

RED OAK HILLS

November 2025 Newsletter



Election day is Tuesday, November 4th. Only 26% of eligible Johnson County voters voted in the last municipal election in 2023. That means that 26% of voters decided how your tax money will be spent in Johnson County. Unfortunately, if you're not registered to vote that deadline has passed. If you are registered, go to jocoelection.org to locate where to go to vote. You can also get a sample ballot.

Leftover Halloween Candy

Donate your leftover Halloween candy for our local troops. Drop off Location: 6747 Red Oak Dr. Collection bin on the porch until November 7.



LUMINARY WALK

The Overland Park Arboretum's Luminary Walk is back—an easy, one-mile stroll through candlelit paths, twinkling garden displays, and pockets of live music that feel festive without the frenzy. Timed entry keeps the pace mellow; choose a half-hour arrival window, then wander at your own speed. General admission is \$17; children 5 and under are free (you'll still reserve a free ticket for them). Last entry is 8:00 p.m., and lights go out at 9:00 p.m. Parking is free onsite; when lots fill, overflow and shuttle service operate from nearby Wolf Springs Elementary—usually faster than circling the Arboretum lots. Pro tips from neighbors: aim for an earlier time slot for softer “blue hour” photos, dress in layers (the paths are mostly paved but the temps drop quickly), and keep an eye on special calmer-night options like the Adults-Only Candlelight Stroll if you prefer fewer kiddos. Whether you're making memories with family or catching a quiet moment with a friend, this walk is a warm, local way to start the season. Full details, dates, and tickets: see the Arboretum's official Luminary Walk page. For more information click [here](#)



Come shop a variety of Kansas City vendors at the annual KC Local Holiday Market on November 8 from 10:00 - 3:00, hosted by the KC Local Craft Fair. Hosted in the beautiful Thompson Barn located at 11184 Lackman Rd. in Lenexa, shoppers can get their holiday shopping done through a variety of small business vendors, all from the Kansas City area. This event is free and open to the public. More information can be found at [Holiday Market - KC Local Craft Fair](#)



Cheap & Tasty Eats Dished Out Fast & Fresh

Tiki Taco has opened in downtown Shawnee. Located at 11200 Johnson Dr, this is Tiki Taco's 5th Location in Kansas City. Their food is made with plenty of heart and humble ingredients. Bringing you fresh produce like tomatillos, avocados, and chilis served up Cal-Mex style—right here in the Kansas City area.



Have a service request or question that falls outside the HOA's responsibilities? The City of Shawnee's *Good Neighbor Program* offers detailed information on city services and ordinances and includes a *Citizen Service Request* form for reporting issues directly. Learn more [here](#).

Have more questions, want to review what's included in the HOA, or need to contact a Board member? Visit the Red Oak Hills' website [here](#).

Garretts Grocery



This photo shows how 11222 Johnson Drive has changed over the years. It was home to Garrett's Grocery from 1913 to the mid-1980s. The photo from 1930 was taken before the addition. Garrett's Grocery was a well-known establishment co-owned by Howard E. Garrett, who was a lifelong resident of the area, and his brothers. The grocery store has historical significance, and its legacy continues through community memories and historical reconstructions in the area. One Shawnee resident recalls, "I have such fond memories of stopping by Garretts Grocery Store on the way home from Flint or Shawnee Grade School to get an after school treat." The Garret family was very active in the community serving on school boards and other local civic groups. The property is now home to Heartland Seating.

A replica now stands in Shawnee Town 1929. Fully stocked and ready for your enjoyment. Go to [Home - Shawnee Town Museum](#) to plan your visit.

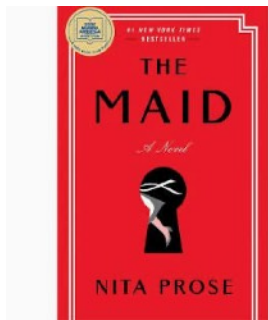


Garrett's Grocery Store

The Maid by Nita Prose

A charming, twisty mystery from the point of view of Molly Gray, a hotel maid who thrives on order and struggles with social cues.

