



MACON, GA

SWAPS

May 13th, 2021 – Annual BBQ Meeting
Official Publication of the Exchange Club of Macon, Georgia
Editor – Ronald Raleigh

2020/2021 Exchange Club of Macon

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Crawford Lovett
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Visit our website:
<http://exchangeclubofmacon.org>
as well as the
[Club's Face Book Page](#)

Meetings held at
"Buffalos" - Zebulon Rd.
Every 14 days
11:30AM to 1:00PM



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"Meeting Notes – May 13th at the Fish 'N' Pig"

President Ron Raleigh opened the meeting, welcoming the members and guests – there were "9" members present and "9" guests. The day's guests included **Macon Exchangers: Shirley Raleigh, Ann Griffin, & Nedra Malone**. Our other guests included **Macon Mayor** (speaker), & his wife **Toby** as well as **Tee George, Devon Raleigh, Mona Jordan, Margaret Bell**. Member **Crawford Lovett** tendered the invocation – **President Ron Raleigh** led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

"Announcements & Coming Attractions"

* **Walter Arnett**, our "Events Chairman", reported that ticket sales for the "Shotgun" raffle have broken all previous records to date at over **\$8,000** in sales for a net profit "knocking on the door" of our *Annual Lamar Taylor Memorial Golf Tournament* profit., with "3" more days left to manage sales at *Meadows Club's May 21st – May 23rd Shooting Competition*. Also continue to sell tickets in your personal sphere of influence. The drawing will be held at *Meadows Gun Club* and will be announced at the *Antique Car Show* at the *Fish 'N' Pig* as well, in real time - May 23rd.

* **Walter Arnett** has arranged for an *Antique Car Show* scheduled for May 23rd from 11:00Am to 4:00PM at the "**Fish 'N' Pig**". There will be no charge to attend – entrance fee for each car will be \$25.00. The "**Fish 'N' Pig**" will handle concessions for the day and their Tiki-Bar will be open for beverages.

* May 27th will be our "Youth of the Year" presentation chaired by **Debbie McCreary**. Thank you for all of your hard work and tough decisions as well as those of of your collaborative team.

* The annual **Walter Arnett Annual Sporting Clay Shooting** event has been rescheduled for September 25th, 2021 at the "**Meadows Gun Club**". Sponsors, SWAG gifts, & volunteers needed to make the event successful.

* **Officer and Board Installation Ceremony** to be held at our regular scheduled meeting on June 24th.

"Words to Ponder and Remember"

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another." - Charles Dickens

“Annual May BBQ – at the Fish ‘N’ Pig”

The “Annual May BBQ” meeting at the “Fish ‘N’ Pig” was a success. Those members and their guests that were not able to attend were missed. The “Key Note Speaker” was **Macon’s Mayor, Lester Miller**.

President Ron Raleigh introducing **Club Chairman Bobby George** who introduced the “Key Note Speaker” for the meeting.

Bobby introduced Macon’s Mayor, **Lester Miller**. **Mayor Miller** has been in office since the first of the year, “**hitting the ground running**”. In a word picture description, **Bobby** included - accountability, honesty, & a positive aggressive attitude toward the job.

In his opening remarks **Lester** summed up **Bobby’s** introduction well – “**my work ethic is to face each day as if it were my last day and to do the best I can for Macon.**” **Lester** remarked that the previous administration was focused on projects for a long term “20 year’ish” plan for Macon – **Lester** stated that he felt a more relevant plan should focus on projects addressing more current needs.



Lester’s priorities include **Public Safety** which encompasses working on Macon’s **blight** problem, **illegal trash dumping**, and addressing the needs of Macon’s first responders (Law Enforcement, Fire Department, E911, and Emergency Management) in terms of recruitment and retention.

Lester recruited **J.D. Richardson** as head of Macon’s Code Enforcement Office. Progress to date includes: over “**30**” blight properties demolished, in the process of redemption and working on over “**850**” other properties; aggressively attacking illegal dumping with over “2,000,000 lbs” of trash disposed of since January and looking to open several “**convenience centers**” for people to leave their bulk trash and has held Macon’s first “**Clean Streets Matter Campaign**” for everyone to just pick up trash in their neighborhoods.

Lester campaigned for a local option sales tax to help lower the property taxes for Macon’s tax payers. The state legislature passed the bill that enables Macon’s voters to approve the tax on November 2nd. The “**1 cent**” sales tax would reduce the property tax millage rate by several points (an estimated **45%** decrease). The majority of the tax would be paid by folks in surrounding counties that shop in Macon, travel through Macon, or tourists visiting Macon. There will be a “Sunset Provision” enabling voters to revisit the tax at the polls in “**5**” years.

The “Warming Center” has been scheduled for a permanent operation with programs to offer a “helping hand up” to the homeless population of Macon. The goals of the center are to help the homeless to get “back on their feet”, find jobs, get into a home of their own, get “clean” from drugs/alcohol, or to help them with a bus ticket home. The “Brookdale Warming Center” will be staffed with professionals to implement the programs.

Mayor Miller expects and demands that his staff adhere to his work ethic, and holds them accountable for their actions and job duties – “they have to perform, perform well, and get results.”



Macon's Mayor Lester Miller



From left – Treasurer Rollin Middlebrooks, Chairman Bobby George, Mayor Lester Miller w/wife Toby Club President Ron Raleigh, and Board members - Walter Arnett & Crawford Lovett.



EXCHANGE

EXCHANGE CLUB OF MACON, GA