

# Rotary



## Club of Carmel GEARBOX Newsletter

### Club Meeting

Carmel  
Woodland Country Club  
Friday at 11:45 AM

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### Events & Speakers

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## CCPL CEO Shares History & Growth of Carmel Library

Carmel Rotary Sargeant- At-Arms Bob Swanay hosted the club at the Carmel Clay Public Library for its first meeting of 2026. Swanay, Carmel Clay Public Library CEO, shared that the library was officially founded in 1904 and received a Carnegie grant that funding its original building on Main Street, constructed between 1911 and 1914. He went through the library's history, moving to its new building in 1972 and expanded to become the modern facility with digital labs and community spaces it is today, serving over 100 years of community history. He praised the leadership of fellow Rotarian and CCPL Board President Ranjit Puthran, noting that over 2 million items are checked out annually with annual visits nearing ¾ million.



January 23rd  
**WEEKLY MEETING - Fred Glass**

January 23rd  
**Youth Services Committee Meeting**

January 24th  
**Coburn Place Service Event**

January 27th  
**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**

February 13th  
**WEEKLY MEETING - Kevin Bowen**

### Club Leaders



Doug Willard  
President



Nancy S. Heck  
President-Elect



Dubbie Buckler  
Secretary



Tyler E. Smith  
President-Nominee  
Vice President

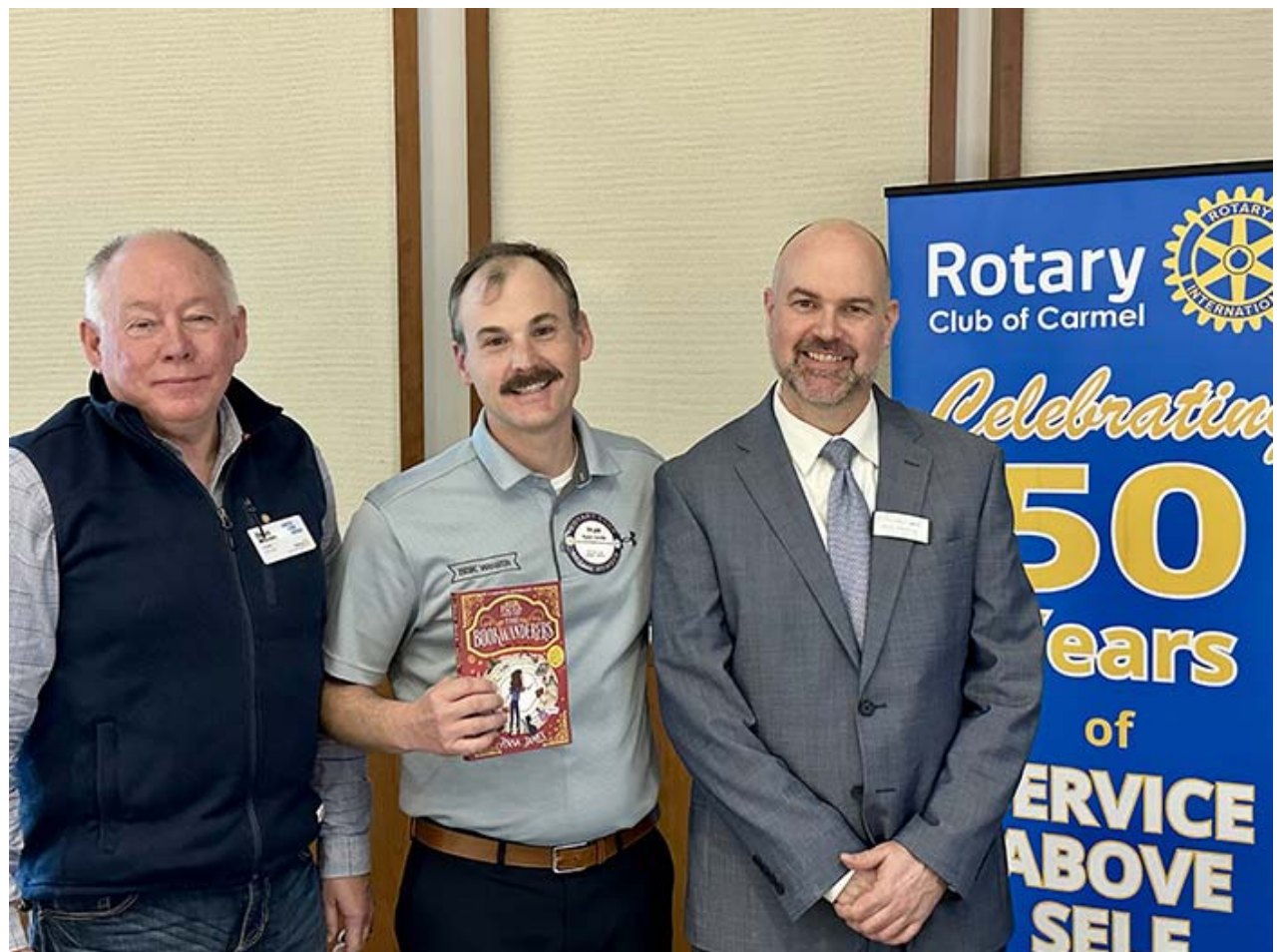


Greg Pilling  
Treasurer



Donna Gray  
Club Comm. Officer  
Club Public Image Chair  
Webmaster

Monica Frauhiger



Pic 1: Carmel Rotary President Doug Willard presents Bob Swanay with the club's Challenge Coin.

Pic 2: Bob Swanay shows club members the library's history

Pic 3: Club President Doug Willard and Pres-Elect Tyler Smith present Bob Swanay books to sign for presentation to local schools.



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



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

