



Happy New Year Red Oak Hills

And the Winners are..... the winners of best christmas lights in ROH are (drum roll).....

1st place 6817 Red Oak Drive

2nd place 6640 Lind Road

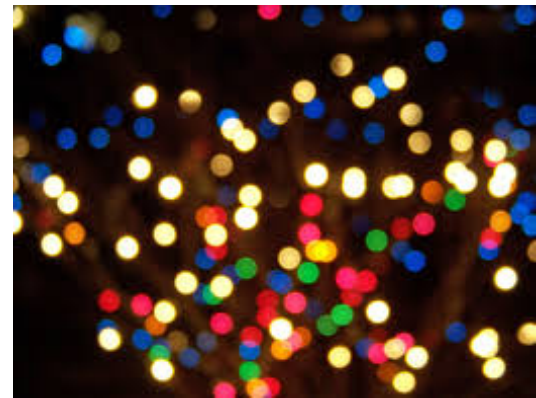
3rd place 6754 Red Oak Drive



Support a local business

Trash Panda Lighting

The title gets your attention, doesn't it? Ben Pister graciously installed the Christmas lights for no cost at the Midland entrance. Red Oak Hills residents have been good to him, and he wanted to acknowledge that with the lighted entrance. Ben is a local fireman who started installing Christmas lights a few years ago during his time away from the fire station. His business is "Trash Panda Lighting" (an odd name given and supported by his fellow firefighters.) Ben only does Christmas Season lighting. ROH resident Lynn Berlin comments, "He and a fellow firefighter are professional, pleasant and dependable. I have been pleased to do business with Ben to start my holiday season off with holiday lights, at a reasonable price, for the past 3-4 years."

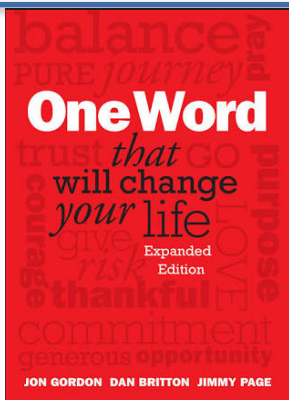


Thank you, Ben, for sharing this joyful seasonal holiday business with ROH!

If you are interested in Trash Panda Lighting's services, Ben can be reached at 816-262-2580.

No Resolutions, just a simple word

One Word explains how to simplify your life and business by focusing on just ONE WORD for the entire year. The simplicity of choosing one word makes it a catalyst for life-change. Clutter and complexity lead to procrastination and paralysis, while simplicity and focus lead to success and clarity.





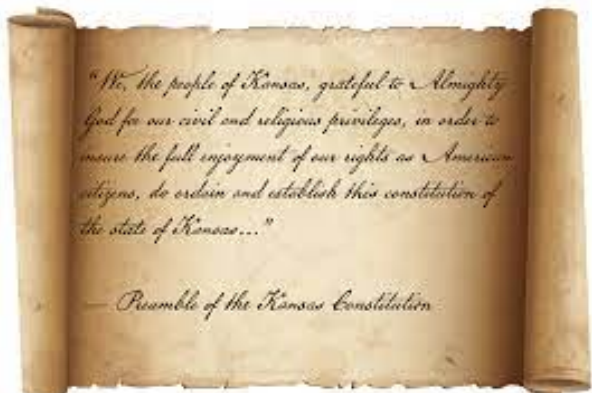
The Statehood of Kansas

On January 29, 1861, Kansas was admitted to the Union as a free state. It was the 34th state to join the Union. The struggle between pro- and anti-slave forces in Kansas was a major factor in the eruption of the Civil War.

In 1854, Kansas and Nebraska were organized as territories with popular sovereignty (popular vote) to decide the issue of slavery. There was really no debate over the issue in Nebraska, as the territory was filled with settlers from the Midwest, where there was no slavery. In Kansas, the situation was much different. Although most of the settlers were anti-slave or abolitionists, there were many pro-slavery Missourians living just over the border. When residents in the territory voted on the issue, many fraudulent votes were cast from Missouri. This triggered the massive violence that earned the area the name “Bleeding Kansas.” Both sides committed atrocities, and the fighting over the issue of slavery was a preview of the Civil War.

