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Months ahead bring risks from two deadly viruses.
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Winter blues and holidays
Mental health takes no holiday in months ahead.
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Being thankful on Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is wish-making time. It only needs a wishbone with the hope of ending up with the larger portion of bone and lucky enough to make a wish.

Yes, there is a bit more work to this holiday tradition. It is not as easy as wishing on a star or turning a horseshoe open side up. Finding a four-leaf clover is harder still.

As a boy, I had to fight my brother over the wishbone in my family. I don’t remember if I ever won a wish, but if I did, it was likely one as frivolous as growing big enough to beat up my older brother.

Today, the world is a much bigger place with much bigger problems, especially in a COVID-19 pandemic, with no end in sight and no cure at hand.

Thanksgiving Day, a genuine American holiday dating back to the Pilgrims and Native Americans, is about counting our many blessings as individuals, as families and as a nation when many problems seem poised to overwhelm us. It’s about finding the best of America in the worst of times. 2020 has been that.

Some, perhaps many, may find it hard to feel thankful this year, but Thanksgiving is an opportunity for those who believe in a higher power to remember our blessings and their source, to replenish and to renew our own best qualities: our faith, our vision, our resolve.

Some might think there’s nothing to be thankful for, but please remember this national holiday started in 1863, as the Civil War raged. In his proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln reminded Americans that even in the midst of “a cruel war of unequaled magnitude and severity,” there were reasons to give thanks.

Our latest war of unequaled magnitude and severity is the global, national and local battle against the coronavirus. Heading into the holiday season, we are wishful for an end to the spread of the deadly disease, hopeful for a vaccination and cure soon and thankful for all the efforts to safeguard the health and safety of all ages.

Thanksgiving Day, which is rooted in this country’s earliest traditions, has historically been a reverent and joyful occasion that is relished by the powerful and powerless, the rich and the poor, the majority and minority, the religious and agnostic alike.

This is an authentic American holiday for all generations to pause, to reflect, to commune with friends and relatives, and to express our gratitude and collective blessings, past and present.

Let’s remember hope springs eternal. Let’s focus on our many blessings and be thankful in many ways and for many reasons as this year fades and a new year prepares to begin.

Despite everything else that may be going on in our challenging times, in our busy and sometimes complicated lives, we can pause on Thanksgiving Day — just to say thanks for fond holiday memories that life can bring by making a wish and breaking a traditional turkey wishbone at the holiday dinner.

It remains a 50-50 chance that you end up with the larger portion of the bone. If ending up with the short end, let’s wish that you will get yours.

This Thanksgiving, every Thanksgiving, there are many good reasons to celebrate. Dwell on those. And have a glorious holiday.

Finally, best wishes to all during the holiday season and beyond.

Just remember 2020 is coming to an end.

Thank goodness! 

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On the Cover:
Iconic photograph in Life Magazine of a sailor kissing a nurse on the streets of Time Square was taken by photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt when World War II ended on August 14, 1945. It became the most famous and frequently reproduced picture of the 20th century. Also pictured are two local WWII veterans who witnessed concentration camps.
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County parks begin winter hours on Nov. 1

Winter hours of 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. go into effect Nov. 1 for many Johnson County Park and Recreation District parks through Feb. 28. JCPRD parks impacted by the new hours are:

• Heritage Park, 16050 Pflumm Road, Olathe
• Kill Creek Park, 11670 Homestead Lane, Olathe
• Lexington Lake Park, 8850 Sunflower Road, De Soto
• Antioch Park, 6501 Antioch Road, Merriam
• Big Bull Creek Park, 20425 Sunflower Road, Edgerton
• Meadowbrook Park, 9101 Nall Ave., Prairie Village

Winter hours for Shawnee Mission Park, 7900 Renner Road, Shawnee and Lenexa, are 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Whooo's there? Owl Prowl set in November

Great horned, barred and screech owls make their homes in Ernie Miller Park, 909 N. Kansas 7 Highway, Olathe.

Residents of all ages are invited to come learn more about these fascinating birds during the Johnson County Park and Recreation District's Ernie Miller Nature Center's Owl Prowl offered on five dates in November.

Social distancing and COVID-19 safe practices will be encouraged during the programs, featuring an informative talk, live owls and an evening hike. A cup of hot cider will conclude the hike.

The program is for ages five and up when accompanied by an adult.

Each one-session program begins at 7 p.m. and is offered on:
• Friday, Nov. 6;
• Saturday, Nov. 7;
• Sunday, Nov. 8;
• Thursday, Nov. 12
• Friday, Nov. 20.

The cost for one 90-minute session is $8 per person for Johnson County residents or $9 for nonresidents. Preregistration is required.

For more information or to register for any of these programs, call 913-831-3359 or online at jcprd.com.

Other JCPRD parks with year-round dawn to dusk hours include: Ernie Miller Park, 909 North Kansas 7 Highway, Olathe; Sunflower Nature Park, 103rd St. and Edgerton Road, rural De Soto; Thomas S. Stoll Memorial Park, 12500 W. 119th Street, Overland Park; Camp Branch Glade, 175th Street and Mission Road in Aubry Township; Arthur and Betty Verhaeghe Park, 11401 W. 167th St., Overland Park; Stilwell Community Park, 207th Street and Metcalf Avenue, Stilwell; and all of the Streamway Park System access points.

For more information, visit the district’s website at jcprd.com or call 913-438-7275.

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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% 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 (DPP) classes starting soon, both in-person and virtually. The program is a lifestyle-change program that helps people with prediabetes make healthier choices that have a lasting health impact.

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

Studies show that DPP participants can lower their risk of developing type 2 diabetes by as much as 58% (71% if you’re over age 60). Program participants are often able to lower their blood pressure, cholesterol and risk for cardiovascular disease as well.

JCDHE has offered DPP classes since 2015 and is fully recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Each week, a trained lifestyle coach guides the group through a different health-related topic. Participants engage with each other and learn together, ensuring that each participant feels supported on their journey toward better health.

Several DPP classes are starting in November. Virtual classes will meet via the Zoom platform. In-person classes will adhere to strict safety guidelines, including maintaining social distance, mask wearing at all times, clean and disinfected surfaces and hand sanitizer available for all participants.

Medicare and other insurance plans cover the program, making DPP free for most participants. Classes are currently offered in American Sign Language and English.

More information is available by contacting Anne Hayse, registered dietitian at JCDHE, at 913-477-8128 or dpp@jocogov.org.
Survey focuses on EYO directory

The Johnson County Area Agency on Aging is trying to raise awareness of aging services for local residents. The AAA is looking for feedback regarding its Aging Services directory, Explore Your Options (EYO). The directory is available online at [jocogov.org/dept/human-services/home](http://jocogov.org/dept/human-services/home) and in a booklet version. Feel free to review it online or call 913-715-8861 to request a copy.

