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Kiwanis®
CLUB OF ROANOKE

November 2025

Vol. 107 No. 8

"Year of Inspired Action"

In this Issue

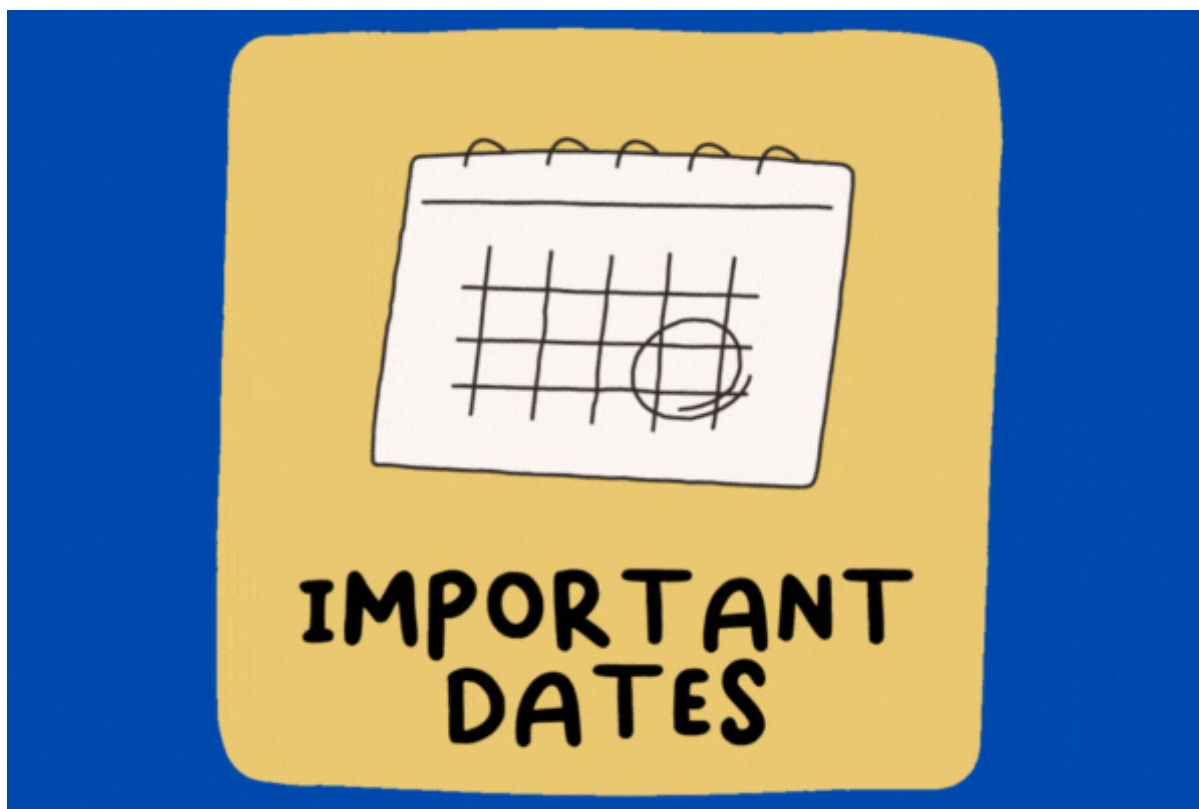
Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays



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

December 3 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Armistead Lemon, North Cross School

December 3 - (6 - 7:30 pm) Research Report Kiwanis Nature Park
December 4 - (9:30 - 10:30 am) High School Scholarship Committee Zoom Meeting
December 9 - (6 - 9 pm) Fun Social Party/Dancing
December 10 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Karen Pillis, West End Center
December 5, 12, 19 - (6 - 9 pm) Salvation Army Bell Ringing
December 17 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Holiday Party
December 24 - NO MEETING
December 31 - NO MEETING

January 8 - (6:30 - 9 pm) Fun Hockey Game

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

November 26th - NO MEETING

December 3 - Club Meeting, Armistead Lemon

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 Armistead Lemon, Head of North Cross School. Armistead will talk about the growth of North Cross and the planned next steps.

The North Cross School is an independent, nonsectarian school serving students in early childhood through 12th grade from across the Roanoke Valley, the region, and the world. It strives to inspire a community of intellectually curious learners to think critically, act with integrity, and lead with courage.

Armistead spent the last 20 years in independent school education. Upon graduating from North Cross in 1995, she received her B.A. in English from Washington and Lee University and received her M.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Last spring she was inducted into the Heads Collegiate Forum, an organization honoring 100 current heads of

school.

