



Damascus
MD

LION'S TALE



August 2026

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The President's Message



The July 7 picnic was a great start to the second half of the calendar year. Kudos to Lion Joan for all her hard work in making it happen – the last day switch in venue, the set-up, the food, the clean-up, everything! It was a great success. Later that same week, the Blood Drive and

Damascus Days with its Parade and Flea Market went off without complications or rain. A big thanks to Lion Charlie Hertel for leading the float decoration, keeping us both hydrated and fed and waving the flag while marching throughout. We ended the month with a road cleanup (good news – less litter than usual) and a picnic/dinner meeting at the rained-out Keys game. Maybe next year we'll get to see them play. Our upcoming August 4 dinner meeting will be at Montgomery United Methodist Church on Rt 80. School supplies that the club has obtained will be picked up that day. Be sure to bring any items you've gathered in support of this effort. August is also the month in which several of the local Lions clubs team up to clean and staff the ice cream barn at the Montgomery County Fair. We begin with barn clean-ups on August 1 & 8 followed by serving ice cream on the 14th & 18th, the last of these being the day on which our club is entirely responsible for staffing. Please sign up for a shift that day! And quickly peeking into September, picture day is at our first Wesley Grove dinner meeting on September 1. Be sure to don your Lion's gear and bring a smile.

KL Nanda

JULY EVENTS

Flags in Damascus

Lion Bob Williams reached out to the Lions with a great suggestion! He wanted to see Main Street Damascus lined with American flags. Lions Tony & Barbara Barry looked into making that happen. They were able to hang 17 American Flags down Main Street in time for Flag Day and for July 4th. Lion Bob was so happy he suggested we buy 6 more flags and decorate the poles in front of Damascus High school. Lions Barbara and Tony were able to hang all 6 flags in time for July 4th and the parade.



Blood Drives 2026-2027

The Damascus Lions Club hosted their first blood drive for year 2026-2027 on Friday July 10th, 2026 at the American Legion Post 171. We would like to thank the American Legion Post 171 for hosting this drive and their continued support in the Damascus community especially Keith Robert K. Martin PhD COL (ret), MS along with his staff. I would like to thank our Lions who volunteered Lion Chris Fletcher and Lion Joan Passeur for always supporting the ARC blood program in Damascus. Go Lions!! They help set up the hall along with the ARC team members with chairs, tables, cooler and whatever is needed. They work the canteen to make sure all blood donors are feeling well enough to drive away. They schedule the donors for our next drive. They cleanup the hall and get the ARC out and on their way!! Lion Chris carries the banner in her car, and we set it up for every drive for exposure of our club. We put up a sign out on the road to advertise the drive for the day. Also please note that Lion Joan and Lion Chris were both able to donate a pint of blood and Lion Charlie Hertel was able to give double reds. A special TYVM to Lion Joan for bringing breakfast to Mr. Hertel. Go Charlie's Angels!!

We collected 54 units of blood for the American Red Cross at American Legion Post 171. This was our first blood drive for 2026-2027 year. Our next ARC Blood Drive for 2026-2027 year will be Friday September 4th, 2026. This drive will be at the American Legion Post 171. The next confirmed blood drive for 2026-2027 Friday November 6th, 2026 American Legion Post 171

Lion Charlie Hertel

Celebrate Damascus Parade- July 11

It was the perfect summer evening for a parade to help us Celebrate Damascus. Many Damascus Lions, family members and friends gathered at the DHS parking lot to decorate the float. This year's parade theme is "Celebrating 250 Years of Freedom" so we had red, white and blue decorations. After decking out the float, we snacked on dinner consisting of subs, cookies and water.

Thanks to Lion Roy Stanley for allowing us to use the hay wagon for our float again this year.

I want to thank all the people that came out to participate. Thank You to 11 Lions and 2 Family members-in-Service. They are Lions Joe Howerton, Chris Fletcher, Joan Pasuer, Bob Ipollito, Wayne Marr, Charlie and Tammy Hertel, Peter Grysavage, Susan Smarte, Nanda Alapati, and Patsy McKenzie and Family-in-Service Debbie McKenzie, Patsy's sister. And a very special "Thank You" goes to another Family-in-Service - Erica Evans, George Hibbard's granddaughter, for wearing the lion costume! She did an awesome job of entertaining the crowds!

