Plowing ahead
Public Works crews keep drivers going whenever snowing
Pages 16-17

www.jocogov.org/thebesttimes

Planning continues for Census 2020

Indian Jim paved his way to fame with bricks

Home Sweet Home to Home Safe Home

What questions will be asked on the Census?
Page 13

Bricklayer won contest, claimed world's title.
Pages 24-25

Advice helps to reduce falling risks, protect kids.
Page 26
Program includes coffee while watching birds

Residents are invited to enjoy winter bird watching from the comfort of an indoor wildlife viewing room during an informal program being offered for ages 18 and older at the Johnson County Park and Recreation District's Ernie Miller Nature Center, 909 North Kansas 7 Highway, Olathe.

With the lack of foliage and increased sight distance, winter is a great time for bird watching. Chickadees, woodpeckers, juncos, cedar waxwings and many more are commonly seen at the center’s feeders.

The free eight-week Coffee with the Birds program allows interested parties to come sit, visit and drink free coffee as they watch birds at the nature center’s feeders between 9 and 10:30 a.m., on Tuesdays, between Jan. 7 and Feb. 25. No registration or reservations are required. Participants can come and go as they please.

More information is available by calling 913-826-2800.

Two exhibits at museum near an end

Two temporary exhibits at the Johnson County Museum will come to an end in the first quarter of 2020.

The Savages and Princesses - The Persistence of Native American Stereotypes exhibit will be on display at the museum until March 14.

The exhibit consists of more than 30 contemporary artworks by 13 nationally-recognized Native American artists.

The other temporary exhibit, called Dreaming of a Retro Xmas, ends on Jan. 11. The exhibit features aluminum Christmas trees and other vintage holiday decorations from the 1950s and 1960s.

Exhibit admission is included with regular museum admission rates of $6 for adults, $5 for seniors and $4 for children, beginning on Jan. 1.

The museum is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and is closed on Sunday.

Johnson County Museum is located in the Johnson Arts & Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park.

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A new year, a new decade

It's the end of an era. Another decade has come and gone with 10 years of annual New Year's resolutions; some fulfilled; some not.

It's been quite a decade, and soon we'll be entering the 2020s with 10 new more opportunities for more yearly resolutions; some may be achieved; some probably not.

And, the new decade even begins with a leap year, adding an extra day with Feb. 29 on the 2020 calendar.

Wow, what a way to celebrate the arrival of Jan. 1 and toasting the end of a decade and putting out the welcome mat at the door to the 2020s.

We imbue the start of the New Year with great meaning and greater purpose. It marks a new beginning, a fresh and blank calendar to commit to better personal habits with resolve to approach the time ahead with wisdom and kindness in actions, words and thoughts.

So, what can we do to fulfill positive changes in ourselves in a new year at hand and another decade to come?

We can live by the Golden Rule in dealing with others as best we can whenever we can. We can try to listen more than we talk, trying to understand even when agreeing to disagree.

We can practice patience and express gratitude for the good things we have. We can improve ourselves at becoming or remaining healthy and fit – mentally, physically and emotionally. And, we can also wish happiness and health for all.

We can give back, with donations and time as volunteers, especially to the many public services and programs of Johnson County Government or assisting at local non-profit agencies.

We can register to vote and exercise our right to vote in the upcoming 2020 elections.

We can take part in the upcoming 2020 Census. We can welcome a growing diversity of residents of different races, ethnic groups and nationalities within our communities in making Johnson County a better place to live for all.

We can hope for the best and embrace whatever comes, or as Ralph Waldo Emerson put it long ago: “Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year.”

Each new year is a new beginning that provides opportunities to start over and hopefully to achieve betterment.

Sixty years ago, “The Best Is Yet to Come” was composed by Cy Coleman with lyrics by Carolyn Leigh and made popular in 1964 by Frank Sinatra. That's true in song and in life. There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind, remembering that a present negative situation is not always a final destination. It’s a time of putting mistakes, any regrets and bad memories in the past and moving into the present and future with new fulfillments, hopes and dreams.

It calls for genuine good will, trust, respect, honesty, acceptance, integrity and humility – many of which are missing, in whole or in part, nowadays. The truth remains that life isn’t fair, but it’s so very precious as long as we can live it to its fullest as best as we can within our world and with others. It’s never easy, but it’s what dreams are made of.

The Best Times

Volume 38, Issue 1       Jan-Feb 2020

On the Cover
Johnson County Department of Public Works snowplow employees include Howard Alfrey, left, Jason Pio, center, and John Velasquez...

Cover story photos by Paul Andrews
Welcoming a new year, a new decade

In 1971, singer Andy Williams urged listeners to “Dream the Impossible Dream” ...

To fight the unbeatable foe
To bear with unbearable sorrow
To run where the brave dare not go
To right the unrightable wrong
To love pure and chaste from afar
To try when your arms are too weary
To reach the unreachable star
This is my quest, to follow that star

No matter how hopeless, no matter how far ....

The state motto of Kansas is “Ad Astra per Aspera,” which is Latin for “to the stars through difficulties.” John James Ingalls coined the motto in 1861 stating, “The aspiration of Kansas is to reach the unattainable; its dream is the realization of the impossible.”

As Kansans, we can hope for what’s best and fair, protect what’s right and good, and reach what’s attainable and essential in bettering ourselves and our world. Dreams do come true.

The future, locally, nationally and globally, involves all of us working together.

There’s a galaxy of stars to chart our way in the 2020s and beyond.

Happy New Year to all from The Best Times.
Q: Can you update us on the result of the 2019 Johnson County Aging Service Community Forum?

A: On Oct. 21, the Commission on Aging sponsored a community forum to identify areas of greatest need within the purview of the Johnson County Area Agency on Aging. Using information gathered from previous focus groups, 100 guests gathered to further discuss aging needs, learn about the complexity of service issues and brainstorm potential solutions.

Guiding questions were asked. Then guests compared their responses to those provided by earlier focus groups. Forum responses were also recorded to provide reliability to the community feedback.

Finally, participants were asked to listen to service proposals that would address four specific areas of need: Nutrition, Transportation, In-Home Supports and Services, and Awareness and Visibility of the Area Agency on Aging.

Nutrition Services: Participants recognized that the AAA is a tipping point for a decision on a kitchen and continued-service model. Concerns of continued quality, safety and stability of services for the future were expressed. Most participants focused on the potential negative impacts on older adults, should another critical safety net service go to a private entity. The current delivery model appeared to be favored by participants.

In-Home Supports and Services: There was overwhelming support for additional investment in Senior Care Act services. Some proposed broadening coverage to make more services available in the home. Participants also communicated that more should be done between Mental Health and Aging services. They suggested more In-Home Mental Health Counseling along with case management and wellness checks.

Public Awareness and Visibility: Themes conveyed included better service visibility through marketing and social media, possible donation options and county funding options for aging services.

Transportation Services: Participants recognized that this service is not really the responsibility of the AAA; however, they liked the idea of someone coordinating transportation options. Many supported the county providing transportation coordination, but not necessarily the vehicles or drivers.

Next Steps: The Johnson County Commission on Aging will review the information collected to identify recommendations for next steps. These will be included in the Johnson County Aging Service Master Plan for 2020-2030 and presented to the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners for review and consideration.

Dan Goodman is director of the Johnson County Area Agency on Aging.
Spring Hill Neighborhood Nutrition Center:
Food, fun, flexercise, movies, birthday celebrations, bingo and much more

Pop into the Spring Hill Neighborhood Nutrition Center inside the newly renovated Spring Hill Civic Center any weekday, and a small but loyal group of seniors will be ready to welcome you to their gathering of community members.

Gloria Hicks, resident of Spring Hill, has worked at the center for 22 years and can tell you a lot about everything the site has to offer.

• Enjoy hot tasty meals, meeting a third of daily nutritional requirements, served at 11:30 a.m. There’s a different entrée, vegetable, fruit, bread and a beverage every day.
• Improve personal flexibility and balance by doing a guided series of chair exercises. Senior flexercise takes place at 1 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, or walk in the gymnasium in the morning to build strength and endurance.

Each month one day is reserved for birthday celebrations. The first Friday of the month features movies sponsored by the Spring Hill Recreation Commission.

Most of all, Gloria Hicks would say, “We would love to see some new participants.”

The Spring Hill Neighborhood Nutrition Center is a gathering spot for local senior adults age 60 and older as well as their spouses of any age.

Where else can residents find out who’s who and what’s what in Spring Hill? And where else can attendees find a cadre of good friends lifting each other’s spirits, and sharing the joys, experiences and challenges of their lives? Well maybe a few other places … but don’t miss out on stopping by the center a few days a week to try this place and add some variety and socialization to daily life.

To find out what’s happening at the Spring Hill Neighborhood Nutrition Center or to reserve a meal for the next day, call 913-592-3180 before 10 a.m., Monday-Friday.

Make a difference delivering meals to Spring Hill seniors!

Community volunteers deliver meals to homebound seniors every day too.

The center has a special need right now for volunteers who can dedicate an hour one day a week or one day every other week.

