

Rotary



Club of Carmel GEARBOX Newsletter

Club Meeting

Carmel
Woodland Country Club
Friday at 11:45 AM

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January 27th

Milt Thompson is January 16th Speaker at Woodland Country Club

For nearly a decade the Rotary Club of Carmel has hosted a Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaker. Pictured below are the outstanding faculty of speakers who have presented during that time.

Our distinguished guest on January 16 is Milt Thompson.

THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Dr. Khaula Murtadha



Jeffrey Harrison



Ralph Taylor



Dr. Eugene White



Jamal Smith



Alan Bacon and Mali Jeffers



Allegra Nottage



Professor Charlotte Westerhaus-Renfrow



Milt Thompson will be the featured speaker Friday, January 16, for the Rotary Club of Carmel (IN) Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. program at Woodland Country Club. This is one speaker you won't want to miss!!!

Former General Counsel to the Pan Am Games, Milt has served on the boards of the IHSAA Foundation, Indiana Sports Corp, and Indianapolis Indians Baseball Club, as well as on the Capital Improvement Board, Indiana State Lottery Commission, and Visit Indy Tourism Tomorrow Board. He played key roles in the creation of the Central Indiana Community Foundation and Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Indiana, and the Crown Hill Board of Managers, Crown Hill Heritage Foundation, English Foundation, Indianapolis Foundation, and his collegiate alma maters (Wittenberg and I.U.) have benefitted from his board service.

Among the topics Milt will discuss is the Black 14 of the University of Wyoming. The Black 14 received the [NCAA 2023 Inspiration Award](#) and has been the subject of several ESPN programs.

Remember that we will be meeting at Woodland Country Club.

We Need Volunteers!

Come join fellow Rotarians the evening of Wednesday, January 28, 2026 from 5pm-7pm for a service opportunity. We will be building STEM kits for the STEM Connection. Weather permitting, a facilitated hike around our property will also be available. We will be assembling take-home STEM kits for students.

Wear your outdoor 'work' clothes and comfortable walking shoes as we will be assembling in the barn and have the opportunity for a nature hike throughout the property to see first hand all the awesome opportunities The STEM Connection offers opportunities for kids who might not normally be exposed to cool applications of math and science. This is a working farm that offers day camps, summer camps, and special camps aimed at middle school kids who are underrepresented in STEM education and careers.

Please use this link to register for the event so they know how many to expect! <https://www.thestemconnection.org/volunteer-registration>

When: Wednesday, January 28, from 5pm-7pm
Where: 8407 Moore Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46278

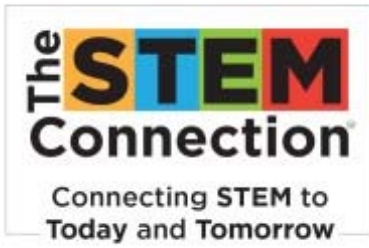
**Merciful Help
Center: Food Pantry**

January 28th
**Crooked Creek Food
Pantry Service**

January 28th
**Stem Connection
Service Event**

January 30th
**WEEKLY MEETING -
Michael Klitzing**

February 6th
**WEEKLY MEETING -
Doug Willard**



www.TheSTEMconnection.org

Club Leaders



**Doug
Willard**
President



**Nancy S.
Heck**
President -
Elect



**Dubbie
Buckler**
Secretary



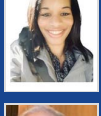
**Tyler E.
Smith**
President -
Nominee
Vice
President



Greg Pilling
Treasurer



Donna Gray
Club Comm.
Officer
Club Public
Image Chair
Webmaster



**Monica
Frauhiger**
Club Admin
Chair



**David I.
Hollander**
Membership
Chair



**Louise M.
Jackson**
Leadership
Conneciton
Chair



**Robert
Wright**
Swanay
Sergeant -
at - Arms



**Sue M.
Westermeier**
Rotary
Foundation
Chair



**Stanley
Lebron**
CarmelFest
Chair

**Natalie
O'Hara**
Webmaster

Social Gathering



A group of Carmel Rotarians kicked off the new year enjoying food and fellowship at Aberdeen Social House on January 8th.

Pictured L to R; Sue Maki, Dubbie Buckler, Peter Beering, Dolly and Jerry Hughes, Monica Frauhiger, Doug Willard, Donna Gray, Nancy Heck, Arnold Elston

Community Service Opportunities



INDIANAPOLIS

Seeds of Caring engages young children—our future leaders—through a variety of service, social action and community-building projects. Instilling kindness and empathy from the earliest age, we help kids see and understand the needs in their community, then develop skills and confidence to make a difference.



