

RED OAK HILLS

Newsletter



A Thanks to Exceptional Neighbors



This is a special thanks to Lynn Berlin and Cathy Smith. The gatehouse at the Midland entrance always looks amazing thanks to these two ladies. Their tireless effort allows us to enter our community with a sense of 'Welcome Home'. 2020 has been a tough year and coming home to family and friends "like family" means that much more. Thank you, Lynn and Cathy, for making each Homecoming beautiful.



The winners of the holiday lights contest are.....

Thank you to everyone who participated! There were 65 total votes!
1st place-6806 Millcreek
2nd place-6731 Red Oak Drive
3rd place-6628 Lind Road

Shawnee History

At the northern border of Johnson County along the Mill Creek Streamway Park is a bridge that leads to Nelson Island. The island is named for Cleggie Nelson, who ran a speakeasy here during Prohibition, but then spent the rest of his life as a hermit. When Nelson took title to the island in 1920, it was 27 acres and was reached by a hanging bridge. Today, the powerful force of the Kaw River has eroded the sandy banks and diminished the island to half its former size. In the fall of 1998, the flooding Kaw took a big chunk of the island, slicing off a quarter mile of paved path.

The island provides an excellent example of the woods that are typical of riparian areas all along the Kaw. Big Cottonwood and Sycamore trees line the sandy banks of the river and serve as perches for the bald eagles that winter here. Look for the eagles' white heads and tails as they soar overhead. Many eagles overwinter here because our waters remain ice-free for long periods, assuring access to fish, a favorite food.

From the Mill Creek Streamway Park at 19425 Wilder Drive, the island is a ½ mile walk north over an arching bridge. As soon as you cross the bridge, begin looking up. Eagles reuse their nests, adding a little each year. One nest in Florida was 9 ½ feet around, 20 feet deep and weighed over 2 tons. For more information, visit <https://kansasriver.org/learn/life-on-the-kaw/the-recreational-kaw/>



New Neighbors

We are the Anders family! I am Casey and my husband is John. He is originally from



Spokane, WA and I'm from Bellevue, NE. We both were born around Sacramento, CA and somehow ended up together in the Midwest, where we met. We've been together for 6 and a half years. We enjoy doing projects and riding motorcycles. We moved into our house January 2019. It seems to be the talk of the neighborhood, it has no HVAC system, no central AC, no furnace. There is an AC window unit when it gets really hot and we burn wood in the winter. We have two boys: Jackson is 8 years old and Ace is 4.5 months old. Jackson has an affinity for

suits and men's fashion. Ace has a love for putting things in his mouth and grabbing his feet. We have an old Italian Greyhound, aka the world's fastest couch potato, named Otto. He is 12 and a half years old and can be found at any time on any soft, warm surface.



Rest in Ruffs and Runs

Tiffany was a good girl. She loved going on walks and greeting all her neighborhood friends. Her family often joked that Tiffany knew more neighbors than anyone else. She fiercely protected her family from every squirrel in Red Oak Hills. She was a loyal and quirky companion for 16 years and she will be missed by all who knew her.



Time for the NFL championships! Make a treat mix in your team's colors: Find the NFL candy guide at <https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/photos/32-NFL-inspired-candy-mixes-to-help-you-cheer-on-your-favorite-team>

Kansas City Chiefs

Winning Combo: Lemonhead candies and Red Hots

Caring is Sharing

On February 1, care packages for the homeless will be delivered under the bridge just north of the City Market in Kansas City. Tube socks will be filled with your donations of combs, small hand sanitizers, jerky, cans of ravioli, plastic cups of fruit, toothbrushes, toothpaste, can openers, hand warmers, granola bars, flashlights and chapstick. Drop off at 6747 Red Oak Dr. by January 17. Thank you for helping make this one evening...this one page in a life's story...a night of compassion, respect, and warmth.

Tech Tip-Upwork-what is it? How does it work?

Upwork ([upwork.com](https://www.upwork.com)) is a place where freelancers can post their skillset for jobs and consumers can find talent for specific jobs. If you have time and talent or if you do not have time and need talent., you can hire for everything from personal assistant, web design, writing, editor, marketing, publishing, etc. and you can offer your talent in all those ways as well. Users post bids for projects and freelancers accept and do work. Freelancers do a good job because you write reviews and all payments are held in escrow until user releases.

please send ideas and technical questions to annissalh@me.com

Entertainment

Book:

Humans

Brandon Stanton

This is a book of photographs with stories about HUMANS across the globe. The pictures sometimes do not seem to match the stories, but the story of our humanity is undeniably one of resilience, heartbreak, love, laughter, personal conflict, and courage in our search for who we are and why we are here. You may find yourself laughing at your story in their story and wiping tears because of how it touched something within, perhaps a soft spot. The human spirit is always evolving, this book will change you.

Series:

Wind River-Netflix

This is a 2017 neo-Western murder mystery film written and directed by Taylor Sheridan. The film stars Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen as a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service tracker and an FBI agent, respectively, who try to solve a murder on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. Gil Birmingham, Jon Bernthal and Graham Greene also star.

About Us

Jana Bonham, Jessica Horine, Chasity Mwangi and I (Annisah Freeman) are putting together this monthly newsletter for our Red Oak Hills community members. Why? We love our community to be published and want us all to stay connected not just for fun and sharing but also for help. The newsletter is to share news, events and fun things with one another. This newsletter will only be in electronic format, however feel free to print and share with neighbors. If you would like for information to be published you can contact us at annissalh@me.com, jessica.horine@gmail.com, jbonham94073@gmail.com and chasityrmwangi@gmail.com. We will try to prioritize and publish but please be patient as we try to keep the newsletter content to 3 pages with fun and business (mostly fun!!)