

April/May 2024

# THE ROELAND PARKER

Official Newsletter of the City of Roeland Park

## City Installs New Gateway Art Piece

"Origin" by artist Nathan Pierce was installed on March 5th at the north entrance to the City on Roe Boulevard. The piece was selected as one of three finalists by the Arts Advisory Committee after a call for proposals to place a signature art piece at the north gateway of the City. Of the three, "Origin" was selected by the City Council.

"When I was selected as the artist for the Roeland Park, Kansas, Gateway Project I was filled with immense pride and honor. Drawing inspiration from the natural beauty of the region, "Origin" will stand as an inviting monumental gateway into the city. The work is crafted from stainless steel and cast acrylic panels. The vibrant blue and green acrylic symbolizes the significance of the natural environment in fostering community growth and identity."

Continued on page 6.

~Nathan Pierce



## New Ward 4 Councilmember Sworn In

Jeff Stocks was sworn in as the new Ward 4 Councilmember on February 5th. Learn more about Councilmember Stocks on page 2.

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## April/May City Events & Holidays

**Earth Day Cleanup** - Sat, April 20th, 9a - Meet at City Hall

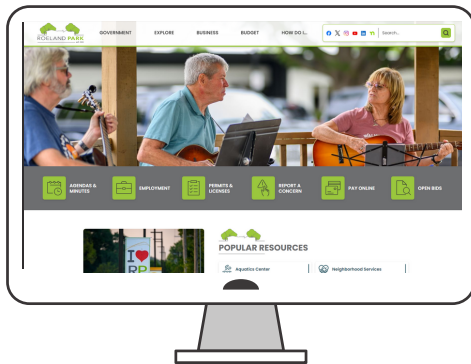
**DEA Drug Takeback** - Sat, April 27th, 10a - 2p, at Balls Price Chopper

**Citywide Garage Sale** - Thur, May 16th - Sun, May 19th

**Memorial Day** - Mon, May 27th, City Offices Closed



## Roeland Park Gets a Website Refresh



The Roelandpark.org website is getting a makeover. Keep your eyes out for the new look, which will launch in early April!

## ¿Sabías?

Also, did you know that the website includes Google Translate? Sabías que el sitio web de Roeland Park tiene Google Translate? ¡Dé un vistazo!

# Q&A with Jeff Stocks

Ward 4 Councilmember



### Q: What do you do for a living?

A: I work as a Program Specialist for the Administration for Children and Families which is under Health and Human Services for the federal government.

### Q: How long have you lived in Roeland Park?

A: We moved here in November of 2020 so a little over three years.

### Q: Why did you want to be on City Council?

A: I applied for City Council to serve the community and to assist in some small way in keeping Roeland Park a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

### Q: What's one policy issue you want to focus on as a councilmember?

A: One of my main areas of interest is how to keep Roeland Park an

affordable place to raise a family while still maintaining the level of efficient and cost-effective government services the city offers.

### Q: What's your family life like?

A: I have two boys, Jesse and Ben. Jesse is a sophomore at SMN and Ben is a 7th grader at Indian Hills Middle school. They are both wonderful, thoughtful little dudes who keep life constantly interesting. We also have a giant black goldendoodle named Maverick who you might see going for walks around the city.

### Q: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

A: I'm a professional musician and still perform and record for a lot of local and national bands in addition to working for HHS and raising two busy boys so free time isn't something I have much of. I do spend a lot of time listening to music and discovering new bands to enjoy.





# ROELAND PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

## Youth and Family Programming

### Early Learning: Spring Animals (Ages 2-5 with Adult)

Apr. 16, 10:30am, 1 - 30 min class  
\$10 per child / \$11 nonresidents

Calling all preschoolers and nature enthusiasts! Get ready to meet some adorable and fascinating creatures as our presenter from Ernie Miller Nature Center shares interesting facts and an up-close look at some spring animals! Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to introduce your little ones to the wonders of nature and the joy of learning!

### Understanding Social Security

May 13, 1 pm, 1 - 1.5 hr. class  
\$5 / \$6 nonresidents

**NEW!** Social Security assists in securing a person's financial future throughout the course of their lives. During this session, review Social Security benefits and earnings records reported on a statement. Program presented by K-State Extension.

**Program Registration and Front Desk:**  
(913) 826-3160

**Sports Dome:** (913) 362-8700  
Please call for open gym and court rental availability.

### Community Center Office and Fitness Room Hours

Monday - Thursday: 7am - 8pm  
Friday: 7am - 5pm  
Saturday 8am - 1pm  
Sunday: CLOSED

### Theatre: Comedy Improv Introductory Class

May 22, 5:30 pm, 1 - 1.5 hour event  
Free!

**NEW!** Join us for a fun and engaging introduction to comedy improv! This class will give you a taste of what you can expect from our 9-week comedy improv course. Our experienced instructor will guide you through an improv exercise and game and explain the many social and health benefits of participating in improv.

