



March/April 2019

## New Initiatives Benefiting Residents in 2019

**W**ith the approval of the 2019 Budget, the Governing Body authorized several exciting new programs benefiting residents. Below is a summary of the new programs. For more details on all programs and to apply, please visit [www.roelandpark.net](http://www.roelandpark.net).

**Youth Advisory Committee.** New in 2019, the Youth Advisory Committee will advise the Governing Body on matters impacting youth in the City. Teens age 13 – 19 will help form policy, coordinate service projects benefiting the community, and learn about local government. We are actively recruiting committee members who live in or attend school in Roeland Park. This is an excellent opportunity to build leadership skills, collaborate with elected officials and peers and make your mark on the community. Make a difference and sign up today!

**Compost bin rebate.** Backyard would-be composters rejoice! The City will begin offering rebates of up to \$50 for those who purchase compost bins after January 1, 2019. Those interested would need to complete an application and provide a receipt for an eligible compost bin. In addi-



tion, we will be providing Composting 101 workshops with dates and times TBD. Those who attend a workshop will be given priority for a rebate as well as be eligible for the maximum rebate of \$50. Otherwise rebates will be given on a first-come-first serve basis at a maximum of \$40.

**Neighbors Helping Neighbors.** This program will aid low-income, elderly, and disabled homeowners with property maintenance needs through volunteer labor and paid contractor assistance when necessary.

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### Coffee, Donuts, and the Mayor in Your Home



**W**ant to know more about what's going on in Roeland Park? Have ideas you'd like to share with your Governing Body? Need comic relief on a REALLY low budget?

Sit down for an informal, and hopefully informative, meeting with Roeland Park Mayor Mike Kelly at your home. Those willing to host their neighbors for an hour long conversation will enjoy coffee and donuts, brought to you courtesy of the Mayor. These meetings will be held once per month beginning in January 2019. For more information or to volunteer to host, please contact Kelley Bohon at 913-722-2600 or email her at [kbohon@roelandpark.org](mailto:kbohon@roelandpark.org).

### Also In This Issue...

- Citizen Spotlight—Meet Gretchen and Ardie Davis
- R Park Sculpture Named!
- Community Center Events
- Traffic Safety
- Changes to Animal Control
- Public Works—Working for You!

## Resident Spotlight



Introducing...

Ardie & Gretchen Davis

If you know a Roeland Park resident or family we should feature in our Resident Spotlight section of the Roeland Parker and on our website, please visit [www.roelandpark.net](http://www.roelandpark.net) and search for "Resident Spotlight".

**A**rdie and Gretchen Davis have been residents of Roeland Park and a fixture in the community for 44 years. The Davis household is so passionate about art that the artwork in their home is rotated to reflect the changing seasons. That love of art has extended to the community. They have been the driving force with the Arts Committee in a group effort to fundraise and commission artist Jorge Blanco to create a sculpture for R Park which will be installed in May of 2019.

Gretchen and Ardie settled in Roeland Park for its schools, its walkability and its proximity to the cultural opportunities of the urban core. "Part of what makes this city such a great place is the mix of generations and how actively involved our residents are in their community," said Gretchen. Five years ago the couple founded "Citizen's Fundraising Initiative for R Park," a group of residents who work with the Parks Committee to revitalize the City's newest park. To date, they have facilitated the raising of more than \$200,000 through events, donations, grants and awards to bring new essential amenities to R Park.

In addition to their philanthropic endeavors, Ardie is the founder of the American Royal Barbecue Sauce contest, which started in their backyard patio. It is the largest contest of its kind in the world. Ardie, a.k.a. Remus Powers, Ph.B., has authored 13 books on BBQ and was inducted into the Barbecue Hall of Fame in 2016.

Their home is neatly tucked in a quiet neighborhood that has been ideal for raising their two children and hosting their five grandchildren. "Our neighborhood is welcoming, safe and friendly," said Ardie. "We enjoy our neighbors, and we all look out for each other. We love living in Roeland Park!"



