



The ROELAND PARKER

April-May 2020

COVID-19: Roeland Park's Response

The corona virus pandemic has completely upended how we live our lives, disrupting our daily routines, our jobs and our families. While city officials and staff work to continue essential services for our residents, the health and safety of our community as well as our staff is our priority. The City in conjunction with the Johnson County Health Department and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has taken several steps to help prevent the spread of this highly contagious virus focusing on social distancing.

- All City facilities are closed to the public through at least April 26th. All programming, rentals, and events have been postponed or cancelled and all in-person transactions must occur online. However, residents can still call City Hall Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – noon and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. for any requests or questions.
- City Council, workshops, and Planning Commission meetings are now online. Citizens are welcome and invited to listen in

via phone or through their computer using the GoToMeeting platform. Details on how to join the meeting will be posted on our website and in our agenda packets.

- Only essential city staff will be working on-site and, those who can, will work remotely. Police and public works practice social distancing while conducting their operations.
- Playgrounds are closed for public use. Trails and parks remain open.
- The sale of Aquatic Center passes is postponed until May 1st, pending the lift of the Stay at Home order.

While the landscape of our operations have changed, our commitment to serving our residents and businesses has not. In this newsletter, we've included some essential information that can help you during this unprecedented time. Please note, information changes rapidly, stay tuned in to our website www.roelandpark.org and follow us on social media for the latest updates on the local response to the pandemic.

Core 4 Stay at Home Order and What it Means

On Sunday, March 22nd, leadership from Johnson County, Jackson County, the Unified Government and Kansas City, Missouri held a joint press conference announcing the Stay at Home order that went into effect on Tuesday, March 24th. The order is in effect for 30 days from the effective date and may extend beyond that date based on public health and critical care information available at that time.

"Roeland Park is in full cooperation with the recommendations made by the public health community across metropolitan Kansas City with the proactive implementation of social distancing through the Stay at Home Order," said Mayor Mike Kelly. "We're asking residents to stay at home, as much as possible, in order to help flatten the curve of COVID-19."

During this time, residents are asked to leave their home only for essential activities including, but not limited to, getting food (groceries or take-out), medical care, to engage in outdoor activity

such as exercise, walking, etc., to perform any work deemed essential, or to care for a family member, loved one or pet. For a full list of essential activities, you can visit the County's website www.jocogov.org or www.roelandpark.org.



Community Connection:

Resources for your health, safety and mental and emotional well-being

Assistance with Basic Needs



Roeland Park United Methodist Church located at 5110 Cedar Street is collecting canned goods and non-perishable food donations. Volunteers are needed to sort items on Wednesdays from 9 a.m.—1 p.m. Food will be distributed on Fridays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. and can be collected at the back door of the church. If you are in the at-risk population, please contact City Hall for further assistance with delivery. For more information, please visit www.roelandpark.net.



Energy has suspended disconnections. Energy will also waive late fees and add payment agreement options for residential and small business customers as the coronavirus continues to affect local communities, causing financial hardship for some. Customers in need are encouraged to call 2-1-1 to learn about additional community resources that might be available.



Free breakfast and lunch is available to all children ages 1 to 18 at four school sites in the Shawnee Mission School District, the closest being Hocker Grove Middle School at 10400 Johnson Drive in Shawnee. Each child may have one breakfast and one lunch bag which can be picked up from 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday - Friday.



The Kansas City Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund has been created to address the needs of the Kansas City region's most vulnerable communities affected by the pandemic. Learn more about how you can help strengthen our community during this time, visit growyouriving.org/COVID



Unemployment insurance benefits may be available to individuals who are involuntarily unemployed as a result of COVID-19. The amount of the benefit will vary based upon the amount of money that the individual has previously earned, but will be between \$122 and \$488 per week. At this time, individuals can receive up to a maximum of 16 weeks of benefits.

You can view video tutorials on the application process, what to do after filing an initial claim, and more at www.dol.ks.gov/tutorials.

To file for unemployment insurance benefits, visit www.getkansasbenefits.gov, and click on the button at the top of the page titled EASY.FAST.SECURE.

