

## Roeland Park: Home of Excellence

**R**oeland Park is proud to have received the ETC Institute's "Leading the Way Award"! The award was created to recognize local governments for outstanding achievement in the delivery of services to residents. Recipients of the award rank in the top 10% of all local governments in the United States with regard to their composite performance in the three core areas that are assessed. The core areas are satisfaction with overall quality of services, with customer services provided by employees, and with the value residents think they receive for local taxes.

"We were elated when we heard that the City won the Leading the Way Award", said Mayor Mike Kelly. "It's a testament to how hard City staff and elected officials work to make our City exceptional. We look forward to continuing our progress in Roeland Park".



Roeland Park residents expressed satisfaction with many different categories. Satisfaction with "Maintenance of Streets, Buildings, and Facilities in 2021" was at 77%, well above the national average of 52%, and the KC metro average of 54%. Citizen satisfaction of Roeland Park "As a Place to Work" saw a 14-point, or 29%, increase between 2019 and 2021.

That's not the only thing to see an increase. Resident satisfaction with "Image of the City" jumped 16 points, or 23% since 2008, and our 85% satisfaction rate is huge compared to the national average of 64% or the KC metro average of 55%!

"I want to say thank you to all the residents who took the Citizens Satisfaction Survey", said City Administrator Keith Moody. "Without the community involvement, this award would not have been possible. The City staff and elected officials are beyond thrilled that the community is happy with the services and how the City is being run. We will continue to strive for excellence within our community".

Other highlights include:

- Satisfaction with "How Well the City is Managing Development Activity" saw a 20% increase, putting it above the national average;
- Satisfaction with "Quality of Playground Equipment" saw a 23% increase to 75%, over the national and KC metro averages;
- Satisfaction with "Maintenance of City Parks" increased from 74% to 87% between 2019 and 2021;
- Satisfaction levels in "Availability of Information about City Programs/Services" and "Level of Public Involvement in Local Decision Making" are well above the national and KC metro averages!

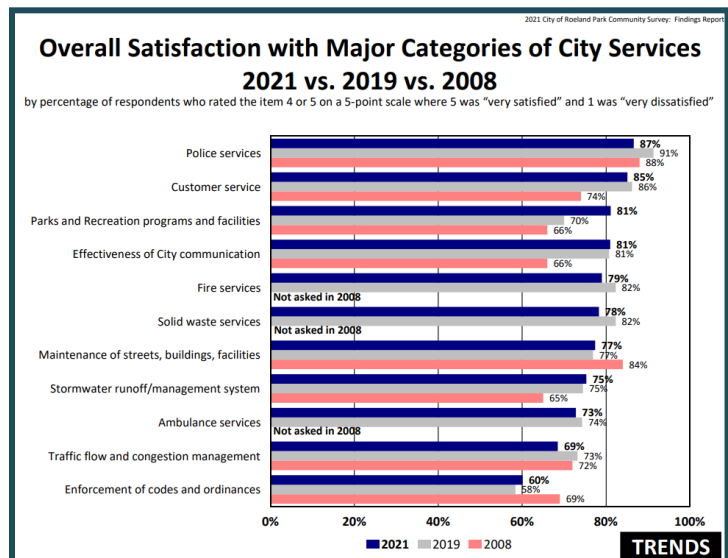


Figure courtesy of ETC Institute

## Welcoming Our New Councilmembers

On November 2, 2021, Roeland Park Residents elected two new councilmembers and re-elected two councilmembers and Mayor Kelly. The new Council will be sworn in on December 6, 2021.

Now, we welcome our new councilmembers from Ward 3 and Ward 4 and wish them all the best. To get to know our new councilmembers better, we asked them a few questions.



### Kate Raglow—Ward 3, [kraglow@roelandpark.org](mailto:kraglow@roelandpark.org)

**1) What is your favorite thing about Roeland Park?**

I moved to Roeland Park because of the location but stayed because of the community. There is always someone willing to lend a helping hand, and I love seeing all of the ways the community comes together to help fill a need from the little free libraries, to food pantries, and the kindness project. I think we would all agree the leaf program is a major bonus too!

**2) What is a fun fact about yourself?**

My mom ran part of the relay for the 1996 Summer Olympic torch.

**3) What is something you are**

**excited to accomplish?**

I am looking forward to working on development in Roeland Park. I know it will be a long process, but it's exciting to think about what the future could look like for RP.

