Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners Ed Eilert addressed the International City/County Management Association conference held in October 2016 in Kansas City, Missouri.

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**about Johnson County**

Johnson County is a local government located in northeast Kansas that was organized on Sept. 7, 1857. Johnson County Government serves a diverse and expanding population through five agencies and 34 county departments.

Approximately 3,800 public servants are dedicated to helping Johnson County remain a safe, growing and vibrant community.

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Our thanks to the many county staff who contributed to this report.
We’re happy to present the 2016 Johnson County Annual Report, which highlights our most important projects, programs and initiatives that demonstrate Johnson County’s vibrancy and growth.

Johnson County continues to flourish because it offers a superior quality of life, including excellent schools, award-winning parks and libraries and safe neighborhoods. All of these attributes play a critical role in Johnson County’s success.

For the county government, our charge continues to focus on core public services and operate with maximum efficiency. It has allowed the county to maintain a low mill levy while keeping the quality of services high.

Over the past year, we have initiated a number of projects that we’ve discussed for several years, including a new courthouse and coroner/medical examiner facility (recently approved by voters), expanded transit, new libraries and new parks. These public investments will be coming to fruition in 2017 and beyond.

Specifically, construction on the county’s new courthouse is set to begin in 2018 and design of the coroner/medical examiner facility will begin later this year.

The county’s effort to expand transit service is already well underway. RideKC now has bus routes along key corridors to serve additional neighborhoods, several new destinations, activity centers and employment locations in Overland Park, Shawnee, Merriam, Prairie Village and Leawood. Bus fares have also been reduced.

We will break ground this spring on the new Monticello Library in Shawnee, at K-7 and Shawnee Mission Parkway, with completion of the facility in 2018. In addition, a new county library in Lenexa at City Center near 87th Street Parkway and Renner Road, west of I-435, is under development with its groundbreaking also expected in 2018.

Two new large county parks are slated to open in 2017, including:

- Big Bull Creek Park, a 2,000-acre park in the southwestern area of the county, between Gardner and Edgerton.
- The first phase of Lexington Lake Park, previously referred to as Rieke Lake, a 465-acre park located west of De Soto and north of K-10.

Meanwhile, we’ve seen significant progress in transforming the former Meadowbrook Country Club and Golf Course into an approximately 80-acre county park and private development in Prairie Village that will open in 2018.

Finally, this year we will celebrate the late spring/early summer opening of the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center — the former King Louie facility at 8788 Metcalf Avenue in Overland Park. Under the direction of the Park and Recreation District, the facility will house the Johnson County Museum, featuring new exhibits and the 1950s All-Electric House. The Arts & Heritage Center will offer multiple programs and classes for all ages, along with a 350-seat black box theater for use year-round.

Our many new projects incorporate input from residents through community surveys and public input meetings. We want to thank you for helping make our county a great place to live, work and raise a family. On behalf of all of Johnson County Government employees, we are grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve you.

Ed Eilert
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

Hannes Zacharias
County Manager
Numbers tell a story about people, places and things in Johnson County, Kansas.

It’s the most populous county in Kansas with more than 580,159 residents.

Johnson County is 477 square miles — or about 302,963 acres.

Johnson County includes 4 of the 10 largest cities in Kansas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Population</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>Overland Park</td>
<td>189,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>Olathe</td>
<td>134,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#7</td>
<td>Shawnee</td>
<td>65,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#9</td>
<td>Lenexa</td>
<td>52,490</td>
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</table>

Population estimates for Overland Park, Olathe and Shawnee provided by respective city websites.

City of Lenexa information — 2015 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

In Johnson County, there are 23 aviation facilities (private and county), including three airports and 20 heliports.

The county has 3,286 miles of city streets.

We have 181,854 residences, including single-family homes, multi-family units, condominiums, townhouses and farmsteads.

The county has 445 miles of county roadways.

Across the county, there are 44 fire stations and 20 law enforcement stations.

The county has an extensive network of medical facilities, including numerous surgical centers, urgent care facilities and six hospitals.

Information in this section provided by Johnson County AIMS. Data as of Dec. 31, 2016.
Johnson County at a glance
In case you didn’t know —
Johnson County is a great place to live, work, learn and play!
Here’s the county at a glance:

**WORK**

- The median household income in Johnson County is **$73,733**. 2015 U.S. Census Bureau, ACS
- There are **more than 334,400 workers** in Johnson County and more than **304,300 private-sector jobs**. Jan. 2017 County Economic Research Institute, Inc.
- The mean travel time to work is **21 minutes**. Johnson County AIMS
- The unemployment rate is low — **3.3%**. Jan. 2017 CERI

**PLAY**

- Including county and city sites, there are **366 parks** totaling **16,829 acres**.
- Johnson County is home to **1,289 restaurants and eateries**.
- The county is home to **12 museums** and **123 historical sites**.
- Across the county, there are **73 hotels, motels and extended-stay facilities**.
- Johnson County has **188 miles of bike lanes**, including **133 miles of shared roadways**.

**LEARN**

- Johnson County is home to six great public school districts: Blue Valley Schools (#229), De Soto Schools (#232), Gardner-Edgerton Schools (#231), Olathe Public Schools (#233), Shawnee Mission Schools (#512) and Spring Hill Schools (#230). Total enrollment for the 2016–2017 school year was **more than 96,304 students**. Provided by district communications staff and board clerks, as of September 2016.
- Johnson County residents have access to **16 public libraries**. Johnson County AIMS
- In the county, there are **four colleges**, including Johnson County Community College which had fall 2016 credit enrollment of **19,139** with more than 10,493 full-time equivalent students. Provided by Johnson County AIMS and jccc.org

Across the county, there are **190 public schools** and **53 private school buildings**. Johnson County AIMS

In a nation of 3,144 counties, there’s still only **one Johnson County, Kansas**.
Efficient stewardship of financial resources is a key function of Johnson County Government. Budgetary leadership and management of information technology are two areas that guide a range of county operations — and are vital to effective, efficient administration of resources.

**Budget and Financial Planning (BFP)** is responsible for the formulation, implementation and administration of the annual operating budget, Capital Improvement Program and the issuance of the county’s debt.

Johnson County’s strong financial standing remained unchanged with all three bond rating agencies — Standard and Poor’s, Moody’s and Fitch — affirming the county’s AAA bond rating. Triple-A is the highest rating that can be received by any government entity and less than one percent of all counties receive it.

In November, the county proposed a quarter-cent sales tax to the voters to build a new courthouse and a coroner/medical examiner facility and demolish the existing courthouse. Budget and Financial Planning was instrumental in preparing financial information for the educational campaign, revenue and debt estimates. The vote passed and the county is moving forward with the courthouse and coroner/medical examiner facility projects.

The county adopted a flat mill levy budget for 2017 despite additional funding for Mental Health, increased healthcare costs and decreasing state revenue. The total budget of $944 million is composed of $338 million in the county’s general services expenditures and $606 million in expenditures for Wastewater, Park and Recreation, Library, Airport and other fee- and grant-funded services, as well as transfers. The FY 2017 levy for Johnson County Government includes 19.582 mills for the County Taxing District, 3.912 mills for the Johnson County Library Taxing District and 3.101 mills for the Johnson County Park and Recreation Taxing District. The combined mill levies are the lowest among the 105 counties in Kansas.

**New initiatives**
- The Debt Management Advisory Council brought together cities and school districts to educate, strengthen relationships and identify common areas for collaboration.

**Awards and honors**
- The county received the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 24th consecutive year.
- Tom Dugan, Budget and Financial Planning’s grant compliance officer, assisted Developmental Supports and Mental Health, with two grants they received over five years for End Dependence programs — $1.2 million for Developmental Supports and $883,000 for Mental Health.

**about BFP**

The county’s five-year Capital Improvement Plan, totaling approximately $1 billion, is developed by BFP with the assistance of other county departments.

On average, BFP estimates the county’s major revenue sources within two to three percent of actual amounts.
DTI supports and enables almost every county department by providing underlying infrastructure, computer applications and support.

More than 250 unique geographic layers are used on a daily basis with approximately one-third of the layers available via the Free Data page, aims.jocogov.org/AIMSData/FreeData.aspx.
Johnson County Government

a high performance organization, a different kind of government

Johnson County Government has always valued public leadership and a pursuit of the highest levels of performance. In 2010, to remain consistent with those values, county leaders embarked upon a challenging journey with a commitment to making Johnson County a different kind of government and building around the principles of a High- or Higher-Performance Organization (HPO). Those principles have been championed for 30 years by the University of Virginia’s Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service through its highly acclaimed and successful LEAD (Leading, Educating and Developing) and SEI (Senior Executive Institute) programs.

The HPO principles were previously practiced in many parts of Johnson County Government. Although they were not actively used over the last decade, they were present in a number of county departments and agencies. In early 2011, a group of county employees, at the urging of county management, began exploring ways to revive and expand upon those public leadership principles, to empower county employees and engender a culture of continuous improvement. In August 2011, the county’s management, officials, and agency and department directors came together to form the County Leadership Team to learn and implement the principles of an HPO.