To volunteer to help the seniors who can’t make it out to the center, call 913-715-8895.

Upcoming COA meeting

The Commission on Aging (COA) will meet at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, in room 1055 at the Sunset Drive Office Building, 11811 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe, and at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb 12, in room 1070/1075 at the same location.

For more information, call 913-715-8860 or 800-766-3777 TDD or visit jocogov.org/coa or facebook/com/jocogaging/.
Senior Resource Directory

Johnson County Human Services

Aging and Disability Resource Center (Area Agency on Aging): 1-855-200-2372
KanCare/Medicaid and options counseling for low income and disabled residents

Aging Information (Area Agency on Aging): 913-715-8861
In-home and community-based services/resources for seniors (60+)

Aging Commission/Legislative Advocacy: 913-715-8860

Outreach Information: 913-715-6653
Utility assistance, food pantries, KC Medicine Cabinet, self-sufficiency programs

Accessibility: 913-715-8916
Info and advocacy for disabled residents ages 59 and younger

Catch-a-Ride: 913-715-8900

District Court Legal Help Center: 913-715-3385

Housing Services: 913-715-6600
Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program, family self-sufficiency, HOME, and minor home rehabilitation

Volunteer Opportunities: 913-715-8859
For more resources, newsletters, and an online Aging & Accessibility directory, visit jocogov.org/health senior-services.

Other County Social Services Resources

Health & Environment: 913-826-1200
Immunizations, childcare, health information, WIC, outreach nurses

Parks & Recreation 50+ Programs: 913-826-3030
Exercise, arts & crafts, museums, trips/travel, parks

Library: 913-826-4600
Book groups, homebound books, research, information, talking books, meeting rooms, computers

Mental Health: 913-826-4200
Open access, information, advocacy, support

Developmental Supports: 913-826-2626
Information/advocacy, group homes, workshops and services for residents with intellectual/developmental disabilities

K-State Research & Extension: 913-715-7000
Nutrition, family support, caregiver support, Medicare, tax help

MED-ACT: 913-715-1950
Medical emergencies, File of Life (emergency information file), Hands Only CPR

District Attorney: 913-715-3003
Consumer protection, advocacy and information

Public & Community Resources

Adult Protective Services (APS): 800-922-5330 (in the community) or 800-842-0078 (in adult care homes)
Report emotional, financial, physical abuse or self-neglect

Disability Support: The Whole Person 913-871-4188, Minds Matter 913-789-9900

Catholic Charities Family Support Center: 913-433-2100
Self-sustainability programs, financial education, healthcare, family stabilization, friendly visitor

Children and Family Services: 913-826-7300, 800-766-3777
Food support, child support and protection, foster care, economic/employment support

Jewish Family Services: 913-327-8250
Social services, mental health, transportation, activities, home management, senior programs, events, and recreation

Link for Care: linkforcare.org
Social service guide for greater KC area

RideKC: 816-221-0660
Metro-wide public transportation service

SAFEHOME: 913-262-2868
No-cost shelter and counseling for victims of domestic violence (including elder abuse). 24-hour hotline: 913-262-2868

Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas (SHICK): 800-860-5260
Medicare overview, supplements, drug plans

United Community Services: 913-438-4764
Education and advocacy for Johnson County human service system

United Way of Greater Kansas City: call 211 or visit uwgkc.myresourcedirectory.com
Metro-wide guide to social services

Veterans Resources

Dwight D. Eisenhower Veterans Medical Center: 913-682-2000
Leavenworth; Veterans Crisis Intervention Hotline available 24/7

Kansas Commission on Veteran's Affairs: 913-371-5968 or visit kvca.ks.gov
Overland Park; Information and assistance

Kansas City VA Medical Center: 816-861-4700

Veterans’ Home-Based Primary Care: 816-922-2411

Johnson County VA Clinic: 816-922-2750

Shawnee

Johnson County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of public services.
Side by Side Experience begins new season

The Side By Side Experience, a vocal music group presented by the 50 Plus Department of the Johnson County Park and Recreation District, will be beginning a new 12-session program in early January.

All interested parties are invited to join in and have fun with this group of easygoing performers.

Founded in 1992, the group meets weekly and now has more than 20 members, including several men. Pianists take turns accompanying the singers.

Drawing on a catalog of 560 songs, the group changes themes monthly. Some themes are based on holidays or seasons, while others come from musical theater or various time periods. In all, the group conducts about 48 rehearsals and 60 shows each year at nursing homes, retirement homes, senior groups, churches and other interested entities.

Anyone with vocal interests, regardless of skill level, is welcome to join the group. The next season of rehearsals will meet at 12:30 p.m., Fridays beginning Jan. 3, at Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village.

The cost for 12 two-hour sessions is $13 for Johnson County residents or $14 for nonresidents. For more information or to register, call 913-831-3359 or online at jcprd.com.

WIC program helps kids get a healthy start

Almost 3 million grandparents are raising their grandchildren. Many of them also struggle to meet the basic needs of their families.

The federal Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program, which is administered by the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, assists eligible senior adults to meet the nutritional needs of their families. The program may also help if a daughter or granddaughter is pregnant.

WIC provides:
• Personalized nutrition information and support
• Benefits to buy healthy food
• Tips for eating well to improve health
• Referrals to healthcare and critical social services that can benefit the whole family

Senior adults may apply for WIC for taking care of their grandchildren up to age 5.

Eligibility includes proof the grandchild or grandchildren are being raised in the grandparent’s home. WIC staff will help applicants determine eligibility.

More information is available at 913-826-1302.
Daydreaming of spring

By Dennis Patton

The dead of winter is a difficult time of year for gardeners. Oh, how I want to get outside to see something green popping out of the ground. Instead, I find myself stuck inside, staring aimlessly out the window, daydreaming of spring and longing for the feeling of warm soil in my hands.

Staring out the window is not a waste of time for a gardener but a crucial part of the planning process. A garden is always in progress and never complete. There is always some tweak to make. The dead of winter presents an opportunity to turn daydreaming into productive work. Looking out the window provides the best view of the landscape to plan for updates once spring arrives.

You will most likely find me staring out the kitchen window. After all, it is the room in which we spend the most time. Does the view out this window please you? Does it bring you joy? Is it interesting or just a sea of winter browns?

**Color, texture and form**

Assessing the landscape from the inside out is the best way to know if it brings pleasure to the passerby as well as those dwelling inside. Just what am I looking for? I am looking for color, texture and form.

Color is the most striking element of a winter landscape. Evergreens provide the pop. Looking out the window, do you see color? In my yard, I can say yes. Straight out is the bright green from the Green Giant Arborvitae. Golden Mops pop to the right and to the left is the blue-green Vander Wolf Pine. If you don’t see color, make a note of where your eye focuses and make it a spring addition.

Texture is important. Texture can be seen not only in the evergreen but in various plants. I find texture in the limbs of the Japanese Maple, the dried flower heads of the Annabelle hydrangea and many other plants. Coarse and fine textures combine to create the most interest.

Plant forms provide another dimension in the winter garden. All plants have form. The upright Green Giant makes a strong statement, but so does the rounded form of the globe blue spruce. The twisted limbs of the contorted Henry Lauder walking stick are like looking through a maze of both form and texture.

Dreaming of the possibilities can make you want it all. The landscape is quite boring if all you see is brown. But on the other hand, if all you see is evergreen, then you lose the excitement that comes with the changing of the seasons.

**Inviting wildlife**

Another way to catch your attention and engage the senses is by inviting wildlife to the yard. As I stare out my kitchen window, I see my bird feeders. These feeders are a hub of activity with birds darting back and forth for cover. It is fun to watch them peck the seeds or have a power struggle with who’s turn it is to use the perch. Attracting birds with a feeder is another way to add an interesting element to the landscape.

Don’t forget the birdbath. A heater water source is like a busy sauna. Perching for a drink or a quick winter bath, birds create more interest.

**Take a peek out the front door**

My next favorite window stare is out the front door. This is the public area of my yard. I ask myself, what does my home landscape project to the neighbors? Does it make me proud? Just as in the backyard, I am looking for the same color, form and texture of plant materials. A good rule of thumb is the front landscape should be about one-third evergreen to provide year-round interest. That leaves the rest for deciduous plants to create an everchanging landscape with color, texture and form.

**Starting a spring chore list**

The productive staring not only helps assess the garden but starts our spring chore list. What plants need pruning? What tired shrubs need to be removed to give a facelift to the landscape? Armed with this task list, you are ready to hit the ground running come spring.

As you can see, winter daydreaming is a good time to take stock of the landscape and start the planning process for the coming season. Staring blankly out the window may be just what we need to survive until spring color returns to the garden.

Dennis Patton is horticulture agent at the Johnson County Extension Office.
County seeks Community for All Ages designation

Johnson County has set into motion an awareness campaign for possible future designation of a “Community for All Ages.”

On Dec. 12, The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved a request from the Human Services Department to have Johnson County become the first county in the Kansas City metropolitan region to work toward becoming a Community for All Ages.

“There are three levels of designation: bronze, silver and gold,” Debbie Collins, director of Human Services, said.