**Newly renovated spaces are now available to rent! Call (913) 826-3160 for more information.**

## Grand Family Fun Event (Ages 5 & Older and 50 Plus)

**NEW!** There's no better way to bond with your grandchild than an afternoon of fun-filled activities at our Grand Family Fun Event! Together you will craft their very own adorable plushy, creating a lovable companion that will forever remind them of the moments shared with you. The Zoo Factory kit will include a 16" stuffable animal, stuffing, wishing star and birth certificate. So, gather your grandkids, roll up your sleeves, and embark on a journey full of creativity and memorable experiences! Each child will take home one 16" stuffed animal with birth certificate. Light refreshments served.



**Fri. Apr 12 1:30pm, 1 - 1.5 hr. event**  
**\$20 child / \$8 adult (Joco Resident Fee)**  
**\$22 child / \$9 adult (Joco Non Resident Fee)**

Visit us at [JCPRD.COM/ACTIVITIES](http://JCPRD.COM/ACTIVITIES) to register.

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ROELANDPARKCOMMUNITYCENTER](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ROELANDPARKCOMMUNITYCENTER)

## 50 Plus Program Weekly Schedule

Programs held at 4850 Rosewood Dr., Roeland Park KS

50 Plus programs with an \* must register in advance

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>NEW! LOTERIA</b> 1pm HATHA YOGA 4pm	KNITTING GROUP 1pm	TAI CHI* 10am DROP IN PAINT GROUP 12:30pm	MAH JONGG 12pm HATHA YOGA 4pm TAI CHI * 5pm	HOBBY GROUP 1pm

# QQ CITY VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The City of Roeland Park is successful, in part, thanks to many dedicated citizens who are doing amazing work all the time in our community. These committees help drive policy in key areas and influence services offered in our community. Here's a taste of the interesting work being done by our standing committees.

## Helping the City Meet Climate Action Goals

The City **Sustainability Committee** members don't just talk about reducing carbon emissions, they live it. As part of the 2025 Budget, the Committee is proposing to do a carbon emissions assessment for City facilities, and work with an expert to help develop a plan to meet the ambitious goals set out in the Regional Climate Action Plan. This plan would help guide City infrastructure investment to reach Net Zero carbon emissions for municipal facilities by 2030. The Sustainability Committee will be key in reviewing proposals and facilitating the process for the City.



## Focusing on Equity in All Areas

The **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee** is lending an extra set of eyes to assist Council with assessing the equity implications for City policies and ordinances. Their goals for 2024 are 1) to open lines of communication with the community and 2) to provide an equity lens to City policies. In fact, the committee has already provided valuable insights to Council in its process of reviewing the City code that have been integrated into the recommended changes.

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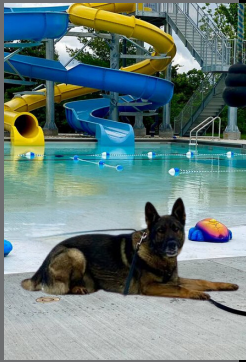
## Adding an Artistic Element to our Public Spaces

Our **Arts Advisory Committee** is busy! The City relies on these local volunteers to provide their expertise in programming the \$25,000 annual budget for the purchase and

maintenance of public art in Roeland Park. The Committee has taken the lead in commissioning murals and sculptures throughout the City, including the 47th Street Mural, the mural on the Aldi stairway on Roe Ln, and the latest installation - "Origin". The committee intends to embark on a Public Art Master Plan in 2025 which will guide the City's future placement and investment in public art into the future.



# JOIN A STANDING COMMITTEE!



## Setting the Standard for Aquatics in RP

The City took over operation of the RPAC in 2019 from Johnson County Parks & Recreation. Since then, the **Aquatics Center Advisory Committee**, has helped to guide the policy

decisions and make recommendations to the City Council on user fees, programming, and facility offerings. The Aquatics Advisory Committee is currently working on developing and scheduling new events to implement this summer.



## Driving the Process for Public Input

Nall Park is soon to get a makeover and the **Parks & Trees Committee** is leading the charge to determine what Nall Park will look like in the future. The City Engineer is working with the Committee on developing the Nall Park Master Plan and helping to determine avenues for public feedback which will help drive the plan.

## Want to Make a Difference? We Need You!

Standing Committees are essential in making Roeland Park a great place to live. We are looking for new folks to join the Sustainability, DEI, Community Engagement, Arts and Aquatic Center Advisory Committees. If you have special skills or interest in any of these areas, consider volunteering. Committees meet once/month in most cases. You can apply through our website [www.roelandpark.org](http://www.roelandpark.org). If you have any questions, reach out to Jennifer Jones-Lacy at [jjones-lacy@roelandpark.org](mailto:jjones-lacy@roelandpark.org).





