



# KIWANIS KOURIER



KIWANIS CLUB OF WINCHESTER, VA \* Serving the Winchester/Frederick County Community    OCTOBER 2022

## Installation Banquet September 30, 2022



*Pictures by John Westervelt*

A great time was had by all attending the Installation Banquet at the beautiful George Washington Hotel. Kiwanians and guests gathered to honor our outgoing Officers and Directors, and to witness the installation of a new slate of Officers and Board members by Lt. Governor Mary Anton. Outgoing President Lynnette Embree spoke about the privilege of being the president this past year and presented awards for years of service, the Kiwanian of the Year, and two Hixson Fellowship awards.

President: Jeff Smelser    President-Elect: John Conrad    Vice President: Mike Didawick

Board Members 2022-2024: Amanda Holsinger, Bud Stiles, Les Veach, and John Westervelt

Thank you to the members that have committed their time and talents in support of the Kiwanis Club of Winchester and the mission of helping children of our region. A special thank you to Pat Snapp for planning and organizing this special event, her talent and hard work is truly appreciated.



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

JEFF SMELSER



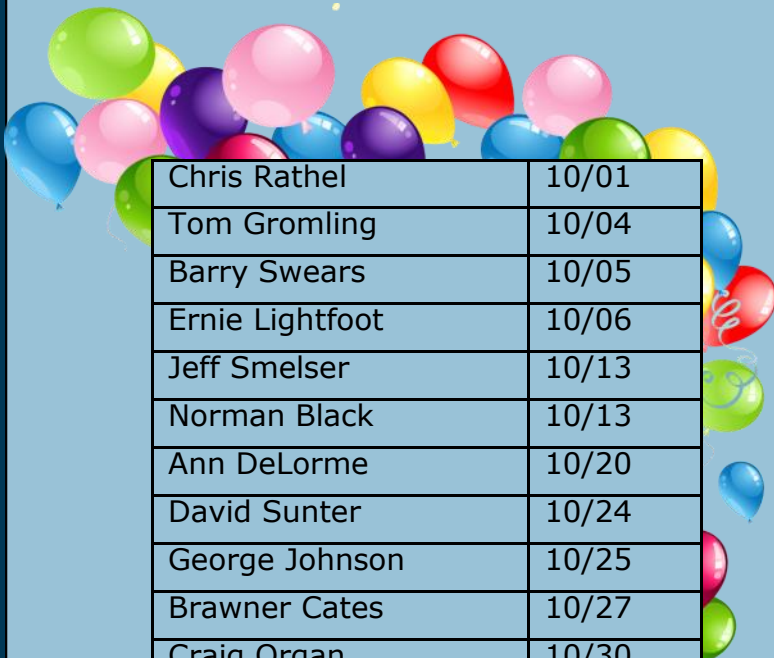
I have pulled a comfortable chair to a table on my screen porch. My glass of iced tea is waiting. Now all I have to do is write my first column for our Kiwanis Kourier newsletter. I am pretty excited about this.

There is a feel of fall in the air and some leaves are already beginning to blow across the backyard. It is my favorite season of the year. I can almost smell my favorite fall foods blowing in the breeze.

*(Continued on page 12)*

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

### Happy Birthday To Our Members!



Chris Rathel	10/01
Tom Gromling	10/04
Barry Swears	10/05
Ernie Lightfoot	10/06
Jeff Smelser	10/13
Norman Black	10/13
Ann DeLorme	10/20
David Sunter	10/24
George Johnson	10/25
Brawner Cates	10/27
Craig Organ	10/30
Doug Green	10/31

(for birthday errors & omissions, please email editor@kcow.org)

## CALENDAR

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Oct 5: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; Business meeting; 12-1pm

Oct 12: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; 12-1pm

Oct. 14: Social at West Oak Farm Market; 6pm

Oct. 19: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; 12-1pm

Oct. 26: Lunch meeting at the Winchester Moose Lodge; 12-1pm

Oct. 27: Board Meeting at Winchester Airport Conference Room; 6pm

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### SAVE THE DATE

November 4 & 5: Pancake Day

Nov. 10: Social at El Centro, 6pm



## Installation Banquet September 30, 20



Members present that have been honored with a Hixson Fellowship award



Brenda Dodd, Kiwanian of the Year; Pat Snapp and Susan Corrigan, Hixson Fellowship awards



Years of Service awards, Doug Thomas, George Johnson, Robin Doss, Bud Stiles, Greg Hulver

*Pictures by John Westervelt*



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*Pictures by John Westervelt*



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*Pictures by Kiwanian members*



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## Time Capsule Opening September 21, 2022



A time capsule created in 1997 for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Winchester was opened at the lunch meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup> to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. President-Elect Jeff Smelser and Wayne Yowell unpacked and presented the historical items saved by the club to honor 75 years of service. Inside the capsule was a letter for the members of 2022, a banner with member signatures, a proclamation from Governor Allen declaring a "Kiwaniis Week" in Virginia, a newspaper insert honoring the club, scrapbooks, and more. These items will be preserved in the Stewart Bell, Jr. Archives Room in the Handley Library for future generations to enjoy the rich history of the Kiwanis Club of Winchester.





