Summer Fun Issue
Make the most of the summer months with activities the whole family will love.

Where can you go for a ride on a zip line in a county park? Flip the page to find out!
Enjoying summer in Johnson County

Summer is a popular time for travel. However, if you don’t feel like catching a flight or getting in the car for a road trip, you can enjoy summer fun here in Johnson County. With county offerings available on land, on water, or inside on those really hot days, we have summer fun available for all ages and interests.

For some, summer in JoCo means enjoying time near, on or in the water. If it surprises you to hear that you can enjoy a beach day in Johnson County, it’s time to try Kill Creek Park Beach or Shawnee Mission Park Beach. Swimming, sunbathing, sailing, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding and fishing are all available. We’d recommend you remember the sunscreen.

For those looking for outdoor activities on dry land, Johnson County Park and Recreation District offers many places to be active this summer. Play a round of golf at Heritage Park or Tomahawk Hills. Take a walk, run or bike ride on your favorite stretch of our 87 miles of trails. Enjoy family time on a playground at a JCPRD park. Looking for more of a challenge this summer? Schedule a time for your group to check out TimberRidge Adventure Center at Kill Creek Park, where you can test your skill and endurance on low and high challenge courses, climbing wall or zip line.

If you prefer your summer fun to come with air conditioning, you can enjoy one of our 14 Johnson County Library branches, including our newest branches, Monticello Library in western Shawnee and the newly relocated Lenexa City Center branch. Summer is also the perfect time to stay cool while learning about our county’s history at the Johnson County Museum, located at the Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center. Children will enjoy indoor summer fun there at our popular KidScape exhibit.

Finally, in our opinion there is no better way to spend a summer evening than under the stars enjoying a musical at the Theatre in the Park, which celebrates 50 seasons this year. The outdoor season, located in Shawnee Mission Park, runs though August 10.

We hope you’ll find some JoCo Staycation ideas to try between now and Labor Day. Happy summer!

On June 7, County Manager Penny Postoak Ferguson took a #JoCoStaycation selfie from the Theatre in the Park stage while helping to kick off the 50th season. Check out more of our submitted #JoCoStaycation selfies on the back cover.

Ed Eilert
Chairman, Board of County Commissioners

Penny Postoak Ferguson
County Manager

On the cover: Did you know Johnson County Park and Recreation offers a zipline course? JCPRD’s TimberRidge Adventure Center is located adjacent to Kill Creek Park in Olathe, KS and boasts a wide range of unique opportunities for parties and groups, including a team building challenge course, an event space, and birthday party packages that include archery, fishing, climbing and, of course, the zip line. Call the TimberRidge office at 913-856-8849 for more information.
Ways to engage with JoCo

Online
Visit jocogov.org to:
• Find your county commissioner.
• Get answers to questions.
• Learn about more than 400 services that Johnson County provides.

Social media
Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @jocogov

By phone
Call Center: 913-715-5000
Kansas Relay Operator: 800-766-3777

Board of County Commissioners’ meetings:
Attend a board meeting weekly at 9:30 a.m. Thursdays on the third floor of the Administration Building, 111 S. Cherry St., in Olathe or watch online at boccmeetings.jocogov.org.

Johnson County Elected Officials
Ed Eilert, Chairman
Becky Fast, 1st District
Jim Allen, 2nd District
Steve Klika, 3rd District
Janeé Hanzlick, 4th District
Michael Ashcraft, 5th District
Mike Brown, 6th District
Steve Howe, district attorney
Calvin Hayden, sheriff

Pictured above: The county enjoyed two exciting grand opening events for new facilities in June. Lenexa City Center Library opened to the public on June 1, and Meadowbrook Park celebrated the opening of its clubhouse facility on June 22. At left, patrons enjoy the new library gathering space; at right, families explore the new Treeline Adventure Playground at Meadowbrook Park during the grand opening celebration.
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Johnson County helps neighboring counties impacted by tornado

On May 28, an EF-4 tornado hit the Kansas City metro. That evening, Johnson County Government emergency managers sounded the outdoor warning sirens and sent NotifyJoCo alerts in conjunction with the National Weather Service. Before noon the next day, emergency managers coordinated with multiple cities and Johnson County Public Works to deploy six public works task forces to help with storm cleanup in Leavenworth County.

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) from Olathe, Shawnee and Fire District #1 responded to Leavenworth County to inform residents on proper sorting and disposing of storm debris.

Johnson County Planning Department’s Contractor Licensing staff assessed storm damage in Douglas County. State and federal agencies continue to work with impacted jurisdictions to determine federal disaster assistance eligibility.

Johnson County earns high marks from residents once again

In the annual Johnson County Community Survey, residents again gave high marks for the county’s quality of life, services and programs, and voiced their opinions on the services most important to them.

97% are satisfied or very satisfied with the county as a place to live; 95% are satisfied or very satisfied with the county as a place to raise children; and 92% feel safe in the county.

Overall satisfaction with county services rated 36% above the national average, public safety services rated 24% above the national average and value received for tax dollars rated 19% above the national average.

View the full results of the survey on jocogov.org.

Johnson County commits to renewable energy

Johnson County approved a 20-year agreement with Kansas City Power and Light’s Renewables Direct program. The county will purchase power generated by renewable sources for most of its operations, such as wastewater, facilities, library and park and recreation. This agreement allows the county to lock in a fuel price lower than historical prices for the 20-year term, avoiding the financial volatility of traditional power. The county’s estimated annual savings could be nearly $75,000, a total of $1.5 million over the lifetime of the agreement.

First co-responder to be embedded in a school district

For the first time, Johnson County Mental Health will embed a full-time clinical co-responder into a Johnson County school district. As part of a one-year pilot program with Gardner Edgerton Unified School District 231, a co-responder will work full-time in the district to provide immediate assistance to students in need during a crisis situation.

The Co-Responder Program began in 2011, with a pilot with the city of Olathe Police Department. Now, most communities in Johnson County have a co-responder embedded within their police department.

quotable

“Our 2019 Community Survey makes it clear that Johnson County continues to set the standard of service delivery compared to other large communities.”

