



April/May 2025

# THE ROELAND PARKER

Official Newsletter of the City of Roeland Park



## Looking Ahead to a Busy Construction Season



This spring and summer will be a busy construction season for Roeland Park as we work to make several road, sidewalk and building improvements throughout the city. In the coming months, you will see the following areas undergoing improvements.



Bike lanes planned for Mission Road in 2025.

**Mission Road from 47th to 53rd Street** - In partnership with the cities of Westwood and Fairway, Roeland Park will resurface Mission Road, make streetlighting improvements, repair sidewalks, and curbs, and mark bike lanes. This project will be funded in part by a CARS grant through Johnson County.

**Nall Avenue from 51st to 58th Street** - Nall Avenue will be resurfaced for the entire project area. Other improvements will include full depth pavement repairs, curb repairs, and sidewalk replacements. Of the roughly \$1 million budget for this work, the City will contribute around \$300,000 with the rest being funded through a Johnson County Stormwater grant & a Federal Transportation grant.

**El Monte to Delmar Sidewalk** - A sidewalk will be constructed between the end of the cul-de-sac on El Monte Street and Delmar Street to provide a direct route for Roseland Elementary students that live on El Monte Street, creating a safer route for kids.

**Community Center Phase 2 Renovations** - Improvements to lighting, ceilings, flooring, and wall coverings are being made throughout the building. The fitness area is undergoing renovation as well and will be more open with higher ceilings. The building grounds will also see some sprucing with new irrigation system and tuckpointing of the planters.

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# MIGHTY BIKE

The newest feature at R Park, the "Mighty Bike" is almost here! The interactive sculpture is being fabricated and its installation will be coming soon. "Mighty Bike", pictured in the rendering below will be a large bicycle that is also a play structure. This interactive sculpture will compliment the bike tracks already in place at the park. Keep your eyes on the southeast corner of R Park, for this new sculpture and play structure. The concrete pad has already been poured and "Mighty Bike" will soon be ready to ride!



## "A Dr. Once Told Me I Couldn't Make Art Anymore" is on Display at the George R Schlegel Gallery



Now through May 3rd, the art gallery at City Hall is happy to feature artist Laura White. White is a Mission-based blind-deaf artist who creates intricate beaded quilts, that she describes as therapeutic and a means of storytelling. She utilizes her background as a graphic designer and is inspired by patterns from her memory of the time before she lost her eyesight. Due to her limited eyesight, she will work with friends and family to select colors for her pieces, which she feels adds a communal aspect to her work. Her works have been featured at the Nelson-Atkins, Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center, and the Englewood Art Center.

# A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Hey RP,

I have some big news for you. Following the City Council meeting on March 3, I signed into effect a newly amended development agreement with TMM Roeland Park Centers, LLC – owner of the Walmart-anchored shopping center in the heart of our city. The amended agreement outlines a revised scope and timeline for TMM to make necessary and long-overdue improvements to the site. These changes were intentionally drafted by the governing body to address community concerns about site utilization, internal traffic flow and overall aesthetics.

As part of the amended agreement, \$2 million of the existing CID funds will be available to the owner to assist with approved site improvements at the original \$1 reimbursement for every \$2 of private investment. The \$1.3 million CID funds will be transferred to the city's newly created economic development fund, intended to promote diversified redevelopment throughout the city. Additionally, the property owner has agreed to provide scheduled progress reports, to contribute to the city's 1% for Art program, and to keep community members informed with signage on the property that includes project details and timelines.

As early as this summer, and over the next few years, we will see noticeable improvements to the shopping center which include building and parking lot upgrades, and re-tenanting of the vacant storefronts. These improvements reflect a renewed commitment by the property owner to invest in the future of our community, and strengthen the city's promise to continue building a vibrant community for you and future Roeland Parkers.

Best Wishes,  
Mayor Michael Poppa

For more information, view the amended agreement at <https://bit.ly/3FCo3CN> and read coverage by the Johnson County Post at <https://bit.ly/rptmm>.



