Out Front...

By **Kyle Palmer,** Johnson County Post editor
Thursday, Oct. 29, 2026

Halloween is nigh, readers. 👻 🎃 How are you getting ready? Tonight, my two sons and I plan to do our annual pumpkin carving. Nothing like this guy in Overland Park but its our little spooky tradition.

Speaking of making memories: **Juliana Garcia** starts us off today with a nostalgic trip down memory lane at The Shops of Prairie Village that all began with an errant Facebook comment.

Today's Forecast: Mostly sunny, slight chance for rain later this afternoon and evening, high of 77. 🌤

📍 One thing to know today



A group of roughly 40 or more people showed up on Sunday, Oct. 25, to reminisce on their "old stomping grounds" at the Shops of Prairie Village. Photo credit Juliana Garcia.

About a month ago, Dave Dozier watched as two other members of the “If You Grew Up In Prairie Village” Facebook group argued over what used to occupy certain storefronts at the Shops of Prairie Village.

Dozier, who grew up in Prairie Village in the 1960s and 1970s, challenged the two who were going back and forth to meet up at the Shops and point out the locations of restaurants and stores of yesteryear.

For Dozier, his challenge was sort of a joke — until it blew up among the other Facebook group members.

“I posted that kind of just like fishing, see if anybody took the bait,” Dozier said. “Before the day was over, I got 50 or 60 responses from people. It blew me away completely."

Within 24 hours, Dozier said, he'd had so many responses that he felt there was no turning back: he was organizing a walking tour.

This past Sunday afternoon, roughly 40 people showed up outside of Bag and Baggage — the old T. G. & Y. Stores Co., according to a map shared with the group — to stroll through the Shops of Prairie Village and reminisce.

Take a literal walk down memory lane.

What's new



A GFL Environment bin outside of a Merriam home on July 17. File photo.

🚚 **Merriam single trash hauler takes over Monday.** Starting Nov. 2, GFL will pick up trash at every Merriam home, a first for a Kansas city under a 2011 state law. Residents will pay about $274 for the service next year, with costs going up each after that for the five-year contract.

🚘 **Driver, 39, killed in Prairie Village crash.** Witnesses told police they saw a northbound Chevy SUV veer off Roe, hit a fence and then stop in the intersection at 66th Terrace. The male driver was pronounced dead at the scene.

🚲 **Teen breaks leg after E-bike crash in Lenexa.** Recorded radio traffic from arriving paramedics indicated the 13-year-old was in stable condition after a crash in front of a pickup truck in a western Lenexa subdivision on Wednesday.

⚖️ **Ex-Leawood priest pleads guilty to stealing from parish.**Richard Storey, the former priest at Curé of Ars, pleaded guilty to a reduced felony theft charge and repaid nearly $160,000 in church funds he stole to pay for cruises and trips to London, Paris and New York.

🏀 **Meet Shawnee Mission's 2 new high school principals.** One, Leah Vomhof, a 1998 SM East graduate, has returned to lead her alma mater. A second, LaTisha Williams, arrives from Atchison to follow in the footsteps of a beloved SM Northwest principal. Read more about how their years are going.

🍔 **Bluhawk adds burger spot and French bakery.** Five Four Restaurant & Drafthouse is opening its third Johnson County location at the southern Overland Park development. And La Madeleine is debuting in the county. See where they'll go.

🏛️ **Meet Johnson County's Kansas House candidates.** All 27 statehouse districts that represent JoCo are on the Nov. 3 ballot, though one-third of them feature just one candidate. See who is running in your area.

🗳️ **Check out our Kansas Board of Ed election primer.** Jim McMullen and Amy Diediker are running for the open District 3 seat on the Kansas State Board of Education, representing southern Johnson County. See who they are and where they stand on readers' key issues.

🏘️ Get involved

Events, volunteer opportunities and other ways to get involved in your community!

• **TODAY: Hear about OP's evolving trash-hauling plans.** Stop by an open house meeting this Thursday from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Tomahawk Ridge Community Center to hear about a potential shift to an organized trash system for Overland Park.

• **TODAY: Take a hike through the prairie at the Arboretum.** The Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens is hosting a prairie hike at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday for kids and adults. Reserve your spot here.

• **TONIGHT: Chat with Ward 3 Mission councilmembers.** Ward 3 Mission City Councilmembers Debbie Kring and Brian Schmid are hosting a ward meeting for their residents from 7 to 8 p.m. on Thursday at Powell Community Center, 6200 Martway St.

• **TONIGHT: Lenexa to host "Enchanted Forest."** From 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park, Lenexa will host a free night of hayrides, pumpkin decorating, live entertainment, spooky science, a fire show and more at the free, kid-friendly event.

• **TOMORROW: Show off your costume at a Halloween Parade in Merriam.** The city is hosting a Halloween Parade from 11:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Friday. Kids can march in their costume and get candy for free at the Merriam Community Center, 6040 Slater St.

• **THIS WEEKEND: Attend an Overland Park Orchestra concert.** The Overland Park Orchestra will perform its special Halloween "Mystical Dances and Serenades of Spain and the Americas" show at the Tomahawk Ridge Community Center starting at 4 p.m. on Saturday. RSVP here.

🖼 One thousand words


ETERS RCHARDS

From left, Riyah Carter, Ellie Oestmann and Adrienne Oestmann, members of Johnson County-based nonprofit SevenDays' Kindness Youth Leadership Team, recently volunteered at the food bank Harvesters, helping sort and prepare food items. Photo courtesy SevenDays, via Facebook.

Have a photo you'd like us to consider for "One thousand words"? Email us here.

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