Judy Hyde

### The R Park Sculpture Has Been Named!

"See Red Run" has been chosen as the name for the future R Park sculpture following a naming contest which was held from July 21 to Dec. 31, 2018. The winner, Roeland Park resident Judy Hyde, said she submitted the "See Red Run" title in a nod to the early Dick and Jane readers used in schools from the 1930s into the 1950s. R Park is the site of the former Roeland Park Elementary School (1951-2003). The 3 Rs located on the sculpture refer to the conventional 3 Rs of Education (reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic) in recognition of the site's history. Of the 117 entries in the naming contest, "See Red Run" was chosen by the sculptor, Jorge Blanco. The name "See Red Run" will be permanently listed on the sculpture plaque when the sculpture is installed in R Park in May of 2019. Congratulations to Judy Hyde for her winning entry and many thanks to every person who entered the sculpture naming contest!



See Red Run!

## Keeping an Eye on Traffic

By Corporal John De Moss, Police Officer and Traffic Specialist,  
[jdemoss@roelandpark.org](mailto:jdemoss@roelandpark.org)

Periodically citizens contact our department regarding speeders or traffic violators in their neighborhoods. We do have problem areas that require attention more than others. RPPD has been working hard to address the problems. We continue to strive every year to make the city a safer place. We have for the past four years entered and won the AAA Auto Traffic Safety Award, last year achieving the highest honor of Platinum!

### Have a traffic problem? Here is what to do.

There are several ways to report a traffic problem in your neighborhood. You can email the police department or me specifically if you have a complaint or problem. We also have a Traffic Enforcement Form you can fill out at our station or on the City's website at [www.roelandpark.org](http://www.roelandpark.org). You can always call the Police Station or Dispatch at 913-782-0720. Make sure you are specific regarding your concern. This may include times, dates or days it is occurring, or specific vehicles that are causing the problem.

### What happens next?

When the RPPD receives a complaint, officers may observe the traffic problem, obtain a traffic count, or start enforcement immediately. Now we have a new tool in our arsenal. We recently obtained a traffic speed sign that, in addition to showing the

speed, can count vehicles and indicate when are speeders are most prevalent. We are able to gather this information in real

time allowing us to target enforcement. If you are concerned about speeders on your street, please contact the RPPD if you would like to put the speed sign up in front of your residence.



### Traffic data makes a difference!

We received complaints from several residents on Nall Avenue in late 2018. During the months of October and November we conducted extensive traffic enforcement in the area. The result showed with a speed limit of 25 miles per hour, the average speed violation was 38 miles per hour. We made 63 stops with citations written for violations between 35 and 45 miles per hour. With this type of enforcement, we have made a difference in safety on this street.

Officers do not like writing people tickets, but enforcement of the law makes a difference in keeping the roads and people safe. With the tools we have added to the department, the RPPD will be better equipped ensure your safety.

## New Initiatives Benefiting Residents in 2019 (cont. from cover)

This pilot program is funded at \$10,000 in 2019 to help qualified residents with a variety of concerns including raking and bagging leaves and brush, scraping and painting home exteriors, trimming and removing bushes and shrubs, removing and replacing gutters, replacing broken windows and wood rot and more. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a need to be eligible.

**Minor Home Repair Program.** The City also supports the Johnson County Minor Home Repair program which assists eligible residents with home repairs and provides accessibility modifications for persons with disabilities. The program addresses a variety of needs including electrical, carpentry, plumbing, masonry, ADA accessibility and roof replacement. Roeland Park doubled its contribution to this program in 2019 to \$9,000 in hopes of assisting more residents. Recipients must meet income guidelines. A link to the program and application can be found on our website.

**Property Tax Assistance Program.** Due to the rapid increase in property taxes in Johnson County, the Governing Body approved a property tax assistance program to rebate 100% of the City property taxes paid by senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and/or military veterans that meet income guidelines. We hope the program will help citizens of all ages to remain in their homes regardless of market conditions.

## Stay Connected



@CityofRoelandParkKS



@RoelandParkKS



[www.roelandpark.net](http://www.roelandpark.net)

For up-to-date information on storm delays, trash collection, City ordinances, etc., please check our website and follow us on social media to get the latest news and announcements.

Psst....Have an opinion? Shout it out! Take our **Citizen Survey** at [www.roelandparksurvey.org](http://www.roelandparksurvey.org)

# Public Works—Working for You!



*Hard at Work! Left: New leaf machine;  
Right: Crews removing brush from the  
winter storms.*



Our Public Works crews have been working tirelessly this winter cleaning up after the recent destructive storms, plowing and salting our streets as well as conducting our usual leaf and brush collection. Under the direction of the new Public Works Director Donnie Scharff, crews have been able to complete leaf and brush collection while effectively managing snow and ice removal and the additional limb collection. Way to go guys!

