Focus on Your Community

2019 Year in Review
This year’s report honors the many contributions that residents make to county government. This includes participating in a board or commission, attending county events, volunteering, and much more. Pictured above, Allan Abraham, 15, volunteers at the Blue Valley branch of Johnson County Library. Photo by Jason Dailey.

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 30 agencies, departments and offices.

Approximately 4,000 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.
Numerous sources, including USA Today, consider Johnson County to be one of the top counties in the nation. Our satisfaction rating as a place to live consistently ranks in the 90th percentile in our annual community survey. By 2054, Johnson County’s population is expected to surpass one million people, according to a Wichita State University Study. Johnson County is a place where people want to be, and we attribute that in large part to you.

The 2019 Annual Report focuses on ways we connected with you, and the role you played to improve YOUR community. In these pages we highlight the engagement opportunities that we offered, and you accepted. Johnson County Government took great strides in 2019 to improve customer service, leverage technology to help you perform your tasks more efficiently and hear your thoughts and opinions.

Johnson County had a focus on you with advancements we launched in 2019. Website users may have appreciated new online tools to file residential property appeals, access mapping and property information in a single location or apply for a building permit. Participants in our microtransit pilot used an app to schedule on-demand public transportation for either door-to-door service or to connect to our county’s fixed route system. Engaged residents streamed Board of County Commissioners meetings on our Facebook page. Podcast enthusiasts downloaded episodes of the new JoCo on the Go from the Public Information Office and It’s Okay if You’re Not Okay from Johnson County Mental Health Center.

We enjoyed seeing you at multiple education and outreach offerings in 2019. You took the time to learn lifesaving skills from us, such as Mental Health First Aid, CPR and bleeding control. You participated in active shooter training, educated yourself about consumer protection and learned how you can play a role in stormwater management. Eighty of you gave us several of your evening hours, 10 weeks in a row, to attend our Citizens Academy (now called JoCo Academy.) You came out to learn about county issues important to you and told us what you thought about them. We spoke with you about property values at meetings throughout the county. You came to public meetings and took online surveys about how you want us to use the space created when we take down the current courthouse after the new one is complete in 2021. Speaking of the new courthouse, you joined us on a hot August morning at our topping out ceremony to watch the placement of the last steel beam. (Look for updates on the new courthouse and other major capital projects that were either completed or made substantial progress in 2019 in this report.)

On top of all of that...thousands of you donated your time and your talents to a county program or served on a Board of County Commissioners-appointed board or commission in 2019. You will see multiple examples in this report, and toward the end you will find a directory of volunteer opportunities to consider in 2020.

Thank you to everyone who connected with us this year to keep your community a place where people want to live, work and raise a family.
From the largest to the smallest, numbers tell the story of Johnson County, Kansas, in unique and exciting ways!

It’s the most populous county in Kansas with more than 597,500 residents.

Estimate based on 2018 U.S. Census Bureau

Johnson County is 478 square miles.

That’s about 305,920 acres with approximately 60 percent of land incorporated into city limits of the 20 cities in the county.

Estimate based on 2018 U.S. Census Bureau

We have 187,319 residences, including single-family homes, multi-family units, condominiums, townhouses and farmsteads.

The county has 3,370 miles of city streets.

Johnson County has 432 miles of county roadways, including about 115 miles of gravel roadways.

In Johnson County, there are 23 aviation facilities, including airports and heliports.

Across the county, there are 46 fire stations and 20 law enforcement stations.

The county has an extensive network of medical facilities, including numerous surgical centers, urgent care facilities and 9 hospitals.

Johnson County is home to 6 great public school districts: Blue Valley Schools (#229), De Soto Schools (#232), Gardner-Edgerton Schools (#231), Olathe Schools (#233), Shawnee Mission Schools (#512) and Spring Hill Schools (#230). Total enrollment for the 2018–2019 school year was more than 92,500 students.
In the county, there are 564 farms, totaling 87,121 acres, and 52 percent of the farms have less than 50 acres.

The median household income in Johnson County is $84,915.

Johnson County is home to about 1,600 restaurants and eateries.

Including county and city sites, there are 380 parks totaling about 17,489 acres.

In a nation of 3,007 counties — including 11 others named Johnson County, there’s still only one Johnson County, Kansas.

Statistics from U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Agriculture, and Johnson County AIMS.
As we craft budgets, manage finances, value property, calculate the tax roll and collect and disburse taxes, we do so with you in mind. In addition to a strong focus on stewardship of resources, we prioritize the public’s interaction with us...striving for constant improvement.

**Budget & Financial Planning**

The Budget & Financial Planning Department is responsible for developing annual budgets in alignment with the priorities of both the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners and residents. Once again, strong assessed valuation in 2019 allowed the organization to maintain its existing services and expand slightly in the departments of Health & Environment, Human Services and public safety while maintaining a constant mill levy.

During the board’s annual budget hearing, the public is invited to attend and weigh in on the proposed budget prior to the board’s vote.

**Innovation division empowers all**

The Budget & Financial Planning Department expanded with an Innovation division in 2019. Dovetailing with the county’s efforts to become a Higher-Performance Organization, the vision is to empower staff to seek out and implement inspiring new solutions to better serve the residents. There is a combination of traditional process improvement projects, which included efficiency and management reviews in the Elections Office and the Sheriff’s Classification Unit in 2019, with grassroots efforts engaging front line staff throughout the organization.

**The future of county funds**

Over the past several years, growing numbers of commercial property owners have filed appeals citing the Dark Store and Hypothetical Lease valuation theories, seeking to significantly reduce their valuation and taxes. The cumulative impact has thus far been manageable, but the aggregate value in question working its way through the court system could ultimately impact the county’s reserves and revenues going forward.

**Appraiser’s Office**

Anyone with taxable property in Johnson County is affected by the work of the Appraiser’s Office. The department has made a considerable effort to streamline and enhance options for public interaction.
Public outreach and communication
The Appraiser’s Office meets annually with Johnson County taxing jurisdictions (school districts, city leaders, Johnson County Community College and fire districts) to present the revaluation results, which are the increase/decrease of appraised value in the respective jurisdictions.

The office shared the Notice of Appraised Value-related services with the public via JoCo Magazine, The Best Times, city e-news, Twitter, Facebook, newsletters and websites.

Customer service improvements
The Appraiser’s Office introduced new customer-friendly options to access property information and file for a residential appeal. Most notably, a new format is available for residential property owners to file an appeal online. Property owners receive immediate notification that the appeal has been received, allowing for a high level of efficiency for both the property owner and appraisal staff.

Residential property owners may choose the Hearing by Evidence Only appeal option, thereby saving themselves a trip for an in-person hearing. Last year, 335 people took advantage of this convenience.

