



Kiwanis® CLUB OF EASTON

May Klatter 2026

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Easton Kiwanians,

“Improving the world one child and one community at a time.”

These are words Kiwanians live by. In May, the Kiwanis Club of Easton has certainly been working again to achieve this goal. Our emphasis on helping children and the community was evident throughout the month.

We awarded two Charles and Sandra Adams Scholarships for \$1500 each to two deserving students from the Caree Institute of Technology. We congratulate Cooper Lamas and Christian ThorStraten. Great to meet your moms.! Thanks, Jennifer Russ, CIT School Counselor.

Our K-Kids in Shawnee and St. Jane's are strong as is the Nazaeth Area High School Key Club. The Kiwanis Club of Easton is very proud of them all.

Who better to honor this month than the teachers we work closely with at St. Jane's and Shawnee Schools, Nazareth Area High School, YMCA Forks Early Learning Center and CIT. Bill Walters, thanks for the heartfelt message you made for the teachers' thank-you notes.

Foundation Grants were also awarded in May. Dr. Ken Wildrick awarded 5 grants from our Foundation totaling \$18,000 to local organizations making an impact on youth in our area.

It was an honor for me to welcome members of the Easton Police Force, Detective Miller's family, friends, dignitaries, club members and our guest of honor, Detective Christopher Miller, to our Police Officer of the Year Award Ceremony. Listening to all that Detective Miller has done for children and the community over his 29-year career in the Easton Police Force was truly inspirational. Thanks to Walt Howell, Awards Committee Chairperson, and the Awards Committee for organizing this event. Thanks to Unity Bank, as well.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the loss of a beloved Easton Kiwanian, Victor Dennis, who passed on May 4th. He joined Kiwanis in 1978 and served in many different capacities. I am relatively new to Kiwanis but I remember Vic fondly with his great smile and with always a warm welcome. Our deepest sympathy to Vic's Family.

As we go forward, summer will be busy. Tickets for our Super Raffle are SOLD OUT. 50/50s still available. Thanks, Rosemary Kocher and Scott Fisher, for chairing this important fundraiser.

Safe travels to our PA Kiwanis Governor Elect, Janet Owen, and James Owen as you travel to Manilla for the Kiwanis International Convention. We look forward to hearing all about it when you return. Easton Kiwanians, be sure to register for the District Convention in August. Information is in the newsletter.

Thanks so much, Easton Kiwanians. I will close for now in Kiwanis Service. With gratitude always. Thanks, Bill, great job with the newsletter!

Sue

May 4th – We start with a somber note on the death of a long-time member...



Easton Kiwanian Victor Frank Dennis passed away on May 4th at Moravian Hall Square where he has been a resident since 2019. Vic was born in 1929 in Honesdale, PA and joined Easton Kiwanis in 1978. Vic was a Navy man and then began working for Met-Ed (now First Energy). He was a Past President and Past Lt. Governor along with being honored with Life Membership in Kiwanis International. He was honored with the *Easton Kiwanis Club Vic Dennis Day* on February 15, 2025 at his residence at Moravian Hall Square in Nazareth, PA. [That short video is available by clicking here.](#) His obituary is available [by clicking here.](#)



May 6th --- C.I.T. Scholarships...

Our Meeting today was at SURV Restaurant. Sue Gallagher opened the meeting. Members said the Pledge of Allegiance and sang God Bless America. Ken Wildrick shared Words of Wisdom on Success. Success can be achieved by small efforts and courage matters.

Sue Gallagher introduced our guests, Career Institute of Technology (CIT) recipients of the Charles and Sandra Adams Scholarships, Cooper Lamas with his mom, Jenna, and Christian ThorStraten with his mom, Rachel. Jennifer Russ, CIT School Counselor, was also in attendance.

Two of our members, Skip Fairchild and Neil Gallagher, had May birthdays so we sang “Happy Birthday” to both.

Walter Howell, Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee, then proceeded to present the scholarships. Cooper Lamas was the first recipient. He will be attending Pennsylvania College of Technology in the fall studying for a Bachelor of Science Degree in Residential Construction Management with Associate Degrees in Building Construction Technology and Concrete Science. He was inspired by his grandfather who was a carpenter to pursue a career in these areas. He has shown leadership skills both in the classroom and on the swim team.

