

MERRIAM

.....
highlights & recreation
.....

WINTER 2016 + SPRING 2017

Shaping the future of Parks & Rec facilities

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contact

MERRIAM CITY HALL
9001 W. 62ND ST.
MERRIAM, KS 66202
913.322.5500

HOURS
M-F 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

IRENE B. FRENCH
COMMUNITY CENTER
5701 MERRIAM DR.
MERRIAM, KS 66203
913.322.5550
FAX: 913.677.1409

HOURS
M-TH 8 a.m.–9 p.m.
F 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
SA 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
SU 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
913.322.5520

FIRE
913.888.6066

MUNICIPAL COURT
913.322.5540

POLICE
EMERGENCY: 911
NON-EMERGENCY DISPATCH:
913.782.0720
MAIN: 913.322.5560

PUBLIC WORKS
913.322.5570

VISITORS BUREAU
913.403.8999

cityofmerriam@merriam.org
WWW.MERRIAM.ORG

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 Look us up on Nextdoor,
the neighborhood-
focused social network.

#MERRIAMKANSAS



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Greetings Merriam Residents,

For just a moment, I'd like you to imagine a Merriam that didn't take care of its assets. We'd drive on crumbling roads over minefields of potholes; our neighborhoods would be darkened due to broken streetlights; the parks we enjoy would be overgrown and possibly include rusty playground equipment; and snow might not get plowed until it starts to melt. Needless to say, our streets wouldn't be adorned with flower baskets in spring and summer.

We're lucky to live in a city where none of these conditions exist. And for the most part, this is due to the high-level of services delivered by our dedicated staff, and the priority our elected officials place on supporting issues that ensure Merriam is a vibrant, desirable place to live.

So, could we survive without flower baskets? Of course. But living in Merriam would not be the same without the great services, responsiveness and amenities many communities would gladly enjoy.

Sure, many residents didn't move here for the highly-rated infrastructure, amenities, and facilities. It was most-likely the location, schools, public safety, and affordable housing. Yet, all the other stuff keeps families here, and attracts scores of new residents each year.

As mayor, a former police chief, and a resident, I am proud of how Merriam takes care of its infrastructure, amenities, and facilities. And I am grateful for the quality-of-life we enjoy. It's hard to quantify or put a price on sense of community, pride, or satisfaction within a city. Even though surveys consistently confirm a high-level of satisfaction with all that Merriam has to offer, we cannot measure the intangibles that make up a community.

I share this with you because we're at a pivotal point in Merriam's history; we have a chance to improve the quality-of-life for current and future Merriam residents, and provide the amenities that will attract and keep them here. As I've frequently mentioned, two of the city's most-used facilities are falling apart, and we are now in the process of answering the difficult question of what to do with them. The expensive, unbudgeted "Band-Aids" we're currently applying are not sustainable.

What do we do? How do we protect our legacy of taking care of what we have?

A steering committee made up of residents, city representatives, and consultants who specialize in these things have been working tirelessly to develop options and various scenarios. Specifics about the issues we face, and how residents weighed in on them via public meetings, and a statistically-valid community survey can be found on page 5. But, let me ask:

Do you want to live in a city that takes care of its assets and maintains its top-notch services, quality amenities and facilities, including the value-added features that make Merriam such a great place to live? Or do you want to watch these community treasures deteriorate under short-term fixes until they disappear into relics of a glorious past?

Your Mayor,

Ken Sissom

2017 City Budget Highlights

\$27,919,778 operating expenditures

\$24,754,621 budgeted reserves

\$25,502,038 operating revenues



LARGEST SINGLE REVENUE SOURCE

1% CITY SALES TAX

\$7,674,423



CITYWIDE REVENUE SOURCES

SALES/USE TAX

OTHER SOURCES*

48%

16%

36%

PROPERTY TAX

Property Tax

CITY MILL

27.673

Property taxes collected in Merriam are distributed among six entities:

- » State of Kansas
- » Johnson County
- » Johnson County Community College
- » Shawnee Mission School District
- » Merriam Drainage Board
- » City of Merriam

MERRIAM'S SHARE OF TOTAL PROPERTY TAX



23% City of Merriam

77% Schools, County, Other

2017 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

All proposed public improvements through the year 2017

\$11.6 million



CIP HIGHLIGHTS

- » Shawnee Mission bridge over BNSF Railroad rehabilitation
- » Residential Street Group IV improvements
- » Police Department facility improvements

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Parks & Recreation CLASSES & PROGRAMS

20 // Youth

21 // Adult

24 // 50+

26 // Merriam Parks

*Other sources include TIF taxes, intergovernmental revenues, fines and forfeits, franchise fees, other taxes, licenses/permits/charges for service, interest, and miscellaneous.



Staff Profile: Meet Merriam's new city administrator



Employee Name:
Chris Engel

Title:
City Administrator

Department:
Administration

On Aug. 8, city council voted to promote Assistant City Administrator Chris Engel to the role of city administrator. He began his new position on Sept. 1, 2016, following the retirement of Phil Lammers.

"The council has enjoyed working closely with Mr. Engel since 2013," Mayor Ken Sissom said. "He is uniquely qualified to run the city and brings a strong vision to move Merriam forward."

Prior to joining Merriam in 2013, Engel spent nearly six years as assistant to the city administrator in Prairie Village; worked 10 years in the private sector; and served four years in the United States Marine Corps.

What are the duties of a city administrator?

It's my job to synthesize the wants and desires of the city council and then create an implementation road map using available resources. The governing body is like the captain of the ship, and I'm the navigator.

Briefly describe the "state of the city" for Merriam as you step into your new role?

The state of Merriam is pretty doggone good. As a city, we've continued to make improvements to our infrastructure that have really paid off. We have a strong commercial area, and it is creating opportunities for the governing body to explore opportunities that will best benefit residents now, and down the road.

Are there any services that you would like to improve?

We are always looking for opportunities to improve how we deliver services, and improve the quality of life for residents. Our focus right now is on Parks & Rec. I'd really like to have a few more parks. We've got areas north of town that don't have parks so we can't have neighborhood "Party in your Park" events. And that's a shame. We also have facilities that are under-utilized because they no longer meet the needs of a modern community; they are old and aging and

they are falling apart. And I would really like to improve in those areas. Those are the things that help make us who we are.

Where would you like to see the state of Merriam in 10 years?

Not in a state of regret that we missed opportunities. Ten years from now I want it to be just as right as it is today. But I want to make sure that we had the conversations in the public forum to discuss and debate and deliberate over what "Just Right" means. Ten years from now I don't want to have conversations with the city council about shoulda', woulda', coulda', or say "hey, we really dropped the ball there," or "we really missed an opportunity there."

How do we capitalize on these opportunities?

Carefully. The decisions that define a community or redefine a community are big and they're difficult. Some people might use that as an excuse not to do things. I would argue that it's an excuse to do them deliberately; but to be cautious, careful and thoughtful. These decisions are impactful and they don't just affect us today, they affect us tomorrow and the next day. You constantly need to strike a balance between respecting the legacy of who you were, who you are, and who you want to be.

Election schedule changes begin in 2017

A bill passed by the Kansas Legislature in 2015 moves elections for school boards, mayors and city councils from spring to fall, and requires them to be held in odd-numbered years. Elections for the office of mayor and councilmembers will now take place on the first Tuesday in Nov. 2017, instead of April 2017.

Other elections schedule changes:

- » The term for mayor and councilmembers elected in April 2013 will expire on the second Monday of Jan. 2018, when individuals elected in Nov. 2017 will take office.
- » Councilmember seats set to expire in April 2019 will continue until the second Monday of Jan. 2020, when individuals elected in Nov. 2019 will take office.
- » Primary elections will occur on the first Tuesday in August of odd-numbered years, reducing candidates down to two for any one office.

MERRIAM CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR
KEN SISSOM, 913.523.5357, mayors@merriam.org

WARD 1
SCOTT DIEBOLD, 913.293.8457, 1981stag@gmail.com
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BOB PAPE, 913.384.0746, bpape@merriam.org

Frequently Asked Questions: The future of Merriam's Parks & Rec facilities

What's all this talk about Merriam's recreational facilities?

The Irene B. French Community Center (IBFCC) and Merriam Aquatic Center (MAC) are at the end of their useful lives, and the costs of maintenance and repairs are becoming unsustainable. Instead of using expensive Band-Aids to fix problems, the city council chose a proactive and thoughtful process to explore several possible solutions. Remember, the pool is more than 30-years-old and sections of the community center are more than 100-years-old!

What's wrong with the current facilities?

We've gotten a lot of use out of these facilities, but constant, expensive and unbudgeted repairs to their systems and structures continue to increase. Additionally, neither facility meets Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements or current life-safety and code requirements. To achieve compliance in these areas, many of the needed updates trigger a cascade of other repairs that would increase costs and make updates more difficult. The IBFCC was not built for use as a community center, and its layout was not designed or intended for its current use. Another issue is the community center's location in a floodplain, where it regularly floods.

Can't we update our current facilities?

