



BULLETIN: For Wednesday, March 19, 2025
www.BelmontRotaryClub.com

Club Meeting

First Presbyterian Church
102 S. Central Ave.
Belmont, NC 28012

Time: Wednesday at 12:30 PM

Speakers

March 19th

Board Meeting Today at 11:30

The Belmont Rotary Club Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month one hour before the regular club meeting in the conference room at First Presbyterian Church.



March 19th

Club President Ken Pahon

President Ken has just returned from several days of Rotary training in preparation for the upcoming year, and he will report to the club on what he's learned.



March 26th

Nate Wells, VP, Belmont Trolley

Nate Wells is one of the founders of Belmont Trolley and has been working more than eight years to put historic trolley cars back on tracks first laid more than a hundred years ago in downtown Belmont.



April 2nd

Tom Quigley, Eminent Domain Law Firm

Mr. Quigley is the business development officer at the firm, and he will speak on land condemnation negotiations with the government. Rotarian Mike McKeever will host the program.



Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

Wedding Anniversaries

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

Club Officers



Kenneth J. Pahon
President-Elect
President



Jennifer Grant
Treasurer



Bradford R. Frazier
President-Nominee



Ted B. Hall
Public Relations/Image Chair



Michelle Petty
Membership Chair



Thomas M. Hunter III
iPast President

Last Week At Rotary

Gaston County Jail holds more than 600

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

District Officers



[Kevin Kendrick](#)
District Governor



[Donna M. Moffett](#)
DG - Elect



[Laurel Roe Morris](#)
Assistant Governor -
Gaston County



Gaston County Sheriff Chad Hawkins, center, spoke recently to members of the Belmont Rotary Club. With him are Chief Deputy Scott Wyatt and Rotarian Jennifer Grant, who hosted the program. Photos below show Gaston Sheriff's Office & Jail (top) and the Jail Annex.

**"I work for you, the voters. Every four years
you give me a report card on election day."**

**-- Chad Hawkins
Gaston County Sheriff**

After more than 30 years in public service as a firefighter, police officer and police chief, Gaston County Sheriff Chad Hawkins told members of the Belmont Rotary Club he likes his present job best.

"I work for you, the voters," he said. "Every four years you give me a report card on election day. Because the office of sheriff is a constitutional position, I don't answer to the county manager or the county commissioners. I answer to the voters."

Before being elected sheriff in 2022, Hawkins served six years as police chief in Belmont, and he served previously in Lowell, Gastonia and Cherryville.

In addition to protecting more than 243,000 citizens in Gaston County, the sheriff also is over the courts, the jail and all county buildings.

Sheriff Hawkins said Gaston County has the eighth largest jail in North Carolina, housing 600 to 700 inmates with a staff of 140 detention officers.

The three issues that are of greatest concern to the sheriff are substance abuse, mental health and homelessness, Hawkins said. He's particularly pleased with the achievements made on reducing drug use in the jail.

"Inmates operate in jail just like they do on the streets," Hawkins said, adding that prisoners have their outside connections and are innovative in finding ways to get access to drugs, even while incarcerated.



"There were 76 overdoses in the jail during the first few months after my election," he said, "but we've been able to curtail drug use in the jail by denying inmates access." He said everyone coming into the jail now is searched, including attorneys, members of the clergy, kitchen staff and others. "It also has helped that I've hired a lot of "drug guys," he said, referring to law enforcement officers with experience in dealing with substance abusers.

Another innovation Sheriff Hawkins highlighted is providing all inmates with computer tablets. He said the tablets give prisoners access to GED educational classes, substance abuse prevention and recovery programs and much more right in their cells without having to be moved from place to place within the jail. A big bonus for detention officers is that the tablets give them the ability to monitor inmates' communications and know when drugs or other crimes are being discussed.

Sheriff Hawkins encouraged Rotary Club members and others to download the Gaston County Sheriff's Department free app on their devices so they can be aware about what's happening in crime control in the county, including information about who is in jail and for what charges. For more information, visit:

<https://www.gastoncountysheriffsoffice.com/>