



The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 31 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

July 23, 2026

This Week: Board Meeting



Click link below to launch Zoom

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 813 1042 7816

Passcode: Rotary

Programs Coming Up in August:

August 6

HAPPY BOTTOMS

Susan Belger-Angulo

August 13

FRIENDS OF LITEIN – A.I.C. LITEIN HOSPITAL IN KENYA

Elaine Strid

August 20

TUSONGE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Bill & Kathy Musgrave

August Greeters:

Hemi Vats (Captain 8/6), Carlos Vides (Captain 8/13), Doug Wesselschmidt (Captain 8/20), Dick Wetzler, Anita Williams, Jonn Wullschleger, Kirt Yoder

Last Week

Great conversations and inspiring stories were on the agenda at last week's meeting. Adam Dinkel provided a vocational talk, offering insight into his career and what led him to Rotary. Our presenters were and Robyn Kerkeart and Jean Meyer with The Sewing Labs, who highlighted their incredible work providing sewing education, workforce development, and opportunities that strengthen our Kansas City community.



Unite For Good Candlelight Vigil

July 5 was the anti-human trafficking vigil that was conducted by our Rotary District 5710 and our neighbors across the state line, Rotary District 6040. There was great media coverage by Channel 9 and Channel 5.



Unite For Good Candlelight Vigil



Labor Day 5K Sponsorships

For over 30 years, the Leawood Rotary Club has been actively working to create lasting positive change in the Leawood Community, the Kansas City Metro Area, and the World Community. You are cordially invited to help sponsor the 2026 Leawood Rotary Club's Labor Day 5k Run. One hundred percent of the net proceeds from this race will help fund Leawood Rotary Club's multiple charitable efforts during the coming year, including:

- College Scholarships for KC Students in need
- Project C.U.R.E.'s Medical Supply Distribution
- Johnson County Christmas Bureau
- Human Trafficking Prevention
- Polio Vaccinations
- Disaster Relief



EVENT SPONSOR: \$6,000

- Top billing on all promotional and advertising, press releases and Leawood Rotary website
- Corporate team of twenty runners
- Company logo on t-shirt, largest font, at the top
- A large banner listing company as event sponsor at the start/finish
- Opportunity to speak at the starting line on race day
- Sponsorship acknowledgements on P.A. system throughout event
- Sponsorship acknowledgement during Leawood Rotary meetings

PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$3,000

- Second billing on all promotional and all advertising, press releases and Leawood Rotary website
- Corporate team of fifteen runners
- Company logo on t-shirt, listed under the Event Sponsor
- Sponsorship acknowledgements on P.A. system throughout event
- Sponsorship acknowledgement during Leawood Rotary meetings

GOLD SPONSOR: \$1,200

- Team of five runners
- Company logo on t-shirt, (listed under Platinum Sponsor, smaller font)
- Sponsorship acknowledgements on P.A. system throughout event
- Sponsorship acknowledgement during Leawood Rotary meetings

SILVER SPONSOR: \$600

- Team of two runners
- Company logo on t-shirt, (listed under Gold Sponsor, smaller font)
- Sponsorship acknowledgement during Leawood Rotary meetings

BRONZE SPONSOR: \$300

- Sponsorship acknowledgement during Leawood Rotary meetings

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

**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Rotary

Member Moment

In this installment of "Rotary Member Moment," we feature member Lisa Harrison, who is also on the Leawood City Council. You can watch Lisa's video on Facebook by clicking on the link below:

[Facebook](#)



Rotarians on the Links!



Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 3

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Inasmuch as adequate protection was one of the primary purposes for the incorporation of Leawood, a campaign was launched to raise donations from home owners for the purchase of fire hose and a fire truck. (Again, as in the case of the Supreme Court lawsuit, the new city had no funds of any kind until the ensuing tax year).

By November, 1949, sufficient funds had been obtained to purchase a new, efficient pumper that could give on-the-spot protection to Leawood homes. Brook Beatty, the owner of Beatty Plastics Co., who lived at the northeast corner of 95th and Lee Boulevard, agreed to act as Fire Chief, and he assembled and trained an enthusiastic, hard-working group of volunteers. These volunteers became so proficient that soon the Kansas Inspection Bureau granted a sharp decrease in fire insurance rates on all property in Leawood, and gave the all-volunteer, non-paid Leawood Fire Department the same professional standing as was held by paid fire departments throughout the state. Prior to 1958, when two part-time salaried firemen were employed, daytime alarms were answered by employees of Kroh Brothers and evening and night-time alarms by the homeowner volunteers. As the City expanded, additional full-time, salaried firemen were added to the department, and today there are 12 salaried firemen and 10 volunteers led by Chief Jourdan A. Toman, Jr. In addition, 3 women volunteers, known as "The Rescuettes", are available for service with the Fire Department's ambulance.

THE FIRE STATION

Initially the fire truck was housed in a portion of the Kroh Brothers warehouse and wood working plant at 96th and Lee Boulevard. Soon the City Council decided that a new fire station was needed, and Kroh Brothers agreed to furnish a free site and construct the building at cost. This was done in 1951, at a cost of \$19,245.47, being paid for by Leawood's first and only bond issue. Later additions to the station were added on the east, south and north.

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 3



The first pumper was purchased in 1949.
(Chief Brook Beatty is in Center.)



The Jeep, specially-built for fighting grass fires, was named "Junior."

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 3



The Fire Station was constructed in 1951, and children were welcome to inspect the fire fighting equipment.

RESCUE AND AMBULANCE SERVICE

As the new volunteer department gained experience after several fires, the need for a rescue-ambulance to aid firemen who might be injured became apparent. Chief Beatty developed a fully-equipped ambulance that accompanied the other equipment on all alarms, and also was available to assist residents of Leawood who needed first aid, oxygen, or emergency transportation to hospitals. This service has proved invaluable to numerous residents of Leawood.

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 3



The present-day, fully-equipped rescue car protects both the firemen and all Leawood residents.

FUN FACT: The ambulance above is a 1959 Cadillac Superior. The vehicle became a piece of pop culture history thanks to the film “Ghostbusters,” and today the ambulance can fetch \$100,000 in good condition!

