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**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

April 2024  
Vol. 105 No. 24  
"OUTREACH"

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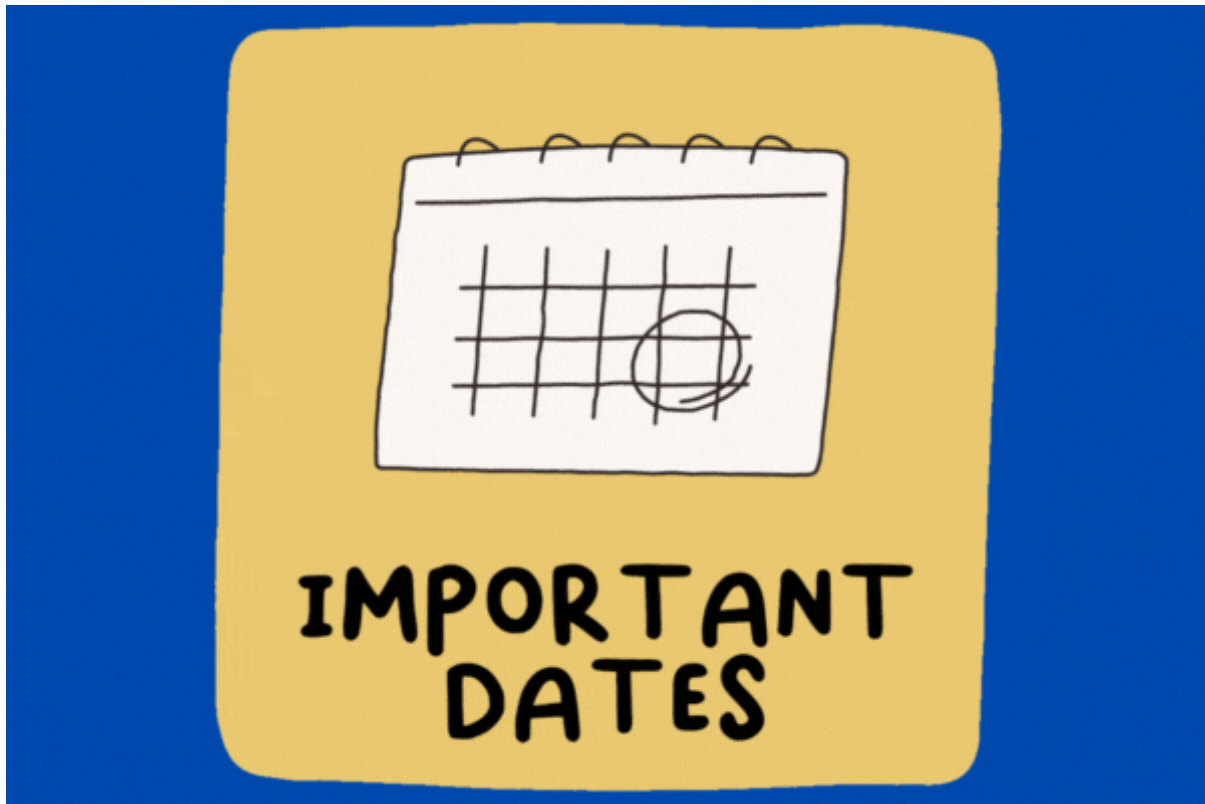
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## **President's Message No Message by Mike O'Brochta**

Let's concentrate on KPAD!

For fun, below: Bill Bestpitch and Mike O'Brochta on a trail hike.





**April 3** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Karri Atwood, VIRGINIAforever

**April 3** - (6 pm) Book Club \*Note different starting time

**April 4** - (3 - 4:30 pm) Officer Meeting

**April 5** - (8 - 9 am) Fun Day Committee Meeting

**April 5** - (8:15 - 9:30 am) KPAD Operations Meeting

**April 6** - (9:00 - noon) Strategic Planning Committee, Carvins Cove Cabin

**April 6** - (10 am - noon) Melrose Clean-up

**April 8** - (12:15 - 1:30 pm) Board Meeting location TBD

**April 8** - (4 pm) Nature Park meeting at Melrose Library, zoom available

**April 10** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Legislative Update

**April 12** - (8 - 9 am) Prayer Breakfast Committee Meeting

**April 12** - (8:15 - 9:30 am) KPAD Operations Meeting

**April 13** - (8 am - 2 pm) Daisy Art Parade KPAD Promotion

**April 13** - (3:00 - 8:00 pm) Wasena Bridge Party KPAD Promotion

**April 17** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Andrew Downs, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

