



# The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 30 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

April 16, 2026

## April 16: The Plus in Polio Plus

Maria Wilson, District 5710 Polio Plus Chairman, will be present to give updates on the Polio Plus program and its efforts to eradicate Polio worldwide.



**Maria Wilson**



Click link below to launch Zoom

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 813 1042 7816

Passcode: Rotary

## **Invocator: Jim Rawlings**

### April Greeters:

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

## April Meetings & Socials:

**April 23** – Board Meeting

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

## Last Week...

Returning Rotarian, Chris Armer, was inducted and several new and repeat guests enjoyed the best bacon in Leawood. Eric Thompson, major gifts officer, visited from Rotary International in Evanston. Two representatives of the City of Fountains Foundation shared the history of several fountains, including the Meyer Circle Seahorse Fountain, which is being restored using granite. Kansas City's fountain season officially opens on Wednesday, April 15 at 2 p.m. as the Kansas City Parks and Recreation department hosts the annual Fountain Day celebration.



## **Welcome Back, Chris Armer!**

# Last Week...



## **Representatives for the City of Fountains Foundation**

## Guess This Rotarian

In this week's installment, we give a hat tip to the Easter Bunny for this featured chick who married one future president and worked for another presidential candidate. She jumped in to update our website over the past year. Who is she?



# Chicken N Pickle – April 7

Members and friends of Leawood Rotary rallied at Chicken N Pickle in Overland Park to champion for a polio-free future. Distinguished guests included State Senator, Kellie Warren, and members of the Overland Park Rotary.



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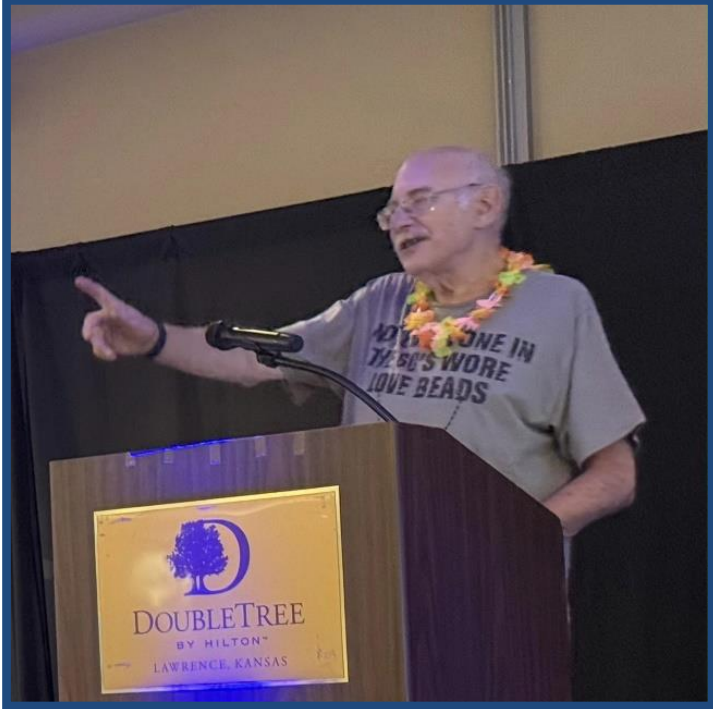


# Gathering for Good – April 11

The Back to the '60s Gathering for Good, supporting the Annual Fund of The Rotary Foundation, was the place to be Saturday night! Several members of Leawood Rotary helped raise funds with auctions, trivia, and 60's-themed fun held at the Double Tree hotel in Lawrence.

