



August/September 2024

# THE ROELAND PARKER

Official Newsletter of the City of Roeland Park

## Savor The Sounds: Free Summer Concerts in R Park

**S**ummer is well underway and so is the concert series in R Park. This is the third year that a group of residents have organized summer concerts in R Park.

"After the beautiful renovation of the park we really wanted to use the pavilion as a way to bring neighbors together," said Laura Savidge, who leads the group of volunteers. "Through this concert series, I really think we've done that. This is like a dream come true for us."

This year, the concert series included four different events taking place on June 1st, July 27th, August 24th and September 14th. The concerts are completely free to attend, making it easy to gather your friends and family, and enjoy an evening outdoors without breaking the bank.

An important component of these free concerts is to support charitable causes. This year, proceeds from food and drink sales will support The Giving Brick, the Community Food Pantry at Trinity Lutheran Church and the Holiday Kindness Project.

The Giving Brick provides previously loved Lego sets to underprivileged kids and throughout the foster care system. The Holiday Kindness Project is in partnership with the Roeland Park PD where gift cards to local retailers are given to unsuspecting Roeland Park shoppers by officers during the holiday season. Volunteers will be collecting nonperishable food for the Community Food Pantry at the concerts. Consider showing your appreciation for the free event by bringing canned or boxed items with you.



For those who enjoy a cold brew on a warm evening, a selection of beers from Sandhills Brewing will be available to keep you refreshed and in high spirits. There will also be non-alcoholic beverages, snacks and baked goods available for a donation.

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**ROELAND PARKER**

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# Letter From Mayor Poppa

Hey, RP,

Did you know that we have a primary election on Tuesday, August 6th? We do, and there will be at least one contested election on our ballots.

Voting in local primary elections is a critical yet often overlooked part of civic engagement. These elections can significantly shape the landscape of a community by determining which candidates will be on the ballot in the November general election. Those candidates will set the tone for the issues that will be prioritized in the general election, and championed once they are in office.

Engaging in the primary process allows voters to elevate important local issues, such as education, public safety, housing, and environmental policies. Primary elections, however, have historically low voter turnout compared to general elections. This means that each vote in a primary has more influence. A small, motivated group of voters can have a substantial impact on the outcome, making it even more important for a broad cross-section of our community to participate.



Here are three simple steps to vote your voice in this year's August 6th primary election (plus a step for the general election):

1. Visit [myvoteinfo.voteks.org](http://myvoteinfo.voteks.org) to check your voter registration, view your sample ballot and find your voting location.
2. **Vote on or before Tuesday, August 6th.**
3. Post your "I Voted" selfie using the hashtags #RPPride #VoteJOCO.
4. Then, visit [myvoteinfo.voteks.org](http://myvoteinfo.voteks.org) again and make sure you're ready to vote in the November 5th general election.

All the best,  
Mayor Michael Poppa

## Bishop Miege High School Graduate's Rapid Rise to Broadway Stardom

On June 24, Bishop Miege recent graduate, Peter Dessert, made it to the top eight finalists of the 102 nominees at the 15th annual Jimmy Awards on Broadway. Before he was selected for the trip to New York, he won at the local level for the Blue Star Awards at Starlight Theatre. He did a character medley first before being selected to advance, which came with a \$5,000 scholarship. As Josh Groban said when he introduced the eight, "It's time for them to do something they've dreamed of their whole lives — sing a solo on a Broadway stage."



## Environmental Fair

Come learn about ways you can help our environment.



### Free Admission

(but bring money to shop for great products!)

**Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024 • 9 a.m. to Noon**  
Powell Community Center  
6200 Martway, Mission, Kansas

 [Missionks.org/gogreen](http://Missionks.org/gogreen) 

Hosted by the cities of:  
Fairway, Merriam, Mission, Mission Hills, Mission Woods, Prairie Village, Roeland Park, Westwood, Westwood Hills



# ROELAND PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

## Upcoming Program Highlights: 50 Plus

### Tai Chi

4 - 50 min. sessions  
\$38 / \$42 nonresidents

**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.

#### Available sessions:

Aug 7 - 28, 10am; Wednesdays  
Sept 5 - 26, 5pm; Thursdays

### Advanced Healthcare Directives

Sept 18, 1 pm, 1 - 1.5 hr. class  
\$5 / \$6 nonresidents

Learn about the process and documents involved in preparing your future medical care. 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

### New 50 Plus Drop-In Course!

### Board Game Bonanza

Mondays, 1pm  
Free

Our meetup is a haven for board game enthusiasts of all levels and offers a space to play, connect, and discover new favorites! Come alone or bring a friend! Play one of our games or bring one of your own!

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

## Preschool Program Highlights

### Backyard Camping Party

Aug 23, 10am, 1 - 45 min event  
\$8 / \$9 nonresidents; per child

Play in a make-shift tent, sit around our artificial campfire, and sing campfire songs! It's the perfect way to have a fun-filled time with friends! Ages 2-5 with adult.

### Tiny Tots Fall Craft Party

Sept 27, 10am, 1 - 45 min event  
\$6 / \$7 nonresidents; per child

This event is designed for our youngest artists to celebrate the beauty of autumn through hands-on crafts. 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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
BOARD GAME BONANZA 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

## August/September Events

- **Labor Day** - Sept 2nd *City Offices closed*
- **Citywide Garage Sale** - Sept 5th - 8th
- **Go Green 2024 Environmental Fair** - Saturday, Sept 14th, 9a-noon @ Powell Community Center
- **Community Shred Event** - Saturday, September 28th, 9a-noon @ 9001 W 67th St, Merriam, KS



## Discover What's Happening: Events Around the City and Surrounding Areas

**Pool Hours** – School is almost back in session for our local kiddos and we would like them to still be able to access the pool during the summer. Therefore, beginning in August, the pool hours will be changing to the following: August 1st-14th (12pm-7pm), 15th and 16th (4pm-7pm), 17th and 18th (12pm-7pm), 19th-22nd (4pm-7pm), 24th and 25th (12pm-7pm) 26th-30th (4pm-7pm) and 31st-September 2nd (12pm-7pm).

**Citywide Garage Sale** - September 5th - 8th is the permit-free garage sale weekend in Roeland Park. Residents who wish to participate can sign up on our website ([roelandpark.org](http://roelandpark.org)) and have your address added to a map. If you're not interested in selling, check out the map which will be available online and on social media the week of the sale.

**Go Green 2024 Environmental Fair** - Go Green is hosting its third annual environmental fair at the Powell Community Center (6200 Martway) on Saturday, September 14th from 9 a.m. - noon. Admission is free and you can learn about materials and opportunities to reduce your carbon footprint through educational events, vendor information and more.

**Shred-It** – On September 28th from 9am-12pm, the city of Roeland Park along with neighboring cities will host a community recycling event free of charge. This is the perfect chance for individuals to safely shred sensitive documents and recycle electronics responsibly. Also accepting eyeglasses. A \$25/computer and \$40/TV fee will apply, all other electronics and shredding is free. Check out our website for more info.

## Project RISE Updates & News

### Project RISE is on a mission to Recruit, Identify, Support and Encourage businesses

Project RISE launched last year to lend a hand to current Roeland Park small businesses and those looking to locate in our community. Significant strides have been made to increase connections in the business community all while lifting up current Roeland Park businesses.

As part of this, we've launched a new website with a wealth of resources for business owners at every stage, from launch to growth and everything in between. You'll find valuable resources like lease space details, information on registration, data on Roeland Park demographics and more. Visit [projectriserp.com](http://projectriserp.com) to explore the website.

Next up, Project Rise is looking to promote local businesses on the City's social media channels and in the Roeland Parker! If you own or operate a business in Roeland Park, you can be featured. Simply scan the QR code and the information will be used to create a future social media post! We will also feature selected businesses in a future Roeland Parker. Please note, due to space restrictions, not all submissions may be featured in the print newsletter. We can't wait to see all of the submissions.

