20 (MOSTLY FREE) SUMMER-FUN ACTIVITIES

FIGHTING WHITE COLLAR CRIME

THE TRUTH ABOUT POVERTY IN JOHNSON COUNTY
Summer time is budget time
County staff works to maintain full range of services with allotted funds

For Johnson County residents, summer means more time to spend in our County facilities, whether that’s walking the Streamway Parks trail, checking out a book from one of our libraries, visiting the Johnson County Museum or seeing a play at The Theatre in the Park. And while employees of Johnson County Government certainly enjoy those activities, for many of us, summer time is also synonymous with budget time.

This is the time of year when staff digs deep into the budget, assessing residents’ needs against allotted funds. Staff then proposes a budget to the seven-elected members of the Board of County Commissioners, who make the decision.

This year, the proposed County budget is nearly $873 million, with approximately $697 million earmarked for services and the remaining $176 million for all reserves. The General Fund reserves are estimated at $65 million. Reserves play an important role in our budget. Not only does our Board General Fund reserve policy require a target of 20-25 percent, but doing so gives us a AAA credit rating, the best credit rating possible for a government organization. This allows us to borrow funds at lower interest rates, saving the County money.

Public input is a critical component; something we rely on every step of the way. The process is time consuming, but also enlightening and energizing.

Each of us who works for the County, whether staff or elected, recognizes that this is your money, derived primarily from property taxes, sales taxes and wastewater fees. Our job is to be careful stewards of your tax dollars, so they can support the more than 400 services the County provides our 550,000-plus residents.

Digging deep into the budget reminds us just how much good work the County does to make this a community of choice. In this issue you’ll read about a small part of that work, such as:

- Employees at Johnson County Developmental Supports who help adults with intellectual disabilities find meaningful work;
- MED-ACT employees trying to increase the number of residents who are CPR trained;
- Staff in the District Attorney’s office who work to combat white collar crime; and
- The Human Services department, providing services for economically vulnerable residents, including food pantries, low-income housing vouchers, rides for the elderly and weatherization projects.

Our goal with this publication is to inform you, the residents, of the many services your tax dollars support. We also hope that you’ll be inspired to get involved in your County, by voting, volunteering and voicing your opinion.

Let us know what you think at: jocomag@jocogov.org.

Ed Eilert
Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

Hannes Zacharias
County Manager

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Johnson County Elected Officials

Ed Eilert, Chairman
C. Edward Peterson, District 1
James P. Allen, District 2
Steven C. Klika, District 3
Jason Osterhaus, District 4
Michael Ashcraft, District 5
John Toplikar, District 6
Stephen M. Howe, District Attorney
Frank Denning, Sheriff
Just Experienced the fun of Shoppin’!

Top 3 Reasons to Drive to The Kansas Furniture Mall in Topeka...

1. Almost Endless selection in 5 stores... 711 rooms of furniture chosen by Kansans for Kansans...222 recliners...186 sofas... 116 bedrooms... 71 dining sets... over 100 mattresses... 1000’s of flooring options...AND over 10,000 rugs, lamps, pictures, and accessories to finish your look or the perfect gift.

2. Helpful Home Specialists... who get paid to help you find exactly what you need and to make and keep you happy... Not by what you purchase.

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BIG Selection, Local Connection!

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Follow Us!

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Lawrence, KS 66046
(785) 856-8444

Mon - Sat
10am to 8pm
Sunday
1pm to 5pm
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**Ways to Engage with JoCo**

**Online**
Visit jocogov.org to:
- Find your County Commissioner
- Get answers to questions
- Learn about the more than 400 services Johnson County provides to residents.

**Social Media**
Twitter: @jocogov
Facebook: facebook.com/jocogov
Pinterest: pinterest.com/jocogov

**By Phone**
Call Center: 913-715-5000
TDD: 800-766-3777

**In Person**
Attend a weekly Board of County Commissioners meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Thursdays on the third floor of the Administration Building, 111 S Cherry St., Olathe, Kansas 66061.

**By Email**
Find department directory at www.jocogov.org/departments
Send questions about this publication to: jocomag@jocogov.org

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**ON THE COVER:** Kansas’ natural past can still be seen from an observation deck on a hilltop in Johnson County Park & Recreation District’s Kill Creek Park. A beautiful 20-acre prairie remnant at the site contains more than 200 plant species. A visit to the prairie reveals attractive wildflowers blooming from late April through early October. Photo by Jeff Pierce.
In short

A brief glimpse into what’s going on at Johnson County Government

Kudos!

DHE receives national accreditation
The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment became the first public health department in Kansas to receive national accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Only 44 out of 3,000 public health departments have received this accreditation.

The JO wins APWA award
Johnson County Transit won an award for its work on the new Connex service and associated upgrades of transit and trails along Metcalf Avenue and Johnson Drive. The American Public Works Association gave this award to Johnson County Transit along with the Cities of Overland Park, Mission and Roeland Park.

Employee honored for justice work
Risë Haneberg, Johnson County criminal justice coordinator, won the Community Champion Award from Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt. Haneberg received the award at the Victims’ Rights Conference. Lisa Fleming from Johnson County Court Services also won an award at this conference for her work supervising sex offenders.

Justice Annex recognized for sustainability
The Johnson County Facilities department was honored by the Urban Land Institute and received a Capstone Award for transforming a 45,000-square foot vacant grocery store into an environmentally sustainable government building. The Justice Annex (shown below) houses offices for the Sheriff, Court Trustee, and Court Services. Johnson County worked with local El Dorado Architects on the the former Dillons at 588 E. Santa Fe in Olathe, which also earned a Silver LEED Certification for its sustainable design and construction.

Back to school
If taking care of your child’s back-to-school immunizations is on your summer to-do list, we can help. Our Department of Health and Environment offers more than a dozen vaccinations at the Olathe and Mission clinics. Fees for office visits and lab services and supplies are based on family size and income (major insurers may pay all or part of the cost). Some services are available regardless of ability to pay. Go to www.jocogov.org for more information.

Now accepting e-waste
Johnson County has added electronic waste recycling to its Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events, held on the second Saturday of each month, by appointment only. E-waste includes televisions, computers, and other home electronics. Each year more than two million tons of electronics are dumped in landfills. To schedule a drop-off call 913-715-6907 or visit hhwscheduler.jocogov.org.

