



The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 30 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

January 29, 2026

January 29 Program: Strategic Plan Rollout

For months, club officers and committee chairpersons have been working tirelessly to create an updated strategic plan for the Leawood Rotary Club. This strategic plan will lay out the guiding principles, goals and procedures for our club, and should serve us well for many years to come. Rick and Roxann will walk us through the elements that make up this updated strategic plan. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.



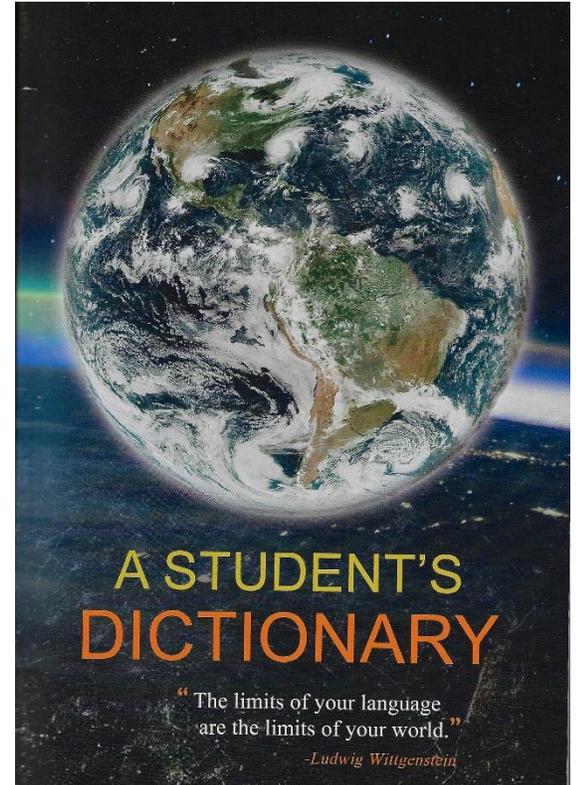
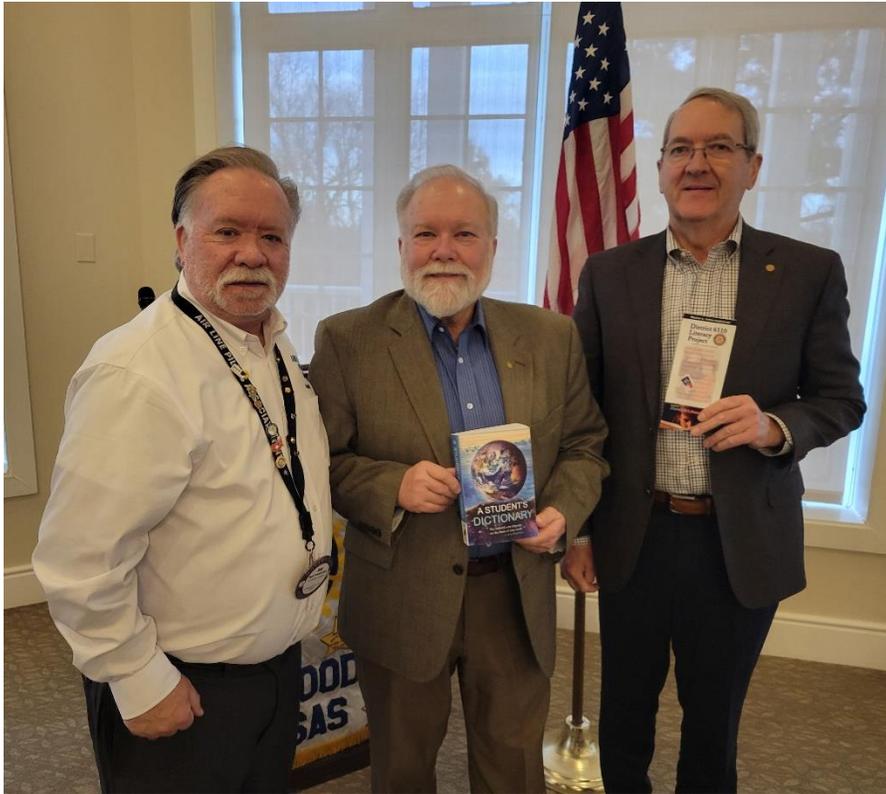
Invoker: Darren Lippe

January Greeters:

Stephen Powell, Jim Rawlings, Rick Robinson, Paul Rueschhoff,
Prasad Saraph (Captain 1/29), Jake Schloegel

Last Week's Meeting

Gary Pollmiller of the Rotary Club of Parsons, Kansas, was present to give a most interesting program this morning about the Dictionary Project, a literacy-promoting initiative to get personalized dictionaries into the hands of third graders nationwide. The Parsons club has made this their pet project for the past 30 years. Rotarians can sponsor a classroom of third graders for as little as \$96.