“The county is heading toward the bronze level designation, which consists of providing education, information and raising awareness of the needs of older adults in our community, and why it is important for local cities and counties to take into consideration those needs during planning processes.”

The cities of Mission, Roeland Park, Olathe and Lenexa have initiated efforts to become “Communities for All Ages” or working toward achieving some level of designation. There are 14 cities on the Missouri side of the metropolitan region that have also achieved the designation.

Sponsored by the First Suburbs Coalition, KC Communities for All Ages and Mid-America Regional Council, the initiative, formerly known as KC 4 Aging in the Community, was formed in 2008 to coordinate a metro community response to address and meet the needs of all age groups, with a focus on the growing population of senior adults. The program is available to all jurisdictions in the nine-county metropolitan region.

The resolution authorizes the county, through the Department of Human Services, to “support and promote” the Community for All Ages initiative with the hope of achieving the designation by raising community awareness of the changing demographics in Johnson County, especially with an increased aging population as the Baby Boomer generation continues to age followed by even larger Gen X and Millennial population groups.

Johnson County’s current population of people aged 55 and older is estimated at 147,940, according to the most recent U.S. Census information available. That includes a 65-plus population estimated at 94,900. The projection for the next decade is the 65-plus population will increase to 148,344 by 2029, and to 230,455 by 2049. Between 2014 (72,681) and 2049, the population is expected to increase by 270%.

According to MARC, the KC Communities for All Ages initiative is designed to increase the region's capacity to support healthy lifestyles, health care and quality of life for an aging population, including efforts to:

- Adequately house and support senior adults’ ability to age in place;
- Offer transportation and mobility options that support independent living;
- Provide quality caregiving options; and,
- Offer opportunities for social and civic engagement.

The resolution supports creation of an education and awareness campaign to promote how existing public services and programs, such as provided by Human Services, Mental Health, Library and Park and Recreation District, are now serving residents of all ages and how the county plans to have services and infrastructure “in place to provide a viable place for people to age in place” in the near and distant future.
One in three adults in the nation has prediabetes, a serious health condition that increases a person’s risk for developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease and stroke. Without lifestyle change, 15-30 percent of people with prediabetes will develop type 2 diabetes within five years.

The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment has new Diabetes Prevention Program classes starting soon. The Diabetes Prevention Program is a lifestyle-change program that helps people with prediabetes make healthier choices.

Participants meet weekly in a group to achieve the program goals of losing 5 to 7% of starting body weight and increase physical activity to 150 minutes per week.

Studies show that DPP participants can lower their risk of developing type 2 diabetes by as much as 58% (71% for senior adults over age 60).

Several new DPP classes are opening in January. Medicare and other insurance plans cover the program, making DPP free for most participants. An informational session about DPP is scheduled Tuesday, Jan. 14, at 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. in the Olathe office of the Department of Health and Environment at 11875 S. Sunset Drive, Suite 300.

To learn more about the program or RSVP, contact Anne Hayse, registered dietitian at JCDHE, at 913-477-8128 or anne.hayse@jocogov.org.
In just a few months, Johnson County residents will join the rest of the country in participating in the 2020 Census, which only happens every 10 years.

Data collected in this census ensure that Johnson County communities get the appropriate federal funding dollars and are represented adequately in government, among other important reasons to participate.

As the census gets closer, it is a good time to get informed about the questions that will and won’t be asked. The good news is that the questions are fairly simple.

• How many people are living or staying in the home on April 1, 2020?
• Is the home owned or rented?
• How many males and females are in the home?
• What is the age and race of each person in the home?
• Are there people in the home who are of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?
• What are the relationships of each person in the home?

Governments, businesses, communities and nonprofits will use this data to, for example, inform decisions about housing programs, plan for and fund government programs that support specific age groups, including older adults, and help federal agencies monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions.

So, what questions will not be on the U.S. Census?
• What is your social security number?
• What political party do you support?
• Are you and the other members of your household U.S. citizens?
• Requests for donations, money, your bank account or a credit card number.

If fraud is suspected during this process, residents can call 1-800-923-8282 and they will get connected with a local Census Bureau representative. The Census Bureau helpful information about avoiding frauds and scams at www.2020census.gov/en/avoiding-fraud.html.

Jody Hanson is director of public affairs and communications at the Johnson County Manager’s Office.
New Year's resolution: Promote brain health

By Juliette B. Bradley

As Johnson County older adults ponder New Year’s resolutions, the Alzheimer’s Association is encouraging everyone to include brain health on the list.

Research shows that healthy lifestyle interventions may reduce the risk of cognitive decline and help reduce the risk of dementia.

The association offers 10 Ways to Love Your Brain, tips aimed at promoting brain health. Combining all 10 behaviors offers a greater benefit than any single activity alone.

More than five million Americans are now living with Alzheimer’s, and more than 16 million friends and family are serving as unpaid caregivers.

Alzheimer’s is not a normal part of aging. Approximately 200,000 Americans under the age of 65 have younger-onset Alzheimer’s disease (also known as early-onset Alzheimer’s).

Find out all 10 Ways to Love Your Brain at alz.org/10ways. The association also maintains a 24-hour Helpline (800-272-3900) at no cost to families. Juliette B. Bradley is director of communications at the Alzheimer’s Association - Heart of America and Central Western Kansas Chapters with its office in Prairie Village.

10 WAYS TO LOVE YOUR BRAIN

START NOW. It’s never too late or too early to incorporate healthy habits.

- Hit the Books: Engage in reading or other mental stimulation.
- Stump Yourself: Challenge your mind.
- Grasp the Bans: Treat hearing loss.
- Break a Sweat: Engage in regular physical activity.
- But Out: Quit smoking.
- Follow Your Heart: Make healthy food choices.
- Head's Up: Wear a helmet when biking or riding a bike.
- Fuel Up Right: Eat a balanced diet.
- Buddy Up: Establish a strong support system.
- Take Care of Your Mental Health.

Visit alz.org/10ways to learn more.

Are you considering pre planning your funeral?

There are two important questions to ask when pre planning your funeral.

1. What is the growth rate? Some grow at 0.35%. Ours grow at 2.25-2.75%. Get your rate in writing.
2. Who is guaranteeing your funeral plan? Only the funeral home offering the pre plan can give a guarantee of their services and we don't charge for our guarantee!

Call to Talk to the Pre Planning Experts
Lenexa (913) 438-6444  |  Kansas City (913) 621-6400

www.PorterFuneralHome.com
Libraries celebrate Kansas Day, plan coffees

By Christopher Leitch

Johnson County Library offers programs and events of special interest to senior adults throughout the New Year.

Activities include celebrating the 159th birthday of Kansas with family-friendly events, including historic games and stories about life in Kansas over the past century. Events are scheduled Thursday, Jan. 9, at Blue Valley Library, and Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Lenexa City Center Library.

The final state birthday celebration will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at Central Resource Library, 9875 West 87th Street, Overland Park. It is the actual date, also called Kansas Day, that Kansas became the 34th state in the Union in 1861.

All three events are scheduled from 4 to 7 p.m. at the libraries.

The 2020 session of the Kansas Legislature convenes on Jan. 13 in Topeka and the three legislative coffees will soon follow at Johnson County libraries.

Presented by the League of Women Voters of Johnson County, the coffees will feature state representatives and senators to discuss the new legislative session with constituents following by audience questions-answers. Coffee and doughnuts will be provided.

Coffees are scheduled:
• Saturday, Jan. 25 – Corinth Library, 8100 Mission Road, Prairie Village
• Saturday, Feb. 8 – Blue Valley Library, 9000 West 151st Street, Overland Park
• Saturday, Feb. 22 – Lenexa City Center Library, 8778 Penrose Lane

Screening of ‘My Mother’s Club’

In celebration of African American History Month in February, the public screening of “My Mother’s Club” by filmmaker Rodney Thompson will take place from 9 to 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5, at the Blue Valley Library.

Presented by Vine Street Films, the film tells the intriguing story of African American women’s social clubs in the Kansas City area during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, focusing on the impact of these clubs in a time when segregation was the rule. These social clubs played an integral role in the life and well-being of Kansas City’s African American community through their activities, volunteerism and social activism.

Thompson, who will attend the screening on Feb. 5, is an independent filmmaker and lifelong Kansas Citian. He holds a Master of Film Arts degree from San Francisco State University. His films include “18th Street Lives” about the history of the historic 18th and Vine area, “Sons of a Hoofer” about the multitalented McFadden brothers and “Conversation in Dance” that traces the Kansas City Two Step through the personal stories of competitive dancers.

Genealogy Fair

On Saturday, March 7, the Central Resource Library will be the site of National Genealogy Day with a resource fair and open house from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Organized and presented with Johnson County Genealogical Society (jcgskso.org), the event provides the opportunity for residents to connect to their past by beginning their family research journey.

Activities include touring the genealogy area, learning about library and society resources, picking up a resource kit with forms and information, and receiving one-on-one help from society members. Informational sessions, including DNA Genealogy, Avoiding Mistakes in Building Your Family Tree, RootsMagic, Family Search and more, also are planned along with genealogy-themed group exhibits.