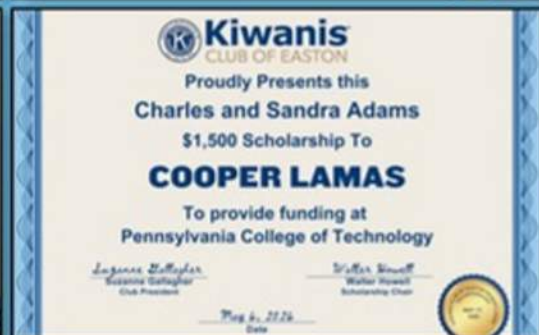
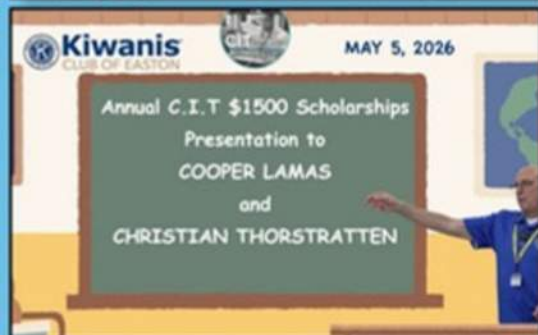
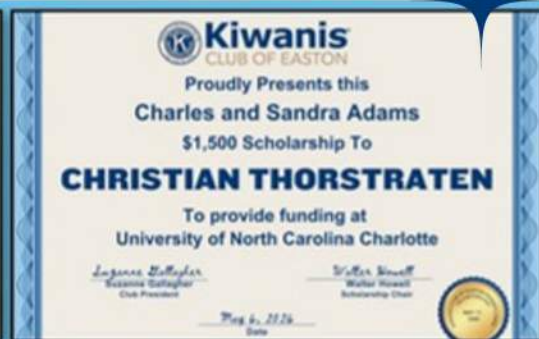
Christian ThorStaten will be attending the University of Northern Carolina Charlotte. He will be studying Auto Technology and Mechanical Engineering. He has worked with students at Paxinosa Elementary School explaining to them the basics of what he does in welding class and helping the students develop welding skills.

Both of these young men have been exemplary in their fields of study at CIT. Jenn Russ said that both are natural leaders and positive role models.

Jennifer Russ has been a school counselor for over 24 years and has worked with Walt Howell on Kiwanis Scholarships for CIT students. She said that there has been an increase of students over the past two years at CIT and with an enrollment of 930 students for the 2026- 2027 school year. There will also be the addition of a welding lab and plumbing program. Students at CIT are taught both technical and professional skills.

Thank you, Jennifer Russ, for all that you do. The Kiwanis Club of Easton appreciates your dedication to the students at Career Institute of Technology. PA Kiwanis Gov-Elect Janet Owen presented Jenn a beautiful plant for her many years of working at CIT and with Easton Kiwanis on scholarships.

Congratulation to Cooper and Christian as they start their future studies. The Kiwanis Club of Easton wishes you both all of the best! The 21min meeting video is available on our [YouTube Link CLICK HERE.](#)



May 7th St Janes K-Kids...

This afternoon 17 St. Jane's K-Kids met and were informed of the activity for today by their Faculty Advisor, Christi Johnstone. Three Easton Kiwanians: Cathi White, Mary Beth Okula, and Walt assisted in the activity. The project for today was to plant flowers in the flower beds in front of the elementary and middle schools. Prior to the members leaving the meeting room with the trays of plants, Walt presented Miss Johnstone with a Thank You card and a gift card from our Easton Kiwanis Club in recognition of Teacher Appreciation week. Once all the plants were set in the flower beds the members gathered to have snacks prior to leaving for the day.

Reported by Walt Howell



The Kiwanis Club of Easton proudly honored Detective Christopher Miller as the 2025 Easton Police Officer of the Year, recognizing his exceptional service, professionalism, and unwavering dedication to the Easton community. Established in 1981, this prestigious annual award celebrates members of the Easton Police Department who exemplify excellence in law enforcement and public service.

