

# Rotary



## Club of Carmel GEARBOX Newsletter

### Club Meeting

Carmel  
Woodland Country Club  
Friday at 11:45 AM

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April 3rd

## BSU President Enlightens Rotarians About Ball State's Successes

Ball State University President Geoffrey S. Mearns, J.D., addressed the Carmel Rotary Club at its meeting March 20, 2026. President Mearns provided an overview of BSU's new strategic plan. *Destination 2040: Our Flight Path*, that sets priorities across five key areas: undergraduate excellence, graduate education and lifetime learning, community engagement and impact, scholarship and societal impact, and inclusiveness and institutional excellence.

*BSU by the Numbers:* BSU's freshmen enrollment of 3,700 has a median high school GPA of 3.57; 91% are Indiana residents; 90% eligible for some type of financial aid, with 46% eligible for a Pell grant; and 29% are first generation college students in their families. BSU has more than 270 undergraduate and graduate academic programs, and boasts a 94% career placement for BSU grads.

*Carnegie Foundation Classification:* President Mearns was proud to share that Ball State University has been named an "Opportunity College and University" by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, recognizing the University as a national model for advancing student success and long-term economic outcomes. Developed by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the American Council on Education, the classification evaluates institutions based on their ability to serve students from the communities they represent and on how alumni earnings compare to peers in their regional job markets. In 2025, just 479 institutions—approximately 16 percent of U.S. colleges and universities—earned this classification. Ball State is the only public institution in Indiana to receive this recognition, and one of just three Mid-American Conference institutions to be honored. The two criteria are a) the institution must enroll students who represent demographics of region institution serves ("access"), and b) 2) Eight years after graduation, institution's graduates must earn at least 50% more than non-college graduates in region ("earnings"). Also, BSU met the additional classifications as a Doctoral Institution with High Research Activity (R2), one of only 27 in country; and a Community-Engaged Institution – one of only 11 in country meeting all three major classifications.

*Athletics:* In 2025, for the first time in BSU's athletic program history, the BSU Cardinals received the prestigious Mid-American Conference (MAC) Dr. Carol A. Cartwright Award for its program excellence in academics, athletics, and citizenship during the 2024-25 school year. The Cartwright Award for overall excellence of a member institution's athletics department is presented annually to only one university in the Mid-American Conference. A former competitive college athlete, President Mearns has been actively involved in NCAA governance many years and is chair of the Mid-American Council of Presidents.

*Muncie Community Schools Partnership:* Under President Mearns' leadership, BSU has increased alumni engagement and fundraising; sustained and expanded its enrollment, despite the adverse impact of the pandemic. Rotarians were particularly impressed to learn of President Mearns and BSU's unique innovative partnership with Muncie Community Schools (MCS). In 2018, enacting new state legislation allowing the state to take control over failing public school districts, then Governor Eric Holcomb requested President Mearns and BSU accept a unique role to take over, lead, and turnaround the then-failing Muncie Community Schools (MCS). And the results have been remarkable. Under BSU's collaborative leadership and historic partnership with MCS, Muncie Community Schools have increased student attendance; annually achieved a balanced operating budget; increased teacher compensation by nearly 40 percent and more than doubled teacher and staff retention; invested heavily in MCS facilities; stabilized student enrollment; and dramatically improved student outcomes in Kindergarten readiness, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading, and high school graduation. Mearns credited BSU's relationship with the community for MCS's remarkable success.

*Revitalizing the Village:* Mearns described BSU's ambitious plan to revitalize "The Village", the commercial district located immediately adjacent to Ball State's campus. With much community support and investment, plans include a new Performing Arts Center, Cantino Hotel, Center for Innovation and Collaboration, and enhancing the Village South student residential area. Mearns became BSU President in May 2017, having served 5 years as president of Northern Kentucky University. Before becoming president of NKU, he served as dean of the law school and then as provost at Cleveland State University. Before his academia career, Mearns served several years as Assistant U.S. Attorney where he participated in the prosecution of several high-ranking members of the Gambino organized crime family. He concluded his career with the U.S. Department of Justice as one of the principal trial lawyers in the prosecution of Terry Nichols, Timothy McVeigh's conspirator in the Oklahoma City bombing.