— Chris Tatham, president and chief executive officer, ETC Institute of Olathe
Buying at farmer’s markets this summer?

Getting fresh produce is easier in the summer thanks to local farmer’s markets. Buying from the source allows you to visit with farmers to learn more about your food and how it was grown. Whether you purchase inside a store or outside at a market, be aware of food safety guidelines to ensure you only buy things that are safe to eat. Here are some things to look for as you shop:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fresh produce</th>
<th>Clean and fresh, no cuts or nicks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Displayed off the ground/floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cut or peeled produce</td>
<td>Displayed on/surrounded by ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Looks fresh and cold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meats, eggs, cheeses</td>
<td>Feels cold; product in cooler/on ice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eggs are clean, cool and not cracked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>Must be pasteurized, per Kansas regulations - ask vendor to confirm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juice, cider</td>
<td>Pasteurized is safest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot prepared foods</td>
<td>Vendor should use a thermometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Has a lid, steam is rising from pan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handwashing</td>
<td>Observe vendors washing their hands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booth/personal cleanliness</td>
<td>Booth, knives, and utensils are clean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clean clothes, hands, not wiping nose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certifications</td>
<td>Look for any posted food safety certifications/trainings attended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Food safety from store to table

Make food shopping your last stop. Don’t stock up on groceries then run errands. Your food could spoil or lose quality.

Keep raw meat separate from other foods, as leaking meat juices can contaminate fresh produce.

Make your meat and dairy selections last. While it’s not as convenient, gather non-perishable items first, then produce, then meat, then dairy. Save frozen items for last and utilize their cold temperature by placing them close to dairy products.

At home, make sure to store your produce properly to maintain its quality and safety. Visit jocogov.org/foodstorage for a printable guide to safe food storage and keep it on your fridge for reference!

Thoroughly wash all produce under hot running water even if you don’t eat the peel; dirt can transfer through to the inside. So yes, wash your onions! No need for soap or commercial produce washes; clean running water is enough. Use clean scrub brushes for tough or dimpled skin produce like potatoes and melons.

Finally, only purchase what you’ll consume between shopping trips. According to the USDA, 31% of food in the United States ends up in the landfill. That’s 133 billion pounds!
A new Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) begins in September with an outreach focusing on Johnson County’s Deaf community.

Offered by the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE), the program is unusual in two ways: Not only will the classes, spanning one year and starting after Labor Day, be taught in American Sign Language (ASL), but the instructor, Kelly Selznick, is deaf. Robin Olson, co-facilitator, who is hearing, also is fluent in ASL.

It is believed the class is a first in the Kansas City metropolitan region, state of Kansas and perhaps the nation to solely use ASL to teach DPP to local deaf and hard-of-hearing residents.

“Johnson County’s deaf population has higher obesity rates and worse cardiovascular health outcomes than the hearing population. Being overweight and having high blood pressure increases an individual’s risk for developing type 2 diabetes. DPP helps participants make positive lifestyle changes which improve health,” Megan Foreman, program manager for the department, said.

“Communication is the primary barrier to providing healthcare outreach to the Deaf community. Cultural competency is also a barrier,” Selznick noted in an email regarding her involvement in the upcoming program. “There is some mistrust between the Deaf and medical communities for several reasons that have to do with a lack of cultural competency within the medical community. Taking the steps to provide an accessible health program will help build that trust.”

More than 30 million Americans have diabetes. One in three Americans have prediabetes. Are you among them? A two-minute quiz to find out if you are at risk is accessible at preventdiabeteskc.com.

DPP classes in ASL and for the general public begin in September. To learn more or sign up, email DPP@jocogov.org.

The main challenge is to bridge the language gap in trying to provide health-related services and information to the Deaf community since a deaf resident’s primary language is ASL and few healthcare providers are fluent in sign language.

Inclusion efforts across the county

Inclusion of the Deaf community and residents with special needs goes further than access to public services and new programs. It also requires making sure residents of all ages and all physical abilities have equal access to Johnson County’s public buildings, parks and other physical accommodations.

Another inclusive playground in Shawnee Mission Park opened at the start of July, a month that also celebrates the 29th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990. A similar playground was added to the Stilwell Community Park last year. Both projects enable all children to play together without physical or social barriers.

An inclusive theater camp took place in mid-June at the Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center, giving children of all abilities the chance to live out their dreams of being in show business.

The new Johnson County Courthouse being constructed in downtown Olathe will also enhance accessibility to public services and facilities. The courthouse will be fully ADA compliant when it’s completed and operational in early 2021.
Summer Self-Care

BY SHANA BURGESS

School’s out for summer! But for young and old alike, adjusting to new routines and expectations can either lead to a cruel, cruel summer or the best days of your life. Vacations, sunshine, freedom – the joys of summer can make us hopeful for improved mental wellness and provide opportunities for adventures and connections. On the other hand, summer can also create isolation, lack of routine and a sense of pressure to be happy and carefree. Finding balance and meeting our individual needs for self-care can be difficult to navigate. How do we reconcile our desire for both the adventures of YOLO and the peace of R&R?

Doing self-care ‘right’ can become one more thing to be anxious about; everyone’s needs are different and change over time. Your version of mental wellness is what matters most, so decide what you need and make a plan to do what’s right for you.

If you or someone you know is struggling, please reach out. You are not alone in this journey. Johnson County Mental Health Center has trained professionals available 24/7 to answer questions, provide support or respond to immediate crisis needs. Call our crisis line at 913-268-0156. We are here to help!

Supporting mental wellness

Students from the #ZeroReasonsWhy Teen Council weigh in

Bella Price
Class of 2019, Spring Hill High School

“People everywhere remember to charge their phones every night almost on instinct. It is important to charge yourself and make sure you are taking care of your needs so you aren’t running on low battery.”

