JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS

The Best Times

September-October 2020

INFORMING & SUPPORTING JOHNSON COUNTY'S 60+ ADULTS

Volunteers take nests under wing in bluebird capital

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www.jocogov.org/thebesttimes

Preparing to honor veterans in 2020
County wants to recognize WWII vets. Where are they? Page 2

Needing help in 2020 November elections
Election Office wants poll workers to assist voters. Page 22

Staying safe includes getting a flu shot
Flu season nears during COVID-19 challenges. Page 24

the editor's view

Where are local WWII vets?

Finding World War II veterans in 2020 is increasingly an exercise in scarcity.

Even though 16 million Americans fought in World War II, the number of veterans from the conflict still living today is falling quickly.

Five years ago, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, estimated just under one million WWII veterans were alive. The current estimate is 300,000. The average age of a WWII vet is 92. They represent less 2% of those who served in the war.

In 2020, there have been a series of 75th anniversary milestones from WWII – V-E Day (May 8), V-J Day (Aug. 14) and Japan's unconditional surrender (Sept. 2) on the USS Missouri – as we, nationally and locally, prepare to honor remaining WWII veterans on Veterans Day (Nov. 11).

The Best Times is looking for brief profiles of living WWII veterans in Johnson County. The information will be featured in the November-December issue of the magazine.

Information will also be used in a "Twenty-One Days of Veteran Salutes" that will be posted online on the county's website (during the work week – Monday through Friday) from Oct. 14 leading up to Veterans Day.

Organizers of the Johnson County Veterans Day observance also plan to incorporate profiles and pictures of local WWII veterans as part of the 2020 celebration on Wednesday, Nov. 11, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of when the war ended in 1945.

In order to achieve that mission, we need the basics of living WWII vets in Johnson County, including:

- **Name**
- **Age**
- **Where he or she lives**
- **Branch of military in WWII**
- **Rank**
- **Military specialty (specific job)**
- **Years of military service**
- **Highlight of an experience or memory from WWII (25 words or less)**

Pictures of veterans while they served are welcomed along with their current picture. Close-up pictures of the veterans, past and present, are encouraged. Please write the name of the veteran on the back of each submitted picture and an address if pictures are to be returned.

Pictures and profiles can be sent to The Best Times via:

- **Email: gerald.hay@jocogov.org**
- **U.S. Postal Service mail: The Best Times, 111 South Cherry Street, Suite 3300, Olathe KS 66061**

In addition to profile materials, please provide contact information (email or phone) in case additional details are required.

The deadline for submitting a profile of a living WWII veteran in Johnson County is Oct. 1. BT

The Best Times

Volume 38, Issue 5 September-October 2020

The Best Times, a bimonthly publication of Johnson County Government, is mailed at no cost to Johnson County residents who are 60 plus. Subscriptions are available for $20 annually for those who do not qualify to receive the magazine.

On the web: ***The Best Times*** is available online at jocogov.org.

Mission: ***The Best Times*** is a bimonthly magazine provided for all Johnson County residents age 60 plus, publishing articles that inform, challenge, support, entertain and persuade.

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

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

On the Cover:

Vance Petrillo, left, Mary Gillespie, center, and Jim Walton are shown with a nestng box at Shawnee Mission Park.

Cover story photo by Paul Andrews

Join us tableside, and get to know our Executive Chef and culinary team. Our *Sensations* dining experience is one of the many features of our community that makes our residents feel right at home. Using only the freshest ingredients, our culinary team create mouthwatering entrees, side dishes, and desserts that are always delicious!

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Time nearing end to be counted in census

Earlier this year, due to the impact of COVID-19, the U.S. Census Bureau extended its original deadline to have everyone counted in the 2020 Census from the end of July to Oct. 31. Recently, the bureau eliminated one month of that extension, and the new deadline by which to count everyone in the nation is Sept. 30.

For those who have not participated in the census yet, there are only a few weeks left.

Census workers knocking on doors

This summer, census workers began visiting households that had not yet responded by mail, phone or online. They are trained on social distancing and other health and safety protocols. The Census Bureau hires workers to visit neighborhoods in their own communities.

Residents can do the following to verify the identity of a census worker:

- Ask to see a valid ID badge. A census ID will have the person's photo, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.
- If you have concerns about the census worker's identity, call 844-330-2020 to speak with a Census Bureau representative.

If it's determined that the visitor does not work for the Census Bureau, residents can contact their local police department to report suspected fraud.

If no one is home when the census taker visits, the census taker will leave a notice of their visit with information about how to respond online, by phone or by mail.

Final reminder on importance of the census

As reported before in this publication, Johnson County will only receive its correct share of $675 billion in federal funds if everyone is counted, once and in the right place.

According to the GW Institute of Public Policy "Counting for Dollars 2020" report, Kansas receives more than $6 billion each year based on data provided by the 2010 Census. Examples of that funding directed to Kansas from which seniors benefit include:

- More than $1.9 billion for Medicaid.
- Nearly $6 million for Medicare Suppl. Medical Insurance (Part B).
- More than $6 million for special programs for aging adults for nutrition services.

For those who have not yet been counted, please visit **2020census.gov** or call 1-844-330-2020. BT

JOHNSON COUNTY PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

Virtual LIVE WELL AGE WELL

2020

Thur., Oct. 8 • Fri., Oct. 9 • 10 am - 2 pm

Join us for two days of live virtual sessions hosted via Zoom that focus on ways to help you live life well. Local experts will engage on topics meant to provide tips, resources and take-aways that are available online or right here in your community.

- Free event, advanced registration required by calling (913) 831-3359. Limited to 300 attendees.
- An event bag with event details, resources, and goodies will be available for pickup prior to the event for every participant who registers by Oct. 1.

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JOHNSON COUNTY Park & Recreation District

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Many virtual programs set with Zoom

The Johnson County Park and Recreation District's 50 Plus Department continues to offer a host of stimulating and entertaining ways to connect virtually via Zoom in September and October.

Virtual programming is a great way to expand your knowledge on a wide array of topics from subject matter experts in health and wellness, horticulture, history, fitness, travel, technology and much more.

Challenge yourself with a sampling of interactive virtual games such as Jeopardy, Scattergories, and Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader which brings a great crowd.

Other favorites include Travel Trivia and Virtual Bingo.

Upcoming free virtual programs include:

- "Keys to Embracing Aging" on Sept. 10
- "Virtual Bingo" on Sept. 16
- "Aging Mastery: and Rightsizing Your Life" on Sept. 17.
- "Alzheimer's 101" on Oct. 2
- "JoCo Election Office: Preparing for the November Elections" on Oct. 6
- "Kansas City Rose Society: Tour of Laura Conyers Municipal Rose Garden" on Oct. 13
- "Taking Flight: The Lifestyle of Aviation" on Oct. 27

RSVP by email at **tiffany.hanna@jocogov.org** or by calling at 913-826-3160.

RSVPs can also be made when they are publicized in the 50 Plus weekly Explore 50 Plus e-newsletter. Residents can subscribe to the newsletter at **jcprd.com/enewsletters.** BT

Live Well Age Well goes virtual in October

Johnson County Park & Recreation District's Live Well Age Well event, hosted by the 50 Plus Department, is going virtual in 2020.

Resource connections, education sessions, fun and prizes remain on the event schedule but will be available via the Zoom virtual platform rather than an in-person event.

Live Well Age Well will span two days, Thursday, Oct. 8, and Friday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pre-registration will be required for those wanting to attend online. All registered attendees are eligible to pick up an information and goodie bag at three different locations across the county.

For a complete list of event details and information, visit **jcprd.com/live-wellagewell** or 913-826-2975. BT

Good question, good answer

By Dan Goodman
director of Area Agency on Aging

JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS
Area Agency on Aging

Question: How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected aging services in Johnson County?

Answer: Since the pandemic started, all our services have been impacted, but some have been affected more than others. Overall, we have a great deal of pride that the services, in large part, have continued throughout this crisis. Our staff have been creative, resourceful and resilient while providing service options to benefit those we serve. Here's what we have been doing during the pandemic:

Information and assistance service continues without much disruption. During the county shutdown, our offices were closed but our staff were still assisting folks over the phone and via email. We encourage residents to continue calling or emailing us about services; however, we are open for walk-in office appointments, when necessary. Monthly intake numbers have remained steady and within what we expect during normal conditions.

