



St. Simons

Rotary Spray

Volume 24, Number 41

June 11 Meeting

Brunswick Mayor Cosby Johnson

Reading Rockets Recognition



Crosby began with a shout-out to Donna Davis & Dialo Cartwright for their support of the community at the local and state levels. He emphasized his desire for transparency in government regardless of differing views.

Crosby then talked about some of the issues addressed since becoming mayor. The Brunswick Housing Authority was investigated and found to have mismanaged \$17MM in funds over the last 15 years. The director and 4 members were replaced. He also opened up the Procurement process information

to the public.

When Crosby became mayor, the police force was down 60%, and the fire department down 48%. He changed the pay structure and offered other benefits including training and education and help with living costs if residing in the city. The fire department is now at 110% and the police at 93%. The police department also now has a gang investigation unit, and they are working on bringing back bike and foot officers who can have conversations with the homeless.

Dialo and Donna helped with a trip to Atlanta to obtain funds from the State to renovate Howard Coffin Park. Crosby also realizes that there needs to be more than low-income development. There has been \$63MM invested in the downtown in the last 2-1/2 years.



Reading Rockets Volunteers

Front Row: Adeane Bregman, Fran Kielt, Sharon Baer, Amy Bone, Fred Leif, Lynn Leif.

Back Row: Linka Lewis, Jim Kielt, Barbara Bleakly, Kern Baker, Linda Hodges

Not pictured: Tom Luckstone, Jim Foster, Jane Olausen, Marion Moore

**June 18 Meeting
Lee Beckman
Georgia Ports Authority**



Lee Beckmann has been the Manager of Governmental Affairs for the Georgia Ports Authority since 2003. His responsibilities include managing government relations and a statewide outreach campaign for the GPA. His responsibilities include Special Communications, particularly "Crisis Communications".

Prior to joining the GPA, Lee served as a Legislative Assistant to Congressman Jack Kingston in Washington, DC. During his four years in Washington, Lee oversaw several legislative issues as well as appropriations for the Congressman - helping to secure funding for various projects such as harbor deepening in Savannah and Brunswick.

Lee received his Bachelor of Arts in History from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is a member of the Metro Savannah Rotary Club and a graduate of Leadership Savannah.

His other civic & community interests include serving as Chairman of Leadership Southeast Georgia and the Islands YMCA, and as Second Vice President of the Propeller Club of Savannah.

CLUB NEWS



ROTABUCKS JUNE 11
\$20
And the winner was...
Paul Pieschel
But no joker!



Guests at the June 11 Meeting

Maria Jennings	Guest of Beverly Trainor & a founding member of After Hours
Te Turner	Savannah Club
Carl	Roswell Club
Reading Rockets Volunteers	



Beverly introduced After Hours founding member Maria Jennings



Birthdays
John Law June 18

Chicken stir fry with veggies and rice. Big Asian salad with oranges and almonds. Chef's choice dessert.



Passing of the Gavel 2024

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

American Legion Post 166

1013 Arthur J. Moore Dr., St. Simons Island

5:30 Happy Hour (BYOB) & Awards



6:30 BBQ

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs & all the sides

RSVP for you & a guest by June 19

Lamattina2@comcast.net

Upcoming speakers:

- June 25 Year End Wrap-up
- July 2 No Meeting
- July 9 President Kern outlines goals for the year

Area Rotary Club Meetings

Brunswick	Embassy Suites	Thurs, 12:00 pm
Golden Isles	Kemble Center, SGHS	Wed., 7:30 am
Jekyll Island	Jekyll Island Golf Club	Wed., 7:30 am
St. Simons	Best Western	Tues., 1:00 pm

ROTARY WEBSITES

- www.ssirotary.org - St. Simon Rotary Website
- www.rotarydistrict6920.org - District 6920 Website
- www.facebook.com/rotaryssi - St. Simons Rotary Facebook
- www.facebook.com/Rotary6920 - District Facebook Page

Four Way Test

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL & better FRIENDSHIP?
- Is it BENEFICIAL to all concerned?