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Making recycling a little less confusing
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-Debra D., Overland Park, KS

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Why suffer with years of misery? Don’t live in pain when we may have the solution you’ve been looking for all along.
Forgetting no veteran

By Gerald Hay, editor
The Best Times

Old wars fade away, no matter how much destruction and damage they leave in their wake.

Yet, on Nov. 11, Veterans Day, we need to remember the sacrifices made by veterans who served in the forgotten Korean War and all veterans in other U.S. wars that are far better known.

Johnson County’s annual Veterans Day observance in partnership with the Korean War Veterans Association Kansas Chapter No. 181 in Lenexa; the Korean War Veterans Association Missouri Chapter No. 2, Kansas City, Mo.; and Jewish War Veterans, Mo-Kan Post No. 605 will recognize Korean War veterans at the upcoming 2017 event. It will take place at 11 a.m. Nov. 11 at the Korean War Veterans Memorial at 119th Street and Lowell Avenue, Overland Park. The event is still in the planning stages.

The highlight of the Veterans Day observance will involve awarding Korean Ambassador for Peace Medals to 32 Korean War veterans who have not yet received the commemorative medals from the Republic of Korea. The medal program was established by the republic as an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to American service men and women who served in the Korean War.

Special guests at the Veterans Day event will be representatives from the Republic of Korea in thanking veterans who fought to keep their country free. The Consulate General Jong-Kook Lee at the Republic of Korea Embassy in Chicago or a designee from his office plan to participate in the Veterans Day program.

To be eligible for the Ambassador for Peace Medals, veterans must have served in Korea during the war, June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, and be a recipient of the Korean Defense Service Medal. It is also available for the veterans who have participated in U.N. peacekeeping operations until the end of 1955.

The list of eligible Korean War veterans to be recognized on Nov. 11 has been finalized. Their applications have been sent to the South Korean Consulate for review in a process that takes several weeks to complete.

Although it’s too late to be recognized as part of the upcoming Veterans Day event, Korean War veterans or their family members are encouraged to apply for the commemorative medal by completing the application form and sending it to the South Korean Consulate Office in Chicago.

Veterans need to provide a copy of the Veteran’s Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD 214 form) along with their application form for verification purpose.

Applications should be sent to: South Korean Consulate-Chicago, 455 North City Front Plaza Dr. NBC Tower Suite 2700 Chicago, IL 60611. Fax: (312) 822-9849. If eligible, the medals will be mailed to the applicant.

Wedges between World War II (WWII) and the Vietnam War, the Korean War is known as the “Forgotten War” still 64 years after the guns fell silent in Korea with the signing of an armistice agreement. The war was neither won nor lost, ending in a truce, splitting the nation and establishing a 160-mile-long demilitarized zone, roughly snaking along the 38th Parallel, between North and South Korea.

Many Korean War veterans also fought in WWII that ended just five years before the fighting in Korea began. It was a brutal and costly war with cruel winters, pitting U.S. forces and U.N. allies against communist North Koreans, backed by China and the Soviet Union. The police action, the Korean conflict, did not become the Korean War until a congressional designation in 1998.

With the signing of the armistice on July 27, 1953, the U.N. forces, including 1.7 million Americans, headed home. Sadly, 36,547 U.S. soldiers, who were killed in the fighting, never got the chance for joyful homecomings. They included 415 soldiers from Kansas with seven from Johnson County.

More than 103,000 Americans were wounded in Korea. There are still 7,747 American soldiers unaccounted for from the war, including 100 MIA’s (missing in action) from Korea. Five of the missing are from Johnson County.

The armistice may have silenced the guns, but not the angry words and military activities, including continued missile testing and development of a nuclear program by North Korea, in an uneasy standoff in the present day.

Time has not healed all wounds from long ago. The war remains fresh in the minds of the families who lost loved ones in Korea and the veterans who survived.

Age has taken its toll among these veterans of the “Forgotten War.” Fewer and fewer of them are left among us. Most of these veterans now are in their mid-80s. The Veterans Affairs Department reports that 2.3 million of the 5.7 million U.S. service members in uniform around the globe between 1950 and 1953 are still alive.

Veterans Day is a good day to honor our local Korean War vets and to salute all our local veterans from all wars. They all served with distinction and have given far too much.

It’s also a time to remember that no war and no veteran should ever be forgotten.
A new name, new location, new offerings, same mission. Formerly known as Senior Fest, Live Well Age Well offers an opportunity for residents of Johnson County and the greater metro area to learn about businesses and services geared towards aging adults and their loved ones.

Live Well Age Well will take place from noon to 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park.

Residents are invited to arrive at noon and learn about the start of the Operation Red File program in Johnson County. Already in place in several counties throughout Kansas, the program offers a safe, simple, and accessible way to keep pertinent medical information available in case of an emergency.

Businesses and service organizations from throughout the Kansas City area will be in attendance and available between 1 and 6:30 p.m. Free health screenings are available including: blood pressure checks, blood glucose checks, hearing screenings, posture assessments, flu shots and mammograms. Screenings are subject to change.

Added to the lineup in 2017 are education sessions sponsored by local educators and experts. Sessions include: understanding housing options for seniors, rightsizing your life, how to find the right care for your loved one, safety: home and away, sleep and chronic disease, and online security and fraud awareness.

Join in the fun for few games of bingo, fantastic door prizes and more! Live Well Age Well is free to the public. For more information, please visit http://jcprd.com/special_events/live-wellagewell.cfm or call 913-826-3032.

Sophie Griffin is 50 Plus coordinator at the Johnson County Park & Recreation District.
COA approves 2018 Area Plan

By Jay Leak

The Johnson County Commission on Aging (COA) approved the 2018 Area Plan at a public hearing July 12. This is the first year of a proposed four-year plan.

The Johnson County Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is required to submit an annual area plan of services to the state of Kansas each August. The local COA hears testimony on the plan and approves the document before sending it on for approval at the state level.

The COA is a group of volunteers appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to provide information, guidance, advice and support to the AAA, and to be a liaison to the Board concerning the needs of older county residents and services to meet those needs.

The Area Plan covers only services funded by the Older Americans Act (OAA), which establishes the legislative authority for the existence of the AAA. These include administrative, in-home, community and nutrition services (Nutrition Services Incentive Program) (NSIP). Although the bulk of the money comes from the federal government, state and county matches are required. Some program income is generated, mainly from nutrition clients. The Area Plan generates 61.5 percent of the total operating revenues for the AAA.

The administration costs of the OAA is 5.4 percent while the direct service program costs are 94.6 percent.

During the past decade, program income and the percentages funded by the federal, state and county governments have stayed relatively stable. The revenues have stayed flat or have declined during the past few years. As the aging population of Johnson County increases to 107,000 and services become more costly, the OAA budget requires us to serve more people with fewer funds.

Jay Leak is deputy director of the Johnson County Area Agency on Aging.

Meet the Commission on Aging

The Commission on Aging (COA) is a voluntary group of individuals appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to provide information, guidance, advice and support to the Johnson County Area Agency on Aging, and to serve as liaison to the BOCC concerning the needs of older county residents and services to meet those needs. COA meetings are open to the public and usually held from 9-10 a.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Sunset Drive Office Building in Olathe. Current members include (from left), seated, front row: Paula Hurt, Carol Sader, Pamela Shernuk, Katy Hoffman; back row: Dr. Patrick Ryan, Charlotte Esau, Patti Rule, Eugene Lipscomb (vice chair), Kim Mann, Dale Warman, Karen Weber, Jim Allen, 2nd District, BOCC Liaison, Chuck Negro (chair). Not pictured is Stephanie Clayton and Clemme Rambo.
COA fall legislative session scheduled Sept. 13

By Gordon L. Davis

State legislators are invited to attend an informal advocacy session with the Johnson County Commission on Aging (COA) on Wednesday, Sept. 13.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be held in Room 1055 of the Sunset Drive Office Building, 11811 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe (northwest of the intersection of 119th Street and Ridgeview Road).

The session will begin with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m., followed by an informal advocacy discussion from 9 to 10 a.m. The business meeting will start at 10:15 a.m.; legislators are invited to stay.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for commission members to talk with legislators and candidates about state issues, advocacy and other topics of interest to older adults in the county.

The session also provides an opportunity for legislators to share their viewpoints and perspectives with the COA, exchange thoughts and dialogue about issues of concern.

The COA is appointed by the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners to provide information, guidance, advice and support to the Johnson County Area Agency on Aging.

For more information about COA meetings or the upcoming legislative sessions, call 913-715-8860.

Gordon L. Davis is an information specialist with the Johnson County Area on Aging and the Aging and Disability Resource Center.

Congressmembers reflect thoughts to COA policy position on Medicare

An article was published in the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) pages in the July-August 2017 Best Times entitled “Policy Position on Proposed Medicare Changes.” (see page 6). The article reflected the position the Commission on Aging (COA) has set in relation to possible changes to the current Medicare system into a voucher or premium support plan.

The COA is a voluntary group of individuals appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BCCO) to provide information, guidance, advice and support to the AAA, and to serve as a liaison to the BCCO concerning the needs of older residents and service to meet those needs.

The Executive Committee of the COA met and discussed the Medicare policy position with U.S. Representative Kevin Yoder and staff, and the staffs of U.S. Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts. The committee reported a positive interchange with all three of these elected officials.

A summary of those discussions follows:

**Congressman Yoder**... He wants to maintain Medicare as it is for current and near current recipients, but wants to see change for the younger population in order to control future costs.

**Senator Roberts**... Staff indicated that he is willing to talk more about how Medicare can maintain financial viability. Senator Roberts want to see specific proposals before commenting further.

**Senator Moran**... “Congress needs to work together to get our nation’s fiscal house in order, and address questions concerning the sustainability of Medicare. The Medicare program currently faces serious financial challenges caused by increasing health care costs, the aging of America’s population, and a decrease in the number of workers supporting Medicare beneficiaries through payroll taxes. Congress must work to preserve Medicare for America’s current seniors, while sustaining the program for future generations. In order to accomplish these goals, we need to control runaway health care costs while making sure that quality care options are available to seniors in their communities.”

For 2018 Medicare coverage, open enrollment is in the fall of 2017, from Oct.15 to Dec. 7. This is the deadline to join, drop, or switch health care and drug plans for 2018. The effective date of the plan is Jan. 1, 2018.

