

All the News that is fit to print and
then some....

February 3, 2026 Newsletter
Volume 5, No. 3

Club Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.
Friendship Hall of Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church,
143 Chota Ctr., Tellico Village. Across from POA office.

It's a Great Day



Kiwaniis
TELLICO VILLAGE
LOUDON, TN

to be a Kiwanian

Meeting Highlights

45 members braved the cold weather to attend the meeting. We welcomed previous guests, Jim and Shirley Bierkamp. We are thrilled they will be joining our club! Debbie Santos brought her twin sister, Donna Carney. Per Deb, Donna loved the meeting and we will be seeing more of her! It was wonderful to see Bill Taylor again. Last but not least was Dr. Hugh McCampbell from the Sweetwater Kiwanis Club. Doc is hosting his Annual Concert Fundraiser on March 21st at 2p.m. at Sweetwater Elementary School.

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Guest Speaker, Ruthie Thornton - [Page 3](#)

Famous Groundhogs - [Page 4](#)

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Announcements from Madam President, Andrea Johnson, (MP AJ): andreamail@ymail.com

- Please be respectful of other. Turn off your phones. We are all getting older and our hearing isn't perfect. Don't carry on conversations during a presentation or while others are making announcements.
- Back to basics. Our newbies need to feel they belong, they are important, and are not left alone to sink or swim.
 - Mentors are needed to take our new members under their wings. Sit with them at a meeting, be a greeter along side of them, go to an inter-club, answer questions. Member retainage is critical.
- The men residing at The Neighborhood have been meeting every Tuesday at 4 p.m. for Bull & Brew. Our club was involved with this project a few years ago. MP AJ has asked Dan Kuzdzal to mention this to the Tellico Working Together Group. Perhaps other service groups would be interested in volunteering once a month at the Bull & Brew get togethers.
 - Email Andrea if you would like to volunteer. The gentlemen at the Assisted Living Facility would certainly welcome and enjoy your company. And you get a free beer!

A huge thank you to our Program Committee. They work tirelessly to secure food vendors, handling everything that goes into the set up, clean up, beverages, desserts for our meetings. They also maintain the lists for Greeters, Invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance. They need one more member on their committee. Want to help? Email Judy Dowell: judy@dowell.net

We Did It!

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Events are listed in MemberDay under Meeting & Events.
Project Leaders – please inform me of upcoming events to insure they are posted into MemberDay.

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Don't Stop Praying and Closing - [Page 18](#)

Thank you to everyone following us on Facebook.

We are now at 210!

Do you use Facebook? Are you following us?



happy birthday



Kiwanis
TELLICO VILLAGE
LOUDON, TN

February 2026– HAPPY BIRTHDAYS						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Louise Coulter	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 Richard Hoffmann	13	14 
15	16	17	18	19	20 Mark Johnson	21
22	23	24	25	26 Dave Miller	27	28

MARCH 2026 – HAPPY BIRTHDAYS						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Bonnell Cooper	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Jane Holt	12	13	14
15 Nancy Yanasak	16 Brian Hass	17 	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Randy Heiden
29	30	31 Lisa Frazier				

Thank you
Ruthie Thornton
for stepping in as our
Guest Speaker on Feb. 3rd, 2026.



Ruthie's story is one of unwavering dedication and compassion, both to her local community and abroad. Since joining the Tellico Village Kiwanis in August 2002, Ruthie has exemplified commitment to helping those in need.

Ruthie thoroughly enjoyed visiting Africa and the role of tour guide. It was on one of those trips, that she and her late husband, Paul, met Harriet Nkatha, the proprietor of the Lions Academy in Isiolo County, Kenya. They witnessed first-hand the poverty and poor conditions facing the area.

Paul and Ruthie funded the building of a new school in 2007. Despite facing numerous challenges such as flooding, drought, building collapses, and theft, the Lions Academy has persevered, with its students achieving high academic success. Unfortunately, many of the students accepted into universities, have no financial assistance and end up not attending college.

