The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 32 Years! | **leawoodrotary.org** | November 19, 2026

This Week's Program:
Coterie Children's Theater

- Laura Antolak, Board Member
- Khalia Davis Philp, Artistic Director
- Jonathan Thomas, Executive Director

Mission

We celebrate young people and engage diverse communities through professional theatre and education programs that foster creativity, confidence, and compassion.

Vision

To be the premier theater for young audiences and arts education in our region.

November Greeters:

Mad Chhatre, Phil Gibbs, Lisa Harrison, Mel Hawk, Mary Jo Holland (Captain 11/19), Del Karmeier

November Invocators:

November 5: Dave Anderson

November 12: Jim Arnett

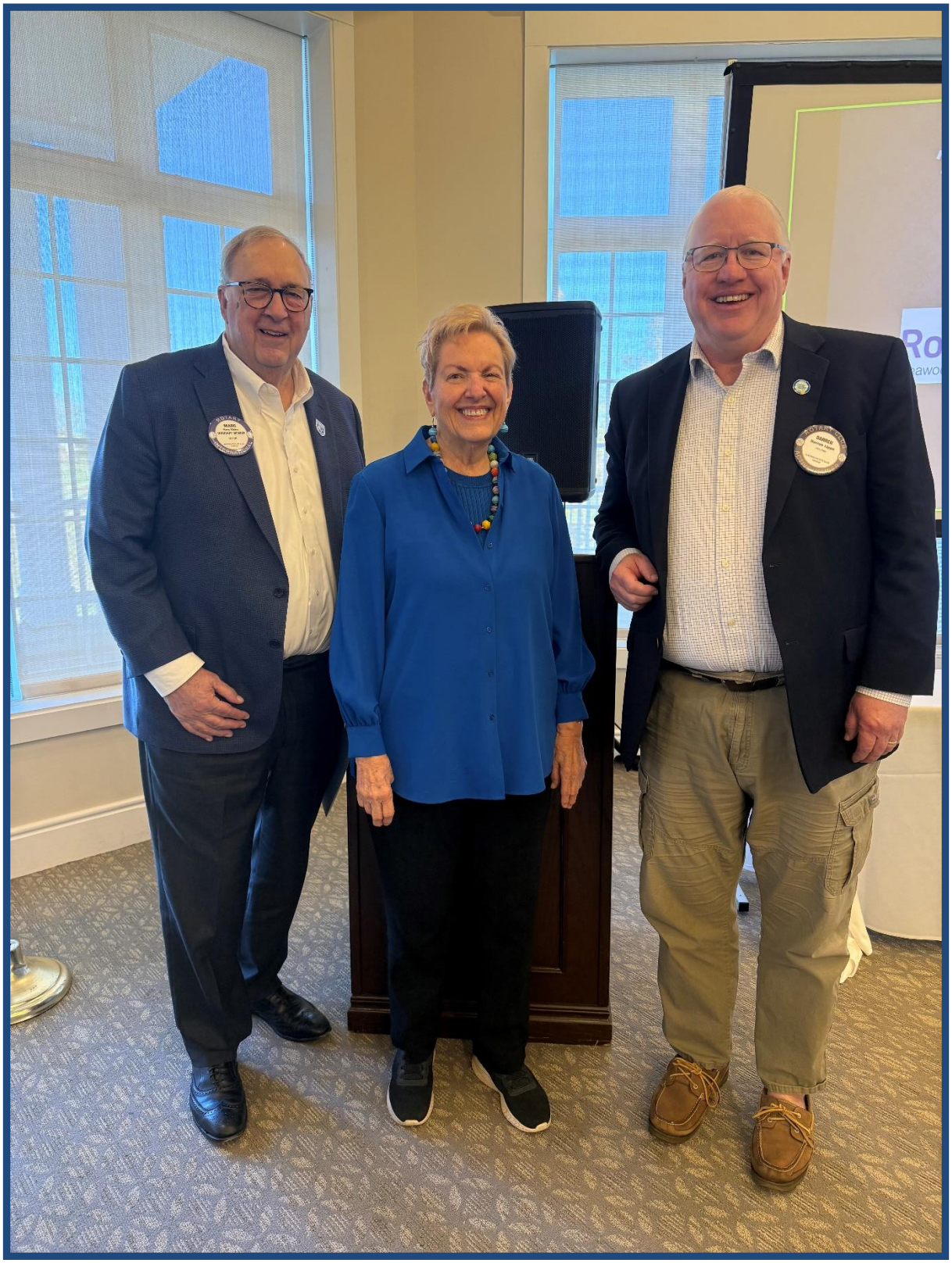
November 19: Chris Armer

November Tech Team:

