

## Guest Speaker for Last Meeting

### Richard Stewart, Fire Chief, Lubbock Fire Rescue, Appointed Chief Oct. '24, was our speaker.

Richard, new fire chief as of Oct. 7, 2024, is the 11th fire chief for Lubbock. He comes to Lubbock after serving 30 years in the fire department of Irving, TX. according to Derek Delgado, Irving's Public Information Officer.

The service area for the **Lubbock Fire Dept.** is 136 square miles and the department receives 20-30,000 calls a year, which includes both fire and EMS calls.

The department started as a volunteer department in 1909 and now has 434 sworn positions and 78 civilian positions. Fire fighters' work schedule is 24 hrs. on/48-off, shift change 6 p.m. 75% of calls are EMS related and 25% are fire related. Specialty teams include: HazMat, Diving Specialists, Fire Marshall Office, Wild Fires, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting, SWAT, Medics and Advanced Lifesaving, and Technical Rescue Team. Wow!

The **Lubbock Fire Department** has to cover all hazard mitigation and as of 2018 they are rated ISO Class 1 which is a very high rating achieved by only 1.3 % of all fire departments. They focus on continuous preparation and improvement and because of this, home owners and businesses get a small discount on their insurance.

Everyone is advised to have **smoke detectors** and there is information on how to get free detectors on the fire department website. A fire doubles in size every 60 seconds so smoke detectors save lives! **Home extinguisher?**

The department will be using an old fire truck equipped with flashing arrows and signs to shut down the interstate by blocking lanes in emergency situations. This will save lives. (Remember the terrible accident Jan 11, 2020, that killed LPD 27-year-old **Nicholas Reyna**, and Paramedic 39-year-old Lt. **Eric Hill**. 30-year-old Fireman **Matt Dawson** died Nov. 26. 2023 from injuries sustained during that accident)

There will be a new fire station opening in 2025 at 141st St. and Indiana.

February 13, 2025

## Our February Birthdays!

James Dugger – 2/1

Steve Jones – 2/23

### 'Kiwanis Day of Giving' Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>

All members are encouraged to go online, Kiwanis International website, to donate what they can. Kiwanis Intnl. is trying to raise \$100,000 for a special project to reach as many as 45,000 kids!

### 'Lubbock Impact' Project Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>

We need 9 volunteers to serve meals at Lubbock Impact, 2707 34<sup>th</sup> St., Boston & 34<sup>th</sup> St. starting at 5:00 pm., Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will have a 'Sign-Up Sheet' at our next meeting.

### 'Meals on Wheels' Project

**WOW!** Yesterday, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at **Meals on Wheels** on 34<sup>th</sup> St., our club had a Community Service project filling paper shopping bags, (100's of them!), with a card, snacks & containerized meals for shut-ins in Lubbock, for **Valentines' Day!**

**BUT!** Due to **10 Kiwanian volunteers** showing up, we performed that task in **one hour!** So...**Kiwanis Kudos** to: **Tom Andrews, John Paul Batrice, Mike Bennett, David Cook, Mary Hernandez, Lequice & Wayne Kohout, Gene Maxwell, Joe Phea, and Paul Rostad!** Great job y'all!

### American Flag Program

**Just 2 more volunteers! Kolton Cox! Are you ready? Spouses can volunteer!**

### Sponsor a Room at Ronald McDonald House, Lubbock?

Pres. Joe announced that our club received a request from **RMH** to sponsor a room for \$3,500! **RMH** offers free rooms for parents with a child hospitalized in Lubbock.

**Will our Board consider this request?**

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## John Paul Batrice's



## Bits & Pieces

**Valentine's Day** is celebrated annually on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring a martyr named **Valentine**, and thru folk traditions it became a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.

There are a number of martyrdom stories associated with various St. Valentines connected to Feb. 14, including an account of the imprisonment of **St. Valentine of Rome** for ministering to Christians persecuted under the Roman Empire in the 3rd century. According to tradition, **St. Valentine** restored sight to the blind daughter of his jailer.

Additions to the legend have related it to the theme of love: tradition maintains that **St. Valentine** performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry by the Roman emperor; an 18th-century embellishment to the legend claims he wrote the jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine" as a farewell before his execution!

In 18th-century England, it grew into an occasion for couples to express their love for each other by presenting flowers, confectionery, and sending greeting cards (known as "**valentines**").

In the 19th century, handmade cards gave way to mass-produced greetings. In Italy, **St. Valentine's keys** are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart!"

**Valentine's Day** symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and a figure of the winged Cupid.

**DON'T FORGET! TOMMOROW IS THE DAY FOR YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER TO RECEIVE A VALENTINE, OF SOME KIND, TO LET THEM KNOW HOW MUCH THEY MEAN TO YOU!**

## TODAY

**Thur. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Kathy Rollo & Erin Gregg, Supt. & Dir. of Com., Latest & Greatest of LISD/BOARD MEETING**

## ALSO... COMING SOON!

**Thur. Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> – Dick Baker, Veteran, West Texas, K9 Program (he will bring two dogs & a puppy!)**

**Thur. Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Michelle McCord, Superintendent, Frenship ISD, Latest in FISD & the new H.S.**