Meeting Notes – Jun. 25, 2024

The LaFayette Rotary Club held its weekly meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2024, in the Fellowship Hall at LaFayette First Baptist Church. Rotarians Brenda and Chester Carter were responsible for the program and invited as their speaker Angela Taylor, Regional Extension Agent of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System. Accompanying Angela was Janie Green, an intern in Angela's office. Janie is attending Auburn University working on a Master's degree in nutrition.

Angela serves eleven counties, including Chambers County. Her program areas are Financial Resources and Management & Workforce Development. She began by sharing some of the history of the Extension System with club members. The Extension System began as a land grant entity involving Tuskegee University, Alabama A&M, and Auburn University. Land grant institutions provide teaching, research and community outreach to state residents. The Extension System is primarily funded by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). She summed up the purpose of the Extension System as researching and gathering information in different areas so the public can make decisions.

Many people, when they think of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, think of 4-H, which is certainly an important part. However, the Extensions System is so much more. There are several Educational Outreach and Research areas:

Global Food Security and Hunger

Natural Resources Conservation and Management, Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change

Food System and Food Safety

Human Nutrition, Well Being, Health and Obesity

Sustainable Energy

Community Development

Family, Home and 4-H Youth Development

Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources

Animal Sciences and Forages

Angela provided us with the names and contact information of all of the local agents serving Chambers County, and their areas of responsibility. She also discussed the different services and resources offered, some of which are funded by the state:

Alabama Growers' Permit

Alabama Private Applicator Permit and Training (Private Pesticide)

Hay, Forage & Feed Analysis

Soil/Water Sample Testing

Plant Diagnostic Lab

Nutrition Facts Labeling

ServSafe/Cottage Foods Training and Certification

Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Emergency Preparation and Recovery Education

Heir's Property education and Referral

They are currently working on a Spanish version of the ServSafe certification.

Angela spoke of the success of the Tele-Health Station located in LaFayette, of which they are a partner. She said the local Hispanic population was especially appreciative since it offered translation services.

She also shared with us some upcoming events:

Riverkids-July 25-Join 4-H as they raft the Chattahoochee, ages 10-18.

Watermelon Production Meeting-July 26-at the ALFA Buidling, 1006 Ave. A SE, LaFayette.

Food Preservation Camp-July 24-25-Learn about pressure canning, water bath canning, fermentation, steam juicing, jams, jellies, and pickling.

Diane Sherriff