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Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

June 2026
Vol. 107 No. 38

"Year of Inspired Action"

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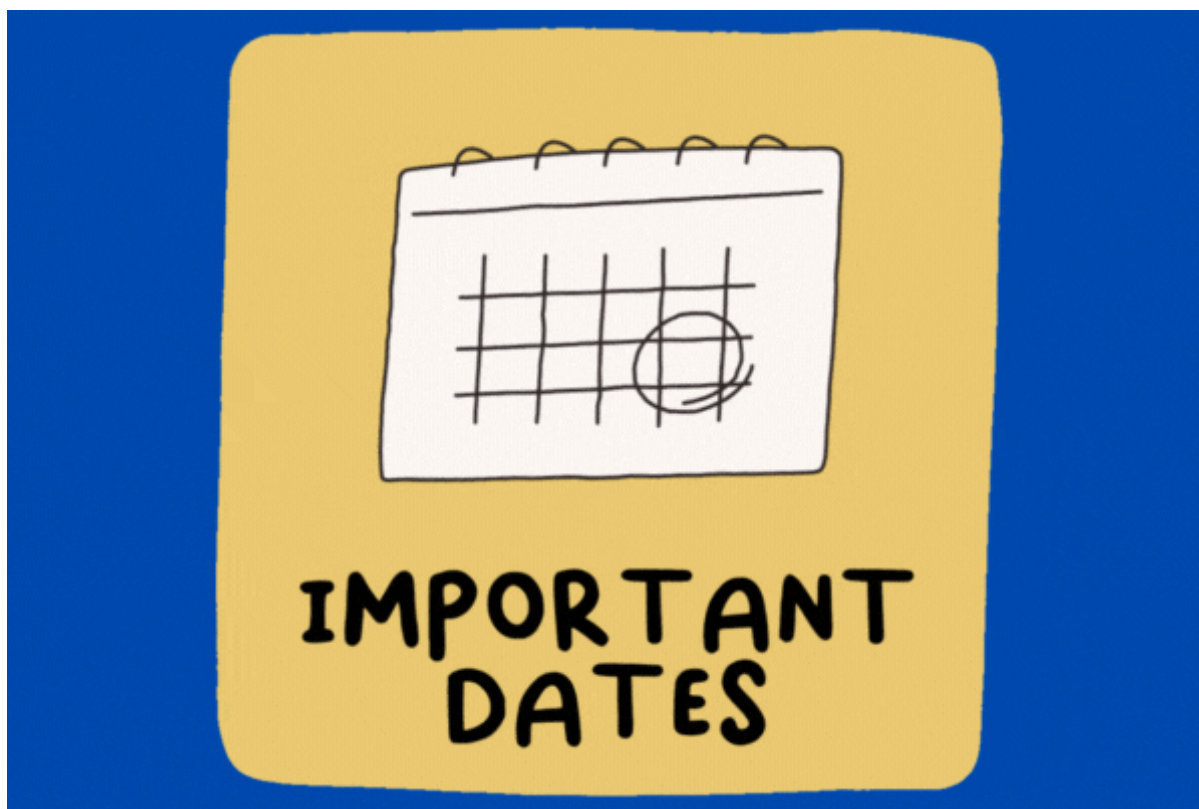
Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays



July 1 - NO MEETING

July 7 - (3-5 pm) Dolly Parton Imagination Library Kickoff

July 8 - (12:30-1:30) Club Meeting, Paul Nester with Roanoke Gas

July 15 - (12:30-1:30) Club Meeting, Leadership Roanoke Valley (Team 1)

July 22 - (12:30-1:30) Club Meeting, Leadership Roanoke Valley (Team 2)

July 29 - (12:30-1:30) Club Meeting, Jason and Carol Kiser - Blue Cow Ice Cream

August 8 - (12:00-4:00) Commonwealth Day of Play

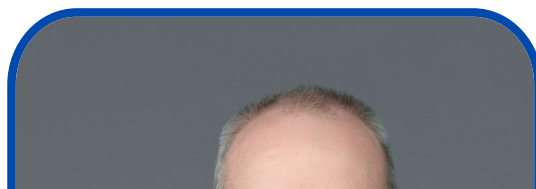
You can always stay up-to-date by checking out the calendar on our [website here](#).

July 1st - NO MEETING

July 8th - Club Meeting, Paul Nester with Roanoke Gas

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 Paul Nester, President and CEO of RGC Resources Inc., parent of Roanoke Gas Company and RGC Midstream. He will talk about current and future events at Roanoke Gas.

Prior to his current role, Paul served as Resources' CFO from 2012 to 2019. Before that, he was the CFO of a small defense contractor and prior to that held a variety of accounting and finance positions with three Fortune 500 companies. Paul currently serves as the Chairman for Total Action for Progress (TAP), board vice-chair of the Roanoke Regional Partnership and is a past chair of the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce. He also is an executive committee member of the Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC) and serves on the boards of the American Gas Association, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and VA-811. Paul holds a B.B.A. in Accounting from Radford University and an M.B.A. from the University of Richmond.





