



# The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 31 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

May 14, 2026

## This Week: Leawood Chamber



**Stephanie Meyer**

**President & CEO**

Stephanie joined the Leawood Chamber team in October 2022, following nearly 20 years in the private, governmental, and nonprofit sectors in a variety of roles. Her career includes two terms as a local city council member in Shawnee, where she was active in the Chamber, as well as the city's economic development and business efforts. Stephanie holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Kansas, and a dual bachelor's degree from Kansas State University.



## May 14 Invocator: Rick Robinson



Click link below to launch Zoom

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 813 1042 7816

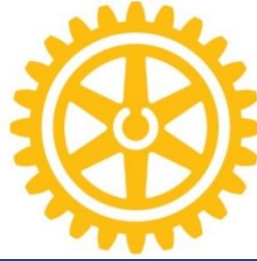
Passcode: Rotary

## 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](mailto:abwilliams59@gmail.com)

# Last Week

Last week, our speak was Major Xavier Montenegro with the Salvation Army in Kansas & Western Missouri. The regional operation includes eight local church and community centers, and a broad range of social service programs. We also had several guests. Chuck Udell introduced Jodi Sundaram, visiting District Governor from District 6040. Jake & Debby Schloegel introduced their friend, DeeDee Cooper, who discussed the upcoming Light KC Orange event raising awareness of gun violence (see flyer on pages 4 & 5). And Davis Harrison brought youth exchange student, Jacob Ejstrup, who is from Denmark. Jacob is temporarily living with Davis and attending Shawnee Mission East.





KANSAS CITY METRO

# LIGHT KC ORANGE

**JUNE 5 – 7, 2026**

PREVIOUS LIGHTING PARTICIPANTS

KC Downtown  
KCI Airport  
KC Convention Center  
Jackson County Courthouse  
KC City Hall  
KC Power & Light Tower  
KC Marriott Downtown  
KC Current Stadium

KC Ferris Wheel  
Children's Mercy Hospital  
St. Luke's Hospital  
Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral  
Prairie Village Pres. Church  
Jewish Community Center  
City of Prairie Village  
Johnson County Office Bldg

Some buildings light up all week, June 1–8, 2026

Grandparents for Gun Safety | Lives on the Line | Moms Demand Action | Mothers in Charge

# WEAR ORANGE RALLY 2026



**Saturday, June 6, 2026**

**Alvin Brooks Justice Center**

5401 Troost Ave, KCMO · Rockhurst University Campus

**9:00 AM** Speakers & Vendors

**10:30 AM** Walk on Troost Ave

**11:30 AM** Event Concludes

## SPEAKERS

**Quinton Lucas**

*Mayor, KCMO*

**Dr. Amelia Bray-Aschenbrenner, MD FAAP**

*Children's Mercy Hospital*

**Dr. Ranee Rannenbaum, PharmD**

*Survivor*

**Missouri Senator Patty Lewis**

**Kansas Rep. JoElla Hoye**

**Student Group Representatives**

Rain or Shine

Family Friendly

#WearOrange

Grandparents for Gun Safety | Lives on the Line | Moms Demand Action | Mothers in Charge

# Volunteer Opportunity



BBBSKC is looking for volunteers to join our “Prize Patrol” at our upcoming Bowl for Kids’ Sake on Thursday, July 16th from 5:30pm-9:30pm! We’re looking for 8-10 volunteers. I thought this could be a fun opportunity for the Rotary club to volunteer at a BBBSKC event.



## Volunteer Details:

- Date/Time: Thursday, July 16 from 5:30 PM – 9:30 PM at Park Lanes bowling alley in Shawnee
- Role: 8-10 volunteers to serve as our Prize Patrol – hand out prizes to anyone who bowls a strike
- Perks: Beer and pizza provided for all volunteers!

This is a fun way to give back to the community and help support our mission to empower children in our city. Please email Paige Peterson at [paige@bbbskc.org](mailto:paige@bbbskc.org) if you’re interested.

Thanks so much!  
Milca Aguirre

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## May Birthdays

- Milca Aguirre – May 20
- Phil Gibbs – May 27

## May Anniversaries

- Sonya Evans – 2022
- Jonn Wullschleger - 2019

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## Next Week’s Program:

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

# Leawood History:

*From the January 21, 1970, issue of the Johnson County Sun*

## Reservoir 'Not Feasible'

Since the proposal date of the Tomahawk Reservoir in February, 1968, Leawood officials have gone on record as opposed to the federal project involving 691 acres of the city's land.

The reservoir is part of a flood control and water conservation plan for Missouri and Kansas. Included in the project in Kansas were the 1,000 acre Wolf-Coffee Creek reservoir, a 430 acre

Indian Creek reservoir and a 640 acre Tomahawk Creek reservoir.

"The city of Leawood is opposed to the reservoir because it is not feasible from a cost-ratio standpoint. It would cost much more than the benefits derived," Leawood Mayor V.M. Dostal said in a Scout-Suns interview.

The location of the reservoir between State Line Road on the east and old U.S. Highway 69 on the west has also created objection from Leawood officials for two reasons.

First, traffic patterns now existent or being contemplated would be obliterated. Traffic along 115th, 119th, 123rd and 127th Streets, east and west, and along Nall, Mission and old U.S. Highway 69 north and south, would have to be re-routed if the reservoir is built, Mayor Dostal explained.

"The only north-south road to be replaced will be Roe and it'll be constructed around the dam. The roads left won't be able to accommodate the great influx of traffic expected with the reservoir. State Line is chaotic now," he said.

The second geographic objection is that the reservoir would split the city in

half. Leawood is bounded on the east by Kansas City, Mo., on the north by Prairie Village and the west by Overland Park. The only direction for expansion is south, right where the reservoir is planned.

Leawood is considering rezoning this land for commercial buildings, apartments and perhaps a hospital. This land use would add at least 16 million dollars to the city's tax base, Mayor Dostal estimated.

"This land use plan was not an attempt to put the value of the property out-of-reach for the government. We had a study made on how this land could best be developed. If the study showed that there was no way to use the land, then, we'd stop. But, the study showed that this was the best use of the land for the development of the city."

*Continued...*

# Leawood History:

## Reservoir 'Not Feasible'

The property was initially appraised by the Army Corps of Engineers in April, 1968, at \$2,250 per acre, and again in January, 1969, at \$3,000 per acre. Land near the reservoir site recently sold for \$16,000 per acre, Mayor Dostal said.

"Because the reservoir is primarily for flood control, I would expect, however, that the property around it would decrease in value when it's built; and it's right across from what we call our prime residential area," he said.

Mayor Dostal emphasized that the city is not opposed to the project, but just considers the plans highly unfeasible.

"I've talked informally with those persons who initially favored the project, and they admit privately that it won't be built. I think if they took a good look at the plans now, they'd see that it really isn't feasible at all."

The Army Corps of Engineers has said that it would be feasible to build the other two reservoirs without Tomahawk although the flood control wouldn't be as effective.

All three reservoirs would be able to control major flooding that occurs every 130 years. Without Tomahawk, this period would be reduced to 85 years. The economic life expectancy of the reservoirs is 100 years, according to Paul Barber, Army Corps of Engineers.

"It's not absolutely needed," Dostal said. "I think Missouri should get busy straightening out the Blue River and widening the bridge spans. That would help their flooding."