



LUNCH: Pulled pork, chicken fajitas, onions and peppers, black beans, rice, tortillas, chips, and cookies
Today's Meeting: Led by President Mike Mooney **Invocation:** Jerry Smith recited "A Prayer for Veterans"

Officers for 2024-2025

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

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:

Gary Vander Meer again thanked this month's Meals on Wheels volunteers, and reminded us that the Community Service Committee will meet today after lunch.

Bill Finucane noted that Biking with Beanie is six weeks away. The Beanie Committee will be meeting at the Junction on June 2 at 6:00 PM to work out some details. He'll be passing round sign-up sheets for Beanie workers at our board meeting next week. [Biking with Beanie](#)

Jerry Wahlstrom pointed out we've agreed to help out with this summer's Fun Jam in the Park on two Tuesday evenings — June 17 and July 8 — from 5:00, until 7:00 PM. We've been asked to help serve food, interact with kids, and help supervise games. Jerry hopes to recruit 8–10 volunteers. Jan Byrnes offered a brief testimony about how enjoyable last year's sessions were.

Tim Dunlop noted that Music at the Mansion concerts start up again at the Elwood house on June 11, with Flat Cat. The warm-up act begins at 6:30; the headliner at 7:00. [Music at the Mansion — Ellwood House Museum](#)

They'll be an estate sale at Jack Goodrich's homestead at 1440 East Lincoln Highway, Friday, May 30, from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM, and on Saturday, June 1, from 11:00 until 3:00. There'll be plenty of furniture, antiques, household goods, games, books, tools, and indoor and outdoor decorations up for sale.

PROGRAM

Jerry Smith introduced today's speaker: City Manager Bill Nicklas. Bill first came to DeKalb from western Pennsylvania in 1970 to start graduate school at NIU in History. He spent his first night here at the Rice Hotel (now the Monat Building), after having a beer at the Shamrock. Since that summer night, he's never left.

Bill insists it's the people — not the papers, or the contracts that land on his desk every day, that have kept him here.

He began his second stint as DeKalb City Manager in January 2019. Ever since, he has focused on creating a more vibrant downtown, attracting more high-paying companies to the area, and trying to foster a more inclusive sense

of community — one that incorporates the voices of those who've been marginalized, and are still struggling to get by.

Bill highlighted a number of important changes he's helped to bring about since returning to office six years ago. When he began, property taxes were levied at 11.5% — more than twice as high as in nearby St. Charles. Thanks to an inflow of new businesses (Meta, Ferrara, and Kraft-Heinz among others) that rate has dropped considerably.

We've seen a great increase in net community wealth, from an estimated 500 million dollars just a few years ago to about 1.4 billion dollars today. Two hundred forty-four millions has been spent here on construction in the past year.

Three dozen permits for new houses have been approved so far this year, compared to 6 or 7 in all of 2024.

New data centers, such as the vast campus erected by Meta, require vast amounts of energy and water. Bill said the city is currently negotiating with Com Ed to build a new power station out on the south edge of town.

In the future, perhaps we'll see new food processing plants coming to DeKalb. Kraft-Heinz will finally open in late 2026.

Thought for the day
(offered by Bob Hoffman)

“If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving is really not for you.”
- *A former skydiver*

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

- May 28: Bill Nicklas
- June 4: Board Meeting
- June 11: Kirk Lundbeck - DeKalb Municipal Band
- June 18: TBD
- June 25: Biking with Beanie

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 30
	Zoom: Jim Spencer, Virginia Naples, Misty Hadji-Sheikh, Bill Cummings
	Guests:
	Outside Speaker: Bill Nicklas
	Total 35