November 5 (Julia/Stephen), November 12 (Kirk), November 19 (Stephen)

November 12 Meeting Recap:

Former Mayor, Jean Wise, gave a presentation recapping her time in office in the 1980s.



Patriotic Parkway

Tomahawk Creek Parkway was looking very patriotic last week. Mayor Marc Elkins and the city's Public Works team joined Leawood Rotarians to install the American flags along the roadway, transforming it into a very Patriotic Parkway in honor of Veterans Day.





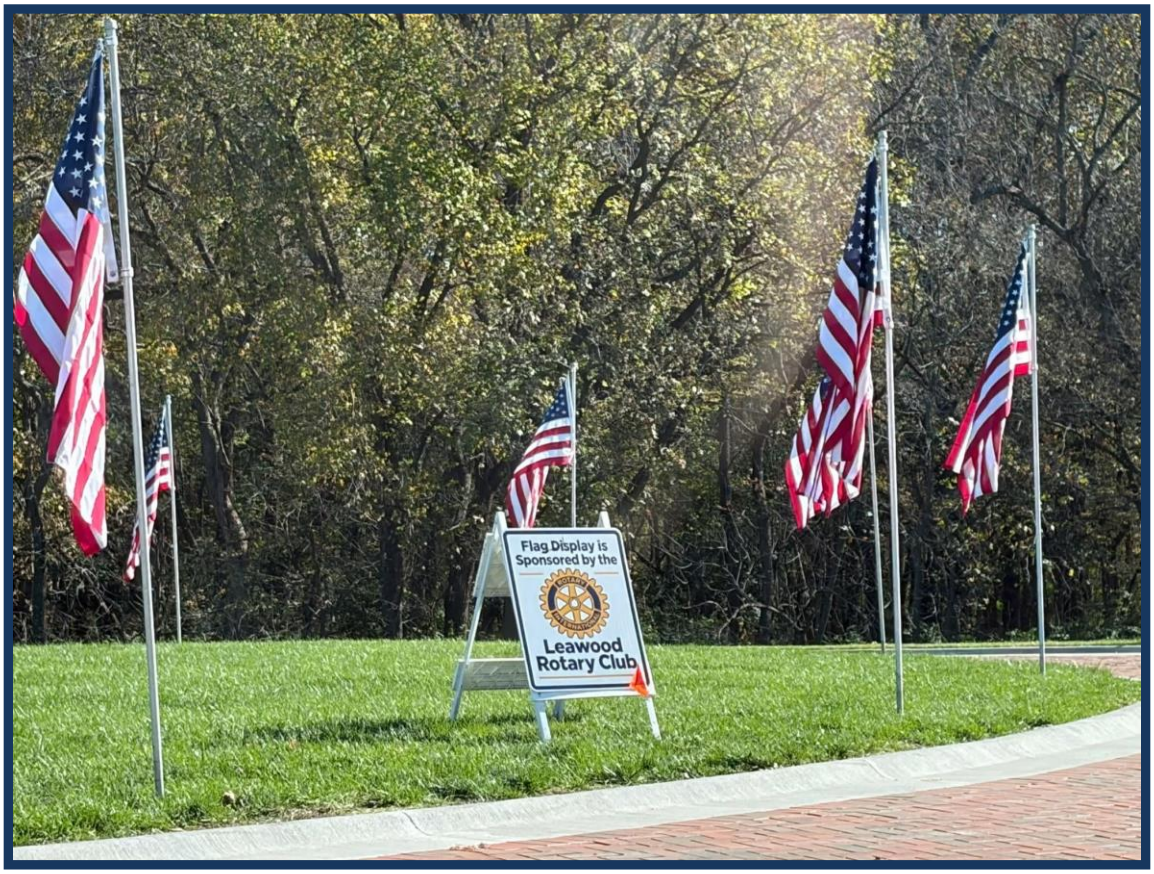
Patriotic Parkway





Patriotic Parkway





Christmas Schedule

December 24 & 31: No Gathering

January 7: Board Meeting at Leawood Justice Center

January 14: Sip & Sort at Heart-2-Heart (5:30-7:30 pm)