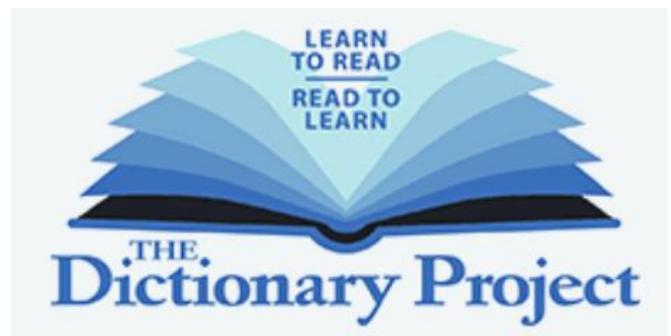


How Leawood Rotarians Can Help

Here is a simple way Leawood Rotary can support The Dictionary Project. Did you take one of the complimentary dictionaries at the meeting last week? If so, please consider contributing \$4 during Happy Bucks at this week's meeting. We will then write a check and send it to the Parsons Rotary Club.



Coordinated by the Rotary District 6110 Foundation



30 Years Ago in Leawood History

Jacobson's comes to town

Department store will anchor Town Center

Jacobson's Department store may not yet be well known in the College Boulevard corridor, but the upscale department store chain's CEO Mark Rosenfeld said he's been familiar with the corridor for some years.

Rosenfeld's association with the area came through a long-time friendship between his father and former Woolf Brothers clothier Alfred Lighton — of the family whose name graces Lighton Plaza.



Rosenfeld

Once Rosenfeld made up his mind to expand his Michigan-based chain into the Kansas City area, he said he had associates out scouting possible locations. When one spotted a for sale sign on a tract of land near the corner of 119th and Roe, Rosenfeld made a few calls.

The land owner, Marned Corporation, had a bigger vision for the 63-acre tract than a single department store. The company envisioned Town Center Plaza — an upscale retail and restaurant center much like the Country Club Plaza. Rosenfeld gave them the name of Memphis-based developer company Poag and McEwen, with whom he had worked in the past.

Jacobson's now has a local home and when it opens March 7, Johnson Countians will have another 120,000 square feet in which to shop, 65 more fitting rooms and another 48 cash registers.

"We'll have a broad range of merchandise for a broad range of customers," Rosenfeld promised.

The department store chain is setting up a scholarship endowment at Johnson County Community College for retail and fashion merchandising students.

Some of the same clothing found at Jacobson's can also be found at other upscale department stores. But it's the way in which merchandise is going to be sold that sets Jacobson's apart, Rosenfeld said.

"Many retailers today talk about service — it seems to be a buzzword today," he said. "But I'm not sure that some give their customers what they promise. We will deliver on our promise."

Along with superior service, Leawood store manager Mark Fillion said a priority for Jacobson's stores is community involvement. The store spends 25 percent of its marketing budget on civic concerns.

The department store chain is setting up a scholarship endowment at Johnson County Community College for retail and fashion merchandising students. A spokesman for the college said the store has also pledged to help support some of its performing arts programming.

Jacobson's will begin giving to the Kansas City metropolitan area before the first sale is rung up. A pre-opening gala being planned for the evening of March 6 will benefit Children's Mercy Hospital. Other partnerships include the University of

