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Kiwanis®
CLUB OF ROANOKE

November 2025

Vol. 107 No. 6

"Year of Inspired Action"

In this Issue

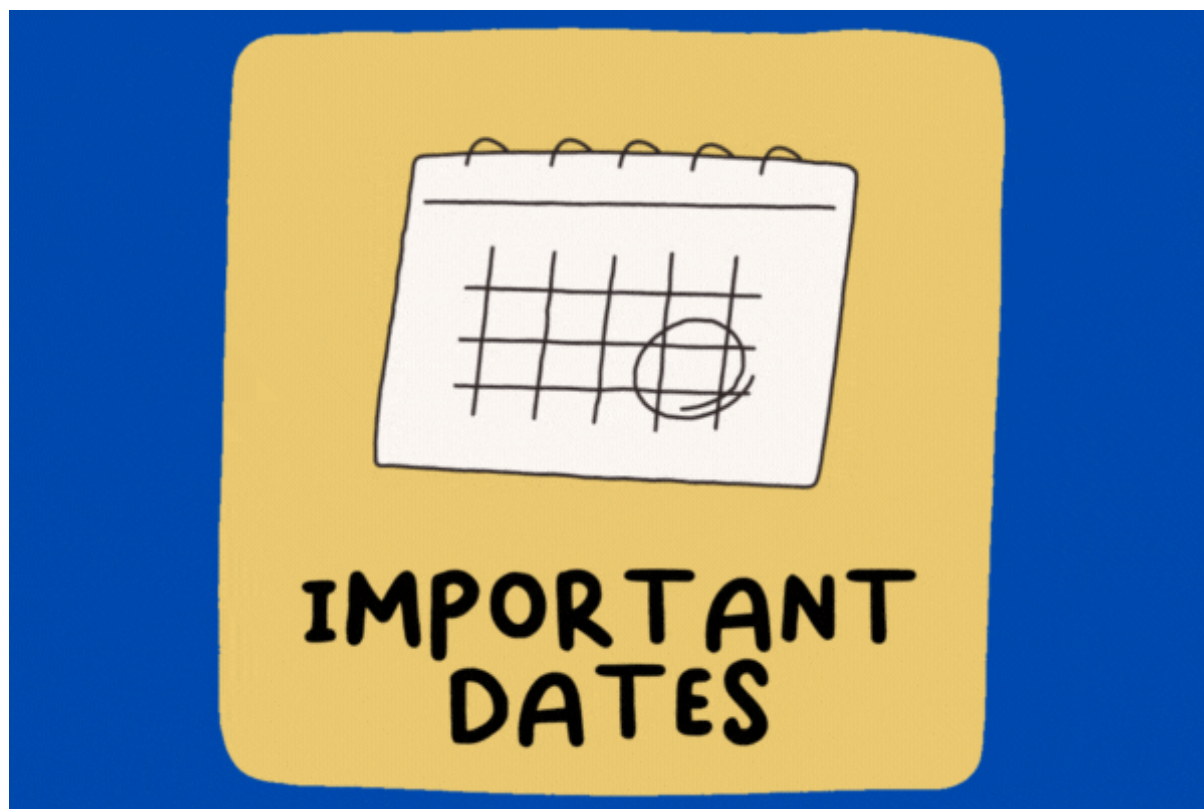
Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays



November 12 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Dwayne D'Ardenne,
Envision Williamson Road

November 12 - (5:30 pm) Book Club Meeting

November 19 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Janine Underwood,

Bradley Free Clinic

November 21 - (11:30 - 1:30 pm) Adult Care Center Thanksgiving

November 26 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) NO MEETING

December 9 - (6 - 9 pm) Fun Social Party/Dancing

December 5, 12, 19 - (6 - 9 pm) Salvation Army Bell Ringing

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

November 12th - Club Meeting, Dwayne D'Ardenne, Envision Williamson Road

Join us Wednesday for our weekly meeting in Charter Hall on the third floor of the City Market Building; networking and lunch begin at 12:00PM. We will listen to Dwayne D'Ardenne, Transportation Division Manager for the City of Roanoke, talk about Vision Zero and about Envision Williamson Road.

Every year, people in Roanoke lose family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues to preventable traffic crashes on our roads. Vision Zero is a commitment to eliminating traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, and mobility for all. Envision Williamson Rd is focused on transforming Roanoke's highest traffic fatality corridor through complete streets design, improving safety for everyone while supporting local businesses.

With over 25 years with the City of Roanoke, Dwayne has been involved with multiple City departments including Parks & Recreation, Stormwater, and Transportation.



Highlights From Our Last Meeting

Most photos are taken by our resident photographer extraordinaire, Don Witt, who also adds the captions.