That's an option, and we have good information about what updating the facilities would cost. In 2014, Larkin Aquatics did a study of the MAC, including mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and ADA requirements. That detailed report indicated needed updates will range from \$600,000–\$900,000, plus an eventual \$3.5 million to replace the basin. At the same time, the city hired Susan Richards Johnson and Associates to complete a similar assessment of the community center. That analysis provided detailed solutions for continued use of the existing facility with costs ranging from \$6–10 million.

Why are we talking about building new facilities?

When contemplating the high costs of updating the existing facilities, it became necessary to ask, "What would a new facility cost?" There was also a realization that spending all that money to update facilities would still leave the city with a 30-year-old pool and a 100-year-old community center. In another 30 years it will probably be easier and less expensive to maintain a 30-year-old facility than to maintain 60-year-old and 130-year-old facilities. The existing facilities, even if updated, might actually cost taxpayers

more over 30-40 years than building something new that (1) meets current and future needs; (2) is more appropriately sized; and (3) uses contemporary building codes, materials, and systems.

Where are we now?

A steering committee of Merriam residents was appointed to determine the community's wants and needs for a new facility. That process involves collecting public input, and developing a market study, business plan, and financial analysis. The resulting Facilities Master Plan will provide a clear understanding of what a new facility should include, and if building a new facility will address our needs.

What will a new facility cost?

Currently unknown since we're just not there yet. The final Facilities Master Plan will include a detailed estimate of building costs and annual operating costs.

What happens after the Facilities Master Plan is presented to city council?

On Jan. 9, city council will vote to acknowledge receipt of the final plan and the recommendation of the steering committee. Acceptance of that recommendation and final plan will not bind the city to any one specific choice; it only provides details needed to begin a larger conversation about the future of our recreation facilities.

When will a decision be made on the facilities?

It is anticipated the preferred solution will be discussed in public meetings as part of the 5-year capital improvement project budget, which begin in March 2017.

How will the city pay for updated or new facilities?

It's too early at this point to know. Depending on the preferred solution, the funding strategy could include budgeted reserves, the issuance of bonds, or a combination of options. More than likely, any solution exceeding \$5 million will require issuing bonds.

Will there be a vote if bonds are included in the funding strategy?

If funding involves issuing bonds or raising property and/or sales taxes, a public vote is recommended (and likely required by law).

Where can I get more information about this issue?

All information is posted on merriam.org as it becomes available. Also, a blog dedicated to providing project information and updates is located at mprfacilities.org.



City launches new, mobile-friendly website

The City of Merriam is proud to announce the launch of its redesigned website, merriam.org.

The new website features a mobile-friendly (responsive) design that allows users to easily display and maneuver through the site on their preferred device — be it a smart phone, tablet or desktop computer. Nearly 50 percent of those who visit Merriam’s website do so on a mobile device, so the responsive design upgrade should greatly benefit users.

“The ability to connect and engage with residents on their terms is one of our main priorities. And these days, technology plays a huge role in how we do that,” City Administrator Chris Engel said. “Merriam’s new website provides quick access to the information our residents, business partners, and visitors need.”

The city partnered with Manhattan, Kansas-based website development agency Civic Plus to bring its vision for the new website to a reality. The redesign was part of a free upgrade Civic Plus offers its customers every four years.



City kicks off placemaking initiative with "Still Time"

On July 6, artist Dan Maginn and Merriam councilmember Christine Hands cut the ribbon on “Still Time,” a new multi-sensory public art installation located at the corner of Merriam and Johnson Drives.

The sculpture represents the first in a series of five placemaking projects the city will fund over the next five years.

It features a 16-foot limestone tower, which houses a wind chime. The tower and surrounding park creates a new gathering space for Merriam residents and visitors to enjoy. “Still Time” was created through a collaborative effort between DRAW Architecture+Urban Design, who led the design effort, and construction company Zwei Baume. More of these types of permanent art exhibitions are expected to show up around town during the next several years.



Franchise Fee Rebate Program

Starting Feb. 1, 2017, the City of Merriam will accept applications for the Franchise Fee Rebate Program. This program provides Merriam families whose income falls within the limits established by HUD, the opportunity to apply for a refund of the franchise fees paid on electricity, gas, and telephone bills during 2016.

Franchise fees collected from utility companies are refunded to eligible low-to-moderate income households. This is a city-funded program, implemented by Mayor Sissom and the Merriam City Council.

Starting Feb. 1, 2017, those interested in participating should contact the Community Development Department at 913-322-5520 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, to request an application form. Applications must be accompanied by all 2016 gas, electric and telephone invoices, along with proof of income for all household members. Residents can provide their 2016 W-2 or income tax forms, or social security papers, as well as all 1099s, interest, pensions, annuities, and dividend statements, as proof of income. Applications are accepted Feb. 1, until May 1, 2017.

YARD OF THE WEEK!



Yard of the Week program recognized 16 beautiful properties during its inaugural season

The City of Merriam kicked off its "Yard of the Week" program in summer 2016 to recognize residents who take pride in the appearance of their property, and do their part to beautify the community. City staff selected one yard each week from the Friday after Memorial Day until the Friday after Labor Day.

Keep your yards looking great and maybe your property will be featured when Yard of the Week resumes next summer! See you in 2017!



Lynn and Barbara Coffman
5638 Farley



Linda Scorza
9001 W. 71st Street



Pat Aheron
8400 W. 55th Terrace



Rick Kimball
9505 W. 48th Street



Mike and Genny Downs
9707 Hocker Drive



Dick and Norma Wheeler
6725 Wedd Street



Bill and Dana Atwell
6330 Woodward Street



Jim and Angie Sherwood
5106 Perry Lane



Doug and Vicki Murphy
9600 W. 48th Street



Ed and Jolene Ellyson
8601 W. 64th Terrace



Butch and Janet Pekarek
8714 W. 62nd Terrace



Tom Laisure
9113 W. 69th Street



Gene and Linda Chavez
9707 W. 51st Place



John and Janie Thomas
6808 Wedd



Ryan and Caroline Grow
9923 W. 65th Drive



David and Ingrid Hanners
4808 Wedd



Holiday tree disposal schedule

The City of Merriam will continue its annual tree pickup to help citizens and businesses dispose of holiday trees. There will be a one-time pickup in your area as scheduled below. Place holiday trees curbside by 7 a.m. on the scheduled day of pickup.

In the event of snowfall, alternative pickup dates are Jan. 10–13 (based on the same day schedule).

Please call Merriam Public Works at 913-322-5570 for more information.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

North side of 75th Street to the south side of Johnson Drive, and east side of Switzer to the west side of Antioch.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

North side of 67th Street to the south side of 54th Terrace, and east side of Antioch to the west side of Lowell.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

North side of Johnson Drive to the south side of 53rd Street, and west side of Antioch to the east side of Switzer.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

North side of 53rd Street to the south side of 47th Street, and west side of Antioch to the east side of Switzer.

City wide recycling event

The City of Merriam is once again partnering with the City of Shawnee to bring you a fantastic recycling opportunity just in time for spring cleaning!

WHEN: Saturday, April 15, 2017 from 8–11 a.m.

WHERE: Lee Jeans Parking Lot (67th Street between I-35 and Antioch)

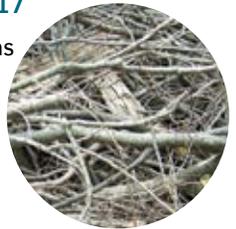
WHAT: Four recycling opportunities, one convenient location. Bring your old electronics, bikes that the kids have outgrown, papers for shredding, and unused latex paint. All items are free to recycle except CRTs (\$20).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Contact Andy Graham at agraham@merriam.org



City tree limb pickup collection program starts March 20–24, 2017

Winter and spring storms can be hard on our trees. This year, the city is here to help get rid of the debris. During the week of March 20–24, 2017, the Public Works Department will conduct a citywide tree limb pickup. The pickup schedule and routes will be similar to large-item pickup events. Tree limbs left on the curb will be collected. More detailed information will be available on merriam.org and at city hall, or by calling 913-322-5500.



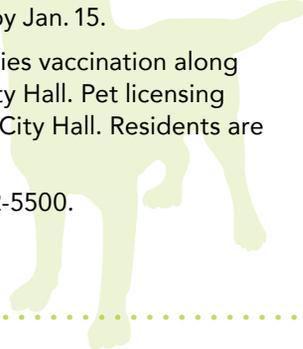
2017 pet registration

City ordinance requires that all cats and dogs over the age of six months be licensed. Licensing pets can protect them if they get lost.

In 2016, 612 pets were registered in the City of Merriam. Pet licenses are available for terms of one to three years and renewals are due on Jan. 1, 2017. Multi-year licenses provide a significant discount for pet owners with multi-year vaccinations. A late fee penalty of \$2 per month is added to all delinquent pet licensing fees for failure to renew by Jan. 15.

Owners must present proof of their pet's valid rabies vaccination along with their completed form to obtain a tag from City Hall. Pet licensing can be completed by mail, phone, or in-person at City Hall. Residents are allowed a maximum of three dogs and three cats.

For more information, contact City Hall at 913-322-5500.



SAVE-THE-DATE Merriam's next large-item pickup will be April 17–21

Large items such as furniture, appliances, carpets/rugs, and miscellaneous large items residents want to dispose of should be placed by the curb on the scheduled pickup day. For more information visit merriam.org.





Merriam snow removal program

When winter weather strikes, the Merriam Public Works Department is on alert.

