



CLUB NEWS

FEBRUARY 15, 2024

Inter-Club Meeting

Area 12 will hold an inter-club meeting at noontime on **March 13th** at Flanders Fish House in Niantic. Guest speakers from Safe Futures will address the attendees. Additionally, an Unsung Hero will be named from each club. President Val will provide details and deadlines for nominating the New London Unsung Hero over the next several weeks.

Community Meal Center

Our club volunteers on the 2nd Thursday of each month to serve at CMC. Please let Anna Lathrop know if you can help, anna@gourmet-galley.com. We begin at 4pm and are done by 6:15pm. Your help is always appreciated.

THANK YOU

The Drop-In Learning Center would like to express our sincere appreciation for your generous donation of Celebration of Three Kings Day with books donated. Thoughtful contributions such as yours make it possible to continue our mission with our children here at The Drop-In Learning Center.

Reona Dyess
Executive Director

Waterford Rotary

Meetings First and Third **Tuesday** of the Month, beginning November 21, 2023 at Filomena's in Waterford.

Little Free Libraries

The Little Free Library project is a daily club initiative to locate books, secure, label and distribute them throughout the city. Please bring books to our meetings or let one of our stewards (Gail, Christine, Mel, Ray or Julia) know if you need someone to pick them up. Good sources of material are family, libraries, schools, friends, neighbors, places of worship and workplaces. Contact Julia Kushigian-Secor with questions jakus@conncoll.edu.

Rotary International Foundation

Giving to the Rotary International Foundation is a great way to make a difference in the lives of millions. Programs in the United States and around the world benefit from your generosity. It's easy to give through automatic withdrawals and there is no minimum—every donation matters! To donate to Rotary International, please go to myrotary.org/donate or scan the QR code below.

If you have not yet registered, you will need to log in with password. Choose amount of donation and Fund you would like it to go to. Please be sure to include Club number 6741 and your Rotary membership number. If you do not have it, please contact Ed Cramer at winetalk177@aol.com.

Thank you for supporting the Rotary International Foundation.



TODAY'S PROGRAM

Liz Binger
Conflict Resolution

Weekly Meeting

12:00 Noon
at THE THAMES CLUB
290 State Street, New London

Feb 22 **Emmet Cosgrove**
Mediation

Feb 29 **Victoria Mueller**
Club Foundation

For those unable to attend in person, please join us for our weekly Rotary meeting via Zoom. Go to [ZOOM.COM](https://zoom.us) and click "JOIN A MEETING" and enter the info below.

ID=895 9471 7490
PW=512184

GREETER

Feb 15 Tracee Reiser

INVOCATION

Feb 15 Tracee Reiser

SONG LEADER

Feb 15 Tracee Reiser

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 18 Tracee Reiser
Feb 19 Brian Cole
Feb 19 Ivan Sadler
Feb 21 Florence Clarke

ANNIVERSARIES

None

Rotary District 7980 ~ Area 12

People of Action



Area 12 Inter-Club Luncheon / Social



Area 12 ~ Assistant District Governor ~ Michael Barnett

Cordially invites you to our joint Inter-club luncheon

Area 12 Clubs

Groton

Niantic

New London

Mystic

Waterford

Our Guest Speakers will be Kathy Verano, Marie Kenny, Ken Edwards ~

Safe Futures started in 1976 as the Women's Center of Southeastern CT for Information, referral, rape crisis hotline for women. It has become so much more to this community.

It will become "The Center for Safe Futures" implementing the family justice center model of operation.

Join us to hear their plans for the new center to be built on Route 85 in Waterford and how it will impact the people of Southeastern CT.



Buffet Lunch will be \$15.00

RSVP to your club President

Wednesday
March 13, 2024
At 12:15 pm
Flanders Fish
22 Chesterfield Rd
East Lyme, CT
Parking is limited ~
carpool is encouraged

Questions?

Call Michael 860.463.7634 or

Deb Fountain 860.303.0968

**All members are encouraged
to attend. Please try to sit
with those from other clubs!**

CLUB REPORT

FEBRUARY 8, 2024

by Gail MacDonald

Support for the offshore wind industry, a newly refurbished City Hall, a dedicated preschool facility and new housing developments and businesses throughout the city. These are among recent accomplishments that have bolstered the economy and desirability of New London, **Mayor Michael Passero** told members of New London Rotary on Feb. 8.

"When I first got elected, there really was nothing going on," Passero said while giving a "State of the City" address to the club.

But after two full terms as mayor and as he begins a third term, Passero said the city is making a lot of positive progress: it's attractive to developers, it's been the recipient of state and federal grants, the grand list is growing, many new residents are moving into the city and it is reclaiming its historical status as a focus of business and commerce in southeastern Connecticut.

"Our bond rating is up and for six years our taxes have been drifting lower," Passero said. "It's all because of the new investment in the city."

Passero said when he was first elected, the general opinion about New London among residents was that projects and plans usually fell through. But as more projects are successful, that feeling is waning.

"We've started to overcome the typical Whaler skepticism," he said.