## Mike Greene Memorial Annual Golf Tournament—September 2, 2022

Doug Butler plants the Kiwanis Club of Winchester sponsorship sign on Hole 4 at the Shenandoah Valley Golf Club during the 13<sup>th</sup> Mike Greene Memorial Annual Golf Tournament.

This annual golf tournament was started by three of Mike Greene’s friends to honor his passing, Chris Rathel, Tim Frye, and J.R. Schockley. The proceeds of the tournament are donated to Johns Hopkins pediatric neurology department, Blue Ridge Hospice, Bright Futures, IHN Sports, and the Katie Teets Bradshaw Comfort House. In addition to raising money for these worthwhile organizations, 168 golfers spent a beautiful together day honoring Mike Greene’s life.



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### INTERCLUB NEWS

Tim Anderson & Robin Doss

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, we visited the Kiwanis Club of Blue Ridge—Winchester VA. Kiwanis member Helen Zearth spoke at their club about Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). Helen started a team of trained personnel over 40 years ago our region, including nurses, chaplains, and firefighters, to support first responders that have undergone a stressful incident and/or injury. The team debriefs the first responders after an incident and provides resources available to reduce the physical and emotional effects of a stressful event. Those attending: Doug Butler, Helen Zearth, Roger Zearth, and Lt. Governor Seth Thatcher.

On September 21<sup>st</sup>, a second interclub for the month was held at Strasburg Kiwanis. Doug Butler, David Sunter, Bud Stiles, and Lt. Governor Mary Anton attended.

by *Robin Doss*, Interclub co-chair



## SOCIAL NEWS

### Robann Riggleman & Rick Ours

The social on September 15<sup>th</sup> at Homestead Farm was a lot of fun, with good music, food and friendship. Five members and three guests attended, including Rick Balzhiser, Debbie Guiffre, Craig Organ, Robann Riggleman, and Pat Snapp. Join us next month at West Oak Farm Market on Oct 14<sup>th</sup> for some more good music and a relaxing night.

by *Robann Riggleman*, Social co-chair



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# Pancake Day



The fall Pancake Day is just around the corner. On November 4<sup>th</sup> we will be setting up for our semiannual event at the War Memorial Building in Jim Barnett Park. On November 5<sup>th</sup> we will hold our first in-person, sit-down Pancake Day since 2019!

It takes a village for this to be successful....sell your tickets, help with setup, and sign up for one (or more) time blocks on the day of the event. It is through our hard work on these days that we can have a profound effect on our community. Have fun with the experience.





## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

### October's Featured Kiwanian: Mike Didawick

Getting to know a little about your new Vice President...

**Background** - Mike grew up in Edinburg but has been in this area for 40 years. He graduated from Central High School but later admitted he was asked to leave and if he agreed not to return they may mail him a diploma. Fair enough. After 20 years of different colleges and other adventures, Mike finally received a degree in Business Administration from Shenandoah.

**Family** - Mike has two children. Daughter Olivia Hutton and her family live in Woodstock, she has worked with Yount, Hyde and Barbour for her entire career as an accountant. Mike's son Josh and his family currently live in Norfolk. As his wife is a Navy JAG officer, they move every few years. Josh is the HR Director for the town of Leesburg. Some of you may remember Josh was a member of our club years ago. Mike has three lovely granddaughters which he can be obnoxious about, because he is so proud of them.

**Favorite book and movie** - Mike said his favorite book is *Chesapeake* by James Michener and his favorite movie includes Parts One and Two of the *Godfather*. Part Three is a waste of time.

**Best advice** - Treat others as you wish to be treated and all will be fine. Mike recently read something that has stuck with him: Being 20 in the 70's was more fun than being 70 in the 20's.



Mike's family enjoying Apple Blossom together, May 2022 (left to right):  
Son Josh, daughter-in law Holly, granddaughter Debby  
Sister Dawn, brother-in-law Harry  
Daughter Olivia, son-in-law David, granddaughters Mallory and Erika



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

*(Continued from previous page)*

**Career/Accomplishments** - Mike's career has always been in some area of real estate appraisal. He came to Winchester as the City Assessor then moved across the street to Frederick County. After that he worked for two private appraisal companies performing general reassessments throughout Virginia. He ended his work career back in Frederick County, retiring the summer of 2021. He says his experiences ran the gamut from having a gun pulled on him to meeting people of renown. No regrets.