Rory Swenson
Class of 2020, Blue Valley North High School

“If you think they might be having a tough time, or you know something happened recently with their social life, reach out to them - it doesn’t need to be invasive, just make sure they know you care.”

What do you do for self-care in the summer?
Self-care in the summer means getting dressed every day. Getting out of your pajamas and into everyday clothes does wonders for your motivation and productivity.

What advice do you have for parents in supporting youth?
The best thing parents can do is talk with their kids. Make sure your kids know that you love them and that you are here for them and nothing that they do can cause you to stop loving them. Have an open mind when talking about mental health too. It might be uncomfortable, but do not downplay or make light of the situation when your kids come to you with concerns. Struggling with mental health is an uphill battle. It’s hard to ask for help, so make sure your children know that no matter what, you will always support them.

What is different in the summer for teens?
During the summer, students have a lot less direct interaction with friends, which can be difficult if students have lots of stressful things weighing on them. It takes more effort to engage with friends because they don’t see them in class every day. It is good to find something productive to do every day, such as working, exercising or exploring extracurricular interests like coding or cooking.

Why is it important for people to practice self-care?
People don’t often draw the comparison between mental and physical health. If they had the flu, they would get treatment and focus on getting better. The same should be true of mental health. If someone is going through depression, it is just as important to focus on recovery.
Are you one of the thousands who suffer from pain but can’t find lasting relief with most “pain treatments”? I’m going to share three things with you that’s going to revolutionize the way you think about treating your pain and getting lasting relief.

I’m Dr. Michael Riley, D.C., and I’ve spent 20 years helping patients find pain relief with non-surgical and drug-free treatments. I’ve helped thousands suffering from low back pain, neuropathy, spinal stenosis, neck pain, sciatica and more... by using a new way to treat pain.

**So what is this new way of treating pain?**

It’s the CoreCare treatment program. CoreCare is a non-surgical and drug-free treatment that I developed over 15 years.

It uses a five-phase scientific approach that combines FDA approved technologies in a way that is proven to be effective.

In fact, CoreCare patients report an 83% improvement in their ability to do everyday activities and overall mood. They also report a 76% reduction in their need to use pain medication.

And I know what you’re probably thinking, yeah I’ve tried everything including “new ways” but nothing works. I hear that everyday... but please don’t lose hope.

It’s not your fault that other treatments haven’t worked. Unfortunately, the health care system is not equipped to handle the complexity of most chronic pain cases; and giant insurance and pharmaceutical companies continue to heavily influence what treatments are available for patients.

I’m going to show you a great way you can find out if CoreCare can really help you get amazing results like it has for thousands of others.

First on why many other treatments may fail: other treatments focus on the symptoms but not the problem causing the pain.

The big idea here is when you treat the symptoms you only get temporary relief and then the pain returns.

This is important because supplements, medications, injections and even surgery don’t always correct the degenerative issues. These types of treatments are considered pain management. They have nothing to do with healing the cause of the pain, but only managing the pain by masking it temporarily.

A key to lasting relief is by treating the biomechanical and physiological issues causing the pain. And that is exactly what CoreCare aims to do.

The second reason why other treatments may fail: the health care system has a huge shortage of pain specialists.

The fact is, only 17 of the nation’s 133 medical schools offer courses on pain.

Pain conditions are complicated. They are hard to accurately diagnose and require more time and attention. In fact, it is estimated that 36,000 more doctors are needed by 2030 to deal with the nation’s growing patient load.

Unfortunately, this is why many patients feel like their pain condition is beyond help – because they’ve been told surgery is the only option or even worse that nothing can be done.

The third reason why other treatments may have failed: many pain symptoms are misdiagnosed.

Misdiagnosis can lead to bigger problems long-term. It’s not your doctor’s fault. The problem starts with the giant insurance companies that dictate how much time physicians can spend with patients. This limits how in-depth a doctor can get.

Combine that with my previous point that most doctors do not have specific training on pain and this is why many doctors fall back to prescription meds or drug-based injections.

Unfortunately, these things simply mask the pain versus treating the problem causing the pain. When the pain is masked people tend to do more damage over time leading to bigger problems and in some cases irreversible damage.

I know what you’re probably thinking. This all makes sense, but I doubt CoreCare can work for me. Well, how do you really know?!

The best way to learn about CoreCare and make an educated decision is to see it firsthand.

So, for that reason I’ve created a special “new patient evaluation” so you can get the answers you need and try two CoreCare treatments for only $39. Call 913-828-0148 to schedule by August 30th.

During an initial exam, you will meet with either me, Dr. Micheal Riley, D.C., or Dr. Paul Hoyal, D.C., where we will identify if you are a candidate for the CoreCare treatment. The examination process seeks to identify the exact cause of pain before providing a treatment recommendation.

The offer includes an in-depth consultation about your pain and overall health where we will listen — really listen — to the details of your case; a complete neuromuscular examination; a full set of digital X-rays (if needed), and a thorough analysis of your exam to start mapping out a treatment plan.

The $39 offer with two CoreCare treatments is good only until August 30th.

CoreCare is available in two locations in the Kansas City area:

**Elevate Life**
9237 N Oak Trafficway
Kansas City, MO 64155

**Renuva Back and Pain Centers**
4400 College Blvd., STE 150
Overland Park, KS 66211

To schedule your $39 exam with two CoreCare treatments, call 913-828-0148 to schedule by August 30th.
Residents visit the Johnson County Courthouse in downtown Olathe for many reasons. They appear in court, serve on juries, adopt children, pay fines, record deeds, settle estates and resolve legal disputes or actions.

They also apply for marriage licenses in order to wed. In 2018, 2,855 couples applied for marriage licenses at the courthouse. Applicants’ ages ranged from 17 to 94 at the time of application.

Any of the 23 district court and four magistrate court judges in the Johnson County District Court system can perform a wedding ceremony in their courtrooms or elsewhere. None of them, however, hold a cupid’s bow and arrow to Probate Judge Bert Rogers of Olathe, the legendary “marrying judge” of the mid-1930s.

