

THE FLAGSHIP



Nov. 21, 2021
Tom King, Editor

Look What's Coming Up!!!

Nov. 24: No Meeting!
HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!

Dec. 1: Club Assembly/
Webb School Madrigals,

Dec. 8: Board of
Directors, 11 a.m.

Dec. 8: Casey Self,
Domestic Violence

Dec. 15: Dr. Cymbeline
T. (Bem) Culiati

(All meetings begin at
12:15 — unless noted
otherwise)



(click on image)

***Happy Thanksgiving Week!
Farragut Rotary Will Gather
Again on December 1st!***

December: Here We Come, Ready or Not!!

We have a busy December 2021 coming up — a lot of songs, toys, bells and fun headed our way — as well as the Christmas and New Years holidays as 2022 approaches.

And for one last time — we will not meet on Wednesday, Nov. 24, in celebration of Thanksgiving.

It all begins on Wednesday, Dec. 1st, when the wonderful voices of the **Webb School Madrigal Singers** kick off our holiday celebration. It's always fun to hear and see these talented students perform. They have to begin their program at 12 noon sharp, which means we all need to arrive early, get our plates of food and find a seat before High Noon!



Our Board of Directors would normally meet on this first Wednesday, but President David Bluford moved it to Dec. 8th.

And there's more:

- We will be ringing the bells at the **Salvation Army's Red Kettle** on two Saturdays at Kroger — Dec. 4th and Dec. 18th. **Mike Singletary** has all slots full save for one — at 6 p.m. on the 18th for two ringers. Let Mike know if you can fill up his schedule.
- We have a pair of Christmas toy drives for the **Boys and Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley** and for **East Tennessee Children's Hospital**. Both

are being coordinated by our hard-working Service Projects Committee Chair Scott Bertini. You can read about this in the story below.

- **No meetings** on Wednesday, Dec. 22nd, and Wednesday Dec. 29th, as we celebrate Christmas and New Year's.
- Our annual **After Christmas Party** will be on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2022 at the home of Allison and Noah Myers. We'll be sharing details about that as we get closer to the fun evening at their beautiful home off S. Campbell Station Road.

Mike Kitchens Still Preaching the World Of the Smoky Mountain Service Dogs

It was great to see and hear our old friend **Mike Kitchens** again on Wednesday. He and wife Suzy are the founders of the **Smoky Mountain Service Dogs (SMSD)**. Mike also is the SMSD chairman and spokesman.

SMSD is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission to "Enhance the Physical and Psychological Quality of Life for Veterans with Disabilities by Providing Custom-Trained Mobility Assistance Service Dogs." This is a great organization to help as they improve the lives of our wounded vets.

In 2016 our club honored Mike with our prestigious Service Above Self award for his contributions to our community and veterans.



Four-Way Test

Rotary's Four-Way Test
of the things we think,
say or do:

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

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Denise Bash does a
great job of keeping
the page updated. If
you have not visited
our page, we invite
you to do so and to
also LIKE the page!

Here is a [LINK](#) to
our page.

With Mike was Lori Birt, a Board Member at Large and the leader of the SMSD Community Events Team, and as one who handles the dogs, Laurie works to promote SMSD in many ways. With her was Hooligan, a 7-year-old demonstration dog who lives with her. She gave us a great demonstration of his skillset. He picks up things that drop, including a thin credit card. He is trained to do 40 different tasks, she said.

They try to match 6 to 8 dogs a year with a veteran and can do up to 12 with enough money. It costs between \$22,000 and \$25,000 to train a dog at their Lenoir City facility. They cover an area of 350 miles and every veteran who receives a dog must be vetted and has to have suffered a physical injury or brain injury to receive a dog.

The dogs used are large breed dogs and are usually large in stature. If a veteran is in a wheelchair they may use a dog that is a little smaller, Birt said. "The dogs are usually Golden Retrievers or labs or a combo of both. These breeds are bred for retrieving so they work out well."

SMSD has only five paid employees and all others are volunteers. In 10 years they have only had to take back two dogs. Both times the veteran just couldn't take care of them properly.

If you'd like to make a donation to SMSD you can click on this [LINK](#)

Today's Family of Rotary Report & Needs

Teri Jo Fox's mother, **Connie Jo**, is needing some meals from our Family of Rotary as well as **PP Peggy Wilson** and husband Joe. We sent emails out earlier this week about how you can help.

To help Connie Jo (and her caregiver son Clint), Teri Jo is asking for members to bring food to her office at 11304 Station West Drive, Suite B, 37934 (behind Applecake Tea Room) and coordinate with her by phone. Teri Jo's cell number is 865-617-3292. Please text me at 865-659-3562 or email me at tking535@gmail.com so I can get a calendar updated.