Dates: Aug. 9th, Sept. 13th, Oct. 11th

quotable

“Every year, we take a look at what the other 104 counties did across the state, and in most years, our mill levy is 45-50 percent below the nearest county. As we consider a mill levy increase for FY 2015, and possibly in future years, to offset lost revenues from the five-year phase out of the mortgage registration fee by the state, it is reassuring to know that our mill levy is likely to remain, by far, the lowest in Kansas.”

— Scott Neufeld, Johnson County budget director

jocogov.org
Fighting white collar crime in Johnson County
White Collar Crime Unit investigates, prosecutes threats to local businesses

What do a construction company, an auto repair shop, a snow removal /landscape management company, a dentist, and a funeral home have in common? They all fell victim to a fraudulent $1.4 million payroll scheme investigated and successfully prosecuted by the Johnson County District Attorney’s White Collar Crime Unit.

Shane and Shauna Dipman, owners of Dipman Automotive Service in Olathe, were the “whistle blowers” in a multi-year felony investigation against Suzanne Hayden, a former Johnson County woman who conducted business under Easy Pay Payroll Services. Small companies like Dipman Automotive Service hired Hayden to handle its payroll, including the distribution of payroll taxes to the State of Kansas and the Internal Revenue Service.

The problems started for Dipman Automotive in 2008 when the federal government made electronic filing of payroll taxes mandatory for businesses. “Once we could no longer write checks for payroll taxes, Suzanne got access to our bank account. Instead of sending the taxes to the state and IRS, she sent them to her bank account,” said Shane Dipman. Hayden stole almost $90,000 over 10 months from Dipman Automotive.

An investigation by the Johnson County District Attorney’s Office and the Olathe Police Department revealed that Hayden also stole from several local businesses who hired her for the same service.

Since 2002, the Johnson County District Attorney has tackled tough investigations like this one with its White Collar Crime Unit. The unit investigates employee embezzlement, identity theft, elder exploitation, insurance and Internet fraud, and high-dollar theft cases. The unit is made up of two investigators, an attorney and a trial assistant. One investigator, Tom Gottschalk, is a CPA, and the other is a retired police officer. “Having that combination of expertise in this unit has proved very successful in helping us investigate and prosecute these crimes,” said Gottschalk.

“In the Kansas City Metro, our unit is unique,” said Stephen M. Howe, Johnson County district attorney. “These crimes are very involved and difficult to investigate. Word of mouth has spread that when it’s a complicated investigation, our office should get the case. The Feds used to take these types of cases, but they bring them to us now.”

Public safety helps attract businesses

Johnson County is the economic engine for Kansas. Between 2003 and 2013, Johnson County added an average of 21 new businesses every month, accounting for 115 percent of the total growth in the state of Kansas and almost 70 percent in the Kansas City Metro area. The vast majority of businesses are considered small businesses. “We find that smaller businesses seem to put a lot more trust in their employees, and have fewer safeguards in place to protect from crimes like fraud or embezzlement,” said Howe.

Experts in economic development say that public safety is one of the amenities that attract businesses to Johnson County. “The commitment of our local law enforcement agencies over the decades has resulted in speedy response times, safe neighborhoods and a business environment that has earned recognition from national publications like CNN Money Magazine, U.S. News & World Report and Forbes,” said Tracey Osborne, CCE, president, Overland Park Chamber of Commerce. “Business owners want a safe environment for themselves and their employees, as well as a regulatory and justice system they can trust. We believe they find what they seek in Johnson County.”

Community training

One of the things that surprised the Dipmans was that their bank didn’t prevent Hayden’s embezzlement. “We took for granted that the banks
watched the transactions and looked for red flags or anomalies,” Dipman said. That’s why the White Collar Crime Unit spends a lot of time holding training sessions for local banks, law enforcement, retail establishments and other community partners. There are many warning signs that a business can look for. “If your accountant or bookkeeper never takes a vacation day, you might assume it’s because she is a loyal employee. It may be because she doesn’t want anyone else to see the books,” said Gottschalk.

### Harsher sentences for white collar crimes

The state of Kansas has enhanced penalties for fraud and elder abuse. “Previously you would receive the same sentence for being convicted of embezzling $1,000 as you would $100,000,” says Gottschalk. “That’s no longer the case. When fiduciary trust is violated, a judge can factor that into the sentencing.”

Suzanne Hayden received a sentence of 19 years in the custody of the Kansas Department of Corrections. “We couldn’t have received that sentence ten years ago,” says Howe. The Dipmans were happy with the result. “She about put us under. If we hadn’t gotten financed when we did, we probably would have defaulted. $100,000 might not be a lot to some people but for small businesses, it shouldn’t be taken lightly. People steal because they think they can get away with it.”

Consumers, businesses or other organizations who believe they have been the victim of white collar fraud should call the County’s White Collar Crime Hotline at 913-715-3140. In addition, the White Collar Crime Unit is available to provide educational programs concerning the detection and prevention of white collar crime.

### Five signs of white collar crime

The Johnson County District Attorney’s White Collar Crime Unit suggests that small businesses watch out for these five red flags:

1. Profits are declining despite an increase in revenue and sales.
2. No one at your company periodically checks part or all of your computerized check register against actual checks written.
3. An employee has custody of assets (company bank account) and record-keeping responsibilities (accounting system) without a second person examining the finances.
4. No one periodically verifies charges to the company credit card.
5. No one besides your accounting or office manager follows up when a customer states she paid one or more invoices but hasn’t seen them credited on the account statement.

**Did you know?**

Sociologist Edwin Sutherland coined the term “white collar crime” in 1939 to describe “a crime committed by a person of respectability and high social status in the course of his occupation.”

**WEB EXTRA** To watch a video of Shane and Shauna Dipman discussing their experience as white collar crime victims, visit www.jocogov.org/jocomag.
Ask 34-year-old Devon Hammer what he likes best about his job washing dishes at the Bob Evans Restaurant in Merriam and he’s quick to answer: “I have my own checking account. And, a Star Trek checkbook.”

A checking account for a man with a job may not sound like a big deal. But for Hammer, it’s a source of deep pride — and something he likely wouldn’t have accomplished without help from Johnson County Developmental Supports (JCDS).