**4) What is something you like to do for fun?**

Go to Royals games—although, I try to avoid the really hot days!

**5) What is your favorite book or movie?**

I'm not a big movie person, but I love to read so it's hard to pick a favorite! A couple of my favorites are *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *The Wheel of Time* by Robert Jordan.

### Michael Poppa—Ward 4, [mpoppa@roelandpark.org](mailto:mpoppa@roelandpark.org)

**1) What is your favorite thing about Roeland Park?**

Our community member. #RPpride

**2) What is a fun fact about yourself?**

I put fries on my hamburgers.

**3) What is something you are excited to accomplish?**

I am excited to collaborate with residents and find ways to increase engagement opportunities.

**4) What is something you like to do for fun?**

I enjoy spending time with my husband Tom and our two dogs.

**5) What is your favorite book or movie?**

*A Christmas Story* is definitely at the top of my list. The holiday season doesn't officially start for me until I watch it (at least once).



Dear friends and neighbors,

Thank you for another wonderful year in Roeland Park, Kansas. Despite another year of challenges due to the COVID pandemic, our community again showed resilience, kindness, and dedication to the health and well-being of each other. For that, again, let me say how grateful I am to live in this community.

Although things were never quite 'back to normal,' there were still many moments in 2021 of which we can be proud. A few highlights from the year include the opening our newly renovated Roeland Park Aquatic Center; the new signage and plantings adorning Roe Boulevard; our new mural on 47<sup>th</sup> street; covered parking supporting a solar array at City Hall; repainted streetlights throughout our city; and the reconstruction of Reinhardt Dr. Many thanks go to our incredibly talented staff and generous community volunteers to make each of these improvements a reality.

As we wade into another winter and the possibility of a new variant of COVID looming, let's remember that the steps we mutually take to keep each other safe come from a place of caring, a sense of pride, and a genuine hope to return our community to normal as quickly as possible.

As always, thank you for the trust you've put in me to help lead our communal efforts. The responsibility to improve our quality of life, engage economic prospects, and promote good public health is a tall order, and not one that I take lightly. Your support, comments, and concerns are always welcome, and I encourage you to reach out to me as often as you can so that we can address issues together. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, and good tidings in whatever way you choose to celebrate the winter season. Let's have an amazing 2022 in Roeland Park. I'm excited for what's to come.

Forward,

Mayor Mike Kelly



## Reminder on Fireworks

New Year's and the holiday season are coming quickly and we hope you all have a wonderful time celebrating! However, it is important to remember some considerations in our celebrations.

In November, the Roeland Park Governing Body

passed an ordinance that prohibits the use of fireworks outside of July 4th between noon and 10PM. As such, sale and use of fireworks are prohibited for the upcoming New Year's Holiday.





# The Roeland Park Recreation Campus



## 50 PLUS

### Food After 50 - Free, Thursday: Dec. 9 - 10:00 am

As we age, things change - and so should our eating habits. Tweaking your diet to match energy needs and activity levels is a smart way to maintain a good body weight and stay healthy. This class is presented over Zoom by Johnson County K-State Research and Extension Office.

### Virtual Scattergories - Free, Wednesday: Dec. 15 - 10:00 am

Think fast and write faster in this quick-paced game of alliterative words and categories presented via Zoom.

### One-on-One Computer/Cell Phone Tutoring: Two Hour Class - \$60

Get specific training and questions answered by our patient and knowledgeable instructor. Participant is required to bring personal laptop, tablet, or cell phone to tutoring session. Call (913) 826-3160 to set up your appointment. *\*Please know the Apple ID® or Gmail® address and passwords associated with your account if applicable. Program fee nonrefundable.*

### Holiday Event: Bring in the New Year - \$15, Thursday: Dec. 30 - 11:00 am

Let's celebrate the New Year! Enjoy musical entertainment by our very own Misty Town, six games of bingo, and lunch. Prizes can range from gift cards to gift baskets.

### Bingo: Peanuts™ - \$5, Thursday: Jan. 27 - 1:30 pm

BINGO! Delight in food, prizes, fun and 12 games of bingo. Variety of prizes awarded to match the theme. Please pre-register at least one week in advance. Payment is required at time of registration. For the enjoyment of all participants, children are not permitted to attend 50 Plus Bingos.

