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What is the Neighbor Newsletter?

Kimberlin Heights is a great community and Johnson University wants to be a great neighbor. We're a small university with a big impact, and that footprint begins here. New programs, projects, and property developments affect more than just our campus. They affect our neighborhood, too. You may wonder how Johnson is growing and what that means to our community.

So we're opening a line of communication with this quarterly Neighbor Newsletter. Each issue will contain information about issues specific to our closest neighbors here in South Knoxville. We're also inviting you to continue the conversation with Matt Johnson, our new director of community engagement. You can contact Matt at MSJohnson@JohnsonU.edu with questions and feedback. Welcome to the Neighbor Newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you!

The latest with Legacy Parks

On September 27 we hosted more than a thousand local visitors for the Legacy Parks annual luncheon. This was a great opportunity to share our campus with many who had never visited (and some who didn't even know we exist!).

During the luncheon, an announcement was made that **we are exploring the feasibility of a partnership with Legacy Parks to develop some of our campus's natural resources.** Two possible projects include development of our trail system on the west side of Hodges Ferry Road (behind the new Athletic and Recreation Complex) and development of our river accessibility for kayakers. These projects would allow us to welcome the community so you can enjoy the natural beauty of our campus.

Of these two projects, the trail system seems the first and most likely to be implemented. Up to eight miles of multi-use trails for families, hikers, joggers, and bikers are possible. There are no plans to develop a trail system along the waterfront or to connect to any other trails.

Safety, of course, is a high priority. Part of our feasibility study will include learning best practices from other universities that have similar public access features.

We hope to become a destination where you and your family can bike, hike, and enjoy God's creation. We will share more details as plans are finalized!

There are no plans to develop a trail system along the waterfront or to connect to any other trails.



Is the ARC open to us?

This fall we opened the new Athletic and Recreation Complex (ARC). This beautiful facility houses an arena, weight room, pool, recreational space, cafe, and game room as well as fitness rooms, classrooms, and offices. The ARC is a great resource for our growing campus, and we also want it to be a resource for our community. We have already hosted community meetings and are planning more events with local schools, service organizations, and sports leagues.

Some of our neighbors are interested in a gym membership. Do we offer one? The short answer is, not currently. The longer answer is, we are tracking facility usage to determine capacity. We need to know if we have the bandwidth to offer memberships, because we want our guests to feel welcomed, not crowded. So please be patient as we grow into this new resource.

Meanwhile, our new bleachers have plenty of space for fans. Cheering for JU sports teams is a great way to spend an afternoon or an evening. **Check out the team schedules at JohnsonRoyals.com and bring this newsletter to any game to receive free admission! Go Royals!**