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Kiwanis®
CLUB OF ROANOKE

August 2026

Vol. 107 No. 46

"Year of Inspired Action"

In this Issue

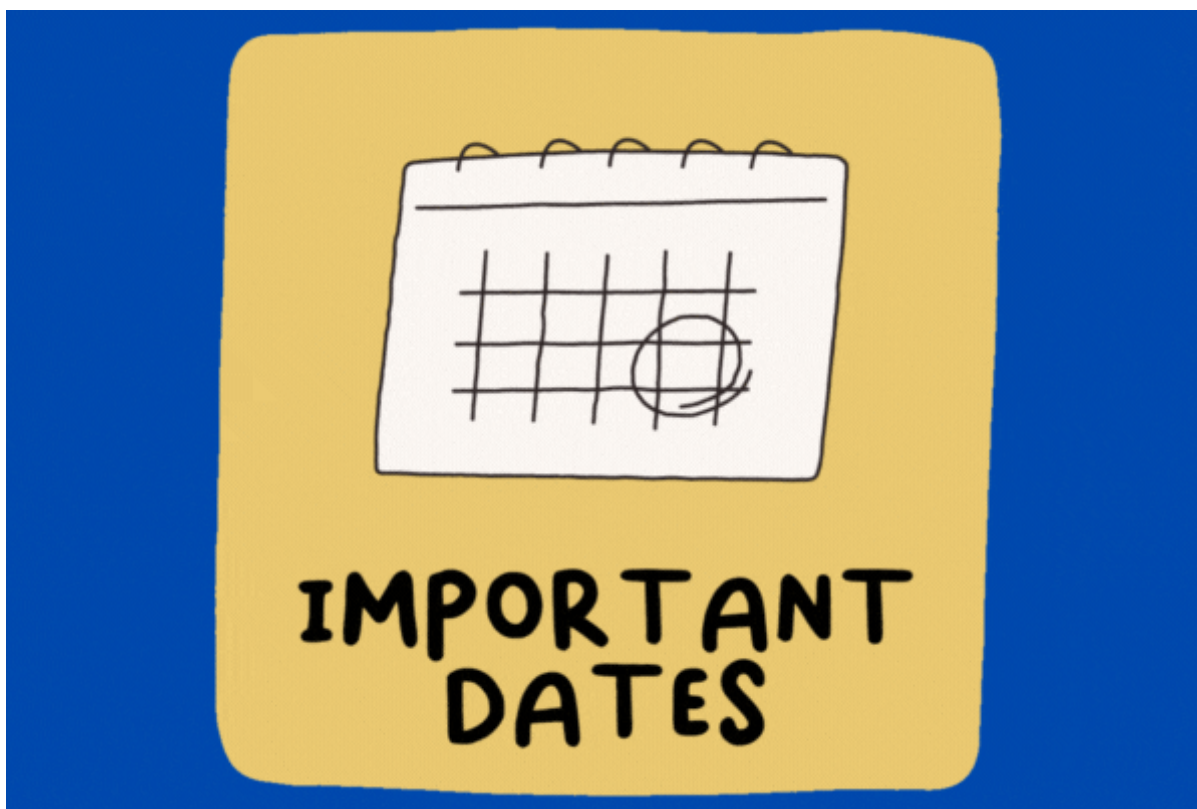
Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays



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

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

September 2 - (12:30-1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Betty Bridges with the Kirk Family YMCA

September 9 - No Meeting Due to Labor Day

September 14 - (10:30 am - 1:30 pm) Board Meeting and Yearly Retreat

September 16- (12:30-1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Sloan Champney with BBB Serving Western Virginia

September 23- (12:30-1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Katie Slusher with Roanoke City Parks and Recreation

September 30- NO LUNCH MEETING

September 30- (Evening TBD) Officer Installation

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 26th - Club Meeting, Dr. Denis Foretia 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 Dr. Denis Foretia share about how global health is increasingly essential to improving health locally and globally. He will highlight Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine's vision for advancing global health through education, research partnerships, and service. He will also discuss how these efforts are preparing future physician leaders while strengthening health systems locally.

Dr. Denis Foretia is an Associate Professor of Surgery, Vice Chair for Faculty Development in the department of surgery and the Associate Dean for Global Health at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. He is an internationally recognized surgeon, educator, and global health leader dedicated to strengthening health systems worldwide.





