



The ROELAND PARKER

April-May 2021



While 2020 may be behind us, the COVID-19 pandemic is still here and impacting lives. The health and safety of Roeland Park and its citizens remains the City's top priority. A mask mandate is still in effect throughout Johnson County and in the City, and we encourage everyone to maintain proper distancing. Below is information regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 COVID-19 pandemic.



Three vaccines have been approved for use within the United States: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. Johnson County has received doses of three vaccines as part of the distribution from the State of Kansas.

Governor Kelly announced that the State would move into Phase 3 and Phase 4 starting on March 23. Johnson County has released an interest survey that includes all Phases of the vaccine distribution. The survey, also available in Spanish, can be found on Johnson County's website: jocogov.org/covid-19-vaccine.

Governor Kelly stated that the State is expecting to move into the final distribution Phase by no later than May 1, 2021.



The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 was signed by President Biden on March 11, 2021. Some key initiatives could benefit Roeland Parkers:

- Direct aid in the form of \$1,400 checks per person for incomes up to \$75,000
- Extension of unemployment benefits to September 6, 2021
- Direct housing and nutrition assistance
- Expanded access to safe and reliable child care through Child Care and Development Block Grant
- Expansion of the Child Tax Credit and improved Earned Income Tax Credit

Roeland Park will also receive approximately \$940,000 in direct aid from the program. Details on use of these funds will be determined in the coming months.

New Roeland Park Medical Office Welcomes Tenants

Roeland Park is excited to welcome Sunflower Medical and Advent Health to the community! The Sunflower Medical Building is substantially complete and is expected to be fully complete in the first half of April. Sunflower Medical Group has moved into the building and Advent Health will be joining them in the coming weeks. The land for the project was sold by the City to Sunflower Medical in late 2019.



Roeland Park Girl Scouts Silver Award Project

Roeland Park's Girl Scout Troop 1236 is excited to announce that gaga ball will be coming to Nall Park this summer!

Cadettes Sarah Nielsen & Josie Yungeberg started their Silver Award last fall, with their idea that Roeland Park kids needed a gaga ball pit on the west side of town, just like the one at Roesland Elementary. The Silver



Award is the highest achievement a Cadette Girl Scout can attain, on her way to the Gold

Award as a Senior. The girls presented their ideas to the Parks Committee. After a few modifications, the Parks Committee happily helped the girls take the idea to City Council. At the December City Council meeting, the girls received unanimous approval, and were congratulated on all the time and effort they had put into the project already.

Now all that is left is fundraising approximately \$1,200 to purchase the gaga ball pit in time for an early summer build date with other local Girl Scouts. The COVID-19 pandemic has limited some of their fundraising options. If you would like to donate to this Roeland Park Girl Scout project, checks can be made out to Girl Scout Troop 1236 and donations mailed to 5204 Birch Street, Roeland Park, KS 66205. Any little bit will help these girls see their idea become a reality.

Stormwater Project Completed

This project at 57th Street and Roeland Drive focused on the removal and placement of roughly 500 feet of deteriorated corrugated metal storm pipe and inlets found during inspection of the stormwater system. The project replaced the existing metal pipe with concrete pipe along the same alignment. The City is in the process of systematically replacing all corrugated pipe citywide.



Earth Day is April 22!



Roeland Park Adopt-an-Island Program Development Underway

The City of Roeland Park is finalizing an Adopt-an-Island Program that will provide opportunities for companies, civic groups, institutions, and individuals to adopt a traffic island or other public space and create attractive, welcoming “oasis” throughout the City.

The program will have a list of islands available for adoption and staff assigns spaces on a first-come, first-served basis with prior year participants given first right to “re-adopt” the same space. The agreement will be for two years. Once adopted, applicants agree to create a simple landscape plan, monitor their public space, and maintain it throughout the season. Plantings should create an appealing natural element and do not need to be elaborate. Participants are encouraged to utilize high impact/low maintenance plants wherever possible.

The plan will go before City Council for final adoption in April. Once approved, the details and an application will be published on the City’s website and promoted on social media. Start thinking of some ideas and stay tuned for further details.



Left: Park Board Chair Laura Savidge luxuriates in one of the many islands available to adopt near Roe & Linden

Damsel in Blue Lands in Roeland Park

The Roeland Park Arts Advisory Committee recently recommended the purchase of a new sculpture, Damsel in Blue, for the City. A beautiful stainless steel damselfly with hand-blown glass in its tail, by artist Amie Jacobsen, Damsel in Blue’s new home is in front of City Hall. If you drive by at night, you will see Damsel lit up as the glass pieces glow red. We hope you love this piece as much as we do.