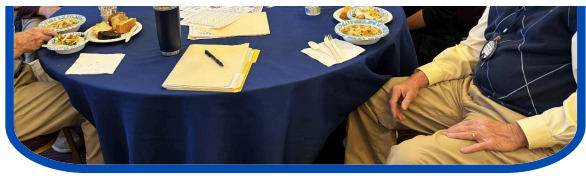
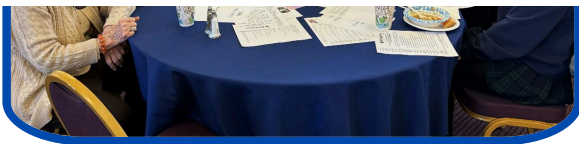
Having spent 16 years as a senior administrator and teacher at Harpeth Hall in Nashville, TN, Armistead returned to her hometown of Roanoke to serve as North Cross's first female Head of School as well as first alumna Head of School. She is in her fourth year of headship and lives on the campus of North Cross with her husband and two children.



Highlights From Our Last Meeting

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





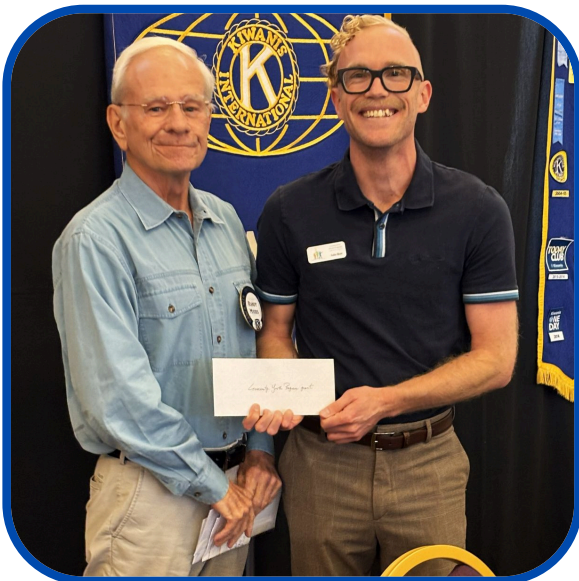
Roanoke Catholic Key Club dines with Kiwanians



LeeAnn Reich holds the grant check
for Children's Trust



Valerie Coles explains the uses for
the Camp Easter Seal grant



Luke Shaw accepts grant check for
Community Youth Program



Janine Underwood delivers the
history of the Bradley Free Clinic



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

Finding My People: A 15-Year Kiwanis Journey by Jeanne Bollendorf

My first encounter with Kiwanis wasn't as a member—it was as a guest presenter when our club still met at Schaal's catering on Jefferson Street, now Well Hung wine bar and restaurant. Shortly after, Rupert Cutler invited me to a Kiwanis orientation session at the Roanoke Chamber's offices. I remember walking into that room and meeting and hearing from Jackie Bledsoe, Vern Danielsen, and Lloyd Enoch. Something clicked. I decided right then I would join.

I'll be honest: my initial motivation was business networking. And I wasn't entirely sure these were "my people." When I joined in 2010, I was either the youngest or second-youngest member and one of only a handful of women. Fifteen years later, I can say with absolute confidence that joining Kiwanis was one of the best decisions I've made. I've found wonderful friendships in this group—and yes, they are definitely my people.

My approach to membership has been unconventional. While my recruiting track record may be spotty, I've been intentional about one thing: bringing more women into the club. Since 2010, we've effectively tripled our female membership. Over time our club has become significantly more diverse across the board.

Rather than focusing solely on individual recruitment, I've concentrated on community outreach—making Kiwanis Club of Roanoke more visible throughout the valley so membership can grow organically. Working behind the scenes on our newsletter, website, social media, and press coverage, I've tried to create excitement about what we do and encourage potential members

to seek us out.

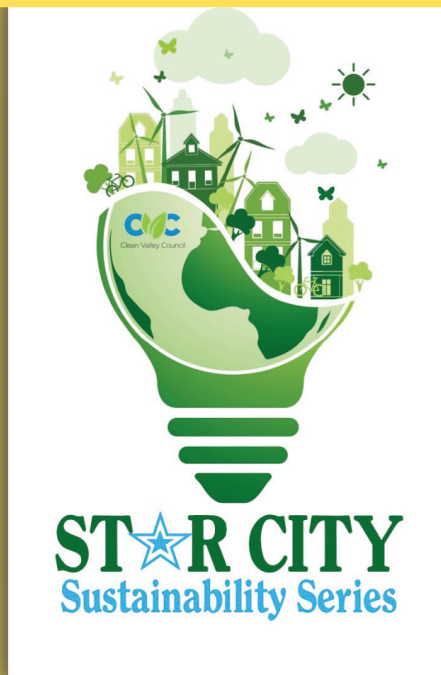
I'm proud to have sponsored four outstanding members: LeeAnn Reich, Rita Joyce, Valerie Brown, and Melissa Woodson. Each one is an excellent club member and community leader.

