



The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 30 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

March 5, 2026

March 5 Meeting:



Sammie's Toy Drive

Building Community Connections Across State Lines

Honoring the 21 One Toy at a Time

Sammie's Toy Drive is a specialized toy drive for communities struck with tragedies affecting kids and teens. Instead of sending items to the community at ground zero, we deliver the items once people have forgotten. News patterns do not match with the stages of grief. Our mission is to spread love and support to those who have been through tragedy by providing them with toys and games that can help them feel loved and supported.



Click link below to launch Zoom

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 813 1042 7816

Passcode: Rotary

Looking Ahead:

Programs:

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

March 19 – Crossroads First Fridays – Jeff Owens

March 26 – Board Meeting

Polio Plus Updates

Notable Happenings for our Club's Support of Polio Plus, from Jim Arnett

Continuing Eradication News:

LOOK BACK 72 YEARS: On February 23, 1954, 137 children from Arsenal Elementary School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, received the first group injections of the new Polio Vaccine developed by Dr. Jonas Salk.

- Happy to report that so far this year there have been ZERO Wild Polio Cases
- 2025 ended down to 44 Wild Polio Cases vs. 99 cases during 2024
- Most recent case was in Pakistan, ten weeks ago on December 14, 2025
- In response, a new National Immunization campaign in Pakistan targeting 4.1 million kids was started February 5, 2026
- In Afghanistan, with renewed support from Rotary & its GPEI partners, happy to say it has now been 4 months since that country's last case on October 24, 2025

Leawood's Polio Plus Support News:

- Past the Halfway point this Rotary Year & our members have already donated **\$6,010** compared to \$2,622 donated by this time last year:
 - Total of \$4,510 has already been sent and credited by The Rotary Foundation
 - Additional \$1,500 is deposited in the Club's Polio Plus Charitable Account
 - Will be working with Gary to get those donations sent to TRF soon
 - Recall toward the end of last year an additional \$2,500 was added from the Charitable Account bringing our total for 2024-2025 to \$10,389 (A Record!)
- All Leawood members are encouraged to donate to Polio Plus before End of Year
 - Polio Plus Society Members are requested to check your records to be sure you have met your annual donation pledge for the July 2025-June 2026 Rotary Year
 - If you are not yet a member of the Polio Plus Society, it is not too late this year.
 - Easiest way: Open your My.Rotary.Org account & use Rotary Direct
 - Save the date for our Tuesday, April 7th Polio Fundraiser @ Chicken & Pickle - Invite family friends and neighbors to dine & benefit Polio Plus 6:00 – 8:00pm
- Look ahead to the leadup to World Immunization Week as our District Polio Plus Chair, Maria Wilson, will be our featured program presenter on April 16th.
- Be sure to read in the District Newsletter about the possibility of traveling to India in October with Maria to participate in the country's fall National Immunization Day by being part of a team delivering the "2-Drops" and also visiting this amazing place in the world.

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

Service Project March 21



FLOURISH
A FURNITURE BANK

We are set to have a Community Service event at Flourish Furnishings in Grandview on Saturday morning, March 21, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you have not been there before, please join us. They have many jobs from “shopping assistance”, furniture repair, electrical repair, linen sorting, household goods sorting, truck unloading, and much more. If you wish to attend the event, please email me ASAP as they limit our participation to only ten volunteers. Please arrive for a group picture early in the shift.



City of Leawood, KS Government
23h · 🌐

Invest

Another wonderful Lunar New Year celebration in the books! 🧧 ✨

On Friday, we gathered to celebrate the Year of the Horse and honor Leawood's sister city partnership with I-Lan, Taiwan, at our annual Lunar New Year dinner.

A heartfelt thank-you to our I-Lan Sister City Committee for hosting such a meaningful evening filled with culture, community, and connection. Here's to another year of friendship and celebration!

Learn more about our sister city relationship here:
<https://www.leawood.org/278/I-Lan-Taiwan>

Please register online or at the event.:

Chuck Sipple
Community Services Committee

I-Lan's Lunar New Year Celebration

Photos taken on Friday, February 20, at Ironhorse Golf Club



Leawood History:

From Suburban District to City of the Third-Class

Kansas City Star, September 22, 1948

BID FOR A CITY STATUS

LEAWOOD GROUP SUBMITS PETITION TO COMMISSIONERS.

Northeast Johnson County, Kansas, District Applies for Recognition in the Third Class Category.

Residents of the Leawood district, a suburban homes area in Northeast Johnson County, Kansas, have decided with close to unanimous enthusiasm that they would like to create a third class city of Kansas out of their community, elect officials and manage their own affairs.

They took the plunge today, filing with the board of county commissioners of Johnson County an application bearing 533 signatures urging the commissioners to form the City of Leawood.

PUBLIC HEARING DATE SET.

