



# The ROELAND PARKER

June/July 2021



**A**s more places and events open their doors and restrictions are loosened, it is important to remember that the COVID-19 pandemic has not ended. We all still must take precautions and do our part in stemming the spread of the novel coronavirus and bring the pandemic to a conclusion.

Below is information regarding the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information changes rapidly, stay tuned in to our website [www.roelandpark.net](http://www.roelandpark.net) and follow us on social media for the latest updates on the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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While there is no longer a mask mandate in Johnson County or Roeland Park, both the County and the City have passed resolutions strongly encouraging physical distancing, the wearing of masks indoors and when physical distancing cannot be achieved. Additionally, the resolutions passed by the City and County allow for businesses to choose to require people to wear masks in their buildings.

Furthermore, the City and the County strongly encourage people to receive their COVID-19 vaccine. On May 10, 2021, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for administration in individuals 12 years of age and older.

The Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine is administered as series of two doses, three weeks apart, the same dosage and dosing regimen that had been done for those 16 years of age and older. On May 13, 2021, Governor Laura Kelly announced that, due to increasing evidence that the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective for young people, the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine will now be available to those ages 12 and older in Kansas. The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment made available the Pfizer vaccine to that age group the same day.



Children aged 15 and younger receiving a COVID-19 vaccination must be accompanied by an adult. A parent/guardian is preferable; however, the parent or guardian may designate a non-parent adult to be present at the time of vaccination if the parent or guardian is unavailable. A signed parental consent form is required is available at <https://www.dispenseassist.net/Covid.html>.

# Contain the Rain!

Roeland Park is participating in Johnson County's "Contain the Rain" to encourage resident and businesses to incorporate sustainable landscape solutions on their property to aid in the improvement of local and regional water quality. Residents are also encouraged to plant native plants and trees to support the natural ecosystem and provide food for pollinators like bees and butterflies. More information can be found at [www.containtherainjoco.com](http://www.containtherainjoco.com). The reimbursement program will pay applicants up to 50% of eligible expense, not to exceed a project reimbursement cap for the proper installation of the following:

- Installing rain barrels
- Planting native trees and plants
- Installing rain gardens



## Rain Barrels

Rain barrels provide a free supply of water for landscape and garden use. They are simple and inexpensive to construct using kits from your local hardware store. You can also purchase a ready-to-use rain barrel at retail outlets, online, or from Bridging The Gap.

## Native Plants and Trees

Planting native trees in your landscape can capture potential negative impacts of stormwater runoff by intercepting and holding large volumes of rain on the trees' leaves, branches and trunks. Native plants also help pollinators which benefit everyone's gardens, the City's parks, and the local ecosystems.

## Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are gardens planted in a small depression, located in an area that will capture stormwater runoff from a slope or downspout with perennial, native and pollinator species. They are designed to hold and soak in rain water runoff that flows from roofs, driveways, patios or lawns.

## Free Summer Meals Program

After seeing a large increase in demand exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shawnee Mission School District is bringing back its Free Summer Meal program. The program is funded entirely by the US Department of Agriculture. The meals include breakfast and lunch. Pick up is on Mondays and Thursdays, June 3-July 29, 2021 from 11AM –12PM. Meals are available to anyone ages 1-18 and they do not have to be students in the district. More information can be found at <https://www.smsd.org/>.



# Double Up Food Bucks Are Back

Double Up Food Bucks will once again be offered at select grocery store, farmers market and farm stand locations in the Kansas, Kansas City and west central Missouri area. The program allows Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients shopping at participating locations to increase the value of their SNAP dollars and buy more fresh fruits and vegetables. There is no cost or registration required to participate. More information can be found at <https://www.doubleupheartland.org/>

There are three different ways to use the Double Up Food Bucks at the select locations:

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## Grocery Stores

1. SNAP customers buy fresh fruits and vegetables with their SNAP EBT card.
2. They earn \$1 Double Up Food Bucks (up to \$25 per day) for each \$1 they spend on fresh produce. The Double Up Food Bucks are tracked on their loyalty card, a store account, or given as a coupon.
3. They can spend the Double Up Food Bucks on more produce.

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## Farmers Markets

1. SNAP customers go to the market information tent and buy SNAP tokens with their SNAP EBT card. SNAP tokens can be used to buy any SNAP-eligible items.
2. They get a matching number of Double Up Food Bucks tokens (up to \$25 per day). The Double Up Food Bucks tokens can be used to buy vegetables and fruits.
3. After getting the tokens, SNAP customers can use them while shopping. Signs indicate vendors who accept the SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks tokens.
4. Double Up Food Bucks is available as the market is open for the season.