Are you interested in connecting with Project Rise? Schedule a one-on-one meeting with our business development director, Jan Peters. Reach out to Jan: [jan@projectriserp.com](mailto:jan@projectriserp.com).

ROELAND PARKER

Submit to have your business featured in The Roeland Parker by scanning the QR code to fill out the form or go online to [Roelandpark.net](http://Roelandpark.net) and search "Business Feature For The Roeland Parker"



SCAN ME 

# Savor The Sounds: Free Summer Concerts in R Park

*Continued from Cover Page*

On Saturday, August 24th, AnnaLee and the Lucky So 'n Sos will be performing. Get ready to sing along to your favorite songs and dance like nobody's watching!

Then on Saturday, September 14th, the park will come alive with the festive sounds of Fiesta RP! Their energetic rhythms and smooth melodies will have you grooving under the stars.

These concerts are the perfect excuse to let loose and enjoy some quality time with friends in a lively and welcoming atmosphere. All ages are welcome. So, grab your lawn chairs and picnic blankets, and join us for two unforgettable nights of music, laughter, and summer fun at R Park.

Upcoming concerts will also feature an opportunity to learn more about City happenings. The City's Parks and Trees Committee will have a booth setup to gather feedback about the upcoming Nall Park Master Plan. This will allow residents to provide input on what features they want to see at Nall Park. Also on hand will be the representatives from the City's Sustainability Committee who will share useful resources about sustainable programs available such as mattress recycling, native plants, sustainability grant programs and more! See you at R Park!



## Roeland Park Overhauls its Municipal Code

The City Council has directed staff to review and make recommended modifications to the entire municipal code for the City of Roeland Park. Some of these codes were adopted decades ago and may no longer be relevant or the most logical for modern times. For each chapter, the staff member that is most impacted by that section will review the code considering best practices, current law and how to simplify or add clarity to the code where possible. In addition, the City's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is reviewing each section with an equity lens and making their recommendations to Council as well. This process is already underway and will take two years to complete. The City hired a consultant to review the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations due to the complexity of that section. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on July 16th to review and approve the proposed changes. The City Council is set to review these at the August 5th City Council meeting.

# Richard Fanolio Art Exhibition

August 24th to October 23rd

Fanolio's artistic passion, practice and dedication stems from a universal love of art and beauty.

Fanolio uses acrylic, wood, canvas, Masonite and found objects to make his works come to life. He plays with color and movement to make his pieces vibrate with energy.

Fanolio graduated from the University of Kansas in 1957 with a BFA in Design and a minor in Set Design. From there he went on to have a rewarding career with Hallmark Cards for 43 years as a Photographer, Stylist and Master Artist. Since retiring in 1999, Fanolio has continued to deepen his creative talents through painting, photography and figure drawing.

Fanolio has displayed his works throughout galleries and exhibitions across North America and was included in the International Biographical Centre's list of 2000 Outstanding Artist & Designers of the 20th Century.

Fanolio will display his work in the George R Schlegal Gallery in City Hall, come by and see it for yourself!



Designer / Painter / Photographer

Richard Fanolio Exhibition - August 24 to October 23, 2024.

Contact Chanda Fanolio

cfanolio@gmail.com

913-706-7765

## The Essential Role of Mental Health Co-Responders

Mental health co-responders are transforming how communities handle crises. Working alongside law enforcement, these professionals bring expertise and compassion to situations involving individuals experiencing mental health issues. Their presence ensures that those in crisis receive appropriate care and support, reducing the risk of escalation and promoting better outcomes for everyone involved.

By providing immediate mental health assessment and intervention, co-responders help de-escalate potentially volatile situations, divert individuals from the criminal justice system, and connect them with necessary services. This integrated approach not only enhances public safety but also fosters a more humane and effective response to mental health emergencies, illustrating the profound impact of mental health co-responders in our communities.