Serving the homebound

For residents who are unable to be out and about, the HomeConnect program serves patrons who are permanently or temporarily homebound and unable to come to the library. This service will mail books and other library materials directly to eligible patrons. For more information, please call 913-826-4600 or email ask@jocolibrary.libanswers.com. (Olathe Public Library also serves homebound Olathe residents through its Library to You delivery service by calling 913-971-6843 or visiting librarytouyou@gmail.com.)

To enroll in HomeConnect, applicants must complete a paper application form and read the included instructions carefully. Applications must be signed by an appropriate certifying authority. Applicants may call to request an application form by mail if needed.

Finally, the library’s What the Tech service can help residents with their internet, email, eBook, smartphone and tablet questions. They are invited to book a 30-minute, one-on-one help session (dates and times vary) with a techie librarian to find answers to tech issues. Registration is available by phone only at 913-826-4600.

More event listings and information about Johnson County Library are available at jocolibrary.org.

Christopher Leitch is community relations coordinator at Johnson County Library.
Snowplows keep drivers on the go in ice and snow

By Gerald Hay

When the winter weather outside turns frightful, it’s all hands-on deck for snowplow crews in Johnson County.

Heading into the winter season, the Johnson County Department of Public Works has around-the-clock crews ready to go in ice, sleet or snow to plow, clear and make roadways as safe and passable as possible during inclement weather. In doing so, the county has more than 5,000 tons of salt on hand in two large domes to treat slick roads and keep icy surfaces from refreezing. Last year, the department used 3,859 tons of material.

During the first significant snowfall of the current winter, Public Works crews worked more than 803 manhours and used 779 tons of salt to plow and clear unincorporated roadways during the Dec. 16-17 storm. A year ago, the crews were equally busy in January and February, working 4,107 manhours in 15 winter storms.

According to Dennis Stottlemire, assistant road superintendent, the department can dispatch a day shift crew of 16 employees and a night shift crew of 10 employees to plow and clear approximately 794 lane miles of paved arterial roadways, local streets and gravel roads in unincorporated Johnson County.

The department uses 20 dump trucks with 11-foot blades and sanders along with six road graders with V-plows. The department tracks its snowplows and equipment through a GPS system that’s used year-round. Trucks and road graders are also equipped with two-way radios.

Work often involves a long day

The Public Works crews often start early and end late, working 12-hour shifts during winter storms, ranging from inches to feet of snowfall.

Stottlemire, who has been with the department for 40 years, has seen and experienced pretty much everything when it comes to winter.

“We’ll be watching weather forecasts like everyone else, and we’re prepared for winter storms and are ready to go,” he said.

Snowplow drivers face the same problems as motorists: poor driving conditions and often poor visibility.

“The worst part is the traffic. They try to go way too fast,” Howard Alfrey, a 13-year employee of the department, said. “They get really impatient and don’t want to give us any space.”

In sharing a snow-covered road with a snowplow, drivers should keep a few facts in mind to be safe.

Visibility matters. Snowplow drivers are driving in weather conditions that often limit their visibility, including blind spots to approaching traffic. Passing or tailgating a snowplow at work is a bad idea. They may be driving slowly, but motorists are usually better off following a snowplow than driving in front of one.

“To some drivers, we’re an impediment. We are in the way,” John Velasquez, who joined the department in mid-2004, said.
The snowplow crews include a day shift of 16 employees and a night shift of 10 employees in clearing almost 800 miles of rural roadways.

A slogan by the Kansas Department of Transportation urges drivers: Don’t Crowd the Plow. That means following at a safe distance for several reasons. The most obvious is the road in front of the plow hasn’t been treated. Staying well back avoids having the salt and deicing materials from being thrown on the vehicle. Snowplows can create a cloud of snow while clearing away snow that can temporarily reduce the visibility of passing vehicles.

Snowplows also need room to maneuver, stopping or taking evasive action to avoid roadway obstacles in their way, including stranded vehicles.

**Staying on road, out of the ditch**

“We just try to take our time and try to stay on the road,” Velasquez said. “We have the same problem as other drivers. We’re trying to stay out of the ditch, too. When you get 6 or 7 inches of snow on the ground, it’s hard to see the edge of a roadway in finding where the road ends and the ditch begins.”

Alfrey agreed.

“They (motorists) should stay home and off the roads and let us do our job,” he added. “But, that’s one of the things we have to deal with. We’re out here trying to do the best job we can.”

Each year, Johnson County is prepared for the worst in wintry weather and hoping for the best. Last winter kept snowplow crews busy with about 29 inches of snow in the metro region, involving 40 days of snowstorms.

A decade ago, Johnson County had more than 15 inches of snow between Christmas and New Year’s Day during the winter of 2009-2010.

“We worked 10 days straight through two holidays,” Alfrey said. “It was part of the job.”

Despite what the snowplow looks like, the large trucks don’t have four-wheel drive. And, yes, some Public Works snowplow drivers have gotten stuck. They are not alone.

The crews have witnessed motorists losing control of their vehicle, moving sideways or fishtailing, on slick roads and highways. They have found vehicles stranded in roads, on roadsides and in ditches. They have come across accidents, notifying law enforcement authorities and towing businesses.

“Yeah, it’s dangerous, you never know what’s going to happen,” Velasquez said.

**Dangers of snowplowing**

Snowplow drivers are fully trained in dealing with snow and fully know the dangers that come with it. A year ago, Stephen Windler, 25, a snowplow driver for KDOT, was killed on Jan. 19 when his truck rolled over in a ditch along Highway 69 south of 207th Street near Stilwell.

The Public Works crews are responsible for clearing roadways in the unincorporated portions of Johnson County.

The department’s policy is to focus first on plowing and treating of the county’s arterial or main roads before clearing the paved secondary streets and roadways. The goal is to keep primary roads open throughout a winter storm. Gravel roads are usually only plowed if the snow accumulation is more than 3 inches or blocked by drifting snow.

KDOT clears snow on state highways. Cities are responsible for their own street maintenance, including snow removal, within their city limits.

Issues in the unincorporated area can be reported to the snow hotline: 913-715-8353.
Winter Weather Safety

When the weather outside is frightful, it’s not always possible to stay inside, but a little preparation can go a long way in keeping you safe.

Emergency Car Kit

Pack an emergency kit in your car in case you get stranded in bad weather.

1. first aid kit
2. drinking water
3. blanket
4. extra clothes
5. non-perishable food
6. cell phone and external battery
7. flashlight (with extra batteries)
8. tire chains
9. jumper cables
10. shovel
11. reflective triangles
12. snow brush/ice scraper
13. window washer solvent
14. non-clumping kitty litter (for traction)

Who plows my street?

Johnson County Public Works only maintains roads in the unincorporated areas of the county. Streets inside city limits are plowed by city public works departments; state and interstate highways are plowed by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Contact the appropriate authority if you see a safety concern in your area.

Incorporated areas (plowed by cities)

Unincorporated areas (plowed by JoCo)

For more detailed county maps, visit maps.jocogov.org

To report a plowing issue in the unincorporated area, call the snow hotline at 913-715-8353. To report an issue on a city street, call your city’s public works department.

Emergency contacts

If you become stranded:
on a Kansas highway, call *47
on a city or county road, call 911
out & about

Full Moon Hike set Jan. 10 in Olathe

By the light of the silvery moon, residents ages 8 and older are invited to join the Johnson County Park and Recreation District’s Outdoor Education staff for a quiet hike to connect with nature and the night sounds.

Hikers will experience the park after dark and finish with a hot drink. They should dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.

The first Full Moon Hike of 2020 will take place at 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10, starting from the Ernie Miller Nature Center, 909 North Kansas 7 Highway, Olathe.

The cost for the two-hour hike is $5 per person for Johnson County residents or $6 per person for nonresidents, including adults. Pre-registration is required by calling 913-831-3359 or registering online at jcprd.com.

Other Full Moon Hikes are planned Feb. 9 and March 8.

New yoga class begins Jan. 10

Johnson County residents can get energized with a new program, called Morning Flow Yoga, being offered by the Johnson County Park and Recreation District beginning in early January.

In the moderate intensity program, participants will build stamina, strength and flexibility while moving through integrated sequences. Variations will be offered so all can participate, but previous yoga experience is recommended.

Morning Flow Yoga will take place beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 10, at the Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village.

The cost for eight 50-minute sessions is $63 per person for Johnson County residents or $69 per person for nonresidents.

For more information or to register, call 913-831-3359 or go online at jcprd.com.

Valentine’s Day includes lunch, bingo

Johnson County residents are invited to celebrate a special Valentine’s Day on Feb. 14, with a catered lunch and 12 games of bingo for a variety of prizes.

The event will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Dr.

Singles and couples are welcome to attend the special celebration.

Cost is $15 per resident, $16 for nonresidents in advance, or $18 for residents, $19 for nonresidents if registering after Feb. 7. Cost of admission covers food and staff time to administer bingo. There is no additional charge for bingo.

Pre-registration is required one week before the event by visiting jcprd.com or calling 913-826-3160.

