



# Kiwanis®

## KISHWAUKEE DEKALB

Volume LV, Number 5 November 19th, 2025 Editor, Joe Gastiger [www.kishkiwanis.org](http://www.kishkiwanis.org)

**LUNCH:** Chicken Parmesan, penne pasta, garlic bread, Caesar salad, cookies  
**Today's Meeting:** Led by Caroline Collins **Invocation:** Shadow Gentry

### Officers for 2025-2026

President	Caroline Collins
President Elect	Sue Doubler
Vice President	
Treasurer	Bob Hoffman
Asst. Treasurer	Al Mueller
Secretary	Ken Doubler
Asst. Secretary	Jerry Wahlstrom
Imm Past President	Mike Mooney
Lt. Governor	Jean Erlenborn
District Governor	Mary Zeronas

### Kishwaukee Kiwanis Meetings

2nd, 3rd, 4th, Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.  
Faranda's Banquet Center  
302 Grove St.  
DeKalb, IL

### K-Family Events/Meetings

Circle K Every other Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in HSC 506 or via Teams Online.

AKtion Club – 2nd Wednesday, 3:45 at Opportunity House  
357 N. California St  
Sycamore, IL

### Defining Statement

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time.

### Flag Salute

As our flag signifies purity, valor, and justice, may we as true Kiwanians exemplify these virtues as we serve the children of the world.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

As a Point of Pride, Tony Chulick noted that on Tuesday night, at NIU's last football game of the season, Jerry and Ging Smith were honored as *Golden Huskies* — alumni who've supported the university now for 50+ years.

Bill Finucane thanked all of us who brought in food — or will donate food — to the Salvation Army this Thanksgiving season. More than 700 baskets will be given out this holiday. He reminded us that **Let's Talk Turkey** on Friday hopes to bring in another two to three hundred turkeys for needy families. Donations can be delivered to the Salvation Army at 338 Grove Street in DeKalb.

Gary VanderMeer asked for a few more volunteers to ring a bell for the Salvation Army at the red kettle just inside Schnucks'. We can sign up for one-hour shifts at the grocery store, scheduled for Friday, December 6, and Saturday, December 7.

Jerry Walstrom thanked those 20-some Kiwanians who packed meals at the Feed My Starving Children event held out at Suter's in Sycamore last week. More than 20 million meals have been boxed at the facility, and have been distributed throughout the world since the program began.

Many from our club met for supper at Rosita's last Thursday after packing.

Jerry Smith, who's joined the city's ad hoc committee to celebrate our country's 250th birthday next year, urged us all to watch Ken Burns' series on PBS about the Revolutionary War.

John Smith offered a prayer for women who've stigmatized for or warned against receiving Hormone Replacement Therapy during menopause. A new book by Marty Makary, director of the FDA, refutes claims that therapeutic drugs multiply the risk of breast cancer. It's titled *Blind Spots: When Medicine Gets It Wrong: Hormone Replacement Therapy*

### PROGRAM

Jim Barker introduced DeKalb Township Supervisor Mary Hess along with Craig Smith, our Township Highway Commissioner. Together, they outlined some of the many services offered by our local government.



DeKalb Township is one of 19 in the county funded by property taxes, and has an annual budget of about \$900,000. The township provides free library cards for low-income families living outside the district, has notaries on staff that can certify documents, host computers that the public can use, and printing services, too. The township collects eyeglasses and hearing aids that are distributed around the globe through Lions Clubs, helps people fill out File of Life cards, and gives out Knox boxes to seniors who live alone so that, in an emergency, firefighters can come in without knocking down the door. Childhood ID kits are also compiled by the township.

The township sponsors many public events and training sessions throughout the year, such as a 16-point car check offered by students getting certified to repair cars at Kishwaukee College in Malta. People can exchange their old transponders for I-Pass stickers at the township office, or dispose of confidential documents at a *shredding* drop-off at the YMCA.

Recently, the township won a statewide award for the most innovative senior event of the year — designed to keep vulnerable people for being targeted by scammers.

You can drop off your old tires with the township, or sign up for job coaching. *Passion Pursuit* pairs jobseekers with counselors again, and DeKalb posts *help wanted* notices every Wednesday on its web site.

DeKalb Township provides funding for local youth programs, and general financial assistance for people who have been turned away elsewhere or are waiting for paperwork to come through. This includes money for rent, transportation, clothing, medication, and sometimes laundry.

The township owns and operates two cemeteries, one of which — Oakwood — is still open, and slated to expand with a new columbarium going up next spring, and designated pathways for scattering ashes.

Commissioner Craig Smith told us that Illinois is the only state in the U.S. to elect an official to take care of roads. Here in DeKalb, his crew of three clears thirty miles of rural roads during winter storms. Township workers are cautious about just how much and what kind of salt mixtures they use: too much can poison the soil, and Smith mentioned that 60% of the acreage in DeKalb is actually dedicated to organic farming. Today, a new product developed in Hungary spikes the effectiveness of salts spilled on rural roads. The township used to, on average, purchase about 800,000 tons of road salt every year. Thanks to improvements, that's been cut in half.

### **Thought for the day**

(via Bob Hoffman)

*“Inspiration lights the fire. Discipline keeps it burning.”*

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS: (*Why not invite a guest?* – that could mean a prospective member!)**

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November 26: Member Interviews!

December 3: Board Meeting

December 10: Tom Mataya-Opportunity House

December 17: Steve Lundin-DHS Band

December 24: No meeting

December 31: No meeting

#### **2026**

January 7: Board Meeting

January 14: TBD

January 21: Service Project TBD

January 28: Dan Templin, DeKalb Community Fund

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 33
	Zoom:
	Guests:
	Outside Speaker: Township Supervisor Mary Hess and Craig Smith, Township Highway Commissioner
	<b>Total 35</b>