**NO WEEKLY MEETING - Good Friday**

April 10th

**Weekly Meeting - J. Douglas Boles**

April 16th

**Board Meeting**

April 17th

**WEEKLY MEETING -**

**Leadership**

**Connection**

**Scholarship**

**Luncheon**

**Club Leaders**



Doug Willard  
President



Nancy S. Heck  
President-Elect



Dubbie Buckler  
Secretary



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



Greg Pilling  
Treasurer



Donna Gray  
Club Comm. Officer  
Club Public Image Chair  
Webmaster



Monica Frauhiger  
Club Admin Chair

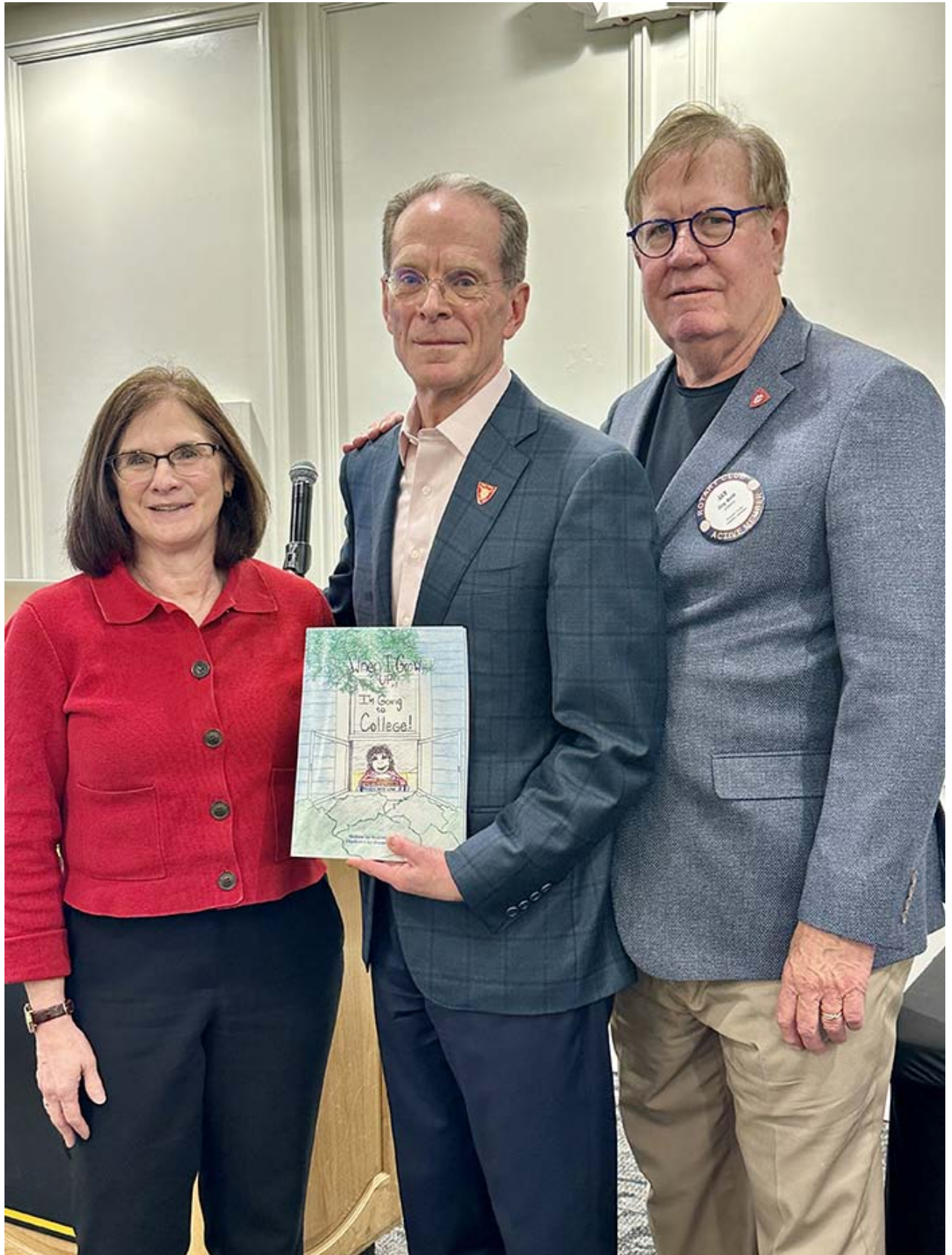


David I. Hollander  
Membership Chair

Louise M. Jackson  
Leadership Connection



*Pic 1: BSU President Mearns reviews BSU campus improvements*



Pic 2: Rotarian Tammy Haney, BSU President Mearns, Rotarian and BSU alum Jay Brill who introduced Mearns

## March 27th Speaker is Bhavana Karuturi

Crowned Winner for Mrs. Indiana Universe 2025, Top 6th Mrs. Universe USA, Mrs. Bharat Indiana 2023 & Runner up for Mrs. Bharat USA 2023 & World Wide popular 2023.

She is a Biomedical Engineer & works as a Director of Clinical Technology Planning at a Consulting Company. She is a Published Model, Coach, Parent Judge & a Mom of 2 boys. Her Mission is to Inspire others through her Journey & Experiences. Bhavana will share more with our club on her experiences in the pageantry process.



Chair



Robert Wright Swaney  
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



Lyra Lee  
Club Social Chair



TANAKA Pasipamire Kaleso  
Club Social Chair