Once you access the directory online or receive your copy, AAA requests completion of this brief survey online through the website at the above link or responding to the following questions by mailing in the survey or call 913-715-8861 to share your answers.

Please mail your completed survey by Nov. 20 to:
AAA EYO Survey
11811 S. Sunset, Suite 1300
Olathe, KS 66061.

AAA values your ideas and looks forward to your response.

Explore Your Options – Service Directory Survey
Please circle your answers below.

1. Are you a:
   Client       Provider       Caregiver

2. Are you aware that the Johnson County Area Agency on Aging publishes a service directory called “Explore your Options?” (EYO)
   Yes          No

3. How often do you use the EYO directory to find resources for Aging Services in Johnson County?
   Always       Most of the Time   Sometimes   Never

4. Do you use the EYO online tool or paper directory?
   Online       Paper

5. How user-friendly is the EYO directory:
   Excellent     Good       Fair       Poor

6. How well organized is the EYO?
   Excellent     Good       Fair       Poor

7. Do you believe the information in EYO is helpful to have now, or could be helpful to you in the future?
   Yes          No

8. Do you have a better understanding of what resources are available in Johnson County for Aging Services after reading the EYO?
   Yes          No

9. Is there information you would expect to have in a publication like this that isn’t included:
   Yes          No
   If Yes, what information:

10. What other tools do you use to find resources for Aging Services?
Eugene Lipscomb receives leadership award

In an outdoor ceremony on Sept. 25, the Johnson County Commission on Aging (COA) presented the Peg Deaton Leadership in Aging Award to Eugene Lipscomb.

The award honors individuals, groups or organizations who make exceptional contributions to enhance the quality of life for older adults and their families in our community.

Lipscomb, Shawnee, received a B.S degree, a Juris Doctorate degree from Howard University and a Master of Laws degree in Urban Affairs from the University of Missouri. He began his career with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in August of 1971 and retired on Dec. 31, 2011 after more than 40 years of distinguished service.

Along with his dedicated career as a public servant, Lipscomb was a member of the Johnson County NAACP and the Blacks in Government serving on various committees. He also assisted in the establishment of the Kansas City, Kansas Sanctuary of Hope.

After retiring in 2011, Johnson County Commissioner Jim Allen asked Lipscomb to join the Commission on Aging. He served on the COA for nine years, assuming leadership roles on the executive and legislative committees.

He and his wife, DeEdra, have both volunteered their time and talents to help better the quality of life for local aging adults.

Former COA Chairperson Karen Weber and current COA Chairperson Pam Shernuk both agree that in his years of dedicated services to the COA, Lipscomb was unwavering in his support and advocacy for aging services.

“It is with great honor that the Johnson County Commission on Aging awards its annual Peg Deaton Leadership in Aging Award for 2020 to Eugene Lipscomb,” Shernuk said.

COA elects new officers for a year

The Johnson County Commission on Aging (COA) elected its annual officers in September. Pam Shernuk, left, was elected the new chairperson for the commission. Karen Weber, right, completed her second term as chair in August and will continue as a member of COA. Also elected was Paula Hurt as vice chair, not pictured. The term of officers runs September through August each year.

Upcoming COA meetings by Zoom

The Johnson County Commission on Aging will meet via Zoom videoconference at 9 a.m. Nov. 18. Please call 913-715-8860 on or before Nov. 17 for more information. There will be no meeting in December. Visit www.jocogov.org/coa or www.facebook.com/jocoaging/ for more about the COA.
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A CURE IS OUT THERE. HELP US FIND IT.
If you are experiencing mild cognitive impairment or have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, joining a study will help us find a cure for Alzheimer’s disease. And we always have studies underway!

DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION STUDIES

Short on time? These studies explore how behavioral and environmental factors may play a role in Alzheimer’s disease—and they often require only a single visit.

INVESTIGATIONAL MEDICINE TRIALS

Could medicine help? Help us research investigational medicines to treat or prevent Alzheimer’s and related diseases. Such medicines are not available to the general public.

EXERCISE AND LIFESTYLE INTERVENTION TRIALS

Does lifestyle matter? Our research shows that exercise, diet, and other lifestyle changes can influence your Alzheimer’s risk. Make the first move now.

When it comes to the prevention and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease, you are empowered. You can be a research hero. Find out now if you qualify for one of the groundbreaking research studies underway at the KU Alzheimer’s Disease Center.

A CURE IS OUT THERE. HELP US FIND IT.
If you are experiencing mild cognitive impairment or have been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, joining a study will help us find a cure for Alzheimer’s disease. And we always have studies underway!
By Jennifer Dunlay

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced COVID-19 can sometimes be spread by airborne transmission in addition to respiratory droplets.

As we approach the winter holiday season, wearing a mask, washing hands frequently and keeping a safe distance (6 feet or more) from others you don’t live with will continue to be necessary. Even more important – avoid crowded indoor gatherings at homes, restaurants, bars and other venues where transmission is more likely to occur.

The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment urges everyone, especially aging adults, to continue COVID-19 prevention measures and plan for safer ways to celebrate this year. Here are a few ideas:

**Stay local.** Travel increases the chance of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. Staying home is the best way to protect yourself and others. If you must travel, be informed of the risks.

**Keep gatherings small.** Wave or verbally greet visitors instead of hugging or shaking hands. Have a small dinner or celebration outdoors or in a well-ventilated area with only the people who live in your household. Remind people who are sick, those who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or anyone waiting on a COVID-19 test result to stay home.

**Shop online.** If that’s not possible, shop during less crowded times, such as early morning, later in the evening or when stores have reserved hours for vulnerable populations.

**Connect electronically.** Video chat with family and friends using a computer, tablet or smartphone. Watch sports events, parades, and movies from home.

**Get a flu shot this year.** It may prevent you from getting the flu or getting seriously ill from the flu which will reduce the burden of flu illnesses and hospitalizations on the health care system.

**Mental health is important too.** The holidays can add stress on top of the loneliness, fear and anxiety that some aging adults may be experiencing during the pandemic.

If you or someone you know is struggling with depression or suicidal thoughts, tell a trusted family member or friend or reach out to Johnson County Mental Health’s 24-hour crisis line at 913-268-0156.

Jennifer Dunlay is Risk Communicator at the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.

