

THE CITIZEN

ISSUE TWENTY-ONE • FALL 2017

Your official source of information about the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas



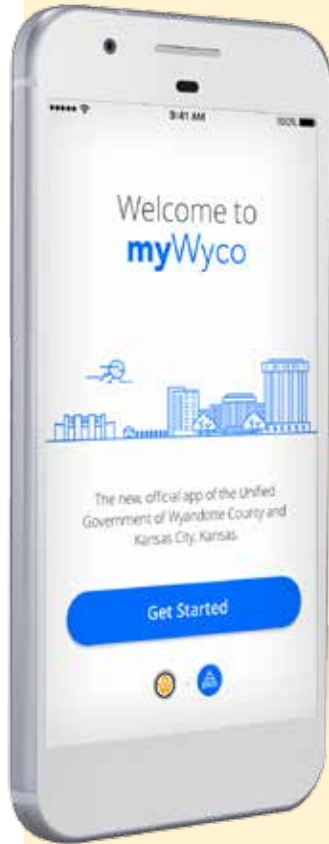
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New myWyco 311 App Connects Citizens Faster

BY ALAN HOWZE
Unified Government Staff



The Unified Government is again using technology to improve government services by making it even quicker and easier for citizens to connect with their local government.


The myWyco 311 mobile app now lets citizens conduct business with the UG right from their smartphone, tablet or computer. Residents can also still call in questions or complaints by dialing 311.

The 311 Contact Center provides residents with a single point of contact via the telephone, Web, mobile app, or email. 311 diverts non-emergency calls from the 911 emergency call center, improves the UG's customer service capabilities, and provides data for supporting and improving operations. 311 employees provide a wide range of informa-

tion and services, helping residents navigate local government, find quick answers to common questions, and connect to community resources.

With the 311 system, citizens can report problems including: potholes, slow trash service, storm debris, code violations, municipal court questions and more. The 311 system has received more than 93,000 contacts so far this year and 91,000 calls in 2016.

The new myWyco mobile app will also allow citizens to pay taxes and other bills from their mobile devices.

The app can be downloaded from the Apple Store for iPhones or the Google Play Store for Android devices. 

20 Year Anniversary of the Unified Government

In 1997, Wyandotte County was losing residents and businesses at a rapid pace. Tens of thousands had fled the county. Property taxes were skyrocketing, while the county and Kansas City, Kansas, governments endured past allegations of corruption.

and city governments. On April 1, 1997, voters approved the measure. And on Oct. 1, 1997, the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, was born with the swearing in of a new Commission and the government's first Mayor/CEO: Carol Marinovich.

Unification ushered in a new era for the Dotte. Residents and businesses have returned to Wyandotte County, sparking billions in economic development, a population increase, and a near doubling of the county's total valuation.

Much of this development is anchored by the booming Village West and Speedway developments at I-70 and I-435. Today that area generates more than \$22-million a year in property tax revenue. Before consolidation, tax revenue from the area west of I-435 was only \$208,000. The KCK property tax rate is at its lowest level in 50 years. An

executive, "strong mayor" form of government, along with ethics reform, have given rise to a new era of good government.

The county has even become the top tourist draw in Kansas!

"This is truly a great American comeback story. If not for consolidation, you would not have seen this kind of rebirth," said KCK businessman Mike Jacobi, who teamed up with Marinovich, Kevin Kelly, current state Rep. Kathy Wolfe Moore, and other civic leaders to lead the unification campaign. "But as important as that growth has been, we must also celebrate the increased pride in our community. Wyandotte County is now a player on the regional and state levels, and our residents know that and are proud of it."

The community's growth has made it possible for the Unified Government to begin investing in

Consolidation: Before and After 1997

	1997	2017
Wyandotte County population	152,796	163,831
Total valuation	\$666 million	\$1.2 billion
Jobs	78,558	88,534
Property tax rate	85.965 mills	78.688 mills
Per capita income	\$19,285	\$35,589
Single family housing permits	1978-1997	1998-2017
	2,427	4,543

That same year, a grassroots movement of concerned citizens completed a successful four-year campaign to unify the county



Stay Connected with the UG

Website More than 2.7-million people a year use the Unified Government Website to stay informed and do business with their local government. Check it out at www.wycokck.org

UG ENews Source Every week the Unified Government sends an informative electronic newsletter to your email inbox. Sign-up by going to the UG Website and click on the "I Want To" drop down box.

UGTV UG Commission meetings, Standing Committee meetings and Budget workshops are broadcast on UGTV, along with lots of other information and programs about the community. Tune to Channel 2 on Time Warner cable and Channel 141 on Google TV.

