



# THE MILL WHEEL



Rotary Club of Mill Valley  
Founded June 7, 1926 • “Service Above Self”  
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<http://millvalleyrotary.org>  
District Web Site: [www.rotary5150.org](http://www.rotary5150.org)



## GREETER

■ PP **Jane Hall** (and loving every minute of it) quoted **Albert Schweitzer**, *A man can do only what a man can do. But if he does that each day, he can sleep at night and do it again the next day.* (Hmmm...this reporter wonders what a woman could do.)

## PRESIDER

■ Hail to Our New Chief **Ken Brooks!** **Ken** pointed out he is only one of 34,000 club presidents leading 1.2 million Rotarians around the globe.

## VISITORS

■ *Rotarians* - **Tracey Dorsch**, youth exchange chair for the Murrysville-Export Pennsylvania Rotary Club, who brought with her two exchange students, **Michael Goossens** from Belgium and **Julia Roth** from Germany.

■ *Guests of Rotarians* – **Lauri Harper** (**Suzanne Irwin-Wells**), **Ted** (**Ken Brooks**), **Linn Walsh** (Assistant to the Mill Valley City Manager), **Chelsey Rogers** (City Clerk), **Ken Wachtel** (Mayor in his 2<sup>nd</sup> term), **Jim McCann** (City Manager since 2010).

## GOOD TIMES

■ **Greg Dyer**'s daughter **Chelsea** has released her first music video and has had 70,000 views already!

## ANNIVERSARIES

■ Wedding: **Ken Wachtel** mentioned that he has been married one half of his entire life!

## PROGRAM

■ **Bob Canepa** introduced our State of the City Speakers Mayor **Ken Wachtel** and City Manager **Jim McCann** who spoke about key areas of concern including traffic, emergency preparedness, expanding communication efforts,

Miller Avenue update, housing element, streets and sewers, municipal service tax, homeless services, single use plastic bags, smoking regulations, downtown restroom, lateral sewer ordinance, SASM master plan, planning and building activities, sea level rise vulnerability, post-employment benefits, citizen involvement, recent meetings and city finances.

Key points include: A traffic study committee comprised of **Stephanie Moulton-Peters, Mike McGuire, Mark Levine,**



► The focus was on Mill Valley with City Manager **Jim McCann**, his Assistant **Linn Walsh** and Mayor **Ken Wachtel** providing today's program. How did **Lee Kirkpatrick** get in the photo? Well, he lives in Mill Valley doesn't he? And he's a citizen expert on potholes!



► Special guests today included Rotary Exchange Students Michael Goossens, from Belgium, and Julia Roth, from Germany, who accompanied visiting Rotarian Tracey Dorsch, member of the Rotary Club of Murrysville-Export, Pennsylvania.

### PROGRAM Cont'd

CalTrans and MV chamber reps will begin work this month, solving what is not a local issue but a regional issue caused by “us” – students, parents, FedEx, service workers, etc.

The annual evacuation drill was held this May including a family campout at the MV Community Center field where folks will likely camp out during a real emergency.

The MVFD is in the top 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% in the state. Expanding City communications include live webcasts of council meetings which are now interactive in real time, full use of social media including FaceBook, Twitter, NextDoor, MVConnect via signups on the City website, “Let’s Stay in Touch” chats with council members on Lytton Plaza.

Work on Miller Avenue is starting this year, guided by an advisory committee. \$3.5 million in rehab funds are being directed towards improving roadways for both cyclists and drivers on Camino Alto, \$14 million for Miller Ave. and additional funds to renovate the Golf Course Club House parking lot!

In addition, a successful campaign has raised \$850,000 to renovate the tennis courts with private contributions ranging from \$40 to \$20,000! A study committee has been appointed for the municipal service tax use.

Greater enforcement is underway for the multi-use path. The City is working on a facility for homeless services in collaboration with the MVPD, Council, County and Council of Mayors. Don’t count on single use plastic bags anymore as BYOB is the new watchword. Only dry

cleaners will be using single use plastic bags. Paper bags will now cost a dime.

You can no longer smoke on the sidewalks unless you are walking (who knew?). Groundbreaking for the Lytton Plaza public restroom will be this year. The City is waiting for a cost estimate.

New regs in store to test the sewer lateral when selling properties or planning remodeling costing more than \$50,000. Twenty million is designated to update our sewer system which represents 15-17% increase in sewer fees.

The City planning department will better control construction management through new rules, times of truck deliveries, better enforcement, etc.

A subcommittee will make recommendations to the council about pension obligations.

**PROGRAM Cont'd**

There is extensive citizen engagement on boards, committees, commissions, etc. Recent city meetings have included MVSD Superintendent, neighborhood association leaders, annual committee meetings of the library, park and rec, community center, etc.

A discussion of Airbnb is underway. Good news re. our finances – MV is not Stockton! (or Detroit, or San Bernardino, or Vallejo, or.....). We have a Triple A credit rating and 25% in general fund reserves, a two year budget 2014-16 in place, funding for 5 years of capital improvements, a long-term financial plan, pension reform and more.

**2015-2016  
POLIO PLUS  
CLUB GOAL**  
**\$2,000**

**JAR TOTAL  
AS OF TODAY:**  
**\$18.00**

Our major sources of revenue are property and sales tax (\$38 million) and expenses of \$39 million are largely allocated to capital improvements and quality of life enhancements (library, park and rec, etc.).

Soup to nuts, we have plenty of reasons for “talkin’ ‘bout Mill Valley, talkin’ ‘bout Mill Valley, California, that’s my home.”

**NEXT WEEK**

■ **Arlene Miller** will present *The Current State of Grammar*. Arlene has a unique talent for making words and language very interesting. Also known as "The Grammar Diva", she is an author, grammarian, teacher, speaker, blogger, and editor.

**CLUB CALENDAR**

**July 21: Dr. Naureen Shaikh** will discuss *Polio Progress*. Dr. Shaikh has been deeply involved in the effort to eradicate polio. She will share with us some of her recent experiences in her home country of Pakistan and will also

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

talk about Rotary's global eradication efforts.

**July 28:** The title of **Phil Cutti's** talk will be *Brewing Up Success*. Learn how a scientist from Stanford/NASA and a lobbyist from DC launched a brewery in six months and are building their brand one beer at a time. *Enjoy a beer tasting* along with stories of where they've been, where they are and where they hope to go.

■ **August 11: Jos Hill**, Executive Director of Olazul, will talk on *Fighting Coastal Poverty and Building a Sustainable Community*. Jos leads Olazul's efforts to develop win-win solutions for coastal communities that revitalize local economies and support healthy marine ecosystems.

**ROTARY  
FOUNDATION  
GIVING**

**2015-16 GOAL:**  
**\$12,000**

**TOTAL  
FOR 2014-2015:**  
**\$12,386**

**ROTARY CLUB OF MILL VALLEY—OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2015-2016**



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