During each winter event, two five-man crews remove snow and ice from more than 120 lane miles of roadway. Staff applies nearly 50 tons of material with each sweep through the city, using five full-size dump trucks and a heavy loader to handle the needed salt and sand.

During normal working hours, salting begins as soon as freezing precipitation occurs. Outside of normal working hours and on weekends, an hour is needed to assemble crews. Plowing the main streets and emergency routes begins as soon as snow accumulates to an appropriate depth. Once plowing begins, routes are plowed continuously until the snowfall lets up and roads are safe for driving.

The City of Merriam takes pride in providing the best snow removal of any surrounding cities, and we plan to maintain that reputation. For more information about the city's snow removal program, visit www.merriam.org, or call the Public Works Department at 913-322-5570.



Did You Know?

A live map showing snow removal progress will be available at merriam.org

Resident Profile

Name:

Larry Cisneros



Larry Cisneros built a house in the Switzer Meadows neighborhood 31 years ago, raised his family in Merriam, and retired from his career as a union pipefitter here. During his career Cisneros is proud to have worked on such landmarks as the George W. Bush Presidential Library and the Sprint Center.

Now, as a member of the Merriam Parks & Recreation Facilities Steering Committee, he has the opportunity to participate in discussions about what to do with some local landmarks — the Irene B. French Community Center and the Merriam Aquatic Center.

"Larry has been an active and engaged member of the Steering Committee, lending his vast building maintenance knowledge to various conversations throughout the process," Merriam Parks & Recreation Director Anna Slocum said.

Here's what Cisneros had to say about living in Merriam and his hopes for the future:

What's the best thing about living in Merriam?

I like the closeness of everything and the quiet here. The people are very friendly and we have a great public works system — there are never problems with the roads when it snows. We improved our parks by planting trees and making them more enjoyable for families. And our streets are in good shape. Everything looks nice and feels safe.

How do you think Merriam can improve?

I wish more people would take better care of their homes, and it would be nice to do something with the downtown area. We need more special places that would attract people to spend more time down there.

How did you get involved with the Parks & Recreation Facilities Steering Committee?

I spend a lot of time at the Community Center and work out there almost every day. I got to know people there and think it's good for the city to have one. It's a nice structure, but it's not suitable for use as a community center. The upgraded workout room is an improvement, but there are many other issues to address.

What would you like to see for the future of Merriam?

I'd like to see the city move into the 21st century with improved recreation amenities such as a community center and aquatic center, and upgrades to the housing stock. We need to invest in the community to draw younger families with kids, and keep families here.



Brunch with the Bunny

Saturday, April 8 // 10-11:30 a.m.

Irene B. French Community Center // 5701 Merriam Drive

Dear Easter Bunny, hopping here and there. Please hop over here. I've been waiting patiently to see you since last year! Grab your basket and bonnet to come visit with the Easter Bunny as we celebrate Easter and the spring season. Face painting, crafts, games, a light brunch and for sure an "egg hunt" will be part of the festivities. Thank you, EASTER BUNNY.

Ages 2-9 \$4 // person Early bird special until April 3

\$6 // person April 4-7

Class # 140205B2 Min/Max: 25/65



Hanging Basket Workshop

Friday, April 21 // 1-2 p.m.

Merriam Public Works Department // 6901 Knox

Do you admire those colorful hanging flower baskets that adorn the streets of Merriam in the spring and summer months? If so, this workshop is perfect for lawn and flower enthusiasts. Participants will receive a smaller version of the basket with necessary supplies and instruction to create their own. Dates are subject to change based on flower availability. Results may vary depending on care and weather conditions, with no guarantee that flowers will survive.

Ages 16+ \$40 // person Registration deadline: Friday, March 31

Class #220502B3 Min/Max: 12/25



National Volunteer Week

April 24–April 28

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."— Elizabeth Andrew

Staff at the Merriam Parks and Recreation Department appreciate the time and support given by volunteers. Throughout the year, volunteers help provide input by serving on various boards and assist in programs, services and special events for the community. Some of these include:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Parks and Recreation Advisory Board | Summer Sundays in Merriam |
| Merriam Park, Recreation and Community Center Foundation | Party in Your Park |
| Planning Commission | Pooch Paddle |
| Board of Zoning Appeals | Turkey Creek Car & Motorcycle Show |
| Board of Structural Appeals | Halloween Happenings |
| Daddy-Daughter Dance | Annual High School Art Exhibit |
| Heartland Artist Exhibit | Mayor's Tree Lighting |
| Brunch with the Bunny | Breakfast with Santa |
| Turkey Creek Festival | Streamway Trail Cleanup |
| | Adopt-a-Park |

To show appreciation, volunteers on record will receive an invitation to a party honoring their community contributions. Watch your mailbox for more details.



IRENE B. FRENCH COMMUNITY CENTER

The mission of the Merriam Parks and Recreation Department is to provide first class facilities and parks, and enhance the quality of life for all residents and visitors through educational, recreational and cultural opportunities.

Meet our Team

Facility Staff

Anna Slocum, Director
Dave Smothers, Assistant Director
Sara Thompson, Recreation Supervisor
Ingrid Berg, Assistant Recreation Coordinator
Lisa Naughton, Administrative Assistant
Dan Whitmill, Maintenance Worker II
Steve Derendinger, Maintenance Worker I
Tom Gist, Farmers' Market Coordinator
Diane Monroe, Farmers' Market Supervisor
Jennifer Reed, Fitness Specialist
Amy McClure, Aquatic Center Manager

Facility Supervisors

Diane • Shellie • Joe • Michelle
Bobby • Rose • Mark

Community Center Closures

Occasionally, portions of the Irene B. French Community Center may be closed for short periods of time for repairs, maintenance needs or specially-scheduled activities and holidays. Anticipated closures will be posted as early as possible.

Holidays and Closings

Christmas: December 25, 2016
New Year's Day: January 1, 2017
Easter: April 16, 2017

Connect

 /MERRIAM PARKS

Merriam Parks and Recreation

5701 Merriam Drive, Merriam, KS 66203
P: 913.322.5550 // F: 913.677.1409
annas@merriam.org
www.merriam.org/park

MONDAY-THURSDAY

8 a.m.-9 p.m.

FRIDAY

8 a.m.-5 p.m.

SATURDAY

8 a.m.-4 p.m.

SUNDAY

1-5 p.m.

Located in a renovated, historic school building, the 33,000-square foot Irene B. French Community Center is home to a majority of Merriam Parks and Recreation programs.

IBFCC Amenities

- NEWLY RENOVATED Fitness center with cardiovascular and strength training equipment
- Art Gallery with monthly exhibits
- Commercially equipped kitchen
- Conference room
- Dance studio with wood floor, mirrors and ballet barre
- Game room with pool table, foosball, ping-pong, big screen TV and Wii®
- Gymnasium with built-in stage
- Event space with Wi-Fi capabilities

Open Gym

Regularly-scheduled open gym times are set aside each week depending on availability. Weekly schedules are available at the front desk, online at www.merriam.org/park (Community Center tab/Open Gym), or by calling 913-322-5550.

To participate, all non-members entering the gymnasium must pay a daily admission fee. Youth or adult teams may not use open gym times to conduct practices, but may rent the gym according to rental policies.

\$3 // person Daily fee

Irene B. French Community Center Policies

Facility users are expected to respect community center property and fellow users. Destruction of property, profanity and abusive behavior will not be tolerated. Violators will be asked to leave the facility, and repeat offenders will have their privileges permanently revoked.

The use of tobacco products is prohibited in the community center and within 10 feet of the entrances.

The community center is not staffed to provide individual child supervision. Please do not drop children off and leave them unattended. Children 8 and under must be accompanied by a responsible person age 14 or older. No person under the age of 16 is allowed to participate in, or attend, adult fitness classes.

ID Card Admission Policy

Fitness center patrons must furnish a photo ID card with proof of residency. If no ID is available, an ID card can be provided with proper documentation for \$5. Residency information must be updated annually.

Program Instructors Needed

Turn your hobby or skill into a part-time job by teaching a class at the Community Center. Contact Sara Thompson at 913.322.5550 to discuss your idea for a new program!

Register Early!

Please register at least three (3) working days prior to the start date of the class to prevent cancellation due to low enrollment. Many of our classes fill early due to popularity.

Scholarships

A limited number of recreation scholarships are available to help defray the cost of class and membership registration fees. Limited to Merriam residents; low-income guidelines apply. For an application, contact Merriam Parks and Recreation Department at 913.322.5550.

Refund/ Cancellation/ Transfer Policy

The City of Merriam Parks and Recreation Department prides itself in providing first class recreational opportunities to the residents of Merriam. Although patrons have the desire to attend all sessions for which they are registered, there may be circumstances that prevent them from completing the program. Recognizing the need to provide assistance with these situations, programs, memberships and rental refunds will be handled in accordance with the policy posted on the website and available at the Irene B. French Community Center. All refunds are processed Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m. For purpose of point of notification, written requests that can be verified by date will be accepted during all hours of operation at the Irene B. French Community Center front desk. Refunds for transactions paid by credit card, regardless of the amount, will be credited to the account on the day the cancellation is approved. Transactions paid by cash or check will be reimbursed by check, unless less than \$10. Please allow up to three weeks for payment. Refunds less than \$10 will be reimbursed with cash and will require a signature from the person eligible for the refund. Administration reserves the right to review and alter policy as needed. Notification of change will be provided in writing on the website and posted at the Irene B. French Community Center front desk of any modifications to the policy.

