

Spring
Weekly

Reader

Volume 108 , Issue 169, April 16, 2015

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 16

"Annual Four Way -
Test Contest"

April 23

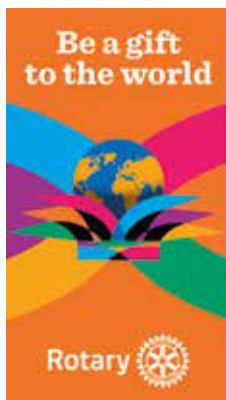
"PISD Teacher of the Year"

April 30

"Dr. Neal Smastrek -
President, University
of North Texas

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Rutledge Haggard | Apr 05 |
| Lawrence Flannery | Apr 09 |
| Andy Sayers | Apr 11 |
| Kirk Bell | Apr 12 |
| Alice Hobbs | Apr 13 |
| Bob Pikna | Apr 16 |
| Alex Johnson | Apr 22 |
| Kenneth Roberts | Apr 22 |
| Ricardo Kasmiskie | Apr 27 |
| Jerr Kezhaya | Apr 28 |



There's the Beef!

WHERE'S the campaign literature? The snowstorm of pamphlets and flyers? Our hallway was bare save for the flurry of yard signs. There were only two flyers: **Ron Kelly** and **Tom Harrison** and one 8½x11" handout for a school board candidate not part of today's debate, **Ken Roberts**. Has the election process now completely embraced social media and websites? If so, **Satinder** will prosper while **Kenny** withers away.

Sainted Editor was in despair; he uses the printed sales pitches to flesh out his reportage. Mindful of our relentless timer, candidates rattle off their propaganda faster than he can record it. So everyone will have cause to complain that some essential piece of indoctrination is missing from what follows! Woe to the World.

President Wonderful tried manfully to start the meeting early at 12:02 while guests were still huddled around the sandwich table. Sandwiches!?! What was *The Pitchfork* thinking, trying to impress Plano's elite with ham and cheese? They should have rolled out the prime rib with Yorkshire pudding to tout the quality of their kitchens! Of course, it didn't stop today's multitudes from piling high their plates.



Earnest called upon **David McWhorter** for the Invocation and **Jamee Jolly** for the Pledge. ("Where's *Bol*?" several of our troop wanted to know.) **Beverly Miles** (Plano Chamber of Commerce) was our Greeter. Earnest called **SERGEANT BARBERA** to the podium to fail to welcome all our distinguished guests, there not being time.



Nevertheless, Visiting Rotarians included **James Megrath** (Sunrise) and Rev. **Greg Alan Smith** (Dallas Uptown). **Jim McGee** introduced guests **Sally Magnuson** and **Beverly Miles**. **Jamee Jolly** beat **CAPTAIN KIRK** to the punch welcoming **Al Valente**. **KIRK** had to be content introducing **Jessie Sanchez**. **Olin Jaye** tried to find guest **Diane Donley**, and **Bruce Glasscock** touted the services of **Jim Parrish** earning himself a fine in the process.



Earnest took precious time from the program to have us sing **JMB20** to all the birthday boys and girls in the list to the left. Then he called upon **Jamee Jolly** to MC and got **Jamie Schell** instead. Still he's batting .500! Not bad.

Jamie told us we'd hear only from City Council candidates today, there being four places up for grabs, two of the Musical Chairs contested with a total of five candidates and two being uncontested. He wanted us to keep in mind three points:

1. The time and effort it requires in preparing a campaign for the opportunity to take on the half-time, volunteer job of City Councilman,
2. To keep an open mind while enduring their spiels, and

continued on page 2

3. To listen respectfully to all seven candidates. For we were going to hear opening statements even from the unopposed ones, then we'd hear from the challengers.

Place 1, Plano's eastside candidate, **Angela Miner** is unopposed. She's playing down the Dynasty Thing (taking husband **Pat's** old seat) by plastering Plano with signs offering **ANGELA** Miner for office. She told us she'd moved to Plano 19 years ago. She's shepherded 30,000 members of PISD's PTAs as well as being on the Education Committee of the PSO and a member of *North Texas Pioneers Rotary*. Her emphases while in office will be strong infrastructure and security.

Place 3's unopposed candidate, **Rick Grady**, has lived in Plano for 33 years, most of the early ones "doing odd jobs" for **Ross Perot's EDS**. He's worked for a decade on the Community Relations Committee, P&Z, and the PTA. He's served in Vietnam, and he's endorsed by Plano's Police and Fire Departments. He wants us all to visit GradyForPlano.com

PLACE 7

Our own Jim McGee welcomed us "to my Rotary Club," touting his Paul Harris Fellowship but failing to note its ubiquity. He's been in Plano since 1990, involved with multiple City Boards and Commissions including P&Z. His strong association to the Chamber "shows commitment to the community."

Jim is running because the high turnover of council members cries out for "historical understanding" by someone eager to supply institutional memory of how it was while Plano is experiencing the "problems of rebirth." He "welcomes your support."



Tom Harrison came to Plano 20 years ago from Wisconsin. (Smart move.) While working for Xerox, he was sent packing 24/5 around the country. Plano became a refuge for this corporate refugee. He has been instrumental in the "Love Where You Live" campaign as part of the *Custer Road United Methodist Church*. His community work has spread to the Douglass Community. Tom4Plano.com

Tom is running as an independent voice on a City Council in need of "transparency." It is his contention that Plano is plunging headlong into development that needs to "slow down or stop." He believes attention needs to be paid to the aging southeast corner of the City.

PLACE 5

Mike Mansfield was the only speaker to thank both the Chamber and our Rotary for putting on this forum. His expertise is in sales and management, telecommunications and real estate; so he's a business Renaissance Man. Although a "native Dallasite," Mike has been 10 years in Plano. He is a graduate of NTSU where he took computer and real estate classes. He's been on 3 City commissions since 1989.



