

All Things

# HOMETOWN

Fall 2023





WORDS from the HEART

## Mayor Michelle Distler

Wow, what a summer, Shawnee! It was so great to connect with you, the community, at so many fantastic events. From Old Shawnee Days to Moonlight Market to PARKED! and Touch-a-Truck, I'm glad we got to spend this season together. Some of you may know that my daughter will be a senior in high school this upcoming year, so it was extra special to spend this summer break together. She and I started Chalk Your Walk Wednesdays together and got to share it with you all on social media. I loved seeing your chalk creations all over Shawnee.

As we head into fall, I want to make sure you are aware of something different you'll see on your ballot in November. Yes, it's an election year for Shawnee's local government, and for two sales tax renewals that you'll read more about in a few pages. Currently, the revenue we get from these taxes keep our streets, parks, and stormwater pipes clean and safe. This is a sales tax renewal, not a brand-new tax, so you wouldn't see anything new on your receipts if

these measures pass. As always, myself, the other elected officials, and staff are always here to answer questions and discuss specifics of this sales tax renewal. We want you to walk into your polling place confident, not questioning.

In the meantime, I look forward to connecting with you at one of our many fall events planned. From the Great Grillers BBQ, to our autumn Moonlight Markets, to our Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund fundraising opportunities, I'm here for it all! I wish you and your family a safe and happy back to school season!

Sincerely,

Mayor Michelle Distler



# SERVE YOUR CITY

## Boards ■ Commissions

We care about community opinion, input, and involvement in helping Shawnee move forward. If you have a passion for serving, or know someone who does, please consider applying for any of the following Boards and Commissions:

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Planning Commission
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Civil Service Commission
- Code Board of Appeals
- Shawnee Downtown Partnership
- Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Community Police Advisory Board

Some positions are based on which ward you live in. You can find your ward by going to [cityofshawnee.org](http://cityofshawnee.org) and searching “Ward Map.” Applications are always accepted at [cityofshawnee.org](http://cityofshawnee.org) by selecting “Boards and Commissions” under the Government tab.

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Elizabeth Griffith at 913.742.6244 or [egriffith@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:egriffith@cityofshawnee.org) with questions.

[cityofshawnee.org](http://cityofshawnee.org)

