



# The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 30 Years!

[leawoodrotary.org](http://leawoodrotary.org)

March 26, 2026

## March 19: Board Meeting



Click link below to launch Zoom

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 813 1042 7816

Passcode: Rotary

## Looking Ahead to April

### Meeting Programs:

**April 2** – Mark Hulet/Kansas City YMCA

**April 9** – City of Fountains Foundation

**April 16** – Jim Arnett/The Plus in Polio Plus

**April 23** – Board Meeting

**April 30** – Social at Discover O.P.

### April Greeters:

### April Invocators:

April 2 – Stephen Powell

April 9 – Andrew Pujado

April 16 – Jim Rawlings

Gary Bussing (4/2 Captain)

Andrew Catherwood

Gillian Chapman

Adam Dinkel (4/9 Captain)

Jonathan Freiden (4/16 Captain)

Phil Gibbs

# Last Week's Meeting

Dirk Anthonis was welcomed as a new member, and Jeff Owens discussed First Fridays in the Crossroads Arts District.



## Guess This Rotarian

In our third installment, we bring you this future leader. When he's not arranging guest presenters for Thursday meetings, this guy can be found representing Leawood Rotary Club on television and podcasts. Who can name this man whose only "vice" is in his title?



# 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 135<sup>th</sup> 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 April 14

We have scheduled a Service Day at Project Cure for Tuesday, April 14th from 1 -3:30pm. As far as I know, we will be doing our regular sorting and warehouse work, but we may have other things to do that day also.



We will meet at 12:30pm in the parking lot just east of the old/new UMB bank site at I-435 and State Line for those who wish to carpool. This is another great chance to do good and have some fun with your Rotarian friends.

Please let me know if you can make it by emailing me at the email below.

[rickrobinson.kc@gmail.com](mailto:rickrobinson.kc@gmail.com)

Rick Robinson  
International Committee Project Cure Coordinator

## Rotary Rewind: April 5, 2016

Roxann Kerr Lindsey, Brad Moore and Kirk Nelsen attend the Centennial Celebration of the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Kansas at the Lake Quivira Clubhouse.



# Service Project



**FLOURISH  
A FURNITURE BANK**

Leawood Rotarians were busy Saturday morning, March 21, at Flourish Furniture Bank. Flourish provides furniture and household goods to individuals and families in need. It is truly an amazing organization.



# Leawood History: Leawood vs. O.P.: The Great Annexation Battle of 1988/1989

In the late 1980s, the cities of Leawood and Overland Park entered an annexation battle that ended up being settled by the Kansas Supreme Court. The case was followed closely by municipalities and legal firms from all over the region.

The next three newsletters will present the story of this protracted battle, which Leawood ultimately lost.

*Kansas City Star – October 19, 1987*

## **Leawood plans expansion** **Overland Park officials question choice of land**

*By John North*  
staff writer

**B**eg pardon, Leawood, but Overland Park officials think some of the land you're looking at for future annexation may be on their side of the line.

A joint committee of Leawood city councilmen and planning commissioners last week recommended that the city consider annexing about 15 square miles of unincorporated land in southeast Johnson County.

The land would be annexed in phases. In the first phase, which could occur within a year, the west and east boundaries would continue to be Nall Avenue and State Line Road, respectively. The southern boundary, now at roughly 144th

Street to 155th Street, would be extended to 167th Street.

But additional phases in the study area include six square miles that lie directly south of Overland Park's current boundaries. That tract is from Nall Avenue west to Antioch Road and from 159th Street south to 183rd Street. The committee suggested that Leawood consider annexing the tract in five to seven years.

Leawood's City Council is expected to review recommendations for the first phase of annexation tonight, said Richard Garofano, Leawood city administrator.

Mayor Ed Eilert of Overland Park said he has always thought of Nall Avenue as the dividing line between Overland Park and Leawood.

Garofano said the committee

looked west of Nall Avenue because Leawood may want to add land to the tax rolls.

"The motive, as far as Leawood is concerned, is certainly not to cut off Overland Park from further expansion southward, but simply to look from a planning perspective for areas of some tax-based expansion."

Overland Park, which last year finished annexing to 159th Street, has no immediate plans to look farther south, Eilert said, but that doesn't mean it won't expand again one day.

The committee probably will continue reviewing its recommendations, he said. Meanwhile, Leawood wants to meet with representatives from Overland Park to talk about their future boundaries, Garofano said.

# Leawood History:

*Kansas City Star – January 22, 1988*

## **Cities try to smooth over their differences**

### **Annexation is still an issue for Overland Park and Leawood**

*By John North*

staff writer

**T**hey met Thursday to improve relations, but by the time an Overland Park and Leawood annexation summit ended, city officials appeared no closer to resolving their differences.

The cities have been at odds since October, when Leawood began studying annexation, including land west of Nall Avenue that is directly south of Overland Park's borders.

Overland Park Mayor Ed Eilert and Leawood Mayor Marcia Rinehart called the meeting so the two councils could become better acquainted.

For most of the 3½-hour meeting of about 20 city leaders at the Rodeway Inn in Overland Park, city officials listened as their staffs presented information about finances and capital improvement plans. Eilert and Rinehart reminded their councils they weren't expected to formally agree that Nall was the common boundary, although both leaders have said they would like an agreement.

After the presentations, council members from both cities addressed the feud over the Nall border.

Overland Park Councilman Andy Happer said Overland Park was obliged to look at annexation petitions from about 10 property owners directly south of Leawood's city limit. The City Council voted in an emergency meeting in December to review the

petitions.

Some Overland Park council members said they had to look at the petitions after a Leawood committee began studying future annexation that included land west of Nall, as far as Antioch Road, south of Overland Park's border.

But, Rinehart said, Leawood has always honored the Nall border, while Overland Park agreed a few years ago to cross that border by accepting about 160 acres east of Nall.

Leawood Councilman Jimmy Lin said Leawood never said it wanted to annex land on Overland Park's side and only included the land in a study.

"Right, Jimmy," said Overland Park Councilman Jack Sanders with a smile, "and all we're

doing is studying land over to State Line."

Mark Hannah, who represents the 10 petitioners, said that if the property owners had their choice, they wanted to be in Overland Park because they thought city services and property tax rates would be better.

Leawood officials said the city could provide services for their residents.

The cities have no plans to meet again. As the meeting was ending, Leawood Councilman Ernie Anselmi urged the leaders not to rush into any annexation decisions.

"What's the matter with taking a wait-and-see attitude?" he said. "Let's let the situation lie for some time."