



# The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 30 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

April 9, 2026

## April 9: Joanie Sheilds City of Fountains Foundation



**Joanie Sheilds**



The [City of Fountains Foundation \(COFF\)](#) — a (501)(c)(3) nonprofit — works with the city's Parks & Recreation Department to insure ongoing funding and maintenance for the city's fountains, monuments and sculptures. The foundation has more than \$4 million in about 40 separate, income-generating endowment accounts, and it taps those accounts as needed for specific projects.



Click link below to launch Zoom

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 813 1042 7816

Passcode: Rotary

## **Invoker: Andrew Pujado**

### April Greeters:

Gary Bussing, Andrew Catherwood, Gillian Chapman  
Adam Dinkel, Jonathan Freiden, Phil Gibbs

## April Meetings & Socials:

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

**April 23** – Board Meeting

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

# Last Week...

On April 2, Mark Hurley with the YMCA of Greater Kansas City spoke with the club about the impact of “The Y” on people of all ages in the metro. The club also inducted new member, Mark McCormick, and helped member Del Karmeier celebrate a milestone birthday.



Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Del!



Del, second from the right, circa 1966. Accompanying Del in this photo (L to R) is former KC Mayor, Charles Wheeler, former City Manager, L.P. Cookingham, and then-City Manager, Robert Kipp.



*Volunteer for the Rotary Youth Camp*

## ***Native Plant Sale***

**4-6 pm Friday, April 17**

**Rotary Youth Camp**

**22310 NE Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit, Mo.**

*A portion of the proceeds to benefit Rotary Club 13's  
free camp for disabled & disadvantaged kids*

### ***Thanks to These Plant Vendors***

Missouri Wildflowers Nursery

Sow Wild Natives

City Roots Nursery

*Order early from these vendors and pick up at the sale!*

### ***More fun activities!***

Kansas City Zoo offering fun educational activities for kids

Free Zoo Manoo (compost from zoo herbivores)

Missouri Prairie Foundation sharing information  
on native plant gardening and prairie conservation

### ***Live music!***

Enjoy local musicians while you browse and chat with experts!

***To volunteer contact: [wadfreeman.hawks@gmail.com](mailto:wadfreeman.hawks@gmail.com)***



## Plant Sale News Release For Rotary Club Newsletters

It's fun...it's inspiring...it's for a good cause!

So don't miss Rotary Club 13's Native Plant Sale, 4 to 6 p.m., Friday, April 17, at the Rotary Youth Camp, 22310 NE Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit, MO.

A portion of the proceeds will help support Club 13's free summer camp for disabled and disadvantaged kids. It is a camp that has drawn wide support from Rotary Clubs throughout the area.

***And, by the way, we need volunteers!! Knowledge of native plants not required!***

You'll find a vast array of native plants provided by Missouri Wildflowers Nursery, Sow Wild Natives and City Roots Nursery. You can even place your order with these nurseries ahead of time, then pick up your plants at the sale!

And you can get up to speed on growing your native plants from the Missouri Prairie Foundation that will share information and tips on native gardening and prairie conservation.

The Kansas City Zoo will be on hand to provide fun educational activities for kids. But that's not all. They're also offering FREE Zoo Manoo, compost direct to you from zoo herbivores.

Not to be missed are local musicians who will be providing live music while you browse and chat with experts.

You won't want to miss it: native plants, experts, fun for kids, music....and manoo! And best of all, it will help support our camp for these special kids.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Wade Freeman, chairman of Club 13's Ecology Committee, at

[wadefreeman.hawks@gmail.com](mailto:wadefreeman.hawks@gmail.com)

# 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!

# Service Project April 14

We have scheduled a Service Day at Project Cure for Tuesday, April 14th from 1 -3:30pm.

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 email Rick Robinson know if you plan to attend:  
[rickrobinson.kc@gmail.com](mailto:rickrobinson.kc@gmail.com)

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## April Milestones

### Rotary Anniversaries

Ken Selzer (2009)  
Jim Arnett (2015)  
Mike Best (2019)  
Andrew Catherwood (2022)  
Larry Hawks (2022)

### April Birthdays

Jake Schloegel – April 1  
Del Karmeier – April 2  
Brad Moore – April 5  
Jonn Wullschleger – April 23  
Jim Rawlings – April 24  
Don Keith - April 24  
Ken Selzer -April 25  
Larry Hawks - April 27

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## Guess This Rotarian

In our fifth installment, we uncover this Big Sister with a sweet smile. She has jumped in with both feet for Leawood Rotary. Who can identify this all-around community leader?