KC Symphony to Perform in R Park

The Kansas City Symphony will be performing in R Park as part of their spring Mobile Music Box performances! The event will be on Saturday May 15th at 6PM. It is weather dependent and may be cancelled in the event of rain or other inclement weather. Hosted near the Gretchen and Ardie Davis Community Pavilion, the event will be a great opportunity to spend some time in the City’s newly improved R Park with fantastic music., friends and neighbors.

See you there, weather permitting!



Rental & Utility Assistance Available to RP Residents

In addition to utility assistance, residents in need will be able to get rental assistance through the Johnson County Multi-Service Center in 2021 and 2022. This program requires residents to meet federal income guidelines (\$4,417/month or less for a family of 4) and have a rent payment past due. If you are in need of utility or rental assistance, please contact 913-715-6653 or visit roelandpark.org/375/Johnson-County-Assistance-Programs for more information.



Restoration Underway in Cooper Creek Park

Roeland Park has allocated funds for the Cooper Creek Park Restoration Project which will entail restoring habitat, updating amenities, and adding pollinator-friendly landscaping. In 2021, the priority will eradicate the invasive plants--mainly bush honeysuckle and wintercreeper--that have overtaken the creek bank. These tenacious plants have depleted the soil and crowded out the native plants essential to a healthy ecosystem.

In Cooper Creek, located south of 57th Street between Ash and Roeland Drive, wintercreeper has overwhelmed the banks with an impenetrable 12-inch-thick mat and is growing up the trees. Left unchecked, these vines will produce hundreds of thousands of seeds each year, vastly increasing the spread of wintercreeper throughout our community and killing many of the park's 300 trees.

In the fall of 2020, volunteers cut 200 wintercreeper vines off the trees. Unfortunately, it would be impossible to eradicate the deeply entrenched growth on the ground by cutting or hand-pulling. In September of 2021, professional landscapers specializing in habitat restoration will

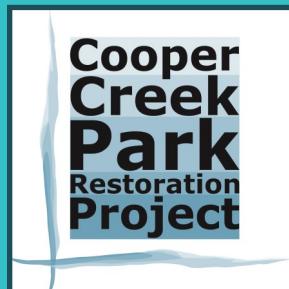
spray the plants with Rodeo, an herbicide that is safe to use near water. Honeysuckle bushes will also be treated during this 2-day project. After a follow-up treatment in September of 2022, the creek habitat will be restored with native grasses, trees, and shrubs.



-photo by Adison Banks

The City has already shared this information with neighbors whose properties adjoin the park and will let them know when the treatments are scheduled. Humans and pets should avoid the treated area for two hours after treatment. Caution signs will be posted throughout the park during treatment.

Please contact Tony Nichols, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, at anichols@roelandpark.org with any questions.



