



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

Our 32nd Year of Service!

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The sunny and pleasantly warm final Friday in July brought seventeen Rotarians, guest, prospective member Christene Freedman, and speaker, Wilton Y Executive Director Bob McDowell, together for fine food and drink at Marly's.

Announcements:

- July 26 – Peter Nigro's birthday.
- August 1 – District Governor Mukund Nori visits Wilton Rotary Club at Marly's 12:15.
- August 22 – Karen's last meeting before goin' west.
- September 12 – 14 – Wilton Rotary Carnival – Pat is developing ride sponsorship opportunities. Stay tuned.
- September 21 – World Peace Day (we could use more of that)

Program: **Bob McDowell – Executive Director of the Wilton Family Y**

Bob spoke of the history of the Wilton Y, changes and what the future could hold. The Wilton Family Y, a non-profit, non-governmental entity, was developed by Wilton citizens in the late 1960s and early 1970s to address the need for a family oriented recreational facility in the growing town. At its creation, the Wilton Y was sponsored by the Norwalk Y and chartered to serve primarily the towns of Wilton and Redding. The Wilton Y actually draws membership from towns throughout southwestern Connecticut.

Like the club, the Y is dealing with the consequences of Karen's retirement. Karen has been working with Christene Freedman, the Y's new Financial Development Director, on the transition. Christene has come on board just in time to see some changes at the Y. The Y facility on Danbury Road was initially built in the early 1970s. The mid 1990s saw the addition of the 50 meter pool, exercise areas and lockers. In the early 2000s a modest program expanded exercise areas and reconfigured lockers. Now, the facility is due for a substantial renewal. Soon the Y will embark on its biggest capital campaign designed to expand on, renew and improve some of the oldest portions of the facility. The improvements are intended to ensure the facility will continue to meet the needs of the community through the next generation.

Another issue relates to the future of the Norwalk Y which found it necessary to sell its 85 year old facility and close its doors to members. A committee has been formed to study the future of the remaining Norwalk Y entity, whether it should merge with the Wilton Y and how to fill the void created by its closure. The Norwalk Y's future will probably be decided within the next year.

NEXT MEETING – Friday, August 1 at Marly's in Wilton