Peter Primason
Community Grants Chair



Katie L. Smardo
CarmelFest Treasurer



Beth Sexton
Community Service Chair



Carolyn M. Shaw
Community Service Chair



Julie Standish
Club Youth Services Chair



Arnold Elston
Past President
iPast President

Looking for a way to get involved in the community? Check out these local opportunities for service. Get involved with family, kids, friends, or a fellow Rotarian!

<https://www.seedsofcaring.org/>



Please Save the Date for an Upcoming Service Project at Coburn Place!

Coburn Place, a transitional housing and support for those facing domestic abuse, is in need of 8-10 volunteers for a service project. We will be collecting their most needed items the month of January to bring with us (please see below).

There is also a link to their Amazon wishlist provided!

When: Saturday, January 24, 2026 9am-12pm (Please arrive 15 minutes early)

Where: Coburn Place: 604 E. 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46205

Please contact: Ranj Puthran for further details and to sign up! ranjputhran@gmail.com

We can coordinate carpooling if needed and will provide further instructions and parking guidance as we get closer.

January Collection Drive:

- Cleaning/Kitchen Needs: (Please include receipts if you are able)
 - Toilet paper, toilet cleaner, shower cleaner, disinfecting spray and wipes, Kleenex, glass cleaner, air freshener, paper towels, dish soap, dishwasher pods, floor cleaner, dryer sheets, trash bags
- Other Needs:
 - Transportation: gas gift cards, Uber/Lyft gift cards (physical only), bus passes 31-day.
 - Self-sufficiency: grocery store gift cards, quarters for laundry
- Amazon Wishlist:
 1. Click this link - <https://a.co/5CJA63J>
 2. Choose the item/quantity, select "This item is a gift" and add to cart
 3. Choose the address "ATTN: Drew LaCroix, Coburn Place Safe Haven"
 4. In the gift message box write "Rotary" for tracking. (This step is essential for Coburn's taxes and grants.)

Items NOT Accepted: Clothing/Coats/Shoes, Used Toys, Luggage, & travel-sized toiletries

Michael Klitzing is Our Speaker on January 30th

We're pleased to welcome Michael Klitzing, director of [Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation](#), as our upcoming speaker.

Michael will share how Carmel's award winning parks system enhances quality of life, supports wellness and youth development, and most importantly serves as a cornerstone of community connection. A connection our club and community rely upon in our daily lives.

He will also highlight how partnerships with civic organizations, like Rotary, help amplify impact through service, stewardship and long-term community investment. His presentation offers a



thoughtful look at how parks, leadership and volunteerism work together to build a stronger Carmel.

Fred Glass is Our Speaker January 23rd

We're honored to welcome Fred Glass, former IU athletic director and current president of [Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana](#), as our upcoming speaker.



Fred will share insights on Gleaners' mission to fight poverty across Indiana, the growing challenges of food insecurity in our communities, and the innovative partnerships helping Gleaners deliver meaningful impact at scale. His unique perspective, which blends leadership, faith, service and community engagement, offers an inspiring look at how organizations can drive lasting change while uplifting those in need.

Doug Willard is Our Speaker on February 6th

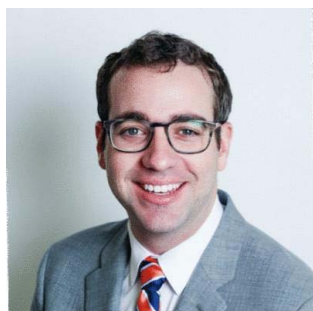
We're excited to welcome Doug as our speaker, where he'll walk us through updates on our club and highlight key elements of the strategic plan. It's an important moment to reflect on progress and look ahead together.



Check Request Form

<https://forms.gle/WnHuUVemxDZGdiwe6>

February 13th Speaker is Kevin



We're excited to welcome Kevin Bowen from ESPN Radio as our upcoming speaker.

Kevin grew up in Carmel and attended IU before beginning his career in sports journalism and broadcasting. He loves Notre Dame - he's brilliant.

Kevin will share insights from his career in sports media, the role local sports play in shaping community identity, and what it means to connect authentically with audiences every day on ESPN in the AM. He'll also reflect on the influence of his parents as teachers, who instilled in him strong values around work ethic, humility, and community service, principles that closely align with Rotary's commitment to service above self.

Kevin's presentation offers an engaging look at how storytelling, leadership, and values intersect both on and off the air.

Rotary Members - Are You New to DACdb?

DACdb is the database that houses details for Carmel Rotarians, the Carmel club, and District 6560. If you are new to DACdb or need a refresher, then go to the newly created link titled 'How to's on DACdb' on the website's left navigation bar, under Club Links.

