

April 2025



Kiwanis

Kiwanis Club of Robson Ranch

www.kcrobsonranch.org

April Showers and Flowers

Upcoming Meeting Speakers

- May 2nd - Mary King, Metroport - Meals on Wheels
- May 16th - James Clark, Mayor, Justin, TX - Jarrod Greenwood, City Manager of Justin

There were happy vendors and shoppers at the 2025 Kiwanis Craft Bazaar! Thanks Chris Laffey!



Barbara Leurig delivered a donation to the Children's Advocacy Center for North Texas



Gwynn Rucker delivered a donation to Foster Village DFW in Denton and Chris Laffey delivered one to the Community Clothes Closet



JoAnn and Vern Smith with Roy Meyer delivered Easter food for the families in residence at the Cumberland Youth and Family Center

Another Successful Robson Ranch Garage Sale!

Susan, with Vicki's help, did it again! Susan organized the club members to bring numerous "treasures" to sell at the garage sale. She and Vicki then led the effort to get the best price for each "treasure." Many club members worked to set up the tables and then helped customers look through the items for sale. All remaining items were donated to a Denton organization. The garage sale is sponsored by the Robson Ranch After Schoolers Club.





Dr. O'Bara, Superintendent of DISD Presentation

Jim Galbraith introduced Dr. Susannah Holbert O'Bara, Superintendent of Denton ISD. Dr. O'Bara provided a comprehensive update on Denton ISD, which covers over 185 square miles, has 33,372 students, 4,690 Educators and Staff, and 45 campuses. With such a large area and numerous campuses, the district focuses on "One District – One Purpose" to help unify efforts across this extensive area.

She covered the six goals established by the DISD Board to cover the expectations of students, staff, and community engagement. An attached copy of her presentation provides more details.

Dr. O'Bara explained the use of bond money in the district and the impact of the community tax rates over the years. DISD has reduced the tax rate each year while appraised values have increased. She highlighted the impact of state funding for schools, as well as the numerous shortages resulting from insufficient funding, in conjunction with the legislative requirements for services. Dr. O'Bara is very active in working with our state representatives and the legislature to inform them of the school's needs. Her presentation provided numerous details about the funding and challenges that DISD faces each year in providing the level of education that students require.

She covered the many avenues students in DISD may take not only for college preparation but also for many technical careers that lead to student success upon graduation. She highlighted the career path for students in the Fire Science Program where they are eligible for hire by the fire department upon graduation as a firefighter or EMT specialist.

Dr. O'Bara looks forward to community engagement to learn more about the status of our schools and explore ways to support the efforts to improve student education.





Wreaths Across America Appreciation



Thanks to Randy Blackburn for his leadership is getting our Kiwanis Club involved in Wreaths Across America. This was our first year and it was an excellent start to our involvement. Randy had lots of previous experience in working with Wreaths Across America which proved to be very valuable in our first effort.

Wreaths Across America is a year long effort. Many companies and organizations start their sales and public relations efforts immediately after finishing the placing of the Wreaths in December.

We'll start our efforts to inform the Robson Ranch community about the 2025 Wreaths Across America a little later this year and look forward to the support of Robson residents as they did last year.



Denton County Friends of the Family

Bill Wilson introduced Lori Nelson, Director of Community Engagement at Denton County Friends of the Family. Lori reviewed her career in community service, culminating in the last six years at Friends of the Family. She presented a very enlightening overview of the work done by Friends of the Family.

The mission of Friends of the Family is to provide compassionate, comprehensive services to those impacted by rape, sexual abuse, and domestic violence while partnering with the community to promote safety, hope, healing, justice, and prevention.



The primary office of Friends is in Corinth. There are two shelters in Denton County and a resale shop in Denton. The shelters will have a capacity of 80 beds with the addition of the Family Justice Center opening in October. Those needing shelter typically stay 51 days, during which they receive a lot of help in reconstructing their lives as they return to their life routines.

Friends staffs a crisis hotline that received 5,933 crisis calls and 115 crisis texts in 2024. They have an Outreach Advocacy Program that had 3,192 new victim intakes, provided 17,677 advocacy services, and helped 339 households access the food pantry in 2024. They also provide legal services and offer an adult counseling program.