Assistance with Well-Being

Quick Tips for Mental Health During COVID-19

By SSM Health, Reprinted with permission, information provided courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

We know the outbreak of COVID-19 can be stressful and cause fear and anxiety for people. These feelings during an infectious disease outbreak is normal and common. But there are things you can do to support yourself, friends and family members. By working together, you can cope with the stress which will make you and your loved ones stronger.



- Unexplained headaches.
- Use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs

Things you can do to support your child

- Take time to talk to your child or teen about the COVID-19 outbreak. Answer questions and share facts about COVID-19 in a way that your child or teen can understand.
- Reassure your child or teen that they are safe. Let them know it is OK if they feel upset. Share with them how you deal with your own stress.
- Limit your family's exposure to news coverage of the event, including social media. Children may misinterpret what they hear and can be frightened about something they do not understand.
- Try to keep with regular routines. As schools are closed, create a schedule for learning activities and relaxing or fun activities.
- Be a role model. Take breaks, get plenty of sleep, exercise and eat well.

Stress during an infectious disease outbreak can include

- Fear & worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones.
- Changes in sleep or eating patterns.
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating.
- Worsening of chronic health problems.
- Increased use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs

Things you can do to support yourself

- Take breaks from watching, reading, or listening to news stories, including social media. Repeatedly hearing about the pandemic can be upsetting.
- Take care of your body. Take deep breaths, stretch or meditate. Try to eat healthy, well-balanced meals, exercise regularly, get plenty of sleep and avoid alcohol and drugs.
- Carve out time to unwind. Try to do some other activities you enjoy including connecting with others, talking with people you trust about your concerns and how you are feeling.

For Parents

Not all children and teens respond to stress in the same way. Some common changes to watch for include:

- Excessive crying or irritation in younger children.
- Returning to behaviors they have outgrown (for example, toileting accidents or bedwetting).
- Excessive worry or sadness.
- Unhealthy eating or sleeping habits.
- Irritability and "acting out" behaviors in teens.
- Difficulty with attention and concentration.
- Avoidance of activities enjoyed in the past.

"Eye Spy" Nature in Roeland Park

As the weather warms up kids and families are itching to get out of the house and enjoy the outdoors. Despite park playground equipment being closed, we have another fun project for kids to enjoy while out on walks. We're asking residents to participate to help bring a bit of joy to our kids during this difficult time. Here's how you can help.

Post a symbol or two of local nature in your street-facing windows that kids can see when they are out walking with their families. Search your home for items like stuffed animals, create a drawing or paintings of a sun, rainbow, flowers, etc. to display in a primary window/door facing the street. Feel free to change the objects whenever you want from now until May 1st.

During walks or bike rides through Roeland Park, kids can count the number of nature symbols they can spy from the street or sidewalk. Bring some binoculars along to get a better look. Email your photos to anichols@roelandpark.org so we can share them on our Facebook Page.



Chief's Corner—A Message from the Roeland Park Police Department

As we continue to deal with the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, the Roeland Park Police Department has a number of items we would like to discuss with our residents and visitors.

First and foremost, our top priority will remain ensuring the safety of each and every Roeland Park resident.

A state of emergency was declared Governor Laura Kelly to take effect on Sunday night (03/29), at midnight, for the entire State of Kansas. As compared to the earlier order that pertained only to populated Kansas counties, this is a state-wide "stay at home" order to further attempt to combat the spread of the virus.

The Roeland Park Police Department will, of course, remain open during the entire crisis; however the lobby of the police station will have limited public access during this time. We are encouraging whenever possible, that residents call the station rather than visit us in person. The department's dispatch line is (913) 782-0720. As always, please dial 911 in the case of an emergency.

All walk-in services (such as fingerprinting and records requests), any in-person offense reports, medication drop-off, etc. are suspended until further notice. All Roeland Park court services are also closed until further notice, however fines from citations can be paid online as per the directions on the back of the citation. Car crashes that happen on private property, we ask residents to simply exchange information. Crashes on the roadway in which the vehicles are moveable, we ask the same.