Mapping and valuation in one location
Property owners can now access mapping and property value information in a single location. Automated Information Mapping Systems (AIMS) integrated the appraisal information from the Appraiser’s Land Records Search site. That information can be found after the property information in the section titled “Appraisal Information” on the results page at jocogov.org/property.

Meet Johnson County’s new Appraiser
Last fall, the Board of County Commissioners appointed David “Beau” Boisvert as Appraiser through June 30, 2021. Boisvert has nearly 25 years of appraisal experience and comes to Johnson County from the Yavapai County Assessor’s Office in Prescott, Arizona, where he served as the Chief Deputy for nearly three years. He also spent 11 years in the Maricopa County (Arizona) Assessor’s Office, including three years as Chief Appraiser.

“The board was impressed with Mr. Boisvert’s experience in such a large county as Maricopa, where he led a staff of 190 and oversaw the valuation of 1.6 million parcels, about eight times the number of parcels in Johnson County,” said Chairman Ed Eilert, Johnson County Board of County Commissioners. “In addition to Maricopa and Yavapai counties, cities and counties have hired him as a consultant to improve their business practices. He has a track record of operating efficiently with set policies and state requirements.”

Records and Tax Administration
Among the many responsibilities of the Records & Tax Administration Department is the recording and indexing of all land record documents.

Instant customer gratification
Electronic documents
The department now delivers information electronically. Additionally, customers can record documents using a credit card; which is now the primary method for in-person document recordings.

Title companies can now also submit documents for electronic recording and receive them within 24 hours. The process is performed using a format prescribed by the Kansas Electronic Record Commission that protects the integrity of the electronic document from change or harm.

Call Center
Live customer service personnel on the phones allows the public to receive immediate answers to their questions about the county, alleviating the high frustration levels caused by recorded systems. Last year, the Call Center fielded about 69,000 calls.

Gather customer feedback
As part of the department’s performance measurement, brief service area questionnaires are available at the front counter, for customers to weigh in regarding online document requests and Archive services.
Treasury and Financial Management

Johnson County’s Treasury & Financial Management (TFM) 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 more.

Cost-effective customer service

The Treasury division collected more than 99% of the taxes due, totaling approximately $1.4 billion in property taxes. More than 92% of the taxes collected were processed efficiently, using cost-effective methods, including online, by mail or through a mortgage company.

87% of residents renewing vehicle registrations utilized TFM’s efficient and cost-effective customer service/payment channels of renewing online, through the mail, or at self-service kiosks.

Surplus property available

TFM utilizes third-party administrators to help sell surplus property to the public via two public auction sites. Surplus property includes unneeded equipment and vehicles that still have usable value. The county collected more than $573,000 last year in surplus sales.

Viewing and bidding on available surplus is available at jocogov.org/surplus.

Rewards for public reporting

Providing accurate public reports on the county’s financial position is a priority. TFM received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 32nd consecutive year. The National Procurement Institute presented TFM with the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement award for the 12th year.

Procurement and the vendor community

The Purchasing division partners with the business community in the acquisition of all goods and services made by or on behalf of the county. In 2019, the county issued 26 formal invitation for bids for $15,516,750 and 15 formal request for proposals for $9,238,368. Interested vendors may click on Supplier Registration at jocogov.ionwave.net to receive county solicitations.

By the Numbers

Johnson County’s call center helped connect about 69,000 callers with resources and answers to questions about county programs and services.

87% of residents renewed their vehicle registrations by using TFM’s efficient and cost-effective payment channels, including online, through the mail, or at self-service kiosks.

$573,000 was collected from sales of surplus property to the general public.

Johnson County Archives stores 35,323 holdings including 16,250 boxes of records. (That’s 487,500 square feet or more than eight football fields!)
Capital Improvement Projects
what a difference a year makes

Johnson County Courthouse

Johnson County voters approved a 10-year, quarter-cent public safety sales tax totaling $245 million to fund a new county courthouse and medical examiner facility. The new courthouse is intended to meet the judicial needs for more than 75 years as the county expects to add 10,000 residents each year.

The new 28-courtroom facility is being built across Santa Fe Street to the north of the existing courthouse and west of Olathe’s City Hall (150 West Santa Fe St.). The courthouse is a design build project, awarded to JE Dunn Construction, TreanorHL and Fentress Architects. Crews broke ground in July 2018. In October, the building construction was weather tight allowing for the removal of the tower crane. This allowed crews to focus on installing interior finish materials, including the courtroom millwork and interior lobby wall.

The project is on schedule and within budget. Substantial completion is planned for August 2020 and will be open for business January 2021.

Courthouse tunnel connection

In February, construction commenced on a new tunnel under Santa Fe Street to connect with the existing tunnel originating at the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office Central Booking Facility (101 N. Kansas Ave.). Construction finished in record time and ahead of schedule in early April. The tunnel, a key component of the courthouse project, will be used to transport inmates to the courthouse from the booking facility. It will lead to secured elevators and corridors so that the accused will not cross paths with the public, including victims and witnesses.

Involving the community

The public was first onsite in July 2018. A little over a year later, on Aug. 13, they were invited back for another milestone ceremony known as “topping out.” The last steel beam was raised 238 feet to the courthouse’s highest point. This time-honored tradition signaled the completion of the high-rise building’s structural framing.

These are among the multiple opportunities the county planned to engage the public in this momentous undertaking.
Johnson County Square improvement
When the new courthouse opens in January 2021, crews will demolish the old courthouse, increasing the size of the Johnson County Square. The county established a steering committee and gathered public feedback to develop three proposed development concepts that were family-oriented and appealed to all ages. Several public meetings and online surveys took place to gather community response to the concepts. The final design will include feedback from the many opportunities the public has had to help shape the space.

Medical Examiner Facility
Johnson County voters approved a quarter-cent sales tax in November 2016 to build a long studied medical examiner facility. The facility is approximately 32,000-square-feet, located on the Johnson County Government campus at the intersection of 119th and Ridgeview in Olathe. The team of PGAV Architects assisted by SmithGroup JJR designed the facility. McCarthy Building Companies was awarded the Construction Manager as Constructor contract. A ribbon cutting ceremony and public open house are planned for the second quarter of 2020.

The facility, under the direction of Dr. Diane Peterson, Johnson County’s first chief medical examiner, will house the latest in autopsy, laboratory and testing equipment, including a Lodox and CT Scanner imaging suite. This equipment will enhance diagnostics and provide efficiencies in the issuance of autopsy reports and death certificates. An elevated observation hallway located adjacent to the autopsy suites will provide law enforcement and medical students the ability to view autopsies.

Tomahawk Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility
The expansion of the Tomahawk Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility is an important project for the county because it will improve water quality released into Indian Creek, provide a stable civil infrastructure to support the surrounding communities, and will help reduce Johnson County Wastewater’s operating expenses by $16 million per year.