# City Events & Holidays

**Egg Hunt**  
Saturday, April 12, 10AM  
@ R Park

**Earth Day Cleanup**  
Saturday, April 19 9AM  
@ City Hall

**Arbor Day Celebration**  
Saturday, April 26, 10 AM  
@ Roeland Park Community Center

**City Wide Garage Sale**  
Thursday, May 15 - Sunday  
May 18  
City-Wide

**Aquatic Center Opening Day**  
Saturday, May 24  
@ RPAC

**Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 26  
City Offices Closed

## Citywide Garage Sale



May 15th - 18th is permit-free garage sale weekend in Roeland Park. Residents who wish to participate can sign up on at [www.roelandpark.org](http://www.roelandpark.org) and have your address added to a map. Likewise, if you're looking to find a great pre-loved bargain, check out the map which will be available online and on social media the week of the sale!

**ROELAND PARK**  
uniquely rooted  
est 1951

# EGG HUNT

*Get your picture with the Bunny!*

**APRIL 12TH 2025  
10AM**

**R PARK PAVILLION**

**KIDS UP TO AGE 10 WELCOME!**  
AGE GROUPS DIVIDED UP:  
2Y, 3Y-6Y, 7Y-10Y

## EARTH DAY CLEANUP EVENT

WITH THE ROELAND PARK  
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE



SATURDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2025 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





# ROELAND PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

## 50 Plus Program Highlights

### Privacy Settings & Avoiding Scams

Apr. 22, 10 am, 1 - 2 hr. class  
\$22 / \$24 nonresidents

Learn how to spot common online and phone scams, safeguard your personal information, and recognize red flags before it's too late.

### Virtual Bingo

Apr. 29, 10am, 1 - 1 hr. virtual program  
Free

Generate your own card online for this classic game of Bingo! Call 913-826-3160 for more information and registration.

### Zumba

May 3, 9am, 4 - 50 min. sessions  
\$34 / \$38 nonresidents

Perfect for active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that focuses on balance, range of motion, coordination, and fun!

**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 Hours

Monday - Friday: 7am - 5pm

Sat - Sun: Closed

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

### Rock & Roll Social

May 15, 2pm, 1 - 1.5 hr. event  
Free for Older Americans Month

Let us entertain you with live acoustic music spanning the 1950s to the 2000s in the company of fellow music lovers. Light refreshments served. Registration required.

### Balance & Beats Fitness Showcase

May 21, 11am, 1 - 1 hr. session  
Free for Older Americans Month

Experience a sampling of Zumba, Tai Chi, and Yoga in one exciting hour! This event has something for everyone! Registration required.

Please note: Our Fitness Center will be closed for the next 4-5 weeks as we remodel the facility.

## Preschool and Youth Program Highlights

### Biking: Pedal Kids USA - Fine Motor Flower Fun

#### Learn to Pedal

Apr. 7, 6:30 pm, 4 - 1 hr. lessons  
\$155 / \$171 nonresidents

Learn to pedal through play-based challenges and games that build up your child's confidence. Helmet and bike required. Ages 5-10.

### Fine Motor Flower Fun

May 30, 10:30 am, 1 - 45 min event

\$6 per child / \$7 nonresidents

Join us for a flower extravaganza! Make a funky bouquet using craft materials, use real flowers in art, and plant your own seeds to take home. Program includes snack. Ages 2-5 with adult.

