



# The ROELAND PARKER

Feb-Mar 2021

## COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

In recent months, multiple vaccines have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration to combat the novel coronavirus instigated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Federal Government started the distribution of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, and on December 14, 2020, Kansas Governor Laura Kelly announced that the first shipment of the Pfizer vaccine arrived.

As more vaccine shipments arrive, Governor Kelly has released the vaccination distribution order which is split into 5 main phases. The vaccine distribution order prioritizes frontline healthcare workers, and those living and working in senior care facilities. Kansas is currently in Phase 2 of vaccine distribution as of January 21st. This includes those 65 years of age and older, those living in congregant settings (group homes, fire fighters, shelters, and the like), high contact critical workers essential to the pandemic response and those not vaccinated who were eligible during Phase 1.



Movement into the next phases of the vaccine distribution order is determined by the Governor's Office. **You can check Johnson County's website, [www.jocogov.org/covid-19-vaccine](http://www.jocogov.org/covid-19-vaccine), or call 913-715-2819 for updates about vaccine distribution, phases, and availability, including Spanish translation.** You can also sign up for their daily e-newsletter to get the latest on COVID-19 and vaccination rollout. The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment is requesting patience during the vaccine rollout. There is tremendous demand for a limited supply of vaccines.

### A Message from the Roeland Park Committee on Racial Equity

The Roeland Park Racial Equity Committee is working to make Roeland Park a more inclusive place for everyone. Please check out our page on the city website by clicking on Government, then Agendas and Minutes to find more information, including an antiracist booklist collaboration with Cedar Roe library. We will be issuing a survey to help gauge what's important to the community

when it comes to matters of racial equity. It will be posted on the City website and shared on social media as soon as it's ready so stay tuned! We are especially interested in getting input from People of Color in Roeland Park. Please go to the contact link at the bottom of the page to connect with us or email Michael Rebne, [mrebne@roelandpark.org](mailto:mrebne@roelandpark.org).



# Remembering George Schlegel

The Arts Advisory Committee of Roeland Park would like to acknowledge the passing of our beloved Art Commissioner George Schlegel. He was the essence of someone who lived and breathed art. Even when he was ill, he talked about how art could enhance our city. The George Schlegel Art Gallery was named in recognition of the countless years he has been involved in promoting art in our community.

George was instrumental in the development of the Art in R Park program. The program placed numerous works of art around the City. Some of the art received national attention. He also helped in the development of Granada Park.

George loved talking with people and displaying his knowledge of art. When anyone mentioned something about art, you can bet George had a story to go with it. He was always in his element at his gallery. For 20 plus years he made sure the gallery was filled with beautiful art. George searched for artists and worked with them at his gallery to display their art in the most aesthetic way. Even after displaying their art he continued to promote their art. Many artists have acknowledged how George either helped start their career or enhance it. His dedication to our community was outstanding. He was a lifelong learner and always searched out new ways to implement art in our city.

George will always be known as the Art Commissioner of Roeland Park.

The following quote is by Bruce Coville:

“Nothing you love is lost. Not really. Things, people—they always go away, sooner or later. You can’t hold them anymore than you can hold moonlight. But if they’ve touched you, if they’re inside you, then they’re still yours. The only things you ever really have are the ones you hold inside your heart.”

George deeply touched us and will forever be in our hearts.

For those who wish to honor George’s memory, his

wife Mary asks that donations be made to the Roeland Park Community Foundation and note “George Schlegel Art Fund” in the memo line. All proceeds will fund the enhancement of arts in Roeland Park. Those checks can be mailed to or dropped off at City Hall.



## The City Steps Forward on Climate Action

Fighting climate change is everyone's responsibility and the City of Roeland Park has taken measures to reduce its carbon footprint to ensure a sustainable future. In 2020, the City Council approved the purchase and implementation of Dynamhex, which will help the city measure its greenhouse gas emissions for the entire community, set nuanced reduction targets and track progress by engaging the local citizens for climate ac-

tion. Dynamhex will help the City keep track of citywide carbon emissions and residents can also use it to see the estimated emissions from their own home and learn how to reduce their personal footprint. This tool is now available on the City's website, check out [www.roelandpark.net/384/carbon-emissions-](http://www.roelandpark.net/384/carbon-emissions-)

dashboard to learn more and take a tour of this innovative tool.