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Preparing landscape for spring

By Dennis Patton

While 2020 might have been a disaster in many ways, the summer weather in Kansas City was actually pretty good. Spring rains brought lush growth. Summer was not overly hot and dry, and fall was pleasant. As the 2020 growing season winds down, here are a few chores that might help you take your mind off the worries of the world and get the landscape ready for spring.

Lawn care

November is an excellent time to apply one last application of fertilizer on the lawn. November’s application works underground, building strong roots and crowns. Nutrients are converted into stored food needed for spring growth.

Come spring, as the grass wakes up from its winter slumber, it uses up this stored food. Results are seen in several ways, most noticeable is an early spring green-up.

Lawns fertilized in November show signs of life two to three weeks ahead of those not fertilized. This green-up takes place without top growth, meaning a green lawn with less mowing.

Spring applications give a green response, but also more top growth and mowing. It depletes the food reserves needed to battle summer conditions.

The November application needs to include a high nitrogen source of fertilizer with little or no phosphorus and potassium. Be sure to sweep any fertilizer pellets that land on hard surfaces back in the lawn. This saves the water quality of our local streams and ponds.

Vegetable gardens

It was a record year in 2020 for vegetable gardening. Last spring, seeds and tomato transplants were in short supply. When there is a downturn in the economy, we return to our agrarian roots. We find comfort in growing our own food.

After the first frost hits, garden cleanup begins. Fall cleanup helps reduce problems next year. Remove dead plants and weeds. Dead plants harbor insects and diseases. In the fall, weeds are full of seeds lying in wait to wreak havoc on our efforts next year.

Once cleaned, turn your attention to soil preparation. Tilling the soil in the fall will give you a head start come spring. Soil conditions can be wet in spring, while fall tends to be drier. Rough till just enough to break and loosen the upper 6 to 8 inches of soil. Winter freezing and thawing will breakdown any large clods. Come spring, simply rake the garden and you are ready to plant.

Fall is also a great time to take a soil test making necessary adjustments for better growth. Local soils tend to be high in pH. High pH requires applications of sulfur to lower the pH for the best growing conditions. Never apply lime to local soils as it raises pH and is seldom needed.

Local soils are high in clay, making them difficult to dig and plant. Organic matter or compost can be worked in improving the quality of the soil. Add a good 2 to 4 inches into the upper 6 inches of soil for best results.

Landscape beds

Trees and shrubs require little care headed into winter. The main concern is the effects of a dry winter. Plants that become stressed from lack of moisture, especially evergreens, suffer more during a long cold winter. If they are currently dry, go ahead and water evergreens heading into winter. Those planted in the last 3 to 5 years are at greatest risk as their root system is limited.

The ideal way to water young trees and shrubs is by turning the hose on a slow trickle and letting it run for 5 to 10 minutes in 3 or 4 locations around the root system. This slow trickle moves down deep into the soil, hydrating the root ball.

After leaf drop, tree and shrub fertilizer applications can be made. While the air may be crisp, soil temperatures are warm, and roots are growing. Fertilizing in fall gets a jump on spring as the nutrients and energy is stored for spring growth.

Young trees, wishing to be bigger faster, should be fertilized. Mature trees rarely need additional fertilization. This applies to shrubs as well. Most shrubs quickly outgrow the area resulting in more pruning. Why feed a plant to grow larger when it is already too big?

Keep this fact in mind – fertilization does not make an unhealthy plant healthy. In fact, just the opposite occurs as pushing growth in an ailing plant only compounds the problems. Just like us, when we are sick, we lose our appetite.

The last tip for fall is to enjoy it. Take time to relax and soak in the beauty of nature around you. All of us have experienced our highs and lows in 2020. Whether we like to garden or not, improving our little corner of the world can help us all feel better.

Here is to a much improved 2021!

Dennis Patton is horticulture agent at the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Office.
County bonds save millions through low-interest rates

On Oct. 15, the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners authorized a series of bond sales to refinance existing debt in light of current lower market interest rates, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

The Board authorized the sale of $54.4 million in general obligation refunding bonds, and then sitting as the Public Building Commission, also approved the sale of $6,845,000 in Lease Purchase Revenue Refunding Bonds. These actions are estimated to save taxpayers almost $6.5 million through the redemption of four outstanding bond issues by using the proceeds from a new debt issue.

“We were pleased to take advantage of low interest rates,” said Chairman Ed Eilert. “The interest savings benefit Johnson County taxpayers in financing public capital improvements at the lowest costs.”

The refunding transactions involved:

- GO taxable refunding totaling $49,660,000 to refinance bond issues in 2012 and 2013 for wastewater improvements with an estimated savings of $5,090,000.
- GO refunding of $4,760,000 to refinance 2010 bonds, also for wastewater improvements, with an estimated savings of $574,000.
- Lease Purchase Revenue Refunding Bonds of $6,845,000 by the PBC with an estimated savings of $793,000. The original bonds, issued in 2010, funded construction of the new building for the Department of Public Works.
- The interest savings are spread over the remaining life of the bond issues.

The $49,660,000 GO taxable refunding bonds were sold at an interest rate of 1.31% while the tax-exempt refunding bonds were sold at a true interest cost of 0.81%. The PBC authorized its refunding bond sale at 0.94% true interest cost.

Since July, the BOCC has authorized two other GO bond issues, totaling $105 million, and the PBC has approved two other refunding bond issues for $27.6 million. The transactions involved refinancing previous bond issues at higher interest rates. The county estimates the total savings from refundings in 2020 to be over $13 million. Rates averaged between 0.33% to 0.94% for the tax-exempt refunding bonds and 1.06% to 1.31% for the taxable refunding bond issues.

Johnson County has maintained a triple-triple benchmark since 2010 and has saved an estimated $31 million by refunding existing debt service as a result of the top bond ratings since then, including Thursday’s transactions.

In other action, the PBC took advantage of current low interest rates to issue $5,840,000 in Lease Purchase Revenue Bonds for renovations and improvements to the Central Resource Library in Overland Park. The project, with an estimated cost of $11.1 million, will be additional financed with $5 million from Johnson County Library. The bonds were sold at an interest rate of 1.81%.
A flu vaccine is vital against COVID-19

By Jennifer Dunlay

The COVID-19 pandemic started just when flu season was winding down earlier this year. This fall and winter will be the first time we’ve had to fight two potentially deadly respiratory viruses at the same time both of which can have devastating health effects on older adults.

Compared with younger adults, adults over age 50 are more likely to have chronic medical conditions which put them at an increased risk of flu and COVID-19-related complications that can lead to hospitalization and even death.

