



# May 17, 2007

## CLUB NEWS

### At Today's Meeting:

### Today's Speaker:



Larry Sharp, Executive Director of the Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity

Merrimack Valley Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit homebuilder founded in 1985 by concerned local citizens who came together as volunteers. It is the local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, the largest non-profit homebuilder in the world with a network of over 2,100 affiliates. The philosophy is that: We build simple, affordable, comfortable homes in partnership with people who need them

### Mission

The organization believes that a stable community begins with home ownership. By giving this opportunity to economically disadvantaged people in our community, we are enabling them to take control of their lives. Habitat's ultimate goal is to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness in the world by providing homeownership opportunities to those in need.

### Volunteers

Many of the volunteers come to us without construction experience. They come to us from all walks of life and are committed to helping our neighbors. Volunteers join in activities that are personally rewarding and supportive to the community, from on-site skilled and unskilled labor to office and committee support.

### Our Homeowners

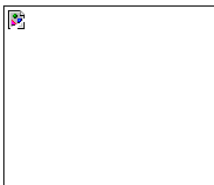
Habitat families [earn their homes](#). They provide at least 500 hours of "sweat equity" labor to build their own home and other families' homes. They also pay a reasonable monthly mortgage that is interest free. The family selection criteria include the condition of current housing, economic disadvantage, and financial responsibility

### Current Facts

- Founded in 1985 as a non-profit, ecumenical-based organization.
- One of the most productive Habitats in New England.
- 55 homes built since 1985.
- 7 homes currently under construction.
- The average home costs approximately \$96,000, resulting in an affordable mortgage payment which includes property taxes and insurance, but no interest or profit.
- Habitat homeowners earn between \$20,000 - \$40,000 per year depending on the family size.
- Habitat finances homes with a 25-year, no-interest mortgage.

The above was taken from the organizations web site. More on the efforts of this non-profit, including Homeownership, Volunteering, Donating and Ongoing Projects can be found on their web site at [www.merrimackvalleyhabitat.org](http://www.merrimackvalleyhabitat.org).

### Announcements



Bill Shack announced today that he and Frank were spearheading a Rotary Night at the Lowell Spinners. The night is scheduled for August 30, 2007 with an SPM first pitch. The tickets cost \$24 which includes a dimmer in the Gator Pit before the game. See Bill or Frank for tickets.

David Dreyfus announced that the last Career Day was preempted by state mandated tests. That was to be the last of the year so David will be looking for volunteers come September. Thank you to this year's volunteers.

Ron Hill announced that 6 members of the Interact Club will be attending the Rotary Youth Leadership Camp. As he mentioned last week we are sponsoring four and North Andover Rotary is sponsoring two as there is a limit to how many one club can sponsor. North Andover also agreed to pay for one of the two sponsorships.

Also Ron reminded us that the club would be sponsoring a car wash in about two weeks and would appreciate all our support.

### Upcoming Events

Pete Peterson provided an update to the current schedule of speakers and events.

- May 24—Scholarship awards luncheon
- May 31—Installation Luncheon—note that this is a change from the original date of June 7.

### Next Meeting

May 24, 12:15PM, Greater Lawrence Technical School, Andover

### Opening by:

President John Felci opened the meeting and we all sang The Star Spangled Banner

### Invocation:

Rabbi Goldstein

### Visiting guests announced by:

A number of guests were introduced including a visiting Rotarian from Methuen and Cececia who is out shopping for a Rotary Club. She unfortunately caught us on a day John was still in charge.

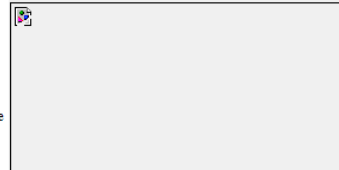
### Visiting Rotarians announced by:

None

### Make-ups announced by:

None

### Singing



Roger Berube and John Felci led a chorus of students in "Baby Face".

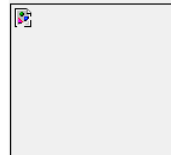
### Club Anniversaries

None

### Happy Birthday

Ramsey Bahrawy's birthday was celebrated twice. We all sang happy Birthday while he was out of the room and repeated it upon his return. Did he pay twice for that?

### 50/50 Raffle - \$355 - 10 of Clubs



Won by Alan Shafer

### Upcoming Events

### Volunteering Opportunities

#### Get involved

For the following activities, contact David Dreyfus

- Read-Aloud: 2nd & 3rd grades.
- Mentor/tutor: 7th & 8th grades.
- Career day workshops: 7th & 8th grades.

### Links and Resources

[Attendance](#)

[District Calendar](#)

[Resources](#)

[Makeup locations](#)

[Past newsletters](#)

[Committees](#)

[Rotary Foundation & Sustaining Membership](#)

We are now collecting donations for the 2006-2007 Rotary Year. If you would like to become a sustaining member, please email or call Jim Edholm. To learn more about the Foundation and how it funds the work of Rotary.



Due to the change in dates the nominations for Rotarian of the Year are due in to Bud Crowninshield by next Wednesday, May 23rd. Please call or mail (US Post Office) Bud or e-mail Pete.

In addition Pete added that Kathy Boshar was selected from a cast of thousands as the Chair for the Rotary Golf Tournament held this year on September 24. . She looks pleased to take on this opportunity Congratulations to Kathy.

#### Nominations 2007—2008

##### Officers

- ◆ President – Frank Firicano
- ◆ President-Elect – Pete Peterson
- ◆ Vice-President – Mark Engelberg
- ◆ Secretary – Mark McChill
- ◆ Treasurer – Bud Crowninshield
- ◆ Sergeant At Arms – Alan Shafer
- ◆ Asst. Sergeant At Arms –Dick Levis

##### Directors

- ◆ Bob Autieri
- ◆ J.B. Doherty
- ◆ Steve Ives
- ◆ Fr. George Morgan
- ◆ Bob Murphy
- ◆ Maureen Nimmo
- ◆ John Felci, Past President

##### Announcements

It's time to select our 2007 Lawrence Rotarian of the Year  
[Click here for an official form for your nominations.](#)  
Please respond by May 24th.

click the link above.

[David Dreyfus](#)  
Webmaster

##### Polio Plus

The club has committed to 100% participation for polio eradication fundraising. Each member \$75. 41 members have made their contribution. Where is yours?

Checks payable to Rotary Foundation.  
Give to David Dreyfus

Editor of the week: Bob Murphy