Gretchen & Ardie Davis Community Pavilion holds approximately 40 visitors



The new fully accessible restroom facility

## R Park Phases 1 and 2 Now Complete

The Roeland Park City Council adopted the R Park Master Plan in 2017. The Master Plan evolved to the Phased Development Plan which illustrated improvements in 3 phases. The City completed the first two phases in fall 2020 which includes the new Gretchen & Ardie Davis Community Pavilion with fireplace, built-in grill, stone wall with pergola, and performance stage, a new accessible restroom, improved parking accessibility, a new soccer field and landscaping.

The City is grateful for the citizens who supported this endeavor, particularly the Citizens' Fundraising Initiative for R Park, Parks & Trees, Arts and Sustainability Committees, George Knipp, Jan Duncan, and everyone else who contributed their time and energy. Stay tuned for information on a ribbon cutting event once it is safe to gather again.

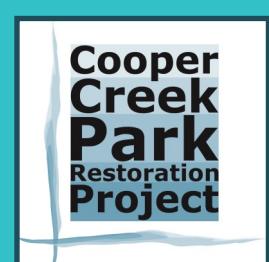
*~Photos courtesy of Dave Mootz*

## Restoring Cooper Creek Park

In 2021, Roeland Park will embark on a plan to revitalize Cooper Creek Park, which stretches some 900 feet along the

creek between Roeland Drive and Ash Drive. Home to more than 300 trees and a variety of wildlife, the park is overrun with invasive species and in dire need of habitat restoration. As a gateway to our city, it also needs a makeover.

The Cooper Creek Park Restoration Project is led by Councilmember Trisha Brauer in cooperation with Parks Superintendent Tony Nichols, the Parks Committee, the Arts Committee, the Sustainability Committee, and local citizens.



The eradication of invasive species will be carried out by a professional landscaper specializing in habitat restoration, likely in September of 2021. Ultimately, the creek banks will be replanted with native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowering perennials.



Cooper Creek Park—by Judy Hyde

Expect to see updated amenities in the park along with pollinator-friendly landscaping at the Welcome to Roeland Park sign at the southern end of the park. New public art has already been installed there by the Arts Committee.

# Thank you Roeland Park!

**2**020 was a tough year for everyone. Some were hit harder than others. While a raging pandemic, political turmoil and racial injustices dominated the headlines and America's consciousness, Roeland Parkers came together to reveal their true spirit of community, especially during the holiday season.

A group of residents representing Neighbors for a Better Roeland Park came together to organize the

Holiday Kindness Project, where residents purchased more than \$3,300 in gift cards to local businesses for our police department to hand out to unsuspecting shoppers. Chief Morris, who got to play "secret Santa" said "with all of those we encountered, I think it was the tears that choked us up the most." A huge thank you to RP for showing up for our neighbors and helping our PD spread joy this season. #RPPride



*(from left) Sergeant Cliff Chaffee and Chief John Morris surprise several shoppers at Roeland Park Businesses*



In partnership with the City of Mission, the City of Roeland Park adopted several families of children attending Roesland Elementary School for Christmas. City elected officials, staff, residents and contractors all chipped in to help provide nine local families with gifts, household essentials and gift cards. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of our resident and staff's response to our request for assistance

with the holiday adoption program. A special thanks to resident Joanna Rush for coordinating with the City of Mission & Kelley Nielsen for managing the process.



*Volunteers & City staff load cars with gifts for the Holiday Family Adoption program*

## RP Acts of Kindness

Emily's 5-year-old son Ian has a fanny pack that he uses to collect "treasures" that he finds around the neighborhood. Their neighbor Marguerite saw him hunting for treasure and he showed her the acorns and rocks he gathered on his adventures. Marguerite decided to enhance his collection, and added her own treasures to her yard. Now she can witness the joy of Ian's voyage, discovering coins, magnets, marbles, and other treats.

