



The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 30 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

February 26, 2026

February 26: Board Meeting



Click link below to launch Zoom

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 813 1042 7816

Passcode: Rotary

Looking Ahead to March Programs:

March 5 - Sammie's Toy Drive [Home | Sammie's Toy Drive](#)

March 12 – SchoolSmartKC/Mental Health Pilot Program –
Tasheka Garrett

March 19 – Crossroads First Fridays – Jeff Owens

March 26 – Board Meeting

Service Projects:

March 21 - Flourish Furniture Bank 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.

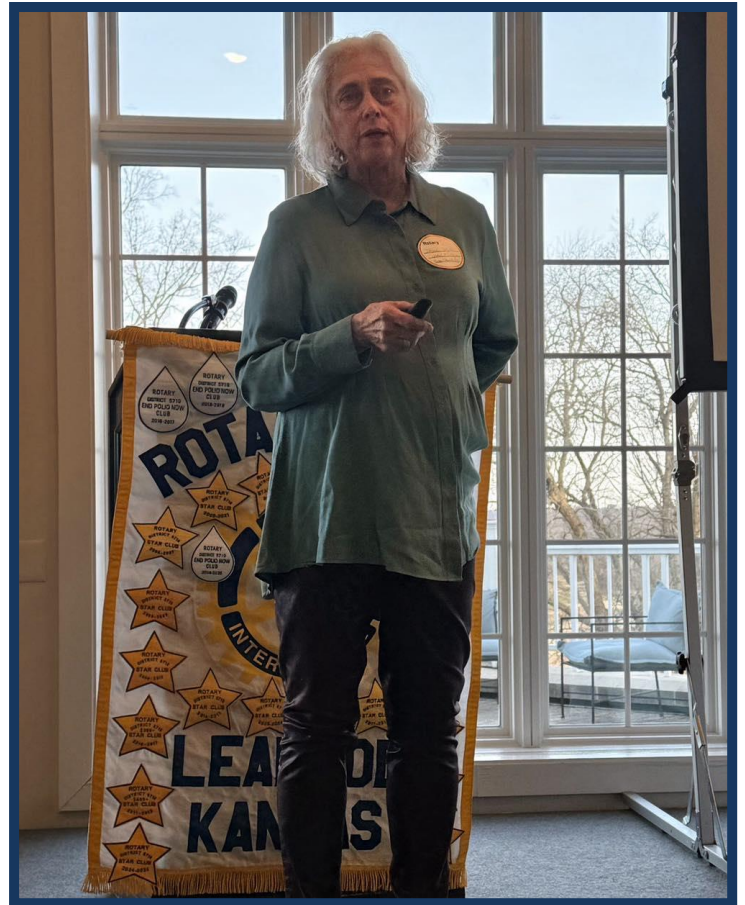


Last Week's Meeting

Last week, Rotary welcomed new member Andrew Pujado, and heard a presentation from Janice Taylor with the Global Birthing Home Foundation about the work the organization is doing in Haiti to help women and babies.



New Member Induction:
Andrew Pujado



Janice Taylor with Global Birthing Home Foundation

Member Moment

In our fourth installment of "Rotary Member Moment," we feature member Davis Harrison, who is a third generation Rotarian. Professionally, Davis is an advisor at Renaissance Financial.

You can watch Davis's video on Facebook by clicking on the link below:

[Facebook](#)



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

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!

April 7:

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
6-8 pm

Dine & Drink to benefit Polio Plus



Chicken N Pickle
5901 W 135th St.
Overland Park, KS 66223

April 11:

Gathering for Good Event - Lawrence, KS

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel – 200 McDonald Drive

You're invited *Back to the 60's* at Gathering for Good, a themed evening benefiting The Rotary Foundation!

Event Highlights:

- Live & silent auction (proceeds benefit The Rotary Foundation and are credited to the winning member)
- Wine & Liquor Pull
- Trivia game
- Open bar with themed drinks
- 60's attire encouraged

Tickets are \$75 per person (covers event costs, no donation to the Foundation is included in ticket price).