The facility expansion is halfway complete with major construction scheduled to be finished by spring 2022. Despite logging the wettest year on record from October 2018 through September 2019, the contractor (McCarthy Building Companies) and design team (Black & Veatch and HDR) kept the project on time and on budget.

The $335 million expansion is Johnson County’s largest project ever. For updates on the project’s progress, including a live onsite webcam, and to find out how wastewater treatment works, visit jcwtomahawk.com.

Did you know?
Once completed, the expanded facility will reduce Johnson County Wastewater’s annual operating expenses by $16 million.
Health & Support

We love serving the public every day, helping you lead healthy, independent and successful lives. When we share our knowledge and expertise, we are so pleased that you show up to learn and optimize the role you play in helping us build a strong and healthy community.

Department of Health and Environment

The Johnson County Department of Health & Environment (DHE) held several community opportunities for residents to learn how they address the environment, health and welfare of all who live, work and play in Johnson County.

Community education and training opportunities

A Vaping Roundtable Discussion engaged more than 50 school administrators, principals, nurses, teachers and social workers on community resources, the dangers of vaping and how to work with students who are vaping.

During the Olathe School District’s event, Careers on Wheels, more than 500 students learned about careers in health and the environment.

Over 160 childcare providers received essential training regarding safe sleep, state regulations, signs/symptoms of illness, injury prevention, sanitation and environmental health.

The Ditch the Bag campaign flier was distributed to 50,000 residences in 12 municipalities, reminding people not to put plastic bags in recycling bins. The goal was to raise community awareness of the importance of appropriate recycling.

The Medical Examiner’s Office provided community education regarding proper reporting to law enforcement, and fire/EMS regarding death scene investigation, as well as hospitals and hospice agencies.

DHE introduced the Integrated Referral and Intake System (IRIS), a web-based, closed-loop communication tool that connects families to the right community resources.

Prevention efforts to promote healthier lives

The Early Detection Works program (breast and cervical cancer screenings) served 122 women to detect cancer early for more effective treatment.

More than 22,800 adults and children were immunized to prevent sickness and disease.

Human Services Department

Johnson County’s Department of Human Services manages a variety of programs and services that support the independence, dignity and self-sufficiency of primarily those Johnson County residents among our vulnerable populations.

Meeting transportation needs

Due to the growing demand of transportation, the service has evolved to focus on providing rides to essential destinations such as medical appointments, the grocery store and social services (such as the food pantry). In 2019, 112 volunteers provided 6,246 rides to 279 residents. Catch-a-Ride has provided more than 40,000 rides to 1,100 residents. To volunteer, call 913-715-8900.

Providing meals at home

The Home-Delivered Meals Program served 200,000 meals last year to 1,157 people. The service would be not possible without the 894 volunteers who donated 14,824 service hours.
Aging Master Plan represents a community effort

The Johnson County Area Agency on Aging assisted the Commission on Aging in completing a Johnson County Kansas Aging Services study and developed a Master Plan to address the service needs of the county’s rapidly growing older adult population.

The two entities held 11 community focus groups, gathering input of 82 people regarding ideas for improving service and other solutions, the basis for a community forum, involving 120 individuals. The Master Plan was the result of that work.

The plan provides the county with a vision for aging services and assistance in maintaining the independence of older adults through community-based services. It provides recommendations to the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners that strengthen the county’s capacity to serve this vulnerable population. Interested in serving on the Commission on Aging? Call 913-715-8850.

Developmental Supports

Johnson County Developmental Supports (JCDS) offers person-centered services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and advocates alongside them to live and work in the community.

A variety of ways to volunteer

A total of 349 community members and local businesses donated 1,902.55 hours to JCDS, assisting with events such as a wheelchair and walker wash, music and animal therapy sessions, nutrition and self-advocacy programs.

Community education is essential

The Community Developmental Disabilities Organization (CDDO) held its annual resource fair and marketplace. This event is for people on the wait list for the Home and Community-Based Services waiver and residents who want to learn more about IDD services. The event drew approximately 400 attendees and 60 vendors from around the county.

More than 100 people attended the CDDO Spring Summit, which educates local providers on issues important to serving those with IDD.

JCDS and the departments of Human Resources, Corrections and Mental Health collaborated to host two job fairs, introducing more than 20 local employers to job seekers who have barriers to employment.

The proof is in the numbers

JCDS’s philosophy of “employment first” is evidenced by their 400% growth in competitive employment over the past five years and 83% employment success rate, leading industry standards. Throughout the year, JCDS coordinated four community employment events for residents seeking employment supports.

The agency offers free inclusion training to any organization in Johnson County interested in learning about employing people with disabilities.

To get involved with JCDS, visit jcds.org.

Mental Health Center

Johnson County Mental Health Center (JCMHC) offers a wide range of mental health and substance abuse services to county residents.

Mental wellness and alcohol abuse education

The department brings critical mental health education to schools across the county, providing
the resource, Mental Wellness Basics, at no cost, to all public and private schools in Johnson County. Students are introduced to the experiences of others in order to develop awareness and empathy, reduce stigma and provide facts on the prevalence and symptoms of mental health conditions.

JCMHC serves as the fiscal agent for AlcoholEdu, a high school education program focused on alcohol abuse prevention. Since its introduction in the county, 17 schools and 62 educators impacted more than 14,500 students with 2,600+ hours of learning.

JCMHC’s highly successful co-responder program, which embeds a mental health professional within a local law enforcement agency, is now being explored as an opportunity to provide crisis intervention and mental health resources in school districts as well. A pilot program with the Gardner-Edgerton School District launched in July 2019.

Community involvement opportunities
Mental Health First Aid provides the public with skills to help someone who is experiencing a mental health issue or having a mental health crisis. Approximately 1,500 individuals completed the eight-hour course.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is a two-day workshop in suicide first-aid to help caregivers feel more comfortable and competent in helping prevent the immediate risk of suicide. A total of 87 went through the ASIST workshop in 2019.

safeTALK is a four-hour workshop that empowers everyone to make a difference within their communities. Fifty-five individuals learned how to prevent suicide by recognizing signs, engaging someone, and connecting them to an intervention resource for further support.

To learn more about these opportunities to engage with the Mental Health Center, call 913-715-7880.

Johnson County Government podcasts take off in 2019
In 2019, the county launched two podcasts to connect with residents and others who may be interested in the services that county government provides. Johnson County Mental Health Center launched It’s Okay if You’re Not Okay, a discussion-style podcast about mental health and wellness. The Public Information Office launched JoCo On the Go, an interview-style podcast that highlights programs, services, and leadership priorities and how they impact residents’ day-to-day lives. The two new shows join Johnson County Library’s Did You Hear?, which launched in 2018. Check out all the county’s podcast offerings at jocogov.org/podcast.
Bringing Johnson County culture, art, theater, heritage, reading materials, and fun takes all hands on deck. We could not make these first-class amenities available in our community without thousands of volunteers.

