The City is making every possible effort to communicate with our citizens using various means. If you would like to have updated news and events delivered straight to your inbox, please sign-up for our e-newsletter using the button below.

Sign Up for E News

If you are having trouble viewing the email, be sure to add us to your Safe Senders list. If you have any questions please contact Amber McCullough at (913) 422-1020 or email her at amccullough@bonnersprings.org

Happy Thanksgiving

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Candy Cane Christmas and Mayor’s Tree Lighting Event

The annual Candy Cane Christmas in downtown Bonner Springs is Saturday, December 3, 2016. Vaughn-Trent Community Services, Business and Professional Women (BPW) and the City of Bonner Springs annually sponsor this event and invite the public to attend.

Events throughout the day with the parade beginning at 5:30 p.m. along Oak Street to the tree lighting ceremony at Centennial Park. Other events include Breakfast with Santa (pre-registration required), Santa
Express 5K and 1 Mile Reindeer Route, Scavenger Hunt throughout the shops downtown, meet the Snow Queen and Santa, and performances by the Bonner Springs Elementary Rise Choir and The Premiere Dance Studio.

Vaughn Trent is also sponsoring their annual canned and dry food drive, and will have a donation box at Centennial Park during the event. In addition, BPW will award a trophy for the parade entry with the most canned and dry food.

Additional Information

Law Enforcement Secret Santa

Our local Police Chief Mark Zaretski and several law enforcement officers participated in a recent Secret Santa event in the area.

Check out the article

Fall Cleanup Guidelines

Fall is a good time of the year to clean up yards and prepare for the winter season. The following guidelines for property owners are provided to help conduct proper yard maintenance and cleanup:

1. **Leaf Disposal:** Leaves may be raked, bagged and left at the curb on your normal trash day for disposal. Leaves and grass should not be blown, raked or burned in the public street or dumped into storm drains as this will cause storm drains to become clogged and interferes with proper storm water drainage.

   The accumulation of wet, compacted leaves creates pockets in which rodents and insects harbor. In the spring, these pockets can become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Another option for yard waste disposal is to obtain a free burn permit at City Hall and follow the instructions for proper burning. Composting is an environmentally-friendly way to dispose of yard waste. We must remember that the storm drains in your areas ultimately flow to the Kansas River and protecting our streams, rivers and lakes are vital to our Quality of Life. Please do not rake or blow leaves from your yard into the street. Leaves become a slippery mess that can cause localized flooding and pedestrian, bicycle and motor vehicle accidents.

2. **Grass, Trees & Shrub Trimming:** Property owners are responsible for care and maintenance of grass, trees and shrubs on their property as well as out to the centerline of streets and alleys adjacent to their property. Overgrown tree limbs are to be trimmed to a minimum of 9 feet above any sidewalk, and 14 feet above and three feet back from any street or alley. Trim back all overgrowth along alleyways to allow safe passage for vehicles. If the alley is not used by vehicles, it still must be properly maintained. Remove all overgrowth, trash and debris in those areas to prevent nesting of rodents, animals and/or insects.

3. **Sight Distance:** Check all areas of your property along the street or at intersections and eliminate any overgrowth including bushes, trees, limbs, ornamental grasses and yard decorations that pose a traffic hazard by blocking the line of sight of oncoming traffic.

4. **Sidewalks:** It is the responsibility of property owners and/or occupants to remove leaves, snow or ice from sidewalks adjacent to their property and to prevent obstructions for safe public passage. Other responsibilities include removing grass or weeds that emerge from seams or cracks in the sidewalk.

Preparing for Winter
• Bring in clay pots to keep them from breaking or cracking.
• Rake your leaves.
• Transplant shrubs and trees.
• Mulch flowerbeds and around trees.
• Check your pond and fountain equipment, drain and cover, if needed.
• Winterize sprinklers systems to avoid cracks and breaks in your irrigation equipment.

Protect your Water Pipes

• Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses.
• Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas.
• Install heat tape or similar materials on all exposed water pipes where the temperature might drop below freezing.
• Seal off access doors, air vents and cracks.
• Know where the master shutoff valve is.
• In severe cold weather, you may want to allow a faucet to drip.
• Check your meter pit to ensure the lid is on and the metal ring is buried.

For More Information

The “Snow Angels” program was established to help people who cannot clear snow and ice from their primary sidewalks, driveways, or driveway entrances.

The program works by connecting people who are willing to volunteer their time to clear snow with individuals who do not have a family member or neighbor to assist and have physical and financial constraints.

If you or someone you know is unable to remove snow or if you are willing to become a volunteer Snow Angel, please fill out the Snow Angel Application or contact the city’s Property Maintenance Code Officer at (913) 667-1718 or City Hall at (913) 422-1020.