Bert Rogers was famous for two main reasons. He married hundreds of couples during his five years as a probate judge. Previously, he was editor of The Olathe Mirror newspaper for 20 years. According to an article in The Olathe Daily News on Sept. 7, 1983, Bert Rogers, who often quipped that he “knew everybody in Johnson County but six,” performed 150 to 200 weddings each month. During his first year alone, he married 1,515 couples.

The second reason for the notoriety of Rogers was his son. He was the father of Charles “Buddy” Rogers, Olathe’s famed movie star, band leader and versatile musician. His son appeared in the silent World War I movie “Wings” (1927) which won the first Oscar for Best Picture. Buddy Rogers starred in 35 films and later married Mary Pickford, “America’s Sweetheart,” following her divorce from Douglas Fairbanks. Buddy Rogers died in 1999.

Bert Rogers was elected probate judge in 1934. His “Cupid’s Chapel” and the courthouse were popular destinations for couples eloping from Missouri and eastern Kansas. At that time, Kansas did not have a three-day waiting period before issuing the license, but Missouri did, so anyone in Kansas City, Missouri, and elsewhere in Missouri, who wanted to get married right away would drive out to Olathe to get a marriage license.

According to The Olathe Daily News article, “Rogers was strict about one thing. If anyone came to his door with even a hint of liquor on his breath, he refused to marry them... He’d send them home and tell them to come back the next day.”

The Kansas City Times reported on Jan. 2, 1939, Judge Bert Rogers noted “a slump in marriages in 1938, but the last day of the year brought brisk business.” He married 1,808 couples in 1938, compared to 2,005 in 1937. On New Year’s Eve, he performed 20 marriages. Johnson County’s population at the time was approximately 30,000 compared to today’s count of more than 600,000.

Judge Bert Rogers died in the fall of 1939.

Twelve years later, ground was broken for construction of the existing courthouse. The building was completed in 1952 and housed two courtrooms and the county jail. It did not include another “Cupid’s Chapel.”
MED-ACT trailer is ready for summer events
Stop the Bleed campaign teaches bystanders to give aid in an emergency

BY LT. ROCHELLE HOBART & ALYSON ANGELL

Have you seen our little trailer at your favorite county event? Utility 1174 is a small trailer that will be parked at large multi-day events in Johnson County, such as Old Settlers Days and the Johnson County Fair.

This project supports the Department of Homeland Security’s Stop the Bleed campaign which originated as a result of the joint efforts of the Hartford Consensus, the American College of Surgeons and the National Association of EMTs. The hour-long presentation about bleeding control, wound packing and tourniquet care was developed in response to the Sandy Hook school shooting and progressed after the Boston Marathon bombing and the Las Vegas shooting.

The hour-long presentation about bleeding control, wound packing and tourniquet care was developed in response to the Sandy Hook school shooting and progressed after the Boston Marathon bombing and the Las Vegas shooting.

Learn how to help others in a crisis: Overland Park, Shawnee, Olathe, and Southwest Johnson County CERT teams train volunteers to respond in coordination with emergency personnel. The next CERT training will be held at the Johnson County fairgrounds in preparation for the fair. Contact Aaron Winkler at aaron.winkler@jocofd1.org for more information.

At each of these incidents, bystanders were some of the real heroes! They provided quick, lifesaving care to victims, even if they were not trained in the medical field.

In the initial moments of these types of events, first responders may have difficulty accessing the scene and may be overwhelmed by the number of patients. Reports after these events show that bystanders helped with lifesaving treatment such as stopping bleeding, patient movement, and assisting wherever they could. Many victims survived thanks to the care given to them by the public.

Based on this evidence, our own little trailer, Utility 1174, was born as an extra effort to prepare our citizens and support our community education’s Stop the Bleed campaign. The goal is to empower the residents of Johnson County to be able to provide lifesaving aid if a similar event were to happen here.

The trailer houses “self-treatment” kits, moving equipment, blankets and additional supplies for first responders. If an incident were to occur, community emergency response team (CERT) members, event volunteers, police officers and off-duty first responders know to go to this trailer and distribute the kits to bystanders.

This is where we need the community’s help. Each kit includes instructions and tools to help stop bleeding. If you are at one of these events and can assist, the key is to first find the trailer. You might want to locate it as you arrive so you know exactly where to go, if necessary. The on-site availability of this trailer provides the best possible outcomes for community members during these major events.

Not sure about Stop the Bleed yet? We offer free Bleeding Control courses to help prepare you for a bleeding emergency. We encourage anyone who is interested in taking a Stop the Bleed course to contact the Community Education division at 913-715-1981. You can also arrange to have our specialist come out to teach your group. For questions regarding the U1174 trailer, please contact Lt. Rochelle Hobart at rhobart@jocoems.org.

Look for the trailer at community events across Johnson County this summer and remember its location in case you need to come back.

Video Extra: Get a closer look at the Incident Support trailer at jocogov.org/trailer
Dreaming of vacation days spent camping in the mountains or taking a nap on the beach? If you think that adventure and excitement are only available through travel, think again. There's a whole lot of excitement to be had right here at home! Whether you're traveling this summer or not, here are a few Johnson County “destinations” to explore - more than enough to fill up the rest of your summer with adventures.

**Theatre in the Park**
7710 RENNER ROAD, LENEXA

**What:** The largest community theatre in the country hosts outdoor family-friendly shows all summer long at Shawnee Mission Park.

**Cost:** $8 for adults, $6 for kids 4-10. Children 3 and under get in free.

**Good to Know:** Gates for all shows open at 7 p.m.; shows begin at 8:30 p.m. Bring blankets and lawn chairs; buy refreshments at the concession stand or bring your own. Each performance is 2 hours and 20 minutes long with a short intermission.

**Johnson County Park & Rec Golf Courses**
16445 S. LACKMAN ROAD, OLATHE; 17501 MIDLAND DR., SHAWNEE

**What:** Heritage Park and Tomahawk Hills Golf Course both offer challenging and beautiful courses. Tomahawk Hills also offers a 9 hole FootGolf course if you’re looking to try something new.

