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**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

April 2026  
Vol. 107 No. 26

*"Year of Inspired Action"*

### **In this Issue**

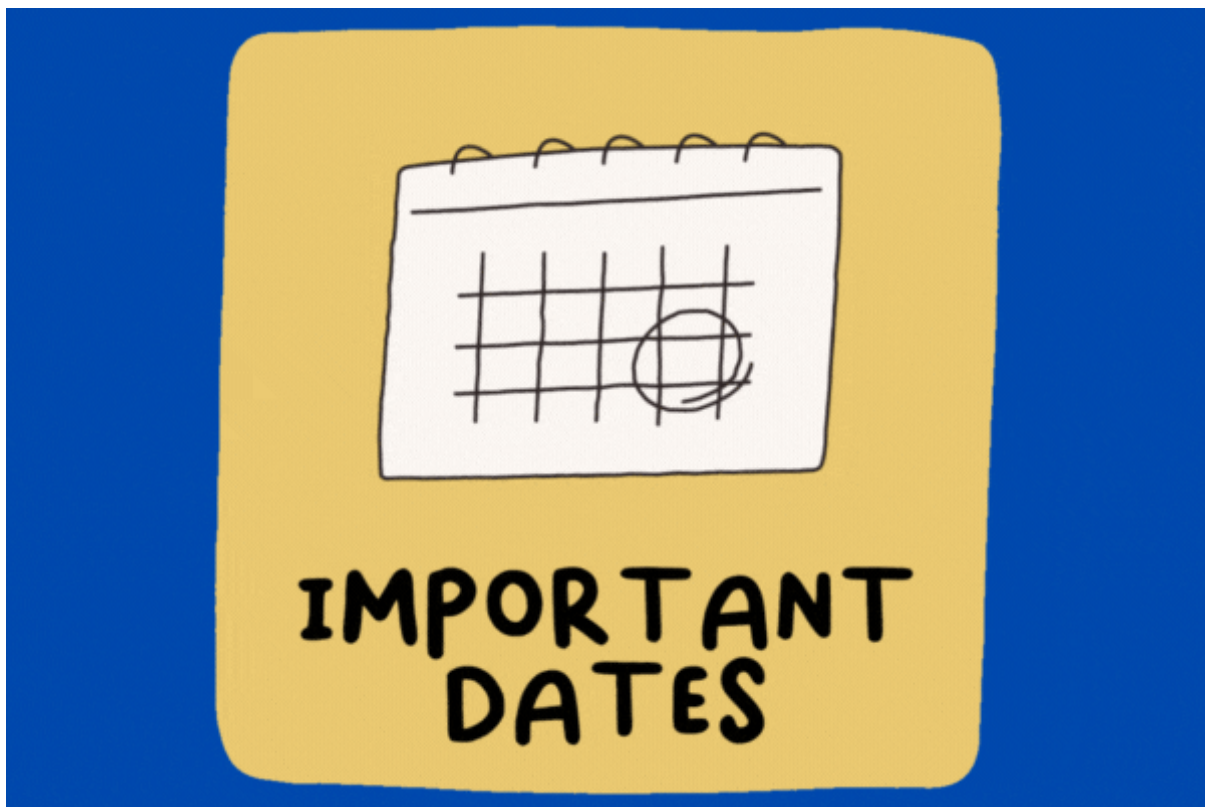
Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays



**April 8** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Victoria Gardner - Author

**April 13** - (12:15 - 1:30 pm) Board Meeting - Open to All

**April 15** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Brynnen Beierle - Blue Ridge Hydroponics

**April 15** - (5:30 pm) Book Club

**April 18** - (6:45 - 10:45 am) Blue Ridge Marathon

**April 18** - (10 am - 3 pm) Earth Day Booth

**April 22** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Star City Compost

**April 25** - (7 am - 12:30 pm) Kiwanis Pancake and Auction Day (KPAD)

**April 29** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Maureen McGonagle

**May 7** - (6:45 - 8:30 am) Prayer Breakfast

**May 16** - (9 am - noon) Kids' Fishing Day

**May 30** - Spring Fun Day

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

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## **April 8th - Club Meeting, Victoria Gardner, Author**

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 Vicki Gardner talk about her new book, "Survival Has Consequences."

