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Kiwanis®
CLUB OF ROANOKE

August 2026

Vol. 107 No. 43

"Year of Inspired Action"

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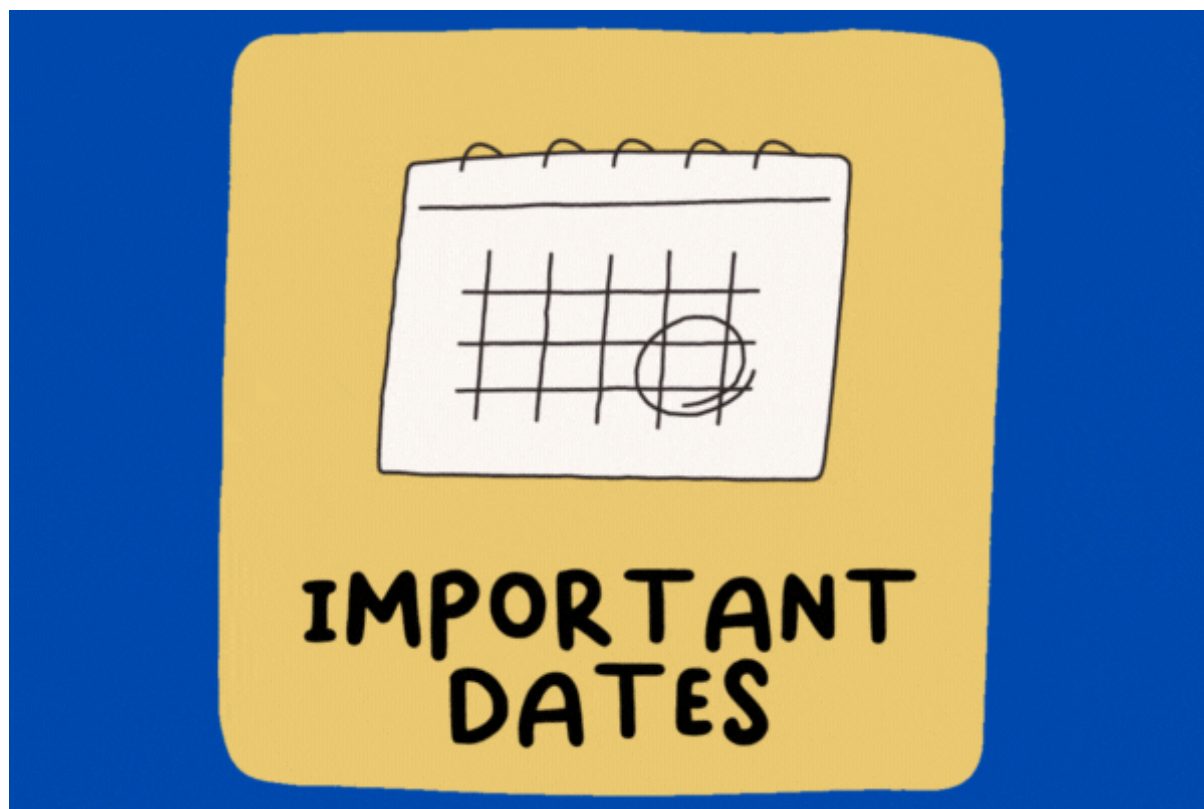
Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays



August 5 - (12:30-1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Dr. Lee Learman with VT Carilion School of Medicine

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

August 12 - (12:30-1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Ron Bradbury with VT Carilion

School of Medicine

August 13 - (10 - 11 am) Mill Mountain Star Dedication Ceremony

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

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

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

August 5th - Club Meeting, Dr. Lee Learman 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. Lee Learman, Dean of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine. Dr. Learman will highlight how in 2026 new philanthropic gifts, state operating funds for enrollment growth, and state funding for a new school building are positioning the school for greater impact on our community, region, and Commonwealth in the years ahead. All of our speakers for the month of August will be from the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine.

Dr. Learman's career in academic medicine started at the University of California, San Francisco, where he co-led a federally funded research program establishing the comparative effectiveness of alternative treatments for common women's health conditions. He then served as a department chair at Indiana University and as senior associate dean at Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Learman's state and local impacts have been recognized by the Indiana Commissioner's Award for Excellence in Public Health and the NAACP Citizen of the Year award for medicine in the Roanoke Valley. This year he was elected to the Virginia Academy of Science, Engineering, and Medicine. He attended college at UCLA and completed an MD/PhD program at Harvard Medical School funded by the MacArthur Foundation.