Since 1972, the JCDS Community Employment program has recruited, placed and trained adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities into jobs at hundreds of businesses in the Kansas City Metro. JCDS has five employment specialists who navigate clients through the entire job process, from creating resumes and filling out job applications to interviewing practice and on-site job training.

The Community Employment Program is one of many ways JCDS helps this vulnerable population of adults lead fulfilling and independent lives. JCDS serves more than 500 people each day, providing volunteer opportunities, retirement activities, residential services, and case management. While JCDS offers other employment opportunities such as contract labor and document shredding at its workshop, the agency strives to place individuals in jobs out in the community whenever possible.

“Community employment is critical because it allows individuals to reach their highest levels of independence and productivity,” said Chad VonAhnen, executive director, Johnson County Developmental Supports. “We all want to be part of our community and contribute in a meaningful manner. This program allows us to help people with disabilities get where they aspire to go.”

In addition to linking business with loyal, reliable and passionate employees, JCDS offers several free services, including:

- On-site training (phases out when the client is ready to work independently);
- Recruiting services (no charge for placement);
- Job tryouts (allows a company to evaluate potential employees before hiring).

Sometimes JCDS community employment specialists identify a potential employer by accident. “I was eating at Bob Evans and ended up chatting with the general manager,” recalled Vicki Taylor, JCDS community
employment specialist. “I mentioned what I did for a living, found out that the restaurant was looking for a dishwasher, and told her about Devon, who I knew was looking for a job and lived right in the neighborhood.”

That general manager, Suzanne Alston, hired Hammer after two interviews. She said he’s fantastic at his job — good enough that she hopes to increase his weekly shifts from two to three — but emphasizes that he contributes much more than clean dishes.

“Devon is good for our team morale. He helps set the mood here, and everyone likes him and looks out for him,” said Alston.

On an opposite side of Johnson County, 25-year-old Shawn Maldonado is fitting in equally well with the staff at Jefferson’s Restaurant in Olathe. Owner Michael Emerson brought Maldonado in as a dishwasher but sees his potential to branch out into other areas of the kitchen. His supervisor, Manager Brittney Roberts, praised his positive attitude and work ethic. “I never have to worry when Shawn is on dishes,” Roberts said.

Shawn’s community employment specialist, Leticia Gutierrez, has spent the past 29 years training clients at their new job sites. “We spend quite a bit of time at first with our clients in their workplace, making sure they are stable and comfortable, helping the employee and the rest of the team learn how to work together and recommending any needed accommodations,” Gutierrez explained.

“This program allows us to help people with disabilities get where they aspire to go.”

JCDS Community Employment Specialist Jo Duncan was able to recommend a simple accommodation for her client, 21-year-old Dave Mahon, who compiles grocery orders that customers of Zoomin’ Market in Olathe purchase online and pick up curbside. “One of Dave’s hands has a disability, and he was having trouble unstacking plastic tubs,” said Duncan. “I was able to come up with a solution — a hand/wrist piece with a metal hook that makes that task much easier for Dave.”

Zoomin’ Markets Owner John Yerkes said, “The process has been phenomenal. Having someone dedicated to training and transitioning Dave has been great. As for Dave, he is accurate, always looking for something to do, and everyone loves his smile.”

To learn more about JCDS employment services, call 913-826-2626 or visit www.jocogov.org.

WEB EXTRA

Visit jocogov.org/jocomag to view more photos of Devon, Shawn and Dave on the job, and read some testimonials from businesses that have employed JCDS clients.

JCDS workforce partners

Employees who are placed through JCDS have a wide variety of skills that range from those suited to the service industry (fast food, grocery stores, janitorial, housekeeping) to jobs that require more technical skills, such as working in the health care industry and completing clerical tasks. The hundreds of Kansas City Metro companies that employ JCDS workers include:

Aramark  
Bushnell  
Dr. Hannah, Orthodontics  
Dr. Sjogren, Dentistry  
Home Depot  
Hen House Markets  
Hy-Vee Food Stores  
Johnson County Community College  
Johnson County Library  
José Peppers  
KU School of Nursing  
Mar-Beck Appliance  
Marshalls  
Panera Bread Co.  
Price Chopper  
Wal-Mart  
Westlake ACE Hardware

New approach to CPR can save more lives

“Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin’ alive, stayin’ alive. Ah, ha, ha, ha, stayin’ aliiiiiiive…”

Odds are that when the Bee Gees released the song “Stayin’ Alive” in 1977 they had no idea the mega-hit would be used decades later to do just that — keep people alive. But the song provides the perfect background to a new approach to CPR that area medical professionals say can save lives.

Called hands-only or compressions-only CPR, this new approach eliminates mouth-to-mouth breaths and relies instead on swift chest compressions: 100 chest compressions per minute — the exact number of beats per minute in the Bee Gee’s hit song.

“That song is an easy, effective way to help people performing CPR provide an optimal number of chest compressions per minute,” said Aimee Eickmann, who coordinates MED-ACT’s Johnson County HeartSafe initiative.

Johnson County MED-ACT provides emergency medical services to residents, including ambulatory care. MED-ACT also works to create a safer and more prepared community. So even though paramedics respond as quickly as possible — within eight minutes, 90 percent of the time — they could still use a little help from residents.

Johnson County HeartSafe

Johnson County HeartSafe is an initiative to increase residents’ chances of survival after sudden cardiac arrest through bystander CPR. The initiative kicked-off on June 1, 2014, by issuing a challenge to train 25,000 Johnson County citizens in hands-only CPR by June 1, 2015.

In 2013, MED-ACT responded to 638 calls for cardiac arrest. In 2012, they responded to 661.

“There are 80 percent of sudden cardiac arrests happen in private or residential settings and Hands-Only CPR can double or even triple a victim’s chance of survival,” Eickmann said. “If you do have to perform CPR, it will likely be on someone you love.”

Hands-only CPR

Johnson County Med-Act has joined forces with other area medical professionals to launch HeartSafe, a program aimed at increasing the number of residents who are trained in Hands-Only CPR. The approach is designed to be used on adults and children 13 and over.

1. Call 9-1-1 (or send someone to do so).
2. Begin Hands-Only CPR, timing compressions to the rhythm of “Stayin’ Alive.”

Continue Hands-Only CPR until an AED arrives and is ready for use or EMS providers take over care. And remember, any attempt at CPR is better than no attempt.