Ruthie continues to support the Lions Academy. She is paying room and board expenses for her "adopted" daughter, who will be graduating this summer.

A brief background on Ruth's late husband, Paul. Paul was one of the founders of the Tellico Village Kiwanis Club in 1998. He served as President-Elect, President and Lt. Governor of the Kentucky-Tennessee District.





BELIEVE?



PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL
6 more weeks of winter.

The first official Groundhog Day celebration featuring Punxsutawney Phil took place in 1887 at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, PA.

His predictions are generally inaccurate, boasting a success rate of only about 35% to 39% based on data since 1887.



GENERAL BEAUREGARD LEE (BEAU)
6 more weeks of winter.

He has been Georgia's groundhog forecaster since 1991. He's considered one of the most accurate weather-predicting groundhogs in the U.S., boasting an estimated 80% accuracy rating, which frequently ranks him second nationally, often trailing only New York's Staten Island Chuck.

BELIEVE?



BUCKEYE CHUCK
DID NOT SEE HIS SHADOW.

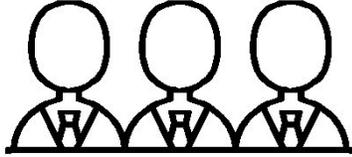
Buckeye Chuck, Ohio's official groundhog since 1979, is generally more accurate than Punxsutawney Phil, boasting a historical accuracy rate of approximately 55% to 75%. He often outclasses the 35% accuracy rate of Punxsutawney Phil.



STATEN ISLAND CHUCK
6 more weeks of winter.

Chuck began his career in 1981 at the Staten Island Zoo. According to the Zoo, Chuck has been accurate in his predictions nearly 80% of the time.

A Chance



Nominating Committee:
Rick Hamm, Katey Bailey, and Beth Mouse.

Each year a Nominating Committee (NC) is selected by the Club President.
Any open Officer or Board Director position must be filled for the upcoming Kiwanis year.
The responsibility of the NC is to develop a slate of candidates.
The NC will begin contacting active members soon for potential candidates.

ARE YOU

- Interested in learning what goes on behind the scenes?
- Willing to actively govern our club?
- Interested in helping our club move forward and stay focused?
- Interested in keeping our club's mission front and center?
- Willing to commit to serving the required term associated with the position?

*For the Kiwanis Year Oct. 1, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2025, the President-Elect position must be filled.
There is 1 Board of Directors position open.
If you are willing to become a candidate, please contact any NC member.*

Responsibilities:

The President-Elect is a one-year term position and prepares to assume the leadership role of president the following Kiwanis year by working closely with the current club president. One of the key assignments is soliciting and scheduling speakers for the monthly club meetings. Additionally, the president-elect will attend the monthly Board of Directors meetings and preside over club/board meetings in the absence of the club president.

A Director is a two-year term position and serves on the Board of Directors.

(Responsibilities cover Officers & Directors): Provide general management of the club not delegated to the membership in our bylaws or club policy.

Assure the club complies with applicable governmental rules and regulations.

Determine the good-standing status of members in accordance with club policy.

The slate of candidates will be presented to the membership 30 days prior to our Annual Meeting.
Floor and self-nominations will be accepted at that time.

Annual Meeting is set for May 5th. Members will vote to approve the nominees.

Two-thirds of our members (a quorum) must vote to validate the election.

Katey Bailey: Katey_b@hotmail.com Rick Hamm: walkerhamm@gmail.com Beth Mouse: bethmouse1950@gmail.com

We Did It!



The monthly Commodity Food Distribution event was held on January 16, 2026, at Blairland Baptist Church, 730 Steekee Rd, Loudon.

This event brought together community members dedicated to ensuring that those in need have access to essential food supplies.

The presence of our committed Kiwanians once again highlighted the spirit of volunteerism and community support that makes such initiatives possible.

