



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

August 2025

Vol. 106 No. 42

"What is your Superpower?"



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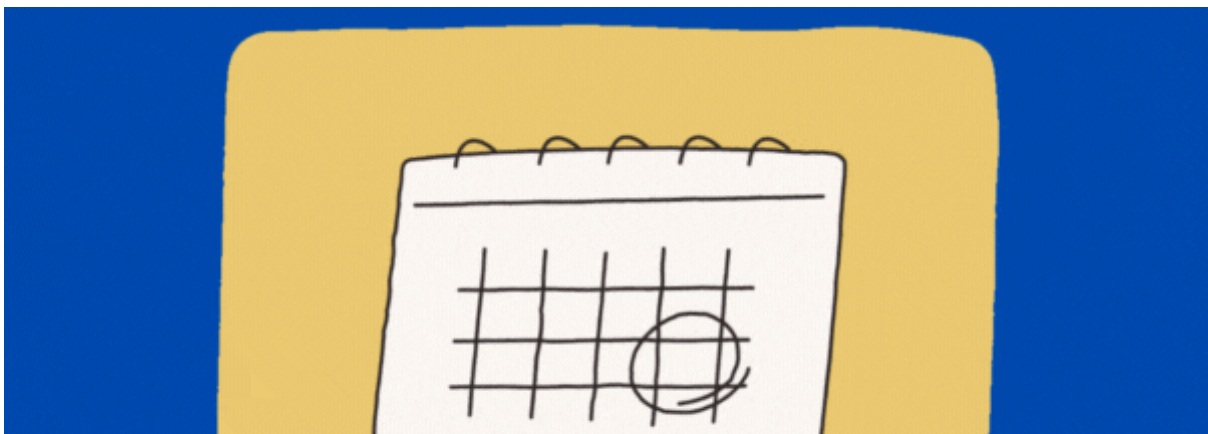
President's Message

August has been a busy time for our Kiwanis Club! Many thanks to club members Joyce Montgomery, Mike McEvoy, and Eric Danielsen for planning a wonderful **Roanoke Star Dedication** event. This year, instead of running a silent auction, we reached out directly to a corporate sponsor, and **Roanoke Gas Company** generously came forward. RCG asked us to choose someone in our community to honor and our club leadership chose **Susan Williams**, who tragically lost her life earlier this year. Susan retired from LOA after more than 30 years and was responsible not only for their rebranding, but also establishing the Meals on Wheels program. Major Joe Cobb and CEO of

LOA, Ron Boyd spoke eloquently of Susan's life and legacy in our community. We welcomed several members of Susan's family, who were very honored to have her remembered.

In addition to the Star dedication, we co-sponsored two new youth oriented events in Roanoke County - we partnered with **Roanoke County Police** and **Carilion Clinic** for **Cuts with Cops** was a back-to-school event providing haircuts, new shoes, and school supplies. **Commonwealth Day of Play** was in partnership with the **Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association, Brookside Golf, and the Governor's office**. Families were invited to put their phones down for a few hours and enjoy free outdoor games, golf, ice cream, and other refreshments. Both events will take place again next year and we hope to continue our involvement and get some Kiwanians out there on the golf course with young people!

On a more serious note, many have heard and read about the tragic arson attack on **Danville Councilmember, Lee Vogler**. We have been saddened to learn both the victim and the perpetrator have ties to the Daville Kiwanis Club. The Danville club is not asking for assistance, however, Mr. Vogler's family has a **GoFundMe** to help raise money for his ongoing hospital care and also to help his wife take care of their home and children. Mr. Vogler will be in the hospital for at least six months receiving burn treatments and neither he nor his wife will be receiving work income. We're including the link here for anyone who would like to donate <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-lee-voglers-recovery>.