Among the items that demonstrate the city's progress, Passero listed:

- A beautifully refurbished City Hall. Passero said he was first struck by the decrepit nature of City Hall when, in his first term as mayor, he was visited at the State Street building by the Coast Guard commandant.
- A strong job market led by two major employers: L&M Hospital and Electric Boat.
- The election of Martha Marx as state senator in the 20th District. For many years, the senate seat was held by a resident of one of the suburban towns in the district, most recently East Lyme and Waterford.
- The rebuilt State Pier that is supporting the offshore wind industry. Passero called the support of offshore wind "a bumpy ride," but said he and other key officials never lost faith in that project.

- Renovation at several city parks, including Green's Harbor Beach and Toby May Field. A major stormwater project at Green's Harbor has significantly decreased flooding onto Pequot Avenue in that area.
- Several new market-rate apartment complexes.
- Replacement of miles of crumbling sidewalks.
- The beginning of a project that will eliminate all lead water pipes in the city.
- A new preschool center in the former B.P. Learned mission property.
- A \$40 million community center now under construction at Ft. Trumbull.
- Redevelopment plans for The Day newspaper building and adjoining former bank building on Eugene O'Neill Drive. The buildings will be converted to housing and a boutique hotel featuring a rooftop bar with water views. A portion of Atlantic Street behind the buildings will be decommissioned and redeveloped as a park.

Passero said even with these accomplishments, there is still plenty of work ahead. He expressed frustration that some property owners continue to let their downtown buildings fall into disrepair, for example.

"We are still struggling with property owners who keep their buildings pretty decrepit, even though we have people lining up to buy pretty much any building downtown," he said. Even with that, Passero said he believes the downtown district is improving dramatically and by the summer there are expected to be new restaurants and a brew pub on Bank Street.

The waterfront is another area where work lies ahead, Passero said. Despite the city's long waterfront with a pedestrian walkway through the downtown district, there is no way for boats to tie up at most of the city's piers, he said.

"I would like to see a lot more maritime commerce on our waterfront," he said.

Passero praised the team of city officials who he said all have worked diligently to bring the many goals of the administration to fruition.

"We're working really hard toward our goals," he said.



New London Rotarians are helping brighten days for senior citizens in the city who are confined to their homes due to illnesses and mobility challenges. For Valentine's Day, the club assembled a small gift for the 55 shut-ins who get Meals on Wheels delivered to them through Thames Valley Council for Community Action. The gift consists of a Valentine lollipop and a card with a message that they are important and loved. The cards were made by children in the Boys and Girls Club overseen by the Salvation Army. The Valentines are the second gifts sent out to the seniors by the club. The first was delivered with Meals on Wheels at Christmas. Another gift is planned in time for the beginning of spring and spring holidays. Special thanks to Gigi Gonzalez-Cottrell for the cards, Anna Lathrop for the chocolate lollipops, Brian Cole for the Rotary stickers and TVCCA Meals on Wheels delivery people for including the gifts with the lunches they deliver.

Club Officers, 2023-2024

President	Valerie West
President-Elect	Mel Foti
Vice President	Mary Lenzini
Secretary	Andy Russell
Treasurer	Alan Lyon
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Bysko
Immediate Past President	Brian Cole

Board Of Directors

2024	John Bysko, Kate Lee, Mark Spinnato
2025	Lee Cole-Chu, Pam McNulty Hennessey, Todd Gipstein
2026	Andrew Gilday, Mirna Martinez, Tracee Reiser

Club Committees

Rotary Youth Service

Todd Gipstein, *Director*

Student Of The Year	Barry Neistat
High School Awards	Barry Neistat

Rotary Membership

Mel Foti, *Director*

Fellowship/RAH	Reid Burdick
Classification	Andy Russell
Information	Kris Magnussen
Sunshine	Millie Devine
Diversity/Membership Dev.	Jerry Fischer

Rotary Community Service

Gail MacDonald, *Director*

Camp Rotary	Tracee Reiser
Centennial Playground	Rick Gipstein
Holiday Book Drive	Anna Lathrop
Community Meal	Anna Lathrop
Service Person/ Veteran's Day Program	Mary Lenzini
Little Free Libraries	Julia Kushigian Secor
Yale Harvard Regatta	Lee Cole-Chu
Thanksgiving Turkey Fund	Pam McNulty-Hennessey

Rotary International Service

Julia Kushigian Secor, *Director*

Rotary Club Service

Lee Cole-Chu, *Director*

Audit	John Bysko
Awards	
Paul Harris	
Carl Wies	
Tom Wetmore	
Phil Turner	
Nominating	Ed Cramer
Anchor	Todd Gipstein
Music	Chris Neilan
Program	Mary Lenzini
Fundraising Committee	Mel Foti
Golf	Kate Lee, Alex Marku
Brewfest	Keith Turner, Victoria Mueller
By-Laws	Lee Cole-Chu
Picnic	Val West/Ted Rossi
Anchor Ad Sales	Mark Spinnato
Installation Committee	Victoria Mueller
Public Relations	Brian Cole
Website	Catherine Foley, Gail MacDonald
RI Foundation	Ed Cramer

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Eric J. Garofano
Attorney at Law

38 Huntington Street • P.O. Box 1351
New London, Connecticut 06320-1351
Phone: (860) 447-3171 • Fax: (860) 444-6103
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