



The Medina Kiwanis Brick

“serving the children of the world”

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www.kiwanis.org



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May Is Full of Ways to Serve

May is a busy month for the Kiwanis Club of Medina, with several opportunities to volunteer, support our club, and serve the community.

The **Medina Bike Rodeo** is Wednesday, May 6, from 6:00–8:00 PM at Ray Mellert Park. Kiwanis volunteers are needed to help grill hot dogs, hand out and size bike helmets, and place Kiwanis stickers on helmets. Even if you cannot volunteer, stopping by in Kiwanis gear is a great way to show support.

Our long-standing **Mother’s Day Flower Sale** is May 8 and 9. Volunteers are still needed for a variety of tasks before, during, and after the sale. Friends, family, and prospective members are welcome to help.

On Saturday, May 16, we will participate in our **Adopt-A-Highway** Cleanup along Route 18, and the week of May 18, volunteers will begin placing flags for the **Parade of Flags**.

Whether you can take a shift, give an hour, bring a friend, or simply show up, your help matters. These projects are a meaningful way to support our club, serve Medina, and show the community what Kiwanis is all about.

Schedule

May 6
Medina Bike Rodeo

May 7
Service Project -
RePlay for Kids

May 8 & 9
Annual Flower Sale
(next to Starbucks)

May 11
Satellite Club Meeting

May 14
TBD

May 16
Highway Cleanup

May 20
Board Meeting

May 21
Annual Meeting

May 18 (week)
Flag installation

May 27
Project MUNCH

May 28
Sheriff Terry Grice -
MCPAL

June 4
Students of the Year -
Scholarships

June 8
Satellite Club Meeting

June 11
STEAM Session

June 17
Board Meeting



Kiwanis
— CLUB OF MEDINA —

Ways to Volunteer in May

Questions or ready to help? Here's how to sign up.

 <p>1. Bike Rodeo</p> <p>May 6 • Contact Kerry Kelley to volunteer or learn more.</p>	 <p>2. Flower Sale</p> <p>May 8–9 • Scan the blue QR code to sign up.</p> 	 <p>3. Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup</p> <p>May 16 • Scan the red QR code to sign up.</p> 	 <p>4. Parade of Flags</p> <p>Week of May 18 • If you have not been assigned to a group, contact Mike Short.</p>
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♥ Thank you for helping Kiwanis serve Medina. ♥



Kiwanis Work Day at Camp Manatoc

Our annual Kiwanis Work Day at Camp Manatoc is coming up in June, with a pre-event site prep visit scheduled first.

Camp Manatoc is located in Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Peninsula, Ohio. The nearly 600-acre reservation includes lakes, trails, fields, and both rustic and improved cabins, making it a well-used camp throughout the year.

Our club's Camp Manatoc Committee was created to help support the Boy Scouts of America by coordinating our participation in the Division's annual Camp Manatoc Work Day. Each spring, club members help with needed repairs, maintenance, and cleaning on the cabin our club maintains.

On Wednesday, May 27, around 6:30 PM, volunteers will meet at the dining hall, then disperse to the cabins to see what work is needed before the main work day.

The annual work day will be held on Saturday, June 6. Doors open at the dining hall at 7:30 AM for a light breakfast and fellowship before volunteers head out to complete service work.

This is a great hands-on service opportunity and a meaningful way for our club to help keep Camp Manatoc ready for the scouts and groups who use it throughout the year.

Remembering with Gratitude

As Memorial Day approaches, we pause to remember the men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. Their sacrifice is part of the freedom and community we are privileged to enjoy today.

May we honor them not only with remembrance, but also through the way we serve our neighbors, care for our community, and continue the work of making Medina a better place for all.



Parade of Flags

The Kiwanis Club of Medina's Parade of Flags is one of our club's most visible projects. Each flag placed throughout the community is a reminder of service, gratitude, and the shared pride we have in Medina.

Orders for the Parade of Flags may be placed on our website at medinakiwanis.org.



Celebrating 45 Years of Arbor Day in Medina

For 45 years, the Kiwanis Club of Medina has celebrated Arbor Day by giving local third graders their very own tree seedling to plant and care for. This year, that tradition continued with 600 Norway Spruce saplings, generously donated by Medina Christmas Tree Farm.

On Tuesday, April 21, Kiwanis members and community volunteers gathered to bag the saplings and prepare them for delivery to students. It was a busy, hands-on service project and a great example of how many people come together to keep this long-standing tradition growing.

The Arbor Day celebration continued on Thursday, April 23, when third-grade poster and essay winners joined us for lunch, along with their principals, from Eliza Northrop Elementary, H.G. Blake Elementary, Ralph E. Waite Elementary, Sidney Fenn Elementary, Ella Canavan Elementary, and St. Francis. The students shared what they learned about trees, from the shade they provide to the way they protect soil, support wildlife, and make our community more beautiful.

We were also joined by several community partners who help support Medina's trees and green spaces, including Jansen Worley, Medina City Parks Director, Jesse Work, Medina City Arborist, and Charles Reicheld from Medina Christmas Tree Farm. Their involvement helped connect this Kiwanis tradition to the broader community effort to care for and protect Medina's natural spaces.

