



Edgerton to expand trails, walkability

Edgerton is expanding its trail system. Residents told the City in the 2018 Citizen Survey that they wanted more walking and biking trails, so the City recently put out a request for bids for contractors to build a multi-use trail along Highway 56 between West 1st Street and West 8th Street. The new trail will provide pedestrian and bicycle access to Edgerton Elementary, Dollar General, other businesses and homes along the highway. City Council anticipates awarding the project in late September. Construction is planned to begin later this year.



Street Reconstruction Update

The 2019 Street Reconstruction Project continues. The crews from Miles Excavating are moving quickly to add new storm drains and keep water from ponding on the affected streets. Some big changes are in store this month, as crews are ripping out the asphalt and road bed and replacing all of it.

“We’re grateful to the residents who live on these streets for being so patient,” says Dan Merkh, Public Works Director. “We know this is inconvenient and messy, but it’ll be worth it, once the work is finished and the roads have been rebuilt.”

Barring any major weather-related delays, crews could start replacing driveways before the end of the month. Residents who live in the construction zone should keep an eye out for door hangers with information from the contractor about specific timing.

Edgerton goes Social

The City of Edgerton will soon be on Facebook and Twitter. Follow us @CityofEdgerton on Facebook & @CityofEdgertonKS on Twitter for news, events, and more!



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Parks & Recreation Events and Activities:

- Cops N’ Bobbers: **Saturday, September 7**
- Youth Cooking Class – Italian Food: **Monday, September 9**
- Senior Trip: Plumlee Buffalo Ranch: **Wednesday, September 11**
- Senior Lunch & BINGO –Potato Soup: **Wednesday, September 18**
- Animal Wonders: **Monday, September 23**

Important Upcoming Dates:

- City Offices Closed for Labor Day: **Monday, September 2**
- Planning Commission: **Tuesday, September 10**
- City Council Meeting: **Thursday, September 12**
- City Council Meeting: **Thursday, September 26**

Are you an Edgert?

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 and it may be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

Question:
Do you know what are Edgerton’s official animal, bird, flower and tree?

Answer on back.



Edgerton Elementary Walk-A-Thon

The students at Edgerton Elementary are gearing up for the annual Walk-A-Thon on September 25. The kids will be collecting donations, either a flat amount or money per lap, that they will walk during their scheduled

PE times. All the money raised goes to the PTO to pay for school activities, like the open house, Pastries for Parents, Breakfast with Santa, School Carnival, food for conferences, and shirts for each student.

Keep grass clippings on your lawn—not on the street

Keeping grass clippings on your lawn and out of the street is important for two reasons: it keeps roads safer for motorcyclists and it keeps excessive nutrients out of lakes and ponds. Blowing or mowing grass clippings onto roadways can make the street slick, causing unsafe road conditions for both motorcyclists and bicyclists. In addition, lawn clippings entering the stormwater system leads to an excessive amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in the stormwater runoff. This in turn leads to unwanted and uncontrolled growth of algae, and native and non-native aquatic weeds in our lakes and ponds. Not only are putting grass clippings into the street bad for motorcycles and stormwater, blowing or mowing grass clippings into the street is prohibited under City of Edgerton Municipal Code, and violators can incur a daily fine. Keep Edgerton streets safe and free from lawn debris – mulch mow your clippings and keep those nutrients on-site to help feed your lawn.



Edgerton Food Pantry



The Edgerton Food Pantry is open to all residents within the Gardner-Edgerton School District #231. The pantry is open on the third Saturday of every month from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The pantry is in the building across from the Methodist Church.

Chlorine burn scheduled in September

A chlorine burn is underway in the City of Edgerton for the next few weeks. Instead of combined chlorine, free chlorine is being added to the water to optimize the disinfection process. Residents may notice a slight chlorine smell or taste to their water during the burn, however most will not notice any change. This is only temporary and is necessary to “burn out” certain bacteria that do not show up in routine sampling. The free chlorine is not harmful and the water quality will not change during the burn. The City of Edgerton’s Utilities Department monitors the disinfectant residual in the distribution system on a daily basis. You can see the City’s annual Water Confidence Report at edgertonks.org/utilities.



Save water, save money

Did you know? 6 trillion gallons of water are wasted every year. Small household leaks can add up to gallons of water lost every day. Check your plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems every year. Here are some easy ways to save water:

- Turn off the tap while shaving or brushing teeth
- Make sure your dishwasher is full---and don't rinse your plates, just scrape them off before loading them into the dishwasher
- Use the appropriate water level or load size selection on your washing machine

City Council passes 2020 Budget

The City Council approved the proposed 2020 budget during their August 22 meeting.

The proposed budget includes a 6.3% increase for the Johnson County Sheriff's Office, including the creation of a new dedicated deputy patrolling Edgerton's residential areas 40 hours per week. The new power shift is in addition to the city's current policing contract with the Sheriff's Office. Look for our new deputy starting in January.

