20 years ago, a beloved son died on 9/11

Middle section features JCPRD 50 Plus programs

Aging Resources Guide goes online
Out with the old, in with a new project
Shredding program protects privacy

New website details county aging services.
Razing courthouse paves way for square.
JCDS recycles shredded paper for other uses.

September-October 2021
Delta variant spreads in the county

By Jennifer Dunlay

The Delta coronavirus variant is throwing a wrench in plans to ditch the masks and return to pre-pandemic life. Between July 1 and Aug. 6, positive cases of COVID-19 increased by nearly 800% in Johnson County due to the spread of the Delta variant. This jump in cases caused Johnson County health officials to strongly recommend masking in indoor public areas in early August.

To keep schools open in a safe manner, a mask mandate order was enacted by the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners. The mask mandate is in effect until May 31, 2022, unless amended or revoked. Although the threat exists for children to become very sick with COVID-19, adults who are unvaccinated or immunocompromised are at highest risk for a severe health outcome from this virus variant.

Even with these additional protection measures in place, Dr. Sanmi Areola, director of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, says the best way to protect yourself and those you care about from COVID-19 is to get vaccinated.

“We have three highly effective and safe COVID-19 vaccines that will prevent you from becoming seriously ill and ending up in the hospital or even dying. Everyone over age 12 should get vaccinated so we can protect those who cannot – children under age 12 and those who are unable to get vaccinated for medical or religious reasons,” he said.

Although a small number of breakthrough cases have been reported to the health department, 0.4% of those vaccinated with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and 0.1% of those vaccinated with Moderna or Pfizer vaccines, nearly all of the recent infections, hospitalizations and deaths come from those unvaccinated.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) a very small percentage of fully vaccinated people can become infected with COVID-19 and spread it to others which is why health officials are now asking everyone to wear a mask in public indoor places whether they are vaccinated or not. Those who do experience a breakthrough case tend to have no symptoms or mild symptoms and rarely require hospitalization.

Areola says it’s especially important that transplant patients, those with chronic illnesses like heart disease or diabetes, or anyone undergoing treatment for cancer or taking immunosuppressants should continue to take the same pandemic precautions they did before they were vaccinated – wearing a mask, avoiding crowded indoor places, keeping distance from those you don’t live with and frequent hand-washing.

He advises that gathering outdoors is a safer alternative and encourages everyone to wear a mask if you can’t keep distance from people you don’t live with whether you are vaccinated or not. When planning a visit to a long-term care facility, Areola says it’s a good idea to call ahead and ask about their visitation policy as it may have changed recently.

As flu season approaches, the health department continues to recommend everyone over the age of 6 months get a flu vaccine when it becomes available this fall. Those over age 65 can get a high-dose flu shot and a vaccine to prevent pneumonia.

Like the COVID-19 vaccine, the flu shot protects you from getting infected with influenza or reduce the severity of flu symptoms if you do become infected. The health department will be offering both the regular and high dose flu shots this fall at its Olathe walk-in immunization clinic.

Visit jocogov.org/coronavirus or call 913-715-2819 for more information about how to get a COVID-19 vaccination in Johnson County. You can also text your zip code to 438829, visit vaccines.gov or call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 888-720-7489) to find a vaccine provider anywhere in the United States.

Jennifer Dunlay is risk communicator at the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.

The Best Times

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DEADLINE FOR EDITORIAL AND ADVERTISING COPY IS THE 8TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING PUBLICATION

On the Cover:
Bob and Shirley Hemenway, Shawnee, lost their son, Ronald Hemenway (inset photo), at the age of 37 in the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon 20 years ago. He was a Navy petty officer and a father of two young children.

Cover story photos by Paul Andrews
Indulge yourself at our beautiful senior living community offering restaurant-style dining, engaging social activities and tailor-fit, instructor-led health and fitness programs. Give yourself the carefree lifestyle you deserve.

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Theatre in the Park gears up for trucks, big rigs, car show

There will be vehicles aplenty on Oct. 9 at the Theatre in the Park, 7710 Renner Road, Shawnee.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Trucks and Big Rigs for Kids will allow youngers and olders to explore trucks, tractors, construction and city vehicles up close. Participants can crawl, climb and sit in the driver’s seat and talk with the real life operators of these vehicles. The first 150 children will get a free construction worker hat!

Suggested donations of $10 per vehicle will be accepted.

The 11th Annual Cars in the Park car show will also take place on the same day from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. also at Theatre in the Park.

Admission is free for spectators. Event features food vendors, a 50/50 pot, silent auction of sports memorabilia and a DJ.

Car show participants can register at JCPRD.com/register. Each entry is $25 in advance and includes a free T-shirt, $25 day of the show.

For more information, visit JCPRD.com/carsinthepark.

Proceeds from both events go to benefit JCPRD Special Olympics programs so that athletes may afford to participate in many different activities.

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Tours@nermanmuseum.org

Join online at nermanmuseum.org
Live Well Age Well goes virtual

By Michelle Alexander

Now in its 11th year with Johnson County Park and Recreation District’s 50 Plus Program, the 2021 virtual Live Well Age Well event will feature local experts who will engage with the audience on topics meant to provide tips, resources and take-aways that are available either online or right here in our community.

Virtual sessions will take place from 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Sept. 14 and Wednesday, Sept. 15. The event is free to all registered attendees and will feature a variety of educational sessions, online resources, demonstrations and door prize opportunities through the online video conference platform Zoom.

An event bag with program details, resources and goodies will be available for pickup on Monday, Sept. 13, for every participant who registers by Wednesday, Sept. 8. Pick-up locations include:

- Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village
- Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Drive
- Tomahawk Ridge Community Center, 11902 Lowell Ave., Overland Park
- New Century Fieldhouse, 551 New Century Parkway, New Century (near Gardner)
- Antioch Park, 6501 Antioch Road, Merriam.

Specific pick-up details will be communicated via email to registered participants along with links to access the online event presentations.

The event will kick off on day one with Bryan Rife. He is a certified life coach and has traveled the country providing fun, energetic presentations and workshops to a variety of organizations. His presentation at Live Well Age Well will focus on the importance of being involved in community and keeping social connections. He will also lead a session titled, “I’ve Opened the Box, Now What?” that will review useful tech devices for older adults.

Additional sessions on herb gardening, exercise and aging, meditation and practical stretching are also planned. A panel of volunteer coordinators from Johnson County Government will share information on volunteer opportunities available within the county and how to get involved.

Another Johnson County panel will provide education on the many aging resources that are available. Additional presentations will be provided by local Master Gardeners, the Alzheimer’s Association, JCPRD 50 Plus instructors and other local speakers.

Visit the Live Well Age Well website at jcprd.com/livewellagewell to register online, view a detailed event schedule, speaker bios and links to resources for local services and businesses. To register by phone, call 913-831-3359.

Registration is required and limited to 250 attendees. Michelle Alexander is manager of the 50 Plus Department.
A comprehensive and fun approach to living that celebrates the gift of longevity is what participants will find in a program being offered beginning in September by the 50 Plus Department of Johnson County Park and Recreation District.

The Aging Mastery Program (AMP) focuses on positivity and simple changes that can make a big difference in creating healthy habits. The program combines goal setting, daily practices and peer support to help participants make meaningful changes in their lives. It covers a broad range of topics with local experts helping to teach the curriculum.

Sessions will include:
- “Navigating Longer Lives”
- “Exercise and You”
- “Sleep, Healthy eating”
- “Financial Fitness”
- “Advanced Planning”
- “Healthy Relationships”
- “Medication Management”
- “Falls Prevention”
- “Community Engagement”

Participants will receive educational materials and incentives throughout the 10-week program.

AMP is more than classroom learning, as organizers hope to build a community to help participants find others who are having similar experiences and connect participants to services and organizations with resources to keep people active, engaged and independent.

The program includes assistance from the Mid-America Regional Council’s KC Communities for All Ages and K-State Research and Extension of Johnson County.

The next AMP session will begin at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 23, at Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village. The cost for 10 sessions of 90-minute each is $55 per person for Johnson County residents or $61 per person for nonresidents. Call 913-826-2975 for more information.

Richard Atlas poses with his AMP certificate.

Two events set Oct. 30

October 30 can be a busy and fun day to enjoy two public events within miles of one another.

The Mildale Farm Fall Fest, 35250 W. 199th St., Edgerton, will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring a number of fall activities.

Visitors will be directed to park in the large parking lot near Mildale Farm’s main barn which features peg construction and a hand-laid brick floor.

While District fishing permits have been waived for the Fall Fest, anglers 16 and older will still need to have a valid Kansas fishing license.

More event details are available at JCPRD.com/182/Mildale-Fall-Farm-Fest.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Lanesfield School Historic Site Fall Open House at 18745 S. Dillie Rd., Edgerton, is celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail with old-fashioned fun.

Hands-on activities include the Missouri Town Band, outdoor games and lessons in the schoolhouse with costumed teachers.

Both events are free.
9/11 memories never die

A lot has changed in the nation in the 20 years since four hijacked planes crashed into the World Trade Center (WTC) Twin Towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 lives were lost on Sept. 11, 2001.

The War on Terror began, leading to the longest sustained military campaign in U.S. history. The Department of Homeland Security was formed. Air travel was transformed with tighter airport security and screening. In December 2001, a joint resolution of Congress has designated Sept. 11 each year as Patriot Day. In 2009, Congress passed legislation requesting the observance of a “National Day of Service and Remembrance” on Patriot Day.

For most of us, the memories are still fresh as we commemorate the 20th anniversary of Sept. 11.

In the July-August issue of The Best Times, we asked you to share your reflections by email or mail. Snippets from some memories of respondents reflect the shock, fear, sorrow and anger that were shared by many that day. All submissions and memories in full are accessible at jocogov.org/Johnson-CountyRemembers.

A few respondents were eyewitnesses or had personal connections to where the attacks occurred.

Steve Ferrell, a retired Army brigadier general living in Overland Park, attended a Pentagon appointment “at the precise location of the crashing airliner.” Luckily, he had left the Pentagon to return to his office just five minutes before United Airlines Flight 77 slammed into the Pentagon. From his car, he saw the rising smoke from the attack.

Tom Heintzelman, Overland Park, saw United Airlines Flight 175 crash into the South Tower from his Washington, D.C. hotel room.

Dave Lewis-Jones, Lenexa, grew up near the WTC where his father worked in the North Tower. When the South Tower was struck, he “knew we were at war,” adding, “the attacks affected me profoundly. Still do.”

Martin Ritter, Overland Park, was at the Exchange Place rail station in Jersey City, N.J when American Airlines Flight 11 plowed into the North Tower and later watched as both twin towers collapsed within 102 minutes. “I will never forget it.”

Originally from Pennsylvania, Chris Hickam, Shawnee, was working in Texas when the attacks occurred. United Airlines Flight 93 had crossed over his hometown of Shanksville and was deliberately crashed about “80 miles from my parents.”