That’s why this year it is more important than ever to get vaccinated for flu. When you get vaccinated, you reduce your risk of getting sick with flu and possibly being hospitalized or dying from flu.

Flu vaccines will not prevent COVID-19, but they will reduce the burden of flu illnesses on the health care system freeing up medical resources for the care of COVID-19 patients.

The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) urges older adults to put on a mask and make their way to a doctor’s office, a pharmacy or the health department for a seasonal flu shot. When you arrive, take precautions such as staying 6 feet or more from other people and washing or sanitizing your hands after touching surfaces.

Adults over age 50 can ask for the Flublok® Quadrivalent vaccine which contains three times more active ingredients than all other quadrivalent vaccines, making it a great choice for older adults and those with compromised immune systems. Flublok® does not contain any preservatives, egg proteins, gelatin or latex giving adults who are sensitive to these ingredients another choice for flu protection.

Adults over age 65 can request the Fluzone® High-Dose vaccine. This vaccine contains four times the antigen of the standard dose flu vaccine, the part of the vaccine that helps your body build up protection against flu viruses. The higher dose of antigen in the vaccine is intended to give older people a better immune response, and therefore, better protection against flu.

Flu shots are available at JCDHE’s walk-in immunizations clinic in Olathe (11875 S. Sunset Drive), Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Flu vaccines are covered by Medicare Part B and by most Medicare Advantage plans with no copay. The Flublok® Quadrivalent vaccine (supplies are limited) and the seasonal flu shot are covered by most health insurance plans with no copays for adults who are not on Medicare. Those without insurance will pay $30 for the seasonal flu shot or $50 for the Flublok® Quadrivalent vaccine.

For more information about flu vaccines and JCDHE’s clinic hours, call 913-826-1261 or visit www.jocogov.org/flu.

Jennifer Dunlay is Risk Communicator at the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.

Event features storytelling

The International Day of Storytelling will be celebrated from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Nov. 21 at the Ernie Miller Nature Center, 909 N. K-7 Highway, Olathe.

Stories will combine themes of environmental awareness and ancient myths to delight audiences of all ages.

Cost is $3 per person, including adults ($4 non-residents) or $5 if paid on site.

To register or for more details, visit jcprd.com or call 913-826-2800.

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Liberators found camps by smell

By Gerald Hay

World War II veterans John Roberts and William “Bill” Casassa remember the concentration camps being liberated in Germany 75 years ago.

Roberts recalls emaciated prisoners behind barbed wire fences at the Dachau Concentration Camp near Munich.

Casassa recollects finding an unusually high fence which he later found out was enclosing the Ahlem Concentration Camp near Hanover. At the time, he had no idea what was behind the fence.

What G.I.s like Casassa and Roberts saw in April 1945 of the concentration camps was preempted by another sense: a strong smell of abundant death.

“The stench was overpowering,” said Roberts, a 95-year-old Army veteran living at Brookdale Overland Park. “The odor was worse than any (meat) packing house I had ever smelled.”

Also, a 95-year-old Army veteran, Casassa agreed. He and Maggie, his wife of 65 years, reside at the Village Cooperative of Shawnee.

“I will never forget that smell,” he said, “I did not notice it at first until the wind shifted. I did not see the inside of what was behind the fence. I smelled it.”

Both veterans began their military service during WWII in mid-1943.

Roberts was drafted. After arriving in England in mid-1944, he volunteered to serve in the 101st Airborne Division. The Screaming Eagles unit needed lots of replacements due to heavy losses in the D-Day landings on June 6 at Normandy.

At first, he wasn’t accepted because of his height at 5-foot-5½, but he challenged to fight an Army sergeant to prove his grit.

‘Short, but tough’

“I told them I was short, but I was tough,” he said with a smile. The Army agreed without a fight. An Army officer laughed, telling him: “Shorty, if you want it that bad, you’re in.”

His parachute training involved three practice jumps on one day and instructions on how to pack his own parachute. His first real jump was when the 101st Airborne participated in Operation Market Garden in September 1944 in Holland.

Casassa, who enlisted in the Army, was trained as an anti-tank gunner with the 638th Tank Destroyer Battalion. “The battalion landed in France in September 1944 and entered combat in November in support of several units, including the 84th Infantry Division. We were then formally attached to the division on Dec. 1, serving 171 consecutive days of full engagement with the enemy,” Casassa said.

“I was scared all the time, day and night,” he admitted. “I was scared in my sleep.”

Both veterans fought in the Battle of the Bulge. It was the last major German offensive of the war. The fighting that followed put Germany in a position to have to defend its homeland against the rapid advancement of American and Allied forces.

“A lot of time, we didn’t know where we were going,” Casassa said. “We didn’t know about the concentration camps. They were all over the darn place.”

From 1933 to 1945, before and during WWII, Nazi Germany established more than 44,000 concentration camps or ghettos in German-occupied Europe. They included forced-labor, transit, detention and prisoner of war facilities. Concentration camps were liberated by American, British, Canadian and Soviet troops in 1944 and 1945.

In occupied Poland, Nazi Germany used six extermination camps, also called death camps, with gas chambers. The most infamous was the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp complex liberated on Jan. 27, 1945. An estimated 1.1 million victims, mostly Jews, perished at the Auschwitz network of more than 40 concentration and extermination camps. Soviet troops liberated all six death camps.

Americans liberate camps

Concentration camp liberations by American units began April 3 and ended May 7, 1945. For camp prisoners, mostly Jewish, it was finally a dream come true. For American liberators, it was a nightmare come to life in discovering camps filled with the dead, the dying and the very sick left behind by a Nazi army in full retreat.

“They were neighborhood slaughterhouses,” Casassa said. “It was incredulous to me.”

The 84th Infantry Division was officially recognized as a “Liberating Unit” of Hannover-Ahlem on April 10, 1945, and Salzwedel four days later. Both were satellite camps of

Continued to page 16
Liberators found camps by smell

Continued from page 15

the Neuengamme Concentration Camp established in 1938 in northern Germany with more than 85 satellite camps.

Another member of the 84th Division was former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who also participated in the liberation of the Ahlem camp.

Two weeks later, Dachau, the first Nazi concentration camp opened in March 1933 shortly after Adolf Hitler rose to power, became one of the last camps to be liberated. The Dachau network had nearly 100 satellites facilities, which were mostly work camps. The main camp was liberated by the U.S. Seventh Army’s 45th Infantry Division on April 29, 1945, the day before Hitler killed himself in Berlin.

Though not a death camp, Dachau and scores of other concentration camps had crematoriums to dispose of bodies because so many prisoners died from grueling hard labor and deplorable living conditions, according to military history websites.