The award ceremony was held at the Pomfret Club in Easton, Pennsylvania, where Detective Miller was joined by colleagues, community leaders, and public officials. Attendees included State Representatives Robert Freeman and Joe Emrick; Northampton County District Attorney Stephen Baratta; Magisterial District Judge Robert Weber; Mayor Salvatore Panto Jr.; Easton City Council Members Frank Graziano, Frank Pintabone, Crystal Rose, and Julie Zando-Dennis; as well as members of the Kiwanis Club of Easton.

While the Kiwanis Club sponsors the award, recipients are selected by their fellow officers within the Easton Police Department, making the honor especially meaningful as a reflection of peer respect and admiration.

Detective Miller was recommended for this recognition by his colleagues and found highly deserving based on his outstanding contributions throughout a distinguished 29-year career with the Easton Police Department. Since joining the department in 1997, he has served with professionalism and commitment across multiple specialized roles, including K-9 Handler, Field Training Officer, Crisis Negotiator, and Criminal Investigator within the Criminal Investigation Division.

Over the course of his career, Detective Miller has led and assisted in hundreds of major investigations, including homicides, shootings, sexual assaults, and crimes against children. His extensive expertise in child abuse and sex-crime investigations has resulted in successful prosecutions, complex extraditions, and justice for some of the community's most vulnerable victims. His work includes more than 360 Child Welfare investigations and over 120 ChildLine reports, along with a significant record of arrests and case closures demonstrating his diligence and investigative skill. As a member of the Crisis Negotiations Team, Detective Miller has played a critical role in resolving high-risk incidents involving barricaded subjects, armed individuals, and those in crisis. His calm demeanor, leadership, and negotiation expertise have contributed to peaceful resolutions in situations that posed danger to both the public and responding officers.

His career is further distinguished by 41 Unit Citations, numerous commendations for merit and bravery, and repeated recognition for excellence in criminal investigations. During his tenure in the K-9 Unit, he conducted successful tracks, facilitated major narcotics seizures, and participated in lifesaving searches for missing and endangered individuals.

Since its inception in 1981, the Easton Police Officer of the Year Award has recognized those who go above and beyond the call of duty. The 2025 award continues the Kiwanis Club's long-standing commitment to honoring excellence in public safety and community service.

For his outstanding service and dedication, Detective Christopher Miller is hereby recognized as the 2025 Easton Police Officer of the Year. The award was formally issued on May 13, 2026, by Chief Carl Scalzo of the Easton Police Department.

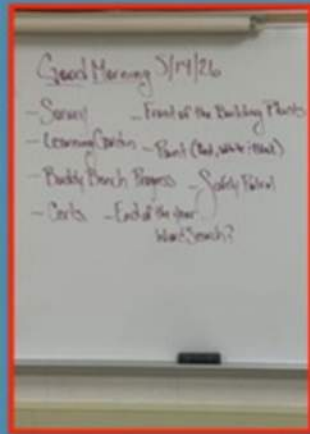
Story written by club member and Easton Councilwoman Crystal Rose.

The award ceremony is on the Easton Kiwanis YouTube channel, [click here](#). Photos below, page 5.



May 14th – Shawnee K-Kids..

This morning the Shawnee K-Kids met for the final time this semester. The 31 K-Kids referred to the white board for the activities he hopes to accomplish today and they were given a review of this semester's activities by Faculty Advisor, Givon Ellison. There were changes made to the bus duty assignments amongst the K-Kids and Mr. Ellison informed the members they would be repairing and painting the Buddy Bench on the school property before the end of the semester. The members used their iPads to complete the Kiwanis International K-Kids survey as the main objective for the session today. Chris Paltz and I were present this morning and before the session ended, I presented Mr. Ellison the Thank You card and gift card from our Kiwanis Club of Easton. Mr. Ellison then handed each K-Kid their membership certificate and a group photo was taken before the members headed to their classes. Mr. Ellison confirmed that he would serve as the advisor of the K-Kids next school year. *Respectfully, Walt*



The May 20th meeting was held at SURV Restaurant. Sue Gallagher opened the meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and God Bless America was sung. Ken Wildrick shared Words of Inspiration on kindness.