**Cost:** Both facilities have annual and daily rates. Contact each facility for more information.

**Good to Know:** Tomahawk Hills was built in 1910 and is ranked as one of the area's most challenging public courses.
Johnson County Beaches

11670 S. HOMESTEAD LANE, OLATHE; BEACH ROAD, SHAWNEE

What: Have a day at the beach without even leaving JoCo! Both Shawnee Mission Park and Kill Creek Park have beaches open through August 11.

Cost: $6 for adults and teens, $4 for kids (under 13) and seniors (60+). Add 50 cents for non-Johnson County residents.

Good to Know: Bring your own food and drink, umbrellas, and chairs. Animals are not allowed at either beach, but a dog beach is available in the off-leash area on the southwest side of Shawnee Mission Park.

Meadowbrook Park

9101 NALL, PRAIRIE VILLAGE

What: This 80-acre park opened to the public in June and includes a destination playground, grand pavilion, senior fitness, paved trails, an event space, pickleball courts and more.

Cost: The park is free and open to the public. For facility rental and preschool costs, call 913-826-2957.

Good to Know: Treeline Adventure, the theme for Meadowbrook’s destination playground, was voted on and chosen by local kids in 2017.

K-State Extension Cooking Classes

11811 S. SUNSET DRIVE, SUITE 1500, OLATHE

What: K-State Extension’s Master Foodies host a wide range of cooking classes, including Meals on a Budget (Aug. 15); Kids in the Kitchen: Lunch Box Cuisine (Aug. 24); and Freezer Meals and Easy Meal Prep (Sept. 19).

Cost: Visit johnson.k-state.edu/classes-events for a complete list of classes and costs.

Good to Know: Great for cooks of all ages! K-State offers classes for adults as well as a Kids in the Kitchen series geared toward ages 7-12.

Johnson County Museum

ARTS & HERITAGE CENTER, 8788 METCALF AVE., OVERLAND PARK

What: Cool off and learn about JoCo history with a variety of long- and short-term exhibits and the KidScape children’s history experience.

Cost: Admission is $5 for adults, $4 for seniors (60+), $3 for children (1-17). Maximum daily fee is $20 per family.

Good to Know: The museum’s newest exhibit, Expanding Oz, features unique memorabilia and is a must for Wizard of Oz fans of all ages.
Your Staycation Passport

Make it your mission to check out all of our staycation finds before summer ends! Cut out this page and place a stamp or sticker next to each place as you check them off your list. Happy adventuring!

- Theatre in the Park
- Johnson County Park & Rec Golf Courses
- Johnson County Beaches
- Meadowbrook Park
- K-State Extension Cooking Classes
- Johnson County Museum

Staycation Summer Reads

Even if you can’t leave the house, you can still travel the world (or the galaxy!) this summer with a library book. Not sure where to start? Check out these outer space-themed recommendations from Johnson County Library staff inspired by their Summer Reading theme, *A Universe of Stories*.

**Spaceman: An Astronaut’s Unlikely Journey to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe**

In *Spaceman*, Mike Massimino puts you inside the suit, with all the zip and buoyancy of life in microgravity.

**Meet the author:** See Massimino speak and pick up a copy of the book at the Central Resource Library on August 1!

**Bringing Columbia Home**

Author Mike Leinbach, Launch Director of the space shuttle program at NASA’s John F. Kennedy Space Center, was a leader in the search and recovery effort as NASA, FEMA, the FBI, the US Forest Service, and dozens more federal, state, and local agencies combed rural east Texas for shuttle pieces. Assisted by hundreds of volunteers, it would become the largest ground search operation in US history.

**The Medusa Chronicles**

This novel, a continuation of Sir Arthur C. Clarke’s award-winning novella “A Meeting with Medusa” chronicles the adventures of Howard Falcon, humanity’s first explorer of Jupiter. With permission from the Clarke Estate, Stephen Baxter and Alastair Reynolds continue this beloved writer’s enduring vision and have created a fresh story for new readers.

**Rocket Men: The Daring Odyssey of Apollo 8 and the Astronauts who Made Man’s First Journey to the Moon**

The inside story of the dangerous Apollo 8 mission, focusing on the lives of astronaut heroes Frank Borman, Jim Lovell, and Bill Anders, while illuminating the political factors that prompted the decision to risk lives to save the Apollo program and define the space race.
JoCo businesses go green
Johnson County Green Business program offers guidance, resources, and more

BY BRANDON HEARN

Each year, the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (DHE) recognizes businesses, schools and others as Certified Green Partners. Participants work with Johnson County to start recycling and composting programs, purchase more sustainable products, and begin other sustainable initiatives to reduce waste by reducing, reusing and recycling.

The 2019 awardees included: Atmos Energy, Integrative Health Providers, Finn Chiropractic, Lifestyle Massage, Kindred, bijin Salon and Spa, Rimann Liquors, Lenexa Hills Elementary School (Shawnee Mission School District), Training Umbrella, and Village Cooperative of Shawnee. The Gurdwara Nanak Darbar Sahib Temple in Olathe received an honorable mention for their continued work toward becoming a Certified Partner.

This year’s recipients started recycling programs, donated excess food to a local food bank, installed water bottle refill stations, and switched to reusable coffee mugs, plates and water bottles, in cooperation with many community partners.

All of the 2019 awardees started by working with Johnson County staff through the free consultation program offered by DHE as part of their Green Business program. In addition to the free consultation, the department offers $500 in financial assistance for eligible projects and the Certified Partner recognition to any qualifying entity.

Over the years, certified partners have seen reduction in their operating costs by better utilizing technology, switching to reusable materials, and reducing trash pickups.

If your business, school or other organization is interested in reducing waste and being more sustainable, Johnson County is here to help. For more information on the Green Business program, contact Kalenna Coleman at kalenna.coleman@jocogov.org or call 913-715-6981.