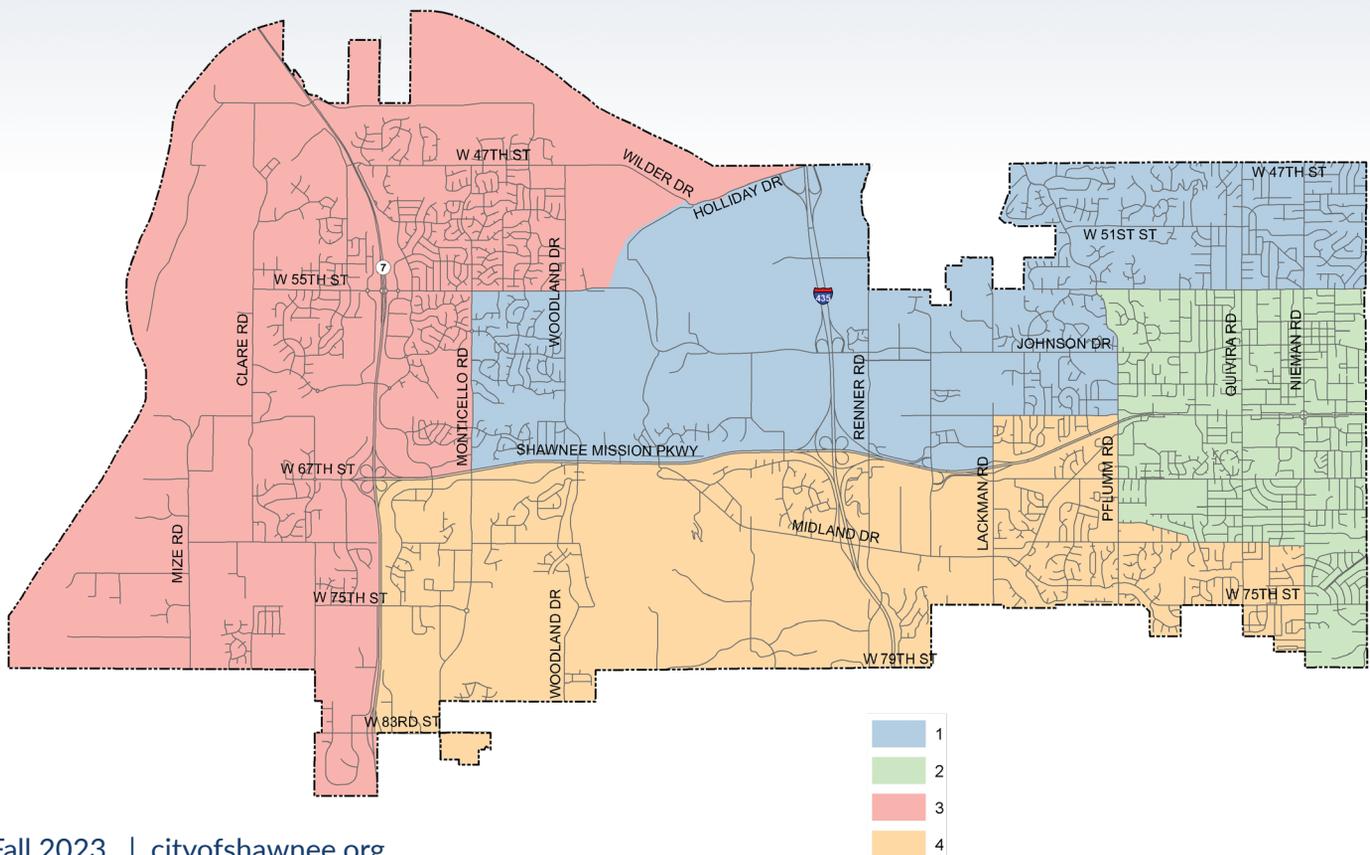
# VOTE

Local elections are coming up on November 7, make plans to go vote! In Shawnee, we have several elections that will impact our community.

- City of Shawnee Mayor
- City Councilmember Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4
- Parks & Pipes Sales Tax
- Pavement Sales Tax
- USD 232 De Soto School District Board Members - Positions 1, 2, 3, and 7 At-Large
- USD 512 Shawnee Mission School District Members - Positions 1, 3, 5, and 7 At-Large
- Johnson County Community College Trustees - 3 At-Large
- Water District #1 of Johnson County - Positions 1, 2, 6, and 7

The last day to register to vote for the general election is October 17. You can register at the Johnson County Election Office or at [jocoelection.org](http://jocoelection.org). You can check your registration status by calling 782-3441.

- Advance voting by mail begins October 18
- Advance voting in person begins October 28
- Voting on November 7, polls open from 7am to 7pm
- City Hall, 11110 Johnson Drive, is a polling location for the November 7 election!



# UPDATES AT GUM SPRINGS PARK TAKING SHAPE

Gum Springs Park ■ 11524 W. 67th Street



A new landmark arrives at Gum Springs Park this fall, ready for the imagination of children to take flight as they climb in, on, and around the one-of-a-kind playground equipment. Known as the Lunia, the hot-air-balloon-shaped structure will rise 30 feet above the park as part of a multi-million-dollar facelift.

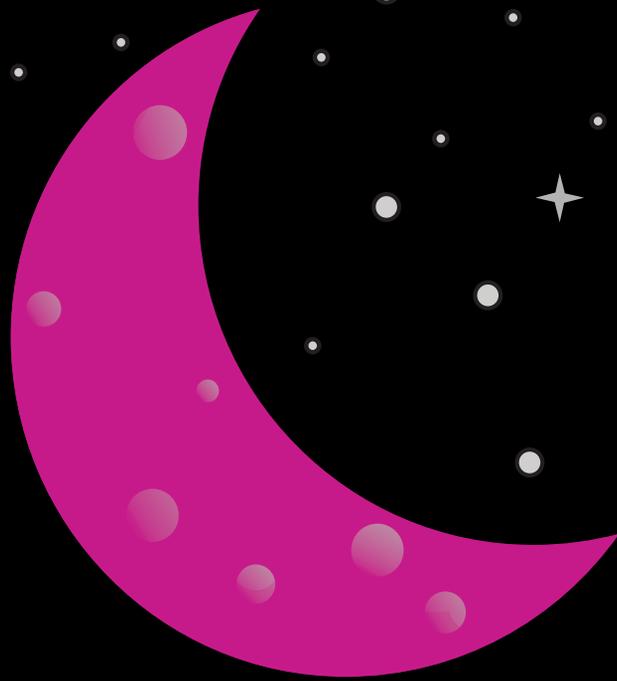
The Lunia will serve as the centerpiece of the new playground space of the 19-acre park which will include multiple climbing and play pieces for kids of all ages and abilities.