During this annual enrollment period (AEP) you can make changes to various aspects of your coverage.

- You can switch from Original Medicare to Medicare Advantage, or vice versa.
- You can also switch from one Medicare Advantage plan to another, or from one Medicare Part D (prescription drug plan) to another.
- And, if you didn’t enroll in a Medicare Part D plan when you were first eligible, you can do so during the general open enrollment, although a late enrollment penalty may apply.

If you want to enroll in a Medicare Advantage Plan, you must meet some basic criteria.

- You must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and B.
- You must live in the plan’s service area.
- You cannot have End-Stage Renal Disease (some exceptions apply).

For detailed information and assistance regarding Medicare options, visit www.medicare.gov. To reach a customer service representative, call 1-800-633-4227 (TTY 1-877-486-2048).

The SHICK (Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas) program can also provide advice regarding options and processes. Just call 1-800-860-5260.
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Feed the Need collects 167 tons of food

Johnson County is again helping to feed a growing need locally with a successful 2017 Feed the Need campaign.

The annual food drive, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2017, helps fill the shelves at seven Johnson County food pantries with more than 167 tons of food. The effort also benefits Community and Family Support Services at the four multi-service centers operated by the Department of Human Services.

Results of the Feed the Need campaign were announced to the Board of County Commissioners by Ellen Wernicke, director of Emergency Management and Communications.

“Without the hard work and dedication of Johnson County Government employees, our local pantries would be unable to meet the growing needs of the people in our community who are less fortunate,” Wernicke, who served as the 2017 Feed the Need campaign chairman, said. “This type of team effort is what makes this county a great place to live and work.”

The 2017 campaign goal was set at 335,000 pounds of food in either cash or food donations to benefit seven local food pantries serving eligible county citizens. The campaign collected 335,329 pounds, or 167.66 tons.

Collections support three food pantries in the Northeast Multi-Service Center (MSC), Mission; North-Central MSC, Lenexa; and Southwest MSC, Gardner, operated by the Department of Human Services. In 2016, the food pantries served 1,275 households, providing 3,210 services.

Feed the Need collections also will assist food pantries operated by Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, Shawnee Community Services, and First Christian Church and Salvation Army, both of Olathe. Each will receive $8,170 in support from the 2017 campaign.

The Department of Human Services also operates the Olathe MSC, which does not have a food pantry.

The Southwest MSC includes the Gardner-Edgerton and Spring Hill school districts while the Olathe MSC serves the Olathe School District.

The North-Central MSC spans most of the Shawnee Mission School District and the cities of Shawnee and DeSoto. The Northeast MSC covers cities in the northeast corner of Johnson County and most of the Blue Valley School District.

In 2016, the county multi-service centers served 2,287 households with 11,511 individuals.

Johnson County’s Feed the Need started in 1987 when the District Attorney’s Office made a small donation, amounting to less than one ton, to a Shawnee food pantry. Since then, county government has donated more than four million pounds of donations for local pantries in the annual food drive.

The county has been a leading participant in the annual metropolitan Feed the Need efforts since 1988.
Lawn care takes root in September

By Dennis Patton

he words were clearly visible from afar: “Lawns Suck.” The message on the t-shirt caught my attention in the distance. On closer inspection the word “Water” came into view.

This t-shirt to some would be fighting words while others would stand up and cheer. Man has had a love-hate relationship with turf for years. I guess you could call it the age-old turf wars.

The concept of grass has its roots in the Bible. “And God said, let the earth bring forth grass...” (Genesis 1:11/ King James Version). Now I am almost positive the Bible was not referring to the shorn pristine green lawns adorning suburbia, but to vegetation necessary to feed mankind.

The concept of a well-manicured lawn dates to 16th Century European culture. Areas where the cattle-grazed land appealed to the wealthy. Soon the idea of a closely grazed area became a status symbol. From there this symbol of wealth has proliferated, and that centuries-old desire still holds true. A home that has a well-maintained patch of grass is a sense of pride and status.

How the lawn is maintained has changed greatly through time. Gone are the days of livestock grazing. Think a sand trap is a hazard on the golf course? Back in the day, the main hazard would be ill-placed piles of “fertilizer” left behind by the mowing herd of hungry sheep.

The greatest challenge

Maintaining that sense of pride is important to many today. Research over the years has helped to develop grasses that are more durable, drought and pest tolerant and can survive on less inputs to provide that sense of pride. The greatest challenge in caring for a lawn today is battling the ever-changing weather patterns and knowing the correct practices. Luckily, that is where the non-biased work of your local cooperative extension office comes into play. We have you covered when it comes to providing the information you need for success.

The most important time of the year for lawn care is upon us. September is lawn month for the cool season grasses, tall fescue and bluegrass. The changing of the seasons from summer to fall stimulates growth and the lawn’s ability to recuperate and repair. Now is the time to act so your lawn is ready for another year.

September is the best time to fertilize. This application is the most important as the turf takes the nutrients and converts it into food and energy to build strong roots and crowns so top growth flourishes. Applications at other times of the year are beneficial but not as much as this one.

The main nutrient needed in our county is nitrogen. Nitrogen drives the growth cycle of the turf and an application at this time is the foundation for good growth. During the month of September, apply a high-nitrogen fertilizer with an analysis such as 30-0-0 or similar.

Whether starting a new lawn or thickening up an existing stand, soil temperatures are warm so that the seed germinates quickly and becomes established before winter’s arrival. Be sure to use quality seed. Tall fescue and bluegrass are the best cool grass species for our climate. Avoid seed mixes that contain any other grass species as they will not stand up to our heat and drought conditions.

Goal is not to reseed

Remember the goal is not to reseed. Reseeding is not a have-to task, it is the best way to fill in those dead spots. Thin areas may not need reseeding but just a good application of fall fertilizer to help the existing grass thicken up and recover.

Fall is also a good time to tackle issues with soil compaction. Compacted soils limit root development, slow water movement and result in more summer stress. Core aeration is the best way to help alleviate some of the clay compaction. This machine pulls cores of soil about the size of a finger out of the soil and allows it to expand naturally. A good aeration job pulls plugs as close as three inches apart.

As you can see, September is a busy month. But here’s just a little bit more turf history related to Kansas. Just be glad your goal with turf is only to improve your little slice of heaven.

Back in the early settlement days of the Kansas territory and Midwest, the job of turf management was to dig up sod pieces of grass and lay them in a careful grid pattern to build your sod house. So the next time you think about complaining about mowing, fertilizing, weeding and watering think about the earlier settlers. I am sure you would have rather been a rich European in olden days that took pride in a freshly-grazed lawn. Because that’s still our goal today, a lush expanse of green.

Happy turf care.

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

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FY 2018 budget includes a reduction of mill levy

By Austin Falley

The Johnson County Commission has adopted the county’s fiscal year 2018 budget. The budget includes a quarter-mill reduction of the county general fund mill levy.

“This budget meets the county’s needs and allows us to reduce the county general fund mill levy,” said Ed Eilert, chairman of the Board of County Commissioners.

“The budget the commission adopted today includes a quarter-mill reduction, and it increases the county’s reserves so it can better accommodate wastewater system improvements, weather a potential economic downturn and maintain our excellent credit ratings.”

The 2018 budget totals $1.06 billion, composed of $819.6 million in expenditures and $242.1 million in reserves.

“The adopted budget increases resources to public safety and elections and allows the county to meet the ever-growing demand for our services,” said County Manager Hannes Zacharias. “This budget adheres to the commission’s direction to maintain a constant mill levy or reduce if prudent.”

The total estimated county mill levy is 26.276 mills — a reduced mill levy when compared to 2017. This includes an estimated mill levy of 19.259 for the county taxing district; 3.915 mills for libraries; and 3.102 mills for park and recreation.

The 2018 budget includes a Capital Improvement Program totaling more than $159.6 million:

• $77.4 million for wastewater capital projects;
• $15 million for the Stormwater Management Program;
• $14.9 million for the County Assistance Road System (CARS) program;
• $14.8 million for park and recreation capital projects;
• $13.1 million for election office upgrades to voting machines.

Total estimated revenue from ad valorem taxes is $247.6 million, comprising $186.5 million for the county taxing district, $31.1 million for libraries, and $30 million for park and recreation.

The adopted budget funds a maximum of 3,949.72 full-time-equivalent employees (a total increase of 62.73 FTEs from 2017). Positions added include:

• Johnson County Library’s request to hire 38 new positions for the new Monticello branch in Shawnee set to open in 2018, plus four information specialists, a civic engagement coordinator, collections clerk and IT analyst.
• To facilitate the opening of new parks and facilities, the Park and Recreation District has budget approval to fill 10 FTEs, including regional park managers and assistant park managers, park workers, an administrative assistant, recreation coordinator, facility maintenance supervisor and natural resources technician.
• Johnson County Med-Act will fill 12 FTEs, all paramedics, under the 2018 budget. Seven of these positions are to support staffing of two Overland Park Med-Act ambulances that Johnson County will assume operations of in 2018 and the remaining five positions will enhance current Med-Act operations to meet call volumes.
• The District Attorney’s office will hire two assistant district attorneys and an investigator in 2018.
• Emergency Management and Communications will fill two emergency communications specialist positions in the next fiscal year.

The county’s budget includes a 13.3 percent increase in the county general services expenditure budget — 6.8 percent of the increase comes from the voter-approved public safety sales tax to fund a new courthouse and coroner facility. The sales tax sunsets in 2027.

On average, residential property owners will pay $885 in county property taxes for 2018 — about $74 per month, based on the average home value in the county which is approximately $293,000.

The new budget must be approved and certified to the county clerk by Aug. 25. The Johnson County Department of Records and Tax Administration (RTA), acting in the capacity of county clerk, must calculate mill levies and taxes for certification to the county treasurer for collection on or before Nov. 1.

The final setting of the FY 2018 mill levy will be established by the County Clerk with the new property valuations by the RTA.

Johnson County’s fiscal year begins Jan. 1. FY 2018 budget documents are available online at jocogov.org.  

Austin Falley is a senior public information officer at the Johnson County Manager’s Office.