Sue Gallagher introduced the recipients of the 2026 Foundation Grants. Charles Chase from the Kiwanis Club of Allentown Northeast was on zoom.

Election of Club Officers 2026-2027 - with Neil Gallagher presiding. The results were:

- | | |
|--|--|
| President – Sue Gallagher | Immediate Past President – Scott Fisher |
| Vice President – Cathi White | Secretary – Marybeth Okula |
| Assistant Secretary – Rosemary Kocher | Treasurer – Rosemary Kocher |
| Manager of Special Projects – Bill Walters | |
| Needed – President Elect | |
| Directors (2-year terms): | Kathi Presto Crystal Rose Bill Walters |
| Directors Not Up for Reelection: | Kathy Heller Chris Paltz Joanne Cappelanno |

Thanks to retiring board member, Neil Gallagher, who has served on the Board for many years. We appreciate your service. Thanks to all who volunteered for the Board for the upcoming year. Your leadership and service are much appreciated.

Election of Officers of the Foundation – with Kathy Presto presiding.

The following members were reelected:

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| President – Ken Wildrick | Board Member – Neil Gallagher |
| Thank you, Ken and Neil for your leadership and service. | |
| Not up for reelection – Susan Bartels | Joanne Cappelanno Jeremy Clark |
| Roger Connors Scott Fisher | Sue Gallagher |

Thanks to all!

The presentation of Foundation Grants was handled by Foundation President Ken Wildrick. The presentation of the Foundation may be seen on the Easton Kiwanis YouTube channel, [click here](#).



Kiwanis

FOUNDATION OF EASTON, PA, INC.

Investing in Today.
INSPIRING TOMORROW.

PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY!

On May 20, the Kiwanis Foundation of Easton awarded grants to local organizations making a meaningful impact in the lives of children and youth.



- | | | |
|--|--|----------------|
| | Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley
<i>Purpose:</i> Summer Camp to foster social-emotional growth, confidence, belonging, creativity, and retention of skills over summer school breaks while strengthening relationships between "Bigs" and "Littles." | \$2,000 |
| | Cops n Kids of Easton, PA
<i>Purpose:</i> purchase of a book vending machine; children are rewarded with tokens for achievements and positive behaviors with tokens that they can use to obtain books they choose from the machine, while also promoting reading and broad educational achievements. | \$5,000 |
| | Equi-librium
<i>Purpose:</i> provides equine reinforcement for occupational, physical, and behavioral therapy for challenged children while fostering sensorimotor, perceptual motor skills, and emotional growth. | \$5,000 |
| | Recovery Revolution
<i>Purpose:</i> Expanding counseling services on site at middle schools and high schools for adolescent youth who are dealing with addiction. | \$5,000 |
| | Shanthi Project
<i>Purpose:</i> expands their mindfulness program for elementary school children to promote emotional regulation, focused attention, self-awareness, constructive communication and empathy that fosters educational readiness. | \$1,000 |

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED

\$18,000

A BIG IMPACT in Our COMMUNITY!

INVESTED IN EASTON'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH!

Thursday afternoon the St. Jane's K-Kids met for the last time this semester. The 17 K-Kids were able to present Kiwanis with two bags of can tabs they have been collecting for the Ronald McDonald House. The meeting today was for the members to have snacks and I was asked to make them aware of the possibility of the 5th graders becoming members of the new Builders Club that might be started in their middle school in the fall semester.

They were guided by Christi Johnston, Faculty Advisor and assisted by Easton Kiwanians Cathi White, Mary Beth Okula, Rosemary Kocher and me. It was suggested the K-Kids continue to collect can tabs during the summer. One of the K-Kids asked her fellow members to put their names on a tee shirt. She explained to me she does this with other activities she participates in.
Respectfully, Walt

Dear Kiwanis Club Members,

On behalf of the entire K-Kids Club at St. Jane's, I want to express our heartfelt thanks for your incredible support, guidance, and partnership over the past year. Your mentorship has been invaluable in helping our students understand the true meaning of leadership and community service.

