

Upper Arlington Rotary Club



ROTARYVIEW

ROTARY: BE THE INSPIRATION.

UPPER ARLINGTON ROTARY CLUB

District 6690, Columbus Ohio, USA

Club 3694, Chartered 1972

JANUARY 29, 2019

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Dan Ralley, who was celebrating his birthday Tuesday, introduced **Steve Farmer**. Chief Farmer worked in Dublin for 22 years but more importantly he's a dad to four children (18, 16, 15 and 8). Couple of his girls are adopted so he talked about his blended family of cultures and years. One Big Family Adventure was what he called it. Family logo is One Team, One Fight.

In December, the family started a non-profit organization, One Team, One Fight, to help others adopt kids.

Steve's excited to be in Upper Arlington. Upper Arlington is a community he's looked up to for his entire career. He went to school at Mt Vernon Nazarene University, but he's been in Columbus since college graduation. He looked up to Dee Holcomb who everyone admired, and he finds it interesting he's come this way and finds himself in the same circle.

Dave Hammond asks: Top three issues facing you as police chief? Steve could go a million ways with that. He needs to get people to know him and for him to get to the new organization. He wants

everyone to like and respect him. One, getting the respect of his organization. Two, finding out what the community needs and three, policing in general. Raising the bar of policing. Unfortunately, the bad stuff gets all the press and Steve wants to increase coverage of the good. Wants to share the message and raise up the profession to where it should be.

Follow up from Dave Hammond, what are all the things on a police officer's belt? Everyone laughed but Steve says he gets this question a lot, more than you'd think. Sidearm, two magazines (don't call them clips), baton, handcuffs, OC chemical spray (Mace), glove pouch and knife and few other odds and ends.

Next question came from **Herb Gillen** who gave us a lot of good questions. What takes up the most time for a police man in Upper Arlington? Reading the newspaper (just kidding), Nap time (again, just kidding), Donuts absolutely. There's a lot of paperwork because of the litigious society we live in. They say if it's not documented, it wasn't done. That's in every profession. We do patrols. We try to get around as often as we can. Visiting businesses. Steve asked for local establishments to contact him if they're not being visited enough. We want to get to know people and develop a partnership with people. We need everyone to work together.

Michael O'Sullivan wanted to let Chief Farmer know he's the "go-to-person" for everything on gun control and knowledge. What is the threshold in gun ownership that would classify someone as weird?

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GREETERS

February 5

Telonda Sidari
Michael Zieg

February 12

Steve Frame
Jim Nicklaus

February 19

Bill Hosket
Matt Kirby

REGISTRATION DESK

February 5

Jim Hamilton
Rich Simpson

February 12

John Hansel
John Cleland

February 19

Keith Schneider
Debbie Johnson

CALENDAR

February 5 | Scioto CC

**Jason Abady, Alzheimer's Assoc.
"Alzheimer's Disease and Its Impact on Our Community"**

Host: DeHays

February 12 | Scioto CC

AARP, "Social Security Scams"

Host: Lustnauer

February 19 | Scioto CC

David Brown, Harmony Project

Host: Germain

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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SOCIAL EVENTS

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OUR NEXT MEETING

February 5th

Scioto CC

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STEVE FARMER - UA POLICE CHIEF

Is it 50 guns? 100? 150? Brad asked Mike what he was up to at this point and Mike said he'd lost count! After the laughter died down, Chief Farmer said it's a sliding scale which brought more chuckles. Chief Farmer said it doesn't get weird for a police officer until it's triple digits. He said he owns several guns but he's not yet in the weird category. Then he said if you own more than 50, you're pushing odd.

What are the three runs UA Police get most? Steve wondered how he's supposed to know these things after three weeks! In a community like this, false alarms take up a lot of time. It's the 911 hang-ups or wrong numbers. We treat all the calls seriously even though we know most likely, they're not. But traffic crashes and theft calls. Great citizens but if you're a thief, this is a target rich environment.

Sidebar, Brad shared they went shopping at his home last spring. Camera system and UA Police got them (before they could go to Pinrod's house around the corner)

Next question: We hear a lot about the opioid crisis. How does this impact a community like Upper Arlington?

Steve sits on a lot of boards that meet monthly to try and come up with answers to this issue. Most of the crime we have is fed by the drug problem. Criminals want to get anything they can to sell to get drugs. It drives most property crimes and lots of snatch and grab situations but we're not going to arrest our ways out of this drug problem. We partner with groups, law enforcement and mental health organizations to try and overcome the problem.

