

[View this email in your browser](#)



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

January 2025

Vol. 107 No. 14

"Year of Inspired Action"

In this Issue

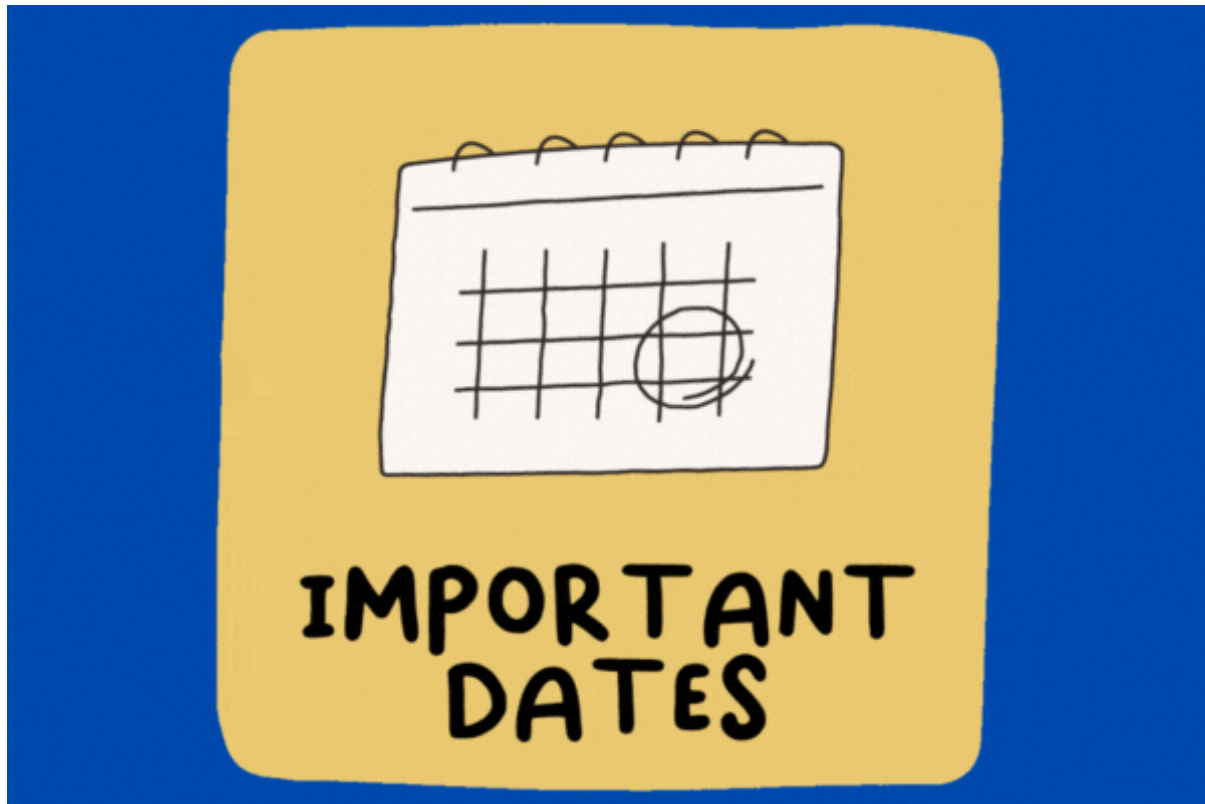
Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays



January 14 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Maureen Best - LEAP

January 14 - (5:30 - 6:30 pm) Book Club Meeting

January 19 - (10 am) MLK Jr Day of Service

January 21 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Dave Covington - Virginia

Department of Transportation

January 21 - (1:35 pm) Membership Committee Meeting

January 28 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Jonathan Pait - Gainsboro YMCA

April 25 - KPAD

May 30 - Spring Fun Day

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

January 14th - Club Meeting, Maureen Best with LEAP

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 Maureen Best, Executive Director of Local Environmental Agricultural Project (LEAP). Maureen will talk about how LEAP works to nurture our food community. She will provide an overview of LEAP, programs, and partnerships. Maureen will be joined by Connie Kenny, LEAP Food Access Manager, who will discuss some of our community's challenges with food access and the impact of Harvest Bucks.