Mike has served on several Dallas commissions and his HOA. He is endorsed by Plano Police, Fire, and several former City Mayors.



Matt Lagos is running again for a seat on the Council. He too is a Rotarian (*Sunrise*) and a native Planoian (the proper form), having been born in what was then *Plano General Hospital* in 1978 (a mere babe of a Rotarian). Go, *Wildcats*!

He holds two baccalaureate degrees in Financial Accounting, so he's "qualified to understand" City budgets. He holds the City Council to be "not an entry-level position."

He is Place 5's only candidate who is a Rotarian, a member of *LULAC*, and a graduate of *Leadership Plano*.

His emphasis, if he can strong-arm the 20 people who voted for his opponent last time, will be the creation of a Business Incubator to encourage new small businesses and the redevelopment of *Collin Creek Mall*.

Ron Kelly moved to Plano in 1996. Daughter **Megan** is a graduate of *Texas A&M*, and his son is currently an accounting major at *Baylor*.

Ron has been a corporate VP with \$1.2 B annual revenue. So he's familiar with managing people.

In 2003, he had an epiphany and left the corporate for the ecclesiastical life. As an ordained minister, he helps find jobs for 6,500 folks, helping them with their personal finances including debt reduction.

Ron says that he "loves Plano," and that it's undergoing a "critical time." He is endorsed by "all the State Representatives" and the Collin County Judge.

Opening statements accomplished, Jamie warned the candidates of the time limits on responses to four questions put to each of them.

1. What are Plano's 3 most pressing issues?

Jim opined "transportation, water, and redevelopment." We need to make "hard decisions" about aging neighborhoods.

Tom wants to maintain the "Plano Lifestyle" that first lured many of us: housing and fine education. He decries "mixed use" and "high density apartments." And he agrees that water use is a problem.

Mike cites the "aging infrastructure" of streets and sewers. He lauds the "great employee base" but warns that 30% of city workers are scheduled to retire soon.

Matt agrees that roads and sewers need attention as does economic redevelopment. The 100% increase in population over the last two dozen years has put pressure on transportation and water as well. Adding to his opening statement, he cited endorsement by Dr. **Myrtle Hightower**.

Ron, pointing to the former allure of PISD, warned of decline in that system. Some schools are at "40% or lower," and that must be improved. He says that high density housing is a threat to property values.

2. As Plano faces buildout, multi-family housing has experienced residential resistance.



Ron urged us to visit PlanoFuture.org where the increase in apartments is cited as putting pressure on existing PISD schools.

Matt “grew up in a single-family dwelling” in Plano and hopes that such neighborhoods can be maintained. He decries the absence of signage indicating the change of zoning in the Preston-Plano Parkway area. He says, however, that the rest of the Metroplex utilizes mixed use development.

Mike said citizen input was solicited for the Plano Tomorrow Plan and the number of children in senior apartment units is likely to be negligible. So he’s sanguine about the prospects with the City and PISD working in close cooperation.

Tom insisted the Plan is flawed. He challenges the survey findings. Ratings for the schools in the area have fallen from 65 to 40 in part due to Dallas developments in communities served by PISD.

Jim said the process began years ago about which he has concerns. But “young people want to rent or lease.”

Jamie warned them that that was the last of “the softball questions.”

3. Comment on the Equal Rights Amendment passed 8 Dec. 2014.

Jim said that it is now law and “basically the same as federal law.” He said he doesn’t believe in discrimination.

Tom agreed with Jim but worries about “claims of gender identity.” Vietnam vets were discriminated as they returned as “baby killers,” but now that has vanished. “Live with it.”

Mike supports “the ERA 100%.” He said he has 270,000 neighbors to whom the Golden Rule applies.

Matt said, “We can’t become Indiana.” He claims to be the only candidate who did not sign the petition to put the ERA on the ballot.

Ron asserts that “We, the People” should get to vote on it. A healthy debate requires it be on a ballot. He decried the Mayor and City Council for “being gung-ho” on it and imposing it without a mandate from the public.

4. How important are economic incentives to the City?

Ron said it had to be done or else progress will go to Frisco by default. Incentives fuel the “engine of the economy,” encouraging small business startups.

Matt noted that no incentives lured EDS. He’d rather see “strong neighborhoods” lure future businesses. And small startup companies would benefit from an incubator program.

Mike is “a strong supporter of economic development.” Failure to incentivize would send new business north. New business is good for diversity that benefits us all.

Tom says Plano has used incentives to great advantage. We need to compare cost to benefit in jobs and a growing tax base.

Jim points out the citizenry voted for a 2% tax to fund incentives. Without them, our chances at Toyota would have diminished.

Jaime asked them to address their motivation for running in their closing remarks.

Jim said a former mayor had condemned him to run. He reiterated institutional history.

Tom said he wasn’t a politician but we need “amateurs running for City Council.”

Mike repeated his endorsements and praised Plano Tomorrow Plan.

Matt cited working with Dr. Dean and Ean Sullivan. He is endorsed by Parker’s Mayor.

Ron repeated his endorsements and added Ray Huffines. He decried the destruction of citizen comments on Plano Tomorrow.

The candidates were requested to stay and chat with members after the meeting. Earnest led us in the Four-Way Test and closed the gathering at 12:59.



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Proposed Member : Wanda Russell

Proposed by : Earnest Burke

Classification : Real Estate

Next Social:

Tuesday, April 28th @ 5PM

Buffalo Bluez

4200 Legacy Drive Plano TX 75024

Socials are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 5PM and will count as a Rotary make-up.

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