Assessment and case management services have been adjusted during the pandemic. All assessments and case management activities are handled remotely by phone, videoconferencing and email. Assessments generally have remained steady; however, we have noticed a couple of specific changes in service needs.

- One of our assessment services known as institutional transition has increased. This service assists clients in moving out of facilities and back into the community. Since March, we have assisted in transitioning more than 30 residents back into the community.
- Our diversion rate over the first six months has increased to 72%. Since 2013, we have tracked our number of community-based service assessments in comparison to assessments to gain access to nursing facility placement. The percentage of community-based service assessments or our "diversion rate" has ranged from 58% to 63%. Now at 72% in 2020, more senior adults have opted to continue community-based care and been diverted from more costly nursing facility placement.

Administrative case management and Virtual Visits have been added as two new services during the pandemic.

- **Administrative case management** was featured in this column in the last issue and is provided when assessments for Medicaid home and community-based services indicate a functionally eligible applicant needs additional assistance with the HCBS process.
- **Virtual Visits** is a program that allows families to connect with residents of nursing facilities through agency tablets and video conferencing technology. We have three tablets dedicated to providing this service at our office and will set up 40-minute visits for family members of residents living in nursing facilities that are willing to partner with the AAA. Ask your nursing facility to call 913-715-8860 to schedule a virtual visit 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday, and we would be happy to help accommodate the partnership and a virtual visit.

Nutrition programs impacted

Our traditional congregate meal services have been suspended since the pandemic initially impacted our county. It is hoped that once the spread of the disease begins to flatten that congregate meals can return. It is likely that congregate meals will return as a grab and go meal option with the dine-in option returning once the pandemic has been reduced to a level that is safe for our participants.

Our CHAMPSS congregate meal option offered through our local Hy-Vee grocery stores remains an option; however, we did suspend new participants for a period of time. It is projected that this program will be opened for new participants by September.

Finally, our **Home-Delivered meal program** has been altered and is recovering. During the county shutdown, meals went from daily hot meals to weekly frozen meals and were delivered by county employees instead of our routine volunteer base.

To assist with the loss of the socialization component of this program, participants were contacted by phone routinely to check in on them. As a precaution, we also supplied each participant with three weeks of shelf-stable meals to prepare them for any service disruption that may occur during this crisis.

Since the shutdown, we have gradually restarted the daily hot-meal delivery and our volunteers are back to delivering. Our volunteer base that delivers the meals has decreased during this time so if you have an interest, we could use your help. BT

AAA information specialists will be handing out publications at four September and October drive-through events. The publications include the new 2020 Explore Your Options Directory and caregiver books.

AAA plans drive-through events, offers directory of local resources

Options Counseling offers seniors and individuals with disabilities in Johnson County choices for long term care, KanCare Medicaid, home and community-based services and information about informal supports and benefits.

For Johnson County residents who need help with in-home services, meals/nutrition, housekeeping, caregiver support or want to know their options for housing, assisted living and nursing facility care, options counseling can be helpful. It gives an individual the opportunity to have a conversation tailored to their unique needs and situation.

Individuals interested in options counseling can provide information about their needs at one of four options counseling drive-through events on Friday afternoons. Staff will wear face masks for safety.

Information staff from the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) then will share the new 2020 directory of services with them and offer caregiver resources and publications.

Drive-through events will take place:

11811 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe
Sept. 11 and Oct 23
2 to 4 p.m.
6000 Lamar Ave., Mission
(north parking lot)
Sept. 18 and Oct. 30
2 to 4 p.m.

Interested aging adults or their caregivers can bring the following information to the drive through events:

- First and last name
- Address
- Date of birth (month, day, year)
- Email address (optional)
- Phone number
- A short statement about the help or information needed

AAA counselors will follow up during the following week to explain any helpful options available.

These events should move smoothly, save on the postage for bulky publications and help individuals in need connect with AAA. Please call 913-715-8861 for additional information about the drive-through event. BT

Upcoming COA meetings

The Johnson County Commission on Aging will continue to meet via Zoom videoconference at 9 a.m. on Sept. 9 and Oct. 14. For more information call 913-715-8860.

KDOT OKs funds for transit projects

The Kansas Department of Transportation has awarded Johnson County Transit one-time funding of $1,027,278 for four pilot projects and associated software and capital purchases.

Funding will be used for expansion of the microtransit service area, a pilot for on-demand transportation programs focused on access to health care, neonatal care and fresh local food, and the purchase of new software and infrastructure improvements for transit vehicles.

The funds, awarded at a 90/10 split, require the county to provide a local match in the amount of $102,728 from transit reserves. The Johnson Board of County Commission approved the match during its meeting on Aug. 13.

"We're excited to provide additional opportunities for residents to access vital services in the community. Public transportation, through these pilots, will provide for greater flexibility for residents to get what they need, when they need it," said Josh Powers, Johnson County.

"We appreciate these state-county and private-public partnerships to help vulnerable populations."

- Expansion of the current microtransit service area to capture areas with higher prevalence of poverty, low-income and disability and senior populations.
- The implementation of on-demand transportation for health care systems in Johnson County focusing on getting transportation-disadvantaged patients to maintenance health care appointments in order to reduce inappropriate emergency room visits.
- A pilot program in partnership with the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment to expand access to prenatal services to teenage and/or low-income mothers and their children.
- A pilot program in partnership with JCDHE to identify patients from partner health care systems in Johnson County in order to provide access to existing food pantries in the county.

"We are proud to support Johnson County's efforts to improve opportunities for those with healthcare transportation challenges," said Lacey Kane, community outreach liaison for Olathe Health.

"Our community has identified transportation as a top priority through our health needs assessment and improvement planning process. Access to care and to healthy food options are keys to a healthy community." BT

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Volunteers to help in Medicare open enrollment

This fall's open enrollment period for Medicare from Oct. 15 to Dec. 7 will look different than it has in the past.

Counselors are looking at ways to help beneficiaries review their prescription drug coverage while keeping socially distant. Johnson County plans to have 12 more volunteers this year to help review and process worksheets to give aging adults options in choosing a drug plan.

They will review coverage either over the phone, through Zoom, email or mail (preferred) and in person only if it can be done in a safe manner. Aging adults are a vulnerable population and we are mindful of that and want to help but do so in a safe way for our volunteers and staff.

To get assistance with reviewing your prescription coverage, contact Johnson County SHICK at 913-286-0292 or the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Office at 913-715-7000. Resources are also available online at **johnson.k-state.edu.** BT

Chair yoga class begins on Sept. 1

Take yoga off the mat and onto a chair during a program being offered in September by the 50 Plus Department of the Johnson County Park and Recreation District beginning in early Setpember.

Social distancing and COVID-19 safe practices will be encouraged during the program.

The class for ages 50 and older will incorporate breathing with movement, while retaining all the benefits of yoga from a chair. Participants can experience standing balance poses using the chair for support as needed.

Chair yoga is offered at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays, beginning Sept. 1 at the Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall, Prairie Village.

The cost for four one-hour sessions is $30 per person for Johnson County residents or $33 for person for nonresidents.

For more information or to register, call 913-831-3359 or visit the district's website at **jcprd.com**. BT

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Time to jump start the lawn

By Dennis Patton

September is a month of change as we say goodbye to summer and hello to fall. The lawn has battled the stress of heat and sun and, like us, welcome some cooler days and nights. This combination is the perfect condition to help the lawn recover.

Feed in the fall

Cooler conditions awaken bluegrass and tall fescue from its summer slumber. Just as breakfast is considered the most important meal of the day, September fertilization is considered breakfast for turf. Lawns wake up hungry, wanting to grow.

September fertilization feeds the plant and restores energy, building strong roots and crowns. If we take care of the roots and crowns, lush green growth will happen above the ground. What should this breakfast meal include? Lots of nitrogen as it drives the processes.

In early September, apply fertilizer with high nitrogen sources. This is considered any product with the first number on the bag, nitrogen, being at least 25% to 30% or higher. The second number, phosphorus, and the third number, potassium, on the bag, should be as close to zero as possible. The only exception of high nitrogen sources would be if a soil test indicated the need for additional phosphorus or potassium or if you are overseeding the lawn.

Fall fertilization does not stop in September. Make another high nitrogen application in mid-November. This application results in early spring green-up without excessive top growth, meaning a lush green lawn without all the extra mowing.