Facebook The Unified Government is officially on Facebook with it's Kansas City, Kansas Unified Government page. It's easy to take part. Just go to www.Facebook.com/cityofkck. Click the "Like" icon and you'll be a member of the Kansas City, Kansas Official FB Page of the Unified Government.

YouTube The Unified Government's efforts to communicate with citizens and promote the community don't stop there. The Unified Government Channel on YouTube displays a number of videos about interesting and important issues and events as well. Just go to www.YouTube.com/officialwycokck to see our videos.

Social Media In addition to the UG Website, Facebook, UG ENews, UGTV, YouTube and The Citizen Newsletter, the Unified Government also helps you stay connected through Next Door and Twitter.

The Citizen Newsletter is published by the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, 66101. It is mailed to every residential address in Wyandotte County. Due to postage costs, copies are not mailed outside Wyandotte County. An electronic version is posted on the official Unified Government website at www.wycokck.org. Comments or questions can be sent to Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director at mtaylor@wycokck.org.

In accordance with the Department of Justice regulations, the Unified Government's Equal Employment Opportunity Plan (EEOP), is available on the Unified Government website at www.wycokck.org.

KCK PD Receives \$842,000 in Federal Public Safety Technology Grants



The Kansas City Kansas Police Department has been awarded two major grants by the Department of Justice to enhance crime fighting and public safety through technology. The grants will equip KCK Police Officers with body cameras and establish a network of real time street cameras.

"These grants advance one of my top priorities as Mayor: to give our police officers the tools they need to protect the public and themselves. The Unified Government has recently invested in a new fleet of police vehicles and has laid the foundation for using the latest technology to fight crime. This federal investment takes our community to a new level,

bringing a 21st century approach to fighting crime while strengthening the trust between our community and our police."

Body Cameras

A grant of \$342,000 will help the KCKPD meet its goal of equipping 228 officers with body worn cameras. The Unified Government started the effort in 2016 by allocating \$500,000 to build-out the fiber network which will be used to download and transmit the body camera video. In 2017, the UG Commission approved an additional \$300,000 to begin purchasing the cameras. The federal grant will assist in the

See **KCK PD** Page 6 ▶

Sheriff launches innovative behavior management tool in the Adult Detention Center

In July, the Wyandotte County Adult Detention Center became the first jail in the State of Kansas to utilize the latest behavioral management tool in order to meet the modern-day demands of housing a diverse population of inmates. The Sheriff's Office is responsible for securing resources to ensure that all jail operations are legally implemented in a safe, secure, and humane manner. What's even better is that this new resource was secured and paid for by the inmate telephone services, **not the taxpayers!**

The Edovo tablet was introduced to the inmates of the Wyandotte County jail in an effort to reduce idleness and inmate irritability within the Detention Center and promote education amongst the inmates. This new resource assists in effectively managing/improving jail operations, managing/reducing liability issues, and assists detention center staff in maintaining a constructive and pro-social atmosphere within the individual pods. The jail plays an integral role within the criminal justice system and must respond to many different needs. This tool, along with synergy from other judicial systems, may assist with recidivism.

Edovo is a tablet-based education solution


that utilizes a unique learn-to-earn method that drives over 80% weekly user engagement. The Edovo platform operates on a secure network with locked-down connectivity, mobile device management, and administrative tools for monitoring accounts. It has seven layers of security that restricts inmates to only Edovo related content, prohibiting all access to the external Internet. Edovo's administrative portal gives facility staff full access to inmate activity and tablet usage.

"The tablets are a game changer. They are the best inmate behavioral management tool technology can provide, and it's fully funded by inmate telephone dollars," says Warden Jeff Fewell.

These tablets have been tailored to fit the needs of this facility and they allow for growth and development of new programming specific to Wyandotte County that can enhance and contribute to the continuum of existing services available in our community.

This new technology keeps inmates engaged with thousands of hours of academic, vocational, therapeutic and religious content. Inmates can learn at their own pace while earning free entertainment content approved for correctional use. The Edovo tablets also offer

i-Pathways core GED preparation program, which boasts pass rates as high as 96%. The jail can improve operations and **save taxpayer dollars** by uploading our inmate handbook, PREA guidelines, providing law library, and other news and processes onto the tablets.

Inmate programming like this is not just important to the overall management of the jail, nor is it just a "benefit" for the inmates. These programs provide a strategic service to the community. This tool keeps inmates busy and focused on a pro-social activity. It reaffirms social expectations, allows for goal setting, and highlights individual growth potential. The programming content encourages inmates to learn useful skills, continue their education, address a substance abuse problem, receive spiritual guidance, improve their mental health, learn job readiness, work on stress and anger management skills, improve their parenting skills, and ultimately learn ways to change their criminal and anti-social behaviors. By providing inmates with this self-improvement programming tool, the jail is assisting in their reintegration back to the community. And the community benefits by having inmates leave the jail better prepared to live and work as productive members of society. 