The City of Merriam does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion or disability in the operation of any activity, program or service. Merriam Parks and Recreation is committed to making accommodations as required by the Americans With Disabilities Act. Requests for reasonable accommodations must be made to Merriam Parks and Recreation one week prior to the start of a program. Please indicate what accommodations are needed.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

The Merriam Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., at the Irene B. French Community Center. The board is comprised of one representative from each of the four city wards, two at-large positions, and one youth representative. The board is currently accepting applications to fill the youth position. Youth members must be Merriam residents, in high school, and available to participate in monthly meetings. Contact Anna Slocum at 913-322-5550 or email annas@merriam.org for more information.

WARDS

Suzanne Downey
Thelma Fowler
LaVera Howard
Kathy Stull

AT-LARGE

Tom Heffron
Katie Leary
Vacant
Vacant, youth

Community Center Foundation

Sharing in Your Community's Future

Established in 1988 as a means to provide support for Merriam recreation facilities, programs and parks, the Merriam Community Center Foundation has provided more than \$170,000 to support the Parks & Recreation Department. The Foundation's largest fundraising campaign is the Flags4Freedom event, held during the week of July 4. The Foundation also supports the arts in Merriam, annually donating a piece from the Heartland Artist Exhibition to the permanent collection hanging at the Irene B. French Community Center. Recent programs include scholarship assistance for Merriam Parks & Recreation programs and memberships; sponsorship of Summer Sundays in Merriam; new benches for Chatlain Park; and assistance in the renovation and expansion of the Tim Murphy Art Gallery.

Individuals or groups wanting to make a contribution in honor or memory of a loved one, should contact Anna Slocum at 913.322.5550 or email annas@merriam.org.

BOARD MEMBERS

Susan Hayden, President
Lori Hanson, Secretary
Nancy Hupp, Treasurer
Lanny Bachtle
Jane Doerflinger
Frank Dover
Carol Eubank
LaVera Howard
Kathy Rowe



COMMUNITY CENTER ROOM RENTALS

A great place for birthday parties, anniversary celebrations, wedding receptions, business meetings, banquets, corporate picnics, family reunions, and much more...

The Center's small classrooms, conference room, game room, kitchen facilities and outdoor shelters are all available for group rentals. Support equipment for business meetings and functions, including internet access in our classrooms can be provided.

Staff can provide details regarding room or park availability, rental fees and reservation deposits. Call 913.322.5550 or visit www.merriam.org/park for more information.



ROOM	Jenks Gymnasium	Hocker Grove	Campbell Room	Kessler Room
ROOM SIZE	43' x 64'	22' x 61'	20' x 61'	18' x 23'
CAPACITY*	200+	90	75	27

*Capacity varies depending upon selected room arrangement

OUTDOOR RENTAL SPACES

Rental Season: 1st Saturday in April–4th Monday in October. Call 913.322.5550 for availability.



New!

Brown Park
5040 Booker Drive

Tucked in the South Park neighborhood, this shelter provides eight picnic tables and a large grill perfect for all events. Amenities include: new playground and swings, walking trail, basketball court, and open green space.



Chatlain Park
6300 Carter Avenue

This 5.25-acre park provides access to the Turkey Creek Streamway Trail. The pavilion has eight picnic tables and a large grill. Amenities include new playground equipment, swings, open green space, and paved parking.



Merriam Marketplace
5740 Merriam Drive

This facility is perfect for corporate picnics, family reunions and other gatherings. Amenities include a bridge connecting to Turkey Creek Streamway Park Trail, electrical hookups, playground equipment and a sand volleyball court across the street at the Community Center. Tables and chairs are not provided.



Vavra Park
6114 Slater Street

This shelter is perfect for family gatherings. Nestled in a wooded area, the pavilion contains eight picnic tables and a large grill. Park amenities include new playground equipment, swings, walking paths, open green space, and is next to the Merriam Aquatic Center.



Waterfall Park
5191 Merriam Drive

Julius McFarlin Fields includes four fields for team practices. Fields may be reserved by the hour.

MERRIAM FARMERS' MARKET

The Farmers' Market at Merriam Marketplace
5740 Merriam Drive

2017 SATURDAYS May 6 – October 14 7 a.m.–1 p.m.
WEDNESDAYS June 7 – August 30 4–7 p.m.

Vendor Profile

The Merriam Farmers' Market will mark its 17th season in 2017. The market's success is largely due to the farmers and vendors that provide quality produce and goods for shoppers. Jim and Lynn Hayes of Shawnee, Kansas, have been vendors since the market first opened and are known by many frequent shoppers. Staff recently visited with Jim to find out what sparked his interest in farming.

What do you like about farming?

I love the independence; being your own boss and watching things grow.

Why do you farm?

I grew up with a farming background. As a small boy, I watched as my grandpa and uncles farmed in Harvey and Butler counties.

What do you do when you are not farming?

Construction. I'm a general contractor focusing on residential remodel and repair.

What do you like most about the Merriam Farmers' Market?

It is the best facility in town, with the best people, and everyone gets along

with each other. I like that it is also a dog-friendly market.

Your dogs are popular at the market.

What are their names?

Pete, Annie and Bunny are all rat terriers. Most Saturdays they will also go to the market to lend a helping hand. They get excited when they see us getting the van ready for market.



Vendor Name

Jim and Lynn Hayes

Besides the dogs, Jim and Lynn have a flock of chickens, two turkeys and three cats. They also have a place called Lynn's Garden Shop at 19100 West 59th Street in Shawnee, Kansas, that is open most days. They sell fresh produce, handmade cards, plate stands and much more at the shop. This year also marks the Hayes' 40th wedding anniversary! I guess you might say they are two peas in a pod. We look forward to having them back for years to come!

Become a Vendor at the Merriam Farmers' Market!

The award winning Merriam Farmers' Market is now accepting vendor applications for both Wednesdays and Saturdays of the 2017 season.

Merriam offers vendors one of the most beautiful covered facilities in the region.

For shoppers and visitors:

- Free, close and convenient paved parking
- Located in the downtown Merriam historic district
- Beautiful park-like environment with access to Turkey Creek Streamway and Werner Park
- FREE live entertainment on most Saturdays
- Monthly live chef demonstrations
- Restroom facilities
- 36 covered vendor spaces with access to electricity
- Convenient access from I-35, Johnson and Merriam Drives
- A market supervisor on duty each Saturday

Vendor Fees Per Stall

Wednesday	Saturday	
\$100	\$360	Full season
\$20	\$25	Daily (May, September, October)
\$20	\$40	Daily (June, July, August)

For more information about the Farmers' Market, including vendor information, call Merriam Parks & Recreation at 913-322-5550, or email daves@merriam.org.



TIM MURPHY ART GALLERY

21st Annual National Heartland Artist Exhibition

Saturday, March 4 – Saturday, April 1

Join us for the 21st Anniversary of the National Heartland Artist Exhibition, Merriam's largest art show of the year.

This national show draws artists from all corners of the United States — from New York to California! Not only will you find some of the best artists from across the nation, you will experience delicious food and great local musicians, sponsored by KC Strings.

The National Heartland Art Exhibition will be on display from March 4 through April 1 and viewable online at www.merriam.org/park. Interested artists must submit three digital images and \$45 prior to the Monday, January 10 deadline. **New this year, photography will be an accepted medium.** Applications are available online at www.merriam.org/park. Contact Dave Smothers at 913-322-5550, or email daves@merriam.org for more details.

A pre-Heartland Art Exhibit mixed-media workshop hosted by Juror/Judge Michael Walsh will be held Thursday, February 23 and Friday, February 24 from 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Participants will receive more than 14 hours of professional instruction for \$150. Cost includes breakfast, lunch and snacks. Classes are limited to 15 students, so register early as this workshop will sell out!

Please join us for an opening night reception on Saturday, March 4 from 5–7 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served with live music provided by KC Strings. Award ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. with over \$3,300 in prize money awarded.



2016 PURCHASE AWARD
"Broom Maker"
Michael Walsh

Parks&Rec // Art Classes

Limited Palette...Unlimited Possibilities

Two-day workshop with Michael Walsh

February 23–24, 2017, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

TOPICS: Exploring the Limited Palette
Investigating Values that Work in Concert
Expressing Harmonic Color

Michael's work can be described as heartfelt, poetic, expressive, truthful, luminous and visually pleasing. His ultimate goal is to achieve a narrative that is simple, eye catching, visceral and convincing. A collection of expressive marks within a component shape forms its identity, yet reads with the impression of realism. Moreover, Michael's technique is to apply his pigment with gradations of thin to thick (fat over lean) from background to foreground within the visual plane. The beauty of one simple brush stroke has the power to seize the viewer's attention for minutes.

Cost: \$150 (two days, 14 hours of instruction, includes meals)

Location: Irene B. French Community Center

Class #120302M7

Facing Portrait Drawing

Anyone can draw compelling portraits by following easy-to-learn steps. Attendees will start with simple shapes and build up to a full value drawing. Beginners welcome, instruction will be tailored based on artist abilities. Bring a printed photograph of someone you wish to draw.