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

Live coverage of the meetings is viewable on the Internet through the county’s main website, jocogov.org.
To bin or not to bin: That’s the recycling question

By Brandon Hearn

A mericans have been recycling since colonial days, when scarce resources made it a matter of life and death.

During World War II, recycling efforts collected rubber and metals, making sure that those valuable resources were available for the war effort. Today, shrinking landfill space and resources continue to make reducing, reusing, and recycling as important as ever.

While many of us know the importance of reducing our waste, and gladly fill our recycle bins each week, recycling has also grown more complicated, leaving many residents with more questions than answers.

We know we can recycle aluminum cans, plastic bottles and cardboard, but what about Styrofoam and plastic bags? This confusion can lead people to put items in their recycle bins that don’t belong there, leading to contamination and equipment issues at the recycling recovery facility, where separating of recyclables occurs.

Here are some answers to frequent questions about what can and can’t go in a recycle bin along with additional resources to help make recycling less confusing.

• If it has a number 1-7, it can go in my recycle bin. False.

Many people don’t know that the number that is on plastic items, is actually a plastic identification code and doesn’t necessarily mean that the item can go in your curbside recycle bin because they’re not compatible with the sorting equipment at the recycling plant. Recently Bridging the Gap, an area environmental non-profit organization, has begun accepting these items at its Deramus Avenue recycling center in Kansas City.

• What about paper cartons, can those be recycled? Another yes.

Paper cartons such as milk or soup cartons, that don’t contain metal, can now be recycled in your curbside recycle bin. Other items that are accepted include plastic clamshells, plastic caps and lids (simply put them back on the bottle before recycling), and even empty plastic plates and cups (no food waste) are a few of the other items that are accepted in your recycle bin.

• Can I put plastic bags in my recycle bin? NO.

While they are made out of plastic, plastic bags are not wanted in your curbside recycle bin because they can get wrapped up in the equipment at the recycling recovery facility. While it’s best to avoid plastic bags when possible, they can be returned to area grocery stores for recycling. This includes plastic grocery bags, clean food bags like bread bags and shipping bags like those used by Amazon.

• If I’m not sure, it’s better to put it in my recycling than the trash. Another no.

When non-recyclable items make it into the recycle bin they can get clogged in the processing equipment, can contaminate other recyclables, and cause recyclable material to go into the landfill.

If you’re not sure if it’s recyclable there are several resources available, including calling the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment at 913-715-6936 or emailing brandon.hearn@jocogov.org. If you are on Facebook you can follow Johnson County Recycles, your resource for recycling in Johnson County.

Recyclespot.org is a great resource for finding out where you can get rid of all sorts of different items, from plastics to household chemicals.

Remember to rethink, reduce, reuse and recycle.

Brandon Hearn is an environmental health specialist at the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.

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Library serves Spanish-speaking residents

By Christopher Leitch

Johnson County is an increasingly diverse community. Since 2000, our county population has increased by about 123,000 persons, more than half of them considered racially and ethnically diverse. Approximately seven percent of our current county population, about 42,500 folks, self-report as Hispanic. That’s a significant number who use Johnson County Library and we’re dedicated to helping them find the materials they want and need. During Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15) we’re reporting on efforts to serve this growing population.

To keep pace with community demand, the library has a dedicated team leading development of services tailored to the Latino communities in Johnson County. LAST, or the Latino Services Team, is headquartered at Oak Park Library, 9500 Bluejacket Dr., Overland Park, and comprises librarians and support services staff as well as an outreach librarian working off-campus. They are working to design programs and services that can be delivered at any or all of our branches as needed.

Among the most popular programs in the current schedule are the Tertulias Latinoamericanas. A tertulia is a social gathering with literary or artistic overtones, especially in Latin America. Tertulia also means an informal meeting of people to talk about current affairs, arts, etc. Each library tertulia offers a vibrant evening of Latin American poetry and music. Patrons will enjoy humorous ballads, songs, anecdotes, jokes and riddles from popular folklore, presented in Spanish.

A regular feature at Oak Park Library is Saturday morning Conversando en inglés/Conversation in English. Not all participants, yet many, are Spanish speakers, learning English as essential to making friends, maintaining business and finding jobs in America. So many adults with kids regularly attend that librarians have invented an informal meeting of people to talk about current affairs, arts, etc. Each library tertulia offers a vibrant evening of Latin American poetry and music. Patrons will enjoy humorous ballads, songs, anecdotes, jokes and riddles from popular folklore, presented in Spanish.

A variety of programs are presented in Spanish for adults, kids and families. These include English Language Learner (ELL) classes, early literacy for preschool aged children and writing seminars. The library also collects and circulates books, DVDs and audio-books in Spanish. Information about getting a library card, services and program calendars are presented on the library website at jocolibrary.org. A bibliography of Spanish-language research resources can be found, too: jocolibrary.org/research/en-español.

The Latino Service Team will work with a Latino Community Advisory Group. Community input will be channeled through this consortium of individuals and representatives of library community partner organizations. If you are interested in this group, please contact LAST through our Answers page: answers.jocolibrary.org.

Johnson County Library is committed to providing services to our Spanish-speaking library patrons. The staff at Oak Park and the Latino Service Team are excited to engage in initiatives that will be able to make a positive impact for our county.

Christopher Leitch is community relations coordinator for Johnson County Library.

Library connection

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Parking plans change for new courthouse

Two downtown Olathe public parking lots located in close proximity to where the new Johnson County Courthouse will be built are targets for redevelopment.

Without that parking, and hoping to minimize pedestrians having to cross Santa Fe, the city and the county needed to find new parking options for this project. Following the public’s approval of the courthouse, the city of Olathe determined the two lots would be good locations to consider for redevelopment affecting 300 parking spaces. This required the county and city to find other parking options.

A parking study done prior to the public vote had concluded there was sufficient parking in the downtown district. However, due to potential redevelopment in the area, the parking study was updated and concluded that additional parking would be needed for the new courthouse.

The block directly north of the proposed courthouse was determined to be the best site for additional parking for safety and proximity. The county has come to agreements with most of the owners, some of whom rent the properties. Negotiations are underway with the remaining homeowners.

“We hope to reach agreements with all of the property owners soon,” said Brad Reinhardt, director of Facilities Management.

The groundbreaking for the new county courthouse (to be located directly north of the current site) is on schedule for 2018.

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Do you have a loved one with dementia?
Would you like expert advice on how to care for them?

The KU Alzheimer’s Disease Center is now recruiting participants for a 3-month study designed to help caregivers manage everyday situations with short videos, which they take at home, and then receive expert feedback.

To be eligible for the study:

- The patient must have a diagnosis of dementia (not due to Huntington’s disease or alcohol-related dementia).
- The patient cannot have a diagnosis of schizophrenia, manic depressive disorder, deafness or developmental disability.
- The patient must be residing at home.

For more information or to enroll:
Call (913) 588-0555 and ask about the FamTechCare study
Email KUAMP@kumc.edu
Visit www.KUAAlzheimer.org

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Bored? Let’s trying playing a board game!

By Denise Dias

Board games have been around since early civilization. The first board game is estimated to have been developed around 5000 B.C. Can you guess what it was? Dice. Egyptians made game play a prestigious royal pastime in 3100 B.C. Many think of backgammon as the first board game, but it was not developed until 1300 B.C. Hopscotch is considered one of the first games designed for children around 500 B.C.

Even though everyone seems to be glued to their smart phones these days, games are still popular. In fact, board games are a hot trend with the millennial generation. But the games have changed since we were young. One popular type of game is called a euro game. Euro games are a class of tabletop games that generally have indirect player interaction and abstract physical components. Euro-style games emphasize strategy while downplaying luck and conflict.

Board games can gather families and friends together, across generations, to connect, compete and have fun. Youth today often lack skills to build relationships with others, including their grandparents. Euro board games are an entertaining and clever way to develop relationship skills without resistance.

Unlike video games, board games promote face-to-face interaction. A key component to connecting with people is learning how to read body language and developing “social capital.” Board games allow us to create a foundation for trust and long lasting relationships. Video games do not offer that chance for us to connect to others in person.

Qualities of successful families

In the book Family Treasures: Creating Strong Families, author John De Frain discusses six qualities that strong, successful families around the world exhibit: enjoyable time together; appreciation and affection for each other; positive communication; spiritual well-being (values, beliefs, life skills); successful management of stress and crisis; and commitment to each other.

It is important for parents and grandparents to find a way to carve out time as a family. Each time we interact with one another it builds and strengthens that bond. Board games foster the face-to-face interaction needed to connect deeply with each other and to develop the other traits of strong families.

Playing euro games has helped my family to connect. The games lead to interesting conversations and help us build stronger relationships with one another. Family holidays and events are less stressful and are a time we look forward to being with one another.

Play is crucial for a child’s development and it is also beneficial for people of all ages. Play can add joy, relieve stress, supercharge learning and connect you to others and the world around you. It can trigger the release of endorphins, the body’s natural feel-good chemicals, which promote an overall sense of well-being and can temporarily relieve pain.

Older adults can benefit from many of the same concepts that children do when playing — stimulating the mind and boosting creativity; fostering relationships, including empathy, compassion and trust with others; and strengthening social skills.

Benefits of play and laughter

Play and laughter perform an essential role in building strong, healthy relationships by bringing people closer together, creating a positive bond, and resolving conflict and disagreements.

In an effort to encourage inter-generational communication and strengthen family relationships, residents are invited to attend a Bonding with Board Games program from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, and Friday, Nov. 3, at the Johnson County Extension Office, 11811 S. Sunset Drive in Olathe. There is no cost, but registration is necessary by going online under classes/events at johnson.k-state.edu or by calling 913-715-7000.

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

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Spend the Day Exploring Aging Services in Johnson County

**OCTOBER 19**

**Schedule of Events: (subject to change)**

- **12:00 pm** - Welcome & Operation Red File presentation
- **1:00 - 6:30 pm** - Vendor Expo & Health Screenings open
- **1:30 pm** - Online Security & Fraud Awareness presentation
- **2:00 pm** - Bingo
- **2:30 pm** - Sleep and Chronic Disease presentation
- **3:10 pm** - Understanding Housing Options For Seniors
- **4:00 pm** - Safety: Home and Away
- **4:50 pm** - Bingo
- **5:15 pm** - Rightsizing Your Lifestyle
- **6:00 pm** - How to Find the Right Care for Your Loved One

**Health screenings related to:**

Blood Pressure, Blood Glucose, Hearing, Posture, Flu Shots, and Mobile Mammograms
Local business helps people save their stories

Kansas City writer Amy Butler is in the memoir business. But she doesn’t write her own stories. Instead, she helps clients create books chronicling their life to pass down to the next generation.

