Milford Rotary Chat October 22, 2026





Meeting Minutes 10/15/2026 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Joe Barnes got the meeting started by leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pope Popilowski graced us with a lovely Prayer.

Don Wetmore breezed through The 4-Way-Test.

Guests:

Shamus Warakomski from TriCity Heating and Cooling joined us today as a guest and we hope to have him join us as a new Rotarian in the future.

Our speaker for today was Police Chief Mello and with him Deputy Chief Tim Wydra and Petrol Captain Joe Sikorsky.

Do Good:

Do Good today was being donated to the Special Olympics.

Carrie Reed said the Shred Event went great. Also, during the AED class at her office, Bill Parry collapsed and they had to call the paramedics. People in the group thought he staged this, which he did not. Thankfully he is ok and now is going through cardiac rehab. All of this is why we do the class. An emergency can happen anytime. There will be another class in February.

Dick Popilowski welcomed the Chief and his staff. Also, 10/19 is the groundbreaking for the new home for Beth El. It will be at 2:00 at 995 Bridgeport Ave.

Frosty Smith welcomed the Chief and he acknowledged Win's (the third) Mother-In-Law, Dana Morosa who is a member but has been away for awhile.

Christine Early said she is prepping for the election by doing voter training as a volunteer.

Dan said the Giants are 4-1-1 after last weeks tie which he was happy about.

Dana was away for 7 weeks, some business and some pleasure. She met Shamus on the Amalfi Coast.

Roger Pocock welcomed the Chief and staff. He liked driving in Italy where drivers come up behind you, flash a warning and then on they go. He was cleaning out his office and he found he has 2 things to donate to whomever wants them. He has 2ft x 6 ft glass shelving and a 4 line phone system. Both free to whomever wants them.

Lorna Sura was happy they were doing CPR training but was quite dismayed when Bill went down. It is great to get together at Beth El. The comradery is great.

Gary Johnson informed us that one of our past Rotarians, Aldo Roscotti had passed. He was an old fixture at the Italian table in Alderio's.

Speaker:

Dick did a great bio for Chief Mello. He has been in the Police profession for 44 years. The Chief thinks the department is doing a great job. They make sure those in the encampments are safe and cared for.

In the past, there was trouble at the mall (robberies, etc.), there were street take overs with youths in ATV's and motorcycles (people were frightened), there were riots at the beaches, there were rashes of car breakins (they happened in bunches) . Some of this still exist but law enforcement has been able to control these events.

In thinking of options to control crime, you could hire more cops but that would be too expensive. What works in other communities? We have to stop living in a silo. We need to communicate with our neighbors. We needed to start using technology and Milford was behind. They could not be everywhere at once. That is why they need cameras. There are the flock cameras, the police wear cameras and there are license plate readers (LPR). They have used these but they were used responsibly. Milford has more restrictions on LPR's than any other town in Connecticut.

If the town decides they want the cameras turned off, they will do so and they will do the best they can to do their jobs. If we limit surveillance, we will go backward. Milford has turned off the cameras and people are starting to speed more. In Milford LPR data was only held 7 days where the rest of the state keeps it for 21 days. LPR's have helped to capture pedophiles, car thiefs, homicides and burglaries. LPR's don't replace police but they provide speed and precision to solve crimes. Before LPR's they stopped 10,000 cars per year but with LPR's it was down to 2500 stops per year. The LPR's narrowed the search to give more precision.

Announcements and Upcoming Dates:

11/6 Food2Kids Winter Gala at Grassy Hill Country Club $125pp

12/19 Keeping Milford Warm event being held at Grassy Hill. It is a great event. We are forming tables of 10.

Photos of Bake & Awards Luncheon by Ray Carissimi Lobster Bake photos Scholarship Photos

Upcoming Speakers:

10/22 Maggie Mitchell Salem, Exec Dir IRIS (Integraed Refugee and Immigrant Services)

10/29 Milford Legislative Reps – Sen James Maroney, Rep MJ Shannon, Rep Kathy Kennedy, & Rep Frank Smith

Scribe: Greg Schmitt

Who's Who for the July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027 Rotary Year

Officers:			1st Yr Board Dir:	2nd Year Board Dir:
President – *Bill Parry*	Sargent-At-Arms: *Dave Adams* AsstSrgent-At-Arms: *Joe Barnes*		*Roger Pocock*	*Carrie Reed*
President-Elect – *Lise Robinson*	Treasurer: *Tracy O'Brien*		*Gary Johnson*	*Evelyn Karam*
Vice President – *Dick Popilowski*	Asst Treasurer: *Christine Early*		*Gina Gaglione*	*Matt Fama*
Secretary – *Ray Carissimi*	*Lorna Sura* (Immediate Past President)		*Phil Ucci III*	*Joe Barnes*
Membership Chairman – *Gary Johnson*	Beth-El meal leader- *Dave Adams*			*Lorna Sura – IPP*

Board Meeting the Second Thursday, 5:30 PM Social, 6 PM Meeting every month unless noted otherwise

Your Rotary Chat Team: Scribes: Greg Schmitt, Tom Margius & Win Smith, Jr Setting/Editing/Circulation: Tom Margius

Milford Rotary, PO Box 381, Milford, CT www.milfordrotary.org

As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas, and colors enough to paint the beautiful things I see.

— Vincent van Gogh