KCK Amazon Update


The recently opened Amazon Distribution facility in KCK has created thousands of new jobs as promised and has become the second largest employer in Wyandotte County behind the KU Health System. The annual payroll at the Amazon facility tops \$50-million.

Amazon opened the facility in July. Located near I-70 and the Turner Diagonal, the center now employs more than 5,500 people. Of those, 1,879, or 34%, are Wyandotte County residents—a phenomenal number that exceeded expectations for local hires.

24,449 people applied for the new jobs. More than a third of those applicants were Wyandotte County residents. Of the more than 5,500 employees hired, 34% are Wyandotte County Residents. Of the

45 managers hired, 29% are from Wyandotte County.

In advance of Amazon's opening, Wyandotte Economic Development Corporation (WYEDC), the Unified Government, the Board of Public Utilities, Kansas City Kansas Community College, the Kansas Department of Commerce, and Workforce Partnership strategized with Amazon to get as many of Wyandotte County residents as possible to apply for these jobs.

Those who were hired now have jobs that pay better than most entry-level positions that don't require a college degree. And they're receiving good benefits, including 95-percent tuition reimbursement for employees who want to take community college courses to advance their careers. 

NE Master Plan Project Underway




This Fall, the Urban Planning and Land Use Department held the first public meetings to kick off the Northeast Area Master Plan project. Over 150 citizens attended the meetings held at the Quindaro Community Center and significant public input was received.

"We intend for the community to guide and direct the plan so that the community will be willing to fight for its implementation over the next 5-10 years and beyond," said Planning Director Rob Richardson.

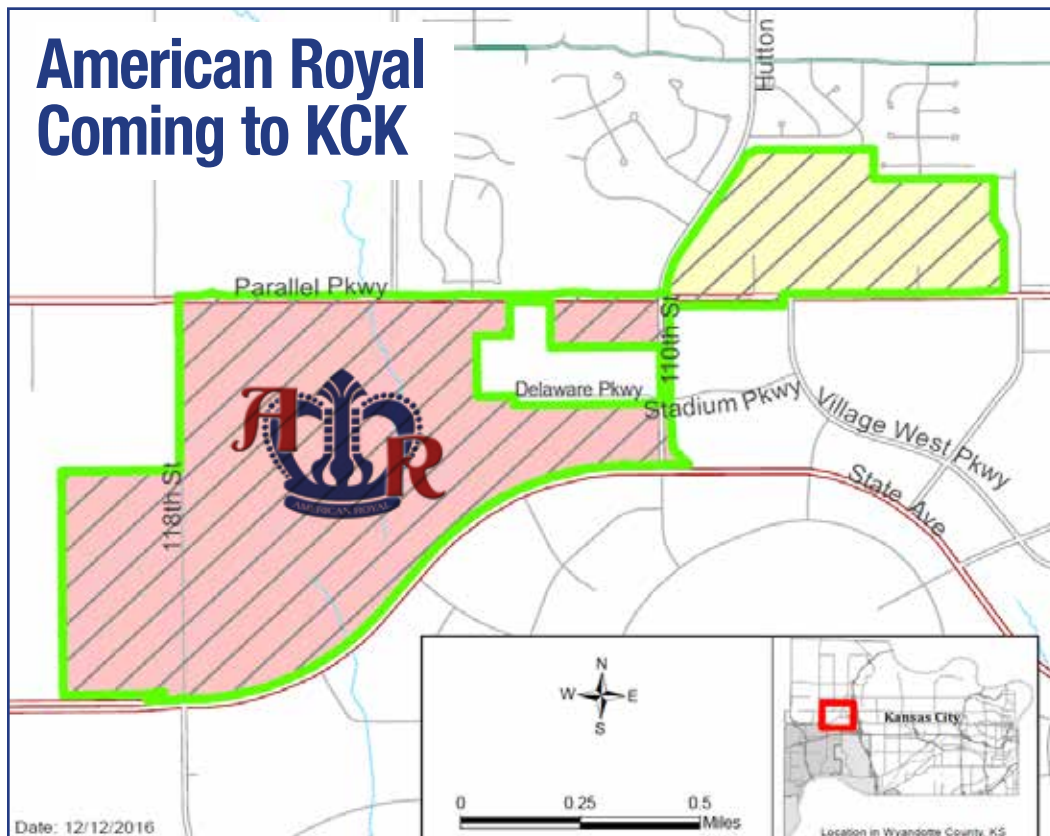
It is important to note this plan will implement the 2008 City-Wide Master Plan. The 2008 City-wide Master Plan had general recommendations for each area of the City, but called for area plans to be completed as funding is available for areas like the Northeast, Rosedale, and others. These plans are to have detailed recommendations tailored to each area of the City (City-Wide Master Plan, page 108 - Implementation).