The Roeland Park Police Department encourages you all to practice and promote the concept of social distancing, which the CDC



describes as avoiding crowds or large gatherings and maintaining a distance of approximately 6 feet or more from others when possible.

We also encourage frequent hand-washing and disinfecting after use of common surfaces such as gas pumps, steering wheels, convenience store facilities, door knobs, etc. Residents are still encouraged to go outside for exercise, walks or even just to get fresh air.

In closing, please be assured that despite the ongoing closures to our local businesses and changes to our everyday lives, the Roeland Park Police Department will be ready to assist every member of the community no matter what their needs may be. We thank all residents, business owners and community members for their continued cooperation during this difficult time. We are proud to protect and serve you, and as long as we all stay up-to-date on the most current guidelines and show kindness to one another we will come through this crisis stronger than we were before.

-By Sergeant Cliff Chaffee

Residents Get Creative to Help Neighbors and Bring Joy to Others

Twelve-year-old RP resident Jack Crane loves inflatables and displays them for different holidays throughout the year. Since so many neighbors are home these days, he convinced his parents to display the entire collection at once to help brighten the day of those who pass by.



Roeland Park resident Sarah Martin has had a Little Free Library in front of her house for several years. In the face of the coronavirus, she wanted to do something to help. She converted her little free library to a little free food pantry, which includes nonperishable food and toiletries for anyone in need. She also has a bin next to the pantry for others to make their own donations to the stash.

"I've been delighted and impressed by all of the positive response and donations from neighbors and the community," said Martin. "We truly have such a supportive, generous and kind City."



Letter from Mayor Mike Kelly

Neighbors,

Thank you for your patience during these trying times. I am sure you're anxious and frustrated, and please know that we are as well. No one came into 2020 planning for emergency declarations, social distancing, and school cancellations due to an unprecedented pandemic. I'm saddened that important community assets, such as the community center and our park equipment, aren't able to be enjoyed by our residents.

Therefore, I think this marks a unique opportunity for us, as a community, to practice empathy. I know that our country has felt divided in the last few years, and at times Northeast Johnson County is not immune from these sentiments. Given the additional challenges of COVID-19, one might expect people to respond in anger and divisiveness. However, what I've seen from Roeland Park has filled me with pride. We recognize that we all can face unique challenges that arise unexpectedly and in response, we've seen a wave of empathetic actions: from businesses donating products or services to aid medical professionals, to neighbors providing food or donations to other residents in need, our community has shown we recognize the inherent humanity of one another. Again, it shows our motto rings true: Roeland Park is "Uniquely Rooted." Thank you.

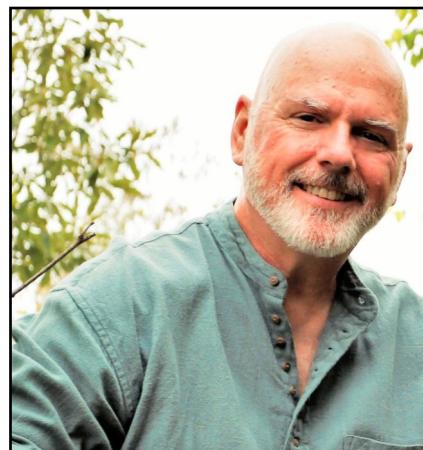
As this crisis continues, we will continue to monitor how this will affect our operations going forward. Staff and the Governing Body will continue to monitor our revenues and

report upon them monthly, as usual, and we will inform our residents as we see any unexpected impacts. At this time, we cannot state with certainty what the financial impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic will be on our 2020 revenue projections, however some basic observations by major revenue sources indicate no material changes are anticipated. We will continue to closely monitor these revenue collections.



We'll continue to update you as we receive new information. For now, please be safe and take care. Thanks for your consideration of your neighbors and fellow Roeland Parkers. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor. It is an honor.

Thank You to Sergeant Randy Costlow for 30 Years with the City!



