



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Happy Bastille Day everyone! Boucher, Brown, Burnham, Dulberg, Edwards, Freedman, Glass, Goldman, Hafter, Johnson, Kent, Khouri, Lavin, Mais, Meehan, Nigro, Russo, Tai-Lauria, and White, along with our speaker and our guest Michael Bellacosa from the Wilton Library came to Marly's for the celebration of the liberation in 1789 of the hoi polloi of France from the bonds of feudalism. (Glory, Glory, Hallelujah, hip hooray Amen)

Announcements – The Street Fair happened on July 15. Your editor was not there, regrettably, but I hope many of the rest of you were and I am sure a great time was had by all.

Octoberfest will be celebrated at Trakside in October. No further details at this time.

There will be at last one sitting, maybe two, for the consumption of certain sea creatures at the American Legion which, on September 23, are expected to migrate across the Silvermine from New Canaan.

From our Prez – Our speaker on July 21 will be Susan Heath, the new director of Social Services for the Town of Wilton. On July 28 the Club will assemble at the Library for a "business meeting".

Our Treasurer kept his losing streak alive when he drew the six of clubs. Not even close.

Program. Our speaker was Bob Russell – Town Historian and our Town's First Selectman for most of the 1990s.

In 1802, Wilton liberated itself from Norwalk, and in commemoration of that bold act, Bob and his wife Carol (and others) chose to interview some of the Town's long-time residents about life in Wilton in the 20's, 30's, 40's, etc. (A few are still living) Walter Bassett, Ev Hurlbut (one T), Anne Schlicting, Harry Abbott, Florence Talmadge, Walt Smith, Mary Ellen Ottavi, one of the Schenk's of island fame, among others. Fascinating stuff.

Once upon a time, before the northern interchange of Routes 7 and 33 was built and the bridge across the railroad tracks and the Norwalk River was constructed, there was a bridge several hundred yards to the South. Evidently Mr. Bassett's family had a gas station on that corner (of Danbury Road and what was at the time Old Ridgefield Road) Now Old Ridgefield Road exists for all intents and purposes only on the west side of the River – except that if you have an old GPS, it assumes that that bridge still exists, and clients still end up on the wrong side of the river. When Bob comes back for

round two (he only got through describing about half the interviews), I will have to remember to ask him when that bridge was demolished.

See you in two weeks – I'm off to Toronto in the morning

Paul

P.S. I understand that team from the Bronx is now in THIRD place ... and the way their season is going, FOURTH is just around the corner ...