

# The Rotary Club of Macon

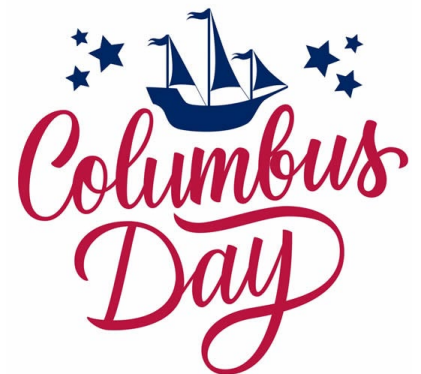
 **THROBS**

*Published Weekly Since 1914*

**October 9, 2023**

*No Meeting – Columbus Day*

Columbus Day, celebrated on the second Monday in October, is a federal holiday honoring Christopher Columbus's historic voyage to the Americas in 1492. It's a day to reflect on the enduring spirit of exploration and discovery, recognizing the impact of his journey on world history. While the holiday has evolved over time and sparked debates (some communities have chosen to celebrate Indigenous Cultures Day instead), it remains an occasion for reflection on exploration, discovery, and the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our nation.



**Link for Zoom Recording**

Click here to view the recording of our October 2 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/ywxv6fx7>

**FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS** approved by the Board of Directors:

## **October, 2023**

9	No Meeting – Columbus Day	
16	Macon Mental Health Matters	Andrea Cooke
23	No Meeting	
30	GRSP/Club Assembly	

## **November, 2023**

6	Crimestoppers – No meeting at church	
13	District Governor Felix Smith and Asst. District Governor Steve Bell	
20	No Meeting	

# MEETING October 2, 2023

Attendance: 62.6% - 56 in person, 21 Zoom, plus 12 guests

CART \$1, Raffle \$48

Club Membership: 140

President Stephanie rang the bell to start the meeting and after thanking Jackie for her piano music, she called on Past President George Lee to lead the singing and pledge. Before beginning *America the Beautiful*, George spoke of the history of the song and how the lyrics had changed in significant ways. Ivey Hall led the prayer.

Stephanie then welcomed our many guests, which included most of the NewTown Macon staff, Assistant Governor Steve Bell, and Keshia Harpe and her father Nathaniel Harpe, Sr. Keshia is the owner of a Habitat for Humanity house that our club helped build 20 years ago.

Seven members celebrated birthdays over the last week, including Asha Ellen and Matt Shoemaker who have birthdays today. There are also seven club anniversaries, including Bert Maxwell's amazing 51 years!

It was then time for CART bags, but we only had one! Members, please remember that all money put into the blue CART buckets goes to promote Alzheimer's research, and you don't have to make a bag in order to put money in the bucket!

Assistant District Governor Steve Bell then came up to tell us about the upcoming Macon Beer Festival on October 14. Steve and the Downtown (Wednesday) Club started this in 2010, and it has grown to be a major event. Steve said it's a health fair disguised as a beer festival. While a lot of fun, it's a serious event that provides free blood tests (valued at \$700 each) and promotes awareness of prostate cancer. Steve just celebrated his 15<sup>th</sup> year in Rotary and his 14<sup>th</sup> year of being free of prostate cancer. The festival needs volunteers, please see the notice below for information on signing up.

Stephanie had several Club announcements:

- Vendela Danfors, our GRSP student, is spending her fall break with fellow GRSP students who are attending UGA. Vendela is going to the UGA/Kentucky football game on October 7<sup>th</sup> and is in need of a ticket. If you can help with this please reach out to Matt Shoemaker.
- Remember to sign up for Read for the Record that will take place at Burdell Hunt on October 26<sup>th</sup>. There is a signup sheet at the back of the room each meeting. [Click here to sign up online.](#)
- On November 16<sup>th</sup> we will have our second annual Stuff the Truck times and more details will be shared at our next meeting.
- On Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 we will have our FIRST club social with the Wednesday and Thursday Clubs at Fall Line Brewery. Each member will get one drink ticket that will be paid by the club. This is an excellent opportunity to socialize with your fellow Rotarians.
- The next two socials will be in January and March and we will announce details about those closer to the dates.
- Finally, today is World Habitat Day and Ivey Hall has a special guest to introduce.

Ivey then introduced Keshia Harpe, owner of the Walnut Street house that our Rotary Club helped build for her family 20 years ago. As an appropriate way to commemorate World Habitat Day, Keshia tore up her mortgage that has now been paid in full. Keshia then offered an emotional account of how her family has prospered and that having the home was a big part of this. She thanked the Club for their support and received a standing ovation.