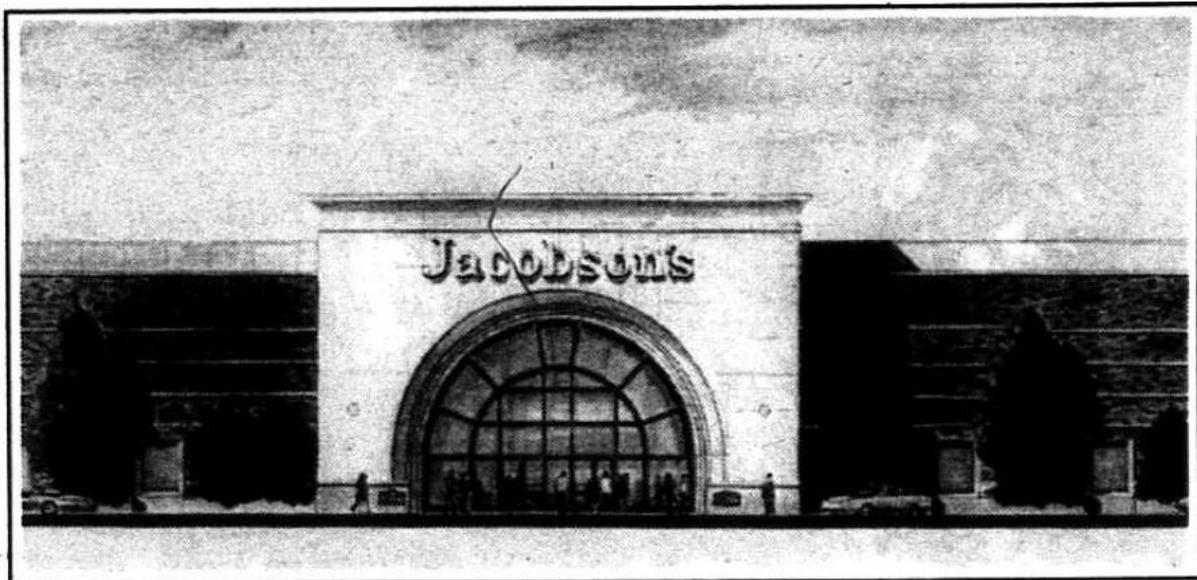
Kansas Breast Cancer Center and the American Cancer Society. The store is also planning to provide a substance abuse education program for local elementary school students.

As the Town Center Plaza anchor store, Jacobson's will be among the first wave of retailers to open at the open air mall. Developer Terry McEwen of Memphis-based Poag & McEwen said it's still unclear when in March smaller stores will begin doing business but it is definitely going to be a busy month.

Among the 90 new tenants are Barnes & Noble, Dockers, OshKosh, Nine West, Guess?, Bayou State Brewery, Pottery Barn, William Sonoma, Bristol Seafood and Hereford House. A second phase is expected to open by Christmas.

Hope Greer and Jacqueline Lehatto

Reprinted from the January 9, 1996, issue of College Boulevard News.



An architectural rendering of the Jacobson's Department Store that will open in March at Leawood's Town Center Plaza, 119th and Roe.

For the Goal – A Service Opportunity in Leawood

Happy New Year, Rotarians-

As we prepare to welcome people from around the globe to Kansas City, it will come as no surprise that the City of Leawood has a committee of busy volunteers and staff who are organizing many events. From Watch Parties to Business Readiness Grants, from a better-than-ever Celebration in the Park for America's 250th, to a **new** Independence Day parade on the morning of July 4, we are busy AND excited!

Our theme is "For the Goal" in honor of the soccer statue in City Park.

Rotarians Stephen Powell and I are enjoying our time on the executive committee and are very excited about the many things we've already accomplished.

So finally- the reason for this note: This spring, we are inviting Leawood community groups and individuals to help us pick up litter along some of our main corridors and intersections.

We've created the following SignUpGenius and I ask that you consider signing up AND sharing it with anyone who might be interested.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AB2CA7FD0-61376952-leawood>



We may add more dates and locations once these start to fill, so I'll probably share it again in early March. But I'd VERY MUCH appreciate it if you'd consider being an early-signer-upper!

Please let me or Stephen know if you have any questions.

With appreciation--

Lisa Harrison

913.522.5049

Looking Ahead to February

February Invocators:

February 5 – Arlene Ladegaard

February 12 – Lisa May

February 19 – John Meier

February Greeters:

Ken Selzer, Stu Sharp, Chuck
Sipple, Ron Slepitz, Diane
Stoddard, Tom Sullivan

Greeter Captains:

February 5 – Diane Stoddard

February 12 – Chuck Sipple

February 19 – Tom Sullivan

February Programs:

February 5: Kim Hammers, Executive Director with
“Embrace” (*Enriching Many By Reaching All In Catholic
Education*)

February 12: To be Announced

February 19: Jim Grant, Executive Director of the Global
Birthing Home Foundation

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#PeopleofAction

Rotary 