

# KACM CHRONICLE

*Quarterly Newsletter - Issue 18*



Hello Summer!

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*by Traci Winscot, Executive Director*

As we are halfway through 2020, we have all endured challenges we could not have predicted on January 1. The pandemic produced physical, emotional, spiritual and financial demands that we have met head-on as individuals and as a Museum.

KACM had to turn on a dime to change the way we implement our mission. We've been faced with a drastically lower income, furloughing part-time staff, finding new programming methods, and now reopening with directed health measures in place.

Yet together, we have learned new skills like doing daily educational videos, ordering groceries online, and meeting by Zoom to make physical distancing workable. We wash our hands, disinfect more than ever, and cover our coughs. Great job everyone!

The Museum's closure put us in a dire financial situation. This closure came during our busiest season, making the impact all the more severe. We have taken immediate steps to put the organization in the best position to be able to re-open, in a "new manner". These measures have been hard and there are no guarantees it will be enough without support from our community.

If you are able, please join a community-wide effort to ensure a strong and vibrant Kearney Area Children's Museum. Click [here](#) or go to our website to support us. I remain hopeful that together we can continue sparking children's learning through play for many more years to come.

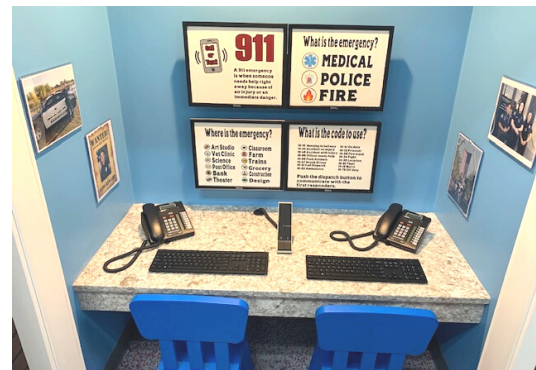




# PUBLIC SAFETY RIBBON CUTTING

Our museum strives to create quality, hands-on, educational experiences for children through our many exhibit spaces. It takes a lot of planning, funding, time and hard work to see a vision come to be a reality. With 50,000+ people enjoying our museum each year we know our exhibits are being loved by many which, as you can imagine, creates a lot of wear on items in our exhibits.

We are excited to announce that Public Safety is OPEN! With the help of our local Kearney Volunteer Fire Department and Kearney Police Department, Public Safety has evolved into a space for crime solving and being a community helper. Check out the new carpeted safety crawl space, dispatch center, mug shot wall, uniforms, and murals created by Kim Dart Designs!





## EMBRACING CHANGE

by Jennifer Beck  
Director of Community Engagement

Change - the act or instance of making or becoming different.

This year has brought lots of unexpected change to this world we all inhabit. Change isn't easy as it causes us to stop and evaluate many things. At KACM we have been faced to look at how we were going to continue moving forward during uncertain times.

Each new day is filled with opportunities to be creative with how we serve our members, guests, and community. With health measures in mind we have taken small steps to continue our mission in a healthy way by offering Summer Camps and Kids Night Out at the Museum. We hope you and your family are doing well and we hope to see you again in one of our programs or timed-ticketing options!



It's been GREAT to hear children's laughter again! Children's Museums were never meant to be quiet.



## SUMMER CAMPS - JULY & AUGUST

Little Vet, July 2-3

Jr. Rock Stars, July 6-7 - **SOLD OUT**

Dig It! Archaeology, July 9-10 - **SOLD OUT**

Picasso & Friends, July 13-14

Out of this World, July 16-17

Mighty Acorns, July 20-21

KACM Summer Games, July 23-24

Pineapples & Hula Hoops, July 27-28

Crane River Theater - Princess for a Day, July 29 - **SOLD OUT!**

Island Fiesta, July 30-31

Camp Goop, August 3-4

Crane River Theater - Princess for a Day, Aug 5 - **SPOTS GOING FAST!**

Cookie Cutters, August 6-7

Aqua Adventures, August 10-11

*All KACM Camps are for Ages 4-10 and are 2-Day  
Camps held from 8:00am-3:00pm.  
Cost is \$50 Members, \$70 Non Members  
Children need to bring a sack lunch  
and a water bottle.*

