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Kiwanis®
CLUB OF ROANOKE

August 2026

Vol. 107 No. 45

"Year of Inspired Action"

In this Issue

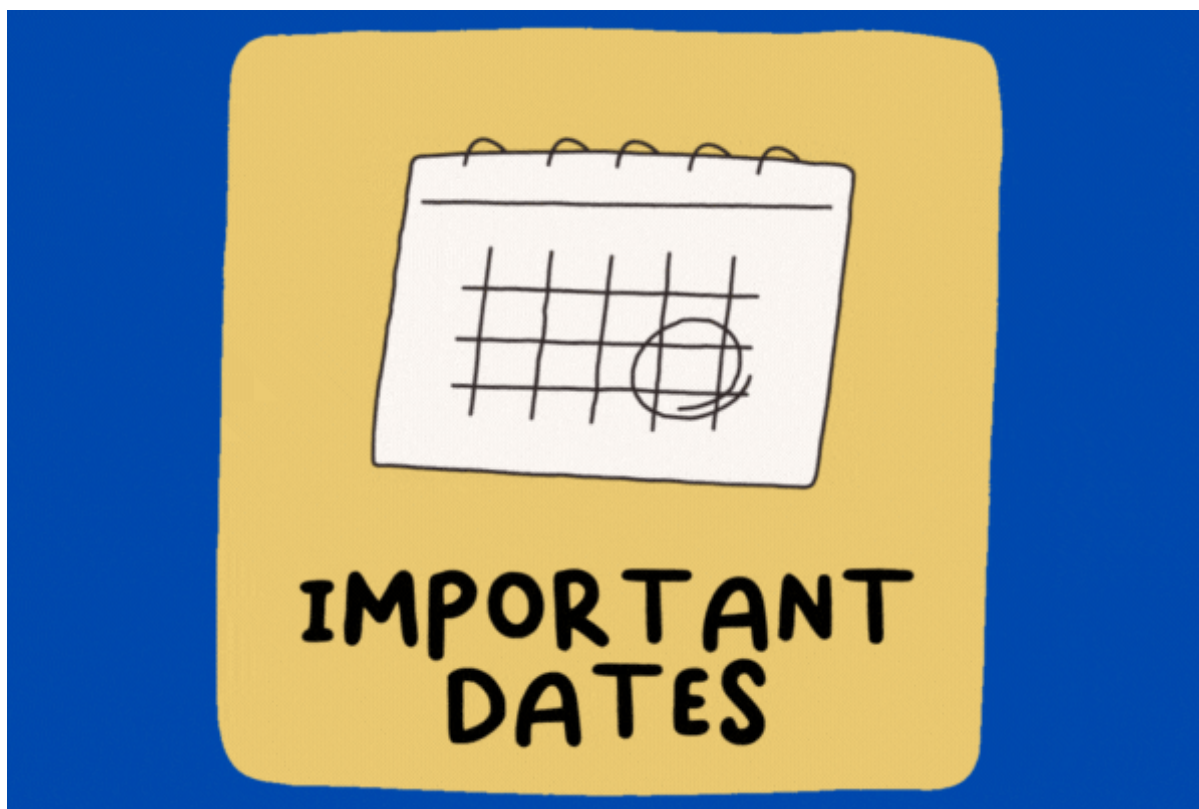
Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays



August 19 - (12:30-1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Michelle Rockwell with VT Carilion School of Medicine

August 25 - (5:30 - 8 pm) Pop-up Dinner Social

August 26 - (12:30-1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Dr. Denis Foretia with VT

October 10 - (8:30 am - 12:30 pm) Bed Building with Sleep in Heavenly Peace

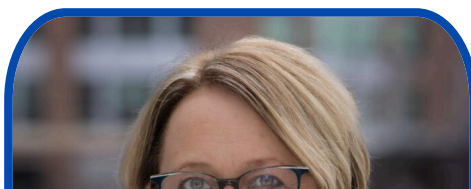
You can always stay up-to-date by checking out the calendar on our [website here](#).

August 19th - Club Meeting, Michelle Rockwell with VT Carilion School of Medicine

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 Michelle Rockwell, Phase 1 Director Health Systems Science and Inter-professional Practice at Virginia Tech School of Medicine, talk about Community Immersion in the VTCSOM Curriculum. Dr. Rockwell will highlight the school's approach to formally embedding authentic community engagement into the first-and second-year student curriculum. Success stories and ongoing initiatives will be shared, in addition to opportunities for feedback on community immersion goals.

All of our speakers for the month of August are from the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine.