Visit the [Event Site](#) to get your tickets today!

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!

April 30:

Fifth Thursday Social Event - Discover O.P.

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

8001 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, KS

Save the Date!

Leawood Rotary Social Event

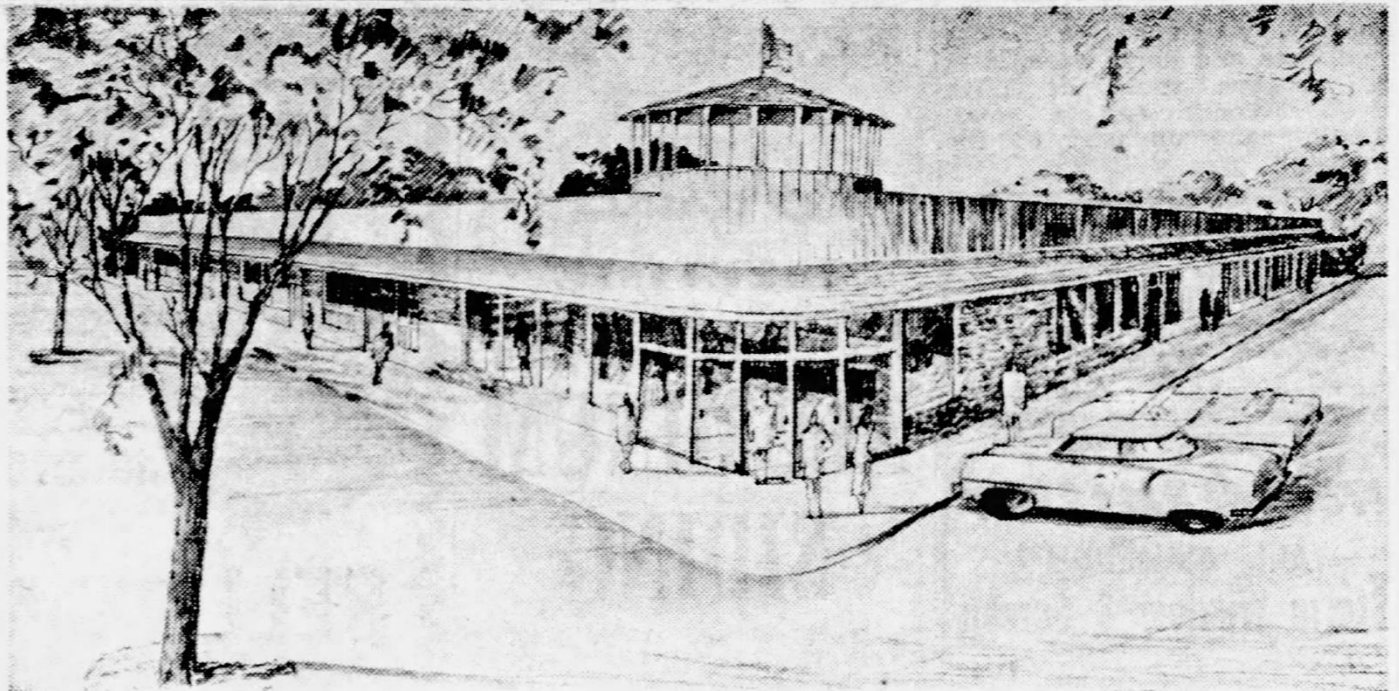
Thursday, April 30, 2026 – 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.



- *Food & Beverages provided!*
- *See the newest attraction in Downtown O.P.!*
- *Details to come.*

Discover O.P. - 8001 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS

Leawood History: The Leawood Shops



LEAWOOD'S ONLY STORE CENTER—Already rising above the foundation on Lee boulevard and Somerset drive, at the north edge of Leawood, is this business center, 150 feet on the boulevard, 160 feet on Somerset. In keeping with the attractive character of the Leawood area, the center building has been designed by James R. Poynter, architect, to make an effective combination of narrow brick, plate glass, hand-hewn shakes and vertical boards and battens.