Judith Oberbeck, Overland Park, was caught in the turmoil that followed the attacks when the entire airspaces of the United States and Canada were closed and Amtrak train service was halted for two days, leaving her and many other travelers temporarily stranded.

She was visiting her daughter and first-born grandson in Indianapolis “when this horror struck.” Oberbeck could not get back home to start a new job. She eventually found a rental car, driving it to St. Louis where her husband picked her up. “As a new employee, being a week late for the job, was totally understood. Everyone’s lives were changed on that day.”

Gary Bachman, Overland Park, was making the morning rounds as a medical social worker at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas, when the planes struck the twin towers and he received two “911” (emergency) pages. For 35 years, he has been involved in disaster response work with fire and emergency services.

One page asked him to head to Kansas City International to help displaced air travelers whose trips were interrupted with many sleeping on cots.

The other page requested his availability for deployment to New York City. He deployed the third morning (Friday) on one of the first flights out of KCI. For the next two weeks, Bachman helped evacuees from the twin towers along with first responders, National Guard troops and construction crews working on and through “the pile,” saying it was “quite a memory.”

Like most of the nation, most respondents said they were right here in Johnson County or in metro Kansas City watching the news on TV screens.

Ken Hatfield, Stilwell, was attending a job-hunting seminar and joined a group watching live news coverage of the WTC after the first tower had been hit followed by a second airline striking the second tower. “Everyone was speechless … A dark day indeed.”

Joan Anderson, Roeland Park, was working at Kansas City’s Community Blood Center where a staff and donors watched TV in disbelief. “Within a few hours, there was a line of donors around the building; it was the only positive thing anyone could think of to do. Such a helpless feeling.”

Victoria Bruce, Olathe, was off from work and could not believe what she was seeing and hearing on TV. She called family members and friends, talked with neighbors, anyone who wanted to talk and “to God also.” She prayed “for families who lost family,” adding “we will never forget our heroes.”

Jamie Christie, Olathe, worked at Kansas City’s Marine Corps Finance Center and watched the TV coverage of the attacks. The Marines were accountants, but at “that moment they became warriors. They couldn't stand it and wanted to immediately pack up to defend our nation.”

Carol Yasuhara was teaching at Shawnee Mission North High School that morning. Now a retired world language instructor living in Overland Park, her memories was submitted as a small poem entitled “Where were You” with poetic rounds as a medical social worker at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, Kansas, when the planes struck the twin towers and he received two “911” (emergency) pages. For 35 years, he has been involved in disaster response work with fire and emergency services.

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Elaine Dale with Gardner Senior Nutrition Center has been named the recipient of the 2021 Citizen of the Year Award from the Gardner Rotary Club. Dale has been a nutrition center assistant working at the Gardner Senior Nutrition Center since 2008.

"Elaine goes above and beyond to make sure all who enter the Gardner Nutrition Center feel welcome. She organizes the daily operations of the Gardner Nutrition Center and home-delivered meal distribution," said Dyan Kallau-er, AAA Nutrition Program coordinator.

"Thank you, Elaine, for your continued dedication to the JCAA nutrition program and the Gardner community!"

In addition to the award, Dale also was grand marshal at the recent Johnson County Fair Parade and was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Gardner Rotary Club.

The Citizen of the Year Award, co-sponsored by the club and the Gardner Chamber of Commerce, is presented to an individual who has made noteworthy contribution to the Gardner area during the previous year or over a number of years. Recipients demonstrate commitment to community through their work and volunteer service, serve as a role model for others and maintain high ethical standards.

Elaine Dale named Citizen of the Year

Gary Duggan with the Gardner Rotary Club presents Elaine Dale with the 2021 Citizen of the Year Award.

COA still seeks candidates for leadership award

The Johnson County Commission on Aging is still seeking candidates for the 2021 Peg Deaton Leadership in Aging Award.

The award honors individuals, groups or organizations making outstanding contributions to the quality of life for older adults and their families in Johnson County. To request a nomination form, call the Area Agency on Aging at 913-715-8860 or access the form online at jocogov.org/dept/human-services/area-agency-aging/mission-aging.

Nominations must be submitted by Sept. 30 to: Kim Mann, Commission on Aging, c/o Area Agency on Aging, 11811 S. Sunset Drive, Suite 1300, Olathe, KS 66061 or via e-mail to HSD-AAAWeb@jocogov.org.

The new Aging Resources Guide at jocogov.org/aging-resources-guide features a menu of choices that’s content-rich and also graphically enhanced. The website provides a more visual and intuitive guide to aging services in Johnson County.

Here’s a quick look at the main features and some of the visual references seniors can expect to see when they visit, including:

- **AAA Services**: Includes care in the home, support for caregivers, food and nutrition programs, community-based service options, legal services, volunteering and highlights from the Johnson County Commission on Aging.
- **Special Reports and Publications**: Housing and long-term care, transportation, financial assistance, navigating health care and a link to The Best Times online.
- **Explore Your Options Directory**: An online guide full of resource and service listings in just about any category you might need … with special over-views and step-by-step guides to important subject areas.
- **New Online Intake Form**: Help is one call away Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. but you can start your request online if you like. Information specialists will continue to offer that personal connection many people need at 913-715-8861.

Website details aging services
Sign up remains for free Trualta support training for caregivers

The Johnson County Area Agency on Aging (JCAAA) continues to offer an innovative eLearning program for family caregivers of loved ones with dementia – part of a national program created by Trualta and offered by many aging offices across the country.

Designed to improve a caregiving situation, the free Trualta program features:

- Skill-based training through an online learning system with supportive print materials.
- A personalized learning journey based on relevant caregiving topics.
- Personal care tips for showering and toileting.
- Managing difficult situations like wandering, agitation and apathy.
- Safety and injury prevention, identifying fall risks, and moving and transferring safely.
- Caregiver wellness insights, including balancing work and caregiving.
- “Expert level” training from professional-level providers.

The caregiver support program provides a print and digital hybrid solution, so caregivers also receive printed booklets.

JCAAA staff will introduce the platform to families during a phone call or home visit. They can direct caregivers to the modules that would be most helpful to them and follow up to assist or encourage engagement as needed.

For more information or to participate in the JCAAA-sponsored program, call 913-715-8861.

Thank-you cards showed clients’ appreciation for the care packages of groceries and cleaning supplies the Johnson County Area Agency Aging, in partnership with HyVee, delivered in June. Many shared they were: “overwhelmed, thankful;” “very nice gift ... wonderful products;” “Thanks for going to bat for us. The AAA is always looking out for the elderly.”

Upcoming COA meetings

The Johnson County Commission on Aging (COA) meetings are open to the public and take place at 9 a.m. on the second Wednesday of the month.

The next meetings will occur on Sept. 8 and Oct. 13 at 11811 S. Sunset Drive in Olathe.

More information about COA is available at 913-715-8860 or online at jocogov.org/coa or facebook.com/jocoaging.
Razing of old courthouse paves way for new square

When it comes to the Johnson County Courthouse, it’s out with the old, in with the new in 2021.

The new seven-story courthouse with 28 courtrooms, located at the corner of Kansas Avenue and Santa Fe Street in downtown Olathe, was completed in early January after more than two years of construction. Demolition of the old courthouse, located directly across the street to the south, began in April and was targeted for completion by the end of August.

Work to backfill the old courthouse foundation is expected to be completed by mid-September. Approximately 15,000 cubic yards of dirt removed for digging the foundation of the new courthouse was saved and stored at the New Century Air Center.

Kyle Heltne, project manager at Johnson County Facilities Management, estimates the recycled dirt weighs approximately 33 million pounds (about 16,500 tons). It will be used to fill the foundation hole from the old courthouse and creation of the new Johnson County Square.

The vacant plot of the old courthouse has also been redesigned with a green space concept, referenced as the intermediate option, for development of the Johnson County Square. The project has been authorized with funding approval by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) in its role as the Public Building Commission (PBC).

The plan was recommended to the BOCC by county staff and an 11-member steering committee with public input gathered from pop up meetings, open houses, a focus group and two online surveys.

The intermediate option creates the Johnson County Square. The project features a large open, public community green area with a curved and widened walkway from the corner of Santa Fe and Cherry streets as the main entry to the square. The walkway leads to Children of the Trails sculpture and fountain located north of the county’s Administration Building.

The project includes site lighting; landscaping with shrubs, perennials, ornamental grass and sod; installing an irrigation system; and adding a tree grove at the northeast corner. A crosswalk with pedestrian signals is located at Santa Fe Street and access to the new courthouse. The Johnson County Square encompasses the Children of the Trails sculpture and fountain, dedicated in 2000.

Funding for the new courthouse and the county’s new Medical Examiner Facility, which opened last year, is from a 10-year, quarter-cent public safety sales tax approved by Johnson County voters in 2016. The J.E. Dunn design-build contract includes demolition of the old courthouse and creation of the redesigned downtown square. The project is expected to be finished in early November.

A master plan option for future development of the Johnson County Square proposes the addition of a Memorial Plaza with educational and historical information near the fountain, an open multi-use platform with stage, an art garden play area and iconic public art near the main entry.

The PBC has not authorized or funded a future option for the project.
Create a pollinator habitat

By Dennis Patton

“Pitch in for Pollinators” or “Plant a Patch for Pollinators” are catchphrases creating awareness of pollinator protection. Whether you have a yard, live in an apartment, or in a maintenance-provided community, there is something we all can do to help our pollinators thrive.

Native bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, flies, birds, beetles and ants are all important pollinators supporting our food supply. However, honeybees managed in hives are a non-native European species. Although honeybees do pollinate many of our food crops, they are not the true workhorses. Instead, it’s the seldom-seen native insect responsible for pollinating most plants in the world.

About one in every three bites of food we eat have been pollinated by insects. Three-fourths of all plants on earth require pollination. If these vital pollinators are lost, the results will be a less diverse food palate and increased food prices. The value of insect pollination in the United States is $18 to $27 billion annually. The variety of fruits and vegetables coming from foreign countries allows consumers to purchase fresh produce year-round.

What can we do? Together we can pitch in and help support a more diverse habitat. The good news is many strategies do not require spending money or doing a lot of work. Some simple changes could save you time and money.

Think of insects as good not bad

We are conditioned early in life to believe insects are bad. They need to be controlled, squished or sprayed. Many people develop irrational fears of insects, running and screaming at the sight. Of the millions of insect species worldwide, about 1% to 3% is harmful to either crops or man. This means most cause no harm or are vital in supporting the food chain.

The chickadee, a bird-feeder favorite, requires more than 6,000 caterpillars to raise one clutch of young, according to University of Delaware Professor Doug Tallamy. By spraying every tree and shrub to rid an insect that might cause damage, we practically eliminate the next generation of birds to enjoy.

