



*Serving the Children of the World*

## ***The Nugget***

Golden K Kiwanis Club  
Decatur, Illinois

### **Club Officers 2025-2026**

**President:** Tom McQuiston **President Elect:** Dick Virgin **Vice President:** None

**Secretary:** Lynda Durnil *Asst. Secretary: Roberta Williams*

**Treasurer:** John Baird *Asst. Treasurer: Karen Sivils*

### **Directors:**

Cheryl Boss, Joel Hawkinson, Pat Riley, Cathy Sebok, Kathy Thompson, Sally Williams

*Past President: Harold Wilkinson*

Regular Meeting each Wednesday at 9:30 A.M. at Salvation Army Reception Hall

## **February 25, 2026**

**God Bless America /Pledge of Allegiance / Kiwanis Pledge:** Ron Black

**Invocation:** Linda Rowden

**Piano:** John Baird

**Mike Runners:** Harold Dausman, Dan Sebok

**Photographer:** Joel Hawkinson

**Program:** John Baird introduced Clay Gerhard, Executive Director of Decatur Park District.

### **Senior programs & services**

- Devon Lake Shore Amphitheater generates **\$400,000/year**; park district funding is **1/3** from property taxes and **2/3** from facilities, fees, donations, and grants.
- In **2018** completed land exchange with school district: Johns Hill Park to schools and park district acquired the Soccer Complex at Stephen Decatur; senior services moved to Scovill Activity Center.

- In **2023** park district absorbed Decatur-Macon County Senior Center operations due to funding/staffing shortfalls; Decatur Transit Authority rerouted bus to Scovill front door.
- Current offerings emphasize passive recreation (cards, bingo, mahjong, crafts) and monthly dementia-friendly programming; monthly special lunches draw **120–140** attendees; federal senior definition is **55+**.
- Center functions as a one-stop service hub (Medicare Part D, DMV/assessor referrals, farmer's market coupons, bus tokens, utility assistance referrals); two full-time staff manage confidential appointments booked up to **2 months**, with capacity to add **2** additional staff.



### New Senior Center design & amenities

- Expanded services include Medicare counseling and on-site clinics for **blood pressure** and **diabetes** screenings with Decatur Memorial, Crossings, and St. Mary's; model based on Bloomington center with **2,000+ members**.
- New Scovill senior center planned at Scovill Park West replaces cart barn; current clubhouse **7,500 sq ft** → proposed facility **38,000 sq ft** (>5× larger).
- Building layout features two wings with a central service/activity corridor, automatic sliding main entrance, reception/lounge, multipurpose/banquet space with two glass overhead doors opening to outdoor area, and multiple flexible classrooms.
- Recreation amenities include indoor pickleball courts, a game room with billiards, **22-foot** shuffleboard, darts, a golf simulator, a walking track where **11.5 laps = 1 mile**, craft and card rooms, and a planned exterior artificial-turf putting green (future phase).
- Operations and service delivery plan includes expanded offices for senior navigation assistance, reserved shell space for future needs, and event rentals/weddings to offset operating expenses.

### Trails & outdoor connectivity

- Constructing a **2,000-foot** path on the back side of Scovill golf to connect to the Stevens Creek Bike Trail on conservation district property.
- Connection would add **4 miles** of existing trails and old park paths at Scovill golf to the bike network.
- Trail network increases from **~7.5 miles** to **~11.5 miles** after connection.
- Conservation district applied for and received a grant; grant process is slow, with possible implementation **this summer** in coordination with IDOT.
- Coordination is ongoing between the city and the conservation district to connect existing trails to the network.

### Funding, bids & timeline

- Received **\$2.8M** park grant from Illinois Department of Natural Resources and **\$500,000** grant secured by Senator Doris Turner.
- Issued **\$4M** in bonds; bond proceeds received; maintained **\$1M** fund balance for the center.
- Secured **\$1.5M** private donation committed over 5 years; new building estimated **\$8–\$9M** and is out for bid.
- Senior budget history: **\$14,750** (2015); **\$195,000** (2025); projected **\$396,000** (2027).

- Design approved; construction bids due **Wednesday, March 4; 5** general contractors bidding; ~**20** total contractors expected; groundbreaking expected April–May; construction timeline ~**10±1 months**; completion anticipated **Q1 2027**; staff finalizing furnishings and fundraising rollouts; requested community donations and estate-planning referrals to the foundation.