**Park & Recreation District**

The Johnson County Park & Recreation District (JCPRD) provides high-quality parks, park services and recreational programs in more than 8,000 acres of parkland and open green space. Annually, JCPRD records more than 7 million park visitors and nearly 1.5 million recreation participants in more than 4,000 programs. The district’s contributions to the personal lives of Johnson County’s residents have earned it local appreciation and national acclaim, including its 2019 receipt of national accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies. Public engagement efforts first launched JCPRD, and to this day the district continues to seek and respond to public input.

**Board of Johnson County Park & Recreation Commissioners**

The Board of Johnson County Park & Recreation Commissioners is a policy-making board that oversees JCPRD. Commissioners are appointed to three-year terms by the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners. Time is set aside for public comment at each monthly meeting, as well as multiple opportunities for input on other projects and policies throughout the year.

**Other service opportunities**

In 2019, a total of 9,289 volunteers contributed 140,655 hours in roles which included assisting with duathlons and triathlons, monitoring bluebird boxes, assisting with 50 Plus events, and collecting seeds from prairie plants.

In addition to the district’s board, several other advisory groups relating to various JCPRD functions and programs also have volunteer boards. For more information or a listing of current JCPRD volunteer opportunities, go to jcprd.com/volunteer or call the volunteer coordinator at 913-826-3412.

**Johnson County Museum**

The Johnson County Museum, in a public trust partnership, is responsible for collecting, preserving and interpreting Johnson County’s rich past.

**Museum by the numbers**

- The museum served 60,094 visitors at both of its locations: the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center and the Lanesfield Historic Site.
- Nearly 12,000 individuals attended 540 structured programs presented by the museum.
- The number of current museum memberships is 1,686, compared to 1,201 in 2018.
- The museum hosted 53 birthday parties at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center.
- 35 volunteers spent 1,874 hours interacting with patrons, assisting with programming, events and other activities.

Interested in volunteering? Call 913-715-2552.
The museum served over 60,000 visitors in 2019 between its two locations.

Keeping it fresh
The museum introduced several new programs, including the first building-wide Hispanic Heritage Celebration. A new partnership with Johnson County Community College hosted an annual museum event.

Three other partnerships: Scout Night at the Museum in partnership with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Living History Lite, and The Escape Room - Scandal in the Schoolhouse, resulted in 710 visitors.

The museum also hosted an evening with Kevin Wilmott, Oscar winning producer, and expanded its Kid’s Day Out program.

Museum visitors enjoyed diverse exhibits, including:
- The Turbulent Twenties, which received the Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History.
- Expanding Oz.
- Dreaming of A Retro Xmas, celebrating the 60th anniversary of the aluminum Christmas tree.
- Savages and Princesses: The Persistence of Native American Stereotypes through Mid-America Arts Alliance.

Library
The Johnson County Library (JCL) welcomed more than 2.25 million visitors to all branches; saw 2.5 million unique visits to the Library web page; and circulated 7+ million items throughout the year.

Partnerships expand services
The First Thursday Blood Pressure Clinic, Mental Health hotline for patron support and Johnson County Park & Recreation District’s “Moving is Learning” program for preschoolers, among others, all serve to amplify the depth and quality of county-supported services for residents.

Volunteers support the library
JCL hosted more than 850 volunteers who gave more than 50,000 hours.

Outreach to diverse populations
Adult services, youth services and reference librarians delivered programs and materials to county agencies, schools and organizations. Incarcerated teens, clinic and health care waiting rooms, Advent Health, new parents and area schools were among the 11,240 audience members.

The Friends of Johnson County Library and Library Foundation continue their positive relationships with the Correction Department’s “Therapeutic Community” for project support.

Contributions from the foundation and friends
The Johnson County Library Foundation provided $280,795 to support JCL programs and services last year. The Friends of Johnson County Library engaged with the community to raise $350,000 from used book sales, three library used bookstores and online sales to many foreign countries.

Become involved
- Make sure your library card is active so you can access the many resources and activities.
- Help by becoming a volunteer.
- Join the Friends organization and enjoy Book Sales and fellowship.
- Consider becoming a member of either the Johnson Library Foundation or the Friends of Johnson County Library or attend a meeting.

The Friends of Johnson County Library and Library Foundation continue their positive relationships with the Correction Department’s “Therapeutic Community” for project support.
Library and Parks Capital Improvement Projects

Two long-awaited Johnson County projects were opened with fanfare by the public last summer. The Lenexa City Center Library and Meadowbrook Park both offer one-of-a-kind experiences not only for children, but for all lovers of learning, literature, art and the great outdoors.

**Lenexa City Center Library**

The 40,000 square foot library occupies two floors. A focal point is a work of public art, installed in the atrium by Stephen T. Johnson, an award-winning children’s book illustrator who was on hand for the opening festivities.

In addition to high-quality library services, the new space features:
- Public meeting rooms.
- Public computers.
- A robust children’s programming area, including a kids’ area with a dedicated Storytime room.
- A drive-thru services window in the adjacent parking garage.

Located at 8788 Penrose Lane, near Lenexa City Hall, it is the sixth Johnson County Library branch open on Sundays. It replaces Lenexa’s Lackman branch at 15345 W. 87th St. Parkway.

**Meadowbrook Park**

A portion of the former 135-acre Meadowbrook Country Club, located in Prairie Village, was converted into the new 80-acre Meadowbrook Park. The new park addresses the shortage of park space in northeast Johnson County. The design for the park takes advantage of the open green space and mature trees that were part of the former golf course and transforms the property into a one-of-a-kind park.

Local kids were given the chance to help select the design for the new destination playground. Both video previews of the designs and voting took place at Prairie Village’s annual VillageFest in July 2017. The playground selected was the Tree Line Adventure.

In addition to the playground, amenities include:
- Grand Pavilion with capacity for 160 people with a charcoal grilling island and fire pit.
- The Groves playground located in a grove of oak trees with outdoor musical instruments, a converted sand bunker sandbox, and a climbing net.
- Outdoor fitness equipment.
- 3.75 miles of paved trails.
- Restoration of three fish-stocked ponds.
- Eight pickleball courts.
- Three shelters, each with seating for 42.

The 10,000 square-foot Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse is located near the park’s northwest corner. The building includes an event space for 200 people, a multipurpose room, and a Natureplay Preschool with an outdoor playground. Other building features include a small lobby, administration area, catering kitchen, and a deck overlooking the park area.
Safety & Protection

Everyone plays a role in making Johnson County neighborhoods safe places to live, work and play. While we manage an intricate network of emergency communication and response, law enforcement, corrections and criminal justice, public engagement is key.

Emergency Medical Services (MED-ACT)

MED-ACT’s mission is to ensure medical emergencies in Johnson County have the best possible outcome. MED-ACT provides 911 response to 476 square miles of Johnson County, responding to more than 535,000 residents with 19 front line ambulances.

