



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

November 2022
Vol. 104 No. 6
"DEFY GRAVITY"

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A Note of Thanks

THANKS- GIVING for fellow Kiwanians is how I am starting November! On Thursday, the 3rd, with the backdrop of brilliant orange leaves and glorious blue skies above, temperatures reaching that perfect degree of autumnal warmth, Kiwanians gathered at the Kiwanis Nature Park site to further the growth of nature's offerings. Picture David Farnum and John Montgomery hauling multiple pounds of heavy black plastic. Don Witt wielding his scissors, tape measure, and analytical brain to engineer the operation. Ken Briggs lugging limbs of dead trees and bearing his usual joyful demeanor to further brighten the day. Cynthia Gray, the early arriver on the scene, harvesting milkweed seeds to further the effort to support pollinators - like the monarch butterfly.

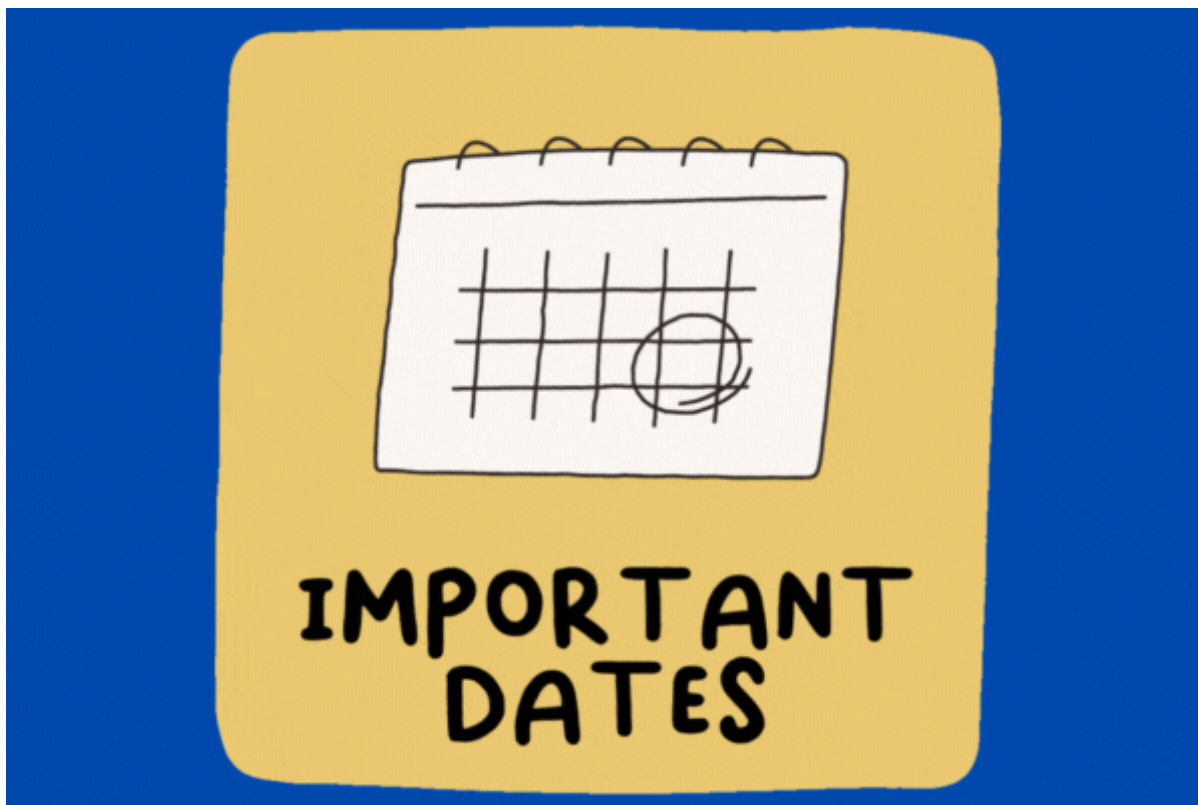
We had one set flight before our eyes - having emerged from a chrysalis formed right at the garden - as Cynthia had captured its beautiful caterpillar stage just a few weeks ago on camera. Adios now to Mexico to start more generations of monarchs. Joe Lemmer, true to form, kept moving the logs we needed to firmly hold the plastic place - so we can convert a non-habitat friendly mowed lawn into a richly biodiverse wildflower garden. Seven volunteers took time to gather, revel in natural beauty that abounds around us, and the friendship forged through common purpose and the joy of sharing this time with one another.

