

# The Rotary Wheel

P.O. BOX 4376, OLATHE, KS 66063

September 2017

CHARTERED AUGUST 9, 1937



## OLATHE ROTARY CLUB

District 5710 Club 1625



### Chief's CFO September 6<sup>th</sup> and High School Coaches Coming September 13<sup>th</sup>!!

#### Olathe Rotary Speakers/Events

- Sep 06 Dan Crumb, Kansas City  
Chiefs CFO
- Sep 13 Olathe High School  
Football Coaches  
AD Tim Brady, Moderator
- Sep 20 Congressman Yoder
- Sep 27 World Trade Center  
Survivor
- Oct 18 Dr. Troy Nash, International  
Motivational Speaker

**Vernon Avant, Program Chair**  
[coachavant@gmail.com](mailto:coachavant@gmail.com)

*Please send Vernon  
your ideas for  
upcoming guest  
speakers!*

#### Olathe Rotary 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration August 9<sup>th</sup> Was An Awesome Experience for All



Past Olathe Mayor and Past Olathe Rotary President, Mike Haskin, pictured above, gave a memorable presentation about the history of Olathe Rotary. He discussed the culture, political makeup, and look of Olathe in 1937 as well. President Elect, Pat O'Donnell, prepared an excellent video about Olathe Rotary. An older video was also shown, narrated by Past Olathe Rotary President, Glenn Pierce, featuring Tom Hall, Glenn Ewing and Harley Haskin (Mike's Dad). All three have now passed away and had been very active Olathe Rotarians for many years. Each left a remarkable legacy on the hearts of Rotarians and community members as well as all individuals they helped along the way. On the video, the three discussed the early beginnings of Olathe Rotary. Tom said that Kimball Backus, Wyandotte County Extension Agent, spoke with Johnson County Extension Agent, Leonard Harden, on the porch of Louie McGee, about getting a Rotary club in Olathe started. As Tom could recall, the initial Rotary members were Leonard Harden (who became the first club's President), Louie McGee, W.R. Pearce, and Herb Julian. July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1937 an application was submitted to Rotary International in Chicago. There were 20 charter members at the first meeting August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1937, (all business owners) as well as 200 guests from surrounding Rotary clubs. Glenn Pierce also interviewed Rotarian, Marvin Wollen. "Doc" passed away in 2013 and was our club Secretary for 30 years. He was asked about club Secretaries. The first Secretary was W.R. Pearce, then John Burns, Stan Roth, Harvey Jetmore, and Marvin Wollen. Since "Doc" Wollen, David Miller, Nichole Asquith and Doug Brownlee have served as club Secretary. Dacia Moore is our current Secretary.

#### 2017-2018 Olathe Rotary Club Officers and Board

7/1/2017 to 6/30/2018

**Vanessa Vaughn West, President**

Larry Rinne, Past President

Pat O'Donnell, President Elect

**Dacia Moore, Secretary**  
Year 1

**Jason Armstrong, Treasurer**  
Year 1

**Dacia Moore, Director**  
1<sup>st</sup> of 2 year term

**Jasen Mangrum, Director**  
1<sup>st</sup> of 2 year term

**Terry Lynch, Director**  
1<sup>st</sup> of 2 year term

**Karin Brownlee, Director**  
2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 year term

**Geoff Neufeld, Director**  
2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 year term

**Vernon Avant, Director**  
1<sup>st</sup> of 2 yr term

[olathenoonrotary@gmail.com](mailto:olathenoonrotary@gmail.com)

#### Olathe Rotary Club Foundation

7/1/2017 to 7/30/2018

##### President

Terry Lynch, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 year term

##### Treasurer

Jason Armstrong, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 year term

##### Secretary

Sandy Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 year term

David Andrew, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 yr term

Mark Myer, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 yr term

Mark Romain, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 yr term

Ernie Hicks, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 yr term

Vanessa Vaughn West,

1<sup>st</sup> of 1 yr term

Pat O'Donnell, 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2 yr term

**Please Remember Our  
Foundation When You Plan or  
Rewrite Your Will or Trust**

In 1989, The Council of Legislation voted to allow women into Rotary. Olathe Rotary's first female member, and first female President, was Betty Hougland. Many clubs are still "singing clubs", singing an official Rotary song at the outset of their weekly meeting. Olathe Rotary is not currently a singing club, however at the Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> celebration, Ernie Hicks led us in song...one more time!



## Olathe Rotarians Held Weekly Meeting August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Kids TLC

Rotarians heard the latest updates and successes of Kids TLC in Olathe. During the meeting Rotarians were given an 8X10 sheet of paper. Each created a design about success, goals, life, and leadership. The designs were added to the walls of Kids TLC to help motivate the children and their families to create more fulfilled and enriched lives.



