



The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 31 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

May 7, 2026

This Week: Xavier Montenegro Salvation Army



Major Xavier Montenegro currently serves as Area Commander of The Salvation Army's work across the greater Kansas City area. In this role, he provides leadership and vision for The Salvation Army's operations in the region. He oversees eight local church and community centers (known as

"corps") and a broad range of social service programs, including family shelters, senior housing, veterans support, rent and utility assistance, food distribution, and emergency disaster response. Xavier works closely with a team of staff and officers to lead strategic planning efforts and manage the regional budget. He also leads the local advisory board and serves as the public face of The Salvation Army in Kansas City. Under his leadership, The Salvation Army serves every zip code in the metro area, meeting both spiritual and practical needs in the region's most vulnerable communities.

May 7 Invocator: Andrew Pujado



Click link below to launch Zoom

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 813 1042 7816

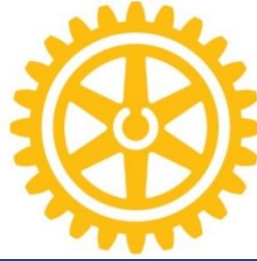
Passcode: Rotary

May Greeters:

Lisa Harrison (May 7 Captain), Mel Hawk (May 14 Captain),
Mary Jo Holland, Del Karmeier, Don Keith (May 21 Captain),
Lisa May

Rotary

Leawood



Announcing the 2026 Annual Dinner
Save the Date!

June 25, 2026 – Hallbrook Country Club

6:00 – Cash Bar

6:30 – Dinner

- Traditional & Service Members:
Dinner is already included in your dues
- Couples Members & Guests:
\$35.00 per person

RSVP is required for each attendee.

Please RSVP to Anita Williams:

abwilliams59@gmail.com

April 30 Social at Discover O.P.

Members and friends were treated to a delicious and enlightening evening at the Overland Park Historical Society's new headquarters, Discover O.P., in Downtown Overland Park. The club surprised Brad Moore, the Executive Director, with a generous check for \$1000 to help OPHS carry on its mission of preserving and sharing the city's fascinating history. Many thanks to our Social Committee for organizing such a fun event!







A Personal Note of Thanks

My Fellow Leawood Rotarians,

On behalf of the Overland Park Historical Society, I want to thank all of you for the most generous surprise donation of \$1000 presented to OPHS at our social at Discover O.P. last Thursday evening. Being a 501(c)3 non-profit, we live or die by our fundraising. Your donation reflects the spirit and generosity of our club, and all of us at OPHS are most thankful for this wonderful financial gift. We are grateful!

Brad

Looking Ahead to May

Meeting Programs:

May 14: Leawood Chamber of Commerce – Stephanie Meyer

May 21: Chelan David, Author, *Stories of the Phog*

Rotary Throwback: 2016



Leawood History: June 24, 1987

Rampaging teens vandalize Leawood

By James A. Fussell

staff writer

Some cars were burned open with blow torches. Others were glued shut with super glue.

Most were scratched, smashed and dented, their antennas, windshield wipers and contents gone.

That was what more than 30 south Leawood residents woke up to Monday morning.

"This is probably the most vindictive, despicable, unacceptable, inexcusable display of criminal destruction of property I have seen in some 15 years," said Sgt. Craig Hill of the Leawood Police Department.

In the last three days, police say, teen-agers in Leawood and Olathe have run amok from midnight to morning, destroying at least \$28,000 worth of property.

The destruction has ranged from shooting out car windows and bashing mailboxes with baseball bats to blasting the front doors of houses with high-powered firecrackers and destroying automobiles.

Police say the culprits are teen-agers, some as young as 13.

They also say the problem is out of control.

In Leawood, where damages totaled at least \$25,000, police have offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the apprehension of the vandals.

Hill says he is seeing a tremendous increase in juvenile problems.

"Frankly, I'm burned out," he said. "I have enough to do as it is, but the cases that are tying me up are needless, ridiculous crimes against property that should be prevented."

From midnight to 5 a.m., teen-agers, some of whom think nothing of creasing your car for kicks, gather on Leawood streets, Hill said.

They are not hardened criminals but youths from nice homes.

Hill blames their parents, who, he says, give their children everything but attention.

"Here's what I'm dealing with: I'm seeing parents buying hotel rooms for their kids when they graduate from high school," Hill said. "I'm seeing

ninth-graders demand cars for promotion to high school. The problem is that these parents don't know when to say 'No.'"

Hill remembers a vandal who recently stole a motorcycle, rode it for a while, and then poured gasoline on it when police got too close.

If it were only the bike he wanted, he didn't need to steal it, Hill said.

"He said, 'Hey man, my old man will buy me anything I want.'"

Recently, Hill solved a case involving several juveniles who specialized in stealing radar detectors from Porsches, Audis and other upscale automobiles.

The youths told Hill they had nothing to do, he said.

"I say where are the parents in all this?" Hill said. "They don't even pay enough attention to their own kid to know what's going on. One parent looked at me at 3 in the morning and said, 'I thought my kid was going to the library.' Come on."

Sgt. Larry Dixon of Overland Park Police experiences some of the same frustrations.

"I don't know what the problem is with these kids," he said. "They have a lack of respect and too much time on their hands." Teen-age vandalism also is increasing in Overland Park, he said.

In Olathe, teen-agers recently shot out windows of cars and businesses and smashed mailboxes with baseball bats, causing about \$3,000 in damage. Juvenile courts may hold parents responsible for damage caused by their children, said Sgt. Tony Higgins of the Olathe Department of Public Safety.

Hill agreed: "If and when I make the apprehension, I want the courts to realize that because of the age of the suspects and the time the crime occurred, that the parents should be held responsible for at least a portion of these kids' actions, and for restitution to the victims."

"I say where are the parents in all this? They don't even pay enough attention to their own kid to know what's going on."

—Sgt. Craig Hill
Leawood police