Left for dead after a live television interview turned into a horrific double murder, a community leader shares her fight for survival. This is not only the story of surviving a gunshot, but of enduring the aftermath — painful surgeries, frustrating legal battles, and the lasting psychological scars of trauma. Raw, honest, and unexpectedly hopeful, it is a testament to resilience, community strength, and finding gratitude after unthinkable violence.

Vicki Gardner has spent decades building businesses and strengthening communities as Executive Director of the Smith Mountain Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce and past President of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce Executives. She understands leadership, growth, and guiding organizations through challenge.



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## Highlights From Our Last Meeting

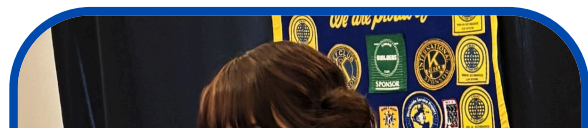
Most photos are taken by our resident photographer extraordinaire, Don Witt, who also adds the captions.



A/V team member, Eric Danielsen, with more video adjustments



Kiwanian, John Edwards, is recognized for initiating Roanoke's higher education legislature





Speaker, Carla James, reports on the  
Roanoke Higher Education Center



Kaitlyn Van Buskirk describes the  
Roanoke Higher Education  
Foundation



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

**FUN – FUN- FUN – FUN -FUN!!!**

**Questionnaire**

Please rate your interest in the following (1-10, 10 highest):

Mill Mountain Theatre cocktail party and play. \_\_\_\_\_

Rail Yard Dawgs Hockey game. \_\_\_\_\_

Salem Ridge Yaks (Red Sox) Baseball game. \_\_\_\_\_

Stoney Brook Winery lunch and music. \_\_\_\_\_

Twisted Track Brewery Pop-Up Party. \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Dance for holiday. \_\_\_\_\_

Pop-Up Party at El Rodeo. \_\_\_\_\_

Pop-Up Party at Franks at Brambleton. \_\_\_\_\_

Outdoor Family Picnic. \_\_\_\_\_

Bowling event. \_\_\_\_\_

Hiking and cookout. \_\_\_\_\_

How much are you willing to spend for an evening event? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to join the FUN Committee? Yes No

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to FUN Committee:

Andréé Brooks, Kenny Brooks, Amy Carter, Eric Danielsen, Lois

James, Larry Kufel, Mike O'Brochta, Dave Spangler.

## **Book Club**

Please note that our next book club meeting will be held on April 15th. Get your taxes done and then join us at 5:30 pm! Happy Reading - can't wait to hear what you are reading this Spring! We are lined up to again meet at the Crystal Spring Grocery location on Crystal Spring Avenue.

Join the fun!

Cheri and Dave Hartman

## **Blue Ridge Marathon**

April in Roanoke means spring flowers and the Blue Ridge Marathon! For the third year in a row, the Club will run the Aid Station midway up Roanoke Mountain supporting the race. This location has the best views on the course and is a favorite of the runners. The station is located at the Roanoke Mountain Overlook, on Roanoke Mountain Road, 24014 (click the link to see the location on Google Maps (<https://goo.gl/maps/gajAaWG8zaa1wbZF8>)). We will hand out drinks and enthusiastically encourage 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. The Club is committed to fifteen (15) volunteers overall.

[Click this link](#) for the Foot Levelers Blue Ridge Marathon Volunteer Registration. 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, all lower case. 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. This is one of the choices to the question “Are you registering with an incentive group?” If you are already a registered user from past years, there is an option to pull up your information and avoid some typing! Remember to enter your tee shirt size!

