStores are retail outlets that sell new and used building materials to support affiliates of Habitat for Humanity. Every dollar goes toward home building and not administrative costs. John said each store averages \$300,000 a year for its local affiliate. Currently, there are about 500 ReStores across the United States.

"There's a good chance the facility could be located here in Flemington," said John. "It's important for Rotary to be of service to the community and this is the perfect vehicle for Rotary and Habitat for Humanity."

North Hunterdon Rotary, which is backing John's effort, is calling on all Hunterdon Rotary members to help locate a 2,500-square-foot site to house the ReStore.

To get involved, contact John at jabohnel@patmedia.net or john@faucettconstruction.com.

Member Notes

Notable milestones among Rotary children were announced at last week's meeting:

- **Herb Bohler's** son Stephen is in Beijing, China and will soon return with his newly adopted two-year-old daughter.

- **Jim Davidson's** son James is making an admirable shift in his college studies. He plans a year of study in Jordan next year and is switching majors from computer science to Arabic.

- **Jeff Harrison's** fifth-grade daughter Olivia has aced two preliminary rounds in the National Spelling Bee and is about to compete in her third level. Jeff says it'll be stiff competition since many of the other spellers will be sixth and seventh grades. Good luck Olivia!

IMPORTANT DATES & PROGRAMS

- Mar. 12 - Lisa Brady, Interact
- Mar. 19 - 1st Annual Hunterdon County Soup Cook-Off, 5 to 8 p.m. at Hunterdon County Polytech
- April 22 - InterCity Dinner at Beaver Brook Country Club
- April 20-27 - The incoming GSE Team from Italy will be in Hunterdon County
- April 28 - 16th Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser
- May 31 - Pedals for Progress Bicycle Collection at Flemington Presbyterian Church
- July (TBA) - Fresh Air Picnic
- Sept. 14 - 5th Annual Ride for Rotary - Motorcycle Poker Run, Picnic & Clam Bake (Clinton Elks Lodge)

Monthly Events

- **First Friday** - Flemington Food Pantry, truck unloading, 9 a.m.
- **First Wednesday** - Free lunch for prospective member

Market downturn could indicate new appraisal needs

The two-year decline in the real estate market is creating a more urgent need for home appraisals. A house assessed at \$1 million at the height of the market boom might be worth a quarter million less in the current market. At last week's club meeting, real estate appraiser Mick Schaible advised anyone in that situation to speak first with the local tax assessor and then with a certified appraiser.

Mick, who owns Vanguard Appraisal Services in Ringoes, said the current market downturn is likely to continue for a couple more years and the best we can hope for is stability.

High-end houses in the \$850,000 to \$1 million range have been hurt the most, he said. At the next level, \$500,000 to \$850,000, there's lot of inventory and builders have stopped building because the market is saturated.

In Hunterdon County, the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range is considered "affordable" housing. "That's affected the least in my opinion," he said.

AREA ROTARY MEETINGS

- Branchburg** Wednesdays 7:30 a.m., Loukas' Last American Diner
- Clinton Sunrise** Thursdays 7:15 a.m., Clinton Holiday Inn
- Lambertville-New Hope** Mondays 6:30 p.m., Lambertville Station
- North Hunterdon** Fridays 12:15 p.m., Beaver Brook Country Club
- Somerville-Bridgewater** Thursdays 12:15 p.m., Bridgewater Manor
- Whitehouse** Tuesdays 12:15 p.m., Flamangos

ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

*Service
Above
Self*

ROTARY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend at least 60% of club meetings in each half of the Rotary year, including make-ups.
2. Attend at least 30% of the meetings in one's home club in each half of the Rotary year.
3. Make up missed meetings within 14 days before or after absence.

