



August/September 2025

THE ROELAND PARKER

Official Newsletter of the City of Roeland Park



Painted bike lanes are coming to Mission Road

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES

The City is hard at work this summer improving streets, sidewalks, and stormwater systems to make our community safer and more accessible for everyone. Read on for updates on current construction projects and a look ahead at what's coming next.

Mission Road Improvements - With work in progress, this project is jointly funded by Roeland Park, Westwood and Fairway. It also received \$1.2 million in funding through the Johnson County C.A.R.S (County Assistance Road System) program. The City's Contractor Amino Brothers have completed all work on the storm sewers and are making concrete repairs on the west side of Mission Road. Soon, the traffic control layout will shift and concrete repairs will be made on the east side of the street. The street will be resurfaced and will wrap up with the installation of new street lights by mid-October.

Nall Avenue Improvements - Utility work is wrapping up in the area, and JM Fahey will be contracting with the City to complete this project. This project includes select curb repairs/replacement, sidewalk repair/replacement, base repairs, mill & overlay of the street, pavement marking, sharrows/bike signage and stormwater improvements. Work will be completed from 51st to 58th Streets. Roeland Park was awarded \$660K in grant funding through the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) in support of this project. Construction on Nall Ave began in mid-July with the contractor starting with stormwater improvements at the intersection of 55th St & Nall Ave. The entire project is scheduled to be complete by mid-October.

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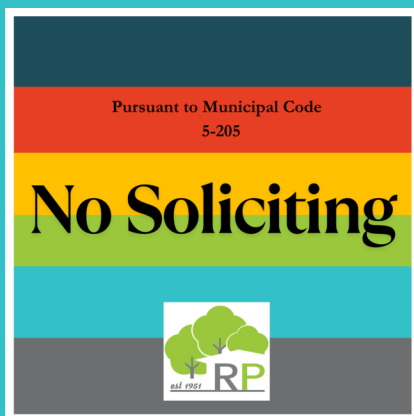
SAY HELLO TO - THE GRIM LEAFER!



We officially have a name for our beloved leaf truck! After receiving nearly 200 name suggestions, having our Public Works crew pick their favorites, and then putting it to a community vote, the name of the leaf truck will be the **Grim Leaffer**! Thank you to Margaret Hanzlick-Burton for suggesting the winning name! An email will be sent to you how to collect your prize for the suggestion. Thank you to everyone who submitted a name and voted for the winner. In the near future, the Grim Leaffer will proudly bear its name for all to see!

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITOR POLICY

Our City Code states "it shall be unlawful for any solicitor to ring the bell, or knock on the door, or otherwise attempt to gain admittance for the purpose of soliciting at any single-family residence, duplex or any individual dwelling unit in a multi-family dwelling complex at which a sign bearing the words "No Soliciting," "No Trespassers," or words of similar import indicating that such person is not wanted on the premises, is painted, affixed or otherwise exposed to public view". Which means that if you would like to deter solicitors from coming to your door, all you need to do is post a sticker that says so. If this sounds like something you would like to place on your home, you're in luck! Stickers, similar to the one below, will be available at City Hall free for any residents interested. Come and grab yours today!



Save the Date!

Saturday, Oct 18th 2025

9 a.m. to Noon



Environmental Fair

Powell Community Center
6200 Martway
Mission, Kansas

COMMUNITY RECYCLING EVENT

Paper Shredding, Electronics Recycling,
Eyeglass Collecting

SATURDAY, OCT. 11 // 9 A.M.–NOON
Nations Holding, 9001 W. 67th St., Merriam, KS 66202

Fairway • Merriam • Mission • Mission Hills • Mission Woods • Prairie Village • Roeland Park • Westwood

Proof of Residency is required (i.e.: driver's license, utility bill). This event is for residents only, not businesses.

PAPER SHREDDING

- ▶ Securely shred confidential documents for **FREE**.
- ▶ You can shred bank statements, tax returns, credit card receipts, and more!
- ▶ **Maximum of 10 file storage boxes** size 1' x 2'.
- ▶ All binders, containers, and cardboard boxes will be returned to you.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

- ▶ Secure e-Cycle will collect electronics for responsible recycling.
- ▶ There is a **CASH ONLY \$25 fee** for computers and **\$40 fee** for TVs.
- ▶ Everything else with a chord is **FREE**.
- ▶ List of acceptable items: secureecycle.com/items

EYEGLOSS RECYCLING

The Shawnee Lions Club will collect eyeglasses to support the Lions Recycle for Sight Program.