Since this project began, the Kiwanis Club of Medina has distributed an estimated 25,000 seedlings to local students. It is a simple gift with lasting impact, and one that reflects the Kiwanis motto, "Serving the Children of the World." We are also proud that Medina has earned Tree City USA recognition every year since 1981, a distinction that reflects the city's ongoing commitment to trees and environmental stewardship.

A special thank you goes to Dale Weygandt for leading and coordinating this effort year after year. His dedication has helped keep this meaningful tradition rooted in our club and growing throughout the Medina community.



Dale Weygandt



*Linda Hoffmann
Hank Waite & Joan Rundle*



Care Packages Packed with Kindness

At a recent meeting, Kiwanis Club of Medina members assembled 93 care packages for families at Akron Children's Ronald McDonald House.

Each bag included thoughtful comfort items such as lotion, pens, tissues, notebooks, lip balm, fidgets, face masks, and signed cards from our club. These small items can offer a bit of relief and encouragement to families who are navigating stressful days away from home.

This is a quarterly service project for our club, and it is a meaningful reminder that kindness does not have to be complicated to make a difference. A simple bag, packed with care, can help someone feel remembered and supported.



Pictured: Becky Crain, Kip Crain, Erin Grohe, and Hank Waite



Know a Couple Celebrating 50 Years?

Joan Rundle is preparing for our annual 50th Anniversary Celebration, honoring couples living in Medina County who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. If you know a couple who lives in Medina County and will celebrate their 50th anniversary between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, please send their information to Joan.



Fifth Thursday at Pickleback's

Every month with a fifth Thursday, our club skips the regular noon meeting and gathers for something a little different, either a social event or a service project.

On April 30, we met at Common Ground for drinks at Pickleback's and food from Get Smashed! It was a relaxed evening with a great turnout, plenty of conversation, and a few special guests from the morning club, including Lt. Governor Ray Fain and his wife, Sandra, along with Roy Lehman.

We also had the honor of spending time with our rarely seen member Jim Haymond and his wife, Tanya.

Unfortunately, everyone was so busy chatting and catching up that no one remembered to take pictures, which may be the best sign of a good social.

Ray shared that the morning club will plan the next Fifth Thursday gathering, which will take place in July.

A Lively Lesson in Polka



Pictured: Jody Maddie, Sandy Maddie, Anna Slepecky, and Aaron Harrison

Kiwanian and Past President Anna Slepecky shared a fun and fascinating program about the Cleveland Polka Association.

Members learned that there are many types of polka bands and styles of polka dancing. To bring the program to life, Jody and Sandy danced for us and demonstrated several different types of polka dances. We also learned that the association's dances average about 140 attendees, and, as Anna reminded us, being Polish is definitely not required to enjoy the music or join the fun.

In recognition of Anna's program, the book *Polish, Czech, and Slovak Genealogy Guide* by Lisa A. Alzo was dedicated in her honor to the Medina County District Library.

Fun note: when a book about polka was requested for the dedication, the library discovered it did not have any books related to polka!



Leadership Learning Opportunity: Kiwanis Amplify

Kiwanis members interested in growing their leadership skills may want to keep Kiwanis Amplify on their radar for a future session.

This leadership development program is open to Kiwanis members and nonmembers age 18 and older and is designed for emerging leaders, new members, young professionals, and lifelong learners.

The program includes modules on leadership, communication, leading a team, inclusive leadership, strategic thinking, self-care, overcoming obstacles, and the CliftonStrengths assessment. The core program fee is \$50 for Kiwanis members, with bonus content available for an additional \$10.

Registration is typically open from January through March, with the program traditionally running April through June, so this may be one to watch for next year. Nanette Waite, Sue Milligan Russell, and Joan Samkow are participating in this year's program, so members who are curious about the experience are welcome to ask them about it. To learn more, visit kiwanis.org/amplify or email kiwanisamplify@kiwanis.org.

Project MUNCH

In April, Kiwanis members helped support Project MUNCH, continuing our club's commitment to serving children and families in our community. Thank you to everyone who gave their time, lent a hand, and helped make this monthly service project possible. Small acts of service add up, and Project MUNCH is one more way our club helps meet real needs close to home. Thanks to Tim Nelson for coordinating the effort for us every month!



Pictured: Anna Slepecky, Russ Fanello, Nanette Waite, Chery Short, and Sue Milligan Russell



Pictured: Joan Rundle and Kimberly Gaska



Pictured (left): Erin Grohe, Ron Luxon, and Marty Gaska

Cheers to our
May Birthdays!

Keith Dirham
David Gedrock
Dale Weygandt
Kathleen Oehme



Happy Dollars

- Linda Hoffmann gave \$1 Happy Dollar, "Happy to be back after time in Florida and with grandkids."



Board of Directors

2025 - 2027

Joan Samkow
Tracy Knappins
Russ Fanello

2026 - 2028

Kimberly Gaska
Chery Short
Ed Zackery

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Club Officers

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Aaron Harrison

President Elect

Krista Wasowski

Vice President

Kerry Kelley

Immediate Past President

Marty Gaska

Secretary

Nanette Waite

Treasurer

Brian Harr

Kiwanis Defining Statement

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers
dedicated to improving the world one child,
and one community at a time.