Lion Joe proudly pulled the float with the "Damascus Lions" emblem on the front of his vehicle. The float was decorated with plenty American Flags, pinwheels, a red, white and blue skirt and several Damascus Lions Club banners. Lions Patsy and Nanda lead our group with a Damascus Lions Banner and Lion Charlie walked carrying Lions Club Flag. We saw several friends in the crowd along the parade route.

Again, Thank you to all who helped make this an enjoyable evening.

Lion Chris Fletcher





(See more pictures on page 5)

Flea Market Day – July 12

The Flea Market activities started on Thursday evening when the spot markers, Lions Mary Frances, Tess and Chris gathered at Damascus UMC to mark off the spaces for Saturday morning, but we were rained out until sunny Friday afternoon. Lion Susan Smarte joined us on Friday and we were able to complete the job in no time. On Friday evening, after the parade, Lions Susan and Chris went back to the church grounds to set out the banners at the spaces that Lions would be using on Saturday. Early Saturday morning Lions Tess, Bob Ippolito, and Chris started to set up. We were joined by Lions Jon and Nanda. Several Lions had already dropped off donated goods to me. A few others brought items on Saturday. Lion Patsy McKenzie and her family were setup next to us. Lions Bob, Nanda, Chris and Tess along with a couple of her friends helped with cleaning up the booth at the end of the day. We raised \$208 in sales, and made \$300 for the space rentals for our efforts of the day, totaling \$508 for the day's efforts. Lion Chris spoke to a few patrons about Lionism and we have a few prospective members. Please forgive me if I missed anyone. Again, thanks to everyone who helped to make the day successful. We could not have done it without your help.

Lion Chris
Fletcher



Road Cleanup - July 25

It was an easy road clean up this time due to little trash! We might find more trash if the county did a better job of cutting the grass behind the guardrail. We collected about 2 full bags of trash and found nothing interesting to report. I want to thank the following Lions: Nanda, Ray, Peter and Barbara
Lion Tony Barry



Damascus Lions - Frederick Keys Baseball Game/ No Game Outing-

Our 2nd July meeting was held at the Frederick Keys Ballgame on Tuesday, July 28th. It started out a bit wet, rainy and damp, with many of us sitting in our car dens in the ballpark parking lot, waiting on the rain to end. 45 minutes later the rain started to slow and then ended with a beautiful sunshine to follow. As the skies cleared, we Lions slowly emerged from our temporary car dens and headed to the gates and into the ballpark, over towards left field to the designated tent where our picnic was being set up for us. As we waited for the game to start, we feasted on hamburgers, hot dogs, pulled pork and all the fixings to go with them. We had coleslaw & home made potato chips too. For an ending of sweetness, there were cookies and brownies. Water and sodas were provided with the meal, but if you preferred a cold one or something else, you could purchase them. After we all ate and were having good social chats with each other, at 7:30 they announced that the game was canceled and rescheduled as a double header the next day. Some of us were having such a good time we did not want to leave, so Keyote, the Frederick Keys mascot (see group picture taken before) came to "throw us out" so to speak. I did not see where that story made it in the Frederick News Post- *Damascus Lions Club thrown out of Keys Ballpark*. So, I think it will be safe to have anyone who

wanted to turn in their ticket for general seating of the next day's game, you got 2 games for the price of one. You can also turn your ticket in for any of the other regular scheduled home games that are left. They are:

Tues, Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat & Sun Aug 11th -16th. Also, Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun Aug 25th-30th. You can check the Keys Website for times and the different promotions going on. Although, we did not see any action on the field, I believe and I think that many of us who came agree, that it was a great night out with our Lions Club Family and everyone enjoyed time together, without having to do anything but relax. Postnote: 41 tickets were sold & 32 of us brave Lions ventured out to the Keys Game/No Game Night.

Lion Tess Gladhill



Eyeglass Sorting

Eyeglass sorting was held on July 29 at Mission BBQ as a Multi-Region Project. The clubs that were represented were Damascus, Rockville, Laytonsville, Monocacy, South Potomac, Washington Midtown and Washington Chi-AM. Our District Governor, Courtney McAlmont, was there to work with us. Lion Mark LeRoux had made several stops along the way to Mission BBQ to pick up glasses from various Lions Clubs from our zone. At the end of the night, Lion Mark left with about 30 boxes. There were 22 Lions helping to sort the glasses. It took about 2 hours. The Damascus Lions turned in almost 3 full boxes – 684 pair of glasses and 249 glass cases. I also came home with several hearing aids and batteries and other hearing paraphernalia to be turned over to Lion May Frances. Needless to say, we had a very busy evening.

