

MAY 2024

UG STAT



County Administrator
Monthly Report on
Unified Government Priorities

DEPARTMENTS REPORTING

Economic Development & Finance

- Budget, Research & Analysis
- Community Development
- Economic Development
- Finance
- Office of the Appraiser
- Planning & Urban Design
- Neighborhood Resource Center
- Register of Deeds
- Transportation

Administration

- 3-1-1
- Clerk's Office
- Election Office
- Human Resources
- Legal
- Legislative Auditor
- Purchasing
- Strategic Communications
- Technology

Stay tuned for the June 2024 report which will include updates from the following:

- Area Agency on Aging
- Community Corrections
- District Attorney
- District Court
- Emergency Management
- Human Services
- KCKFD
- KCKPD
- Municipal Court
- Parks & Recreation
- Public Health
- Public Works
- Wyandotte County Sheriff

UG STAT MESSAGE TO OUR MAYOR AND ELECTED OFFICIALS



David W. Johnston, ICMA-CM
County Administrator

A little over a year ago, I came into this role knowing some of the challenges to be addressed from the recruiting brochure and my own research. I understood there were both financial and personnel challenges and, now, I have an even better understanding of the true scale of these challenges. However, I am not discouraged. This is good work that needs to be done here at the UG and for our citizens. I appreciate the opportunity to provide an overview of the year, share some of the things we're working on now, and end with some challenges we all need to work on to keep our community a great place to invest, work, live and play.

Year One in Review

PERSONNEL

Since I arrived at the Unified Government, there have been several strategic hires that have been made, including a new **Fire Chief, Transit Director, Public Health Director, and Chief Financial Officer**. I am finding it difficult to recruit an **Economic Development Director** but we are still moving forward in filling key positions throughout the organization. I am also pleased to announce that we have hired **Rodney Lucas** as my Executive Assistant, who will not only work with me but serve the function of the Commission liaison position to make sure there is good communication between county administration and our elected body.

We have an initiative with GovHR to take an independent look at the human resources function of the Unified Government. Following the initial audit under my predecessor, this audit will take a different look to identify opportunities for improvement with clear strategies to help us move from a negative to a positive. Human resources being one of our key shared systems, it is very important to have good working relationships with all of our internal departments.

BUDGET & FINANCE

When I started last year, I was initiated very quickly by jumping into the 2024 budget process which was starting about two months later than usual. We had to catch up fast. To help us with budget and finance, I have reintroduced the UG to ResourceX who will be taking an innovative approach to helping us implement **priority-based budgeting**. In 2017, the UG bought the software as part of a self-directed approach, but now we will be working with a retired public Chief Financial Officer to guide our efforts. As a goal, we



David Johnston visited with the Office of the Clerk during their internal retreat earlier this month.

have to all understand we need to make changes. This new partnership will help give us the context to have good discussions about what this looks like for the UG with a rational approach to making changes and cuts.

The 2024 budget adopted by Commission last Fall pushed out the danger zone identified in our five-year budget model by several years. We focused on the revenue side of the budget while being a good steward on the expenses side. I think we were all surprised by how reliant we have been on debt where 44% of the property tax levy for the city side goes to paying for debt. My training has taught me it should not exceed 20%. In our audit report, presented by the Finance Department earlier this year, we saw that our level of debt for a AA-rated bond agency will need to be closely monitored as we do not want to see our ratings go down.

We finally have good barometers on how we look at debt, including the use of the five-year budget model which had been somewhat dormant in the past. This has helped us hone our focus on where to address certain aspects of our financial status as we move forward. Additionally, we negotiated with the State of Kansas and Cerner to include budget for local public benefits as part of their settlement. Our Finance and Budget teams are working closely with departments to take a critical look at their budgets as we prepare for change.