Contact Fred Jeter if you have questions at (540)798-5267 or [fred.jeter@icloud.com](mailto:fred.jeter@icloud.com)



**Kiwanis Pancake & Auction Day April 25th**



# KIWANIS

## *Pancake & Auction Day*

— **ALL YOU CAN EAT** —

*Pancakes, Sausage and Drinks*

*Batter Up with the Salem RidgeYaks!*

*Admission \$8 In Advance • \$10 Day of • Kids under 5 FREE*



**Kiwaniis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE



roanokekiwanisclub.org



For tickets and information

### GROUP PRICING

8 for \$60 • 25 for \$125 • 60 for \$400 • 90 for \$600 • 200 for \$1000

**Saturday, April 25, 2026**

**7 am to 12:30 pm**

**The Berglund Center**

— **PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES** —

**KPAD 2026 is almost here. We need volunteers!**

April 25th is the most important day of our Kiwanis year! Sign up yourself, your friends, your relatives...you get the picture! Help make this event successful!

Thanks!

Sign up toay!

### Kiwanis in the News!

Our Immediate Past President, Jeanne Bollendorf, recorded a public service announcement about our Kiwanis Pancake and Auction Day (KPAD) event on WFJX 910 AM & 104.3 FM, whose parent company is one of our event sponsors! You can [listen to it here](#).

KPAD was also featured in the Roanoke Times. You can read it [online here](#) if you have an account or check out the picture below.

A2 | FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026 VIRGINIA THE ROANOKE TIMES

**YOUR COMMUNITY | GIVING**

# Kiwanis Pancake Day fundraiser returns



**K**iwanis Club of Roanoke is preparing, once again, to feed hundreds during its annual all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 25 at the Berglund Center.

Over its long history, Kiwanis Pancake Day has raised more than \$1 million with funds going to support community service projects, scholarships for local students, and grants to organizations that align with the club's mission of serving children, older adults, and the environment. The club's signature projects include Roanoke Valley Greenways, Kiwanis Playground in Melrose, and the Kiwanis Nature Park.

Sweat and dedication of many volunteers, including Kiwanis club members, area Key Club students, and ARKion Club members — an active group of adults with brain injuries — make the fundraiser successful.

With tickets priced at \$8 per person in advance, \$10 at the door; and children 5 and under eating for free, the breakfast event includes an auction and live entertainment, including a special appearance by the Salem Ridge Yaks and Mac the Yak.

**JOANNE POINDEXTER**

Volunteers with the Roanoke Kiwanis Club prepare some 3,000 breakfasts the civic club sells for its largest annual fundraiser.

Advance tickets can be purchased from Kiwanians or online through the club website, [roanokekiwanis-club.org](http://roanokekiwanis-club.org).

Co-sponsors include Haley Toyota, Carilion Clinic, ServPro of Roanoke County, and Fox Radio 910AM/104.3FM.

**Prayer vigil in memory of King**

The Roanoke Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is holding a prayer vigil and memorial service in remembrance and observance of the 58th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Civil Rights leader King was murdered on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The service will also remember deceased members of the Roanoke SCLS chapter.

The ceremony begins at The Dumas Center, 108 Henry St. N.W., where Rabbi Howard Stein will deliver the keynote address, and Colleen Hernandez will lead the assembly in a litany. It concludes with a wreath laying ceremony at the MLK statue at MLK Plaza. Light refreshments will be offered at The Dumas Center following the wreath laying ceremony.

For further information, please contact Bishop Edward Mitchell, president of the Chapter, at 540-400-2459, or Dan Callaghan at 540-266-2095 or [danielcallaghan@gmail.com](mailto:danielcallaghan@gmail.com).

**World Day of Prayer collection**

During its early March "World Day of Prayer" observance, the Roanoke Valley chapter of Christian Women United collected more than 136 hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, and socks for the men and women served by the Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Salem.

The group also presented SHERO Awards, which honor women over 90 years of age who are still actively involved in "Kingdom-building work" through their church and Church Women United in the Roanoke Valley.

The recipient are Peggy Sue Mason, Hazel Moody, Annette Schell, and Betty Waldron.

**Ballet scholarships**

Star City School of Ballet, a newly established non-profit, recently hosted a Joffrey School of Ballet workshop where several dancers received acceptance letters to dance programs and/or scholarships.

Founded this year, the organization focuses on providing both performance experiences for its members and financial support through scholarship.

