



THE HUB

The Rotary Club of Park Cities

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January 9, 2026

Serving to Make a Difference Since 1948

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Program Chairs of the Day: Jeff Brady



Dr. Mike Rockwood

Highland Park ISD

Dr. Mike Rockwood is the ninth superintendent in Highland Park ISD's history, dating back to 1914. He joined HPIISD in April 2023 following the unanimous approval by the Board of Trustees.

During his tenure in Highland Park ISD, the district and every campus has earned the highest possible academic rating from the Texas Education Agency. In fact, in 2025, HPIISD was rated the number one 5A/6A public school district in Texas.

Dr. Rockwood also oversaw the successful pas-sage of a \$137.3 million bond program, while teacher salaries moved from the bottom to the top quartile of comparison districts in DFW. Post-secon-dary readiness remains a focus area for Dr. Rockwood, with more than 97 percent of HPIISD graduates attending college, often at the nation's most prestigious universities.

Dr. Rockwood has been recognized by the *Dallas Business Journal* as a "40 Under 40" honoree for innovative business leadership in the Metroplex. The National School Public Relations Association named him one of its 25 National "Superintendents to Watch". Locally, Southern Methodist University selected him as a District Leadership Fellow, and he was honored as "Person of the Year" by Park Cities People.

He received his doctorate in K-12 Educational Leadership from Baylor University, a master's degree from The George Washington University, and his bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University. Dr. Rockwood was born and raised in Texas. He and his wife, Jené, have two children attending HPIISD schools, and they are proud to call the Park Cities home!

A Proud Tradition of Excellence

The Highland Park Independent School District first opened its doors in October 1914 with a four-room building on Cornell Avenue. Since then, it has grown to become one of the premier school districts in the country and is now comprised of eight campuses: five elementary schools, one intermediate school, one middle school and one high school. The district has an enrollment near 6,300 students and employs more than 800 people, including more than 440 teachers, with 63% of teachers holding a Master's degree. We work to instill in all of our graduates our school district's motto: Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve.

Highland Park High School students consistently score above the national and state average on college entrance exams. The most recent statistics show, Highland Park HS students scored a composite 26.9 on the ACT, 7 points above the state average. The district's average SAT composite score of 1286 exceeds the state and the national averages at 978 and 1028, respectively. 631 Highland Park High School students were also recognized with Advanced Placement Scholar Awards by the College Board for demonstrating outstanding college-level achievement through their performance on AP exams.

It's 2026!

Fri, Jan. 9, 11:45. Reconvene regular noon meetings at Maggiano's. New prices; Eaters=\$22, Non=\$7.00

Six volunteers needed for **Meals on Wheels**. Ask **Jim Weichel** about details and times available.

Sat., Jan. 31: Strategic Planning Session in the morning (TBD) at the Meeting Place (13612 Midway Rd #601, Dallas, TX 75244) at Alpha and Midway

District 5810

Sat, Jan. 10, 9:30-10:00 Club Leadership Exchange, Breakfast and Networking; 10:00-Noon Program: **Ideas You Can Use for Club Projects and Fundraising**. Dallas College Richland Campus, Sabine Hall SH118 12800 Abrams Rd 75243 or by Zoom.

Sat, Jan. 24: Join us at the **Public Image Brunch**: A hands-on working brunch to sharpen your club's visibility and credibility, designed for Rotarians who want real traction, not theory.

Thurs, Feb. 12..*Save the Date!* Join us for the 2026 **Foundation Gala**. Registration will be coming soon.

Results of the Chili Lunch at The Salvation Army, 12/5/25

from Eric Heitkamp

Chili Day at the Salvation Army started in 1981, following thirty years of Soup Day. **Bob Grossman** has always been the chili cook, and has recently enlisted his grandson to help.