While other entities have done planning work in this area, it is only the second planning effort for this area lead by the Urban Planning and Land Use Department since 1979. Unlike plans completed by other entities, a Master Plan is a special document that is given specific powers by the State of Kansas to control development and infrastructure. Master Plans are also unique because they are adopted by the Unified Government Board of Commissioners and are legally binding. This will also be a more detailed plan for the Northeast Area than has ever been completed. That's why it is especially important to be involved in this planning effort!

Director Richardson is excited to be able to work with community leaders and neighbors on this important project. The Unified Government Board of Commissioners funded this effort to address the critical needs of this portion of the community following the 8 years of the Great Recession that followed the adoption of the 2008 City-Wide Master Plan.

For more information, please visit the project website at <https://neamasterplan.com/> or contact Director Richardson at r-richardson@wycokck.org 913-573-5774 or the Plan's project manager Zach Flanders at zflanders@wycokck.org 913-573-5759. 

American Royal Coming to KCK



The Unified Government Commission has unanimously approved an agreement to bring the American Royal to Wyandotte County.


The \$165.4-million project is in a STAR bond district of 550 acres near 110th and Parallel Parkway. \$80-million will be generated by sales tax revenue in the form of STAR bonds. \$80-million in private contributions from the American Royal will pay for the rest, with \$5.3-million from other sources.

The agreement gives the American Royal 18-months to secure financing and complete the development plan. Construction of the American Royal would start within 6 months of the STAR bond issuance. Core construction must then be finished within two years after that.


"This is about creating a bright new future for the American Royal, and hanging a sign in Wyandotte County and hanging a sign in the state of Kansas that Kansas is open to agriculture and we're open for business," said Korb Maxwell, an attorney representing the American Royal.

The development agreement calls for:

- A 164,000-square-foot livestock expo arena with about 5,000 permanent seats and an additional 3,200 temporary seats for a variety of events.
- A 250,000-square-foot livestock exhibition hall, including pens for 2,000 animals, for events including a 10-day livestock show each October, and for other events.
- About 5,000 square feet of office space, including a headquarters for the corporate offices of the American Royal.
- A 6,500-square-foot Agricultural Education Center featuring exhibits, an interactive museum-based learning environment, and meeting and a professional training space.
- Additional land for potential future construction of an agricultural headquarters facility and expansion, with retail and restaurant use possible.

The American Royal has been in KCMO for more than 100 years and is well known for its annual rodeo and livestock show, as well as a barbecue competition. 

Facts About the KCK Fire Department and Unified Government

- In 2015, the UG and KCK Fire Union jointly selected a national consulting firm to study the operation of the Fire Department in an effort to improve fire protection. That study found some parts of KCK had too many fire stations, while newer areas of the city didn't have enough.
- A task force of UG officials, fire department officials and fire union leaders are currently meeting to make recommendations about the realignment and rebalancing of fire station locations.
- The independent fact-finder assigned to help resolve a contract dispute between the UG and Fire Union stated in his official report, "KCK is growing and changing. It is crazy to think the location of fire companies cannot be changed to reflect the growth and changing world." The Union later voted in favor of the new contract.
- No proposals call for the closing of fire stations. However, it is likely older, outdated stations will be replaced with new, modern fire stations in different locations.
- The Unified Government Commission is spending \$4-million to build a new, additional fire station at Leavenworth and Hutton Roads to serve the growing Piper area north of Village West.
- The Unified Government has not laid off any firefighters. In 2017, the KCK Fire Department had 473 firefighters. In 2018, the authorized number is 457. The difference is 16 firefighter positions which were paid for with a federal grant which ended. The positions were eliminated through attrition back to the previous level as had been planned when the grant ended.
- Public safety- Police, Fire and Sheriff- make up more than 60% of the total Unified Government budget, with the Fire Department having the largest budget of any other department, at \$56.1-million. 

Kansas City in Running to Host 2026 World Cup Soccer



The FIFA World Cup United Bid Soccer Committee today announced Kansas City is in the running to host the the 2026 World Cup Soccer tournament. It is anticipated that each 2026 FIFA World Cup Host City can expect in the neighborhood of \$1-billion in economic impact.


Historically past FIFA World Cup matches average over 250-million worldwide viewers and the 2014 FIFA World Cup Final had over 900 million worldwide viewers.

"This news confirms to the rest of the country what we already know here in the heartland, that the KC metro is worthy of being called the soccer capital of America. As we move to the next round in the bid selection process, I know that we will have a strong case to make that Kansas City deserves to be a World Cup host," said KCK Mayor Mark Holland.