Next question is from someone who wanted to remain anonymous. We have all heard that we have the highest rated city attorney in the city. Laughter all around. Please elaborate on how a well-managed city attorney's office helps the city. Chief Farmer was asked to speak loudly into the microphone so all members can hear. Where does he begin? Jeanine's reputation goes before her. She's tough on crime and well versed in the law. Steve shared that since he's been in UA, he's probably received lots of legal update snippets. And since he's meeting with her that afternoon, he better be nice. More laughter. All he could say is the most wonderful city attorney that he can imagine working for...

Next question is from **Bill Hosket** who provided some background. In his days of playing professional basketball and also, in the Olympics and as a radio announcer and TV celebrity, Bill would have difficulty driving a car. His knees would hit the steering wheel when driving so he can't make left turns. What is the most ridiculous excuse you've heard from a driver following an infraction? Steve said He just heard it! Everyone laughed and clapped. He can't recall anything that could beat Bill's excuse. Best he could come up with was women putting on eye liner, closing their eyes to put on eyeliner.

Coming in late was a question from **Dave De-Capua** who wanted to know what the statue of limitations is on streaking at a public event. He's asking for a friend.

Don Leach asked how important are school resource officers and how are they paid? This is a program near and dear to Chief Farmers heart. He's expanding the program to make sure we develop a good partnership with the community. As police, we can make a dozen contacts in a day, but a school resource officer can make thousands of contacts each day. Hugely important to building relationships. Three-part deal (educators, mentors, law enforcement) and as the program grows in the high school, you can teach the science behind addiction. They really seem to understand. How they're paid? With money split between the schools and the city.

From **Wayne Harrer**: Do you have any plans to post speed traps around Scioto Country Club on Tuesdays around 12:10pm? TA Ward asked the same question with 12:35pm? Lots of laughter.

Don Leach asked Is there a community safety program or initiative that you've seen in Dublin or other places that you want to bring to Upper Arlington? One thing we started in Dublin last year is a diversity and inclusion officer. Trying to develop relationships with underrepresented groups in the community. Creating a point of contact.

Last question from **John Ness** (who wasn't at the meeting)... what is the going rate to get out of a speeding ticket and if I'm really in a hurry, would it be unprofessional of me to just throw the money out the window?

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The Meeting



Brad DeHays opened the meeting.

Dave Hammond gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brad Frick introduced guests **Scott Nicoll, Matt Leber** and speaker, Chief Steve Farmer

Visiting Rotarians: **Doug Gouty** (Downtown Columbus) and **Debbie McLaughlin** (TriVillage)

Notes and Announcements



Kip Greenhill gave an update on **Ted Staton** who retired last Friday. Kip shared how much Ted has done to help Upper Arlington in his role as city manager. Ted started UA on the economic development path we're enjoying today and many of the infrastructure developments are a result of Ted's work.

Dave Dewey gave an update on the Bed Brigade from Saturday, January 26 which Rotarians and Interact students built and delivered beds.



Bill Cloyd discussed the Windermere Livingston Partnership and all the activities happening. We will have some more opportunities for developing that partnership through two new projects: a blanket program and a soda top program. More information will come for those programs and the Kindness Rocks program too.

Brad DeHays shared a story from the Barrington West Broad Partnership.



Linda Cummins reminded people to buy Giant Eagle cards.

Fundraising Committee met after the meeting

CEO Madison Mikhail Bush from The Point shared information about The Point, an app-based tech non-profit that's on a mission to lower the barriers to volunteering and Do More Good.

We can help advance their mission three ways:

1. Downloading the app from the app store.
2. Telling our favorite non-profits to sign up. Madison is looking to enroll 100 charities (there are 50 signed up so far).
3. Supporting the Point team through monetary donations.

Roundtable for February to May:

February 12 | hosted by **Tom Westfall** whose son, Evan will present local musicians "(CAAMP): What we learned in the Music Industry"

March 26 | hosted by **J.D. Dickerson** whose granddaughter, Libby, a student at Denison will present "Cycling Across America"

April 16 | **Michael O'Sullivan** will present "Concealed Carry"

May 7 | **Linda Cummins** will host a presentation on "CyberSecurity - Protecting your Assets"