Highlights From the Last Club Meeting

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



Robert Turcotte explains AI and the rate of change in the world



Ducky Derby master, Reif Kessler shows off his props





After a challenging time mastering the meeting videos, Jeanne Bollendorf packs up her equipment



Ben Spiker, Jeff Vick and Reif Kessler wait for the truck to unload RAM furniture



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Happenings

Nature Park Update

100 new plants are in the soil! A bluebird house is installed. To date 7 fledglings have taken flight! Bees and butterflies are showing up! **YOU ARE NEEDED!**

Our first garden brigadiers have rolled up their sleeves and rolled out the garden hose to nurture nature at the Wildflower Garden. Thank you to Don Witt and Joyce Waugh and yours truly for keeping the wildflowers from succumbing to the drought. Please let me know if I can guide you through a mentoring session to help out for one week this summer. We still have no sign ups yet for the following weeks:

July 6th -- July 12th

July 27th to help Sarah Ross through August 3rd

August 10th -- August 16th

August 17th -- August 23rd

August 24th -- August 30th

August 31st -- September 6th

Sept. 7th -- Sept 13th

Thanks to those of you who signed up as follows:

July 13th: John Pendleton

July 20th: Jason Poff and Kelsie

August 3rd: Tom Fitzpatrick

Thanks much!!! Please email me which week works for you and I will be sure to find a time we can meet at the Nature Park to provide an intro to the "ropes." or rather the hoses...

Good day to be a Kiwanian!

Cheri

Cheri W. Hartman

Book Club

I received the following email. It was sent by Vern Danielsen to David and Cheri Hartman. It read as follows: Today's quote of the day, "*When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young,*" is widely attributed to Maya Angelou.

Vern then offered this thank you: Thanks for your and David's efforts in keeping the Kiwanis Book Club alive and vibrant. It's a bright spot in my life.

Vern is a long time member of our Kiwanis Club of Roanoke and an inspiring contributor to our Kiwanis Book Club as an avid and thoughtful reader. This

email from Vern was our "bright spot" - a simple THANK YOU goes a long way! Our next Book Club meeting will be on July 8th at 5:30 at the Crystal Spring Grocery store.



Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Join other Kiwanians and other Roanoke organizations for the community kickoff of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library being held at the Roanoke City Public Schools Community Empowerment Center on July 7 from 3:00-5:00pm.



2026 USA Cycling Endurance Mountain Bike National Championships

July 12-19, 2026 | Roanoke

Kiwanians,

The Roanoke Region is hosting USA Cycling Mountain Bike Races during

the week of July 12-19. The Club is signed up to provide volunteers to help with this event that will welcome athletes and families from across the country to experience the world-class mountain bike riding that Roanoke has to offer. The week features a Marathon race at Hollins University & Carvins Cove, Short Track National Championships at Elmwood Park in Downtown Roanoke, and Cross-Country National Championships at Explore Park. This link takes you to a video about the various competitions <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Bhj5jIenyc>

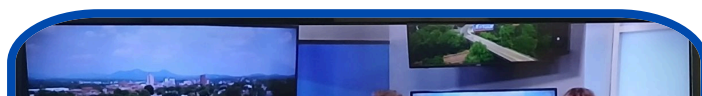
Unlike the Blue Ridge Marathon, Club volunteers will not be working one particular location such as an aid station. Instead, you can choose whatever date works for you or get together with other Kiwanians to pick the same shift. I know several members are working as marshals Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons at Elmwood Park. Use this link to sign up:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/VA/Roanoke/USACVBRVolunteering>

If you have volunteered for the Marathon in the past, your information is already in the system so just click the existing user link instead of filling out the personal information form. At the end of the process, there is a dropdown menu where you can select the Kiwanis Club as your organization. Please do, so the Club gets credit! Thanks in advance for signing up! ~ Mike McEvoy

Environmental Scholarship Winner

Kai Weiss of Salem, the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke's 2026 Environmental Scholarship winner, and Rupert Cutler were interviewed by Logan Sherrill and Melissa Gaona on WDBJ7. Kai, a forestry major at Virginia Tech, spoke of his enthusiasm for sustainable forestry, his goal of contributing to the conservation of Western Virginia's natural resources, and his hope that more Roanoke area young men and women will study forestry and related fields to help protect our close-to-home environment. Rupert was able to describe the club's many community service programs and provide the club's website, roanokekiwanisclub.org. [You can watch the interview here.](#)





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 June Birthdays

Ben Spiker - June 3

Joe Gaither - June 4

Steve McGraw - June 7

Mike Bell - June 8

Reif Kessler - June 11

Jill Sluss - June 14

Sherman Holland - June 15

Rita Joyce - June 15

Steve Willis - June 16

Bart Wilner - June 20

Phil Shiner - June 22

Dave Hartman - June 25

Jeff Leatherwood - June 30

Sam Rasoul - June 30



Kiwanis[®] 2025-26

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David Hartman, President-
Elect

Reif Kessler, Vice President

John Montgomery,
Secretary-Treasurer

Jeanne Bollendorf, Past
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Lee Osborne, President
Kiwaniis Foundation of
Roanoke

Bill Bestpitch, 2026

Alex Barge, 2026

Steve McGraw, 2026

Preston Tyler, 2027

Bert Boyd, 2027

Chris Rouse, 2027

Jeff Vick, 2028

Steve English, 2028

Fred Jeter, 2028



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