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  
HATHA YOGA\* 4pm

Tuesday  
KNITTING GROUP  
1pm

Wednesday  
DROP IN PAINT GROUP  
12:30pm

Thursday  
MAH JONGG 1pm  
HATHA YOGA\* 4pm  
TAI CHI\* 5pm

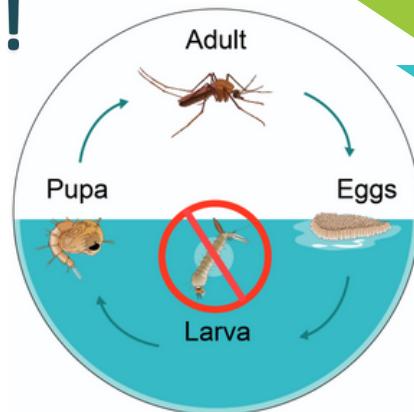
Friday  
HOBBY GROUP  
1pm

# **THERE'S A BETTER WAY THAN MOSQUITO SPRAY!**

by Ginny Varraveto, Roeland Park Sustainability Committee

## **Are you ready for summer, but dreading pesky mosquitos?**

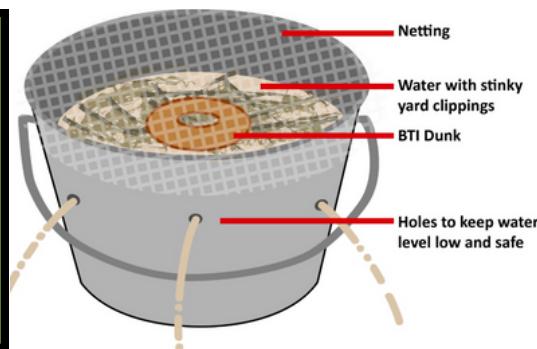
According to the K-State Extension office, "the most effective method of controlling mosquito populations is targeting the larval stage and the sites where they develop. Once mosquitoes become flying adults, control is more difficult and expensive." Dunk buckets are an effective way to control mosquitoes by targeting the larvae.



Chiswick Chap, CC BY-SA 4.0

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>,  
via Wikimedia Commons. LadyofHats, Public domain

Dunks in combination with removing standing water can provide effective mosquito relief without spraying your yard, leaving extra money in your pocket for summer fun!



## **What are dunk buckets?**

Dunk buckets are a simple DIY way to kill mosquito larvae using BTI, a type of bacteria that kills mosquito larvae but is harmless to humans, animals, birds, fish, pollinators and the soil. When female mosquitos lay their eggs in buckets of water treated with BTI dunks, 100% of the larvae that develop will be killed, stopping the life cycle.

### **Benefits of dunk buckets:**



- Non-toxic to pollinators
- Low maintenance
- Long-lasting
- Budget-friendly
- Pet and family friendly
- More effective than killing adult mosquitos

### **Negatives of mosquito sprays:**



- Sprays don't discriminate, natural and organic sprays kill both pollinators and pests
- Expensive
- Kills only a fraction of adult mosquitos, requiring repeated applications

### **Additional Control Measures:**

- Empty standing water from buckets, old tires, wheelbarrows, tarps, etc.
- Change water in bird baths weekly
- Aerate ponds and pools
- Ensure gutters don't hold water, remove accordion downspouts
- Use fans to disrupt flight
- Install bat houses

## **Get a Free Supply of Dunk Buckets!**

**Detailed instructions on how to setup a dunk bucket can be found here:**



Sign-up using the QR code to participate and receive a free 4-month supply of mosquito dunks (while supplies last). Dunks can be picked up at City Hall. All we ask is that you tell your neighbors and give us feedback at the end of the season. The more neighbors that participate, the better the control! For more information, contact Joey Carley [jcarley@roelandpark.org](mailto:jcarley@roelandpark.org)





## Ripple Glass Year in Review

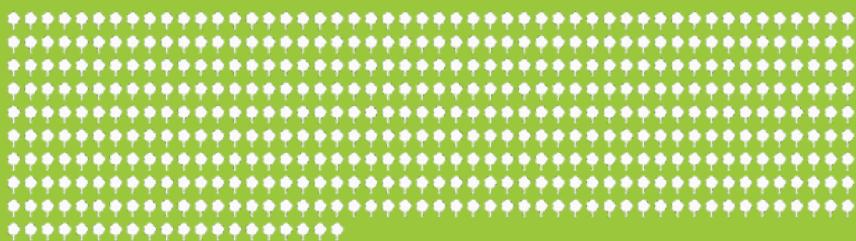
2024 marked the second year of curbside glass recycling service using Ripple Glass. 72 tons of glass were recycled through curbside pick-up, with another 122 tons recycled at the purple bin at Aldi, for a total of 194 tons, way to go! Over the course of the year, Roeland Park reduced 10 tons of carbon emissions. That's the equivalent of eliminating 2 cars from our roads or planting 397 trees! Last year was a great year for glass recycling in Roeland Park, let's make 2025 even better!

### CARBON EMISSION REDUCTION

Cars Eliminated



Trees Planted



For more information and to opt into text reminders, visit [www.rippleglass.com/roeland-park](http://www.rippleglass.com/roeland-park)

## 2026 BUDGET UPDATE

The City of Roeland Park is kicking off its 2026 Budget season, which is a six-month effort. See the graphic to the right to learn more about the process and timeline. Councilmembers and City staff are working hard to make sure your taxpayers dollars are providing the community top notch goods and services. Stay tuned to [www.roelandpark.org](http://www.roelandpark.org) for important updates so you can stay informed!