# EARTH DAY CLEANUP EVENT

WITH THE ROELAND PARK SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE



SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH AT 9AM



MEET AT CITY HALL: 4600 W 51ST ST, ROELAND PARK, KS



WEAR WEATHER-APPROPRIATE CLOTHING AND CLOSED TOED SHOES

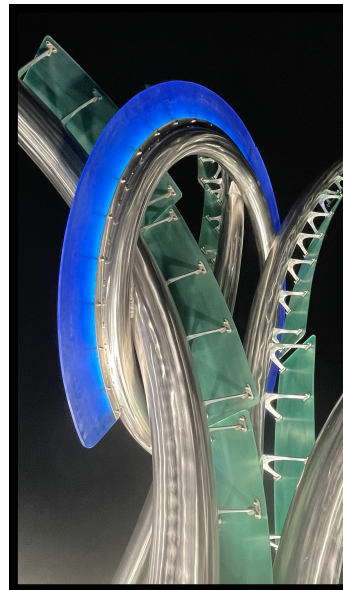


GLOVES AND TRASH BAGS WILL BE PROVIDED



## NEW GATEWAY ART PIECE

(cont. from pg. 1)



The piece was funded in part through the City's 1% for Art Program, which states that all new commercial facilities built in Roeland Park contribute 1% of the total construction cost to a piece of public art. The business can purchase their own art to display on their property or they can contribute their 1% to the City's public art program for a future installation

that would be maintained by the City. All works must be accessible to the public.

## 2024 Roeland Park Aquatic Season Updates

We are excited for the RPAC to open on May 25th and want to update you all on a few changes to expect for the 2024 season. We are happy to announce that we are committed to being open seven days a week throughout the summer. The RPAC already has the staffing levels to do so and is currently training and certifying lifeguards, facility attendants, and managers to operate throughout the summer.

### Super Pass Updates

Due to staffing issues and registration challenges last summer, the City will not participate in the Super Pass program in 2024. While this may be disappointing news for some of our patrons, we are adding new programming that we think you will enjoy.

### New Programming

New programming and fun events will happen at the RPAC all summer long! This includes swim lessons, deep water aerobics, as well as a family movie night and an adult only night in partnership with a local watering hole – more details coming!

### Passes & Pricing

We are decreasing our rates for individuals and families! This year, individual season passes are only \$35 for residents and \$45 for non-residents. Those 60 years and older can get a resident pass for only \$30 or \$40 for a non-resident. The family season passes are \$125 for residents and \$165 for non-residents for up to a family of five. Additional household members can be purchased for an additional fee. We hope these savings will allow more community members to enjoy the RPAC!

Excited? We are! You can purchase your season pass online now by visiting [www.roelandpark.org/154/Aquatic-Center](http://www.roelandpark.org/154/Aquatic-Center).





# DEI Spotlight

- **Community Event Spotlight:** Check out these events happening in the Kansas City metro in April and May!
  - UMKC Culture Fest: Saturday April 13th 4:00-8:00pm UMKC Pierson Auditorium
    - UMKC's International Student Ambassadors host a night full of international cuisine, student-run Educational Booths, a cultural Talent Contest, and a Fashion Show of traditional apparel.
    - Open to the public. More information at <https://community.umkc.edu/engagements/culture-fest/>
  - In Memory of 6 Million: Thursday, May 2nd 6:30-7:30pm, Online Event
    - Join Joco Public Library for the 14th annual In Memory of Six Million Holocaust Remembrance program. Hear a survivor speak from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum via Zoom.
    - Register on Joco Public Library's website.
- **Local Issue Spotlight:** Language Access and Education. Across the metro, grassroots campaigns have been advocating for improved language access and language education.



- Office of Language Access in KCMO: In February, the Kansas City Council approved the creation of an Office of Language Access to improve translation and interpretation services in city government. AIRR (Advocates for Immigrant Rights & Reconciliation) and KC Tenants implemented a monthslong research and engagement campaign to advocate for its creation.
- Dual Language SMSD: After months of raising awareness, Dual Language SMSD is hoping that the Shawnee Mission School District will add dual language and "foreign language as a special" to their updated Strategic Plan. They welcome community members speaking at SMSD School Board meetings through June to share their interest. Interested in learning more? Check out Dual Language SMSD on Facebook.
- **Join us:** We'd love to have your voice on our committee! Apply online on the Roeland Park City website.



## City Contacts



 Search

City Administrator - Keith Moody  
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Finance Director/Asst. City Administrator -  
Jennifer Jones-Lacy  
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Ward 4 - Matt Lero  
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(913) 722-2600





## Changes Coming to Mission Road

Mission Road improvements from 47th St to 53rd St are planned for 2025 construction. The project, in partnership with the City of Westwood, entails spot curb repair/replacement, sidewalk repair, asphalt base repairs, mill & overlay, streetlighting, and planned marked bike lanes. The program is anticipating funding in part through Johnson County's County Assistance Road Project (CARS) grant which supports street improvements throughout the county on arterial and collector streets.

The design was developed after soliciting feedback from residents and those who use Mission Road and is in compliance with Bike-



Illustration of Mission Road with Bike Lanes on both sides of the street.

Ped Plans for the Cities of Roeland Park and Westwood. The City Council is working to finalize design plans. The project is expected to start in the Spring of 2025 and be complete by Fall. For more information including frequently asked questions, visit [roelandpark.org/432/2025-Mission-Road-Improvements](https://roelandpark.org/432/2025-Mission-Road-Improvements).