Highlights From the Last Club Meeting

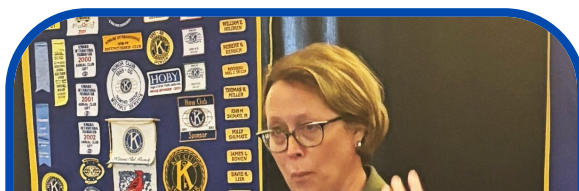
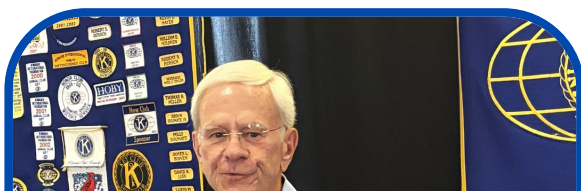
Most photos are taken by our resident photographer extraordinaire, Don Witt, who also adds the captions.



Tiffany Dennis thanks Kiwanis for supporting CHIP backpacks



Cheri Hartman solicits "water" volunteers for the pollinator garden





Grants chair, Randy Myers,
announced that 43 grant
applications have been received



Michelle Rockwell describes med
school scholars' community
involvement



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Happenings

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



Volunteers Needed

Fellow Kiwanian Melissa Woodson, Director of RAM House, requests assistance with the final phase of preparing RAM House.

Starting on Tuesday, September 1st, Kiwanians Jim Graves and Jeff Vick will lead teams of volunteers to move canned goods by dolly from shipping containers to their permanent location in RAM House.

We need people to unpack the containers and people to take the items by dolly down the alley to the RAM House for final storage. We will do this for two hours per day, starting Tuesday, September 1st at 1 pm each day until we have emptied the two containers (anticipated completion date is September 11 or earlier). We will have sign-up sheets on the tables at lunch, and you may contact Jim Graves at 3Graves@gmail.com to express your interest. Other shift times can be considered upon request.

Even if you have only one afternoon to spare, it will help RAM with their imminent launch. Please sign up on the table or write to Jim by Friday, August 28th, for a shift.

This is just one way that Kiwanis makes a difference in Roanoke. Let's support Melissa's team and move mountains for our friends and neighbors.

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:

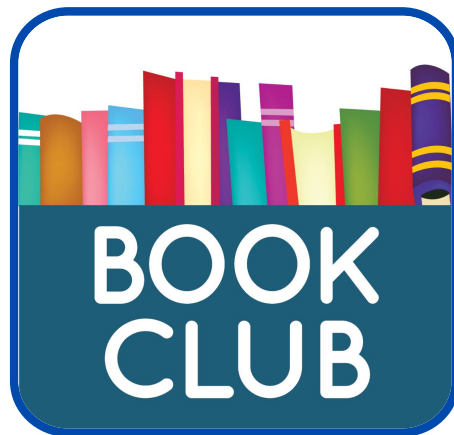
August 3 brought the help of Tom Fitzpatrick, a new Kiwanian and long-time Nature Park member. The week of August 10 was adopted by Jeff Vick. August 17 – Ken Briggs kicks back into action with the Aktion Club. The week of August 24 will bloom thanks to Ben Baird. August 31 will bring Roanoke College's CKI 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.

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



Roanoke well represented at Capital District Convention

Seven members of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke (and one lovable dog) attended the 106th Annual Capital District Convention held in Annapolis last weekend. The event drew more than 200 members and guests from clubs throughout the area that the district encompasses (Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia).

David Lurie from Tysons (VA) was formally elected as governor of the district starting Oct. 1. David was previously district governor in 2019-20, but since that was the year COVID hit, he sought another opportunity to complete a full year without interruption. Nathaniel Kyle from East Huntington, WV, was elected governor-elect this past weekend and Chris Bryant, current president of the Norfolk club, was elected vice-governor.

Some Roanoke Kiwanians will remember that Chris Bryant served as our division's Lt. Governor, about 15 years ago, when he was a member of the Lynchburg club.

On Sunday morning, our own Jeanne Bollendorf was installed as one of the district's Lt. Governors starting this October. Jeanne (immediate past president of the Roanoke club) and her husband (and new Kiwanian) Ben Baird were among Roanoke's representatives this year, as were Roanoke President Joyce Montgomery and President-Elect David Hartman. Also among Roanoke's entourage were Cheri Hartman, Don Witt and John Montgomery. Cheri, Don and John are all Roanoke past presidents, and Don is currently president of the Capital District Foundation as well as chairman of the 2027 Capital District Convention, which returns to Roanoke next August. Joyce, David and Jeanne were our club's voting delegates this year. "Teddy" Hartman attended several seminars and was extremely well behaved.

This past weekend was a pleasant mixture of educational opportunities, inspirational speakers, administrative meetings and fun! A tour of the Naval Academy was available Friday afternoon for those who weren't tied up with other obligations. Saturday morning featured a variety of seminars designed to appeal to members' various interests – including how to run a club, finding service opportunities within the community, how to attract and retain members, how to effectively use social media, how to use AI to your advantage and how to develop youth education programs.