(Steve McGraw was there in spirit having spent the day prior bringing us his trampoline mat to cover the ground - adding some sinuosity to the

design - the word of the day: sinuousity!). AND GRATITUDE!

Cheri W. Hartman, Kiwanis Nature Park Co-chair





Nov 9 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) United Way of Roanoke Valley - Abby Verdillo

Nov 10 - (3 - 4:30 pm) Officer meeting

Nov 14 - (12:15 - 1:15 pm) Board meeting

Nov 14 - (4 pm) Nature Park Committee meeting at Melrose Library, all welcomed!

Nov 16 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM) - Melissa Woodson

Nov 18 - (8-9 am) Membership Committee meeting

Nov 18 - (11 am - 1:30 pm) Adult Care Center Thanksgiving! Volunteers needed!

Nov 21 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Environment Committee meeting

Nov 23 - No meeting, Happy Thanksgiving week!

Nov 30 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) USA Pickleball Association - Nick Perez

Dec 1 - Kiwanis Social Night at Mill Mountain Theater to see Holiday Inn and Reception

November 9th Club Meeting - Abby Verdillo
Hamilton, [United Way](#)

Abby Verdillo Hamilton is a nonprofit Executive with over 20 years of experience developing and empowering high-performing teams to drive transformational social change. She is a native of the Philippines, and moved to Roanoke in 2002 to join her parents who had immigrated to the US several years prior. Abby started working at United Way of Roanoke Valley that same year and took on positions there in both Resource Development and Community Impact over the years. In January 2020, she was appointed as the President and CEO of United Way of Roanoke Valley, after having served as the Vice President for Community Impact for the organization for 9 years. With 20 years of service to United Way under her belt, she currently provides leadership and overall direction as staff, volunteers, and stakeholders working together to deliver on United Way's vision to "elevate 10,000 families to self-sufficiency by 2030."

Abby has spent over a decade building and growing various collaborations among multiple organizations to achieve community wide outcomes in areas like early childhood success, financial stability, and health. Her distributive leadership style, natural inclination for engaging diverse audiences, and collaborating with others has successfully driven the development and growth of local and regional partnerships. These various community collaborative efforts have been recognized for its exemplary demonstration of innovation and effectiveness at the state and national levels.

Under her leadership, United Way has been working closely with local and state leaders in nonprofit, business, local government, healthcare, and schools to strategize and coordinate COVID-19 response, recovery, resiliency, and rebuilding efforts. As one of a handful of Asian United Way CEOs in Virginia and in the national United Way network, Abby has also made it a priority to develop as a culture of innovation, continuous learning, as well as trauma and equity informed practice within her team, and in the overall United Way movement.

UWRV was recently recognized as the 2021 Nonprofit of Year by the Salem-Roanoke County Chamber of Commerce and received a special resolution from the General Assembly in recognition of its contributions. Abby was also honored with the Humanitarian of the Year award during the 22nd the Roanoke Branch of the NAACP Citizen of the Year Awards; and received the Cabell Brand Hope Award at this year's TAP's Annual Meeting.

Abby has a Bachelor's of Science in Agriculture from the University of the Philippines, a Masters in Nonprofit Management from Regis University in Colorado, and a Certificate in Leadership from the Hollins University - Batten Leadership Institute. She is the proud dog-mama of a very spoiled 4lb Maltese named Nala.



**November 16th Club Meeting - Melissa
Woodson with [RAM House](#)**

Melissa is a native of King George, VA. who fell in love with the people and mountains of Roanoke when first visiting her husband's grandparents in 1983. She obtained her B.S. from Mary Washington College in 1985 and completed her MBA from Averett University in 2006. She has found her heart and home with RAM House. Melissa's non-profit career spans over 28 years. Prior to joining RAM, she served as executive director of the YWCA of Roanoke Valley and Susan G. Komen. She has also worked for Boys' Home, Roanoke Valley American Red Cross, TAP and the Rappahannock United Way. She dedicates her non-profit work to the memory of her influential parents who never hesitated to help a stranger in need.