*Crane River Theater Camp on July 29 is for Ages  
4,5,6 and is held from 1:00-4:00pm. Cost is \$20 per  
child.  
Children need to bring a water bottle.*

**CLICK ON THE ITEMS BELOW TO SEND YOU DIRECTLY TO THE LINK!**

**KIDS NIGHT OUT "LITTLE CRITTERS" - JULY 10 FROM 6-9PM** Extended Time!

**COUPLES TRIVIA NIGHT - JULY 10 FROM 6:15-8:45PM** Register and get discount on Kids Night Out!

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND GET AN ADDITIONAL MONTH FREE!**

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Jessica Kelling



**Why do you choose to volunteer at the museum?**

I enjoy volunteering with maintaining the outdoor classroom, vegetable and landscape with several other volunteers.

**What is your advice for someone considering volunteering at KACM?**

It's easy to volunteer for one-time projects, for a growing season in the garden or become a weekly or monthly gardener-- **anything helps.** You don't need to be an expert (gardener) to help. If you would like to volunteer in the garden, let the staff know. **Now it's easy to social distance and volunteer!**

**Why is the museum vital to our community?**

The children's museum provides opportunities to **gain new experiences** in different professions, skills, ideas or hobbies outside our family origins and day to day activities.



## TOOLS FOR PLAY

by Jessica Johnson, Operations Manager

We have recently added NEW merchandise to our gift shop! We offer high quality items from Melissa & Doug that inspire learning through play! If you haven't signed up for a museum annual membership yet or need to renew it, this is the right time. Please visit us at our website [kearneychildrensmuseum.org](http://kearneychildrensmuseum.org) for more information on membership and other special events.



## KACM GIFT SHOP

Through play, kids learn to master new skills and develop their own ideas. This helps build confidence and a sense that learning can be challenging but also rewarding

—The American Academy of Pediatric

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MUSEUM STAFF

### 2020 Board of Directors

Amy Kuchera, President  
 Emily Jameson, Past President  
 Tiffany Shuda, Vice President  
 Brooke Ward, Treasurer  
 Ayla Gregg, Secretary  
 Jennifer Rowling, Member At Large  
 Steve Cooke  
 Kylee Fish  
 Ashley Ott  
 Janell Brown  
 Ellie Schroeder  
 Melissa Wells  
 Denise Davis  
 Timaree Smith  
 Jennifer Harris  
 Christy Margritz  
 Robyn Kendle  
 Mindy Ullman  
 Joni Jensen  
 Carly Weber

### Museum Leadership

Traci Winscot  
 Executive Director  
 Jennifer Beck  
 Director of Community Engagement  
 Jessica Johnson  
 Operations Manager

### Part Time Staff

Chloe  
 Nic  
 Ashley  
 Katerina  
 Emily  
 Taylor  
 Alisha  
 Claremarie  
 Sarah W.  
 Sarah K.  
 Paul  
 Bailey  
 Logan  
 Maleah

## 4th of July Gift Shop Sale

**25% OFF ALL ITEMS IN  
OUR GIFT SHOP**

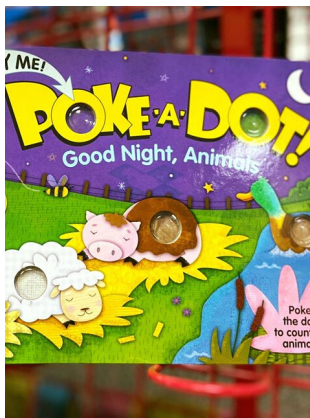


SHOP  
WITH US  
JUNE 27  
- JULY 5

Discount does not apply to already discounted items.

## 4TH OF SALE

Shop our 4th of July sale! June 27th-July 5th for 25% ALL items in our gift shop!



Coloring reduces stress, and improves concentration and hand-eye coordination!

Art projects boost creativity, fine motor skills, and emotional expression!





## WE LOVE OUR MEMBERS!

We value all our members and as we all navigate through these uncertain times we would like to extend everyone's memberships 3 months.