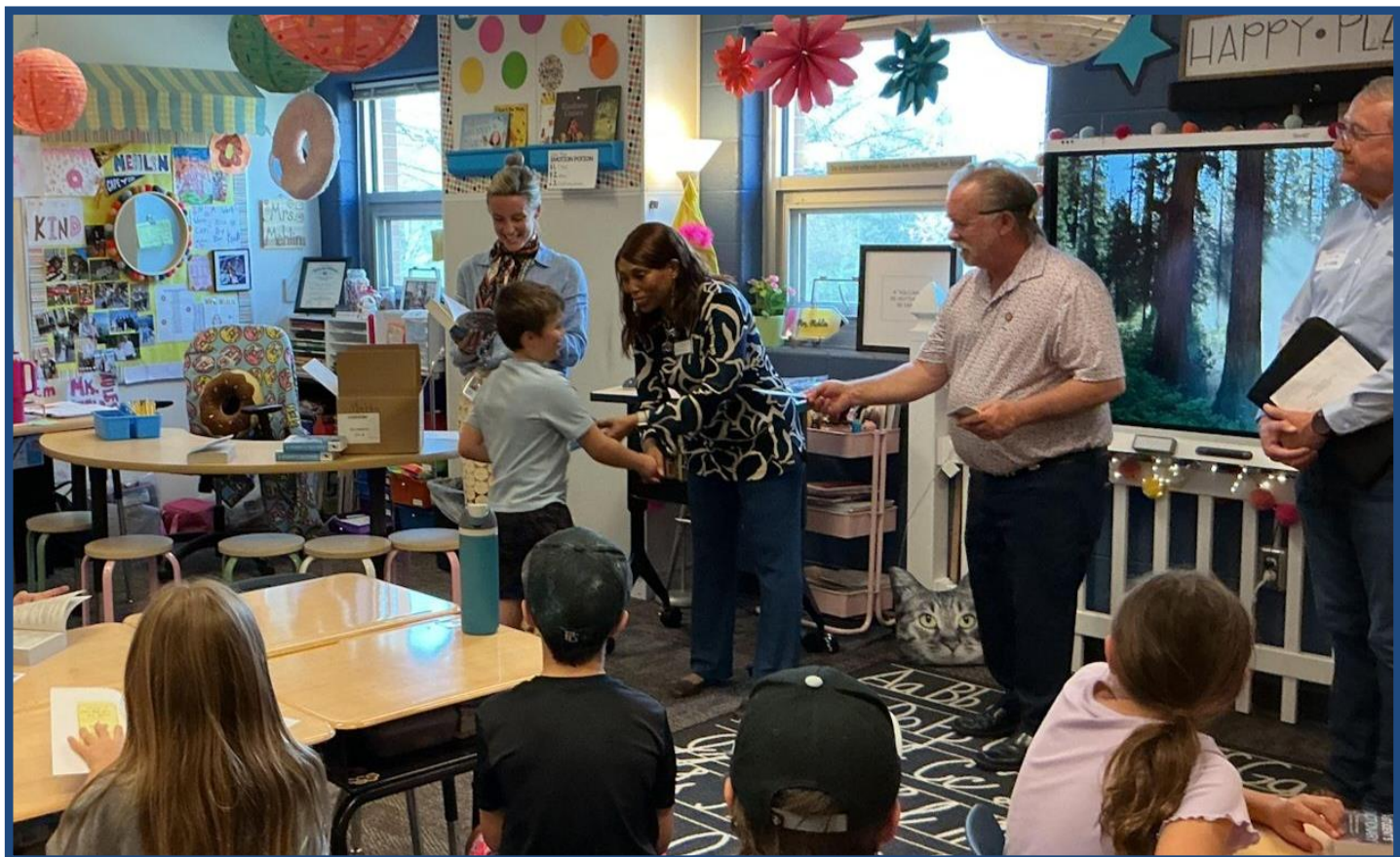


# Gathering for Good – April 11





Members met on April 11 to clean up Tomahawk Creek Park as we prepare for the FIFA World Cup. One Rotarian found a \$20 bill, so it's clear that "Service Above Self" really does pay dividends!



Mrs. Nation's 3rd grade class at Mission Trail Elementary received new, personalized dictionaries on behalf of Leawood Rotary from members Sonya Evans, Rod Pemberton and Kirk Nelsen. Kirk had the pleasure of presenting the first dictionary to his granddaughter, Julia. Principal Bond was excited to participate as well.

# 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: Leawood vs. O.P. - The Great Annexation Battle of 1988/1989 (Part 4)

*Kansas City Star - May 23, 1989*

## Annexation fight in state's high court

By John North  
staff writer

**A**n 18-month annexation dispute between Overland Park and Leawood was to go before the Kansas Supreme Court this afternoon.