The American Heart Association still recommends CPR with a combination of breaths and compressions for:
• Infants
• Children
• Anyone found already unconscious
• Any victims of drowning, drug overdose, collapse due to breathing problems, or prolonged cardiac arrest.

WEB EXTRA

Visit www.jocogov.org/jocomag to:
• Download the free “Hands-Only” mobile app;
• Learn how to make your community group or workplace HeartSafe;
• Complete a File of Life.
What is your favorite “hidden gem” in Johnson County?

“Beautiful Antioch Park in Merriam, Johnson County’s oldest park, remains one of the County’s most popular parks, attracting up to 700,000 visitors each year.”
Chairman Ed Eilert

“A walking tour of the neighborhoods of Northeast Johnson County is a delightful way to spend an afternoon. The look and feel of each is distinct.”
First District Commissioner C. Edward Peterson

“The 1950s All-Electric House at the Johnson County Museum, celebrating its 60th anniversary, captures why a home in the suburbs was part of the American dream after World War II.”
Second District Commissioner James P. Allen

“The Annual Spring Hill Fall Festival, celebrating its 60th anniversary, is for everyone who loves a small town and showcases the community’s ‘Denim and Diamonds,’ September 18-20.”
Third District Commissioner Steven C. Klika

“The 9-11 Memorial in Overland Park. It’s a quiet place to remember the lost and to reflect on what is important in life.”
Fourth District Commissioner Jason Osterhaus

“Fourth Fridays in downtown Olathe. Appreciating the downtown renewal efforts led by Ryan Nelson and Emily Kukal. Come join us!”
Fifth District Commissioner Michael Ashcraft

“The Annual Johnson County Fair with free admission. It will be celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2015 in Gardner as a great event for all ages.”
Sixth District Commissioner John Toplikar

at work

with the Board of County Commissioners

The budget is one of the most important documents Johnson County Government prepares because it identifies the public services and programs to be provided and how they are to be financed in a fiscal year.

By state law, the Johnson County Board of County Commissioners must adopt the annual budget by August 25.

Approval of the budget in August involves an estimated mill levy. The final setting of the mill levy for FY 2015 will be established by the end of October with the final property valuations by the Johnson County Department of Records and Tax Administration.

The mill levy is only for Johnson County Government and does not include other taxing entities, such as the state of Kansas, cities, or school districts.

The FY 2015 fiscal year begins on January 1.

Visit www.jocogov.org to learn more about the County’s budget, read Budget Director Scott Neufeld’s weekly budget blog, and for more information about the work of the Board of County Commissioners.
Hit the trails!

Johnson County Park and Recreation District maintains equestrian trails, mountain bike trails, paved walking trails, and shared use paths that put residents closer to nature while also offering great opportunities to exercise. Whether you bike, walk, run, or just enjoy observing nature at its finest, here are a couple of trails that have become local favorites:

Kill Creek Streamway Park
If you’re looking for the serenity of a trail in a rural country setting, Kill Creek Streamway Park (33460 W 95th Street, De Soto) is the destination for you. It consists of two segments totaling 6.8 miles of paved, shared-use trail. The trail access point for the south segment is located in Kill Creek Park near Shelter #1 and the park’s 23-acre native prairie remnant, while the north trail’s access is located on 95th Street south of K-10 Highway in De Soto.

Gary L. Haller Trail
Located in Mill Creek Streamway Park (1700 Northgate Street, Olathe) and the first completed trail in Johnson County Park & Recreation District’s Streamway system, it spans approximately 15 miles from Olathe to Lenexa and Shawnee to the Kansas River. With connectivity to Shawnee Mission Park, Black Hoof Park, and Stagecoach Park along the way, it offers walkers, runners and bikers a variety of recreational opportunities. The trail was designated by the National Park Service as a National Recreation Trail in 2010.

FREE

20 (mostly free)

If you’re staying here this summer, there’s a lot of great ways to stay active, busy and entertained! Johnson County is always abuzz with fun activities for residents of all ages — not just during the summer months, but all year long.

You can have fun nearly every day when you live in a County with:

- 12 developed parks on more than 5,200 acres of parkland that feature lakes, marinas, beaches, golf courses and trails;
- 13 libraries that, combined, offer approximately 1.2 million holdings, including books and audiovisual materials – not to mention a wide-range of cultural activities and programming for all ages; and
- three local history museums with interactive exhibits, special activities, and a collection of more than 40,000 historical photographs and more than 15,000 objects. Visiting the 1950s All-Electric House, The Johnson County Museum of History and the Lanesfield School historic site are great ways to spend a day!

Here are some other ideas for fun in JoCo . . .

Theatre in the Park
Each summer The Theatre in the Park presents a season of Broadway style musicals in Shawnee Mission Park with a separate entrance at 7710 Renner Road.

The 2014 summer season at Johnson County’s The Theater in the Park runs through August 9. Upcoming productions include The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (July 23-26) and Ragtime (Aug. 1-3 and Aug. 6-9). **Tickets are $8 for adults, $6 for youth** (ages 4-10), and **children 3 and under are free**. More information at: theatreinthepark.org or by calling 913-826-3012.

Movies in the Park
Once again, The Theater in the Park also offers $1 movie nights under the stars through August 23. Upcoming movies include the “Iron Man” trilogy, Tuesday, July 22, “The Wizard of Oz,” Tuesday, August 5, “When Harry Met Sally,” Tuesday, August 12, and “The Goonies,” Saturday August 16.

**Tickets are $1. More information at: theatreinthepark.org or by calling 913-826-3012.**

Citizen Soldiers on the Prairie exhibit
The Johnson County Museum’s popular exhibit, “Citizen Soldiers on the Prairie” examines the role that workers at the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant played in defending the United States for 50 years, and how the plant dramatically changed Johnson County. The exhibit is on view through August 23. More information is available at www.jocomuseum.org, or by calling 913-715-2550. **FREE**

Night Fishing
Catch fish by surprise and enjoy a unique experience in Johnson County parks by joining an overnight fishing expedition! Overnight fishing opportunities last from 11 p.m. – 5 a.m. at Kill Creek Park on Aug. 16 and Shawnee Mission Park on Aug. 23. Call 913-888-4713 for more information. **FREE** with a valid Kansas fishing license and a Johnson County Park & Recreation District fishing permit.

