



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

♥ **THROBS**

Published Weekly Since 1914

August 19, 2024

No Meeting

August 19 is Tu B'av, the Jewish holiday of love. Meaning the 15th Day of the month of Av, Tu B'av is both an ancient and modern holiday. Originally a post-biblical day of joy, it served as a matchmaking day for unmarried women in the Second Temple period (before the fall of Jerusalem in AD 70). Tu B'Av was almost unnoticed in the Jewish calendar for many centuries but has been rejuvenated in recent decades, especially in the modern state of Israel. In its modern incarnation it's gradually becoming a Hebrew-Jewish Day of Love, slightly resembling Valentine's Day in English-speaking countries.



Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our August 12 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2424fs2d>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

August, 2024

- 20 Board meeting
- 26 RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards)

September, 2024

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 2 | No meeting | |
| 9 | Journalism, Humor, and <i>Macon Melody</i> | Ed Grisamore |
| 16 | "Trouble in God's Country" (economics) | Charles Hayslett |

September, 2024, continued

17 Board Meeting
23 First Tee of Middle Georgia
30 No meeting

Elliott Ruus, Exec. Director

MEETING August 12, 2024

Attendance: 66.2% - 72 in person, 16 Zoom, plus 10 guests

CART \$90, Raffle \$31

Club Membership: 144

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting and called on Past President and Past District Governor Albert Reichert to lead the singing. In honor of our speaker, the mayor, Albert chose *For He's a Jolly Good Fellow*. Robbo Hatcher offered the prayer attributed to St. Francis, which begins with "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace." Robbo said that, even though the prayer doesn't use the word "service," it speaks to the Rotary ideal of service.

Danny thanked pianist Jackie Riley and welcomed our guests. We had a few more than usual, including a contingent of six members from the Downtown Macon club (including Mayor Miller). This was also the first visit of our new GRSP student from Brazil, João Victor Vilela. His first name is pronounced "jowow," or something very close to that!

Jean Easom and Past President Jonathan Alderman have upcoming birthdays this week. Three members celebrate club anniversaries, including George Jackson with 17 years of service.

It was then time for CART brags, and we had a lot of good ones. The picture below has just some of them. The Macon Arts Alliance is celebrating 40 years and was founded when the Chamber of Commerce received a Georgia Council for the Arts grant. Sarah Harris said the probate court has a surplus of posters and magnets with the national 988 national suicide and mental health hotline. She encouraged members to put these on display.



Last Thursday was a great day for the Georgia Community Food Bank when they cut the ribbon on their new building. Christ Church is celebrating an unbelievable 200 years in Macon!

President Danny then said that the members had a week to think about which of our members might have attended the Woodstock festival, which was held 55 years ago this Thursday. Lanier Anderson's name came up as a likely candidate. Steve Allen offered that he had done research on this and actually found pictures. Pictures don't lie, and these were found on the internet so they must be true!



Danny said he wanted to leave us something to ponder over the next two weeks. It was a quote from NFL Hall of Famer Jerry Rice, who holds the records for most career receptions, most career receiving yards, and most career touchdowns, among others. His quote was, "Today I'll do what others won't, so tomorrow I'll do what others can't."

Seth Clark came up to introduce our speaker, Macon-Bibb Mayor Lester Miller. Seth said it was an honor to introduce someone who really doesn't need an introduction to anyone here. Seth said he wanted to highlight what this administration has been able to accomplish during Mayor Miller's first term, before he was reelected with over 80% of the vote. Seth, who is a Macon-Bibb County Commissioner, said they were able to hire over 200 deputies, increase patrols on the streets, and increase starting pay for officers. The city has demolished about 725 blighted properties. Lester worked with a team to create and champion the Macon Violence Prevention program that has shown results. Violent crime is down to almost half of what it was when we took office in 2020, and teen homicides are down almost 70%. Lester spearheaded the opening of the Brookdale Resource Center to meet our neighbors who are most in need where they are.

Turning to our economy, he secured almost \$700 million in private investment for this community, with over a thousand jobs created and over 15,000 jobs retained. He's been able to grow our budget every year he's held office while cutting property taxes in half. Because of the forward-thinking measure that we all voted in called OLOST. We have to renew that in a couple of years, so get ready to for that campaign.

