



Kiwaniis[®]

GRAND RAPIDS



<http://www.kiwanisgrandrapids.org>

September 2024

Dan Williams, President
Linda Paige, Secretary
Sarah Pastoor, Treasurer
Linda Paige, Editor

Future Programs/Events

October 8 Regular Meeting
October 8 Board Meeting
October 15 Regular Meeting
October 22 Regular Meeting
October 24 & 25 Terrific kids
October 29 Tommy Doles International Needs
November 5 Regular Meeting



PROGRAMS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

Dan Carlson spoke about [It's Gotta Be The Shoes](#). They started in 2020 and give out new shoes to kids from 4th-8th grade. Every child receive shoes in their size and they work with local stores to get quality shoes.



A spark of **inspiration**.
An unforgettable **experience**.
And a brand new pair of shoes.



The Mission

It's Gotta Be The Shoes' mission is to connect with 4th – 8th grade boys and girls to help them create transformative acts and habits of their own.

THE NUMBERS TELL THE STORY

75% REPORT INCREASED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	87% REPORT INCREASED SELF-ESTEEM	62% REPORT IMPROVED BEHAVIOR
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"The kid in me wants other kids to experience the feeling of a brand new pair of shoes. The parent in me wants to make sure that kids that really need new shoes get that opportunity.

It's for these reasons It's Gotta Be The Shoes was born."

Don Carlson, Co-Founder of It's Gotta Be The Shoes

www.itstheshoes.org
It's Gotta Be the Shoes is a 501(c)(3) and does not receive government funding.

The club meets every **Tuesday** from 11:30AM to 12:30PM.
Shots on the River
5760 W River Dr NE,
Belmont, MI 49306
616-951-6071
Always remember—
#KidsNeedKiwaniis

As we move toward Election Day, our Lt. Governor Mike Martin gave part one of a two part talk on our U.S. Presidents. This is very fast and he gave just a few key and memorable points about each of them. We all learned something new.



Club Contact Information
KiwaniisGrandRapids@gmail.com

Noorthoek Big Step Walk

Pat Newcombe participated in the [Noorthoek Academy](#) Big Step Walk. The Kiwanis Aktion Club members are part of the Noorthoek Academy. This fundraiser brings in money to support the academy, which provides an affordable college experience, offering continuing education in the arts and sciences for adults with learning challenges and other intellectual disabilities in partnership with Grand Rapids Community College.



The primary purpose of this club is to improve the quality of life for children and families worldwide by adhering to the Objects of Kiwanis International. The objectives were approved in 1924 and through the decades, they have remained unchanged.

- To give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than to the material values of life.
- To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
- To promote the adoption and application of higher social, business, and professional standards.
- To develop, by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive, and serviceable citizenship.
- To provide, through Kiwanis clubs, a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities.
- To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill.

MORE PROGRAMS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED



was a B-17 Navigator during WWII.

Pete Saiterwaite from the Golden K was introduced by John LaPorte to talk about the dictionary project. Golden K provides every 3rd grader in Grand Rapids Public School with a new Dictionary. This year they will have an insert in each dictionary highlighting one of their members, John Pylman. John will be 100 years old in November and he

Crew of the Buckeye Belle (6 April 1945, target: Ingolstadt (Chernawo Depot) Back, Lt. 2nd Lt. John Pylman (N), 1st Lt. William Cavanaugh(N), Maj. Edgar Uhry (ACCP), Lt. Frederick Blomcoe(N) (did not fly mission), 1st Lt. William "Doc" Frazer, Jr. (N) Front L-R: P/O William O'Leary (CBS/TSJ), P/O Charles Vickers (TT), 1SGT. Thomas Benson (PIC), 1st Lt. Jack K. Smith (P)
Aircraft: B-17G 5488 BS

MISSION	DATE	TIME	TYPE	STATUS	REMARKS
1	4/6/45	19:00	B-17G	OK	Target: Ingolstadt (Chernawo Depot) Back, Lt. 2nd Lt. John Pylman (N), 1st Lt. William Cavanaugh(N), Maj. Edgar Uhry (ACCP), Lt. Frederick Blomcoe(N) (did not fly mission), 1st Lt. William "Doc" Frazer, Jr. (N) Front L-R: P/O William O'Leary (CBS/TSJ), P/O Charles Vickers (TT), 1SGT. Thomas Benson (PIC), 1st Lt. Jack K. Smith (P) Aircraft: B-17G 5488 BS

Kiwanians are there for Grand Rapids' 3rd Graders

Our Sponsors:
Golden K Kiwanis of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids North Kiwanis
GVSU Circle K Club

Golden K Kiwanis Dictionary Project Person
Peter L. Satterthwaite
1410 Woodlawn Ave. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
616-957-1916

18th Annual Dictionary Project for Grand Rapids Public Schools

Dedicated to the Veterans of World War II
In honor of the upcoming 80th anniversary of the end of WWII on September 2, 1945.

There are heroes who walk amongst us in Grand Rapids. This is the story of a World War II veteran, John H. Pylman, who celebrates his 100th birthday in November 2024.

