



Kiwaniis[®]

GRAND RAPIDS



<http://www.kiwanisgrandrapids.org>

January 2026

ROSE PARADE HAPPY TOGETHER

Brenda Eller, President
Linda Paige, Secretary
Sarah Pastoor, Treasurer
Linda Paige, Editor

Future Programs/Events

February 3 Kristy Blackmore Paws with a Cause
February 10 Sr. Adriana Gazzera Consolata Missionary School in Djibouti
February 10 Board Meeting
February 17 Nicolette Chambery GRCM
February 26 & 27 Terrific kids



Making its 44th Rose Parade appearance, Kiwanis International had a quartet of hippos — a mama and her three youngsters — enjoying their time at a watering hole. They were decorated with light- and dark-grey light lettuce seed, and pink and white fine-cut strawflower; the freckles are dark grey lettuce seed, and the eyes are black beans and white navy beans. The submerged hippos spun and bobbed, while the other baby hippo on land tilted.

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

February



20 Ron Karelse

26 Cheryl and Bill Weitzel



Club Contact Information
KiwaniisGrandRapids@gmail.com

PROGRAMS YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

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.

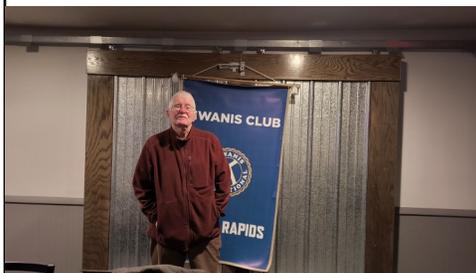
- To give primacy to the human and spiritual, rather than to the material values of life.
- To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships.
- To promote the adoption and application of higher social, business, and professional standards.
- To develop, by precept and example, 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.



To start the year, we had Megan Erskine from [Catherine's Health Center](#) in to give us an update on their organization. The center will celebrate their 30 year anniversary this year.

They began as a volunteer-run clinic in the Creston neighborhood. They have expanded to provide medical, dental, and behavioral health care at several locations. Recently they added a mobile health van to serve the homeless community.

Members from the Forest Hills Northern Key Club attended our meeting. They typically have 30-50 members attend each meeting. They gave us an update on their activities and plans to attend the Service Leadership Conference. They have 24 members interested in attending and are looking for assistance in paying for the required number of chaperones.



Steve Soper is an author and historian. He spoke about the unknown Civil War soldiers buried in Michigan. Acquiring and maintaining lists dating back to the Civil War is a tremendous challenge. In the United States, more

than 117,000 unknown soldiers in cemeteries. In Michigan there are at least 78. There are even two soldiers traveling on a train who died and were buried in Battle Creek.

We are on the web: kiwanisgrandrapids.org
Facebook:: [Kiwanis Grand Rapids North](#)
Twitter: [kiwanisgr](#)

CLUB SERVICE RECAP

Employment Coaching

Hours Total — 1

Members Involved — 1

Tutoring at Palmer

Hours Total — 1

Members Involved — 1

Forest Hills Northern Key Club

Hours Total — 2

Members Involved — 2

“QUOTABLE NOTABLES”

“The Unknown Soldier fights not for glory, but for the greater good” – The Unknown Soldier

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless.” – Sherry Anderson

KIWANIS DAY OF GIVING

The fourth Kiwanis Day of Giving will be on February 25! With our fundraising goal of US\$125,000, we’ll reach 55,000 kids.

Learn more about how you can get involved — and let people know what’s possible when they give! [#KidsNeedKiwanis](#)

kiwanis.org/dayofgiving

Money Donated

Key Club SCL Sponsor

\$500

Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Champions of Faith

Breakfast

\$500



Kiwanis Trivia

The creation of a Kiwanis International Foundation was proposed in 1937 by International President F. Trafford Taylor. The foundation was publicly launched at Kiwanis International’s 25th anniversary celebration in Detroit in 1940. Walter Zeller, past governor of the Ontario-Quebec-Maritime District, initiated the foundation’s funds by donating 25 U.S. silver dollars. These were used to decorate the anniversary cake, slices of which were auctioned for a total of US\$625.

POPULAR MOVIES AND TV SHOWS THAT HAVE NAME-CHECKED KIWANIS AND KEY CLUB OVER THE YEARS.

Kiwanis International has been serving the children of the world for over a century — and in that time, it has permeated popular culture as well. In movies, TV and written fiction, the presence of a Kiwanis club succinctly tells the audience that the setting is a community that helps out its less fortunate members. Characters might say they are Kiwanians to indicate a dedication to service or a thriving social life. Or they might mention an affiliation with Key Club to indicate that they are high achievers involved in their schools and communities.

Part one of the series is in the [February 2025](#) edition of the newsletter. There numerous mentions and more keep popping up. Watch the monthly newsletter for more.

“WKRP in Cincinnati” (1980)



Arthur Carlson (Gordon Jump), general manager of the WKRP radio station in Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S., is a proud member of the **Kiwanis Club of Cincinnati**. In season two, episode eight, one of the possible dates he names for his new baby’s conception is, “Tuesday night after the **Kiwanis dance**,” telling his wife, Carmen (Allyn Ann McLerie), that she looked beautiful in her blue dress.

However, the two-part story spanning episodes 21 and 22 of season two is a prime example of why every Kiwanis club should carefully vet the partners it works with on events. Carlson is chairman of his club’s “Surf City”-themed fashion show and bazaar, which will raise funds for a local “children’s home.” He hires an outside photographer to take pictures of station employees Jennifer Marlowe (Loni Anderson) and Andy Travis (Gary Sandy) for the event poster, but the photographer retains embarrassing pictures of Jennifer. Carlson is proud of his identity as a law-abiding Kiwanian, but he breaks into the photographer’s studio and attempts to steal the photos. The WKRP staff eventually gets the pictures through a series of hijinks — and extorts an extra US\$500 from the photographer. Happy ending: They donate the money to the [Kiwanis Children’s Fund](#).

Viewers might note that Carlson refers to Kiwanis as “an all-men’s organization” at the beginning of season two, episode 21. Kiwanis began to admit women as members in 1987 — seven years after the episode aired!