Storm drains lead directly to creeks and streams
Clean water starts at home

Compost yard waste or dispose using curbside service. Don’t dump in ditches or waterways.

Check car for leaks. Recycle motor oil. Never pour it on the ground or into a storm drain.

Reduce pesticides use. Most issues resolve themselves.

Follow directions on product labels. Sweep chemicals off driveways, sidewalks, and roads so they don’t get into storm drains.

Direct mowing clippings back onto the lawn, keeping them off paved surfaces.

Never put anything into storm drains... only rain goes down the drain!

for more information contact johnson.k-state.edu | 913.715.7000

Art concept originally created by Tennessee State University’s WaterWorks program and funded in part with Tennessee Dept. of Ag, Nonpoint Source Program, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
Here is just a sample of some of the Johnson County events you can enjoy this summer and fall. You can find more at jocogov.org.

### August 2019

**Thursday, August 1**
Meet astronaut Mike Massimino, who flew two missions to the Hubble Telescope and was the first person to tweet from space! 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Central Resource Library.

**Friday, August 2**

**Tuesday, August 6**
Primary election - polling is open 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Learn more at jocoelection.org.

**Friday, August 16**
Grab a blanket, pack a picnic, and get your music on! Watch WALL-E at Electric Park in Lenexa or Cornerstone Park in Gardner. Movie starts at dusk - join us earlier for live local music and fun! Visit jocolibrary.org for more info.

**Saturday, August 24**
Bring your kids in for lunch box cuisine! 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at 11811 S. Sunset Drive, Suite 1500, Olathe. Call 913-715-7000 to register.

### September 2019

**Monday, September 2**
County offices closed for Labor Day.

**September 5-7**
Old Settlers Days at the courthouse square. Don’t miss this Johnson County tradition! More info at johnsoncountyoldsettlers.com.

**Thursday, September 19**
Learn about popular freezer meals and how to make meal prep easy. 6-8 p.m. 11811 S. Sunset Drive, Suite 1500, Olathe. Call 913-715-7000 to register.

**Friday, September 20**
Grab a blanket, pack a picnic, and get your music on! Watch Inside Out at The Commons, Lenexa Civic Campus or Cornerstone Park in Gardner. Movie starts at dusk - join us earlier for live local music and fun! Visit jocolibrary.org for more info.

**Saturday, September 28**
Papercrète Works, a program of Johnson County Developmental Supports, will sell decorative planters, bowls, and more from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at the Overland Park Fall Festival.
### Johnson County Fair

**July 28 - August 3**

"Back to our Roots" is the 2019 theme for the Johnson County Fair, which will take place July 28 - Aug. 3 at the county fairgrounds in Gardner.

Admission to the fairgrounds is free, as is the entertainment at the Midway stage. Admission to the Main Event Arena varies.

The whole family can wander the grounds and ride carnival rides. Enjoy the displays of baked goods, photography, rockets, home-grown vegetables and watch 4-H youth exhibit cows, sheep, goats, pigs and more.

Highlights of the fair include an 80th "Back to our Roots" celebration, with hot dogs and ice cream, at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 30. Admission for anyone six years old and older is $2. Children five and younger get in free. Following the celebration, kids will enjoy the Night of Fun and Challenge, where they can test their courage in the muttin’ bustin’ and greased pig chase.

Parking is available north of the fairgrounds on Madison Street, east of the fairgrounds in the school parking lot and along the streets. Handicap accessible parking is available at the south entrance off Washington Street by the Open Class building.

For more information visit [jocokansasfair.com](http://jocokansasfair.com).

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### Mental Health First Aid

**September 20, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is an interactive 8-hour course that gives people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. Participants will learn about risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems and explore common interventions and treatments.

MHFA can benefit anyone interested in learning more about mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, psychosis, and substance abuse. In particular, any individuals who regularly interact with their community, such as police officers, human resource directors, and primary care workers, would benefit from MHFA. School and college staff, faith community leaders, and family and friends of individuals with mental illness will also find the training useful for developing skills and gaining valuable insights to prepare them to help others experiencing a mental health problem.

The cost for this training is $50 per participant; the first 20 registrants can register for $25 thanks to a generous scholarship from Advent Health. The training will take place at Advent Health in the Woodland Hills Building (7315 E. Frontage Rd. in Merriam). For more information or to register for this training, contact Prevention Services at 913-715-7880 or email JCMHEvents@jocogov.org.

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### October 2019

#### Tuesday, October 1

Learn about Medicare and Medicare supplements. Free Medicare seminar, 5:30-7 p.m. at 11811 S Sunset Drive, Suite 1500, Olathe. Call 913-715-7000 to register.

#### Friday, October 11

First performance of Theatre in the Park’s “Sweet Charity” INDOORS at Johnson County Arts & Heritage Center. Visit [theatreinthepark.org](http://theatreinthepark.org) for showtimes and tickets.

#### Tuesday, October 15

Last day to register to vote in the Nov. 5 General Election. Learn more at [jocoelection.org](http://jocoelection.org).

#### Saturday, October 26

Bring your kids in for pizza making! Learn delicious pizza recipes, food safety and basic cooking skills. 9:45 a.m. check-in; class starts at 10 a.m. Call 913-715-7000 to register.

#### Monday, October 28

Advance voting in person for the General Election begins. Learn more at [jocoelection.org](http://jocoelection.org).
HeartSafe Heroes Celebration brings bystanders and survivors together

BY THERESA FREED

It was a day Sam Carrera will never forget. The Johnson County resident was bicycling on Sept. 14, when he collapsed suddenly, suffering cardiac arrest. No one in his group of friends knew CPR. But two nurses just happened to be crossing his path when they rushed to his rescue. The women, along with a large team of emergency medical professionals, saved his life. And on April 17, he got the chance to thank them.

“I’m excited about being here today,” Carerra said before the event got underway at Johnson County Community College. “I have yet to meet the two nurses who saved my life.”

He presented the nurses with hugs and flowers after a brief introduction about the day he nearly died.