Updates from the Arts Advisory Committee

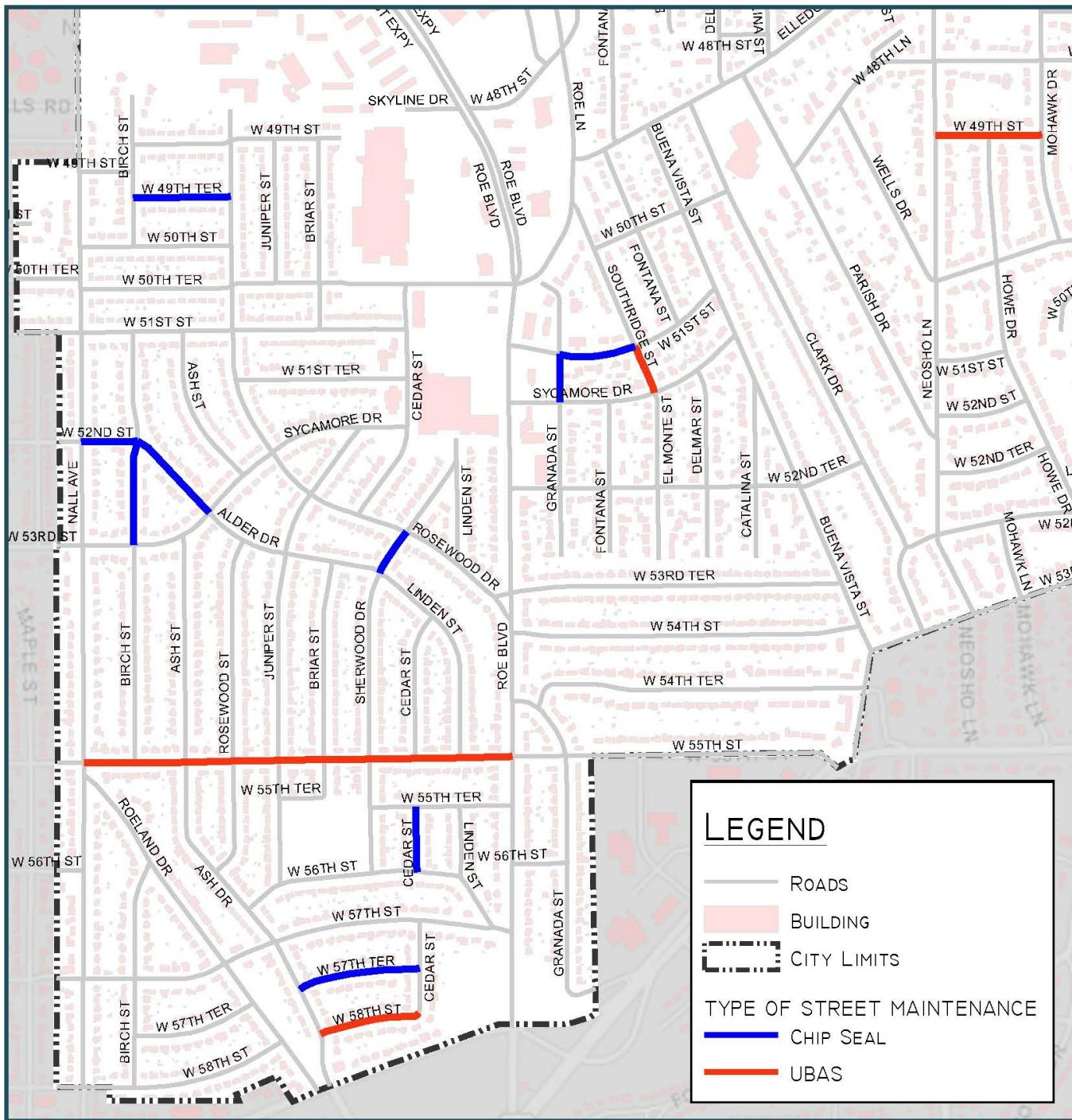
The Roeland Park City Council has approved the creation of a mural on the wall at 47th and Roe Lane. The mural will be divided into 7 panels. We will have 7 artists and one supervising artist. Please be on the lookout for a CALL FOR ARTISTS form on the Roeland Park website and other Social Media. The form will be available the end of March and needs to be returned by April 30th. More details are contained on the artist form.

The Roeland Park City Council has approved the appointment of Lynda J. Leonard as the new Art Commissioner/Gallery Director of the George Schlegel Art Gallery. Lynda has an M.A. in Ceramics and Sculpture /Jewelry from Fort Hays State University and a B.F.A. in Ceramics and Jewelry from Emporia State University.

Lynda was Gallery Director at The Charlene Cody Gallery Santa Fe, New Mexico from 1997-1998. She was also the Gallery Owner of The Gemini Two Plus One Studio and Gallery, in Hays, Kansas from 1981-1984. She was responsible for planning, organizing, advertising, public relations, and major exhibits and receptions. She had 2 business partners and managed 50 plus artists. Lynda also has a prominent background in the sale of art. The Roeland Parks Arts Advisory Committee is proud to announce her as the new Art Commissioner/Gallery Director!

2021 Roeland Park Street Maintenance

Roeland Park's 2021 street maintenance is underway! In February, the City Council awarded the chip seal and UBAS contract to McAnany Construction and will see street and curb repairs throughout the City. Public Works uses a grading scale to determine which areas need and receive repairs. The roads receiving maintenance were determined in 2020 and can be viewed on the below map. The largest street maintenance project of the year will be 55th Street. *Please note*, more intense reconstruction projects slated for 2021, such as the projects on Reinhardt and northern Roe Blvd, are not included on this map.



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

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



Youth

Martial Arts: Mixed Martial Arts (Ages 6-12) - Thursdays April 8th-April 29th or May 6th-May 27th, 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.

Discovery: Kids' Night Out (Ages 6-12) - April 23rd, 5:30pm-8pm, \$15

Play games, make friends, and more! This night's theme is duct tape extravaganza. Dinner included. Please register at least one week in advance to ensure course meets its minimum.



Tennis Lessons for all Ages

R Park
5535 Juniper Dr., Roeland Park

Registration Now Open!



R Park summer tennis lessons and JCPRD Summer Camps at RPCC are now enrolling.

