

# Red Oak Hills

## Newsletter



**TIME TO VOTE**, but this is not an election. During the month of March you will have the opportunity to vote on an issue that will allow us to change rules annually for the community.

Currently, our Bylaws only allow ROH to make updates every 10 years to the rules. The survey will ask if you are in favor of changing this from 10 years to 1 year. Please take the time to vote, because it requires 80% approval to be changed. This vote is indirectly related to all requests to be reviewed by the board (i.e. sheds, solar, etc).



Neighborhood Pet Parade in April! By popular demand, a pet parade will be held in April. If you would like to help plan the first ever, groundbreaking, fantastically fun, ROH Pet Parade, please email Jana at [jbonham94073@gmail.com](mailto:jbonham94073@gmail.com).

*Sign, Seal and Deliver Some Appreciation*

Mary, our mail carrier, deserves some love for delivering mail in rain, shine, Covid or Arctic Chill. Write a thank you note, bake some sweets, buy a gift card (\$20 or less by law) or have your child draw a picture. Place in your mailbox this month.

# *New Neighbors*

## *Brad and Dani Dorner*

We have been residents of ROH since March 2019. We dropped our boxes into our house and immediately left the country for 2.5 weeks, which was a wonderful start to our time here. Fun fact, our house was originally designed to resemble a boat and may be the only household without a pet. ROH allows us to be closer to the park including trails for hiking/mountain biking and kayaking/paddle boarding. If you see a station wagon loaded with kayaks and bikes, a couple riding a tandem bicycle, or a red antique car that's probably us! Brad is originally from Omaha and Dani from the western suburbs of Chicago (Naperville). We both work outside of the house, Brad being an automotive technician and Dani a vestibular audiologist. We love live music, travel, outdoor activities, dancing on our deck, and trying to make every day activities just a little bit more fun. We are so fortunate to have great neighbors, and look forward to meeting everyone else in the neighborhood.

## **BLUE SKIES AND BLUEBIRDS**



As March arrives, watch for the bright colors and listen for the lovely birdsong of bluebirds in Red Oak Hills. The Johnson County Park and Recreation District (JCPRD) is the official “Bluebird Capital of Kansas”. Designated in 1999, this title is the result of efforts begun by one Shawnee resident and continued by many. Frank Rolf created the recovery program in 1989 to combat the alarming decline in Eastern Bluebird numbers. He installed 16 nesting boxes along the Mill Creek Streamway Park. Dick Imel and Paul Gerling also played pivotal roles in revitalizing the population numbers. Today, there are nearly 400 boxes and 1700 bluebird fledglings

annually. JCPRD Bluebird Stewards monitor these nesting boxes.

Male bluebirds locate the perfect nesting cavity or box and start defending their territories in late February and early March. Bluebirds are cavity nesters whose natural nesting sites are tree holes they do not make themselves. Action to help the bluebird population was necessary because clearing land and eliminating dead trees have destroyed many cavity nesting sites. Another major detriment to bluebirds is the overwhelming competition from non-native starlings and house sparrows.

Bluebirds voraciously prey on insects. Bluebirds will not visit typical seed-filled bird feeders. To attract bluebirds, make cornmeal suet by mixing yellow corn meal, bacon grease, and bits of fruit or raisins. This could be a fun activity to do with children. The recipe for the food and then an exercise in patience called bird watching.

If you are interested in becoming a JCPRD Bluebird Steward to help monitor the many nesting boxes, please contact the JCPRD biologist, Matt Garrett, at 913-826-3440.

Visit <https://www.jocogov.org/sites/default/files/documents/CMO/TBT/Best%20Times%20Sept-Oct%202020.pdf>

# *All about the dogs... Goldie and Hoyt*



*Hi! My name is Hoyt (on left) and my family thinks I am around eight years old. I am new to my family as I was rescued from a parking lot. The good people of Chain of Hope took me in and got me healthy. Once they had me for a while they noticed I started bumping into things so they took me to an eye doctor who confirmed I was blind. Being blind is new to me, but I do pretty good getting around my house and even learned how to do the stairs! My sister Goldie is helping me navigate and if you see me walking and want to pet me please just ask my owner. I get a little scared when people come towards my face. I love long naps, walks, bones and my ball that makes noise. I'm loving my new family and neighborhood!*

*Goldie-"I love my new dog brother! I'm starting to learn some of his signs and help him by ringing the bell when he needs to go out. He always waits for me before heading into the yard. You may even find us touching noses or sleeping next to each other.*

## *Caring and Sharing*

The second grade Girl Scout troop from Lenexa Hills is collecting donations for Unleashed Pet Rescue . If you are able to contribute, please consider this amazing charity. Below is a list of items they regularly need. Feel free to leave items inside the box on our porch or contact us to coordinate pick up: 17820 W.69th Street 913.226.1978 [kammason20@gmail.com](mailto:kammason20@gmail.com)

**Donations are due by March 10.**

Blankets for Crates  
Large Heavy Trash Bags  
Collars and Leashes  
Laundry Detergent

Dog/Cat Food  
Crates  
Odoban  
Cat Scratching Posts

Paper Towels  
Clorox Wipes  
Bleach

Mop Head  
Dog Toys  
Cat Litter

## *Tech Tip-*

*What is CashApp, Venmo, Zelle, PayPal, GPay, ApplePay, SamsungPay, Android Pay?*

These are all digital wallets. They exist as an app on your phone and it links to your bank account. Through the app you are able to send money to people or businesses. This has become a very common and easy way to transfer money. The data in your digital wallet is encrypted, making it safer than carrying cash and credit cards. Most banking institutions support a digital wallet in one form or another so check with them ask specific questions.

# Entertainment

Book:

*The Boomer Burden*

Julie Hall

A practical guide to advise Baby Boomers how to deal with the daunting task of facing a parents' eventual passing as it relates to residential contents, heirlooms, and the often difficult family interactions and feuds that accompany them.

Series:

**Poldark**

Poldark is a British Historical novel series by Winson Graham, which has been turned into a drama television series and can be found on Amazon Prime. Poldark is complete with five (5) seasons of binge worthy content.

"Ross Poldark returns to England after fighting in the American Revolution. His family and friends thought he was dead. The woman he hoped to marry is now engaged to his cousin. His father is dead, and the property he has inherited has been allowed to deteriorate. It is the late 1700s in Cornwall, England. This is a family drama but is also about the challenges and conflicts between the rich and the poor. It is a time when fishermen are not catching many fish, tin and copper mines are closing because prices are too low, but the price of food and rents are high. Ross faces the challenge of making his land productive, caring for the tenants who rely on him, and trying to win back the woman he loved - or finding a reason to live without her." <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt3636060/>

## Recipe-For the Coffee Lovers



*This months recipe is a bit unconventional.*

*On March 27th, I, Annissa, will serve coffee in my driveway from 8am-9am. Some of you may just have the regular cup of black; for those who don't mind a ride on the wild side, I will whip up my specialty: (sorry I cannot tell you everything in it, but ) it is coffee with a spicy kick.*

*See you on the the 27th @ 6752 Vahalla Ct.*

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### *About Us*

Jana Bonham, Jessica Horine, Chasity Mwangi and I (Annissa 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](mailto:annissalh@me.com), [jessica.horine@gmail.com](mailto:jessica.horine@gmail.com), [jbonham94073@gmail.com](mailto:jbonham94073@gmail.com) and [chasityrmwangi@gmail.com](mailto: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!!)