**Health Report:** Cathy Sebok – none currently

**Attendance:** Lynda Durnil

48 members    1 speaker        2 guests        51 Total

**Dick Virgin** – word of the week – pancreadroid – an alien form that invades your pancreas altering your digestive process, so it turns your food into kibbles.

3 people received prizes for their guesses

**Announcements:**

**Cathy Sebok** – March 8 is the next Careage House meal. Sign up to contribute

**Ralph Czerwinski** – gave the history of Golden K & Millikin’s Children’s Play. Tom McQuestion brought it to us 13-14 years ago. Denise Myers is creating this year’s play now. It’s a fundraiser for us. He & Tom produce it. He will be asking us for help to sell tickets & promote the play. Plan to attend!

**Susan Rayhill** – yesterday 11 volunteers served lunch at Good Samaritan Inn. There were 105 hot lunches, 32 cold lunches, & 3 children. Next date is March 24, 11-1.

- In March we will collect items for Dove’s Domestic Violence & God’s Shelter of Love.
- Mt. Zion Key Club had their dessert fundraiser last Sunday. \$500 was raised.

**Dan Sebok** – St T Key club had their dance last Sat. with 50 students. Thanked us for snacks.

**Tom McQuiston** – last Saturday was the mid-year conference in Springfield. Lots of good ideas

- Former member, Robert Louis Smith passed away February 23. Visitation is at Moran & Goebel, 3-5pm, Sat. Feb 28 & funeral mass 10 am, Monday, Mar 2, St. Patrick Church.

**Dates to Remember:**

3/8/26 Careage House Meal 6pm

3/9/26 Board meeting, Central Christian Church, 1 pm

3/24/26 Good Samaritan Inn, 11-1

3/28,29/26 Millikin “Children’s Play”

**Birthdays & Anniversaries:** Kevin Cleary

Birthdays: Dan Sebok, Joe Caputo

Anniversaries: None

\*\* Due to a directive from International we are not to publish personal information.

**Quote from Bob Hope:** Golf: I like to play in the low 70's. If it gets hotter than that, I stay in the bar!

**50-50 Drawing:** Mike Heger did not draw the Queen of Hearts. The \$34 rolls over. Get your tickets!

**Up Coming Programs:**

3/4/26 Saramanda Hall, Jim Hall, Big Brothers Big Sisters

3/11/26 Denise Myers, Millikin University

3/18/26 Kent Newton, Sanitary District of Decatur

3/25/26 Elizabeth Riddle, Meals on Wheels

**Ongoing Projects**

- Collecting Food Coupons for the military - Cheryl Boss
- Collecting clean plastic caps & lids for school benches & tables - Paula Luckenbill
- Collecting pop tops for Ronald McDonald House, Springfield - Paula Luckenbill
- Turn in hours to Karen Sivils - **itcpa96@gmail.com**, estimate #children helped
- Kiwanis clothing - Roberta Williams
- Golden K board meetings - 2nd Monday each month, 1:00 pm, Central Christian Church
- Decatur Lakeside 9/11 Memorial Flagpole and Flowers

**Wednesday Donations**

1<sup>st</sup> – Food Bank

2<sup>nd</sup> – K.N.R.F.

3<sup>rd</sup> – School Support

4<sup>th</sup> - Trauma Dolls

5<sup>th</sup> – Scholarship Fund

**Speaker ideas...if you have an idea for a Golden K speaker, please let John Baird or Mark Avery know.**

**Story for today:** Ron Black

It was the week before Valentine's Day and the young couple were out shopping. However, they had gotten separated and it was getting towards lunch time. So, the wife decided to call her husband on his cell phone.

"Where are you?" she asked?

He answered, "Remember about 10 years ago, we were in that jewelry store and I wanted to get you that really nice necklace, but we just couldn't afford it?"

At that moment, she was genuinely touched, appreciating her husband for being so thoughtful. A tear even came to her eye as she thought how special this Valentine's Day would be.

Then, the husband continued, "I'm in the gun store right next door."

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Substitute Editors: Lynda Durnil & Roberta Williams

Click to view meeting

<https://www.youtube.com/@GoldenKKiwanisofDecatur>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071723247020>