



## Are you an Edgepert?



Each month we'll share interesting and fun facts about Edgerton. If you have a surprising fact to share about living in Edgerton or about the City's history, submit it to [aclower@edgertonks.org](mailto:aclower@edgertonks.org) and it may be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

### Question:

*Did you know that Edgerton once had an all-female governing body?*

Answer on back.

## Edgerton Responds to COVID-19

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The health and safety of Edgerton residents remains the top priority. We are following guidance from the CDC, KDHE and JCDHE to help contain the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19. But we know that it's important that your essential city services continue to function amidst this pandemic.

Kansas is currently under a State of Emergency, declared by Governor Kelly in March. Johnson County is, so far, the hardest hit county in the state. The Board of County Commissioners has mandated that all public gatherings be limited to 10 people or less, except for government or judicial functions, private businesses and health care facilities. They issued a stay at home order on March 24, closing all non-essential businesses and asking everyone to stay home except for essential needs, like doctors appointments, pharmacy visits, and grocery shopping.

Edgerton City Hall closed to the public on March 24. We are taking appointments for people who have critical business that must be done in-person, like paying utility bills with cash. It's important that you know that we are still answering the phones, maintaining the streets, and doing our best to meet the needs of this community during the upheaval.

City Council and Planning Commission meetings are still scheduled to take place, albeit with some new spaced-out seating arrangements for the public. You are always welcome to send comments electronically for any public meeting. Our commitment to open and transparent government does not change even during a crisis. Please check [edgertonks.org/coronavirusupdates](https://edgertonks.org/coronavirusupdates) for more information.

If you are at home, remember to get outside and breath some fresh air! Our parks are open, but please don't play on the playground equipment. I want everyone to stay healthy, practice social distancing, and wash your hands often. Remember, we're all in this together.

-Mayor Donald Roberts



## Inside This Issue:



Utility Shut-offs Suspended



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2020 Census



Food Pantry Donation Drive



SAVE THE DATE: City-Wide Garage Sale and Clean-Up



JCSO: Changes From COVID-19



ARTbor Day Contest

## Important Upcoming Meetings: City Council Meeting:

Thursday, April 9

## Planning Commission Meeting:

Tuesday, April 14

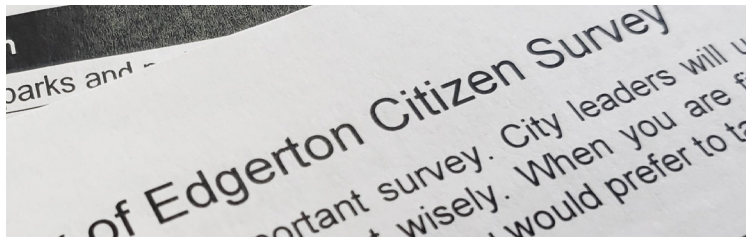
## City Council Meeting:

Thursday, April 23

## Parks & Recreation Events and Activities:

All Parks and Recreation Events have been canceled through the end of April.

Senior Lunch and BINGO has been canceled in April



## Citizen Survey Results Are In

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2020 Citizen Survey. The results were recently presented to the City Council. Residents once again indicated that they are happy with the overall quality of fire services, the overall quality of City parks, the overall quality of police services, and the overall quality of customer service received from City employees.

For the next two years, residents indicated that overall maintenance of City streets and buildings and codes enforcement should receive the most emphasis. The City Council uses the survey to set future priorities and allocation of resources.

The survey also revealed that Edgerton is ready for a new community gathering space and splash pad. Those projects are on the horizon. City Council authorized The Greenspace project last November and the City is finalizing details to put out a request for design-build teams to bid on the project.

## Johnson County Sheriff's Office: COVID-19 Changes

As COVID-19 continues to have an increased impact in our communities, the Sheriff's Office wanted to make sure to communicate some changes citizens may see in the coming weeks.