The renovations at Gum Springs include replacement of the current asphalt trails and new backstops and fencing on all baseball fields.

All the work will take several months to complete, with the park re-opening in stages as each project is checked off the list. All work should be completed by the end of the year.

[cityofshawnee.org/parkprogress](http://cityofshawnee.org/parkprogress)

Downtown Shawnee  
**MOONLIGHT**  
**MARKET**



**Local Vendors**

**Crafts**

**Fresh Produce**

**Live Music!**

**NEW  
TIME!**

**Third Thursday**

**May - October - 5pm-9pm**

**Downtown Shawnee - City Hall Parking Lot**



We are proud to announce K9 Dagger as the newest officer to join the Shawnee K9 Unit. Dagger will replace K9 Grim, who served seven-plus loyal years working with Master Patrol Officer Skinner.

Dagger is a dual purpose K9, detecting explosives and tracking offenders. He was born on July 10, 2021, and has spent the majority of his young life in Eindhoven, Netherlands. Dagger has been in training with MPO Skinner, and is ready to serve and protect the City of Shawnee.

Grim is enjoying the retired life, getting lots of belly rubs and teaching his little brother, Dagger, the ropes of police K9 work.



- Never leave cooking food unattended. If you have to leave, turn off the stove.
- If you are baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly and use a timer.
- If you have a cooking fire and are in doubt, get out and call the fire department.
- Always keep an oven mitt and pan lid nearby when you're cooking. If a small grease fire starts, slide the lid over the pan to smother the flame. Turn off the burner, and leave the pan covered until it is completely cool.

## BACK TO SCHOOL BE SAFE. BE SMART.



Slow down in school zones  
and stop for school buses!



# Parks & Pipes and Pavement

## Two Questions. One Ballot. This November.

### QUESTION 1

Consider renewing "Parks & Pipes", a 1/8 cent citywide sales tax that is specifically designated for building and improving City parks, trails, and the stormwater drainage systems.

#### What does a YES vote mean?

**Yes** Voting 'yes' on Parks & Pipes ballot measure will renew the 1/8 cent sales tax on January 1, 2026, continuing to bring in revenue for improvements to parks and green spaces as well as stormwater pipes and drains. This tax began in 2000 and has contributed heavily to many improvements over the last twenty years.

#### What does a NO vote mean?

**No** A vote 'no' means you do not wish to renew the current 1/8 cent sales tax for Parks & Pipes. The Parks & Pipes sales tax currently provides funding for new and upgraded parks and trails and improved stormwater systems.

### QUESTION 2

Consider Renewing "Pavement", a 3/8 cent citywide sales tax that is specifically used for maintenance and improvements to City streets, curbs, and sidewalks.

#### What does a YES vote mean?

**Yes** Voting 'yes' on the Pavement ballot measure will renew the 3/8 cent sales tax on April 1, 2025, allowing the City to continue to bring in revenue that will be used specifically for pavement and street improvement projects. This tax has funded many roadway projects over the past ten years.

