



**Kiwanis®**  
CLUB OF MARYVILLE

**Kourier**

## JULY 2025

Meetings at noon each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Green Meadow Country Club; lunch served at 11:30

Email: [maryvillekiwanis.tn@gmail.com](mailto:maryvillekiwanis.tn@gmail.com); Website: [www.maryvilletnkiwanis.org](http://www.maryvilletnkiwanis.org)

**Dedicated to building a better community by focusing on service to children and youth**

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# The Road Warriors



**Steve Kiefer, Geoff Cusick, Jerry Heiny, Linda Ullom, Patsy Russell, Wanda Davis, Robert Russell, Stephen Frana, and Bob Ullom. Pete Davis taking the picture.**

On May 31, 10 brave Kiwanians wandered a stretch of Lamar Alexander south of Blount Memorial Hospital to pick up various items thrown out of car windows as they drive through this area. If you travel that road much you will notice the sign indicating that Maryville Kiwanis is responsible for this effort. As our club evolves, some projects come and go, but this one has continued now for several years.

As evidenced by our mission we are dedicated to building a better community by focusing on children and youth. This is one additional way that we serve our community that gives our community an awareness of the efforts of Maryville Kiwanis as a service organization.

## President's Corner

Summer officially arrived Friday June 20<sup>th</sup> and was shortly followed by the first real heat wave of the year. As long as we keep hydrated and remember our sunscreen, we can enjoy all the outdoor activities that make this time of year special.

The Spotlight Award given monthly is an excellent way to recognize people who contribute to the club's success. The membership committee, chaired by **Emily Mantooth**, chooses the monthly recipients. Emily then presents the awards at one of the meetings each month. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> the Spotlight Award recipients were Tim Thurston and Pete Davis for their work in preparing the Kourier each month. Their hard work is greatly appreciated and results in a truly excellent newsletter we can be proud of.

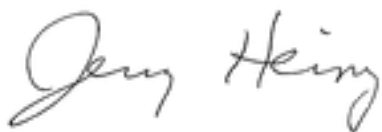


During the month of June, we also presented \$1000 scholarships to three deserving high school seniors. These seniors were members of the Key Clubs of their respective schools and had numerous accomplishments as **Patsy Russell** pointed out during their introductions. Maddie Gravitte was presented with a scholarship on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. She attended Maryville High School and is the granddaughter of Maryville Kiwanis member **Bobby Perkinson**. On June 17<sup>th</sup> scholarships were presented to Bailey Melenson from Marville High School and Ben Wiggett from Eagleton College and Career Academy. Bailey was accompanied by her mother and Ben was accompanied by his mother and Key Club advisor. I congratulate these three impressive young people. Based on what I learned about them; I feel the future of our community and country is in good hands.

I have started meeting with our President-Elect **Blake Mansfield** as he begins the process of preparing to assume the presidency on October 1<sup>st</sup>. He is contacting committee chairs and starting to work on the budget. Please give him support as I know he will do an excellent job.

We are also looking forward to hearing from **Blake Mansfield, Carl Van Hoosier, Wanda Davis** and **Pete Davis** about their experience at this year's Kiwanis International Convention in Pittsburgh.

We will soon be celebrating our country's independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>. On this date in 1776 the Declaration of Independence was ratified by the Second Continental Congress. As Americans we celebrate this event in numerous ways, including fireworks, picnics, and family gatherings. After a one-year hiatus, Alcoa will have FreedomFest this year on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Maryville Kiwanis will have an Imagination Library sign up table at the event. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Heiny".

# June 3 Meeting Notes

The introduction of today's guests included Maddie Gravitte, granddaughter of **Bobby Perkinson**, who is receiving a scholarship today from our club. Also, **Tony Thompson** introduced **Matt Hurst** who takes over at our local Pinnacle Bank when Tony retires at the end of June.



The speaker was Shelby Sanders who is Director of Natural Resources for Foothills Land Conservancy. She graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in wildlife/fisheries science with a focus on management. It becomes obvious quickly that she is perfectly suited for this job as evidenced by her enthusiasm and knowledge of the environmental impact that is the intention of Foothills Land Conservancy.

Foothills Land Conservancy began right here in East Tennessee remains headquartered in Rockford at the Harris Farm. There, as in many of their supervised properties they observe and support the bird (herons) population and support native landscaping with pollinator meadows and sunflower areas. These activities and many others that she discussed fulfill the wishes of the landowner as they remain true to their mission:

*to be dedicated to protecting, preserving, and enhancing lands and environments of Southern Appalachian region and promoting character of the land for benefit of general public, now and in the future.*

While their name preserves the local origin of this conservancy, their efforts extend into seven neighboring states, protecting some 250,000 acres with over 540 projects completed. They are now in their 38<sup>th</sup> year beginning as Alternatives for Blount County (1985-1993) when a group of concerned citizens became alarmed at the prospect of a 1200-acre amusement park in Tuckaleechee Cove. Since then, just locally, they have donated 400 acres to the National Park, 5500 acres to the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency which in partnership with Ducks Unlimited has provided a home for 220 bird species in the Kyker Bottoms Wildlife Refuge. Twenty-five hundred acres of wetland and forest are preserved at the Yuchi Refuge on Chickamauga Lake, home to sandhill cranes and grassland birds.