“Everyone has a story to tell,” she says. “It’s a lasting gift to your children and grandchildren when you take the steps to record it. The good news is, you don’t have to do it alone.”

The desire to tell your life story is universal; the skill to write it isn’t. Butler has been helping clients over this hurdle since 2010, when she founded The Story Scribe.

After a series of casual interviews, Butler creates a narrative told in the client’s voice and illustrated with their photos. The result is an heirloom quality book that quickly becomes a family treasure.

For more information, call 816-377-8694 or visit www.thestoryscribe.com.
The fastest way for an entrepreneur in Johnson County to become the best is to learn from the best.

Wayne Morgan and Susie Coultis, with long resumes of business experiences and professional expertise, are quite willing to offer their best advice to startup businesses, locally and regionally, to enhance business growth and creation of jobs.

They are volunteer mentors in the year-old Growth Mentoring Service at the Enterprise Center in Johnson County (ECJC) with offices in Fairway. The program pairs entrepreneurs with teams of three to five high-quality, experienced mentors who offer practical help in addressing the needs and issues of emerging entrepreneurial ventures.

Both volunteers believe mentoring matters.

Mentors in the Growth Mentoring Service help entrepreneurs think through business ideas and challenges; develop, if needed, and refine, as needed, a business plan; and provide the experience, knowledge and business savvy they might be missing to avoid or ease troubles along the way.

A long-term relationship

“It’s a long-term relationship – as long as it takes,” Morgan, who is director of the Growth Mentoring Service, said.

Entrepreneurs enrolled in the program receive practical hands-on mentoring from teams of volunteers continually tailored to each mentee’s challenges as their businesses grow and needs change.

The Growth Mentoring Service was launched in May 2016 with the support of the Kauffman Foundation. The program is a certified affiliate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Venture Mentoring Service.

Finding and recruiting a community of mentor volunteers and matching them to entrepreneurs is the latest business service provided by the Enterprise Center. The non-profit venture development organization provides advisory services, access to funding resources, entrepreneurial education, co-working office space and networking connections for high-growth companies.

Mentorship to George Hansen, president and CEO of the Enterprise Center, is a win-win opportunity.

“Entrepreneurial mentoring is extremely important,” he said. “Having the advice and counsel needed to navigate the varied and constant challenges of entrepreneurship is critical to the success of growing businesses.”

Need for volunteer mentors

The Growth Mentoring Service is always on the lookout and in need of volunteer mentors or retired business executives with extensive entrepreneurial or corporate leadership experience. Volunteers must be willing to attend monthly mentor meetings and at least one additional team mentoring meeting with an entrepreneur each month.

Some mentors may be skilled only in one specific area, such as financial, technology, transportation or healthcare, but that fits well with the synergistic team mentoring approach: all experienced help is good help. More information about the mentoring program is available at ecjc.com.

The mentoring service is educational and advisory only; mentors do not make or direct business decisions. All decisions ultimately remain with the participating entrepreneur.

Both Morgan and Coultis advise entrepreneurs not to let business ownership and being “your own boss” go to their head. It still takes much work to succeed and maintain future success.
Mentors help entrepreneurs by offering best advice

Enterprise Center of Johnson County in Fairway. Wayne Morgan and Susie Coultis are among the volunteer mentors of the Growth Mentoring Service at the

Continued from page 18

Coultis has more than 25 years of human relations experience, including leading HR services through significant growth for 10 years at Perceptive Software, a software development company in Lenexa. Each has also experienced starting companies and managing them to success – Morgan as a principal of his Lenexa business advisory service NetVision, and Coultis as a certified personal and professional development consultant and owner of Propel Coaching and Counseling in Overland Park.

Morgan didn’t have a formal mentor relationship in his career. Stephen Covey’s “Seven Habits of Highly Effective People” served as his best personal and business/ career advice.

“Success is all about self-mastery and effectiveness with others,” he said.

While growing Perceptive Software, Coultis learned through an informal mentor relationship with Laurie Minard, vice president of human resources at Garmin. The best advice was to encourage expansion of her business network with other professionals.

“Networking helped me gain perspective on the market and learn others’ best practices,” she said.

Entrepreneurship often becomes a learn-as-you-go experience with challenges and mistakes along the way.

Morgan cites some, perhaps most, entrepreneurs as being overly optimistic about revenue projections in their business endeavors and future expectations.

“It will take much longer than you think to get where you want to be,” he said. “Perseverance is the secret sauce to success.”

Coultis echoed that viewpoint as being the most frequent issue of new entrepreneurs.

Issue of personnel
With her human relations background, Coultis noted personnel operations within a new business also require careful decision-making.

“An example is feeling the need to employ people rather than initially contracting with them until their business can support full-time employees,” she said.

Both enjoy their roles as mentors at the Enterprise Center in Johnson County, a non-profit organization started in 1995 with goals to stimulate business creation and employment in the county and metro region.

The Growth Mentoring Service initially began last year from a legacy mentoring program with five one-on-one volunteer mentors and five entrepreneurs. A year later, the program has expanded to more than 80 active mentors along with changing to a team approach with three to five members helping each of the current list of 21 entrepreneurs.

Mentors also are not in it for the money since their services are free; they just want to give back and help new businesses grow. Since the launch of the service, mentors have contributed more than 1,290 hours of volunteer time to mentoring, providing program leadership and disseminating best practices to mentees. The pro bono value of the volunteer time is estimated at more than $1.2 million.

“Our mission is to help create jobs in Johnson County through entrepreneurship,” Melissa Roberts, vice president of communications and outreach at the Enterprise Center, said. To achieve that, the facility connects entrepreneurs with the resources they need to grow and scale their businesses.

Services include education, mentoring and connections to capital along with co-working office space for start-up ventures. The ECJC staff also manages the Mid-America Angels investment network with member investors willing to finance early-stage companies as a group. Since its founding in 2006, the network has leveraged more than $21 million in more than 80 private capital investments in 47 companies. In 2016, Mid-America Angels grew to 138 members and completed 15 deals, deploying $3.6 million in private capital. The Angel group is on track in 2017 to exceed $5 million in investments.

County helps in funding
Johnson County Government helps in the financial support of the Enterprise Center along with philanthropic grants from the Kauffman Foundation and a federal grant from the Economic Development Administration. Johnson County has supported the non-profit organization since its founding 22 years ago with annual allocations ranging from $356,600 to $482,175 through 2013. County funds are used for ECJC programs supporting entrepreneurs, but no county funds are used to invest tax dollars into any business.

The county increased its financial support to $732,175 in 2014 and to $682,175 annually from 2015-2017 to offset state funding cuts and sustain operations at the Enterprise Center. The county’s FY 2018 budget has again earmarked $682,175 in funding for the ECJC.

“ECJC activities return $676,725 of value to Johnson County for every $1,000 of (Johnson County taxpayer’s) investment in the organization,” Roberts said.

In the past decade (2006-2016), the cumulative economic impacts from the Enterprise Center in the metro region include $437 million of capital raised by 79 companies and more than $1.6 billion in sales revenue from ECJC-supported companies. There have been 2,308 direct jobs created, with $412 million in payroll and 9,924 indirect jobs created, representing a payroll of $762 million.

The total regional economic impact of ECJC-supported companies during the 10-year period is estimated at more than $3.2 billion.
Events to celebrate monarch migration

Two events at Ernie Miller Nature Center, 909 North K-7 Highway, Olathe, will celebrate the annual migration of monarch butterflies.

The 50 Plus Department of the Johnson County Park & Recreation District is offering a monarch migration program and tagging demonstration from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Sept. 20. Participants will receive three tags to tag butterflies in the park or in their own yard. They are encouraged to bring their walking shoes and enjoy the trails after the event.

Cost is $15 per person. Register is available by going to jcprd.com.

On Sept. 23, the nature center is offering a “Flight of the Monarch” program from 10 a.m. to noon. The program is recommended for ages 8 and older, and all children must be accompanied by parent/guardian or one adult chaperone per group of 5.

Activities will include capturing, tagging and releasing monarchs to continue their journey to Mexico along with information about other native butterflies. Participants should wear long pants to protect their legs and closed toed shoes to protect their feet. They are encouraged to bring their own insect nets.

Cost for the informative and interactive event is $5 per person, including adults, in advance or $7 on Sept. 23. Advance reservations required by going to jcprd.com or by calling 913-764-7759. Registration closes on Sept. 21.

Overnight fishing set Sept. 17 at new park

An overnight fishing opportunity is taking place on Sept. 16 at Lexington Lake Park, the newest park in the Johnson County Park & Recreation District.

The park, located at 8850 Sunflower Road, De Soto, will be open for fishing only from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. Sept. 17. Park police officers will be on duty throughout the night.

Before fishing, area anglers ages 16-74 will need to have a valid Kansas fishing license, a Park & Recreation District fishing permit, and all appropriate boat tags, if applicable.

More information about the overnight fishing program is available by calling 913-888-4713.

Fun fishing night lures families on Sept. 22

In addition to overnight fishing, residents are also invited to enjoy a family fun night of fishing from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 22, at the TimberRidge Adventure Center, 12300 S. Homestead Lane, Olathe.

The event will feature a dinner of hotdogs, chips and apples from 5:30 to 6 p.m. Fishing will be available at Catfish Pond from 6 to 7 p.m. with boats available. The evening will end with the roasting of marshmallows at a campfire from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

Johnson County Park & Recreation staff will assist with boats and can help with basic fishing questions (life vests must be worn). Participants are urged to bring their own pole and tackle. Some fishing equipment will be available by the district along with bait and marshmallows.

Participants age 16 and older are required to have a Kansas fishing license. Licenses will not be sold on site. Parents need to be able to assist their children with fishing.

Cost is $10 per person, $11 for nonresidents. Registration is available online at jcprd.com.

Halloween Spooktacular offers boo-tiful fun

Healthy Halloween Spooktacular from 9 to 11 a.m. Oct. 28 at the Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Drive, will start Halloween off with a healthy morning that will keep the kids and grandchildren energized throughout the busy day.

