

Becoming Civically Engaged

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I have two weeks before I start travelling to high school career fairs as part of my job in the Admissions Department at Mount Olive College. And, I have a lot of things to get done before I get on the road. But first, I have to give a shout out to Mount Olive local Delano Hill, whom responded to my column two weeks back on my observations about school uniforms.

Mr. Hill gave me some insightful opinions on the topic and even invited me out to the Exchange Club's meeting. I wasn't really sure what the Club was all about, but the name sounded cool enough and being invited was quite an honor. (And in all honesty, being able to reach out and make connections with people is one of the best things about writing.)

As it turns out, the Exchange Club is a national service and community group which began as a meeting of business and professional people to "exchange" ideas; obviously. Now, the group organizes the 4th of July celebration, completes community service projects and fundraises for student scholarships and other needy causes.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Hill encouraged me to join the Club, telling me that the Club wanted to reach out to more young people.

It got me thinking.

I definitely want to become civically engaged and have realized how important community is. It's the glue that holds countries together. Humans are social creatures and all have the need to belong to something. Usually it begins in the household, extends to work or school, then to the wider community, then country and ultimately the world. The circle gradually gets wider. I guess my point is that we all belong here, whether we like it or not. The issue it seems is whether we decide to be actively engaged or just stand on the sidelines and watch.

So my question of the week is this: how can a town like Mount Olive get more young people to become actively engaged in the community? Don't hold me to this, but do most young people want to go some place, supposedly "more exciting with more to do?"

Maybe I should have the answer.

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