Dr. Rockwell is a health services researcher and educator who serves as an Associate Professor in the Department of Family & Community Medicine at VTCSOM. She is leading the evaluation team for Virginia's implementation of the federally-funded \$50 billion rural health transformation program. She is a Registered Dietitian and quadruple Hokie (BS, MS, PhD, and faculty).



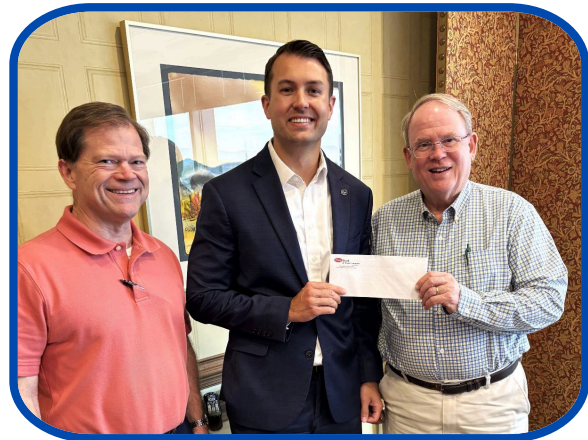


Highlights From the Last Club Meeting

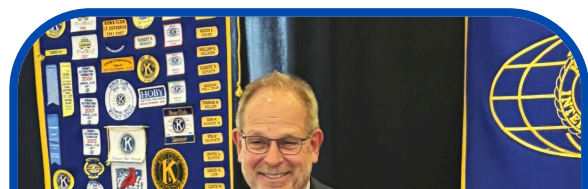
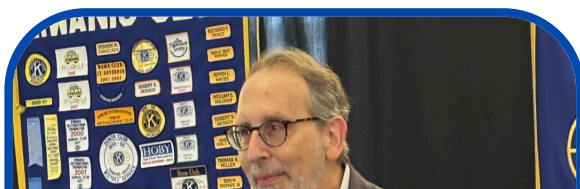
Most photos are taken by our resident photographer extraordinaire, Don Witt, who also adds the captions.



Tom Fitzpatrick receives his permanent member badge



Kevin Reeder presents \$1,000 foundation donation from First Bank and Trust Co.





Kiwanian Dr. Lee Learman introduces speaker, Ron Bradbury



Ron Bradbury explains the selection process for the medical school applicants



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Happenings

Nature Park Update

Thanks to Courtney Plaster and Clean Valley Council, senior citizens have been enjoying nature at our Wildflower Garden. She has brought nature to life by sharing her effusive knowledge and ebullient joy while scheduling groups of visitors.

Thanks so much to our army of volunteers who have helped our garden flourish this summer. To date, the garden has benefited from the hard work of Don Witt, Tom Bamford, Steve Barbour, John Pendleton, Jason Poff and, most recently, thanks to Tom Bamford's mentoring, Ken Briggs, who engaged Sarah Ross and JJ Harper as additional volunteers.

We have an impressive lineup:

August 3 brought the help of Tom Fitzpatrick, a new Kiwanian and long-time

Nature Park member. The week of August 10 was adopted by Jeff Vick. August 17 – Ken Briggs kicks back into action with the Aktion Club. The week of August 24 will bloom thanks to Ben Baird. August 31 will bring Roanoke College's C K I to the garden's rescue!

Would you like to join our garden crew and adopt a week in September? That should wrap up the season. If you would like to sign up, let Cheri Hartman know at chartman2423@gmail.com.

Kiwanis Business Outreach Committee Zoom Meeting 1:00pm August 20:

A significant amount was accomplished this past year to reach out into the business community on behalf of our Kiwanis Club. All Club members who are potentially interested in helping with future accomplishments are invited to attend this meeting; no obligation. Mike O'Brochta can send you a meeting Zoom link.

Pop-up Dinner Social

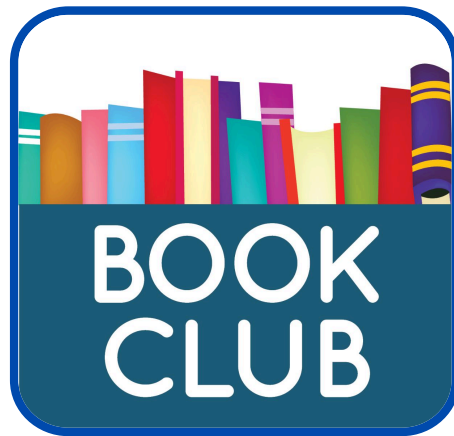
Next FUN Pop-up is Tuesday, August 25, 5:30, dinner at Green Goat followed by ice cream at Blue Cow. No signup needed, just come for the fun!
Andree Brooks



Book Club

We meet next on Wednesday, September 9th at 5:30 at the Crystal Spring Grocery Store -- hope you can join us. Share your favorite recent read...