Highlights From the Last Club Meeting

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



Consistent guest, Teddy, relaxes during the introspection.



Roanoke Team helps form new club in Halifax, Virginia





Bart Wilner introduces the Blue
Cow Ice Cream team



Jason Kiser shares the Blue Cow Ice
Cream story



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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:

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

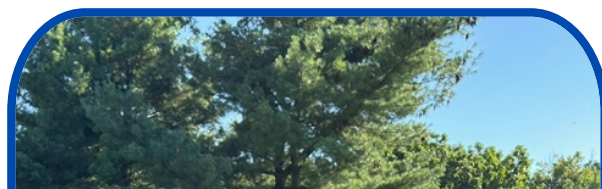
Thanks much!!! Please email me which week works for you and I will be sure to find a time we can meet at the Nature Park to provide an intro to the "ropes." or rather the hoses...

Good day to be a Kiwanian!

Cheri

Below

Aktion Club members Sarah Ross and JJ Harper are shown with Kiwanian Tom Bamford at our Kiwanis Wildflower Garden. On July 31, these 3 members of our Kiwanis family activated our new irrigation system. It can be seen operating in the background.

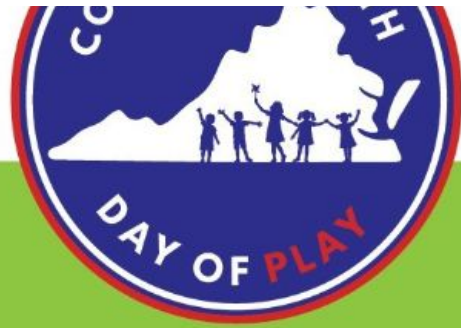




Call for volunteers!

Our Club is a co-sponsor for the upcoming Commonwealth Day of Play hosted by the Greater Williamson Road Business Association and Brookside Par 3 Golf Course. The event will be Saturday, August 8 from 12-4pm. We need volunteers to help set up a table and tent, man the table to give out information and toys, and break down the tent at the end of the day. Volunteers do not need to commit to a full day. Please email/call/text Jeanne Bollendorf at jeannekiwanis@gmail.com 757.773.3312 to sign up.





AUGUST 8

12PM - 4PM | FREE EVENT

Includes golf, activities,
food, ice cream, & giveaways



Brookside Par 3 Golf Course
6303 Williamson Road, Hollins, VA



Get outside and swap
screen time for fun time
for families of *all* ages!



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No RSVP
Required.

For more information contact: Val Brown, Executive Director of GWRABA,
valerie@williamsonroad.org | (540) 362-3293

Book Club

We meet next on Wednesday, August 12th at 5:30 at the Crystal Spring

Grocery Store -- hope you can join us. Share your favorite recent read...

Cheri on behalf of David Hartman



Ducky Derby

Our annual Kiwanis Capital District Ducky Derby is underway. This fundraiser has been ongoing for many years and has raised nearly 1 million dollars to support 11 pediatric hospitals around the district. Among these is our own Carilion Children's which makes care available locally not only for premature infants in a state-of-the-art facility, but also for youngsters suffering from both acute and chronic illnesses, certain malignancies and with significant traumatic injuries. It is of enormous benefit for the entirety of Southwest Virginia.

Please help by buying some raffle tickets. (There are many prizes, but the first prize is \$750 cash.) Participation is easy. Type "Capital District Ducky Derby" on your search bar – you can do this immediately after reading this message. Click on "Buy Tickets Here", then proceed to "Purchase". Next click "Buy Entries", select a quantity of tickets to purchase and proceed from there with your information. Along the way be sure to click on "Select Club" and look for Roanoke. We should be the district's leaders in this endeavor. After all, we are one of the largest clubs and certainly among the very best.

As an alternative, you can just give money or a check to Reif Kessler (or send to him at 6524 Fairway View Trail, Roanoke, VA 24018) and he will push the buttons on the computer for you.

Quack – Quack. Thanks for your consideration and double thanks if you elect to buy some tickets.

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

Newsletters 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



Kiwaniis® 2025-26

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President

David Hartman, President-
Elect

Reif Kessler, Vice President

John Montgomery,
Secretary-Treasurer

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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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