**February - March**  
Councilmembers develop and fine tune their objectives for the coming year.

**April - May**  
City staff compile data, look at previous year budgets, and forecast costs.

**May - June**  
Preliminary budget presented to Council, community forum at City Hall.

**July - August**  
Budget is finalized, approved by Council and sent to the County.

**2026 Budget Objectives**

0 points 90 points

0 points Selected 90 points Available

0 points 10 points Select

0 points 10 points Select

0 points 10 points Select

**Apply Art Element to the Covered Benches at Bus Stops** 

**Apply for Grant to Update to the City's Bike/Ped Strategy** 

**Develop a Monarch Butterfly Refuge Honoring the Immigrant Journey** 

### Take Part in the 2026 Budget with Balancing Act!

You now have the opportunity to prioritize an important part of the 2026 Budget! Each year the Council and staff introduce objectives that they want to add to the next year's budget. By visiting [www.roelandpark.org](http://www.roelandpark.org) and scrolling to news on the homepage, you can select the items that are most important to you and prioritize your favorites! Pick a few or select them all and rank order them to your preference. This information will be used by the Council to help build the budget.

# DEI Spotlight

(Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)

## April is Arab American Heritage Month!

April is Arab American Heritage Month, a time to honor the rich history, diverse cultures, and lasting contributions of Arab Americans to our nation and our local community. From the arts and sciences to business, public service, and beyond, Arab Americans have shaped and strengthened our society in countless ways.

### Who are Arab Americans?

The term Arab refers to people from Arabic-speaking countries, primarily in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, including but not limited to Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, and Yemen. Arab identity is based on shared language and culture, not religion—Arab Americans practice various faiths, including Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Druze, and others. While some Arabs are Muslim, not all Muslims are Arab, as Islam is a global religion with followers from many ethnic backgrounds.

This month, we encourage you to learn more about Arab American heritage, support Arab-owned businesses, and celebrate the stories of those who help make Kansas City a more vibrant and inclusive place.

### Support these Arab-owned businesses & organizations this month:

- Baba's Pantry at Troost & 63rd Street
- Al Habashi in the River Market
- Jerusalem Cafe now in Mission near Target!
- PAMA- Palestinian American Medical Association, Chairman of the Board is a doctor and professor in KC
- Dialogue Institute of Kansas City- sharing cultures
- Al Tawqa Islamic Center: place of worship and community services

## May is Asian American Heritage Month!

May is Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the cultures, traditions, and contributions of AAPI communities across the U.S. From science and technology to arts, activism, and beyond, AAPI individuals have played a vital role in shaping our country's history and future. Here in Roeland Park, we recognize and honor the incredible impact of our AAPI neighbors and invite you to join us in learning, celebrating, and supporting AAPI voices.

### Support these Asian-owned businesses & organizations this month:

- Cafe Ca Phe- coffee in Columbus Park
- Hella Good Deeds: non-profit promoting Asian American culture in KC
- Made Mobb - a clothing store in the Crossroads Arts District
- Kansas City Chinese Association festivals throughout the year
- Indian Association of Kansas City



## City Contacts



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Director of Public Works - Donnie Scharff  
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## Get Your 2025 Season Passes **NOW!**

The Roeland Park Aquatic Center will kick off its season on Saturday, May 24th and will be open seven days a week from 12 PM -7 PM. Season passes for residents of Roeland Park are \$40 for an individual, \$35 for a senior, or \$130 for a family of five. Additional children can be included for \$15/child. Daily passes can be purchased for \$7 per person.

We also plan to offer swim lessons this year in July. Please stay tuned to our website for the schedule and to sign up!

ROELAND PARKER

WE'RE **HIRING**  
*Deck Attendants*  
AGE 15 YEARS+  
FREE POOL & FITNESS  
MEMBERSHIP FOR THE ENTIRE  
FAMILY!  
**\$9.50/HR STARTING PAY**  
Apply online  
[www.roelandpark.org](http://www.roelandpark.org)