



Wilton Rotary Drummer
 Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980
www.wiltonrotaryclub.org



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Editor: Kathy Leeds

Guests: [Bob McDowell](#), [Steve Solar](#), [Rick Kellam](#), [Jessie Martinez from Westy Storage and Bill Brennan](#), [Wilton's First Selectman](#)

Announcements:

- [Ads for the craft show need to be paid for – a final tally is coming](#)
- [Rose sale – we are at 294 dozen so far and the pick up is from noon to 1:30 pm Friday 13th at the Village Market.](#)
- [We won the Presidential Citation award at the conference in Saratoga Springs.](#)
- [John Lemke and Ray are working on the 25th anniversary bank fund raiser – we have received about \\$1500 in total.](#)
- [Pat showed photos of the ramp that he and Frank installed - masons put in 40 feet of flagstone for free \(Pilato Brothers in West Redding. We own the ramp system](#)
- [Installation dinner – Dale mentioned 6:30-9:30 with cash bar on the patio at Silvermine Golf Club. **Please contact her and let her know if you are coming.** The cost is \\$46 per person.](#)
- [No lunch meeting next week due to the rose sale.](#)
- [Board meeting is on the 14th at Paul's Prosperous Printing](#)
- [This Sunday is Georgetown Day – the Chamber and the Y are collaborating on a booth for the road race.](#)
- [The Wilton Police awards ceremony was sponsored by Rotary on Tuesday night at the Library and went very well. We will make this an annual Rotary event and may include the Wilton Firemen's ceremony as well.](#)
- [The Board meeting on March 15th included discussion of several items:](#)
 - [We need to take a more active role in improving the Oldies Show if we are to continue using the same organization to mount it](#)
 - [Pat Russo is in charge of the installation of two ramps for handicapped individuals.](#)
 - [We got the \\$3,000 check \(finally!\) from District and will move ahead \(adding our \\$4,000\) to purchase the generator for the school and orphanage in Haiti.](#)
 - [The Craft Show is proceeding according to schedule and Judy White will fill in for Richard Kent while he is on vacation.](#)
- [We'll present the \\$500 check to the YMCA for mannequins next week](#)
- [Our 25th anniversary celebration will be held on Monday, May 21st from 7-9 pm at Silvermine Tavern and Selectman Brennan was invited.](#)

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Guest speaker:

[Georgetown Development's Steve Solar](#)

In 2002, Steve's group of investors bought the Gilbert & Bennett property and came up with a plan using community input. The master plan has been approved, a taxing district has been established, and the project will be a LEED project with green technology. About 90% of the demolition and decontamination has been completed. In September 2007, the full blown development will occur – and will continue for about a year. The goal is to construct totally green buildings and Norwalk Hospital has signed on to be the first tenant. A pond and waterfall are features, and there will be theaters, performing arts center, and underground utilities.

The planning process has taken five years. The water treatment plant will be in place by September 2007 and 416 housing units are planned, including some specially priced units for seniors and artists (apartments, condos, townhouses and single family houses). A railroad station is approved with 640 spots in the parking lot. Metro North is going to be electrified and the station will be up and running in 2010. There is a design code for the exteriors and the taxing district can enforce this. Bond issues for the construction have been snapped up. Combined heat and power plants will save costs, air quality will be better, dark sky initiative – street lights will point down, storm water management will not impact the Norwalk River. The EPA is very supportive on sustainable development. There are tax credits and financial incentives for green projects. Wilton First Selectman, Bill Brennan

Bill addressed several issues of interest to the group:

- The carnival will most likely be held on the old Gilbert and Bennett School grounds the first week of September. Bill said that the Lions Club has worked with Georgetown neighbors and will hold their carnival there in June. He asked Frank to call him with dates we'd like and promised to confirm them after making sure they don't conflict with other town events.
 - Route 7 widening is going well and there will be a public information session at 7:30 pm at Cider Mill School to present the next phase scheduled to start in April. He discussed the recent hearings on "Super 7" and suggested that, at the very least, it was appropriate to wait and see how the widening and improvement of mass transit help before proceeding with further plans to improve traffic.
 - The lamp post project for Wilton Center is intended to both light the sidewalks at night and to unify the area with a common architectural element. 75 posts are needed and a number have already been funded by companies, organizations and individuals. Donors are being asked to contribute \$5,000, which will enable a personalized bronze plaque to be placed on the lamp post.
 - Those who give less will be put on a separate plaque mounted on a stone, where the crèche used to stand. He would like Rotary to consider donating to the project.
 - Three signs welcoming folks to Wilton Center will be erected at the entrances (Horseshoe Road, Ridgefield Road and Old Ridgefield Road) and he would like Rotary to consider helping fund one sign as well. Each sign will cost approximately \$3,000. Installation will follow current construction activity.
 - Our 2007-08 budget is in process and it looks as if our mill rate will come in lower than last year's. Issues under study by the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen are the unfunded pension liability and recognition of the liability of OPEB (other post-employment benefits). Measures will probably be taken to reduce underfunding in these areas.
- In answer to a question about the opening of Memorial Stadium, Bill said that construction will continue on the home bleachers, team rooms, a concession stand and rest rooms, but the stadium will be available for use as publicized. He noted that it will be a great facility that Wilton citizens will be proud of for many years.

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