Contact your City Hall with any questions.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**



The Community Recycling Event (above) is still in need of volunteers to make the event as best as possible. Safety gear, snacks, and water will be provided. If you would like to help out your community and others by volunteering some of your time, please call City Hall at 913.722.2600 or use the QR code below to learn more and sign up today!



Events & Holidays

Free Summer Concert
Saturday, August 23, 6 PM
@ R Park

Labor Day
Monday, September 1
City Offices Closed

Fiesta RP
Saturday, September 13, 7 PM
@ R Park

ROELAND PARK'S

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Now through August 31st

We are collecting donations of school supplies to help Roeland Park elementary school students and families!

Donations can be dropped off at the Roeland Park City Hall and the Roeland Park Community Center.

Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment to our community!

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE MOST NEEDED:

- GLUE STICKS
- GLUE BOTTLES
- SHARPIES (BLACK THIN AND THICK)
- CRAYONS (BOX OF 24)
- BOYS AND GIRLS BACKPACKS
- PENCIL BOXES
- EXPO MARKERS





ROELAND PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

50 Plus Program Highlights

Technology Small Group Tutoring

August 5, 10am, 1- 2 hr. class

\$25 / \$27 nonresidents

Join our technology instructor in a small group setting to help you learn, work, navigate and thrive in today's digital world!

Exercise: Tai Chi

August 7, 5pm, 4- 50 min. classes

LOW INTENSITY: Tai Chi offers a slow and gentle exercise with benefits in endurance, flexibility, and muscle strengthening. All experience levels welcome in this course.

\$38 / \$42 nonresidents

Special Interest: Money Habitudes

August 12, 1pm, 1 - 1 hr session

A game-like assessment played with a deck of cards to help people understand and talk about their finances in a fun, constructive way. It allows people to pinpoint underlying financial habits, attitudes, and motivations to make behavior changes.

\$5 / \$6 nonresidents

Visit us at JCPRD.COM/ACTIVITIES to register.
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ROELANDPARKCOMMUNITYCENTER

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 - 8am - 1pm

Sunday - closed

Looking for an Event Space? We've Got You Covered!



The Roeland Park Community Center has multiple, freshly renovated spaces available for rental. From birthday parties to business meetings, we have the space for you!

Room Name	Capacity	RP Resident Rate	Deposit
Juniper A or B	40	\$30/hr	\$75
Linden	50	\$30/hr	\$75
Buena Vista w/Patio	50	\$45/hr	\$75
Buena Vista w/alcohol and Security	50	\$105/hr	\$75
Neighbor's Place	50	\$40/hr	\$75
Juniper A/B Full Space	80	\$50/hr	\$75
Skyline Room w/Kitchen	115	\$65/hr	\$115
Skyline Room w/alcohol and Security	115	\$115/hr	\$115

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
9:30 am

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

Friday
HOBBY GROUP
1pm

DEI Spotlight

(Diversity, Equity & Inclusion)

Coming Soon - Hispanic Heritage Month!

As we approach Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15th - October 15th, we invite you to learn more about the rich cultural contributions of Hispanic and Latino communities. Be sure to check out the following local events and ways you can participate in celebrating Hispanic heritage in Kansas City.

We invite you to join us in celebrating the rich cultural tapestry at these upcoming events:

- Fiesta Hispana (Kansas City): Friday, September 12 - Saturday, September 13.
- Fiesta RP: R Park, Saturday, September 13th, 6 p.m.
- Prairie Village Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration: Harmon Park, Saturday, September 20, from 4:00 - 9:00 PM.
- Chicano Arts Festival: West Bottoms, October 5th (More details at: <https://www.lafkc.org/chicano-art-festival>).

Check Out this Roeland Park Hispanic Owned Business:

- David Chavez, State Farm Agent - <https://www.statefarm.com/agent/us/ks/roeland-park/david-chavez-mtgc42fj000>



Local Organization Spotlight

This month, we also want to shine a spotlight on incredible local organizations and businesses that are doing vital work to support and uplift our diverse communities:

- El Centro: Providing social, health, and economic services to the Latino community.
- AIRR (Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation): Working to protect and advance the rights of immigrants.
- Mattie Rhodes Center: Offering a wide range of services including social services, arts, and cultural programs.
- Guadalupe Centers: Dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals in Kansas City, with a focus on the Hispanic community.
- Latinx Education Collaborative: Focused on increasing the representation of Latinx educators in K-12 schools.
- Cafe Corazón: A wonderful local business (RP-owned!) celebrating Latin American coffee and culture.
- Explore the KCK Taco Trail: The trail includes nearly 50 local taquerias featuring street tacos, Tex-Mex style tacos, and more. The KCK Taco Trail pass is free and instantly delivered via email and text.
- Stay informed with local news from Kansas City Hispanic News and Dos Mundos.
- Visit the vibrant KCK Avenue of Murals: The Avenue of Murals includes eight outstanding murals in a four-block long corridor along Minnesota Avenue in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. Each mural celebrates the local history and culture and the unique groups within the community.

CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATES CONTINUED

47th Place Project - This project is getting close to kicking off, and is anticipated to begin in August or September. The project includes the reconstruction of the west & east cul-de-sacs of 47th Place. Construction elements include replacement of the street, curbs, adding a sidewalk on the south side of 47th Pl (west cul-de-sac) and a new sidewalk on the northside of 47th Pl (east cul-de-sac). Stormwater improvements at the far east end of the cul-de-sac are planned to improve street drainage. City contractor, Kansas Heavy is anticipating project completion by the end of the year.

Sidewalk Extension on El Monte St - A new sidewalk between El Monte Street and Delmar Street will begin construction mid-August providing a safer route to school for children attending Roesland Elementary. New ADA ramps will be installed on the west side of Delmar and as well as modifications to the existing ADA ramps at 48th St & Delmar St. The city received funds through a Community Devolvement Block Grant administered through Johnson County. The award amount was \$200K. Lineweaver, the contractor for the project is forecasting a completion in mid-October.



Meet Nathan Brungardt

Parks Superintendent

Q. How long have you been working in Parks & Recreation?

A. My parks and rec journey made a splash back in 2009 when I started teaching swim lessons as a summer job. I quickly realized how much I enjoyed connecting with people and building a sense of community. Since then, I've worked across the private sector, non-profit, and municipal worlds, gaining a well-rounded perspective on how recreation can bring people together. I have been working, full time, in the Parks & Recreation Industry for 11 years.

Q. What is your favorite thing about working for Roeland Park?

A. The community here is incredibly welcoming. From the start, the kindness and support I have received has made a lasting positive impression. Whether I'm spending time at the Aquatic Center or working in one of the parks, it's been great to have people wave, smile, and say hello. Roeland Park has a strong sense of community, it's already starting to feel like home.

Q. What were you doing before you came to Roeland Park?

A. For the past four years, I worked for the City of Bonner Springs as a Program Coordinator. I managed the Bonner Springs Aquatic Park, created new community events, and focused on programs that boosted both community engagement and local impact.

Before that, I was at Pittsburg State University (Go Gorillas!) where I served as the Coordinator of Aquatics and Student Development for Campus Recreation. It was an incredible experience that blended leadership, mentorship, and plenty of opportunities to help students grow both in and out of the classroom.

Q. What do you like to do for fun?

A. I love hitting the trails, especially Mill Creek Streamway Park, for a good hike or walk. I'm also a proud Rotarian, which gives me a great way to give back to the community. When I'm not out and about, I enjoy spending time with my family for Tuesday Night Movie Nights, reading a good book, or exploring the Metro's many different festivals and music venues.

Native Tree Spotlight : Eastern Red Cedar

by Melissa Castillo, Sustainability Committee

Did you know that the only evergreen tree native to Kansas is the Eastern Red Cedar? It's not a true cedar, but rather a juniper. Its cones are the small blue fruits that appear on female trees. Some say that it is "invasive" here, but that cannot be true, because by definition, an "invasive" species is (1) non-native (or introduced) and (2) whose introduction causes harm. The Eastern Red Cedar is an early colonizer of disturbed areas, like former crop fields that are no longer being farmed. For that reason, it can be aggressive in certain areas, including along highways and roadsides. However, in a maintained yard, it will not spread.