The location is about Eightieth street, a short distance west of the State Line.

Kansas City Star, Sept. 3, 1950

LEAWOOD CENTER

Store Block, Now Under Construction, Will House Seven Businesses.

WILL OPEN IN OCTOBER

Structure Is on Only Land in Leawood Zoned for Business.

The city of Leawood, incorporated in 1948, will have a business center in operation in October. The structure, on Lee boulevard at the north entrance to the community, will house the first stores in the area.

The building, Leawood Shops, Inc., will be the town's first business center and seemingly the only such center. For the shops will occupy all the space in Leawood zoned for business except an adjacent piece of ground occupied by the office of Kroh Brothers, developers of Leawood.

Leawood Shops, now outlined by foundation and forming walls, will contain seven businesses. The largest floor area, on Lee boulevard, has been leased to George Martin for Martin's Super-Market. Another large space has been leased to Bickley's Drugs, a companion store to the one at Linwood and Main. Another occupancy will be the De Vallie Beauty shop in a series that includes Mission, Overland Park and Excelsior Springs.

The four other spaces are held for a barbershop, a cleaning establishment, a variety store and a physician's office.

Officers of the corporation are George Martin, president; W. D. Ray, vice-president and Cliff Brisbois, secretary-treasurer. The W. D. Ray Development company is the general contractor. Brisbois is the rental agent. The site was bought from Kroh Brothers.

The building will be long, low, ranch-type design, with the exterior in Los Ranchos brick, in keeping with the character of the Leawood area.

All spaces will be air-conditioned.

The structure, pie-shaped, will be set back from Lee boulevard and Somerset drive to afford sidewalk parking for 100 cars. Behind the Kroh office will be a small parking area for office employees and managers.

Leawood History: The Leawood Shops

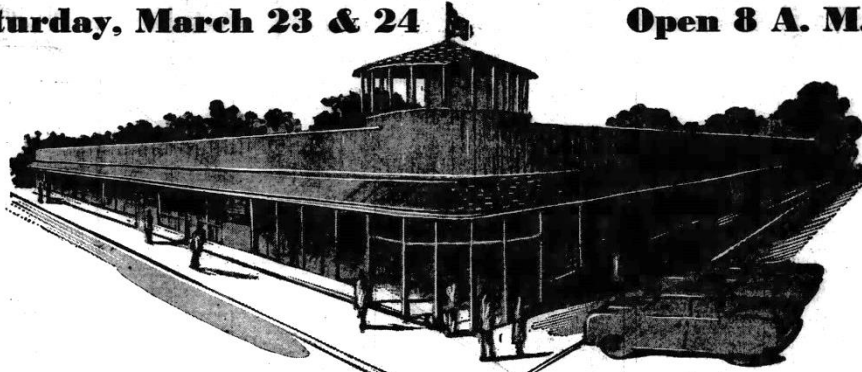
Kansas City Star, March 22, 1951

Grand Opening

Leawood Shopping Center

Friday & Saturday, March 23 & 24

Open 8 A. M. to 10 P. M.



79th & LEE BLVD.
JOHNSON COUNTY

AMPLE
FREE PARKING
DRIVE IN!

Come and see the new Leawood Shopping Center—designed to make your shopping pleasanter and more profitable. Shops that sparkle with newness! The latest in store design, lighting and equipment! Big stocks of brand-new, quality-right merchandise!
But with all the modern innovations, we haven't forgotten that VALUE is your shopping goal. Compare prices . . . you'll find your dollar goes farther at Leawood Shopping Center!
WE'RE SAYING "WELCOME, KANSAS CITY" . . . You're invited!

MRS. RUTH E. NAGEL
Announces the Opening of

Ruth's

LEAWOOD
CHILDREN'S SHOP

Featuring

- BUSTER BROWN
- JACKIE JUMPER
- CINDERELLA DRESSES
- BETTY BATES

Nationally advertised childrens wear of every description. Specializing in exclusive apparel for boys and girls.