Stop the Bleed campaign

Over the summer, MED-ACT introduced their Mass Casualty Incident Support trailer at fairs and festivals. The trailer houses “self-treatment” kits and supplies with instructions on how the general public can use them to help stop someone’s bleeding in an emergency situation.

Sheriff’s Office

As Johnson County’s chief law enforcement officer, the Sheriff’s Office preserves the peace, administers the county jails, and services the 10th Judicial District’s security, warrants and civil process needs. The Sheriff’s Office is also the primary law enforcement agency servicing the unincorporated areas of the county, as well as the contracted cities of Edgerton and De Soto.

Public interaction is key

One of the Sheriff’s Office’s primary goals is to seek opportunities to interact with as many Johnson County citizens as possible, with anticipated outcomes of:

- Improving public safety.
- Reducing crime.
- Improving communication between law enforcement and the public.
- Building relationships with the citizens we serve.
- Interacting with local children.

Members of the MED-ACT team received recognition, both on the state and national levels, for their work in emergency medical services awareness in the community, including education and community service.

Teaching the community to save lives and drive safely

One of MED-ACT’s 2019 goals was to teach CPR and Bleeding Control to more community members. Free classes for businesses and community groups feature an in-person presentation, interactive skills practice and a Q&A session. MED-ACT also taught beginning drivers the dangers of distracted driving through the Grave Mistakes program in multiple school formats. In partnership with the District Attorney’s Office traffic division, the program was made available to diversion candidates. While geared towards beginning learners, the program can be utilized by anyone of driving age.

In 2019, MED-ACT taught over 3,000 community members between the three courses. More than 1,300 students went through the Grave Mistakes Distracted Driving program.

For more information on these community outreach programs, contact the Community Educator at 913-715-1981.
Workplace safety/active shooter training
This training, offered to local businesses, churches and schools, prepares individuals to respond in the event of an emergency, with the end goal of increasing survivability. More than 1,100 individuals in various locations throughout the county were trained in 2019.

Fraud and abuse prevention and personal safety
Deputies met with residents in local independent living communities and members of civic groups to discuss the topics of fraud, abuse prevention and personal safety. The Sheriff’s Office also hosted the first Senior Educational Symposium, which covered similar topics. The Sheriff’s Office reached an estimated 1,000 individuals in this effort.

Department of Corrections
Johnson County Corrections supervises juvenile and adult offenders through progressive, effective and sound correction, rehabilitation and recidivism reduction programs. The department forges partnerships to bridge the gap between offenders and the community by encouraging client responsibility and behavioral change.

Two community open houses
The Department of Corrections hosted two open house events; one for the Juvenile Services division where 38 visitors attended, and the other for the Adult Services division, which hosted 75. The events included facility tours of the Juvenile Detention Center and the Youth and Family Services Center. Presentations by staff and information booths provided insight into the department’s programs and services and promoted volunteer opportunities.

Staff frequently conducted tours of both facilities throughout the year for university programs, out of state guests, and other interested community members. About 20 tours (258 people) went through the Juvenile Services Center and another 20 tours (84) visited the Adult Residential Center.

Looking for volunteers
Last year, 306 corrections volunteers logged nearly 4,000 hours dedicated to various opportunities. Depending upon their background and experiences, volunteers facilitate numerous groups for the offenders, including:
- Recovery-based meetings.
- Bible studies.
- Art classes.
- Youth empowerment groups.
- Professional development.

Corrections is also looking for volunteers to:
- Mentor adults coming out of incarceration.
- Bring a skill into the facility.
- Teach skills essential to workplace success.
- Teach physical fitness-related classes.
- Facilitate music classes.

At left: Deputy Jen Adams (top) shows a Gardner first grader how to properly dial 911 and practice what he’d say in case of an emergency; Department of Corrections Case Manager Meghan Saylor (bottom) shows off a client’s artwork during an open house event at the Juvenile Services Center.
District Attorney’s Office

The Johnson County District Attorney’s Office (DA) is charged with protecting the safety of the public through a fair application of the law.

Volunteers serve as advocates

The criminal justice system is overwhelming to most people who become involved as victims or witnesses. Volunteers serve as victim advocates, educating the public about the criminal justice process. Volunteers help the unit serve more victims in a timely manner and allow for more individualized time with victims.

Volunteers provide notification and information to victims concerning the victim’s case and the criminal justice system. They refer victims to available services/resources to help reduce physical, social and psychological problems resulting from victimization.

Additional services include:

- Assisting victims with protective orders.
- Escorting victims and witnesses to court and signing them up for witness fees.
- Making phone contact with victims to answer questions.
- Attending first appearances to gather information for the unit.
- Answering phones and performing other office duties.

The DA has 16 active volunteers who are mainly located in the Victim Assistance Unit. In 2019, volunteers donated more than 4,000 hours to the DA. They range from high school students to retirees.

Interested? Contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 913-715-3029.

Consumer protection as public service

In 2019, approximately 1,500 contacts were made via hotline calls, complaints and walk-ins. Throughout the year, about 450 people attended trainings, speeches and Consumer Protection Week activities.

DA staff conducted several hundred presentations

On a weekly basis, staff conducted presentations on a wide variety of topics to a wide variety of groups, including K-12 students, senior citizens, community service organizations, and professional organizations.
Office of the District Court Trustee

Johnson County’s Office of the District Court Trustee serves children and families by providing certified payment records, information and referrals to resources, as well as fair enforcement of family support orders. In 2019, the office collected more than $72.2 million in child and spousal support for nearly 9,000 Johnson County court orders.

Tours for the public

Staff frequently conducted facility tours throughout the year of the courthouse and the Justice Annex, for university programs, out of state guests, and other interested community members.

Website update

Users of the District Court Trustee website, trustee.jocogov.org, can now customize their PIN and update their contract information (address, email and phone numbers) when accessing their pay record in the system.

Pitching in on community clean-up

The District Court Trustee and Deputy Trustee participated in the Johnson County Bar Association’s Friends of Johnson County Developmental Supports clean-up days twice in 2019.

District Court

Johnson County District Court serves as the 10th Judicial District Court of Kansas. The District Court has general original jurisdiction over all civil and criminal cases, including divorce and domestic relations, damage suits, probate and administration of estates, guardianships, conservatorships, care of the mentally ill, juvenile matters, and small claims.

Strategic plan includes focus on serving the public

Johnson County District Court executed the first phase of its 2019-2021 strategic plan last year. One of the four main priorities is to improve and update court operations from a customer service perspective; before, during, and after moving to the new courthouse. Other priorities aimed at improving the court experience for the public include improvements to case flow and prioritizing and implementing technology, including being selected to partner with National Center for State Courts and the Pew Foundation as a pilot site for online dispute resolution.