Photo by Pat O'Donnell

## Johnny Rowlands and Steve Parker (Major Miles) Entertain Olathe Rotarians August 23<sup>rd</sup>

Emmy Award winning KMBC-TV News helicopter pilot and reporter, Johnny Rowlands, and his traffic reporting partner, Major Miles (Steve Parker), wowed the Rotary crowd with their experiences while reporting for KMBC. Johnny is an avid flyer, accruing over 25,000 incident-free flight hours (spanning 40 years) in both airplanes and helicopters. What was not included in the presentation is that Johnny is the founder and CEO of a number of companies, including Olathe-based KC Copters. The company offers tours with his fleet of 6 choppers, to view the beautiful sites of KC and surrounding area. The company also offers an FAA-approved flight school, training students to be commercial pilots and certified flight instructors, and then helps them with career placement. [kccopters.com](http://kccopters.com). Johnny and Major Miles are taking their



50+ combined years as traffic reporters watching people run into one another, to co-found a driving school that employs a "Collision Avoidance" approach to teaching people how to drive. They said "Double Team Driving

School" offers a Kansas State approved curriculum, as well as driving strategies that are derived from their experience witnessing what causes collisions, and where they are most likely to occur. **Have kids or grandkids ready to learn to drive and have fun doing it?** Go to: [www.doubleteamdrivingschool.com](http://www.doubleteamdrivingschool.com), 913 225-9590. Behind the wheel instruction departs from the Double Team Offices at Johnson County Executive Airport, Olathe, 12921 W. 151<sup>st</sup> St. This is an Olathe-based company. Pictured above from left, Club President Vanessa Vaughn-West, Johnny Rowlands, Mary Parker (Steve's wife) and Steve Parker.



Photo by Pat O'Donnell

Quinn Gash, our 2017 RYLA representative, recently returned from Rotary leadership camp at KU. Quinn is the son of Olathe Rotarian Mark Gash. He is 15 years old and is a Sophomore at Olathe Northwest High School where he is studying in the Engineering Academy program, in hopes of becoming an aerospace engineer. Our August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was held at Kids TLC. Quinn gave Rotarians an account of his experiences at Rotary Youth Leadership Camp and thanked us for supporting his trip to RYLA.

## Olathe Rotarians Welcome Quinn Gash, Our Rotary Youth Leadership Student Designee August 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Saying Goodbye and Hello All in August

Our summer Japanese Exchange Students Akane Abe and Chikako Kitazume thanked their host families and Olathe Rotarians for an experience of a lifetime. After our Ambassadors Michaela Blank & Tristan Miller



returned from their 3-week home-stay in Maebashi, Japan, Chikako and Akane visited Olathe July 20 – Aug 10, hosted by the Blank and Miller families. We were sad to say goodbye.

Beginning August 9<sup>th</sup> Olathe Rotary welcomed a 1-year exchange student for the 2017-2018 school year. Takeru Inagaki (pictured above) is from Nagoya, Japan and is attending Olathe Northwest High School. During the fall semester he is staying with Donald and Margery Erchert.



## Mayor of Olathe, Mike Copeland, Receives Donation from Olathe Rotarians



August 30<sup>th</sup> President Vanessa presented our 2017 \$1200 donation to Mayor Mike and the "I Read With Mayor Mike" program. This is the 13<sup>th</sup> year for the program.

Each year Mayor Mike visits all 11 Title 1 elementary schools in Olathe and reads to first grade students. He also distributes paperback books, book bags, and stickers. During his story-time, he emphasizes that reading is an important part of good citizenship and brings life-long rewards. At Title 1 schools, at least 40 percent of the student body comes from low-income families. Mayor Mike was also our guest speaker, giving Rotarians an update on Olathe. He said that there are **137,000 people in Olathe** now, and the city continues to grow, more than any other city in Johnson County. The City of Olathe ranks **number one on Zippia's list of the 10 Happiest Cities in America**. The score considers factors like education, unemployment rate, cost of living, and poverty level. **24/7 Wall St. recently name Olathe one of America's Best Cities to Live**, placing Olathe 11<sup>th</sup> best city on the list of 50. The City of Olathe attains the **highest rating possible for fire protection service according to ISO, the Insurance Service Office**. ISO designated Olathe a Class 1 community. Mayor Mike said there are only 56 cities nation-wide with the Class 1 rating. **24/7 Wall St. names Olathe the 4<sup>th</sup> safest city among the top 25 safest cities in America**. The rating is based on the low violent crime rates.

## Trees for Olathe Medical Center

Rotary International President, Ian H.S. Riseley, suggested every Rotarian plant a tree. The Olathe Medical Center is in need of trees. The Olathe Rotary Club Foundation Trustees, working with the Olathe Rotary Board members, approved \$2500 to be taken out of Foundation funds for the effort. A matching grant has been requested and with donations from other sources, we hope to reach a total of \$10,000. We have been working with Rotarian Jerry Moore, General Manager of the Olathe Grass Pad. **We hope to plant approximately 100 trees on the Olathe Medical Center campus.**