



The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 31 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

July 30, 2026

This Week: **NO MEETING!**

Next meeting will be August 6

Program: HAPPY BOTTOMS

Susan Belger-Angulo



happy
bottoms™
diapers for families in need

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

Recent Events

The Leawood Rotary Alley Cats participated in the Summer Bowl for Kids' Sake on Wednesday, July 15th at Park Lanes in Shawnee. It was a great opportunity to have some fun while supporting a fantastic organization!!



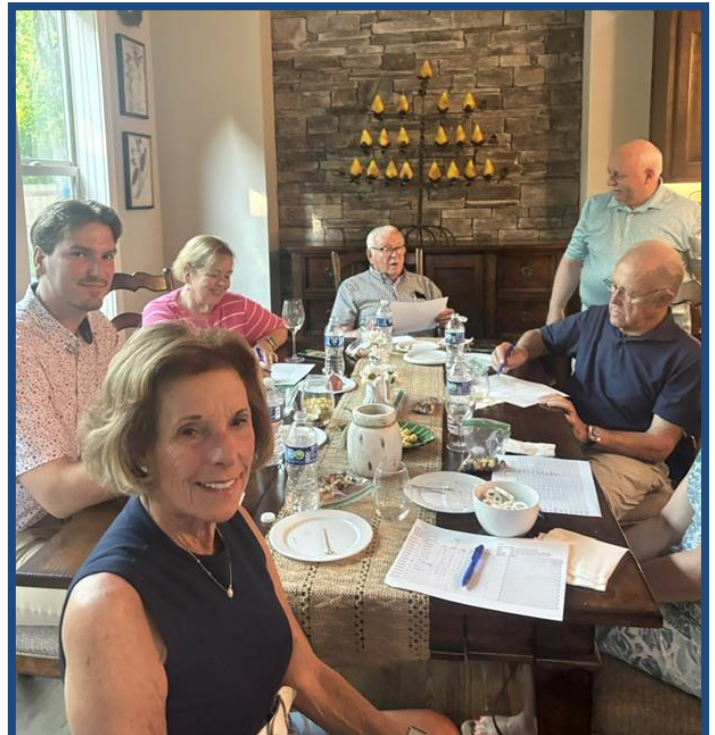
Club members gathered at Project Cure on Wednesday, July 22nd for another enjoyable service project in "the caves."



Recent Events



The July wine tasting of the We Make Pour Choices affinity group was held on July 21 at the home of Rick and Martha Robinson. It was a blind tasting of summer light chilled wines. A great time was had by all, Many thanks Rick and Martha for hosting!



Member Moments

July 13, 2026 – Chuck Udell visited the Rotary Club of Savannah, Georgia, where he exchanged club banners with Club President, Dale Critz. The Savannah club is very special to Chuck, as many members of his family were and are currently members. Chuck is proud to be a 3rd generation Rotarian!



July 24, 2026 – Diane Stoddard and Mayor Marc Elkins present a proclamation to retiring Fire Chief, Chief Colin Fitzgerald, declaring July 24th as Chief Colin Fitzgerald Day in the City of Leawood in recognition of his leadership, dedication and lasting impact on the community.