## Introducing Our New Public Works Director



Donnie Scharff started his new role as Public Works Director officially on December 27th. We asked Donnie some of our burning questions to get to know him better.

**RP:** How long have you been an employee of Roeland Park? **DS:** I started with RP on June 1, 2015 serving as the Public Works Superintendent.

**RP:** What do you hope to accomplish as Director?

**DS:** My plan is to continue to build upon relationships within the community and develop creative new ideas to ensure that our city infrastructure is maintained efficiently and timely.

**RP:** What do you love about Roeland Park? **DS:** The positive interaction with residents on a daily basis. I enjoy the passion and creativity of our residents, committees, as well as the staff.

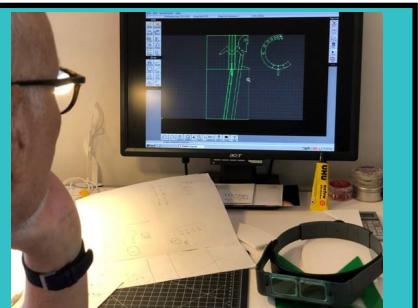
**RP:** Tell us something most people don't know about you. **DS:** I won a four day cruise to the Bahamas on a lottery scratcher ticket that my wife and I took for our honeymoon. Best \$2 I ever spent!

**RP:** What motivates you? **DS:** Helping others be successful and empowering people brings me joy. Just knowing you can make a difference in someone's life is a great feeling.

## Local Residents Donate Professional Services for R Park Sculpture

Two Roeland Park residents are generously donating their skills to the sculpture project by building the R Park sculpture foundation pad. Jared Luebe will create an engineered sketch for the foundation, and Jan Duncan, owner of Synergy Construction, will construct the concrete foundation by mid-April. Duncan will also provide the crews to help assemble and install the sculpture in R Park in early May, 2019.

With in-kind and monetary donations, staff help from the City, approval from the Council, support from the Arts and Parks Committees and dedicated work from the R Park Sculpture Work Group, this sculpture project truly has taken our entire village to succeed!



*Artist Jorge Blanco is drawing detailed plans for the R Park sculpture being fabricated in Sarasota, Florida.*

# The Roeland Park Community Center

## Roeland Park Community Center

(913) 826-3160

### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8am-8pm

Friday: 8am-5pm

### Fitness Room

Monday-Thursday: 7am-8pm

Friday: 7am-6pm

Saturday: 8am-2pm

Sunday: Closed

### Room Rental Hours

Monday-Thursday:

8am-10pm

Friday-Saturday:

8 am-10:30 pm

Sunday: 11 am-8 pm

## Roeland Park Aquatic Center

(913) 432-1377

Opening Saturday, May 25th

## Roeland Park Sports Dome

(913) 362-8700

Please call for open gym and court rental availability.

[www.jcprd.com](http://www.jcprd.com)



**JOHNSON COUNTY**  
Park & Recreation  
District

## Family

**Family Fun Bingo Night!, All Ages, March 8, 6 pm-8 pm, \$10 per person, \$30 per family up to 4 or \$40 per family up to 7 people \***

Kick off spring break with some good ol' family fun playing everyone's favorite B-I-N-G-O! We've added twists and special treats to make the game more active and silly. Dinner included.

**Breakfast with the Bunny, All Ages, April 13, 8 am-11am, Free entry for egg hunt, breakfast \$7 in advance or \$8 day of program**

Everyone's invited to fill up on all-you-can-eat Chris Cakes pancakes and sausage. Hop outside for pictures with the Easter Bunny. Egg hunt starts at 10 am sharp!

## Preschool

**Superhero Saturday, Ages 3-6 with Adult, April 27, 10 am-11:30am, \$5 per child if paid in advance, \$8 per child day of the event, if space is available.**

Costumes encouraged in this action-packed morning. Includes: superhero training, scavenger hunt, art activity, photo opportunity, and goodie bag!

## Youth

**Spring Break Camp: Minecraft Engineering with LEGO®, Ages 6-11, March 11-15, 8 am-5pm, \$275**

Bring Minecraft to life with Play-Well TEKnologies and tens of thousands of LEGO®!