Sergeant Costlow started off as a reserve officer with the Roeland Park Police in 1990 and was hired full time in 1995. He was promoted to Detective then to Sergeant in 2000. Upon retirement Randy filled both rolls of Detective and Sergeant. In addition to his police work, Randy was the City's in-house IT expert and helped keep the City moving. Randy was named officer of the year in 2017. He retired on March 31, 2020. We wish him the best of luck in his next chapter!

The 2020 Census and Adjustments Due to COVID-19

The 2020 Census is underway and households across America are responding every day. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, the U.S. Census Bureau has adjusted 2020 Census operations in order to protect the health and safety of Census employees and the American public, implement guidance from federal, state, and local health authorities, and ensure a complete and accurate count of all communities. Some of the activities from Census takers such as mobile location re-

porting and non-responsive follow-up with those who have not completed their census will be pushed into August. However, final results will still be delivered to the president on December 31, 2020, with results delivered to states for redistricting by April 1, 2021.

Half of Roeland Parkers have already responded to the Census online and for that we thank you! The public is strongly encouraged to complete their census online by visiting my2020census.gov. If you do not have a code, you can simply enter your address and complete your survey. You can also respond by phone by calling (844) 330-2020 or by mail.

Did you know...

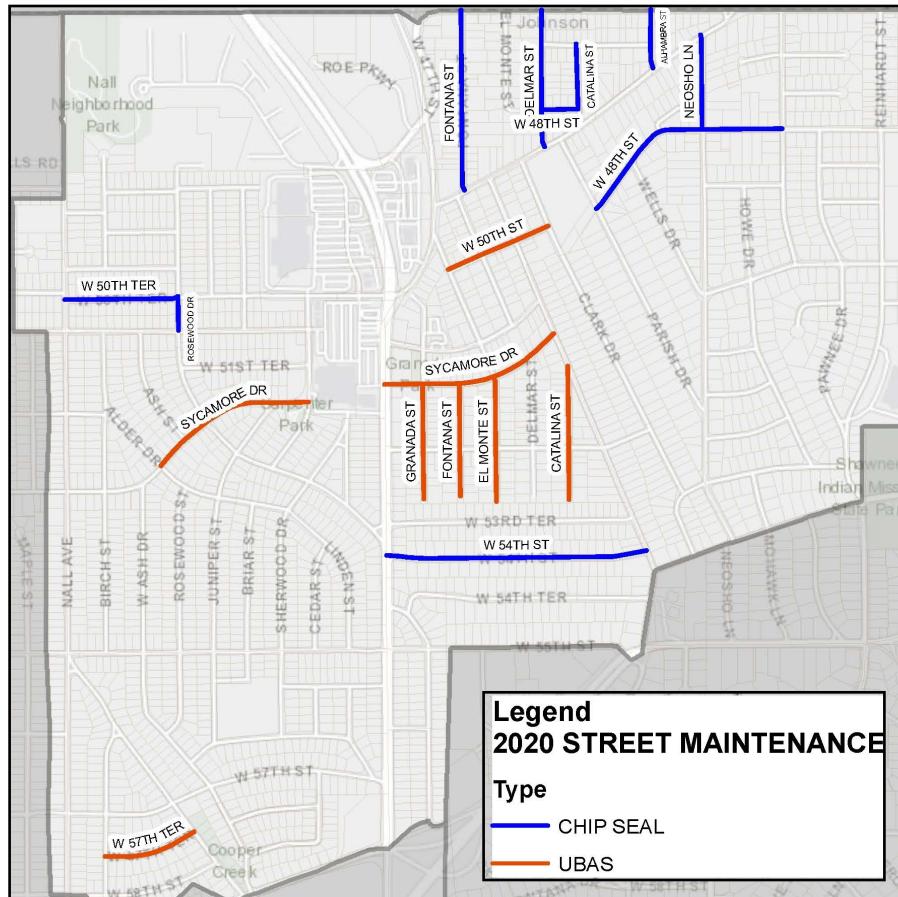
- Census counts are used to fund schools, nutrition assistance, healthcare and public safety.
- Data collection ensures your community gets its fair share of federal funding for critical infrastructure, education, head start programs and more.
- Census counts are safe and confidential and cannot be used against you according to federal law.