**The Edgerton Public Safety Town Hall originally scheduled for Thursday, April 2 has been postponed and will be rescheduled for a later date.**

On the advice of national and local health authorities, we too have been practicing physical distancing when appropriate. In an effort to limit our exposure to other people, when responding to non-emergency calls for service, you may notice deputies reaching out over the phone instead of face-to-face or perhaps asking to step outside to speak. Our response to emergency calls will not change and you may see deputies wearing additional personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, etc.) to keep everyone safe. We want to assure our citizens, the

## ARTbor Day Contest

Arbor Day is April 24th and we want to celebrate that here in Edgerton. Get creative, find recycled or up-cycled materials and build a tree. Send pictures of your creations into City Hall to win a \$25 gift certificate for any Edgerton Parks and Recreation Program.

You can submit projects either through the City's Facebook page @CityofEdgertonKS or by emailing [kbanks@edgertonks.org](mailto:kbanks@edgertonks.org).



level of service you have come to expect from the Sheriff's Office will not be interrupted. The health and safety of our community is our top priority and we will continue to take the necessary precautionary measures to uphold our oath to the community we serve.

The outbreak of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) may be stressful for people. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Stress during an infectious disease outbreak can include fear and worry about your own health and the health of your loved ones, changes in sleep or eating patterns, difficulty sleeping or concentrating, worsening of chronic health problems, increased use of alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs.

If you or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others, call 9-1-1. If you have general questions regarding the Sheriff's Response to COVID-19, please call our non-emergency number 913-782-0720.

## Utility Shut-offs Temporarily Suspended

The City of Edgerton is temporarily suspending utility shut-offs.

On March 17, 2020, Governor Laura Kelly ordered that all utility providers across the state temporarily suspend the practice of disconnecting utility service for non-payment. The directive covers all electrical, natural gas, water, telecommunications and internet providers. Executive Order 20-05 will remain in effect until May 1, 2020, or the order is rescinded or until the statewide emergency expires, whichever happens first.

We urge all of our customers to continue to pay their bill on-time and to call City Hall if you cannot pay your bill due to hardship from the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. The health and safety of Edgerton residents is our top priority.

The City offers several options for customers to pay their bill from the comfort of their home:

- Visit [edgertonks.org](http://edgertonks.org) and click the Pay My Bill (lowercase e on the computer screen) icon on the far left-hand side of the screen
- Download the Payment Service Network app from Apple App Store or Google Play.
- Call 877-885-7968 24/7 365 to pay immediately, schedule a payment or set up Auto-Pay.
- Call City Hall at 913-893-6231 during normal business hours to pay your bill.

You can always call City Hall from 8:00 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. weekdays to speak to a customer service representative.

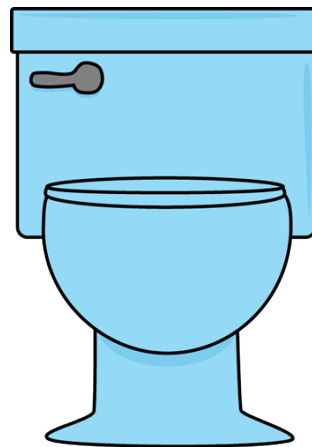
## Spring Into Water Conservation

Now that spring is here, you may be catching up on some projects around your house.

According to the American Water Works Association, toilets are responsible for approximately 27 percent of the water used in homes on a daily basis. One toilet leaking results in a tremendous amount of water loss. Every day that a silent leak goes undetected can amount to as much as 300 gallons of water. That is three times the amount of water the average American uses in an entire day.

When water is wasted, that easily translates to higher water bills. The AWWA recommends performing routine leak tests.

### Toilet Leak Detection



*Approximately one out of every five toilets in the United States is leaking. You can test for silent leaks by dropping a little food dye, coffee or other dark liquid into your tank. After approximately 15 to 20 minutes, if there is a leak the water in the bowl will change color. Don't forget to flush afterward or you could stain your toilet.*

## Important Info To Know During the COVID-19 Stay At Home Order

**Pet Licensing:** The City has pushed back the deadline to register dogs and cats until July 1. We will also reschedule the annual Low-Cost Animal Vaccination Clinic, but a new date has not been set yet.

**Driver's Licensing:** Governor Kelly issued Executive Order 20-12 to extend terms for driver's licensing, vehicle registration and titling, and temporary tags until the State's Emergency Declaration Expires. Residents will have 60 days after the expiration to renew licenses, register/title vehicles, or other activities with the State of Kansas. See [governor.ks.gov](http://governor.ks.gov) for details.