Maureen has been working with food, agriculture, and community since the early 2000s. Her experience includes teaching high school agriculture in Raleigh, NC, working with migrant farmworkers in eastern NC and the Colorado plains, and studying and supporting local food systems in Colorado. Maureen has served as the Executive Director of LEAP since 2013 and has helped guide the organization through large periods of growth and change. She has undergraduate degrees in Agriculture Education, Spanish, and Anthropology from North Carolina State University, Master of Arts in Anthropology from Colorado State University, and Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University where she was a Bloomberg Fellow. Maureen,

her spouse, two food-loving kids, and pup all love Roanoke and are honored to call Southwestern Virginia home.



Highlights From Our Last Meeting

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



John Bradshaw celebrates his 93rd birthday with his wife, Matilda



Lois James presents grant check to Huddle Up Moms





Suzanne Cresswell reports the proposed uses of the grant to Mill Mountain Theatre



President Joyce presents honorarium to speaker, Troy Mueller



Five new members join Kiwanis!



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

Membership Thoughts ...

By John Montgomery

How many Kiwanians are among your closest friends? You may be surprised that it is more than you originally thought. That's not just a coincidence; you come to appreciate people who share similar values. Consequently, it makes

good sense to invite your friends outside of Kiwanis to visit our club and consider membership. In the words of Past President Don Wilson, “Do a friend a favor; invite him or her to join Kiwanis!”

I have heard another past club president, Mike Loveman, say he can't decide what's his favorite part of the weekly meeting. Often it's the captivating words of the speaker, of course, but sometimes it can be a moving introspection; Judy Clark's pre-meeting piano or a guest musician; a touching or otherwise memorable brag buck; a message of appreciation from a grant recipient – or something totally unexpected. Week-in and week-out, I leave the gathering with an extra spring in my step, glad that I was there.

Calendars

We delivered 145 calendars from our club and 77 more from two churches totaling 222. We will collect through the end of January. Please bring any you have by then.

Book Club

Hope you can join us in 2026 on January 14th at 5:30 pm at Mike Bell's office at Anderson & Reed. Introduce us to one of the books you've recently read and wish to share. Thanks to Mike Bell for hosting us again!

MLK Jr Day of Service

Our club is co-sponsoring a community event with Clean Valley Council and SERV and Shiloh Baptist Church. On MLK Jr Day that is January 19th this year, our club has the opportunity to join hands with several other organizations for a Day ON- a Day of Service. The event will begin at 10 am at the Envision Center (2607 Salem Turnpike) where everyone should check in to get the instructions and materials and a small snack. Certain areas have been identified that could benefit from our litter pick up efforts. This is the neighborhood that benefits from our playground and Nature Park and that

affects the water quality of Horton Branch, that flows through the park. Attached is a flyer with the QR code for registering - please do register in advance. Alternatively you can let Cheri Hartman know of your interest in participating. Her email is chartman2423@gmail.com
Hope to see you then!

Cheri

Clean Valley Council
invites you to the

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE!

Join us for our Martin Luther King Jr.
Day of Service Litter Cleanup:




- Clean Valley Council
- SERV
- Kiwanis Club of Roanoke
- Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority
- Shiloh Baptist Church

Monday, January 19, 2026
10 a.m. to noon

Meet at the EnVision Center
2607 Salem Turnpike, NW

All cleanup supplies
will be provided.

Registration required. Visit <https://www.cleanvalley.org/events/martin-luther-king-jr-day-of-service>



Habitat ReStore Spruce Up

On Saturday, 10 January, a 10-member team of Kiwanians volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore in the Melrose neighborhood of Roanoke. Due to inclement weather, the team worked on the store floor, learning about the

essential connection between this retail operation and the ongoing projects that have housed 300 families in Roanoke since the organization's founding here 40 years ago.