The recipients are:

- Mikaela Marton, 15, a North Cross School and Star City School of Ballet pre-professional program student, who received a 50% ballet tuition scholarship to be used for several New York City Ballet and Joffrey dance programs, including admissions to the Joffrey 2026-2027 Year-Round Ballet Trainee Program.
- Will Vaughn, 16, a home school and Star City School of Ballet / Star City School of Ballet student, who received a 75% ballet scholarship to NYC and Joffrey ballet programs.
- Tatum Arbogast, 9, a home school student who earned a 25% ballet scholarship to the LEAP Performing Arts Academy in Blacksburg and Little Leapers in Roanoke; and acceptance to NYC and Joffrey programs.
- Kylie Holt, 11, of Cave Spring Elementary School, who received a 75% ballet scholarship to LEAP Performing Arts Academy and Little Leapers; and acceptance to NYC and Joffrey programs.
- Olivia Chaffin, 16, a student at Virginia Western Community College, Star City School of Ballet, and Star City Dance Collective, who was accepted to several Joffrey and NYC summer programs.
- Sephira Metheny, 15, a student at William Fleming High School and Star City School of Ballet, who was accepted into several summer programs of the NYC Ballet and Joffrey.
- Bentley Robertson, 13, of John P. Fishwick Middle School, who was accepted into a NYC program and several Joffrey programs.
- Ella Martin, 9, a student at Auburn Elementary School, received a 25 percent ballet scholarship for the LEAP academy and acceptance to several NYC and Joffrey programs.
- Lillian Giuliano, 8, of Roanoke Catholic Schools and Little Leapers, received acceptance to an NYC and several Joffrey programs.

For more information on the dance school, call 540-206-2856 or visit [information@starcityschoolofballet.com](mailto:information@starcityschoolofballet.com).

Contact JoAnne Poindexter at [joanne.poindexter@roanoke.com](mailto:joanne.poindexter@roanoke.com).

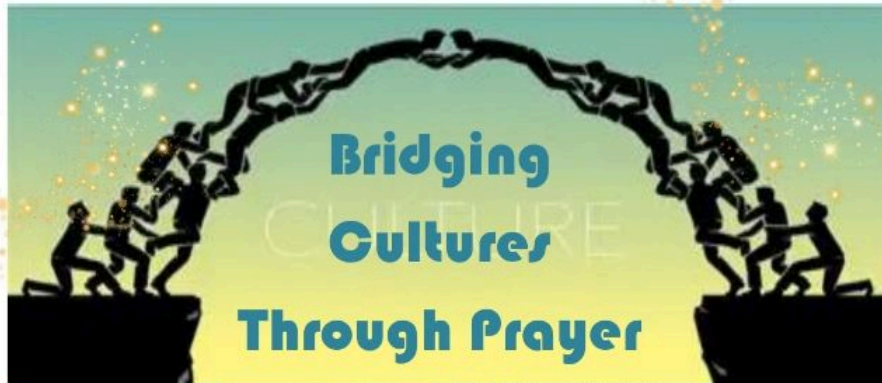
**Spanberger signs into law batch of education bills**

## **National Day of Prayer Breakfast, May 7, 2026**

Your Kiwanis Club will bring folks together for our annual breakfast on Thursday, May 7, at the Kazim Shrine Temple, 628 West Campbell Avenue. Amy's breakfast buffet will be available at 7:00AM. The program is scheduled from 7:30-8:30AM.

Our theme will be "Bridging Cultures through Prayer". Prayers will be lifted in the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions. Kiwanian Rev. Joe Cobb will bring our morning meditation.

Tickets (\$10.00 each) will be available at our luncheon meetings in April. (Kiwanians may elect to have the purchase of tickets added to their next quarterly statement). Reservations can also be made by contacting Kiwanians Rita Joyce or Ken Briggs.



Join Kiwanis as we celebrate our annual

## Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 7, 2026 7:00am-8:30am \$10.00

**Kazim Temple**

628 West Campbell Avenue Roanoke VA  
(free parking in back)

Join us in learning about the many faiths and cultures in the Roanoke Valley.  
Facilitators will lead discussions at each table.

*Our Keynote Speaker for 2026 is Rev. Mayor Joe Cobb, Roanoke, Virginia.  
Music provided by Judy Clark. A thank you to our sponsor, Howell's Motor Freight!*



For tickets contact any Kiwanian or call \_\_\_\_\_ and leave a message.