January 21: Rotary polio trip to India recap

January 28 – Ronald McDonald House

November Rotarian Anniversaries

- Mary Jo Holland
- Kirk Nelsen
- Chuck Udell

Save the Date!

Johnson County Christmas Bureau

Saturday 12/5: 8:30-12:30

email Chuck Sipple

csipple@kc.rr.com

JOHNSON COUNTY CHRISTMAS BUREAU

COME JOIN THE FUN!

Leawood Rotary Annual Holiday Party

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10
AT 5:30PM

HOSTS: GARY & ROXANN LINDSEY
12710 MELROSE
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213

(LAST NAME) A-R: HEAVY APPETIZERS
(LAST NAME) S-Z: HOLIDAY DESSERTS

HOLIDAY ATTIRE ENCOURAGED.
PLEASE BRING A BOTTLE OF YOUR FAVORITE WINE.

RSVP TO:
Anita Williams:**abwilliams59@gmail.com**
Terri Gimlin:**gimlin@sbcglobal.net**

SEE YOU THERE!

Winter Coat Drive



Jonn Wullschleger has generously volunteered to be your personal shopper for coats! If you prefer, just bring a check (made out to Jonn)/cash for your desired donation & Jonn will buy the coats on your behalf.

*Larger sized coats are in need (LARGE, X-LARGE, XXL, etc.)

Hey, Charlie Brown…It's Coming!
Annual Christmas Auction
December 10th & 17th

Proceeds to: Ella Initiative / Purple Pals / Sammie's Toy Drive



January 14: 5:30-7:30
Heart to Heart International

11550 Renner Blvd., Lenexa, KS

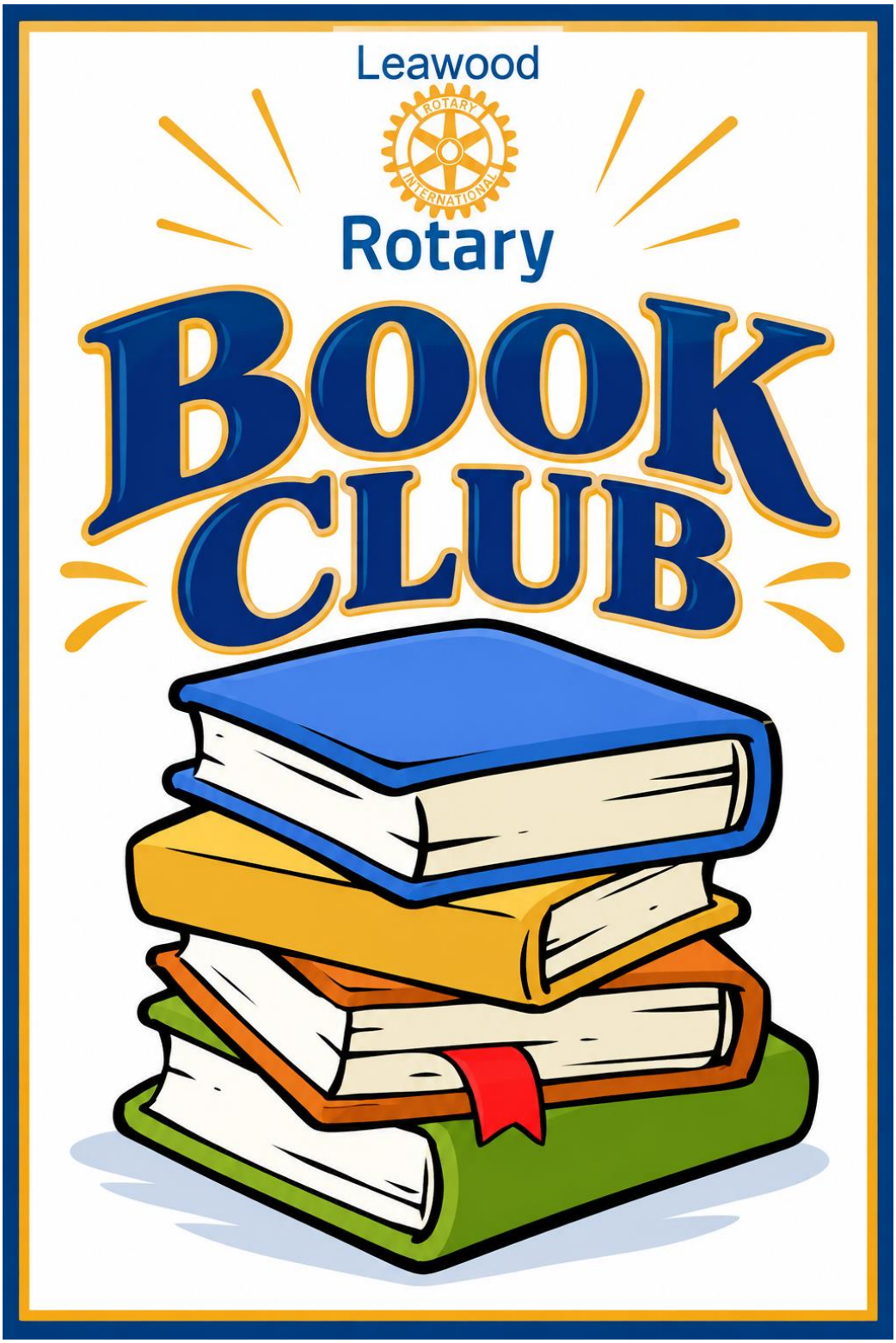
Spouses welcome!