Attorneys for the cities would be given 30 minutes each to present oral arguments before the justices in Topeka, said Ron Keefover, the court's education and information officer.

The court is expected to return a decision July 14, he said.

The cities have been fighting in the courts over about 1,300 acres south of Leawood. The land is

roughly bounded by Nall Avenue to the state line near 159th Street.

The Overland Park City Council thinks it followed state law when it accepted petitions from landowners and annexed the land in March 1988. Leawood disagrees.

The annexation cut off Leawood's ability to grow to the south.

The dispute started in the fall of 1987 when a committee of Leawood planners and City Council members considered an area south of Overland Park for future annexation.

Overland Park council mem-

bers saw Leawood's move as a threat. Some landowners in the unincorporated area south of Leawood also said they preferred to be annexed by Overland Park if they had to be annexed into a city.

A divided Overland Park council annexed the land after cities officials tried for three months to settle their differences.

Leawood then sued in Johnson County District Court to stop Overland Park. Overland Park countersued.

In August, District Court Judge Larry McClain ruled in favor of Overland Park.

*Kansas City Star - July 14, 1989*

## Overland Park can annex entire tract

### Court rules against Leawood

By Anne Lamoy  
and Ann Peterson  
staff writers

**O**verland Park can annex land south of Leawood, leaving the smaller suburb landlocked, the Kansas Supreme Court ruled today.

"I'm extremely disappointed," Leawood Mayor Marcia Rinehart said. Nearly two-thirds of Leawood's land is undeveloped, she said, and the city will plan and zone it carefully.

Overland Park City Attorney Bob Watson said the city and landowners who requested annexation were pleased by the 6-1 decision.

"It affirms what the court has said over and over, that annexation statutes are there to protect the property owners," he said.

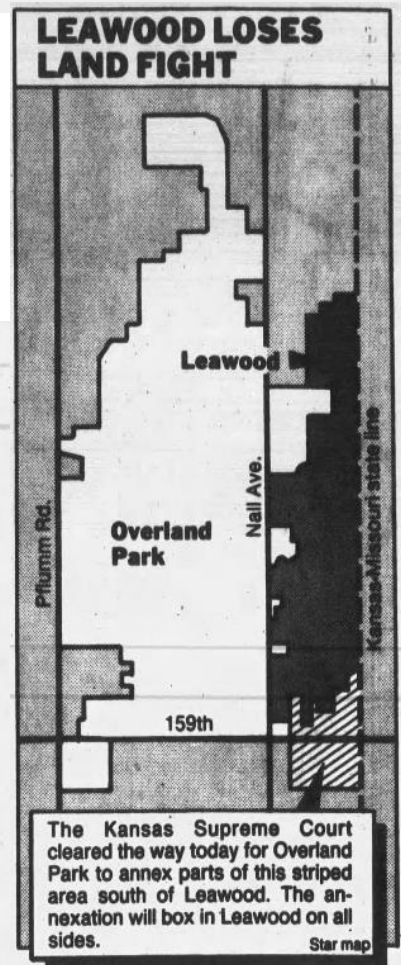
In its decision the court said, "Where land adjoins a city and the owner consents to annexation, other cities do not have standing to challenge the annexation."

In the dissenting opinion, Judge Kay McFarland agreed that Overland Park should be allowed to annex land that touched its borders but did not agree that the city should be allowed to annex other tracts not contiguous to its borders.

This is the first time the Supreme Court has ruled on whether multi-tract, multi-owner annexation is legal.

Attorneys for Leawood and Overland Park asked the Supreme Court to review the case last October after a Johnson County District Court Judge said Overland Park could annex the tracts. The land was annexed in the spring of 1988.

The district court judge said Overland Park had complied with state laws when it accepted annexation petitions from several landowners for about 1,300 acres in areas on both sides of 159th Street between Nall Avenue and State Line Road.



**Continued...**

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

**Continued...**

Leawood challenged the decision because city officials believed Overland Park could not annex the non-contiguous tracts all at the same time.

