



Canaltown Crier

Rotary Club of Palmyra-Macedon



Tue Apr 29, 2014

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Apr 30, 2014
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No Upcoming Events

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Stories

John Colella, Wayne-NET

Posted by Tom Breen on Apr 23, 2014

We were honored today to be joined by John Colella, Macedon's Chief of Police and co-commander of Wayne-NET, the Wayne County Narcotics Enforcement Team. After a brief introduction by Rotarian Wayne Brophy, John (he prefers to be called John, not "Chief.") updated us on some of the work done by Wayne-NET.

Wayne-NET was organized by police chiefs in Wayne County in 2005, in an effort to pool resources to curtail drug crime in the county. If each police department had to have its own team, the cost would be prohibitive. By banding together, officers could work together more efficiently across jurisdictions. For the first few years, Wayne-NET focused on street-level drug crimes. Unfortunately, due to state sentencing guidelines, the dealers convicted would often be in and out of prison in pretty short order. The team would find themselves building cases against the same offenders all over again.

In 2008, the decision was made to go after those on the next rung up the ladder, targeting the larger-scale drug "rings" in the county. Partnering with federal agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), Wayne-NET was now able to bring federal charges against those involved. Federal sentencing guidelines are more severe than NY State's, meaning those convicted were subject to longer prison terms. Under federal guidelines, those convicted must serve at least 80% of their term before being eligible for release. State prisoners could potentially be out of prison after serving only half their sentence.

John told us that investigations can take months to complete, with wire-taps being a primary avenue of investigation. Some of the drug organizations that have been taken down had connections to New York City, Arizona, and most recently, Jamaica. Recently, some distributors in the Newark/Lyons area were apprehended after a lengthy investigation. This group of 12 people was bringing 2 to 3 kg of cocaine into the area each month. John related that in that case against several dealers, the ringleader was sentenced to 20 years; the Lyons distributor got 13 years; the distributor for North Rose received a 15 year sentence; and the Newark distributor was sentenced to 5 years.

Wayne-NET and their partners continue to investigate drug-related crime in the county. In fact, almost all of the crime in the county is related to drugs. John and the others on the team remain dedicated in their cause.



Wayne Brophy and President Pam welcome Macedon Police Chief John Colella of Wayne-NET.

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April 23, 2014 - Meeting Minutes

Posted by Tom Breen on Apr 23, 2014

Guests:

Susan Bush, Shirley Bassage, Speaker John Colella, students Brooke Foster and Marissa Meier, Szabi.

Missing in Action:

Brian Brooks, Kim Clement, Marie Cramer, Cheryl Ford, Gary Haigh, Debbie LeMoyne, Anne Morrell, Peter Park, Arnie Pechler, Dave Pray, Cindy Surline, Eric VanZeilen, Leslie Vecchiotti, Andy Wahl, Bob Yost.

Birthdays, Anniversaries:

Joy Ike – April 25

Fines, Happy Bucks, Confessions:

- Bob Sloan got the happy bucks rolling with a story about being pulled over in Lyons for expired registration on his trailer. So, he went to the DMV to get it renewed and ran into Gene Bassage, which sighting was a sure sign of Spring! Also, being in Lyons, he went over to the courthouse with the ticket and the newly renewed registration and the citation was dismissed.
- Dick had a happy buck for the donors who gave corneas for Mickey and him.
- Leslie offered a happy buck for Margaret's cross-stitch, which she won and was finally picking up today.
- Gary Hopkins and his family spent a week in Myrtle Beach.
- Pat informed us that the weather at Parkwood Heights today was the same as here at the Legion.
- Maurina gave a buck, regretting that she missed last week's meeting. She also says that the lake is right up to her cabin's back door!
- Mark went fishing with son Cody on Monday, and says Dan is coming for the weekend, and Mark is looking forward to some time with his granddaughter.
- Gene and Shirley are back! Gene said they were gone for 20 weeks, and they saved a dollar each week to give when they got back.
- Bob Ike pitched in a dollar for a confession/rumor control: A corn snake has gone missing from one of the High School science rooms. It's only a corn snake, though, not some deadly poisonous monster.

Notes and Updates for the Club:

- The Interact Club is sponsoring a blood drive at the High School on May 9 from 8 to 1:30. This drive will be open to the public as well as to students. The next morning, May 10, they will host their re-scheduled pancake breakfast at the Palmyra Fire Hall.
- Adopt-a-Highway cleanup is Saturday, May 3. Meet at Yellow Mills Diner for breakfast at 8am, or just come on out to the Palmyra Town Hall at 9am. At last notice, more volunteers were needed. Please contact Bob Yost if you'd like to help out.
- Bob Ike distributed a calendar for next year's program assignments. Copies will be available at the next few meetings, in case you were MIA today.
- Brian Brooks' ABC's book has been reviewed. The following people were assessed a \$2 fine for not signing it: Tom Breen, Wayne Brophy, Gary Haigh, Dave Pray, Dave Read, Nancy Schrader, Eric VanZeilen, Andy Wahl, and Bob Yost. The following people were assessed a \$1 fine for signing it *twice*: Pat VerPlank, Bill Dean, and Tom Brighton.
- The club changeover picnic is being planned, and that means it's time to consider our annual awards. If you know of someone who should be considered for a Paul Harris Fellow, please inform Cindy, Kim, or Dave Read. Tom Breen will be polling the club for Rotarian of the Year at the next couple of meetings.



We were joined today by some students from Pal-Mac High School. Pictured, l-r are: Szabi, Marissa Meier, Brooke Foster, and Jeff Cook.

Congratulations to Pat VerPlank, winner of \$12 in this week's 50/50 drawing. She generously donated her winnings to Polio Plus.

Next meeting – Club Assembly 12:00, April 30, at the Parkwood Heights in Macedon.