Please RSVP to Darren Lippe by 12/22



Now Forming!

Email Diane Stoddard or Arlene Ladegaard



Leawood History:

Kansas City Star Newspaper – June 15, 1986

Competitive residents of Leawood like the high-quality look

By Lucinda Ellison
staff writer

It is the city many Kansas City Royals call home.

Baseball players Bret Saberhagen, Charlie Leibrandt, Buddy Black and Dan Quisenberry make Leawood their year-round base while George Brett and Darryl Motley find it a convenient summer home.

The city of 15,000, predicted to hold 40,000 persons by the end of the century, is known for its large lots and good schools. Leawood students attend schools in the Shawnee Mission district, which operates north of Interstate 435, or in the booming Blue Valley district, which serves the newer neighborhoods south of the interstate.

"We attract heavy-hitters from all fields," Mayor Jean Wise said. "It's a very nice community. People are well educated, high caliber and very competitive, but very friendly and unpretentious."

A look at the map of Leawood shows a 10-mile rectangular-shaped city running along State Line Road from near 79th Street to just beyond 151st Street.

Until just south of I-435 the northern portion of the city extends no further than a mile from east to west, with Mission Road serving as much of its western boundary. But beyond the freeway, where new housing developments dot the rolling farmlands, the city widens by about a mile and Nall Avenue becomes much of the western border.

About half of Leawood's land is undeveloped and the majority of that land lies south of I-435.

"The city was incorporated in the late 1940s," said Mrs. Wise, who in addition to being mayor is publisher of the weekly newspaper *The Blue Valley Gazette*."It was supposed to be kind of a countryside environment, no sidewalks, and big lots."

Leawood was founded on what was the Lee family farm. The Lee farmhouse at 2320 W. 96th St. is still standing and occupied.

According to original deed restrictions, blacks, Indians, Italians and other minorities were not allowed to live in the city when it was founded.

"They were very democratic about who they discriminated against," Mrs. Wise said.

However, civil rights legislation in the 1960s changed that and those restrictions no longer exist.

Lawyer Michael Strohbehn and his wife, K.O., are among the dozens of couples who have moved to Leawood in the past six months.

See Leawood, pg. 85, col. 1

Leawood

continued from pg. 83

"We thought this seemed like a nice location," said Mrs. Strohbehn of their new home in the Berkshire subdivision near 127th Street and Roe Avenue. "We wanted to build. We didn't want to get too far out in the country. This seemed like a compromise. We were close enough to the city to enjoy all the amenities without the hassles."