He was joined by other survivors at the third annual Johnson County HeartSafe Foundation celebration. The event honors bystanders who perform CPR and/or deploy an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to save a life.

The sudden cardiac arrest survivors ranged in age from 30 to 66. If someone suffers from cardiac arrest in Johnson County, there is a 60% chance that a bystander will perform CPR. While this is better than the national average of 38%, it also means more than one in three people in cardiac arrest won’t benefit from lifesaving chest interventions from bystanders and must wait for professional help. This wait can mean the difference between life and death. In Johnson County, because 61% of sudden cardiac arrests occur in the home, if an individual is called on to give CPR in an emergency, it will most likely be an attempt to save the life of a loved one: a child, a spouse, a parent or a friend.

The celebration event showcased five cases of cardiac emergencies and the bystanders who came forward to start CPR.

Carerra says he’s developed a whole new appreciation for life. And his friends who were originally with him for that bike ride now have all since learned CPR. Carerra has even engaged his employer, which is now offering CPR training to all staff on a regular basis.

Every minute that goes by without CPR, chances of survival decrease by 10%. HandsOnly CPR has been shown to be as effective as conventional CPR and does not require mouth-to-mouth breathing. It can double or even triple a victim’s chance of survival.

You can learn HandsOnly CPR by scheduling a class for your group. Email contact@jocoheartsafe.org or learn more at jocoheartsafe.org.

Johnson County MED-ACT Paramedic Joe Stellwagon demonstrates hands-only CPR, which can double or even triple a victim’s chance of survival.

At the HeartSafe Heroes Celebration, Sam Carrera shares an emotional embrace with the two nurses who performed life-saving CPR on him last year. The Johnson County team that responded to the emergency (at right) joined Carrera on stage to thank the bystanders for coming to his aid.

Connect with us!
Stay updated on news and events throughout Johnson County through your favorite social media platform.
NEW SEMESTER.
NEW AND IMPROVED CAMPUS.

Maximize your time and talent this fall at a campus designed for the future. Visit jccc.edu to learn more.

Bring on fall semester at Johnson County Community College! This new class of Cavaliers will experience our campus upgrades first-hand. A revamped Student Center, active learning classrooms and new, state-of-the-art facilities—the Fine Arts & Design Studios and the Hugh L. Libby Career and Technical Education Center—put students on the fast track to in-demand careers.
The legislative powers of Johnson County Government are vested in a seven-member Board of County Commissioners that exercises its authority to ensure the general health, safety and welfare of the public.

The board is composed of an at-large chairman and one representative from each of the six districts in the county.

Chairman Ed Eilert
913-715-0500

Becky Fast
1st District
913-715-0431

Janéé Hanzlick
4th District
913-715-0434

Jim Allen
Vice chair, 2nd District
913-715-0432

Michael Ashcraft
5th District
913-715-0435

Steve Klika
3rd District
913-715-0433

Mike Brown
6th District
913-715-0436

County commission districts

The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners and county staff have been hard at work for the past several months crafting and finalizing the FY 2020 budget. County Manager Penny Postoak Ferguson presented her proposed budget to the BOCC on May 9.

The proposed FY 2020 Budget totals $1.26 billion, with expenditures estimated at $937.2 million and reserves set at $322.7 million. The estimated mill levy is 26.013 mills, unchanged from the county’s current mill levy.

“The proposed 2020 budget aligns with the county’s emergency and safety-net services rated as ‘most important’ future priorities in the 2019 Community Survey,” said Johnson County BOCC Chairman Ed Eilert. “It also aligns with top priorities of our board for this year and 2020.”

The proposed budget includes additional resources for public safety, including new positions for the District Attorney and the Sheriff offices. Respondents to the 2019 Community Survey said a sense of feeling safe and a low crime rate are the top reasons they plan to stay in the county for the next decade.

Additional funding for the Human Services Department and Mental Health Center will enhance the county’s ability to meet the needs of its vulnerable population and low-income households. Those responsibilities of county government received an 88% rating of importance in the community survey.

Another top priority of the board is the development of “a creative and innovative vision for a transit plan that is financially sustainable.” The proposed budget includes $500,000 for an extension of the transit system’s Microtransit Pilot program for on-demand shared ride services in Overland Park, Lenexa and Shawnee.

The public hearing on the new county budget is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Monday, July 29, in the Johnson County Administration Building on the third floor (111 South Cherry St., Olathe).

The BOCC is scheduled to adopt the budget resolution on Thursday, Aug. 8, during its regular meeting at 9:30 a.m.
Summer 2019

Upcoming elections in Johnson County

2019 is a municipal election year in Johnson County. Thirteen primary election contests across seven jurisdictions will be held on Aug. 6. Every registered voter in the county will have at least one primary election contest on the ballot. You can view your sample ballot at voter.jocoelection.org.

The General Election is Nov. 5. Nine cities will elect a mayor, 20 cities will elect city councilmembers and eight school districts will elect board members. There will also be contests for WaterOne board members and Johnson County Community College trustees.

For more information on these elections, visit jocoelection.org.

Permitting and inspections work moving online

Johnson County Planning & Building Codes plans to launch the MyGovernmentOnline Permitting and Inspections software on Sept. 9. The software will enhance the application submittal, plan review and inspection experience for contractors and residents through online services. It’s part of a coordinated effort to expedite plan reviews and permit processing.

The software will allow contractors and residents to:

- Apply for building and trade permits and pay fees
- Submit plans and documents
- Track application progress up to permit issuance or notice of approval
- View and print review comment letters, “in-compliance” building plans and completed inspection reports
- Request inspections
- Receive email or phone call notifications when an inspection is completed

Users of the new system should create their free account at mygovernmentonline.org. Learn more at the Johnson County Contractor Licensing Fall 2019 Education Seminar, Sept. 30 - Oct. 4, in a session on registration and online application submittal, or visit our booth for one-on-one assistance.

The County plans to move to electronic only submittals at the beginning of 2020.