We have the best bond rating in a generation. Lester has led the project of restoring the Macon Mall, something that no one else in the region has been able to do. He's been able to spearhead the successful creation of the second largest amphitheater in the State of Georgia.

He's done all this and more with a staff and a governing coalition on the Commission that is as racially and ideologically diverse as is Macon.

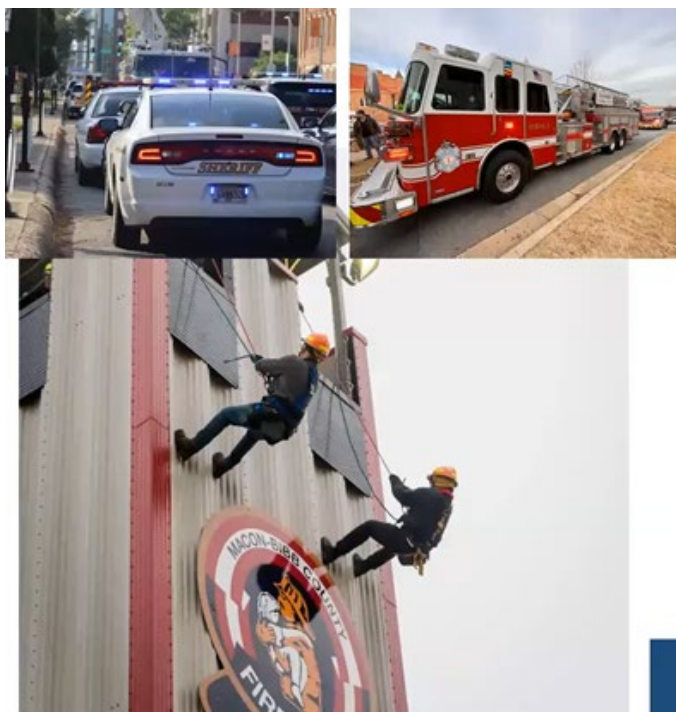
Mayor Miller began by saying he didn't need to add much to what Seth had told in the introduction, but he was asked to speak and so he will elaborate. Lester was aided by a PowerPoint presentation that was recently prepared for the State Appraisals Board.



Lester said the good work we have done as a community is because of people in this room and others outside it, and he just happens to be the spokesperson. He never dreamed he would have this opportunity back when he was a student at Southwest High School.

The Mayor then said that, while public safety is the top issue for many here, in the state this has actually fallen to number three, with affordable housing as the top issue followed by economic development.

The annual budget for public safety is now \$211 million, compared to \$175 million four years ago.



Public Safety



- Top priority for community.
- Raised salaries.
- \$40,000,000 invested in annual longevity incentives.
- New Fire Safety Training Center.
- Annual budget increase of nearly \$16 million in 4 years.
- New technology & equipment.

Another big initiative has been the Macon Violence Prevention (MVP) program through which grants are made through Community Foundation to local nonprofits working to reduce crime and poverty and increase education. The MVP program was recognized by the State for the Visionary Award.



Macon Violence Preventi



- MVP plan developed with input from thousands of residents and organizations.
- Funding community-led, government-led, and law enforcement-led strategies.
- Providing more than \$2 million to community groups for neighborhood programs that reach families and children.
- After 1 year, 43% reduction in homicides. Includes 67% reduction for 18 and under.

Macon-Bibb has raised its minimum wage to \$15/hour, provided mental health incentives to all employees, and given raises and annual incentive pay.

The Macon Mental Health Matters program has provided free mental health support services in every recreation center and at a variety of community events. More than 5,000 people have received these services so far.

Other highlights of the mayor's talk included allocating five times more funding for road repair and resurfacing, the tremendous rejuvenation of Macon Mall and, of course, the new amphitheater and



HighNote Aviation

- New FBO at airport.
- Improved "front door" to community.
- Featuring musical heritage & tourism sites.
- Provide fueling, hangar space, & ground transportation.
- Will connect customers with local organizations.



