



# Summer Weekly

# Reader

Volume 131, Issue 191, October 7, 2015 Volume 129

The Plano Rotary Club  
www.PlanoRotary.com

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Oct 8

Jim Leonard -  
"Employing People of  
Different Abilities"

### Oct 15

District Governor Visit

### Oct 22

"Hendrick Scholarship  
Foundation Presentation"

### Oct 29

No Meeting  
"Hendrick Scholarship Golf  
Tournament"

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Richard Maucieri	Oct 05
John Caldwell	Oct 06
Justin Roche	Oct 07
Rick Horne	Oct 08
Jan Sullivan	Oct 10
Dennis Hogg	Oct 16
Janis Allman	Oct 18
Robert Botts	Oct 20
Gene Murray	Oct 22
Debbie Watson	Oct 25
Jessica Jackson	Oct 26
Marc J. Lewis	Oct 27
Casey Stewart	Oct 31



**W**E have arrived! And surprise, surprise: no one arrived late for having gone to *Southfork* instead!! This being the first Thursday of the month, *Gleneagles* was hosting another gathering in our assigned room, so we were ensconced in a partitioned main dining room. That qualifies as "*friends with benefits*" as we were privileged to scarf down everything at the regular buffet! And at least *Sainted Editor* did just that. (His diet suffered willingly.)

**PRESIDENT PAPERWEIGHT** gathered his flock at 12:17, assigning **Ean SULLIVAN** the Prayer and **Mike Robnett** the Pledge. Kelly thanked **Rick Boyer** for Greeting and relinquished the microphone to **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Barbera**, after

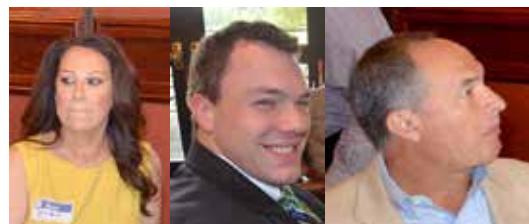


assuring us that he will inform *Gleneagles* that we are used to cold cuts.

Nathan cautioned us not to get too attached to this room as we'll spend 3 out of 4 days a month meeting in the rooms where *Metro* meets. (And our food service will be a subset of that in the general buffet.)

In addition, for correct remuneration to *Gleneagles*, we must keep an accurate headcount, and that requires us to **CHECK IN** with **Karen** at her desk each & every time!

Nathan noted a mystery Visiting Rotarian who would be introduced later, then he moved onto Guests. **Bob Pikna** welcomed management consultant, **Dayna Samra**.



**Jeff Fraunheim** introduced **Bert Rodriguez**. Ean Sullivan bade us welcome **Jimmy Richardson**. **Bruce Glasscock** neglected Fire Chief **Sam Greif** in favor of Deputy City Manager **Jim Parrish**. And poor old **Joe Camarena** got no mention whatsoever.



**Howard Matson** welcomed **Rose Wilderon** from the *Cedar Park Club* but is looking for another to join, and the lunch, at least, impressed even if we did not.

**Randy Wright** sprang up to induct **Louis Tong** into the Club with proud sponsor **Alan Feigenbaum** looking on. Randy extorted the usual promises from the raw recruit then finished his spiel with a flourish



indicating how much fun Louis' membership will be; Randy had distributed cutouts of Louis' face to be worn by several members in the room.

Louis trains mortgage brokers and loan officers, opening a new office in Plano.





Our illustrious **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** arose to introduce our illustrious **COUNTY JUDGE Keith Self**. Olin told us that Keith was born in Pennsylvania but graduated from an Amarillo high school. He graduated from West Point in 1975, but **CAPTAIN KIRK** won't hold that against him. In 1999, he retired from the Army only to be recalled for a 14-month stint in Afghanistan and Qatar. Judge Self has a M.A. in International Relations from USC.

Keith's day had started inauspiciously; he'd brought a thumb drive, confident that the premier Rotary Club in Plano would surely have its own laptop. Silly Judge. He found no USB slot in our video projector, oddly enough. So Kelly sent out a call to anyone who had not yet arrived at the meeting to bring *their* laptops. **Jamee Jolly** answered the call. (Karen is now going to proselytize for a club laptop so we're not caught out this way again!) But Jamee hadn't a remote mouse (Karen, take note), so Keith unwound the microphone's cord so he could advance his slides before **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR** Olin offered to do it for him.



He began by congratulating Plano "on its latest achievement" announced only today, having been one of "four Great Places" in the U.S. on the strength of its downtown development.

With a census of 885,000 people in 2014, an estimate of 900,000 now, and growing by 80 people a week, Collin County is now the 6<sup>th</sup> largest in Texas, surpassed only by the metroplexes. Its revenue base is \$100B next year, even while the tax rate is going down to 22.5¢ per \$100K home evaluation. True, the revenue base declined in The Sort of Great Recession, but by only 1.5% in 2008, and it has been on a steady climb ever since.