Guarding ovens at Dachau

Roberts was briefly assigned to guard duty at Dachau on his way to rejoin his unit in Salzburg, Austria, after being hospitalized for treatment of trench foot (frozen feet) in Bastogne and the Battle of the Bulge. He arrived at the camp shortly after its liberation.

“I didn’t guard prisoners but was ordered to prevent Germans from destroying the ovens or hiding evidence of war crimes,” he said.

He saw piles of bodies and rows of liberated prisoners behind fences or lying in huts. Many survived and lived; some died.

Roberts recalls an emaciated Jewish survivor, wearing tatters, and offering him food.

“He hid it right away under his hat. He didn’t seem to know that he was free. That it was OK and safe for him to eat,” he said.

By early May, the 101st Airborne was in the Bavarian Alps and Austria with Roberts rejoining his unit at Salzburg. Casassa and the 84th Infantry Division had halted at the Elbe River about 70 miles from Berlin and met Soviet troops.

“They wanted to give Berlin to the Soviets. That suited me just fine,” he said with a smile.

Victory in Europe Day (V-E Day) ended the fighting on May 8, 1945. The troops of the 84th Division toasted the announcement by drinking German beer and enjoying the first hot meals they had in months.

“We drank all the Schnapps we could get ahold of,” Roberts said, smiling as he recalled how he and other Screaming Eagles celebrated.

Since V-E Day did not end the war, Roberts was ordered to travel with his unit to England and then stateside for amphibious training in anticipation of an invasion of Japan. Casassa, too, was expecting to receive orders to join the ongoing war in the Pacific Theater.

That changed Aug. 6, 1945, with the dropping of the “Little Boy” atomic bomb on Hiroshima followed by the second “Fat Man” atomic bomb on Nagasaki three days later. Victory over Japan Day (V-J Day) was announced on Aug. 15, marking the end of all fighting in WWII.

Japan formally surrendered on Sept. 2 aboard the USS Missouri battleship in Tokyo Bay.

“We were more than happy President Truman authorized the dropping of the atomic bombs. That saved many lives – both American and Japanese. It ended the bloody war,” Roberts said.

“We were going home.”

Johnson County Veterans Day observance goes online

The Johnson County Veterans Day observance will carry on its traditional recognition of local veterans on Wednesday, Nov. 11, beginning at 11 a.m.

This year’s ceremony will be online only due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in observance of guidelines for reducing/containing the spread of the coronavirus.

It will be a very different celebration to ensure the health and safety of local veterans, their families and friends, participants and attendees.

The 2020 presentation is organized to avoid the gathering of a large crowd. Plans include a special tribute to local World War II veterans and Holocaust survivors in celebration of the 75th anniversary of the end to the war and the Holocaust.

The county’s annual celebration, dating back to 1987, has traditionally taken place on the 11th hour of the 11th day in the 11th month. The 2020 observance will be live streamed on bocmeetings.jocogov.org and Facebook Live.

The Veterans Day celebration will feature pre-recorded videos of traditional participation, including posting of colors by the Johnson County Sheriff’s Honor Guard, singing and musical performances, wreath presentations by local veteran organizations, the playing of “Taps” and a rifle salute.

Chairman Ed Eilert will serve as the in-person emcee for the program. Judy Jacobs, a Holocaust survivor, will present her comments on video.

Organizers plan to feature brief profiles of more than local 60 living WWII veterans as part of the presentation. Social media sites will also highlight the veterans throughout the days leading up to the observance.

Final details of the 2020 Johnson County Veterans Day event will be posted and announced on the county’s website at jocogov.org/jocohonorsvets.
Honoring WWII Veterans

Ben Nicks Jr. 101, Shawnee Army Air Corps, captain
Bo Bohannon 95, Overland Park Army, technician 5th grade
Bud Hinkle 98, Overland Park Army, sergeant
Elmer John Papp 95, Shawnee Navy, 1st class radarman
George Defebaugh Merriam, Army, technician 5th grade
Harold Jackson 94, Overland Park Army, sergeant

Bill Casassa 95, Shawnee Army, sergeant
Bob DesMarteau 96, Overland Park Navy, seaman 1st class
Chuck Wittig 97, Prairie Village Army, staff sergeant
Emery Hinkhouse 102, Overland Park Merchant Marines
George Kimball 94, Overland Park Army, sergeant
Harry Taliaferro 97, Prairie Village Army, corporal

Bill Guilfoil 98 on Nov. 18 Fairway Army, sergeant
Bob Douglas Mission Army
Darrell Rupp 95, Overland Park Navy, lieutenant (junior grade)
Fred A. Henik 96 on Nov. 1, Overland Park Army, PFC
George Sakoulas 97, Overland Park Army
Herbert Stevens 104, Leawood Army, staff sergeant

Billy Garton 94, Olathe Army Air Forces, sergeant
Bob Montgomery 93, Overland Park Army, sergeant
Donald D. Moore 93, Overland Park Army, technician 5th grade
Frederick De Sieghardt 95, Lenexa Army, master sergeant
Gilbert Dieckhoff 100, Olathe Navy, petty officer 1st class
Jack Forman 95, Overland Park Army

William Chick 95, Army technician 5th grade
Bob South Olathe, Navy
Ed Waters 92, Olathe Army, sergeant
Howard Wolf 95, Olathe, Navy
Glenn Woodmancy 97, Overland Park Army Air Force, 1st lieutenant

Go to jocogov.org/JoCoHonorsVets to see these veterans' full profiles, read about their memories and see pictures of some of them during their service and today.
Go to jocogov.org/JoCoHonorsVets to see these veterans' full profiles, read about their memories and see pictures of some of them during their service and today.
Seventy-five years have taken their toll on World War II veterans and Holocaust survivors.

The U.S. Department of Defense reports more than 16 million Americans served in WWII. The war claimed 407,316 American lives with 671,278 Americans wounded.

About 300,000 WWII vets, with an average age of 92, are alive in 2020, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Of the 350,000 women who served in the Armed Forces during the war, approximately 14,500 are alive today.

The V.A. estimates an average daily loss in 2020 of 245 WWII veterans. Those projections were made prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approximately 6 million Jews died during the Holocaust. Most deaths occurred during the war (1941-1945). Approximately two-thirds of all Jews living in Europe during WWII were killed by the Nazi regime.

A report of Jewish Survivors of the Holocaust living in the U.S. estimated there were 127,300 survivors in 2010. Its estimate for 2020 declined to 67,100 survivors with all being at least 75 years old and 57% being age 85 or older.