Sheila Umberger announces her retirement after 43 years of library service



Lori Baker-Lloyd wins "invite" prize for bringing 5 associates to the meeting





Grant chair, Randy Myers presents grant check to Greene Memorial United Methodist Church



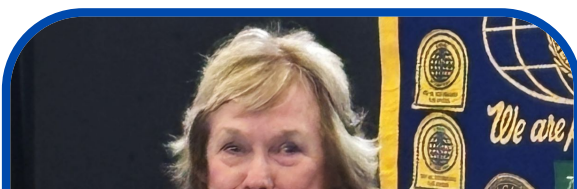
J. C. Taylor presents grant check to Jordan Bell of Apple Ridge Farm



Bethany Christian Church receives grant for the Community Table



Cheri Hartman introduces new member Tom Bramford





Andree Brooks invites Kiwanians to
a Fun Night



Speaker, Montana Kimrey,
describes Roanoke's Ronald
McDonald House



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

Membership Update

Roanoke Kiwanis Club past president Dr. Harry C. Nickens and I were serving together on the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors when he invited me to attend a meeting of this Club in early December, 1985. If I wasn't already hooked, I next attended our annual Christmas party for the West End Center kids later that month and that sealed the deal, so I joined this Club in January, 1986.

Now approaching 40 years of perfect attendance, including terms of office on our board and on various committees, and having served as Club president 30 years ago in 1995, I know that my decision to join this Club was truly a life changing one.

Over those decades, I have recruited dozens of new members, several of whom are still active in this Club. When you recruit new members, you hope that

they will be actively involved in our Club for life, and many of my recruits have done so...

For example, when I recruited our Club's first woman member, Linda Price, in 1987, she was very active, soon recruiting Jackie Bledsoe, who became our Club's first woman president. Who knew?! Later, I recruited Manly Aylor and J. C. Taylor, both past presidents of this Club. Who knew?!

When I recruited old motorcycle riding friend Kenny Brooks, one of our consistently loyal pancake flippers over many years, he recruited his sister, Andree', who became our Club's third woman president. Who knew?!

Over the next few months, our Club's Membership Committee will feature testimonials about their experiences by some of our members, primarily emphasizing new member recruitment and retention, so please stay tuned...

Who knows what we'll learn about old and new members and ourselves? Of one thing I am certain; it will be fun and positive and, hopefully, inspirational... thanks!

Steve McGraw

Calendars are Needed

2026 Calendars are needed for residents at the Salem V A. Please save all those free calendars you receive in the mail and bring them to our meeting. Deposit them in the box on the table near check in. Thank you for helping our veterans! Andree'

El Rodeo Pop Up Party

Eighteen Kiwanians and spouses had a great time at El Rodeo Thursday evening, November 6. It was National Nacho day and we indulged! It must have been National Margarita Day also because they were all around the table -

lime, strawberry, mango. There was even Mexican beer. Quesadillas, tacos, fajitas, burritos, enchilada, rice and beans were plentiful. But the best item we had during the evening was the camaraderie of Kiwanians! It was a great time and great food! Hope you will join us next time.

Book Club

Thanks to everyone who joined us on October 8th for the monthly Book Club. Thanks again to Mike Bell for hosting our group. Our next meeting will be on November 12th at 5:30 - Mike Bell has graciously agreed to host us again. All are welcome to join and share about a book you recently read. Please contact Dave and Cheri Hartman for more information.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Our Kiwanis Club members (and guests) will again be “Ringing the Bells” for the Salvation Army during the three Friday evenings of “Dickens of a Christmas”. The dates are December 5, 12, and 19. Our location will again be the Market Square Entrance to Center in the Square.

Below is our schedule for 2025. Our goal is to have four ringers for each one-hour shift. As you can see, some of our members have already volunteered.

This is our 18th year of “ringing” during the three evenings of “Dickens”. We average collecting about \$2,000.00 each year. Thus far, we have collected almost \$24,000.00 to help the Salvation Army do great work in our community. Sign-up sheets will be on the tables at our meetings on November 12 and 19. You may also sign up (or get more information) by contacting Co-Chairs Mike Bell (344-4333) or Ken Briggs (314-9616).

Kiwanis Club of Roanoke
Salvation Army Bell Ringing, 2025
Dickens of a Christmas

Friday, December 5---“Christmas Tree Lighting”

5 to 6PM—Bill Bestpitch,

6 to 7PM—Will Dibling, Bob Rutherford, Betsy & Chris Bohannon.

7 to 8PM—JC & Lourice Taylor, Reif & Susan Kessler.