A key concept in their mission is Conservation Easements which restrict future development of a property to protect its conservation value. These are legally binding in perpetuity and do have provisions for what the landowner can and cannot do on the land but always restricting non-native plants, mining, trash collection, commercial or residential developments, mining, waterways and other important factors which may affect the ability to maintain the natural environment of the property. To be home to such a far-reaching effort is one of the many things that makes living in Blount County a true gift.



# June 17 Meeting Notes

The meeting within a meeting today was to approve the use of funds from the Ed Harmon bequest in lieu of the Leadership Adventure Camp which is no longer in existence. Three projects were voted on and approved:

1. Events for Foster Children **Patsy Russell** will chair the funding and volunteers for an annual Foster Children Pool Party on Saturday July 12 at Springbrook Pool. Additional events as the budget permits.
2. Hygiene closets at county middle schools provide requested hygiene and clothing items along with a liaison and volunteers as need. **Wanda Davis** will chair this.
3. Helping homeless children A yet to be named chair will work with Family Promise to provide books, toys and children's items in addition to some small building projects.



The speaker for the day was the Honorable Tim Burchett, elected to Congress in 2019 after serving as Knox County mayor for the eight years prior and serving in the Tennessee State Legislature for 16 years, 12 of which was in the Senate. In Congress he currently serves on three major House committees: Oversight/Accountability, Foreign Affairs, and Transportation/Infrastructure. His particular interests are in transparency, government accountability, common-sense policies, and veterans. The funding of the TVA as a public utility has come under his scrutiny with its director being paid \$10 million yearly. Stock-trading should be eliminated, in his opinion, if you serve in Congress to avoid lobbying benefits. He is determined to expose excess and fraudulent spending

and mentioned several areas where this abuse currently takes place. The important work of the DOGE committee, of which he is a member, will continue. A focus on Foreign Affairs is nuclear waste and targeting areas which need and do not need nuclear power. He cautioned that the Chinese were developing genome information through sites like Ancestry.com which targets American women of child-bearing age. The total reconstruction of the air traffic control system is an urgent need which is being addressed. While the media tries to preserve all Medicaid spending, the Congress is working on ways to prevent gaming of the system and to purge the rosters of ineligible recipients as well as fraudulent use of funds. Of interest, with recent events being highlighted, is better security for our lawmakers. For years, Tim has fought for better balance in the media and finds these efforts exhausting at times.

More than any other way, our Congress men and women provide us with an opportunity to bridge the gap between our local communities and their needs with the federal government. It is the obligation of our Representatives in Congress to see that they understand the positions of their constituency on the function of government. We are privileged to have Congressman Burchett reach out to our club as representatives of the future of our area.

## June 17 Meeting Pics



**Michael Torano** gets greeted by **Heather Larson** and **Diane Trosclair** while **Howard Kerr** in right above chats with Congressman Tim Burchett



**Jerry Heiny**, club president, makes last minute meeting plans with chair of the day, **Robert Russell**. **Carl Van Hoozier** and **Tom Coulter** have a lighthearted chat with the Congressman.



**Tom Coulter** and **Newsome Baker** sit down for lunch along with members and guests seated on right.



Lunch 30 minutes before the meeting is enjoyed as a time to communicate with people you generally see only 2 every 2 weeks. Fellowship is an important part of the meeting structure. Some may even say it is the reason they come to meetings.



## June 17 Meeting Pics (2)



Bruce Damrow (Alcoa Kiwanis) joins **Bobby Perkinson, Tony Thompson, Emily Mantooth, and Ron Teffeteller** for lunch.



Before the meeting starts all stand for a patriotic song, the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Jerry begins the meeting with the chair of the day and the Congressman on his left.



**Debbie Jones** gives the report for the meeting attendance, welcomes the guests, makes sure a person drawn from those attending is "properly dressed", and always has a joke at the end. **Diane Trosclair**, on the right, collected Happy Bucks from anyone who wants to recognize the speaker or another attending, wants to tell a short tidbit about a family member or a sick member, or just is glad to be alive. The money goes primarily to the general operating fund for the club.