Note: The Midwest Center for Holocaust Education in Leawood teaches the history of the Holocaust, applying its lessons to counter indifference, intolerance, and genocide. Its programs serve educators, students, and adult learners throughout the Midwest.

Johnson County residents can learn more about Kansas City area Holocaust survivors at mchekc.org/survivors. MCHE has also partnered with Union Station in providing programmatic and educational support for the exhibition Auschwitz: Not long ago. Not far away. Details available at mchekc.org.
Volunteers offer assistance in Medicare open enrollment

This fall’s open enrollment period for Medicare through 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.

Volunteers will review coverage either over the phone, through Zoom, email or mail (preferred). Aging adults are a vulnerable population and we are mindful of that and want to help but do so in a safe way for 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.
The Best Times receives Best of Show honors

The Best Times again has won the top Best of Show award by the North American Mature Publishers Association.

Awards recently were announced during NAMPA’s virtual national conference.

The magazine for Johnson County residents who are 60 years old or older received nine first-place awards and two second-place awards in writing on senior issues and features, editorial/opinion, general excellence, cover photo and advertising.

Contest entries were judged by the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism. The Best Times competed in the division of publications with a circulation from 50,001 to 100,000.

The Best Times won the Best of Show award last year and in 2017.

NAMPA is a non-profit international association for publishers of local/regional aging adult and boomer publications. The organization involves a membership publishing more than 95 publications in 26 states, the District of Columbia and Ontario - Canada with a combined circulation of more than 4 million in the United States and Canada.

Event marks solstice of winter

Johnson County residents of all ages are invited to take a break from the busy holiday festivities and celebrate the winter solstice from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19 at the Ernie Miller Nature Center, 909 N. K-7 Highway, Olathe.

Participants in the Winter Solstice Celebration will have the opportunity to walk through the woods along little Cedar Creek and witness the natural display of winter’s quiet time. The trails will be lit by luminaries. They can warm up by the fireside, listen to star stories about the longest night of the year and enjoy campfire treats of toasted marshmallows and hot chocolate.

Three time slots are available, 4:30, 5:30 or 6:30 p.m. Each program lasts two hours from the chosen start time. Portions of the program will be outdoors, so participants are urged to dress for the weather.

Cost is $6 per person, $7 nonresidents of Johnson County or $8 on site day of event.

Registration is available online at jcprd.com. More information is available by calling 913-826-2800.

Lakeview Village is planning seven new villas by renowned Don Julian Builders. Act soon so you can customize your villa with your own finishes, paint colors and more. Plus, enjoy distinct advantages from the only Life Plan Community in Johnson County offering true LifeCare.*

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Your future looks even brighter in a brand new villa
Social Security sets COLA at 1.3%

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for approximately 70 million Americans will increase 1.3% in 2021. The 1.3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) will begin with benefits payable to more than 64 million Social Security beneficiaries in January 2021. Increased payments to more than 8 million SSI beneficiaries will begin on Dec. 31, 2020.

Some other adjustments that take effect in January of each year are based on the increase in average wages. Based on that increase, the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will increase to $142,800 from $137,700.

Social Security and SSI beneficiaries are normally notified by mail starting in early December about their new benefit amount. Most people who receive Social Security payments will be able to view their COLA notice online through their personal my Social Security account. People may create or access their my Social Security account online at socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

HOW HAS YOUR MOM BEEN LATELY?

If you’re beginning to notice that her quality of life is not what it used to be, it’s probably time to consider a change. If you see that she’s not eating well, neglecting basic chores (bathing, dressing, cleaning), forgetting to take medications, or is not as social as she once was, these are indicators...

THAT IT’S TIME FOR A CHANGE.

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Call (913) 270-8803 to learn how we can help care for your mom.
Marrying an old rhyme with mental health

By Keith Davenport

Mental health during the winter months is an important conversation every year. Physical health plays a role as well: the lower temperatures often result in less physical activity and exposure to sunlight, which can each impact emotional well-being. The concentration of family traditions and gatherings can also remind us of who is missing, bringing up feelings of grief. These challenges are exacerbated this year with the added challenge of staying safe during a pandemic.

One way to remember how to prepare for your self-care this year is the old rhyme for brides: something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.

Something Old: Maybe there was a daily or weekly practice that used to be a major part of your life but has been all-but-forgotten as of late. Doing something with your hands, away from television or computer screens, can help provide meaning from day-to-day. Something New: It’s a great time to try to carve out new practices and rhythms. If you can find a way to do this new hobby with someone else, even if over the phone or computer, it’s even better. Learning something new alongside a friend or family member can engage the brain in a lot of positive ways.

Something Borrowed: Talk to your family members with activities and practices they’re using over these long months. Maybe you will find some new ideas you want to implement in your own life. Or maybe you’ll find that your loved ones are also needing some ideas, so you can share some of yours with them.

Something Blue: Talk about how you’re feeling with others. You might be surprised how talking about what you’re experiencing brings hope not only to yourself, but also to those you’re sharing with.

As a community, it’s important that we check in on our neighbors and loved ones who might be especially vulnerable to loneliness this winter and holiday season.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing a mental health crisis, call Johnson County Mental Health Center’s 24/7 Crisis Line at 913-268-0156. Keith Davenport is communications specialist at the Johnson County Mental Health Center.
Physically distancing with social connection

By Michelle Alexander

As winter weather approaches and the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic still looms before us, it’s important to stay vigilant to protect the well-being of ourselves and others in our community.

It’s essential to continue to follow the practices recommended by public health experts such as proper hand washing techniques, wearing masks, and standing at least 6 to 10 feet apart.

Social connection is just as essential for our overall well-being. It is possible to stay socially connected while also staying physically distanced. Johnson County Park and Recreation District’s 50 Plus Program recognizes that essential need and has been safely providing opportunities for social connection through a variety of programs in our facilities, outside and virtually for the past many months. From computer classes, to fitness classes, educational presentations, small special events and more, we are doing all we can to help you, our friends and neighbors, maintain that essential need of social interaction at a safe distance.

If you crave that in-person connection, we adhere to strict cleaning guidelines and work with our instructors and staff to provide physical separation among participants. Participation numbers have been limited, individuals are provided with their own supply kits, or when necessary, are required to bring their own, such as a yoga mat.

All opportunities can be found by visiting jcprd.com/50plus. For those not comfortable being in any space with a group, our online options have been well attended and well-reviewed. The great thing about our online classes is you can invite a friend or family member in another city or another state to join you! Visit jcprd.com/50plusvirtual for a list of all that is available. Be sure to sign up for our Explore 50 Plus e-newsletter at jcprd.com/enewsletters as we continue to seek ways to creatively and safely offer ways to engage this winter.