#### What does a NO vote mean?

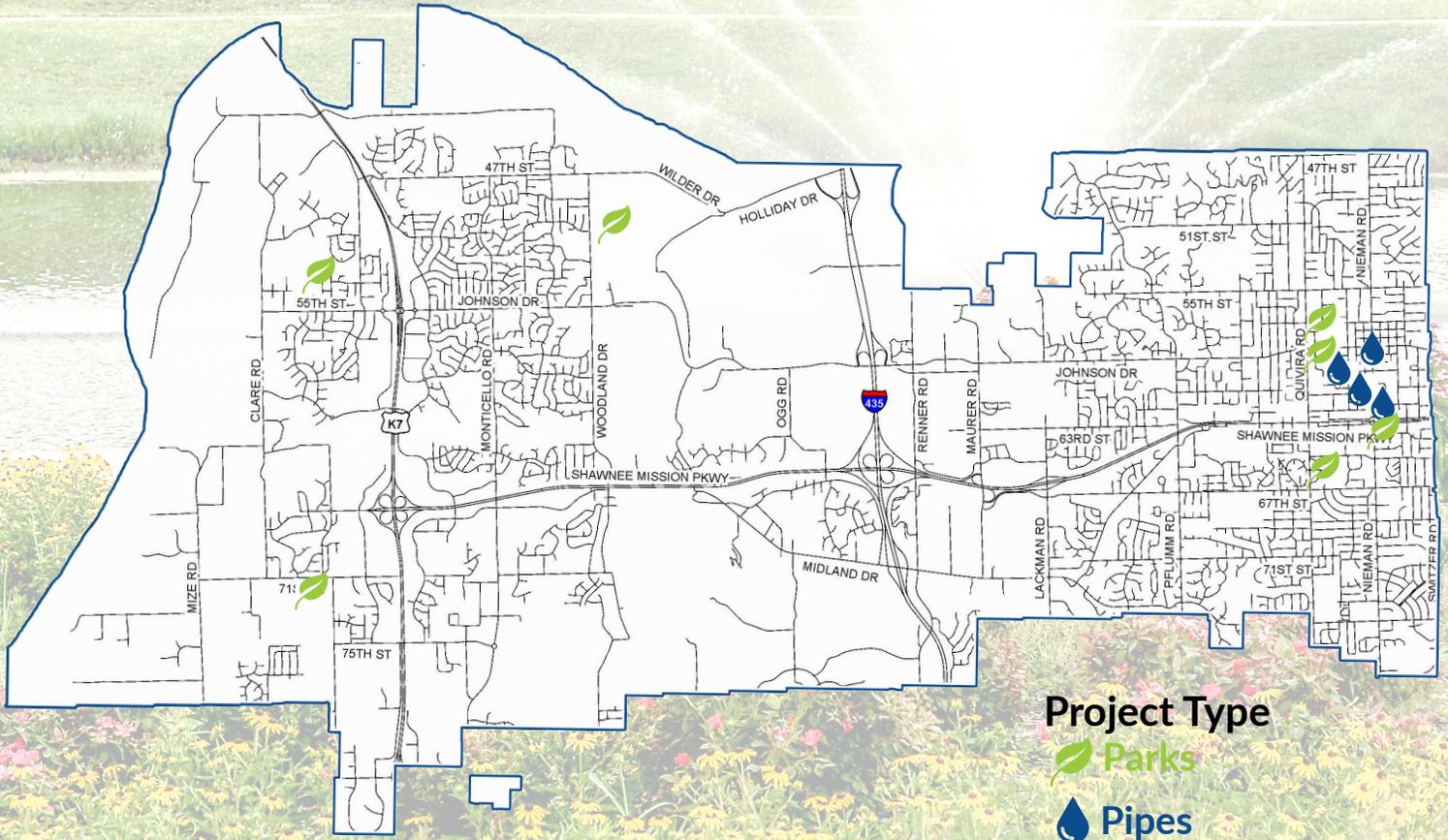
**No** A vote 'no' means you do not wish to renew the current 3/8 cent sales tax for Pavement. The Pavement sales tax currently provides improvement and replacement for Shawnee's street infrastructure.