From here you can learn how to:

- Login
- Change Your Password
- Update Your Contact Information
- Enter a Make Up

***If you have previously logged into DACdb but don't remember your password, then contact Andrea Rice to have your password reset. You can directly email her by clicking on the 'Member Directory' link on the left navigation bar of the website. Once the page opens, scroll to Andrea's name and click on it. Fill out the requested information, including a note to reset your password. Click 'Send Mail'.

Important Links

[Carmel Rotary Website](#)

[District 6560 Website](#)

[Carmel Rotary Facebook Page](#)
[Rotary International Website](#)

Carmel Rotary Zoom Link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87091303825?pwd=ZjBGekNaYkxzT0VZdnhDYjhidUtsQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 9130 3825

Passcode: 4waytest

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,87091303825#,,,,*73005176# US (New York)

+13017158592,,87091303825#,,,, *73005176# US (Washington DC)

Dial USING YOUR ACTUAL PHONE by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 870 9130 3825

Passcode: 73005176

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kH5bJHKI5>

Gearbox Sponsors



Greg Pilling

NMLS # 873570 317-495-8042

greg@currentmortgage.ai



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**proud to protect
Carmel**



Ranj Puthran

317-844-4683

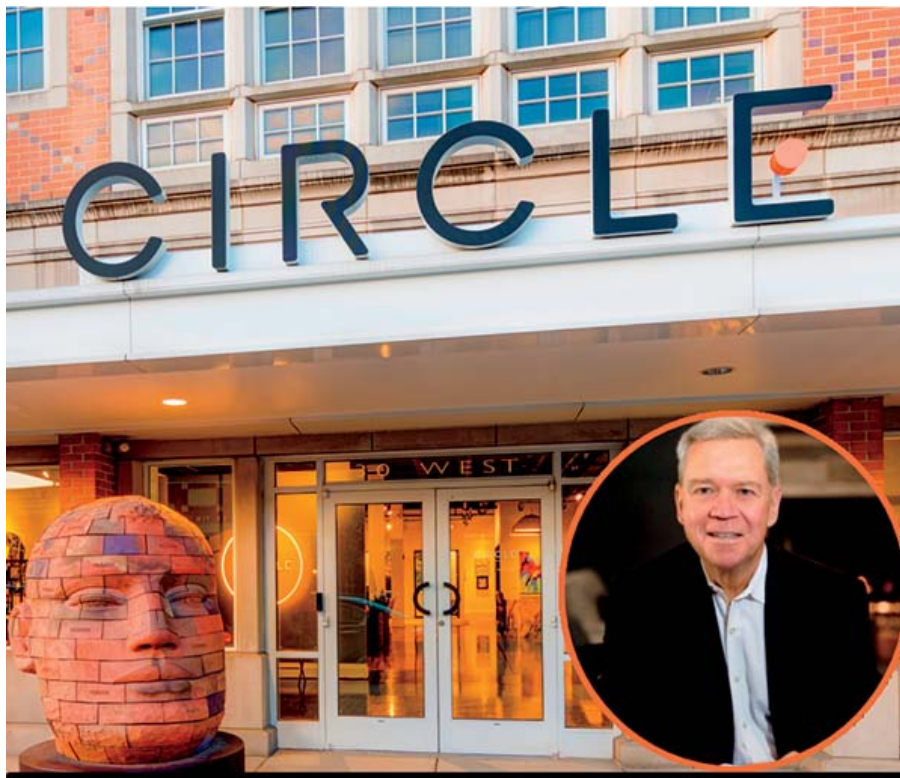
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Carmel

ranjitputhran@allstate.com



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Carmel Rotarian for *36* Years

Club Member Anniversaries



[Marilyn Jeter](#)
15 Years



[Marta H. Spence](#)
14 Years



[Jon Walker](#)
14 Years



[Brandon Weddle](#)
4 Years



[Jonathan P. Hueftle](#)
0 Years



[Benjamin Pearson](#)
0 Years



[Erika Steele](#)
0 Years

Birthdays

[Zackary Darring](#)
January 12th

[Dao Richmond](#)
January 17th

[Michael E. Warren](#)
January 25th

[Winston Long](#)
February 5th

[Phillip G. Anderson](#)
January 12th

[Rebecca J. Wanick](#)
January 19th

[Kurt A. Rupenthal](#)
January 25th

[Jason Randlett](#)
February 7th

[David P. Luedtke](#)
January 15th

[Brian G. Poindexter](#)
January 24th

[Mark Satz](#)
February 4th

Wedding Anniversaries

[Tatyana Komarova](#)
January 17th