



## Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut

[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)



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Editor: Karen Strickland

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For the first official meeting of the new 2012-13 Rotary year, 17 Wilton Rotarians were in attendance and one visiting Rotarian from the Westport Club. In newly-inaugurated President Wendy's absence, past president Paul Hafter led the program in style. It was great to be back at Marly's after a hiatus of a few weeks, and Wendy will be returning to preside over our meetings on July 27.

### Announcements:

Carol Johnson and Karen Strickland talked about the Wilton Street Fair and Sidewalk Sales sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, which will be held on Saturday, July 21 from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm in Wilton Center. Ridgefield Road between Godfrey Place and the Village Market's north driveway will close to vehicular traffic and become a pedestrian mall with about 45 vendor booths lining the road. Rotary will be sponsoring a beer tent at the event as a club fundraiser, and the liquor permit has been applied for, Victor is working with Mitch Ancona on the varieties to be offered, and several Rotarians volunteered to help out that day. Customers will be checked for ID and given a stamp signifying they are 21 or older. Should be a fun event and great community exposure for Rotary.

### Program:

Ted Hoffstatter was our guest speaker today who talked about the benefits of reusable bags when shopping at the grocery store or other retail establishments. No one wants a complete ban on plastic bags, but the goal is to significantly reduce the number that end up in the trash and eventually don't decompose in landfills. Switching to paper bags is not the answer either, as they are more expensive for store owners to provide and also create a disposal problem. Most people own reusable bags, but the key is to remember to not to leave them at home or in the car but to bring the bags into the supermarket for packing up purchases. The bag doesn't have to be a special supermarket brand, any canvas tote bag will do, and these can be used at the "big box" stores also to avoid the plastic ones. Ted said the Village Market has to spend \$50,000 per year to provide plastic bags for customers, so if more people brought their own reusable bags, it would help local merchants, too. So do your part for the good of the environment and remember to Go Green by having your reusable bag ready at all times!

Stay cool and enjoy the summer!

***NEXT MEETING: Friday, July 13, 2012***