

BEE THERE FOR AN (EARLY) EVENING IN THE PARK



A pollinator garden uses plants—often native species—to provide food and habitat for endangered pollinators, which, in turn, help produce one of every three bites of food we eat. Rain gardens slow the flow of stormwater, absorb standing water to help prevent mosquitoes, and filter many of the unhealthy elements found in stormwater runoff. Our garden at the back of Kenawood Park accomplishes all of these goals.

We started this project almost six years ago to address Rotary’s seventh area of focus—protecting the environment—

and to get Rotarians outside and working together during the COVID-19 lockdown. Today, our garden contains more than 350 plants representing over 40 native species.

We hope you’ll join us for an (Early) Evening in the Park on Thursday, September 10, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

If you and your guests plan to attend, please RSVP, if possible, by calling or texting Susan Adams at (859) 539-4969. Your response will help us plan for food and drinks, but don’t worry if your plans change—last-minute attendees are welcome, too!

We’ll have snacks and libations, along with a drawing for some great “doorless prizes.” We’ll also answer your questions about how you can begin adding native plants to your own yard. If we’re lucky, we’ll see some late-season blooms and pollinators on the wing!

“Bee there or Bee square!” — Judy Worth

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

September 3, 2026
— TODAY’S PROGRAM —

Presiding:
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test:
Introduction of Guests:
Introduction of Speaker: Susie Basham

Speaker: Jarrett Millsaps, President, CommonSpirit St. Joseph Health and St. Joseph Medical Center
Program: Spirit of the Bluegrass

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MEET OUR SPEAKER



MARVIN BARTLETT

Marvin Bartlett has been a journalist for more than 40 years, recently completing a 32-year career as an anchor and managing editor for FOX 56 News in Lexington. During his tenure, he received 19 regional Emmy Award nominations for writing and reporting, winning five. He also received more than a dozen awards from the Associated Press and the Kentucky Broadcasters Association.

This fall, Bartlett is working for KET, where he will host several episodes of *Kentucky Edition* and moderate panels on the long-running public affairs program *Kentucky Tonight*.

On January 2, 1995, Bartlett became co-anchor of WDKY-TV’s FOX 56 Ten O’clock News, helping launch the newscast he would anchor for more than 31

years. His remarkable tenure cemented his place as one of the longest-serving and most recognizable news anchors in Lexington television history.

Before joining FOX 56 News, Bartlett worked for seven years as a reporter and anchor for WLEX-TV in Lexington. Prior to coming to the Bluegrass, he spent two years as the Eastern Kentucky bureau chief for WCHS-TV in Charleston, West Virginia, working from an office in Paintsville.

For the past 13 years, he has served as the reporter, writer, videographer, and editor of a weekly segment called *Spirit of the Bluegrass*—a true one-man band. He continues to share stories about interesting people and places in Kentucky on his *Spirit of the Bluegrass* Facebook page.

Bartlett has written three books, including *The Joy Cart* and *The Boy Who Delivered Joy*, which tell the inspiring story of Jarrett Mynear, a Central Kentucky boy who gained national recognition for collecting toys for patients in children’s hospitals while battling a rare form of bone cancer himself.

His third book, *Spirit of the Bluegrass*, was released in 2025 and features more than 80 of his favorite stories from the television series.

Bartlett has taught journalism classes at the University of Kentucky and Florida A&M University.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in broadcast journalism from Marshall University and a master’s degree from Ohio University, where he also produced a nightly student-run newscast for WOUB-TV. While at Ohio University, Bartlett produced a one-hour documentary about the effects of longwall coal mining in southern Ohio as his thesis project.

He discovered his love of journalism in his hometown of Grafton, West Virginia, where he became editor of his high school newspaper and co-editor of the yearbook. Bartlett also worked part-time for a local radio station and interned at his hometown newspaper, *The Mountain Statesman*, each summer throughout college.

He has moderated debates, hosted telethons, and written columns for various publications, including *Lexington Family Magazine*. Throughout his career, Bartlett has also emceed numerous events, including the Miss Kentucky pageant and the Dream Factory gala. He remains active as a speaker and leader of storytelling workshops.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, have two children and live in Jessamine County.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Sep 3 Marvin Bartlett, Spirit of the Bluegrass

Sep 10 Landry Fields, AI and Your Business

Sep 17 Third Thursday, Field Trip: See Upcoming Events

Sep 24 Twyman Clements, Space Tango

Sep 29 TUESDAY Meeting! Larry Lunsford, President-elect, Rotary International

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 28 Early Morning Mixer, Lexington Green, 8-9:30 am

Sep 10 Pollinator Garden Tour, Kenawood Park, Evening Social, Free

Sep 12 Toyota Miracle League, Opening Day, Shillito Park, 10:00 - 3:00 pm

Sep 17 Field Trip: Easterseals Bluegrass, 1900 Richmond Rd, Noon

Sep 27-30 Rotary Large Club Conference

Sep 28 God’s Pantry Food Bank, Backpack Pack-Up, Winchester Rd. 1:00-2:30 pm

Oct 15 Keeneland Outing, Lexington Room, 11- 6:00 pm, \$125

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE: RI PRESIDENT-ELECT LARRY LUNSFORD TO SPEAK AT LARGE CLUB CONFERENCE

Rotary International President-elect Larry Lunsford will join us on Tuesday, September 29, at noon for our joint club meeting with Rotary Large Club Conference attendees from across the United States.

Please plan to join us at the Hilton Downtown. We look forward to sharing this memorable Rotary experience with you!

The Rotary Club of Lexington
401 W. Main, Ste. 305
Lexington, KY 40507
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NEW MEMBER DEEP DIVE: ELYSSE ARRINGTON



**ELYSSE
ARRINGTON**

cle—or on four wheels!

Her four-wheeled ride of choice is a 1977 MGB. Those of us who have owned British cars are familiar with the love-hate relationship owners often have with their “offspring.” As with most British cars, much of the electrical system in her MGB was produced by Lucas Electric, also known as “The Prince of Darkness.” A Lucas headlight switch has three settings: Dim, Flicker, and Off. Its corporate motto is “Get home before dark.” There are a million more jokes, but you get the gist. Elysse should have known better—her dad owned a 10-year-old MG Midget that he could not drive to work in the rain! As I said, it is a love-hate relationship. Elysse also enjoys archery, although

Any time you happen to be exploring the back roads of Central Kentucky, you may see new member Elysse Arrington. She could be traveling on two wheels—on her Ducati motorcycle—or on four wheels!

the local weather has somewhat limited her opportunities this year. She has twin 22-year-old daughters. One lives in Lexington and works at the Fayette County Clerk’s Office, while the other is studying art in Yokohama, Japan. Now that her daughters are grown, Elysse has time to give back to the community. After returning to Facebook, she began following the Rotary Club of Lexington’s page with interest. Elysse has been familiar with Rotary’s good work for years because her grandfather in Houston was a member. She has wanted to join Rotary for quite a while but now feels she has the time to devote to it. Elysse is an accountant at a Lexington firm and also works as a bookkeeper on the side.

Let’s all be sure to give her a hand if we see that the “Prince of Darkness” has stranded her MGB on the side of the road!

– John Meyers

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