Fix bare spots

Summer drought, heat, insects or disease can cause the cool season lawns to thin out, requiring overseeding. Like fertilization, seeding is best done during the warm days and cool nights of early September. These conditions result in quick germination and establishment before the arrival of winter. Success with seeding is about preparing the soil. Merely broadcasting the seed over the soil or dead grass will waste time and money. Soil preparation for seeding is best done by verticutting. A verticutter is slightly larger than a lawn mower. Spinning blades cut through the dead sod and thatch layer into the soil. Smaller sections can be roughed up with a hand rake.

A verticutter or hand rake will remove the dead grass and loosen grooves in the soil. The seeds move into these grooves and are covered by soil. This provides good seed-to-soil contact necessary for germination.

Proper watering is also vital for germination. Warm days quickly dry out the soil, resulting in the death of the seedling grass. Seeding a lawn makes you a slave to watering. All the rules of watering a lawn are thrown out. Instead of deep watering, apply water lightly and frequently to keep the upper surface moist as the young seedlings grow. This may require one or two light applications a day. More sun and wind equal more water.

Seeds should germinate in one to two weeks. The frequency can then be backed down, but the establishing roots that have begun will need to be kept moist. Be sure to apply a starter fertilizer for a boost of energy. Don't scrimp on the high nitrogen application later in the fall.

Loosen the soil

Local heavy clay soils in our area are compacted. This compaction limits depth of rooting for grass and places stress on the lawn during summer. Breaking up compaction in an existing lawn is not easy. Compaction is often a result of construction and takes decades for the soil to recover naturally. Core aeration can be used as a tool to speed up the process.

Aeration is done by a machine having hollow 'tines.' As they thrust into the soil, plugs of about the size of a finger are removed. Once these cores are removed, it allows clay soils to naturally expand, reducing compaction, improving water, nutrient and air movement. This results in a healthy root system. Maximum benefits from core aeration are achieved when plugs are pulled about every three inches apart. Two passes of the aerator are a must for max benefits. Moist soil is also required so the tines can penetrate as deeply as possible.

Need help?

High nitrogen, seeding, verticutting, core aeration – are all these lawn care terms confusing? Extension is here to help. Our gardening hotline service is ready to unravel and demystify this process to help you make the right decision for your lawn.

The gardening hotline is a phone call, click or visit away. Staffed Monday through Friday from 9 a.m to 4 p.m. by Extension Master Gardener volunteers and Extension staff, our mission is for you to find success in your lawn or garden. We can walk you through the process and provide helpful information.

Contact us by phone at 913-715-7050, email **garden.help@jocogov.org** or more information can be found at **johnson.ksu.edu** under the Lawn and Garden tab.

Early fall kicks off the lawn care calendar. Now is the most vital time to prepare your lawn for the coming year. BT

Dennis Patton is horticulture agent at the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Office.

FY 2021 budget adds funds to start new AAA program

One of the top priorities of Johnson County Government is to enhance aging services to meet increasing demands from a growing older population.

In its approval of the FY 2021 budget, the Board of County Commissioners added $250,000 for the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) program to serve more aging adults, with plans to provide a matching amount in 2022.

According to Dan Goodman, AAA director at the Department of Human Services, his agency requested a $500,000 investment over a two-year funding cycle. The funding will serve an additional 216 older county residents through the new local program modeled after the state's Senior Care Act (SCA) program.

"That funding included $410,000 for services and the remaining would cover the cost and benefits for one new full-time employee in 2021 to assist with the added service demands," Goodman said.

The board overwhelmingly supported the proposal to fund the $250,000 in the FY 2021 budget.

According to the AAA director, a large majority of older adults prefer to stay in their home as long as possible, if not avoid institutional care altogether.

"Programs like Senior Care Act and the new local program allow for more older adults to do just that," he said. "The funding approved for 2021 will serve between 70-80 new clients each year with the remainder of the 216 new clients coming with the additional funding proposed in 2022."

The local program will be developed to begin in January 2021. Although it will be modeled like the existing Senior Care Act program, the local program may be further tailored to better meet the needs of Johnson County residents.

Like the Senior Care Act program, the Johnson County program will use a sliding fee scale which means clients will pay for a portion of the services that they receive, based on their income and assets. Services will include homemaker, attendant care, case management, assessment, home health and respite care.

Over the past nine years, the Johnson County AAA has demonstrated that clients stay on Senior Care Act services for an average of 24 months or 2.07 years. Of the older adults who choose to enter a nursing care facility, most will spend down their remaining financial resources within two years.

Goodman points out there is "a significant difference" between the annual cost for SCA ($2,400) and the annual cost for a nursing facility bed ($72,087).

"The cost avoidance to the Kansas taxpayer per client served by SCA is $69,687 per client, per year," he said. BT

BOCC approves FY 2021 budget

The Johnson County Board of Commissioners adopted the FY 2021 budget that starts Jan. 1.

The Board authorized a .25 mill levy reduction to the proposed budget for the County Taxing District. The BOCC approved the FY 2021 budgets for the Johnson County Library and the Johnson County Park and Recreation District as proposed in the County Manager's budget.

The mill levy reduction equates to approximately $2.8 million and will come from reserves in 2021.

The new budget totals almost $1.25 billion, slightly less than the current budget, with an estimated mill levy of 25.600 mills.

The final setting of the FY 2021 mill levy will be established by the end of October with the latest property valuations by the Department of Records and Tax Administration. The mill levy calculations are only for Johnson County Government and do not include other taxing entities, such as the state of Kansas, cities or school districts.

Details about the FY 2021 Budget are available online at **jocogov.org**. BT

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The weekly public business sessions of the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners begin at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays in the Johnson County Administration Building, 111 S. Cherry Street, in downtown Olathe.

Live coverage of the meetings is viewable on the Internet through the county's main website, **jocogov.org.**

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GCHKS5DEN

Coney Island exhibit visits Johnson County Museum

Coney Island - Visions of an American Dreamland, a temporary exhibit, is now on display until Oct. 17 at Johnson County Museum located inside the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park.

The traveling exhibit looks at the novelty of the summer resort and amusement and entertainment mecca.

Exhibit admission is included with regular museum admission rates of $6 for adults, $5 for seniors, and $4 for children ages one to 18, and free for children under one.

The museum is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and is closed on Sunday. In order to promote physical distancing, the museum is offering limited admission and a mid-day cleaning.

A related virtual History on Tap program is planned at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1. The Ups, Downs, Loops and a Lot of Fun: A History of Rollercoasters and Amusement Parks will feature rollercoaster enthusiast Paul Drabek talking about the history and thrills of the popular amusement park ride.

The cost for the one-hour virtual program is $6 for non-museum members or $4.80 for museum members, who must register to claim their discount. One week prior to the event, all registered participants will receive an email with a Zoom link and instructions on how to proceed.

For more information about this program or to register by phone, call 913-831-3359 or online at **jcprd.com**. BT

Daily meal program needs help

The Johnson County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Nutrition Program provides home-delivered meals to more than 550 homebound aging adults daily.

The home-delivered meals program has a pressing need for new volunteers who can dedicate one hour once a week, once a month, or substitute when available.

The Area Agency on Aging utilizes 58 delivery routes to distribute all meals daily. Fifty-four routes are delivered by volunteers.

It takes on average three to four active volunteers per route to achieve the monthly delivery of meals, so the program is always searching for additional volunteers. However, providing the nutrition service during the COVID-19 pandemic has presented another challenge to AAA recruitment efforts.

If you are searching for a worthy purpose or just have a little extra time to assist others, please help aging adults by volunteering to deliver noon meals. More information is available by calling 913-715-8895. BT

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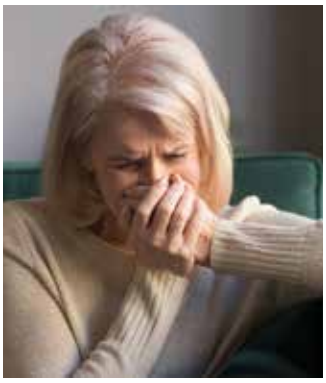
Aging alone in age of COVID-19

By Denise Dias

Do you feel as if you are all alone? Loved ones are far away or unable to come and see you as they once did because of the pandemic?