STOFFLE'S

BARBER SHOP

SERVICE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

(28 Years at Board of Trade Building Shop)

APPOINTMENTS BY REQUEST • CALL LA. 9553

Announcing

MARVIN'S

KANSAS CITY'S NEWEST
CAMERA and RECORDS
SHOP

REPRESENTING
EASTMAN KODAK CO.
ANSCO

WE ALSO SELL
POPULAR—SERIES—CLASSICAL—CLASSICAL
AND CHILDREN'S
RECORDS

COMPLETE LINE OF HOBBY SUPPLIES

BICKLEY

PHARMACY NO. 2

7930 LEE BLVD.

Grand Opening SALE!

Made with Sealtest Ice Cream—2 Dips

ICE CREAM SODA

Reg. 22¢ Value—Friday and Saturday

10¢

WHILE 300 LAST
BOX OF CANDY
GIVEN

With Each 25¢ Purchase
Except Soap & Tobacco Purchases

- Aspirin 100 Tablets 2 Dips 54¢
- Plastic 2nd Lamp \$1.79
- Pond's Facial Cream 2 Dips 85¢
- Phillips Milk of Magnesia 2 Dips 39¢
- Ipana Toothpaste 2 Dips 63¢
- Alka Seltzer 2 Dips 54¢
- Wax Paper 2 Dips 29¢

CIGARS for Men!
BALLOONS for Children!
ROSES for Ladies!

FREE

PRICES GOOD AT THIS STORE ONLY

MARTIN'S

Finer Foods

FAIR DEALING SINCE 1899

FREE!

- ★ 50 BUSHELS of GROCERIES
- ★ 3 TABLE LAMPS
- ★ 5 HAMS

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY—NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

FANCY CALIFORNIA CARROTS Lb. 5c	ADD FOIL WRAPPED BUTTER 1/4's Lb. 75c
LARGE TO SIZE FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT 5c	LIBBY'S TOMATO JUICE 40-Oz. 25c
ALL SOAP POWDERS Lg. 30c	LIBBY'S PEACHES 2 No. 2 1/2 61c
PET MILK 3 Tall Cans 43c	SHARMIN TOILET TISSUE 4 Rolls 35c
PILLSBURY CAKE MIX 2 Pkg. 65c	PETER PAN Peanut Butter 11-Oz. Jar 33c
VELVEETA 2 Lb. 95c	SWIFT'S PREMIUM BACON Lb. 59c

FREE REFRESHMENTS FOR ALL

ALUMINUM FOIL 26-Ft. Roll Pkg. 35¢

FREE BALLOONS for the Kiddies

ALWAYS BEST QUALITY FOOD AT LOW EVERYDAY PRICES

Leawood shops have been community staple since 1951

Shopping center has ties to local patrons.

By LYNN BROWN-QUICK
Special to The Star

Leawood's first retail development, located at Somerset and Lee Boulevard, opened for business in the little suburban community in 1951.

The Leawood Shops, sometimes called the Somerset Shops, had seven original tenants: Marvin Hobby Shop, Bickley's Drug Store, Leawood Cleaners, Martin's Finer Foods, a baby shop, Leawood Barber Shop (now Leawood Hairstyling) and Leawood Beauty Salon.

Some 47 years later, the original owners of the Leawood Shops have sold their interests and five of the tenants have left. But two of those early shops are still doing business.

Through the conservative hair styles of the 1950s, the long-haired 1960s and all the trends since, the two Leawood hairstyling businesses have been skillfully wielding their scissors and styling tools.

Although they have changed owners over the years, the two businesses have provided continuous service to the community.

C.C. Warlop has worked at the Somerset location 33 years, the last 27 as owner of Leawood Hairstyling. Warlop attributed the longevity of the business to its location.

"This part of Leawood is an extremely good location for a family business," Warlop said.