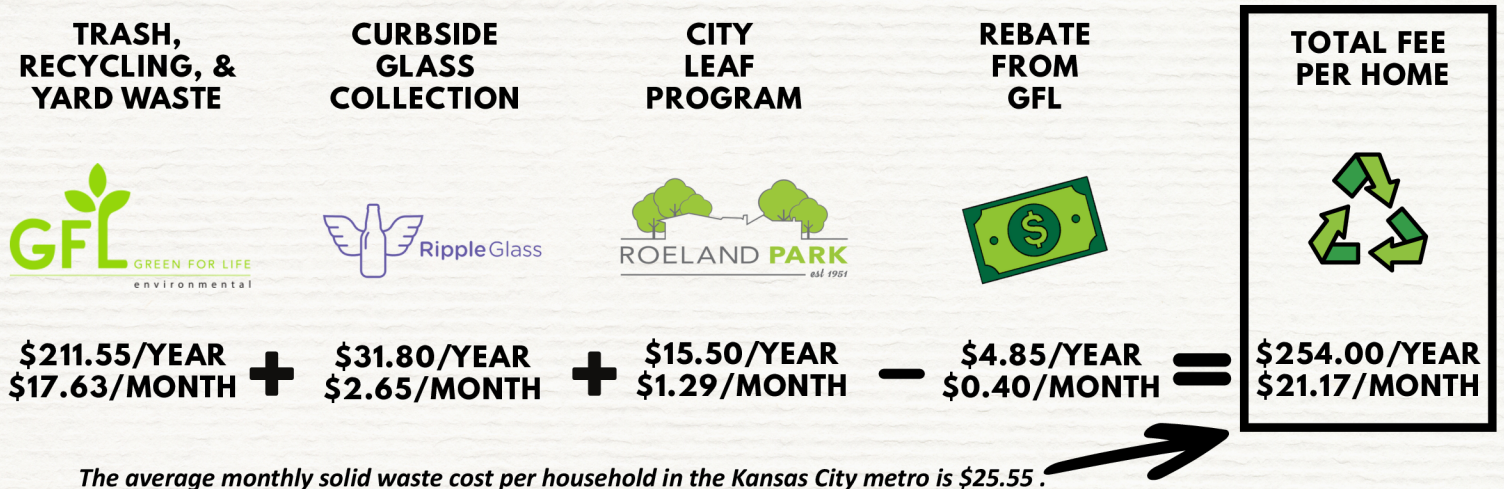
The Eastern Red Cedar is a conical shape when young, but with maturity, the trunk becomes more visible at the base, topped by a narrow, columnar crown. It typically grows 30-40 feet tall but can get as tall as 90 feet. It is resistant to heat, cold, and drought. They grow very rapidly—one to two feet per year. For these reasons, there is no better choice for a windbreak or privacy hedge in this area than Eastern Red Cedars.

Fall is a perfect time to plant trees. Consider planting an Eastern Red Cedar—or a row of them this fall.



Solid Waste Service Fee Explanation

Did you ever wonder how Roeland Park sets the price on your household solid waste services? These services are all included on your property tax bill as a solid waste assessment. This means that all property owners pay for these services, and if you're not utilizing them now, you should consider taking advantage of them! These services include trash, recycling, yard waste, curbside glass pick-up, and the City leaf collection program. What you may not know, is starting in 2026, the City will get a **rebate from GFL based** on the total glass and leaf tons diverted from the solid waste stream via our two curbside collection programs. That equates to real savings in your pocket, that will be credited to future solid waste assessments. A detailed break down of cost per service is below.



Did you know that if you are using the curbside glass recycling service that you can sign up for collection day reminders? It's a helpful feature available to anyone who has curbside glass with Ripple. If you're not currently using this service, now is a great time to start. To sign up for the reminders or to learn more visit rippleglass.com/roeland-park.

City Contacts



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Letter from the Mayor

Hey RP,

You may have noticed some exciting changes happening at the Roeland Park Shopping Center on Roe Blvd. Recently, the exterior of the former CVS and Walmart building received a fresh coat of paint—part of a larger effort to revitalize the center. These improvements stem from the City's successful renegotiation of the Community Improvement District (CID) agreement with the property owner.

In the April/May Roeland Parker, I announced the owner's commitment to reinvest in our community. Under the renegotiated terms they are dedicate to:

- Enhancing the site's aesthetics, including the former CVS and Roe Shops.
- Actively marketing vacant storefronts to attract new tenants.
- Repaving and potentially reconfiguring the parking lot.
- Contributing to the city's public art fund.



Additionally, \$1.3 million from the CID was transferred to the City's new Economic Development Fund.

This fund will support long-term objectives and encourage projects consistent with the City's master plans, focusing on fostering a safe, connected community and diversifying the tax base to help reduce your property tax obligation. As a reminder, the CID was established in 2012, and



introduced a one-cent sales tax on purchases at Walmart and surrounding shops. That tax ended in 2019, after generating \$3 million to support property improvements as outlined in the original agreement. This recent transfer to our Economic Development Fund marked the first time those dollars were utilized. The remaining CID fund balance is still accessible to the property owner for qualified improvements at the original reimbursement rate of \$1 for every \$2 spent.

A top priority for many community members is revitalizing the Roe business corridor, and as your Mayor, I share that goal. I'm confident that this renegotiated agreement and the recent property improvements by the owner represent real momentum toward building the vibrant business community you deserve.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mayor Michael Poppa