Let’s change our view. Consider insects for the value they bring, not the potential harm. So, think twice before reaching for the spray bottle. Better yet, be tolerant. Instead of thinking of a few chewed holes in a leaf as damage, think of it as food for hungry caterpillars – many of which gave their lives for our friendly birds.

Eliminate use of pesticides

Pesticides are one of the major threats to pollinators. Insecticides kill pollinators outright. Think you are doing good by using organic pesticides? Think again. Organics, just like synthetic chemical products, also kill beneficial insects. No product can selectivity target the bad guys. The good guys are also eliminated. Control insects if their damage threatens the plant’s life. Tolerate imperfections as life is not perfect.

Herbicides use is a mixed bag. Removing invasive plants is helpful as they outcompete the native plants. However, herbicides can also kill natives. Native plants are essential for nesting larval stages, providing nectar and pollen, and overwintering habitats.

One of the best early-season sources of pollen are dandelions and white clover. Ask yourself – does every weed really need to be killed? Practice tolerance.

If pesticides must be used, follow the label and use methods to minimize harming pollinators. Spray at night but never when plants are blooming or on winding days.

Plan to attract pollinators

Simple practices make a big difference. Diversity among plants in the garden is a must to support the wide range of pollinators. Native plants can co-exist with more formal plants to create an attractive yet sustainable garden.

Avoid a spic-and-span garden. An estimated 30% of native pollinators nest in pithy stems of plants. In the spring, leave winterkilled stems allowing for overwintering insects to slowly emerge. Don’t remove every dead twig at spring cleanup. Leave a third of the old stems to provide summer nesting materials. These stems disappear in the new growth only visible to nesting pollinators. Dead branches or logs decaying provide excellent habitat.

Approximately 70% of native pollinators are ground-nesting, burying into the soil to reproduce. Avoid the use of landscape fabric and heavy mulching, making it harder for ground dwellers to dig in. Holes bored into the soil should be thought of as good instead of something damaging. Don’t panic.

Pitching in requires us to adjust our preconceived notions about insects. Appreciate them for the good they provide. Focus on the positive, not the negative. We can make a difference and ensure a world supporting bustling insects. The bases of the food chain for all species depends on it.

Dennis Patton is horticulture agent at the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Office.
20 years after 9/11: Parents recall loss of son in Pentagon

By Gerald Hay

Navy man Ronald John Hemenway was the third son of Robert (Bob) and Shirley Hemenway of Shawnee.

Twenty years ago, he was an electronics technician first class petty officer assigned to the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon. He was at work on Sept. 11. It started as an ordinary Tuesday. He emailed his father a joke at 7:59 a.m. (EST) and spoke with Marinella, his wife, on the phone a few minutes after 9 a.m.

Then at 9:37 a.m., American Airlines Flight 77 hit the Pentagon, killing all 64 people on the plane and 125 people inside the Pentagon, including Ronald John Hemenway.

“His remains were never recovered,” Bob Hemenway said. “Not even his dog tags.”

Twenty years later, the Shawnee couple sadly recall the events before and after Sept. 11, 2001, when their son was one of 2,977 victims killed in terrorist attacks involving four hijacked airplanes. Two planes struck New York City’s North Tower and South Tower of the World Trade Center. The third hijacked plane slammed into the Pentagon. The final plane was deliberately crashed into a Pennsylvania field near Shanksville.

The victims of the terrorist attacks ranged in age from 2 to 85. Ronald Hemenway, the father of two children, Stefan, 3, and Desiree, 1, was 37.

“The night before he died, we spent an hour and a half on the phone talking about equipment and so forth and I said, ‘Ron you better go to bed, you’ll never get up in the morning,’” his father remembered. “Twenty years may seem like a long time, but it seems just like yesterday.”

Shirley Hemenway, his wife of 61 years, agreed.

“Not a day goes by that we don’t remember,” she added. “I thought I was going to die. We lost a piece of our heart that day.”

Like most of the nation, the couple watched in fear, awe and ire of 24/7 TV coverage about the attacks, heroic efforts of first responders, the collapse of the 100-story Twin Towers, a downsized plane, a burning section of the Pentagon, wondering about their son.

They tried in vain to phone their son and called his wife, family members and area hospitals near the Pentagon for any information. Emails went unanswered.

“We did not know where he was,” Bob Hemenway said. “Since the Pentagon was so huge, the odds were he would not have been killed or harmed.”

Those odds were not to be. Following Sept. 11, Ronald Hemenway was classified as MIA (Missing in Action) since his body had not been located by search and recovery teams. On Nov. 11, 2001, the Pentagon announced five victims either could not be positively identified or no remains were found in the rubble. Ronald Hemenway was reclassified as KIA (Killed in Action). He rests in a single casket placed in a five-sided “Rock of Ages” granite monument at Arlington National Cemetery along with the other four unidentified victims. They included three civilians, ranging in age from 44 to 60, at work at the Pentagon and a 3-year-old girl on Flight 77. Other families also chose to include the remains of 25 other victims from the Pentagon attack in the casket. The group gravesite was dedicated on Sept. 12, 2002.

The Hemenways attended the dedication. It would be the second time they had buried a son. Their second child, Dale, died in infancy.

The couple has five children – two sons, Robert Hemenway Jr., Cleveland, Mo., and Paul Hemenway, Overland Park; three daughters, Sheri Berger, Shawnee, Debbie Gray, Overland Park, and Kathleen Novich, Olathe; 19 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Born in 1964 in Cordova, Alaska, Ronald Hemenway graduated from Wasilla High School, Wasilla, Alaska, in 1982 and attended the University of Alaska in Fairbanks for one year. For the next few years, he developed an interest in raising and breeding horses along with several other pursuits as a young adult.

“He definitely marched to the beat of a different drummer,” his father quipped.

After living in Alaska for more than two decades, Bob and Shirley Hemenway moved to the Lower 48 in the mid-1980s, first settling in Georgia before relocating to Kansas and making their home in Shawnee in July 1987.

In 1994, Ronald Hemenway joined the Navy shortly after his 30th birthday. In signing up, he expressed an interest in electronics in his military training, following in his father’s footsteps.

“I’ve been in electronics all my life,” Bob Hemenway said, adding with a smile: “The Navy wasn’t his first choice. He tried to go into the Air Force, but he was considered too old.”
call loss of son in Pentagon

Ronald Hemenway son attended the Electronic School in Great Lakes, Ill., and graduated as the Distin-
guished Military Graduate with his pick in assignments. He chose the U.S.S. Lasalle, a flagship in Gaeta,
Italy. While serving in Italy, he met his wife, Marinella. They married in 1997.

Three years later, the Navy petty officer requested statewide duty to
spend more time with his family
and be closer to Kansas where his
parents and most of siblings resided.
He applied for a job opening at the
Pentagon and was approved, transferr-
ing to Bolling Air Force Base near

He would die in military service
while at his office job 18 months later.

Over the years, Ronald Hemenway
is memorialized with the other victims
inside the Pentagon or on Flight 77 in
the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial
dedicated on Sept. 11, 2008.

He is also remembered on the
9/11 Memorial victim’s panel at the
Overland Park Fire Training Center,
12401 Hemlock St. A bronze Battle-
field Cross honors him near the main
entrance to his high school in Wasilla,
Alaska.

With the passing of 20 years, it’s
easier for the couple to talk about that
day and the beloved son they lost in
the 9/11 attacks. They found solace
and support through TAPS — Tragedy
Assistance Program for Survivors —
and became peer members.

“The TAPS got us through those first
years,” Bob Hemenway said.

A Gold Star Banner hangs from a
front window. It symbolizes a family
has had a loved one die or killed
while serving in the armed forces.
Shirley Hemenway joined the North
East Chapter of Gold Star Mothers in
Kansas, including serving as a past
president.

“Before 9/11, I didn’t even know
what a Gold Star Mother was,”
she said. “It’s an honor no family
wants.”

An entire generation has grown
up since the attacks. Young children,
including Ronald’s son and daughter,
are now young adults in their 20s.

Bob Hemenway is 81. His wife
is 79. Both have mobility challeng-
es. Shirley Hemenway has Parkin-
son’s disease with speech difficulties
and other complications.

Their home is filled with keep-
sakes of their son. Group family
pictures of him and his siblings in
youth don the wall above the
fireplace along with a large portrait
of their son in uniform. A triangu-
lar-folded flag sits on the mantel. His
medals, including a Purple Heart, are
displayed near the pictures.

Their lives were forever changed
20 years ago. Even with the passage
of time, memories never die.

“9/11 was a sad tragedy for our
family and our nation. So many loved
ones were lost that day,” Bob Hemen-
way said.

Shirley Hemenway agreed.

“It never goes away,” she slow-
ly added. “I want people to always
remember. I don’t want them to ever
forget.”

Event to observe 20th anniversary with 2,977 flags

A memorial display of 2,977 American flags will be ded-
icated on Thursday, Sept. 9, by Johnson County Government
in observance of the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001
attacks in honor of that many lives lost that day.

The “Johnson County Remembers” flag exhibit will be
installed on the south lawn of the county’s Administration
Building, 111 South Cherry St., in downtown Olathe. The
2-foot flags represent the victims of the 9/11 attacks on the
twin towers at the World Trade Center (WTC), the Pentagon
and the crash of a hijacked plane in a Pennsylvania field.

The public event will start at 8:03 a.m. when the United
Airlines Flight 175, the second hijacked plane, hit the South
Tower of the WTC almost 20 years ago. The tragic chain of
events began at 7:46 a.m. when American Airlines Flight 11
struck the North Tower of the WTC and ended at 9:03 a.m.
when United Airlines Flight 93 crashed near Shanksville, Pa.

Robert and Shirley Hemenway, Shawnee, and their fami-
ly have been invited as special guests. Their son, Ronald He-
menway, Navy electronics technician first class petty officer,
was killed in the Pentagon when American Airlines Flight 77,
struck the building at 8:37 a.m. He was 37.

The program will feature speakers and participation by
representatives from local first responders. The attacks killed
403 firefighters and law enforcement officers dying in the line
of duty.

Ed Eilert, chairman of the Johnson County Board of
County Commissioners, will emcee the program. The board
will also issue a proclamation to commemorate the 20th an-
niversary of the attacks and the annual observance of Patriot
Day, a Congressional designated National Day of Service and
Remembrance on Saturday, Sept. 11.

The flags will be displayed in downtown Olathe through
Monday, Sept. 13.

Watch for updates to the Johnson County Remembers
event through social media and the county’s website at jo-
cogov.org or jocogov.org/JohnsonCountyRemembers.
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Anthology Kansas City, 8101 Marty St., Overland Park.

Workshops explore creation of art in different ways

A picture is worth a thousand words and beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Those longing to create are invited to a series of one-day workshops, each with a different way of looking at or creating art hosted by Johnson County Park and Recreation District’s 50 Plus Program.