Cheri and David Hartman

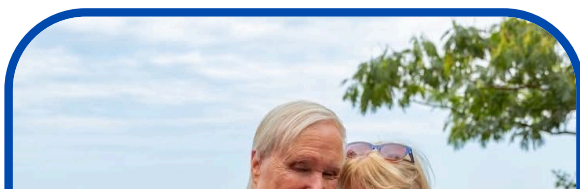


Mill Mountain Star Dedication Ceremony

Roanoke came together to honor Nancy Howell Agee, CEO Emeritus of Carilion, and the nurses whose compassionate care has made such a lasting impact.

The Mill Mountain Star now proudly features a plaque naming Nancy our community star for the coming year. The celebration included heartfelt remarks from Michelle Franklin, Joyce Montgomery, David Hartman, Mayor Joe Cobb, and Nancy herself, who highlighted the essential role of nursing in health care.

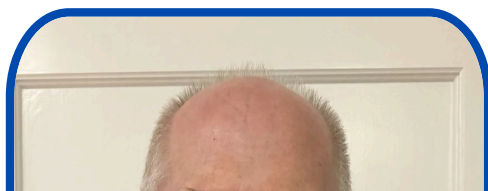
Nancy's leadership and impact are felt throughout Roanoke and across the nation. Congratulations to Nancy Howell Agee on this well-deserved honor!





New Member Spotlight

Neil is a native of Washington, D.C. and grew up in Kensington, MD. He received a B.A. from the University of Maryland and his J.D. from the George Mason University School of Law. He recently retired after practicing law in Roanoke for 44 years. He is married to Karen and they have two daughters and three grandchildren.





August 10 board briefs

All 15 board members attended at least a portion the board meeting either in person or on zoom. We also hosted seven guests, some working on earning their permanent member badge.

The Kiwanis Club of Roanoke continues to lead the Capital District in contributions to the Ducky Derby (\$1,490 as of 8/10, the best of more than 150 clubs). Roanoke will again host the district convention in 2027, as we do every six years or so. Don Witt will serve as 2027 chair. The 2026 convention will be held in Annapolis Aug. 21-23. Jill Sluss submitted her resignation due to a job change. It was accepted with regret. RAM House is increasing its membership to the level of corporate membership. The Glebe is considering a club corporate membership as well.

The September slate of programs, organized by board member Steve English, was approved. The installation of next year's officers and directors will be held Sept 30, an evening event at Charter Hall. A membership recruitment open house at The Train Station is being organized for Oct. 27.

The board lent its support to an Environment Committee proposal to work with Virginia Tech regarding an urban canopy program. It also approved the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Club Foundation for three years regarding the receiving of grants. The Virginia

Tech proposal will go to the Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke for their review and consideration, a necessary component for our club to participate due to the requirement of 501(C)3 status, for which the club itself does not qualify.

The Mill Mountain Star Dedication will be held Thursday, Aug. 13, honoring the Carilion Nursing Program and recently retired hospital CEO Nancy Agee. President-Elect David Hartman laid out details of the upcoming retreat for next year's board, scheduled for Sept. 14. Next year's service budget is coming together nicely, as committee chairs submitted their respective requests by deadline. The community grants process is also underway; applications are due Aug. 15.

We will partner with the Regional Chamber of Commerce on a City Council candidates forum Sept. 17 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Other organizations we are partnering with on community projects in the coming weeks include a neighborhood clean-up with SERV (Standing for Equity in the Roanoke Valley), and projects with previous grant recipients Restoration Housing and Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

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

Newsletter Additions

Please email anything that you would like included in the next newsletter by Monday at 7 pm to abarge11@gmail.com.

Please consider sharing this email with a friend!

 **Forward**

Kiwanian July Birthdays

August 3 – Mike O’Brochta
August 6 – Amy Carter
August 11 – Alex Barge
August 11 – Guy Byrd
August 12 – Lance Bowen
August 12 – Nancy Horn
August 12 – Harry Zulauf
August 14 – Hetzal Hartley
August 18 – Rachel Hopkins
August 19 – John Pendleton
August 21 – Nick Hagan
August 23 – Don Chichester (93!)
August 29 – Alex Bowman
August 29 – Neil McNally



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Reif Kessler, Vice President

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Roanoke

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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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