If you have witnessed an act of kindness, we want to hear about it! Visit [roelandpark.org/381/RP-Acts-of-Kindness](http://roelandpark.org/381/RP-Acts-of-Kindness) to learn more.



*5 year old Ian*

# Aquatic Center Updates

We are excited to welcome swimmers back to our pool in 2021! Visitors to the Roeland Park Aquatic Center (RPAC) will experience a new RPAC this summer including

- New spray ground
- 2 new tube slides
- Shade structures
- New toddler slide
- 2 new in-pool float features
- Privacy improvements in the men's locker room

Construction crews are set to complete work prior to opening day for the 2021 season. Most of the concrete deck has been poured, the new activity pool is being assembled, and new shade structures are being installed throughout the complex. New slide towers will arrive in February. Stay tuned to the City website



and social media for opening date and program info!

## Summer Jobs @ RPAC

Looking for a summer job that is rewarding, outdoors, provides a valuable service to our community *and* fun? The Roeland Park Aquatic Center is hiring for the 2021 pool season. Positions available include

- Lifeguard & Head Lifeguard
- Concessions attendants
- Front desk attendants
- Swim coach
- Water aerobics instructor
- Pool manager & Asst. Manager
- Swim lesson instructor



Lifeguard applicants do not need experience or active lifeguard certification. Job Descriptions and application available at [roelandpark.org/jobs.aspx](http://roelandpark.org/jobs.aspx).

Contact Tony Nichols for any questions regarding employment at the Roeland Park Aquatic Center. 913.742.7006 [anichols@roelandpark.org](mailto:anichols@roelandpark.org).



## Art Gallery News

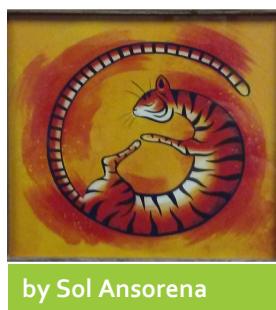


The most recent art exhibition at City Hall's Schlegel Gallery is "the

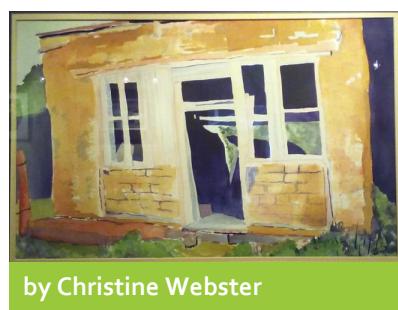
"First Annual George Schlegel Gallery for Artists Residing in Roeland Park". Names and contact information are being gathered for any other artists living in Roeland Park to prepare for the second annual exhibit in 2022. RP artists who want to be added to the contact list can email [lynleonlj@gmail.com](mailto:lynleonlj@gmail.com) or leave a message on the Facebook page [www.facebook.com/RPArtsAdvisory](https://www.facebook.com/RPArtsAdvisory). Below is a small selection of some of the pieces on display. Stop by the George Schlegel Gallery to check out the exhibitions or visit [www.roelandpark.org](http://www.roelandpark.org) and click on "news and announcements" for a virtual tour.



by Brittany Noriega



by Sol Ansorena



by Christine Webster

# The Roeland Park Recreation Campus



## Roeland Park Community Center

(913) 826-3160

Office Hours  
Hours may vary, call for details

Monday-Friday: 8 am-6 pm  
Saturday: 8 am-1 pm

Fitness Room  
Hours may vary, call for details

Monday-Friday: 7 am-6 pm  
(closed for cleaning 2pm-3 pm M-F)  
Saturday: 8 am-1 pm  
Sunday: Closed

## Roeland Park Sports Dome

(913) 362-8700

Please call for open gym and court rental availability.

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

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



## Fun for All

### Family Fun: Bingo Night! - March 12th, 6-8 pm, Individual and Family pricing available

This is a great opportunity for the family to unplug and have fun together. We've added prizes, twists and special treats to make the game more active, silly, and a family night to remember! Pizza dinner served at 6 pm.