Participants of all ages are encouraged to come in costume, visit the freaky photo booth, make creepy crafts, enter the haunted hallway, prepare a healthy snack, and show off on the dance floor to favorite Halloween music!

It is a free event. More information is available by calling the community center at 913-826-3160.
D.A. Office: All sales are (mostly) final in Kansas

By Emilie Burdette

In Kansas, there’s normally no right to cancel a sale or return an item.

Some businesses may have their own customer service policies allowing for returns and refunds, but in general, a consumer is not afforded the right to change their mind when, for example, buying a car, buying jewelry, getting a haircut, or signing up for a gym membership. But when a sale is conducted door-to-door or at a place other than a business’s primary location, Kansas consumers are generally provided a three-day right to cancel the sale.

The Johnson County District Attorney’s Consumer Protection Division encourages residents to be cautious when conducting business with door-to-door solicitors. These sales may be high pressured and consumers may feel more obligated to make a purchase.

Unlike a traditional retail transaction, a resident isn’t able to walk out of the store if they are unhappy or uninterested in making a purchase. Instead, they may agree to something they don’t need, don’t want, or to unfavorable terms just to end the interaction on their own front porch. Additionally, the business soliciting the sale may be transient in nature with no ties to the local area, such as travelling groups selling magazines.

Because of the unique nature of these sales, the Kansas Legislature adopted a door-to-door sales statute found at K.S.A. 50-640. The statute generally requires a salesperson to give oral and written notice to a purchaser that the sale is cancellable until midnight of the third business day after the day on which an agreement or offer to purchase is signed.

There are specific required disclosures that must be printed on the receipt or contract provided to the consumer, as well as instructions on how to cancel the sale.

The District Attorney’s Office recently has taken several reports of door-to-door sales of alarm services where consumers were misled into changing their alarm service provider or the terms of their current agreement. The DA’s Office has also received reports of door-to-door solicitations for pest control services where consumers are induced into costly and lengthy contract terms.

It is not uncommon for businesses to utilize iPads or other tablet devices when conducting these sales. Consumers are requested to initial and/or sign via the electronic device without fully reviewing what they are signing.

If a resident does enter into a sale and the salesperson fails to discuss the right to cancel, fails to provide written notice with instructions for how to cancel, or a business refuses to honor a cancellation request, a violation of the Kansas Consumer Protection Act (KCPA) may have occurred. Additionally, the KCPA provides for a protected status if a consumer is over the age of 60.

Residents are encouraged to contact the DA’s Consumer Hotline at 913-715-3003 to file a complaint or learn more about when a three-day right to cancel applies.

Emilie Burdette is an assistant district attorney at the Johnson County District Attorney’s Office.
LiveWell offers chance to ‘Steps with Pets’

By Barbara Mitchell

The LiveWell Johnson County program, an initiative of the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, is launching a new program called “Steps with Pets” in early September after Labor Day.

Sponsored by LiveWell Johnson County and the Merriam Great Plains SPCA, “Steps with Pets” partners dogs and people who need exercise. The program benefits both the volunteers, who get the benefit of physical activity, and the dogs, who are more adoptable with regular exercise.

Walking provides many health benefits to people of all ages, including senior adults, and walking outdoors can increase these benefits. Research shows that regular physical activity reduces a person’s risk for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity and other chronic diseases. It helps maintain bone health and reduces loss of muscle as adults age.

Along with an increase in physical activity, “Steps with Pets” offers the chance to socialize with friends (furry and otherwise!), which can boost feelings of well-being and decrease stress, anxiety and depression. Social interaction and walking outdoors can also reduce the risk of dementia and positively influence brain health. Outdoor activities also lead to an increased confidence, improved creativity and better self-esteem.

“Steps with Pets” benefits also extend to the four-legged participants, including making the dog more likely to be adopted. Leash walks for shelter dogs are an invaluable form of both mental and physical stimulation that helps prepare a pet for real life scenarios that come with transitioning into a forever home. On walks, the dogs are practicing and perfecting the behaviors that adopters seek in potential pets.

To join “Steps with Pets” simply register as a volunteer through the Great Plains SPCA website (greatplainsspca.org/volunteer/). Make sure to select the application for the Merriam campus. Volunteers are trained to ensure positive interactions for all. Participants’ names will be entered into a monthly drawing for a fun bone-us (bonus)!

For further information, contact Anna Stark-Dowling, SPCA volunteer coordinator at 913-808-3368 or email astark-dowling@greatplainsspca.org. Mention the LiveWell “Steps with Pets” to make sure you receive your dog walking goodies—a leash, walking pack and water bottle—to keep you going for the long haul.

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

Interactive Murder Mystery Dinner

Wednesday, Sept. 13 • 4:30 – 8 p.m.
Cedar Lake Village and Hoeger House

It’s time to get the crew together to “Rock Around the Clock. Enjoy an evening of entertainment, dinner and getting “All Shook Up.” You don’t want to be the only one that is not “At the Hop!” Join the fun as Cedar Lake Village goes back in time and transforms into “Frosty’s Diner” for an evening of mystery and fun! Space is limited, reserve your spot today!

To RSVP for this event, please call (913) 780-9916 before Thursday, Sept. 7.
A new special event, called Park Palooza, will offer a day filled with activities for all ages from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17, at Shawnee Mission Park.

Sponsored by the Johnson County Park & Recreation District (JCRPD), the public celebration will take place at The Theatre in the Park (TTIP) complex. Park Palooza, with free admission, will feature music, entertainment, food trucks and lots of fun.

The entrance to TTIP is at 7710 Renner Road in Shawnee, just two blocks north of the main entrance to Shawnee Mission Park.

According to Jill Geller, JCRPD executive director, the purpose of Park Palooza is to thank county residents for their ongoing support and patronage of the district’s parks and programs.

“JCRPD has so much to offer, and we serve a wide variety of patrons throughout the year. To express our appreciation, we’re offering a free day of festivities in the park, and I truly believe there’s no better way to spend a Sunday in September,” she said. “We hope to see everyone there!”

The event will showcase the various JCRPD departments and facilities presenting a wide assortment of family-friendly activities and

No Pops in the Park, but car show and Fall Fest remain on

First, the bad news. There’s no annual Pops in the Park concert on Labor Day this year at Shawnee Mission Park.

The cancellation was announced by the Kansas City Symphony because of a conflict in its rehearsal and performance schedule.

The good news? Two other popular special events remain on the calendar at the Johnson County Park & Recreation District.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, the seventh annual Cars in the Park car show will take place from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Theatre in the Park complex, 7710 Renner Road, Shawnee, in Shawnee Mission Park. The event will feature cars, trucks, motorcycles and specialty vehicles. Admission is free for spectators. Food concessions will be available.

The annual Mildale Farm Fall Fest, another free event, is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Mildale Farm, 35250 W. 199th Street, Edgerton. Activities will allow visitors to explore and picnic on the 158-acre site, enjoy cider and hot cocoa, visit a large pumpkin patch, and ride a tractor-drawn hayride to a fire circle where they can roast marshmallows and listen to storytelling.

Catch-and-release fishing in all seven ponds will also be offered. Patrons will need to bring their own bait and tackle. Kansas residents ages 16 to 74 and nonresidents 16 and older also need to have a Kansas state fishing license.

Remember, no alcohol is allowed, pets must be on-leash, and vehicles must remain on roadways. More information is available by calling 913-826-2957.

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www.jocogov.org/thebesttimes • 23 • Sept-Oct 2017
A fun way to get involved in your spare time

By Lori Sand

Three local seniors speak very highly of their experience as volunteers at the recently opened Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center.

Jan and Bob Atkins of Roeland Park retired three years ago; she from teaching and he from Kansas Department for Children and Families. They began volunteering at the JCAHC, 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, on opening day in early June.

“I have very fond memories of this building as the old King Louie ice rink and bowling alley,” Bob said. Having lived in Johnson County since 1951, Bob remembers participating in lock-in activities for his children’s high school proms there and Jan took her son there for ice skating lessons years ago when he was 3.

Bob admits to being a history buff, and Jan’s passion seems to be volunteering. In addition to the time she gives to the county, she volunteers at the Shawnee Mission Medical Center gift shop, and partners with her 9-year-old granddaughter, Maggie, at Unleashed Pet Rescue. She and Bob also volunteer at Pawnee Elementary School and various United Way events.

Fellow JCAHC volunteer and Johnson County native, Tom McCabe of Overland Park shares a love and appreciation of history and also has fond memories of the King Louie West bowling alley. “I grew up in this building,” Tom said. “I joined the first bowling league in 1959 and on Sundays, King Louie offered pretty much the only thing to do.”

Volunteering in 2000

Tom first volunteered at the Johnson County Museum in 2000 following his retirement from Assurant. He was then hired as the museum’s office manager in 2007 where he worked for the next seven years before retiring again and went back to volunteering for the museum in 2014.

One thing that all three have in common is their interest in meeting and helping people. As a museum tour guide, Tom has lead about 800 tours of the All-Electric House over the years. The attention to detail in the museum and the caliber of the collection has impressed these seniors, as well.

“This place is amazing and unlike your typical county museum,” Tom exclaims. “They have really done everything first class.” He pointed out, for example, that the tables in the lobby are topped with miniature bowling lanes.

“People have told me, ‘I’ve seen the All-Electric House,’ but anyone who hasn’t been here yet, needs to visit,” he said. “This exhibit includes numerous items not seen before. In the past, it was displayed as the model home it was originally. But now it is shown as a family home with a lived-in look and more furniture from the collection.”

As visitors go down memory lane, Tom said he is also amazed at the number of women who have memories of shopping at Harzfeld’s department store and the community’s surprise at how segregated Johnson County was when they visit the exhibit about the Rev. Robert Meneilly, founding pastor of the Village Church in Prairie Village. Rev. Meneilly, progressive for the times, worked for fair housing in the county.

Volunteering at KidScape

Jan and Bob have volunteered for special events, such as the center’s opening weekend and the Route 66 exhibit, but their primary responsibilities are taking turns greeting visitors at the museum entrance and volunteering in the KidScape exhibit. They both agree that assignment keeps them on their toes.