Kansas remained one of the most important political questions throughout the 1850s. Each side drafted constitutions, but the anti-slavery faction eventually gained the upper hand. Kansas entered the Union as a free state; however, the conflict over slavery in the state continued into the Civil War. Kansas was the scene of some of the most brutal acts of violence during the war. One extreme example was the sacking of Lawrence in 1863, when pro-slavery forces murdered nearly 200 men and burned the anti-slavery town. Visit <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/kansas-enters-the-union> for more information.

If You Yearn to Learn More About Kansas



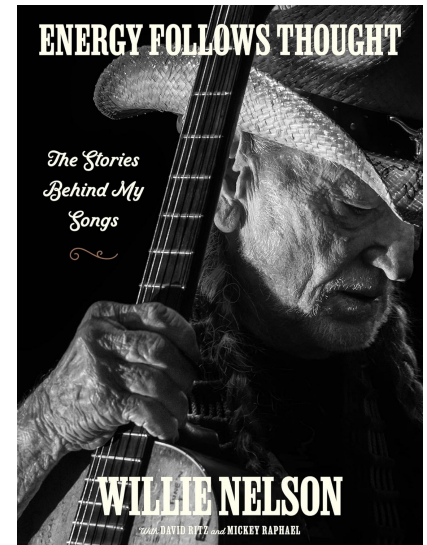
Then & Now was created by KS Secretary of State Scott Schwab's office to provide fun activities while also learning about the state of Kansas. Learn about how Kansas became a state, the different branches of government, our state economy, and the diverse geography of Kansas. Visit <https://sos.ks.gov/other/pubs/KTAN.pdf>.

Energy Follows Thought: The Stories Behind My Songs

by Willie Nelson, David Ritz, and Mickey Raphael

For the first time ever, and to help celebrate his 90th birthday in 2023, American icon Willie Nelson provides the stories behind the lyrics of 160 of his favorite songs, along with a dynamic assortment of never-before-seen photos and ephemera.

From his earliest work in the 1950s to today, Willie looks back at the songs that have defined his career, from his days of earning \$50 each to his biggest hits, from his less well-known songs (but incredibly meaningful to him) to his concept albums. Along the way, he also shares the stories of his guitar Trigger, his family and “family,” as well as the artists he collaborated with, including Patsy Cline, Waylon Jennings, Ray Charles, Merle Haggard, Ray Price, Dolly Parton, and many others.



The KC Wheel is Open

Welcome to the KC Wheel, open year-round in the heart of Missouri. See the Heart of America like never before. Enjoy one-of-a-kind views of the beloved KC skyline from the comfort of your own private gondola seating up to six people. Floor-to-ceiling windows offer a 360-degree view and a perfect spot for share-worthy selfies. The family-friendly, must-do, date-night, happy hour destination is anchored by the 150-foot-tall KC Wheel covered in LED lights creating countless color combinations and a bright way for KC to celebrate holidays, gender reveals and of course, KC's fearless sports teams. Here you'll soar high above the city with gorgeous views of Union Station, Power and Light Building, Kauffman Center, City Hall, One Kansas City Place and more. Plan your visit now and score big with ticket options including individual tickets for the KC Wheel and Pennway Putt, plus a combo package that includes both. Spoil yourself by reserving the VIP gondola with luxurious seats, floor lighting, and souvenir photos. Save time, get your tickets online.

No Bake Kool Aid Pie

Ingredients

- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (0.13 ounce) package unsweetened fruit-flavored drink mix
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (9 inch) prepared graham cracker crust



Directions

1. In a mixing bowl combine the sweetened condensed milk and the Kool-Aid packet until they're mixed thoroughly.
2. Then use a large spoon or silicone spatula and mix in the tub of whipped cream until there are no more white streaks.
3. Spoon the mixture into the pie crust and spread it evenly.
4. Cover the Kool Aid Pie and let it chill for 2-4 hours before serving.

Trivia with a surprise

If you can answer this trivia question below you may win a \$25 gift card to Chipotle. Here are the rules:

1. You can only submit one answer starting January 3rd (this gives everyone a chance to read the newsletter and participate
2. No googling (honor system)
3. The answer will be from one of the 2023 newsletters

If you are the first to answer the trivia question below,

[What ROH resident was an artist and historian?](#)



Email your response to Jana (jbonham94073@gmail.com) and Annissa (annissalh@me.com) on Jan 3rd only. Winner will be announce in February newsletter.

About Us

Jana Bonham, Chasity Robinson Mwangi and Annissa Freeman contribute to putting together this monthly newsletter for our Red Oak Hills community members. Why? We love our community 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 friends and family.