



The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 32 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

August 20, 2026

This Week's Program: **Bill & Kathy Musgrave** **Tusonge Children's Ministry**



Tusonge Children's Ministries began in 2014 when twenty Ugandan children visited the U.S. as part of a choir. When the group's donations were stolen the children faced returning to the streets. To keep that from happening, we formed a nonprofit to provide the education, housing, and care they had been promised.

Today, Tusonge supports more than 80 orphaned and vulnerable children through the generosity of sponsors, donors, and friends.

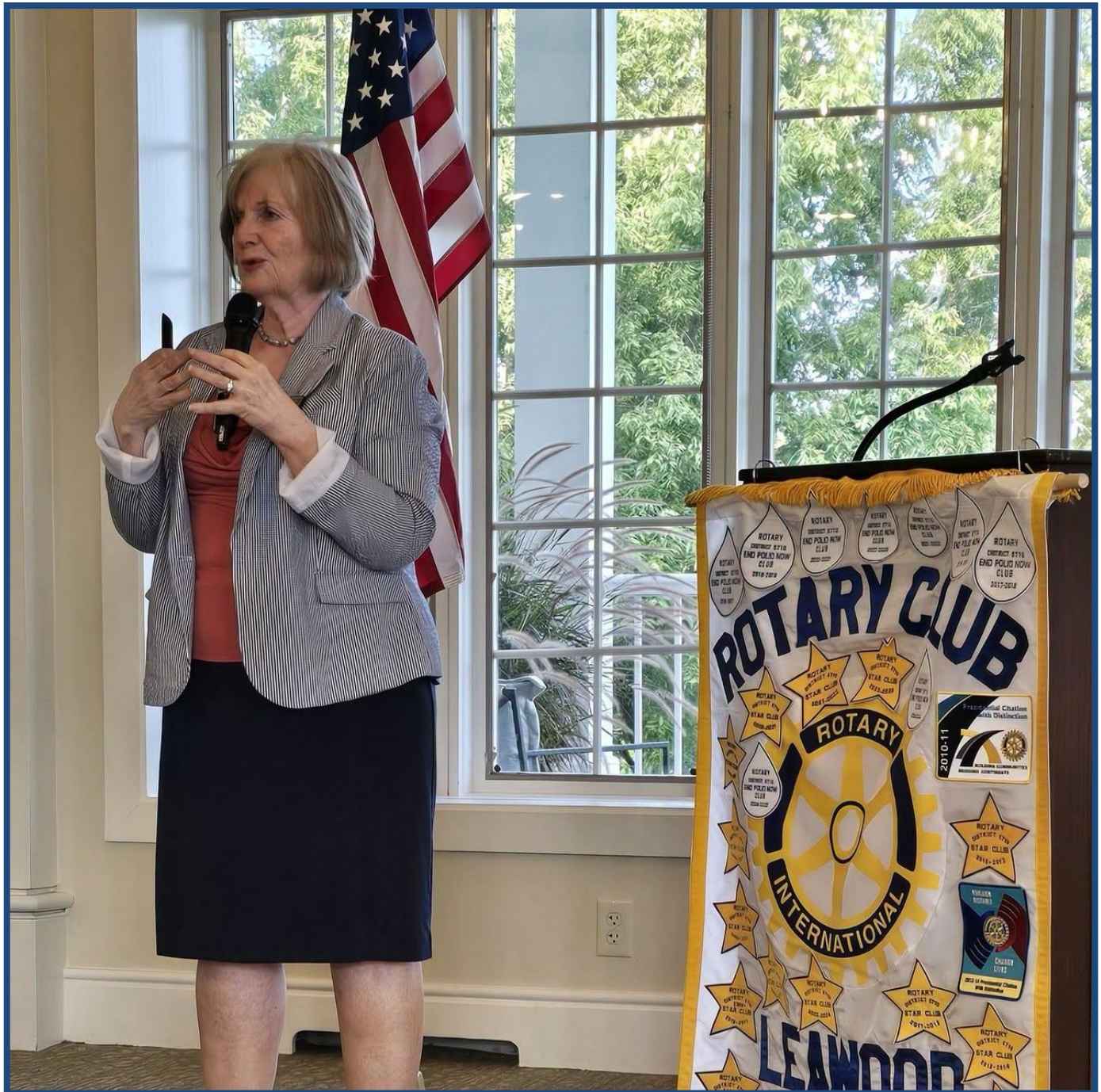
Upcoming Programs: September 3: Quindaro History September 10: Leawood Stage Company

August Greeters:

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

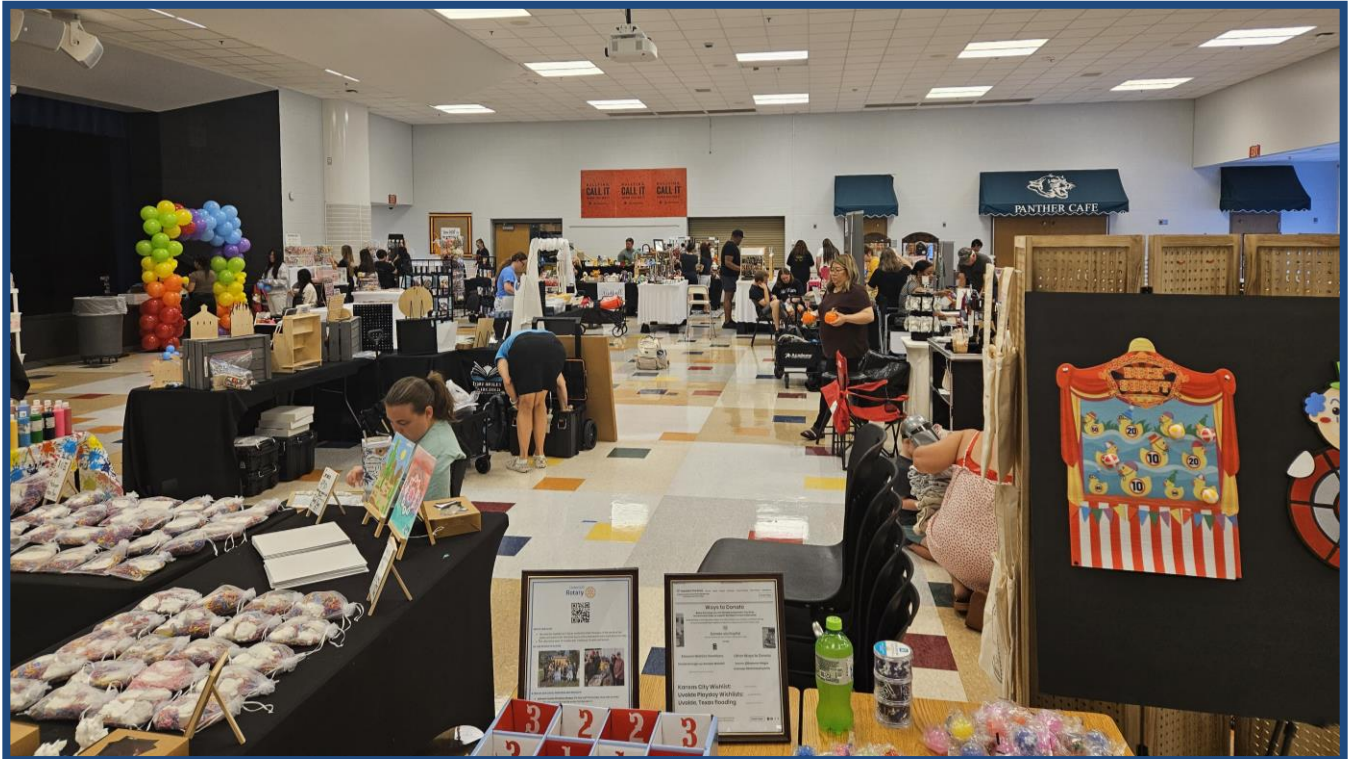
Last Week

Last week, Leawood Rotary welcomed Elaine Strid with Friends of Litein, to share the important work being done at A.I.C. Litein Hospital in Kenya. Elaine highlighted efforts to improve equipment, education, infrastructure, and access to sustainable clean water—helping the hospital better serve its surrounding community.



August 15: Sammie's Toy Drive

Leawood Rotarians volunteered at Sammie's Toy Drive Fundraiser, held at Prairie Star Middle School. Rotarians were joined in the fun by Rotary Interact high school students.



August 15: Sammie's Toy Drive



Upcoming Events



- Thursday September 3, 2026
- 7:00 a.m.
- Overland Park Convention Center
- 6000 College Boulevard - Overland Park, KS 66211

2026 Gala Benefiting Our Neighbors in Need



August Rotary Anniversaries

- Tom Koch (2018)
- Debby Schloegel (2019)
- Diane Stoddard (2023)

Rotarian Sighting at the K

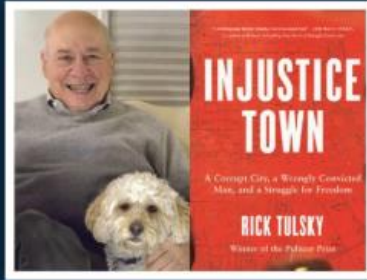
On August 9, Chuck Udell spent a great afternoon with Lawrence Rotarian, Kristen Eldridge, and her husband Lester, at the Crafts and Drafts at Kaufman Stadium. They were Chuck's guests due to their very generous contribution to The Rotary Foundation. Even though the game results were very disappointing we all had a fantastic time. Thank you, Kristen and Lester!



saturday, september 26th | 5 PM
The Temple Congregation - B'nai Jehudah

JOIN US

The wrongfully convicted and their families invite you for an elegant evening of fellowship, inspiration, and heartfelt testimony as we honor the extraordinary gifts of resilience, hope, and triumph.