Kansas law requires the commissioners, on receiving an application signed by at least 51 per cent of the legal voters, to set a public hearing on the question. The commissioners set the hearing for 10 o'clock, October 19, in the Olathe courthouse. After the hearing, and notices posted for three weeks, the commissioners may order the area incorporated, if they find the petition to be "reasonable."

Should the decision be favorable, the commissioners would appoint judges and clerks for a special election, at which a mayor, five councilmen and a police judge would be elected. Sponsors of the move hope Leawood can be functioning as a city before January 1.

The Leawood district now receives postoffice service from the Sixty-third street and Brookside boulevard station here. Residents of the subdivision now get their mail from "group" boxes, eight or ten boxes together at various points along the route.

If incorporated, the residents probably will apply for a postoffice. It will then be up to the postoffice department here to make a decision.

FIRST TO MAKE MOVE.

The move marks the first step toward the incorporation of any city within Mission township, the most populous rural township in the state. This teeming, fast-growing area now has approximately 25,000 residents, and is operating with difficulty under laws for farm districts.

Leawood, if incorporated, virtually would nudge the Missouri-Kansas state line. Its proposed boundaries would run in a long thin rectangle from Somerset drive (about Seventy-ninth street) two miles south to One Hundred Third street. The east-west boundaries would be State Line and the west border of the Leawood district. It is somewhat separated from the continuous homes communities in the rest of the township.

The Leawood Homes association sparked the drive for incorporation. Circulation of petitions began about a month ago. Ted Mann, 8036 Be-

linder drive, president, said today that 739 persons live in Leawood, thirty-two on State Line within the district, and 162 more will occupy the homes under construction for a total population of 933.

There are 260 homes in Leawood, nine on State Line, and fifty-nine under construction. Petitions were signed by 474 eligible voters and fifty-nine owners not yet eligible. Eleven persons living within the area declined to sign, and nine others were signed only by husband or wife when the other party could not be reached.

GOAL IS IMPROVEMENTS.

"We want to handle our own affairs," Mann said. "Incorporation will enable us to fix our streets, check speeding and do about anything the voters wish. We've had two children hit by cars within the same day."

For the present the district, even if incorporated, would operate much as before. It would remain within the township laws, the Corinth school district, the Shawnee-Mission

high school district, the township zoning laws and have volunteer fire protection from Overland Park, Kas. It could employ police, establish speed laws and turn certain homes association functions over to the council.

When the population exceeds 1,000, expected by 1950, the residents by a two-thirds vote could create their own township, levy taxes and operate almost completely as a city. City officials, for the present, would receive no pay.

The petition for incorporation was filed by John W. Breyfogle, jr., attorney for the group. Active with Mann in starting the move were Rober Alton, Hubbard Minor, C. A. Jones and Vernon Touvenelle, directors of the association.

Several other groups within the township have been working on some proposed laws for greater township self-government, but have not reached agreement on the bills to be presented the Legislature.

Leawood History:

From Suburban District to City of the Third-Class

Kansas City Star, October 19, 1948

STUDY PETITION FOR CITY.

Johnson County Commissioners to Check Leawood Application.

The applications of residents of the Leawood district in Northeast Johnson County, Kansas, to incorporate their area as a city of the third class was taken under advisement today by the board of county commissioners, following a public hearing at Olathe.

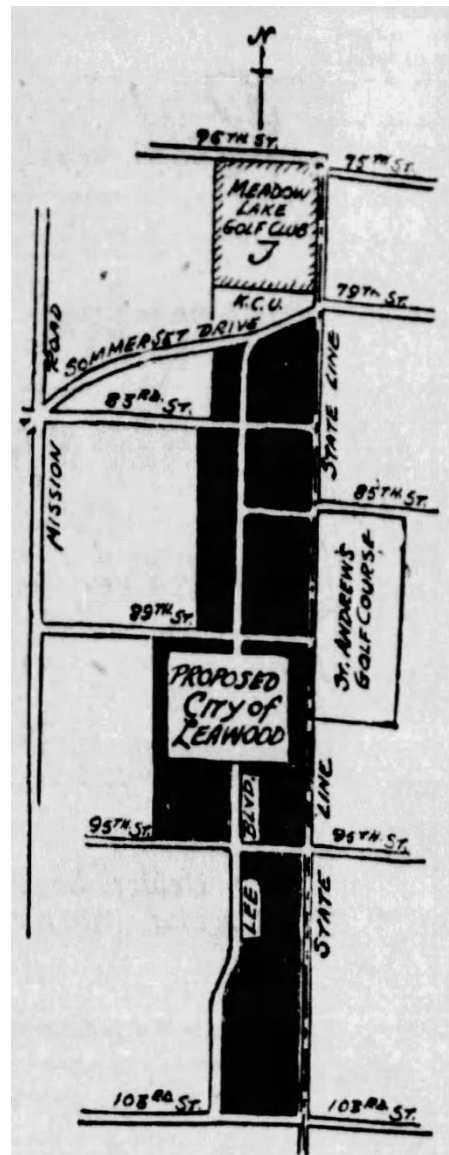
Fifteen persons attended the hearing. Only one, Carl Lampe, a resident of Kansas City, who said he owned twenty acres within the proposed area of incorporation, made a formal objection. Petitioners were represented by John W. Breyfogle, jr., of Olathe.

