

May 11 Guest Speaker – Rob DiSpirito

Rob began his comments by thanking our Rotary Club for all the work it does in the community – that it’s admirable and needed.

Last year our City faced \$8 million in budget cuts, a loss of 50 positions, with no reductions in services and without an increase in the milage rate. The challenge this year is to cut another \$2 million. He also noted the ad valorum taxes generated for the city were down 12 ½ percent last year and he expects an equal decrease this year. This is also in light of the rising cost obligations the City faces with increases in fuel, pensions, health insurance and more. The City is well on its way to addressing these deficiencies. Rob asked for our input during the budget process.

Updates:

Gateway Project – infrastructure is in place and there is an active campaign to market the project. He invited everyone to a May 20th ribbon cutting. He thanked Rep. Anderson for securing the \$1.3 million grant that helped in the streetscaping, burying utilities, and angled parking.

Nielsen Property – has a new owner and a developer is under contract. Rob expects a presentation of ideas soon.

Community Redevelopment Agency – in the downtown area is in the process of asking the County to extend the tax increment financing ability for an additional 15 years. It expires in 2018.

Customer Service Task Force – is meeting to help with a comprehensive rewriting of the development codes to better respond to the need for responsible development and redevelopment in our community. Again, comments and suggestions are welcomed.

Continued on page 3

Today’s Agenda – May 18, 2010

**Invocation – Melissa McCormick
Pledge of Allegiance**

Joke of the Day – Sara Kessinger

Introduction of Guests

Happy Bucks and 50/50

Announcements

Speaker: GSE

Upcoming Speakers

**5/25 Lenore Farkas
Laughter is Outrageous and
Advantageous**

**6/1 Barry Poppel
Pure Water**

**6/8 Leigh Wilson
Dali Museum**

Upcoming Invocations

5/25 Pat Bauer

6/1 Dick Pritts

6/8 Deborah Kynes

Upcoming Joke of the Day

5/25 Need Volunteer

6/1 Valerie Lane

6/8 Earl Tapley

HAPPY BUCKS

Bob Wheeler thanked everyone for their fellowship. He's heading back to New Hampshire tomorrow and he wished everyone a good summer.

Bob Isham wished Bob good health and a safe trip, noting he's a good Rotarian. If you're heading to Vermont this summer, Bob's in the book and hoping for a visit.

Pat Bauer thanked Rep. Tom Anderson for helping securing \$21 million in State aid for our libraries which provide services for our State's citizens.

Joan Gutierrez reported that the Blue Ridge Mountains are still there and still as beautiful as ever.

Sally Trotter announced that InnerWheel's last meeting for the summer is this Saturday. They are going to help with the Triathlon and she asked us to keep them in mind when we need volunteers.

Jonathan Skinner thanked **Martine Stapp** for all her help with the GSE teams. Martine is our North County Coordinator, working with Dunedin, Clearwater, Safety Harbor, and Tarpon Clubs and has done a great job.

Ray Kingsbury's kitchen cabinets are delayed for another two weeks.

Chuck Dean, a lifelong blood donor, encouraged everyone to become a blood donor next week during our Blood Drive.

GUESTS

Charlie Klein, Dunedin North Club

Rep. Tom Anderson and his wife, Alice

Bob Wheeler, Goffstown, NH

Roberta Cantor, Salem, MA

ROTARIAN MINUTE

Ray Kingsbury talked about the printing business. One of his longtime vendors now offers Ray's customers almost any print job at a very reasonable rate. If you're looking for a great printing bargain, call Ray.

50/50 DRAWING

The lucky number was held by **Ernie Wartenburg** who drew the 4 of Diamonds, winning \$5.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pres. Carole noted our Club has purchased 5 books to be given during our District's Literacy Project in Cozumel on the District cruise.

The Triathlon Committee met Thursday at Pete Krulder's house.

Charlie Klein was at our meeting for Ted Napp to sell Vidalia onions. Bags are just \$10 for 10 pounds and all the money goes directly to Polio Plus.

For an update on the Rotary Foundation giving and the latest info on the giving we participated in over the past weeks, please see Ray Kingsbury.

Ray also promoted the Blood Drive for Jeff Rhoads. Donors may win a cruise.

Jonathan Skinner invited everyone to join in the picnic for the Brazilian GSE team members on Sunday, May 16, at the Rotary Centennial Nature Center on Honeymoon Island.

Guest Speaker – Bob Dispirito Continued from Page 1

Southside initiative – great public participation is helping to devise an improvement plan that will continue indefinitely to address various matter of concern in that area.

Rob also had a good time commenting on all the attention the City has received on the relocation process of the Muscovy ducks.

He also answered a wide range of questions from Club members on the budget, traffic and road issues, and more. Our community is also talking to Oldsmar and Tarpon Springs about contracting services in their communities.