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Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

July 2026
Vol. 107 No. 39

"Year of Inspired Action"

In this Issue

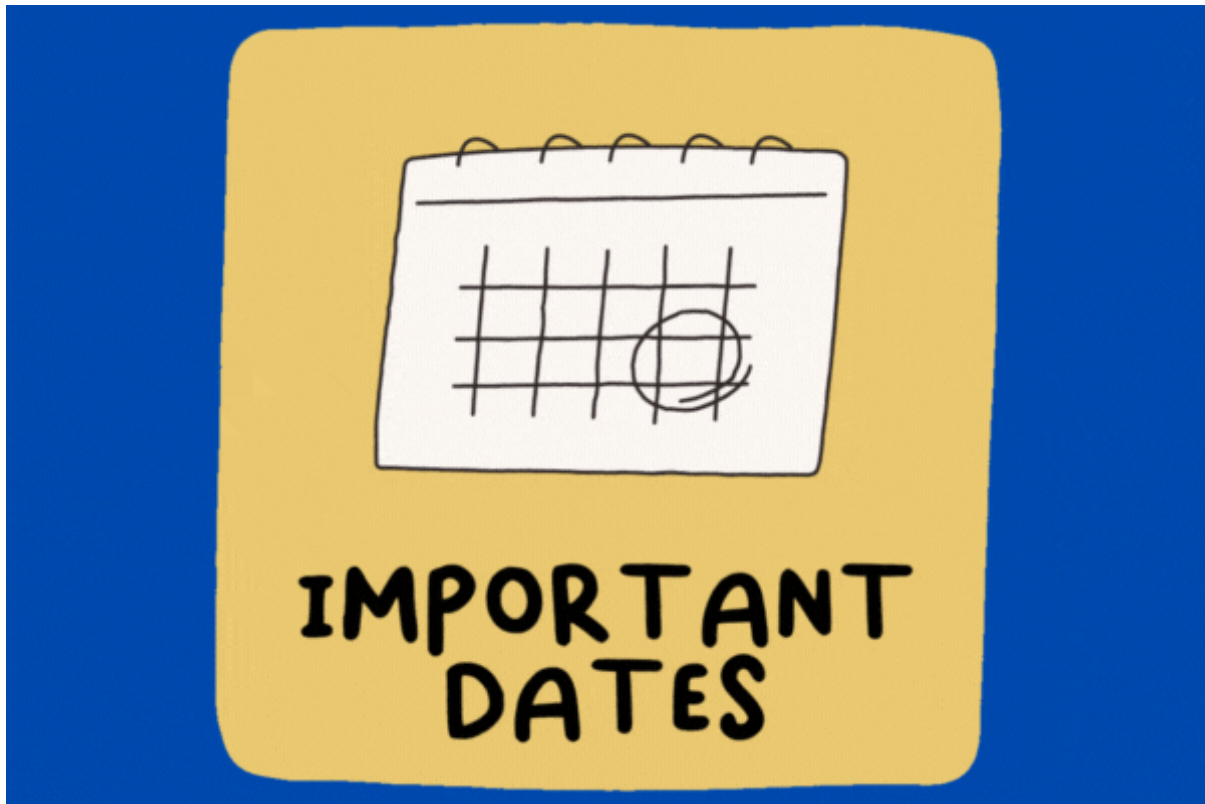
Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays



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

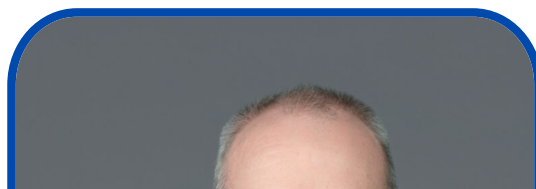
August 8 - (12:00-4:00) Commonwealth Day of Play

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

July 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

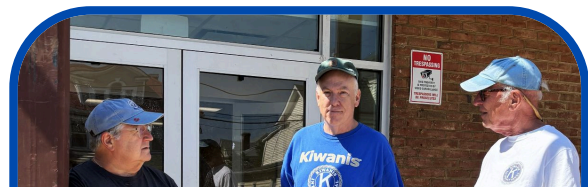
Most photos are taken by our resident photographer extraordinaire, Don Witt, who also adds the captions.



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



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

The 2026 Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast is a well-known and loved tradition in the Valley. This year, the Kiwanis team stepped up again, teaming up with the Salem Ridge Yaks, Servpro, Haley Toyota, Fox Radio, and Carilion to gross an amazing \$62,718.55 for scholarships, programs that assist children, senior citizens, and the environment. After expenses, the net total is \$43,219.51 for the service budget.



BatterBob in Ridge Yaks Blue Adopting the theme “Batter up for Roanoke” the club sold approximately \$49,608 in tickets. To “keep it interesting” the ticket sales team tracked weekly statistics, tracking the progress of six teams. Our thanks go out to the teams and their captains.



