



WILD ROSE K-NEWS

Wild Rose Kiwanis - PO Box 138 - Wild Rose, WI 54984

Save the Date - What's On Tap for Our Club

- Tue, Feb 3 TODAY - Family Business Meeting
- Wed, Feb 4 12:00 Noon - Kiwanis "Fun Lunch" at Kristin's Bakery
- Fri, Feb 13 6:30 PM - Wautoma Kiwanis Bowling Tournament
- Tue, Feb 17 7:30 AM - Mary Smaby, Mission Trip to Cook Island
- Tue, Feb 24 8:00 AM - Board Meeting
- Tue, Mar 3 7:30 AM - Family Business Meeting
- Fri, Mar 13 Kristin's Bakery Pi Day Pie Eating Contest and fundraiser
- Sat, Mar 28 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM - Midyear Conference in Wisconsin Dells
- Sun, Apr 12 2:00 PM - Spring Concert featuring the Whiskeybelles



KIWANIS NOTES

After "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," which he co-wrote, "My Wild Irish Rose" is probably the most famous song Irish-American Chauncey Olcott churned out. The inspiration for this solo composition was revealed by his wife Margaret after his death. On a visit to his mother's homeland in 1898, a young boy gave her a flower. When she asked him what it was called he replied, "A wild Irish Rose." She put the flower in an album, and later when her husband asked her for suggestions for a song title she opened the album, pointed to it and said: "There's the title for your new song."

My Wild Irish Rose

My wild Irish Rose,
The sweetest flow'r that grows,
You may search ev'rywhere,
But none can compare
With my wild Irish Rose.



My wild Irish Rose,
The dearest flow'r that grows,
And some day for my sake,
She may let me take
The bloom from my wild Irish Rose.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Donna Hoffman Feb 2
- Diane Pinter Feb 13
- Karen West Feb 13
- Dan Arndt Feb 22
- Susan Herman Feb 27

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Who's On-Deck for Morning Snacks?

- Feb 3 **Karen West**
- Feb 17 Susan & Joe Herman
- Mar 3 John Jenks
- Mar 17 Kent Barnard
- Apr 7 Sue Zuege



DECADES OF HOLIDAY HAPPINESS -

COMMUNITY SUPPORT BOOSTS A KIWANIS CLUB'S 34-YEAR PROGRAM

By Linda Little, treasurer, Kiwanis Club of Mount Washington Valley

The Angels & Elves project began in 1991 as a grassroots holiday assistance program serving families in the Mount Washington Valley of rural northern New Hampshire, U.S. As the program grew, the Kiwanis Club of Mount Washington Valley — a club of just 52 members — assumed stewardship in 2003, providing the organizational structure needed to sustain it long-term. Today, Angels & Elves has been supporting local families for 34 years — and the 2025 holiday season was the strongest in the program's history.

Last year, Angels & Elves served 489 children. Because of an extraordinary level of community involvement, every family received a \$50 grocery gift card, and every child was fully sponsored. Children received essential items needed for a New England winter — such as coats, boots and warm clothing — along with the Christmas wishes they asked for, ensuring each child received something chosen just for them.



A Community of Helpers

While Kiwanis provides leadership and oversight, the work of Angels & Elves is carried out by a wide network of community volunteers. Some have been involved for decades, serving as team leaders and returning year after year to organize, wrap and distribute gifts.

Local businesses play a major role in making the program possible. Many sponsor children directly, run fundraisers or host dine-to-donate events. Some local retailers also offer discounts to sponsors shopping locally for children. In addition to financial support, business owners and employees regularly volunteer their time, helping sort, wrap and organize gifts during the busiest weeks of the season.

The program is strengthened by community partners who provide experiences and opportunities. Each year, the Mount Washington Valley Bicycle Club donates a few dozen bicycles, and the Conway Scenic Railroad hosts more than 400 children and their families aboard the Santa Express, allowing families to share a holiday experience together. Settlers Green, a local outlet mall, donates multiple locations each season — one serving as the operational hub for Angels & Elves and a second for Photos with Santa, a fully Kiwanis-run fundraiser that helps support the program. Because of the level of support received in 2025, Angels & Elves also was able to help other local holiday assistance efforts. Over the years, many people who first volunteered with Angels & Elves have gone on to become Kiwanis members.

FAMILY CIRCUS BIL & JEFF KEANE



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“Look, Dolly! I can see my voice.”

THINKING RIDDLES WITH ANSWERS

www.wordsofcoach.com

Riddle	Answer
What has a ring but no finger?	A bell
What has words but never speaks?	A book
What speaks without a mouth?	An echo
What has a ring but no finger?	A telephone
What has keys but can't open locks?	A piano
What has a head and a tail but no body?	A coin
What has an eye but cannot see, and cries without tears?	A cloud
What has a neck but no head, two arms but no hands?	A shirt
What can be broken but never held?	A promise
What has legs but doesn't walk?	A table

“I’ve realized that although Valentine’s Day can be a cheesy money-making stint to most people, it’s a day of expressing love across the world. It doesn’t have to only be between lovers, but by telling a friend that you care, or even an old person that they are still appreciated.”
— Reeva Steenkamp