Lion Chris Fletcher

Sight and Hearing Conservation Committee Report 2025-26

The Damascus Lions Club expended \$1,320 over the past 12 months to help ten eyecare patients and one hearing aid patient in the Damascus/Clarksburg area. This total expenditure was much less than our prior fiscal year. Why, I'm not entirely sure. I do know that I arranged for a good many eye exam appointments this year in which the patient did not show up. We had one hearing aid patient for whom Lion Mary Frances, as she often does, called upon contributions from multiple Lions Clubs for contributions of \$100 each. As is the case in most years, many of our eye exam cases were children referred from school nurses. But we also had cases referred to us from Damascus Help and from the Damascus Senior Center.

When an individual has a current written vision prescription and just needs help in obtaining glasses, we assign the individual to Eyeballs in Monrovia or to Montgomery Village Eye Center (MVEC) in Gaithersburg. When an individual needs both a vision exam and eyewear, we assign them to MVEC. Both our providers give us special low rates for the patients they receive from our Club. I handle the vision cases and Lion Mary Frances Gosnell handles the hearing aid cases.

This program is a very worthwhile offering of our Club to financially-needy residents of Damascus and Clarksburg.

Lion Wayne Marr

Years of Community Service Recognition June -August

These Damascus Lions have completed another year of community service. Please recognize these individuals for their service. Lion Rick Shepard is our newest member who was installed at Installation Night in June 2026. Introduce yourself to Lion Rick and welcome him to the Damascus Lions Club. Lion Ray Molesworth

Lion	Join Date	Years of Service
Jack Peters	June 1982	44
Wayne Marr	June 1991	35
Bobbie Marr	June 2003	23
Suresh Malhotra	June 2013	23
Sue Suddath	July 2003	23
Nanda Alapati	Aug 2023	3
Susan Smarte	Aug 2023	3

PARADE PICTURES



BALL GAME PICTURES



Time to Celebrate

August Birthdays:

Carolyn Marschall	8/10*
Gary Hilton	8/11
Charlie Holpuch	8/21
Patricia McKenzie	8/25
*Significant Birthday	

Partners in Service

Graham Moore (Kim)	8/13
Joanne Breiner (Bob)	8/16

August Anniversaries:

Peter & Barbara Grysavage	8/12 (37 yrs)
George & Viola Hibbard	8/15 (67 yrs)
Dale & Scott Ryan	8/21 (44 yrs)
Bob & Leslie Ippolito	8/26 (50 yrs)!

Upcoming Events

August 1 & 8- Clean Dairy Barn, Montgomery County Fair, 8 am

August 4 – Dinner meeting, Montgomery Methodist Church, 6:45 pm – **bring your school supplies**

August 12 – ~~Board Meeting, 7 pm~~ CANCELLED

August 14 & 18- Ice Cream Dipping, Montgomery County Fair for more information contact Lions Tammy Tammy_Hertel@mcpsmd.org or Charlie Hertel chtelco@aol.com

August 13 - Senior Birthday Party, Damascus Rec Center, 12:45 pm- for more information contact Lion Sue Suddath 301-253-3434



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Damascus Lions Web Site:

<http://www.damascuslions.org>

[Damascus Lions Facebook](#)

<http://www.Facebook.com/DamascusLions>

COME HELP THE LIONS CLUB DIP ICE CREAM



AT THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS

ICE CREAM BARN!

WHEN: AUGUST 14-22, 2026

3 SHIFTS- 10:30AM-3:00PM

3:00PM-7:00PM; 7:00PM -CLOSE



GET COMMUNITY SERVICE SSL HOURS

FREE WORK PASSES INTO THE FAIR



WEAR A HAT! ALL HAIR HAS TO BE TIED UP. CLOSED TOE SHOES



You will dip Ice Cream, Mop, Clean tables, refill stock & duties as needed

YOU CAN HELP ANY DAY DURING THE FAIR

CLICK ON THIS LINK BELOW TO SIGN UP FOR SHIFTS

ONLY FOR STUDENTS- NO LIONS CLUB MEMBERS SIGN UP HERE

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA4A92AA3FF2-555147Z7-lions>

Please watch this video before you come in to work your shift *****

<https://youtu.be/8a2g5c4vQIA?si=obV58ggXmIvgOmYK>



I have 2 clean up days at the Dairy Barn

Saturday Aug 1 & August 8 -8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. then free lunch,

We will paint, get dirty and clean, no sign up needed, no customers

Must be 9th grade and higher. 16 years of age preferred