## Volunteer Opportunity!

### Rotary Tent Volunteer Sign up 5/3/2026 Sunday at Japan SpringFest by Kawachinagano Japanese Garden

Volunteer Sign up is needed for the Rotary Tent to pass out brochures and talk to people about Rotary Club and RYLA.

When: On May 3, 2026 Sunday we will have a Rotary Tent at 2026 Carmel Japan SpringFest at City Hall Parking lot by Kawachinagano Japanese Garden

9:30-11:30 Tent set up Tent, Table and chairs

Pick up Rotary pop-up tent and set up at the designated location

11:30 - 1:30 (event)

1:30-3:30 (event)

3:30-5pm Event (event)

5pm Tear down tent and return to the storage

Contact Tyler Smith  
[Tsmithrotary3398@gmail.com](mailto:Tsmithrotary3398@gmail.com)  
[Kaybrunson7@gmail.com](mailto:Kaybrunson7@gmail.com)

## Hamilton County Leadership Academy Applications for 2027 Now Open

Hamilton County Leadership Academy Executive Director Maria Kanger addressed Carmel Rotarians at its March 20, 2026 meeting about the Hamilton County Leadership Academy. She explained its purpose and the application process. Kanger shared that the HCLA was established in 1991 to develop a pool of knowledgeable community leaders to apply their skills to government, business and civic activities and positively shape the future of Hamilton County. The HCLA was developed by the Noblesville Chamber and the Carmel-Clay Chamber of Commerce. HCLA's mission is to educate and inspire leadership to create a positive impact in our community. Funding is provided by participant tuition fees, contributions from local governmental entities and corporations, grants, and private donations.