District Court hosts visitors

Nearly 1,700 students attended Constitution Day, school tours and mock trial competitions this year. The court also hosted delegations from the Ukrainian Judicial Branch and Ukrainian media.

Volunteers devote time to public assistance

Twelve individuals devoted their time to supervise visitations through Court Services for a total of 236 hours. Interested in the Supervised Visitation Program? Call 913-715-7443.

Last year, eight volunteers, both attorneys and retired judges, donated 567 hours to Kansas Legal Services, seeing 239 individuals in need of their legal services.

Did you know?

Twelve individuals supervised visitations through Court Services for a total of 236 hours served.
Emergency Management & Communications

The responsibilities of the Department of Emergency Management & Communications (EMC) encompass not only the coordination of all disaster and emergency management and response, but the management of countywide emergency communications systems and dispatch services.

Collaboration results in higher survival rates

Through the collaborative efforts between all agencies and community outreach, the cardiac arrest survival rate for patients with a witnessed arrest and found in shockable rhythm was 46.6%. This continues to be higher than the national survival rate.

Community partnerships make for a better-protected community

EMC increased collaboration with its community partners. Emergency Management focused on strengthening the county’s ability to coordinate county-wide emergency response operations from alternate facilities if the primary Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is not an option. To improve and streamline those operations, the division worked with a broad group of partners to build associated capabilities.

Community preparedness was strengthened by increasing the number of community disaster education events by 30%, increasing the number of trained EOC responders by 27%, and upping the number of community partners by 56%.

It was another strong year of partnership with Johnson County Emergency Communications Services (ECS), a volunteer amateur radio organization which serves as the appointed Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service organization for the county. They provide storm spotting services and auxiliary emergency communications capabilities. Through their 50-60 members, ECS contributed more than 1,000 hours last year to support storm spotting in Johnson County. Individuals interested in learning more about becoming an ECS member can visit k0ecs.org.

Did you know?

Members of the Johnson County Emergency Communications Services contributed more than 1,000 hours in 2019 to support storm spotting in Johnson County.
Enterprise & Growth

As we build and maintain our infrastructure that is so crucial to building a thriving community, we keep you in mind with improvements and communication. We strive to make interactions in these areas as efficient and customer friendly as we can.

Airport Commission
The Johnson County Airport Commission promotes aerospace activities in Johnson County and provides economic value and job creation.

Two public events take center stage
The Airport Commission remembered astronaut and Senator John Glenn with the public unveiling ceremony of a street honoring him. The AirCenter originally served as the Olathe Naval Air Station where he earned his military wings.

For the first time in 25 years, the commission opened a newly rebuilt runway at Johnson County Executive Airport and celebrated with a public ribbon cutting ceremony. The previous 4,000-foot runway had outlived its service life.

Serving the public’s airport needs
In 2019, traffic count at New Century AirCenter was 56,929, making it the third busiest towered airport in the state. With the runway closed at Executive Airport for over half of 2019, the traffic count was 35,323 and it is expected to climb by 7,000-10,000 additional take offs and landings in 2020.

Planning, Development and Codes
The mission of Planning, Development & Codes is to ensure coordinated, efficient and safe development for current and future county residents and businesses in unincorporated Johnson County.

Interactive customer experience
Department customers now have access to a totally digital plan review and permit process, allowing them to submit documents electronically; ensuring increased accuracy, expediting the permitting

Each year, the Airport Commission conducts retention visits with business park tenants and visited 10 in 2019.

The first two new large private hangars in 20 years were approved for land leases in 2019 at the New Century AirCenter, with construction expected in 2020.

Engagement opportunities
The airport hosted several local Scout troops, as well as the 8th annual Spencer C. Duncan 5k with more than 1,000 participants.

Interested individuals may serve on the Airport Commission or volunteer for several of the airport’s partner organizations such as the Commemorative Air Force or Civilian Air Patrol.

A street at New Century AirCenter now has a new name to honor a famous astronaut who learned to fly there. Behind the sign is a Sterman trainer made by Boeing in 1940, the same model that Glenn would have used when he was learning to fly.
Johnson County’s Contractor Licensing program is recognized as the top contractor education program in the country. In 2019, the program trained more than 4,100 contractors.

Volunteers compose boards
The county’s three zoning boards, along with the Planning Commission, are responsible for making recommendations regarding land use policy and review of development applications. The department provides staff reports to the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Board of Code Review. These board seats are all filled by resident volunteers interested in affecting county land planning and development. In 2019, the Planning Commission and Zoning Boards filled four volunteer positions. Anyone interested in serving should contact their county commissioner or the Director of Planning, Development & Codes at 913-715-2220.

Providing contractor licensing education
Johnson County Contractor Licensing (JCCL) is recognized as the top contractor education program in the country, training more than 4,100 contractors and building professionals across the country in 2019.

Last year, the program licensed more than 3,700 companies. The International Code Council recognized that JCCL is one of the more productive organizations in the U.S. for getting code books out to contractors, distributing more than 2,000 books in 2019.

Wastewater
Johnson County Wastewater is responsible for the collection, transportation and treatment of wastewater generated by residential, industrial and commercial customers.

Customer convenience
JCW rolled out a new option for user charge customers to pay bills with a credit card over the phone. Other customer service improvements included redesign of the ratepayer brochure for January 2020. It provides a clear graphic on how to understand the wastewater bill and addresses:
- How a residential charge is determined
- How average winter water usage is determined
- What impacts rates

By the Numbers
With almost 57,000 take offs and landings in 2019, the Johnson County New Century AirCenter is the third busiest towered airport in the state of Kansas.

Johnson County’s Contractor Licensing program trained more than 4,100 contractors and building professionals from across the country and licensed more than 3,700 local companies in 2019.

Johnson County’s new microtransit service has provided more than 33,000 rides to date, with plans to expand service options in 2020.

Facilities employees invest 2,000 hours of labor and nearly 60 tons of ice melt to keep sidewalks and walkways safe during the winter months each year.

Did you know?
Both Johnson County airports - Executive Airport and New Century AirCenter - were both built as military facilities during World War II. The county bought the Executive Airport from the City of Olathe in the 1960s for one dollar; New Century AirCenter was acquired from the Navy in 1973.
So, where does “it” go?

JCW staff conducted 20 tours for groups, including students at all levels, civic groups and international wastewater professionals. They learned about wastewater treatment, why it is essential to public health, and its value to the community. Tours can be booked by going to the “About Us” tab on the department’s website.

Learn about the Tomahawk Wastewater Treatment Facility expansion project

The long-term infrastructure investment will utilize the latest proven technologies, protect the environment, and improve water quality in Indian Creek and for downstream communities. The project’s website, jcwtomahawk.com, shows viewers the construction of the project and what the new facility will look like, as well as the project status.