# 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***

# Rotarian is a Podcast Guest



When some people hear “historical society,” they think... boring. However, the story of Overland Park is anything but. In this episode of ***There’s Just Something About Kansas City***, we’re joined by Brad Moore, Executive Director of the Overland Park Historical Society, for a deep dive into the people, places, and moments that shaped one of the largest cities in Johnson County. Brad is more than a historian — he’s a storyteller, preservationist, and passionate advocate for bringing local history to life in fresh, engaging ways. From little-known stories and hidden gems to the legends of downtown Overland Park, he shares how history connects communities and gives deeper meaning to the places we live. Frank is joined by his wife Sarah, Brad’s elementary school classmate, in hosting a conversation that blends personal stories with fascinating local insight. Whether you’re a lifelong resident or new to the area, this episode will change the way you see Overland Park — and prove that history is anything but boring. To watch the segment, click the link below.



[Brad Moore: The Surprising History of Overland Park & Johnson County’s Hidden Stories](#)

# Leawood History: Leawood vs. O.P. - The Great Annexation Battle of 1988/1989 (Part 3)

*Kansas City Star - February 26, 1988*

## Under watchful eyes

### Annexation battle an attention-getter

*By John North*

staff writer

**R**esidents of Leawood and Overland Park aren't the only spectators watching the annexation dispute between their two cities. Some new faces have joined the crowd, and they're not there to see a good fight.

The Kansas Legislature is watching, and at least one member thinks it's time to break up the fight before someone is hurt.

The Johnson County Commission is watching with interest but not commenting.

The dispute also has caught the attention of officials from other cities, and while some are relieved that they don't have to go through it, others hope they can avoid such border wars themselves.

"I don't know what my constituents are saying because I haven't heard from them, but I can tell you what the Legislature is saying," said state Rep. Nancy Brown, who represents residents in the disputed area south of Leawood. "They're moaning and groaning that Johnson County is involved yet again in an annexation issue."

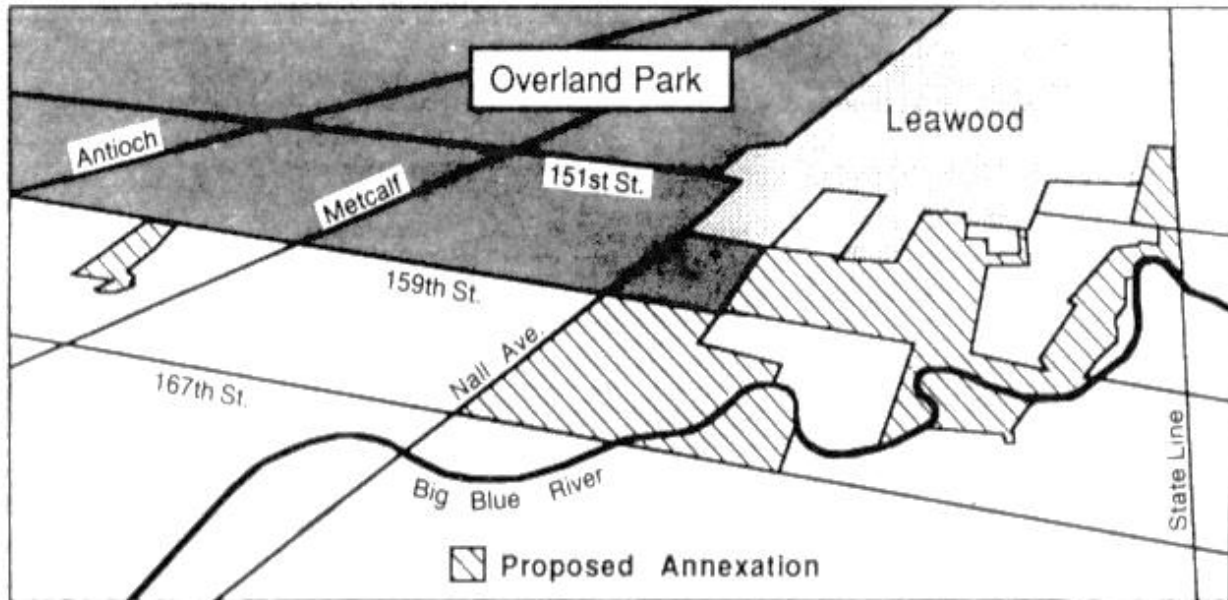
For the moment, the question of whether Overland Park should annex land south of Leawood appears to be over. Last week, the Overland Park City Council voted 7-3 to accept annexation petitions for land extending from Nall Avenue at about 159th Street to the state line. The move effectively landlocks Leawood.