August 13 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Dr. Lee Learman - VTC School of Medicine

August 13 - (6 - 7 pm) Book Club Meeting

August 20 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Drs. Jed Gonzalo & Arthur Ollendorff - VTCSOM

August 20 - (1:30 pm) Membership Committee Meeting

August 27 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Dr. Nick Rider - VTC School of Medicine

August 27 - (1:30 pm) Environment Committee Meeting

You can always stay up-to-date by checking out the calendar on our [website here.](#)

August 13th - Club Meeting, Dr. Lee Learman, Dean and Professor at VTC School of Medicine

Join us Wednesday for our weekly meeting at 12:30 PM in Charter Hall on the third floor of the City Market Building to listen to Dr. Lee Learman, Dean and Professor at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTCSOM). The month of August is dedicated to compelling speakers from VTCSOM.

Dr. Learman will provide a brief review of the VTCSOM accomplishments since opening in 2010. He will discuss how the organization has grown enrollment while ensuring that the student experience continues to meet the same high standards that have become their brand.

Lee and his wife moved to Roanoke in 2019, when Lee became VTCSOM's second dean. The Learmans have two daughters and two young grandchildren living in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Rockville, Maryland. In his free time, Lee enjoys visiting them, as well as singing with the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra chorus and in a congregational choir at Temple Emanuel.



Highlights From Our Last Meeting



Dr. Dave Hartman introduces the



Ken Briggs and his two guests listen

day's program



Speaker, Dr. Lisa Uherlek, does a song and dance while waiting for the PowerPoint setup

intently to the speaker



Dr Uherlek receives speaker honorarium for Chris's Coffee and Custard



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

A message from Harry Zulauf - Membership Chair

Have you invited a guest for lunch tomorrow? Will YOU.....

New Year of Service:

Sign Up for Committees!

As the Kiwanis year winds down, it's the perfect time to look ahead and plan for another successful year of service to our community's children. We are officially kicking off our committee sign-ups for the upcoming year, and encourage every member to get involved! Sign-up sheets will be on the tables Wednesday. Also, you can email me and sign-up as well. Please email Joyce Montgomery at jmcrossroads@cox.net

Update Directory Information

A well-maintained directory is a valuable resource for our club, helping us stay connected with one another. To ensure that our directory is as accurate and useful as possible, we are asking for your help. It's time to review and update your information.

Please take a moment to verify your contact details and other relevant information in our direction. If you have any changes, please email Joyce Montgomery at jmcrossroads@cox.net

Book Club

In case you've not heard the good news - Mike Bell has invited us to return to Anderson and Reed at 1515 Franklin Rd for our next Book Club meeting on Wednesday August 13th at 5:30. No dinner this time!!! We so enjoyed that setting for our last meeting we dared ask Mike if we could return to his office for this next session-- he graciously replied "YES!". Looking forward to hearing about the book you've read and chosen to present!

New kind of book club- tell us what you've read you'd like to share with us! Anything- fiction, nonfiction, novel or poem, memoir or mystery! Your choice!

Cheri and Dave Hartman

Ducky Derby

Info below, [click here to purchase tickets online!](#)



All proceeds raised through the Ducky Derby sales supports the eleven pediatric trauma centers supported by the Capital District Kiwanis Foundation.

DRAWING DATE: Saturday, August 23, 2025

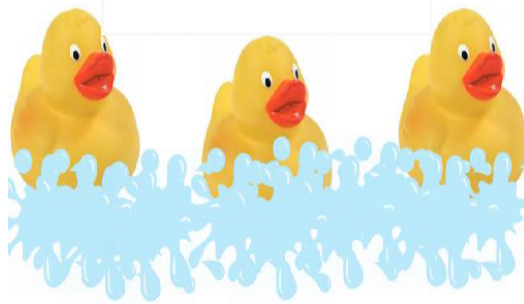
(Immediately following the House of Delegates session)

Cash Prizes: \$750, \$500, \$250 and a variety of \$50 gift cards to various retail stores and restaurants.

Minimum Donation: \$5.00 for 10 tickets

Purchase your tickets online at the website below:

<https://f03.site.kiwanis.org/fundraising/ducky-derby/>



Ducky Derby Chairman: Charles Marks

Email: charles.marks4@verizon.net Cell phone: 302-236-4878

Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Mill Mountain Star Dedication

The Kiwanis Club of Roanoke will dedicate the Mill Mountain Star in memory of Susan Williams on August 5th at 10:00. Susan was the Executive Director of the League of Older Americans for 32 years, where she spent her life in service to those less fortunate, the forgotten, and the underserved. Her dedication to supporting the vulnerable population shone through her passionate advocacy for Meals on Wheels. She championed efforts to ensure that homebound individuals received nutritious meals and also a vital social connect. May Susan's legacy inspire future generations to lead with passion

and serve their community with unwavering dedication.