Their efforts, along with those of other volunteers, were crucial in organizing and distributing food items efficiently and compassionately.



Top Middle Photo: Kiwanians alongside volunteers from Primient Loudon; a Corporate Sponsor of our Annual Golf Tournament. What a pleasure it was to work side by side.
Our Kiwanians Bottom Left to Right Photos: Beth & Ray Mouse
Mark Johnson, Beth Mouse, Ray Mouse & Andrea Johnson
Mark Johnson

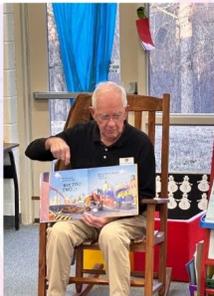


**TELLICO VILLAGE KIWANIANS CELEBRATING THE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL AT
 LENOIR CITY ELEMENTARY ON JAN. 22ND, 2026.**



**AND READING TO PRE-K CHILDREN
 EARLY CHILDHOOD LITERACY PROGRAM**

Instilling the joy of reading in a child is one of the most rewarding gifts you can offer. It opens doors to endless worlds of imagination, knowledge, and empathy. Encouraging a love for books from an early age sets the foundation for lifelong learning and intellectual curiosity. Reading helps children develop critical thinking skills, enhances their vocabulary, and improves their ability to empathize with others by experiencing diverse perspectives. By creating a nurturing environment filled with books and reading opportunities, you not only cultivate a child's literacy skills but also inspire a passion for stories that can accompany them throughout their life. Thank you, Ron Uncapher, Andrea Johnson and Jerry Wrubel. You are amazing Kiwanians.



M. Justice



On January 23, 2026, ten seniors from Loudon High School's Key Club were honored as Scholars of Excellence, a testament to their remarkable



dedication to education and community service. This group, which proudly includes the Valedictorian, exemplifies the qualities of leadership and altruism. Their immeasurable commitment to improving both themselves and their community sets a standard for future students, illustrating the profound impact young individuals can have.

Through volunteering and academic perseverance, these students have not only enriched their own lives but have also made a significant contribution to society, embodying the true spirit of excellence.





On January 23, 2026, six of our Kiwanians were at Loudon Elementary School, supporting the Weekend Food 4 Kids Project.

137 bags were packed with nutritious snacks. Once the bags were filled, the Kiwanians delivered them directly to individual classrooms, ensuring that no child went without.

Unfortunately, they forgot to take photos. Thank you to Pat Humphery, Project Leader, Cat Balderston, Janine Julian, Theresa Maresca, and Bev and Rick Woodard!

NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY!

CAH/Steve



Happy Birthday



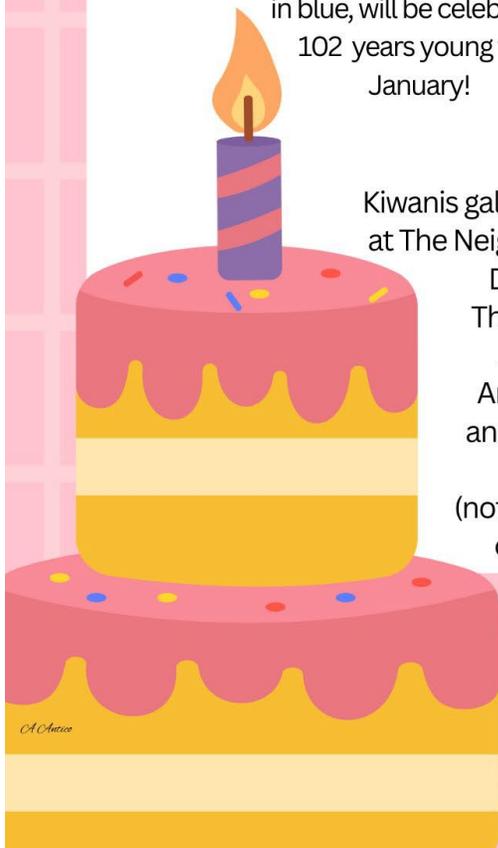
The Ladies Tea at The Neighborhood on Jan. 27, 2026, was a delightful event, as the Kiwanis gals hosted a Happy Birthday Celebration. Decorations included colorful balloons and hats. The guests were treated to hot tea, an array of sweet treats and handmade chocolates. Laughter and camaraderie filled the room. It was a joyful gathering, creating fond memories.