**Taxes:** Governor Kelly signed Executive Order 20-13 to extend certain tax filing deadlines until July 15, 2020. See [governor.ks.gov](http://governor.ks.gov) for more information.

**Food Help:** The Edgerton Food Pantry is open on the third Saturday of the month. Any family living in the USD 231 School District is eligible. And USD 231 Nutrition Services is offering free meals to any child up to age 18. Pick-up at Edgerton Elementary on Mondays and Wednesdays. Contact the school district at 913.856.2000 for details.

**Parks:** Edgerton's parks and trails remain open for public use, but use of the playground equipment is discouraged.





# Count Me In JoCo

Everyone counts for the 2020 Census

## 2020 Census Underway

Why is the U.S. Census so important for Edgerton? It determines our representation in Kansas and in the U.S. Congress. Every year as Americans we send millions of tax dollars to our state and federal governments. The Census helps ensure that Edgerton's share of that money is returned to our community. You should have received a form in the mail from the U.S. Census. If you've already filled it out, great job! Thank you! If you didn't respond, you may get a knock on your door from a friendly Census taker. Make sure to count every person living in your household, including babies and older relatives. All of your information will be kept confidential. It's up to us to make sure every person counts! More details at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

## SAVE THE DATE



It's time to start cleaning out those closets and getting rid of once-loved treasures. The **City-Wide Clean-Up will be held on Saturday, May 16**. Clear out the clutter! Seniors and residents that need assistance with disposing items and/or yard cleanup tasks should contact City Hall by Friday, May 8.

## See A Pothole? Tell Us!

As we move into the spring freeze-thaw cycle, potholes may appear. If you see one, tell us! You can report it by calling City Hall at 913.893.6231 or by going to [edgertonks.org](https://edgertonks.org) and clicking on the exclamation point on the far left hand side of the screen.

## Edgerton Food Pantry



The Edgerton Community Food Pantry will be open from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 18.

If you live in Edgerton, you can donate food by placing canned or boxed food donations on your porch by 9 a.m. Saturday April 4; someone will be by to pick them up.

You also can place food in the totes on the front porch of Janeice Rawles, 709 W. Heatherknoll.

Questions? Contact Sue Brown-Rutledge on FaceBook or call her or at (913) 387-7407, or call Cheri Magee (913) 893-6596.

Current needs do NOT include toiletries or paper products.

## A: Edgepert Answer

In 1861, Kansas women had gained the right to vote in school district elections, and in 1887, they were granted the right to vote in municipal elections.

In April of 1890, a big political issue had arisen: the closing of restaurants in Edgerton on Sunday. Several residents felt that keeping restaurants open on Sunday only attracted noisy crowds and loafers, and disrupted the quiet and peaceful environment in the small town of 400 people. So in the spring election of 1890, three different tickets of candidates ran for governing body positions. One ticket consisted of all females. The town soon found itself embroiled in a true "battle of the sexes".

On the day of the election, a total of 65 votes were cast. It had happened...Edgerton had elected an all-female governing body! The mayor was twenty-three year old Margaret Kelly, a mother, and wife of the city clerk, Mr. W.H. Kelly. Jessie Greer, a twenty-two year old, who was married to Mr. T.S. Greer, was elected as police judge. After being elected, Mrs. Greer stated that when she took office as the judge, that the men would pay their fines, or "break rocks", as a penalty. The female city council members were Mrs. S.E. Stewart, a widow in her fifties, Mrs. W.E. Ewart, also a widow, Mrs. R.G. Holden, a twenty-five year old with two children (and daughter of Mrs. Stewart), Mrs. Nat Ross, and Mrs. H.G. Brown.

The all-female governing body presided over its' first meeting on the first Thursday in May, in the parlor of the new mayor, Mrs. W.H. Kelly, with her baby right beside her. The era of "petticoat politics" had begun in Edgerton, KS! But surprisingly, a few days later, the all-female governing body resigned, forcing a special election, to be held on May 19. The women had become frustrated at the restrictions placed upon them by the laws and by some of the men of the town, so the women decided to turn the reigns back over to the men.

Edgerton, KS was one of the first towns in Kansas to have an all-female governing body, and even though the women resigned shortly after being elected, they had proved a point and "laid down the gauntlet" in the political battle of the sexes!