**Interesting facts you may not know** - Some club members know this but Mike's sister Dawn and her husband, Harry Groener are movie and stage actors. Mike recently saw Harry on a TV program while channel surfing and later in an old movie. Their long careers have been very interesting and noted. His visits to them in Los Angeles can be quite adventurous. After 35 years with the Boy Scouts Mike decided it was someone else's turn. His accomplishments ran from Eagle Scout to Silver Beaver Award with many in between. Very enjoyable years, especially his times at Camp Rock Enon.



Visiting the Great Wall of China



Good times with granddaughter Debby



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

*(Continued from previous page)*

**Most interesting place visited** - Probably the most interesting place Mike has visited is China but cannot rule out the canals of Venice or the beauty of Santorini. He visited other beautiful places and only the Grand Canyon remains on his bucket list.

**Kiwanis experience** - Mike joined Kiwanis in 1983. He has served on numerous committees, chaired several Pancake Days, served on the Board, became Club President for the 2005-2006 year, and served as Lt. Governor in 2007-2008. He volunteered to go through the chairs again and will be the Vice President for 2022-2023. Mike is a firm believer in recycling, even Past Presidents.

He said one event he'll never forget as Lt. Governor was his first club installation for the Clarke County Kiwanis Club. He was informed in advance that then District Governor Art Riley would be in attendance. The day of the installation he got a phone call that Kiwanis International President Dave Curry would also be attending. Quite a way to begin the year as Lt. Governor. Mike said his other memorable Kiwanis event involved Peachy Dorsey, Lackey Sempeles and a Schenck truck on fire. Save that one for another time.



Mike with rescue raccoons,  
Bartles & Jaymes



Enjoying time on Lake Holliday

*Kiwanis Club of Winchester is successful because of its many volunteer members who give so freely of their time and effort.*

**THANK YOU FOR BEING A MEMBER OF KIWANIS CLUB, Mike!**



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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from page 2)

By the time we are all reading this, our Annual Installation Banquet will have taken place and it will be a recent memory. We will gather to socialize at the George Washington Hotel. We will celebrate the accomplishments of the Club over the past year. We will introduce our visiting dignitaries and present some awards to some of our amazing hard-working Kiwanians. We will show our appreciation to our Board of Directors and install our new Board members and officers. We will slap each other on the back. Then we will do what Kiwanis does so well. We get right back to work!!!!

In just over 36 days following our banquet is pancake day. And we are bringing it back to the dining room this year. The Children's Christmas is set to come back as a merry gathering of deserving children. And this is only the tip of the iceberg of activity that awaits us.

I am proud to become your 101<sup>st</sup> President. We had a fun look back at our first 100 years. Now it is time to focus on our future as we venture into our 101<sup>st</sup> year. I look forward to talking with you and hearing your visions and ideas. I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and working alongside you, our CKI members, Key Clubbers, Builders Clubs, and K-Kids Clubs. I am hoping the AKTION Club will be able to enjoy a healthy atmosphere and be able to share an active year.

We have lots to do. Let us hit the ground running together in October!

Sincerely,

*Jeff Smelser*

### Board Members: 2021-2023

Rick Ours  
Freda Roberson  
Becky Starliper  
Barry Swears

### Board Members: 2022-2024

Amanda Holsinger  
Luther (Bud) Stiles  
Les Veach  
John Westervelt

### Officers

President—Jeff Smelser  
President-Elect—John Conrad  
Vice President—Mike Didawick  
Secretary—Brenda Dodd  
Treasurer—Dennis Grubbs  
Past President—Lynnette Embree

### **Kiwanis Club of Winchester, VA**

**P. O. Box 2591**  
**Winchester, VA 22604**

### **Club Contacts**

Jeff Smelser, President: pres@kcow.org  
John Conrad, President-Elect: prelect@kcow.org  
Rick Balzhiser, Membership: membership@kcow.org  
Susan Corrigan, Kourier Editor: editor@kcow.org

The Kiwanis Club of Winchester meets for lunch each Wednesday from 12 to 1 pm at the **Winchester Moose Lodge**, 215 E. Cork St., Winchester, VA 22601.  
Newsletter submissions may be emailed to editor@kcow.org, no later than the 22nd of each month.

Visit our Website: [www.kcow.org](http://www.kcow.org) // Find us on FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/winkiwaniis>

