

BECON 4/21/23

Guests:

Stephanie Brazil - Event business owner (Stephanie Romsa's guest from Meadowlark)

Jackson Boos - Opportunity Bank (Bruce Glennie)

Jessica Hanes - Valley Federal Credit Union (Sheila Wilson)

Speaker:

Judge Don Harris

Announcements:

Tanner announced the next two social events:

May Movie Night -May 15th (Goonies), 6pm arrive, movie starts at 6:45pm

June Pig Races -June 10th, need to RSVP up until two weeks before. NOTE: if you cancel in the two weeks before the Pig Races you will be responsible for the \$30 fee per person to hold your place. They are giving the club a deal to waive the large group fee, so please make sure you attend if you sign up. Otherwise the cost per person is \$10.

Bus will load at 12pm that day and the last race will be at 9:45pm. Long day, so be prepared.

Cavin passed around the information for the Family Tree Golf tournament on June 30th. Please let Cavin know if you have interest in participating.

Rene - Passed around the Food Truck Battle Sponsorship package options as fund raising is under way for the FTB. A copy is attached to this BECON for your review and to pass out at will.

Bill Kennedy - The Family Tree Nurturing Center is having an open house on Wednesday, April, 26, 2023. They are honoring 5 awardees, Dave Weller is one of them. He will be stepping down as chair this year. The event is 6-8pm and there is a guest speaker that will be talking about the Children's Trust Fund prevention programs.

Tony - Shared that Monday night at Meadowlark was a great success! It was PACKED and they are not usually open on Mondays. We earned more than \$1k, and that final number will be out later, but the proceeds will go to the Family Tree Center.

Craig - Outlaws game this saturday, and next saturday too! Sign ups are open on the website for the 4th of July at the Metra, Sheridan County All Person Reunion, and Lil Wayne was added for May 23, at Metra, so Craig will add that on the website today.

This morning we took the 2nd vote out of 3 for the membership to voice whether or not they want the \$25k granted to Veterans Matter. Veterans Matter uses these monies to help homeless veterans secure the down payments and deposits for a place to live. The vote once again went in favor of granting the full \$25k to Veterans Matter, and 3 members opposed.

Today's speaker was the Honorable Don Harris, sharing about his treatment court over at the 13th Judicial District Court. It is called STAR which stands for Sobriety, Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery. This is an Adult Drug Court that serves a very specific population of folks. There are two things about drug courts that people should know: 1) You cannot punish the addiction out of someone, and 2) Addiction can be treated and managed.

Treatment courts started in 1989 in Florida. They follow what is called the Best Practice Standards which govern their court. There are 8 total treatment courts in Billings, and they all serve different populations such as DUI, co-occurring, mental health and addiction, and felony offense drug courts. The star court has a 15 person team which involves more than just the Judge and they include but are not limited to: Probation & Parole, Licensed Addiction Counselors, County Attorney, Office of Public Defender, Evaluator, Case Managers, and Law Enforcement.

The court is structured into 6 phases; the first 5 phases are to show up to court for 18 months, and the last year is a year long, where they monitor the participant to ensure they continue to ask for help and use their resources, and follow the rules of the court as a participant. They only accept high risk/high need folks in and they are referred to the court.

Addiction is a chronic relapsing brain disease, so it is something that literally rewires the brain to make the person impulsive, and have OCD tendencies that are destructive to themselves and others. That is why you can give them treatment and help them, but punishing them does not work. Their brains do not recognize the usual reward system for good behavior. They need all the resources they can get along with a very structured program.

These participants are required to have 500-600 days of sobriety and live on their own, show the court that they have enhanced their education, and that they are giving back to the recovery community. They are required to acquire their ID/Driver's License, a social security card, and other documents (they do not have these things when they first start in the court system). The STAR drug court can take 25-30 at one time in the active part of the program (first 18 months).

Typically if they lose a participant to recidivism, it happens in the first 30-45 days, but if they can keep them for 60-90 days, they usually don't leave after that. It is rare that someone does not graduate, and their graduation results are about 80-90%.

It was a pleasure hearing about this particular drug court and Judge Harris complimented and THANKED the Breakfast Exchange Club multiple times for what we do for the community. He said it is helping so much and he really appreciates everything we are doing. That was very nice to hear.

A one page fact sheet is attached to the BECON email so you can see some of the great things the STAR Treatment Court does for our community.