Over the next two years, the county leadership team met monthly to study and practice the key concepts of high performing organizations, and all directors attended a LEAD or SEI program at the University of Virginia. A Johnson County program, aptly called LEAP (Leadership Empowers All People), was launched in 2012 to teach high performance concepts to employees throughout the organization. The LEAP program was initially presented in a full five-day course, then a three-day version was added, and all sessions are taught exclusively by Johnson County Government employees. Now, just a few years into the effort, thousands of county employees have completed the program and are applying the concepts every day in their jobs.

As a result of the program, guiding principles were developed, including a leadership philosophy:

Leadership is a responsibility shared by all. We trust and empower each other to do the right thing for the right reason for the public good. Committed to our shared values, we provide excellent public service, seeking always to improve our organization and ourselves. Together we will leave our community better than we found it.

The county also developed a mission statement, vision statement, core values, behavioral values and operational values to help guide the county government in its day-to-day operations. Together, these guiding principles for Johnson County Government are known as our “Pillars of Performance.” More details are available online at jocogov.org/government/about-johnson-county/guiding-principles.

Within county government, many examples of Pillars of Performance successes have emerged and can be found throughout the organization. A video series highlighting Pillars of Performance examples is available online at jocogov.org/program-overview.

The HPO concept in Johnson County supports the county’s greater purpose of public service, public trust and public leadership, which are values founded on the Athenian Oath and serve as a reminder to each employee of his or her role:

We will strive unceasingly to quicken the public’s sense of civic duty. Thus, in all these ways, we will transmit this city (county) not only, not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.
Community & Involvement

Johnson County is a community where people want to work, live and raise a family because many residents consistently step forward and offer their help to deliver the hundreds of programs and services provided to residents.

The county government’s workforce of about 3,800 employees could not function successfully without the thousands of people who volunteer their time and talents to boards, commissions or programs.

Volunteerism
offering opportunities for the community to stay engaged with county government.

Volunteers are the heart of our programs

More than a dozen county departments, agencies and offices rely heavily on volunteers. The county offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities that appeal to various interests and skill sets. There is something for everyone.

Human Services is in need of volunteers for several programs. One is Catch-a-Ride, a transportation program for senior adults, people with disabilities, and others who are not able to drive and do not have access to other means of transportation. Through Catch-a-Ride, volunteers transport residents in their own vehicles to essential appointments in the county. The Human Services Department is also seeking students who need community service hours. Volunteers can join the Creative Expressions Program or host a food/hygiene drive for a multi-service center. Service hours are awarded based on the quality and quantity of the work.

The Theatre in the Park’s volunteer program is open to individuals of all ages who are interested in various aspects of the theatrical arts. Age limits apply to some opportunities. Volunteers primarily work outdoors, with the public or behind the scenes. They provide manpower at productions and special events throughout the year, assist the public, serve as parking attendants and have a special spirit of teamwork to get the job done.

The Johnson County District Attorney’s Office uses volunteers to meet the needs of victims involved in the criminal justice system. Volunteers become part of the DA’s Victim Assistance Unit and act as advocates or liaisons with the attorney handling the case.

Serving on boards and commissions

Appointments to boards and commissions offer another way for the public to play an important role in county government. These board and commission volunteers, appointed by the commissioner who represents their district, perform a variety of functions, depending on the type of body they join.

Volunteers on governing bodies exercise general control over the operation of specific county agencies, such as evaluating the agency’s executive director and establishing administrative policies. Other advisory panels, committees and task forces provide advice and recommendations to the BOCC.

Vacancies on the various appointed boards and commissions open up on a regular basis, so interested residents may check the status of terms frequently in order to stay informed about openings.

New initiatives

The BOCC established a new advisory panel in 2016, the Johnson County Food Policy Council that helps increase access to healthy foods for residents throughout the county and works with partners across the region to represent all stages of the food system, from growing and production to distribution and food service. The council’s first priority is reviewing parts of Olathe, Overland Park and Edgerton that are identified by the coalition as food deserts, a geographic
area where affordable and nutritious food may be difficult to obtain, particularly for those without access to an automobile.

**Voting and election workers**
The election process offers many ways for county residents to stay engaged with the community. Currently, more than 387,000 people ages 18 and older are registered to vote in Johnson County. Each time a county resident votes in an election, by mail-in ballot or at a polling place, he or she displays a commitment to community involvement.

The Johnson County Election Office manages voting for 2,000 elected positions in more than 540 districts, but could not do so without the thousands of people who dedicate their time working at the polls on election days. These engaged citizens supplement the Election Office’s 17-member, full-time staff and help keep the democratic process alive in our county. You can learn more at jocoelection.org.

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**2016 volunteers:**

14,259 people volunteered for a combined 369,940 hours.

Industry experts value one hour of volunteer time as being worth $23.07, meaning that in 2016, the time contributed by Johnson County Government volunteers is valued at more than $8.5 million.

In spring 2016, the county launched its Citizen’s Academy Program, a series of weekly learning experiences — including tours, discussions, lectures and hands-on activities for residents and those who work in Johnson County. Fifty-four participants graduated from the spring and fall sessions. Learn about the county’s citizens academy at jocogov.org/citizensacademy.

4,023 volunteers served the Election Office for 98,303 hours served.

**2016 boards & commissions:**

In 2016, 301 volunteers served on more than 32 boards and commissions.

The five governing boards exercise general control over the operation of specific county agencies: the Airport Commission, the Park and Recreation District Commission, the Library Board of Directors, the Mental Health Center Board of Directors, and the Developmental Supports Board of Directors.
Health & Support

Johnson County offers a variety of services to create a community of caring among residents. Our services address the wellness of body and mind along with a multitude of other offerings to protect the quality of life for the most vulnerable persons in our population.

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (DHE) protects the health and environment, prevents disease and promotes wellness for all who live, work and play in our county through exceptional public service.

DHE completed its Community Health Assessment and worked with community partners to identify priorities for the next three years: chronic disease prevention, access to care and mental health.

The department worked with state and community partners to investigate the spread of a significant norovirus outbreak and to educate the public on proper hand washing to prevent communicable disease.

DHE led collaboration with other county departments to educate the community about Zika virus facts and prevention and spearheaded surveillance activities to identify mosquito species that can transmit Zika.

New initiatives

- DHE entered into an agreement with the Nurse-Family Partnership to partner low-income, first-time mothers early in their pregnancy with registered nurses who offer ongoing nurse home visits.
- The department partnered with Healthy KC to launch Tobacco 21, an initiative to increase the minimum age of sale and purchase of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, vapor products and paraphernalia from 18- to 21-years-old.
- The LiveWell Johnson County Restaurant Program was implemented to help consumers identify restaurants with healthier menu options. The program provides free technical assistance and guidance from a registered dietitian who meets with restaurant owners and managers to tailor the program.

Awards and honors

- The National Association of County and City Health Officials’ Model Practice Award was given to DHE’s “Video Directly Observed Therapy” for TB treatment. This approach allowed DHE staff to replace in-person, directly observed therapy with video-observed medication compliance and patient assessment and is the first of its kind in the nation.

In 2016, DHE:

- Even if you never set foot in the front door, DHE protects your health by preventing, monitoring and responding to communicable disease outbreaks and other public health threats. It also protects the environment through the inspection of child care facilities, swimming pools, on-site septic systems, air emissions and the county’s landfill.
- DHE’s volunteer-supported community garden provides the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program participants with free and fresh produce from spring through early fall.
- Staff at DHE continually trains in order to be prepared for and respond to a variety of natural and man-made events that could affect public health.
Johnson County, Kansas — VIBRANCY & GROWTH 2016 Annual Report

Johnson County Human Services Department (HSD) provides essential human services as a safety net, targeting seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income families, in order to support independence, dignity and self-sufficiency.

Outreach Services designed a single point-of-entry phone number for easy access to Johnson County health and human services. OneAssist, 913-715-8989, allows residents needing information about the county’s safety net services to call one phone number for information and access to the services they need.

New initiatives
- Outreach Services secured increased utility assistance funding from the city of Overland Park and the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, along with rent assistance funding from the Church of the Resurrection, providing financial assistance to qualifying Johnson County households.
- Outreach Services began participating in the Project H.O.M.E. initiative with the Shawnee Mission School District, a program to assist homeless families.
- Rachel Wood, program intake specialist, started an initiative that provides a book to every child visiting the office for services. She began the “Breaking the Cycle” book program with donations from individuals and the Johnson County Library. This extends the library’s 6 by 6 program, where reading is one of six things a child should be able to do by age 6.