Overland Park doesn't need the approval of the County Commission, which typically reviews annexations, because the petitions are voluntary and consist of land that is contiguous with the current city boundary, City Attorney Robert Watson said.

Mayor Ed Eilert, however, wants to veto the council's action, and he has said he would try to win enough support so that he could sustain such a motion. He has until March 7 to either veto the decision or sign the petitions and make them legal.

**Continued...**

# Leawood History: Leawood vs. O.P. - The Great Annexation Battle of 1988/1989 (Part 3)



The Star/Suzanne Gaylord

A few days after the Overland Park council's decision, state Rep. Kerry Patrick, a Leawood Republican, asked a legislative committee to introduce a bill that would curtail one city's ability to landlock another. Patrick said his bill, which is scheduled for committee hearings this week, would give a county commission the power to overturn one city's annexation move, if the county commission found that it would "manifestly injure" another city.

"The issue I'm raising in this bill is not pro or con as far as these (Overland Park) annexations go," Patrick said. "I'm saying, let's have an objective and independent body who can decide if it's good for one city to landlock another city."

Patrick's bill includes a provision that would address Overland Park's annexation move.

Patrick said that as sewers and streets in the northeast part of the county begin to deteriorate, residents of cities such as Prairie Village and Fairway would be forced to pay higher taxes because the towns have relatively small commercial tax bases. If Leawood is landlocked, it could face the same problem, he said.

"Now, if the Board of County Commissioners decided that Overland Park's annexation would not manifestly injure Leawood, then I'd support it," he said.

Brown and Bud Burke, a Leawood Republican and Senate majority leader, said they were reserving judgment on Patrick's bill.

**Continued...**

# Leawood History: Leawood vs. O.P. - The Great Annexation Battle of 1988/1989 (Part 3)

The skirmish started in October after a committee of Leawood leaders announced they were studying future annexation, including land south of Overland Park. They soon dismissed the Overland Park study area, but rural landowners and Overland Park officials saw the study as a threat.

After several rural landowners approached Overland Park seeking annexation, the City Council agreed to take them in.

Brown said Leawood officials failed to meet with landowners south of the city limits soon enough to allay their fears about future annexations. By the time the city did meet with them, the landowners already had decided they didn't want to be in Leawood.

Burke said he didn't know if legislation would solve the dispute.

"I would hope that there would be some way for the two cities to get together and find a middle ground," he said. "But I don't know what the answer is."

County Commissioner Kent Crippin, a former Leawood mayor whose commission district includes Leawood, also would like to see a solution amicable to both cities, but he said he would not get involved because he had been named in previous lawsuits involving other annexations in the county.

"After the previous annexa-

tions involving Overland Park to the south and Shawnee and Lenexa, our attorneys told us, 'Just be rather short with your remarks, because we don't want you to make any problems for us when we go to defend the county,' " Crippin said. "While I do have opinions, at this juncture I'm really not in a position to express them."

Lenexa Mayor Rich Becker also prefers to stay out of the ruckus, although he said that after watching Overland Park and Leawood, he was glad his city and Shawnee, its northern neighbor, were at peace with each other. In 1985 and 1986, the cities repeatedly clashed over their desires to annex land in the northwest part of the county.

"We've had our annexation battles," he said. "A little annexation goes a long way."

Some Overland Park officials worried that their decision to accept the petitions south of Leawood would prompt an annexation war with Olathe to the west. The two cities recognize Pflumm Road as their common boundary in an informal agreement similar to the one involving Nall Avenue that collapsed with Leawood.

Olathe Mayor Ray Barmby said his city was not going to break that agreement.