Kanger explained that each year the Hamilton County Leadership Academy selects a cohort of leaders to complete a comprehensive, 10-month curriculum exploring local issues. After completing the program, graduates are prepared to assume active roles in addressing critical issues facing Hamilton County. Eligible applicants must reside or work in Hamilton County; share a desire to gain a deeper understanding of Hamilton County trends, operations, and services to the community; demonstrate a record of leadership both professionally and through volunteerism in the community; have the opportunity and passion to significantly influence issues facing our community; articulate the impact they hope to make in Hamilton County due to their HCLA participation; be able to commit to the attendance and time requirements of a monthly class experience from 8:20 am-4:30 pm one time a month from September-May (missing no more than 2 classes) and mandatory attendance at a two-day opening retreat in August and a two-day overnight closing retreat in June; invest in their leadership journey and have the ability to pay the \$2,250 program tuition; and be eager to learn, network, and engage with peers across Hamilton County. Cohort members must arrive on time and stay until sessions adjourn. If these requirements are not met, this could jeopardize the member's matriculation to graduation and grant of alumni status.

Kanger announced that applications for the 2027 HCLA are now open. Applicants can go to the HCLA website [HCLA.net](http://HCLA.net) for the application and instructions. Tuition for HCLA is \$2,250 and may be paid by the class member, their employer, or a sponsor supporting the class member. Limited scholarships are available, and applicants should state their interest and need in the HCLA application. Kanger emphasized that the class size is limited and the selection of participants is highly competitive. She commended the many Rotarians who are HCLA alums and those who support HCLA.



*HCLA Exec Dir Maria Kanger explains application process*

**Cheftacular - Tickets Available**

**Rotary**

Club of Carmel



**FELLOWSHIPING  
FOR A GREAT CAUSE**

A promotional poster for the Cheftacular 2026 event. At the top center is the logo for Carmel High School Culinary Arts, which consists of a yellow letter 'C' with a white horse silhouette inside it, and the text "POLY-TECHNICS CULINARY ARTS" below. The main title "CHEFTACULAR 2026" is in large, white, serif font. Below it, "AN EVENING OF CULINARY EXCELLENCE" is also in white, serif font. The background of the poster shows a close-up of fresh vegetables like bell peppers and broccoli. At the bottom, in yellow text, it says "Tasting Event and Culinary Competition Supporting Carmel High School Culinary Arts & The Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank", followed by "16+ Top Local Chefs", "16+ CHS Culinary Arts Students", and "16+ Tasting Dishes to Delight".

**Monday, April 27**

**6:30-8:30 PM**

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

**Door 17**

**\$25**

Limited Discounted Tickets



**Cheftacular**

<https://square.link/u/MRUKZauB>

**Ignite Suite Tickets**

<https://square.link/u/Oz5tsRtv>

## **Doug Boles is Speaker April 10th**

Doug Boles added the role of president of INDYCAR in February 2025 after being named president of Indianapolis Motor Speedway in July 2013. Boles has been widely recognized for his promotional expertise and strategic marketing acumen, expanding IMS' global reach and deepening the connection between fans of the NTT INDYCAR SERIES and the Indianapolis 500 presented by Gainbridge.

With more than 20 years of executive leadership experience in motorsports – spanning team operations, sponsorship, marketing, public relations and beyond – Boles is tasked to lead INDYCAR into a new era of opportunity and visibility.

Boles served as chief operating officer of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway from January-June 2013, along with his role as vice president of communications for Hulman & Company, which he



assumed in November 2011. Boles joined the company in November 2010 as IMS director of public relations after more than 15 years of executive-level motorsports experience in team operations, marketing, sponsorship and public relations.

At IMS, Boles oversaw the sellout of the 100th Indianapolis 500, the first full-capacity crowd in the event's storied history. In addition, he's managed more than \$150 million in strategic investment at the Racing Capital of the World, including "Project 100" and significant infrastructure improvements following the acquisition of IMS by Penske Corp.

As a founding partner and chief operating officer at Panther Racing and as Hulman & Company's vice president of communications, he has worked extensively within the INDYCAR paddock. At Panther, Boles helped lead the team to 15 INDYCAR SERIES race wins and two INDYCAR SERIES championships, in addition to seven INDY NXT by Firestone race wins and a championship.