Please join the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke at the Mill Mountain Star for this celebration of life in memory of Susan Williams.



Kiwanis in the News

Mill Mountain Star Dedication on WSLS - [click here](#)

Mill Mountain Star Dedication on WDBJ - [click here](#)

Mill Mountain Star Dedication on WFIR - [click here](#)

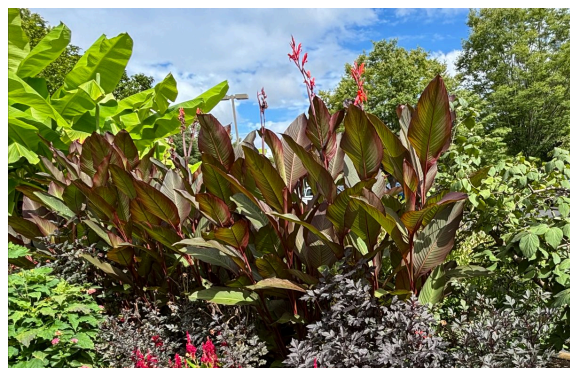
Cuts with Cops on WSLS - [click here](#)

Kiwanis Nature Park Committee goes on a field trip

Cheri Hartman, Don Witt, Courtney Plaster, Cynthia Gray, and Dr. Lauren Hartman of Roanoke College were treated to a tour by Clark of the VWCC arboretum. Starting with a visit to the scintillating sensory garden, Clark led our Kiwanis Nature Park Committee through the beautiful grounds of the Community Arboretum. Following the multisensory immersion, we meandered down a trail to a shade garden, a wildflower area, onto the serene (sacred-feeling) arboreal rotunda, where trees encircle a grassy retreat and one can envision a wedding or a meditative yoga session to tap into the peaceful spirit there. Adjacent to a rock garden, we rested a moment at the gazebo and continued on toward the Children's Garden with its maze of hedges - literally inviting exploration by the young seeking to find their way. Our Kiwanis Nature Park Committee delighted in being inspired by this gem of an arboretum, hoping to import gardening design ideas to our own Nature Park. No cost to savor nature in its glory - taking your own field trip there is highly recommended. It is accessible for those with mobility challenges! Come tell us about your experience when you join us at our next Nature Park Committee kick off meeting in October. Open to new committee members! Let Cheri Hartman, Don Witt or Rupe Cutler know if you're interested in helping with the Kiwanis Nature Park in our coming year; this is our club's current signature project.

Cheri W. Hartman

Kiwanis Nature Park co-chair





Participants Needed for Motor Control Study

Professor Sean Cochran of Roanoke College - who is speaking to us about using Virtual Reality to improve health outcomes is inviting our Kiwanis Club members to participate in the Roanoke College research. He has sent Cheri Hartman this blurb as an explanation of the study.

Join a research study in the Health and Exercise Science department at Roanoke College exploring how fitness affects upper limb motor performance! Participants will complete a drawing task using both arms under altered visual conditions and then asked to walk for 2 minutes at a comfortable pace, wearing a heart rate monitor. This will be for just one session lasting around 45 minutes. Not only will you be assisting our understanding of how to improve physical rehabilitation protocols, but you will be assisting undergraduate students grow their skillset of becoming independent researchers! Please contact cochran@roanoke.edu for more

information.

Membership Changes:

Welcome to new member **Michael Franzese**, a realty agent with eXp. Michael and his wife, Jenna, who is the human resources director with FOX, moved to the Roanoke Valley from Massachusetts within the past year. The Franzeses reside in North Lakes. Michael's hobbies include hiking, camping, baseball, music and theater. He is a native of New York. Michael's joint sponsors are Fred Jeter and Jeff Vick.