[cityofshawnee.org/ppp](http://cityofshawnee.org/ppp)

# Since 2015, we have completed...

# Parks & Pipes



## and Pavement

**477**

Lane Miles Resurfaced

**525,233**

feet of curb replaced

**178,177**

feet of sidewalk replaced

[cityofshawnee@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:cityofshawnee@cityofshawnee.org)

# Employees with Heart



**Scott Fuller**  
Park Tech III

## 1. What do you like most about your job?

I am a person that likes to see the end result of a project. When I finish my job, for the day, I can look out across my park and see what I've accomplished. Whether it's a smooth infield, string trimmed fences, or a soccer field that has perfectly straight lines after mowing. It's a great feeling!

## 2. How does your work impact the community?

We have weekly soccer games, on the weekend, and two soccer tournaments annually. Our baseball fields are always rented for team practices, and this year we have a league playing Ultimate Frisbee. Dog walkers are a constant, and families bring their kids out to our playground. The work that I do enables the community to get outdoors, have fun, and make great memories.

## 3. What is your favorite spot in Shawnee?

I can't say I have a "favorite spot" in Shawnee. I do have a great family, that lives in Shawnee. Spending time with them, at their home, I would have to consider to be my favorite spot in Shawnee.

# FARMERS MARKET

• Fresh and Locally Grown •

EVERY SATURDAY **7AM TO 12PM**  
**MAY - OCTOBER**

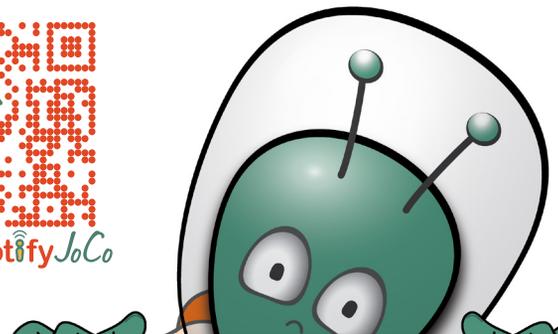
City Hall Parking Lot



# NotifyJoCo

**What I need to know.**  
**When I need to know it.**

Sign up to receive important information through NotifyJoCo. This free notification system communicates emergency information through phone, text, and email messages to Johnson County residents. Local authorities in nearby communities use NotifyJoCo to alert you and keep you informed of emergencies. Visit [NotifyJoCo.org](https://NotifyJoCo.org) to register and customize your preferences today!



# SCARECROW FESTIVAL



OCTOBER 7

Make Your Own Scarecrow

## Scarecrow Contest

Food Vendors

9AM

11:30AM

CITY HALL



Farmers Market Fall Crafts

Free Pumpkin Decorating for Kids

## Turnout Shawnee

A Community Safety Fair

September 16 ■ 10am to 2pm

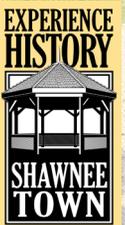
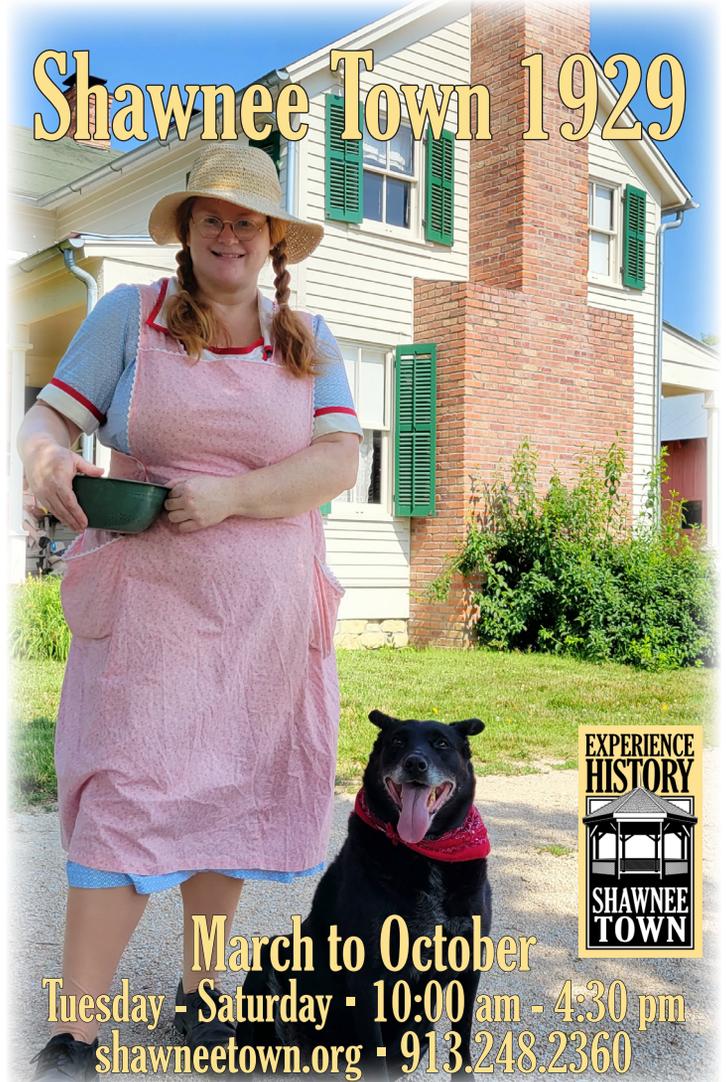
Fire Station 72 ■ 5840 Renner Road