**April 18** - (7:45 - 8:45 am) Membership Committee Meeting

**April 19** - (8 - 9 am) Fun Day Committee Meeting

**April 19** - (8:15 - 9:30 am) KPAD Operations Meeting

**April 20** - (6:45 - 10:45 am) Blue Ridge Marathon

**April 24** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Chad Brady, Roanoke Star Cycling

**April 26** - (8:15 - 9:30 am) KPAD Operations Meeting

**April 27** - Nature Park planting

**May 2** - (6:45 - 8:30 am) Kiwanis Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

**May 4** - Kiwanis Pancake Day

**May 15** - Scholarship Awards

**May 18** - Kids' Fishing Day

**June 1** - Spring FunDay

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## **April 3 - Club Meeting, Karri Atwood, VIRGINIAforever**

The presentation will be an overview of Virginia's current spending on natural resources v. the economic impact natural resources in the state delivers.

Understanding the minimal current funding levels of natural resources, VIRGINIAforever, a diverse group of business and NGO leaders, is the only non-profit to focus solely on funding further investment in water quality and land conservation.

As Executive Director of VIRGINIAforever, Karri works with a board group of businesses and NGO's to advocate for funding of water quality and land conservation projects in Virginia. Previously, she served as Director of Legal Services for the Environmental Health Division at the Virginia Department of Health and as Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General state agencies such as The Virginia Department of Health, Environmental Quality, Forestry and Energy. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Radford University Waldron School of Health and Human Services teaching Public Health Law and Ethics. She also sits on the Roanoke City Planning Commission, where she served as a Planning Commissioner since 2017.



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## **April 10 - Club Meeting, Legislative Update with Sam Rasoul and Chris Head**

State Senator Chris Head represents the 3rd district in the Senate of Virginia. Previously served 12 years in the House of Delegates and served as Co-Chair of Virginia's Small Business Commission. In 2022, he was awarded the Free Enterprise Award from the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Strength Leadership Award from the Virginia Manufacturers Association. He is a husband, father, grandfather, business owner, and Kiwanian who lives in Botetourt County and owns a senior care business in Roanoke along with Betsy, his wife of 34 years.

The son of immigrants from Palestine, Sam grew up in Roanoke, where his family operated a corner store. As a religious and ethnic minority in Southwest Virginia, Sam learned the value of building bridges wherever he could find them.

Sam Rasoul has served Virginians since 2014, representing his hometown Roanoke, where he lives with his wife and three children. He currently Chairs the House Education Committee and sits on the Appropriations and Public Safety Committees. Sam has a background in healthcare administration, nonprofit management, and finance.

As the only Democrat in the western half of Virginia serving in the General Assembly, Sam works frequently across the aisle to bring positive, bipartisan, change to Southwest Virginia.

His guiding philosophy starts with the Golden Rule: Treat others as you would want to be treated. Sam leads with his values of Truth, Love, and Grit.



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## **Highlights from our last meeting**



Judy Clark leads the club in singing an Easter ballad



Joyce Montgomery delivers an inspiring introspection



Speaker Sheriff Antonio Hash receives an honorarium from Kiwanis



Steve McGraw and Bike O'Brochta dismantle the wind-damaged Nature Park tool storage building





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Happenings

### **Notes from John**

We were saddened to learn of the Thursday passing of former Kiwanis Club of Roanoke leader Bob Bersch. He was 88.

Bob was an extremely active club member for more than 30 years, joining Kiwanis in 1978. He served as club president in 1985-86 and famously conducted our club's new member inductions for an extended period of time. He also served as Lt. Governor and was very involved in numerous Capital District activities. He helped found the Big Lick Kiwanis Club, which met Tuesday mornings at The Roanoker Restaurant for decades.

A proud graduate of the University of Virginia and the College of William & Mary, Bob practiced law for 60 years, retiring in 2020 after selling his business Wills on Wheels.

At one time, Bob was part of the local law firm that had included Linwood Holton and Caldwell Butler, local attorneys who distinguished themselves nationally in political positions.

Bob is survived by his wife, Martha, who also belonged to the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke. We extend our sincere sympathies to her.

A celebration of Bob's life will be held Wednesday, April 3, at 11 a.m. at Second Presbyterian Church in Roanoke.

You can find his online memorial [here](#).