## Thank You Milt Thompson

Milt Thompson, Chairman of the Indiana Gaming Commission (IGC), was appointed by Governor Holcomb in 2022 to oversee casinos, sports betting, and gaming regulations in Indiana. The former Wittenberg University Baseball All-American and Indiana University law alumnus who is the legal representative for the 1976 I.U. National Championship Basketball Team, was the Rotary Club of Carmel's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speaker this past Friday.

From his perspective, the Indianapolis civic leader addressed several of Rev. Dr. King's life lessons including stand up for what is right, stand up against bullies, and live your values.

Milt's address also touched upon The Black 14, 14 members of the University of Wyoming's 1969 football team and their courageous stand against discrimination. Please see the link below:

<https://lnkd.in/gXYdg8fM>

The legacy of Wyoming's 'Black 14' football players and their ...  
YouTube · ESPN  
36.8K+ views · 5 years ago

For nearly a decade, the Rotary Club of Carmel has provided an opportunity for members to remember the lessons taught by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.





**Photos**

Milt Thompson (left) with boyhood friend and fellow North Central High School athlete, Zack Darring, at the Rotary Club of Carmel. Photo by Brad Osborne.

Long-time friends Dubbie Buckler, Milt Thompson, Rick Markoff, Peter Beering, and Zack Darring.

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## **Please Welcome Potential New Member Elyas Musleh**



by David I. Hollander

Elyas (“Elly”) retired in early 2024 after a distinguished 23 year career at Eli Lilly and Company. As an Associate Vice President, he was in charge of commercial learning and development services, training, and sales & marketing capabilities. He is a seasoned corporate leader who focused on building organizational leadership and mentorship teams to drive performance. He obtained his BA in Liberal Arts from Indiana University. He then obtained his certificate in Learning and Development from Xavier University. Elly is also a dedicated community servant based in Carmel. He is a former Board Vice Chair and prior Board member/volunteer at several local non-profit organizations. Elly is married to his wife Melissa. They have one son and two grandchildren. Elly loves to work in his yard, play golf, and serve others.

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**Join US**

**Rotary**

Club of Carmel



**FELLOWSHIPING**  
FOR A GREAT CAUSE

**CHEFTACULAR 2026**  
**AN EVENING OF**  
**CULINARY EXCELLENCE**

**Tasting Event and Culinary Competition**  
**Supporting Carmel High School Culinary Arts &**  
**The Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank**

**16+ Top Local Chefs**  
**16+ CHS Culinary Arts Students**  
**16+ Tasting Dishes to Delight**

**Monday February 23, 2026**  
**6:30 - 8:30 PM**  
**Carmel High School Fieldhouse**

The poster features a background image of various fresh vegetables like bell peppers, broccoli, and carrots. At the top center is a logo with a yellow 'C' containing a white horse silhouette, with the text "POST-TECHNICS CULINARY ARTS" below it.

**Carmel High School Fieldhouse**  
**520 E Main Street**  
**Carmel, IN 46032**

**Door 17**

**\$25**

Limited Discounted Tickets

### **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.



## Please Welcome Potential New Member Steve Bixler

by David I. Hollander

Steve is the President of Riverton Strategy. His company provides IT consultation, project management, and strategy guidance for companies in need of such assistance. He has worked in the Information Technology sector for over 25 years. Steve has a B.S. in Management Information from the Indiana University Kelley School of Business. He went on to get his M.B.A. from Indiana Wesleyan University. Steve is originally from Grand Rapids Michigan. He is married with two children. His daughter is a freshman at IU and his son is a junior at Carmel High School. Steve enjoys listening to music (guitar and drums) and watching movies. He loves working in his garden which he feels is maybe the best in Carmel! He loves to take road trips with his family every year.



## We Need Volunteers!

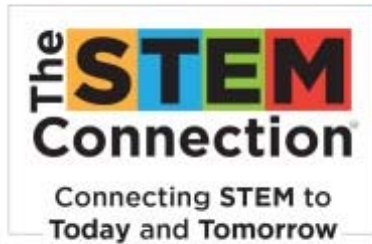
Come join fellow Rotarians the evening of Wednesday, January 28, 2026 from 5pm-7pm for a service opportunity. We will be building STEM kits for the STEM Connection. Weather permitting, a facilitated hike around our property will also be available. We will be assembling take-home STEM kits for students.

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



[www.TheSTEMconnection.org](http://www.TheSTEMconnection.org)

## 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.

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.seedsofcar.org/>

## JAN

### BASIC NEEDS

## Dental Kits

*Assemble dental kits  
so healthy smiles can  
brighten our world.*

## 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](mailto: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

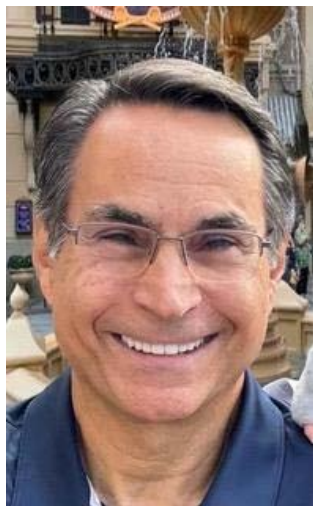
- Amazon Wishlist:

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

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## Please Welcome Potential New Member John Pecchia



by David I. Hollander

John retired in November of 2021 as the CFO and Vice President for Business Affairs at Marist University in Poughkeepsie, New York. He is a CPA and also had a teaching position at Marist in accounting. His career spanned over 35 years in higher education finance positions. He has served on boards for numerous not-for-profits, usually as the treasurer. John has a B.S. in Accounting from the New York Institute of Technology. He obtained his M.B.A. degree in Management and Leadership from the Rochester Institute of Technology. John and his wife Debra have 2 sons. They moved to Carmel after John's retirement to be near their youngest son & daughter-in-law, and three young daughters (two of whom are identical twins!). John loves to play golf and bocce ball. John is still the administrator of multiple bocce ball leagues back in New York.

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## 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.



## 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.

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[Check Request Form](#)

## 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.

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## 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'.