I was also deeply touched by your thoughtful gesture. Thank you so much for the beautiful card and the generous Amazon gift card; they are deeply appreciated!

A special shout-out goes to Walt for beautifully capturing our milestones. The wonderful pictures he took and attached to the emails are such a treasure, perfectly capturing the spirit and joy of the students' hard work this year.

Looking ahead, I am incredibly excited about the future of our partnership. I can't wait to work alongside you to build the new Builders Club for the Middle School students here at St. Jane's, continuing the wonderful continuum of the Kiwanis family.

Thank you again for everything you do for our youth. Have a fantastic, relaxing, and well-deserved summer! *Warmest regards, Christi Johnstone*



SURV Restaurant is a very community-minded business. Throughout the year they offer many "community service organizations" the opportunity to share with their Curbside Charity Meals. Thanks to the generosity and support of the community, SURV raised \$706 in their April Curbside Charity for Kiwanis Club of Easton, PA! *We appreciate everyone who participated, enjoyed a delicious meal, and helped make a difference for kids in our community* ❤️



PA Kiwanis Gov-elect Janet Owen gladly accepting the check from the chef's at SURV Restaurant.

SURV Restaurant
FUNDRAISER MEAL SUPPORTING LOCAL YOUTH

THIS MONTH THE CURBSIDE FAMILY OF FOUR MEAL IS SUPPORTING THE **KIWANIS CLUB OF EASTON**. THE MEAL IS CHICKEN ALFREDO MANICOTTI WITH GARLIC SAUTEED BROCCOLI, COBB SALAD WITH LETTUCE, TOMATOES, CUCUMBERS, CHARRED CORN, BOILED EGG, SHAVED GRANA, CILANTRO CREAM DRESSING, AND BLUEBERRY LEMON PANNA COTTA FOR DESSERT. THE COST IS \$60 WITH \$30 BEING DONATED BACK TO THE CLUB. **DEADLINE TO ORDER THE MEAL IS SATURDAY, APRIL 25.**

1. TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO CALL SURV RESTAURANT AT 484-544-0624.
2. PLACE AN ORDER FOR CURBSIDE CHARITY
3. CHOOSE YOUR DATE AND TIME FOR FOOD PICK-UP: APRIL 27-29, 4:00-8:00 PM
4. GIVE YOUR CREDIT CARD OVER THE PHONE TO HOLD YOUR CURBSIDE RESERVATION.
5. WHEN YOU ARRIVE PULL UP CURBSIDE BY SURV RESTAURANT AT 1800 SULLIVAN TRAIL ROAD, EASTON (PARKSIDE) AND CALL 484-544-0624 TO TELL THEM YOU HAVE ARRIVED.
6. THE SURV STAFF WILL CHARGE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND DELIVER YOUR FOOD AND RECEIPT TO YOU. YOU NEVER HAVE TO LEAVE YOUR CAR.
7. EAT AND ENJOY.

PS: We also have been holding our Kiwanis Club meetings at the SURV Restaurant for several years. SURV Restaurant is located at: 1800 Sullivan Trail, Easton, PA 18040, (484) 544-0624, in the rear of the Park Plaza Shopping Center.

Kiwanis History...

This was either a Division 17 & 18 Council event or probably the Easton Suburban Kiwanis Charter Night. Bill Laudermilch and Bud Walters were Easton Kiwanis members and I was a member of Easton Suburban at that time.



Kiwanis Ladies Night 4-19-1964
Possibly Easton Suburban Charter Night ???
Marion Walters (pink) dancing with Bill Laudermilch
Bud Walters dancing with ???

May 26th – Easton’s West Ward, Reading Under the Lights...

It was a nice evening to support the West Ward at Cottingham Stadium. EASD families were invited to bring their preschool age through fifth grade children to Cottingham Stadium in the West Ward neighborhood for this free, annual community event.

