



Kiwaniis®

KISHWAUKEE DEKALB

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Editor, Joe Gastiger

www.kishkiwanis.org

LUNCH: Lunch: Sausage and peppers, penne pasta with marinara, green salad, bread, butter, and cookies

Today's Meeting: Caroline Collins opened today's meeting for Mike Mooney **Invocation:** Al Mueller

Officers for 2024-2025

President	Mike Mooney
President Elect	Caroline Collins
Vice President	
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:

Caroline Collins noted that the spring Lifelong Learning Institute classes begin Tuesday, March 18. Members are encouraged to visit the NIU Lifelong Learning website to check out course descriptions and sign up.

Ken Doubler reported that the next Beanzie Committee meeting — scheduled for Sunday, March 2 at Rosita's — has been cancelled. No new date has been set yet.

Shadow Gentry announced the Meals on Wheels Volunteer Appreciation event, set for Friday, March 14, from 4:00 until 6:00 PM at Salem Lutheran Church in Sycamore. All who've delivered meals this past year are invited.

Toney Xidis encouraged us, one final time, to buy tickets for next week's Mardi Gras festivity at Faranda's, and to invite friends and neighbors as well. He'd like volunteers to help decorate the hall next Tuesday, from 9:00 AM until noon or 1:00 until 3:00 PM.

Thirty-five tickets have been sold so far. Mardi Gras. We now have a card reader, so, yes, we're able to buy tickets (and pay Kiwanis dues as well) via credit card.

Sue Doubler asked us to bring any unused gift cards Tuesday evening; these will be collected and hopefully bid on at our silent auction.

Bob Hoffman has sign-up sheets now to recruit greeters, provide rides to members who may not be able to drive, and pass the microphone around during our weekly meetings.

Program

John Rey introduced Nathan Schwartz today — DeKalb County's chief engineer — responsible for maintaining and improving all of our county roads and bridges. All of the roads he looks after are blacktop; those not able to bear heavy loads and some of our rural roads are actually repaired by township crews.

At this time of year, county workers have to look out for potholes and cracks created by heavy trucks on thawing roads. Over the last few years, the county has gradually been upgrading roads so that they can safely bear up to 80,000

pounds. That’s been the state standard since 1999, but outside of Chicago, few counties have yet reached that goal.

Upgrades continue, generally in segments of about six miles at a time.

Mr. Schwartz works very hard to acquire state and federal grants, since local property taxes alone can’t meet repair costs. As the county’s budget is divided now, the average homeowner pays about enough to pave two feet and nine inches of roadway per year.

Mr. Schwartz encouraged all who are interested to review the budget, and look over plans for new roads. These are posted on the county website.

Further discussion focused on particular roads and intersections, extending bike paths, and improving traffic safety. Schwartz cited one major success: since improvements have been made where Peace Road meets Route 64, collisions have dropped by more than 90%.

Plank Road continues to be a worry for many, and Schwartz outlined plans for major changes ahead. Most of the fatalities, he reports, are not along winding turns, but on the straightaways where impatient drivers try to pass by zipping into the oncoming lane.

Schwartz made it clear that our Highway Department scrapes by on a fixed income, so major projects are sometimes delayed until enough money has been saved up. Rebuilding Plank Road is the county’s next major priority.

Thought for the day (offered by Bob Hoffman)

“You can kill the dreamer, but you can’t kill the dream.”
-Dr. Martin Luther King

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

March 5: Board Meeting

March 12: Zac Gill DeKalb City Engineer

March 19: Mayor Cohen Barnes

	Kish Kiwanians (in person) 27
	Zoom: Jim Spencer
	Outside Speaker: Nathan Schwartz
	Total 29