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## Farm Stands

1. SNAP customers go to the farm stands to shop.
2. They purchase any fresh vegetables and fruits with their SNAP EBT card.
3. They earn an immediate 50% off the total amount of fruits and vegetables purchased.
4. Double Up Food Bucks is available as the farm stand is open for the season.





## Updates from the Arts Advisory Committee



The June exhibit at the George Schlegel Gallery in City Hall will feature three Roeland Park residents: Brittany Noriega, Bernie Lee, and Josie Mai. The exhibit will run from May 29 to June 26.

The George Schlegel Gallery to open during City Hall's business hours, 8AM—5PM on weekdays. Feel free to stop by!

**T**he Roeland Park Arts Advisory Committee will hold a remembrance for George R. Schlegel. The tribute will be on July 17th at 2:00PM in the George Schlegel Gallery located inside Roeland Park City Hall. George, our former Arts Commissioner for Roeland Park, served the Roeland Park Community for over 20 years. Everyone is invited to attend.



## Free Summer Benefit Concerts at R Park Pavilion

Neighbors for a Better Roeland Park is sponsoring two free summer music concerts at the Gretchen and Artie Davis Community Pavilion (5535 Juniper) in R Park, on:

- Saturday, July 10, "Dad Band" with an Indie-Folk sound;
- Saturday July 31, "Detour" with Rock and Rhythm & Blues classics from the 70s and 80s
- Rain-date for "Detour" is Saturday, August 7

The fun begins at 6:00PM. You can visit with your friends and neighbors while enjoying food and beverage options which are being planned. The concerts begin at 7:00PM. Bring blankets or chairs for your comfort while seated on the grass during the concert.

These two concerts will benefit the Music Program at Roesland Elementary School. Donations for the purchase of turbano drums will be accepted at each concert. Music teacher Kailey Peterson uses turbano drums at all grade levels of instruction but especially during a major 5<sup>th</sup> grade unit on drumming.

Neighbors for a Better Roeland Park's goal is to raise \$1,500 for the purchase of 2 drums of each of the three sizes.

Donations of any amount are appreciated. Methods of donations are:

- 1) Donate via Venmo (@Sarah-Martin-NBRP), earmarked "Drums"
- 2) Or checks can be made out to "Roesland Elementary", check memo: "Turbano Drums". If you are sending the check by mail, they can be addressed to Belinda King, school secretary, Roesland Elementary. 4900 Parish Drive, Roeland Park, KS 66205

These events will follow any CDC guidelines in place at the specified times for gatherings of this type.



## Cooper Creek Park: The Return of Native Plants

**A**s the Cooper Creek Park Restoration Project progresses, new landscaping has been installed at the “Welcome to Roeland Park” sign at Ash and Roeland Drive. This is the first phase in a multi-bed installation of predominantly native shrubs and flowering plants intended to support native pollinators and other wildlife.

Over time, habitat loss, partly from the introduction of non-native plants, has resulted in a corresponding loss of native pollinators. Because most of the world’s food crops require pollination by animals, it is critically important to eradicate invasive species and restore native plants to the area. Native flora and fauna thrive in a symbiotic relationship. Native flowering plants depend on native bees, butterflies, moths, birds, and other insects and animals to reproduce. Many cannot be pollinated by introduced species. In return, the plants provide food and shelter for the wildlife.



-photo by Judy Hyde

Restoring native plant habitat is vital to preserving biodiversity. Without native plants and the insects that co-evolved with them, local birds cannot survive. A native oak tree supports over 500 species of caterpillars,

whereas introduced Asian gingko trees host only 5 species of caterpillar. When it takes over 6,000 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees, the difference is significant. By creating native plant gardens, each patch of habitat becomes part of a sustainable collective.

Native plants are also uniquely suited to a region’s specific soil and weather conditions. They require less water than non-natives, and their deep root systems reduce erosion and stormwater runoff which often causes water pollution.

Overall, urban landscaping can significantly and positively impact the environment, but it can also improve the quality of life of people living and working in those spaces by helping to create healthier, more beautiful neighborhoods.

At Cooper Creek Park, the new landscaping will complement the natural elements in sculptor Eric Candee’s two recently-installed River Totems. This combination of native landscaping and beautiful public artwork will make the park a welcoming destination for wildlife, residents and visitors.