Workshop topics include an introduction to the elements such as color, form, line, shape, space, texture and value with each element being explored in a related art exercise or project. That workshop takes place on Sept. 20.

Participants can practice the blending of a variety of paper, images, words and mediums to create their masterpiece in the Collage Workshop on Sept. 27. In the Art as Play Workshop on Oct. 4, students will use mediums and techniques from childhood to “play” and learn to open-up to create art for the sheer joy of the experience.

To round out the topics, a Who Am I Workshop on Oct. 18 will invite participants to discover new ways to create a self-portrait, whether it be abstract, realistic or something out of this world!

All workshops, beginning at 9:30 a.m., will take place on Mondays at the Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty St., Overland Park.

The cost for each 2½-hour workshops is $15 for Johnson County residents and $17 for nonresidents. For more information or to register by phone, call 913-831-3359 or online at jcprd.com/register.

Mah Jongg marathon set Oct. 28

A Mah Jongg Halloween Party is offering a ghoul-ish good time from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Oct. 28 at the Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Dr.

Sponsored by 50 Plus, players in the Mah Jongg marathon will rotate tables and track wins; there’s no bracket play. There will be prizes, coffee, lunch and dessert.

Please register before Oct. 22.

Cost is $15 per person, $16 nonresidents. Cost of admission covers food and staff time to administer the Mah Jongg event with no additional charge for Mah Jongg.

Register online at JCPRD.com/register. For more information, call 913-826-3160.
By Michelle Alexander

It started as a small group of 200 older adults that referred to themselves as the Olathe Satisfied Seniors and has developed into a well-known countywide outlet for older adults to stay connected and engaged in their community.

Thanks to those future-focused individuals in 1971, advocating the importance of providing recreation services to the more seasoned adults, grant monies were secured under Title III of the Older Americans Act to establish the Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JCRPD) Senior Adult Program. Once the grant funding was spent, the district assumed full financial support of the program in July of 1974.

In the beginning, weekly meetings of the organization consisted of entertainment, socialization, cards and games, which are still offered today. After a few location changes due to continued growth, the program became known as the Olathe Senior Center. As the first multi-purpose center in Johnson County, the center was designated a community focal point by the Johnson County Aging Department.

JCRPD and Johnson County Aging Services continue a strong partnership today with a purpose of serving older adults. Building and maintaining relationships with other local city government agencies and community organizations has also helped JCRPD’s 50 Plus Department grow and maintain its popular services.

50 Plus staff and programs can still be seen today at Overland Park’s Matt Ross Community Center and Tomahawk Ridge Community Center, the Roeland Park Community Center, JCRPD’s Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse in Prairie Village and many other district facilities.

Additional city agencies, such as Lenexa, Shawnee, Merriam, Gardner, De Soto and others, have welcomed 50 Plus activities to support older adult citizens within their cities. These spaces and connections allow JCRPD to provide more than 1,000 programs with the participation of approximately 20,000 older adults.

To help support our next 50 years, the 50 Plus Department is launching a fundraising event, Fund the Fun, on Thursday, Nov. 4. Funds raised through the Park and Recreation Foundation of Johnson County will be utilized for scholarships to cover participant program fees, expenses and administrative costs associated with providing additional low-fee and/or no fee programs and more.

Tickets for the fundraising event will be available to the public for purchase beginning Wednesday, Sept. 1, for $50 per person. Heavy appetizers, entertainment and lots of fun are included in the ticket price. Those registered will also have the option to purchase raffle tickets through the foundation for the chance to win prizes such as gift cards and gift baskets.

To learn more about how to support the 50 Plus Department through the 50 Years of 50 Plus Golden Anniversary Event and to Fund the Fun, visit jcprd.com/50plus or call 913-826-3160. 

Michelle Alexander is manager of the 50 Plus Department.
Knowing about dementia vs. mental health concerns

By Keith Davenport

Several recent studies have begun to demonstrate that there may be a link between dementia and other mental health concerns, including an increased risk for suicide or self-harm.

Although this link doesn’t mean a person with dementia will always experience these mental health concerns, it does mean families should be aware of the mental health of their loved ones because families are the first line of care and support for an individual diagnosed with dementia.

September is Suicide Prevention Month.

One of the most evidenced-based ways that a family member can help prevent suicide in a loved one is to have direct conversations about mental health, including asking a loved one directly if they have considered suicide. If they answer “yes,” then you can listen to what they are feeling and connect them with professional help.

Johnson County Mental Health’s Center 24/7 Crisis Line is always available to talk about current crisis or just a general mental health concern you have for yourself or for someone you care about. You can also learn more about how to talk to your loved ones about their mental health by attending a class such as Mental Health First Aid, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) or Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR).

Visit jocogov.org/mentalhealth to view upcoming courses.

Keith Davenport is the community relations manager for Johnson County Mental Health Center.

Step into Wellness set Sept. 28

It’s time to Step into Wellness by joining others from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 28 to exercise at Meadowbrook Park.

Sponsored by the Johnson County Park and Recreation District’s 50 Plus Department, participants will meet at the Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village.

They can sample a variety of exercise classes with instructor demo’s, wellness activities, visiting with local businesses and an energizing walk through Meadowbrook Park.

Two different walking paths will be available to suit varying fitness levels.

The event, with breakfast, is $5 for Johnson County residents and $6 for nonresidents.

Registration is required and can be done by calling 913-831-3359 or online by visiting the Special Events page at JCPRD.com/50plus.

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Bingo includes chili with games

A Chili Bingo event, sponsored by 50 Plus, will take place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 30 at the Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Dr. Residents can celebrate the changing of the seasons and meeting new friends over a mild chili, salad and cinnamon roll lunch, including 12 games of bingo. Prizes can range from gift cards to gift baskets. Everyone receives a special fall-themed gift. Cost is $15 per person for residents, $16 nonresidents.

Please register by Sept. 23.

Bingo features funky tunes

A 50 Plus Anniversary Special Groovin’ 70s Music Bingo event is scheduled from 1:30 to 3 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village. Activities feature an afternoon of music bingo with prizes and refreshments as participants boogie down to their favorite funky tunes of the 1970s. Registration is requested at least one week in advance since space is limited. Cost is $10 per person, $11 for nonresidents.

Cost of admission for both bingo events covers snacks and staff time to administer the programs. There’s no additional charge for bingo.

Register online at JCPRD.com/register.

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Cedar Lake Village 20th Anniversary Celebration

Wednesday, Sept. 29 • 4 – 6 p.m.
Join Cedar Lake Village to celebrate 20 years of providing senior housing and services in Olathe. We are excited to host the community to commemorate our years of service. Please join us for happy hour, hors d’oeuvres, and live entertainment featuring the Heartland Revival Trio starting at 4:30 p.m. Tours of the community will also be available.

To RSVP for this event, please call (913) 780-9916 before Monday, Sept. 27.
By Thomas L. Lasley

Were you reluctant to schedule an appointment with Kansas Legal Services (KLS) during the pandemic?

Fear no more! KLS never ceased doing its site visits in Johnson County for the Area Agency on Aging program (AAA). We still maintain safe protocols against COVID-19 and our attorneys are fully vaccinated.

Now, let me refresh your memory about Kansas Legal Services, Inc. (KLS) and what it can do for seniors.

KLS is a statewide, non-profit law firm. Through our AAA program, we are devoted to providing free legal services to Kansans who are 60 years of age and older and are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.

Our local office is located at 400 State Ave., Suite 1015, Kansas City, Kansas 66101 (913-621-0200). Our statewide headquarters are in Topeka. The KLS website at kansaslegalservices.org provides more information.

For convenience purposes for seniors, we make monthly, free “site visits” at the following Johnson County locations and schedules. Meetings, lasting 30 minutes each, take place at:

- **Sunset Building:** On the second Thursday of every other month, we are at the Kansas Area Agency on Aging, at its offices in the Johnson County facility, 11811 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 913-715-8860 for an appointment.
- **Roeland Park Community Center:** On the second Thursday of every other month, we are at the community center, 4850 Rosewood Drive, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 913-826-3160 for an appointment.
- **Matt Ross Community Center:** On the third Wednesday of every month, we are at the community center, 8101 Marty St., Overland Park, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 913-826-2830 for an appointment.

During site visit meetings, we discuss their legal concerns, including advice on estate planning and avoiding probate along with preparation of simple estate planning documents, such as wills, a living will, a durable power of attorney for healthcare and financial purposes and a transfer on death deed.

We also discuss general legal issues involving adult abuse, healthcare, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, collections, guardianships and conservatorships, landlord/tenant disputes, simple real estate matters, bankruptcies and IRS issues.

Seniors can also apply for legal assistance either by phone (1-800-723-6953) at the KLS Central Intake office or by completing a KLS Application Online on the KLS website.

Thomas L. Lasley, an attorney for Kansas Legal Services, has more than 40 years of experience in the areas of elder law and estate planning.

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Program helps in managing finances

By Marty Johannes

Your ability to manage your money has a direct impact on your ability to build and live the life you want. It starts with budgeting and getting out of debt, with the end goal of saving and investing so that your assets can grow.

Thanks to a partnership that Johnson County Library formed with a retired business executive, you can learn more about and get one-on-one assistance with managing your money from an expert – free of charge.

Emerson Hartzler has had a distinguished career. He served as director of the Management Consulting Division for the Kansas City office of Touche Ross, vice president of New Product Development for Retirement Centers of America and executive director of Cardiovascular Consultants.

When Hartzler “retired” in 2007, he pursued a second career as a pro bono personal financial advisor. He assumed the role of director of Pro Bono Services for Triune Financial partners until 2015. He continues to maintain an independent pro bono financial practice. Since 2007, Hartzler has served more than 350 individuals and families in the community, doing all his work without charge. Much of his work with clients involves helping them to plan and manage their income and expenses on a monthly basis, so that over time they can achieve financial success.

Several years ago, Hartzler approached Johnson County Library about presenting using the free budgeting website Mint.com, with individual follow-up for interested attendees.

Working with the library’s career and finance librarian, he developed and presented the online program “21st Century Budgeting with Mint.com” to discuss the principles of financial success and the importance of tracking personal income and expenses.

Interested attendees had the opportunity to schedule one-on-one follow-up appointments with Hartzler to help them establish and maintain an online budget using the website. One of the attendees who followed up with him shared that, “Having a budget in mint.com has given me a better sense of control over my money and peace of mind about my current and future finances.”

Hartzler also developed “Exposing the Myths of Retirement Investing,” a three-part program on understanding the stock market, taming the emotions that hurt investing and withdrawing funds during retirement.

Recordings of both programs, along with several other Johnson County Library virtual finance seminars, can be viewed via the Online Programs Archive at jocolibrary.org/personal-finance.

On Oct. 28, Hartzler will present “Improve Your Financial Score,” a virtual seminar on how to track and build personal financial security. As with the Mint.com program, attendees will have the opportunity to schedule a one-on-one appointment with him to set up a budget and start improving their financial health.