Mrs. Strohbehn said she enjoys living near a park and having the convenience of a running track, soccer fields and bicycle path within walking distance.

The Strohbehns say their neighbors are friendly and they are happy that their three children have plenty of youngsters to play with in the neighborhood.

Jim and Nancy Cope were in search of a better school system for their three children when they moved from Kansas City to Johnson County. At first they lived in Overland Park, then in 1965 they built their home in Leawood.

Mr. Cope, also a lawyer, enjoys the freedom of Leawood's atmosphere and its closeness to his office.

City services are also excellent, he said.

"In my opinion we have the greatest fire department and police department that I know of," he said. "If you make a call, they are all there. That's important to us."

Mrs. Wise said Leawood has a tradition of being careful about the way the city is developed.

"We have the largest lot sizes and setbacks from the street and between lots in the area," Mrs. Wise said. "That creates a very high-quality look to a subdivision and makes quite a difference when you drive down the street."

Residential land far outweighs commercial, with about 95 percent either zoned or being used for residential dwellings and recreational use, Mark Andrasik, a city planning associate, said.

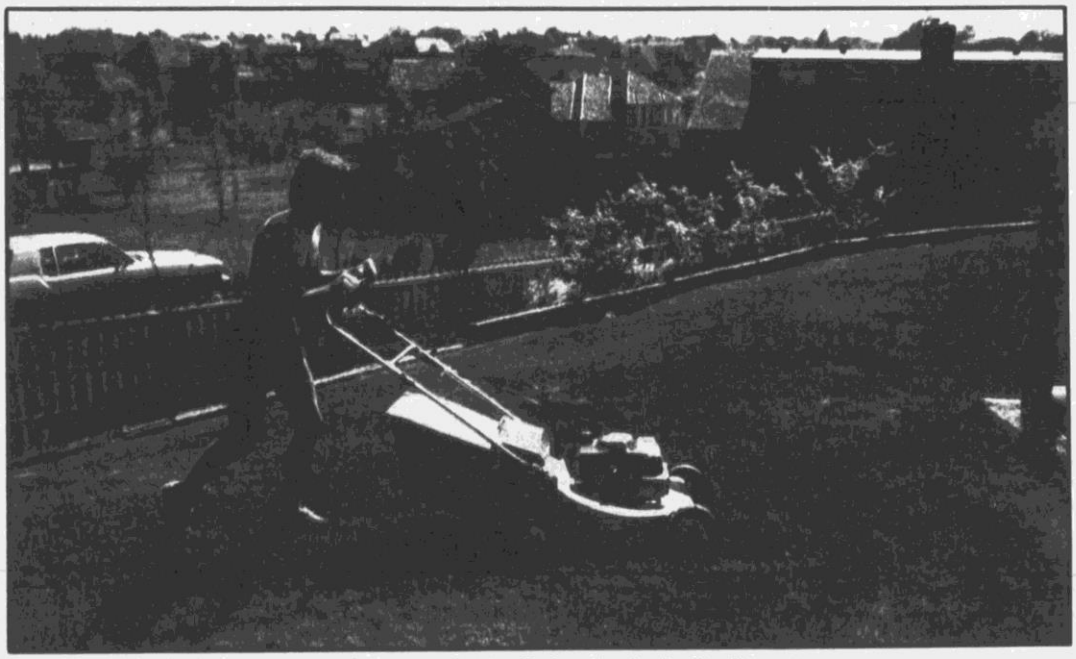
"Commercial development may be on the increase because of Leawood Executive Center," he said.

The center's three 60,000-square-foot office buildings are now being built on the southeast corner of College Boulevard and Roe Avenue.

Other commercial developments include Leawood Plaza at 123rd Street and State Line Road, which will feature condominiums, houses and a 110,000-square-foot shopping center.

Mrs. Wise predicts that there will be more commercial development but that the residential character of Leawood will remain intact.

"I don't see it changing a great deal, just getting bigger," she said.



Cutting the grass keeps people busy in Leawood. ***(staff photo by Joe Ledford)***