With Peggy, keep in mind that she has a serious allergy to any poultry products. Here's what you need to do to take Peggy meals: Please let me know via text (865-659-3562) or email @ tking535@gmail.com if you can help. They enjoy food from The Chop House, Bravo's and home-cooked meals. Peggy has some food restrictions so I suggest you call her at 865-789-3332 for that information and when you will or can deliver the food. Their address is 512 Cheshire Drive.

Bettye Sisco returned home from Duke Medical Center on Thursday from her latest clinical trial appointment for her leukemia. Not feeling so great today, Bettye said. She says her white cell count blood numbers are worse and says "they are concerned because they can't get them to come down." She returns on December 14 to Duke. Bettye says her left shoulder is now causing problems and is planning to have it examined this next week.

Here is **Judith Bradbury's** report on **Phill**: "He's had a rough week."

Alex Barnwell says that their son Thomas is in pain but its now “tolerable.” After his surgery last week they had problems getting help with the pain pump from UT Medical Center. Alex was hot. Wife/Mom Laura was able to get an appointment with Revitalist for a Ketimine treatment, which helped a lot and the doctors office finally called in some pain meds.

Here’s an update on the **Kerbs** family — all of ‘em. This report is courtesy of Pam: First, Terry picked up COVID after a meeting at their church in late September. The next week son Matt was diagnosed with COVID and Pam says they almost lost him. “The entire cafeteria staff had a prayer vigil for Matt and held hands in the cafeteria in a big circle,” Pam said. Matt spent two weeks at Park West Medical Center and with COVID, pneumonia, a collapsed lung and blood clots in his left arm. He’s still recovering at the Kerb’s home and is not sure when he will return to work in the hospital’s cafeteria. Then Pam came down with COVID. She says Terry feels fine but still has blood clots in his ankles. “Today, for the first time, we all three went to church together,” Pam said.



Denise Bash says she will know more on November 29th about the blood tests her doctor ordered and she goes December 1st for a colonoscopy. Daughter Chloe will have tests on December 6th to find out why she keeps getting sick and tired. Daddy Alex seems to be OK. They been having fun this week with Marine son Benji being home for Thanksgiving. He heads back on Friday. The Bash bunch is pictured here — Chloe, Benji, Denise and Alex.

Keep everyone and their families in your prayers, please!

Twin Toy December Drives for the Kids At Boys & Girls Club, Children's Hospital

You should have received an email yesterday from Service Projects Committee Chair Scott Bertini about our two 2021 toy drives for the children at two great organizations in town — the **Boys & Girls Club of the Tennessee Valley and East Tennessee Children's Hospital.**

Service Projects

Dec. 4 & 18: Salvation
Army Bell Ringing,
Kroger in Farragut

Dec. 17: East Tennessee
Children's Hospital Toy
Drive/Angel Tree

Last year, we had a very large goal of 150 toys and our club far exceeded that goal by donating over 300 toys. Let's do it again this year!!

The Boys & Girls Club needs their toys by Wednesday Dec. 10th. The due date for all toys for Children's will be Wednesday Dec. 15th. "On Dec. 17th, I would love for a few fellow Rotarians to join me at the hospital to help unload and deliver the toys to the volunteer services

department," Scott said.

We are again using Amazon for the wish lists. We also will designate a day when you can bring your toys to Rotary if you choose to do it that way. Stay tuned for additional details.

Here are the two Amazons links again. They're also in the email Scott sent out.

[East Tennessee Children's Hospital - Rotary Toy Drive - Wish List](#)

[Boys & Girls Club Of TN Valley - Rotary Toy Drive - Wish List](#)

Three Newsy Notes To Share

We have volunteers who will be checking on our two **Little Library** boxes weekly for the next few months — one at McFee Park and the other at the Farragut Community Center. This is much appreciated. Scott Brockamp says both boxes are packed with books right now, as you can see in this picture.



Steve Krempasky reminded us about the town of Farragut ceremony turning on the **Lights of Christmas** Monday at 5 p.m at **Founders Park** on Campbell Station Road. This should be a great fun family event for young and old. Get there early for parking!

Adam Brock told us that this month's **Knoxville Challenger Pro Tennis Tournament** brought in \$220,000 for the Helen McNabb Ross McNabb Center. Brian Elton was a big fan and enjoyed the tennis on two nights.

Wreaths Across America Day Is Dec. 18

Our friend Buzz Buswell reminds us about the **Wreaths Across America** project. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, the mission is to Remember, Honor and Teach by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at more than 2,500 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

He invites us to join in by sponsoring a veterans' wreath at a cemetery near you, volunteering or donating to our local sponsorship group. The placement day is Saturday, Dec. 18th at all three Veterans cemeteries in Knox County.

They also need volunteers to place the wreaths. When they place the wreath each volunteer steps back and speaks the veteran's name.

If they receive sufficient donations, all 18,000 will be spoken by the time they are finished. If you want more info you can call Buzz at 865-604-4443 and you can visit their website at this [LINK](#)

A Thanksgiving Week Thought

“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” — **William Arthur Ward**