2020 Street Maintenance

The contract for the 2020 street maintenance program was awarded to McAnany Construction for a total of \$184,485 to complete surface treatments on the streets illustrated in the map. The blue lines indicate streets that will be resurfaced using chip seal (Fontana, Delmar, W. 48th St, Catalina, Alhambra, Neosho, W. 50th Ter, and W. 54th St). The streets illustrated in orange will be resurfaced using Ultra-thin Bonded Asphalt Surface (UBAS). These include sections of Sycamore, W. 57th Ter, W. 50th St., Granada, Fontana, El Monte, and Catalina.

All streets are evaluated for a pavement condition index (PCI) rating. Streets with a PCI of 55 or higher are candidates for UBAS and those with a rating between 30 and 54 are considered for chip seal. Streets with lower ratings are contenders for major reconstruction projects.



KC COVID-19 Small Business Relief Loan Fund

The KC COVID-19 Small Business Relief Loan Fund is intended to provide immediate relief to local small businesses experiencing extreme economic disruption and financial strain as a result of the necessary public health measures to “flatten the curve” and combat the virus.

Small businesses interested in applying for the KC COVID-19 Small Business Relief Loan Fund must:

- Be located in the Kansas City Region;
- Have 20 or fewer full-time equivalent employees, and;
- Have \$2.5 million or less in annual revenue.

Priority will be given to small businesses in retail, food service, arts and entertainment, hospitality, healthcare not directly involved in the COVID-19 response, fitness, personal service, and transportation. The KC COVID-19 Small Business Relief Loan Fund will provide flexible, patient capital for the area’s hardest hit small businesses. Applications are available now for three-year, short-term loans up to \$100,000 with no interest and deferred payments for the first 6-12 months. No minimum credit score is required, and collateral requirements are flexible. Additional information about eligibility and application materials can be found at www.altcap.org/covid-relief-fund or by calling (816) 216-1851. The application is available in English and Spanish.

Update on Roe 2020—Contractor Selected

KDOT Completed its competitive bid process for the Roe 2020 improvement project on March 25th. The total project cost estimate (\$9,940,994) includes all associated costs including engineering, easement acquisition, inspection, legal services, along with construction costs. Construction will consist of a base bid along a variety of supplemental contracts including landscaping for the project, a mill and overlay of Roe north of 48th Street, traffic signal removals by KCPL and monument signs. The base bid will be completed by the KDOT selected contractor, the other work will be bid separately in an effort to reduce costs. Once the schedule is set with the KDOT selected contractor, the City will have a public pre-construction meeting to answer residents’ questions. Details will be announced on our website and social media when they are available.



The Roeland Park Recreation Campus



Roeland Park Community Center

(913) 826-3160

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8 am-8 pm

Friday: 8 am-5 pm

Saturday: 8 am-2 pm

Fitness Room

Monday-Thursday: 7 am-8 pm

Friday: 7 am-6 pm

Saturday: 8 am-2 pm

Sunday: Closed

Roeland Park Sports Dome

(913) 362-8700

Please call for open gym and court rental availability.

www.jcprd.com



Youth

FUNDamentals using LEGO® Wizarding World of Engineering Camp (Ages 7 - 12), Tuesday, May 26th - Friday, May 29th, 8 am - 5 pm, \$228

Master the magic of wizardry with LEGO® projects, such as: visiting the school of witchcraft, broomstick games, and dueling the evil wizard.

Adult

Cleaning Healthy, Cleaning Green (Ages 18 & Older), Thursday, May 21st, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm, \$3

Household cleaning products can actually increase levels of indoor pollutants. Follow these guidelines to improve your indoor environment, save money and help conserve natural resources.

50 Plus

Cooking: Instant Pot, Wednesday, May 20th, 1 pm - 4 pm, \$36

Lose the fear and fall in love with one of the hottest kitchen gadgets. Electric pressure cookers are safe, easy, and a great way to get healthy and delicious dinners made fast.