Public Works

The Public Works Department maintains and improves roads and bridges for unincorporated Johnson County. The department also provides financial and technical assistance to Johnson County cities through the Stormwater Management Program and the County Assistance Road System Program.

Social media - informing residents

An increased social media presence became an essential communication tool for the department. During the winter, residents were notified of the plans for snow and ice removal and during the snow events residents were provided with status updates. Notifications of road closures, the noxious weed program, and the annual chip seal program were also made on social media as part of a public awareness campaign.

Video provides insight to applicants

Anyone who has ever wondered what it is like to be a wastewater treatment operator can now view a video JCW developed to help job seekers understand what a workday at one of the facilities is like.

Events also educate

The 10th annual Healthy Yards Expo was held in partnership with Johnson County K-State Extension and the cities of Lenexa, Olathe, Overland Park and Shawnee to provide classes and educational booths where residents could learn about environmentally friendly lawn and garden practices. Stormwater Management Program staff attended the expo to educate residents about stormwater pollution and how to improve stormwater quality in the county.

Approximately 1,700 residents attended this year; an estimated 9,200 residents have attended over the past 10 years.

The Noxious Weed division director also met with residents and answered their questions at both the Healthy Yards Expo and the Johnson County Fair.

Stormwater Management staff collaborated with the Shawnee Mission School District and two non-profit organizations, the Friends of the Kaw and the Blue River Watershed Association, to provide streamside water quality sampling experiences for approximately 1,500 eighth grade students.

In November, Johnson County Wastewater hosted a delegation of wastewater utilities officials from across Mexico as part of the U.S. State Department’s International Visitor Leader Program.
Transit

As part of the regional public transportation system RideKC, Johnson County has long connected its residents to jobs, educational opportunities and the wider community through transit service. Through our fixed route, paratransit and on-demand services, Johnson County provided nearly 600,000 rides in 2019.

Microtransit service pilot

The public piloted a new on-demand service, microtransit, which provides greater flexibility and access to mobility for riders. The on-demand service is unique in that it uses “adaptive routing” to prioritize group trips and was recognized as the Innovation of the Year by the Kansas Public Transportation Association as well as the Innovation of the Month by the American Public Transportation Association.

The pilot, which began in January 2019, operates from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and has provided more than 33,000 rides to date. With connections to important regional hubs like Johnson County Community College, the KU Edwards Campus, Mission Transit Center, Oak Park Mall and the Overland Park Farmers Market, riders can connect to the larger RideKC transit system and travel throughout the Kansas City metropolitan region. Rides cost $1.50 each way, and fares can be paid with cash or a credit card.

To learn more, visit ridekc.org/microtransit, or call 816-512-5510.

Join the conversation

Johnson County Transit has several ways for the community to engage, including:

- A 24/7 customer service line.
- A strong social media presence on Facebook and Twitter.
- Monthly public meetings of the Johnson County Transit Council.

Department of Technology and Innovation

The Department of Technology & Innovation (DTI) provides technology support across the organization, including phones, computers, network, and applications. While focused internally, they support public efforts both directly and indirectly.

DTI impacts the public

The department enables other departments to be more efficient and secure by implementing new, and supporting existing, hardware and software. DTI conducts data analysis that helps departments better serve vulnerable populations, and explore trends with transit, childhood trauma, mental health, addiction and probation effectiveness.

The public has been directly impacted by the improvement of the current county website. Specific examples include the replacement of the system that streams video of the County Commissioners’
Did you know?

DTI was recognized in November 2019 with a national Infosec Impact award for their new cybersecurity employee education program.

meetings and improvement of mobile device access. Another example is the consolidation of the Appraiser’s valuation page into the Location Services page, increasing the amount of information that can be found quickly in one location and improving mobile experience. The department is leading an enterprise effort to rebuild the county website in 2020. This revamp will continue the trend of improved access to county information and services.

Public education for the next generation

DTI and several other county departments participated in the CORE4 regional career expo. Staff met with sixth – 12th grade students, discussed cybersecurity and associated job opportunities in the public service sector. October was Cybersecurity Awareness Month when staff partnered with the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI on a podcast and held a cybersecurity public forum with about a dozen members of the public attending. A list of resources about how to identify a cyberattack, who to contact, what to do and how to prevent an attack were also made available to the public on the county’s website.

Facilities Management

The public indirectly interacts with the Facilities Management Department each time they enter county buildings to conduct business or receive county services. The department’s vision and mission are to deliver and sustain safe, comfortable and productive indoor environments for the county and provide high quality services for the community.

Public art is a community process

The Public Art Commission and the county’s public art program for capital building projects are administered by the Facilities Department. Community members participated in the artist selection panels for the new courthouse and Lenexa City Center Library branch. Art visually enhances the spaces used by our community.

Community presentations to library board

The Facilities Department presented to the Johnson County Library Board on capital projects and transition of facility management for the library system. These presentations were made during public Library Board meetings.

Public safety is a priority

Snow removal on sidewalks and parking lots are essential in keeping the public safe when they enter and exit county buildings. 2019 efforts for snow and ice removal at more than 30 county facilities expended more than 60 tons of ice melt and nearly 2,000 hours of labor.

Community members helped select the mural for the Lenexa City Center Library, pictured here with the artist, Stephen T. Johnson. Photo by Jim Mathis.
Community & Involvement

We are grateful to the thousands of residents who contribute to our mission by working with us, volunteering for a program, serving on a board, participating in our democracy or enrolling in JoCo Academy. Your engagement builds strong communities and we say thank you!

Election Office

The Johnson County Election Office is responsible for voter registration and conducting all federal, state and local elections in the county.

Voting on the rise

The Election Office administered the second round of local elections since they were moved from spring to fall. Johnson County voters topped their turnout from 2017, casting 72,585 votes in the November election for a 17.35% voter turnout.

Advance voting continued to grow in the county with a seventh advance voting location added at New Century Fieldhouse in Gardner. The new location will continue to be available for elections in 2020 and beyond. The expansion supports the Election Office's effort to reduce lines and create a convenient, consistent voting experience.

A near-record number of voters, 418,456, were registered to vote in the November election, making Johnson County the largest election jurisdiction in Kansas and the Kansas City metro. The Election Office expects a new high-water mark to be set in 2020.

Become an election worker

During the August and November Election Days last year, about 2,250 election workers helped with each event and donated a total of 31,500 hours. Interested in joining the Election Office's team of 3,000 volunteers and seeing that Election Day is successful? Go to jocoportal.org/apply or call 913-715-6836.

Department of Human Resources

The Department of Human Resources partners with county departments and agencies to deliver superior customer service and to maximize the potential of the organization's greatest asset – its employees.

Outreach to area youth

Human Resources staff worked closely with other county colleagues, the Mid-America Regional Council and CORE4 (a collaboration between Johnson County, Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, Jackson County and Kansas City, Missouri) to plan, coordinate and host the third bi-annual Career Expo for area middle and high school students last fall in Bartle Hall. The expo showcased the breadth of career opportunities available in local government, with the goal of inspiring youth to pursue a public service career.