The Kansas City region has invested over \$325-million in soccer facilities in the past decade, with another \$500-million planned between now and 2026. As a region, KC and KCK sports venues offer numerous world class soccer facilities, from Children's Mercy Park in KCK, to Arrowhead

Stadium in KCMO

"Here in Kansas City, Kansas, we are home to the state-of-the-art Children's Mercy Park, where Sporting KC recently became U.S. Open Cup Champions, cheered on by the greatest soccer fans in the U.S. The National Training and Coaching Development Center for soccer will open later this year. New soccer fields are flourishing all across the metro. And, of course, you can't create a better atmosphere for a marquee soccer match than Arrowhead Stadium. You can be guaranteed that the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/KCK will be working with all of our regional partners to make this World Cup dream a reality.

The Soccer United Bid Committee will submit the bid book to FIFA in March, 2018. 41 cities from across Canada, Mexico and the United States submitted proposals to be considered as possible host cities. After completing a comprehensive review process, the United Bid Committee identified 32 cities – four from Canada, three from Mexico and 25 from the United States – to continue as Host City candidates to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup™ in North America. 


PROJECT ACT Showing Success

Project ACT, the crime-fighting effort launched in June by the KCK Police Department, is showing success after a few months.

Project ACT (Addressing Crime Together) is a neighborhood based program in the Central Avenue corridor which uses a Data-Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety. The program seeks to lower crime and reduce vehicle accidents in certain hot spot areas which is calculated based on the inflation of crime combined with traffic accidents.

The primary goal is reduction of crime and traffic collisions via traffic enforcement and positive community interactions to deter criminal behavior and encourage safer driving habits.

Program highlights include:

- No homicides in the designated Project ACT zone compared to 6 at this time last year.
 - Drive by shootings are down from 27 at this time in 2016 to only 13 so far in 2017.
 - Property crimes are down 34%.
 - Accidents decreased this summer 21.1 % from last summer.
 - We made over 1000 traffic stops in the zone and 48% of those stops were warning tickets.
 - Towed over 300 abandoned cars.
 - Cleaned up city parks and participated in over a dozen community events in the project area.
- The Project ACT program will remain in effect for the next 12 months, at that time we will reassess to determine further implementation. 



Median Household Income in Wyandotte County has increased **18%** from 2014-2016 to **\$43,129.**

In the past 15 years jobs in Wyandotte County Health jobs have increased by **120%** to **15,200.**


Sidewalk Incentive Program Available for UG Residents

The Unified Government Public Works Department offers a Sidewalk Incentive Program to assist Kansas City, Kansas residents and business owners with repair or replacement of existing sidewalks.

Funding is allocated each year to the eight commission districts until July 1. After July 1, all funds will be available for any eligible location in the City on a first come, first serve basis. Reimbursements are based on square footage and correspond with the size of the repairs, from one house to full residential block replacement.

Applicants are responsible for hiring a

contractor to complete the necessary repairs and to be eligible for reimbursement must obtain application approval and a Right-of-Way permit prior to the commencement of any work. It is also the responsibility of the applicants (and or the hired contractor) to coordinate any necessary inspections and comply with the materials and workmanship set out in the Kansas City, Kansas construction standards.

Additional information and full program policy details are available through the Public Works website (wycokck.org) or by contacting Public Works at (913) 573-5400. 

20,000 Mows in Stepped Up UG Program


The UG is responsible for mowing parks, the property owned through the Land Bank and the properties of negligent owners who have codes violations. Mowing crews began the season with roughly 6,000 lots to keep track of—more than 700 acres of grass.

Since April, UG Crews and private contractors have mowed nearly 20,000 times. Parks were put on an 8 day rotation, ballfields were mowed every 7 days and street medians were cut every 7 days.

Of the 6,000 properties that had been in our inventory to mow, about 2,500 are privately owned.

“Last year, through our blight reduction

program called SOAR, our staff created a strategy that makes it easier for us to identify what properties need to be mowed and what level of attention they need. Our parks and recreation, legal, codes, and public works departments are all working together to establish criteria for what should be mowed and when,” explained Mayor Mark Holland.


A common database is used where properties are entered and the frequency of their mowing is tracked. A semi-rural property with trees, for example, would not receive the same amount of attention as an overgrown lot in a residential neighborhood. 

Street Maintenance Changes Coming

Results of the most recent citizen survey showed that overall street maintenance and repair is at the top of the list for many residents. Due to these results, the UG Public Works Department is making operational changes to focus on the important priorities throughout the KCK community, such as curb replacement, making alleys functional again, and an improved pothole patching and street preservation program. These programs require a real commitment and a disciplined approach at all levels.