The 2018 Citizen Survey found that respondents wanted the City to prioritize the visibility of police in neighborhoods and the quality of community public safety programs. This new Budget does exactly that.

The total 2020 operating budget is about \$5.6 million, which includes services such as administration, street maintenance, building inspection, code enforcement and utility operations.

Property taxes are forecast to slightly increase from 29.919 mills to 30.879 mills, which is roughly the same as property taxes in 2018, but still below the tax rate in 2017. The City's portion is about 20% of property tax bills.

Residents should expect to see continued maintenance of streets in neighborhoods, more biking and walking trails, and development of the new Greenspace community building coming in the future.



Kubota Opens New North American Distribution Center in LPKC

Kubota recently held the grand opening for their new North American Distribution Center. Mayor Roberts, Governor Laura Kelly and others joined Kubota leadership to cut the ribbon on August 21. The warehouse, at full operation, will employ about 300 people. Kubota is the first company to open its doors at LPKC Phase II, which is south of I-35.

Fire Extinguisher Safety

Do you have a fire extinguisher in your home? Do you know how to use it? Here are some safety tips from JoCo Fire District #1:



Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; when everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle. Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

The National Fire Protection Association continues to believe that only adults who know how to operate portable fire extinguishers should use them.

55+ Trip: Plumlee Buffalo Ranch

Wednesday, September 11 • 8:15 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
• \$20/person

Enjoy a tour at the 400-acre Plumlee Buffalo Ranch, home to 75 bison, located in the Flint Hills of Kansas. On this two hour tour we will be able to see and learn all about the American Bison up close, so don't forget your cameras! There will be an opportunity to feed the catfish at one of their ponds and learn about the history of the Kansas Flint Hills. After our tour, we will eat lunch at Alma Bakery and then head over to Alma Cheese for a quick history and some free samples! *Space is very limited.*



Diabetes Prevention Program offered in JoCo

One in three U.S. adults has prediabetes, which means that their blood sugar is high, but not high enough for a type 2 diabetes diagnosis—yet. Without lifestyle change, 15-30 percent of people with prediabetes will develop type 2 diabetes within five years. Risk factors include being overweight, family history of diabetes, and getting little or no physical activity. Age and minority status also play a role.

Fortunately, there is a program that works to minimize the risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Johnson County Department of Health has three Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP) classes starting this fall.

Monday, September 9, 4:15-5:15,
Center for Academic Achievement, 8200 W. 71st St
Overland Park, KS 66204

Wednesday, September 11, 5:30-6:30 pm
(This class conducted in American Sign Language)
Johnson County Department of Health and Environment
11875 S. Sunset, Olathe, KS 66061

Tuesday, October 8, 5:15-6:16 pm
Johnson County Department of Health and Environment
11875 S. Sunset, Olathe, KS 66061

Consider registering with a friend, spouse or other family member. Healthy habits are easier to establish if you have someone to encourage and be encouraged by. These changes can help you add years to your life, and quality to your years.

DPP is a covered benefit in many metro insurance plans and Medicare. Self-pay options also available. Learn if you qualify and register for DPP here: www.solera4me.com For program questions, contact DPP@jocogov.org



Cops N' Bobbers set for September 7

Grab your fishing poles and bring the kids to Lake Edgerton on Saturday September 7 for the annual Cops N' Bobbers fishing derby! This free event draws families to one of Edgerton's most scenic areas every year. Every child will receive a prize, but special awards are given out for the largest fish caught, the smallest fish caught, and the most number of fish reeled in. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. at the lake. The derby runs from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

A: Edgepert Answer

As of April 1996, the city of Edgerton had an official city bird, flower, and tree, but had no official city animal. A teacher at Edgerton Elementary, Donna Bratton, asked her first grade class to pick an animal that they would then request that the Edgerton City Council officially adopt as the city animal. The students held an election in class to select the animal they wanted to suggest to the city. The final choices among the class were the squirrel and the cotton-tail rabbit. The students chose the rabbit in a landslide election.

So, on April 11, 1996, Mrs. Bratton and ten of her students, attended that night's City Council meeting to request a city proclamation that the cotton-tail rabbit be adopted as the official city animal. Mayor Maurice Taylor granted the request and read the proclamation aloud, and then presented each student with a city key chain and thanked the students and school staff for their participation in selecting an official city animal. The ten first graders attending the meeting that evening were Jacob Breithaupt, Amanda Feris, Jace Frizzell, Sarah Hadsall, Courtney Hart, Michael Klamm, Billy Long, Victoria Meade, Rebecca Waln, and Ryan Wells. Mayor Maurice Taylor commented at the Council meeting that night, "I urge citizens of all ages to honor and protect the cotton-tail rabbit from this day forward".

So today, the official city animal is the cotton-tail rabbit, the city bird is the cardinal, the city flower is the petunia, and the city tree is the gum tree. The official city bird, flower, and tree had been designated as such in past city proclamations. So let's all enjoy, appreciate and honor Edgerton's "official" city animal, bird, flower, and tree!