Loneliness can affect us physically and mentally. When people are socially alone, they may experience depression, make poor nutritional choices and become less interested in life. Some aging adults may choose to live in isolation, but for many of us, we need to be socially involved in order to thrive.



Living at home, by yourself, does not mean that you must age all alone. There is a big difference. The obvious one is that we are all aging, right? But how we choose to grow older and get through this pandemic is completely within our control.

Look for innovative ways to be involved in a safe manner that still helps you to feel socially connected to the community around you. There are numerous ways we can stay engaged and not feel isolated. Here are a few of the ideas for you to consider.

- **Get creativ**e – Gather up your art supplies and create! Painting and sculpting are great activities for brain stimulation. But don't limit yourself there. Maybe you are a quilter or welder; look at using your skills in a new and creative manner.
- **Cook up something** – Make your favorite dish and share it with other neighbors or friends. This is one way to combat eating the same dish for days on end, but also can help others to enjoy something that you like to make. You can do no contact doorstep drop offs. Be sure if it something perishable, that you call before you drop it off.
- **Games and puzzles** can be passed along, too! Once you have completed or used a game several times, consider sharing it with a new family or friend. Remember when you were a kid and people would drop off a May basket at your door? You can do something similar with games and puzzles, or even a special treat. There are even groups of people on social media who sprinkle one another with special gifts and treats to help brighten their day.
- **Nature is good for the body and mind.** When was the last time you really slowed down to appreciate nature? Listening to the sounds, feeling the wind and warmth of the sun can help to lift your spirits. Mindfulness is a popular way of turning your focus to find tranquility and peace within yourself. Nature gives us that place to make that change.
- **Storytelling is another creative outlet for people.** Writing can be therapeutic, fun or both! Capturing the stories of your family and your past are important to share with future generations. It gives them important family history and an appreciation from where they have come from. Or if you are feeling creative, try writing a whole new story.
- **Learn something new!** There are so many things you can learn, even though we may be stuck at home. Online classes are available through Johnson County's Extension Office, Parks & Recreation District and Libraries. Most are free of charge. You can also get books from the library to read and stretch your mind in new directions. Take a tour of Kansas City, with an app on your phone. The app gives you directions and takes you on a driving tour of city history.
- **Get active in the community** – Many places are seeking volunteers to help. They have taken steps to keep their volunteers safe from being infected, while still working to help others in our community. Meal delivery, neighborhood watch groups, helping with grocery pick up, environmental beautification and too many other ideas to mention here.

There are ways to keep involved and active while maintaining your social distance. It may take being a bit inventive to make it happen, but we will all be better because you did! BT

Denise Dias is family and consumer sciences agent at the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Office.

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New season of bingo starts Sept. 2 at New Century

A new season of themed bingo games is being kicked off in early September by the 50 Plus Department of the Johnson County Park and Recreation District.

Five bingo sessions will be presented at five locations through the end of October. Social distancing and COVID-19 safe practices will be encouraged during these programs.

All bingo sessions begin at 1:30 p.m., featuring a dozen games of bingo, as well as food, prizes and fun.

For Johnson County residents, the cost for each two-hour program is $5 per person in advance, or $6 on the day of the event. For nonresidents, the cost is $6 in advance, or $7 on the day of the event..

"County Fair" is the theme for the first bingo session which will take place on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at the New Century Fieldhouse, 551 New Century Parkway near Gardner.

Other bingo programs include:

- "Sock Hop" on Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Dr., Roeland Park
- "Oktoberfest" on Oct. 7, at the Tomahawk Ridge Community Center, 11902 Lowell, Overland Park
- "Nightmare on Nall" on Oct. 20, at the Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall, Prairie Village
- "Masquerade" (course ID 37930) on Oct. 27, at Cedar Lake Village, 15325 S. Lone Elm Road. Olathe

More information is available by calling 913-826-2975 or visiting the district's website at **jcprd.com**. BT

Plein Air class begins Sept. 9 at Antioch Park

Discover how to see what is around you and translate it to paper or canvas during a program being offered by the 50 Plus Department of the Johnson County Park and Recreation District beginning in early September.

Physical distancing and COVID-19 safe practices will be observed during this program.

The class is called Plein Air, which is a French expression meaning "in the open air," and is particularly used to describe the act of painting outdoors.

Participants will learn color mixing, light representation, and more. Plein Air will take place at 9 a.m. on Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 9, in Antioch Park, 6501 Antioch Road, Merriam.

The cost for six sessions, lasting two and a half hours, is $65 for Johnson County residents or $71 for nonresidents.

For more information or to register, call 913-831-3359. Residents also can register online at **jcprd.com.** BT

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Volunteers enjoy blu

By Gerald Hay

Johnson County is truly the bluebird of happiness.

A longtime home to eastern bluebirds, the Johnson County Park and Recreation District has been the designated as "Bluebird Capital of Kansas" for more than two decades by the Kansas Legislature. The designation recognized the creation of the Bluebird Recovery Program when the population of eastern bluebirds was nearly extinct due to habitat loss, human encroachment and natural predators.

Through a partnership with the JCPRD and the K-State Research and Extension Master Naturalist (EMN) program, the Bluebird Stewards, a group of bird-loving volunteers, are monitoring nearly 400 nest boxes in more than dozen JCPRD parks, a handful of city parks and other nesting sites throughout the county.

Bluebird Stewards gather information how many eggs have been laid and hatched, the number of chicks fledged and what birds the nesting boxes are attracting each year. They also have built and repaired boxes along with cleaning out old nests each winter or early spring.

Building a new nest is incentive for female bluebirds to lay their eggs, averaging four or five. The birds do not build their nests in the open.

"They are cavity nesters, so in a perfect world, bluebirds would find enough holes in trees, fence posts, etc. They don't create the holes themselves, but they build compact little nests in a tiny space," said Mary Gillespie of Shawnee.

The Bluebird Recovery Program was created in 1989 by Frank Rollf of Shawnee when he installed 16 nest boxes, resulting in 89 bluebird fledglings, along Mill Creek Streamway Park. In 1999, the JCPRD was designated the "Bluebird Capital of Kansas."

By 2004, Rollf and other volunteers had added more than 250 boxes in six district parks with more than a thousand bluebirds fledged annually. He died in 2008 at age 88.

Jim Walton, Olathe, was in the first EMN class in 2013.

"After a fairly severe decline in the 1960s and 1970s due to loss of habitat, the eastern bluebird population is in pretty good shape thanks to bluebird trails (in JCPRD parks)," he said. "They are of low concern on the Continental Concern score of at-risk bird species."

The eastern bluebird is the state bird of Missouri and

Bluebird Stewards include Mary Gillespie, Shawnee (left)

New York while the western meadowlark has been the state bird of Kansas since 1937. Western meadowlarks, which are more common in western and central Kansas, also are the state bird in Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and Oregon.

While the nesting boxes are built to meet bluebird "requirements," Vince Petrillo says other birds have also utilized the boxes. The most common species are tree swallows, wrens, tufted titmice and chickadees. All native North American birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act signed by the United States and Canada in 1918.

Other birds use nesting boxes

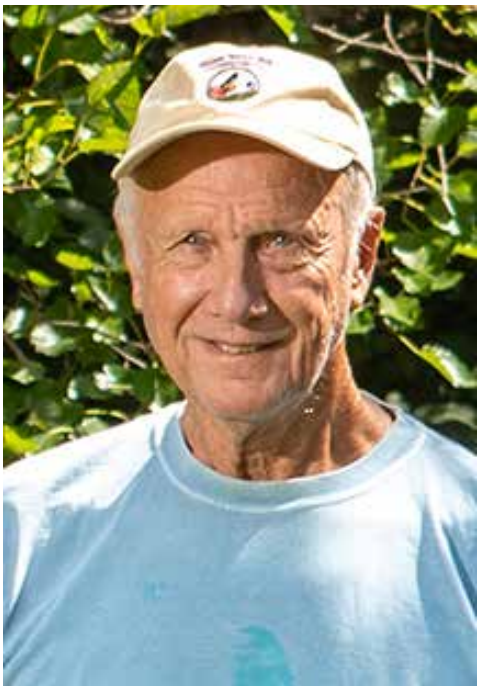
"We are happy to accommodate them. In fact, we must accommodate them as all native bird species are federally protected," he said. "Most all native bird populations have dropped as humans alter more and more of the environment."