Sadly, we said goodbye and good luck to two members this month:

Stephanie Moon Reynolds, an active member the past five years, is stepping back after concluding a 47-year career in public service. During her time in Kiwanis, Stephanie served as a member of the board of directors, coordinated monthly programs several times, and was a KPAD leader in terms of manpower captain and ticket sales. Stephanie's sponsor was Eric Danielsen.

Mike Adams, a member of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke since 2022, is moving to Atlanta to be closer to family. During Mike's time in our club, he assisted with zoom technology, served as an Aktion Club advisor, and volunteered at the Nature Park. Mike's sponsor was Guy Byrd.

Board Briefs – 8/11/25

The club's board of directors met Monday morning, August 11, at the Williamson Road Library, folding business matters into a three-hour gathering billed as a retreat for next year's board. President Jeanne Bollendorf presided. All of our newly elected board members (VP-Elect Reif Kessler, and directors Steve English, Fred Jeter, Chris Rouse and Jeff Vick) joined a quorum of the current board.

Among the items of business we addressed:

- ~ Discussed the health concerns of several Kiwanians (both in Roanoke and other clubs) and how the club might offer appropriate assistance. Our Kiwanis Kares committee is leading the way;
- ~ Accepted the resignations with regret of Kiwanians Mike Adams (moving to Georgia) and Stephanie Moon Reynolds (life and career changes);
- ~ Approved the application of new member Mike Franzese, a relocated realtor

(jointly sponsored by Fred Jeter and Jeff Vick);

~ Approved the September slate of programs, including: Dr. Sean Cochran, Roanoke College professor, speaking on Virtual Reality (September 10) and Jeff Sluss, SkillsUSA Virginia Foundation Executive Director (September 17). The club does not meet Labor Day Week and the installation of next year's officers will be a night meeting September 24 in Charter Hall. The September program coordinator is Kevin Reeder.

~ Discussed the highlights of recent activities – including the July 23 Interclub at the Science Museum that 45 attended; the July 29 KPAD Debriefing (led by Operations Chair Mike McEvoy); and the August 5 Mill Mountain Star Dedication Ceremony in Memory of the late Local Office on Aging Executive Director Susan Williams, sponsored by Roanoke Gas. We also covered two concurrent projects that Kiwanis supported this past Saturday – Cuts with Cops and the Commonwealth Day of Play at Brookside.

~ Other items: Next week's district convention will be held in Crystal City – with officers Joyce Montgomery and David Hartman serving as our delegates; Strategic Planning Chair Bill Bestpitch explained the upcoming deadlines for committee reporting.

The second half of the gathering was devoted to brainstorming ideas to ensure success for next year, led by President-Elect Joyce. She explained her theme as “The Year of Inspired Action,” a timetable of committee sign-up deadlines, and she encouraged the submission of thoughts as to how the theme will happen. A focus will include increased partnerships with existing programs within the Roanoke Valley, combining outreach, addressing unmet community needs and pushing corporate memberships.

My Superpower is...

July/August/September

InterClub organizers – Andree Brooks, Larry Kufel, Ben Spiker, Lois James, Amy Carter, Lee, John Montgomery, Dave Spangler

Meeting Recordings

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

Club Meeting Zoom Info

Here is the [zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 817 8581 5453

Passcode: 102906

Please email any potential happenings to Alex at abargell@gmail.com.

Please consider sharing this email with a friend!

 **Forward**

Kiwanian Birthdays

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

August 3 – Mike O’Brochta

August 4 – My Chung

August 6 – Amy Carter

August 9 – Cynthia Gray

August 11 – Alex Barge

August 11 – Guy Byrd

August 12 – Lance Bowen

August 12 – Nancy Horn

August 12 – Harry Zulauf

August 18 – Rachel Hopkins

August 19 – John Pendleton

August 21 – Nick Hagan

August 23 – Don Chichester (92!)

August 29 – Alex Bowman



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2024-25

Officers:

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

Directors:

Lee Osborne, President, Kiwanis
Foundation of Roanoke
Bob Habermann, 2025
Sheila Umberger, 2025
Harry Zulauf, 2025
Bill Bestpitch, 2026
Greg Lionberger, 2026
Alex Barge, 2026
Preston Tyler, 2027
Bert Boyd, 2027



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