Whether you connect through JCPRD or elsewhere, finding a path to stay socially engaged is vital to maintaining good health. Even simple connections such as waving to those we pass on an evening walk, calling a family member or neighbor just to say hello or raising your eyebrows in greeting to another (smile with your eyes) can all make a difference.

Stay safe, stay physically distanced where necessary, and most importantly, stay social.

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

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Thinking about pre-arranging?
For more information, visit our websites or call 913-451-1860.
2020 has been quite the year for our community – everyone has felt the impact of COVID-19 in some way or another.

That’s why Johnson County Library is committed to supporting our friends and neighbors during this unprecedented time, whether through books, music or film that transport you to another time or place, virtual events that safely connect you to those who share your interests, or resources and workshops that expand your horizon.

Here’s a little behind-the-scenes knowledge about the library: when planning our programming, we split our year into trimesters – spring, summer and fall. Each season, we study both patron feedback and current events to choose themes on which to align our programming.

This fall, three main topics stood out: non-partisan election resources and civic engagement opportunities, which have included debate watch parties and refreshers about topics like the Electoral College; an exploration of issues surrounding racial justice in the Kansas City area, such as our Past is Prologue events focusing on local history and November’s two-part workshop Talking to Preschoolers about Race; and, due to the pandemic, a renewed focus on career development and personal finance resources. After all, as Benjamin Franklin famously stated in his 1758 book The Way to Wealth, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest!”

Johnson County Library offers several upcoming workshops for people in every stage of life. Looking for a career change or new opportunity? Networking isn’t just something for those just starting out – refresh your skills and get tips for modernizing your approach at our Networking for Professional Success event on Nov. 9.

For those just looking for a fresh approach to budgeting, especially as the holiday season approaches, we offer a course on 21st-century budgeting using the platform Mint. com on Nov. 12. Attendees can also schedule one-on-one coaching sessions for tailored assistance with your budget.

If you are nearing Medicare eligibility, or have questions about the maze of coverage options, our Nov. 16 program Making the Move to Medicare covers Parts A, B, C (Medicare Advantage), D and Medicare supplements (Medigap) and will help you navigate enrollment and deadlines.

All workshops are taught by local professionals in partnership with Johnson County Library. Events do require registration and are subject to change; visit jocolibrary.org/events or call 913-826-4600 for more information and a full schedule of events.

While our librarians miss seeing your faces in person, this new virtual world does have a few benefits. If you can’t attend a live session that piques your interest, many of our online programs are recorded and posted on youtube.com/jocolibrary for you to watch at your convenience, from the comfort and safety of your home. Plus, fewer weather delays and cancellations to worry about as the seasons change!

Finally, in addition to our monthly general newsletter, The Open Book, which highlights events and resources across Johnson County Library, we’ve also kicked off a specialized Career & Finance newsletter for those who opt-in. Once a month you’ll receive notice of upcoming events, reading recommendations, and eResource spotlights available with your library card – such as access to the Wall Street Journal, Consumer Reports and online courses through Udemy – straight to your email inbox. Sign up by visiting jocolibrary.org/career-and-finance.

We’re already dreaming of spring here at the library, planning for the new year ahead despite the continued uncertainty. We’re so grateful for your support over the last several months, whether you’re visiting us online or in one of our branches and we look forward to serving you in the months and years to come. In the meantime, “Happy Holidays” from all of us at Johnson County Library!

Elissa Andre is external communication manager at Johnson County Library.
The new Johnson County Courthouse in downtown Olathe is scheduled to open on Jan. 4, 2021, after more than two years of construction.

The project, built by JE Dunn Construction, is funded by a 10-year, quarter-cent public safety sales tax approved by Johnson County voters in November 2016.

Ground was broken on the project in July 2018. The seven-story courthouse, totaling approximately 320,000 square feet, houses 28 courtrooms and is expected to meet Johnson County’s judicial needs for more than 75 years. Its design will also allow for additional courtrooms to be added later as needed.

The facility features Benjamin Ball’s public art titled “Open Prairie,” visible from Santa Fe Street at the main building entrance. Additionally, the historic Goddess of Justice statue has been relocated to the lobby, marking the third courthouse to house her.

More information about the new courthouse is available at jocogov.org/courthouse.

Virtual programs offer fun

With new offerings on mental health, green cleaning, history and more, the Johnson County Park and Recreation District’s 50 Plus Department has something for everyone in November and December.

Virtual programs offer a safe, quality way to continue to socialize, learn and have fun. This round of programs provides opportunities to chat with local experts and gain new insights.

The free programs of 50 Plus include:

• “Cleaning Healthy, Cleaning Green” on Thursday, Nov. 5.
• “History of Overland Park - From Founding to Modern Day” on Tuesday, Nov. 10.
• “A Grand Memorial - A Look Into the World War I Museum and Memorial” on Thursday, Nov. 12.
• “Protect Your Family from Radon” on Nov. 12.
• “Navigating the Holidays” on Tuesday, Nov. 17, for $3 per person.

RSVP to Tiffany at tiffany.hanna@jocogov.org or by calling at 913-826-2833.

We offer our sincerest gratitude to all veterans, including those residing at Cedar Lake Village. We thank you for your service, sacrifice and protection of our great nation.

Happy Veteran’s Day!

We honor all who served.

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cedarlakevillagekc.org
A sweet deal: Roasting vegetables

By Crystal Futrell

When I was a little girl, my friends, siblings and even parents found it odd that I LOVED vegetables.

Steamed broccoli (without cheese), supple and moist (not slimy) stewed okra, crisp cooked green beans (without bacon to cover up the fresh flavor of the beans), and raw white onion were some of my favorites.

But while I adored these delicious items, I noticed that I didn’t adore them all the time, especially when trying to eat them at school or at friends’ houses. What I didn’t understand at that tender age is that preparation is key.

How we treat vegetables, just like people in many ways, really affects how they treat us in return. Most foods are this way, but vegetables in particular aren’t quick to forgive wrongful acts of ill preparation.

So, what’s a home cook to do? We’re told we should eat more vegetables, but if we don’t know how to treat them, and don’t like the foul-tasting consequences of ill-treated vegetables, then how do we overcome this situation?

Thankfully, there is a simple panacea. It’s called roasting.

Anyone with access to an oven, a baking sheet, a tablespoon of oil and a pinch of salt and pepper can manage this practice. It’s amazing what roasting does to vegetables. The flavors melt and caramelize at the same time creating an earthy syrupiness that’s both savory and sweet and utterly delectable.