The goal always has been to raise money for The Salvation Army and now the Adult Rehabilitation

This year brought in \$2,970.00 by check and \$1,400.00 online, making the **total \$4,370.00!**

Be a Vibrant and Visionary Model of Service Above and Beyond Self

LAST WEEK (Dec. 5 meeting)

Presiding: President **Sarah Oliai**
 Invocation and Pledge: **Orville Salmon**
 Advertiser of the Week: No Advertiser highlighted this week
 Photographer: **Ley Waggoner**
 Speaker: **Mark Jones**, President and CEO
 Program: **Bonton Wellness Center and RCPC Dental Suite**



President **Sarah Oliai** called the meeting to order and **Mary Bishop** gave the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem. Our guests were introduced.

When we reconvene at Maggiano's January 9, 2026, the new price will be \$22 to eat and \$7 for non-eaters.

The chair of the day and Bonton Board member, PP **Karen Farris**, introduced the founder of Bonton



Farms, Daron Babcock. The Rotary became involved in 2017

Today, December 19 marks the opening of the new Bonton Wellness Center and RCPC Dental Suite. It has taken many years and hard work with course corrections and delays due to the city and the resources being provided. /

Today we celebrate with the Bonton neighborhood and all the businesses the opening with the addition of many varied services. **Karen** gave a brief history and then introduced Melissa Metoyer, the outstanding director of the Wellness Center at 6401 Carlton Garrett Street.

Ms. Metoyer was an outstanding speaker and incredible addition as the director. The scope of their services go far beyond the Wellness Center and new Dental Suite. Several areas of service and training include a banking service to help open accounts plus financial planning. Parenting classes are offered by Hope Cottage. The income has risen from \$20,000 to \$60,000 in just over thirteen years. The property values have gone up as much as \$250,000 and the city is building low income housing with thirty-five new apartments.

Bonton is a model for creating affordable housing, education and training, economic stability, health and wellness, and most of all a sense of community. Baylor Heart and Health partners for additional care and

Please remember and keep them in your prayers.

Cindy Cummings remains at C.C. Young.

Please let us know your concerns.

with thanks to Mary Bishop for these Meeting Notes

more extensive procedures and cases. A local dentist, Dr. Belinda comes every Friday to provide basic dental care.

This area is a food desert and there are not grocery stores so residence participate in Grocery Direct and can order with help and have them delivered to the Wellness Center. Cooking and exercise classes and basic nutrition are also offered. There is also a focus on Senior and childcare and community involvement. It has taken about 12 years to create this ECOsystem of care and concern for each other in the Bonton area.

Mark Jones, the new President and CEO of Bonton Wellness Center and RCPC Dental Suite, presented a slide show of all the past and future initiatives. His impressive resume can be found in The Hub.



He had been on the board from 2022-2025 and now directs and leads the growing staff and the big picture for the future of Bonton and the neighborhood it serves.

Over fifty Rotary members and ten plus staff folks attended and renewed our commitment to Bonton and celebrated service above self.



Our Mission

Building a legacy of good works and fellowship, we strive to:
 REACH those in need in partnership with others

INSPIRE tomorrow's leaders with high ethical standards

FOSTER lives of service above self

- A supporting member of Rotary International

The Hub is the weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Park Cities (Dallas)

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UNITE FOR GOOD

Mary Bedosky

RC of Richardson East

Governor, District 5810

www.rotary5810.org



January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				M	Mtg	
4	M	M	M	M	Mtg	Dist
11	M	M	M	M	Mtg	
18	M _{Mc}	M	M _{BD}	M	Mtg	Dist
25	M	M	M	M	Mtg	Stra Plan

A=Agape Health Serv Day

BD= Brd of Dir's Mtg, 8am

BF=Bonton Farm

Cn=PCR Connect Event.

CP=ChildsPlay Work Mtg-Jill Jordan.

D=District 5810 Event

DH=Dentistry with a Heart- Michael Rainwater

F=Fellowship Event

FF=RCPC Foundation

Fund Mtg- Ed Fjordbak

FC= Foot Care Clinic

FB=NTFB Event-Susan Glen I

CM+Cafe Momentum

LL=Legacy of Leadership

M= Meals On Wheels- Jim Weichel

various days and times

Mn= Mentoring at Hillcrest HS

various days and times

Mc=Ronald McDonald House

1 x/mo-Kathleen Klaviter

NM=New Member Event

Pr= Program CommitteeMtg

RL=Readers2Leaders-various

days, times- Rob Levy

Rct=Rotaract- Ruth Alhaili.