Awards and honors
- The Housing Authority received the high performance rating on the Section 8 Management Assessment Program for the 15th consecutive year. This is the highest achievement rating a public housing authority can receive.
- The Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials recognized Johnson County with the Best Landlord Newsletter, and Annette Well, lead housing quality standards inspector, with Member of the Year.

Johnson County Developmental Supports (JCDS) serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by focusing on individuals’ abilities, providing choice-driven supports and advocating alongside people to live and work in our community.

Development of specialized supports continued for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who also experience symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease or dementia.

In the third year of Project SEARCH, where a group of participants rotate through three internship experiences, the program expanded to include a new host site for internships, the Embassy Suites in Olathe.

The Community Behavioral Health Team, in partnership with Johnson County Mental Health, continued to grow as a resource for residents who may need support from both agencies. The team has realized successes for people with challenging behaviors, reducing in-patient hospitalizations and assisting people to achieve greater levels of independence.

Did you know?

- The accessibility program advocates for full access to all aspects of life for individuals with a disability who are under age 60. It provides case management and in-home services such as homemaker services and a hot meal at noon five days a week through Meals on Wheels.
- Human Services relies heavily on volunteers and has opportunities for all ages. Current volunteer openings include Meals on Wheels delivery drivers, Catch-a-Ride drivers who provide transportation to essential appointments and service hours for students who use artistic abilities or host food drives.
- The Area Agency on Aging provided 9,788 county seniors with one or more direct services in 2016.

About HSD

About JCDS: JCDS Residential Supports assists persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in living independently at more than 50 residential locations across the county.

Authorized 1,447 vouchers, providing assistance to 3,145 people, 43 percent children; 15 percent elderly; 46 percent disabled; and 40 percent households headed by females. Repair, renovation and accessibility modification assistance is provided to approximately 75 low- to moderate-income homeowners each year.

There was an increase in usage of services from the Aging & Disability Resource Center, exceeding 10,000 calls for information, referral and assistance.
New initiatives

- Kansas Rehabilitation Services division of the Kansas Department for Children and Families awarded JCDS a $1.2 million End Dependence grant to serve 120 people in a progressive employment program.
- Friends of JCDS opened its 12th home known as Santa Fe. Located in Gardner, it serves JCDS clients with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia.
- JCDS partnered with Human Resources, Corrections and the Mental Health Center on Johnson County’s first Reverse Job Fair. Employers, including Garmin, FedEx and Dillard’s distribution center, met with qualified job seekers.

Awards and honors

- The JCDS Project SEARCH program was recognized internationally for 100 percent of the first class of interns securing competitive community employment.
- The American Network of Community Options and Resources recognized Cary Odell as the 2016 Direct Support Professional of the Year for Kansas.
- An additional three years of accreditation was awarded by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, an international accreditation committee that provides in-depth peer surveys.

Johnson County Mental Health (MHN)

improves the quality of life for county residents by providing comprehensive mental health services that are of the highest possible quality and driven by personal needs.

In 2016, Mental Health implemented the Emergency Management Services Community Outreach Program employing a licensed mental health professional through the Mental Health Center to provide community-based interventions and assessments of individuals who utilize MED-ACT services. The goals are to decrease hospital admissions, emergency room visits and provide more intensive levels of care.

The Mental Health Co-Responder Program was expanded with two additional co-responders embedded in local police departments. The program now covers most of Johnson County.

Johnson County Mental Health was one of 10 organizations nationwide to receive the 2016 Community Behavioral Health Organization Tobacco & Cancer Control Community of Practice, a seven-month initiative focused on adopting tobacco and cancer prevention practices to improve the overall health of people with mental illnesses and substance use disorders.

New initiatives

- Mental Health and the Department of Corrections collaborated to relocate the Adolescent Center for Treatment Program to the Youth and Family Services Center to increase the capacity for youth and their families, while saving county funds.
- Mental Health was awarded the Kansas Rehabilitation Services’ contract for the End Dependence grant through the Kansas Department of Children and Family Services. This grant award and contract will fund community service providers to implement, maintain and expand the use of evidence-based practices, and improve employment services and competitive employment outcomes for Kansans with disabilities.

about JCDS

JCDS works with hundreds of local businesses to develop employment. More than 80 clients secured competitive employment in the community in 2016.

As the designated Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO) for Johnson County, JCDS is the entry point for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) services for county residents.

A statewide waiting list exists for Home and Community Based Services funding for I/DD services. Nearly 600 county residents are waiting for HCBS services. During the past year, 45 individuals received services through crisis and exceptions, and 46 accepted funding from the statewide waiting list.

about MHN

Mental Health has a Prevention Services and Community Engagement division that serves as a local resource for primary, secondary and tertiary prevention for mental health and substance use disorders for individuals, families and community groups interested in reducing substance misuse and other problem behaviors among the community’s youth. It sponsors:

- A Youth Leadership Summit where 200 students from 28 county high schools and middle schools convene to promote student leadership as a catalyst of change within communities. It focuses on reducing underage alcohol and drug use and preventing suicide.
- Mental Health First Aid, an eight-hour course that gives the public specific skills to help persons experiencing a mental health issue or having a mental health crisis.
- Applied Suicide Intervention Training, a two-day workshop for caregivers and residents who want to feel more prepared to prevent the immediate risk of suicide.
Johnson County residents are fortunate to live in a community of cultural events and plentiful opportunities. The county offers a variety of cultural opportunities for those who are interested in art and fine art performances. Here’s a glimpse of some of the county’s offerings.

**Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JCPRD)**

enhances the quality of life in the county by providing high-quality parks, services and recreation programs.

JCPRD was one of four finalists for the 2016 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, presented annually by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association.

Park and Recreation, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2015, was a finalist in Class I, which is for agencies serving a population more than 400,000, and is the largest of the five population-based categories. The district was previously a finalist in 1991, 1993 and 1994, and won the Gold Medal Award in 1995.

Founded in 1965, the Gold Medal Award Program honors communities in the U.S. that demonstrate excellence in parks and recreation through long-range planning, resource management, volunteerism, environmental stewardship, program development, professional development and agency recognition.

For the Gold Medal Award, agencies are judged on their ability to address the needs of those they serve through the collective energies of citizens, staff and elected officials.

**New initiatives**

**Ernie Miller Nature Center opens new exhibit gallery**

After more than a decade of planning, a new exhibit gallery at the Ernie Miller Nature Center opened in mid-May. The interactive gallery features live animals and hands-on exhibits that tell the story of Ernie Miller Park. The 900-square-foot permanent exhibit area details how natural and manmade changes have affected this 116-acre park property in Olathe. The exhibit consists of five areas, four of which relate to historic time periods. Activities, videos and live animals are featured. There’s also a water table, Plinko board and a crawl-through beaver den.

**FootGolf course opens at Tomahawk Hills Golf Course**

A new FootGolf course opened in late June at the Tomahawk Hills Golf Course. Separate from the regular course, the FootGolf course is located within the existing THGC property. The new nine-hole FootGolf course is located in the eastern lower portion of the course property with holes in an area between the fairways of regular golf holes one and three, as well as along the northern border of the course bordering Midland Drive. As the name suggests, FootGolf combines the sports of soccer and golf.
Disc golf course opens in Heritage Park
A new 18-hole disc golf course opened in Heritage Park. The new course is accessible from Heritage Park's shelter #9. Like the existing disc golf course in Shawnee Mission Park, the Heritage Park disc golf course is free to use and is open during regular park hours.

Out of School Time programs
Out of School Time (OST) programs serve kindergarten through sixth graders before and after school in three districts and 29 elementary schools throughout Johnson County. Healthy eating and physical activity is a current national initiative aimed at stemming childhood obesity by getting children moving and eating healthier foods.

JCPRD OST programs have signed on with the National Recreation and Park Association and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation to assure that all children in the programs are getting 30 minutes of high-intensity physical activity every day along with a healthy snack, as well as nutrition education to boost healthy eating habits. Since more than 1,800 students are involved every working day of the year, JCPRD is positioned to make a significant positive impact in addressing the childhood obesity epidemic in our community.

Social Emotional Learning (SEL)
SEL is a new curriculum component aimed at assisting children in developing soft skills of self-awareness, self-management, responsible decision making, social awareness and relationship skills that are necessary to have healthy interpersonal relationships now and in the future. The OST programs are exploring SEL through child-driven conflict resolution activities, service to others and periods of reflection through yoga and meditation, as a few examples.

Building addition opens in Shawnee Mission Park
Increasing efficiency for Johnson County Park Police and making front-line staff more accessible to the public were the two major goals for an addition to the JCPRD Administration Building in Shawnee Mission Park which opened in early September.

about JCPRD

JCPRD owns and maintains 92.98 miles of trails.
This includes 40.30 miles of shared use trails, 20.34 miles of equestrian trails, 13.19 miles of footpaths, 15.18 miles of mountain bike trails, 2.01 miles of cross-country running trails and 1.96 miles of other paved walking trails.