Strawberry Bingo, Thursday, May 28th, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, \$5 /\$6 day of program

BINGO! Delight in food, prizes, fun, and 12 games of bingo. Variety of prizes awarded including gift certificates. Register at least one week in advance by calling (913) 831-3359.

*Cost of admission covers food and staff time to administer the bingo program. No additional charge for bingo.

Selling Online, Saturday, May 30th, 9 am - 11 am, \$19

Clearing out clutter? Looking to sell handmade wares? Class covers how to sell online safely. Learn tips and tricks to online payments, where to sell, and how to ship.

Dance: Kansas City 2-Step (Ages 18 & Older), Saturday, May 30th, 8 sessions, 9 am - 11 am, \$85

A cultural dance unique to Kansas City, 2-stepping's roots go back to the big band and swing eras of jazz. DC's Dance Instruction provides knowledge, skills, guidelines, and behaviors. Partner not required.

Please note: All upcoming programs are subject to change based on the recommendations of local government and health experts.

A GREAT PLACE TO WORK OUT & SHAPE UP



Roeland Park Community Center

4850 Rosewood Dr., Roeland Park, KS 66205 • (913) 826-3160

HOURS: **Monday - Thursday:** 7 am to 8 pm

Friday: 7 am to 6 pm

Saturday: 8 am to 2 pm

Sunday: Closed

WE HAVE A LOT TO OFFER!

- Single and Family Memberships
- 60+ Single and 60+ Family Memberships
- Wellness, Enrichment and Fitness Classes
- Strength and Cardio Equipment
- Yoga and T'ai Chi Classes
- Personal training
- Prime Fitness



For a complete list of offerings visit JCPRD.com.



City Administrator
Keith Moody
kmoody@roelandpark.org

Finance Director/Ast. City Administrator
Jennifer Jones-Lacy
jjoneslacy@roelandpark.org

City Clerk
Kelley Nielsen
knelsen@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—Jan Faidley
jfaidley@roelandpark.org
(913) 709-6812

Ward 1—Tom Madigan
tomrpks@gmail.com
(913) 526-6997

Ward 2—Jen Hill
jhill@roelandpark.org
(913) 722-2600

Ward 2—Benjamin Dickens
bdickens@roelandpark.org
(913) 544-1259

Ward 3—Trisha Brauer
tbrauer@roelandpark.org
(913) 722-2600

Ward 3—Claudia McCormack
cmccormack@roelandpark.org
(913) 722-2600

Ward 4—Jim Kelly
jkelly@roelandpark.org
(913) 722-2600

Ward 4—Michael Rebne
mrebne@roelandpark.org
(913) 228-2650

In Memory of Judy Katz, Roeland Park Mayor 1989-1993

Judy Katz passed away in her home at the age of 96 on January 18, 2020. A longtime community activist, she was the both the City's first female councilmember and mayor. During her tenure as mayor she initiated the redevelopment of the Roeland Park Shopping Center, modification of City codes and helped implement new standards for City operations. She is preceded in death by her husband Marvin Katz and is survived by children Chris Becicka, Richard Katz, Judy Katz, and Daniel Katz. She also had several grandchildren and great grandchildren. We thank Judy for her service to the City and know that she will be greatly missed in our community.



Give us your Thoughts on Public Art in RP

Sitting at home with nothing to do? Why not give us your opinions on public art in Roeland Park. The Art Committee provides recommendations to the City Council on how to spend funds allocated for public art. They are soliciting residents' feedback on artistic styles, locations and aesthetics on public art. Please visit www.roelandpark.org under "News and Announcements" on the homepage, click the link for the online survey, or go to <https://conta.cc/3dETSbB> (case sensitive).

Aquatic Center Update



Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, sales for passes at the Roeland Park Aquatic Center will be delayed until at least May 1st. To purchase passes and get additional information about the facility, visit www.roelandpark.net. You can also email the Park Superintendent at anichols@roelandpark.org.