The UG Commission has approved the purchase of two new pothole patching machines for the Street Division. One will be in operation in December of this year and the other in the spring of 2018. In the latter part of this year Infrastructure Management Systems (IMS) will be driving every street segment in KCK collecting curb and pavement condition data, which will be utilized as the foundation for prioritizing maintenance activities and types of pavement applications (overlay, reconstruct, micro or chip seal) needed. This assessment

will include laser and visual data gathering that will allow Public Works staff to interpret the data and program future improvements in a more organized and cost-effective manner.

In order for the Engineering and Streets Divisions to right-size resources to tackle these initiatives, activities not within core responsibilities like street right-of-way (ROW) and ditch mowing will be eliminated or reduced. The only ROW mowing that will continue into 2018 and beyond will be along publicly owned properties. 




Helpful Hints for the Winter Season

With winter approaching, UG street division crews have begun preparing snow plows and driving snow routes in anticipation of the City's first snowfall. As plowing can be a dangerous and difficult task, crews would like to provide the following tips and information to improve efficiency and increase public safety:


- *Please remove vehicles from the streets whenever possible to allow more room for plows to do their job.
- *Please make sure your mailboxes are properly installed and maintained to ensure stability. Even at low speeds, snow being pushed to the side by plows can push over mailboxes that are not properly installed or maintained.
- *Trucks are plowing snow and spreading salt/sand. Stay back from the plows at least six (6) car lengths to avoid problems.
- *Please do not pull directly behind slow plows. If you cannot see the driver, he cannot see you.
- *When cleaning driveways or parking lots, do not push snow into the street. This can cause hazardous conditions for other motorists.
- *Plow trucks generally push snow to the passenger side of the truck (right side when looking from the rear). Never attempt to pass a truck on the right side since there can be much more snow on that side of the vehicle.
- *When shoveling, try and pile snow from driveways on the right side facing the street. This will help snowplow drivers avoid carrying piles from the left side back across the driveways.
- *Snowplows will try to avoid piling snow on sidewalks, but in some instances this is impossible. The adjacent property owner is responsible to keep sidewalks clear.
- *Avoid building snow structures such as forts or igloos near the street that plows may cover over resulting in possible injury to children playing nearby.

Current storm conditions and snow plow removal updates will be made available on the UG and Public Works website throughout the snow season.

As always, please slow down and drive safely during any winter conditions. 

Animal Services City Licenses

For all citizens that have licensed their pets in the past, a letter will be sent to you in early December with a notice reminding you to renew your city license – the cost is \$10 for one year and \$40 for a five year license.

All pets in Kansas City, KS are required to have a current rabies vaccination, current city license, and must be spayed/neutered. As a reminder, all pets must be leashed when outside of the home or a fenced yard. 

Before **Village West**, Retail & Restaurants made up **9%** of the jobs in Wyandotte County. After Village West, these jobs accounted for **15%** of all jobs in the county.

Before **Village West**, there were **148** Hotel jobs in Wyandotte County. After Village West, there are **703** of these jobs.

BPU Brings Community Solar Farm to Wyandotte County

The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities has fired-up its new Community Solar Farm. Community leaders, elected officials, industry representatives, and environmental advocates gathered to see the first municipal solar farm in the state of Kansas, and BPU's newest renewable energy resource.

Comprised of nearly 4,000 photovoltaic solar panels, the BPU Community Solar Farm allows residential utility customers that want to use solar energy, access to this sustainable resource from one central location, making it affordable and accessible for all. The community farm concept allows residents access to locally produced, sustainable solar energy, including non-homeowners (renters) and those whose property may not be suitable for a stand-alone solar unit.

"We are pleased to offer BPU customers the option of utilizing renewable solar energy that is produced right here in Wyandotte County," said Don Gray, General Manager of BPU. "The Community Solar Farm provides simple, affordable access to solar energy for the entire community, with participants benefiting from reduced costs on their electric bills and the knowledge that they are reducing their individual carbon footprint."

BPU is already one of the greenest public utilities in the nation, with 45% of its power generation coming from renewable energy sources, including wind, hydropower, landfill



gas, and now solar. Each of the 3,780 individual solar panels in BPU's 1,000 KW Community Solar Farm will eliminate 12 tons of CO2. That's the equivalent of reducing single automobile emissions of 23,500 miles, planting 278 trees, or recycling 37 tons of waste versus placing it in a landfill.

Residential BPU customers will be able to lease from one to 10 solar panels over a multi-year period, while receiving a credit of approximately \$3.20 a month for each panel on their utility bill. An initial one-time lease fee of \$470.00 applies throughout the 25 year life of the farm, with the user option of selling the individual panel back to BPU if a participant moves out of the service area.