To register for this program and to see a full listing of all the library’s career and finance programs being offered this fall, visit jocolibrary.org/events.

Marty Johannes is career and personal finance librarian at Johnson County Library.

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library connection
Identity theft is a problem facing millions of Americans every year, and while online identity theft is increasing, thieves aren’t just looking for your information online.

Sergeant Robert Huff works for the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office and has been working identity theft cases in law enforcement for 19 years.

“Thieves will go to any measure to get your information,” Huff said, adding this includes going through your mailbox or digging in your trash.

“You never know who’s going to go through your stuff, so you want to shred everything you can. Anything that has a paper trail of any passwords, any account numbers, your name, your date of birth, your social — anything. You want to make sure you shred those documents instead of just throwing them in the trash.”

According to Huff, individuals and families should own a personal shredder to ensure private information does not end up in the wrong hands. However, for businesses and families that handle a large volume of documents, finding a secure shredding service can make all the difference.

Johnson County Developmental Supports (JCDS) is an organization within county government that provides services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Many services provided center on creating opportunities for the individuals to work and earn a paycheck, either through competitive employment or onsite employment.

One such opportunity is document destruction, which is a secure and confidential shredding service operating at the Elmore Center in Lenexa.

The program began in 2010 after a donation from William T. Kemper Foundation to Friends of JCDS was used to purchase the equipment. The program grew from there and now accepts residential walk-ins and does business pick-ups. They use assistive technology to help individuals with limited mobility work.

About 10 people who receive services from JCDS work in document destruction each year. As the program grows, more individuals are joining the team.

Tracy Smith is the facilitator and says the benefits of document destruction extend beyond preventing identity theft.

“It’s giving individuals [with disabilities] an opportunity to work who more likely than not wouldn’t be able to,” she said. “It’s great that we can be another resource for people to find a place to shred.”

The shredded paper is recycled and used to build notebooks, fire logs and other assorted items. You can learn more, and request a price quote, online at docdestruction.jcds.org.

Melissa Reeves is community relations manager at JCDS.
EMFVs want kitchen clutter

By Crystal Futrell

Do you have more kitchen gadgets than you know what to do with?
Are you an empty nester but still have place settings that now hold dust more often than homecooked meals?
Well, we have an opportunity for you!
The Johnson County Extension Master Food Volunteers (EMFV) are starting a project called “Kitchen Restore” as part of Johnson County Extension’s JoCo E.A.T.S. initiative. It is a community resource and website listing healthy recipes that are easy to make and taste-test-approved. The E.A.T.S. stands for Easy Affordable Tasty Solutions.

For more than a century, Extension has worked under the mission of being a resource to help people improve their lives. It’s the familiar concept that it’s better to teach someone to fish rather than just give them a fish to eat. Well, it’s hard to fish if you don’t have a fishing pole. And, that’s what the JoCo E.A.T.S. Kitchen Restore Project is all about.

We are asking for donations of gently used (or new) kitchen tools and dinnerware. Our EMFVs will sort, clean, and organize the items into kits that will be donated to community organizations that can identify individuals and families who need them.

The kits will include items for measuring, cutting, mixing, cooking and eating. An estimated value for each kit is between $100 and $120. Extension will also accept tax-deductible financial donations of any amount (checks made payable to Johnson County Extension Education Foundation) to purchase items needed to supplement the kits.

Please bring your donations to our Johnson County Extension Office, 11811 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe. We will accept any kitchen item but mostly need: dinner plates, cups, knives, spoons, forks, serrated knives, plastic cutting boards, skillets, large mixing spoons, rubber spatulas, measuring spoons, dry measuring cups, liquid measuring cups, sheet trays, vegetable peelers, mixing bowls, fine mesh sieves, saucepans, can openers, flipping spatulas, meat thermometers and pot holders.

If you have questions about our JoCo E.A.T.S. Kitchen Restore Project, or if you are a community organization and would like to partner with Extension to facilitate this project, please contact me by email at Crystal.Futrell@jocogov.org or call 913-715-7000.

Crystal Futrell is the health and food safety agent at the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Office.

Extension seeks more foodies

Calling all foodies! Do you have a passion for cooking, nutrition, and healthy living? Do you like to share your passion?

Johnson County K-State Research and Extension is accepting applications for the 2021 Extension Master Food Volunteer training program. The application deadline is Friday, Sept. 10.

Training occurs on Wednesdays and Thursday, starting Sept. 22 and runs through Oct. 14. The eight training sessions will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Kansas State University Olathe campus, 22201 W. Innovation Drive. The fee is $100.

Applications, requirements and a list of training dates are available by calling 913-715-7000, or online at johnson.k-state.edu.

More information about becoming an Extension Master Food Volunteer is available by contacting Crystal Futrell at Crystal.Futrell@jocogov.org or calling the Extension office.

Give the Gift of Peace of Mind

With all the things we worried about in 2020 wouldn’t it be nice if you had one less thing to worry about?

Give your loved ones peace of mind.

Contact us to make your arrangements ahead of time.
This fall, Johnson County Park and Recreation District’s 50 Plus Travel is ready to breathe in the fall air and take in the natural sites of area walking trails and parks.

50 Plus offers two types of walking programs so various levels of nature lovers can enjoy the great outdoors.

Find your favorite trails all over the region, with Adventure Walks. After taking an hour-long hike on trails ranging from “easy” to “moderate”, participants can enjoy lunch with the group at an area restaurant.

For those looking to have a more leisurely stroll close to home, Wednesday Walks may be the perfect start to the morning. Make friends or bring some along while exploring the great outdoors on paved trails. After, stop and enjoy a sweet treat on the way back to Antioch Park in Merriam.

Transportation to the trails for all walks is provided by 50 Plus. Food purchases are at the expense of the traveler for all walking trips.

Upcoming walks (all start at 8 a.m.) include:

- **Wednesday Walk: Carl L. Chinnery Nature Trail**
  Unity Village in Jackson County, Missouri
  Wednesday, Sept. 8
  1-6 hour outing
  $21 residents/$23 nonresidents.

- **Adventure Walk: Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve**
  Strong City, Kansas
  Wednesday, Sept. 29
  1-9 hour outing
  $30 residents/$32 nonresidents.

- **Adventure Walk: Southwind Rail Trail**
  Allen County, Kansas (Iola to Humboldt)
  Thursday, Oct. 21
  1-9 hour outing
  $30 residents/$32 nonresidents.

Registration is now open for these fall walking trips.

For more information or to register by phone, call Tiffany at 913-826-2833. To enroll online, visit the daytrips and social outing page at [jcprd.com/50PlusTravel](http://jcprd.com/50PlusTravel).

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**Walkers can trek trails and parks**

Located in Meadowbrook Park, this boutique community provides seniors with a worry-free retirement experience. Join us and discover elegantly designed common areas, chef-prepared culinary experiences and an array of other amenities that will ensure that you love the way you live!

- **Assisted Living & Memory Care** -

CALL TO SCHEDULE A PERSONAL TOUR TODAY! 913.325.4907

9300 Parkside Drive, Prairie Village, KS 66207

OPENING SEPTEMBER 2021
September-October classifieds

Publishing of classified advertising does not constitute agreement or endorsement by this magazine or Johnson County Government.

LEND A HANDY HELPER, LLC. We do those "little" jobs that other Handymen won't do. Licensed, Insured. Free Estimates. From Lightbulbs to Ceiling fans, Power washing, and Grab bars. No Job Too Small! 22 year Retired Military Veteran, Honest, Reliable, REASONABLE. You can make an estimate appointment online at website or call 913-713-9030. www.lendahandyhelper.com.


SenCom (Senior Computer Users Group) is offering in-person classroom instruction for up to 10 students per class. Upcoming topics include computer maintenance, digital notebooks, iPad & iPhone, Windows 10, Windows tools, Word, and Excel. These and other senior friendly 3-hour classes on various computer topics are listed on our website at www.kcsenior.net. While you are there, check out all the other great resources available. We will kick off in-person monthly general meetings again on September 10 with a program on Learning Resources for Seniors. For schedules, locations and public health recommendations for all monthly meetings including special interest groups and Lunch & Learn, as well as information on SenCom membership and volunteer opportunities, go to our website or call Lou at 913-298-0575 with any questions.

Realism Art Classes, Thurs. AM from 10-12 or Thurs. PM from 6-8 in Olathe. Colored pencil &/or graphite instruction. No experience needed, $25 per week. For more details, e-mail: carol.rondinelli.kc@gmail.com.


ALL CLEAN CARPETS. Family Owned and Operated since 1977! Carpets-Tile-Grout-Orientals/Area Rug Cleaning. Small Carpet Repairs and Odor Control. We also Clean Upholstery. Sofa’s-Love Seats-Chairs. Mention This Ad and receive 10% off your first cleaning. ALL CLEAN CARPET. 913-894-0301.

Huge sale; Lakeview Village WhatNotShop! October 29 (9-4) & 30 (9-12). Great Christmas gift shopping! 9100 Park, Lenexa.

The classified ad rate in The Best Times is $55 for the first 20 words and $0.75 for each additional word. Advertising rates and advertising deadlines are subject to change without notice.

Payment for classified ads and business card ads must be paid in advance by the invoice due date prior to ad publication.

Classified ad requests are not accepted after the third day of the month preceding the publication. For more information on the classified ad or business card ad process, contact Tim Phenicie.

Email: tim.phenicie@jocogov.org
Call: 913-715-8920
**SERVICES PROVIDED**

How do I get rid of all these machines & tools? If you have a basement or garage full of woodworking tools, why not let me price and sell them while freeing up some space and putting cash in your hands. With over 24 years’ experience in appraising and selling woodworking machinery & tools, I can make life easier. Call or email Mike at 913-375-5750, mbcobbs@gmail.com.

Electricians - semi-retired, licensed, neat and courteous. "We work with you, listen, and advise accordingly." All jobs considered, from adding new receptacles and lights to upgrading electrical service panel. Stop overpaying. Raymond 913-671-8868.


Need help with Medicare? Medicare Supplements, Medicare Advantage or Part D Plans - Whether you are just now aging into Medicare or would like to compare your current plan, you have options. Let me help you find the best plan or answer your questions. I’m a local, licensed and experienced Medicare advisor. Call Rhonda at 913-579-3349.

**HOME DECOR DESIGN SERVICES**. 37 Years Experience Paint Selection, Space Planning, Art & Accessory Placement, Blending Old & New, Furniture & Window Covering Resources, Hourly Consults, Call Mary 913-304-4440.

**ProLine Painting & Improvements**. Interior & Exterior Painting and Repairs * Decks * Drywall * Wood Rot * Handyman * Licensed and Insured * Courtesy Consultations & Estimates, call 913-424-6346. Email ProLineKC@gmail.com.