HONORARY CHAIR

Rick Tulsky

A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and lawyer



EMCEE

Matt Stewart

Emmy-award winning television reporter, published author, KC sports fan, & devoted family man.

Pastor Robert Johnson

Inspiration & Words of Encouragement

Rev. Hyemi Jones

Invocation

CO-FOUNDERS

**Lamonte McIntyre
& Darryl Burton**

Collectively they spent 47 years in prison for crimes they did not commit. Now they fight for the freedom of others.



Rotary Member Moment: Ron Slepitza

In this installment of “Rotary Member Moment,” we feature member Ron Slepitza, who has been a member of the club since 2007. You can watch Ron’s video on Facebook by clicking on the link below:

[\(2\) Facebook](#)



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 7

ZONING

MISSION TOWNSHIP ZONING

When Leawood was first started there was no zoning of any kind in Mission Township, and it was the Developer's decision as to what lands should be used for what purposes. Adopting the procedure of the J. C. Nichols Co., as a guide, Kroh Brothers placed "Reserved for Business" signs on a relative small area at Lee Boulevard and Somerset and the two corners in Kansas at 95th and State Line. At the time this seemed entirely adequate for future needs of Leawood residents inasmuch as virtually all shopping was then done in Downtown stores. Subsequently, Mission Township adopted a Zoning Ordinance and included as "Zoned for Business" the areas previously reserved for this use by Kroh Brothers.

FIRST ZONING BY THE CITY OF LEAWOOD

As soon as Leawood became an incorporated city in December, 1948, all zoning by Mission Township became inoperative within the new Leawood city limits, and on June 1, 1949, the City Council passed the first Leawood Zoning Ordinance. This ordinance set up more detailed standards for the residential and retail business areas than had been in effect under the Mission Township zoning, and it created a new Industrial Classification for Kroh Brothers' warehouse, garage and wood-working operation at 96th and Lee Boulevard. In 1950 this Industrial Classification was expanded to include Municipal Buildings (Fire Station and City Hall), and again in 1952 this Industrial Classification was divided into Light Industry (Municipal Buildings and warehouse) and Heavy Industry (sewage disposal, manufacturing, riding academy and other uses). This latter classification was created to permit construction of the new sewage disposal plant at the southwest corner of 103rd Street and State Line.

In 1951 Kroh Brothers decided that business buildings and filling stations on the two Leawood corners at 95th and State Line would be objectional to neighboring homes then under construction, so the Business zoning for these two tracts was eliminated, and regular residential restrictions placed on record.

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 7

NEW CLASSIFICATIONS

In order to make possible the development of the Leawood Country Club a new classification, Parks, Recreation and Clubs, was created in 1953 by the City Council.

In 1959, at the request of Kroh Brothers, the elevated portion of the 103rd and State Line Heavy Industry area was changed to Residential, and subsequently platted into Lots 939 - 953, Leawood Estates. This change was made possible by the removal of Leawood's sewage from treatment at the 103rd Street plant to disposal by Kansas City, Missouri. In 1963, after the sewage plant had been demolished, the Heavy Industry classification was revised to eliminate sewage disposal. Uses still permitted in this classification were "manufacturing, warehouse, offices, public utility facilities, and other uses and businesses".

Beginning with 1967, four new classifications have been added to Leawood's zoning law. These are Limited Office District, Planned Single Family District, Planned Business District, and Planned Multi-Family District. Thus, ever since Leawood became an incorporated city, citizens elected to conduct the City's government have modified and expanded the zoning laws so that today Leawood has a modern, comprehensive Zoning Ordinance that controls in detail areas presently zoned and also provides a framework for expansion into undeveloped farmland areas when future needs arise.

CONCLUSION

Sparked by the TIME Magazine article, this sketch of "The Development of Leawood" has expanded into greater length than originally contemplated.

However, only the high spots in Leawood's 33 years of growth have been touched, and several volumes would be required to record in detail the many contributions to the City's development by individual citizens, City Council members, Homes Association officers, School Board members, Country Club Governors, and, of course, the Developer. Everyone, who over the years has had a part in the creation of one of the country's finest residential communities, should feel a real sense of satisfaction in a job well done.