Bring your friends and family out to explore fire trucks, police cruisers, and more!

Hot Dogs ■ Tons of FUN for all ages!



## Shawnee Town 1929



March to October

Tuesday - Saturday ■ 10:00 am - 4:30 pm

shawneetown.org ■ 913.248.2360

Spread holiday cheer this season by donating to the

# Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund



It may seem hard to believe, but it's time to start thinking about Santa, holiday trees, and decorations! Pledge your support today for the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund!

**all proceeds benefit two local organizations**

 Shawnee Community Services

 Sunflower House

[cityofshawnee.org/mctf](http://cityofshawnee.org/mctf)

Shawnee Town 1929  
11501 W. 57th St.  
M-F • 8am-5pm

## Shawnee Swag

Adult T-shirts \$20  
Adult Hoodies \$35  
Toddler (2T-5T) T-shirts \$14



## Mayor's Top Dog

It's a ruff life, but some dog has to do it! Mayor Michelle Distler is looking for this year's perfect pooch to represent Shawnee. So get Fido fancy for his close-up, snap a pic, and send it in. Entry fees will go directly to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund. This year's beneficiaries are Shawnee Community Services and Sunflower House. Your \$10 entry fee will also enter you into a raffle for a Shawnee swag bag! Visit [cityofshawnee.org/mctf](http://cityofshawnee.org/mctf) for more information.



**August 28 • Entry Deadline (5pm)**  
**August 29 - September 2 • Voting**  
**September 3 • Winner Announced!**

# CODES CORNER

## FALL YARD CLEANUP!



As we head into fall, taking care of your yard now will save you time when spring rolls around!

### CLEAN OUT DEBRIS

Keep your yard free of fallen leaves, weeds, or branches so critters don't settle in for the winter months. Pay attention to flower beds, too!

### TILL THE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Remove old vegetable plants to prepare your garden for next spring!

### TRIM BRANCHES

Keep an eye on any branches that may get too heavy and break with snowfall. Trim if necessary.

### CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS

Not all fall cleanup is in the yard!



### DRY THINGS OUT

Drain all water from hoses and irrigation systems to prevent freezing.

### AERATE

Use a garden fork to break up hard soil and allow water to drain.

### FEED THE LAWN

Fertilizer isn't just for spring! Using a fall fertilizer will help your lawn come back better than ever in the warmer months.



### RAKE AND MULCH

Don't let your leaves suffocate your lawn.

### PRUNE TREES AND SHRUBS

Don't bite off more than you can chew. Prune your trees and shrubs now so new growth can develop quickly in the spring!



neighbors **helping** neighbors

[cityofshawnee.org/nhn](http://cityofshawnee.org/nhn)

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors" matches the needs of some with the willing hands of others. This volunteer program aims to help with common homeowner tasks that become more difficult due to physical limitations of age or disability.