Thanks to our Kiwanis Club of Easton volunteers, Rosemary Kocher, Julie Novick, Janet Owen, Marybeth O’Kulla, Cathi White, and Walt Howell.

Other organizations that were there supporting this reading program for children were: Family Connection of Easton, Cops ’n Kids with Judith Dickerson and Easton Area Community Center with Kathy Presto.



May 28th – YMVA Forks Education Center, reading to children...

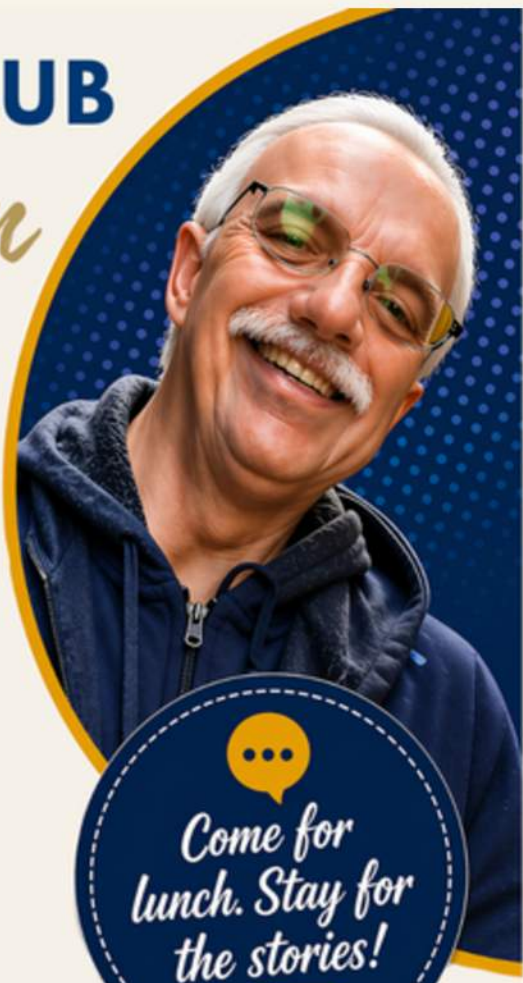
Cathi White read to 16 children at the YMVA Forks Education Center. Showing and reading to the children from a book about the animals in our National Parks in the USA. The children really enjoyed the photos and story.



Make your plans now to attend June 3rd at lunchtime. We'll be meeting at the new Palmer Kiwanis Youth Center on Green Pond Road. Simple \$10 pizza lunch. Invite friends to our storyteller afternoon. About 45+ minutes of great stories. Reservations by May 30th



KIWANIS CLUB OF *Easton*



Come for lunch. Stay for the stories!

LUNCH MEETING

WITH *Jim Cyr*
STORYTELLER

*Stories Connect.
Laughter Lingers.*

EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

- DATE:** Wednesday, June 3rd
- TIME:** Noon – 1pm? stories about 45 minutes
- LOCATION:** Palmer Kiwanis Youth Center
3052 Green Pond Road, Easton, PA
- LUNCH:** \$10 optional-Marinell's Pizza
send lunch reservation to
EastonKiwanis@gmail.com

*Inspiring stories.
Great company.*
**STRONGER
COMMUNITY.**



Kids Need Kiwanis

ALL ARE WELCOME
reservations by May 30th
EastonKiwanis@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE



★ A HISTORY OF SERVICE ★

Pennsylvania District Convention

★ GETTYSBURG 2026 ★
AUGUST 13-16, 2026

WYNDHAM GETTYSBURG HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
95 PRESIDENTIAL CIRCLE, GETTYSBURG, PA

About District Convention...

Join Kiwanians from across the district for a weekend of connection, learning, and inspiration! The 2026 Pennsylvania District Convention will take place in the historic town of Gettysburg. Come together to honor a legacy of service in our nation's 250th year, exchange ideas, celebrate fellow Kiwanians, and explore new ways to make an impact in your community. Enjoy thoughtfully curated experiences, including special excursions, inspiring speakers, interactive workshops, and meaningful fellowship as we strengthen our clubs and renew our commitment to service. *Vote for our next PA District Governor, Janet Owen.*

PA Kiwanis District Convention Page, [click here](#).