*\*Bingo Events: Cost of admission covers snacks and staff time to administer the bingo program. No additional charge for bingo.*

## YOUTH

### Mrs. Claus's Cookies (Ages 2-5 w/ adult) - \$5, Tuesday: Dec. 7, 10:00 am

Mrs. Claus traveled to Kansas to share her favorite holiday stories with you! We'll also color a winter themed mug while enjoying cocoa and cookies. Bring a letter or picture addressed to Santa Claus and she will hand deliver just in the nick of time!

### Mad Science®: Outdoor Explores (Ages 5-8) - \$144, Dec. 27 - 30, 9:00 am to Noon

This camp offers young children an exciting introduction to basic environmental science. Each session is devoted to different aspects of the Outdoors, allowing children to progressively enrich their understanding of how living things grow and how they interact with the environment around them. Children will perform hands-on experiments, play themed games, and enjoy story related to the theme for that day. A mural will grow through the course of the program as children illustrate their latest discoveries at the close of each session. *\*Each child is welcome to bring a healthy nut free snacks along with a water bottle.*

#### Roeland Park Community Center

(913) 826-3160

#### Program Registration Phone

(913) 831-3359

#### Community Center Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8 am-8 pm

Friday: 8 am-5 pm

Saturday: 8 am-1 pm

Sunday: Closed

#### Fitness Room

Monday-Thursday: 7 am-8 pm

Friday: 7 am-5 pm

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.



## Part-Time Community Center Attendant

Now Hiring!

Apply online at [www.jcprd.com](http://www.jcprd.com),  
administrative opportunities



SCAN ME



## Updates from the Arts Advisory Committee



The Roeland Park Arts Advisory Committee is pleased to announce the completion of the mural paintings along Roe Lane and 47<sup>th</sup> Street. This beautiful work of art is representative of the dedicated and passionate people of our community. The artists successfully expressed the concept and vision developed by the arts committee.

Please take a moment and look at this work by very talented local artists depicting the history and culture of our community. The arts committee expresses its appreciation to the Kansas Creative Arts and Industries Commission and Nation Endowment for the Arts for providing significant support to this project. The artists are Emily Alvarez, Isaac Tapia, Alex Eickhoff, Jessica Rogers, Allison Bowman, Sol Anzorena, Rodrigo Alvarez. Brittany Noriega was the supervising artist.



### Aldi Staircase 2022 Project

The Arts Advisory Committee will be working with the City to incorporate art into the new staircase to be installed at the intersection of Roe Lane and Elledge Drive on the east side of the Aldi Store parking lot. A call for Artists will be issued by

the committee requesting proposals to integrate art into the staircase.

Keep an eye out for the Call for Artists application which will come out in early January. The Arts Advisory Committee looks forward to reviewing your artistic designs for the stairs.

**T**he Arts Advisory Committee is pleased to announce the George R Schlegel Gallery Second Annual RP Artists Invitational in January 2022! Roeland Park artists are invited to share 1 to 3 works to be exhibited in the George R Schlegel Gallery in City Hall from January 1 to January 29, 2022. If interested, contact Gallery Director Lynda Leonard at [rpgallerydirector@roelandpark.org](mailto:rpgallerydirector@roelandpark.org). To find more about the George R Schlegel Gallery visit [roelandpark.net/227/Arts-Committee](http://roelandpark.net/227/Arts-Committee).

## Winter Reminders

As we enter snow season, it is important to remember that it is the responsibility of the resident to shovel the sidewalk that abuts the property of any snow or ice within 48 hours of a snow event.

This does not apply to residents on the west side of Roel Blvd. between 5208 Roe Blvd and 4701 W 57th St. •



When the weather gets colder, drivers may want to leave their vehicle running to warm up the engine, but did you know that leaving a vehicle alone with the engine running could be illegal? Officers can issue a ticket that is accompanied by a \$100 fine plus court fees. The Roeland Park Police Department would like to remind drivers to never leave their vehicle unattended with the engine running and keys in the ignition. While it is not illegal if

you have a remote-starter, unattended, running vehicles can pose a safety hazard. If the vehicle slips out of gear and causes an accident, you could be responsible for damages.

Vehicles left running outside homes, in front of convenience stores, and at gas pumps present an easy target for car thieves. Remember to always take your keys with you and secure your vehicle, even for a short trip to the store. Stay safe out there!