## Adult

**Sewing, Easy Alterations, Ages 16 & Older, March 25, 6 pm-8 pm, 4 sessions, \$35**

Step-by-step instructions for altering hems, waistbands, and zippers. Participants required to bring their own supplies, check website for a supply list.

## 50 Plus

**Osher Institute: The Opioid Epidemic, March 20, 27, & April 3, 7 pm-9 pm, \$50**

This course will focus on the causes, victims and treatment of America's Opioid epidemic.

**Bingo: Wizard of Oz® Treat, Ages 50 & over, March 28, 1:30 pm-3 pm, \$5 \***

Variety of prizes awarded including gift certificates & gift baskets. Refreshments served. \*Cost of admission covers food & staff time to administer program; no additional charge for bingo.

**Osher Institute: Music and Lives of the Great Composers, April 11, 18, 25, 7 pm-9 pm, \$50**

We will track their careers from their early work, through influences that impacted their musical styles, to the late work that culminated their careers.

**Step by Step Canvas Painting for Beginners, Ages 50 & over, April 22, 10 am-12 pm, \$37**

Paint a canvas in just one class! All supplies included and coffee brewed to enhance conversation.



**Be on the lookout for information regarding Pickleball programming coming this May to the courts at R Park! Visit [www.roelandpark.net](http://www.roelandpark.net) to ensure you are signed up for Community Center e-Newsletters through Constant Contact.**

## Roeland Park Aquatic Center - Opening Saturday, May 25



Think Summer! Sign up now and SAVE with an Early Bird discount! Pool memberships go on sale April 1 and can be purchased at the Roeland Park Community Center during normal hours of operation. Purchase your membership before April 30 and receive a 10% discount. Summer sun will be here before you know it!

## Work Where You Play!

Roeland Park Aquatic Center is now hiring lifeguards, front desk, water safety instructors and concessions staff. Free Lifeguard training certifications available. Great benefits such as program discounts, referral bonuses, and paid personal leave offered! Apply at [www.jcprd.com](http://www.jcprd.com) today!



**Ward 1—Vacant**

(913) 722-2600

**City Administrator**

Keith Moody

kmoody@roelandpark.org

**Finance Director/Asst. City Administrator**

Jennifer Jones-Lacy

jjoneslacy@roelandpark.org

**City Clerk**

Kelley Bohon

kbohon@roelandpark.org

**Police Department**

Chief of Police, John Morris  
emorris@roelandpark.org

**Public Works Department**

Donnie Scharff, Director  
dscharff@roelandpark.org

**Mayor—Mike Kelly**

mkelly@roelandpark.org  
(913) 722-2600

**Ward 1—Tom Madigan**

tomrpks@gmail.com

(913) 526-6997

**Ward 2—Jen Hill**

jhill@roelandpark.org

(913) 722-2600

**Ward 2—Tim Janssen**

tjanssen@roelandpark.org

(913) 214-6785

**Ward 3—Erin Thompson**

erinthompsonforrp@gmail.com

(913) 667-9159

**Ward 3—Claudia McCormack**

cmccormack@roelandpark.org

(913) 722-2600

**Ward 4—Jim Kelly**

jkelly@roelandpark.org

(913) 722-2600

**Ward 4—Michael Poppa**

mpoppa@roelandpark.org

(913) 890-3809

## Animal Concerns? Contact Animal Control

The City of Roeland Park contracts with the City of Mission to provide Animal Control Services starting in 2019. While a Community Service Officer with the City of Mission will respond to any concerns, the service will be the same. Call **913-782-0720** to report:

- Dogs barking or running at-large
- Animal welfare concerns
- Lost pet
- Animal bite or dangerous animal concern



If you have a concern after normal business hours, the Roeland Park Police Department will respond to the call.



## Want to Party?

You can help make Roeland Park a fun and vibrant place to live! We need volunteers for our Community Events Committee to help plan citywide parties. The Events Committee plans two events each year in the spring and fall. Residents and non-residents alike are invited to help develop, plan and promote events that citizens of all ages can enjoy. The Committee meets the third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at City Hall. To sign up or for more information please visit [www.roelandpark.org](http://www.roelandpark.org) or contact Kelley Bohon @ 913-722-2600 or [kbohon@roelandpark.org](mailto:kbohon@roelandpark.org).