## June 17 Meeting Pics (3)



Happy Bucks just wouldn't be the same without **Regina Jennings** (L) and **Patsy Russell** saying their words of wisdom.



**Robert Russell** had the honor of introducing the U.S. Congressman from our Tennessee district, Tim Burchett, to speak on the state of affairs of our nation as he sees it.



The crowd is all ears listening to the Congressman. He has a special ability to communicate in his own colloquial style. Acting in several House committees he has penned many bills and discussed these at the meeting. He doesn't mind saying what he thinks which has endeared him to much of the area voting public.



## June 17 Meeting Pics (4)



Representative Burchett captures the moment while managing a multifaceted discussion on what is happening in Washington, D.C.



At the conclusion of the meeting there is always time for some individual discussion. There is a lot going on in these United States and having access to your Representative in Congress gives one a sense that you have a voice in this process.





# Key Club Scholarships



Maddy Gravitte from Maryville High School gratefully accepted the \$1000 Key Club Scholarship from **Jerry Heiny** and **Patsy Russell**.



Ben Wiggitt from Eagleton College & Career Academy is presented with a \$1000 Key Club scholarship. His Key Club faculty advisor proudly accompanied him.



Bailey Mclenon from Maryville High School was enthusiastic in the reception of a \$1000 scholarship as she prepares to enter college.

# Awards and Activities



Emily Mantooth presents the June Spotlight Awards to Pete Davis and Tim Thurston for their work to bring us this Kiwanis Kourier each month on time and in budget ☺.

# Programs



July 1	Vanessa Spillar	Clayton’s Impact in Communities
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June 17th	Jonathon Smith	Blount Memorial Hospital Update
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## Interclubs



**Janet Gandy, Dian Trosclair, Bobby Burke, Steve Kiefer, and Kent Willoughby** enjoyed the June 5 Alcoa Kiwanis meeting.



**Marie Rousch, Jerry Heiny, Linda Ullom, Wanda and Pete Davis** attended the June 19 Aktion Club meeting



Traveling to Sevierville for an interclub were **Bobby Burke, Steve Kiefer, Wanda and Pete Davis.**



Alcoa Kiwanis members pictured along with Bruce Damrow attended the June 17 meeting of our club.

## Briefs

- Our "sick list" still includes **Denn Larson** and **Elton Jones**. Denn's seems to be having trouble getting all body systems going in the same direction. We pray for their recovery and look forward to seeing them back at meetings soon.
- **Bob Ullom** commented at Happy Bucks that he "feels blessed." I think we can all reflect on this simple comment and find that same blessing.
- **Robert Russell** reminded us of all of the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States Army. We pay special tribute to those who served in the Army.
- **Katie Beeler** has just returned from a family trip to Italy. Like all of us she noted that as beautiful as Italy is, it is still nice to come home to our beautiful place in this world.
- **Debbie Jones** is hobbling with a boot but back in business after breaching her foot.
- Imagination Library had a very successful signup at the Alcoa Freedom Fest.

# KI Convention Brief

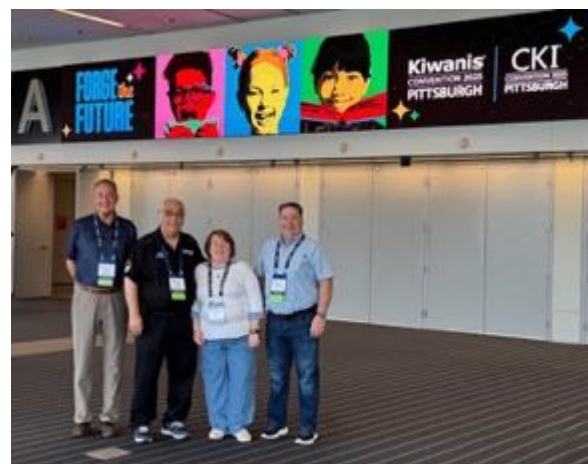
*By Wanda Davis*

**Blake, Carl, Pete and I** enjoyed our trip to Pittsburgh for the Kiwanis International Convention. Pittsburgh has a lot to do for everyone. We were able to meet make new friends from around the world and catch up with old ones as well. We attended many workshops and sessions during the convention. We even got to attend a baseball game; the Pirates played the Mets. Traveling is fun and exciting, but we are glad to be home.



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# Success at FreedomFest

*By Patsy Russell*

Thirty-eight children registered for Imagination Library! **Patsy Russell, Robert Russell, Jerry Heiny, and Dian Trosclair** braved the crowds, the heat, and possible thunderstorms to work an Imagination Library table at the FreedomFest on June 28 at the Alcoa Duck Pond. There were so many young families present that all four were kept busy explaining the program to parents and helping them enroll their children. About a third of the new enrollees are children of families who have moved to Blount County from other states. Children of all ages enjoyed receiving Ed Harmon's big pennies, Imagination Library bookmarks, and red, white, and blue bead necklaces.