Moving, Downsizing and Selling Your Home

Tuesday, Jan. 21 • 2 – 4 p.m.

Join us at Cedar Lake Village as we welcome professionals in real estate, downsizing and moving. We will hear from Brian Walton with Assisted Moving of Kansas City, Steve Kornspan with Senior Living Spot and Tony Drew with Century 21 All-Pro. They will be here with tips and tricks to get the process started and are prepared to answer your questions during this interactive workshop.

To learn more or to RSVP, call (913) 780-9916.

www.jocogov.org/thebesttimes • 19 • Jan-Feb 2020
By Brandon Hearn

Between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day, Americans generate over 25% more trash.

On Christmas Day alone, the average family will fill five extra trash bags. With the large quantity of holiday cards, wrapping paper, trees, lights and ornaments, in addition to all the packaging and boxes, it is no wonder that this is the most wasteful time of year.

But it doesn’t have to be that way. Johnson County Department of Health and Environment wants to wish residents of all ages a Happy New Year and show them a few ways that they can help the environment during the holidays and year-round in 2020.

• **Holiday lights:** Residents no longer must throw away their broken holiday lights. There will be several locations accepting holiday lights for recycling. The Overland Park Recycling Center will accept them through January. Westlake Ace Hardware locations will also accept lights until Jan. 12. And, the Mission Sustainability Commission will be collecting lights at the Sylvestre Powell Community Center and Mack’s True Value Hardware through Jan. 17. More details are available at recyclespot.org.

• **Natural trees:** Christmas trees should not end up in the landfill. Natural trees now are being collected to become a fish habitat or mulch for a park. Johnson County Park and Recreation (jcprd.com) operates collection sites through Jan. 31 at Big Bull Creek Park, Edgerton; Shawnee Mission Park, Shawnee; and Heritage and Kill Creek Parks, Olathe. Some cities also sponsor tree-recycling sites. Residents can receive more information by contacting their local city government or going to: jocogov.org/dept/health-and-environment.

• **Continue to Ditch the Bag:** Bagging recyclables in plastic trash bags can result in all of recyclables going to the landfill. Plastic bags and wraps are also not accepted in curbside recycling. Why? Because these materials get caught in machinery at the recycling facility and lower the value of other recyclables. Residents can ensure their recycling efforts don’t go to waste by keeping plastic bags, product wrap and other plastic wraps and films out of the recycle bin and not bagging recyclables. More information on how to Ditch the Bag is available at jocogov.org/recycling101.

• **Start a recycling/sustainability program:** Johnson County Government offers a free consulting program to start a recycling or waste diversion program by working with any business, school, church or even senior living facility in Johnson County. There is also a Certified Green recognition program that honors businesses that go above and beyond. For more information on the program, call 913-715-6936.

• Recycling is important, but remember to reduce, reuse and then recycle in 2020.

Brandon Hearn is environmental health specialist at Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.
Take Me Home:

By Claire Canaan

The Take Me Home program is a free service offered to the residents of Johnson County by the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office. It is a database maintained by the office’s Communications Division and is only accessible to law enforcement personnel.

The database includes a picture, disability information, physical description, emergency contact information and map of all registered individuals. If a person in the Take Me Home program is encountered alone by a law enforcement officer, or is reported missing, the officer can access the database by the person’s name or description to locate their enrollment record. With this information at hand, the officer can provide appropriate assistance.

So how does the program work? In the event an enrollee is contacted and an officer has reason to believe they may be a candidate for Take Me Home, the officer can access the database to identify the person and better help them. If there is a match to the database, the emergency contact will be notified immediately to let them know their loved one has been found. If a loved one enrolled in Take Me Home goes missing, the family or care provider should call 911 and inform the police dispatcher of the individual’s enrollment in the Take Me Home program. The information is shared with other law enforcement agencies in Johnson County.

Caregivers will be contacted yearly via email or phone to maintain up-to-date information on the person who has been enrolled in the Take Me Home program. For children or senior adults, an updated photo is requested each year as physical appearance can change dramatically.

Program maintains key info to assist people with impairments when missing and found

Any child or adult, who may have difficulty communicating due to a developmental or cognitive disability while lost or in an emergency-situation, can be enrolled in Take Me Home. These individuals tend to be at risk for wandering and may include people with disabilities such as Alzheimer’s, autism, dementia, Down syndrome, traumatic brain injury (TBI), etc.

Anyone enrolling an individual should be either a family member or a legal guardian or is turning in a signed registration form on behalf of the individual’s family with their permission. Individuals who do NOT qualify for enrollment include people with ONLY physical disabilities, hearing impairment, vision impairment, anyone who can communicate via translator/interpreter and children who have not reached a developmentally appropriate age for speech.

Enrollment in Take Me Home is available through the online registration page at jocogov.org/operations-bureau/dispatch/take-me-home. Enrollees can download and print the registration form along with a current photo to shr-disptakeme-home@jocogov.org or mail in the physical form with photo to the Communications Division:

Johnson County Sheriff’s Office
Communications Division – Take Me Home Program
11880 South Sunset Drive,
Olathe, KS 66061

Forms can also be picked up directly at the Communications Division office and filled out at the convenience of participants.

For questions regarding an individual’s condition pertaining to eligibility or additional program information, please contact a Take Me Home administrator at 913-782-0720 or email shr-disptakemehome@jocogov.org.

Claire Canaan is a master deputy and public information officer/social media manager in the Public Affairs and Community Outreach Division of the Johnson County Sheriff’s Office.

Workshops set on smartphones

The Johnson County Park and Recreation District’s 50 Plus Department is offering bi-weekly smartphone workshops at the Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty Street, Overland Park.

Topics include: Contacts and calling, Jan. 29; settings and notifications, Feb. 12; and email and text, Feb. 26.

Classes are from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost $15 is for Johnson County residents and $17 for nonresidents.

Preregistration is required by calling 913-831-3359 or visiting jcprd.com.

Where you go for rehab can make all the difference.

To learn more about our post-acute rehabilitation services in Olathe, call (913) 397-2900.

All faiths or beliefs are welcome.
Let's travel the world with 50 Plus

By Michelle Alexander

The 50 Plus Department of Johnson County Park and Recreation District has been helping people across the county fulfill their dreams of traveling around the world for more than 40 years through group travel.

The program offers 10 to 12 tours every year from local destinations in the U.S. to China, Australia, Europe and more. Group travel is a great way to experience a region’s unique characteristics, culture, and people. Benefits of group travel include having someone to lead the way and make all traveling plans and accommodations. Travelers can also meet/make instant friends with a shared commonality of traveling to the same destination.

There is always safety in numbers. Quality group tour companies put the safety of travelers first, looking out for their best interests and easing worries and concerns about traveling alone.

Group travel can include front row seats, tickets to attractions and special experiences for travelers, such as a backstage tour at the Rose Bowl Parade, a boat ride on the Ganga River in India during Diwali or a hot air balloon ride over the plains of the Serengeti.

Tour companies also find some of the best locals who take time to share with visiting Americans what they love most about their town and its history.

The 50 Plus Department’s 2020 tours include eastern Canada, Norway, Ireland, Australia and a New York City holiday. A Travel Show is scheduled at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 25, in the Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village. RSVPs are requested by calling 913-826-2975.

The Travel Show will feature highlights of upcoming tours, time to ask questions about the program and the opportunity to meet new and seasoned travelers to learn from their experiences. One is Norma who recently posted the following on Facebook® about her tour in November.

“I book my international travel with the fine folks at JCPRD. They provided us a high-quality worry-free travel experience. Greece was our first trip and Egypt was the second. I highly recommend them if you are considering a vacation traveling overseas!”

A list of all upcoming group tours, regional tours, daytrips, social outings and other travel outings, both local and worldwide, is available at jcprd.com/50plustravel.

Michelle Alexander is manager of the 50 Plus Department at the Johnson County Park and Recreation District.

Programs set on history, astronomy

Johnson County residents are invited to explore astronomy and Kansas history at the next Lunch and Learn programs by the Johnson County Park and Recreation District.

The program, including a meal, takes place at the Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village. A member of the Astronomical Society of Kansas City will discuss the myths and legends of astronomy on Jan. 16.

On Feb. 3, a National Park Service Ranger will share the history of the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka.

Both programs will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Cost are $19 per Johnson County residents and $21 per non-resident. Register by calling 913-831-3359.

Retirement Living Reborn in Brookside

St. Anthony’s Retirement Community offers residential living, assisted living, and memory support. Services and amenities include daily happy hour, Chapel on-site, fitness center, salon, underground parking and more.

Call Today To Schedule Your Lunch & Tour

Assisted Living & Memory Support Opening Spring 2020

St. Anthony’s

A Catholic Retirement Community

Residential Living Now Open!

Catholic Charities

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StAnthonysKC.com

www.jocogov.org/thebesttimes - 22 - Jan-Feb 2020

KC – St. Joseph Diocese
Silver Haired delegates list priorities

The Johnson County delegation of the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature has submitted a to-do list of recommendations for consideration by the Kansas Legislature during its 2020 session, beginning Jan. 13, in Topeka.