“I’m amazed at the return visits KidScape gets,” Bob said. “It’s very popular.” The couple makes sure that patrons don’t bring food or drink into the area, clean up, check that entry fees have been paid and keep order in general.

“It’s a lot of fun, watching the kids dress up and enjoy the interactive play,” Jan said. “We’re still working to educate the community that this is a shared experience for adults and the children they bring.”

Many of the museum’s visitors are from out of town. “I’m stunned by the number of people from around the world I have met at the museum during my years here,” Tom said. “I’ve met people from the Czech Republic, France, Italy and London, to name a few.”

The exhibits in the Arts & Heritage Center are something that everyone can relate to, even if they didn’t grow up in Johnson County, Tom said.

“It’s about ordinary people doing extraordinary things. I enjoy watching the youth in the community growing up with an appreciation for the arts and history. And I appreciate the vision of the Board of County Commissioners. The arts and humanities breed creativity, which in turn is good for business.”

Anyone who has an interest in volunteering either on a regular basis for just a few hours a week or for special events is encouraged to consider the Johnson County Museum.

“It’s easy to do, the hours are flexible and as volunteers, we get to see the exhibits for free during the time we are here,” Jan said. “It’s a beautiful place, the exhibits are interesting and you might learn something, too,” Bob added.

Anyone who is interested in volunteer opportunities with the Johnson County Museum should visit jocogov.org/dept/museum/get-involved/volunteer contact.

Lori Sand is a senior public information officer at the Johnson County Manager’s Office.
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OneAssist improves access to public services

By Austin Falley

Are you aware of the services provided by Johnson County health and human service agencies and departments? How convenient would it be to call one number and speak to an individual who can direct you to the various services you might need?

Johnson County Government now provides OneAssist, a single telephone number for callers seeking assistance from county health and human service agencies and departments. One call to 913-715-8989 connects residents to resources and services from the departments of health and environment, human services, mental health and the county’s developmental supports agency.

“OneAssist means callers needing help from one or more of our health and human service agencies can connect with an individual who will get them to the correct resources they might need,” said Assistant County Manager Maury Thompson, who oversees human services departments. “This is the result of more than 18 months of research and conversations with clients and community partners designed to improve the delivery of health and human services.”

County residents needing services should call OneAssist during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday – Friday). The calls will be assessed based on the needs of the resident calling and directed to the appropriate agency or department.

“In the past, our residents may have called one agency or department seeking help, not realizing they might need assistance from other programs in the county,” Thompson said. “By centralizing our calls, we can address this and provide much better access to our various services.”

There are many different services these agencies and departments offer to county residents. Some of the most commonly requested services include:

- Department of Health and Environment — family planning, prenatal, STD/HIV testing, outreach nurse, immunizations, Women, Infants and Children (WIC), child care licensing and education, and targeted case management for pregnant and parenting teens;
- Human Services — aging services, utility assistance, food pantry and housing;
- Johnson County Developmental Supports — determines eligibility for those seeking intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD) services, maintains the county’s network of I/DD service providers, provides quality assurance of network and conducts annual assessments for individuals in services;
- Mental Health — case management, medication management and therapy.

The creation of Johnson County OneAssist addresses the Board of County Commission’s strategic priority to “promote the self-sufficiency of persons who are part of the county’s vulnerable populations, including those struggling with issues related to poverty.”

Austin Falley is a senior public information officer in the Johnson County Manager’s Office.

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www.jocogov.org/thebesttimes • 26 • Sept-Oct 2017
By Adele L. Wilcoxen

I t was Nov. 8, 1917. By that time, the nation had entered World War I, fighting since April. Eggs cost 48 cents a dozen, butter 49 cents per pound, milk 45 cents per gallon and a four-pound bag of sugar cost a whopping 37 cents. A four-room cottage in Johnson County could be rented for $7 per month.

But before you pine for “the good old days,” consider this; most rural homes in Johnson County lacked running water and sanitation, there was no such thing as canned goods at the local grocery, most clothing was hand-made, and Kansas farmers relied on kerosene lamps for light and wood or coal for cooking and heat. It was under these challenging times that Harry S. Wilson came to Johnson County to become its first county extension agent.

Johnson County K-State Research and Extension is celebrating its 100th anniversary of service with a free reception from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park. The reception will include educational programs, displays, fun activities and refreshments. Recognition of past agents and remarks by extension stakeholders will be at 11 a.m.

“We think the Arts & Heritage Center is the perfect place to celebrate our past and embrace our future,” Tara Markley, county extension director and community development agent, said. “It’s a beautiful, modern facility that houses the county’s history museum. It epitomizes extension services — a blend of the past and present. We are very much a part of Johnson County’s history and success.”

By 1912, farmers were demanding technically trained people to serve as advisors and demonstrators. President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Lever Act in 1914. The act established a national system of cooperative extension services connected to the nation’s land-grant universities, which were created when President Abraham Lincoln signed the Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862.

With the passage of the Smith-Lever Act, university faculty, called agents, were relocated in local communities to inform people about current developments in agriculture, home economics and other related subjects. Agents served as a bridge, helping local citizens apply scientific information and technology to their specific local needs.

Many homes had no phones or TVs

“It was before the age of the communication explosion,” Dennis Patton, horticulture agent, said. “It was a time when there weren’t telephones and televisions in every home. It was an attempt to put someone with a college education out where the people were.”

Wilson had been sent to Johnson County to “co-operate” with the state’s land grant university Kansas State Agricultural College and the Johnson County Farm Bureau. His task was to work with local farmers to increase food production and food conservation.

By 1921, the agent’s work included home economic programs. Women were demanding access to university information regarding pressure cooking and canning, sewing, modern heating, lighting, water and sewage systems. He also began 4-H youth programming in the county with the organization of two pig clubs.

In 1925, Wilson and the Farm Bureau were calling for a specialist to educate women in “dressmaking, home nursing and baby clinics and kitchen improvement.”

County women’s leader Mrs. Paul Brown launched an active campaign, signing up members for a women’s organization. She submitted a request to the county commissioners to fund the hiring of a home demonstration agent. In response, Charlotte Biester was hired on Feb. 1, 1926 to become the first Johnson County Home agent. Biester quickly went to work supervising the 12 homemaker units and forming nine 4-H project groups for girls.

Extension services change with demands

While its roots started in Johnson County agriculture, today’s cooperative extension service has grown and adapted, reflecting the demands of modern life. Kansas’ land grant university changed its name from Kansas State Agricultural College and is now called Kansas State University. Its cooperative extension service is known as K-State Research and Extension.

The Johnson County office now has six agents and 10 support staff to serve a county population of more than 580,000 residents. In 2016, agents reported more than 50,000 contacts, assisting the public with everything from radon testing to pond water quality management, to relief from miserable oak leaf itch mites.

Forty-five percent of the county’s land use is still agriculture. Its economic contribution to the county in 2016 was approximately $4.9 billion. Just like the farmers of the past, today’s producers embrace the latest technology. Some of the newest innovations include the use of GPS and drones to monitor crops.

Home economics is now called Family and Consumer Sciences and includes health, nutrition, food safety, aging education, financial management and indoor air quality in its programming. Canning and pressure cooking classes are more popular than ever due to the growing demands of a new generation embracing the local food movement.

Over the last century, cooperative extension has adapted its original mission to address changing times and needs. It still plays a significant role in modern American life. In an era of growing misinformation, citizens can trust their local extension agent to deliver to them research-based, unbiased information based on scientific fact, and help them apply it to their specific local needs.

Internet. Cell phones. Satellite imagery. Harry S. Wilson would be flabbergasted at the technological tools and international network of scientific resources now available for use by extension agents.

But he would be proud at how, 100 years later, the staff of Johnson County Extension still passionately embraces his original mission to serve and help county residents build better lives.

In July 1925, a 21-car caravan carrying 105 citizens, mostly women, toured Johnson County and stopped at key places, such as the Holmquist home in Monticello Township to promote and push for more Johnson County Extension services. Mrs. Paul Brown, shown, was instrumental in the movement to hire a second agent in the area of home demonstration and domestic science.

Adele L. Wilcoxen is public information coordinator at the Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Office.
By Gerald Hay

Johnson County Museum is celebrating its golden anniversary with the opening of a special “Let’s celebrate: The Johnson County Museum is 50!” exhibit beginning on Oct. 6.

The new temporary exhibit gallery is part of the main museum space at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park. Admission to the museum is $4 for senior adults (60-plus years of age), $5 for adults and $3 for children between the ages of 1-17. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

The special exhibit, running through April 2018, will showcase different objects from the museum’s collection that relate to the traditional and modern anniversary gifts. It will also feature a timeline on the history of the museum as well as facts about the museum’s growth over five decades.

The Johnson County Museum opened its doors to the public in 1967, but its history goes back to 1930 with the formation of the Shawnee Mission Indian Historical Society. The organization was initially created to help refurbish the Methodist Mission in Fairway, but expanded its mission to include preservation of other objects and documents that were significant to the history of the county.

In 1958, the historical society approved a “housing fund to purchase land and/or land and building for a meeting place and to house articles and papers that have been determined to be of historical import to the area known as Johnson County, Kansas.” The organization incorporated as a non-profit group a year later.

The Kansas Legislature approved an annual tax levy of up to one tenth of a mill for county museums in 1961. The annual tax would be used to “provide for the collection of records, documents and other articles of historical value or interest.” The Johnson County Board of Commissioners authorized the mill levy in 1964 for creation of a county museum and appointed a 17-member Board of Trustees for the museum to act as its directors.

Greenwood School purchased in 1965

The first home of the Johnson County Museum was purchased in 1965 when the former Greenwood School was acquired for $14,200 in Shawnee. The old school building, built in 1927, served as a schoolhouse until the 1960s. The building was renovated into a county museum from 1965-67.

In 1966, the county acquired the former Lanesfield School for $1 from the Edgerton Dizzy Doers Extension Group which had developed a plan to open the schoolhouse as a museum. The one-room school, dating back to 1869, was closed in 1963.

The Johnson County Museum celebrated its grand opening on Oct. 29, 1967 at its Shawnee location at 6305 Lackman Road. By the end of the year, the museum had 889 objects and 70 photographs in its collection.

The Lanesfield School Museum, 18745 Dillie Road, Edgerton, also opened in 1967.