**ANTIQUES WANTED**: 35th year in business in KC / We are actively looking to purchase antique furniture, paintings, quilts, silver flatware, jewelry, old toys, postcards, watches, pottery, glassware, advertising signs, country store items and almost anything old or unusual. Free verbal appraisals. Call 913-677-5566 or www.horsefeathersantiques.com.

**PEST PROBLEMS**? In Spring and Summer, the last thing you need is insect or other pest problems. I am a Board Certified Entomologist with 40+ years’ experience. I can identify your problems; explain how they affect your health or property and how you can eliminate them. I am a U.S. veteran with reasonable rates. Call 913-927-9588 or e-mail forrest@saintaubinbce.com.

**Can We Buy Your House?** We pay cash for houses in good neighborhoods. We buy in as-is condition and you can close on the day of your choosing. Easy. Cash. NO Commission. Schedule a no obligation appointment. Daniel Bennison 913-787-6354.

**Mister Green Landscaping & Lawn Care** - LANDSCAPE, PATIOS, WALLS, DRAIN SOLUTION, IRRIGATION, ETC. FREE ESTIMATES, 15+ years’ experience, licensed & insured. 913-707-2551.

**Are you writing your life story?** www.porchswingstories.com is the easiest online tool to help you capture and save your cherished memories. Another greater KC company! Call 833-767-2411 for more information.

**Senior Care Assistance**. Assist with showers, meals, housekeeping, errands, medication management and companionship. Fee: $60 for 3 hours Certified Nurse Assistant, deep cleaning $75 for 3 hrs. Lisa 314-229-1703.

**WE BUY HOUSES, ANY CONDITION OR AREA**: If you have a situation and need to sell your property quick, we can help. Go to www.huntressbuyshomes.com, fill out the short info form and we’ll be in touch or call 816-652-2053 24/7.

**Piano Lessons** – Interested in learning to play piano or just refreshing your skills? I would love to hear from you! Email me at leeanne.rogers321@gmail.com for info.

**FOR SALE**

**100 quilts for sale**. Machine piece and long arm quilted. Warm and natural or hobbs 80/20 batting. All cotton fabric. Florence Wilson 913-384-3249.

**Single Burial Plot FOR SALE** at Johnson County Memorial Gardens (Prayer Section) Metcalf Avenue. Call John Knorr, 913-515-2133.

**Johnson County Memorial Gardens. 5 consecutive lots for sale near the Bell Tower. Rare opportunity in prime location. Call Matt 913-961-8700.**

**Double lawn crypt, Resurrection Cemetery** in Lenexa, Garden of Hope section, lot 78 C, space 4. $6,700 Call/Text 512-656-1801.

**Johnson County Memorial Park. The only 2 standard lots remaining in Garden of Devotion. Ideal location with convenient access. 913-709-8600.**

Cemetery lot with two grave spaces, good location, in Olathe Memorial Cemetery. $3,000. Call 913-764-4506.

**Two plots** in the Garden of the Old Rugged Cross. Johnson County Memorial Gardens. Please contact me at 913-755-8000.

www.jocogov.org/thebesttimes • 25 • September-October 2021
September-October calendar

Due to the COVID-19 and preventative actions, please check websites or call ahead of time for the latest information about program/class/events cancellations and/or facility closures.

September


Cards and Games: Pinochle. Mondays. 1-4 pm. $1. Matt Ross Community Center.


Cards and Games: Mah Jongg. Tuesdays. 1-4 pm. $1. New Century Fieldhouse.


Cards and Games: Chess. Tuesdays. 8:30-11 am. $1. Matt Ross Community Center.

Cards and Games: Pinochle. Wednesdays. 1-4 pm. $1. New Century Fieldhouse.

Cards and Games: Duplicate Bridge. Wednesdays and Fridays. Noon-4 pm. $1. Matt Ross Community Center.

Cards and Games: Progressive Bridge. Wednesdays. $1. 10:30 am-3 pm. Tomahawk Ridge Community Center.

Bingo. Tuesday, plus the 1st & 3rd Thursday monthly. 12:30 pm. Free. Lenexa Senior Center.

Movies. Wednesdays. 1 pm. FREE. Merriam Community Center. Call for information 913-322-5550.

Cards and Games: Hand and Foot. Thursdays. 1-4 pm. $1. New Century Fieldhouse.


Cards and Games: Cribbage. Fridays. 9-11 am. $1. Matt Ross Community Center.

Cards and Games: Mah Jongg. Fridays. 1-4 pm. $1. Tomahawk Ridge Community Center.

Cards and Games: Dominos. Fridays. 1-4 pm. $1. New Century Fieldhouse.

September 1


Meet Your Neighbor. 5:30 pm. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library or via Zoom. Register by calling 913-971-6850.

September 2

Chair Yoga. 1-1:45 pm. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Register for attendance by calling 913-971-6850.

September 4

Live at the Library: Seamus Kelleher. 10 -11 am. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

September 7

Tuesday Tunes. 6:30 to 8:15 pm. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

September 8

Birthday Entertainment. 12:15 pm. Free. Lenexa Senior Center.

September 9

Fall Harvest BINGO. 1:30-3:30 pm. $3. Call for reservation. Merriam Community Center. 913-322-5550.

September 10

Lunch Bunch-Carrabba's. 11:15 am (trans- portation departs from Lenexa Senior Center at 10:40 am). Cost of your own meal. Reservations required by calling 913-477-7100.

September 11

Grandparents Day. 10 am-4 pm. $7 adults/$5 ages 5 and up. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm.

September 12

Lip Reading. 2 -3 pm. Free Temporary Olathe Library. Register for attendance by calling 913-971-6850.

September 13

Olathe: The City Beautiful. 7 -8 pm. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

September 14

Board Game Night. 6 - 8 pm. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

September 15

Cozy Coverlets Workshop. 7-8:30 pm. $5/person ages 8 and up. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm. Registration required at: www.mahaffie.org.

Solving the Medicare Puzzle. 6:30 pm. Free. Lenexa Senior Center. Call 913-477-7100 to reserve a spot.

September 16

Senior Symposium-Education is Power. 10 am – 2:30 pm. Free. Lenexa City Hall. Reservations required by calling: 913-477-7100.


September 23

Special Interest: Aging Mastery Program. (10 sessions). 9-10:30 am. $55/$61. Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse.

September 24, 25

Fall Cemetery Tours. 7 pm, 7:30 pm, 8 pm, 8:30 pm (no 8:30pm tour on Saturday, September 25). $7. Olathe Memorial Cemetery. Advance tickets required by calling 913-971-5111.

September 28

Special Event: Step into Wellness. 9 am- 1 pm. $5/$6. Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse.

September 28

Wellness Seminar: "Taking Care of your Joints". 10 am. Free. Lenexa Senior Center.

October


Movies. Wednesdays. 1 pm. FREE. Merriam Community Center. Call for information 913-322-5550.

October 3

Lip Reading. 2-3 pm. Temporary Olathe Library. Free. Register by calling 913-971-6850.

October 4

Climate change: More Fires, Floods, Droughts, and Hurricanes! 6:30 pm. Free for Lenexa residents only. For non-residents $50. Lenexa resident reservations: 913-477-7100. Non-Lenexa Resident registration call 913-897-8530.

October 5


Tuesday Tunes. 6:30 -8:15 pm. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Free.

October 6

October calendar

Due to the COVID-19 and preventative actions, please check websites or call ahead of time for the latest information about program/class/events cancellations and/or facility closures.

October 7
Chair Yoga. 1-1:45 pm. Olathe Indian Creek Library or Zoom. Free. Register for in-person attendance by calling 913-971-6850. Zoom link available at www.olathelibrary.org/events.

October 8-9
1860’s Campout. $59/per person or $49 for Mahaffie members. 5 pm Friday to 4 pm Saturday. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm. Registration is required at www.mahaffie.org.

October 9
Fall Scout Day. 10 am-Noon or 1-3 pm. $7 per scout (includes patch). Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm. Visit www.mahaffie.org to register.

Birthday Entertainment. 12:15 pm. Free. Lenexa Senior Center.

October 12
Olathe: The City Beautiful. 7-8 pm. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

Board Game Night. 6-8 pm. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library

October 13

October 14
Halloween BINGO. 1:30-3:30 pm. $3. Merriam Community Center. Call to reserve a spot 913-322-5550.

Lunch Bunch-Zada’s BQ. 11:15 am (transportation departs from Lenexa Senior Center at 10:40 a.m.) Cost of your own meal.

Live at the Library: Curtis McMurtry. 7-8:15 pm. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library

October 18
Everything Pumpkins Workshop. 7-8 pm. $5/free for Mahaffie members. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm. Registration required at www.mahaffie.org.

October 19
Special Interest: Armchair Travel to Omaha. 11 am-Noon. Virtual Program. Free. To register please call 913-831-3359.

October 21
Kansas City Hauntings. 6:30-8 pm. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

October 25
Olathe: The City Beautiful. 7-8 pm. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

October 26


Stretch & Restore. 11-11:45 am. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library or Zoom. Register for in-person attendance by calling 913-971-6850. Zoom link available at www.olathelibrary.org/events.

October 30
Trick or Treat Off the Street. 3-6 pm. $3/person ages 3 and up before October 29; $4/person ages 3 and up the day of the event. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm.

FACILITY LOCATIONS

BLUE VALLEY REC: Blue Valley Recreation Activity Center, 6545 W. 151st St., Overland Park; 913-685-6090; bluevalleyrec.org.

CENTRAL RESOURCE LIBRARY: 9875 W. 87th St., Overland Park; 913-826-4600 and Press 3 for all Johnson County Library reservations.

EXTENSION: Johnson County K-State Research and Extension, 11811 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe; 913-715-7000; johnson.ksu.edu/classes.

ARTS & HERITAGE: Arts & Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park; 913-826-2787; jocoAHC.com.

LENEXA SENIOR CENTER: 13425 Walnut St., Lenexa; 913-477-7100.

MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP AND FARM: 1200 Kansas City Road, Olathe; 913-971-5111.

MATT ROSS: Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty St., Overland Park; 913-826-2830.

MEADOWBROOK PARK CLUBHOUSE: 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village; 913-826-2975.

MERRIAM COMMUNITY CENTER: 6040 Slater St., Merriam; 913-322-5550.

MILL CREEK: Mill Creek Activity Center, 6518 Vista, Shawnee; 913-826-2950.


OLATHE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY: 1078A W. Santa Fe, Olathe; 913-971-6850; to register, 913-971-6888.

OLATHE INDIAN CREEK BRANCH LIBRARY: 16100 W. 135th St., Olathe; 913-971-6835.

PRAIRIE VILLAGE: Prairie Village Community Center, 7720 Mission Road, Prairie Village; 913-381-6464.

ROELAND PARK: Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Drive, Roeland Park; 913-826-3160.