Almost any vegetables can be roasted. Initially, I thought one might not want to roast things like leafy greens, but while sipping my morning coffee today and perusing a cookbook, I found a recipe for roasted, quartered, heads of cabbage.

The process for roasting is simple. Here’s a recipe from Iowa State Extension:

Ingredients:
• 5 cups assorted vegetable pieces (cut in chunks) (potatoes, sweet potatoes, winter squash, turnips, carrots, onions, mushrooms)
• 1 tablespoon oil (canola or vegetable)
• 2 teaspoons dried Italian seasoning
• 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
• 1/8 teaspoon salt

Instructions:
1. Heat oven to 425ºF.
2. Line a 9”x13” pan with aluminum foil.
4. Bake uncovered 45 minutes. Turn every 15 minutes.
5. Serve while hot.

Tips:
• Use thyme, basil or rosemary in place of dried Italian seasoning.
• Save energy. Roast vegetables in oven with other food or right after other food is done.

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

Extension offers free programs

The Johnson County Extension Office is offering educational opportunities for adults 50 and older, free of charge until the end of 2020, to help keep people connected during the time of COVID-19.

The events will use a combination of virtual and live activities so participants can remain safe but still connect to classmates and instructors to maximize learning.

More information is available by contacting the office at 913-715-7000.
November-December classifieds

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Realism Art Classes, Thurs. AM from 10-12 or Thurs. PM from 6-8 in Olathe. Colored pencil &/or graphite instruction. No experience needed, $25.00 per week. For more details, e-mail: carol.rondinelli@sbcglobal.net


Bummer! With In-Person Computer Classes On Hold Again, Sencom (Senior Computer Users Group) Has Developed New Computer Webinars Starting In October Which Will Be Available Free Until We Can Meet Again. These Are 1 To 1½ Hour Live Video Conferencing Sessions On Topics Including Basic Smartphone Usage, Windows Backup Solutions, Apple Watch, Social Media, Beginner’s Guide To Windows 10, And Other Requested Topics From Members. We Will Also Continue To Hold Our Monthly General Meeting And Three Special Interest Group Meetings By Video Conference Until We Are Able To Meet In-Person Again. For Schedules And More Information On How To Attend A Video Conference, Check Us Out At www.kcsenior.net Or Call Lou At 913-298-0575 With Any Questions.

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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.

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

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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.


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"Johnson County Memorial Gardens. Lawn Crypt for 2, traditional cemetery option, includes vault, headstone, vase. Cemetery Rep. will show plot. Please call Deborah: 505-280-0312. Eager to Sell!"


Mount Moriah Cemetery. Faith Mausoleum, Tier #65 level D $5,995.00, current value $8,921.00. Terrie 816-896-6588 tk5bass@hotmail.com.

For Sale: Two (2) Niche Interment Spaces At Johnson County Memorial Gardens In Courtyard Of Memories. $5,500 Includes Maple Urns With Lettering And Transfer Fee. Johnson County Memorial Gardens Price Is Currently $10,000. Have Moved To Georgia. Make An Offer To: Email: Sjblair363@Gmail.com Or Call 913-710-2258.

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.

November

Wednesdays. Silver Screen Matinee. 1 pm. Merriam Community Center. Reservations and masks required.

November 3

Art: Watercolor Painting. 1:30-3:30pm. Punch Card. Matt Ross. Please call for supply list and to purchase punch cards.

50 & Beyond Matinee. "Ford v Ferrari." 12:30 pm $1 (PCC members) $2 (non-members). Powell Community Center

November 4 & 18

Documentary and Discussion - Olathe: The City Beautiful. 7–8 pm. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Register by calling 913-971-6850.

November 5


November 9

Dance: Beginning Tap. 2-2:50 pm. $53/$58. Matt Ross. No previous tap dance experience necessary.

November 11 & 25

T’ai Chi Chih. 1:30-2:15 pm. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

November 12

Bingo. 1:30-3:30 pm $3. Merriam Community Center. BYO Snacks & drinks. Reservation required.


November 14


November 17

Social Event: Afternoon at the Clubhouse. 3-4:30 pm. $8/$9. Meadowbrook Park Clubhouse. Enjoy sampling pies, ciders, and other fall favorites. Bring your favorite pie recipe!

50 & Beyond Matinee. "Peanut Butter Falcon." 12:30 pm $1 (PCC members) $2 (non-members). Powell Community Center

November 19

Thanks for Seniors. 11:30 am $12/person. Powell Community Center

November 20

Bingo. 1:30 pm $2 (PCC members) $4 (non-members). Powell Community Center.

November 24

Stretch & Restore. 9:30-10:15 am. Olathe Indian Creek Library or Zoom. Register for in-person attendance by calling 913-971-6850. Zoom link available at olathelibrary.org/events.

November 25

Hearing Checks. 9:30-11:30 am. Free. Powell Community Center
November-December 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.

November 27
Living History: 1860s Style! Noon – 4 pm . $7. Mahaffie Stagecoach Slop & Farm Take a stagecoach ride (weather and ground conditions permitting) visit the 1865 Mahaffie House, see blacksmith and cookstove demonstrations, visit exhibits in the Heritage Center and the Agricultural Heritage Livestock Barn.

December

Wednesdays. Silver Screen Matinee. 1 pm. Merriam Community Center. Reservations and masks required.


December 1

December 2 & 16
Documentary and Discussion - Olathe: The City Beautiful. 7–8 pm. Olathe Indian Creek Library. Register by calling 913-971-6850.

December 3
Chair Yoga. Noon - 12:45 pm. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library or Zoom. Register for in-person attendance by calling 913-971-6850. Zoom link available at olathelibrary.org/events.

December 9 & 23
T’ai Chi Chih. 1:30 - 2:15 pm. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

December 10

December 12
Bingo. 1:30-3:30 pm $3. Merriam Community Center. BYO Snacks & drinks. Reservations and masks required.

December 15

December 18
Bingo. 1:30 pm $2 (PCC members) $4 (non-members). Powell Community Center.

December 22
Stretch & Restore. 9:30-10:15 am. Free. Olathe Indian Creek Library or Zoom. Register for in-person attendance by calling 913-971-6850. Zoom link available at olathelibrary.org/events.

December 30
Hearing Checks. 9:30-11:30 am. Free. Powell Community Center.

FACILITY LOCATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


OLATHE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY: 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.
WE WILL BE THERE WHEN YOU NEED US

- Avoid Probate and Court Interference with your Affairs
- Minimize Family Infighting
- Protect Heirs from Wasting Inheritances
- Keep Assets in Your Bloodline
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✔ Special Needs Planning

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