## Welcoming Erin Winn



Roeland Park is happy to welcome Erin Winn as its new Finance Director and Assistant City Administrator. Erin is a KC-area native and is excited to be here.

### **What is something you are most looking forward to doing?**

I am looking forward to meeting everyone in the community and helping make a welcoming community for all Roeland Parkers.

### **What do you like to do for fun?**

I like cooking, reading, and spending time outside with my wonderful family.



# Summer Tennis Lessons Available For All Ages

**Parent & Me Tennis (preschool)**  
**Youth Tennis Lessons**  
**Adult Tennis Lessons for Beginners**  
**Adult Tennis Clinics**  
**50 Plus Tennis for Beginners**



**R Park Courts**  
**5535 Juniper Drive,**  
**Roeland Park**



**SCAN ME**

Scan, visit [JCPRD.com](http://JCPRD.com) or call  
(913) 826-3160 for more information.

National Gold Medal Award Winner for Excellence!



## Did you know?

The City of Roeland Park sends out email newsletters and your City Councilmembers periodically send

out notifications to their specific wards? These are great ways to keep informed about community news and events. To sign up, visit [www.roelandpark.net](http://www.roelandpark.net) and click "How Do I" at the top. On the new page, find the "Sign Up For" section and click "City & County Notifications". There, you click either the "Sign Up for Email Updates" link. You can select which notifications you wish to receive and the email to which you would like the emails to be sent.

## Trash Amnesty Week

Trash amnesty week is July 5-9, 2021 and you can put out unlimited trash bags without needing to purchase bag tags. Please do not put out construction debris. All garbage must be in bags. Bags are not to exceed 40 pounds. If you have any questions, please call City Hall at 913-722-2600.

## Complete Streets—A Complete Understanding

Complete streets are roadways designed for safe and convenient travel by users of all ages and abilities. Sometimes they are even called livable streets. Pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders must be able to safely move along and across a complete street. So what are the benefits?

- A complete streets design improves public safety by making roads more accessible for all modes of transportation and providing safe and convenient travel for all users, including children and the elderly.
- A complete streets design is a physical space where residents are connected and mobile by creating a roadway that encourages walking and biking.
- These roadway designs also provide economic benefits by attracting businesses to the inviting and easily accessible area.
- Complete streets designs are great for the environment because they encourage low-emission travel methods and integrate green infrastructure that retain and treat stormwater runoff and improve water quality.
- Complete streets may cost more initially but save money in the long-term reducing maintenance costs and effectively manage stormwater runoff.

Roe Blvd is a shining example of complete street design because it allows for all transit options, is accessible and safe for all users of all ages and abilities, and integrates green infrastructure to improve stormwater runoff management.



Roe Blvd



**T**hank you to everyone who came out to see the Kansas City Symphony in R Park. We loved seeing everyone in Roeland Park's newly constructed Davis Community Pavilion. The Kansas City Symphony estimated 350 people attended. It was a resounding success and we hope everyone enjoyed the live music experience on such a beautiful day!



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**D**ue to the COVID-19 outbreak and concerns for people's safety, the Annual Fireworks Display hosted by Roeland Park, Fairway, and Westwood, has been canceled. The decision was made in order to continue to stop and slow the spread of COVID-19. Representatives from each of the cities, as well as from Bishop Miege High School and St. Agnes Parish recently met to discuss the 2021 Northeast Johnson County Fireworks Display. Due to the cooperative nature of the display, a unanimous decision is required for the event. Not all parties were ready to move forward and the fireworks display will not occur in 2021. All parties look forward to the fireworks display returning in 2022.

We hope you celebrate the holiday safely! A reminder that ONLY the following fireworks are allowed on July 3rd and July 4th between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. in the City of Roeland Park:

(a) Nonpoisonous snakes, smoke bombs and items of similar composition;

(b) Cone fountains and whistling fountains without report—a report is a loud bang produced by the firework;

(c) Sparklers and dipped sticks;

(d) Firecrackers as defined by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 10 C.F.R. § 1500.17(a)(8)

Illegal fireworks include any firecracker with more than 50 milligrams of flash powder, such as the original 1960's version of the M80, cherry bomb, silver salute, or quarter stick. Consumer fireworks also may not contain any chlorates, red phosphorus, high explosives, more than 130 milligrams of flash powder in an aerial report, or more than 500 grams of total composition.