Mobile MakerSpace
Johnson County Library’s popular MakerSpace — where people can learn new skills and software, and make cool stuff — is on the road this summer. Check out the 3D printer, produce a video, or create your own musical instrument.

You can always visit MakerSpace inside the Central Resource Library (9875 W. 87th St, Overland Park), but this summer it’s coming to a neighborhood library near you every week through August 15! Visit www.jocolibrary.com/makerspace for more information or call 913-826-4600. **FREE**

Shawnee Mission Radio Control Club
Take in an air show every Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. during the summer
months as the Shawnee Mission Radio Control Club brings its planes, helicopters and other high-flying machines to Shawnee Mission Park for all to see. Or bring your own and join in the fun! Visit www.smrcc.net for more information. FREE

Kansas City Kite Club
If the buzzing of motors isn’t your thing, the Kansas City Kite Club meets up at Heritage Park (16050 Pflumm Road, Olathe, Shelter 1) on the 2nd Sunday afternoon of every month for its own graceful style of aerial acrobatics. Bring a kite and join the fun or enjoy a picnic lunch under a colorful display in the park sky. Club members usually show up around 1 p.m. Visit www.kckiteclub.org for more information. FREE

Storywalk
Located in Antioch Park (6501 Antioch Road, Merriam, Kansas) along the walkway adjacent to the park’s Dodge Town area, Storywalk consists of a series of panel signs that provide an interactive reading experience for children and their parents or caregivers. Each station contains two pages from a popular children’s book with a suggested activity or action rhyme. FREE

Shawnee Mission Park and Kill Creek Park Beaches
Nothing says summer like a day at the beach. Shawnee Mission Park (7900 Renner Road, Shawnee) and Kill Creek Park (11670 Homestead Lane, Olathe) both feature sandy beaches where you can catch some rays and cool off by taking a swim. Open daily through August 3. For information on times, admission fees and season passes, call 913-312-8847.

Shawnee Mission Park Marina
Go for a summer adventure on the high seas of Shawnee Mission Park Lake! Boat rentals at the marina include canoes, pedal boats, paddleboards, kayaks, and fishing boats. The Marina is open daily until August 3, then open weekends-only through Labor Day. Call 913-312-8847 for rental rates.

... Continued on page 14
Road Trip on the JO
Did you know that you can ride “The JO” (Johnson County’s public commuter bus system) all the way to Union Station, the Plaza and even Lawrence? The JO is a great way to see the region, save money on gas, and enjoy a little adventure. Plus, all JO buses now have free wi-fi service, which means that you can even get a little work done or take in a movie while traveling. Visit www.thejo.com or call 913-829-4653 for more information and fees.

Heritage Park Golf Course is a par-71 championship course that plays to 6,876 yards from the tips. The course is located at 16445 South Lackman Road in Olathe and is accessible from the park’s west entrance off Lackman / Blackbob Road. Call 913-829-4653 for more information and fees.

Tomahawk Hills Golf Course was built in 1910 and stretches 6,003 yards with beautiful tree-lined fairways and magnificent 9th and 18th hole cliff views. The course is located at 17501 Midland Drive in Shawnee and is accessible from Midland Drive off I-435. Call 913-631-8000 for more information and fees.

Kansas City Film Festival in Johnson County
If you missed the Kansas City Film Festival, now is your chance to see those films, right here in Johnson County. The Central Resource Library (9875 W. 87th St, Overland Park) welcomes Reel Spirit and the Kansas City Film Festival on Saturday, August 9, as they present a series of short films by local filmmakers. Three films will be screened at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., and filmmaker talks will follow the 11 a.m. screening. FREE

Ernie Miller Nature Center
Located at 909 North Highway 7 in Olathe, the Ernie Miller Nature Center is a great way to escape the hustle and bustle of city life to commune with nature. The first nature center in the County, Ernie Miller consists of a diverse range of habitats such as tall grass prairie, upland meadows, bottomland forest and a beautiful stream to explore. It also provides live animal displays and a variety of exhibits. The 116-acre park has been preserved in much of its natural state and features an outdoor amphitheater, picnic shelter, and three miles of trails. Visit www.erniemiller.com or call 913-764-7759 for more information. FREE

Let them run free: off-leash dog parks
Let your dog burn off some energy and meet other dog lovers at one of Johnson County Park & Recreation District’s four dog parks. The off-leash areas are located in Shawnee Mission Park, Thomas S. Stoll Memorial Park, Kill Creek Streamway Park and Heritage Park. FREE

Art in the Stacks featuring KC Fringe Festival artists
KC Fringe Festival is an annual performing and visual arts extravaganza that takes place later this summer. Now is your chance to view the work of six Fringe Festival visual artists through Johnson County Library’s “Art in the Stacks” program, at four neighborhood libraries through August 30. For more information, visit www.jocolibrary.org/artinthestacks, or call 913-826-4600. FREE

Johnson County Fair
See Johnson County in a whole new, festive way at this year’s County Fair, July 29-August 2 at the Johnson County Fairgrounds in Gardner. This year’s theme is “Fur and Feathers,” and you’re sure to see a lot of award-winning animals, as well as other entertainment, including a rodeo, demolition derby, carnival and much more. And don’t forget to show up hungry because there’s always lots of good stuff to eat. Call 913-856-8860 for more information. Admission is FREE.

WEB EXTRA
Visit www.jocogov.org/jocomag for additional things to do in Johnson County this summer, a list of things to do in Johnson County this fall, and to download trail maps.
Take a step back in time with JoCoHistory.org

Spend just a few minutes on JoCoHistory.org and it’s easy to get lost in our County’s past. Browse through historical photos, see what made headlines back in the 1960s, or search obituaries dating back to the nineteenth century. JoCoHistory.org is a partnership between Johnson County Archives, Johnson County Library, Johnson County Museum, and several other organizations that opened their collections and archives to the public. Here are some snapshots of what you’ll find:

People

JoCoHistory.org includes a collection of more than 40,000 historical photos. Browse through albums of families, brides, farmers, clergy, teachers and more.

History Mystery

Recognize these girls? There are hundreds of historic Johnson County photos on JoCoHistory.org without identification. You can view these photos and help to identify the people in them.

In the classroom

JoCoHistory.org offers resources for educators to build lesson plans about Johnson County’s history. Students working on a history paper or class assignment can do research or email questions to Johnson County history experts (jcmuseum@jocogov.org).