Send us your Photos for a Chance to have them Showcased on our Website

The City of Bonner Springs welcomes you to submit a memorable photograph of Bonner Springs for a chance to have it showcased on our redesigned website.

We are looking for beautiful images captured within the city with an emphasis on landscape and urban settings. Vintage photos are welcome for submission, as long as the photo was taken inside city boundaries.

Photo enthusiasts are encouraged to take photographs of the City on their smartphones and digital cameras, and send them to amcullough@bonnersprings.org or tag your photographs with the hashtag #ThisIsBonnerSprings on Instagram or Facebook so the photos can be viewed and decided upon. Photos must be high resolution and at least 1 MB in size. All entries are due by December 9, 2016. There is no limit on the number of entries.

We look forward to seeing your photographs!

LEGAL NOTICE: You retain your rights to your photograph; however, by entering the contest, you grant the City of Bonner Springs (and those authorized by the City of Bonner Springs) a royalty-free, worldwide, perpetual, non-exclusive license to publicly display, distribute, reproduce and create derivative works of the entries, in whole or in part, in any media now existing or later developed, for any City of Bonner Springs purpose, including, but not limited to, advertisements, city publications and the city’s website. Photographer credits will be included when feasible. The City of Bonner Springs will not be required to pay any additional consideration or seek any additional approval in connection with such uses. You acknowledge by submitting your photo that you have lawful ownership rights to the photo, and that if there are people who are easily recognizable in the photo that you have their permission to submit their image for use by the City.
The City of Bonner Springs became the newest Community Rating System (CRS) Class 7 community in the State of Kansas on October 1, 2016. The City obtained a CRS Class 7 Rating that provides discounted flood insurance rates for all citizens in Bonner Springs as well as the unincorporated area of Wyandotte County known as the Loring Service Area.

All citizens who renew a current Flood Insurance Policy or who obtain a new Flood Insurance Policy after October 1, 2016 will receive a 15% discount for all insured structures located within the Special Flood Hazard Area and a 5% discount for structures located within the Non-Special Flood Hazard Area. That discount equates to $5,004.00 annual savings for our policy holders.

Do not assume your homeowner’s policy will protect you from property damage as a result of floodwaters. The majority of the homeowner insurance policies do not cover losses from flood related events. Homes and buildings located in the Special Flood Hazard Area with mortgages from federally regulated or insured lenders are required by law to have flood insurance.

For any questions about the CRS program or any general questions about the National Flood Insurance Program, please contact Don E. Slone, AICP, CFM, Planning Director – CRS Coordinator at (913) 667-1708.

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**Holiday Office Closures**

City Offices will be closed for the following upcoming holidays:

Thanksgiving Day - Thursday, November 24th & Friday, November 25th

Christmas Day - observed Monday, December 26th

New Year’s Day - observed Monday, January 2nd

Martin Luther King Day - Monday, January 16th (Trash and recycling pick up will be delayed one day.)

President's Day - Monday, February 20th (Trash and recycling pick up will be delayed one day.)

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**PARKS & RECREATION NEWS**

Spring events for our Parks and Recreation Department include Sports Sign-Up, the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, City Wide Yard Sale, Little Chefs and many other programs

Visit our Parks and Recreation Page

Check out our Parks and Recreation Calendar

Parks and Recreation Online Program Guide
Dec. 1 – **Letters to Santa**! Send your letter to Santa via the Bonner Springs Parks & Recreation Department and Santa is guaranteed to write you back. All letters are due to the Parks Offices by Monday, December 12th. [More Information]

Dec. 3 – **Breakfast with Santa**! Family and friends are welcome to visit with Santa and enjoy a light breakfast. Spend an hour with Santa taking pictures and doing crafts. This event will be Saturday, December 3, 2016 at the Community Center from 9:00 am-10:00 am. The fee is $5 per child for residents & $7 for non-residents. [Register Here]

Dec. 3 – **Santa’s Little Helpers** is right after Breakfast with Santa. This program is designed to give parents time to wrap gifts, buy gifts, or just have some time to themselves without the kids before Christmas. [Register Here]

Dec. 19-22, 27-30 – **Winter Break Camp** – Camp Great Adventure returns for some winter fun! Open to ages 6-12 from 7:30 am-5:30 pm, children will play games, make crafts, and much more. [More Information]

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**Mother-Son & Daddy-Daughter Dances**

Feb. 4 – **Mother & Son Dance** - Mom, bring out your best dress, have your son(s) put on his best clothes, and come enjoy a special Valentine night created just for you. Enjoy desserts, pictures, games, and music. Ideal for ages 5-12 years old. [More Information]

Feb. 18 – **Daddy Daughter Dance** - Dads! Grab your little girl and treat her to a night out! Come enjoy a special Valentine night created just for you! Ideal for ages 5-12 years old. [More Information]