Roanoke sold \$1,800 of Ducky Derby tickets (with revenue going to the

district foundation to support neo-natal units at 11 hospitals within the district). Roanoke's total was more than any other club among the 150-plus in the Capital District, and nearly \$1,000 ahead of the second-place finisher, Danville.

In the drawing of gift cards (available to any person who contributed), two Roanoke Kiwanians were among 12 overall winners. Roanoke Past President Ben Spiker won a \$50 Panera gift card and Melissa Woodson's name was chosen for a \$50 Visa gift card. Thanks to the approximately 50 Roanoke club members who supported our strong showing.

In photos below:

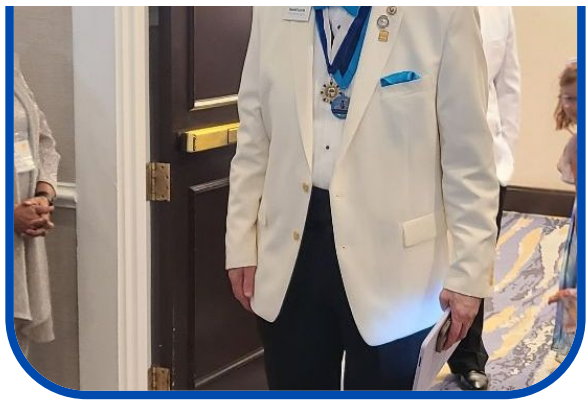
The audience shot shows several of the Roanoke Kiwanians in attendance.

The gentlemen in the tux with the blue adornment is incoming Governor David Lurie from Tysons.

The gentlemen in the sport coat and open collar is incoming Vice Governor Chris Bryant.

Current Governor Tim Gillette (also from Tysons) congratulates Fredericksburg's Robert Dodd for outstanding work leading this year's Lt. Governors.





New Member Spotlight - Linda Jensen

I moved to VA from ND to be closer to my daughter and granddaughter.

While living in ND I obtained my undergraduate and Master's from the University of Mary. I then spent most of my working career in Human Resource Management with the last fifteen years as Director of Training and Development for state government.

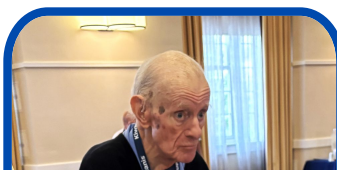
I joined Kiwanis based on encouragement from my granddaughter who was a recipient of a Kiwanis scholarship in 2025.



Current Member Spotlight

Congratulations to Kiwanian Don Chichester, who celebrated his 93rd birthday on August 23.

The words below were written by Gordon L. Weil, PhD, a boyhood friend of Don. Dr. Weil has enjoyed a distinguished career in politics, journalism, publishing, and energy consulting. He led the negotiations that created the unified New England power grid, and chaired the national organization of state energy agencies.



**Don Chichester**

When we moved to Hempstead in 1945, the next-door neighbors were the Chichesters, a couple and their son, who was three years older than I. He became my lifelong friend, and I never

had an argument or conflict with him.

As boys, we did much together and I learned a lot about practical problem solving, especially around the house and using tools. We collected license plate numbers from far away states and all kinds of road maps from oil companies and gas stations.

He built up a huge collection and through my efforts, they became part of a map collection at an Oklahoma university.

Above all, he collected 78 rpm records and eventually would have one of the largest collections in the U.S. We would go to Salvation Army stores to buy records to become part of his collection. He prepared packages of recordings that I used for my program on Bowdoin College radio.

Thanks to him, I was featured on a radio program that was recorded at Hofstra where he was a student. We were in scouting together and probably because of him, I was a member of the Boy Scout troop in his church (not the Temple troop).

Best of all was his intelligence and keen observation. He could see what was ridiculous in much of what we encountered in everyday life and could quickly spin a quip or a pun. I picked that up from him and it has contributed to my keeping matters in perspective and some good laughs. We each believe the other gave much understanding.

We shared experiences together and learned together. We had some memorable evenings of great wit and a lot of laughing.

Together, we created a mythical television station, "broadcasting" in color years before that really happened. We each assumed a phony personality and made up and performed programs. The Ingraham Broadcasting System (we lived on Ingraham Blvd.) never had an audience beyond each other. We still occasionally call one another by our IBS names, Bert Snert (him) and Arthur McAllister.

We also built a soap box derby racer and raced it, with Don as the pusher and me as the driver. I don't recall winning, though.

His mother Inger died quite young and his father Jesse was severely paralyzed by a stroke. Don managed to keep an even keel. Trained as an engineer, he became a Presbyterian minister in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. His wife, Jane, also became a friend.

Hollins Circle K

Michael Franzese, Jeff Vick and Chris Rouse met with Hollins University's Blair Celli to discuss forming a Circle K Club.



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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David Hartman, President-
Elect

Reif Kessler, Vice President

John Montgomery,
Secretary-Treasurer

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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