Choose your lawn

It all starts with a soil test!

If you crave that spring green, fertilize this September.

- September fertilization is critical to your lawn’s health
- Applying just the right kind and amount of fertilizer saves you money and protects our water quality
- Get one free soil test and personalized recommendation for your lawn from a local university expert

Start your lawn off right!
JoCo Residents, get one FREE soil test.

Learn more at johnson.k-state.edu or call 913.715.7000

Funding provided by the Johnson County Stormwater Management Program. Limit one per Johnson County household.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Beat the fall rush!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT
Steve Vogelsang  
Environmental Health Specialist

I inspect public and semi-public pools to ensure safety and cleanliness for all residents.

What do you do?

I oversee the pool program for the Department of Health and Environment. I work with pools year-round, including inspections, plan reviews and modification reviews. In the off season, I also do other on-site waste and septic inspections.

What do you like most about your job?

I’ve always liked that hardly a day goes by that I don’t learn something new. There’s so much new technology in swimming pool equipment and I’m always learning in order to keep up with the changes.

How does the work you do affect the lives of Johnson County residents?

It greatly improves their ability to enjoy public and neighborhood pools. I work directly with city and neighborhood pool operators to ensure everything is safe for residents. We’re also in the process of implementing a new aquatics code from the CDC which will provide an even higher level of quality and promote best practices for safer pool operation.

Meagan Condon  
Youth Services Librarian, Corinth branch

I lead a team of youth services librarians and produce summer learning adventures for young readers through the library’s Summer Reading Program.

What do you do?

I lead a team of youth specialists at the Corinth library and I co-lead the library system’s summer reading initiative. I work with a committee to implement the program, analyze data and budget for 14 locations.

What do you like most about your job?

Information is one of our most powerful resources and literacy is one of the ways we can access it. I love being able to put the right book in a child’s hands when they need it most. I also love sporting blue hair. The kids seem to like it, too!

How does the work you do affect the lives of Johnson County residents?

Research has shown that the size of a child’s home library is positively correlated to literacy, numeracy and digital literacy. Last year, we helped build the personal libraries of more than 18,800 children and teens across the county; this year we are well on our way to surpassing that number in the first three weeks of the program. We are raising future voters and the future of the community.

Jimmy Jensen  
Program Director, Antioch Park Shelter #2

I help kids stay active and engaged during the summer by leading summer camp programs for the Johnson County Park and Recreation District.

What do you do?

During the school year I’m a teacher, but in the summer months I work for JCPRD as a director for one of our many outdoor day camps.

What do you like most about your job?

I enjoy my work because it keeps me active and we participate in many diverse activities.

How does the work you do affect the lives of Johnson County residents?

My work provides the children of Johnson County with opportunities to be active, make new friends, and participate in activities they would otherwise not be able to enjoy.
10 things you need to know to have a safe and healthy summer

Summer offers plenty of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, whether your hot weather fun includes a dip in the pool, a relaxing campout at the lake, or maybe a nature walk along a Johnson County trail. Outdoor living comes with a few risks. Here are some tips on staying healthy and safe.

1. Wear safety gear when boating and biking.

Safe Kids Johnson County says make sure all passengers aboard your boat are wearing life jackets and can swim. And if you’re biking, always wear a helmet, follow traffic laws, and avoid riding in the dark.

2. Wear sunscreen.

The Food and Drug Administration regulates sunscreens and recommends that you limit time in the sun, especially between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; wear clothing to cover exposed skin; and use broad spectrum sunscreens with SPF values of 15 or higher. Reapply at least every 2 hours, and more often when sweating or getting in and out of the water.

3. Don’t wait until you’re thirsty to take a drink! Watch for signs of heat stroke: high body temperature; hot, red or damp skin; fast pulse; headache; dizziness; nausea; confusion and losing consciousness.

4. Keep an eye on pollen, mold and other allergy triggers. Have allergy medications on hand if a reaction is present.

5. Use caution around fireworks and campfires.

Fireworks start an average of 18,500 fires nationwide each year. More than one-third of those injured from fireworks are children. The National Fire Protection Association advises you not to use consumer fireworks and keep a close eye on kids around fireworks. Keep your campfire size manageable, never leave it unattended and allow the wood to burn completely to ash. Pour lots of water on the fire and on all embers.

6. Keep a close eye on kids in the water.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends fencing of pools. Drowning can happen quickly and quietly. Avoid distracting activities while watching children in the water. Turn off the phone, put down the book and avoid being under the influence.

7. Keep mosquitos at bay by removing standing water and using repellents while outdoors. Never spray the face - spray on your hands and apply to face. During the day, apply sunscreen first, then bug repellent.

8. Look to the sky for storms.

Before heading outdoors, be sure to check the forecast. To receive advance warning of approaching storms and other emergency events, sign up for NotifyJoCo at notifyjoco.org. You can sign up to receive weather alerts that will come straight to your phone.

9. Avoid problematic plants.

Poison Ivy can grow as a vine or small shrub along the ground, or along trees and poles. Each leaf has three glossy leaflets with smooth or toothed edges. If you come in contact, wash your skin with soap and cool water.

10. Never leave children or pets in the car.

As of June 19, in the U.S., there were already 11 deaths of children who were left in hot vehicles. Put your keys, phone, wallet or purse in the back seat, so you remember to get the kids and/or pets out. Ask your child care provider to alert you right away if your child hasn’t arrived as scheduled. Confirm/count the children going in and out of the car. Keep your vehicles locked at all times.
Thanks to everyone who shared their photos with us! Join the conversation and share your favorite summer spots with #JoCoStaycation.

- Meadowbrook Park
- Raven Ridge Park
- South Lake Park
- Theatre in the Park
- Meadowbrook Park
- Lenexa Rec Center
- Deanna Rose Children’s Farmstead
- Shawnee Mission Park
- Overland Park Farmer’s Market
- Lake Olathe Beach
- Old Shawnee Days
- Shawnee Mission Park
- Theatre in the Park