The KSHL is a single chamber legislature of 125 representatives from across Kansas. The Johnson County delegation is comprised of six representatives elected at-large. All are 60 or older, and registered voters.

Members of the local delegation include:
- Jeanie Adkins-Peine - jadkins-peine@gmail.com
- Jerry Ireland - jerryireland1@outlook.com
- Katy Hoffman - kmrhoffman@gmail.com
- Gary Scott - scottskufhsu@sbcglobal.net
- Mary Penrose - penrose.mary@gmail.com
- Chuck Nigro - cnigro22@comcast.net

"Every county in Kansas, plus 20 members from the five populous counties, has a voice. KSHL’s purpose is to advocate and inform Kansas legislators of senior concerns and priorities,” Hoffman, chair of the delegation, said. “It is just one way for the senior citizens in Kansas to make their collective voice heard.”

Each October, KSHL delegates from across the state meet in Topeka for a three-day session when they debate and vote on measures passed by various committees. Bills and resolutions that pass the full house are presented to the Kansas Legislature and the governor as recommendations for state policy.

Six resolutions and one bill were passed on Oct. 3 during the 37th annual session by the KSHL, including:
- Resolution supporting expansion of Medicaid (KanCare) provided the federal government pay the promised 90% share;
- Resolution supporting continuation and expansion of collaborative community-based transportation systems;
- Resolution urging the legislature to exempt purchases of food from Kansas sales tax;
- Resolution urging the legislature to fully fund the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) and request a cost of living wage;
- Resolution urging the legislature and governor to continue to protect grandparent’s rights regarding placement, legal guardianship and adoption of grandchildren who need care;
- Resolution supporting the expansion of medicinal cannabis that contains no tetrahydrocannabinol; and,
- KSHL Bill asking for changes in the Senior Care Act to improve services designed to keep people in their home and authorize additional care for oral hygiene, vision, hearing and feet.

The 2020 State Legislative Platform adopted by the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners also supports statewide expansion of Medicaid; funding of “a comprehensive transportation plan,” including highways, airports, trails and transit; full funding of KPERS; and “reductions in sales tax on food and pharmaceuticals while balancing the impact on, and obligations of, counties and local units of government across the state.”

The Silver Haired Legislature was created by an act of Congress in 1969. The Kansas Silver Haired Legislature was formed in 1982. Each county is entitled to one representative. As one of the state’s four largest counties, Johnson County can have up to five additional representatives.

More information about the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature is available at Kansas-SHL.org.
Indian Jim: Bricklayer champ

By Gerald Hay

Johnson County never had a yellow brick road, but red bricks helped to pave the roadway system out of the rut.

In the late 19th century and early 20th century, most roads and streets were either dirt or gravel. Potholes and grooves were common, taking their toll on wagons and vehicles. Muddy roads after rains also hampered farmers and drivers, often adding hours to normal travel times.

Two of the county’s main roads – Kansas City Road in Olathe and Metcalf Avenue in Overland Park – were paved with brick in the mid-1920s. The wizard of all bricklayers was James Garfield Cleveland Brown, a member of the Oneida Indian Nation, who became known as “Indian Jim.”

The paving of Kansas City Road in 1925 was a major project starting in Olathe, running through Lenexa, connecting to downtown Overland Park at 85th Street, now Santa Fe Drive, and joining Metcalf Avenue. The bricked road, spanning 21 miles, followed the old Santa Fe Trail route from Olathe to Westport. It has since been paved and replaced by I-35.

Indian Jim vs. Frank Hoffman

The grand opening of Kansas City Road occurred on Sept. 12, 1925. It featured a bricklaying contest between Indian Jim and Frank Hoffman, a bricklayer from El Dorado, Kansas. They competed in laying bricks on a stretch of unfinished road 833 feet long.

According to the Johnson County Democrat newspaper, the bricklayers were positioned back-to-back at the midway point of the unfinished road. They had a support crew of six “tong men,” who used metal clamps to carry and stack four to five bricks at a time on either side of the ambidextrous bricklayers. Both worked stooped over from a standing position and wore rubber pads to protect their hands.

“He is as limber at the waist as a rubber man. When he raises his arms to a horizontal position he has a ‘wingspread’ of 87.5 inches,” The Democrat described Indian Jim laying bricks, adding that when he was “going good,” the bricklayer could lay 14 tons of brick a day with “no sign of effort or fatigue.”

Indian Jim won the competition by paving slightly more than 416 feet of Kansas City Road with 46,664 bricks (218 tons) in seven hours and 48 minutes in drizzling rain and 60-degree weather. He placed 1,755 more bricks than Hoffman. Indian Jim averaged laying almost 100 bricks every minute; that’s more than one brick per second. Each brick weighed eight pounds.

As part of his contest winnings, Indian Jim received a $200 prize (equivalent to $2,941 in 2019) along with his regular wages of $2 per hour. He was also presented a medal designating him as the Middle Western Champ in bricklaying, but Indian Jim had a broader claim of fame in mind.

“He has made an art of what other men have always regarded as drudging labor,” The Kansas City Star reported in its coverage of the competition. “He believes he is the champion bricklayer of the world and is proud of the fact that when he ‘lays them, they stay laid.’”

The bricklaying competition attracted more than 10,000 people, including U.S. Senator Charles Curtis and Governor Ben Paulen, and featured a parade with 60 floats, scores of decorated cars and a band concert.

The Olathe Mirror newspaper reported 43 ceremonial bricks were laid by various VIPs, including Olathe and state officials along with three county commissioners, to finish Kansas City Road. The last two bricks were laid by Governor Paulen and Senator Curtis, who would be elected vice president four years later as Herbert Hoover’s running mate. He placed a silver brick. The governor added the final gold brick.

Trip to KC now ‘possible in 40 minutes’

Featured speakers at the event told the crowd about the importance of paved roads for economic development of the region. One noted “a trip to Kansas City was now possible in 40 minutes.”

In the book “Johnson County Kansas: A Pictorial History, 1825-2005,” on the day after the grand opening celebration “a reported 7,500 cars drove over the brick road to experience a ‘modern’ roadway.”

In 1927, Indian Jim helped to pave Metcalf Avenue from 79th Street to Louisburg, which later became a part of Highway 69 from Kansas City to Dallas, Texas.

Aside from his notoriety in Johnson County, Indian Jim was a well-known bricklayer in Baldwin, Liberal and
Indian Jim paved his way to fame with bricks

Goodland, Kansas and Pampa, Texas. Although other bricklayers challenged his claim, he was never defeated.

By the 1930s, brick paving, the standard of road and street construction since the late 19th and early 20th century, was replaced by concrete and asphalt.

Indian Jim died on Sept. 20, 1955, in a hospital at Houston. He was 76.

Some remnants of bygone brick roadways do exist beneath existing streets and roads. The bricks occasionally are uncovered by construction work.

According to the Overland Park Historical Society, “the bricks on Metcalf were exposed just recently when the highway was resurfaced. The old asphalt was peeled off and the original bricks were exposed. Many people noticed the bricks north of 75th Street.”

Beth Wright, deputy director of public works for the city of Olathe, says Kansas City Road no longer has brick beneath the asphalt, but some streets do.

“We have some portions of low volume roads which have brick beneath the asphalt surface but those are scattered sections throughout original town Olathe,” Wright said.

Only pockets of bricks are visible on Johnson County roadways. Some crosswalks, including a few along Kansas City Road in Olathe, have been constructed with bricks as part of streets. Several traffic islands dividing the county’s roadways also have brick surfaces. The intersection of Santa Fe and Cherry streets in downtown Olathe was built with bricks along with nearby crosswalks.

An “Indian Jim and the Building of the Kansas City Road” marker was completed in 2007 by students in the Olathe North High School 21st Century Program. The marker is located in a small pocket park at the junction of Poplar Street and Kansas City Road.

The rest is history.

Bingo games begin Jan. 8

The 50 Plus Department of Johnson County Park and Recreation District will kick off a new season of themed bingo games in early January at four locations through the end of February.

All bingo sessions begin at 1:30 p.m., on a Wednesday or Thursday, and will feature a dozen games of bingo, as well as food, prizes and fun. Bingo prizes include gift certificates to local restaurants and businesses.

“Snow Much Fun” is the theme for the first bingo session on Wednesday, Jan. 8, at the Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty St., Overland Park.

Other upcoming winter bingo programs include:

• “Cheese Please!” on Thursday, Jan. 23, at the Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Dr.;
• “Candyland®” on Feb. 5 at the Tomahawk Ridge Community Center, 11902 Lowell, Overland Park; and,
• “Carnival” on Feb. 26 at the Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse, 9101 Nall, Prairie Village.

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. Cost of admission covers food (or snacks) and staff time to administer the bingo program. There’s no additional charge for bingo.

For more information or to register, call 913-831-3359.
A Home Safe Home in 2020

By Denise Dias

ew Year’s resolutions in 2020 should include home safety, offering security and comfort for families and residents of all ages.

In doing so, it’s always a good idea to ensure home surroundings remain safe and free of hazards. That’s important for older adults. Falling is a major concern for them as they age with many falls occurring at home.

