

July 16, 2025

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

Today's Program

Caroline Ideus — What's Up at the Farmers Market

May 28th Meeting: Alan Laderman along with wife Joanna and restaurant manager Tara Caldwell shared some behind-the-scenes local history, various food facts, and a "secret" or two when then visited Kiwanis for the May 28 meeting. Laderman gives much credit to Joanna and Tara for their work.

Owner of Sammies, The Grind, and Woodfire Pizza Kitchen, Laderman told the group that his parents had been in the food industry all his life, so he had to learn how to cook growing up because they were always working. His mother managed Long John Silver's for many years, and his father worked at Snappy Tomato. They had always dreamed of opening a sandwich shop.

The name "Sammies" came from a scrap of paper Laderman found on the ground during a trip to visit to other restaurants. The paper referred to sandwiches as "sammies," and the name stuck. Now, the popular restaurants are located on Lovelace in Martin and in Union City.

After Sammie's found success, the building that is now The Grind became available. Laderman and his father, who were partners, bought it. His father had always wanted to open a bar but also wanted it to be a family-oriented place with good food. In the early days, they overmarketed and struggled to handle the volume—The Grind seats 96—but they eventually hit their stride. Laderman expressed appreciation to locals for their patience during busy times.

The next milestone came when the former Stable on Lindell Street in downtown Martin became available. Laderman and his father, who had always wanted to have a pizza place, purchased it. They quickly realized the entire building would need to be redone in order to place the oven in the center of the dining area, which was essential to their vision. Brad Thompson, director of economic and community development for the city of Martin, encouraged them to apply for a historic preservation grant. They were successful, allowing them to

Martin Kiwanis Calendar

July 26 — Circle K Planning Meeting
July 30 — Fifth Wednesday social location TBA
Aug. 6 — Regular meeting schedule resumes
Aug. 7 — Board Meeting noon, MPL
Aug. 8-10 DCON, Memphis, TN

July Birthdays

Bill Austin.....July 25

July Anniversaries

Katie Parr.....July 7

honor the history of the space while bringing their dream to life. Woodfire Pizza Kitchen includes tributes to Martin's History, including references to the Gateway Trailer Park, Tony's Pizza, and the name of the in-house brewers, Mar-Tenn Brewery. Local art is also prominent throughout the space. Upstairs at Woodfire, there is a table for two that represents where Laderman's parents had their first date at a Pizza Hut. The space also features pinball machines, bringing back nostalgia from classic pizza parlors. One of the most unique features is a bar counter top made from 14,000 bouncy balls.



June 18 Meeting: Jake Bynum chief of staff to Chancellor Yancy Freeman at the University of Tennessee at Martin is beginning his second year in his current position after serving for more than 10 years as the mayor of Weakley County. He stated that his current responsibilities still involve public service and politics

and his gratitude for being able to do this work for the university and community he loves. where he works in cooperation with senior leadership, the UT System, and constituents across the campus and community. Among numerous other topics, Bynum, a UT Martin graduate, discussed goals for enrollment at UT Martin, ongoing building projects and planning,

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