

The Nerve



A Weekly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa

P.O. Box 2403, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 — www.Rotarytuscaloosa.com

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This Week, January 31: Chris Hall and the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority



Ensuring quality affordable public housing presents a number of challenges in the best of circumstances. In the wake of last year's storms,

which devastated so many public housing facilities in Tuscaloosa, the challenges have only multiplied.

But so have the opportunities. On Tuesday, Rotarians will hear more about the recent debates and future plans for renewal of public housing in our city. Chris Hall, Director of Development for the Tuscaloosa Housing Authority, will speak to the Club

Hall's responsibilities include researching and pursuing development opportunities for the THA that will help improve and maintain the Authority's low-income housing portfolio and related business interests. Hall also supervises the various development projects of the THA until their completion.

The Tuscaloosa Housing Authority manages over 1,200 public housing apartments in seven different locations. Its goal is "to provide drug- free, safe and clean housing alternatives for low to moderate- income families, senior citizens and people with disabilities who qualify based on their current income."

For more information on the TAH and its programs, visit www.tuscaloosahousing.org

Last Week, January 24: DCH Cancer Center offers Excellent Care, Hope and Healing

The numbers do not lie, and they are grim. Over half a million people die of cancer in our country each year, over 10,000 in our state. And every year in our own city, at DCH hospital alone, doctors diagnose over 1,000 new cases. The disease costs an estimated \$263.8 billion in lost productivity and illness annually, and \$20 billion in losses from premature death. But of course the numbers only tell part of the story. There is no counting the cost of the pain, suffering, fear and death that cancer brings.



Last Tuesday, Domingo Valpuesta shared something of these grim realities with Tuscaloosa Rotarians. But he also shared how much hope and healing we have in our community as a result of the new DCH Cancer Center, and its affiliation with the renowned M. D. Anderson Physicians Network. As director of the Center, Valpuesta oversees day-to-day operations, and works with the Cancer Center's physicians and staff to ensure a high quality of care for patients. He also directs the Center's affiliation with Anderson. **Rotarian Molly Baldwin** introduced the speaker.

The new DCH cancer center is the impressive result of a \$40 million project upgrade, one that included not only the purchase of new state-of-the-art equipment, but innovative new architecture as well: One of its centerpieces is a \$7 million renovation that established an open-air treatment area for chemotherapy patients and their families.

Even more impressive is the upgrade in status through DCH's affiliation with M. D. Anderson. Earned through a focused effort to meet a range of rigorous criteria, that affiliation allows Tuscaloosa-area cancer patients access to the physicians and treatments of one of the most effective cancer programs in the world (U.S. News has ranked Anderson the number one center for cancer treatment for the past five years). The benefits — the best protocols for diagnosis, the latest, evidence-based treatments, and a wide range of support networks locally and across the country — are helping make our own DCH one of the nation's leaders in the fight against a devastating disease.



Tuscaloosa Rotary Welcomes New Member

A warm Rotary welcome to our club's newest member, Kimberly McCurry! Kimberly is Director of business development with WSV. She graduated from Arizona State in Architecture Design, and also has an MBA from UAB. She specializes in hospital design, planning and disaster management. She serves on the board of the American Institute of Architects, and the Advisory board of Arizona State Hospital design. She is also a member of the Tuscaloosa Forward initiative. Kimberly's husband Bruce is from New Zealand, and their Daughter Callie is a college student majoring in physical therapy.



Rotarian Jerry Shepherd Elected District Governor for 2014-15

Congratulations to our own Jerry Shepherd, who has been chosen as district governor for RI District 6860 in 2014-15! The district covers the northern half of Alabama and has 3846 members in 56 clubs. Jerry will be the official representative of Rotary International for our Club during that year. He is the 12th District governor from our club, one more than the Rotary Club of Birmingham (but who's counting, right?). For a list of our district governors through the years, visit the news feed on our website: www.rotarytuscaloosa.com.



Sweetheart's Night February 14!



It's time once again for Rotarians to join together with their sweethearts to celebrate Valentine's Day! Rotarian Diane Salls announced signups for **Sweetheart's Night 2012**, to be held (appropriately) on February 14. The event will feature music by the Lamplighters. Be sure to sign up at the next meeting!



Guests, January 24

Guests at last Tuesday's meeting included **Bernie Grappe** (Marketing and Communications, DCH), guest of Sammy Watson, and **Jeremy Jones** (Engineer, Almon and Associates), guest of Bob Almon.



At the Head Table, January 24

Katherine Lee is the city editor of The Tuscaloosa News and has been a member of Rotary since 2007. She grew up in Southern California and Memphis, Tenn. She received a BA degree in English and History and a master's degree in Journalism from the University of California at Berkeley. She has been at the Tuscaloosa News since 2000, and was a member of the Rotary Dist. 6860 team that traveled to Victoria, Australia, in 2003. **Clark Swail** was raised in Tuscaloosa and attended UA. After graduation he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant through Air Force ROTC. He retired after 23 years combined service as a Lt. Col., and is a decorated Vietnam veteran. Clark then flew for Southwest Airlines for 24 years, retiring as a captain. He is active in the Reserve Officers Association, Southwest Golden Eagles (Retired Pilots), West Alabama Easter Seals, and Tuscaloosa County Master Gardeners. **Molly Baldwin** is Vice President of Development at DCH Health System. Molly was raised in Decatur, Alabama and is a graduate of the University of Montevallo. She recently joined the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and serves on the Allocations Committee of the Chamber Foundation. She has two children, Mac and Libby. **Margaret King** grew up in Tuscaloosa, and has both a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a masters in counseling from UA. With a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, she later rose through the ranks of Student Affairs at Tulane University. In 2003 she became Vice President for Student Affairs at UA, and has been a Clinical Professor of Higher Education since 2007. She has a daughter, a son and an adorable 18 month old granddaughter. She is active in the First United Methodist Church, and currently chairs our Club's Scholarship Committee.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

February 7

**Jim Page,
Director of the
West Alabama
Chamber of
Commerce**

**February 14
Sweetheart's
Night**

February 28

**Vicki Johnson,
Bradford Health
Services**

“If there is any one particular in which I would have Rotary distinguished from other organizations, it is in the quality of character which results in the doing of things.”

— Paul Harris

ABSENT? MAKING UP ATTENDANCE IS EASY...

- Visit with the Morning Rotary Club every Thursday at 7 AM at Indian Hills Country Club.
- Attend another club's meeting within two weeks before or after an absence.
- Participate in a Rotary event, such as a committee meeting, social function, Interact event, etc.
- Make up at E-club online: www.rotaryclubone.org.

REPORT ALL MAKEUPS TO CLUB SECRETARY NANCY JONES AT
nancysjones@bellsouth.net