Gillespie, who has been a Bluebird Steward for three years, agreed. She monitors boxes in Shawnee Mission Park.

"We love getting other native birds in our boxes, which at first I thought would make me sad. Instead, we're glad to help most of them out." she said. "When we get house sparrows, we do have to remove the nest because as aggressive non-natives, they will take over and prevent our native birds from using the box, and they are not protected."

Most of the bluebird boxes, with small wire screens at the entrance to discourage predators, are mounted on metal posts along park trails. Grease and a ring of small pikes

uebirds of happiness



Vance Petrillo, Overland Park (center) and Jim Walton, Olathe.

wrapped around the posts were early attempts to keep predators from the boxes but have since been discontinued.

"It doesn't work," Gillespie said.

The main deterrents nowadays are baffles mounted on the posts.

Unwanted tenants, however, are occasionally discovered.

"Some monitors have been surprised by western rat snakes in the box, probably the No. 1 predator," Walton said, explaining rat snakes are "good climbers." Rat snakes are constrictors capable of climbing trees/posts and invading birdhouses and nesting boxes. Walton has not found an unwanted snake in any of the nesting boxes he monitors at Kill Creek Park.

A resident of Overland Park, Petrillo joined the Bluebird Stewards three years ago.

"It didn't take long before I was hooked. It is pretty awe-inspiring to see how the birds craft their nest, how different species repeatedly build such similar nests and watch offspring go from eggs, to helpless hatchlings to fledglings," he said. "Seeing a hatchling work its way out of the egg is amazing and somewhat awing."

Please: Do not disturb

Many bluebird boxes have small posted signs asking onlookers to watch, but please do not disturb.

"On a sad note, I was disappointed this year with the pandemic that some boxes appeared to get tampered with. I had one box that lost at least three sets of eggs. I'm sure people were just curious, but bluebirds are protected. I wish I could reach people and educate them about how bluebirds benefit us and why we need to protect them," Gillespie said. "Bluebirds are our best neighbors."

The eastern bluebird population is no longer in decline in Johnson County. In 1996, 438 birds fledged from 80 boxes in only Shawnee Mission Park and the Streamway Trail System. In 2019, the program had expanded to 260 boxes with 1,675 birds fledged in 10 parks.

Nesting boxes in county, city parks

Approximately 300 bluebird nesting boxes are in a dozen JCPRD parks including the streamway trail system. In addition, the Bluebird Stewardship has formed a partnership with the cities of Lenexa, Olathe and Shawnee to monitor boxes in city parks. Other volunteers in the program include the nature club at the Cedar Creek neighborhood in Olathe, Shawnee Mission School District, Overland Park Arboretum and Pollinator Prairie in Olathe.

Most nesting boxes are located near park trails for easy accessibility by volunteers who are walking or hiking. Some volunteers use golf carts or bicycles in monitoring their assigned boxes.

Petrillo initially monitored the boxes at the Heritage Park Golf Course in Olathe and now oversees a central database on bluebird and other bird monitoring in Johnson County. The information and observations are shared with Cornell University's NestWatch in its research.

In 2019, he also developed an online application for the public at bluebirdstewards.online, to collect information for analysis and to share both with the public and other research organizations and to indicate best practices for monitoring.

Continued to page 18

Volunteers enjoy bluebirds of happiness

Continued from page 17

"We collect monitoring data from 508 boxes and growing," Petrillo said. "This year, due to the pandemic, many boxes didn't get monitored."

An email is available, **bluebird.stewards@jocoemn.org,** for people interested in learning how to build, place and monitor bluebirds houses. Bluebird Stewards can do group presentations or help individuals.

There are currently about 25 Bluebird Stewards. More volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

"Our numbers (of volunteers) are down a little because of COVID-19," Gillespie said.

How to become a steward

One way to become a steward is to join the Extension Master Naturalists and complete training. EMN classes include land stewardship, management of natural resources and restoration of natural habitats. A class fee is charged for the training.

Another way to volunteer is to check with local cities to see if city parks have nesting boxes that need monitoring.

Bluebird Stewards also educate and support small bluebird groups in neighborhoods and retirement communities. Teams have been formed at Lakeview Village in Lenexa and Shawnee.

Gillespie currently heads the Bluebird Stewards. Her main task is trying to match people to park trails, organizing training for new volunteer monitors of nesting boxes and reporting bluebird numbers as needed and collected.

"There is so much expertise in the group, my main job is connecting people and then getting out of the way," she said.

More information about the Bluebird Stewards is available by contacting the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Office at 913-715-7000 or the Johnson County Park and Recreation District at 913-826-3440 or accessing the **bluebirdstewards.online**. BT

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New library services address diverse needs

By Elissa Andre

It's hard to believe fall is nearly here! Despite these uncertain times, we're excited about several new (and some improved) services we're rolling out at Johnson County Library.

Library staff are always on the lookout for ways to better meet our community's diverse needs, while keeping your health and safety as a top priority.

We are still offering modified services in our buildings, such as quick browsing, holds pickup, one hour per day of computer usage and self-service printing, but we've reintroduced popular services like InterLibrary Loan and HomeConnect, as well as extended the hours for our Answers and Telephone reference services.

And, after the successful pilot of a new Curbside Holds Pickup service at our Leawood Pioneer location, we plan to expand this option to our Gardner and Cedar Roe branches by September.

Thanks to positive feedback from our patrons, we anticipate our Curbside Holds Pickup service will continue well into the future.

With our three drive-thru windows at Blue Valley, Lenexa City Center and Monticello, the addition of curbside service at Cedar Roe, Gardner and Leawood Pioneer allows us to offer a contactless holds pickup option in all quadrants of Johnson County. The addition of a drive-thru window is also planned for Central Resource Library's anticipated 2021 renovations, which focuses primarily on staff and material processing areas not addressed in the branch's 2015 update.

After a successful summer, Johnson County Library is once again reimagining our fall programming in a virtual space. Our new digital events platform On24 will allow us to host more interactive online events, and will help us reach new audiences who, in the past, may have had difficulty coming into a branch.

In addition to much-loved programs like book clubs and writer's workshops, our staff is assembling programming around issues that are top-of-mind in our community, including civic engagement and the Nov. 3 election, career advancement and financial planning, and understanding the history of race in Johnson County.

Events that have traditionally drawn large crowds in the fall have been moved online, too. The WoMen & Money programming series – rebranded this year to include both women and men – kicks off Oct. 3, and our annual Writer's Conference is set for Nov. 14.

Even the Johnson County Library Foundation's annual fundraiser, Library Lets Loose, has gone virtual this year! Join us Saturday, Sept. 12 at 6:30 p.m. for a fun night of storytelling, trivia games, music performances and more. Normally a ticketed affair, this unique event is free to attend this year, and is supported by the Library's generous donors. For a full list of fall programs and registration information, visit jocolibrary.org/events.

Finally, we're thrilled to announce that genealogy services are back up and running at the Central Resource branch. The Help Desk is open until 5 p.m. each day. Like our public computers, the genealogy computers and microfilm can be used for up to 70 minutes per day, and research materials will be quarantined for 72 hours after use before being returned the shelf. One-on-one assistance from our volunteers, including workshops on how to get started with research and interpreting DNA results, is available via Zoom.

Thank you for your continued support as we adapt library services to our new reality. Providing access to ideas, information and experiences is written into Johnson County Library's mission statement, so we hope that these adaptations and new service models bring value to your library experience and enrich your life. Whether in a branch, on a screen, or in your car, we'll see you soon!

More COVID-19 information and videos are available at **jocogov.org/county-services-impacted-covid-19**. BT

Elissa Andre is external communication manager at Johnson County Library.

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Observation tower opens in Kill Creek Park

The Russell and Helen Means Observation Tower at Kill Creek Park is now open to the public.

The 58-foot high structure is located near the entrance of the park at 11670 Homestead Lane, between De Soto and Olathe. The observance tower features a central ADA compliant elevator along with stairs to the top level for viewing the western Johnson County countryside.

The project, which was designed by the Johnson County Park and Recreation District and SFS Architecture, has a parking lot and connection to existing trails. Future additions to compliment the observation tower include additional parking and shelters.

An official dedication of the observation tower is expected to be scheduled and announced soon when arrangements have been completed.

The structure is named in honor of Russell and Helen Means. They had owned the land since 1960 and started development of Kill Creek Park with their donation of 355 acres. They also provided an installment purchase agreement for the acquisition of an additional 285 acres to the 640-acre park property.