## Youth

### Martial Arts: Mixed Martial Arts (Ages 6-12) - Thursdays Feb 11th-March 4th /or March 11th-Apr 1st, 5-6 pm, \$36

Traditional martial arts techniques taught with an emphasis on awareness based self-defense and anti-bullying. Improve discipline, focus and self-confidence while strengthening the body and mind.

### Teen Scene: Becoming a Babysitter (Ages 12-16) - February 27th, 9 am-4 pm, \$72

Babysitting requires a lot of responsibility and preparation. This class covers: personal safety, job expectations, easy cooking, appropriate activities for different ages, and how to diaper and feed babies. Participants will practice what to do in emergency situations and become First Aid and CPR certified. A babysitting manual is provided. Bring a sack lunch. If you have a group of six and would like a private class, call Lisa at (913) 826-3161 to schedule.

## 50 Plus

### Exercise: Tai Chi - Tuesday's February 9th-March 2nd /or March 9th-30th, 5-5:50 pm, \$36

Tai Chi offers a slow and gentle exercise with benefits in endurance, flexibility, and muscle strengthening. All experience levels welcome in this course.

### Games: Valentine's Day Lunch & Bingo - February 12th (register by February 5th), 1:30 pm- 3:30 pm, \$5 or \$16

Treat yourself to a special Valentine's Day with 12 games of bingo for a variety of prizes. Singles and couples welcome! Optional take home lunch available.

### Meditation: Building a Meditation Practice in the New Year - February 17th, 9-10 am, \$5

Many of us are feeling the need for a reset in the new year. Taking a few minutes to focus your mind each day can reduce stress, pain, depression and more. Come discuss the health benefits and learn to practice meditation.

### Technology: How to Use Zoom - February 23rd, 10-11 am, \$10

Zoom is the new buzzword! Learn how to sign up and use the software platform Zoom. Bring your device and any associated account passwords.

## JCPRD SUMMER CAMPS



ADVENTURE  
AWAITS

The Summer  
Camp Guide  
online preview  
will be available

January 18.  
Registration  
begins January 25.

[JCPRD.com/camps](http://JCPRD.com/camps)  
(scroll down for all listings)

*I have the*  
**POWER!**

**21**  
NO. 2021  
June-Aug  
summer

Whether your summer  
involves sports or nature, arts  
or science, leadership  
or computers,  
our guide lists  
more than 50 camp choices for ages three through  
18 to help you get the most out of your summer.  
Camps will take place throughout Johnson  
County between June and August and include  
full-day and shorter specialty camp options.



## Arts Advisory Committee Raises Money for KCYA

The Roeland Park Arts Advisory Committee recently put together an online art auction fundraiser for Kansas City Young Audiences.

Kansas City Young Audiences is the original non-profit provider of arts education programs for children and youth in the Kansas City metro. They serve approximately 100,000 students annually, providing access to music programming, theater and fine arts to youth in our area, and for many it is their first experience in the arts.

The online art auction, put together by Brittany Noriega, the newest member of the Arts Committee, featured artwork from over 20 local creators. The auction included paintings, prints, encaustic, and original photographs. The committee also used items that were previously donated to put together raffle baskets. Each item was handmade by local creators and included candles, jewelry, clothing items, engraved accessories and handmade cards.



The auction was held virtually at the end of November and raised \$1,022 for Kansas City Young Audiences.

### Stay Up-To-Date!

Never miss a Roeland Park update. Follow us on Facebook @CityofRoelandParkKS and on Twitter @RoelandParkKS. Also be sure to sign up for the e-newsletter. On the website, hover over "How Do I?", and click "City and County notifications". Sign up for the updates you want.

### Roeland Park Scavenger Hunt

The Roeland Park Community Engagement committee is offering a winter scavenger hunt! Complete it for a fun RP prize and learn more about our city in the process. Find what you're looking for on the Roeland Park website!

## A Big Thank You

The City would like to thank Jeremy Electrical, Heating & Cooling and Union Brothers Tree Care llc for their generous support of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program. The Program provides assistance to qualified Roeland Park resident homeowners for exterior home improvements using volunteers and contract labor.



Jeremy Electrical provided electric meter can repair with line burial while Union Brothers provided a free tree removal job upgrade. Thanks to both companies for their generosity!