### **Calling all Marchers!**

Larry the Logperch is making his debut at the Daisy Art Parade on

Saturday, April 13!

We need some Kiwanians to join us in a short march along Market Street to support Larry and the Kiwanis Nature Park.

Families and friends are welcome to join us - this is a fun and easy parade route. Meet behind the Taubman Museum at 11am to line up and then we will march down Market Street to Elmwood Park. We'll carry our Kiwanis banner and hand out some flyers promoting upcoming Kiwanis events. After the parade you can hang out at the park for some activities or go home for a nap before you head over to the Wasena Bridge Party at 3pm. Please wear your blue Kiwanis t-shirt and if you want to add a funny hat - go for it!

[Daisy Art Parade Informational Video](#); [Daisy Art Parade website](#);

[More info about Kiwanis at the Wasena Bridge Promotion](#)

### **Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Book Club**

The date for the next Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Book Club meeting convened by David Hartman will be on April 3rd at 6 pm (half an hour later than usual) at the South County Library on Merriman Road-held IN PERSON ONLY. Remember - this is not your mom's book club! We share a favorite book we've read - author, genre, key elements - what we enjoyed about the book and why we recommend it. You leave with great ideas about what to read next! - OPEN to ALL. RSVP to Cheri and Dave Hartman at [kiwanis.cheri.hartman@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanis.cheri.hartman@gmail.com)

### **KPAD Raffle**

No auction this year, but a raffle for 30ish great items that KPAD attendees can buy a chance at! Raffle items should hold a minimum value of \$25, be in new or very gently used but great condition, and can be dropped off at Roanoke Valley Speech and Hearing Center Monday - Thursday from 8:00 am - 5:30 pm or on Fridays from 8:00 - 12. These



can be gift certificates, collectible sets, jewelry, etc. Contact me if they want to discuss beforehand: 303-386-6551 or [leeannlinkenhoker@gmail.com](mailto:leeannlinkenhoker@gmail.com)

**Save the Date - Spring FunDay at our Kiwanis Centennial Playground IS June 1ST!**

Another date for our calendars - June 1st at the Kiwanis Centennial Playground, we will gather with Shiloh Baptist Church who cooks us hot dogs (the best you ever tasted!) and hamburgers. The Building Bridges collaborative of various churches serves us ice cream! There are activities for the children, usually live music, gardening day activities, the fire department and police department,, talent on display by the youth (cheerleaders, for ex.). It is a grand day to celebrate commUNITY.

**Kiwanis Club of Roanoke INTERFAITH National Day of Prayer Breakfast**

The Kiwanis Club of Roanoke is sponsoring its annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on May 2nd at the Kazim Temple. Tickets go on sale on March 27th at \$8 each that buys you a breakfast catered by our own Amy Carter and signs you up for an inspiring morning of prayers, shared by believers of varying faiths, and a keynote speech by Dr. Lee Learman, dean of the VA Tech Carilion School of Medicine and a fellow member of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke, The buffet line opens at 6:45 am with music by Judy Clark on the keyboard. Tom Miller will welcome all at the start of the meeting at 7:15. On the program agenda are: breakfast, prayers, a song (by Milton Hardy), table discussions on "Lighting Up the Darkness", the keynote speech by Dr. Lee Learman and fellowship.

Please feel free to get your tickets from Ken Briggs or Bruce Swanson immediately following club luncheon meetings. Please keep in mind that buying a ticket for \$8.00 is only appropriate IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND the breakfast. We do accept donations toward this event from

those who wish to support it, but cannot join us - however, you don't need a ticket to do so. Bruce Swanson or Ken Briggs will accept & record those donations.

Hope you can join us on May 2nd - the National Day of Prayer. It is an event that our club highly values as a way to promote diversity appreciation and inclusion. Be on the lookout for ticket sales to begin on March 27th. ALL are welcome!

**The Kiwanis Club of Capital – Next Generation e-Club presents  
“The Game of Life:”**

A FREE webinar-based event focused on college and career preparation for students ages 14-22. The event will feature a variety of sessions on topics ranging from applying to college, navigating the financial aid process, exploring trade schools, tips for finding a job, building a resume, developing financial literacy, and more! Please share this information with any of your SLP students or individuals who may find this webinar useful.

There is a spectacular lineup of speakers from the educational system, community career services, and across industries. We hope the event will provide motivation, education, a space to ask questions, and a sense of community for participants. We hope attendees will leave feeling prepared to tackle new challenges as they prepare to further their education and enter the workforce.