Cities & towns

Johnson County has 16 “lost towns.” What led to the demise of Mt. Pleasant? Where did freed slaves set up a community? In which “lost town” did Union soldiers drink and gamble? Find out in the Lost Communities section of JoCoHistory.org.

If you’re on Twitter, be sure to follow @jocohistory. Stay entertained and informed with “Throwback Thursday,” “Fun Find Friday” and blast-from-the-past photos and images that are sure to make you smile...and learn.
The truth about poverty in Johnson County
With suburban poverty on the rise, County works to reverse the trend

To people who don’t live here, Johnson County’s single most defining trait may be its wealth — and for good reason. The County’s average per capita income is 40 percent higher than the state’s: about $73,000 per household compared to $51,000. Of the nation’s more than 3,100 counties, Johnson County ranks 81st in per capita income, putting us in the top three percent in the nation.

But now Johnson County is on another list: Suburbs with a fast-growing poverty rate. Since 2000, the rate has grown nearly 150 percent, the fastest in the six-county metropolitan region.

Because of that, the seven-member Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) made helping the County’s vulnerable populations its top strategic priority for 2015, acknowledging that the County’s long-term prosperity depends on reversing the trend.

For years, County government has overseen programs aimed at helping poorer residents: distributing emergency assistance for utilities, overseeing low-income housing vouchers, even running six food pantries. But an issue as complicated as poverty extends beyond what any single organization can do, requiring instead a broad collaborative effort among school districts, businesses, charities and the faith community.

“Our overall goal is to help individuals help themselves,” said Debbie Collins, director of the County’s Human Services Department. “And we rely on a vast network of organizations to make that happen.”

The rise in poverty here is something that Karen Wulfkuhle, director of United Community Services (UCS) of Johnson County, has been tracking for years. The non-profit organization, funded in part by United Way, provides research and analysis on human service needs in Johnson County.

Volunteers stock one of the six food pantries run by Johnson County’s Human Services Department.

“This is a hidden-in-plain-sight problem that’s growing,” she said. “But we’re lucky here. We have leaders and residents who are committed, concerned and willing to tackle the problem head on.”

Poverty by the numbers

Nationwide, poverty in the suburbs is growing at twice the rate of either cities or rural areas, according to researchers.

The federal poverty level is $19,790 a year for a family of three. About 35,000 of Johnson County’s 550,000-plus residents live at or below that line.

However, most poverty experts agree that people still struggle to make ends meet at 200 percent of the federal poverty level — $39,580 annually for a family of three. Close to 95,000 County residents fit that description; the same number of residents who live in Lenexa and Leawood combined.

So what’s fueling the growth? For one, lack of well-paying jobs, said Wulfkuhle. In fact, when people say they don’t know any poor people in Johnson County, she points out that they interact with them every day. Of the County’s poor who are living in families, 75 percent have at least one member working.

“They’re handing you your dry cleaning or coffee or groceries,” she said. “Part of the appeal of Johnson County is that you don’t have to drive far to get any service you need. But who’s providing those services? Who’s working the counter?”

For Wulfkuhle, the math is simple. With minimum wage at $7.25 an hour, a full-time employee would gross about $1,190 a month. The average cost to rent an apartment in Johnson County is about $890 a month. The average cost for childcare: more than $1,000.

“It doesn’t add up,” she said.

The recession was the tipping point, moving people out of high-paying jobs and into low-wage positions or, sometimes, none at all.

“Try getting your child to daycare and yourself to a job in the suburbs without reliable transportation.”
“That’s when we saw all of these people who went from careers to exhausting their 401K accounts to broke,” says Collins. “And they had no idea how to cope.”

**Broke in the ‘burbs**

In general, experts agree that suburban poor is different than urban poor. The reasons:

**Sprawl.** A trait that made the suburbs attractive for its early settlers now creates barriers for the poor. Services, jobs and homes are all scattered.

**Transit.** While 1,800 people use The JO daily, routes are limited. Mass transit hasn’t traditionally been a financial priority for the majority of the County’s leaders.

“Try getting your child to daycare and yourself to a job in the suburbs without reliable transportation,” said Wulfkuhle. “The ability to manage your day is so profoundly challenged when you have limited options.”

**Housing.** Many people who work here can’t afford to live here, said Collins.

The Federal Housing Choice program, commonly called Section 8, funnels money to cities and counties to assist very low-income, the elderly and disabled with housing costs. Johnson County has 1,443 vouchers to disperse annually. The County has a three-year waiting list that is now closed. “There’s no point in putting more people on it,” said Collins.

**Lack of philanthropy.** Charities and philanthropists typically earmark their funds to urban areas; even those based in the suburbs send money away.

**Picture of poverty**

As the County government and other agencies strategize on how best to help the poor, they first must draw a clearer demographic picture of the County’s poor.

...Continued on page 18

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**Head Start helps put families on the right path**

At 22, Angee Kilmer’s life veered onto a path she hadn’t expected: a struggling, single mom with no help from her ex-husband.

She had a goal — to graduate nursing school so she could support her then-toddler son — but getting there seemed overwhelming. Kilmer studied full-time and worked two jobs, as a hospital secretary and as an AIDS educator.

“I took home $200 a week,” she said. “And that’s how much daycare cost.”

So Kilmer did what many in that situation do, creating a patchwork of care for her son that included sending him to her parents in rural Missouri for weeks at a time.

Then a friend suggested she look at Head Start of Shawnee Mission, which provides top-quality early childhood education and resources to 200 low-income families, with another 200-plus on the waiting list. Head Start is funded by federal and state grants and individual and corporate contributions.

After a stint on the wait list, Kilmer’s son finally got a spot.

“Head Start changed everything for me,” she said.

Not only could she keep her son full-time, but he had access to best-in-class care for less than $100 a month. Head Start case managers also helped Kilmer leverage other resources such as food stamps until she graduated.

Today Kilmer uses her nursing degree as a liver transplant coordinator for KU Medical Center. She also serves on the Board of Directors for Head Start of Shawnee Mission. Her success story is exactly what Head Start aims for with each family it serves, said Head Start of Shawnee Mission Executive Director Terrie VanZandt-Travis.

“We look at the whole family,” she said. “That’s the best way to help a child succeed.”