The couple also willed assets now valued at approximately $1 million from their estate for park improvements, including construction of the observation tower.

For their active role in development of Kill Creek Park, the Means were honored with a Certificate of Merit by the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners and presented an award by the Sierra Club for giving land for future generations.

Helen Means died on April 4, 2011, at age 89. Russell Means followed her in death on July 20, 2012. BT

Myths and Truths about Dementia

Wednesday, Sept. 23 • 2 p.m.
Online Zoom Presentation

Join us for a virtual learning opportunity as we dispel common myths and discover simple truths about dementia. This will be an interactive learning experience, so please bring your questions. We also invite you to submit your questions before the event by emailing info@cedarlakevillagekc.org.

To register, call (913) 780-9916.

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Poll workers needed for general election

The 2020 General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3, in Johnson County is in need of poll workers.

Poll workers who work at a polling place are volunteers who are provided a stipend of $135 for their public service on Election Day when voting begins at 6 a.m. and ends at 7 p.m.

"Being a poll worker is a great way to serve your community, take an active role in democracy and become part of the dedicated team working to make the election process easy and accessible to everyone," said Johnson County Election Commissioner Connie Schmidt.

The office will need approximately additional 500 election workers for the General Elections.

"We've been training the workers in small classes (15-20 at a time) at our office in Olathe. The small groups allow us to appropriately distance the workers during training," said Nathan Carter, election office administrator.

Poll workers must be:

- Registered voters in Johnson County at least 18 years of age.
- Registered in the election worker pool.
- Receive a polling place assignment from the election office.

Since 2000, a Student Election Worker Program in Kansas allows youths, ages 16 and 17, to help officials on Election Day. The state law permits a maximum of one student precinct board member at a polling place. They must be American citizens.

"We have had a pair of grandparent-grandchildren combos working together at our polling locations. We're hoping to see more of that in November, particularly if students are searching for something if school and extracurricular activities aren't happening," Carter said.

Kansas law requires mandatory training of all election workers. Training for the November election will begin in mid-September.

Workers must be available for the entire Election Day, beginning at least one hour prior to the opening of the polls and staying to close down the polling site after voting ends.

For more information and a link to the election worker application form, visit vote4joco.org/apply or call 913-715-6836. BT

3 Ways to Vote

Tuesday, October 13: Voter registration deadline

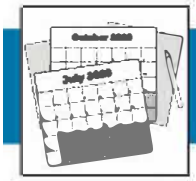
Tuesday, November 3: General election

Vote early by mail

October 27: Last day to apply for a mail-in ballot.

Advance voting by mail begins on **October 14**; ballots mailed to the Election Office must be postmarked by 7 p.m. on Election Day **and received by Friday, November 6.**

Ballots may be returned to any advance voting or Election Day polling location during voting hours or to the 24-hour, drive-thru ballot boxes at the Election Office in Olathe.



Vote early in person

October 19 - November 2

The Election Office will provide seven advance voting locations. Visit jocoelection.org/advance-voting for specific locations, dates and voting hours.

Vote on Election Day

November 3

Polling locations open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A government-issued photo ID is required to vote.

Sample ballot available in mid-October at voter.jocoelection.org.

Stay safe when you vote

To protect yourself and others from COVID-19, we recommend all voters wear masks, practice physical distancing, and wash hands before and after voting.

New ways to find 50 Plus activities

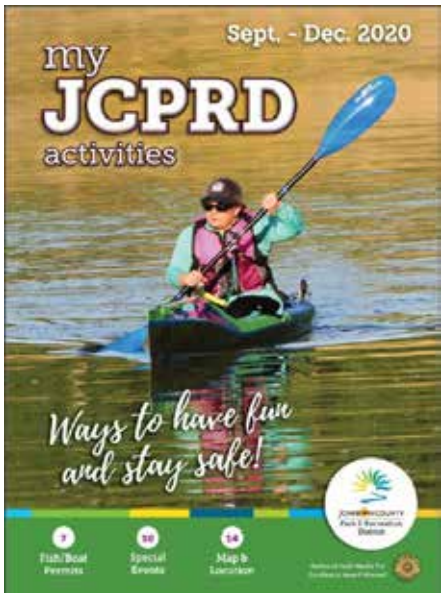
By Michelle Alexander

We're all adjusting to life in the era of COVID-19, and one of the adjustments Johnson County Park and Recreation District is making is not printing our usual full September through December catalog.

This season's program guide is much smaller than previous issues because we've decided to list only the class titles of those programs we intend to offer this season.

Due to the uncertainty of these times, and the constant changes we're all experiencing and anticipate will continue, we hope these listings will pique your interest, and that you'll check our website at **jcprd/50plus.com** often for up-to-date details, changes and additional programs. Your efforts will be rewarded with some fun and educational programs and experiences presented with the safety of our patrons and staff in mind.

When you get to our website, you'll find all of our fall programs organized by topics. You'll also find the complete program descriptions, along with costs, locations and dates on each of the topics page.



Another change in the catalog is the opportunity to participate in some activities from the comfort of your home through our virtual programs, some of which are free, while others have a modest charge.

There are also a few "hybrid" programs where participants have the choice of watching via the internet or experiencing the program live and in person. You'll find many virtual programs under enrichment and special interests in the 50 Plus section.

Information on all that JCPRD's 50 Plus Department has to offer can be found at jcprd.com/50plus. Two other great ways to stay connected to the most up-to-date programs available is by subscribing to our Explore 50 Plus e-newsletter at **jcprd.com/enewsletters** or joining our Facebook Group at **JCPRD50Plus.**

We are also always available to speak to you over the phone at 913-826-2975. Be well and we look forward to seeing you online or in person this fall! BT

Michelle Alexander is 50 Plus Program Department Manager at the Johnson County Park & Recreation District.

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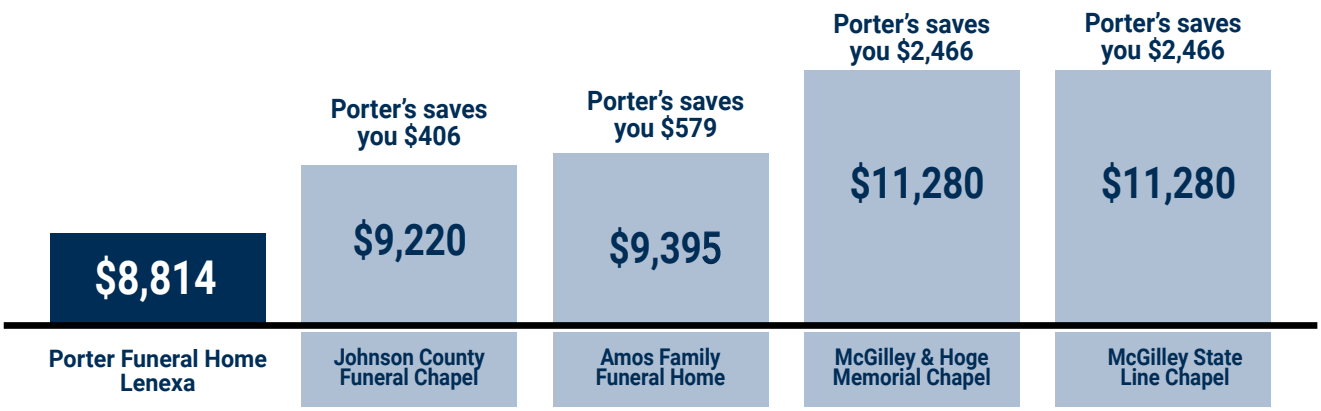

Prices compiled during March 2020 General Price List provided by the above or from their website.
Prices of a Traditional Service, including their minimum metal casket and 2 pc. grave liner.

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Stay safe: Get a flu shot during a pandemic

By Barbara Mitchell

Influenza (the flu) can be a serious illness, especially for older adults.

FACT: People 65 years and older are not only at high risk of serious flu complications, but also at risk for severe illness from COVID-19. People's immune systems become weaker with age placing people 65 years and older at high risk of serious illnesses compared with young, healthy adults.

During most seasons, people 65 years and older bear the greatest burden of severe flu disease. Between about 70 percent and 85 percent of seasonal flu-related deaths in the United States occur among people 65 years and older. And people 65 and older account for between about 50% and 70% of the flu-related hospitalizations.