DATES	TIME	FEE	CLASS #
January 18 & 25	5-8 p.m.	\$55	120302K1
February 15 & 22	5-8 p.m.	\$55	120302K2
March 22 & 29	5-8 p.m.	\$55	120302K3

All supplies included.

Instructor: Matthew Krawcheck

Min/Max: 3/12



Irene B. French
Community Center
3rd floor

MONDAY-THURSDAY
8 a.m.–9 p.m.

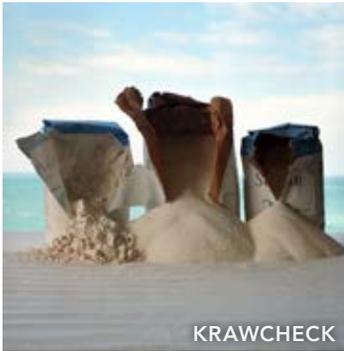
FRIDAY
8 a.m.–5 p.m.

SATURDAY
8 a.m.–4 p.m.

SUNDAY
1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Upcoming Exhibits

The Tim Murphy Art Gallery hosts monthly exhibits by local and regional artists. Opening night receptions are at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. All exhibits are free to the public and many artists will display originals and prints for sale. Exhibits can be viewed online at www.merriam.org/park.



KRAWCHECK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5 –
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

“A Healthy Perspective on
the Unexpected”

Matthew Krawcheck
Sara Krawcheck
Chris Langseth



MOWE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2 –
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

“Canvas and Camera”

Connie Mowe
Bernadine Miller

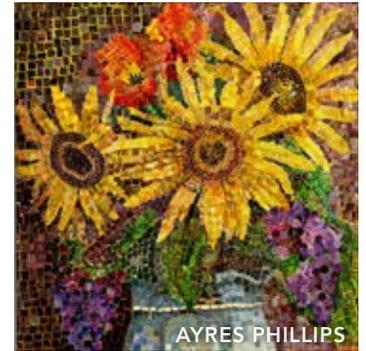


2016 BEST IN SHOW

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 –
SATURDAY, APRIL 1

“National Heartland
Artist Exhibition”

Featuring photography
for the first time. Opening
reception will be on Saturday,
March 4 from 5–7 p.m.



AYRES PHILLIPS

THURSDAY, APRIL 6 –
SATURDAY, APRIL 29

“Bits and Pieces”

Charlene Pryor
Candi Ayres Phillips

The mission of the Tim Murphy Art Gallery is to increase public awareness of the visual arts by providing a setting for exhibition and education. Now in its 21st year of operation, the Art Gallery recently underwent a major expansion and renovation doubling in size! The space features fully restored 1911 hardwood floors, acoustic fabric walls, LED lighting and dedicated reception space.

Tim Murphy
ART GALLERY

Call for Artists

The Parks & Recreation Department is now accepting applications for 2018 monthly art gallery shows at the Tim Murphy Art Gallery, located on the third floor of the Irene B. French Community Center. The submission deadline is July 10, 2017. Interested artists may submit five digitals of their work. All exhibited paintings and photographs should be matted and framed, unless using a wrap-around canvas technique.

Considered media includes: photography, watercolor, pastel, oil or acrylic, ceramics, sculpture, fiber arts, and glass. At least 90 percent of work for the show must be for sale. The city's commission is 30 percent on all sales during the show.

For more information, contact Dave Smothers at daves@merriam.org or call 913-322-5550. An online application can be found at www.merriam.org/park.



FITNESS CENTER

Irene B. French Community Center, 1st floor

MONDAY-THURSDAY	8 a.m.–9 p.m.
FRIDAY	8 a.m.–5 p.m.
SATURDAY	8 a.m.–4 p.m.
SUNDAY	1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Start the new year off right with a reasonably-priced fitness center membership. Visit the completely renovated, 1,200 square-foot fitness center in the Irene B. French Community Center. Enjoy a relaxed and friendly environment that's a great place to workout.

Merriam Parks Winter Walk *New!*

Challenge yourself to stay active this winter! Let the Fitness Center at the Irene B French Community Center keep you moving. Travel the distance of Merriam's parks and beyond with the help of your passport to document parks visited, and the new LifeFitness equipment.

Starting in Brown Park (5040 Booker Drive), use a treadmill, elliptical trainer or life cycle bicycle to track the distance traveled as you simulate walking, running or cycling along the paths of all the beautiful parks, the Turkey Creek Streamway Trail, and throughout Johnson County. Get your passport stamped and track your progress on maps found in the Fitness Center.

Have fun, stay active and challenge yourself this winter.

For more details, visit the front desk at the Community Center today!



Fitness Center Equipment

Strength

- Life/Hammer Strength selectorized equipment
- Dual adjustable pulley machine
- Smith machine
- Adjustable bench
- Dumbbell rack
- Free weight dumbbells
- Kettlebells
- Stability balls

Cardiovascular

- LifeFitness treadmills (4)
- StepMill (1)
- LifeFitness recumbent bicycle (1)
- LifeFitness upright bicycle (1)
- LifeFitness elliptical (2)
- SciFit total body recumbent stepper (1)
- LifeFitness row trainer (1)

Equipment includes a 900mHz receiver to select from your choice of three televisions.

*Not ready to commit to a membership?
Try out the center for a day on us!*

DAILY PASS FEE:

- \$5 // person Resident***
- \$6 // person Non-Resident**

**Valid Kansas driver's license or state ID required with current Merriam address*



FITNESS CENTER MEMBERSHIPS

Family and individual fitness center memberships are available to both Merriam residents and non-residents, with no contracts required. Youth ages 13-15, must complete a mandatory equipment orientation with a fitness specialist and must be accompanied by a person 18 or older.

Membership includes:

- Unlimited use of the fitness center
- Open gym activities at scheduled times
- Use of game room, locker and shower room privileges
- Fitness center equipment orientation
- Fitness evaluation by appointment with our fitness specialist
- Updated personal programs

	MONTHLY		QUARTERLY		ANNUAL	
	RESIDENT*	NON-RESIDENT	RESIDENT*	NON-RESIDENT	RESIDENT*	NON-RESIDENT
ADULT (16+)	\$25	\$30	\$60	\$70	\$190	\$230
SENIOR (60+)	\$20	\$25	\$45	\$55	\$150	\$175
HOUSEHOLD	\$30	\$40	\$80	\$95	\$265**	\$330

DAILY PASS FEE: \$5 // Resident \$6 // Non-Resident

*Proof of residency required **Senior Household (60+) \$225

Who qualifies for resident fees?

- Any person owning taxable real estate in the City of Merriam
- Any person permanently residing in the City of Merriam

What can be used as proof of residency?

- A valid Kansas driver's license or state ID with current address.

Be a regular Fitness Center user and win a FREE Membership!

Each quarter, to show appreciation for "loyal" health club members who use facilities on a continuous basis throughout the year. We will hold a drawing from our Fitness Center memberships. One lucky member will receive a FREE "single" quarterly membership. To qualify you must be a health club member for at least two consecutive quarters.

Renew your membership online at www.merriam.org/park.

ORIENTATION & PERSONAL FITNESS

Personalized Fitness Assessment & Equipment Orientation

A certified fitness specialist is available by appointment for 60 minute sessions to:

- Establish appropriate weight and seat settings for all the LifeFitness machines
- Familiarize users with cardiovascular equipment
- Assess functional range of motion and basic mobility
- Recommend a personalized starting workout based on activity levels and fitness goals.

Free for Fitness Center Members

Standardized Four-Part Fitness Evaluation

Designed to assess and evaluate general fitness level. These four simple fitness tasks can test your cardiovascular, upper body strength, abdominal strength and flexibility.

- Three-minute step test
- One-minute sit-up test
- One-minute push-up test
- Hamstring flexibility test

Free for Fitness Center Members

Personal Training

Hourly personal training sessions are available with Fitness Specialist Jennifer Reed:

\$25 // hour Members
\$50 // hour Non-members

Call 913-322-5550 or email mprdfitness@gmail.com to schedule an appointment.

REGISTRATION

Registration begins on **December 5, 2016** **CALL** 913.322.5550 **ONLINE** www.merriam.org/park **VISIT** Irene B. French Community Center

Challenger Sports Tiny Tykes

Tiny Tykes is a NEW and EXCITING program focusing on the development of children aged 2–5 years old. Our soccer experts and child development professionals have designed an innovative curriculum; introducing your young soccer stars to the basic soccer skills, while developing strength, balance, coordination, listening skills and teamwork. Our British coaches are experts at working with young children, and will combine soccer with fun games, stories, and music; keeping your children entertained and enthused to return the next week. **Register at registration.challengersports.com or by calling 913.599.4884.** Location: Jenks Gym



The Ki Society

Enjoy a new experience by learning the five disciplines of the Ki Society. These include Ki-Breathing, Ki-Meditation, Aikido, Kiatsu, and Bell Meditation, which can be lifelong skills promoting a fundamental awareness of the natural state of being. Please wear clothing appropriate for mild exercise.