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## Important Links

[Carmel Rotary Website](#)

[District 6560 Website](#)

[Carmel Rotary Facebook Page](#)

[Rotary International Website](#)

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## Carmel Rotary Zoom Link

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87091303825?pwd=ZjBGekNaYkczTOVZdnhDYjhidUtsQT09>

**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/u/kH5bJHKI5>**

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## Gearbox Sponsors



**Greg Pilling**

NMLS # 873570 317-495-8042

greg@currentmortgage.ai



**CURRENT  
MORTGAGE**

Tech Driven. Client Centered.

NMLS # 2554422

**proud to protect  
Carmel**



**Ranj Puthran**

**317-844-4683**

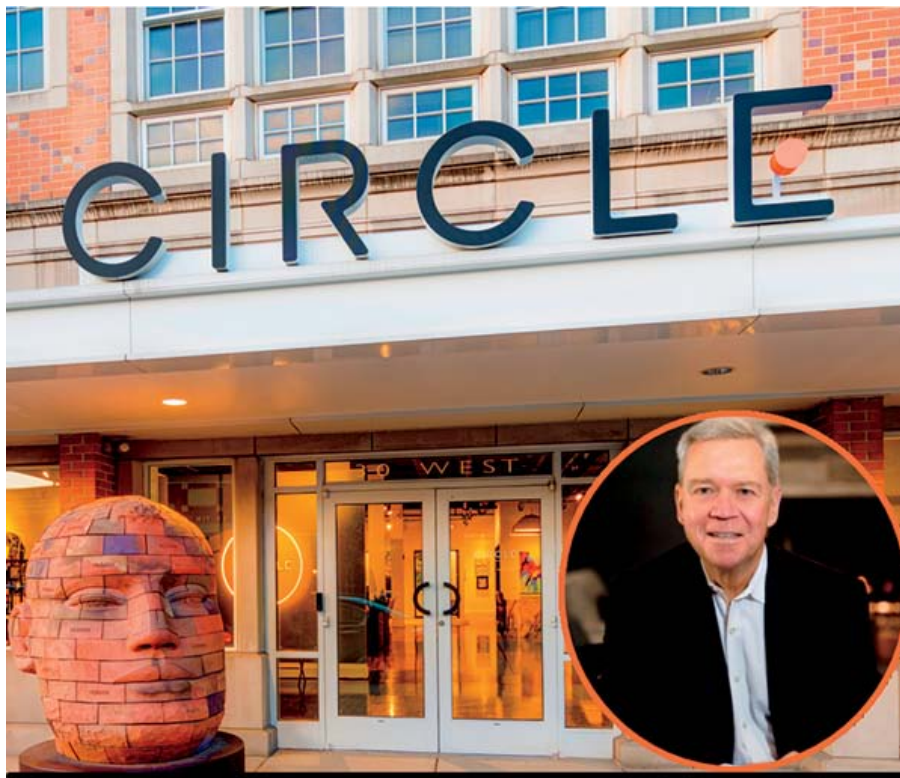
718 Adams St Ste B

Carmel

ranjitputhran@allstate.com



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**JAY O'NEIL**  
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Your *Trusted* Realtor &  
 Carmel Rotarian for *36* Years

### Club Member Anniversaries



[David Pencak](#)  
19 Years



[Marilyn Jeter](#)  
15 Years



[Marta H. Spence](#)  
14 Years



[Jon Walker](#)  
14 Years



[Brandon Weddle](#)  
4 Years



[Erika Steele](#)  
0 Years

### Birthdays

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

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

[Jason Randlett](#)  
February 7th

[Ramesh K. Joshi](#)  
February 14th

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

[Mark Satz](#)  
February 4th

[Tyler E. Smith](#)  
February 11th

[Peggy A. Powell](#)  
February 17th

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

[Winston Long](#)  
February 5th

[Kelvin T. Okamoto](#)  
February 11th

### Wedding Anniversaries

[Elyas F. Musleh](#)  
February 17th