According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, every second of every day, an older adult (age 65+) suffers a fall in the U.S., making falls the leading cause of injury and injury death in this age group.

The CDC reports one out of four older adults will fall each year in the nation. That means falls annually impact 30 million older adults, resulting in about 30,000 deaths and 3 million being treated for a fall injury, including broken bones and hips.

Falls also are preventable, especially by enhancing home safety. Tips by the CDC include removing tripping hazards from stairs and main walking areas in a home, removing small rugs or using double-sided tape to keep rugs from slipping, adding grab bars in the bathroom, installing handrails on all staircases and having lots of light throughout the home.

A home fall prevention checklist by the CDC is accessible at cdc.gov/steadi/pdf/STEADI-Brochure-CheckForSafety-508.pdf.

Home safety also needs to protect young children and visiting grandchildren with a few tips by the Underwriters Laboratories, including:

- **Don’t get tippy.** If young children are in the home, bookshelves and other furniture should be firmly secured with wall brackets to prevent tipping.

- **Grand-child proof.** There are many things to think about when childproofing a home. Areas of particular danger include outlets, appliances, electronics, stairs and windows.

- **Go new in the nursery.** Check that all painted cribs, bassinets and high chairs were made after 1978 to avoid potential lead paint poisoning. Follow all safety recommendations on furniture, furnishing covers and blankets. Most heirloom beds and cribs do not meet today’s safety standards.

- **Put away medications.** Take medications and medical supplies out of your purse, pockets, and drawers, and put them in a cabinet with a child safety lock.

Other general home safety tips by the Underwriters Laboratories include:

- **Paint safe.** Check walls for loose paint. If repainting, do so in a well-ventilated area and consider using paint free of volatile organic compounds.

- **Plan an escape.** Practice a fire escape plan with the family and household members; identify two exits for every room and what to do with young children.

- **Keep extinguishers handy.** Place all-purpose fire extinguishers in key locations, including the kitchen, bedroom and basement. Check expiration dates regularly and know how to use them safely.

- **Create a safe exit.** In addition to alarms and extinguishers, consider an escape ladder if the home has two floors. Keep emergency numbers and contacts readily available by the phone.

- **Cool water jets.** Set the water heater below 120° F to avoid potential burns and to save energy.

By taking a few proactive steps in household safety, Home Sweet Homes are Home Safe Homes for all ages throughout the year.

Denise Dias is family and consumer sciences agent at the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Office.
January is National Radon Month!

Have you tested for radon gas?

- Testing is the only way to know radon levels in your home.
- Indoor Radon levels in Johnson County average 5.3 (pCi/L) which is above the EPA’s radon action level of 4.0 picocuries of radon per liter of indoor air.
- Radon is known to be the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers.
- Test your home, school or business with this simple DIY short-term test.

Get your Radon Test Kits!
You can't see it smell it or taste it, but this radioactive gas is present everywhere!

Johnson County Extension is selling test kits for a reduced fee. Each kit includes laboratory analysis by accredited radon measurement experts and return postage.

Kits will be sold at the Extension office for $10 each. January may be Radon Month, but we sell radon kits year round!

Learn more at: Johnson.K-State.edu or call 913-715-7000 or visit us at 11811 S. Sunset Dr. Suite 1500, Olathe.
Publishing of classified advertising does not constitute agreement or endorsement by this magazine or Johnson County Government.

MAY WE HELP YOU become more comfortable with your computer? SenCom is an all-volunteer non-profit with members dedicated to sharing their computer knowledge with other seniors. Whether you’re a beginner or want to sharpen your skills, we’d like to help you. We offer a wide selection of inexpensive classes such as Beginner’s Workshop, Facebook, Internet, Word, Email, Organizing Photos, and Windows 10. Our classes are small with one-on-one assistance provided. We have monthly programs with informative speakers and a time for Q&A if you have computer questions. Check us out at www.kcsenior.net or call Lou at 913-298-0575. We hope to hear from you and invite you to drop into any monthly meeting (check the website for dates and location); no reservation required.


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, mbcobb5@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 CARPETS 913-894-0301.

MG Home Repair and Improvement. All around the home repairs. Carpentry, lighting, plumbing, concrete repairs, deck and fence repair, power washing, staining and sealing, interior and exterior painting. Experienced, quality workmanship; senior discounts; free estimates; insured. Call Michael in Lenexa, 913-486-9040.

Ladies, want to expand your horizons? Try out our Art Club in Olathe on Thursday mornings. Realism colored pencil/graphite instruction. No experience needed. E-mail Carol for details, carol.rondinelli@sbcglobal.net.

PROFESSIONAL HANDYMAN SERVICE. Serving the Johnson County area. Retired gentleman with 30 plus years’ experience in home repairs. Specializing in small job repairs such as faucets, toilets, fans, lights, outlets, switches, and carpentry. Johnson County Home Repair, LLC. Brooks Lytle 913-701-5171.


Piano Lessons. Interested in learning to play or refreshing your skills? I welcome adults of all ages and all skill levels. Lessons are at my home studio – Overland Park/Leawood area. Call or text Lee Anne at 913-548-3192 and feel free to visit my Facebook page: Lee Anne Rogers Piano Studio.

at your service

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.

Effective in 2019, 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 Jody Hanson.

Email: jody.hanson@jocogov.org
Call: 913-715-0730

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your Jan-Feb classifieds


LEND A HANDY HELPER, LLC. We do those ‘‘little’’ jobs that other Handyman won’t do. Licensed, Insured. Free Estimates. From Lightbulbs to Ceiling fans, Gutters, 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. lendahandyhelper.wix.com/lend-a-handy-helper.


Want to sell your home? Don’t know where to start? Retired Overland Park Realtor will pay cash for your home. No inspections, appraisals or closing costs. Leave furniture behind. Broken basements ok. Linda Mathiesen. 913-642-5055.

Estate and Downsizing sales, conducted by the experienced volunteers of Shawnee Mission LaSertoma, who support nursing students at Johnson County Community College and the Johnson County Christmas Bureau. Mary 913-484-5544.

Overland Park Mobile Wash LLC. Power washing for autos, concrete, siding, fencing. Call 913-309-7372 or visit www.opmobilewash.com for all your power washing needs.BBB accredited.

Medicare Supplements, Medicare Advantage or Part D Plans - You have options, let me help you find the best plan. I’m a local, licensed and experienced Medicare advisor. Call Rhonda at 913-579-3349.

Lawn Mowing, Fertilizing and Landscape. Honest, Reliable and Reasonable. 25 years exp. of golf grounds management Call Kurt at 816-896-7354.


Two cemetery plots located at Jo/Co Memorial Gardens, 112th & Metcalf, Overland Park in prime area of The Garden of Apostles, lot 200-B #3&4. Retails for $3,995 each. Asking $6,500 for both, price includes transfer fee. Call Kristi 615-962-0360.

CORINTH CEMETERY - Two desirable plots side-by-side in a prestigious historic cemetery. $6,000 ea OBO. 913-888-8612.

One cemetery plot available in Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens in Olathe, Kansas. Willing to discuss reasonable offers. Call Bob at 913-444-2240.

For Sale: 2 side-by-side funeral plots, lovely location, easy access, Johnson County Memorial Gardens, 11200 Metcalf. Marsha 913-710-1053.

your January calendar

January

Wednesdays. Silver Screen Matinee. 1 p.m. Irene B. French. Popcorn provided second & fourth Wednesday.

Monday Movies. 12:15 p.m. Lenexa Senior Center. 1/6—“I’ll See you in my Dreams;” 1/13—“Walking Out;” 1/20—Martin Luther King Day – Lenexa Senior Center closed; 1/27 “The Last Whistle.” Lunch at 11:30 a.m. for a $3 donation. Call 913-888-6141 between 9–10 a.m. 24 hours in advance for lunch reservations. Free popcorn & beverage served.

Jan. 2

Chair Yoga. Noon–12:45 p.m. Olathe Downtown Library.

At Our Age. 10:30 a.m.-Noon. Olathe Downtown Library. Members of the Olathe Fire Department will talk about fire safety & fall prevention. Register at 913-971-6850.

Jan. 5

Live at the Library: Calvin Arsenia. 2 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Live performance by singer & harpist.

Jan. 6

Cookbook Club: Citrus. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Share a cookbook & recipe you found in the library. Bring a recipe with enhanced citrus flavor to share with others.

Jan. 7

Tuesday Tunes. 6:30–8:30 p.m. Olathe Downtown Library. Bring your instrument & jam with us. Expect fiddles, guitars, folk, blues & bluegrass.

Senior Potluck. Noon-1:30 p.m. Italian Theme. Sylvester Powell.

Jan. 8

Birthday Entertainment. 12:15 p.m. Lenexa Senior Center. Optional lunch for $3 donation at 11:30 a.m. Call 913-888-6141 between 9-10 a.m. 24 hours in advance for lunch reservations.