More than 3,200 students from 50 metro-area middle and high schools attended the event. Through hands-on activities and interactions with local public servants, students explored the diverse career possibilities available in local government including law enforcement, facilities, emergency medical services, parks and recreation, health and human services, public works, courts, legal services, information technology, community development, communication and public administration.

Connecting residents with employment opportunities

In addition to this regional initiative, staff assisted with two onsite recruitment days to identify candidates for vacancies in Johnson County Developmental Supports. They also participated in the Human Services Department job fair and support both the Community Supported Employment Program and Project SEARCH initiatives, which seek to help people served by the Department of Corrections, Developmental Supports and the Mental Health Center find community employment.
Index of Volunteer Opportunities

**District Attorney’s Office**
Johnson County District Attorney’s Office volunteers meet the needs of victims involved in the criminal justice system. As members of the DA’s Victim Assistance Unit, volunteers act as advocates or liaisons with the attorney handling the case. Volunteers must be empathetic, good communicators, and have no criminal history. Requires a 6-8 hour/week commitment and includes training on the criminal justice system.

913-715-3029

**Department of Corrections**
Volunteers support juvenile and adult clients who are experiencing life’s challenges while also working to keep the community healthy and safe. Volunteers must be at least 21 and pass a criminal background check. Programs include mentoring, skill building, job readiness or facilitating a faith-based study or 12-step group.

jocogov.org/corrections-volunteer  913-715-4542

**Family Court Services**
Volunteers assist with our Supervised Visitation Program that allows children to spend time with a parent from whom they’ve been separated in a safe and consistent environment. Parents meet for one hour with their child/children and a volunteer in the secure setting at the Justice Annex in Olathe. Responsibilities include approximately 90 minutes each Tuesday evening for 12 sessions, and a summary of your observation notes.

913-715-7422   Angie.Smith@jocogov.org

**Emergency Management**
Volunteers assist Emergency Management by participating as storm spotters. Volunteers attend a training seminar that enhances the ability to correctly recognize, identify and relay information about severe weather.

jocogov.org/emc-volunteer  913-782-3038

**Health & Environment**
Two hands-on volunteer opportunities available!
Re-blended Paint Program volunteers re-blend latex paint, reducing waste and protecting the environment. Volunteers must be 18 and older.
The WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Community Garden in Olathe welcomes volunteers of all ages every Tuesday from 7:30 - 9 a.m. during growing season (April to October). All produce harvested from the garden goes to WIC families in Johnson County.

jocogov.org/DHE  913-826-1200

**Johnson County Library**
The county is always looking for volunteers at its 14 neighborhood libraries! Volunteer a regular schedule or sign up to work on special projects. Library volunteers must be at least 14 years old. Volunteers can participate once a week, once a month, or for one-time special events.

jocogov.org/volunteer  913-826-4302

**Developmental Supports**
Our mission is to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by focusing on each individual’s abilities, providing choice-driven support, and advocating alongside people to live and work in our community. Opportunities include:

- Special skills training
- Planning activities
- Production work assistants
- Papercrete Works and Emerging Artists programs
- Special programs
- V.O.I.C.E.S. program (Volunteer Opportunities In Communities for Everyone’s Success)
- Project SEARCH program

jocogov.org/volunteer  913-826-2680
Boards & Commissions
Appointed board and commissions offer residents an opportunity to take part in the affairs of their community, shape and influence public policy, and contribute their time and talents to preserve the high quality of life in Johnson County. Currently about 300 county residents volunteer their time to serve on 30 boards and commissions. Vacancies on various appointed boards and commissions open up on a regular basis.

boards.jocogov.org  913-715-0430

JoCo Academy
The JoCo Academy program allows community-minded individuals to discover what makes our high quality of life possible through behind the scene tours, hands-on activities, and conversations with county staff. Come visit with commissioners, explore the budget, learn about civic engagement opportunities and tour our various facilities! Graduates will receive a certificate upon completion of this 10-week course.

jocogov.org/jocoacademy  913-715-0725

Sheriff’s Office Citizens Academy
The Johnson County Sheriff’s Office Citizens Academy is a 13-week program that meets weekly at various Sheriff’s Office facilities in Olathe and New Century. Sessions are offered in the spring and fall and accept 20 participants each from a waiting list. The academy is free and includes both classroom presentations and field experiences.

jocosheriff.org/webform/join-citizens-academy  913-715-5504

Election Workers
On Election Day, more than 2,500 election workers are needed at polling locations throughout Johnson County. This is a great opportunity to serve in your community. Election volunteers must be 16 years or older. Note: a stipend is paid to election workers. For more information, visit jocoelection.org/election-workers.

Apply at jocoportal.org/apply or call 913-715-6836

Park and Recreation District
JCPRD offers many opportunities to volunteer, including:
- Community relations
- Park maintenance
- Program registration and support
- The Theatre in the Park
- Ernie Miller Nature Center
- Sign language

jcprd.com/247/Volunteer-Opportunities

Human Services
Volunteers support the independence, dignity and self-sufficiency of older adults and others who require assistance. Human Services volunteers assist in numerous programs including:
- Catch-a-Ride
- Meals on Wheels
- Nutrition centers
- Helping Hands
- Office Administration
- Food pantry

jocogov.org/volunteer  913-715-8859

2019 Annual Report
Johnson County Government:
A culture of high performance and innovation

Johnson County Government is several years into an effort of cultivating a culture of high performance...one that values public leadership and pursues the highest levels of performance by county employees. Employees take our peer-led LEAP (Leadership Empowers All People) training program, which teaches employees high performance concepts and how to implement them throughout the organization.

Pillars of Performance combines and communicates those concepts along with the principles which have guided our organization for some time now. These Pillars help create a culture that guides how and why we do our work each day. Employees thrive in the culture of continuous improvement and operate under guiding principles which include:

◊ 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.

In 2019, the county gave Leadership in Action (LIA) awards to 21 employees, recognizing and rewarding their outstanding contributions. These employees were recognized for activities including creating efficiencies to save substantial time, demonstrating leadership, taking on extra responsibility and used innovation to save taxpayers thousands of dollars.

A stronger focus on innovation has added to our culture of high performance. A new Innovation Team is working with departments who have a particular goal, challenge or problem to solve. The Innovation Team partners with them to inspire and implement new solutions that best align with our organizational objectives.

21 county employees, pictured below, were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the organization in 2019.
The public is invited to attend meetings of the Board of County Commissioners every Thursday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the third floor hearing room at the Johnson County Administration Building (111 S. Cherry Street, Olathe, KS). Meetings are also available to stream online at bocmeetings.jocogov.org or on Facebook Live.