When she discovers a high-profile guest dead in his suite, Molly's routines—and innocence—are suddenly in question. As police focus on her, she must decode what people really mean, who's lying, and which tiny details unlock the truth. It's quick, clever, and heartfelt—perfect for readers who like suspense without gore, an unforgettable narrator, and a satisfying reveal.



(Un)common Cures

When soil, mainly in potted plants is covered or mulched with sand, gnats will have a hard time finding their way to the soil beneath. Sand can prevent gnats by blocking the top layer of soil that they use to nest and reproduce.



20-Minute Tuscan White Bean & Kale Soup

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning (or ½ tsp oregano + ½ tsp thyme)
- ¼ tsp crushed red pepper (optional)
- 4 cups low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 (14.5-oz) can diced tomatoes
- 2 (15-oz) cans cannellini beans, drained/rinsed
- 3 cups chopped kale (or baby spinach)
- ½ tsp kosher salt, ¼ tsp black pepper (to taste)
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice or red wine vinegar
- Parmesan, for serving (optional)



Directions

1. Warm oil in a pot over medium. Sauté onion and carrots 3–4 min until softened.
2. Stir in garlic, Italian seasoning, and red pepper; cook 30 sec until fragrant.
3. Add broth, tomatoes, and beans. Simmer 8–10 min.
4. Stir in kale; cook 2–3 min until tender. Season with salt, pepper, and lemon juice.

The Mitchells vs. the Machines (PG, 1h 54m)

On the eve of heading to film school, quirky teen creator Katie Mitchell embarks on one last family road trip with her nature-loving dad, upbeat mom, dinosaur-obsessed little brother, and a cross-eyed pug named Monchi. When a smug tech CEO's AI assistant triggers a robot uprising, the Mitchells—helped by two adorably malfunctioning bots—become humanity's most unlikely hope. Fast, funny, and wildly inventive, the movie blends kinetic action with heartfelt moments about creativity, screen time, and finding common ground across generations. It's a crowd-pleasing pick that sparks conversation about tech and family, while serving up colorful visuals and laugh-out-loud gags for all ages.



Grow Fresh Herbs All Winter (Yes, on a Windowsill)

Fresh herbs can thrive indoors with the right setup. Choose reliable performers — basil, mint, parsley, cilantro, chives, thyme, oregano, and rosemary. Use 4–8" pots with drainage and a light, fast-draining potting mix (add a little perlite for airflow). Group pots on a pebble tray to boost humidity.

Light is make-or-break. A sunny south or west window works; rotate weekly so stems don't lean. If daylight is weak, hang LED grow lights 6–12" above plants for 12–16 hours daily — plug them into a timer and forget it.

Water when the top inch of soil is dry and never let pots sit in standing water. Feed with a half-strength liquid fertilizer every 3–4 weeks (skip if growth slows). Aim for 60–70°F, keep leaves off cold glass and away from hot radiators, and run a small fan on low for an hour a day to discourage mildew.



Veterans Lantern Tour

Location: Shawnee Town 1929, 11600 Johnson Drive

Description: In Their Footsteps: A Lantern Walking Tour

Saturday, November 15, 2025

5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Celebrate Veteran's Day with the national award-winning program **IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS: A LANTERN WALKING TOUR!**

On this very evening, guests will step back in time to 1927! The whole community is abuzz with talk about the recent veterans of World War I in town. They are fighting for support for national veteran's rights, and everyone has opinions! During their guided tour through the town and farm, visitors will meet townspeople sharing stories of their experiences during the war, and the hardships veterans faced returning to civilian life after they left the service — stories still relatable today. Following the tour, guests are served complimentary hot cider around a bonfire with accompanying live music (weather permitting).

Timed tours will depart every 15 minutes to guide visitors through this immersive living history experience.

Admission is \$10.00 if you pre-register, or \$12.00 at the door. Free admission is offered for active and former military. Register online or over the phone at

(913) 248–2360. Guests should arrive 15 minutes before the registered tour time. Expect 45-60 minutes of walking and standing with some limited seating in certain areas. Event is held rain or shine, so dress for the weather.



About Us

Neighbors, Jana Bonham and Annissa Freeman, work together to create 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.