Head Start models what experts say must be done to combat growing poverty. The organization works with a broad network of community entities, including schools, libraries, charities, businesses and volunteers. Head Start recognizes that each client — in this case child — is part of a broader family and community and tailors assistance accordingly.

Though VanZandt-Travis meets families when they are at their most vulnerable, she loves her job.

“I’m always around inspiring people like Angee who are working hard to get ahead,” she said. “Every day is humbling.”

Angee Kilmer and her family benefitted from Head Start services.
56 percent are between 25 and 64 years old.
30 percent have a bachelor’s degree or higher; another 31 percent have some college or an associate’s degree.
75 percent of poor families have at least one member working.

Wulfkuhle says she encounters some stereotypical perceptions of the poor whenever she discusses poverty. Yet Johnson County doesn’t fit those images.

“The perception is all single moms with babies but that’s only 27 percent of the total here,” said Wulfkuhle.

About 12 percent are foreign-born, a number that hasn’t changed in a decade.

While UCS doesn’t have data on this, many are also being served by the County’s mental health services or Johnson County Developmental Supports, which assists adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. That kind of overlap is common.

**County, others aim for self sufficiency**

In the past, when residents needed an electric bill or their rent paid, County-run programs simply settled the debt. Case closed. Now, case managers at the Department of Human Services try to help clients understand the cause, then build a plan toward self-sufficiency.

People would rather we help them figure out how not to need assistance,” she said. “That’s the goal.”

Case managers, housed in the County’s six multi-service centers, help clients create budgets, get job training and link to partner organizations for additional assistance. For example, the County partners with the Kansas City Medicine Cabinet to provide medical needs, such as prescriptions, diabetic supplies or access to emergency dental care through Oral Health on Wheels.

“We’re gathering success stories about self-sufficiency everyday,” said Collins.

**Searching for solutions**

There is no single solution to solve the problem of economic disparity in Johnson County, but there is growing agreement among top experts on an approach. Wulfkuhle and others argue that communities need to break down fragmented systems in favor of a regional approach, which could expand the amount of assistance available. Consolidating services and promoting integration could go a long way in battling the issue.

“Successful communities think collaboratively about the challenge,” she said. For example, they often have a type of regional ‘quarterback’ to untangle the current systems and funding to develop more solutions on a broader scale.

While there is a lot of work to be done here, Johnson County is ahead of many other suburbs facing the same challenge. For one, the County has deemed the issue a top strategic priority. Second, the BOCC acknowledges that a collaborative approach is critical to success.

What’s more, many County agencies and departments outside of Human Services already have programs to assist lower-income residents:

- The County’s Health Department provides services on a sliding scale basis — as do Developmental Supports and the Mental Health Center.

“**This is a hidden-in-plain-sight problem that’s growing.**”

- The Health Department runs the County’s Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program, providing food and nutrition information to low-income women who are pregnant or have children under five.
- The library partners with Head Start to provide books and librarians on site.

Among the County’s next steps: better integrate County services; increase partnerships with non-profit agencies and educate the philanthropic community about suburban need.

“We have a lot to do, but we’re not starting from scratch,” said Collins.

**WEB EXTRA**

For additional research on poverty in Johnson County, visit the United Community Services of Johnson County website at: ucsjoco.org

To gain a deeper understanding of the issue from a national perspective, visit confrontingsuburbanpoverty.org

Learn more about Head Start of Shawnee Mission programs and services at: www.smks-headstart.org/programs_services.html
For 18 years, Dawn Friess has worked as a Johnson County motor vehicle specialist, processing vehicle registration tags and titles for residential and commercial customers.

What are the biggest misconceptions people have about Johnson County Motor Vehicles?
People think we are the Driver’s License Bureau and not the Department of Motor Vehicles responsible for vehicle tags and titling. These services are not available in the same office. The State handles driver’s licenses and the County handles vehicle tags and titling as an agent of the State.

What is the most interesting/memorable thing you’ve seen happen in the waiting area?
A resident fell unconscious and my customer and I performed CPR on her. I’m thankful she survived and that Johnson County had provided me with the appropriate training.

Has anyone ever thanked you for the job you do?
I have been thanked many times in my 18 years with Johnson County Motor Vehicles. I really appreciate every one of those “thank yous.”
The Johnson County Election Office is responsible for voter registration and conducting all federal, state and local elections for more than 1,900 elected positions in nearly 540 voting districts. Of the County’s 383,491 voters who were registered for the 2012 general election, 72 percent voted, compared to a 58 percent voter turnout rate nationwide.

As the Election Office gears up for another busy season at the polls — the August primary and November general election are approaching — you might wonder how an office of 16 full-time employees can oversee all of this activity at nearly 300 polling places. It takes a coordinated force of more than 2,000 seasonal election workers to keep it all running.

Voters in Johnson County are often greeted by smiling faces that look up names in a registration book and check IDs before leading them to a voting machine. But the people handing out the “I Voted” stickers do more than just provide a warm welcome and send us on our way — election workers put in long days and must go through hours of training before they show up at the polls.

An advertisement put out by the Elections Office to recruit new workers reads, “HELP WANTED: Must work 15 hours in one day, interact with 400 to 1,000 people, follow 500 pages of rules, open/operate/shut down $9,000 computerized voting machines, and keep a cheerful, smiling attitude, while answering to two bosses who can’t agree on anything. Pay $9.00 per hour. Apply at your County Election Office.”

Angelo Mino personally understands the value of free elections and how important it is to vote. After emigrating from Ecuador in 1992, he immediately signed up for election duty after becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2003. Mino is now a supervising judge and a passionate civil servant.

“As a legal immigrant from a country where dictators or the military used to run the country, to me, voting is a celebration of my freedoms,” Mino said. “Working as an election worker gives you the opportunity to serve your country, to support your country’s constitutional and democratic system. You become the doorkeeper of democracy.”

Before every election, workers must complete three hours of training that covers everything from how to make sure that all the processes are followed to ensure a smooth flow of voters at the polls; how to code ballots and operate voting machines; and the rules regarding campaigning at the polls.

“Election workers represent everything that is right about our country,” said Johnson County Election Commissioner Brian Newby. “I am so proud to lock hands with all of our workers and, together, do all we can to be guardians of a process that is bigger and more important than all of us.”

