

# SPARKS



**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 19, 2015**

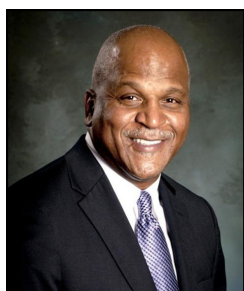
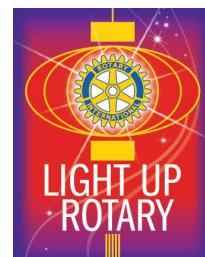
**Guest Speaker: Wil James**

**President, Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc.**

**Introduced by: Julie Schmidt**

**Fountain Room, Galt House West, 2nd floor**

**Buffet Opens: 11:30 am / Meeting Begins: 12:10 pm**



Wil James leads Toyota's largest automotive manufacturing plant in North America, while also championing quality initiatives for Toyota's fourteen North American manufacturing operations. He is the first African-American to serve as president of Toyota's Kentucky plant, which manufactures the Camry, America's best-selling car, and was recently named the new home of the first U.S.-produced Lexus.

James has served in multiple leadership roles within Toyota's network of manufacturing operations across the U.S. He was recently named one of the Top 100 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America. While serving as Toyota's North American diversity champion, he led diversity and inclusion efforts for the company in plants across the U.S., Canada and Mexico, which directly employ more than 40,000 people.

Wil currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, is a board member of the Bluegrass Economic Advancement Movement and was most recently named board member of National Urban League. James is active in the Executive Leadership Council and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

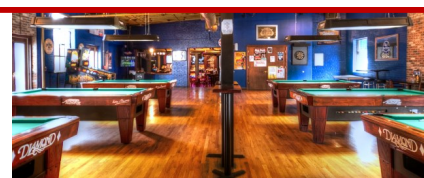
A native of Norfolk, Virginia, James received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology from Old Dominion University in 1978. Additionally, in 2013, James received an honorary doctorate of engineering from the University of Kentucky in recognition of his life's work, and his leadership with Toyota. He and his wife, Michaelene, reside in Lexington.



## ROTARY BILLIARDS

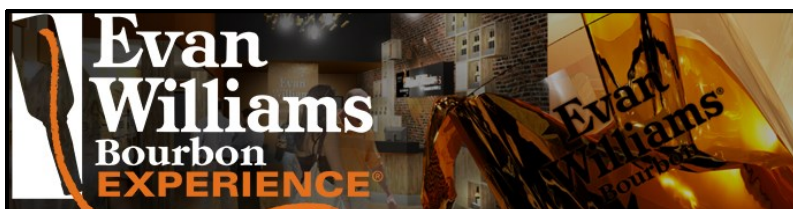
**Saturday, February 28 - SAVE THE DATE!**

Diamond Pub & Billiards at 630 Barret Avenue  
Questions? Contact Gary Noel at 585-3600



### Inside this issue:

Meetings & Programs	2
"That's Entertainment!" Events	2
Pot O' Gold drawing total is growing!	2
February 12 Meeting w/ Ted Smith	3
Rotary Leadership Institute on March 7	3
Party/Fundraiser at Copper & Kings!	3
Day at the Ballpark	3



**Wednesday, February 25 (5:30—8:30)**

**\$25/person - Guests are welcome!**

**528 West Main Street**

Tour, appetizers, special tastings, cash bar, meet/greet w/ Artisanal Distiller, Charlie Downs, who will sign bottles.

Tastings straight off the still, plus 2004 EW Single Barrel Vintage Bourbon and EW 23-yr-old bourbon (normally sells for \$289 per bottle) -- this tasting is not usually offered on a tour, only for Rotarians and guests at this event!

Register at the Feb 25 date on the [Club Calendar Online](#).

Questions? Contact Laura Crahan (lsburns05@gmail.com / 386-7951) or Matt Boone Gardiner (matthewgardiner@boonegardiner.com / 243-3832)

## HAPPY

Mike Fallot	Feb 20
Jim Appleberry	Feb 22
Amber Halloran	Feb 24
Karl Schmitt Jr.	Feb 24
David Hinton	Feb 25
Leo Smith	Feb 25
Sam Ward	Feb 25

**Please sit at the birthday table on February 19.**

## BIRTHDAY!



## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- February 26 — Cathe Dykstra** (President & CEO, Family Scholar House)
- March 5 — Ray Burse** (KY State University President / Recently Featured on NBC Brian Williams' 'Making a Difference')
- March 12 — Brendan McCarthy** (Managing Editor, KY Center for Investigative Reporting)
- March 26 — Unsung Heroes Program**
- April 2 — Kevin Flannery** (President, Churchill Downs)
- April 9 — Tom Jurich** (University of Louisville Director of Athletics)
- April 16 — Speech Contest**
- April 23 — Jamie Comer** (Comm of AG & Candidate for Governor)
- April 30 — John Asher** (Vice President, Racing Communications, Churchill Downs)



There was no winner at the 2/12 meeting, so the Pot O' Gold total is at \$178, and it will be even higher for this Thursday's drawing! Each entry is only \$1. You could win! [CLICK HERE](#) for details!



