



Kiwaniis®

KISHWAUKEE DEKALB

Volume LV, Number 31 August 12th, 2026 Editor, Joe Gastiger www.kishkiwanis.org

LUNCH: Tortellini and pesto sauce; grilled chicken, salad, rolls and butter; cookies

Today's Meeting: Led by Caroline Collins **Invocation:** Joe Gastiger

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 Wednesday at
4:30 p.m. in HSC 506
(usually 1st and 3rd
Wednesday)

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 asked for volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels in September, and passed around sign up sheets. Next month, we're slated to cover the routes on Mondays and Fridays — with the exception of Labor Day. Ordinarily, we recruit teams of two — one to drive, one to help navigate — and meet out on Bethany Road in Sycamore, at 10:30 AM.

Gary also appealed to members to stop by and pick up boxes of peanuts — they're stacked up at his house right now. Our Peanut Day foray out in traffic is set for the second weekend in September

Toney Xidis announced that the Beanzie Committee will meet tomorrow, Thursday, August 13, at Faranda's to discuss the future of our long-running summer Beanzie ride. The Committee will present its recommendations to the club next Wednesday at lunchtime.

Ellingworth Webb reported on the Kiwanis Convention he attended, along with Bob Hadley, and passed out samples of letters he'd like us each to send out to ten friends and neighbors. The letter invites those folks to attend one of our meetings, and may be one of the best ways that we can boost our membership.

PROGRAM

Today, Jim Barker introduced Steve Braser, the mayor of Sycamore, who spoke about the challenges and notable successes of his efforts to bring new businesses and housing construction to our sister city.

Steve grew up here, went off to college, then came home to manage his family business — Downtown Shoes — on Main Street in Sycamore. After earning his MBA at NIU, Steve took a job at Resource Bank, where's he's been working for the past seventeen years.

Steve Braser has served as mayor since 2021, and was reelected last May — running unopposed. Before that he served 12 years as a Sycamore alderman. During his term, a few developments seem particularly significant:

A new \$10.5 million Fire Station No. 1 is now up and running. The city broke ground in May 2025 on South Prairie Drive, on 6.28 acres donated by IDEAL Industries. The new facility is intended to provide substantially better quarters and improve emergency-response capability.

Water and infrastructure have received substantial attention. After the city's troubled water situation and the \$6 million class-action settlement in 2023, Sycamore completed its citywide water-service-line inventory and its city-funded lead-service-line

replacement program in 2024. The city's five-year capital plan also calls for more than \$21 million in water-system investments, including \$9.2 million in water-main work.

Commercial development is gradually moving south and north along the Route 23/64 corridors. A new McDonald's opened at Route 23 and Plank Road in September 2025, representing an investment of more than \$3.6 million. The city is also considering additional commercial and residential development around Plank Road and other newly annexed areas.

There is a significant amount of development in the pipeline. Land annexed at Coltonville Road and Electric Park Drive is being considered for a mixture of commercial and residential development. Another proposal in northern Sycamore would add housing and commercial space.

Economic-development prospects are beginning to broaden beyond retail. In May 2026, city and county economic-development officials announced Project Balsam, a potential \$6.5 million manufacturing investment that could create about 20 jobs. Another manufacturer was reportedly considering Sycamore for a facility with roughly 60 jobs.

There is also a proposed Olive Garden at Route 23 and Gateway Drive, across from Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital.

At the same time, Sycamore is consciously trying to protect the character of its historic downtown. Its Downtown & Gateway Improvement Program offers matching grants for exterior restoration and rehabilitation, with the stated goal of encouraging economic vitality without sacrificing the city's architectural character.

The great challenge ahead, Steve says, will be to turn the former Kindred Care complex into a much-needed, long-term care facility — a project that must be approved by regulatory authorities.

Need a ride to Kiwanis?

Several Kiwanis members have volunteered to give a ride to our meetings if needed.
(Please give them a couple of day's notice if possible.)

Bob Gilmore 815-764-9010 Kathie Davis 815-751-9085 Bob Hadley 815-739-8869
Bob Hoffman 815-742-3765 Jerry Smith 815-751-6265

Thought for the day
Courtesy of Bob Hoffman

"Patience is not about how long you wait. It's about how well you behave while waiting."

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

August 26: Harlan Hawkins, Union Soldier Cemetery

Sept. 2: Board Meeting

Sept 9: TBD

Sept 16: TBD

Sept 23: No meeting due to Faranda's unavailability

Sept 30: Officer installation. OFF SITE!

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 27
	Guests: Jean Ehrlenborn, Lieutenant Governor
	Outside Speakers: Steve Brazer, Sycamore mayor
	Total 29