# PLAY AT KACM

## TIMED-TICKETING

### JULY WEEKENDS

**5 - 11 & 12 - 18 & 19- 25 & 26**

- Timed-ticketing for general admission (FREE for KACM members; normal rates apply for non-members)
  - 1.5 hour time slots will be implemented to control capacity guidelines
  - Saturdays - 10-11:30 am, 12-1:30 pm, 2-3:30 pm
  - Sundays - 1-2:30 pm, 3-4:30 pm
  - Must pre-register for time-slots on our website and no refunds will be given (walk-ups will be accepted if capacity allows)
  - Please arrive on time and do not enter the museum until you have passed the screening process.
- At the 1 hr 20 min mark, guests will be asked to use the provided sanitizing spray and help "Clean Up, Round Up" the exhibits. Kiddos will be gifted a treat as they leave to encourage their helpful participation.
- A 2-question screening process will be taken before entering the Museum, including temperature checks (100 degrees and over will be denied entry).
- All Museum staff will be wearing masks. We highly encourage guests (age 10 and older) to do the same.
- Hard-to-clean exhibit items have been removed & 30 minute cleaning intervals between reservations will be implemented by staff.

**ALL MEMBERSHIPS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED 3 MONTHS!**

While we've been apart, our staff has been working hard to prepare to welcome everyone back. We are currently only opened during the weekends for Timed Ticketing. We are allowing 50 guests per 1 1/2 hour time slots and advice you reserve a time online or by giving us a call (308)698-2228.

We have implemented new policies and procedures to ensure a safe visit for families. Those measures include cleaning and sanitizing the entire museum from top to bottom after every time slot. Sanitation Stations have been added that include hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray and cloths to wipe down toys at your convenience.

We are implementing physical distancing measures with one family per exhibit and encouraging visitors to bring their own face masks and wear them if they are ten-years-old and older.

The health and safety of our visitors and staff is our top priority.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



*Amber & Eric Albrecht  
Cody (8), Riley (6), Ridge (3)*

### Why is the museum vital to our community?

There are so many places kids go where they are expected to sit still and stay quiet. And that's okay sometimes! But having a place where kids can move around, get loud, and let their imaginations run wild is so essential! Every day, we bring kids to a lot of "our" places (stores, businesses, etc.), but **this is THEIR place. Kids need their own place.**

We have visited other children's museums in different cities, and they've all been very fun, but I **hope our community realizes what an absolute gem we have right here in Kearney.**

### What do children learn at the museum?

We have been to the museum numerous times, and **they learn something new every single time!** Sometimes they learn through their observation of the different zones, like intently watching the trains. Sometimes it's through their interaction in the zones, like sending the boats down through the streams of water they designed. Sometimes it's when we read the information from each zone, like discovering where our food comes from. And sometimes they learn through our prompting and example, like taking turns, cleaning up when we are done, and treating each zone with respect.

I love that many of the zones represent "real life" places, like the grocery store, bank, dentist office, etc.

It can be hard to teach my children while we are running errands, for example in a real grocery store, because it can often be chaotic. **But in the museum, we get to focus on the fun and the learning.** We can talk about food groups and nutrition, I can explain to them how hard the grocery store employees work and how important they are, and my kids can learn by interacting. They're having so much fun, they don't even realize they are learning!

### How does the museum help your family?

**We love having the museum as a fun, safe place where we can let the kids just be kids!** As my kids have gotten older, it's been fun to see the new ways they can interact with the zones they have always loved and the zones that are designed for their older age group.



## HOW CAN I SUPPORT KACM DURING THIS TIME?

KACM still has some fun activities happening! We truly appreciate your support during this uncertain time for all. We are more than ready to have our doors open and our museum filled with family engagement!

You can also head to our [Donor](#) page and help in that way for a tax-deductible donation. We appreciate your generosity during this uncertain time!