SHAWNEE CIVIC CENTRE: 13817 Johnson Drive, Shawnee; 913-631-5200.

SHAWNEE SAFETY CENTER: SenCom computer lab, lower level, 6535 Quivira Road, Shawnee; 913-631-5200.

SYLVESTER POWELL: Sylvester Powell Community Center, 6200 Martway St., Mission; 913-722-8200.

TOMAHAWK RIDGE: Tomahawk Ridge Community Center, 11902 Lowell Ave., Overland Park; 913-327-6645.
WE WILL BE THERE WHEN YOU NEED US

- Avoid Probate and Court Interference with your Affairs
- Minimize Family Infighting
- Protect Heirs from Wasting Inheritances
- Keep Assets in Your Bloodline
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The choice of an attorney is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisement.
Welcome! On the following pages you’ll find a sampling of program listings for the 50 Plus Department of Johnson County Park and Recreation District. Complete program listings are available at JCPRD.com/50Plus. In 2021, 50 Plus is marking its 50th Anniversary. Celebrate with us by participating in programs marked with (50!).

Enrichment & Special Interests

Cards: Beginning Bridge
Learn the basics of bidding, scoring, and the play of the hand. Price includes Audrey Grant’s “Bidding in the 21st Century.”
8 - 1 ½ hr. sessions - $81 / $87 nonresidents
14165 MRCC 9/14 Tue 4 pm

Cards: Bridge Lesson - Play No Trump, Defend No Trump
Learn how to play No Trump and how to defend No Trump. Refreshments and handouts included.
1 - 3 hr. session - $20 / $22 nonresidents
14169 MRCC 10/11 Mon 9:30 am

Cards: Bridge Workshops
Become an in-demand partner. Purchase each workshop individually or take them all! Handouts included.
1 - 1 ½ hr. session - $10 / $11 nonresidents
14584 MBPC Take Out Doubles 9/9 Thu 6 pm
14585 MBPC Overcalls 10/14 Thu 6 pm

NEW! Cooking: Copy-Cat Restaurant Meals Demo
Watch our instructor demonstrate the ease of copying popular restaurant recipes. Enjoy samples and take home the recipes.
1 - 2 hr. class - $37 / $41 nonresidents
14469 RPCC 9/9 Thu 11 am

Cooking: Making Macarons Virtual Demo
Our experienced macaron maker will walk you through the steps while giving tips and tricks for making a successful macaron.
1 - 1 hr. session - $15 / $17 nonresidents
14474 Virtual Program 10/5 Tue 1:30 pm

Games: Bingo
Delight in food, prizes, fun, and 12 games of bingo. Variety of prizes awarded including gift certificates.
1 - 2 hr. session - $5 / $6 nonresidents
14483 RPCC Best Times 9/23 Thu 1:30 pm

Games: Intro to Mah Jongg
Learn the basics of this classic tabletop game from an experienced instructor. Mah Jongg card included.
4 - 2 hr. sessions - $45 / $49 nonresidents
14762 RPCC 9/8 Wed 1 pm
14587 MBPC 9/13 Mon 10 am
14514 MBPC 10/11 Mon 10 am
14477 RPCC 10/27 Wed 1 pm

Games: Learn to Play...
A beginner’s guide to what’s sure to be your new favorite games. Handouts provided. Join a drop-in group after lessons.
1 - 2 hr. session - $6 / $7 nonresidents
14184 MRCC Pinochle 9/27 Mon 9:30 am
14185 MRCC Cribbage 10/18 Mon 9:30 am

Reading: Meet the Author
Meet the author of “The Big Quiet,” Lisa Stewart for a discussion, signing, and Q&A session. Get discounted book price and free shipping via email at lstewart@lisadstewart.com.
1 - 1 hr. class - $5 / $6 nonresidents
14520 MBPC 10/26 Tue 10:30 am

Reading: Wanderlust Book Club
Quench your love of travel with a book each month. End the month with a group discussion. September’s book is “Dark Star Safari” while October’s book is “World Walk.”
1 - 1 hr. discussion - $5 / $6 nonresidents
14516 MBPC 9/29 Wed 1:30 pm
14517 MBPC 10/27 Wed 1:30 pm

Special Interest: Aging Mastery Program (AMP)
The ten-session program combines goal setting, daily practices, and peer support to help participants make meaningful changes in their lives.
10 - 1 ½ hr. sessions - $55 / $61 nonresidents
14548 MBPC 9/23 Thu 9:30 am

Special Interest: Alzheimer’s 10 Warning Signs
Recognize common signs, discussing memory concerns with loved ones, early detection, benefits of a diagnosis, possible tests and assessments for the diagnostic process, and Alzheimer’s Association resources.
1 - 1 hr. session - FREE
14546 MBPC 10/28 Thu 3 pm

Special Interest: Fall Planters
Get creative and hands on while designing a planter to spruce up your porch or deck. Plants and soil included.
1 - 1 ½ hr. session - $30 / $33 nonresidents
14626 MBPC 9/10 Fri 10 am
14629 MBPC 9/17 Fri 1 pm

Special Interest: Lunch & Learn Bee Organized
Join our friends from Bee Organized and break down why we buy, why we keep and, why it is hard to stay organized.
1 - 1 ½ hr. session - $26 / $29 nonresidents
14549 MBPC 10/13 Wed 11:30 am
Special Interest: Osher Institute - Lifelong Learning
Select from the opportunities below to create your own program of personal development and learning provided through KU’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

- **3 - 2 hr. classes - $50 (each subject below consists of three, two-hour classes)**

**CAPITALISM, SOCIALISM, INCOME INEQUALITY, AND GLOBALIZATION**
- 14491 RPCC 9/13 Mon 2 pm
- 14412 MRCC 9/14 Tue 9 am

**MEN AND WOMEN OF THE EARLY AMERICAN REPUBLIC**
- 14491 RPCC 9/13 Mon 2 pm

**JAPANESE GHOSTS AND DEMONS: DEPICTIONS IN ART, LITERATURE, AND FILM**
- 14492 RPCC 10/6 Wed 6 pm

**TRAVEL TO HAWAII**
- 14468 MRCC 10/8 Fri 2 pm

**THE PREDICAMENT OF POSSESSIONS IN LATER LIFE**
- 14550 MBPC 10/28 Thu 2 pm

**Technology: Various Courses**
Choose from a variety of courses to assist with all your technology questions. Make an appointment for one-on-one tutoring at (913) 826-3160.

- **1 - 1 hr. session - $10 / $12 nonresidents**
  - 14522 RPCC Selling Online 10/25 Mon 1 pm

- **1 - 1 ½ hr. session - $17 / $19 nonresidents**
  - 14497 RPCC Microsoft Word 9/22 Wed 1 pm
  - 14499 RPCC Microsoft Excel 10/27 Wed 1 pm

**SMARTPHONE WORKSHOPS - IPHONE & ANDROID**
- **1 - 1 ½ hr. session - $17 / $19 nonresidents**
  - 14423 MRCC Contacts & Calling 9/24 Fri 10:30 am
  - 14465 MRCC Settings & Alerts 10/1 Fri 10:30 am
  - 14466 MRCC Text & Email 10/8 Fri 10:30 am
  - 14467 MRCC All About Apps 10/15 Fri 10:30 am

- **1 - 2 hr. session - $20 / $22 nonresidents**
  - 14203 MRCC Facebook 10/ Mon 11 am
  - 14552 MBPC Helpful Apps 10/19 Tue 11 am
  - 14422 MRCC Smartphone Photos 10/29 Fri 10:30 am

- **1 - 2 hr. session - $60 / $66 nonresidents**
  - 14525 RPCC One-on-One Tutoring by Appt

**Fine & Performing Arts**

**NEW! Art: Exploring Art Workshops**
Enjoy a series of one-day workshops, each with a different way of looking at or creating art.

- **1 - 2 ½ hr. session - $15 / $17 nonresidents**
  - 14287 MRCC Elements of Art 9/20 Mon 9:30 am
  - 14288 MRCC Collage 9/27 Mon 9:30 am
  - 14290 MRCC Art As Play 10/4 Mon 9:30 am
  - 14291 MRCC Who Am I? 10/18 Mon 9:30 am

**Dance: Social - Tea Dance**
Enjoy live music from the big band era at our weekly tea dance. Individuals and couples welcome.

- **2 hr. dance - $5 pay at the door**
  - MBPC 9/3-10/29 Fri 2 pm

**Dance: Tap Dance Lessons**
Learn basic tap fundamentals then test out to Intermediate or Advanced. Hard-soled or tap dance shoes required.

- **8 - 50 min. sessions - $61 / $67 nonresidents**
  - 14302 MRCC Beginning 10/25 Mon 1:15 pm
  - 14308 MRCC Intermediate 10/25 Mon 2 pm
  - 14309 MRCC Advanced 10/25 Mon 3 pm

**Looking for at home recreation opportunities?**
We offer virtual programs as a fun, easy way to stay involved! See what’s available and sign up at JCPRD.com/50plusvirtual.

**Performing Group Vocal: The Side By Side Experience**
Have fun with music and singing regardless of your skill level. Weekly rehearsals with performances throughout the community.

- **12 - 2 hr. sessions - $14 / $15 nonresidents**
  - 14605 MBPC 9/17 Fri 12:30 pm

**Fitness & Health**

**Exercise: AEA Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (AFEP)**
Chair-based range-of-motion exercise class suitable for every fitness level and ability. Classes are on-going, start at any time.

- **No class 9/6.**
  - **45 min. session - $3 per class, pay at the door**
    - Merriam Community Center MW 10 am
    - Spring Hill Civic Center T,Th 1 pm
    - New Century Fieldhouse WF 10:15 am
    - Matt Ross Community Center Wed 1 pm
    - Matt Ross Community Center Fri 10:45 am

- **45 min. session - $3 online pay option during class**
  - 14365 Virtual Program Wed 11 am

**Exercise: Chair Yoga**
Enjoy the benefits of yoga through breathing and movement with the use of a chair for support if needed during standing poses.

- **6 - 50 min. sessions - $48 / $53 nonresidents**
  - 14568 MBPC 9/28 Tue 10:30 am
  - 14591 MBPC 9/30 Thu 10:30 am

- **6 - 50 min. sessions - $36 / $40 nonresidents**
  - 14592 Virtual Program 9/28 Tue 9:30 am

**Exercise: Classical Stretch**
Full-body workout that combines stretching and strengthening, while engaging all 650 muscles. Class held outdoors when weather permits.

- **5 - 50 min. sessions - $40 / $44 nonresidents**
  - 14570 MBPC 9/13 Mon 5 pm

**Exercise: Drum**
Drum to the beat on a yoga ball to get your heart pumping and energy flowing. Stand or sit and drum along with the instructor.

- **5 - 50 min. sessions - $40 / $44 nonresidents**
  - 14576 MBPC 9/17 Fri 9 am

**Exercise: Tai Chi**
Tai Chi offers a slow and gentle exercise with benefits in endurance, flexibility, and strength. All experience levels welcome in this course.