For more information on this new program, go to www.bpu.com/solar, call 913-573-9997, or email BPU at solarpanels@bpu.com

20 YEARS

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core services in its older urban communities. Sales tax revenue, almost non-existent prior to consolidation, is now being used to improve public safety, tackle blight, repair roads, and build new sidewalks.

"It's hard to imagine how we could have gotten this work done without consolidation," said current Mayor/CEO Mark Holland. "The Unified Government has provided our community with a single voice when it comes to dealing with challenging issues like public safety, an aging infrastructure, and economic development. The county and city work together—as one—and we're stronger for it."

KCK PD

cont. from page 2

purchase of even more cameras.

"Body cameras are a great law enforcement tool that will aid us in capturing valuable evidence and they will help us to continue building trust and transparency with the community," said Police Chief Terry Zeigler.

The KCKPD responded to 146,192 calls for service in 2016. Data from the International Association of Chiefs of Police show that 93% of alleged police conduct cases resulted in the officer being exonerated when body camera video had recorded the incident. 50% of complaints filed against police were immediately withdrawn when video from body cameras existed.

The Wyandotte County Sheriff's Department implemented the use of body cameras two years ago.

Street Camera Network and Community Connections Pilot

A grant for \$499,402 will fund an expanded video camera network with software which integrates the video, allowing police to view activity and information in real time. The grant will allow up to 25 additional KCK intersections to be added to the network, with an emphasis on KCKPD priority areas.

The street camera network will help officers responding to incidents by giving them real time video and information about what's happening when a 911 call comes in. The grant also funds a pilot Community Connections program that gives businesses an option to connect their connect their security cameras to the police network.

"The implementation of these technology tools will provided KCKPD new capabilities to prevent and respond to crime," said Unified Government Chief Knowledge Officer Alan Howze.

The expanded camera network is to expected to help reduce crime, help police solve homicides more quickly and provide a valuable tool in the investigation of drive-by shootings.

EPA Air Quality Study

The Environmental Protection Agency is conducting a year-long study, in partnership with the community and local stakeholders, called the Kansas City TRansportation and Local-scale Air Quality Study (KC-TRAQS). The study will measure local air quality in three neighborhoods in a community surrounded by multiple sources of air pollutants such as local industry with diesel trucking fleets, two railyards including a rail maintenance facility and major highways with diesel truck traffic.

The study is centered in the Argentine, Turner, and Armourdale neighborhoods.

As part of KC-TRAQS, a citizen science project will be conducted that enables residents and students to use mobile air monitors called AirMappers, developed by EPA, to collect air quality data.

The citizen science project is an important part of the overall study and will involve the collection of street-level air quality data by residents and students. Residents will be invited to participate in the study by using the new hand-held air monitoring devices, called AirMappers. The AirMappers can be checked out at the Turner Library and KCK South Library for several days at a time.

Citizen scientists will be asked to walk

or ride a bicycle in the study area with an AirMapper and then turn the device back into the library where the air quality data will be collected and combined with other data collected by EPA using stationary and mobile air measurement equipment.

In addition, local schools are participating in the citizen science portion of the study by incorporating air monitoring, emissions, pollutants, air quality and citizen science in their science curriculum and utilizing AirMappers in the field. Students are learning how to conduct field studies, write effective field notes, learn about air monitoring approaches and possible future careers while assisting in the KC-TRAQS research. These science classrooms are checking out AirMappers for a week at a time.

This research study is being conducted by the EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD) and EPA Region 7 Office in Kansas City, KS, in partnership with the Wyandotte County Unified Governments, district commissioners and resident leaders from Argentine, Turner and Armourdale neighborhoods, local businesses such as Burlington Northern Santa Fe and International Trucking Express Inc., and the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC).



In the past 15 years jobs in Wyandotte County jobs in manufacturing have decreased by 13%.

The number of single family homes built in Wyandotte County has increased 284% since 2011.

Lifesaving PulsePoint App Now Available in KC Region



Local city, county, fire department and emergency medical services leaders have joined forces to bring the lifesaving PulsePoint app to the Kansas City region. The free mobile app alerts citizens trained in hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) when someone in a nearby public place suffers sudden cardiac arrest. Public safety communications centers send alerts through the app at the same time they dispatch first responders to the scene. The app also notifies users of the closest available automated external defibrillator (AED).

"Sudden cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of death in the United States, affecting more than 350,000 people each year," said Chief John Paul Jones of the Kansas City, Kansas, Fire Department. "This cutting-edge technology can save lives by alerting people who can start CPR before an ambulance arrives. With sudden cardiac arrest, seconds count."