An annual flu vaccine is the best way to reduce your risk of flu and its potentially serious consequences.

FACT: While flu vaccine can vary in how well it works, vaccination is the best way to prevent flu and its potentially serious complications. Flu vaccination has been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness and more serious flu outcomes that can result in hospitalization or even death in older people.

While some people who get vaccinated may still get sick, flu vaccination has been shown in several studies to reduce severity of illness in those people.

People 65 years and older can get any flu shot approved for use in that age group. There are regular-dose flu shots that are approved for use in people 65 and older and there are also vaccines designed specifically for people 65 and older, such as a high dose vaccine. Check with your healthcare provider for more information on the types of vaccines available.

It is also especially important for people at increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19, and those who live with them, to protect themselves from getting COVID-19.

The best way to protect yourself and to help reduce the spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 is to:

- Limit your interactions with other people as much as possible.
- Take precautions to prevent getting COVID-19 when you do interact with others, such as wearing a mask, physically distancing yourself from them, washing hands frequently and staying home when you are sick.

FACT: The side effects of flu shots are mild when compared to potentially serious consequences of flu infection. After getting your flu shot, you may experience some mild side effects. The most common side effects include soreness, tenderness, redness and/or swelling where the shot was given. Sometimes you might have a headache, muscle aches, fever, and nausea or feel tired.

FACT: Flu can make long-term health problems worse, even if they are well-managed. Diabetes, asthma, and chronic heart disease (even if well-managed) are among the most common long-term medical conditions that place people at high risk of serious flu complications. It is particularly important that all adults with these or other chronic medical conditions get a flu vaccine every year.

FACT: There are prescription drugs that can treat influenza virus infections. People 65 and older should be treated with influenza antiviral drugs if they get sick with flu. If you have flu symptoms – even if you had a flu shot – call your doctor, nurse, or clinic. Doctors can prescribe medicine, called antiviral drugs, to treat flu and lessen the chance of serious illness. These medicines work better the sooner they are started.

Call if you have any or all of the following symptoms:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Sometimes diarrhea and vomiting

It's important that antiviral drugs be used early to treat flu in people who are very sick with flu (for example, people who are in the hospital), and people who are sick with flu and are at high risk of serious flu complications, like people 65 and older.

Take control of your health, especially while COVID-19 is circulating in the community and fight flu this season with an annual flu vaccine.

Go to the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment's flu webpage for vaccine availability and information: **jocogov.org/dept/health-and-environment/health/flu/flu-shots**. BT

Barbara Mitchell is Community Health Division director at the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.

Lawrin won Kentucky Derby in 1938

Eighty-two years ago, Johnson County's favorite son was a horse.

His name was Lawrin, the only Kansas thoroughbred to ever have won the Kentucky Derby which celebrates its 146th running on Sept. 5.

Lawrin, a brown colt with four white socks, was born and bred at the bygone Woolford Farm, purchased in 1920 by Herbert Woolf. He was heir and president of the Woolf Brothers clothing business in Kansas City. The farm, spanning about 200 acres, was located roughly between 79th and 83rd streets and Mission Road and Roe Avenue in Prairie Village.

Lawrin and Insco are buried in Prairie Village.

In the early 1930s, Woolf began buying and breeding thoroughbreds at the Woolford Farm. He purchased Insco, sire of Lawrin, in 1933 for $500. That equates to almost $10,000 in 2020 dollars. Lawrin was born two years later.

In 1938, at age 3, Lawrin would run against nine rivals in the 64th Run for the Roses on May 7 at Churchill Downs in Louisville. Heading into the Kentucky Derby, he was an 8-1 long shot. Lawrin would come from behind, holding off the oncoming Dauber to win by a length in a time of 2:04.8.

According to William Robertson in "*The History of Thoroughbred Racing in America,*" the Churchill Downs band had gotten so used to playing "Bred in Old Kentucky" after the Kentucky Derby that they stood mute "for an embarrassing interval" following Lawrin's victory.

The headline the next day in the *Kansas City Star* announced, "It's Our Derby" with a subhead: "Lawrin's Winged Feet Bring Turf Glory to Herbert Woolf and Kansas City."

His jockey was Eddie Arcaro, then 22, the only jockey to win two Triple Crowns (Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes). Lawrin was his first of five Derby winners.

Ben Jones trained Lawrin in establishing his record of training six Kentucky Derby winners. Jones worked for Woolford Farms for nine years. Both Arcaro and Jones would eventually be inducted into the U.S. Racing Hall of Fame.

Lawrin had no chance at a triple crown. Woolf did not enter him in either the Preakness or Belmont Stakes. Dauber, on the other hand, won the 1938 Preakness by seven lengths and was second in the Belmont Stakes.

According to the American Classic Pedigrees on thoroughbred breeding and champion horses, Lawrin's racing career included 26 starts with nine wins, eight seconds and two thirds, totaling $126,275 in winnings. That equates to slightly more than $2.3 million in 2020 dollars.

The association described Lawrin as "a robust bay colt of staying type," adding the Kansas thoroughbred was "tall and was workmanlike and plain in appearance. He was troubled by hoof problems during his career and was permanently retired in 1939 after suffering a recurrence of a tendon injury. He was a gluttonous eater who required a lot of work to stay fit. He had a fractious disposition."

Lawrin died on Aug. 31, 1955, at age 20. He was buried next to Insco (1928-1939) at the Woolford Farm before the property was sold to real estate developer J. C. Nichols in 1955 shortly after Lawrin's death.

The gravesite is amid a small island in a quiet cul-de-sac at 59 Le Mans Court located in the Corinth Downs subdivision, Prairie Village.

The rest is history. BT

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Poor farm had a rich history

By Gerald Hay

It was called the Johnson County Poor Farm.

The bygone farm, with crops, livestock and chickens, served as a beacon of hope, comfort and care for the county's old, sick and indigent for a century, spanning from the middle of the Civil War to after World War II. Located at 119th Street and Ridgeview Road in Olathe, the site has since become the Johnson County Government's Sunset Campus.

Photo/Johnson County Museum

The Johnson County Poor Farm included a brick housing building built in 1894 and razed in 1963.

The need for "poor farms" or "poorhouses" was part of the Wyandotte Constitution, under which Kansas joined the Union as its 34th state on Jan. 29, 1861. The constitution directed that each county was responsible for its "resident poor," and county commissioners were charged with providing "for those inhabitants who, by reason of age, infirmity or other misfortune, may have claims upon the sympathy and aid of society."

According to "Johnson County, Kansas: A Pictorial History, 1825-2005," the Johnson County Poor Farm was established in 1863 by county government "to provide room and board for the very old, those unable to work and those down in their luck."

The poor farm opened with eight residents, or "inmates" as they were called back then. The inmates came and left the facility for many reasons.

Handwritten ledger pages and brief log entries from the Record of Poor House 1885-1901 and 1910-1946 at Johnson County Archives, a division of the Johnson County Department of Records and Tax Administration, provide short profiles (names and ages) of inmates staying at the poor farm and listed some of their fates. Many were elderly or in ill health.

Deaths at the poor farm were recorded simply as "died" or "deceased." A few notations recorded an inmate had "departed this life."

The peak years of poor farms in Kansas occurred in the decades before and after the turn of the 20th century. In 1894, the county invested $14,000 (approximately $395,000 in 2020 dollars) to build a two-story, steam-heated brick building with basement and attic.

The number of poor farms began to dwindle in the late 1930s and 1940s. Only a dozen poor farms remained in operation in Kansas after World War II. The final records of the Johnson County Poor Farm end in 1946 with only a few inmates and little farming.

According to the Olathe Daily News, the long-vacant main brick building of the defunct poor farm was razed in October 1963, yielding 60,000 bricks.

In the years that followed, county government retained approximately 70 acres of the original poor farm to begin development of the Sunset Campus, selling the remaining acreage for private development, mainly residential.

Proceeds from land sale were used in help pay for construction of the Health and Human Services Building in 1996. Since then, the county has added the Sunset Drive Office Building (2006), County Communications Center (2009) by the Department of Emergency Management and Communications, and the Criminalistics Laboratory of the Sheriff's Office (2012). The facilities house nine county departments.

In August, the new Medical Examiner's Facility, operated by the Department of Health and Environment, virtually was dedicated as the newest county building at the Sunset Campus.