JCPRD is the largest childcare provider in Johnson County.
Its Children's Services Department provides high-quality, out-of-school programming in 29 schools throughout the De Soto, Gardner-Edgerton and Shawnee Mission school districts, as well as summer camps, early childhood programs, nature-based preschool and special populations programming for 300 participants and athletes. The department is proud to note that current staff have a combined total of 246 years of experience within the Children's Services Department.
Awards and honors

- JCPRD was recognized for its efforts to promote health and wellness in the workplace with a Gold Level Healthy KC Certification from the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce’s Healthy KC Workplace Wellness Program. Healthy KC is an initiative launched with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City and more than 100 area health and wellness organizations, businesses, government and other sectors. Certification through this program is based on four “pillars” of health: nutrition, physical activity, tobacco cessation and work/life integration. There are four levels of annual certification, based on a company’s level of achievement across the four pillars – gold, silver, bronze and honorable mention. Currently, 212 Kansas City metro workplaces participate in the Healthy KC certification program.

- Meadowbrook Park had already garnered a national award before ground officially broke in late May. In July, JCPRD was selected for a Planning Initiative Award from the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials for the Meadowbrook Park Master Plan Project. The award application notes that the new 80-acre park site is located on the site of a former 135-acre golf and country club and will be part of a mixed-use, private development in an area of the county that has a significant shortage of parks and open space. It also mentions that the first phase of development will be funded through proceeds of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district, the first-ever TIF-funded park in Johnson County. The master planning process and application took place in 2015 and included numerous public meetings — attended by more than 1,000 citizens.

Johnson County Museum

challenges people to explore the story and heritage of the county through an exceptional venue, collections, exhibitions and programs.

In April 2016, the Johnson County Museum relocated the 1950s All-Electric House from its Shawnee site to the iconic, mid-century-modern building that formerly housed the King Louie West Bowling Center and Ice Chateau.

The building is being repurposed as the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, set to open late spring or early summer 2017. With this new venue, there are unparalleled opportunities to explore the story and heritage of Johnson County with historic collections, new exhibitions and innovative programming, all greatly enriching Johnson County’s cultural life.

At the Lanesfield Historic Site in Gardner, the museum installed seven new interpretive markers around the grounds to share the history of the school, former town site, and the area’s history. These will aid visitors when the buildings at the site are closed, adding much-needed interpretive value to the site during non-public hours.

The museum received a lead gift of $300,000 from the Regnier Family Foundation for the signature exhibition “Becoming Johnson County” to be housed at the new Johnson County
Arts & Heritage Center. By the end of 2016, the museum secured 70 percent of its total $1.4 million goal.

The museum increased attendance from January through September 2016 by four percent compared to the same period in 2015. The museum closed in September to prepare for the move to the new facility.

Johnson County Department of Records and Tax Administration (RTA)

combines the duties of the Register of Deeds, County Clerk and Archives and Record Management. The RTA records and indexes all land record documents; creates, maintains and calculates the annual tax roll; and archives county records.

RTA is the home to the county archives, records management division and the county call center.

Over the last three years, RTA recorded more than 347,000 documents, including deeds, mortgages, assignments, releases and plats. Through Jan. 1, 2017, RTA received an average of 9,650 documents per month to record. In addition, the department has recorded 486 new plats. Over the past year, that’s an average of 13.5 plats per month to record.

From January 2014 through Jan. 1, 2017, the real estate parcel count in Johnson County grew by approximately 2,765 new parcels. The county currently maintains more than 209,700 real estate parcels.

New initiatives
• The process of managing Johnson County Board of County Commissioner business meetings (agendas, meeting process and minutes) was moved from the County Manager’s Office to RTA to provide continuity, communication and efficiencies.
The excellent reputation of the community's secondary schools and institutions of higher learning, public and private education are a point of pride and a hallmark of life in our community. Johnson County Government is a strong academic partner, offering numerous opportunities for educational support and advancement.

**Johnson County Library (JCL)**

provides access to ideas, information, experiences and materials that support and enrich people’s lives.

Motivated by the expansive view that the Comprehensive Library Master Plan (CLMP) offers of the library ‘ecosystem,’ long-needed changes and enhancements are being made at libraries across the county:

- New carpeting at Oak Park Library.
- Landscaping improvements at Lackman.
- Energy-wise sliding doors at Antioch.
- Aesthetic upgrades at De Soto.
- Small-scale deferred maintenance at all branches.

The Johnson County Library Board of Directors approved the CLMP in 2015. This 20-year vision identified opportunities for development of the county library system paralleling growth and evolution of the county. These large and important projects shouldn’t overshadow important maintenance and improvements underway at the branches.

**Capital projects under the CLMP that moved forward in 2016 are:**

- A new library in western Shawnee at the Monticello site at 22435 West 66th Street.
- An expanded and relocated library in Lenexa (Lackman).
- An expanded Blue Valley Library in Overland Park.

Representatives from 90 institutions — from New York to Salt Lake City to San Francisco — gathered in October making the Kansas City region the center of the national library world. The three-day forum focused on ways to improve library data-gathering and sharing; thus, providing better service to library patrons across the country.

The Central Resource Library reopened Jan. 22, 2016, after a lengthy renovation. Improvements include increasing the Black & Veatch MakerSpace six-fold, adding a “Friends of the Library” bookstore, and upgrading restrooms, heating and cooling systems, and access to power and wireless internet. The project took years of research, months of planning and 280 days of construction to complete. The $3.6 million project was funded by Johnson County Government Public Building Commission bonds.

The Central building renovation was a successful collaboration with the public building commission, library leadership and the county’s facilities department.

Completed major facilities improvements will sustain the heavy traffic seen at this location — more than 1,000 people daily. New features of the building make it easier to use and enjoy library activities and programs.

The county is making excellent progress on the Monticello Library. Construction documents are well underway after extensive citizen input and planning sessions with library staff and county officials. Monticello is anticipated to break ground in spring 2017 and is slated to open late in 2018.

Johnson County Library continued its role as a leading American library by co-hosting, with other regional libraries, the national conference of the Urban Libraries Council.
The CLMP also calls for replacing the existing Lackman Library. Johnson County Library opened the 18,000 square-foot Lackman building (at its current location) in 1986 to serve Lenexa and the surrounding community. Site restrictions make physical expansion there impractical. Meanwhile, the city of Lenexa invited the library to consider moving the branch to the new Lenexa City Center property.

The Library Board asked library senior staff to explore co-locating the library with the Lenexa City Center. The feasibility study included assessment of potential cost savings and operational benefits associated with co-location: site acquisition, shared parking and access to shared facilities for community events offered by the City Center.

The new library for the Lenexa site was approved by the Library Board of Directors, and the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners. Design is anticipated to last through fall 2017, with ground breaking shortly thereafter. The new Lenexa City Center Library has an anticipated opening date of mid-2019. The future use of the existing branch library building has not yet been determined.

**Awards and honors**

- Meagan Condon, Youth Services librarian at Blue Valley/Spring Hill branches, was selected to represent the Kansas Library Association on the Kansas statewide William Allen White award committee.

- Gregg Windsor, reference librarian, Central Library, was named to the LibraryReads National Steering Committee.

- Monica Duffield, branch manager, Central Library, was named to the Professional Development and Training Committee of the Mid-America Library Alliance.

- Associate Director for Branch Services Jennifer Mahnken was elected as Vice President of the Mid-America Library Association.

- Dawna Ofstehage, Youth Services librarian, received a competitive American Library Association grant to support services for incarcerated populations.

- Dennis Ross, Youth Services supervisor, Central Library, oversaw the library’s participation in the Summer Lunch initiatives produced by Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas (headquarters just across the street from Central).
Water quality education
Because water quality is an important issue in the county, Extension informs residents of university-based best practices, such as mulch mowing leaves back into the lawn, and keeping grass and leaf debris from street gutters and stormwater drains. Organic debris releases phosphates and nitrates as they decompose which contributes to reduced water quality. By following this practice, residents are able to do their part in preventing water pollution.

Water quality education delivered by both the agriculture and horticulture programs includes free soil testing which saves time and money for the county’s small acreage owners, agricultural producers and residents by avoiding the unnecessary application of chemicals.

Zika virus
Zika virus became a new public health threat during the summer and offered Extension the opportunity to partner with the county’s Health and Environment and Stormwater Management, and others to provide training to cities on how to respond to the new threat. Extension presented material on mosquito biology, distribution, identification, prevention and control.

Oak Leaf Itch Mites
2016 was a particularly bad year for oak leaf itch mites, a microscopic eight-legged pest whose bites cause intense itching in people. Calls to Extension steadily increased throughout the summer and fall from residents seeking answers to the cause of their misery. A rash with small blisters in the center results from the bites. Local and national media, including The Wall Street Journal, interviewed agents on measures the public could take to reduce their exposure to the arachnids that first arrived in the area in 2004.

Local Guinness World Record attempted
Extension’s agriculture and horticulture agents teamed up to officially weigh a peach from the orchard of Johnson County producer Mark Angermayer of Tubby Fruits in Bucyrus for submission to the Guinness World Records as the world’s heaviest peach. Guinness requires two certified scientists to measure the peach using a verified scale capable of measuring to .01 grams, which was provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The process was documented by both video and photos. The peach had to be consumed as proof that the fruit was not altered to skew the results. Agents measured both the circumference and diameter of the peach and then placed the fruit on the scale. It weighed 763.39 grams — or 1.68 pounds. Documentation was submitted to Guinness World Records in August 2016. The resulting media attention around Angermayer’s peach brought national and international attention to the county.
Johnson County is a desired destination for businesses and residents drawn to the area by our amenities, strong workforce, excellent schools and responsible leadership. Many services that county government offers are critical to helping our community flourish.

**Johnson County Airport Commission (JCAC)**

develops and operates a system of air transportation facilities that serve the aviation needs of the region, contribute to the economic vitality and quality of life in the county, and integrate with the National Plan for Integrated Airports Systems.

In 2016, JCAC:

- Was home to the third and fourth highest number of aircraft operations of any airport in Kansas, New Century AirCenter and Johnson County Executive Airport, respectively.
- Received a reconditioned locomotive to support its rail services.
- Began a new fire/safety inspection of T-hangars at New Century.
- Installed new plantings and other beautification efforts at both airports, including a new monument sign at Executive Airport.
- Supported the 2016 Commemorative Air Force Air Show.
- Completed mill and overlay of Taxiway Alpha.

**Did you know?**

JCAC operates **two air transportation facilities** — Johnson County Executive Airport in Olathe and New Century AirCenter in unincorporated Johnson County — to meet the aviation needs of the region, a water distribution facility, a short-line railroad and a business park that is home to more than 60 diverse global corporations. The JCAC is working to unlock **more than 700 acres for new business development at New Century AirCenter**. The business park is open for additional commercial and industrial development ranging from one to several hundred acres in size.

**In addition...**

JCAC has been completely **self-sufficient**, receiving no funding from the county’s general fund, for the last 10 years.

The economic impact of both the airports and the business park is **more than $2 billion** for Johnson County and the Kansas City region overall.
Office of the County Appraiser

establishes fair values of real and personal property that meet compliance standards established by the state.

In 2016, property values were up in the county, property sales remained strong and activity in new construction was sustained. Property development/renaissance continued to spur economic growth and development, indicated by the number of active industrial revenue bonds, neighborhood redevelopment areas and Tax Increment Finance districts.

Appraised value changes for the year indicate an increase of 93 percent of residential real property and 74.6 percent of commercial real property.

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2016</th>
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<tr>
<td>Residential value reappraisal changed</td>
<td>4.98%</td>
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Johnson County Election Office

is responsible for voter registration and conducting all federal, state and local elections in the county. The office serves more than 385,000 registered voters in the county.

The Johnson County Election Office staffed an unprecedented six advanced polling places during the 2016 general election. Four of the six voting sites were new locations. They were spread across the county to allow voters to vote early, making it easy and convenient in both the primary and general elections.

The Election Office exceeded its goal to recruit more than 3,900 people to work the polling places during the presidential election.

The electronic poll pad was the superstar of the primary and general elections, replacing the standard paper poll book. This new technological addition is based on the iPad platform. It sped up the check-in process and was more efficient than using poll books. The Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved the purchase of 600 poll pads.

New initiatives

The Election Office initiated a polling place equipment laboratory training program called “Practice Makes Perfect.” More than 1,800 election workers voluntarily practiced on the election equipment, voting machines, encoders and poll pads to gain competence and confidence in the operation of voting equipment prior to the election.

Did you know?

All appraisers in Johnson County are on a continuous appraisal education path to achieve designations (and class hours to retain them), including the biennial attendance of Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

The Kansas Division of Property Valuation continues to recognize Johnson County for maintaining the prestigious position of being in Statistical and Substantial Compliance of appraised values. The value of all property appraised must be within 90 to 110 percent of the market price. Johnson County has achieved success in the State of Kansas Review each year since 1993.

In 2016, the Election Office:

- Had only 17 full-time staff, but had as many as 105 full-time temporary staff in the ramp up to the election.
- Deployed all 2,407 voting machines and encoders for the election in 209 polling locations.
- Set an all-time record in Johnson County of 407,550 registered voters.
- Administered seven elections throughout the county.

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Planning, Development and Codes ensures coordinated, efficient and safe development for current and future county residents and businesses by providing professional long-range planning; policy and demographic analysis; development plan reviews; zoning and building code enforcement; and construction contractor licensing, education and monitoring.

The Board of County Commissioners approved the update of three major chapters of the Johnson County Rural Comprehensive Plan:

1. Land Use Plan and Policy Area Plan Map.
2. Comprehensive Arterial Road Network Plan.
3. Park and Open Space Plan.

The department completed codification of county zoning and subdivision regulations, last updated in 2008. It was printed and distributed to all appointed advisory boards and website documents were updated.

In 2016, the Building Codes division began implementation of the newly adopted 2012 International Building Codes, including new energy conservation provisions. The division also provided support to the city of Edgerton for the past three years, including plan reviews and field inspections for six intermodal distribution centers, totaling nearly 4 million square feet.

The county’s Contractor Licensing division celebrated its 15th anniversary. Established in 2001 with a budget of $80,000 and nine local participating jurisdictions, the division had a total of 17 local participating jurisdictions and a self-funded budget that exceeded $1.2 million in 2016.

New initiatives

- The Board of County Commissioners and Planning Commission are studying whether there is a need to establish special “agritourism” zoning regulations, which would allow farm-associated commercial activities for the enjoyment of visitors that generates supplemental income at a working farm or ranch.
- The department developed certified soil erosion and sediment control training as part of contractor licensing education in partnership with the county’s Public Works Stormwater Management division.
- A special concentrated zoning code enforcement effort is underway for several older rural subdivisions experiencing increasing non-conforming property use complaints.

Awards and honors

- The Contractor Licensing Program was chosen as the International Code Council’s (ICC) first accredited “Preferred Provider Program.”
- Jerry Mallory was elected to serve on the ICC’s National Board of Directors.
- Sean Reid was selected to serve on the ICC’s National Education Committee.
- The Contractor Licensing Program was awarded the “Community Educator and Life Guardian Award” by the Carbon Monoxide Safety Association (COSA).

Additionally, about Planning, Development and Codes:

The Planning division has processed more than 3,200 zoning and subdivision applications over its 30-year existence.

The Codes division conducted more than 4,200 building inspections and more than 375 fire safety inspections.

The Contractor Licensing division licensed more than 3,400 building contractor companies and is a national leader in providing contractors code education in the United States for its provision of more than 366 classes and distribution of more than 3,100 code books and more than 12,000 training manuals to contractors, architects, engineers and building inspectors.

The Planning division has processed more than 3,200 zoning and subdivision applications over its 30-year existence.
Johnson County Public Works and Infrastructure
plans, develops and implements the county’s policies, goals and objectives.

Public Works partnered with the BNSF Railway to reconfigure the railroad crossing located on Clare Road just south of Old 56 Highway in unincorporated Johnson County. Vehicles were sustaining damage due to the difference in elevation between two sets of parallel super-elevated tracks and a potential existed for large trucks to get stuck on the tracks. BNSF adjusted the elevation of the tracks and Public Works reconfigured the approach pavement to provide a smoother and safer crossing.

Road and bridge construction on 183rd Street from Mission Road to Nall Avenue is on schedule for completion in fall 2017 to accommodate future traffic needs in southeastern Johnson County. The new mile of roadway and bridge over the BNSF railroad and a tributary to the Blue River will provide a critical missing east-west link.

The Noxious Weed division partnered with JCPRD to control and eradicate noxious weeds on several hundred acres of public lands.

New initiatives
• Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain mapping updates.
• Implementation of the Stormwater Management Program’s strategic plan.

Awards and honors
• The 127th Street Bridge over Captain Creek will receive funding through KDOT’s Off-System Bridge Program for 2018. KDOT had approximately $8 million for the 2018 Off-System Bridge Program and received 72 applications, totaling $32.2 million. This project was one of 17 chosen to receive funding.
• Public Works’ Mission Road project received the Public Improvement Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas. The project improved safety and mobility by removing three switchback curves and replacing them with a single horizontal curve designed for 45 mph. Prior to the improvements, the sight distance along the scenic route was below standard. Minimizing the project footprint with retaining walls and a bridge preserved the natural aesthetics. The improved roadway provides a safe, efficient route for southern Johnson County residents to and from the Kansas City metro area. Residences along the route benefit directly with improved sight lines from their entrances and safer access. In addition to improvements to the horizontal curve, six-foot paved shoulders were added to both sides of the road. This increased the safety benefits for both vehicles and bicyclists.

Johnson County Transit
Johnson County made significant strides toward a more connected and regionally coordinated transit system to serve our customers and expand access to jobs, education and many retail locations.

In July 2016, three areas of service — the 556-Metcalf/Plaza, the 575-75th Street/Quivira, and the 75-75th Street routes — were expanded to offer additional and more frequent trips. A new route — the 495 on 95th Street — was introduced, providing east-west service during morning and afternoon rush hours.

Johnson County reduced the fares for the local suburban commuter express routes, from...
$2.25 to $1.50, and for the popular K-10 Connector service, which connects Johnson County Community College and the University of Kansas-Edwards Campus in Overland Park with the University of Kansas in Lawrence. The fare reduction, from $3.50 to $3, brings this route in line with the prices of similar routes in the RideKC region and creates a more seamless transit network for customers in the county and across the metropolitan area.

Additional service improvements in 2016

- The 556-Metcalf/Plaza route added new trips to the Prairiefire entertainment district as well as to Corbin Park and Johnson County Community College during morning and evening rush hours.

- The 575-75th Street/Quivira route doubled service between 75th and Troost in Kansas City, Missouri, and the KU-Edwards Campus, so the service operates every 30 minutes in rush hours and every hour midday.

- The 75-75th Street route added a fourth round-trip between the Waldo area and Overland Park, which serves employers such as Sprint, Quintiles, Black & Veatch and Saint Luke’s South, as well as Town Center Plaza and Park Place in Leawood.

- The 495-95th Street route is a new east-west service along 95th Street from 74th Terrace and Broadway in the Waldo neighborhood out to Oak Park Mall in Overland Park, and will connect to Lenexa City Center in 2017.

Johnson County Wastewater (JCW)

protects our environment, serves our customers and enhances our communities.

In September, the county named Susan Pekarek general manager after she served as the interim general manager following the retirement of John O’Neil after 27 years of service. She now oversees the $280 million Tomahawk Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrade and expansion project, the largest project JCW will have completed in its 70-year history; it is also the largest capital project the county will have completed. Overall, JCW’s general manager oversees assets in excess of $2 billion.

The Tomahawk Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility, located at 10701 Lee Boulevard in Leawood, was originally built in 1955. More than 60 years later, times have changed and so have the needs of the facility. New water quality regulations require upgrades to the existing Tomahawk Creek facility to improve water quality in Indian Creek and downstream waters.

The facility currently treats 7 million gallons per day — 40 percent of the wastewater collected from parts of Leawood, Olathe, Overland Park and Prairie Village. The remaining 60 percent is currently sent to Kansas City, Missouri, for treatment. In 2016, $17 million was budgeted for payments to Kansas City.

Johnson County Wastewater studied how to accomplish two goals in the most cost-effective manner:

- Meeting new water quality regulations, requiring upgrades to the existing treatment facility.

- Confirming a previous study recommendation to expand the Tomahawk Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility and discontinue sending flow to Kansas City as the most cost-effective, long-term solution.

The project team completed the preliminary phase of the project and conducted several public outreach meetings.
A recommendation for the next phase of the project was presented to the Board of County Commissioners on March 31, 2016. At that time, the commission directed JCW to execute the regulatory permit for the project and to bring forward an authorization for design of the recommended improvements. Receiving commission approval of that authorization and design of the improvements began in summer 2016. The construction is projected to begin in summer 2018 and the improved facility is anticipated to be placed in service by the end of 2021.

**New initiatives**

- The Customer Relations division partnered with the South Central Planning and Development Commission to implement a new permitting application that will streamline the department’s plan review process. The new application combines five databases for sewer main projects, commercial building reviews, permit issuance, the Fats, Oils and Grease Program, and street/storm projects. Benefits include electronic plan review and permit issuance, automation of many manual data gathering and reporting functions, the reduction of duplicate data and a customer portal to help the development community better track its projects and improve communication.

- JCW embarked on a department-wide customer service training initiative to reinforce its commitment to customer satisfaction by providing staff with the tools necessary to deliver the highest possible level of customer service.

- Homeowners are responsible for the repair and replacement of their private service line from the home’s connection to the point of connection on the public sanitary sewer main. The service line sometimes runs under paved public streets in public street right-of-way. To mitigate public street restoration expense, the county commission approved a pilot Street Restoration Reimbursement Program in March 2016 which allows reimbursement of up to $5,000 per single family residential property for restoration of the paved public street in the public street right-of-way. JCW administers the program which is subject to the homeowner meeting specific application and qualification requirements. The pilot program is for a total of $500,000.

**Johnson County Department of Health and Environment**

helps reduce waste in homes, businesses and schools.

The department launched an education campaign aimed at reducing contamination in recycling by informing residents about what can and can’t go in recycle bins. The education campaign included a video series made in-house without a budget, titled “In the Bin with Greta Green,” a social media campaign and presentations to community and neighborhood groups. The video and social media campaign reached more than 300,000 people. The videos were viewed more than 108,000 times on social media and received positive public response. A new page, “In the Bin,” was created on the DHE website and received 3,339 page visits.

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) latex paint re-blending program won a national award for program innovation from the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association. Residents can buy the re-blended paint for a nominal cost. The program sold more than $45,000 worth of paint in 2016 and recruited new volunteers who have donated hundreds of hours to keep the paint out of the landfill.

The Solid Waste Business Assistance Program provided free consulting to 75 businesses, churches and schools, assisting with waste diversion and increased recycling efforts.
In 2016, TFM:
The county insures two locomotives at the New Century AirCenter.

The county’s Department of Motor Vehicle employees in TFM processed 458,287 registration renewals and 121,043 original title transactions. DMV also processed 100,483 miscellaneous transactions.

Since instituting the $5 facility fee, 79 percent of residents are renewing their vehicle registrations online or by mail.

Did you know?
79% renew online or by mail

about DHE
DHE has a team of professionals, including landfill inspectors, air emission inspectors, swimming pool inspectors, on-site septic inspectors and a household hazardous waste collection facility, all working to protect the environment.

Since the HHW program started in 1993, nearly 200,000 gallons of latex paint have been collected.

and helped 10 schools launch cafeteria composting and recycling programs. One of the highlights of this program is a partnership with Downtown Overland Park. This program includes free consulting, education, as well as assistance with signs and bins.

In addition, the Shawnee Mission School District’s cafeteria composting and recycling program pairs county employees with the school district to implement composting and recycling programs in all its school cafeterias. This is the second year for this specific program. DHE’s solid waste staff provides education and assistance when each school launches its program and provides staffing during the lunch period to help the students learn the new process. The program also provides funding to help purchase the new compost and recycling bins.

In 2016, DHE launched nine programs were started. By composting and recycling, school cafeterias are seeing as much as an 85 percent reduction in the trash generated.

**Treasury and Financial Management Department**
provides financial reporting and information, bills, collects and distributes tax monies, administers an open and competitive procurement process, administers vehicle registrations and titles, maintains risk management and insurance programs and more.

County purchasing cards deliver an effective and efficient purchasing process for small purchases throughout the organization. More than 40,000 purchasing card transactions were generated in 2016, representing approximately 75 percent of the transaction volume, but only 7 percent of all expenditures. The card program saves taxpayers more than $1.8 million annually. In addition:

- Our investment portfolio average daily balance is $526 million, with peaks in excess of $1 billion each December.
- The county carries $950 million in property insurance coverage.
- 750 county vehicles are covered — traveling 5.5 million miles annually.
- The county insures a 1955 Chevrolet Belair (a Johnson County Museum display).
- $431,359 in revenue received from county surplus sold in 2016.

The county engaged a consultant to study operational efficiency and effectiveness of the Motor Vehicle operation. Findings and recommendations were presented to the county commissioners in spring 2016, indicating the county operates a well-run and managed Motor Vehicle division, and sets high customer service standards. The study invests in and offers services not found in other counties, such as dedicated phone staff and county-originated, customized registration renewal notices.

The Treasury division collected more than $1.15 billion in property taxes with a delinquency rate of only 0.91 percent. More than 95 percent of all collections were processed through cost-effective and highly automated payment channels.

**Awards and honors**
- The Benefits division received the Gold Level Healthy KC Certification, the highest level of certification from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City.
- The Procurement division received the 2016 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award, given annually for promoting innovation, professionalism, e-procurement, productivity and leadership in the procurement field.
- The Accounting division received the 2016 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting which recognizes organizations that demonstrate transparency and full disclosure in financial reporting.
A sense of safety and protection is important to county residents. The Johnson County Sheriff and District Court provide protection in the traditional sense, along with Emergency Management and Communications in times of crisis.

Johnson County District Court looks to dispense justice, enhance social order, resolve disputes, maintain rule of law and ensure due process.