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**UPCOMING PARKS & REC EVENTS**

Jan. 11 – **Girls Volleyball Deadline**: Open registration for girls in grades 2nd-8th, cost is $45 for resident’s and $50 for non-resident. Discount available for multiple child registration. [More Information]

Jan. 11 – **Winter Job Fair in Community Center Gym**: Get your summer job now! [More Information]

Jan. 23 – **Tumbling Session 1 Deadline**: Join an aero-recreational class designed for children who are interested in learning about the world of tumbling. There are three separate tumbling classes: Preschool (3-5 years old), Beginner, and Intermediate/Advanced on Monday nights. Each session is five weeks with a parent watch night during week five. [Register Online]

Jan. 24 – **Little Chefs**: This class meet once a week for four weeks and will allow your little chef to explore the kitchen by making fun and yummy treats. Children will receive their own cookbook of all the meals they made at the end of the session. [Register Online]
Jan. 28 – **Safe Sitter**: This course gives youth ages 11-14 the knowledge, skills and confidence to care for infants through school-ages children. [More Information]

Feb. 8 – **Adult Volleyball Deadline**: At just $80 per team you and your 5-6 closest friends will have the opportunity to show off your indoor volleyball skills this winter. This is a Co-Rec league that plays on Tuesday nights in the Community Center Gymnasium. [Register Online]

Feb. 22 – **Soccer Registration Deadline**: The youth soccer league is offered to boys and girls ages 4-14 years old as of August 31, 2016. All divisions will be co-rec and divided according to age. [Register Online]

Feb. 27 – **Tumbling Session 2 Deadline**: Join the recreational class designed for children who are interested in learning about the world of tumbling. There are three separate tumbling classes: Preschool (3-5 years old), Beginner, and Intermediate / Advanced on Monday nights. Each session is five weeks with a parent watch night during week five. [Register Online]

**BONNER SPRINGS LIBRARY NEWS**

**Your Library…**

In addition to books, movies and periodicals, the Library has several programs for all ages including Story Time, Read to a Dog, computer classes, adult coloring, book discussions, and much more.

[Check out the Library Events Calendar]

**Get in the Game! Read!**

Step up to the plate with an evening to champion books, children's programming, and a special preservation project at the library.

**Saturday, February 18, 2017**

**6-11 p.m.**

**Historic Lake of the Forest Clubhouse**

**Bonner Springs, Kansas**

**Jazz on the Lake IX**

Mark your calendars for the Jazz on the Lake IX, a fundraiser to benefit the Bonner Springs City Library. Tickets for this event will be on sale starting January 3, 2017 at the Library. The Library is currently accepting high-quality items for the auction at the event; contact Jack at 913-441-2665 if you are interested in contributing. Visit www.bonnerlibrary.org for more information in January.
The Bonner Springs Library and the Bonner Springs Arts Alliance, with funding from the Kansas Humanities Council, are bringing Johnson County Community College professor Anthony Funari to the library on **Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30** for a Pulitzer Project in Kansas Writing Workshop. Bring a piece of your writing. Visit www.bonnerlibrary.org for more information.


**Monday, December 19, 6:00 pm**

"What’s for dinner?" is an all too familiar question for most families. With a little planning and advanced food preparation you'll be able to answer that question! Freezing is one of the easiest, most convenient and least time-consuming methods of putting a meal on the table in a hurry. This class will address the "how-to's" behind make-ahead freezer meals including helpful hints and recipes. Taste testing of a frozen meal will be available. Visit www.bonnerlibrary.org for more information.

**Drum Safari Holiday Samba Walk Puppet Show**

**Saturday, December 17, 2:00 pm**

**Sign up at the Library.**

Come to the Library for a holiday inspired, interactive puppet show! Children will be introduced to South American animals whose names are set to rhythm. After meeting the animals, each child is given a percussion instrument... and the jungle jam begins! Visit www.bonnerlibrary.org for more information.

**Visit the Library Website**

**SENIOR CENTER NEWS**

The Senior Center is open to anyone 55+ years of age. We offer门 various classes and activities for our members to enjoy.
The Senior Center is open to seniors 60+ years of age. We offer programs in recreation, health, education, and crafts. We are open Monday thru Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Transportation is available thru the Tiflow Transit service in Bonner Springs (913-422-5355).

Our activities include weekly outings, monthly educational presentations, exercise classes, dinner theater trips, bingo and free legal services. We have a wide variety of activities for all interests and abilities. Please stop by the Senior Center or call 913-441-0169.

Visit our Senior Center Page

Check out our Senior Center Calendar

View the Monthly Senior Center Newsletter

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Sign up for the Brave Bulletin

Receive weekly updates from USD 204 by signing up for the Brave Bulletin!

Sign up today!