Location: Hocker Grove // Instructor: Montgomery

Nothing but Net in Merriam

We have the perfect "stocking stuffer" for your basketball player. Sean Birdsong, son of former NBA all star Otis Birdsong will take it courtside. The three-day camp will teach the fundamentals of basketball and provide techniques for boys and girls looking to further their basketball skill set. For those new to the game, Sean will introduce them to the basics such as dribbling, passing, shooting and development of hand-eye coordination. Location: Jenks Gym // Instructor: Sean Birdsong, former NCAA DII player Lincoln University

Parent/Child Pickleball

Named after the co-inventor's dog, "Pickles," this fun game is best described as a small version of tennis, but is played on a badminton-sized court with a ball similar to a whiffle ball and a large-head racquet. Easy to learn for all ages and skill levels.

Location: Jenks Gym // Instructor: Aldridge

Preschool Indoor Playground

Pretend you're a truck driver, policeman, motorcycle driver and more. At Preschool Indoor Playground there are Little Tyke® toys, a kitchen and bouncies. Kids have fun, make new friends, can run and be loud. Parents must supervise their own children during playground time. Location: Jenks Gym. \$2 // child. Punch cards available: \$10 for 10 visits.

JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS
Library

Game Room

Our game room is available for use on a "drop-in" basis. The game room includes lounge furniture, a pool table, ping-pong table, foosball table, Wii® gaming station with Wii® sports, and a 52" high-definition television. **Children age 8 and under must be accompanied by a person age 14 or older.**

Daily Fee: \$2 // person. Use of game room equipment is included.

CLASS	CLASS #	AGES	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	SU	TIME	DATES	FEE	DROP IN	MIN/MAX
Challenger Sports Tiny Tykes	-	2-3			●					11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	Feb 1–March 8	\$75	-	8/35
Challenger Sports Tiny Tykes	-	4-5			●					12:15–1 p.m.	Feb 1–March 8	\$75	-	8/35
Challenger Sports Tiny Tykes	-	2-3				●				9–9:45 a.m.	March 30–May 4	\$75	-	8/35
Challenger Sports Tiny Tykes	-	4-5				●				10–10:45 a.m.	March 30–May 4	\$75	-	8/35
The Ki Society	110904A7	5-12		●						6–6:50 p.m.	Jan. 10–Feb. 28	\$35	\$7	1/12
The Ki Society	110904A6	5-12		●						6–6:50 p.m.	Mar. 14–May 2	\$35	\$7	1/12
Nothing but Net in Merriam	111009B6	K-1st	●	●	●					3–4 p.m.	Dec. 27–29	\$60	-	10/25
Nothing but Net in Merriam	111009B7	2-4th	●	●	●					4–5:30 p.m.	Dec. 27–29	\$70	-	10/25
Nothing but Net in Merriam	111009B8	5-8th	●	●	●					5:30–7:30 p.m.	Dec. 27–29	\$80	-	10/25
Parent/Child Pickleball	141006P1	8+			●					6:30–7:30 p.m.	Mar. 1–Mar. 29	\$45*	-	4/8
Preschool Indoor Playground	-	0-5		●						9:30–11:30 a.m.	Every Tuesday	-	\$2	-
Game Room	-		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	Building hours	Ongoing	-	\$2	-

*Price per couple

BIRTHDAY PACKAGES!

Host your child's birthday party here!

All packages are for two hours during regular business hours.

For more information and availability, call 913.322.5550.

PRESCHOOL PACKAGE #1

Includes the preschool playground setup in the gym with tables and chairs for 20.

\$116 // MERRIAM RESIDENT

\$145 // NON-RESIDENT

Intended for children ages 5 and under.

PRESCHOOL PACKAGE #2

Includes the preschool playground setup in the gym plus the use of a multi-purpose room with maximum seating of 75.

\$144 // MERRIAM RESIDENT

\$180 // NON-RESIDENT

Intended for children ages 5 and under.

GAME ROOM PACKAGE

Includes use of all activities and equipment in game room, and a separate party room with seating for 24. Game room includes a pool table, ping-pong table, foosball table, Wii gaming system, and a 52" high-definition television.

\$65 // MERRIAM RESIDENT

\$85 // NON-RESIDENT

Intended for children ages 8 and up.

SPORTS PACKAGE

Includes the gymnasium and a separate party room with seating for 24 people. Equipment available for basketball, volleyball and pickleball.

\$60 // MERRIAM RESIDENT

\$70 // NON-RESIDENT

Intended for children ages 5 and up.

Parks&Rec // Adult Enrichment Classes



Hanging Basket Workshop

Do you admire those colorful hanging flower baskets that adorn the streets of Merriam in the spring and summer months? If so, this workshop is perfect for lawn and flower enthusiasts. Participants will receive a smaller version of the basket with necessary supplies and instruction to create their own. Dates are subject to change based on flower availability. Results may vary depending on care and weather conditions, with no guarantee that flowers will survive.

Friday, April, 21, 1-2 p.m. // Min/Max: 12/25 // Fee: \$40

Location: Merriam Public Works Department, 6901 Knox

Registration Deadline: Friday, March 31

Class #220502B3

Ki Society Seminar with Koichi Kashiwaya Sensei

The Midland Ki Society is hosting a spring seminar with Kashiwaya Sensei, an 8th degree black belt in Ki Aikido. This is an exciting opportunity to experience the coordination of mind and body while performing Aikido techniques. Participants should be actively practicing Ki Aikido, or have special permission from your Head Instructor to attend.

Saturday & Sunday, March 11-12, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Min/Max: 8/50 // Fee: \$65

Location: Jenks Gym/Campbell Room // Class #120904W1

Instructor: Kashiwaya Sensei

Yoga in the Gallery

Join us for the "art of yoga" in the Tim Murphy Art Gallery. This morning workshop is gentle nature, open to all levels of yoga practitioners with breath at the center of practice. The unique setting allows for a "sneak peak" of the Heartland Art Exhibit. Please bring your own yoga mat.

Saturday, March 4, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. // Min/Max: 6/50 // Fee: \$5

Location: Tim Murphy Art Gallery // Class #120803G0

Instructor: Duran

Parks&Rec // Adult Classes

BOGO FIT: With the beginning of a new year many of us make resolutions or goals to exercise more. Let us help you with that goal. Not sure you want to commit to an eight week session of a particular class? You and a friend can try any of the fitness classes listed below at the drop in rate—**BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!** (Good through 1/31)

FITNESS

Belly Dance—Beginning

Learn basic belly dancing techniques to build strength, flexibility, and stamina. No experience required. Wear comfortable clothing, bare feet or dance slippers.

Location: Merriam Park // Instructor: Field

Belly Dance—Intermediate

Challenge yourself and build the sharp hips, gorgeous arms and smooth undulations that make belly dancing so much fun, and such a great exercise. Wear comfortable clothing, bare feet or dance slippers, and get ready to build strength and grace, and have a lot of fun.

Location: Merriam Park // Instructor: Field

Belly Dance—Advanced

This class builds on the belly dancing technique and concepts taught in Beginning Belly Dance. Work on flexibility and stamina, combinations, layers, and choreography, as well as group improvisational format belly dance. Performance opportunities are offered throughout the year. Experience is required for this class. Please email the instructor at amaraduende@yahoo.com with questions.

Location: Merriam Park // Instructor: Field

Fat Burn Challenge

Achieve the perfect balance between strength and flexibility. No guts, no glory in this total body workout. Class incorporates drills to enhance agility, speed, power, strength, and quickness. A variety of circuits will be featured that include cardio and weight lifting. Each class will cover all fitness needs.

Location: Jenks Gym // Instructor: Cullum

YOGA

Gentle Yoga

Nourish your body and mind while being gentle on your body. This class is perfect for those who need modified poses, but want maximum benefits. Designed for older students or those with ongoing chronic conditions, this slower paced yoga class is gentle and works to provide increased mobility and decrease pain levels. A doctor's note is requested.

Location: Merriam Park // Instructor: Duran

Yoga Express

Exercise your body while freeing your mind from the stress of everyday life. Take a mid-day break and treat yourself to the relaxation you deserve while enhancing your body. Using props such as blocks and blankets to assure proper form and body alignment, leave stress at the door.

Location: Merriam Park // Instructor: Duran

Iyengar Yoga—Level 1

A derivative of Hatha Yoga, Iyengar Yoga puts an emphasis on detail, precision and alignment in the performance of posture and breath control. The development of strength, mobility and stability is gained through the use of props.

Location: Merriam Park // Instructor: Duran

Iyengar Yoga—Level 2

For continuing students who participated in the Iyengar Level 1 Yoga class two or more times, or have previous yoga experience.

Location: Merriam Park // Instructor: Duran

Iyengar Yoga—Level 3

For students capable of performing inversions at the wall with ease.

Location: Merriam Park // Instructor: Duran

AND MORE

Dancing in Merriam

Is a family relative having a wedding and your dance steps are rusty, or maybe you want to revive a past hobby? This recreational class will help you learn fundamental skills and techniques of a variety of dances such as ballroom, cha-cha, salsa and more. It's fun and good exercise, too.