Common homeowner tasks could include:

- Yard maintenance
- Limited plumbing repair
- Raking leaves
- Changing light bulbs

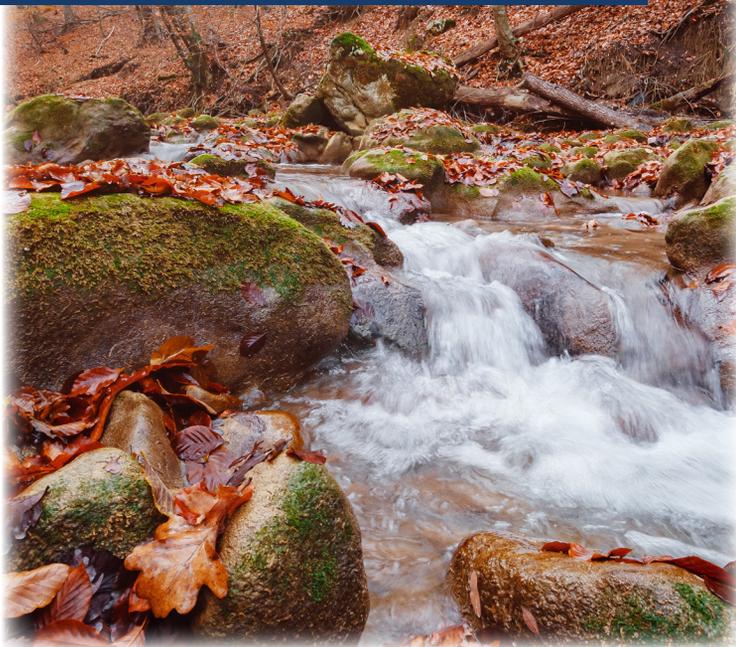
A few hours of your time makes a lasting impact in our community!



# VOLUNTEER

[cityofshawnee.org/shawneevolunteer](http://cityofshawnee.org/shawneevolunteer)

## Stormwater Snapshot



### Only Rain Down the Drain

A quick reminder to make sure you do not dump chemicals, paint, oil, yard debris, or other pollutants into our stormwater system! It's a municipal code violation and hurts our water, aquatic life, and community.

## Need a RIDE?

CityRide is available to Shawnee residents who are 65 years of age or older or who have a disability. Want to find out if you qualify? Give us a call at 742-6014 or head to [cityofshawnee.org](http://cityofshawnee.org) and search "CityRide".



# TIDY TOWN Reminder

As a reminder, you need to schedule your customized curbside pickup date directly with your trash company. You can also use the Tidy Town voucher that was mailed to every home in January and take one car or pickup truck load to the landfill for a free drop-off. Please note, you must take your Tidy Town voucher with you. Questions about the landfill drop off, call (913) 631-8181 and hit prompt #2 or email [jcl@wm.com](mailto:jcl@wm.com).

Questions ? about Curbside Bulky-Item Pick Up Contact Your Hauler

Waste Management  
913.631.3300

Republic (A-1/Superior)  
913.279.6033

GFL Environmental  
816.380.5595

KC Disposal  
816.388.9739

Constable Sanitation  
816.204.1192

[cityofshawnee.org/tidytown](http://cityofshawnee.org/tidytown)

For Updates Please Visit  
[cityofshawnee.org/calendar](http://cityofshawnee.org/calendar)

## September

- 4 Labor Day - City Offices Closed
- 6 Planning Commission - 7:30pm
- 7 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board - 5:30pm
- 9 KidsFest - 10am
- 10 Wheels & Dreams Car, Truck & Bike Show - 1pm
- 11 City Council & Council Committee Meetings - 6pm
- 16 Friends of Shawnee Town  
Arts & Crafts Fair & Fall Festival - 9am  
Turnout Shawnee - 10am
- 18 Planning Commission - 7:30pm
- 20 Jammin' on the Green - 7pm
- 21 Moonlight Market - 5pm  
Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30pm
- 22 Great Grillers Blues & Barbeque
- 25 City Council & Council Committee Meetings - 6p