Online Registration, [click here](#).

Hotel Reservations deadline is July 13, 2026, please [reserve your hotel room](#) by using **Group Code 081226KIW** online or call 717-339-0020 and reference the group code. The Kiwanis group rate is \$155 +Tax/fees per night.

Easton Kiwanis Club member Janet Owen is the first Kiwanian from Easton Kiwanis to be a Pennsylvania Kiwanis District Governor-elect since 1919. And she will only be the 8th woman to become Pennsylvania Kiwanis District Governor, October 1st, 2026 .



**Janet Owen Governor-elect
Kiwanis Club of Easton**

2026 Pennsylvania District Convention

Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel & Conference Center

August 13-16, 2026



June Birthdays

Anthony Cappellano – June 3
 Scott Fisher – June 10
 Suzanne Gallagher – June 20
 Daniel Mino – June 21
 Julie Novick – June 26



Anniversary Joined Kiwanis

June Club Anniversaries

Anthony Cappellano – 6/1/2019
 Jeremy Clark – 6/3/2024
 Bonnie Leidy – 6/26/2024
 Neil Gallagher – 6/29/2009



UPCOMING S.L.P. & COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENTS

Why not plan to attend our “youth club” meetings

SLP Meetings: As long as you have your valid PSP Criminal Background Check and Child Abuse History Clearance, you can join Walt and other members at any youth meeting you are available. You can download the documents [CLICK HERE](#) Make sure Walt has a copy of your documents.

Shawnee K-Kids meetings. Done until next school year.

St. Janes K-Kids meetings. Done until next school year.

FORKS EDUCATIONAL CENTER – reading for children 2nd + 4th Thur 11am, contact Cathi White or Janet Owen

MIRACLE LEAGUE OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY Volunteers are needed and the kids always appreciate people cheering in the stands. Contact Janet Owen if you can volunteer as dates are now being established for games.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

2026: *usually* 1st & 3rd Wednesdays – speakers, 4th Wed Zoom Board Meeting

June 2 – Evening meeting at Tony’s Pizza, Sullivan Trail, 6PM, Nazareth Key Club Scholarship winners and school Advisor will be there, join us: email MaryBeth your reservation mmokula@gmail.com

June 3 –A Storyteller is our program, we’re meeting at the new Palmer-Kiwanis Youth Center, Green Pond Road

June 10 -- Super Raffle Fundraiser

June 17 – George Koury, George’s Pizza, his memoir about childhood experiences growing up in Lebanon.

June 24 – Board Meeting 2PM ZOOM

June 24-27 -- Kiwanis International convention in Manila

Jul 15 – MOMS (Moms Offering Moms Support) @ SURV

Jul 22 -- Board Meeting 2PM ZOOM

Jul 29 -- 5th Wednesday Night Out – Wanderlust

Aug 4 – National Night Out

Aug 5 – Field Trip Sigal Museum noon, bring a bag lunch

Aug 12 – Easton EMS Award @ Pomfret Club

Aug 13-16 -- Kiwanis District Convention in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

Aug 19 – Meeting at SURV, sharing information from our summer conventions

Aug 26 – Board Meeting 2PM ZOOM

Sept 23 -- Board Meeting 2PM ZOOM

Oct 4 – Division 17/18 Picnic

Oct 7 – Installation of Officers

Oct 14 – Easton Firefighter Award @ Pomfret Club

Oct 25 – Halloween Parade

Oct 26-29 – SURV Fundraiser for Easton Kiwanis

Nov 17 – Mixer at SURV 5PM

Dec 19 – Christmas Party @ Riverview Clubhouse

Contact Easton Kiwanis

www.EastonPaKiwanis.org

www.facebook.com/easton.kiwanis

www.youtube.com/@eastonpakiwanis

info.EastonKiwanis@gmail.com

Easton Kiwanis normally meets 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 11:45AM

check our Facebook page for further information

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Suzanne Gallagher sue2300@aol.com

PUBLISHER-SPECIAL PROJECTS: Bill Walters EastonKiwanis@gmail.com