Rhythm & Rally pickleball courts. Over 70,000 people have already enjoyed shows and events at the Atrium Health Amphitheater, which accommodates up to 12,000 people.

The airport runway extension to 7,100 feet will attract new industries and could lead to more passenger airlines coming to Macon-Bibb. A highlight of the airport will be the new terminal building that's shaped like a guitar.

Most everyone is familiar with downtown's revitalization. The city has acquired the old Macon Health Club and Crowne Plaza hotel and plans to implode the latter. New development is planned for east Macon next to the new national park. Lester also expressed the need for a new convention center to replace the Centreplex, which is dated and no longer adequate.

It was an inspiring talk that drew a lot of questions from the members, and you can view it at <https://tinyurl.com/2424fs2d>

In closing, Danny reminded us there is no meeting next week and the next one will be August 26.

The CART raffle pot was up to \$673 and Andrew Eck had the winning ticket but couldn't pull the King of Clubs, so it rolls over to our next meeting. As always, we concluded with the Four Way Test.

Donate to Rotary Foundation and CART

Club members can make donations to The Rotary Foundation or the CART Fund online line using credit cards or EFT. These can be made in memory of, honor of, or personal donations. They can be setup as recurring or one-time. These online donations qualify as a tax deduction (but ask your accountant). Follow these easy steps:

The Rotary Foundation: Go to <https://rotary.org/> If you have never signed in you will need to register so it credits your Paul Harris Fellow account and our club. You may need our District number 6920 and club number 4202. Once registered you can SIGN IN to MY ROTARY then click DONATE button in upper right. Check the area ANNUAL FUND, DISASTER RELIEF FUND, or POLIO PLUS to donate, then just follow easy steps to make payment.

CART FUND: <https://mycartfund.org/Login.cfm> follow the online instructions. You will need our **Club number 4202** and **District number 6920**. (This link requires logging in to DACdb. If you have trouble with that, use <https://mycartfund.org/NewUser.cfm> instead.) All donations to CART go to support cutting-edge research on Alzheimer's.

Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events:

Reminder - Makeups can only be used two weeks before or after a missed meeting

Anytime	Rotary Project or Rotary Committee meeting
Anytime	Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic
Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past <i>Throbs</i> link	

HOW TO MAKE UP MISSED MEETINGS

Please make up missed meetings to help our club's attendance percentage rank with District 6920 and Rotary International. **Members are encouraged to maintain an attendance average of 60%.**

Missed meetings must be made up **14 days before or after the meeting you miss.**

See list above of approved makeups. You can make up from the comfort of your home or office online at <http://rotaryclubone.org/> They will email a notice of the makeup to the Club Administrator and you will be credited. Also, attendance at another Rotary Club is a great option when you are traveling!

When you make up using the **Zoom link** of our meetings listed in meeting summary above or makeup in person at another club please send an email immediately afterwards to the Club Administrator, steve@eggmedia.com so your makeup can be recorded. Do not expect the club you visit to report to our club.

Excused Absences

Members have the opportunity to receive a board approved Excused Absence during a long-term family, health, or business crisis. When a member realizes they have a situation that will keep them from attending Monday meetings for an extended period they can contact the Club Administrator or President with the reason. This contact needs to be immediate and not after the crisis. The board can approve a beginning and ending date and attendance is excused on club and district level. Short term absences are best made up online.

Club Membership Applications

We are purpose-driven leaders of influence and action. To sponsor a prospective candidate to join our membership, contact Membership Chair Gene Dunwody gdunwodyjr@dunwodybeeland.com or any member of the Board of Directors to ensure a vocational classification is available for your candidate.

Once the Classification Committee approves the classification, invite your new member candidate to a weekly meeting. If the candidate expresses interest in joining our club, then ask Membership Chair Charles to send the candidate an invitation to apply online. Once the new member candidate completes the application, Board members review the application. Then, new member candidates are presented for formal approval at the monthly Board meeting. Once approved by the Board, new member candidates are announced in Throbs. Unless there is objection by any existing member, the new member is scheduled for orientation and formal induction. All members of our club need to think about who would make good Rotarians!