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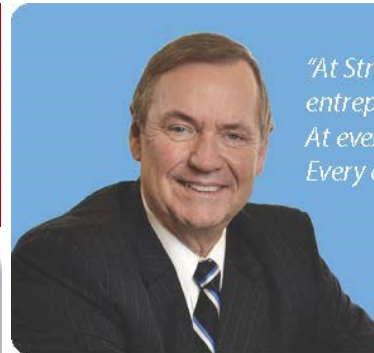
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## "THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!"

**February 25 (5:30p - 8:30p) — Rotary Night at 'Evan Williams Bourbon Experience'** at 528 West Main Street; \$25/person; Free Tastings and Appetizers / Cash Bar; Meet/greet w/ Artisanal Distiller, Charlie Downs (*will sign bottles too*); Tastings straight off the still plus special tastings of 2004 EW Single Barrel Vintage Bourbon & EW 23-yr-old bourbon (*normally sells for \$289 per bottle — this is not usually available on a tour, offered only for Rotarians & guests for this event*)

**February 28 (Saturday) — Rotary Billiards** at Diamond Pub & Billiards at 630 Barret Avenue (*details coming soon*)

**2015 (Date TBA) — Louisville City FC Soccer "Opening Night"**

**May (Date TBA) — Garden Party** at Boone Gardiner

**May 12, 2015 (Tuesday) — FUNdraiser Event** at Copper & Kings

**July (Date TBA) — Zoo After Hours Event** at Louisville Zoo

**September (Date TBA) — Farm Party** at Stet Stetten's residence / Springdale Woods Farm



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## February 12, 2015 Rotary Meeting

Having recently returned from his Colorado ski trip, President Kevin Wardell convened the February 12, 2015 meeting of the Rotary Club of Louisville. The invocation was given by John O'Callaghan, and John Jennings led us in our Pledge of Allegiance and the Rotary 4-Way Test. David Hinton introduced the Rotary Rockin Band, which played "Paradise" by John Prine. It just amazes me how good that Rotary Rockin Band is! Tony Kemper recognized our birthday celebrants for the month. President Kevin announced that 21 people have registered for the Rotary Leadership Program on Saturday, February 21, in Lexington. An additional RLI is on March 7 at Indiana Wesleyan University off Blankenbaker at I-64. Anyone wishing to attend should let Debe Skidmore know that you have an interest in this session.



President Kevin Wardell, Ted Smith  
and Past President Henry Heuser Jr.



President Kevin thanked Jeff Hadley for arranging the Rotary Bowling

Event last week, and congratulated the top bowlers, Past President Randy Coe, Bob Slider and Barbara Collins. David Reed won the award for avoiding the most pins (see photo at left). The Evan Williams Bourbon Experience will be held on Wednesday, February 25 from 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM with free tastings and cash bar. You can register for this event online at [THIS LINK](#).

Henry V. Heuser, Jr. introduced our speaker this week: Ted Smith, PhD, is Louisville Metro Government's Chief of Innovation and Chair of the Institute for Healthy Air, Water & Soil. Dr. Smith spoke about his goal that Louisville should be recognized as a national model community for new understandings of the inter-connectedness between health issues and quality of life.

For example, 10% of Louisville's citizens have asthma. For asthmatics, Louisville is in the Top 20 worst places to live. The Institute uses "big data" to analyze the triggers of asthma attacks, especially triggers not previously identified. By using an ingenious tracking device (i.e., a "Propeller Inhaler Sensor") to detect asthma incidents as they occur, the number of asthma attacks in Louisville has been reduced by about 50%. Louisville is in the forefront nationally for using this kind of big data research; no other cities are doing this type work! Through Ted's efforts at the Department and through the Institute, Louisville has established a mechanism to improve the community in which we live and work. This is being done by implementing research projects, providing lifestyle guidance and accurate water quality, soil and land use information, and by establishing connections between related community projects, such as tree canopy, urban heat and traffic calming.

Before the meeting concluded, President-elect Greg Braun explained the new "Pot O' Gold" drawing which will be held at each Thursday meeting. Our next meeting will be on February 19 in the Fountain Room; Rotary will host Wil James, Jr., President of Toyota Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc. and Chair of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

- Submitted by Glenn Price



Interested in club leadership positions or learning more about Rotary? Consider attending the Rotary Leadership Institute in **Louisville** on **March 7** (8a-3p). Breakfast/lunch included. The \$70 fee is paid by the Club. Email Debe at: [rotary@rotary45.org](mailto:rotary@rotary45.org).



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