Our Johnson County (JOCO) Co-Responders can be contacted by dialing 911, by using the Johnson County Co-Responder Program Map located on the [joco.gov](http://joco.gov) website or by calling their 24/7 crisis line at 913-268-0156. The JOCO Mental Health Center also offers free or low-cost trainings if you want to learn more about supporting a loved one through a crisis. You can also call 988 if you need assistance with a mental health concern. More information can be found on their website or by calling 913-826-4200.



# DEI Spotlight

## City Grant and Assistance Programs Spotlight

As we move into August and September, Roeland Park continues to prioritize supporting our residents through various grant and assistance programs. Here's a detailed look at what's available:

- **JoCo Minor Home Rehabilitation Program:** This program helps homeowners maintain their properties with essential repairs, ensuring safe and comfortable living conditions. The program provides grant funds for repairs that include: Carpentry, Electrical, Exterior painting, Furnace / central air conditioner, Handicap accessibility, Masonry, Plumbing, and Roof replacement. These repairs may be provided to remedy a city citation or notification by a city/county code inspector of a deficiency for deteriorating or peeling paint.
- **Property Tax Rebate Program:** This program is designed to alleviate some of the burden of home ownership in the face of rising property values. This program will rebate 100% of the City's portion of property taxes to those who meet the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's income guidelines for Johnson County. The program's goal is to help all residents remain in their homes and to help make it more affordable to do so.

- **Compose Bin Rebate Program:** The City of Roeland Park is committed to helping residents divert organic materials from landfills and is offering a rebate to residents to begin a home composting program. Eligible residents can get a rebate of up to \$75 for the purchase of a home compost bin or by building one.
- **Utility & Rental Assistance:** Temporary assistance is available to help residents facing financial challenges with utility bills and rental payments through Johnson County Aging & Human Services.

For more information on all of these programs, visit [roelandpark.org/390/Grants-Assistance-Programs](http://roelandpark.org/390/Grants-Assistance-Programs).

- **Coming Soon** - Hispanic Heritage Month

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

- **Call to Action Spotlight:**

Calling all Roeland Park residents passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion - Join our DEI Committee and make a meaningful impact in our community. With just a monthly hour-long commitment, you can contribute to fostering a more inclusive environment for all. Sign up today and be a part of something impactful. Email [racialequitycommittee@roelandpark.org](mailto:racialequitycommittee@roelandpark.org) for more information.



## City Contacts



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Chief of Police- John Morris  
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Director of Public Works - Donnie Scharff  
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## Temporary Traffic Calming Measures Coming to Buena Vista

On July 15th, the City Council approved the installation of temporary traffic calming measures on Buena Vista in Roeland Park which includes four separate installations between 51st and 53rd Streets on Buena Vista. Two speed humps will be installed, the first just south of the stop sign at 51st Street, and the second just south of Sycamore Drive and north of Catalina. Two speed tables will be installed south of Catalina Street and another between W 52nd Terrace and north of W 53rd Terrace. All temporary devices will have wheel cutouts to accommodate emergency vehicles.

The purpose of the temporary installations is to test the effectiveness of these devices prior to installing any permanent solutions. The temporary devices can be purchased at minimal cost to the City and can be repurposed in the future for additional testing in other locations throughout the City when needed.

City traffic engineers will gather data about speed and volume of vehicles on the roadway as well as gather feedback from residents on how they feel about these

installations after they are in place.

The traffic calming devices will be installed in August or September. After installation, you will get an opportunity to experience these for yourself. We encourage your feedback! You can submit your thoughts through a form on our website. Go to [roelandpark.org](http://roelandpark.org) – on the homepage, under News & Calendar, click on the “Buena Vista Traffic Calming Feedback.” We appreciate your support in helping to make the City safer for all who travel our streets.



*Example of a temporary speed hump with wheel cutouts for emergency vehicles.*