The Child and Adolescent Program provides play and activity therapy for clients ages 3 to 17, group counseling, and childcare. The Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) in 2024 saw 536 male BIPP clients receive 10,298 hours of services and 56 female BIPP clients receive 680 hours of services.

Lori presented some alarming statistics: 248,903 incidents of family violence and 18,270 sexual assault offenses reported in Texas in 2023. Of those reports, 5,365 incidents of family violence and 331 incidents of sexual assault were reported in Denton County.

Lori invited all members of the club and our community to consider volunteering to assist Friends of the Family in their mission.

Please see their website at - dcfof.org



Upcoming Events—Mark your Calendars

Trivia Night - May 1st at 7:00 pm

General Membership Meeting – Friday, May 2nd at 8:30 am in the Bandera-Medina Room

Volunteering at Our Daily Bread - May 5th, 7th, and 9th.

Kiwanis Board Meeting – May 7th at 3:30 pm at the Clubhouse

New Hope Therapy Riding Center Work - May 10th at 1:30 pm

General Membership Meeting – Friday, May 16th at 8:30 am in the Bandera-Medina Room

Comfort Dolls - May 28th at the CATC Building

Kiwanis International Convention - June 25th to 28th in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

TX-OK Kiwanis District Convention - July 24th to 27th in Denton, TX

Spread the word to friends and neighbors about the great speakers at upcoming 2025 meetings

Kiwanis Int'l Link—<https://www.kiwanis.org/>

TX-OK District News Links

The District Governor for 2024-2025 is Bobby Quinten. Please see the link below to the post for his message to the Clubs in the KI-Notes.

https://pub.marq.com/KINotes_April25/#_0

Our Club is in the Kiwanis Texas-Oklahoma District - Division 8.

<https://www.facebook.com/kiwanistxokd8>

The Noon Kiwanis Club of Denton, Texas meets every Tuesday at noon at Rudy's BBQ, 520 I-35 Frontage Rd, Denton, TX 76205

www.dentonkiwanis.org

The Breakfast Club of Denton meets every Wednesday from 7:00 am to 8:00 AM at Rudy's Bar-B-Q 520 S I-35 Frontage Rd E Denton, TX 76205

www.dentonbreakfastkiwanis.org



Robson Ranch Club Meeting Information

- Our meetings are held on the First and Third Friday of every month.
- The meetings are held in the Medina-Bandera Room at the Robson Ranch Club House
- The meeting has a social time at 8:30 AM and the meeting begins at 9:00 AM for an hour
- We try to have speakers at the meetings from organizations that we support or from individuals in our community with interesting topics.
- Board meetings are held on the First Wednesday of each month.
- The Kiwanis Club of Robson Ranch Facebook page is -
<https://www.facebook.com/kcrobsonranch>
- The Kiwanis Club of Robson Ranch Website is -
<https://kcrobsonranch.org>
- This newsletter is not an official communication of the Robson Ranch Denton Homeowners Association.

The 2024-2025 Officers and Directors

We always encourage members or guests to contact one of the Officers or Board Members if you have questions or comments about our Club.

Bill Wilson	Wilson1724@yahoo.com	580-471-7294	President
Barbara Leurig	barbara@leurig.com	940-262-0241	Past - President
Greg Laffey	glaffey75@gmail.com	617-529-9997	Vice President
Roy Meyer	roy.molly@sbcglobal.net	254-718-8357	Treasurer
Ed Ahrens	ahrens956@Gmail.com	940-262-3309	Secretary
Chris Laffey	chrislaffey@gmail.com	617-529-9997	Board Member
Timothy Munz	tmunz01@sbcglobal.net	817-657-8492	Board Member
Jim Ryerson	jim.ryerson67@yahoo.com	940-262-3381	Board Member
Gwynn Rucker	grkenwa@comcast.net	206-818-1424	Board Member
Jeff Frick	jef8003@yahoo.com	760- 445-0025	Board Member