What matters most to me is that our club reflects our community—that we create space where everyone feels welcome, where visitors and new members can find their people and discover their passion. That's how we'll keep our club strong for the next fifteen years and beyond.

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

Research Report Kiwanis Nature Park



Portrait of a Park: Kiwanis Nature Park's Past, Present, and Future

Roanoke College students spent a semester investigating the natural and human elements of Kiwanis Nature Park from multiple perspectives and are excited to share what they have learned. Based on this knowledge, they also have ideas and recommendations for the park's future. Kiwanis Nature Park is located beside Forest Park Academy in Roanoke.

Presenters

*Roanoke College Environmental
Studies senior class under the
direction of
Dr. Laura Hartman*

FREE Program!

When:

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2025
6-7:30 p.m.

Where:

CVC Headquarters
Fellowship Hall inside
Heights Community Church
2014 Memorial Avenue, SW
Roanoke, VA 24015

Light refreshments will be served.

Preregistration is required.



For registration and more information:
<https://www.cleanvalley.org/get-involved>



Presented by



Sponsored by



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

We're set to "Ring the Bells" for the Salvation Army during the three Friday evenings of Dickens....December 5, 12, and 19. Our schedule (see below) of four Kiwanians for each one-hour shift allows all ringers the opportunity to 'take a break'. We still have openings for ringers on the 8 to 9PM shifts each

evening. For more information, you may contact any of the ‘ringers’ on the schedule below. Most have participated previously.

To volunteer, please contact one of us:

Mike Bell—540-206-8211

Ken Briggs-540-314-9616

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

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

5 to 6PM—Bill Bestpitch, John Pendleton,

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

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

8 to 9PM—

Friday, December 12—“The Christmas Parade”

5 to 6PM— Chris Rouse, Bruce Swanson,

6 to 7PM—Joe & Sally Lemmer, Mike & Beth O'Brochta

7 to 8PM— Preston & Chauna Tyler, David & Margarita Bowers.

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.

Hockey Game January 8

Fun Committee event. Socialize and enjoy a Rail Yard Dawgs hockey game on Thursday January 8; arrive by 6:30pm to grab some food and socialize, the puck drops at 7:05pm. We have a block of 22 seats reserved close to the ice where the action takes place. Club members and guests are invited. Non-refundable tickets must be purchased through our Club no later than December 29; \$24 each. Contact Mike O'Brochta to sign-up.



Thanksgiving at the Adult Care Center

Good times and a great meal was shared at the Adult Care Center this past Friday as Kiwanians passed out meals and socialized with participants.





Business Outreach

Under the direction of our Membership committee, our Club has just initiated a series of business outreach efforts. We will be reaching out to the business community in a number of ways to spotlight our corporate membership option. Mike O'Brochta, who is leading this effort, is grateful for the three Club members who have already volunteered to help and is looking for one or two more volunteers; please contact him to discuss.

Many Club Events On Calendar

Members of our Kiwanis Club are busy. Much going on. That's great. On average for the next couple of months, beyond our weekly Club meetings, we have one additional event going on every week. Impressive. [Click here](#) to read the Club calendar on our website for details.

The Chamber of Commerce is Busy Too

The Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce is busy too. We are partners. The Chamber is a member of our Club and our Club is a member of the Chamber. As such, our Club members get to participate in Chamber events. That is quite beneficial. Mike O'Brochta is our liaison and can assist. [Click here](#) to read the Chamber calendar on their website for details.

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



Kiwaniis® 2025-26

CLUB OF ROANOKE

Officers:

Joyce Montgomery,
President

David Hartman, President-
Elect

Reif Kessler, Vice President

John Montgomery,
Secretary-Treasurer

Jeanne Bollendorf, Past
President

Directors:

Lee Osborne, President
Kiwaniis Foundation of
Roanoke

Bill Bestpitch, 2026
Greg Lionberger, 2026
Alex Barge, 2026
Preston Tyler, 2027
Bert Boyd, 2027
Chris Rouse, 2027
Jeff Vick, 2028
Steve English, 2028
Fred Jeter, 2028



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