Volunteers invested 20 hours assisting the store in reorganizing displays and repacking seasonal goods for storage. Among the volunteers were President Joyce and Secretary John Montgomery, as well as David and Cheri Hartman, Bill and Sheri Bestpitch, Jim Graves, Don Witt, Mike O'Brochta, and Jeff Vick.

Pictured are (from left) Don Witt, Jeff Vick, and our newest member, Jim Graves.



Chamber of Commerce Event

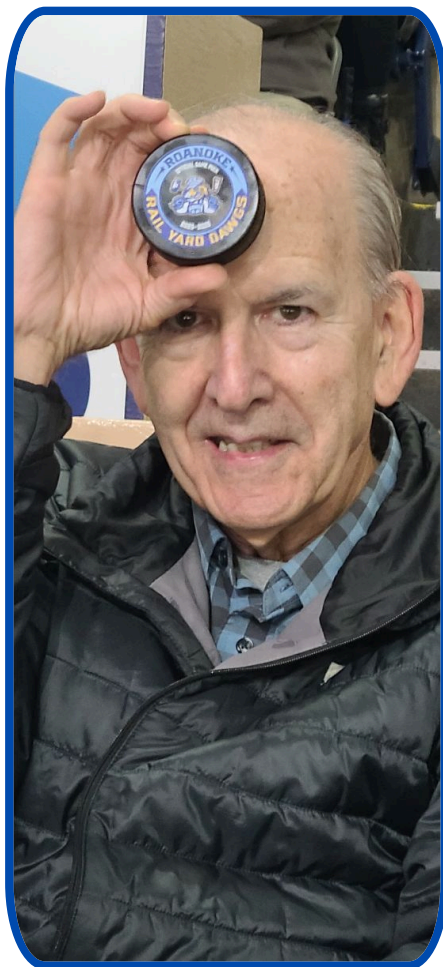
On Thursday, January 8, Bert Boyd, Mike Franzese, Jeff Vick, Alex Barge, and Bill Bestpitch represented our Club at the Leadership Roanoke Valley Alumni Association gathering in the new Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce offices on Franklin Road. Alumni Association Chair Kaitlyn Van Buskirk mentioned us in her opening remarks, as did fellow Kiwanian and Chamber CEO Eric Sichau. We had some good conversations with several of the people there. Two individuals gave their business cards to Bill, and he emailed them

the details of our meeting dates, times, and place while including a link to our website. A few new members from this group would definitely help to reduce the average age of our membership.

Fun Event - Rail Yard Dawgs Hockey - Mike O'Brochta

We had a fun time at Thursday night's Rail Yard Dawgs hockey game. Fast action on the ice was watched by our 22 member group, fast food was purchased, and fast conversations were held between bouts of cheering. We had box seats at center ice behind the penalty box where much of the action took place (including a puck landing at the seat of Chris Bohannon, husband of Betsy). There was plenty of scoring, unfortunately most of it was not by the Dawgs. Some of us commented about the possibility of having our Kiwanis banner attached to the side of the Dawgs Zamboni ice machine; now, that would be some outreach.





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 abarge11@gmail.com.

Please consider sharing this email with a friend!

Kiwanian Birthdays

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 5 -- Jeanne Bollendorf

January 6 -- Dirk Kuyk

January 7 -- John Bradshaw (93!..... and a Roanoke Kiwanian for 57 years this month)

January 8 -- Bob Rutherford

January 11 -- Steve English

January 13 -- Chris Head

January 15 -- Tom Blake

January 21 -- Rhonda Perdue

January 23 -- Terry Vandelinde

January 28 -- Pegram Johnson

January 28 -- John Montgomery

January 28 -- Andy Stone

January 29 -- Don Evans

January 30 -- Joe Cobb

January 31 -- Frank Rogan



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



Copyright © 2026 Kiwanis Club of Roanoke, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

