

Milford Rotary Chat July 23, 2026



Meeting Minutes: 7/16/2626 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Bob Bogert started us off with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Prayer by Dick Popilowski:

Gracious God, As we gather today in the warmth of summer, we pause to give thanks for the gifts this season brings—longer days, lighter hearts, and the chance to reconnect with one another in the spirit of fellowship.

Bless this meal and the hands that prepared it. Bless our Milford Rotary Club, its leaders, and every member who quietly and faithfully lives out Service Above Self. In these summer months, remind us that service is not only found in grand gestures, but also in small acts of kindness—offering encouragement, lending a hand, or simply showing up for one another.

May the sunshine around us inspire clarity in our decisions, compassion in our actions, and joy in our shared mission. Strengthen us to continue the work that uplifts our community, supports our neighbors, and reflects the best of who we strive to be.

Keep us mindful of those who struggle in this season—those without shelter, those facing hunger, and those who feel alone. Guide us to be instruments of hope and healing wherever we are needed.

As we enjoy this meal and the fellowship of friends, fill us with gratitude for the privilege of serving together. Amen

Buddy Prete gave us a staggered 4-Way-Test with his back to the banner.

Guests:

Andy Greenawalt, Mchelle Tenney – a guest of Bill Parry, Samantha Mola, Shannon Buckley – a resident on Pearl Hill Street.

Do Good:

Dave Adams (our Sargent-At-Arms) started us out with a happy fine that his wife is back from the hospital after an 8 day stay. Also, he was thankful for all who helped serve 80 people at Beth El.

Tom Margius gave a little report on his son not checking his wife's US Passport for their recent trip. She had to use her Italian Passport but had to do an entry back into the country by way of Canada.

Buddy Prete was happy that his wife Christine recently received an award from the Devon Rotary for her work on helping non-profits with donations.

Frosty Smith gave a sad fine the the Lobster Bake was not listed in the Calendar of Milford Living Magazine and noted that every Milford Rotary Member needs to sell 10 tickets. He was happy that he will finally reach visiting his 50th State this Sunday with a trip to Alaska.

Dick was happy that his wife has a successful Retinal Surgery repair though she needs to keep her head in a down position for several hours a day for a few weeks. He noted that he needed someone to add to his 3some for Monday's Beth El Golf Fundraiser. Dave Adams commented that his wife has had 8 eye surgeries.

Gary Johnson was happy about golfing recently with Frosty, Dave, and Yale's BB Coach. He noted that repairs to Yale's Golf course will now make a round of Golf at Yale's course at \$350. Dave commented that he'll be playing there for free soon as per he is a 'course rater' for Golf Magazine.

Carrie Reed gave an extended 'Humping Story' about her grandchildren, Rosy the dog, and Ivan the cat. It will not be given space here but you had to be at the meeting to enjoy it!

Lorna Sura was happy to be back from Tuscon. She went to the Zoo when it was 111 degrees there.

Bill Parry was happy about the Outstanding Community Service Award our Club received through the District this past Sunday. Phil Ucci put together a presentation about the 170,000 meals that were put together for those in need. 200 Lobster Tickets have been sold – we need to Sell, Sell, Sell.

Speaker:

Today's speaker Richard Smith, the 13th Mayor of Milford. He is a lifelong member of Milford, went through the Milford School System and Received degrees from Yale, and Trinity College. He lives in the Laurel Beach area of Milford. He noted that he needs to give Milford his full attention every day with many 11 hour days. The inflection point of the city is such that it is not 'retail' any longer. As a town we need to reinvent ourselves. The Economic Development Committee (Buddy Prete is a member) has weekly meetings to note upcoming changes. An example was made of Foreign Car Parts, where the Mayor visited the business asking how the city can help as a partner. He said the most important thing with the Mayor's Office is that we 'answer the phone'. He values our customers, the taxpayers of Milford. We need to keep that small town charm but it takes a lot of work to do that. He talked about making a New Zone in Devon to help vitalize that area. His goal is transparency, his door is open, and doesn't go on social media. Several questions were brought up about the Middle Schools, Power Lines on Pearl Hill, Devon's Mixed Use, the North Street City Property, and housing.

Announcements:

The Milford Rotary Scholarship Luncheon will be held at 12:15 pm on August 6th at Gusto's Restaurant. Please RSVP by no later than July 31st to Max Case (maxcase9@gmail.com)."

7/29 is the wrap party at Valley Yacht club on Riverside Drive. Starts at 5:30. The work is easy and we have a really good time.

7/30 The tanks get scrubbed and washed and moved to the site.

7/31 is set up Friday at 7AM. Please show up about 10 AM. There is a lot to do – table wraps, chairs...

8/1 the Bake. 9AM Shuck corn. Health Department will show up at 3PM. Let's serve and have fun.

8/6 Milford Rotary Scholarship Luncheon 12:15PM at Gusto's

8/6 there is a Paddle Boat Ride. First come ,first served. Show up at 7:45 and the ride begins at 8:00. It is BYOB and the fee is \$45 per person. You can pay Phil cash or Venmo. The pickup location is at the dock behind the library. There is a 20 person max on the boat.

Upcoming Speakers:

7/23/26 Milford School Superintendent Dr. Anna Cutaia

7/30/26 All in For Milford

8/6/26 Milford Rotary Scholarship Luncheon at 12:15pm at Gusto's Restaurant.

Scribe:Tom Margius

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

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

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

***Lobsters are just ocean lawyers — always in a suit
and ready to claw their way out of trouble.***

-Coral. Reef