JOIN US FOR THE

SAMMIE'S TOY DRIVE FUNDRAISER



SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH
10:00-3:00

PRAIRIE STAR MIDDLE SCHOOL
14201 MISSION RD, LEAWOOD, KS 66224

**VENDORS, FOOD, CHILDRENS
ACTIVITIES, RAFFLES, AUCTIONS
AND MORE!**

**INTERESTED IN BEING A VENDOR? CONTACT SAMMIE
MAGEE AT 913-212-0226 OR
SAMMIESTOYDRIVE@GMAIL.COM**

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

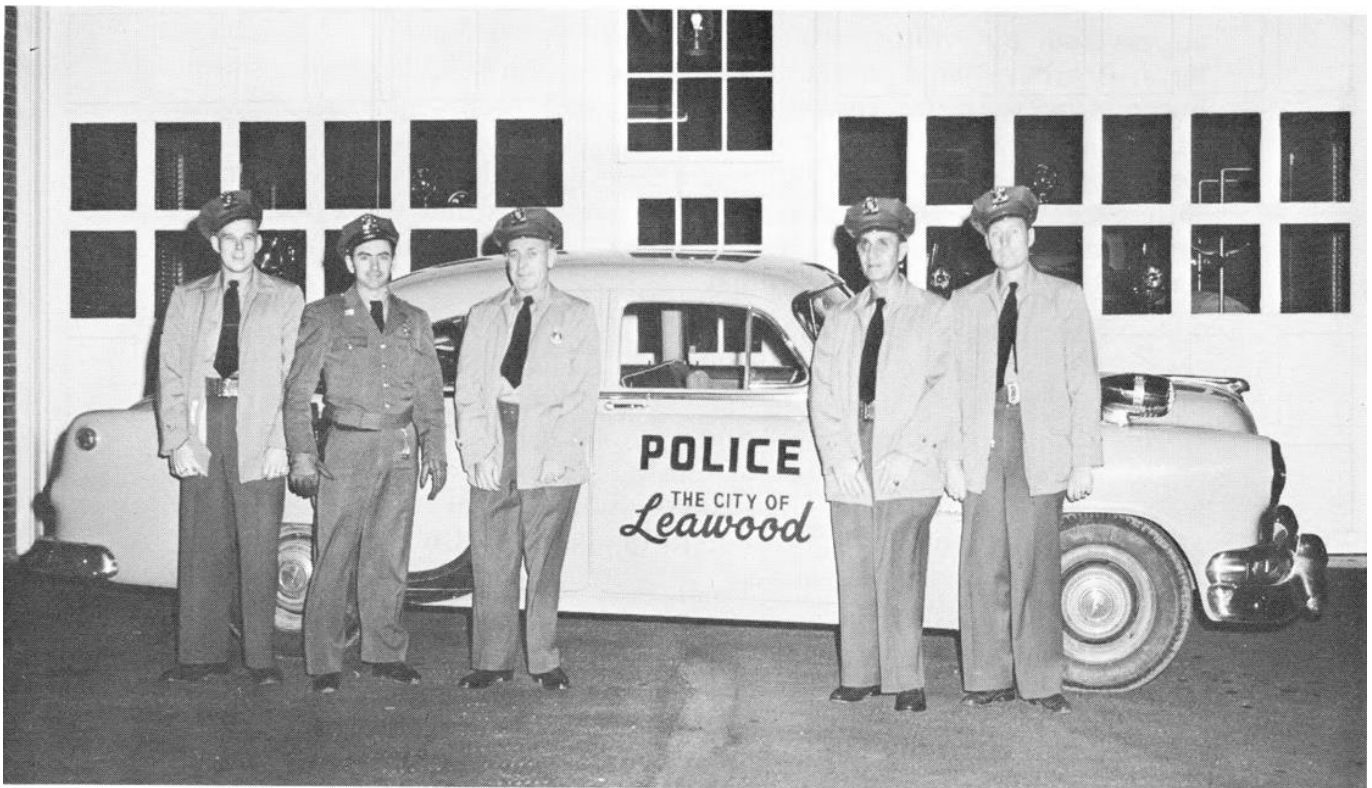
Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 4

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Like the firemen, the first members of the Leawood Police Department were unpaid volunteers organized by the first Police Chief, Robert E. Combs.

As the City became larger a paid Chief was provided by the City's budget, and from time to time paid patrolmen were added to the police force. Today the force numbers 14 men under the direction of Chief Martin J. Kelly.



The first police car with members of the all-volunteer Police Department.

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 4

THE CITY HALL

After the Fire Station was completed in 1951 the next structure required for operation of the City's affairs was a City Hall. Another bond issue seemed inadvisable to the Council, so in 1953 a lease was executed whereby Kroh Brothers would furnish the land and building for a fixed rental of \$250.00 per month. The City also had the option to purchase the property at the actual \$36,127.66 cost to Kroh Brothers, all rental payments to apply on the purchase price after deducting insurance, taxes, and 5½ per cent interest on the unpaid balance. In 1963 the City exercised its option, the then net cost being assumption of a \$20,000.00 mortgage plus \$6,667.00 to Kroh Brothers for a total net cost of \$26,667.00.



The City Hall, built in 1953

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 4

STREET DEPARTMENT

Like other operations of the City, the Street Department was supervised by volunteers, with the actual work being done by Kroh Brothers' equipment and employees. Early Street Department budgets were quite inadequate for maintenance of the original gravel roads built by the County and Township prior to the development of Leawood (Lee Boulevard, 83rd Street, 89th Street, 95th Street and 103rd Street). The new City had to assume full maintenance of these miles of roads, and the money available had to be stretched to the utmost.

The recent article in TIME Magazine chides Leawood for not re-building a bridge at 89th and State Line: "More than a decade ago a bridge over a ravine carried heavy traffic outbound from Kansas City to Leawood and points west. Then the bridge collapsed under the weight of a truck. Though insurance money was available, the bridge was never rebuilt. The street stops now at one edge of the ravine, then starts again on the other; it takes a two-mile detour to get across."

Actually, the reason the bridge was not rebuilt was that it was so old and weak that the insurance company would pay only the \$2,100.00 appraised value. Replacement of an adequate bridge would have cost several times this amount, and the City just didn't have the extra funds. Consequently, the insurance proceeds were placed in the General Street Maintenance Fund with the expectation that sometime later monies could be found to replace the bridge. As yet these funds have not become available.

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 4

WAREHOUSE AND WORKSHOP

When the City's budget had increased so that the Street Department could have its own equipment and full-time personnel, the need for a warehouse and workshop became apparent. Kroh Brothers had built its own work-warehouse on the sewage plant site southwest of 103rd and State Line, and at the City's request in 1959 leased a portion of the building and ground to the Street Department for a rental of \$128.00 per month. In 1963 the City wished to acquire the entire property (3,502 square feet of building on 80,422 square feet of land) and Kroh Brothers received \$69,675.00 and became a tenant at rental of \$1,912.50 per year. In 1970 the City decided it needed to use the entire premises, and Kroh Brothers moved its work-warehouse to a location southeast of 110th and Roe Boulevard.

It is with considerable pride that Kroh Brothers has been able to provide the City of Leawood with three essential public facilities at nominal cost (Fire Station, City Hall and Police Station, Street Department Maintenance building). No other developer in Johnson County has made such arrangements for districts they have developed.



The Maintenance Department Workshop was occupied in 1959.