The Johnson County Museum System was created in 1986 by the county commission to supervise both museum sites with oversight by the Museum Advisory Council. A strategic plan for both museums was launched in the following year resulting in restoration for the Lanesfield School from 1988-1989.

The 1950s All-Electric House was donated and moved from Prairie Village to the museum complex in Shawnee in 1994. Renovating the house, remodeling the museum and opening of its signature exhibit, “Seeking the Good Life,” occurred in 1998. A decade later, the museum’s new temporary exhibit “KidScape” opened in 2008 and later became a permanent installation because of its popularity.

King Louie West acquired in 2011

Plans to find a new home for the Johnson County Museum began in 2009. The county commission purchased the former King Louie West building in Overland Park two years later to house various county agencies, including the museum. The commission approved the creation of the Arts & Heritage Center at the former King Louie site in 2015.

The Johnson County Museum Department became a part of the Johnson County Park & Recreation District at the start of 2016.

Also in early 2016, the All-Electric House was the first item of the museum’s collection in Shawnee to be moved to its new location in Overland Park in the midst of construction of the Arts & Heritage Center. The new Johnson County facility, operated by the Park & Recreation District, was completed a year later, opening on June 10, 2017.

Aside from the museum, the Arts & Heritage Center also is home to an indoor theater for The Theatre in the Park and other productions, the district’s Fine and Performing Arts Department, the Emerging Artist program of Johnson County Developmental Supports and the Overland Park Historical Society.

The Johnson County Museum now has 19,430 objects and 36,882 photographs in its collection. The museum offers an expanded KidScape program; school, youth and scout programming; family and adult activities; and film and lecture series as well as tours of the its temporary and permanent exhibitions, including its “Becoming Johnson County” exhibit.

Over the years, the museum department has been recognized more than 20 times for excellence in exhibitions, programming and publication by national, regional and state organizations.
Big Read to focus on Vietnam War period

By Christopher Leitch

Johnson County Library is teaming up with its partner libraries in the Kansas City metropolitan region for the 2017 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Big Read.

For the first time, partnering libraries span the state line. On the Missouri side: the Kansas City, Mid-Continent and North Kansas City public libraries. In Kansas: the Johnson County, Olathe and Kansas City public libraries. They will revisit the turbulent period of the Vietnam War for a community-wide reading of Tim O’Brien’s seminal book “The Things They Carried.”

The program’s goal is to broaden a community’s view of the world and itself through the joy of reading and sharing a single book.

“Reading at its heart is the act of listening. A world that listens is a world at peace,” County Librarian Sean Casserley said.

A new exhibition series, “Constructing Truth,” will open Sept. 5 with a reception at 5:30 p.m. in the Central Resource Library, 9875 West 87th Street, Overland Park.

The exhibition, which will be on display through December, includes works from local artists and objects in the “unknown series” from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. A lecture at 6:30 p.m. will feature Dr. James H. Willbanks, an internationally recognized expert on the Vietnam War and author/editor of 14 books on war and conflicts. He served as a consultant to Ken Burns for the 10-part PBS documentary on the Vietnam War. A question-answer session will follow his presentation.

A program on “Protest, What Is It Good For?” is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 12 at Central Resource Library.

Many Johnson County Library book groups are reading “The Things They Carried” during the fall, and the only thing as enjoyable as a good book is talking about it. The book group schedule is accessible at jocolibrary.org/events/bookgroups.

The NEA Big Read program is the latest in a series of successful collaborative ventures among the regional libraries. Others include the Union Catalogue project, which makes all the library catalogues simultaneously visible to patrons, and the recent “Library Night at the K” partnership with the Kansas City Royals.

The Big Read will take place from September to November. All six libraries will offer events connected to “The Things They Carried” and the Vietnam War. More information about what other metro libraries are doing, including the Olathe libraries, is accessible at bigreadkc.org.

Christopher Leitch is community relations coordinator for Johnson County Library.
Cooking with cast iron

By Crystal Futrell

K
nown for its versatility and durability, cast iron skillets are the kitchen’s most universal tool.

You can use your cast iron like any other pan you might have but with certain restrictions. Cast iron is multipurpose in that you can use it on the stove top as well as in the oven. It can be used for frying, stews and soup, stir fry, baking and cooking some great blackened steaks.

The trouble with cast iron, though, is it takes a little effort to maintain. But the effort is well worth it. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

• **Seasoning:** This term simply means there is a layer of lubricated residue on the surface of the skillet that flavors food while resisting adhesion thus creating a non-stick, but flavorful, surface. It sounds gross, but it’s actually awesome.

• **Do you have to season?:** Some pans come pre-seasoned, and it should say this on the label if purchasing new. If purchasing a pan at a garage sale or thrift store, it’s best to assume you’ll need to season it yourself, especially if the surface is rusty and bumpy.

How to season: There are many ways to season; here is one. First, give the skillet a good scouring by scrubbing with kosher salt and a damp sponge, then thoroughly rinse the pan. Next, completely dry the pan in a hot oven. After it’s dried and cooled, pour a tablespoon of unsaturated oil (I use canola) in the skillet and rub it all over with paper towels. With fresh paper towels, remove any excess. Then, place the oiled pan upside down in an oven set at 450 degrees Fahrenheit and bake for an hour. Remove from the oven (making sure to use potholders!) and allow to cool. Repeat the process up to five times until you achieve that shiny, classic, cast iron finish. Repeat this lengthy process whenever your skillet needs to be re-seasoned, which isn’t that often if you clean it properly.

• **How to clean:** If seasoned well, all you’ll need to do is give your skillet a good rinse then completely dry the skillet in the oven. Do NOT let your skillet soak. And, please, do NOT put it in the dishwasher. If there are stubborn bits stuck to the skillet, heat it with kosher salt and oil, and scrub at the bits with paper towels clutched inside tongs.

The Master Food Volunteers at the Marais des Cygnes K-State Extension District advise while cast iron is multipurpose, it cannot be used efficiently on glass top stoves due to the inability to transfer heat. It should never be used in a microwave oven.

Cast iron can add up to 20 times the amount of iron into your food — great for people with iron deficiencies. You can cook with less oil in cast iron. The non-stick surface of a well-seasoned piece is almost as effective as the non-stick pan for use without the concerns of introducing chemicals from the coating into your food. Cooking acidic dishes (tomatoes) might cause a weird taste due to a reaction with the iron, according to the Marais des Cygnes Master Food Volunteers, adding:

“The benefit of using a cast iron pan is that it gets very hot and stays hot. Unlike thinner pans, the heat level doesn’t fluctuate in a cast iron. This makes it an ideal choice for foods that need high heat. Meats that need a hard sear but shouldn’t be scorched, like steak, or roasts that should be browned before braising, perform beautifully in a cast iron.”

For more tips on how to use this fantastic cookware, come to the Johnson County Extension class Cast Iron Skillet Cooking at 6 p.m., Oct. 17, at the Extension Office, 11811 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe. The cost is $20. Class attendees will learn more about searing meats to achieve a delicious deep brown crust and more! Register by calling 913-715-7000 or visit johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events/.

Crystal Futrell is family and consumer sciences/health and nutrition agent at Johnson County K-State Research and Extension.
Influenza (flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness and can lead to hospitalization and death.

Every year in the United States, millions of people are sickened, hundreds of thousands are hospitalized and thousands or tens of thousands of people die from the flu. Anyone can get the flu (even healthy people) and serious problems related to the flu can happen at any age, but some people are at a higher risk of developing serious flu-related complications if they get sick. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (such as diabetes, asthma or heart disease), pregnant women and young children.

“Flu season” in the United States can begin as early as October and last as late as May. An annual seasonal flu vaccine is the best way to reduce your risk of getting sick with seasonal flu and spreading it to others. When more people are vaccinated against the flu, less flu can spread through the community.

People 65 years and older can get any flu shot that is approved for use in that age group and there are also two other flu shots specifically designed for people 65 and older.

The first is a high-dose flu vaccine which contains four times the amount of antigen as a regular flu shot. The additional antigen creates a stronger immune response in the person getting vaccinated.

The second is an adjuvanted vaccine that is a standard dose of flu vaccine with an added ingredient that helps create a stronger immune response to the vaccination. Check with your healthcare provider to see if these types of vaccinations are available.

CDC recommends that everyone six months of age and older get a flu vaccine each year. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctor’s visits and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations. There are many places in Johnson County to receive a flu vaccination, including your local pharmacy, grocery store or the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment’s two walk-in health clinics at 11875 S. Sunset Dr., Olathe or 6000 Lamar Ave., Mission. Barbara Mitchell is with the Community Health Division at the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.

By Barbara Mitchell

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- Carpentry • Wood Rot • Dry Wall Repair
your Sept-Oct classifieds

**SERVICES PROVIDED**


**Brick, Block and Stone** all work available. I am insured and have forty years' experience. Call Paul 913-302-7297 Day or 913-321-0431 Night.

**Unwanted House Liquidation Services:** If you are considering downsizing and need to sell your house, we can buy your house “as is,” on your date of choice and can be flexible with moving dates. Call toll free 855-291-5005.


**Octavian’s Lawn Care.** Mowing, yard cleanup, shrub, tree trimming, gutter cleanup, landscaping, and hauling. Free estimates. Senior citizen discounts. 913-530-3536.

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

**Nook N' Cranny Residential Home Cleaning & Pet Service.** Dependable and specified to your needs. Call Mary Pat Mayer cell 786-223-6540. References available upon request.

**PC Partners, Inc.,** Computer Service is a local, 20-year-old, computer service firm dedicated to providing small businesses and home computer users with dependable on-site computer and Internet solutions. We offer a full-range of hardware, software, peripheral, and network support. 913-484-3275.

**Mitchell Painting:** Taking care of Johnson County homes since 1981. We paint interiors and exteriors, and stain decks and fences. We are fully insured. Howard Mitchell 913-381-6854.

**KCPC Tech** offers computer related issue repairs in your home or office! We come to you! http://kcpcctech.com or call: 913-215-0367.


**DOG CARE:** Overland Park area. Dog lover will take care of your dog in my home. Retired, $25 a day, locked fence in yard, and references. 913-642-5055.

