



WINTER
Weekly

Reader

Volume 25, Issue 02, January 19, 2023

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

IMAGINE
ROTARY

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Jan 19

Henry Gentry

What makes Henry's Ice Cream so Special

Jan 26

TBD

Feb 2

Kathy Taylor

The YMCA is not a Place, but a Purpose, with a Bold Vision for a Brighter Future

Feb 9th

Marvin Jolly

Housing in Plano

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pamela Little	Jan 04
Mike McCormack	Jan 15
Jerry Aris	Jan 17
Randy Brodhead	Jan 20
Paul Hernandez	Jan 25

Happy
Birthday

PISD Election Results and Future Plans

JANUARY 12, 2023 meeting We were greeted by **Mary Jo Dean**. At future president **Bob Kehr's** request, **John Priest** gave the invocation (giving thanks for the opportunity to serve others) and **Peggy Fenwick** led the pledge. Sgt at Arms, **Mike McCormack** introduced the 4 Rotary guests and their hosts. (see page 4 for the information) Rotarian of the month was **John Priest**. John explained why he belongs to



Rotary: I enjoy visiting with fellow Rotarians at our weekly lunch meetings; some of my favorite memories are:

1. Setting up and helping with the soap box derby competition. Seeing the excitement on the kids' faces as they crossed the finish line made it all worthwhile.
2. Driving the students to and from RYLA camp. Seeing the

difference in personalities and communication skills on the return trip was amazing.

3. Helping with the Angel Tree project at The Samaritan Inn at Christmas.
4. Judging the very talented entrants in the Rotary 4 way speech contest.

Our special guest was **Karen Sheldon**; welcome back! Shown here lunching with **Sara Akers**. Our "Rotarian minute" person was **Gary Garza** of Habitat for Humanity for Collin County.



Gary has been involved with non-profits for 25 years, including 19 with Habitat. He joined Habitat in September 2018. Celeste Cox, the head of Habitat, told him to pick a service-oriented club so he could give back to where he lived. "Habitat makes a difference."





Our program this week was about the financial position of **PISD**, with many details about the Voter Approval Tax Rate (VATRE) (A) and bond (B->E) elections in November.

Johnny Hill is the PISD CFO and has

worked in public school administration for 27 years. His most recent position was as the CFO of Allen ISD. He kept hearing how good PISD was and decided to move. He has an MBA and, along with Nancy Humphrey, is a CPA. The PISD bond election was part of the November general election and 96% of the funding was approved. Past PISD elections were part of the May primary and typically had 10,000 voters. The November election had 116,000 voters!

The election results were:

- A. Staff & Programs 52% yes \$9 million net of recapture. This helps offset the loss of federal funding.
- B. Renovations & Safety 56% yes \$1.173 B We have 73 campuses and 19 auxiliary buildings. They total over 9 million square feet. Many of the facilities were built years ago and need new, more efficient air conditioning and heating. They also need ADA and safety upgrades. New facilities cost about \$480/square foot.
- C. Instructional Technology 56% yes \$173 M
- D. Event Center Failed 49% yes \$130 M Voters may have been influenced by the Robinson Fine Arts Center issues.
- E. Stadium Maintenance Failed 45% yes \$19M One part would have been to resurface and illuminate the Clark Stadium parking lot. Voters may have been influenced by Allen's \$60 Million stadium that cracked and had to be repaired at a cost of \$10 M. The **total amount** approved was \$1.35 Billion.

We sold about \$700 Million in bonds last week. Plano has top ratings from both Moody's and Standard & Poor's, so the auction was very successful. We are investing the proceeds at a higher interest rate than the rate we are paying. PISD is successful because young families prefer Plano because of our excellent schools and abundant health care. We are losing students, however. In the past 12 years, enrollment has dropped from 54,000 to 48,000. Retired baby boomers are staying in Plano and housing costs are higher than neighboring districts, so young families are moving elsewhere.

Johnny also spoke about the current Strategic Road Map. There are many aspects to the plan, including facilities, shrinking enrollment, curriculum, and future educational & facility goals. The Board and PISD leadership will finish planning by May 2023. Implementation will be from 2023 to 2028.

There were questions; here are the answers:

Recapture/Robin Hood 2022 = \$211M with 2023 estimated at \$248M. About 15% of the school districts are now paying into Robin Hood, representing 25% if the 5.4 million Texas Students. More legislators represent recapture ISDs, so our leverage in the House and Senate is increasing.

Our **2022-2023 adapted tax rate** of \$1.26 is the lowest in Collin county.



The Robinson Fine Arts Center on Alma will soon be open. PISD decided to work on remediation (\$5 million), then litigation. The cracks in the floor are covered with terrazzo and the outside concrete was painted grey. We anticipate a late February opening and have over 100 bookings.

The **TRS (Teacher Retirement System)** fund has faced financial challenges over the years and does not automatically adjust for inflation.

The defined benefits were most recently adjusted in 2017 and again in 2021; however, the Texas legislature won't change the benefits until the pension fund is fully funded. It's at 85% now.



Brittnea Ussery (Camille's daughter) with Courtney Reeves (PISD) & Johnny Hill

On a happier note, Plano Rotary provided gifts and Santa Claus to the Samaritan Inn on Christmas Eve.



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JOE CAMARENA | 5 YEARS

KATHY TAYLOR | 2 YEARS

CHRIS PARR | 21 YEARS

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Thank you Toni Wilson

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Guests

Guest

John Stanley
Brittnea Ussery
Courtney Reeves
J D Hearn

Guest of

Johnny Lewis
Nancy Humphrey
Nancy Humphrey
Peggy Fenwick

Visiting Rotarians

Visiting Rotarian

None

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