George Martin and a relative,

Cliff Brisbois, were the developers and co-owners of the shopping area. "George Martin bought this location to put a grocery store on," Warlop recalled. "Then Cliff Brisbois said let's put in one of those new things called a strip mall. Cliff finally sold it about 10 years ago."

George and Dorothy Martin sold their store in 1980. Besides the grocery business, Martin's often served as an area community center.

"The Leawood churches had cake sales from time to time, the Salvation Army bellringers operated there every Christmas, and the March of Dimes collected at our location," George Martin said.

Bill Younger has owned Leawood Beauty Salon almost 29 years. He purchased it from the original owner. His salon is a full-service shop, providing hair, manicure and make-up services. It is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

David Fisher has leased space from Younger for 22 years. He recalled many changes in the business since the 50s.

"When people started this business, prices were four and five dollars for a shampoo and set. Blow driers weren't even in," Fisher said. Now, the majority of his hair styling business requires a blow dryer and curling iron.

Warlop said his business changed dramatically in the 60s. "Long hair came in style, and people weren't getting haircuts as often. Then they started doing more conditioning, styling, blow

dries and that type of thing," he said.

"Now, people are getting short hair cuts and coming in more frequently. So, pretty much, it has been a complete cycle, but it took 30 years to complete it."

Warlop and his wife, Corinne, added hair styling for boys and girls in the 80s and now consider their business a family shop. Many customers have been relying on the Warlops for years.

"I've got people I've been doing their hair for 33 years," C.C. Warlop said. "Some have been coming in since the original owner." Leawood Hairstyling takes appointments Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Leawood Beauty Salon has its share of loyal customers, too. "Bill's got people he's done hairstyling for ever since he's been a hairdresser — 35 or 40 years," said Fisher.

"And I've got a whole extended family that comes in."

The Martins, who owned the grocery store until 1980, also enjoyed their long-term relationships with customers.

"One day a lady came into the store and said she was getting married," said Dorothy Martin.

"She said she learned to ride her bike going to our store and the first place she drove a car was to our store, so now her mother was giving her a shopping trip as a gift. Her mother said, 'All of your cabinets will be full of Martin's groceries when you get back from your honeymoon.'"

"We had a lot of personal contacts with the people we served there," said George Martin. "I'm sure everyone who's left misses their personal relationships there. I know I do."



Kansas City Star, July 4, 1998



ELAINE ADAMS Special to The Star

The shape of the Leawood Shops mirrors that of the intersection at Lee Boulevard and Somerset Drive.

Leawood to commemorate city's first shopping area

BY ELAINE ADAMS
Special to The Star

Leawood will salute its first commercial development – a little shopping area at Lee Boulevard and Somerset Drive – with the dedication of a bronze plaque at 6 p.m. May 9.

George Martin and his cousin, Cliff Brisbois, built the Leawood Shops in 1951, the city said, and it was among the first shopping centers south of the Plaza.

Martin and his wife Dorothy operated Martin's Finer Foods, which anchored the center, until they retired in 1980. Martin's customers could run a tab at the grocery -- a

convenience in the days before ubiquitous charge cards. Parents could dispatch a child to pick up milk or bread without sending cash with them.

Dorothy Martin operated a gift shop in the grocery store, the city said, and provided seating where women could enjoy the coffee she served.

The first shops also included Bickley's Pharmacy with its soda fountain, Joe Stoval's Barber Shop where a child's first haircut was free, Marvin's Hobby Shop and Leawood Cleaners.

There's still a barber pole at the center, but now the shop is called Tarantino's Family Cuts. Other tenants include a dental

practice, a kitchen design center, home decor shop, hair color studio and -- on opposite sides of the center -- an animal grooming business and a boarding/daycare facility for dogs.

The plaque will be dedicated by the Leawood Historic Commission and the owners of Leawood Shops. Members of the public are encouraged to bring photos and memorabilia to the event, where they can meet members of the Martin and Brisbois families.

Parking is available on side streets but limited at the center, so visitors are encouraged to carpool or walk.