



The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 31 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

July 16, 2026

This Week: Robin Kerkaert - The Sewing Labs



The Sewing Labs™
Create. Inspire. Thrive.



Robin Kerkaert

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Sewing Labs is an inclusive and welcoming community teaching the legacy of sewing for employment, entrepreneurship, and enrichment.

WEBSITE LINK:

[The Sewing Labs - Jobs & Generations connect through community non-profit](https://www.sewinglabs.org/)



Click link below to launch Zoom

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 813 1042 7816

Passcode: Rotary

Invoker:

Ron Slepitz

July Greeters:

Rachel Rubin, Paul Rueschhoff, Prasad Saraph, Jake Schloegel,
Ken Selzer, Stu Sharp, Chuck Sipple (Captain 7/16)

Last Week

Last week we inducted our newest member, Jacquie Thomas, into the club. Guest speaker, John Paul Henry, informed the club about his organization, Word by Word, Uganda.



Welcome to Leawood Rotary, Jacquie!

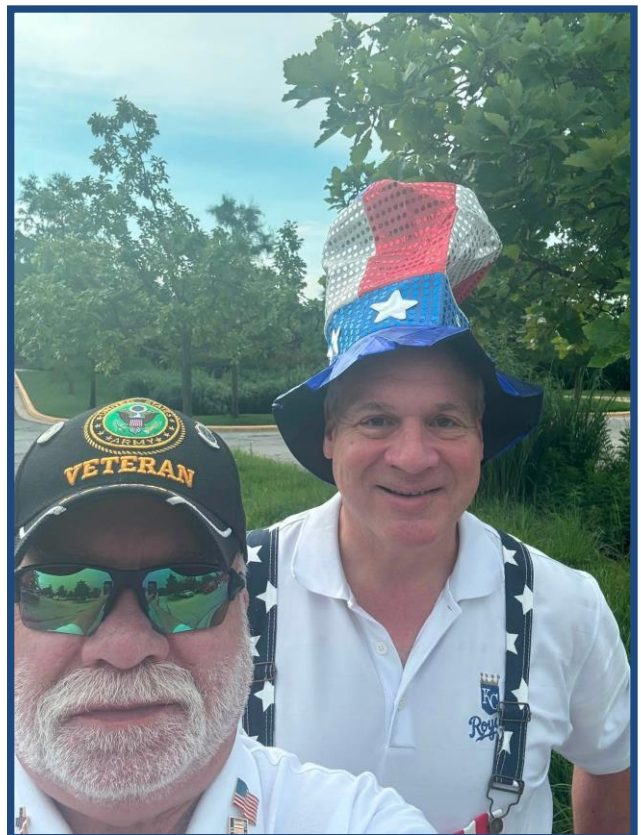


America 250 Parade – July 4

Mother Nature decided to rain on our parade, which was a big disappointment.



World Cup Fun!



Labor Day 5K Time is Fast Approaching!



- Save the Date!
- Monday September 7, 2026
- Volunteer Sign-Ups / Donation Requests will be forthcoming!

Service Project, Wednesday, July 22nd

We have scheduled a Service Day at Project Cure for Wednesday, July 22, 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.

rickrobinson.kc@gmail.com



JCCB Christmas in July Volunteers Needed



- Saturday July 18 – 10:30-1:30
- Any assistance is welcomed from 8:00-2:00!
- See Chuck Sipple for details



Rotary July Anniversaries

- Adam Dinkel
- John Meier
- Rod Pemberton
- Stephen Powell
- Martha Estrada-Robinson
- Denise Rueschhoff
- Paul Rueschhoff
- Hemi Vats

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 2

THE CITY OF LEAWOOD

NEED FOR INCORPORATION

As Leawood grew from a few homes in 1937 to some 300 by 1948, it became increasingly apparent that the rural-oriented Mission Township government was not permitted either by law or taxing powers to serve the ever-increasing needs of a young, but growing, concentration of homes. The only police protection was from the Sheriff's office in Olathe, and the only fire protection was a small, volunteer group based in Overland Park with old, inadequate equipment. However, even though the J. C. Nichols Company had numerous developments in Mission Township (Mission Hills, Indian Hills, Fieldston, Sagamore Hills and Fairway) no attempt had been made to create any form of city government. At that time the only incorporated areas in Johnson County were the long-established rural towns of Olathe, Lenexa, Gardner, Edgerton and De Soto.

INCORPORATION PROCEDURE

Feeling that the only logical long-term provision for fire, police and other needed services to the Leawood community would be through incorporation of the area as a city, Kroh Brothers encouraged a committee of Leawood owners to petition the Johnson County Commissioners to designate Leawood as a city of the third class. This committee enthusiastically circulated a petition for incorporation among the voters living in Leawood, and obtained signatures of 99 per cent even though only 51 per cent was required by state law. After considerable consideration, the County Commissioners approved the petition and proclaimed Leawood a city of the third class (population 832), and set its boundaries at State Line on the east, Somerset Road on the north, the then platted boundaries of Leawood on the west and 103rd Street on the south.

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 2

LAWSUIT TO NULLIFY INCORPORATION

All of the area within the new city limits was owned either by Kroh Brothers or owners who had purchased homes from Kroh Brothers, with the exception of a 20-acre rock quarry then in operation at 89th Street and State Line Road. The owner of the quarry, fearful that the new city would curtail the blasting and rock crusher activities, insisted that his land be excluded from Leawood's limits, but the County Commissioners refused to permit the 20-acre "island" along State Line to remain in Mission Township and outside the new city. Appealing to the courts, the owner of the rock quarry carried the matter to the Kansas Supreme Court at considerable legal expense both to himself and to Kroh Brothers (the newly incorporated city, of course, had no funds to defend this suit). Finally, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of Leawood, and the official date of incorporation was declared to be December 1, 1948.

THE FIRST ELECTION

On January 18, 1949, the first city officials were elected:

Mayor: R. G. Bentrup

Council: Wendell C. Arrowsmith
Dudley C. Brown
Howard Fuqua
Norman Risjord
Robert W. Shields

Police Judge: Jack Hotz.

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 2

OTHER MAYORS, COUNCILMEN AND JUDGES WHO HAVE SERVED LEAWOOD

1951 - 1953

Mayor: J. Hubbard Minor
Council: Willard Cook
Herbert Kincaid
C. E. Combs
Sam Knott
Carl Marsh
Police Judge: B. J. Hotz

1953 - 1955

Mayor: Willard Cook
Council: David Harris
Ralph Myers
Cliff Tozier
William Rowe
Harold Sechrest
Police Judge: B. J. Hotz

1955 - 1956

Mayor: Edward W. Kelley
Council: Ben Davis
Ralph Myers
Max Strong
Glen Wade
Robert Woodbury
Police Judge: B. J. Hotz

1956 - 1957

Mayor: Ralph Myers
Council: Ben Davis
Dr. Ed Stratemeier
Max Strong
Glen Wade
Robert Woodbury
Police Judge: B. J. Hotz

1957 - 1958

Mayor: Ralph Meyers
Council: William Brownfield
Lyle Dutoit
Lowell Gordon
Willard Johnson
Dr. Ed Stratemeier
Police Judge: W. R. Fish

CITY OF THE SECOND CLASS

As Leawood continued to add new homes, the population by 1959 had exceeded the 2,000 residents required for classification as a City of the Second Class. Thus, on January 19, 1959, the new classification became official and the city's governing body was expanded to four individual wards with each ward represented by two councilmen.