Bob Hatcher came up to introduce our speaker, Lauren Marshall, who is NewTown's Vice President of Community Development. She is also director of NewTown Loans, which is central Georgia's first and only Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). Supported by parent company, NewTown Macon, an economic development non-profit, they have been financing real estate and business projects and revitalizing downtown Macon for over a decade. NewTown Loans offers commercial and residential real estate loans to developers and owner-occupants, and will often serve as a secondary lender on real estate construction or acquisition projects. Bob said that NewTown had a lending program for a number of years, but the CDFI is subject to far less regulation than a bank or other lending institution. About 80% of the CDFI's in the country lose money and depend on philanthropy, but Macon's is very close to being profitable.

Lauren is originally from Tifton and graduated from the University of Georgia. She also has a Master's in Conservation Studies (Historic Buildings) from the University of York in the U.K. She is active in Macon and serves on the Design and Review Board. She was Director of Neighborhood Revitalization for the Historic Macon Foundation and later Director of Communications and Marketing for the Mercer School of Law before being recruited by NewTown Macon in 2022.

Lauren began by showing some "before and after" pictures of downtown Macon, showing how far it has come since the 1990's. Recent loans from NewTown have accelerated this revitalization.

She then offered several examples of small businesses downtown that have been helped by NewTown's support.



**476 Third - Before Redevelopment**



**476 Third - 64 Loft Units & 2 Commercial Spaces Later**



A Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), mentioned earlier, is a designation by the U.S. Treasury that targets underserved markets. CDFI's provide both financing and technical assistance, filling financial gaps that traditional banks and other lenders don't provide in most communities.

Lauren said they currently have \$9 million in outstanding loans and the goal is \$20 million for reaching self-sufficiency and sustainability. The average commercial real estate loan is \$493,000 and average small business loan is \$60,000.

NewTown has three "signature academies," the Entrepreneur's Academy, Downtown Diversity Initiative, and the Developer's Academy. These help local startup businesses develop business plans, marketing plans, and help with financing and seeking historic tax credits. She then gave more examples of individuals and businesses who have benefited from these programs.

Lauren's presentation was appreciated by the Club. Gene Dunwoody remarked that she may be underselling what NewTown does. He cited his experience developing the Dannenberg building, undertaken during a challenging economic period and NewTown was a tremendous help.

You can learn more about NewTown Loans at <https://newtownmacon.com/loans/>



The raffle pot was up to \$307. Kaitlyn Kressin, who obviously bought a lot of tickets, drew the winning number. When it came to drawing the card, she chose a lucky one, the Ace of Spades. Unfortunately, the only one that wins the raffle is the Queen of Hearts so the pot rolls over another week.

As always, the meeting ended with recitation of the Four Way Test.



### The 4-Way Test

*of the things we think, say or do:*

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



The Macon Beer Fest, a “health fair disguised as a beer festival” was started by Steve Bell and the Rotary Club of Downtown Macon in 2010 and is now a Top Ten Georgia craft beer event. In addition to the variety of beers, the festival offers health screenings and education on prostate cancer. Volunteers are needed! Learn more, and sign up to help at <https://www.eventeny.com/events/maconbeerfest-7804/>

Meet fun folks while you pour them a beer, then go enjoy the festival for free! As long as your table is covered by at least two people at all times, you can each come and go as you like. Visit the volunteer area for pizza any time during your shift (as long as your table is covered!)



Do you have a recent accomplishment? Have you or your organization won an award or otherwise been recognized? We want to know, and to recognize your achievement at a meeting. Please email Gary Wheat, our Vocational Service Chair, at [gwheat@visitmacon.org](mailto:gwheat@visitmacon.org)

## 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. 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**.

## Vocational Spotlight

See <http://maconrotary.com/vocational-spotlight.php> to read more information on Rotarians featured monthly on our website <http://maconrotary.com> If you would like to be included in a Vocational Spotlight, please contact Gary Wheat, [gwheat@visitmacon.org](mailto:gwheat@visitmacon.org)

## Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events

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

Anytime Meeting                      Rotary Project or Rotary Committee  
Anytime                              Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic  
Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past *Throbs* 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. Our attendance is reported each month to the district and is required to be reported before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month. **Members are required 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](mailto: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 Charles Olson [EOlson200@msn.com](mailto:EOlson200@msn.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!*

**[www.maconrotary.com](http://www.maconrotary.com)**

---