The Heart of America Metro Fire Chiefs' Council and Mid-America Regional Council Emergency Rescue committee (commonly known as MARCER) were instrumental in bringing PulsePoint to the Kansas City region. "It was important to us for this to be a regional effort," said Richard Carrizzo, president of Heart of America Fire Chiefs and fire chief for the Southern Platte Fire Protection District.

The app is now available through three agencies that dispatch emergency medical services in all or part of six counties in the metro:

The Kansas City, Missouri, Fire Department dispatches for all of the city of Kansas City, Missouri (including portions of Platte, Clay and Jackson counties) as well as the Southern Platte Fire Protection District, Central Jackson County Fire Department, and the cities of Raytown, Grandview, North

Kansas City and Claycomo.


The Kansas City, Kansas, Fire Department dispatches emergency medical services for all of Wyandotte County, Kansas.

"Combined, these areas have a population of over 1.3 million. This is the largest regional effort to simultaneously implement PulsePoint in the nation," said Carrizzo. Additional cities and counties in the region may join later.

The American Heart Association estimates that effective hands-only CPR provided immediately after a cardiac emergency can double or triple a person's chance of survival, but only 46 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims received bystander CPR in 2016. Even fewer receive a potentially lifesaving therapeutic shock from a public access AED.


"When sudden cardiac arrest strikes, each minute without CPR reduces the chance of survival by 7-10 percent, so early bystander CPR and rapid defibrillation from an AED can be crucial," said Chief Paul Berardi of the Kansas City, Missouri, Fire Department. "I encourage every resident who has CPR training to download the app and support our region's first responders in saving lives."

Anyone with a smartphone can download the free PulsePoint Respond app through the Google Play Store and Apple App Store. Once the app is installed, select the agency serving the area where you live or work to receive alerts. Users may follow more than one agency. PulsePoint is currently active in more than 2,500 cities across the country.


"The regional implementation of PulsePoint is a great example of the bistrate cooperation we have among emergency services agencies in Greater Kansas City," said Hannes Zacharias, county manager for Johnson County, Kansas, and co-chair of the Regional Homeland Security Coordinating Committee. "We're pleased to be able to offer this great service across the metro." 




PetSafe Grant Award

Unified Government Parks and recreation was selected a 2017 Bark for Your Park grant recipient from PetSafe. To be considered for a grant, communities were asked to provide documentation about the park and authorization from civic leaders. PetSafe received a total of 215 applications in 2017, surpassing all other years of the program. After a review of all application by an internal committee, PetSafe has selected 25 communities across the country as 2017 grant recipients. Kansas City, KS was one of five cities who received the top tier prize of \$25,000. The award amount of \$25,000 will go towards a community dog park. Since Bark for Your Park program was launched in 2011, it has committed funding to 64 communities across the country to build, enhance or maintain off-leash dog parks. 


Metro 24 Fitness

The grand opening of Metro 24 Fitness at Joe E. Amayo/Argentine Community Center was on August 23rd, 2017. The fitness center opened with 170 paid memberships. The project began fall 2016 and includes new cardio equipment and weight machines as well as a renovated multi-purpose room across the hall where fitness classes will be held. 

Beatrice L. Lee Renaming Ceremony

A commemorative tribute and ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the Beatrice L. Lee Community Center (formerly known as John F. Kennedy) took place on Saturday, September 30th from 2-5pm. Food, refreshments and cake were served for those who attended the ceremony to thank and honor Mrs. Beatrice L. Lee for her life time of devotion and service to the youth and families in our community. 

How to report a problem in parks

See a maintenance issue or problem without our parks? Go to our updated website www.wycokck.org/home and scroll to the bottom right of the page and click "submit new service request", then "submit a parks and recreation service request". Fill out the form and submit. An e-mail can also be sent to parksinfo@wycokck.org. 



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Website: www.wycokck.org

Need to contact Unified Government?
 Call 3-1-1

New Approach to Abandoned Houses

The Wyandotte County Land Bank has launched an innovative rehabilitation program to deal with abandoned, tax delinquent houses. The Land Bank takes the houses and sells them to qualified contractors who then have 90 days to fix-up the houses. There are currently 43 homes in the program. Several houses have already been completed and now being lived in and back on the tax rolls.

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“PROPERTUNITY”: A property that is currently blighted or vacant but is poised to be part a dynamic revitalization.

Delevan St.

Renovation Completed in 30 Days

Renovated Property Appraised for \$100K

As of 10-24-2017 Under Contract for Full Asking Price of \$100K with an Owner Occupied Buyer



15th St.

Renovation Completed in 30 Days

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Currently Rented as an Investment Property



49th Terr.

Renovation Completed in 30 Days

Renovated Property Appraised for \$86K

A New Bathroom was Added Making this Full Renovation of the Finest Homes on the Block