A Butler University graduate who also earned a law degree from the Indiana University School of Law at Indianapolis, Boles served as executive vice president of the marketing and advertising agency ignition, Inc., from 2006-08. He then became partner in the marketing agency i3Worldwide while conducting his private law practice, primarily representing drivers, race teams and sponsors.

Boles also served as director of governmental and corporate affairs for Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith from 1992-97, where he also spearheaded the nation's first government-led effort to attract motorsports companies and jobs to a community.

Boles serves on the boards of the 500 Festival, Ascension St. Vincent Hospital, Motorsports Hall of Fame of America, Star Bank and United States Auto Club. He has previously taught courses at his alma mater, Butler University, and was selected as a member of the first group of "50 Under 50" highlighting Butler graduates. Boles and his wife, Beth, live in Zionsville, Indiana, and enjoy as many outdoor activities and sports as possible in the water and on the mountains, skiing and hiking. They have four children.

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## Join Rotary at Japan Spring Fest on May 3rd

ATTENTION ROTARIANS - We are sponsoring this event on May 3rd 12-5 and would love to see you there! Volunteers are needed to help promote Rotary at our tent.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)

JAPAN SPRINGFEST



Come celebrate the spring season and all things Japan at the Carmel Japan Spring Fest. Sample tasty Japanese foods, enjoy local Japanese cultural performances, take photos with Cosplayers, and experience Japan through various family-friendly activities.

You'll also get a first look at the updated Carmel Japanese Garden, plus learn all about our sister city in Kawachinagano, Japan!

**Free to attend.**

Visit the Facebook event [at this link](#) for up-to-date details.

[Sign up to volunteer](#)

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## Leadership Connections Scholarships



We are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the Leadership Connection Scholarship, presented by the Rotary Club of Carmel.

This scholarship will be awarded to six seniors who attended the Leadership Connection events on October 24th and November 6th, 2025.

Each scholarship winner will receive:

1. A \$2,000 scholarship for tuition at a college, university, community college, or trade school.
2. A technology award to support their academic journey.

Eligibility & Application Details:

- Applicants must have attended Leadership Connection and be in their senior year.
- Submissions should highlight their desire to continue their education, the school they plan to attend, and the impact Leadership Connection has had on them.
- Creative responses in various media formats are encouraged!

Application Deadline: March 27, 2026

Scholarship Recipients Rotary Luncheon: April 17, 2026

To submit final applications or to ask any questions, please email the Leadership Connection Team:

[rotaryleadershipconnection@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryleadershipconnection@gmail.com)

Thank you for your support in helping our students!

Leadership Connection & the Rotary Club of Carmel

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## Rotary Outstanding Service Award (ROSA) Nominations Request

It is that time of year to submit your nominations for 2026 ROSA.

The ROSA Award recognizes a non-Rotarian who best demonstrates dedication to enhancement of Carmel Indiana through community service and who has demonstrated service above self in our community.

Nominations deadline is April 4, 2026. When you submit your nomination, please include the nominee's name, position, organization and reason why you believe your nomination should receive this award. Please send nominations to: [rotaryclubcarmelin@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubcarmelin@gmail.com)

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## Rotary Family Event- Ignite Volleyball

<https://square.link/u/Oz5tsRtv>

# Rotary



Club of Carmel  
*Rotary Family Fun Night!*



**IGNITE VOLLEYBALL SUITE EXPERIENCE!!!**

Fishers Event Center  
11000 Stock-Dale Street, Fishers, IN 46037

*Friday May 1<sup>st</sup> @7pm*

Cost: \$55.95 per person  
(Includes Ticket, Food & On Court Flag Experience)

<https://square.link/u/Oz5tsRtv>

Parking is available at Fishers Event Center for General \$10 & VIP \$20



Membership Challenge

Rotary 

**8 in 8**

# **MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE**

**MARCH 1 – APRIL 30**

**The goal is simple: add eight  
new members in eight weeks.**

Any Rotary or club in Zones 30 and 31 that  
meets the goal qualifies—plain and  
simple.