## *Kiwanis is for Kids*



## *Kiwanis is for Imagination Library Kids*

## June Birthdays

July 6	Emily Mantooth
July 9	Regina Jennings
July 18	Lynn Titsworth
July 30	Tammi Ford

*Happy Birthday*



**Maryville  
Kiwanis**



## Division 5 Clubs

Club	Founded	Members	Website
<b>Maryville</b>	December 29, 1919	66	<a href="http://www.maryvilletnkiwanis.org">www.maryvilletnkiwanis.org</a>
Meetings every 1st and 3rd Tuesday noon, Green Meadow Country Club			
<b>Morristown</b>	January 23, 1920	50	None
Meetings weekly, Friday noon, Morristown Country Club			
<b>Newport</b>	September 7, 1920	75	None
Meetings weekly, Tuesday noon, West End Baptist Church			
<b>Knoxville</b>	April 5, 1919	47	None
Meetings weekly, Thursday noon, Crowne Plaza Hotel			
<b>Northside, Knoxville</b>	June 14, 1949	17	<a href="http://www.northside.kiwanis.us">www.northside.kiwanis.us</a>
Meetings weekly, Wednesday noon, Shoney's on N. Broadway			
<b>Alcoa</b>	July 18, 1951	70	<a href="http://www.k04236.site.kiwanis.org">www.k04236.site.kiwanis.org</a>
Meetings weekly, Thursday noon, Airport Hilton			
<b>Jefferson County</b>	March 12, 1959	5	None
Meetings 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday noon, Perkins			
<b>Sevierville</b>	September 28, 2000	20	
Meetings weekly, Tuesday noon, Applebee's			
<b>Foothills, Townsend</b>	October 19, 2023	15	<a href="http://www.townsendfoothillskiwanis.org">www.townsendfoothillskiwanis.org</a>
Meetings 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday noon, The Abbey			
<b>Greater West Knox</b>	October 19, 2023	18	None
Meetings 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 6:30pm, Olive Road, Farragut			

## Board of Directors

<b>President</b> Jerry Heiny (865)207-7930 <a href="mailto:jjheiny16@gmail.com">jjheiny16@gmail.com</a>  <b>President-elect</b> Blake Mansfield (731)234-3991 <a href="mailto:blakemansfield@simmonsbank.com">blakemansfield@simmonsbank.com</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Carl Van Hoozier (865)250-1160 <a href="mailto:cvanjr@gmail.com">cvanjr@gmail.com</a>  <b>Past-President</b> Wanda Davis (865)386-3042 <a href="mailto:Wandalee161@gmail.com">Wandalee161@gmail.com</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Heather Larson (847)-421-7422 <a href="mailto:kiwanismaryvilletn@gmail.com">kiwanismaryvilletn@gmail.com</a>  <b>Treasurer</b> Julie Miller (865)556-8506 <a href="mailto:jmiller@cbbcbank.com">jmiller@cbbcbank.com</a>	<b>Directors</b> Tony Thompson Patsy Russell Tom Coulter Tom Antkow Emily Mantooth Ron Teffeteller Katie Beeler Debbie Jones Carl Van Hoozier Amanda Nowak
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# *Objects of Kiwanis*

To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than to the material values of life.

To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.

To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business, and professional standards.

To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.

To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring relationships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities.

To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and good will.





## Proud Sponsors of



**Volunteer State Aktion Club**



**Heritage, Maryville, Eagleton Middle School and  
Montgomery Ridge Intermediate School**

**KEY CLUB®**

**Eagleton College & Career Academy,  
Maryville High School**

## Our Corporate Members

These corporate members have committed to have representative at our meetings and have embraced our commitments to our community and our child-enriching causes, programs, and projects.

Advanced Catalyst Systems  
Blount County Public Library  
Boys & Girls Club of Blount County  
Community Options, Inc.  
Great Smoky Mountain Council of Scouts  
Life Care Center of Blount County  
Maryville City Schools  
United Way of Blount County

Newell Brands  
Blount Partnership (Chamber of Commerce)  
Second Harvest Food Bank  
Smart Bank  
The Daily Times  
The Salvation Army  
Vienna Coffee House  
State Farm – Hunter Jones



### **Maryville Kiwanis Website**

[www.maryvilletnkiwanis.org](http://www.maryvilletnkiwanis.org)

**Scan this QR code to directly  
Link to the website.**

### **Kourier Staff**

**Tim Thurston and Pete Davis, Co-editors  
Pete Davis and Tim Thurston, Layout  
Pete Davis, Photography  
Heather Larson, Meeting Minutes**