8-17s of the 384th Bomb Group, flying out of Grafton Underwood, England, on a bombing run. Photo from USAF - National Archives, AUSA Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB Alabama.

Photo of B-17 aerial navigator John H. Pylman and Orin "Buddy" L. Fern's Crew taken at Gander Lake, Newfoundland. John is shown standing, second from the right.

John's WWII Story

John Henry Pylman joined the United States Army Air Force on July 17, 1943, as an Air Force Cadet. He completed six weeks of Basic Training, ten weeks of College Training, nine and half months of Navigation School and three and half months of Combat Crew training. 2LT Pylman was assigned to the 8th Air Force as an Aerial Navigator. His B-17 crew flew from Savannah, Ga., on December 15, 1944, then traveled to Bangor, Maine, and Gander, Newfoundland, where the crew stopped for two weeks because of bad weather over the North Atlantic.

They flew 12½ hours to RAF Valley, Wales. John, with only a single night flight together with this crew, a short 2½-hour trip to Tennessee, used his knowledge to get fixes on the stars and the trip was uneventful. The crew stopped at barracks with no heat after coming in around midnight to temperatures below freezing from the longest trip they had been on at that point. In order to stay warm that night they took some airplane fuel and made themselves a fire.

The crew arrived in England on January 4, 1945. They were assigned to RAF Grafton Underwood, Station 108, for the next six months as part of the VIII Air Wing, 384th Bombardment Group. They were in the air quickly after arrival with a "training mission" as it was called that took them into combat, where they dropped bombs on their target, a tank and submarine engine factory in Friedrichshafen, Germany. Under a lot of flak from the Germans' anti-aircraft artillery, their plane returned home safely but with about a hundred holes. The bombers would go out in groups of 12, after the mission briefings that provided maps and the targets and any information that would aid in a safe return. Fully armed, the B-17 would only be able to fly under 200 mph. P-51 fighter planes assigned to protect the bombers could fly 400 mph and were the biggest help to their safety. In the event, that their planes needed to leave the formation group, the P-51 would escort it. Mission durations increased from 8 to 10 hours as the targets went deeper into Germany. Between January and June 1945, the combat crew flew 22 missions over Germany. They aided the Allied assault across the Rhine in March 1945 by attacking marshaling yards, railway junctions, and bridges to cut off enemy supplies. The 384th dropped their last bombs on April 25, 1945.

John was awarded the Air Medal with two clusters for his service. It was a partial tour (25 missions were required to come home) due to the war's end in Europe. The flight crews were confined to base for 3 days following VE-Day to avoid any trouble during the celebrations. So the crews drank and played cards in their barracks. Afterward, they were given three days of leave and went into town together to celebrate.

The B-17 was stripped of all armaments to make it lighter and increase its speed by 20 mph so they could be used as transports. John was transferred to Istres, France AFB for "Occupation of Europe Duty" until June 1946. The 384th carried American soldiers to Casablanca for return to the U.S., returned soldiers to their homeland, and moved Allied troops to Germany. John was honorably discharged from service in the USAAF in July 1946 after being promoted to 1LT.

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We are on the web: kiwanisgrandrapids.org
Facebook:: [Kiwanis Grand Rapids North](https://www.facebook.com/KiwanisGrandRapidsNorth)
Twitter: [kiwanisgr](https://twitter.com/kiwanisgr)

CLUB SERVICE RECAP

Terrific Kids

Hours Total — 8

Members Involved — 8

Children Served — 50

Creston Neighborhood Gardens

Hours Total — 7

Members Involved — 1

Employment Coaching

Hours Total — 2

Members Involved — 1

Noorthoek Academy Big Step Walk

Hours Total — 16

Members Involved — 1

SLP Members—7

Children served—50

Tutoring at Palmer

Hours Total — 3

Members Involved — 3

Children served — 6

First Tee

Hours Total — 8

Members involved — 2

Children served — 24

Key Club Mentoring

Hours Total — 1

Members involved — 1

Children served — 4

MORE PROGRAMS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED



Our Lt. Governor Mike Martin, gave part two on his talk about our U.S. Presidents. This is very fast and he gave just a few key and memorable points about each of them. We all learned something new, like President Grant receiving a speeding ticket in his horse drawn carriage.

“QUOTABLE NOTABLES”

“If not us, then who? If not now, then when?” - John E. Lewis

“We cannot build our own future without helping others to build theirs.” - William J. Clinton

“We the People are the rightful masters of both Congress and the Courts - not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution.” - Abraham Lincoln

“Efforts and courage are not enough without purpose and direction.” - John F. Kennedy

October



03 Wes Roth

22 Ormal Saathoff

28 Jerry Swett

Kiwanis Trivia

Kiwanis was created by a professional organizer named Allen Simpson Browne. His original concept was an organization whose members did business with each other. However, the Detroit club had been organized only a few weeks when the members began their first service project. During the next five years, Kiwanians would debate the basic purpose of the organization: mutual business exchange or community service.