Election workers are still needed for the November elections and the deadline to apply is October 1. For more information call 913-782-3441, or visit www.jocoelection.org/workers/ElectionWorkers.htm.
How to Vote

Johnson County registered voters have three voting options:

1. **Vote in advance in person** at the Election Office (2101 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, Kansas 66061), or at an advance voting location (see locations and schedule below);

2. **Vote in advance by mail**;

3. **Vote at the polls on Election Day**. Advance voting by mail always begins 20 days prior to elections. Advance voting in person begins two weeks before the Election.

Call 913-782-3441 or visit www.jocoelection.org and click “For Voters” for more information and to find an advance voting location near you.

Register to Vote

Voter registration closes 21 days prior to any elections. Here’s how to register:

**In Person:** Register to vote at the Johnson County Elections Office, driver’s license offices, the city halls of first and second-class cities, and the Johnson County Government Administration Building (111 S. Cherry, Suite 1200, Olathe, Kansas 66061).

**By Mail or Fax:** Registration applications can be mailed to 2101 E. Kansas City Road, Olathe, Kansas 66061; faxed to 913-791-8934 or 913-791-8935; or scanned and e-mailed to registration@jocoelection.org.

**Online:** Register to vote at https://www.kdor.org/voterregistration

Find Your Polling Place

Your polling place should be listed on your voter registration card. If you have moved or are uncertain about where to vote, call 913-782-3441 or visit http://www.jocoelection.org and click “For Voters.”

Polling Places are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. For presidential elections, polling places are open from 6:00 a.m. to 7 p.m. All registered voters in line at 7 p.m. are entitled to vote.

Upcoming Elections

- **August 5, 2014: Primary election**

  Primary elections held on August 5 include those for U.S. Senator, First District County Commissioner, Fourth District County Commissioner, and Chair of the Board of County Commissioners.

  Advance voting by mail for Primary Election begins July 16.

  Advance voting in person begins July 21.

- **November 4, 2014: General election**

  Advance voting locations, dates and hours for August 5 primary election:

  Each site will have two weeks of advance voting prior to the fall elections. Monday, August 4, Advance voting is located ONLY at the Johnson County Election Office.

  **Great Mall of the Great Plains**
  20345 West 151st Street, Olathe, KS
  Across from State License Bureau
  Monday - Friday, July 21 - 25 & July 28 - Aug. 1 - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
  Saturday- July 26 & Aug. 2 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  Closed Monday August 4

  **Johnson County Election Office**
  2101 East Kansas City Road, Olathe, KS
  Monday - Friday, July 21 - 25 & July 28 - Aug. 1 - 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
  Saturday - July 26 & Aug. 2 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  Monday - Aug. 4 - 8 a.m. - 12 Noon

  **Johnson County Northeast Offices**
  6000 Lamar, Mission, KS
  Monday - Friday, July 21 - 25 & July 28 - Aug. 1 - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
  Saturday- July 26 & Aug. 2 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  Closed Monday August 4

  **9800 Metcalf**
  Overland Park, KS
  Across from Metcalf South Mall
  Monday - Friday, July 21 - 25 & July 28 - Aug. 1 - 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
  Saturday- July 26 & Aug. 2 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
  Closed Monday August 4

Contact the Johnson County Election Office for more information:

2101 E. Kansas City Road
Olathe, Kansas 66061
Phone: 913-782-3441
Fax: 913-791-1753
E-mail: election@jocoelection.org

All about voting in JoCo
10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE JO

1. All JO buses have free Wi-Fi.
2. You might see a Free JO ride coupon on the back of receipts from select Price Chopper or HyVee grocery stores.
3. Buy JO 10-ride bus passes and monthly bus passes online.
4. The JO offers $.75 fares on orange and red ozone alert days.
5. The online Savings Calculator allows you to see how much money you’d save by taking The JO to work versus driving.
6. Bikes on the Bus allows you and your bike to share a single fare.
7. JO Trax gives you a live online look at the current location of all our buses.
8. The JO Xpress buses can travel on the shoulder when traffic on I-35 has slowed to less than 35 miles per hour.
9. JO buses travel an average of 8,300 miles per day.
10. You can plan a JO trip with Google Transit.

10 WAYS TO VOLUNTEER FOR JOHNSON COUNTY

1. **Passionate about food?** The Extension Master Food Volunteers take part in cooking demonstrations, classes and more.
2. **Interested in helping people rebuild their lives?** The Department of Corrections needs volunteers to serve as facilitators, conduct mock job interviews and help plan special events.
3. **Looking for a volunteer opportunity you can do on the phone?** Family Resource Assistants offer help on the phone to families of new Department of Corrections facilities residents.
4. **Like to be outside?** The Park & Recreation District offers volunteer opportunities at Ernie Miller Nature Center and The Theatre in the Park.
5. **Interested in politics?** The Johnson County Election Office is always looking for volunteer Election Workers.
6. **Like kids?** The Park & Recreation District needs help in child care centers.
7. **History buff?** Help the Johnson County Museum with exhibit construction, education programs and giving tours at the 1950s All-Electric House.
8. **How is your driving?** Human Services needs volunteers for Catch-a-Ride and Meals on Wheels.
9. **Have a knack for working with people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities?** Teach a cooking class, assist in an art activity or play a board game with a Johnson County Developmental Supports client.
10. **Love books?** With 13 locations, there’s bound to be a Johnson County Library near you and they all need volunteers to help with books sales, story time, clerical work, sorting and more.

WEB EXTRA
Visit www.jocogov.org/jocomag to learn more about how you can get involved in these volunteer opportunities with Johnson County Government.

Go to www.thejo.com to plan your next trip on The JO.
Experience Stravinsky’s *The Rite of Spring*, Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 3, Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 2, Strauss, Brahms, Mozart and much more.

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- 93 percent of JCCC’s career program completers find a job within six months.
- 93 percent of participants in an Overland Park Chamber of Commerce Foundation study had a “favorable” opinion of JCCC; 68 percent had a “strongly favorable” opinion.
- 83 percent of participants in the Chamber survey believed higher education at JCCC is critical for economic development; 85 percent believed JCCC prepares a workforce of today and in the future.

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**Important JCCC dates to remember:**

**Fall credit class registration**

Apply and enroll now for fall classes, which begin August 18.

[www.jccc.edu/admissions](http://www.jccc.edu/admissions)

**Continuing education registration**

Available anytime

[www.jccc.edu/ce](http://www.jccc.edu/ce)