## October

- 2 Planning Commission - 7:30pm
- 5 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board - 5:30pm
- 7 Scarecrow Festival - 9am
- 9 City Council & Council Committee Meetings - 6pm
- 16 Planning Commission - 7:30pm
- 19 Moonlight Market - 5pm  
Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30pm
- 23 City Council & Council Committee Meetings - 6pm
- 26 Shawnee Downtown Partnership - 6pm
- 28 Holiday Treasures Craft Festival - 9am  
Historical Hauntings - 6pm
- 31 Spookfest- 10am

## November

- 2 Parks and Rec. Advisory Board - 5:30pm
- 6 Planning Commission - 7:30pm
- 7 General Election - Vote at City Hall
- 10 Veterans Day Observed - City Offices Closed
- 13 City Council & Council Committee Meetings - 6pm
- 17 Christkindl at Moonlight Markt  
Board of Zoning Appeals - 7:30pm
- 20 Planning Commission - 7:30pm
- 23 Thanksgiving Day Holiday City Offices Closed
- 24 Thanksgiving Holiday City Offices Closed

# Join the Wildlife Habitat Restoration Project



**Wilder Bluff Park - 24200 W 55th Street**  
**Saturday, November 4 • 9am - 12pm**

## Team Shawnee

Service oriented careers are fulfilling and a means to make a difference within your community. The City offers competitive compensation and benefits, and a positive work environment staffed with dedicated employees. Current openings include:

- Police Officer
- Firefighter
- Part Time Customer Service Representative
- Maintenance Worker

You can find detailed job descriptions, current openings and more at [cityofshawnee.org/jobs](http://cityofshawnee.org/jobs).

Join  
Our Team



[cityofshawnee.org/jobs](http://cityofshawnee.org/jobs)

City of Shawnee  
11110 Johnson Drive  
Shawnee, KS 66203

PRSR STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Olathe, KS  
Permit # 609

## CONTACT US

Building Inspections/Permits	742-6010
City Hall	631-2500
CityRide – Request Ride	647-0010
CityRide – Sign-Up	742-6014
Civic Centre	631-5200
Code Enforcement	742-6010
Fire Department/Burning Permits	631-1080
Johnson County Election Office	715-6800
Odor Complaints	894-3777
Police (Non-Emergency)	631-2150
Police/Fire Emergency	9-1-1
Parks and Recreation	631-5200
Planning & Zoning	742-6011
Public Works	742-6008
Recycling & Trash	742-6258
Shawnee Town 1929	248-2360
Snow Hotline	742-6097
Splash Cove	631-7177
Street Lights/Traffic Signals/Signs	742-6008
Thomas A. Soetaert Aquatic Center	631-0054
Traffic Tickets	742-6003
Volunteer Opportunities	742-6244

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

### Mayor

Michelle Distler (913) 634-5883 [mdistler@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:mdistler@cityofshawnee.org)

### Ward I

Tammy Thomas (913) 221-3606 [tthomas@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:tthomas@cityofshawnee.org)

Tony Gillette (913) 230-1608 [tgillette@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:tgillette@cityofshawnee.org)

### Ward II

Eric Jenkins (913) 669-1076 [ejenkins@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:ejenkins@cityofshawnee.org)

Mike Kemmling (913) 667-9888 [mkemmling@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:mkemmling@cityofshawnee.org)

### Ward III

Kurt Knappen (913) 608-2724 [kknappen@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:kknappen@cityofshawnee.org)

Angela Stiens (913) 909-9903 [astiens@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:astiens@cityofshawnee.org)

### Ward IV

Jill Chalfie (913) 259-4679 [jchalfie@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:jchalfie@cityofshawnee.org)

Jacklynn Walters (913) 302-3053 [jwalters@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:jwalters@cityofshawnee.org)

**All Things Hometown**, an official publication of the City of Shawnee, Kansas, is published four times a year and mailed to residents in Shawnee under the direction of the Communications Director. Readers' comments may be directed to:

Communications Director  
11110 Johnson Drive  
Shawnee, Kansas 66203  
By phone 742-6202 or  
e-mail [ddonahoo@cityofshawnee.org](mailto:ddonahoo@cityofshawnee.org)

This document, meeting agendas and packets, and other information about Shawnee, are available at [cityofshawnee.org](http://cityofshawnee.org).



**Cover Picture:**  
There is no place like home - Shawnee, KS!