The county budget is 76% operating expense, 17% debt service, and 7% of everything else. The \$206M operating budget goes mostly for public safety (27.5%) and general administration (23.7%). The county must fund courts, jails, and the sheriff's office...all part of judicial and law enforcement. There are 37 elected county officials, responsive to their constituency, leading to "organized chaos." Of the elected officials, 31 (84%) are part of judicial or law enforcement. Unelected positions number 1,855, of which 1,164 (63%) are judicial or law enforcement.

There is \$1B worth of construction going on in Collin County. While some of it came from the last three bond elections (\$72M+\$142M+\$236M=\$450M), the majority comes from the \$900M which was Collin's share of the funds from the North Texas Toll Authority for right of way of the DART routes. The obligatory transportation infrastructure improvement will exhaust even the NTTA's largesse by 2018. At that time, the estimate is that 400-500K cars will pass through county highways daily.

"No one will provide another \$1B" ("B" for "Boon") for the improvements and repair which will be needed in future given the increased number of drivers. But there are possible sources:

1. New bond funds.
2. Current fund balances.
3. Yearly surpluses, and
4. State PROP 1 & 7 funding (if voters approve them)

Proposition 7 shows up on the ballot in November. It provides transportation funding, **BUT**, contrary to common sense, it "cannot be used on any road with holes on it." Apparently, routine infrastructure repair is the responsibility of the counties; how droll.

Judge Self cautioned, would that it were otherwise, the need for new courts, especially family courts. County Court at Law #7 has been voted, and the Governor has established new district courts 469 & 470 in Collin County, and staffed them with political appointees: Judges **Piper McCraw** and **Emily Miskel**, respectively.

Indigent mental health facility "North Star" has been dismantled by the Texas Sunset Commission. The County is trying to develop a single LBHA (Local Behavioral Health Authority) to deal with such issues.

Rural transport (TAPS) has no tax base as does DART. Plano voted itself increased sales tax to subsidize DART, so we're immune from additional taxation via TAPS.



The construction that frustrates us all on US 75, will only provide some 6 years of relief. After that new construction will be necessary. The County is considering a toll road, but Plano, already surrounded on 3 sides by them, is understandably reluctant to see another. Indeed “*toll revolt*” is endemic in the County. Nevertheless, there’ll soon be a need to “*move 125,000 more cars north and south.*”

Ean asked whether the widening of US 75 through McKinney will ever be finished. Answer: Yes.

**Patti Schwartz** wanted to know about the possibility of more mass transit. Keith asked, “*How to pay for it?*” There are apparently three sources: 4A, 4B, or DART funds. BUT the rules for extension require traversed communities to become DART members and only be serviced when they vote themselves fiscal obligations. They’ve not done so.

**John Caldwell** asked about the frustrating **High Occupancy Vehicle** (HOV) lanes through Plano (that can’t be entered except in southern Richardson). Keith asked for a show of hands for “*a midnight raid to pull out the pylons*” and was alarmed at the turnout! He said Congressional Relief would be needed to change the configuration, but it wasn’t necessary since no one respects the multiple occupancy provision now, there being no way to effectively enforce it.

**Lenny Schwartz** asked about East-West transport. He said, “*George Bush is too far south.*” In the northern sector, Keith said, Lucas forbids a major road through its jurisdiction, and a connector around Parker would dump too much traffic on a street that can’t handle it. “*The City Managers are aware.*”

**Larry FLASH Flannery** arose and Keith was worried since several members gave him the “throat cut” sign. Larry said, “*I may not be the sharpest knife in the drawer,*” but he didn’t understand about the sales tax earmarked for PROP 7. Keith told him \$2.5B. “*And none goes to the County?*” No, NTTA gets it all to maintain and rebuild. “*It sounds like Robin Hood for Transporta-*



*tion to me.*” Keith responded, “*Great question!*” Someone unkind remarked, “*That’s the only great question he’s ever had!*” Judge Self said that the State allocates it all by region (not county or city).

**Rick Maucieri** inquired about a new outer loop. Keith said that the next one on the books will run from “*just south of Celina*” for 55 miles toward the east. With the DFW area now at 7M and growing toward 15M, that’s “*a lot of cars to be moving.*” Pondering a loop road from Denton to US 75, construction is impeded by the number of creeks crossed.

**Earnest Burke** asked about traffic during rush hours and was told that the “*south-west corner of Collin County*” (Plano) has “*high flux*” which could be relieved by widening or raising or lowering the roadway. But “*Plano has the final say in what happens.*”

Kelly offered the speaker our perpetual paperweight and noted that everyone was satiated on *Gleneagles* food.

Jamee Jolly noted that seats remain available for the Chamber award ceremony that evening. Given his propensity for off-the-cuff ribald remarks, someone asked if Olin’s acceptance speech had been vetted. He assured us that Jamee and his wife had clamped down on him.

Ean offered brag bucks for his son who has just come down from the top of Kilimanjaro. **Rick Horne** added that he had shepherded a group up the 14,255’ Pike’s Peak, a 9-mile one-way trek, only to find the place packed with folks who’d driven or ridden the rails.

Olin offered to put in a “*Happy Buck*” for Kelly having successfully negotiated a “*perfect meeting*” in the new venue.

**Scary Bob Epstein** noted an upcoming meeting for the families of veterans. Kelly led us in the Four-Way Test, belling us out at 1:05.



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