### Utility, Rental Assistance and More Available to those in Need in Johnson County

The Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) is a federally funded program that helps eligible households pay a portion of their home energy costs by providing a one-time per year benefit. The application deadline is March 31, 2021. In addition, the City of Roeland Park funds utility assistance for residents through Johnson County. You can find more details about getting rental, food, utility assistance and more by visiting our website at [roe](http://roelandpark.net/375/Johnson-County-Assistance-Programs)  
[landpark.net/375/Johnson-County-Assistance-Programs](http://landpark.net/375/Johnson-County-Assistance-Programs).





**City Administrator**  
Keith Moody  
[kmoody@roelandpark.org](mailto:kmoody@roelandpark.org)

**Finance Director/Ast. City Administrator**  
Jennifer Jones-Lacy  
[jjoneslacy@roelandpark.org](mailto:jjoneslacy@roelandpark.org)

**City Clerk**  
Kelley Nielsen  
[knelsen@roelandpark.org](mailto:knelsen@roelandpark.org)

**Police Department**  
Chief of Police, John Morris  
[emorris@roelandpark.org](mailto:emorris@roelandpark.org)

**Public Works Department**  
Donnie Scharff, Director  
[dscharff@roelandpark.org](mailto:dscharff@roelandpark.org)

**Mayor—Mike Kelly**  
[mkelly@roelandpark.org](mailto:mkelly@roelandpark.org)  
(913) 722-2600

**Ward 1—Jan Faidley**  
[jfaidley@roelandpark.org](mailto:jfaidley@roelandpark.org)  
(913) 709-6812

**Ward 1—Tom Madigan**  
[tomrpks@gmail.com](mailto:tomrpks@gmail.com)  
(913) 526-6997

**Ward 2—Jen Hill**  
[jhill@roelandpark.org](mailto:jhill@roelandpark.org)  
(913) 722-2600

**Ward 2—Benjamin Dickens**  
[bdickens@roelandpark.org](mailto:bdickens@roelandpark.org)  
(913) 544-1259

**Ward 3—Trisha Brauer**  
[tbrauer@roelandpark.org](mailto:tbrauer@roelandpark.org)  
(913) 722-2600

**Ward 3—Claudia McCormack**  
[cmccormack@roelandpark.org](mailto:cmccormack@roelandpark.org)  
(913) 722-2600

**Ward 4—Jim Kelly**  
[jkelly@roelandpark.org](mailto:jkelly@roelandpark.org)  
(913) 722-2600

**Ward 4—Michael Rebne**  
[mrebne@roelandpark.org](mailto:mrebne@roelandpark.org)  
(913) 228-2650

## Help Requested

needed food assistance. Volunteers are needed with opportunities to help each week.

To sign up, please use the SignUpGenius link: <https://bit.ly/3cneNjh>, or contact Kristi Schang at [kristis35@comcast.net](mailto:kristis35@comcast.net) or 913-449-9974.

Food: Drop off nonperishable food items in the bin near the parking lot behind the United Methodist Church – 5110 Cedar St. Need: canned vegetables, fruits, beans, meats, and soups. Plastic jars of pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, honey, and applesauce. Crackers, cereal, mac/cheese, and dried pasta, beans, and rice. Cash donations are accepted at <https://roelandparkumc.org/giveonline>, be sure to select the “Hunger Relief” section.

The Roeland Park United Methodist Church is working to provide

## Thank you for Shoveling

Residents and businesses are required to shovel the sidewalks abutting their properties within 48 hours after a snow event.



The City is currently seeking volunteers to assist with snow/ice removal for older and disabled residents through our Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program. Those interested in volunteering or those who need snow removal assistance can call City Hall at 913-722-2600 or email Wade Holtkamp at [wholtkamp@roelandpark.org](mailto:wholtkamp@roelandpark.org).

## Recycle Your Glass

the purple bin in the Aldi parking lot and spread the word! Since 2009, Roeland Park glass recycling has diverted over 1,535 tons of glass from landfills.

The current glass recycling rate in Roeland Park is 20%. Help us reach our goal of 30% by 2022! You can drop off your glass in