November 30th Club Meeting - Nick Perez, [USA](#)

Pickleball Association

Nick was born in Indianapolis, IN. His family moved to Columbus, OH shortly afterwards, and then to Salem in 1954. He graduated from Glenvar High School having concentrated on fun rather than academics.

Towards the end of the Vietnam conflict, Nick served 3 years in the Army Security Agency, (a military intelligence branch, linked to the NSA.) His entire non-training duty was served in the Republic of Panama. He and his first wife had a son while they were living in Panama.

After returning home, he attended Radford University, obtaining a B.S. in Biology, a teaching certification, and a minor in Psychology. He worked for a short while with children and teens having psychological and emotional difficulties before being hired as a flight attendant by Piedmont Airlines where he met his future wife Martha. They have been together over 42 years and have a daughter born in 1989. Between the two children there are now 3 grandchildren who light up their lives. Piedmont and USAir merged and was later bought by American Airlines.

Retiring from American Airlines after 36 years of domestic and international travel, Nick, and his wife, together with their best friends opened a large consignment store dealing in quality home furnishings. They owned that business for over 10 years, then sold it and found pickleball.

Nick and Martha spent many hours hunting for antiques over the years and have a very eclectic mix of antique and mid-century modern furnishings in their home here in the beautiful Roanoke Valley. Though Nick and Martha have traveled a good bit for jobs and pleasure, they have found nowhere as appealing as the Roanoke area.

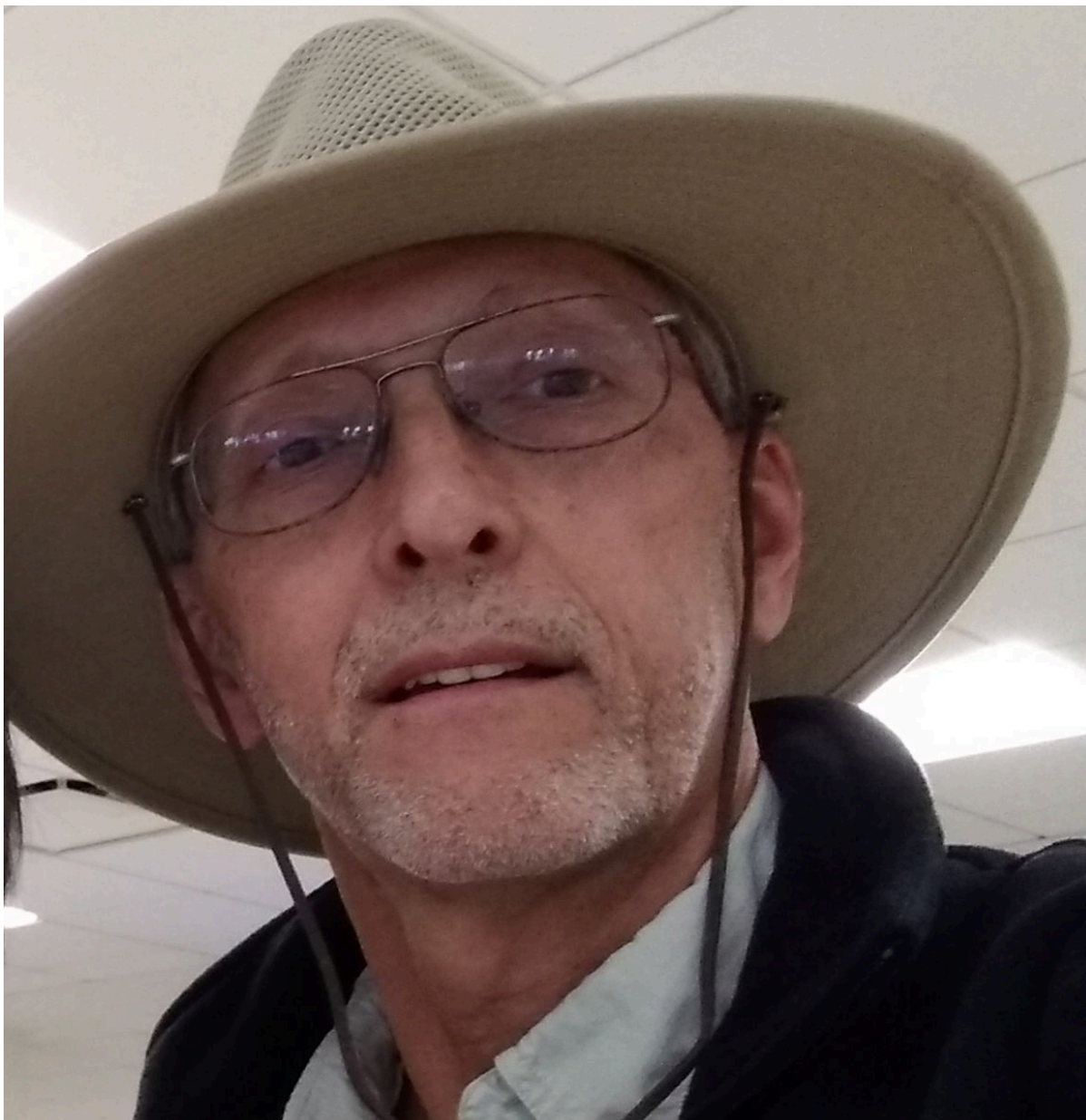
In 2019 Nick became an Ambassador for USAPA, the USA Pickleball Association (The official name changed 2 years ago to USA Pickleball). Nick is the moderator for the national USAP Ambassador's Forum. In 2021 he took on the role of the USAP Mid- Atlantic Regional Director. This region of the USAP includes DC, MD, VA, NC, SC, KY, and TN and is represented by about 200 local Ambassadors. Ambassadors are volunteers who pledge to promote pickleball and help grow the sport.