The court began a new initiative, Veterans Treatment Court, the first in the state of Kansas, in January 2016. The mission of the VTC is to identify veterans in the criminal justice system and, when eligible, get them into treatment and court supervision as an alternative to incarceration. VTC offers two alternatives to jail time: a probation track and a diversion track through the Johnson County District Attorney’s Office. These programs allow eligible veterans to voluntarily participate in a 12- to 18-month program of frequent court appearances, drug and alcohol testing, treatment, recovery support meetings and a mentor program with another veteran.

The district court formally celebrated Constitution Day in September 2016. The court hosted more than 1,200 local students from third graders to high school seniors. Area students participated in an interactive Civics 101 session, toured the courthouse, observed live court proceedings and participated in career day type activities. The students learned how the court functions by meeting judges, lawyers, prosecutors, probation officers and court reporters.

Last year, the Help Center implemented a night court program for pro se litigants on any uncontested divorce and parenting cases. Attorneys are also on hand during night court to review paperwork at no fee. Night court is designed to improve access to justice by allowing the expeditious and convenient resolution of uncontested cases.

about Johnson County District Court

Johnson County District Court continues to be a leader in the state of Kansas with judges and department directors serving on key committees that make important policy recommendations for the judiciary.

The court continues to operate pilot programs for the implementation of emerging evidence-based practices at Court Services. District and county clerks lead the way in identifying the evolution of the traditional clerk role.

In its second year of operation, the Help Center continues to grow, serving on average 550 individuals per month. In 2016, the Help Center served 200 individuals per month more than in 2015. Attorneys from Kansas Legal Services are available in the Help Center twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, with free services for qualifying residents.
Johnson County Department of Corrections
leads by example, supports and protects our community by encouraging responsibility and positive lasting change for a better future.

In 2016, Department of Corrections advanced several programs, as follows:

Adolescent Center for Treatment (ACT) transition
Mental Health and Corrections officials partnered to move the Adolescent Center for Treatment to the Youth and Family Services Center. This was prompted by the closing of the Youth Residential Center II and provided for the subsequent expansion of ACT beds from 21 to 30. As a residential substance-use disorder treatment provider, ACT serves as the safety net for uninsured and under-insured youth in Kansas and represents a unique and valuable resource to county residents.

Welding Program
Many of Corrections’ probation clients lack essential job skills or training. It is very difficult for these clients earning minimum wage to address their financial obligations, let alone provide support for their families. To address this issue, Adult Residential Center staff, in partnership with community volunteers, implemented an Introduction to Welding Program. This eight- to 10-week program includes classroom and welding shop instruction. The program goal is to provide adult offender clients with specific training that will equip them with the skills needed to work for local metal fabrication and manufacturing employers.

Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP)
Corrections began a new partnership with Youth Advocate Programs, Inc., a nationally recognized nonprofit organization founded in 1975 to provide community-based alternatives to detention, incarceration, and out-of-home placements for high-need youth and their families. YAP’s model utilizes paid advocates to implement wraparound and mentoring services.

Community Program Unit
As a result of 2016 Juvenile Justice Reform, three juvenile positions were repurposed and Corrections created a Community Program Unit. The community program coordinator and two risk reduction specialists have been busy developing and implementing a process for referring juvenile offenders to various evidence-based, community programs. These staff are also being trained to facilitate Common Sense Parenting and Aggression Replacement Training.

Culinary Program
In 2016, the Adult Residential Center, in partnership with Episcopal Community Services, implemented a new Culinary Arts Program. This 15-week program began on Sept. 19 with eight students. Students participate in group and individual sessions with a focus on life skills and kitchen skills. Students who successfully complete the program earn a culinary certificate including: Safe Serv sanitation training, food handler certification, basic culinary skills and on-the-job training. These skills can assist program graduates in obtaining and maintaining employment in the restaurant industry.

One of the county’s community programs, Strengthening Families, received the Excellence in Community Service Award, presented by United Community Services last December. The award recognizes a partnership that has significantly improved the lives of Johnson County residents.

This partnership includes Lee Jost, pastor of Christ the Servant Evangelical Covenant Church, and members of his congregation, the Johnson County Mental Health Center, Johnson County Department of Corrections, and numerous other partners within the community, including law enforcement and other churches.

Strengthening Families is an evidence-based program that works with family members to help them learn how to improve interaction with each other.
Johnson County District Attorney’s Office protects the public through a fair application of the law, through earning and maintaining public trust, and advocating for victims’ rights.

Last year the Economic Crime Unit surpassed all previous years in recovered restitution, an amount composed of mediated resolutions and filed cases where restitution has been paid. The total recovered restitution exceeds $528,000.

District Attorney investigators are using new technology including Bank Scan and Cell Hawk to assist with investigations in narcotics, traffic and white collar cases.

The DA's Office has been successful in identifying and using new software and technology to find parents and other relatives in “child in need of care” cases, so children’s rights are protected throughout the course of court intervention, ensuring positive outcomes for children.

New initiatives

- The expansion of Domestic Violence Awareness Month presentation on dating violence was made to one Olathe high school in 2015 and was presented to all four Olathe high schools in 2016.
- An additional pre-file diversion program option for juvenile referrals was created, where the DA’s Office identifies a respondent’s mental health needs or family functioning challenges.

Awards and honors

- Vanessa Riebli, Johnson County assistant district attorney, received Kansas’ Prosecutor of the Year Award at the bi-annual Kansas County & District Attorneys Association conference held in Wichita.
- On April 14, the Johnson County Domestic Violence Court Program received the Outstanding Court Victim Service Award from Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt during an awards ceremony at the annual Crime Victims’ Rights Week conference held in Topeka.
- District Attorney Steve Howe received the 2016 Legacy Award at the NAACP Awards Dinner for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Howe was recognized for his fair and equal oversight of cases.

Johnson County Office of the District Court Trustee

is dedicated to enriching the financial lives of the children and families it serves by providing information resources, reliable payment records and fair enforcement of family support orders.

The Office of the District Court Trustee is responsible for enforcement of all Johnson County support orders as well as other court orders referred by another court. It collects child support and spousal support (sometimes called maintenance and/or alimony) for more than 8,500 court orders. The office’s budget is funded by support enforcement fees, which at 2.5 percent, with a cap of $30 per month since Feb. 1, 2014, is one of the lowest fees collected in Kansas.

Fees are also collected for Court Services for various classes and programs, such as Parents Forever, mediation, conciliation, custody evaluations and the Supervised Visitation Program.

The trustee is empowered to pursue all civil remedies in establishing and enforcing the payment of support. The first step in enforcement is often an Income

Did you know?

Nicolette Bennett was appointed Trustee in January 2016 and hired Deputy Trustee Bradly H. Bergman who joined the county in March 2016 (both the previous Trustee and the Deputy Trustee retired at the end of 2015).
Withholding Order pursuant to the Kansas Income Withholding Act. There may be a court hearing to address failure to pay, pursue someone for contempt of court, file liens against insurance and workers compensation claims, and garnish bank accounts. The trustee’s office participates in the Kansas Debt Recovery System which permits it to collect against Kansas Individual Income Tax Refunds, KPERS and unclaimed property.

Obligors who do not make support payments as ordered may be served with an Order to Appear for failure to pay. When served with the Order to Appear, the obligor is given a hearing date and is ordered to appear before the Hearing Officer to review the payment record.

After hearing statements from the Court Trustee, the obligor and any other parties to the case, the Hearing Officer may enter orders in the matter as deemed appropriate for the case. If the obligor has been personally served with an Order to Appear and fails to appear for the court hearing, a warrant for his or her arrest may be issued.

**Emergency Management and Communications (EMC)** provides the essential connection between the community and emergency services while doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason.

Emergency Management finalized the intensive five-year update of the county’s Emergency Operations Plan, involving more than 250 representatives from private, nonprofit and public sector partners at the city, county, regional, state and federal levels. The county commission approved the plan in April.

Emergency Management partnered with FEMA and the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes to conduct the nation’s first Ready Business Workshop. More than 80 representatives from local private sector, public sector, nongovernmental and voluntary organizations attended. The workshop focused on providing businesses and organizations with skills and techniques to prepare for severe weather.

Emergency Management conducted its second annual, full-scale disaster exercise, an opportunity for more than 150 county leaders, cities and other community partners to practice and evaluate key disaster response capabilities.

To enhance the county’s understanding of best practices related to emergency notifications and community preparedness efforts, Emergency Management designed and facilitated a workshop for key stakeholders. Dennis Mileti presented social science research related to public warning and community disaster education.

**New initiatives**

- EMC added an Emergency Medical Services case manager to the EMS Medical Director Program as a collaborative effort between the Medical Director Program and Mental Health to benefit all fire, EMS and hospitals in the system. The goals are to reduce inappropriate use of the 911 system, reduce unnecessary emergency room visits, assist clients with access to available local/regional resources and assist hospitals with high-risk discharges back into the community.

- The Emergency Management division designed and initiated a new annual exercise program aimed at defining and addressing one large emergency response issue each year.