- **4 - 50 min. sessions - $36 / $40 nonresidents**
  - 14534 RPCC 9/8 Wed 10 am
  - 14531 RPCC 9/9 Thu 5 pm
  - 14535 RPCC 10/6 Wed 10 am
  - 14532 RPCC 10/7 Tue 5 pm

**Exercise: Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention**
The movements in this class are safe and easy to learn for those with arthritis or just starting a wellness routine. Classes are on-going, start at any time. No class 9/6.

- **45 min. session - $3 per class, pay at the door**
  - MBPC Advanced Mon 1 pm
  - MBPC Intermediate Mon 2 pm
  - MBPC Beginner Mon 3 pm

**Exercise: Restorative Yoga**
Slow, still style of yoga that involves long, passive holds in a series of 4-6 restful poses to achieve a state of total relaxation.

- **1 - 1 hr. session - $10 / $11 nonresidents**
  - 14577 MBPC 9/16 Thu 6 pm
  - 14581 MBPC 10/21 Thu 6 pm
Exercise: Virtual Strength and Stretching
A virtual class designed to increase strength and range of motion to help with activities of daily living.
6 - 50 min. sessions - $48 / $53 nonresidents
14574 Virtual Program 9/30 Thu 11:30 am

Yoga: Hatha (Gentle) Yoga Punch Card
Strengthen your body, calm your mind and improve flexibility and balance. Participants must bring their own yoga mat to each class.
5 Punch Card - $45 / $50 nonresidents
10 Punch Card - $90 / $99 nonresidents
20 Punch Card - $180 / $198 nonresidents
R RCC M,Th 4 pm

Zumba: Zumba Gold
Modified Zumba class with an easy-to-follow choreography focused on balance, range of motion, coordination and fun!
5 - 50 min. sessions - $39 / $43 nonresidents
14538 RCC 9/15 Wed 6:30 pm
14541 RCC 9/25 Sat 10 am
14539 RCC 10/20 Wed 6:30 pm

Special Events

NEW! Games: Anniversary Special - Groovin’ 70s
Music Bingo (50+)
Enjoy good vibes only, stellar prizes, and refreshments as you boogie down to your favorite funky tunes of the 70s.
1 - 1 ½ hr. event - $10 / $11 nonresidents
14366 MBPC 10/12 Tue 1:30 pm

NEW! Games: Mah Jongg Halloween Party
Bring your friends, favorite foursome, or meet new players and enter to win prizes. Players rotate tables and track wins; no bracket play. Coffee, lunch, and dessert provided. Register by 10/22.
1 - 5 hr. event - $15 / $16 nonresidents
14543 RCC 10/28 Thu 9:30 am

Games: Special Event Chili Bingo
Celebrate the changing of the seasons with friends, mild chili, salad, and cinnamon roll lunch with 12 games of bingo. Register by 9/23.
1 - 2 ½ hr. event - $15 / $16 nonresidents in advance; $18 / $19 nonresidents for registrations starting one week before event.
14544 RCC 9/30 Thu 11 am

Special Event: Step Into Wellness
Explore the world of wellness! Sample a variety of exercise classes with instructor demo’s, wellness activities, visiting with local businesses and an energizing walk.
1 - 4 hr. event - $5 / $6 nonresidents
14580 MBPC 9/28 Tue 9 am

Special Event: Virtual Live Well Age Well
Hear from local experts on a variety of topics meant to provide tips, resources, and take-aways that are available online or right here in our community to help you Live Well and Age Well.
2 - 3 ½ hr. event sessions - FREE
14015 Virtual Program 9/14 T,W 9 am

Sports

NEW! Pickleball: Beginner Pickleball 101
Learn all things pickleball! Class will cover terminology, rules, basic hits, serves, and more! Bring your own paddle.
4 - 1 ½ hr. lessons - $45 / $51 nonresidents
14594 MBP 9/14 Tue 10 am

Pickleball: Drop-in Play
Join fellow pickleball enthusiasts for play and practice! Times and days are subject to change due to indoor court availability. Equipment available.
$3 per person per day
M-Th 9 am-1 pm

Pickleball: Outdoor Fall Convenience League (Ages 18 & Older: 50 Plus division available)
Players schedule their own matches during assigned weeks.
$35 per player, per division
14596 MBP 9/12 Sun 7 am

Pickleball: Beginner Pickleball 101
NEW! Pickleball: Intermediate drilling dinks, drop shots, volley, and groundstrokes
Improve your game by learning and implementing fun and effective drills to daily practice. Bring your own paddle.
4 - 1 ½ hr. lessons - $45 / $51 nonresidents
14595 MBP 9/15 Wed 10 am

Pickleball: Intermediate Pickleball Workshops
Designed for the intermediate players who want to take their pickleball game to the next level. Space is limited. Equipment available.
1 - 1 ½ hr. workshop - $12 / $13 nonresidents
14379 MRCC Forehand/Backhand 9/23 Thu 10:30 am
14380 MRCC Overheads/Defense 10/19 Tue 10:30 am

Travel

For more information about 50 Plus extended travel opportunities, full itinerary brochures, and pricing of the trips listed below call (913) 826-2975, or visit JCPRD.com/50plustravel. All prices include airfare.

Extended Trip: Western Canada’s Rockies
June 4-12, 2022 - 9 Days, 13 Meals
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: DEC. 4, 2021
DOUBLE: $3,949 PER PERSON / SINGLE: $4,949 PER PERSON

Extended Trip: Painted Canyons July 17-25, 2022 - 9 Days, 11 Meals
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JAN. 17, 2022
DOUBLE: $3,599 PER PERSON / SINGLE: $4,599 PER PERSON

Extended Trip: British Landscapes
September 12-21, 2022 - 10 Days, 12 Meals
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: MARCH 13, 2022
DOUBLE: $3,949 PER PERSON / SINGLE: $4,549 PER PERSON
September & October
Special Events For All Ages

Visit JCPRD.com/Activities for details and registration information.
- TimberRidge Adventure Race - Sept. 18, Kill Creek Park
- Trucks and Big Rigs for Kids - Oct. 9, Theatre in the Park
- 11th Annual Cars in the Park Car Show - Oct. 9, Theatre in the Park
- Whimsical Woods - Oct. 9, Ernie Miller Park
- Trick-or-Cache - Oct. 15, Antioch Park
- The Hunt at Meadowbrook Park - Oct. 23, Meadowbrook Park
- Haunted Kansas - Oct. 23, Ernie Miller Park
- Trick or Treat Trail - Oct. 29, Theatre in the Park
- Mildale Farm Fall Fest - Oct. 30, Mildale Farm

Below are additional programs of interest to 50 Plus participants

Birding: Fall Bird Walk (Ages 18 & Older)
Join us for a morning walk in the woods to look for fall migrants and resident birds. Get help spotting and identifying different species. Bring binoculars if possible. Limited loaner binoculars will be available.
1 - 1 ½ hr. session - $8 / $9 nonresidents
14416 Ernie Miller Nature Center 9/14 Tue 7:30 am

Go Green: Worm Bin Workshop
(Ages 18 & Older and Children 8 & Older Accompanied by Parent/Guardian)
Make your own worm bin, complete with a half-pound of worms to take home. Learn how to care for your worms, troubleshoot problems, and how to make worm tea.
1 - 1 ½ hr. session - $29 / $32 nonresidents
14464 Ernie Miller Nature Center 10/14 Thu 10 am

Map & Compass: Orienteering Workshop
(Ages 16 & Older and Children accompanied by Parent/Guardian)
This beginner’s workshop introduces you to orienteering, a fun way of learning the basic skills for using a topographic map and a magnetic compass.
1 - 3 hr. session - $15 / $17 nonresidents
14462 Ernie Miller Nature Center 10/23 Sat 9 am

Museum: Behind-the-Scenes Johnson County Museum Tour (Ages 16 & Older)
Interact with museum staff as you learn why we collect, how we collect, and the importance to our local community.
1 - 1 hr. tour - $11 adults / $10 seniors (60+) / $9 children.
Includes museum and KidScape admission. Museum members receive a 20% discount - call (913) 831-3359 to register and claim discount.
14122 JCAHC 10/25 Sat 1 pm

Museum: Fashion and Function in Design
(Ages 21 & Older)
Join JCCC’s Fashion Merchandising and Design Program as they reveal connections between industrial designer Paul McCobb and clothing designer Bonnie Cashin. Examples of clothing from the JCCC Historical Fashion Collection. Includes beer and snacks.
1 - 1 hr. program - $6 adults, $5 seniors. Museum members free. Call (913) 831-3359 to register or go online.
14424 JCAHC 9/16 Thu 6 pm

Museum: Lanesfield School Fall Open House - Santa Fe Trail Edition (All Ages)
Celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail and have old-fashioned fun with hands-on activities, the Missouri Town Band, outdoor games, and lessons in the schoolhouse with costumed teachers. Lanesfield Historic Site is three miles from Mildale Farm - visit their Fall Fest the same day between 9 am and 2 pm and take the free shuttle to the Lanesfield Historic Site.
1 - 5 hr. drop-in event - FREE
Lanesfield Historic Site 10/30 Sat 11 am

Museum: Latinos on the Santa Fe Trail
(Ages 21 & Older)
We know stories of folks traveling west on the Santa Fe Trail, but what about those traveling east? Join Dr. Gene Chavez as he reveals the hidden history of Latinos on the Santa Fe Trail. Includes beer and snacks.
1 - 1 hr. program - $6 adults, $5 seniors. Museum members free. Call (913) 831-3359 to register or go online.
14428 JCAHC 10/7 Thu 6 pm

Program Locations
- Antioch Park
  6501 Antioch Rd., Merriam
- (EMNC) Ernie Miller Park & Nature Center
  909 N. K-7 Highway, Olathe
- Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center (JCAHC)
  8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park
- Kill Creek Park
  11670 Homestead Lane, Olathe
- Lanesfield Historic Site
  18745 S. Dillie Rd., Edgerton
- (MRCC) Matt Ross Community Center
  8101 Marty St., Overland Park
- (MBPC) Meadowbrook Park & Clubhouse
  9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village
- Merriam Community Center
  6040 Slater St., Merriam
- Mildale Farm
  35250 W. 199th St., Edgerton
- (NCF) New Century Fieldhouse
  551 New Century Parkway, New Century
- (RPCC) Roeland Park Community Center
  4850 Rosewood Dr., Roeland Park
- Spring Hill Civic Center
  401 N. Madison St., Spring Hill
- Theatre in the Park
  7710 Renner Road, Shawnee
- (TRCC) Tomahawk Ridge Community Center
  11902 Lowell, Overland Park

Scan this QR code for information or to purchase JCPRD fishing, boating, and archery permits online at JCPRD.com/permits.