Location: Hocker Grove // Instructor: Frazier

The Ki Society

Enjoy a new experience by learning the five disciplines of the Ki Society. These include Ki-Breathing, Ki-Meditation, Aikido, Kiatsu, and Bell Meditation, which can be a lifelong skill promoting a fundamental awareness of the natural state of being. Please wear clothing appropriate for mild exercise.

Location: Hocker Grove // Instructor: Montgomery

Parent/Child Pickleball

Named after the co-inventor's dog, "Pickles," this fun game is best described as a small version of tennis, but is played on a badminton-sized court with a ball similar to a whiffle ball and a large-head racquet. Easy to learn for all ages and skill levels.

Location: Jenks Gym // Instructor: Aldridge

Pickleball: Drop-in Play

Part tennis, part badminton, part ping pong, all fun! This easy-to-learn, game of eye-hand coordination is growing in popularity nationwide. All equipment provided; just bring a partner and a fun attitude!

Location: Jenks Gym

Yoshokai Aikido

Loosely translated, Aikido means "the way of harmony with nature or universal energy." Aikido is a way of studying harmony through physical movements, as well as a self-defense technique that focuses on attention to detail and form.

Location: Campbell // Instructor: Duran



REGISTRATION

Registration begins on **CALL** **ONLINE** **VISIT**
 December 5, 2016 913.322.5550 www.merriam.org/park Irene B. French Community Center

CLASS	CLASS #	AGE	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	TIME	DATES	FEE	DROP IN	MIN/MAX
Belly Dance–Beginner	120807A3	16+		●					6:30–7:30 p.m.	Jan. 10–Feb. 28	\$70	\$10	3/11
Belly Dance–Beginner	120807A5	16+		●					6:30–7:30 p.m.	March 14–May 2	\$70	\$10	3/11
Belly Dance–Intermediate	120807B5	16+		●					7:35–8:35 p.m.	Jan. 10–Feb. 28	\$80	\$12	3/11
Belly Dance–Intermediate	120807B6	16+		●					7:35–8:35 p.m.	March 14–May 2	\$80	\$12	3/11
Belly Dance–Advanced	120807A4	16+			●				7–9 p.m.	Jan. 11–March 1	\$80	\$12	3/11
Belly Dance–Advanced	120807A6	16+			●				7–9 p.m.	March 15–May 3	\$80	\$12	3/11
Fat Burn Challenge	120802S7	16+		●		●			5:45–6:45 p.m.	Jan. 10–March 2	\$48	\$7	6/20
Fat Burn Challenge	120802S8	16+		●		●			5:45–6:45 p.m.	March 14–May 4	\$48	\$7	6/20
Gentle Yoga	120803F1	16+	●						6–7:25 p.m.	Jan. 9–Feb. 27	\$84	\$15	3/11
Gentle Yoga	120803F2	16+	●						6–7:25 p.m.	March 13–May 1	\$84	\$15	3/11
Gentle Yoga	120803F3	16+				●			9–10:25 a.m.	Jan. 12–March 2	\$84	\$15	3/11
Gentle Yoga	120803F4	16+				●			9–10:25 a.m.	March 16–May 4	\$84	\$15	3/11
Yoga Express	120803C5	16+		●		●			12–12:45 p.m.	Jan. 10–March 2	\$54	\$7	3/11
Yoga Express	120803C6	16+		●		●			12–12:45 p.m.	March 14–May 4	\$54	\$7	3/11
Iyengar Yoga–Level 1	120803R5	16+			●				6–7:30 p.m.	Jan. 11–March 1	\$72	\$15	3/11
Iyengar Yoga–Level 1	120803R6	16+			●				6–7:30 p.m.	March 15–May 3	\$72	\$15	3/11
Iyengar Yoga–Level 2	120803F5	16+		●					9–10:25 a.m.	Jan. 10–Feb. 28	\$84	\$15	3/11
Iyengar Yoga–Level 2	120803F6	16+		●					9–10:25 a.m.	March 14–May 2	\$84	\$15	3/11
Iyengar Yoga–Level 3	120803F7	16+	●						7:30–8:55 p.m.	Jan. 9–Feb. 27	\$84	\$15	3/11
Iyengar Yoga–Level 3	120803F8	16+	●						7:30–8:55 p.m.	March 13–May 1	\$84	\$15	3/11
Dancing in Merriam	120602A7	16+	●						7–9 p.m.	Jan. 9–Feb. 13	\$60*	–	3/9
Dancing in Merriam	120602A8	16+	●						7–9 p.m.	Feb. 27–April 3	\$60*	–	3/9
Dancing in Merriam	120602A9	16+	●						7–9 p.m.	April 17–May 22	\$60*	–	3/9
The Ki Society	120904A8	16+		●					7–8:30 p.m.	Jan. 10–Feb. 28	\$35	\$7	1/12
The Ki Society	120904A9	16+		●					7–8:30 p.m.	March 14–May 2	\$35	\$7	1/12
Parent/Child Pickleball	141006P1	8+			●				6:30–7:30 p.m.	March 1–March 29	\$45*	–	4/8
Pickleball	–	16+	●						4–6:30 p.m.	ongoing	–	\$1	–
Pickleball	–	16+					●		8:15–11:15 a.m.	ongoing**	–	\$1	–
Yoshokai Aikido	120902B0	16+				●			6–7 p.m.	Jan. 12–March 2	\$56	\$10	3/10
Yoshokai Aikido	120902B7	16+				●			6–7 p.m.	March 16–May 4	\$56	\$10	3/10
Yoshokai Aikido	120902B8	16+					●		10–11 a.m.	Jan 14–March 4	\$56	\$10	3/10
Yoshokai Aikido	120902B9	16+					●		10–11 a.m.	March 18–May 6	\$56	\$10	3/10

*Fee per couple **No Pickleball on February 25, March 4, or April 8.

Parks&Rec // 50+ Programs & Classes



Congregate Meals

Monday–Friday

Participate in the Johnson County Nutrition Program Neighborhood Center at the Irene B. French Community Center. This noon meal program is offered on weekdays; home delivered meals are available for anyone who is unable to come to the meal site. For information about the program, or for a reservation, please contact the site manager at 913.677.2048.

A donation for meals is requested.

Location: Hocker Grove Room

Merriam 50+ Club

1st & 3rd Fridays

Meet at the Irene B. French Community Center on the first and third Fridays of each month from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Join your friends and neighbors for food, fun, and a weekly program. New members are always welcome! For more information, contact Cecil Waage at 913.236.9866.

Location: Campbell Room

“Boomer Buzz”

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Merriam Parks and Recreation Department sends out a newsletter with listings of bi-monthly special events, programs and classes, dedicated to the 50 and better age group. To be placed on the mailing list call 913.322.5550.



B.I.N.G.O.

Second Thursdays // 1:30–3:30 p.m.

January 12: Popcorn Bingo

February 9: Mardi Gras Bingo

March 9: Lawn and Garden Bingo

April 13: Easter Bingo

All “Bs,” I- 29, Black out, we call them all and celebrate with a different theme each month. Players receive three cards for 15 different games, plus a snack and beverages. Prizes include gift cards and consumables. Don’t miss out on shouting “BINGO!”

\$3//person

Location: Jenks Gym

AARP Smart Driver Course

Saturdays, April 1 and April 8 // 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

“R” is for reverse, “D” is for drive. Some things don’t change, but our reflexes do as we mature. Vehicles are very different now than even just a decade ago! Hone your driving skills with this smart driver course. Pre-registration is required. Payment by check only, payable to AARP.

\$15 // AARP Member

\$20 // Non-Member

Location: Kessler Room Class #330502G5

Silver Screen Matinée

Wednesdays // 1 p.m.

Let’s all go to the movies!

Join us every Wednesday for a recent release or an old favorite.

Schedules are available at the front desk and highlighted in the bi-monthly “Boomer Buzz” newsletter. Bring a friend or neighbor, sit back and we’ll do the rest. Free popcorn is provided the last showing of each month. Requests for future films encouraged. Movies are subject to change due to availability.

FREE

Location: Game Room

Did you know?

878 seniors attended

52 movies in 2016,

up from 742 in 2015.

5,939 seniors attended

congregate meals in 2016,

up from 3,591 in 2015.



REGISTRATION

Registration begins on **CALL** **ONLINE** **VISIT**
 December 5, 2016 913.322.5550 www.merriam.org/park Irene B. French Community Center

Ageless Yoga

Yoga, more than any other exercise, can be tailored to fit seniors. Often this age group suffers from multiple conditions such as high blood pressure, arthritis and poor sleep. Yoga can help alleviate these conditions by combining poses, with relaxation and breathing techniques, to improve overall health.

Location: Merriam Park Room // Instructor: McMillan

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program (AFEP)

Formerly Flexercise

Keep moving with this low-impact physical activity program proven to reduce pain and decrease stiffness. This recreational, chair-based exercise class includes range-of-motion exercises that are suitable for every fitness level and ability.

Location: Jenks Gym // \$3 donation is suggested. Registration is not required.

Chair Yoga

Chair yoga is a gentle form of yoga practiced while sitting in a chair, or standing and using a chair for support. This is beneficial for anyone — it deepens flexibility, strengthens personal body awareness, and helps reduce tension. The instructor also teaches many yoga poses and breathing techniques. Chair yoga is a great way to relax, from head to toe.