The properties adjoin each other, but were not all contiguous to Overland Park, said Fred Logan Jr., an attorney

for Leawood.

"It was like a chain," he said.

Earlier this year Overland Park Mayor Ed Eilert vetoed the City Council's decision to annex almost 900 acres of the land bordering Leawood. The council, however, overrode the veto.

At the time, Eilert said he opposed the annexation because it would cut off the smaller city's growth. The annexed area is mainly agricultural with some residential sections.

Eilert was out of town today and could not be reached for comment.

*Kansas City Star - August 7, 1989*

## **Another Johnson County land dispute forming**

**By John North**

staff writer

**O**ne month after a Kansas Supreme Court decision on annexation, Leawood and Overland Park appear to be headed for another showdown.

Leawood officials are asking the Johnson County Commission for permission to annex three tracts of unincorporated land totaling about 120 acres south of the city limit. Mayor Marcia Rinehart said the request is a longstanding one to help square its border.

But Overland Park has received a request from Bernard and Paula O'Donnell to annex a 60-acre tract included in the Leawood plan.

The Overland Park City Council is scheduled to receive the O'Donnells' request tonight. City Manager Don Pipes said he is recommending that a council committee review the petition and send it back with comments for the council.

Leawood officials have said they think they have first legal claim to the tracts, which are near 151st Street and Mission Road, according to assistant city administrator Julie Baer. The city included the

120 acres as part of a larger petition filed in early 1988 when the cities were involved in an annexation dispute.

Last month the Supreme Court upheld Overland Park's move in March 1988 to annex about 1,300 acres south of Leawood. The move cut off Leawood's ability to grow to the south.

Pipes said the O'Donnells approached Overland Park in November, when the cities were in litigation, about being annexed. They filed a formal petition late last month.

"Obviously, a property owner is free to do what he or she chooses," Rinehart said. "But, legally speaking, our request is before the County Commission and it precedes (the O'Donnells') request. It will be up to the County Commission to make their decision."

Commissioners have scheduled a public hearing Sept. 14 on Leawood's annexation request, county attorney Don Jarrett said. Commissioners probably will decide by late September or early October whether to grant the petition, Jarrett said.

Overland Park Mayor Ed Eilert said

**Continued...**

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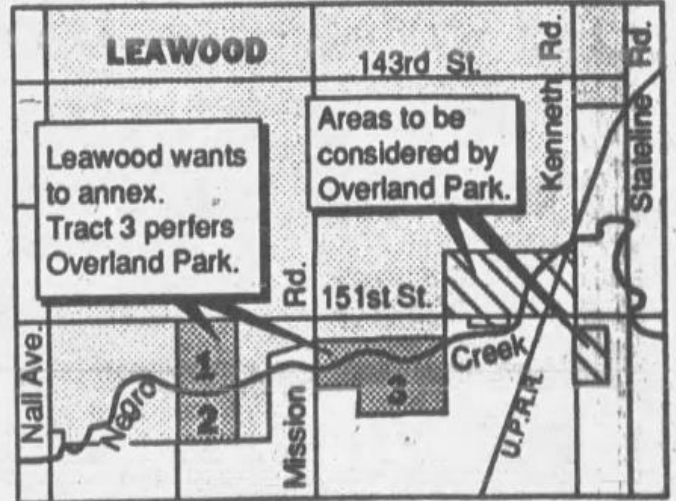
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he didn't know what the council's attitude is about the O'Donnells' petition. Councilman W. Jack Sanders, chairman of one council committee that reviews annexations, said he preferred not to comment.

In other business tonight, the Overland Park council is expected to decide whether it will accept annexation petitions from about 17 landowners for land near Kenneth Road and 151st Street. The council delayed considering the petitions until after the Supreme Court's decision.

The council was divided last year over annexing the 1,300 acres. Some members said it would hurt relations between the cities and others said Leawood deserved to be cut off because it created the problem.

The dispute started in October 1987



after an ad hoc committee of Leawood council members and plan commissioners identified land south of Overland Park as an annexation candidate. Overland Park officials saw that as a threat.