SP=Strategic Planning Mtg

SpE=Special Service Event

VA=Veterans Support-

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Jan. 16 **Matthew Wilson Assoc. Prof. of Political Science**
Politics in Interesting Times: A Look Ahead at 2026



Jan. 23 **Kevin Randles**
Camp John Marc



Jan. 30 **Glynnis Worthington**
Pickleball



Feb 6 **Yolanda Walker**
The Vision for Texas A&M Ft Worth

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Miss a Meeting? Watch it on YouTube or as an event on **Facebook!**



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Share Rotary! Post on your social media when you're at a meeting or event. Use our hashtags!

Like and Follow us on Social Media: Website: <https://parkcitiesrotary.org/>

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YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCf4ZH-2nwIscW8XNTnsbnw

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/park-cities-rotary-club/?viewAsMember=true

Make a post about or while at Rotary and use these hashtags



#PeopleOfAction



#parkcitiesrotary



#district5810proud



#goodthingshappeneonfridays

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that RCPC meetings and other events are public events where photos and video are customarily taken. By attending you are consenting to free use of your likeness on RCPC and related websites, social media, streaming video, emails, newsletters and similar methods.

Have a Great Idea for a Speaker? Your ideas are needed! Send your ideas with the details to Richard Stanford.

Help Wanted! At ANY RCPC Event or Project. Take a few pictures, include a few sentences (who, what, when, where and WHY) and send to Betty for The Hub

RI Foundation: \$100 (or more) Every Rotarian Every Year! See Greg Pape.

RCPC Foundation: \$100 (or more). See Birthdays below, then Jack Carpenter.

Attendance Rule Change. For those wanting to maintain Perfect Attendance, make-ups may now be completed within a year. RI is no longer tracking attendance.

Like Us! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rotary-Club-of-Park-Cities/115439238516325>

THOUGHTS ON . . .

Education

Human history becomes more and more a race between education and catastrophe. ~ **H. G. Wells**

An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you do know and what you don't.

~ **Anatole France**

Next in importance to freedom and justice is popular education, without which neither freedom nor justice can be permanently maintained.

~ **James A. Garfield**

Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.

~ **Robert Frost**

Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength for our nation.

~ **John F. Kennedy**

The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.

~ **Diogenes Laertius**

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

4 Corners India Drive strives for HPV-free India By Dr. Rita Kalra, Rotary Club of Chandigarh Midtown, Haryana, India, and a member of the Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisors *excerpted from Rotary 360, 12/10/2025*

As District 3080 coordinator for HPV vaccination under Project Aastha, I have one clear goal: to wipe out cervical cancer from our community. That day felt like one giant step closer to it.

The 4 Corners India Drive team had travelled hundreds of kilometres to bring the mes-

age of HPV vaccination to different corners of our country. When they reached Mohali, our Rotarians, friends, and young volunteers welcomed them with open hearts and open arms. For me, the most beautiful sight was seeing 50 young girls roll up their sleeves and receive the HPV vaccine right there. Each one was a future safeguarded. Each one was a silent victory.

The spirit of Rotary shone brightest when, right there on the spot, six Rotarians stepped forward to sponsor HPV vaccines for more girls. That's the magic of our work — it's not just about talking, it's about doing.

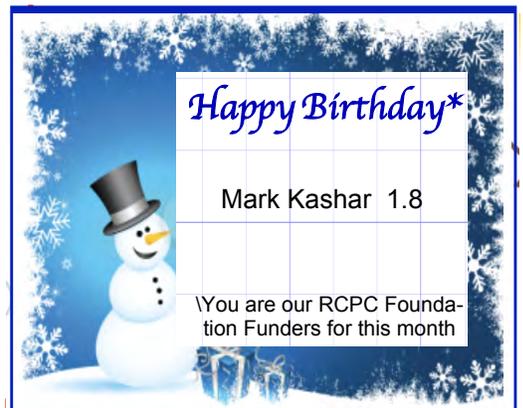
HE WHO LAUGHS LASTS

My new years resolution is to STOP making new years resolutions...



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