Location: Merriam Park Room // Instructor: Duran

Pickleball

Pickleball combines skills used in playing tennis, badminton and ping pong. It is a fun, easy way to learn a game that provides a new way to be active and get some exercise. Equipment available.

Location: Jenks Gym

Wii® Bowling

Bowlers always have “time to spare,” so join us and try your hand at Wii® bowling. No special shoes or balls required. Whether you’re a semi-pro or a newbie, either way you’re sure to have fun. If bowling is “right up your alley,” this is the game for you! All equipment provided.

Location: Game Room

CLASS	CLASS #	AGES	M	T	W	TH	F	SA	TIME	DATES*	FEE	DROP IN	MIN/MAX
Ageless Yoga	130803E1	50+			●				9–10:15 a.m.	Jan. 11–March 1	\$45	\$7	4/8
Ageless Yoga	130803E2	50+			●				9–10:15 a.m.	March 15–May 3	\$45	\$7	4/8
AFEP	No Registration	50+	●		●		●		10–10:45 a.m.	ongoing*	–	\$3	–
Chair Yoga	130803D5	50+		●		●			11–11:45 a.m.	Jan. 10–March 2	\$48	\$7	6/11
Chair Yoga	130803D6	50+		●		●			11–11:45 a.m.	March 14–May 4	\$48	\$7	6/11
Pickleball	No Registration	16+						●	8:15–11:15 a.m.	ongoing	–	\$1	–
Pickleball	No Registration	16+	●						4–6:30 p.m.	ongoing	–	\$1	–
Wii Bowling	131202A5	50+					●		10–11:30 a.m.	Jan. 6–Feb. 3	\$3	–	6/16
Wii Bowling	131202A6	50+					●		10–11:30 a.m.	Feb. 17–March 17	\$3	–	6/16
Wii Bowling	131202A7	50+					●		10–11:30 a.m.	March 31–April 28	\$3	–	6/16

*No class on January 16

FEATURED PARK

Brown Park

5040 Booker

In an effort to raise awareness of Merriam's beloved parks and parks improvements, this new "Featured Park" section will appear in each issue of Highlights. Let us know about your visits to the city's parks by posting on the Merriam Parks and Recreation facebook page.

To begin the series, we'll go to Brown Park, a 3.68-acre linear park located at 5040 Booker. Merriam invested nearly \$300,000 in the past three years to rejuvenate and update this park. Improvements include: new play equipment, new pavilion, picnic areas and signage, as well as smaller features such as new grills, picnic tables, drinking fountain and waste / recycling receptacles. Rent the pavilion for events, starting in Spring 2017. Look for improvements in all Merriam parks!

Prior to recent updates, decades of work went into creating the Brown Park we know and enjoy. Initially it was purchased by the City of Merriam in July 1975 for \$1 from the Urban Renewal Agency of Merriam. It consisted of eight lots in two blocks in the South Park subdivision. The park was named for Esther Brown, a local resident who organized citizen support for the 1949 Webb v. School District 90 case. This case set the background for the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education school desegregation case.



The park remained the same size for 20 years, until a lot was purchased from Joyce Brown in March 1995 for \$29,750. Exactly eleven years later, in March 2006, an additional lot was purchased from Ernest and Gladys Gay for \$136,000. In July 2007, in an effort to expand green space at this park, the city agreed to lease .84 acres from South Gate Lodge, the current Adopt-a-Park sponsor for Brown Park.

The City of Merriam makes it a priority to create places that invite interaction between neighbors and visitors, while providing activities that draw people together. Maintaining vibrant parks that enhance our community and bring people together is not a simple undertaking, but the community benefits are profound. Come explore Brown Park and enjoy the improvements made to create a place you will want to visit time and time again.

MERRIAM PARKS

Daily park hours are from Sunrise to Sunset

			ACREAGE	STREAMWAY TRAIL ACCESS	PAVED PARKING	WALKING PATH	PICNIC TABLES	GRILLS	TENNIS COURTS	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	BASKETBALL COURT	PICNIC SHELTER	RESTROOM
1	Brown Memorial Park	5040 BOOKER DRIVE	3.68		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
2	Campbell Park	9674 W. 61ST STREET	1.16	●	●		●	●		●			
3	Chatlain Park	6300 CARTER AVENUE	5.25	●	●	●	●	●		●		●	●
4	Merriam Historic Plaza	6304 E. FRONTAGE ROAD	1		●	●							●
5	Merriam Marketplace	5740 MERRIAM DRIVE	3.91	●	●		●					●	●
6	Quail Creek Park	7024 GRANDVIEW AVENUE	5.25			●	●	●		●			
7	Turkey Creek Streamway Trail	MULTIPLE ACCESS POINTS	36.91	●	●	●							
8	Vavra Park	6114 SLATER STREET	4.37		●	●	●	●		●		●	●
9	Waterfall Park	5191 MERRIAM	15	●	●	●							●
10	Werner Park	5750 MERRIAM DRIVE	2.1	●		●	●	●					
11	Antioch Park	6501 ANTIOCH ROAD	44		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Turkey Creek Streamway Trail

The section of trail that follows Turkey Creek in Merriam is approximately 4 miles of paved, multi-use trail running from 75th Street to Antioch Road. The Merriam trail route passes through wooded areas, a butterfly garden, the AT&T pocket park and several larger neighborhood parks.

Paved parking and access points are provided at the 75th Street entrance, Chatlain Park, Campbell Park, Merriam Marketplace, and Waterfall Park. The trail continues into Overland Park by traveling along Antioch.



Turkey Creek Streamway Trail

Distances between locations in miles.

Trail mileage markers are available every 1/2 mile.

Emergency (E911) trail markers are available every 1/4 mile.

		WATERFALL	WERNER	CAMPBELL	CHATLAIN	BUTTERFLY GARDEN	POCKET PARK	EDELWEISS	75TH STREET
WATERFALL	9	X	0.96	1.47	2.03	2.84	3.24	3.49	3.66
WERNER	10	0.96	X	.051	1.07	1.87	2.28	2.53	2.7
CAMPBELL	2	1.47	0.51	X	.056	1.37	1.77	2.02	2.19
CHATLAIN	3	2.03	1.07	0.56	X	0.81	1.12	1.46	1.63
BUTTERFLY GARDEN	🦋	2.84	1.87	1.37	0.81	X	0.40	0.65	0.83
POCKET PARK	🏠	3.24	2.28	1.77	1.21	0.40	X	0.25	0.42
EDELWEISS	🏠	3.49	2.53	2.02	1.46	0.65	0.25	X	0.17
75TH STREET		3.66	2.7	2.19	1.63	0.83	0.42	0.17	X

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- DECEMBER 1** "High School Visual Arts Competition" Opening Reception 7 p.m. IBFCC
- DECEMBER 3** Breakfast with Santa 10–11:15 a.m. IBFCC
- DECEMBER 3** Sundown with Santa/Mayor's Tree Lighting 5:30 p.m. MMP
- DECEMBER 5** Registration begins for Parks & Rec classes
- DECEMBER 12** City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- DECEMBER 25** Christmas—City Hall and Community Center closed
- DECEMBER 26** City Hall closed for Christmas

JANUARY

- JANUARY 1** New Years Day—Community Center closed
- JANUARY 2** City Hall closed
- JANUARY 3–6** Holiday tree disposal pickup
- JANUARY 5** "A Healthy Perspective on the Unexpected" Opening Reception 7 p.m. IBFCC
- JANUARY 9** City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- JANUARY 16** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—City Hall closed
- JANUARY 23** City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- JANUARY 24** Parks & Rec Advisory Board Meeting 6 p.m. IBFCC

FEBRUARY

- FEBRUARY 2** "Canvas and Camera" Opening Reception 7 p.m. IBFCC
- FEBRUARY 11** Daddy-Daughter Candyland Dance 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. IBFCC
- FEBRUARY 13** City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- FEBRUARY 25** Hats Off to Dr. Seuss 10–11:30 a.m. IBFCC
- FEBRUARY 27** City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- FEBRUARY 28** Parks & Rec Advisory Board Meeting 6 p.m. IBFCC

MARCH

- MARCH 4** Yoga in the Gallery 11 a.m.–12 p.m. IBFCC
- MARCH 4** "National Heartland Artist Exhibition" Opening Reception 7 p.m. IBFCC
- MARCH 13** City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- MARCH 27** City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- MARCH 28** Parks & Rec Advisory Board Meeting 6 p.m. IBFCC

APRIL

- APRIL 6** "Bits and Pieces" Opening Reception 7 p.m. IBFCC
- APRIL 8** Brunch with the Bunny 10–11:30 a.m. IBFCC
- APRIL 10** City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- APRIL 15** City Wide Recycling Event 8–11:00 a.m. Lee Jeans Parking Lot
- APRIL 17–21** Large-Item Pickup
- APRIL 24** City Council Meeting 7 p.m. City Hall
- APRIL 25** Parks & Rec Advisory Board Meeting 6 p.m. IBFCC
- APRIL 24–28** National Volunteer Week

For more information about any of the dates or events listed above, please call 913.322.5500 or visit our website at www.merriam.org.



Daddy-Daughter Candyland Dance p.10



Hats Off to Dr. Seuss p.10



Yoga in the Gallery p.10



Brunch with the Bunny p.11