For session details, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/gameoflife2024>

The 2024 Game of Life event will take place on Saturday April 6th and Sunday April 7th from 1-3 PM EST both days.

Please RSVP using this [form](#):

(<https://forms.gle/3tEpXnTJSM8UnBXeA>) to let us know which day

you will attend and we email out Zoom link information closer to the event date. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us at [nextgenerationkiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:nextgenerationkiwanis@gmail.com).

Thank you,

Kiwanis Club of Capital – Next Generation e-Club

### **Meeting Recordings**

Note that club meeting recordings can be found on our YouTube channel [here](#).

### **Blue Ridge Marathon**



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## Kiwanians – It's Marathon Time Again!

April 20, 2024

This year the Club will be running an Aid Station in support of the race. Specifically, we will be staffing BRP Roanoke Mountain Middle at the Near Roanoke Mountain Overlook, Roanoke Mountain Rd, Roanoke, VA 24014 (click the link to see the location on Google Maps <https://goo.gl/maps/gajAaWG8zaa1wbZF8>) handing out drinks and enthusiastically encouraging the runners. The shift starts at 6:45 and ends around 10:45 AM. You can drive up to the Aid Station by taking the Roanoke Mountain Parkway (on the right off the Blue Ridge Parkway just north of the intersection with Mill Mountain Parkway).

**Note: Volunteers must be in place BEFORE the Blue Ridge Parkway closes at 7:00 AM!**

If 6:45 AM is too early for you, we also need at least three (3) Kiwanians to be course marshals and there are volunteer opportunities on other days including Friday night (April 19<sup>th</sup>) at the welcome concert. Fifteen (15) volunteers are needed overall. Use the QR code below or click this link to <https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/VA/Roanoke/BlueRidge#43929>. After it loads, scroll down to BRP Roanoke Mountain Middle hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke. Check the box and click the Volunteer button. This will take you to the registration page. The Task Password is kiwanis. If you would like to sign up for a different task, scroll up to see other opportunities (no Task Password needed for those). When you register, make sure to select that you are with the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke. If you are already a registered user, you can sign in and avoid some tyninpi!



Phone or Email MIKE McEvoy if you have questions!

### April 6th Clean-up

Kiwanis is partnering with SERV for a Community Clean Up on April 6th from 10 to 12. - meeting at the Goodwill Youth Headquarters parking area... Decca Knight of SERV is taking the lead. Please join us! It is in our "workplan" to do quarterly clean ups at our Nature Park site - this is the one for this quarter! Sign up by emailing Cheri Hartman at: [kiwanis.cheri.hartman@gmail.com](mailto:kiwanis.cheri.hartman@gmail.com).

# JOIN SERV & OUR PARTNERS TO CLEANUP OUR ADOPTED BLOCKS OF MELROSE AVE.

April 6th, 2024  
10am-12pm



Meet us in front of Goodwill Youth HQ  
2502 Melrose Ave.

We will provide all cleanup supplies but we encourage you to wear comfy/warm clothes and supportive shoes.

## Outreach Awards (initiative and follow through):

- Greg Lionberger
- Cheri Hartman
- Bart Wilner
- Harry Zulauf
- Bill Bestpitch
- Keith Hartman
- Bob Habermann



### **Center in the Square parking**

The new gateless parking system is slated to become effective late March-early April. It will require patrons to use their smartphone to scan a qr and pay using their smartphone.

*Please email any potential happenings to Alex at [abarge11@gmail.com](mailto:abarge11@gmail.com).*

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**Please consider sharing this email with a friend!**

 **Forward**

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## **Kiwanian Birthdays**

April 1 – Chloe Willis

April 2 – Andree Brooks

April 5 – Sam Darby  
April 10 – Tim Thompson  
April 12 – Bob Habermann  
April 12 – Bert Boyd  
April 14 – Gary Duerk  
April 18 – Jim Randles  
April 19 – Eddie Barnes  
April 27 – Dwight Steele



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2023-24

Officers:

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

Directors:

Lee Osborne, President, Kiwanis  
Foundation of Roanoke  
Kevin Reeder, 2024  
Stephanie Moon Reynolds, 2024  
David Hartman, 2024  
Bob Habermann, 2025  
Sheila Umberger, 2025  
Harry Zulauf, 2025  
Bill Bestpitch, 2026  
Greg Lionberger, 2026  
Alex Barge, 2026



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