**RESIDENTIAL LIFTS.** New & Recycled - Stair lifts, porch lifts, ceiling lifts, elevators. KC Lift & Elevator at 913-327-5557 (formerly Silver Cross- KC).

**Mister Green Landscaping & Lawn Care - Family owned and operated.** We offer competitive prices with excellent service. We are a one-stop business for your lawn needs. MOWING, CLEAN-UPS, LANDSCAPE, PATIOS, WALLS, DRAIN SOLUTION, IRRIGATION, TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL, YARD WORK. FREE ESTIMATES, Quick service, 10+ years’ experience, licensed & insured. 913-707-2551.

**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 and switches, drywall and carpentry. Johnson County Home Repair, LLC. Brooks Lytle 913-701-5171.

**SUNSHINE NATURAL NAIL SERVICES.** Reasonable cost spa manicures and pedicures, hot oil, paraffin treatments or just nail trimming completed in the comfort of your own home! I am a retired nurse and licensed nail technician. Services provided for men and women. Call Julia for appointment: 913-203-9494.

**FOR SECRETARIAL SERVICES, CALL "FLYING FINGERS," 913-432-0907:** Since 1997 -- fast, accurate, confidential: Novels, correspondence, dictation, spreadsheets & more -- type 80wpm, $18/hr; jdrake3@kc.rr.com.

**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 Shawnee, 913-486-9040.

**Writing/Editing/Design Services:** Each of us has unique life stories! Writing your story gives you a voice and a historical record. It inspires. Whether you want to share your story through a photo journal or a memoir, Narrate Your Story researchers, writers, editors and designers will help you tell your story. Visit narrateyourstory.com for your FREE copy of our Narrate Your Story workbook. Contact Susan Spaulding 816-560-5416 or susan@narrateyourstory.com.


**WANTED TO BUY**

**WANTED TO BUY:** Collector buying anything older Native American Rugs, Pottery, Jewelry, and Beadwork. Please call 913-433-6902.

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

**FOR SALE**

**Two Mount Moriah Cemetery Lots. Beautiful Shady Location by the Lake, $6,000 for both – Negotiable. 913-262-8278.**

**Cemetery Plots for Sale. Johnson County Memorial Gardens. The Old Rugged Cross section. Three pairs and one triple. Each $1,700, pairs $3,000. 913-709-2791; bmatthews936@gmail.com.**

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**All classes and events require registration unless otherwise indicated.**

**September**

**Movie Mondays.** 12:15 p.m. 9/4 - No movie; Senior Center Closed for Labor Day; 9/11 - Viewer’s Choice; 9/18 - “A Country Called Home;” 9/25 - “A Little Boy.” 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.

**Register in advance for lunch reservations.**

**September 5**

**6-8:30 p.m. $10. Roeland Park.** Register in advance for lunch reservations.

**September 6**

**Household: Downsizing.** 1:30 p.m. $19/$21 nonresidents. Matt Ross.

**September 7**

**Living with Arthritis.** 10 a.m. Lenexa Senior Center.

**September 8**

**Celebrate Fall with Strolling Strings.** 6-8:30 p.m. $10. Roeland Park. Register by 9/8.

**September 9**

**Creating Photobooks.** 9-11 a.m. $36/$39. Roeland Park.

**17th Annual Turkey Creek Car & Motorcycle Show.** 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Free. Merriam Marketplace, 5740 Merriam Drive. Car/Motorcycle entry $20 Pre-registration, $30 Event Day.

**September 10**

**Grandparents Day Sunday.** Noon–4 p.m. One grandparent admitted free with paid grandchild. $7/adult, $5/child ages 5-11 (Olathe residents receive $2 off admission price). Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop & Farm.

**September 11**

**Health Information & Referral Clinic.** 2–4 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

**September 13**

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

**September 14**

**Fall Harvest Bingo.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. $3/15 games. Irene B. French.

**Comedy Workshop.** 1:30 p.m. $17/$19 nonresidents. Tomahawk Ridge Community.

**September 15**

**Discover Johnson County History.** 10:45 a.m. $14. Antioch Park, 6501 Antioch Road Merriam. Lunch costs are on your own. Register at 913-826-3031.

**Family History Friday.** 9 a.m.– noon. Olathe Downtown Library.

**Bonding with Board Games.** 6 p.m. Extension Office.

**September 16**

**Scan Your Historical Photos.** 1:30–4:30 p.m. Olathe Downtown Library. Bring flash drive.

**September 18**

**Understanding Medicare.** 7-8:30 p.m. $3. Blue Valley Rec.

**Health Information & Referral Clinic.** 10 a.m.– noon. Olathe Downtown Library.

**September 19**

**The Heart of the Matter: Loss & Legacy.**

**September 20**

**Monarch Migration & Tagging.** 10-11:30 a.m. $15. Ernie Miller Nature Center, 909 N K-7 Hwy, Olathe. Register in advance at 913-831-3359.

**September 21**

**Card Bingo.** 12:15 p.m. Lenexa Senior Center.

**September 26**

**Cut the Clutter, Get Organized.** 1 p.m. Pre-registration required. Irene B. French.

**September 28**

**Fall Favorites Bingo.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. $5/$6. 12 games. Roeland Park.

**Luau and Blues Party.** 12:15 p.m. Lenexa Senior Center. Dress in your luau attire. Bring a treat to share with friends.

**Jam Session.** 1-2 p.m. Alzheimer’s Association Education Center, 3856 W. 75th St., Prairie Village.

**Homeless, Not Invisible with Artist Sharon Rodriquez.** 6–8 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

**September 29**

**Plants of the Prairie.** 12:30-3 p.m. $20/$22. Kill Creek Park, 11670 S Homestead Ln, Olathe. Registration deadline of 9/22. Call 913-831-3359.

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**Your Sept Calendar**

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**FACILITY LOCATIONS**

**BLUE VALLEY REC.:** Blue Valley Recreation Center at Hilltop: 7720 W. 143rd St., Overland Park, KS 66223; 913-685-6090; www.bluevalleyrec.org.

**CENTRAL RESOURCE LIBRARY:** 9875 W. 87th St., Overland Park, KS 66212; 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, KS 66061; 913-715-7000; www.johnson.ksu.edu/classes.

**INDIAN CREEK:** Indian Creek Branch Library, 13511 S. Mur-Len Rd., Olathe, KS 66062; 913-971-6835.

**ARTS & HERITAGE:** Arts & Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park KS 66212; 913-826-2787; www.jocococoAHC.com.

**IRENE B. FRENCH:** Irene B. French Community Center, 5701 Merriam Drive, Merriam, KS 66203; 913-322-5550.

**LENEXA SENIOR CENTER:** 13425 Walnut St., Lenexa, KS 66215; 913-477-7100.

**MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH STOP AND FARM:** 1200 Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS 66061; 913-971-5111.

**MATT ROSS:** Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty St., Overland Park, KS 66212; 913-642-6410.

**MILL CREEK:** Mill Creek Activity Center, 6518 Vista, Shawnee, KS 66218; 913-826-2950.

**NEW CENTURY:** New Century Fieldhouse, 551 New Century Parkway, New Century, KS 66031; 913-826-2850.

**OLATHE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY:** 201 E. Park St., Olathe, KS 66061; 913-971-6850; to register, 913-971-6888.

**PRAIRIE VILLAGE:** Prairie Village Community Center, 7720 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS 66208; 913-381-6464.

**ROELOAND PARK:** Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Drive, Roeland Park, KS 66205; 913-826-3160.

**SHAWNEE CIVIC CENTRE:** 13817 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, KS 66216; 913-631-5200.

**SHAWNEE SAFETY CENTER:** SenCom computer lab, lower level, 6535 Quivira Road, Shawnee, KS 66203; 913-631-5200.

**SYLVESTER POWELL:** Sylvester Powell Community Center, 6200 N K-7 Hwy, Shawnee, KS 66205; 913-971-6888.

**TOMAHAWK RIDGE:** Tomahawk Ridge Community Center, 11902 Martway St., Mission, KS 66202; 913-722-8200.

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October

Movie Mondays. 12:15 p.m. 10/2 “Manglehorn;” 10/9 - Viewer’s Choice; 10/16 - “Heritage Falls;” 10/23 - “Always;” 10/30 - “The Watson’s go to Birmingham.” 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.

October 2
Health Information & Referral Clinic. 2-4 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

October 3
Getting to Know your Smart Phone. 1 p.m. Pre-registration required. Irene B. French.

October 9

October 11
Retirement Planning Today. 6 p.m. $20. Extension Office.

October 12
Costume Bingo (wear a Halloween costume). 1:30-3:30 p.m. $3/15 games. Irene B. French.

October 13
Brain Games Bingo. 1:30-3:30 p.m. $5/$6 12 games. Mill Creek.

October 14
Writing - Historical Research for Writers. Please bring writing materials, tablet, or laptop to class. 1:30 p.m. $12 / $13 nonresidents. Arts & Heritage Center.

October 16
Health Information & Referral Clinic. 10 a.m.– noon. Olathe Downtown Library.

October 17
New Horizons Band Concert. 7-8 p.m. Arts & Heritage Center.

October 18
Understanding Medicare. 7-8:30 p.m. $3. Blue Valley Rec.

Retirement Planning Today. 6 p.m. $20. Extension Office.

October 21
Beginning Downloadables: eBooks, eAudio & eMagazines. 6-8 p.m. Olathe Downtown Library.

October 25
Retirement Planning Today. 6 p.m. $20. Extension Office.

October 26
Jam Session. 1-2 p.m. Alzheimer’s Association Education Center, 3856 W. 75th St.

Prairie Village.

Card Bingo. 12:15 p.m. Lenexa Senior Center.

Heal Your Leaky Gut. 6:30-7:30 p.m. $3. Blue Valley Rec.

Over-the-Counter Medications for Seniors. 1-2 p.m. Olathe Indian Creek Library.

October 28
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Application Help. 1–5 p.m. Olathe Downtown Library. Walk-ins accepted. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 785-764-8230.

October 31
Halloween Spook-tacular Party. 12:15 p.m. Please bring tricks and treats to share with friends. Lenexa Senior Center.
Precious moments then, can still be precious moments now.

While a lot of things change over the years, some things don’t. And getting older doesn’t mean you have to stop doing what you love. So we encourage our residents to keep on doing their thing while we take care of the rest.