The beautiful lady above, in blue, will be celebrating 102 years young this January!



Kiwanis gals celebrating January birthdays with the ladies at The Neighborhood included Janine Julian, Lynda Nagel,

Diane Preston,
Theresa Maresca,
Judy Dowell,
Andrea Johnson,
and Pat Humphrey.
Reba Herzfeld
(not shown) made the
chocolate treats.





The Lions Academy Isilio County, Kenya

Africa requires a massive injection of computers in schools to bridge a significant digital divide, as only 50% of African countries include computer skills in their curriculum compared to 85% globally. With 450,000 schools lacking technology and 87% of business leaders citing a need for better digital literacy, providing computers is essential to prepare students for the modern, tech-driven economy and reduce poverty.



Computers are now in the Science Room!
Thank you, Ruth, Randy, and Bill for your continued support of The Lions Academy!

Per Ruthie Thornton, she, and fellow Kiwanian Randy Heiden, along with Bill Macklem, were blessed to be given the opportunity to see that the Lions Academy received computers.



The children could not be happier. Harriet Nkatha, the proprietor, is pictured with the children.



February 2026



CA Antico

UPcoming EVENTS

 **Kiwanis**
TELLICO VILLAGE
LOUDON, TN

Feb. 10th – Madisonville Club
Cora Veal Senior Center, 144 College Street S, Madisonville

Feb. 19th – Sweetwater Club First Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall, 303 Wright St., Sweetwater

We urge all new members to attend an Inter-Club.

Contact Kevin #1 for additional information or to sign-up.

Kevin Meyer: kmeye56@sbcglobal.net

What is Inter-Club?

Briefly, an inter-club meeting is a meeting staged by two or more Kiwanis clubs.

Inter-clubbing is a means of supporting Kiwanis' fifth Object, which is "To provide, through this club, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build a better community." This wider scope of Kiwanis can be achieved by member visits between clubs in the same town, division and district, as well as inter-district get-togethers.

The development of fellowship among members of the Kiwanis family by having inter-club activities is so important.

Through the fellowship gained by inter-club activities, members learn how other clubs function, get to know their neighboring Kiwanians, develop new ideas and a broader interest in how Kiwanis operates, find new ideas for use in their own club, and become better Kiwanians.

Inter-clubbing creates fun and strong fellowship.

Remember to take photos
whenever possible.





WF4K Spring Schedule 2026

Date	Club
Jan 9	Kiwanis
Jan 16	LWC
Jan 23	Kiwanis
Jan 30	TVWC
Feb 6	Kiwanis
Feb 13	TVWC
Feb 20	Kiwanis
Feb 27	LWC
Mar 6	Kiwanis (Double Pack)
Mar 13	Spring Break
Mar 20	Kiwanis
Mar 27	TVWC
Apr 3	LWC
Apr 10	Kiwanis
Apr 17	TVWC
Apr 24	Kiwanis
May 1	LWC
May 8	TVWC
May 12	VFW

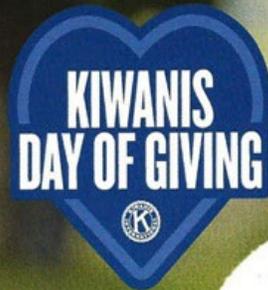
Feb. 6th is next date scheduled for our club. Contact Pat Humphrey if you want to be added to the list of volunteers.



Kiwanis
TELLICO VILLAGE
LOUDON, TN

FEBRUARY 25, 2026

**1 DAY TO REACH
55,000 KIDS.**



SAVE THE DATE – FEBRUARY 25, 2026
ANNUAL KIWANIS DAY OF GIVING!