The SWAT(Special Waffles and Toppings) Team

Captain Milton Hardy

70 homeruns-\$6975





The Sausage Swatters

The Swatters won the Home Run Derby

120 home runs - \$12,000 of tickets

MVP "Babe" Rupe Cutler hit 35 of those himself



The Cleanup Batters

Captain Steve "Mop-up" English

Pennant Winner - Most Consistent Weekly Performance

95 home runs - \$9470 of tickets



The Pancake Pirates

Captain Scott "Squinty" Smith

Early leader in the Pennant Race

65 home runs - \$6581 of tickets



The Hotcake Hall of Famers

Captain Ollie "Howdie" Howie

52 home runs

\$5255 in ticket sales



The Maple Miracles

Captain Michael "Rookie of the Year" Franzese

83 home runs

\$8338 in ticket sales

There were some terrific individual efforts to raise sales. Overall, we had 48 Kiwanians raise \$400 or more. We list them in three categories: league of their own, designated hitters, and sluggers for their efforts.

League of their Own - \$17,135 – Sales of \$1000 or more

Rupe Cutler, Eric Danielsen, David Hartman, Cheri Hartman, Rupe Cutler, Mike Loveman, Amy Carter, Randy Myers, Jeff Vick, Reif Kessler, Don Witt, Joe Lemmer, John Pendelton.

Sluggers - \$13,263 – Sales of \$500 or more

Andy Stone, Bert Boyd, Lois James, Pegram Johnson, Randy Myers, Bruce Swanson, JC Taylor, Bob Rutherford, Betsy Bohannon, Vern Danielsen, Jason Poff, Jay Gauldin, Steve English, Gary Duerk, Judy Clark, Joe Gaither, Bart Wilner, Donna Lynch, Larry Kufel.

Designated Hitters - \$11,279 – Sales of \$400 or more

Eddie Barnes, Mike McEvoy, John Bradshaw, Bert Boyd, Mike O'Brochta, Tom Miller, Steve McGraw, Chris Rouse, Lee Osborne, Lee Learman, Rhonda Perdue, Phil Shiner, Ken Briggs, Kathy Cohen, Jim Randles, Guy Byrd, Mike Quinn, Linda Jensen, Joe Cobb, Joyce Montgomery, John Montgomery, Frank Longaker, Sheila Bower, Jay Harlow, Sheila Umberger, Will Dibling, Joyce Waugh.

This was a "whole of club, effort, however, with many Kiwanians selling the tickets they could and working the event. For the baseball fans out there, this was a real home run derby for the club. There was not a no-hitter in sight!

And this KPAD marked the appearance of our CKI Chapter, who sent 8 to help with KPAD! Next year, let's see if they can sell tickets as well as they did 50/50 raffle.



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

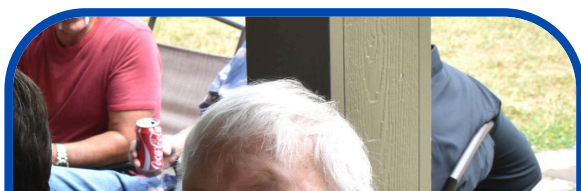
Tom Fitzpatrick • New Member Highlight

Tom Fitzpatrick: New Member Highlight

Raised in suburban Philadelphia. Received a Bachelors in Geology from Penn State University and a Masters from Virginia Tech, studying gold mines in North Carolina. I taught middle school science for 21 years before becoming Roanoke City's Supervisor of Science. I am retiring after 39 years with Roanoke City Public Schools. Several Kiwanians were my students! I have been active with the Boy Scouts for 50 years, currently serving as an assistant scoutmaster with troop 418 in Cave Spring. I am an active gardener and environmental educator. I have worked with the Nature Park committee for several years in my role with the school system.

Winery Social

A good time was had our Kiwanian Social at Stoney Brook Winery June 27, 2026





Upcoming Newsletters

Please email Alex, abarge11@gmail.com, anything that you would like included in the July 14th or 21st newsletter by Sunday July 12th.

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

Upcoming Newsletters

Please email anything that you would like included in the July 14th or 21st

Please consider sharing this email with a friend!

 **Forward**

Kiwanian July Birthdays

- * July 4 -- Preston Tyler
 - * July 7 -- Sam Lionberger, Jr.
 - * July 9 -- Tom Fitzpatrick
 - * July 13 -- David Farnum
 - * July 19 -- Ken Mowbray
 - * July 21 -- Taylor Medley
 - * July 23 -- Lori Baker-Lloyd
 - * July 24 -- Ollie Howie
 - * July 29 -- Reggie Harris
-



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David Hartman, President-
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Reif Kessler, Vice President

John Montgomery,
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Jeanne Bollendorf, Past
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Directors:

Lee Osborne, President
Kiwanis 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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