Check out these and all other RPCC offerings using the QR code below!

50 Plus

Exercise: Tai Chi - Tuesday's April 6th-April 27th or May 4th-May 25th, 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.

Technology: How to Use Zoom - April 13th 1pm-2pm, \$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.

Special Event: Gameshows of the 90s - April 15th, 1:30 pm- 3:00 pm, \$15

Have you ever dreamed of hearing your name over the loud speaker, "you're the next contestant, come on down!" Join in on this silly rendition of television game shows. Everyone gets a chance to play. Refreshments will be served. Please register in advance, space is limited.

Technology: Selling Online - April 24th, 9 am-11 am, \$20

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

Meditation: Building a Meditation Practice in the New Year - April 24th, 10am-11am, \$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.

Notice something new?

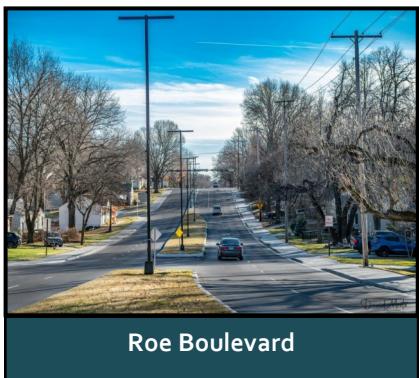
Apple and Android users can now simply open their camera app and scan for 24/7 direct access to all programs and events occurring at Roeland Park Community Center!



Roe Boulevard Update

The Roe 2020 project is continuing as scheduled. The improvements have been part of an extensive planning and visioning process which began in 2017. Improvements include new LED street lights, new traffic signals that will provide efficient traffic flow, intersections with improved pedestrian refuge points, a new 8 foot multi-use trail on the west side, and enhanced crosswalks.

The 2021 improvements continue and complete the larger Roe 2020 project, the largest construction project in City history. The 2021 project is funded in part by a Johnson County CARS grant. It will include mill and overlay north of 48th Street as well as landscaping, planting 153 trees and



Roe Boulevard

thousands of plants to beautify the corridor. Traffic updates will be posted on the City's website and social media.

Reinhardt for Reconstruction

Our second Residential Street Reconstruction (RSR) project will commence in 2021. The project extends from Pawnee to 48th St. on Reinhardt. Construction of these projects will take place every two years as the budget allows through 2027.

Funding for this program will come from the Special Street & Highway Fund and has a total project cost of \$1,129,712.



Current state of Reinhardt

Leaf Collection Success

During the 2020-21 season, Roeland Park's leaf program collected over 4,000 cubic yards of leaves, about 500 cy more than the previous season. The leaf machine has proven to be a cost-effective and efficient method of leaf collection, saving 764 man hours and \$46,000 or 50% of the total cost in 2020 compared to 2017, the last year previous truck.



City Licensing for Pets, In-Home Businesses and Rental Properties

The City of Roeland Park requires licensing for pets, those who operate a business from their home, and for rental properties. Licensing protects you and our residents in the event of a complaint or other city service requested such as finding a lost pet.

The City allows up to two dogs and two cats, and licensing is \$10 for a spayed/neutered dog/cat and \$25 for an unaltered animal. Owning more than two of each requires a variance.

If you own rental housing in Roeland Park, you are

required to register with the City and have a registered agent who lives in Johnson County. The fee is \$75/year to license a single-family home. Also, if you run a business out of your home, you are required to register with the City at a fee of \$40/year. This applies to those operating consulting businesses, providing counseling services, selling baked goods, etc.

Anyone who fails to register may be subject to code enforcement action. Visit our website or call 913-722-2600 for more information or to apply.



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City Survey on Racial Equity

The City is seeking your feedback on racial equity in Roeland Park. Please take a moment to share your experiences as a resident, visitor, or member of the workforce in Roeland Park. The goals of this survey are to identify current racial inequities in individuals' experiences in Roeland Park, receive community feedback on priorities for community projects related to racial equity, and learn more about residents' attitudes and knowledge about racism and anti-racist work.

All information will be collected anonymously. The survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. The survey can be found at roelandpark.net under the "News and Announcements" section. *Please complete this survey by April 15, 2021.* Thank you for your time and participation.



Doo-ing Our Part—Stormwater Management

Did you know that pet waste is a major source of waterway pollution? When it rains, pet waste, and the bacteria it contains, goes into storm drains, and then into our streams and rivers, untreated.

It's important to pick up after your pets, both on the go and at home. Doing so improves



the health of the entire community. Remember: "If it's on the ground, it's in our water".