Commissioners said they would check the application bearing 533 signatures, which, the petitioners contend, represents more than 90 per cent of the eligible voters living in the proposed area.

The commissioners have the authority under law, after posting notices for three weeks, to order the area incorporated if they find the application to be "reasonable." If the application is approved, a special election will be called for the election of a mayor, five councilmen and a police judge.

Should the incorporation proceed, it would mark the first incorporation of a city within Mission township, the most heavily populated rural township in the state.

The Leawood district runs from Seventy-ninth street south to One Hundred Third street along State Line, and west to the border of the present residential district.



PROPOSED CITY — Residents of the Leawood district in Northeast Johnson County, Kansas, seek to incorporate the area shown into a third class city. The limits would extend from the state line west to the west border of the present Leawood district and from Sommerset Drive (about Seventy-ninth street) south to One Hundred and Third street. The area would be known as the City of Leawood.

Leawood History:

From Suburban District to City of the Third-Class

Kansas City Star, December 1, 1948

JOINS RANKS OF CITIES

LEAWOOD AREA BECOMES AN INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITY.

Action of Johnson County, Kansas, Commissioners Taken After Approving Request of District Residents.

The Leawood district in Northeast Johnson County, Kansas, a suburban homes development, officially was incorporated as a city today to become the first area in Mission township to assume city status.

Incorporation was granted by the board of county commissioners, who approved the petition signed by the residents and presented to the board September 22.

SCHEDULE AN ELECTION.

The commissioners set a special election for January 18. At that time residents in the newly incorporated area will elect a mayor, five city councilmen and a police judge.

The commissioners also appointed three election judges, Ford R. Nelson, Charles J. Epp, and Harold Nelson; two clerks, Leonard D. Clark and Larry E. Pineau, and three canvassers, George V. Thouvenelle, Lacy A. Goodrich, and R. J. Alton, all residents who have been active in the move for incorporation.

Leawood becomes a city of the third class under Kansas law, the first in a township of some 25,000 population, largest in the state. The commissioners' census showed 832 residents. There are approximately 300 homes occupied and fifty under construction.

Somewhat isolated from the rest of the township, the City of Leawood has as an east boundary the Missouri-Kansas state line; at the north, Somerset drive (about Seventy-ninth street); at the south, One Hundred Third street, and on the west, an irregular line including the settled area ranging from one-half to four-fifths of a mile wide.

GROUP TO ELECT.

Chief impetus behind the drive to incorporate came from the Leawood Homes association, which will hold an annual meeting at 6:30 o'clock tonight at the Country Club Christian church. Officers will be elected and the city affairs discussed. Ted S. Mann is president.

The motives behind incorporation were the desire to have the district's own fire protection, better traffic control and the means of handling street repairs. The city council may pass ordinances and levy taxes, although any taxes levied next year would not be collected until 1950.

Few governmental functions will be changed immediately. Leawood will remain within Mission township until the city's population exceeds 1,000 (expected within a year) and residents vote to form their own township for road repairs. Grade and high school districts will be unchanged. The district's own sewage disposal plant is ready to start operation.

Postoffice deliveries now are from the Sixty-third street and Brookside boulevard station. Walking deliveries will begin today north of Eighty-fourth street. At a later date the residents may apply for their own postoffice.

HAVE FIRE GUARD.

Fire protection is derived from the Overland Park volunteer department. While service is reported good, the volunteer department is about five miles away. One of the first moves will be to establish Leawood's own fire department.

Incorporation probably will spur the efforts of other homes associations in Mission township to draft more workable laws for township government. Leawood residents point out that if the rest of the township ever becomes a modernized governmental unit, and it appears advantageous for Leawood to join, Kansas laws make it comparatively simple to unincorporate when a majority of the residents vote to do so.

Kansas City Star,
December 2, 1948

NAMED TO LEAWOOD BOARD.

Homes Group Chooses Three New Directors.

Ray Faddis, Lloyd Miller and Harold Siechrist were named directors of the Leawood Homes association last night at the annual meeting held at the Country Club Christian church. They will serve a 2-year term.

Directors who will serve another year are J. Hubbard Minor and C. A. Jones. Both were elected in 1947. Officers will be chosen from among the five directors at the next meeting of the board of directors.

About 350 residents of the area attended the dinner session.

The district of Leawood was incorporated as a city yesterday.



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