Think of it as 2/25 – a fitting date, since US \$2.25 is enough to make a difference in one child's life through the Kiwanis Children's Fund.

This year, the goal is more ambitious than ever: to raise US \$125,000.
That's enough to reach 55,000 kids in one day.

Give and gather with fellow Kiwanians online. See what's possible when we come together!

Learn how to get involved at:

<https://www.kiwanis.org/who-we-are/ways-to-give/kiwanis-day-of-giving/>

<https://k15626.site.kiwanis.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/KiwanisTV/>



Join Us for LCIMS STEAM Night!



Lenoir City Intermediate Middle School
2141 Harrison Ave, Lenoir City

LCIMS is proud to be a STEM-designated school, and STEAM Night is our chance to open the doors and show families what learning looks like every day on our campus.

Students, staff, and clubs will be showcasing hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math experiences throughout the building. Our arts programs will be on full display, highlighting the power of well-rounded opportunities for every learner.

This is a great opportunity to see the hard work of our students, the creativity of our clubs, and The dedication of our faculty and staff, all in one night. We can't wait to welcome our LCIMS families for an evening of learning, celebration, connection!



Ray Mouse will have additional details at our next meeting on Feb. 17th.

A Antica



MP AJ expressed the importance of our fundraising events. We cannot continue to support our club projects without revenue. The Pancake Breakfasts in the Spring and Fall result in \$16,000-\$18,000 directed entirely to our projects.

It takes all of us to be involved for a successful fundraiser.

Mary Procyk mentioned that Pat Robison, due to health reasons, will not be able to solicit business for donations, food items etc. this year.

We need someone who has the gift of persuasion to contact businesses, stores etc.

Bev Woodard and Kim Silvestri are co-chairing the Spring Pancake Breakfast. Mary Procyk and Ginger Swintosky will be there to guide them.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the meetings. There are so many tasks. Surely there must be at least one everyone can handle. PLEASE SIGN UP.

Please sell your tickets. Ticket money should be returned in the envelope you received with your tickets.

Direct questions to either Bev or Kim.

Bev: bevwoodard@hotmail.com

Kim: silvestri807@yahoo.com

A. S. S. S.

Tellico Working Together - Service and Fundraising Events



Community Services Committee

Project Leaders: Dan Kuzdzal 865-657-9331 djkuzdzal@yahoo.com

Randy Heiden 865-408-1605 randynancyh@outlook.com

February 2026

- 3 – TV Welcome Orientation – Service Information Tables
- 5 – New Villager Social – Service Information Table
- 10 – HOA Social – Service Information Table
- 19 – 100WWC Giving Circle – 4 pm at YC

Kiwanis Club works together with fifteen other civic organizations and churches in the Tellico Village area to support each other in various community-oriented projects and charitable causes. The 16 Organizations that make up TWT currently are Community Church at Tellico Village, First Baptist Church Tellico Village, Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Kiwanis Club of Tellico Village, Rotary of Tellico Village, Lions Club, General Federation of Women's Club Tellico Village, Adopt-a-Class, Our Place and Tellico Foundation, Friends of the Library, Stay in TV, WATeR, T-Bart and 4 Paws Food Bank.



Let us know if you or someone you know has asked for prayers.
Continue to pray for our nation, our military, the first responders, everyone committed to protect and uphold our freedoms.

Lisa Frazier is having hip replacement surgery Feb. 10th. She would appreciate prayers.

Beth Mouse will be having a knee replacement on Feb 9. She welcomes prayers.

Pray for skilled hands for the surgeons and compassion care for the medical teams for both members.

Ginger Swintosky's brother, Newton. Please pray for strength as he struggles with continuing health issues.

Pray fervently for our fellow Kiwanians, families and friends as our prayer are heard.



Peace Out,
Angie Antico
Editor