Celebrating the Life of J.R.R. Tolkien. 7-8 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

Bingo: Snow Much Fun. $5/$6. 1:30–3:30 p.m. Matt Ross.
your Jan-Feb calendar

Jan. 9
Snowflake BINGO. 1:30-3:30 p.m. $3. Snacks & drinks provided. Irene B. French.

Cards & Games. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Olathe Downtown Library.

5 Pillars of Wellness. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Olathe Downtown Library. Learn how food, movement, sleep, stress management & environment can impact health.

January Lunch Bunch. 11:15 a.m. Transportation departs from Lenexa Senior Center at 10:40 a.m. Cost of your own meal. $5 for transportation to “Blue Koi,” 10581 Mission Road, Leawood. Reservations required 913-477-7100.

Jan. 14
50 & Beyond Matinee – Downtown Abby. 12:30-2:30 p.m. $2 non-members - $1 members. Sylvester Powell.

Dessert Demos with Doug: Traditional Apple Strudel. 7-8 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

Jan. 16
Lunch & Learn: The Fallacies of Astronomy. $19/$21. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse.

Jan. 17
BINGO. $4 non-members - $2 members. 1:30-3 p.m. Sylvester Powell.

Jan. 20
To My Family with Love. Pre-planning your final arrangements. 6:30-7:30 p.m. $3. Blue Valley Rec. Register at 913-685-6000.

Jan. 21
Talks - Diabetes Update: Current Treatment Options. 6:30-7:30 p.m. $3. Blue Valley Rec. Must register 913-685-6000.

Active Hands. 10 a.m. Lenexa Senior Center. Educational program is designed to give ideas to help decrease stress & protect the joints in hands to keep them more active during daily use.

Jan. 23
Savvy Social Security Planning. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Blue Valley Rec. $3. Must register 913-685-6000.

Cheese Please Bingo. $5/$6. 1:30–2:30 p.m. Roeland Park. Please pre-register at least one week in advance.

Jan. 24
The Opioid Crisis--What You Need To Know. $5/$6. 1:30–2:30 p.m. Matt Ross.

Jan. 27
Beginning Bridge. 6:30-8:30 p.m. $76 includes textbook. Blue Valley Rec.

Must register 913-685-6000.

Hot Pick Movie Night. 6–8:30 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Call 913-971-6850 for this month’s movie.

Jan. 28
Dining with Diabetes: 4-part series. 1/28, 2/4, 2/11 & 2/18. 3-5 p.m. Extension.

Quilting Workshop. 6 p.m. Extension.

50 & Beyond Matinee - Judy. 12:30-2:30 p.m. $2 non-members-$1 members. Sylvester Powell.

How to Maximize Your Social Security. 6:30 p.m. Lenexa Senior Center.

Stretch & Restore Yoga. 9:30–10:15 a.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Most postures are seated, which makes this type of yoga great for all levels.

Book Folding Craze. 6-8 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. 3D art by folding pages of a book to create an owl, butterfly or heart. Register at 913-971-6850.

Jan. 29
Hearing Tests. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Sylvester Powell.

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

Jan. 30
Community Diabetes Education Series. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Olathe Downtown Library. Register at 913-971-6850.

So, What Now…? Managing Life After Retirement. $3/$4. 10–11 a.m. Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse. Discuss finances, social implications, tips & how to stay active.

Jan. 31
Cards & Games. 10-11:30 a.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

February
Wednesdays. Silver Screen Matinee. 1 p.m. Irene B. French. Popcorn provided second & fourth Wednesday.

Monday Movies. 12:15 p.m. Lenexa Senior Center. 2/3-“Invictus;” 2/10-“Outside In;” 2/17-“Running for Grace;” 2/24-TBD. Lunch at 11:30 a.m. for a $3 donation. Call 913-888-6141 between 9–10 a.m. 24 hours in advance for lunch reservations. Free popcorn & beverage served.

February
Feb. 2
Children of the Promised Land. 3-4 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Learn the history of Nicodemus, a small town in Graham County, KS.

Feb. 3
Cookbook Club: Grains or Legumes. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Share a cookbook & recipe you found in the library. Bring a recipe made with grains or legumes to share with others. Register at 913-971-6850.

Lunch & Learn – Brown v. Board of Education. $19/$21. 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse. Learn about the landmark Supreme Court case from a National Park Service ranger.

Feb. 4
Doc Talks–If Pills Could Talk. 6:30-7:30 p.m. $3. Blue Valley Rec. Must register 913-685-6000.

Asset Protection & Long-Term Care Planning. 10:30-Noon. Olathe Downtown Library. Register at 913-971-6850.

Tuesday Tunes. 6:30–8:30 p.m. Olathe Downtown Library. Bring your instrument & jam with us. Expect fiddles, guitars, folk, blues & bluegrass.

Feb. 5
Bingo: Candyland. $5/$6. 1:30–3:30 p.m. Matt Ross. Please pre-register at least one week in advance.

Feb. 6
Chair Yoga. Noon-12:45 p.m. Olathe Downtown Library.

Sketching for Beginners. $45/$50. 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Roeland Park.

Wellness Seminar: Living with Parkinson’s. 10 a.m. Lenexa Senior Center.

Feb. 8
Olathe Civic Theatre Association Sneak Peek: The Merry Wives of Windsor. 2-3 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. See an excerpt from The Merry Wives of Windsor.

Dessert Demos with Doug: Chocolate Roses. 7-8 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

Feb. 10
To My Family with Love, pre-planning final arrangements. $3. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Blue Valley Rec. Must register 913-685-6000.

Feb. 11
50 & Beyond Matinee - Official Secrets. 12:30-2:30 p.m. $2 non-members-$1 members. Sylvester Powell.

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your February calendar

Feb. 12
Birthday Entertainment. 12:15 p.m. Lenexa Senior Center. Optional lunch for $3 donation at 11:30 a.m. Call 913-888-6141 between 9-10 a.m. 24 hours in advance for lunch reservations.

Feb. 13
Lunch Bunch. 11:15 a.m. Transportation departs from Lenexa Senior Center at 10:40 a.m. Cost of meal on yourl. $5 for transportation to “Nick & Jake’s” at 22220 Midland Dr.; Shawnee. Reservations required 913-477-7100.

Feb. 14
Valentine’s Day Lunch & Bingo. $15/$16; $18/$19 one week prior. 11:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Roeland Park.

Feb. 18
Live at the Library: Ernest James Zydeco band. 7 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

Feb. 20
Brain Fit. 6:30-8:30 p.m. $3. Blue Valley Rec. Must register 913-685-6000.

Feb. 23
Optimize Your Pharmacy Benefits. 6:30-8:30 p.m. $3. Blue Valley Rec. Must register 913-685-6000.

Feb. 27
Film Screening: The Tree. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. The Tree tackles important issues involving aging & independence.

Feb. 28
Cards & Games. 10-11:30 a.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

Retirement planning today. 6:30 p.m. Extension.

Stretch & Restore Yoga. 9:30–10:15 a.m. Indian Creek Library.

Feb. 26
Solving the Medicare Puzzle. 6:30 p.m. Lenexa Senior Center. Call 913-477-7100 to reserve a spot.

Feb. 21
BINGO. $4 non-members-$2 members. 1:30-3 p.m. Sylvester Powell.

Feb. 24
Hot Pick Movie Night. 6-8:30 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Call 913-971-6850 for this month’s movie.

Feb. 25
How to Maximize Your Social Security. 6:30 p.m. Lenexa Senior Center. Register at 913-477-7100.

50 & Beyond Matinee - Ad Astra. 12:30-2:30 p.m. $2 non-members-$1 members. Sylvester Powell.

Feb. 26
Lunch Bunch. 11:15 a.m. Transportation departs from Lenexa Senior Center at 10:40 a.m. Cost of meal on yourl. $5 for transportation to “Nick & Jake’s” at 22220 Midland Dr.; Shawnee. Reservations required 913-477-7100.

Feb. 27
Film Screening: The Tree. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. The Tree tackles important issues involving aging & independence.

Feb. 28
Cards & Games. 10-11:30 a.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

At Our Age. 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Members of the Olathe Fire Department will talk about fire safety and fall prevention. Register at 913-971-6850.

FACILITY LOCATIONS

BLUE VALLEY REC: Blue Valley Recreation Center at Hilltop:
7720 W. 143rd 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.

IRENE B. FRENCH: Irene B. French Community Center, 5701 Merriam Drive, Merriam; 913-322-5550.

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

MAHAFIE 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.

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


OLATHE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY: 201 E. Park St., 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.

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.
LEARN HOW TO AVOID PROBATE & PROTECT HEIRS

Join attorney Corey A. Rasmussen as he discusses how sound estate planning can avoid probate, avoid family disputes and other crucial estate planning issues.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR

TUESDAY January 14th
1:30 pm or 6:30 pm

THURSDAY January 16th
1:30 pm or 6:30 pm

LOCATION:
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS EDWARDS CAMPUS
12610 Quivira Rd.
Overland Park, KS 66213

TOPICS COVERED INCLUDE:
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- Minimize Family Infighting
- Protect Heirs from Wasting Inheritances
- Keep Assets in Your Bloodline
- Preserve and Protect IRA’s and Retirement Accounts

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