**To add extra motivation, clubs that  
successfully add eight new members  
during the challenge period will be entered  
into a drawing for \$1,000 to host a member  
social event in May or June.**

*Event must include members bringing guests.*

# **GET INVOLVED!**

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**Check Request Form**

<https://forms.gle/WnHuUVemxDZGdiwe6>

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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=ZjBGekNaYkczT0VZdnhDYjhidUtsQT09>

**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



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## proud to protect Carmel



**Ranj Puthran**

**317-844-4683**

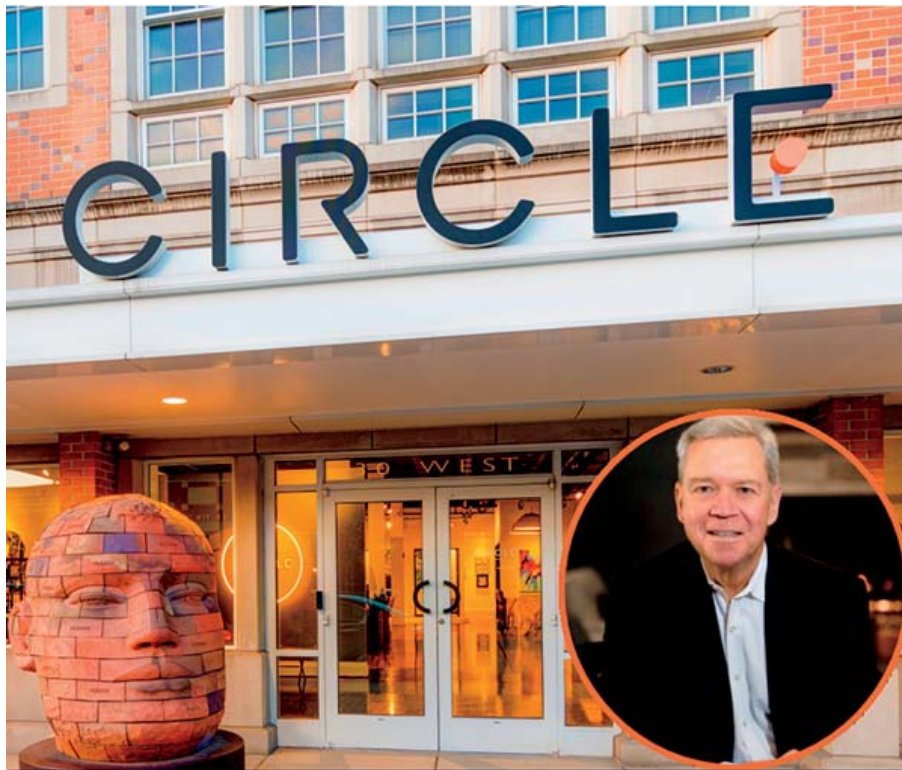
718 Adams St Ste B

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



[William Robert Schnell](#)  
17 Years



[David Zech](#)  
10 Years



[Ramesh K. Joshi](#)  
4 Years



[Gail Bardach](#)  
2 Years

## Birthdays

[Timothy A Flint](#)  
March 25th

[Nolan Schloneger](#)  
March 27th

[Joseph S Barnes](#)  
April 1st

[Zachary Mayhew](#)  
April 7th

[Amanda Massey](#)  
March 25th

[Jess A. Lawhead](#)  
March 28th

[Benjamin Pearson](#)  
April 2nd

[David Zech](#)  
April 14th

[Caitlin Karvasky](#)  
March 26th

[William Robert Schnell](#)  
March 29th

[Susan I Gath](#)  
April 2nd

[Robert L Brown](#)  
April 17th

## Wedding Anniversaries

[John Stanley](#)  
March 29th

[Sharleen Miller](#)  
April 4th

[Meg Gates Osborne](#)  
March 31st

[Nam Mokwunye](#)  
April 7th

[Bradford S Osborne](#)  
March 31st

[Kyle D Maisano](#)  
April 22nd