The rest is history. BT

New temporary exhibit opens at museum

For a new temporary exhibit at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center called "Resilience, Reflection, Rebuilding: Artists Respond to Covid-19," local artists were asked to create a reflection of their experiences and feelings during the COVID-19 pandemic and to consider the pandemic as a catalyst toward change.

The temporary exhibit is the first art exhibition in the region that aims to bring together artists and the community to make sense of these challenging times, in order to process and heal together.

"The arts have the remarkable ability to create a sense of togetherness, belonging and community," said Fine Arts Coordinator Devin Graham.

"They can help decrease stress, loneliness and anxiety. They can provide opportunities to reflect, process experiences and feelings, imagine what our future might look like, and connect us through our common humanity."

The exhibit will be on view and free to the public in the Creative Commons area at the Arts & Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, through Jan. 22. To view the virtual exhibition catalog, visit j**cprd.com/1209/Art-Exhibits**.

A Never-Ending Battle by Adrian Marsh

"Resilience, Reflection, Rebuilding: Artists Respond to Covid-19" will also complement another local temporary exhibit at JCAHC called "Rising to the Challenge: Suburban Strength in Difficult Times," which is presented by the Johnson County Museum. The museum exhibit features stories of the Johnson County community rallying together in the face of economic hardship, natural disasters, war, and health crises.

Sixty-four works of art, including painting, photography, mixed media, sculpture, textiles and multi-media, were selected for "Resilience, Reflection, Rebuilding: Artists Respond to Covid-19."

One piece of art, voted on by the public, will become part of the museum's permanent collection as part of its Collecting COVID-19 initiative.

The competition was underwritten by the Johnson County Museum Foundation. It is a not-for-profit partner of the Johnson County Museum that supports and promotes exhibit development, educational programs, and special events at the museum. BT

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Stanley Whitney, Off Yellow, 2011, Oil on canvas, Collection Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Gift of Marti and Tony Oppenheimer and the Oppenheimer Brothers Foundation

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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.

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September-October classifieds

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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

Wednesdays. Silver Screen Matinee. 1 p.m. Merriam Community Center. Reservation required 913-322-5550. Masks required. Max 16 people.

September 3

Painter's Palette. Punch card. 1:30-4 p.m. Matt Ross. For the supply list or to purchase a punch card call 913-826-2830.

September 8

Scattergories. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Virtual program. Call Tiffany Hanna at 913-826-3160 for more information.

She was Always Knitting. 7-8:30 p.m. $5/person, ages 8 & up. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm. Register at www.mahaffie.org.

September 9

Intro. to Mah Jongg. 1-3 p.m. $36/$40. Roeland Park.

September 10

Smartphone Workshops – Contacts & Calling Android. 10-11:30 a.m. $15/$17. Matt Ross. Handouts included.

Keys to Embracing Aging. 1-2 p.m. Virtual program. Call Tiffany Hanna at 913-826-3160 for more information.

September 13

Grandparents Day. Noon-4 p.m. One free grandparent admitted per one paid youth admission. $7/adults, $5/children ages 5-11, 4 & under admitted free. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm.

September 15

Watercolor Painting. Punch Card. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Matt Ross. Call 913-826-2830 for supply list and to purchase punch cards.

September 17

Smartphone Workshops – Settings & Notifications Android. 10-11:30 a.m. $15/$17. Matt Ross. Handouts included.

Crossroads: Change in Rural America program. 7-8 p.m. In partnership with the Olathe Historical Society, visit the exhibit, Rodeos to Roundabouts: Exploring Olathe's Rural Roots Learn more of how agriculture influenced the success of Olathe and how it impacts Johnson County today. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm.

September 21

Beginning Tap. 2-2:50 p.m. $53/$58. Matt Ross. Hard-soled or tap dance shoes required.

Tap – Next Level. 3-3:50 p.m. $53/$58. Matt Ross. Hard-soled or tap dance shoes required.

September 22

Helpful Apps for Older Adults. 10 a.m.-noon. $19/$21. Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse. Find out how social media can work for you in your personal and professional life.

Self Care and Resiliency. 3-4 p.m. Virtual program. Call Tiffany Hanna at 913-826-3160 for more information.

September 23

Lunch & Learn – A Collector's Guide to The Wizard of Oz. 11:30 a.m-1:30 p.m. $25/$28. Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse.

Are you Smarter Than a 5th Grader? 1:30-2:30 p.m. Virtual Program. Call Tiffany Hanna at 913-826-3160 for more information.

September 24

Smartphone Workshops – Email & Text Android. 10-11:30 a.m. $15/$17. Matt Ross. Handouts included.

September 24- 26

Fall Cemetery Tours. 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m., & 8:30 p.m. (no 8:30 p.m. tour Saturday.) $7/person ages 5 & up. Please park at Northview Elementary School, 905 N. Walker, Olathe. Call Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm to purchase tickets.

September 30

Healthy Cooking in Your Electric Pressure Cooker. 5-8 p.m. $36/$41. Roeland Park.

October

Wednesdays. Silver Screen Matinee. 1 p.m. Merriam Community Center. Reservation required 913-322-5550. Masks required. Max 16 people.

October 1

Smartphone Workshops – Apps 101 Android. 10-11:30 a.m. $15/$17. Matt Ross. Handouts included.

October 2

Alzheimer's 101. 10-11 a.m. Virtual program. Call Tiffany Hanna at 913-826-3160 for more information.

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 6

The Election Office. 10-11 a.m. Virtual program. Call Tiffany Hanna at 913-826-3160 for more information.

Smartphone Photography. 10-Noon. $19/$21. Matt Ross.

October 7

DIY Medicare Part D. 10-11 a.m. Virtual program. Call Tiffany Hanna at 913-826-3160 for more information.

Bingo: Oktoberfest. 1:30-3:30 p.m. $5/$6. Tomahawk Ridge.

October 8

Halloween Bingo. 1:30-3:30 p.m. $3. Merriam Community Center. Bring your own snacks & drinks. Reservation required 913-322-5550. Masks Required. Max 40 people.

Smartphone Workshops – Contacts & Calling iPhone. 10-11:30 a.m. $15/$17. Matt Ross. Handouts included.

October 8 and 9

Live Well Age Well. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Virtual event. Call Tiffany Hanna at 913-826-3160 for more information. Live Well Age Well is going virtual in 2020. Pre-registration will be required for those wanting to attend online.

October 13

A Tour of Roses. 1-2 p.m. Virtual program. Call Tiffany Hanna at 913-826-3160 for more information. Take a virtual tour of Laura Conyers Smith Rose Garden and learn about Loose Park.

Cooking with Corn. 7-8:30 p.m. $5/person ages 8 & up. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm. Register at mahaffie.org.

October 15

Smartphone Workshops – Setting & Notifications iPhone. 10-11 a.m. $15/$17. Matt Ross. Handouts included.

Chili Bingo. 5:30-8 p.m. $15/$66. Roeland Park. Please register by 10/7.

October 17

Selling Online. 9-11 a.m. $19/$21. Roeland Park.

Fall Harvest-Sorghum. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. $7/adults, $5/children ages 5-11, children 4 & under are free. Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm.

October 20

Nightmare on Nall. 1:30-3:30 p.m. $5/$6. Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse.

October 22

Smartphone Workshops – Email & Text iPhone. 10-1:30 a.m. $15/$17. Handouts included.

October 24

Trick or Treat OFF the Street. 3-6 p.m. $3/person ages 3 & up before October 24, $4/person ages 3 & up the day of the event. Dress in your Halloween costume and experience 1860s fall living history activities. Admission includes one horse drawn hay wagon ride, games and candy stations sponsored by local businesses. Please park at Olathe North High School to ride a free shuttle to the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm.

October 27

Taking Flight: An Overview of Aviation. Virtual program. Call Tiffany Hanna at 913-826-3160 for more information.

October 28

Healthy Cooking in Your Electric Pressure Cooker. 1-4 p.m. $36/$41. Roeland Park.

October 29

Smartphone Workshops – Apps 101 iPhone. 10-11:30 a.m. 15/$17. Matt Ross. Handouts included.

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.

NEW CENTURY: New Century Fieldhouse, 551 New Century Parkway, New Century; 913-826-2850.

OLATHE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY: **Temporary.** 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.

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The choice of an attorney is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisement.