

COGS

official newsletter of the
ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSPORT

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JULY 13, 2026

JULY 15 MEETING PREVIEW

Cindy Turner Kingsport Farmer's Market

Cindy Turner is a Kingsport native. She works for the city of Kingsport. She will present information about the Kingsport Farmer's Market.

During the summer of 1977, farmers and gardeners, recognizing the need for other alternative marketing approaches and the need for 'direct to consumer sales' through Food Fairs, a group of these farmers formed the Tri-Cities Farmers Association for Retail Marketing, a non-profit membership organization. The association changed its name to the Kingsport Farmers Market in the early 90s.

The Kingsport Farmers Market has been operating out of the renovated Quebecor facility on the corner of Center & Clinchfield Streets since August 3rd, 2012. The mission of the Kingsport Farmers Market is to provide a vibrant, diverse market place for local and regional farmers and artisans to sell their products to the Kingsport community.



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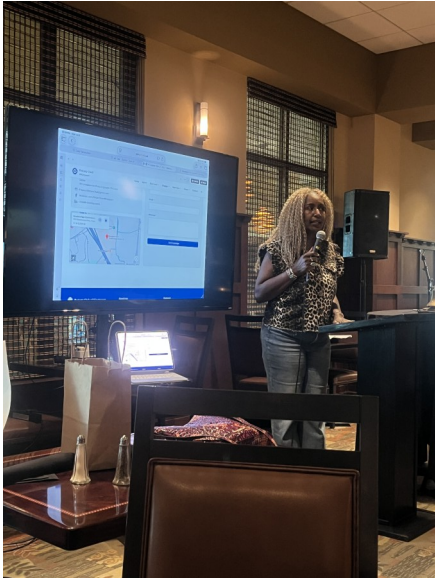
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Club Information





At last week's meeting, members completed the final portion of the club's SWOT analysis by identifying potential threats and reviewing the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities previously discussed. A summary handout will be shared at Wednesday's meeting so members can review the group's feedback and take a copy with them. Members who have additional ideas or observations are encouraged to share them with a board member as we continue using this information to guide the club's priorities.

Members also received a demonstration of the Rotary Club of Kingsport's new website, which is now live at kingsportrotaryclub.org. All members are encouraged to visit the site, update their member profiles, and complete the Annual Membership Feedback Survey by July 31 at kingsportrotaryclub.org/survey. Registration for the Kingsport Axmen game is also available under the website's Events tab. Members

who plan to attend should complete the online form so the club can prepare an accurate group count.

We also recognize Wirt Taylor's remarkable 59 years of Rotary service. This is a tremendous achievement and a reflection of extraordinary commitment to the club and the principle of Service Above Self. Wirt is currently featured on the club's homepage, and an upcoming interview will give members an opportunity to learn more about his Rotary journey, experiences, and contributions. We extend our sincere appreciation and respect to Wirt for nearly six decades of membership and service.

Members who need an updated headshot for their online profile may have one created at no cost at a designated headshot station during the remaining July meetings. This service, valued at \$180, is being provided courtesy of Yvette Lynn Photography LLC. No payment or donation is required; however, members who wish to support the club may make a voluntary contribution of any amount to the general fund.

Headshots will not be taken during the featured presenter's program so that we can give our speaker our undivided attention. Members are encouraged to arrive a little early or stay briefly after the meeting if they are unable to have their headshot taken at another time during the meeting.



A Night at the Ballfield

Save the Date

July 30 2026, 7:00 PM

A night at the Ballfield!!

July 30 at 7 PM

Hunter Wright Stadium

800 Granby Rd

Please Sign up at KingsportRotaryClub.org

to reserve your spot

A meal will be provided and we'll eat and watch the game from the GRC/
CRW Hot Corner Landing at 3rd Base Picnic Area.



Satellite club takes root in active retirement community

Rotary Voices

By Vern Hansen, 2026-27 president Rotary Club of Northglenn-Thornton, Colorado, USA, and member of the Rotary satellite club of Heritage Todd Creek

I've been thinking a lot lately about how this idea of starting a Rotary satellite club at Heritage Todd Creek, an active retirement community in Thornton, Colorado, actually began. It wasn't a grand plan or formal initiative — it was more like a quiet nudge that kept tapping me on the shoulder.

I'd look around our community, with its 1,300-plus homes and more than 50 activity clubs, and think: how do we have a club for everything from

pickleball to pottery, but not a Rotary club? It felt like a missing piece. And to be honest, my wife said if we formed a satellite club here, she would join — so that added a little extra motivation.

A satellite club is a part of a Rotary or Rotaract club that has its own meetings, projects, bylaws, and board, and is managed in collaboration with its sponsor club. At first, I wasn't sure anyone else would feel the same way. Starting something new in a 55+ community takes patience, humor, and a willingness to repeat yourself more times than you would expect. But once I started talking with people, I realized the interest was there. Not loud or flashy, but steady. Curious. Hopeful. The kind of interest that grows when you give it a little sunlight.

Our first introductory meeting was announced in the community's newsletter, and to my surprise, 20-25 people showed up. That alone felt like a small victory. The next few gatherings were smaller — about 10-12 people — but meaningful. We met around tables in the Larkspur Room, asking questions, sharing stories, and trying to imagine what Rotary could look like in our own neighborhood. After that first meeting, I remember thinking, "Okay ... this could actually work."

Then came the Homeowners Association club fair in early March. I wasn't sure what to expect. Would people walk past our table? Would Rotary feel like something for "other people?" We actually had a steady stream of residents stopping by, asking thoughtful questions, flipping through materials, and



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sharing volunteer experiences from earlier chapters of their lives. By the end of the day, more than 25 people had signed up to learn more. I left that event tired, but energized, thinking, “We’re really doing this.”

Before long, 16 residents expressed firm interest, and 11 completed membership applications. That was the moment it stopped being an idea and started becoming a club.

And now, here we are. We have 11 approved members — six already inducted, with the remaining five waiting until summer travel settles down. We also have a growing list of others still exploring membership; the next step is simply helping them experience a meeting or service project.

And we’ve already begun that work. Our first service project was helping a local senior center plant flowers. We’ve also scheduled a Red Cross emergency preparedness session, especially relevant in a community like ours. We’re exploring partnerships with nearby assisted living centers, considering a comfort pillow or blanket project with Children’s Hospital, and even planning a commemorative patio brick honoring veterans and first responders, marked with our Rotary identity.

We’ve established a meeting rhythm of the first and third Thursdays, still adjusting times to accommodate both retirees and those who are still working. It remains a work in progress, but it is progress.

What has surprised me most is how quickly this effort has rippled outward. Other clubs in District 5450 (Colorado, USA) have started asking questions and exploring whether a satellite model could work in their own communities. What began here is now becoming a broader conversation.

But what stays with me most is the feeling of walking into a meeting and seeing neighbors — people who might never have crossed paths otherwise — laughing, sharing ideas, and imagining what we can build together. It feels like the beginning of something that will outlast all of us. Something rooted in service, friendship, and the belief that even in a community full of activities, there is always room for one more way to make a difference.

And honestly, I’m proud of what we’re building. This small seed is growing. It still needs care and attention, but it already has a life of its own — and I can’t wait to see where it goes next.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Club Assembly— Membership Forum	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Club Assembly— Membership Forum	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Cindy Turner— Kingsport Famers Market	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Matthew Armstrong Holston Rowing Club	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 	30 	31	

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

July 11—Jerry Miller
 July 14—Bruce Sites
 July 19—Kenneth Calvert
 July 22—Rebecca Beck

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

July 01—John Porter—46 Years
 July 01—Wirt Taylor—59 Years
 July 01—Buddy Scott—42 Years
 July 09—Pam Rehart—18 Years
 July 22—Jerry Miller—28 Years
 July 25—Bill Adams—45 Years
 July 25—John Fleming—25 Years
 July 38—Tyler Williams—1 Year

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

July 01—Bill Bard—65 Years
 July 06—Judy Fischer—53 Years
 July 08—Wirt Taylor—19 Years
 July 10—Rebecca Beck—22 Years

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 30—A Night at the Ballfield—Hunter Wright Stadium— 7:00 PM

HOW TO FIND US

Rotary Club of Kingsport

District 7570 | Area 13 | Club 5739

Meets every Wednesday at Noon
at
The MeadowView Conference Center
1901 Meadowview Pkwy Kingsport, TN



facebook.com/RotaryClubofKingsport/



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KingsportRotaryClub.com

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Charlotte Whitted

AREA 13 GOVERNOR:

Joseph (Joe) Ley

DISTRICT SECRETARY:

Andrea Milliron

DISTRICT TREASURER:

Peter K. Howard

DISTRICT FOUNDATION CHAIR:

Paula K. Alston

Rotary THE FOUR-WAY TEST

- 1 | Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 | Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 | Will it build **GOODWILL** & **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 | Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

LOCAL CLUBS FOR MAKE-UPS

MONDAY

Noon | Tri-Cities—Northeast State Community College, Pierce Admin Bldg., Room P309, Blountville, TN

6:00 PM | Johnson City Evening—Howard Hunt's Edward Jones Office, 4018 Roan St., Johnson City, TN

TUESDAY

7:15 AM | Scott County—Scott Co. Park & Golf Course Clubhouse, 247 Fore Drive, Gate City, VA

7:30 AM | Bristol Morning VA-TN—The Summit Co-Work Space (Expedition Meeting Room) 1227 Volunteer Pkwy., Bristol, TN

Noon | Bristol VA-TN—Bristol Train Station, 101 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Bristol, VA

Noon | Johnson City—Johnson City Country Club 1901 E Unaka Ave., Johnson City, TN

Noon | Greeneville—Tusculum University, Niswonger Commons Pioneer Café, 60 Shiloh Road, Greeneville, TN

WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM | Greeneville-Morning—Laughlin Memorial Hospital Cafeteria Conference Room, Greeneville, TN

7:30 AM | Kingsport-Sunrise—Food City Press Room, Suite 300, 200 Clinchfield St., Kingsport, TN

Noon | Unicoi County—Town Hall, 211 N. Main St., Erwin, TN

Noon | Elizabethton—First Christian Church of Elizabethton, Fellowship Hall, 513 Hattie Ave., Elizabethton, TN

THURSDAY

7:15 AM | Johnson City Morning—Food City Community Room, 920 N. State of Franklin Rd., Johnson City, TN

Noon | Kingsport-Downtown—Food City Crown Center, 1205 N. Eastman Road, Kingsport, TN

AVAILABLE 24/7—

www.RotaryClubOne.org