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**2016 in EMC:**

Johnson County received its designation as a HeartSafe Community from the state in August during the annual HeartSafe Survivor.

Text to 911 is fully implemented across Johnson County. Residents are encouraged to “Call if you can. Text if can’t.”

In 2016, the Emergency Communications Center answered in excess of 107,000 calls, resulting in the processing of nearly 58,000 fire and EMS calls for service.
Emergency Medical Services (MED-ACT) helps ensure medical emergencies in the county have the best possible outcome.

MED-ACT worked to strengthen the chain of survival from cardiac arrest by training citizens in hands-only CPR. Through partnerships with area fire departments, hospitals and schools, more than 40,000 citizens have now been trained. The percentage of cardiac arrest patients who benefit from bystander CPR has increased to 66 percent.

The Johnson County EMS system now has a survival rate of 57 percent for patients who experience a witnessed cardiac arrest and are found in a shockable heart rhythm, compared to a national average of 33 percent. (Note: This is the national average for 2015. The national average for 2016 was not available at the time of publishing this report.) In addition, HeartSafe officially received its 501(c)(3) status, establishing a board of directors and bylaws.

Johnson County’s HeartSafe Program was instrumental in the county being designated as a HeartSafe Kansas Community by the HeartSafe Kansas Committee.

New initiatives
• The county’s response plan for hostile events moved from the classroom to simulated, but realistic, settings in the community. More than 1,400 police, fire and EMS responders trained side-by-side during 45 sessions to coordinate response to situations that may result in mass casualties such as an active shooter, hostage situation, bomb detonation or chemical release.
• MED-ACT deployed a distance education initiative providing online training to more than 800 providers. Courses include the latest information and procedures while ensuring providers’ ability to maintain their national and state level certifications.

Awards and honors
• The VFW recognized Lieutenant Anthony Sellen the EMT Public Servant Award. He won the award at the post and district levels and placed second in the state.
• Battalion Chief Michael Woolery celebrated his 40th anniversary with MED-ACT.

Johnson County Sheriff’s Office
dedicated to duty, honor and service in Johnson County.

Patrol and Warrants
Numerous members of the Patrol and Warrants divisions received commendations in 2016 for dedication to duty, bravery and lifesaving efforts. Deputies Ed Pileski, Clint Peterson and Jerod Blanton received the Medal of Courage; Deputies Chris Pechnik, Sabrina Sherman, Greg Vickers, James Bradley and Sergeants Chris Mills, Shane Chase and Justin Kohlmeier received Lifesaving Awards; and Master Deputy Brandon Collins posthumously received the Lifesaving Award.

The Johnson County Sheriff’s Office suffered the tragic loss of Master Deputy Brandon Collins when he was killed in the line of duty on Sept. 11, 2016. He left behind his wife, Traci, and daughters, Ashlee and Lily. The Sheriff’s Office dedicated a memorial wall at the Operations Building to honor Brandon’s ultimate sacrifice.

Investigations Bureau
The Sheriff’s Office continues to provide advanced investigative services through the Investigations Bureau. The bureau is organized into functional groups: crimes
against property, crimes against persons, cybercrime, crime scene processing and crime analysis.

Sheriff’s investigators are assigned crimes reported in the unincorporated areas of the county and from at least six of the cities in the county. Investigative staff routinely collaborate with investigators from area police departments as well as with state and federal investigative agencies to share information, leads and resources.

They provide training on investigative methods to other law enforcement agencies as requested and they serve on the Metro Squad when it is activated to investigate homicides committed in the Kansas City region.

**Detention Bureau**

The Detention Bureau now has two buildings, the New Century Adult Detention Center and the Central Booking Facility in Olathe.

**Communications**

The Sheriff’s Office operates a primary public safety answering point (dispatch center) located at the County Communications Center in Olathe. The Communications division is the contact point for emergency services (police, fire and ambulance) in the unincorporated areas of Johnson County and the cities of De Soto, Edgerton, Fairway, Gardner, Lake Quivira, Merriam, Mission, Olathe, Roeland Park, Spring Hill and Westwood. In cases where fire or ambulance services are needed, the call is immediately relayed to Johnson County Emergency Communications. The division took 485 text-to-911 calls in 2016 and 261,972 phone calls in 2016.

**Training**

The Training Division strives each year to enhance the training curriculum provided to our staff. The training is well received and the staff routinely receives accolades on their knowledge and professionalism. We conduct an array of training: trauma care, use of force, problem solving and decision making, active shooter and community relations.

Internal hours provided: 53,063  
External hours received: 8,691

**Court Security**

In 2016, Court Security assisted in conducting active shooter classes for county employees. This class prepares people to be more aware of their surroundings and to notice possible problems that may occur. It also focuses on reactions to an active shooter situation in a safe and appropriate manner. Approximately 250 county employees have taken this class.

**Crime Lab**

The Sheriff’s Office Criminalistics Laboratory completed a major project in December with the implementation of a new, paperless Laboratory Information Management System. This computerized and paperless system entirely replaces, updates and streamlines various systems and processes, most of which were antiquated. It includes a web-based, secure portal for all customer agencies where they enter all required information at their convenience prior to arriving at the laboratory.

**Personnel**

In 2016, the Sheriff’s Office Records Division welcomed another participant from Project SEARCH, Samantha Armitage. Her internship began March 2016 and lasted 12 weeks. Armitage quickly learned the different technology systems and assisted in checking for errors in paperwork. She moved on from the Sheriff’s Office, but left a great impression.
Elected Johnson County officials

**2017 Johnson County Board of County Commissioners**

- **Chairman Ed Eilert**  
  Office: 715-0500
- **Calvin “Cal” H. Hayden**  
  Sheriff  
  Office: 715-5502  
  Fax: 715-5806
- **Steve Howe**  
  District Attorney  
  Office: 715-3000  
  Fax: 715-3040

**Former elected officials from 2016**  
whose positions ended on Jan. 8, 2017

- **Ronald “Ron” Shaffer**  
  1st district  
  Office: 715-0431
- **James “Jim” P. Allen**  
  2nd district  
  Office: 715-0432
- **Steven “Steve” C. Klika**  
  3rd district  
  Office: 715-0433
- **Jason Osterhaus**  
  4th district  
  Office: 715-0434
- **Michael Ashcraft**  
  5th district  
  Office: 715-0435
- **Michael “Mike” Brown**  
  6th District  
  Office: 715-0436
- **Frank Denning**  
  Sheriff
- **John Toplikar**  
  6th District

**Commission districts**

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2016 Annual Report
County managers

Hannes Zacharias  
County Manager  
Office: 715-0731

Penny Postoak Ferguson  
Deputy County Manager  
Office: 715-0733

Maury Thompson  
Assistant County Manager  
Office: 715-0734

Joe Waters  
Assistant County Manager  
Office: 715-0725

Visit Johnson County Government online at jocogov.org

Join our social media network —

facebook.com/jocogov  
twitter.com/jocogov  
instagram.com/jocogov  
youtube — jocogov

County phone numbers

Johnson County Information ....................................................... 913-715-5000
Kansas Relay Operator ............................................................... 800-766-3777
Johnson County Administration Building .............................. 913-715-5000
Johnson County Courthouse ................................................... 913-715-5000
Airport Commission .................................................................. 913-715-6000
Appraiser’s Office Customer Service ..................................... 913-715-9000
Audit Services ............................................................................ 913-715-1830
Board of County Commissioners Office ................................. 913-715-0430
Budget and Financial Planning ............................................... 913-715-0605
Chief Counsel and Legal Services ........................................... 913-715-1900
Corrections .................................................................................. 913-715-4500
County Manager’s Office .......................................................... 913-715-0725
Court Services ............................................................................ 913-715-7400
Department of Health and Environment ............................... 913-826-1200
Department of Technology and Innovation ......................... 913-715-1500
Johnson County Developmental Supports ......................... 913-826-2626
District Attorney’s Office ........................................................... 913-715-3000
District Court Trustee ............................................................... 913-715-3600
District Courts ............................................................................ 913-715-3300
Elections Office ........................................................................... 913-782-3441
Emergency Management and Communications ................. 913-782-3038
Facilities Management & Print Shop ..................................... 913-715-1100
Human Resources ..................................................................... 913-715-1400
Human Services ........................................................................ 913-715-8800
Justice Information Management Systems ............................ 913-715-4058
Law Library ................................................................................ 913-715-4154
Library ....................................................................................... 913-826-4600
MED-ACT ................................................................................... 913-715-1950
Mental Health Center .............................................................. 913-826-4200
Park and Recreation District .................................................. 913-438-7275
Planning, Development and Codes ...................................... 913-715-2200
Public Works ............................................................................. 913-715-8300
Records and Tax Administration and Archives ..................... 913-715-0775
Sheriff’s Office .......................................................................... 913-715-5800
Treasury and Financial Management Office ......................... 913-715-0525
Wastewater Department ......................................................... 913-715-8500