

Milford Rotary Chat August 20, 2026



Meeting Minutes: 8/13/2626 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Tom Margius led us in The Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.
Reverend Don Wetmore did a nice job with the Prayer.
Gary Opin easily recited The 4-Way-Test and didn't even peek.

Guests:

Sue Brown from Purple Pantry was with us and our speaker for the meeting.
Josh Daniels who is a local contractor joined us and he is looking to join our club.
Justin De Grade joined us. He is moving in to a new office on Broad St (Dr Tom's old office). He is a Public damage adjuster. And yes, he knows Mark Sandillo.
The next board meeting is 8/20, this Thursday, at Matt Fama's home at 125 Bay Shore Drive.

Do Good: (Dave Adams – Sargent-At-Arms)

Dave Adams went to a LIV tournament in New Jersey with Gary Johnson and it was a blast. Very different than a usual golf tournament with loud music and cheering. It was a lot of fun.
Ray Carissimi took photos for the sand sculpture contest at Walnut Beach. While there he saw a lot of Rotarians.
Tom Margius was happy people were reading the CHAT. He knows this because people are pointing out the mistakes(haha). He enjoyed the scholarship luncheon where he got to meet the winning candidates and their families. He found them very interesting. I think he said with a tear in his eye that his granddaughter does not want to ride a bike.
Joe Barnes was happy to give Tom a response. But sad that he had cataract surgery 2 weeks ago but it didn't take and must have it redone.
Win Smith was sad that the law of averages was catching up with the Red Sox. He was happy seeing the students getting their awards so soon after a very successful bake. Devon Rotary is looking for a partner in a major project. They are looking to build a pavilion at the Senior Center and each club would donate \$50,000. Win thought maybe we could use the money that is set aside from the Richie Weir fiasco.
Dave Adams thought Max did a great job at the luncheon and reading parts of each student's application was very interesting.
Don Wetmore was happy to see our guests today.

Speaker:

Sue Brown from the Purple Pantry spoke to us about how it came to be. For her past 34 years she has been a public defender and the last 10 years she has lived in Milford. As a public defender she saw people having to make impossible choices ie. Food or rent ; food or clothes etc. Many people have food insecurity but are embarrassed by it. After her husband died, her family started to struggle. You don't know who has food insecurity. In Milford 1 in 3 has food insecurity and tiny bit higher in West Haven. They fill the boxes 2 times per day 5 days a week (not on weekends). In New England, Connecticut spends the least amount on food insecurity. Last year they had just over 100 home deliveries out of 365 days. This year is over 100 deliveries already and will end the year with almost 200 deliveries. Most deliveries have about \$200 worth of food and it is hoped to last about 2 weeks. Use of the purple pantry boxes is mostly used by the seniors.. The deliveries are about 50:50 between seniors and families. Each delivery is personalized to the wants and needs of the client. As inflation has made things more expensive, people have less money for other expenses.. In Milford nothing comes from the city and those in need must rely on the kindness of strangers. Food banks are connected with the churches.

Most of their funding comes from the residents of Milford. But the state is starting to help. They have a golf fund raiser the second Saturday in May but most of the money goes to the golf courses. They survive on fund raisers. On Sept 19th there is the Purple Pantry Party- Shop Local Save Big where over 40 local businesses participate and you get a discount if you are wearing the purple pantry bracelet. There will be an ad book. The Turkey Trot helps raise money for them and there is another fund raiser in March.

Announcements and Upcoming Dates:

The next board meeting is 8/20, this Thursday, at Matt Fama's home at 125 Bay Shore Drive.

Photos of Bake & Awards Luncheon by Ray Carissimi [Lobster Bake photos](#) [Scholarship Photos](#)

8/13 Susan Brown – Purple Pantry

8/20 Milford Rotary Board Meeting at Matt Fama's Home 125 Bayshore Dr Milford

8/20 Paige Miglio, Milford Arts Council – Jazz Fest10/3

8/27 Paul Gargano – from LA Slick will tell about the Music Industry and his Collections

9/3 Michael Stearns – School of Rock

9/10 Hunnebee Project

9/17 Milford Police Chief Keith Mello

9/24 Brad Dancer – SHU Radio

9/25-9/26 Devon Rotary's Oktoberfest

10/1 Milford Fire Chief Christopher Walksnoris

Scribe:Greg Schmitt

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 – 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 Poplowski	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

He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much.

— Elbert Hubbard