Nick organizes many pickleball socials, became the local rules “guru”, organized and gathered volunteers to teach pickleball in a local school several times, and started a Google Groups email for local player communication prior to the introduction of a much better player communication tool called Play Time Scheduler.

Nick earned a coaching certification from the Professional Pickleball Registry, an organization that is internationally recognized for its pickleball teaching certification program. He routinely runs free lessons and clinics, gaining as much enjoyment from sharing his passion for the sport as playing it.

Several years ago, someone said Nick was like a preacher spreading the gospel of pickleball, so he started calling himself Brother Nick of the Monks of Pickleball™ as a joke. He worried about someone taking the Monks of Pickleball name and monetizing it, so he started adding the trademark symbol to create a “Common law trademark”.

One of Nick’s goals is to play singles in a tournament at age 90!



Feature Photos

(Photos by Mike O'Brochta)



(Above) Matt Pumo with WDBJ7 speaking to the club.



(Above) Reif Kessler addressing the club on youth protection guidelines.



(Above) David Farnum listening to a speaker at our weekly meeting.



(Above) Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia accepting support from Kiwanis as a grant recipient.



(Above) Milton Hardy challenging members to bring more guests to each meeting than he does.



(Above) The "I Beat Membership Milton Award." (Photo credit by the award guru, Eric Daniels)



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Happenings

New Birth!

We congratulate Donna and Mark Lynch who added to their family on October 26th with the birth of a granddaughter, Milena Fay Ramirez, weighing 5 lbs 9 oz and 18" long. This is the first child for parents, Amber (Lynch) and Jeff Ramirez of Roanoke.

New Section

This column is for short items about new members, departing members, member deaths, member accomplishments (as just happened to Sam Darby being recognized as one of the top lawyers in the country)... *The success of this new column will depend on receiving a steady stream of relevant information from Club members! You can do so by emailing*

Kiwanian Birthdays

November 1	Joyce Waugh
November 3	Will Dibling
November 3	Jay Massey
November 4	Tom Miller
November 8	Manly Aylor
November 10	David Daniels
November 10	Sheyonn Baker
November 13	Kevin Berry
November 15	Larry Kufel
November 28	J C Taylor



Kiwanis
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2022-23

Officers:

Ben Spiker, President
Mike O'Brochta, President-Elect
Jeanne Bollendorf, Vice President
John Montgomery, Secretary-
Treasurer
Clark Goodman, Past President

Directors:

Don Wilson, President, Kiwanis
Foundation of Roanoke -Term Ends
2023
Jamie Bailey, 2023
Luke Young, 2023
LeeAnn Linkenhoker, 2023
Stephanie Moon Reynolds, 2024
Bob Habermann, 2025
Bruce Swanson, 2025
Sheila Umberger, 2025
Harry Zulauf, 2025



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