8 to 9PM—

Friday, December 12—“The Christmas Parade”

5 to 6PM—

6 to 7PM—Joe & Sally Lemmer;

7 to 8PM—

8 to 9PM—

Friday, December 19—“The SPCA Pet Costume Contest”

5 to 6PM—Ken Briggs & Aktion Club members

6 to 7PM—Rupert Cutler & Brenda McDaniel, Mike & Tiffini Bell

7 to 8PM—Joe & Sally Lemmer;

8 to 9PM—

NOTE: Our location will again be outside the Market Square entrance to Center in the Square. “Frank” (540-240-6112) is scheduled to be in the lobby as the Security Guard for Center in the Square. Frank can unlock the storage room where our stand, sign, aprons, bells, and kettles will be stored.

NEW MEMBERS:

We accepted applications from four new members at Monday's board meeting:

Salvation Army Lt. Antonio Hodges (along with his wife his wife, Shawnte, and their three children) recently arrived as the commanding officers at the Roanoke Corps. They moved here from Danville. "I am joining Kiwanis because I believe in its mission of serving children and strengthening our community," he says. "I'm passionate about giving back, building relationships with other community leaders, and working to make a positive impact through service and outreach."

James Graves and his wife Lisa moved to Roanoke 18 months ago after he retired in Charlottesville from a government career -- five years at the Department of Commerce in Washington, three years of uniform active duty and 27 years a civilian. The Graves have two grown children, Daniel and Aaliyah. "I am looking to contribute to the community," he says. His Roanoke volunteer experience includes the Gainsboro YMCA. He also helped out the Habitat Store, Literacy Volunteers and Camp Holiday Trails in Charlottesville.

Linda Jensen has lived in the area five years. Her granddaughter, Elise Dearstyne, won a Kiwanis scholarship from our club in the spring, a development which led Linda to apply for membership. "I want to give back to the community and assist in providing services as needed," she says. Linda has earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from the University of Maryland.

George "Dink" Harrington, a lifelong Roanoker, operates First Impression Barber Shop on Melrose Avenue, not far from the Kiwanis Centennial Playground the Nature Park. "I want to contribute to meaningful service projects that improve the lives of children and families in my community," he says. Kiwanis provides opportunities to build leadership skills, work with like-minded individuals and grow both personally and professionally."

John Shotwell, Nancy Horn's Fiancé

We were saddened to learn of the Thursday passing of Kiwanian Nancy Horn's longtime fiancé, John Shotwell. John died of congestive heart failure after battling cancer earlier this year. Over the years, John frequently attended Kiwanis functions with Nancy.

John was a popular teacher and successful coach at James River High School, coaching six sports over a 50-year period starting in 1961. He won four state softball championships and helped develop pitcher Angela Tincher O'Brien,

who was named the NCAA softball player of the year in 2008 while playing for Virginia Tech. John was a member of the Virginia High School League hall of fame. He was renowned for youth development.

“He was able to have great relationships with the people that he coached,” Tincher O’Brien told reporter Mark Berman of The Roanoke Times. “He was really there for the relationships, which is why he was so well-loved by so many people.”

Visitation for John will be held at Mill Creek Baptist Church in Botetourt County Nov. 21 from 3-7 p.m. The funeral will be held at the church Nov. 22 at 1 p.m.

Kiwanians Out and About

Chris Rouse, Miles Rouse, and Mike O’Brochta meet with Val Brown to Discuss Possible GWRABA-Kiwanis Collaboration.



Kiwanis Grand Angel Project

Each year, the Kiwanis Grand Angel Project provides holiday gifts for the guardianship clients of Family Service of Roanoke Valley who otherwise would receive nothing at this time of the year.

The guardianship representatives are always so grateful for this funding. They want to share a couple of Halloween photos of two of the clients that are helped through this project. The first one is a bit spooky! The second photo includes a lady with her walker (transformed into a grill by her caregiver). She is 80 years old and earlier this year, she broke her hip and had other complications but is doing amazingly well now!

FSRV Chief Development Officer, Jill Sluss, is currently accepting donations at our weekly meetings. You may also scan the attached QR code to make a donation with a credit card.





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 Kiwanian happenings by 7 pm on Monday to Alex at abargell@gmail.com.

Please consider sharing this email with a friend!

 **Forward**

Kiwanian Birthdays

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

November 1 Joyce Waugh
November 3 Will Dibling
November 4 Tom Miller
November 8 Manly Aylor
November 10 Sheyonn Baker
November 10 David Daniels
November 14 Tom Bamford (new member)
November 15 Larry Kufel
November 20 Jay Gauldin
November 28 Kevin Holt
November 28 J.C. Taylor



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CLUB OF ROANOKE 2025-26

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John Montgomery,
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