## Cooper Creek Park Restoration Project Entering Phase 2 in 2022

In the coming year, watch for continued improvements to Cooper Creek Park located at 5730 Roeland Drive.

In the spring, additional areas of native landscaping will be installed, increasing the diversity of the pollinator plants with the goal of qualifying as a certified Monarch Waystation. Two small playground springers -- a bee and a bug -- will be installed, reflecting the natural pollinator theme of the park. A Little Free Library with a nature theme will be located in the north area of the park.

In the fall of 2022, the eradication of invasive plants will continue with a second treatment. The area will then be reseeded with native grasses and flowering perennials to prevent streambank erosion. 130 native trees and shrubs will be planted to replace the invasives and beautify the creek banks.



Natural stone play area for kids installed near the picnic table—photo by Gretchen Davis



Liatris and Butterfly milkweed pollinators growing at new Welcome Sign on south end of Cooper Creek Park—photo by Judy Hyde

Council member Trisha Brauer's Phase 2 Cooper Creek Park Restoration Project Budget Objective further demonstrates Roeland Park's commitment to beautify and maintain our parks, attract residents of all ages, update gateway entrances into the City, and provide a healthy natural environment benefiting wildlife, plants, and people.

This restoration project has been made possible by collaboration among Roeland Park's Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, Parks and Recreation Superintendent, Public Works Dept., Parks and Trees Committee, Arts Advisory Committee, Sustainability Committee, Habitat Architects, and resident volunteers living in the Cooper Creek Park area.

-Article from Gretchen Davis



## Community Giving

The holidays are approaching! The City of Roeland Park plans to 'adopt' several families this holiday season. If you would like to help or donate, keep an eye out on our website [www.roelandpark.net](http://www.roelandpark.net) for additional information. In addition to the gifts given to the families, the City will also be accepting non-perishable food items for Christmas.

Please contact Kelley Nielsen if you have any questions:

[knielsen@roelandpark.org](mailto:knielsen@roelandpark.org).







# Roeland Park Aquatic Center 2022 Summer Season

**Pool Opens Saturday  
May 28**

New for 2022 Season:

Family Fun Night After Hour Pool Parties

Morning and Evening Swim Lessons

Johnson County Pools SuperPass

**Season Pass and Program enrollment  
begins Monday January 3rd.**

Check the RPAC webpage for program  
information and enrollment.

**Looking for a fun summer job with  
great pay?**

Positions available:

Lifeguard	Concessions
Head Lifeguard	Front Desk
Swim Instructor	Pool Manager

Lifeguard applicants will receive free Lifeguard

Certification training upon hiring.

**2022 Hiring Begins December 15th 2021**

Apply online at [roelandpark.org](http://roelandpark.org) or email Tony Nichols at [anichols@roelandpark.org](mailto:anichols@roelandpark.org) for more information.





City Administrator  
Keith Moody  
kmoody@roelandpark.org

Finance Director/Asst. City  
Administrator  
Erin Winn  
ewinn@roelandpark.org

City Clerk  
Kelley Nielsen  
knielsen@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  
tomrpk@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—Kate Raglow  
kraglow@roelandpark.org  
(913) 396-1708

Ward 4—Michael Poppa  
mpoppa@roelandpark.org  
(913) 722-2600

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

## Roeland Park Promote Sustainability

Roeland Park Public Works recently installed a bicycle repair station and tire pump adjacent to Granada Park at 51st and Granada Streets across from City Hall. The repair station includes a bike fix-it stand with all the tools needed to assemble, disassemble, and fine-tune a bicycle, plus tire pumps that work with both major types of bicycle tire valves (Presta and Schraeder). A second repair station will be located near 47th and Belinder through a joint venture with the City of Westwood. Funding for the equipment was provided by Roeland Park's Sustainability Committee, the Community Engagement Committee, and the City of Westwood, in order to signal support for biking as a healthy, energy efficient alternative mode of transportation.



**D**o you want to become more civically involved? Join a Citizen Committee! These advisory committees provide the Governing Body crucial recommendations and manage different aspects of the City. From Racial Equity to Sustainability, and from Community Engagement to Art Advisory, these committees are part of the fabric of our city. You must attend two committee meetings before City Council can appoint you. To find a full list of committees and to apply, go to [roelandpark.net/251/volunteer-opportunities](https://roelandpark.net/251/volunteer-opportunities).