

Rotary



Club of Carmel GEARBOX Newsletter

Club Meeting

Carmel
Woodland Country Club
Friday at 11:45 AM

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Events & Speakers

January 27th
Merciful Help Center: Food Pantry
January 28th

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 Klitzing is the Director and CEO of Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation and oversees an approximately \$20 million operating budget, 80% funded by user fees and non-tax dollars. The department is one of only 222 nationally accredited park systems, has approximately 700 employees, and serves over 5.7 million visitors to its parks annually.

Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation is recognized as one of the best and most innovative park and recreation agencies in the United States and received the prestigious National Gold Medal for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in 2014 and 2020, the highest honor for any park and recreation system.

Michael is a Fellow in the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration – a distinguished group of 125 professionals and scholars dedicated to the advancement of public parks and recreation through research, professional development, and use of best practices. He previously served on the Academy's Board of Directors.

An active member of both the Indiana Park and Recreation Association and National Recreation and Park Association, Michael has served in key leadership roles in both organizations. Michael is

the current president of the state association, leading an organization of over 1,400 Indiana park and recreation professionals, and has dedicated his presidency to increasing awareness and advocacy for local parks throughout the Hoosier state.

Michael has also served as a Commissioner on the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies, which is responsible for establishing national standards and best practices for park and recreation systems and continues to serve as a lead reviewer for agencies seeking initial accreditation or reaccreditation. Michael was selected to lead the Commission's very first international accreditation site visit, making history in 2024 when he traveled abroad to the U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz in Germany.

Michael's leadership has been recognized locally and within his profession. Michael received the 2024 Richard Lawson Award for Professional Excellence from the Great Lakes Park Training Institute, the nation's oldest professional training program. In 2018, he received the National Distinguished Professional Award from the National Recreation and Park Association, presented for his outstanding contributions to the parks and recreation field. Michael was one of the first 50 professionals in the country to become a Certified Park and Recreation Executive when this certification program was introduced in 2011.

Michael is a Hoosier by choice, originally growing up near Champaign, Illinois, and began his career in parks and recreation in Lafayette. Michael has an economics degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master's degree in parks and recreation administration from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, which named him the Recreation Alumnus of the Year in 2015.

1/19/2026

Congratulations!

Rotary key volunteers recognized for their CarmelFest leadership (L to R) Monica Frauhiger, Chaya Reich, Pres Doug Willard, Brad Osborne, Meg Osborne, and Chair Stanley Lebron



Gleaners Foodbank CEO Shares Surprising Facts About Local Hunger

Fred Glass, President of [Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana](#), shared surprising facts with Carmel Rotarians about the prevalence of hunger within the state. Glass, former IU athletic director, spoke to the club on January 23, 2026, and turned attention from the pride of IU's historic national football championship win to the pride of Gleaners' mission to fight poverty across Indiana. Glass cited statistics about the growing challenges of food insecurity in our communities, noting that Hamilton County now has the second-highest percentage of people facing hunger in Gleaner's 21-county service area and ranks 5th in the entire state in number of people with food insecurity. Glass described innovative partnerships that help Gleaners deliver meaningful impact at scale, delivering millions of dollars of food annually. He praised local citizens' service and engagement to help those in need.

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

February 19th

Board Meeting

February 20th

WEEKLY MEETING - Dr. Thomas Oestreich

February 23rd

Cheftacular

Community Impact

Event - Reserve

your seat by Feb 13

Club Leaders



Doug Willard
President



Nancy S. Heck
President-Elect



Dubbie Buckler
Secretary



Tyler E. Smith
President-Nominee
Vice President



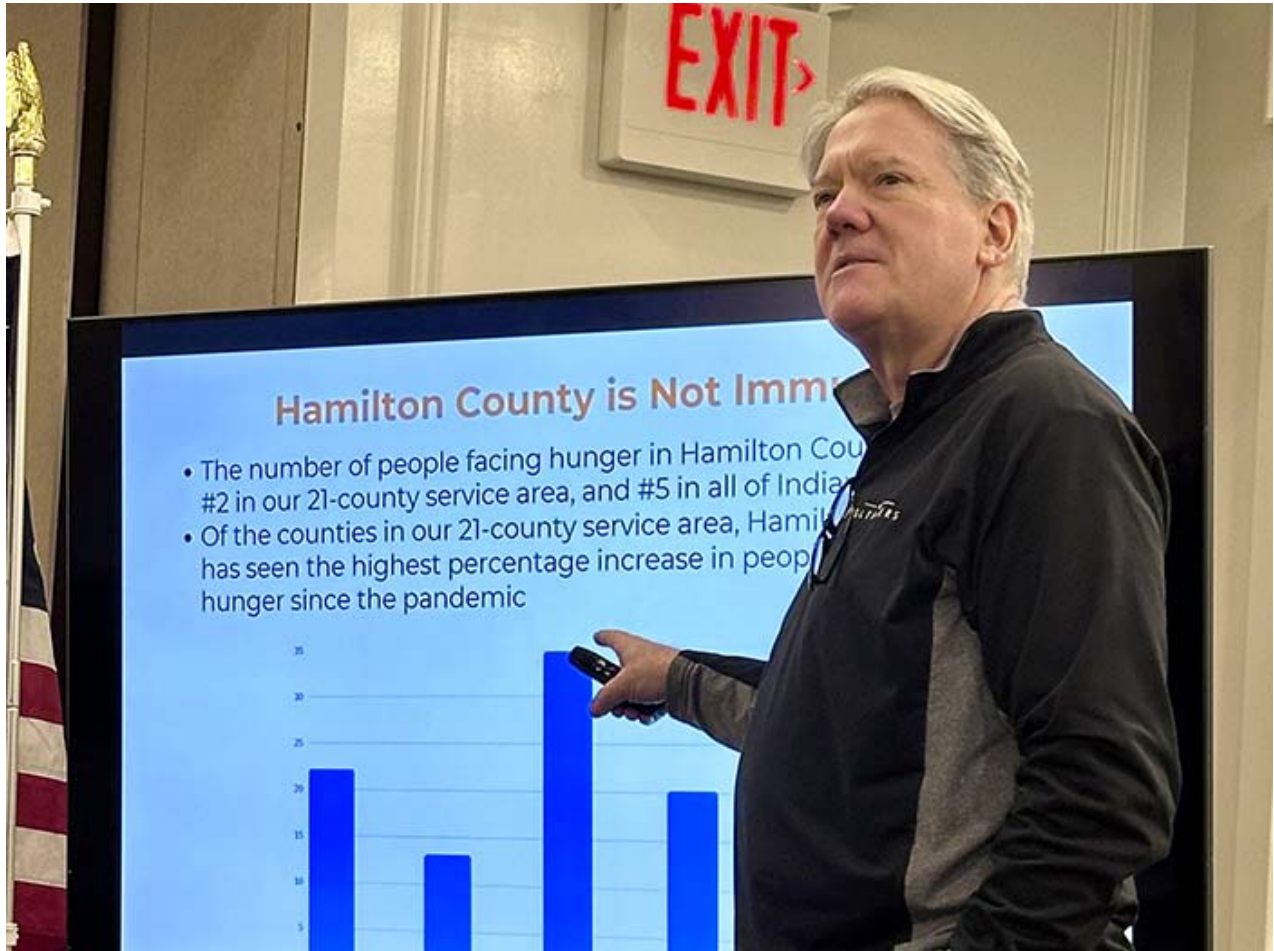
Greg Pilling
Treasurer



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



Peter Primason
Community Grants Chair



Katie L. Smardo
CarmelFest Treasurer



Beth Sexton
Community Service Chair



Carolyn M. Shaw
Community Service Chair

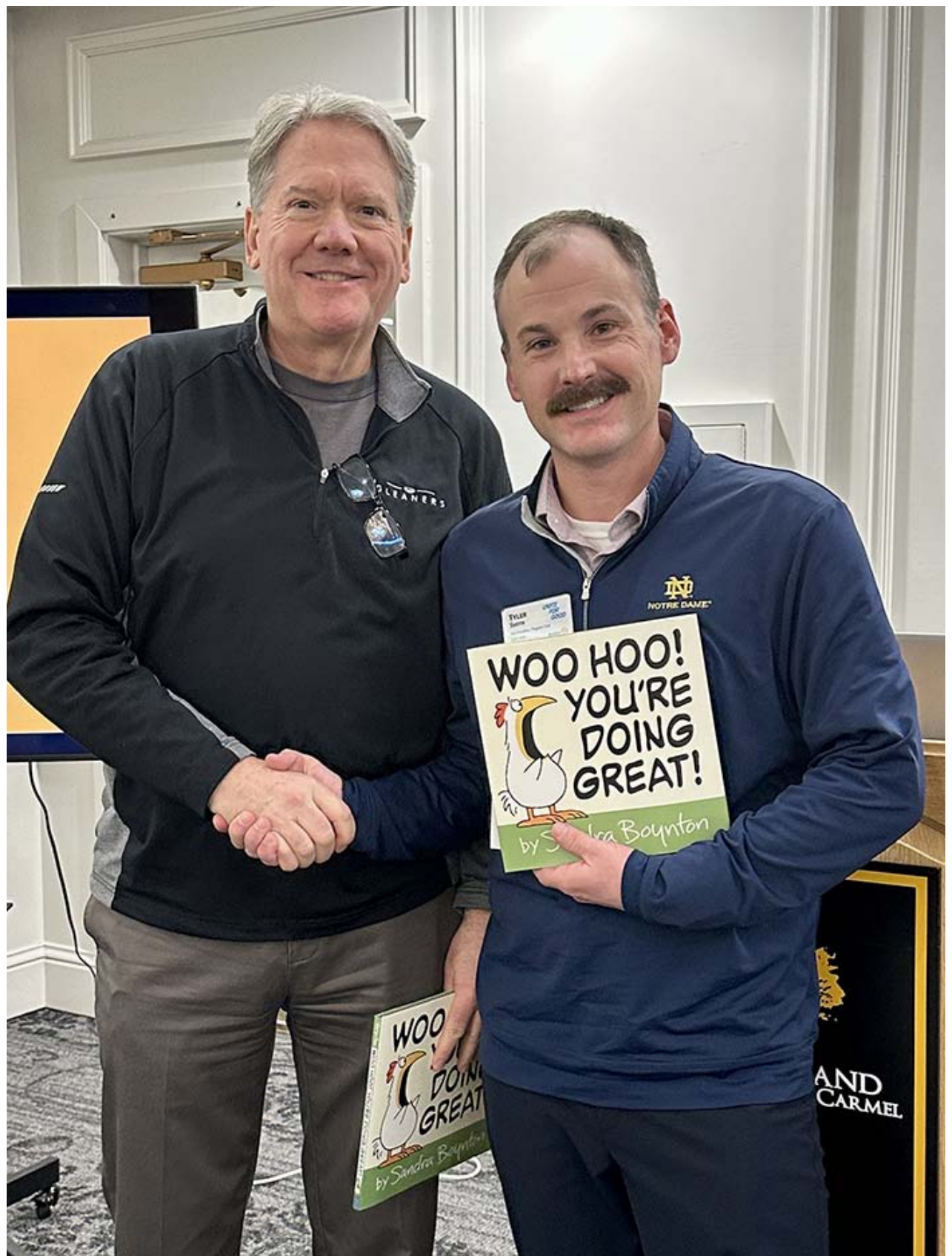
Julie



Standish Club Youth Services Chair



Arnold Elston
Past President
iPast President



Pic 1 Gleaners Foodbank CEO Fred Glass shares hunger facts

Pic 2: Gleaners CEO Fred Glass presented books by Carmel Rotary Vice Pres Tyler Smith to sign for distribution to Carmel grade schools

Join Us February 5th for Our 5:31

Join US!

Rotary

Club of Carmel



5:31 Club Thursday

February 5th



BIER BREWERY CARMEL

13720 N Meridian St, Carmel, IN 46032, United States

Everyone is welcome to join

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.



Thank You to Our Volunteers at Coburn Place



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.

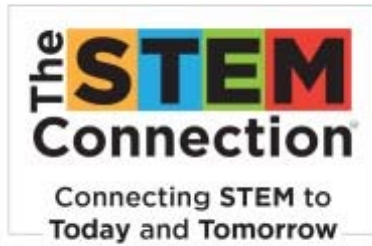
We Need Volunteers!

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

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.



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.seedsocaring.org/>

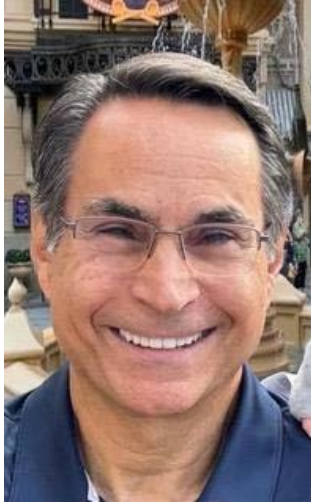
JAN

BASIC NEEDS

Dental Kits

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

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.

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=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>

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

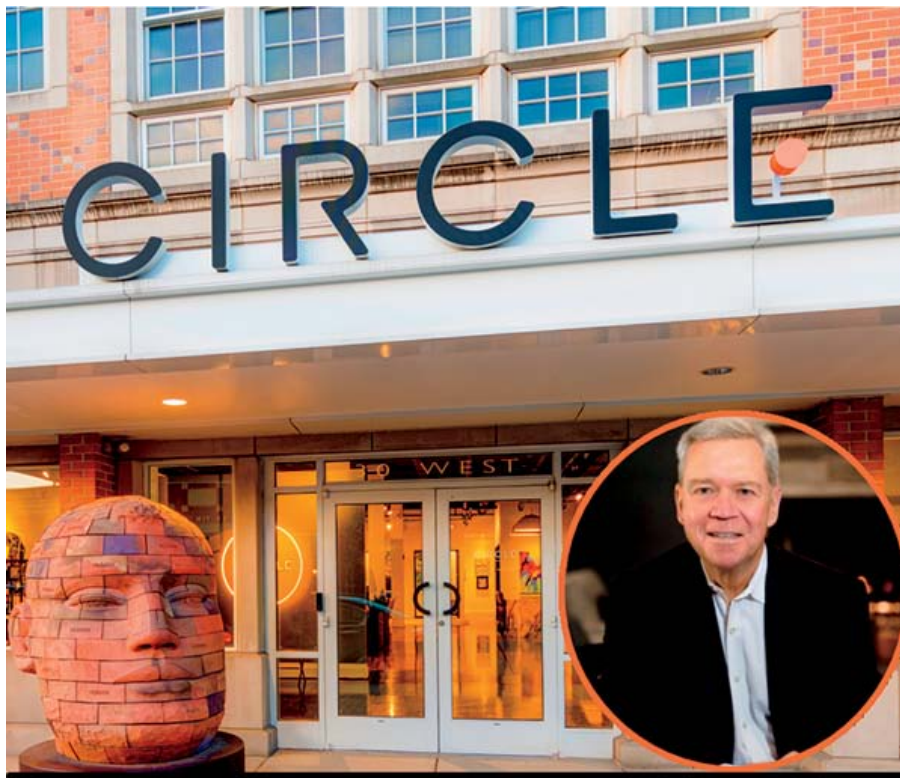
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Carmel

ranjitputhran@allstate.com



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Club Member Anniversaries



[David Pencak](#)
19 Years



[Marta H. Spence](#)
14 Years



[Jon Walker](#)
14 Years



[Sharleen Miller](#)
14 Years



[Kwan Hui](#)
7 Years



[Robert Wright Swanay](#)
7 Years



[Monica Frauhiger](#)
3 Years



[Greg Pilling](#)
3 Years



[Erika Steele](#)
0 Years

Birthdays

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

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

[Mark Satz](#)
February 4th

[Winston Long](#)
February 5th

[Jason Randlett](#)
February 7th

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

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

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

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

[Cristina Mazza Piccolo](#)
February 20th

Wedding Anniversaries

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

[Subhash C. Khanna](#)
February 19th

[Gerald M. Hughes](#)
February 19th