## ANNUAL EVENTS

*Mark your calendars  
for these 2020 events!*



Free Family BINGO Night  
Wednesday, August 5, 7-10:00 pm at The Village of Kearney

Roadway Heroes  
Saturday, August 8, 9:30-11:30 am at Buffalo County Fairgrounds

LEGO Home-Building Competition  
Friday, September 18, 6:00 pm

BOO!-seum  
Thursday, October 29, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Breakfast with Santa  
Saturday, December 5, 8:00 am-11:00 am at Buffalo County Fairgrounds

*The Museum will be **CLOSED**  
on the following holidays*

Memorial Day	Independence Day
Labor Day	Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Eve	Christmas Day

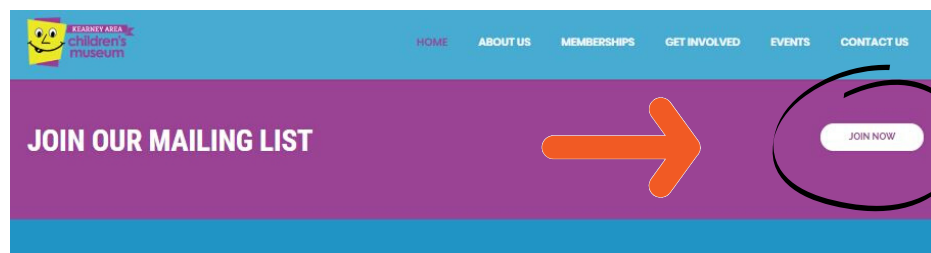
## MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Morning Mingle - *Members Only*  
First Wednesday of each month from 9:00-10:00am

Free Family Fun Nights  
Third Thursday of each month from 4:00-8:00pm

Kids Night Out at the Museum  
Second Friday of each month from 6:00-8:30pm  
*Some run until 9pm if paired with Adult Trivia Nights*

*Follow us on Facebook for updates regarding Museum events or programs. KACM follows directive health measures and will plan programs / events accordingly.*



Want weekly updates on what's happening at KACM?  
Join our mailing list!

Visit [kearneychildrensmuseum.org](http://kearneychildrensmuseum.org) and scroll to the bottom of our page to find our "Join Now" option!

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



On Member Mondays at Funtastic show your membership card and enjoy \$6 admission.



Staying at the Holiday Inn?  
Bring your room key and show at the front desk to get \$3 off your admission.

Are you a KACM Member?  
Book a room at the Kearney Holiday Inn and receive 10% off their best available rate when you mention the Kearney Area Children's Museum!



Show your KACM membership card at time of purchase and 15% of the proceeds will benefit the museum!



Show your KACM membership card at the Big Apple M-F for \$4.99 for wristbands to Ballocity and Minigolf. No limit number of kids! You save 50% every time you show your card!

# MUSEUM INFORMATION

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday & Tuesday - Camp Only  
 Wednesday - CLOSED  
 Thursday & Friday - Camp Only  
 Saturday - Timed Ticketing  
 Sunday - Timed Ticketing

Visit our [website](#) for updated admission hours.

Contact us for questions about membership or to purchase one. Tax not included in above prices.

## MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

Family Membership: \$90	Grandparents Membership: \$90
Family Plus Two Membership: \$102	Grandparents Plus Two Membership: \$102
Patron Membership: \$125	Daycare Membership: \$102
Patron Plus Two Membership: \$137	Daycare Plus Two Membership: \$192

Sharing & Caring Membership: \$12  
*-qualifications required to apply for this membership*

## ADMISSION PRICES

Children (12 months-12): \$8  
 Adults (Age 13 and up): \$7  
 Seniors: \$6  
 Children under 12 months: \$0

## GIFT SHOP

Visit KACM to play, then stop by our gift shop on the way out to continue the play at home! There are exclusive deals for members and nonmembers. Come to our front desk and ask us what the deals are today!



## BIRTHDAY PARTIES

Celebrate your birthday with the Kearney Area Children's Museum! We have two different packages for you to choose from, with everything your child and guests need to have a great time. We offer All Day Play and After Hours Celebrations (And an exclusive offer from Raising Canes)! Contact KACM for more information!



*Play All Day!*  
 @ KACM

### MOTIVATION MONDAY

Encourage someone today!  
 Do you have a favorite motivational quote?

### THEMED TUESDAY

Pick a fun theme and incorporate it into your daily activities!

### WACKY WEDNESDAY

Did you know...?  
 Pick a topic and research a new fact about it!

### TURN IT UP THURSDAY

Turn up the music!  
 Get your bodies moving with a dance-off!

### FANCY FRIDAY

It's the weekend!  
 Time to celebrate by wearing something that makes you feel good!