### Spring FunDay May 30th!

Spring FunDay and Career/Community Resource Fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th and is open to the public from 11:00 to 3:00 pm.

Kiwanians, we will need volunteers from 8:45 to 3:45 as we both prepare the site (at Melrose Plaza) and clean up after the activities. Questions? Please reach out to Cheri Hartman at [chartman2423@gmail.com](mailto:chartman2423@gmail.com).

## **Corporate Partner Spotlight**

### **Local Office on Aging: Beyond Meals on Wheels**

The Local Office on Aging (LOA) is a nonprofit Area Agency on Aging offering community-based programs designed to help older adults remain independent and age in place as long as possible. Most people are familiar with Meals on Wheels, our home-delivered meal program. LOA offers many important services for seniors beyond nutrition. Overall, we administer more than 30 community programs spanning health, legal, transportation, in-home support, and caregiver assistance.

### **Health, Wellness, and Aging-in-Place Services**

LOA provides a range of programs that promote physical, emotional, and social well-being for older adults. These include wellness activities, socialization opportunities, and fall-prevention classes that help participants stay active and reduce fear of falling. Care Coordination Services evaluates individual needs and connects clients to appropriate support.

### **Insurance Counseling and Benefits Guidance**

Through the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP), LOA offers free, unbiased help navigating Medicare, supplemental insurance, HMOs, long-term-care coverage, medical bills, and related issues. This counseling is intended to reduce confusion and help older adults make informed financial and healthcare decisions.

### **Legal and Advocacy Services**

LOA operates legal and advocacy programs for residents age 60+ who cannot afford private attorneys or qualify for legal aid. These services may include advice, education about rights, and ombudsman advocacy for individuals receiving long-term-care services.

## **Essential Needs and Practical Assistance**

LOA's Vital Transportation provides rides to essential destinations such as medical appointments, pharmacies, and grocery stores for seniors who cannot drive or lack a vehicle. Donated medical equipment—such as walkers, wheelchairs, and canes—is distributed through partner programs. Seasonal assistance programs provide fans or air conditioners to qualifying seniors without adequate cooling.

## **In-Home and Supportive Care**

LOA helps older adults remain safely at home through homemaker services that assist with routine housekeeping and home-management tasks.

## **Caregiver Support and Dementia GUIDE**

LOA supplies resources that give unpaid caregivers relief and peace of mind, including dementia patients and their families through GUIDE (Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience). Services may include referrals, information assistance, respite-style support, and guidance in locating community programs.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

LOA depends on group and individual volunteers to accomplish its mission. Call LOA to learn about current needs and opportunities.

## **Upcoming Events**

**Medicare 101** – Third Fridays through May 15, 1pm-2pm

Your Medicare questions answered in an open-forum setting. Registration requested.

**Elder Justice Day** - Wednesday, April 22, 2026, 11am-4pm

Appointment-Based Senior resource day connecting older adults with trusted professionals who can help address concerns, including legal aid representatives, local law enforcement officers, financial specialists, and

Medicare advisors.

**Celebrating Seniors Health Fair** – Wednesday, May 6, 2026, 11am-2pm

Connects seniors with valuable local resources, health services, and wellness activities. 20+ organizations offer information on topics such as healthcare, physical therapy, estate planning, and senior services.

**Let's Give Lunch** – Friday, June 5, 2026

Annual Meals on Wheels fundraising event. Donation/purchase of a boxed lunch provides 2 Meals on Wheels for seniors in our community.

**Local Office on Aging**

**4932 Frontage Road NW**

**Roanoke, VA 24019**

**(540) 345-0451**

[www.loaa.org](http://www.loaa.org)



Helping Older  
Persons Remain  
Independent for as  
Long as Possible.



## 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](mailto:abargell@gmail.com).*

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

## **Kiwanian April Birthdays**

April 1 Chloe Willis

April 2 Andree Brooks

April 3 Eric Sichau

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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# Kiwaniis<sup>®</sup> 2025-26

CLUB OF ROANOKE

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Secretary-Treasurer

Jeanne Bollendorf, Past  
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Lee Osborne, President  
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Roanoke

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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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