PUBLIC SAFETY

We all should be proud of the community policing efforts and outreach of our **Kansas City, Kansas Police Department**. With their hard work, we are now achieving the lowest homicide rate in KCK in 20 years and it is getting noticed. They are working aggressively with regional and federal drug task forces and trafficking task forces to address these serious issues. Meanwhile, KCKPD has been recognized nationally for our efforts on fentanyl. Given our geographic location in the middle of the country, we are naturally a great distribution point and we are proud of the work being done to take this evil drug out of the supply chain. We continue to work with Chief Karl Oakman to continue to improve community policing, getting our officers out of the car and into the businesses and community organizations to foster relationships.

In addition to breaking ground on a new Crime Scene Investigation facility last Fall, we opened Fire Station #16, consolidating two older fire stations built for a volunteer fire department and did not meet the needs of today's fire department. We are working toward the opening of another new station, Fire Station #20, to modernize our workplace and protect our personnel. You will soon be hearing a presentation from the **Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department** on their proposed master plan for facilities, which was part of the recent collective bargaining agreement with IAFF.

PUBLIC WORKS

Designed for the same midtown KCK site as the Crime Scene Investigation facility, a new wastewater office building is now under construction. At the beginning of 2024, a new model for funding stormwater treatment has been rolled out. This process has been years in the making - as the result of our federally negotiated consent decree. The issue of how we manage our **stormwater** is heavily regulated by the federal and state government and we need to do a better job of raising awareness and educating our public on this important infrastructure. With combined sewers in some of the older neighborhoods of our community, we need to make sure that raw sewage is not dumped into our rivers. It will take many years of investment to correct these issues.

Under the direction of the UG Commission, we are actively pursuing various grants and funding opportunities to replace the **Kansas and Central Avenue Bridges**. We have been running into some issues in working with the City of Kansas City, Missouri as we need their support for grant requests for the Kansas Avenue Bridge. Low traffic counts on the Central Avenue Bridge, on the other hand, has made it hard to justify the costs of replacement to potential funders. With the development underway and coming to the Bottoms, there is a new attention to this area and could help us as we pursue funding for these important gateways.

We have also been investigating alternative funding models for infrastructure maintenance. A couple of years ago, the UG Commission committed to increasing infrastructure funding year over year. We are looking to other sources beyond our general fund as well as focusing on our greatest priority fixes. Street preservation every year is important but we need to take the capital from our existing revenue streams whenever possible.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We are active participants in the **FIFA World Cup 2026** efforts as I sit on the board of directors. The team is hiring the necessary staff to keep this regional effort moving. We are discovering that while we think we are behind in planning, of the 11 cities also hosting, we are not that behind after all. I am also co-chair of the **Mayor's World Cup Readiness Task Force** with VisitKCK Executive Director Alan Carr. Our community is responsible for ensuring that the visitors who will attend the

games have a wonderful experience for the nearly 45-day period in 2026. With our soccer facilities being used by the teams, we have an opportunity to make an impact and will be responsible for helping move people around the area, access information, and more. We are working to renovate Memorial Hall in time to serve as a mini-fanfest area if we so choose.

We have been focusing on identifying improvements around our development process. We are looking closely at the **Development Review Committee** to make sure we are following our own ordinances and as long as we are meeting health and safety issues, we are able to issue a temporary certificate of occupancy. We have increased communication between departments and developers through small changes in how we convene internally.

In partnership with CityWork, we are specifically investigating the processes around starting a **small business** to ensure we are most effectively supporting a key economic driver and eliminating any unnecessary barriers. We have allowed bad habits to form in the past which we are now proactively addressing through deep dives into policy, processes, and reengagement of our departments.

We are working to establish new **minority-, women- and locally-owned business** standards for our contracts. Our Purchasing team is currently engaging the Legal Department to map out an approach for adoption as previous rules have sunset.

I have been working with the **KU Health System** on their long-range vision and plans for our community. They appreciate the balance between their business needs and being located in the middle of the neighborhood. As a major economic driver in our community, it is important for us to continue to foster this relationship particularly when there are more choices for other locations than ever before due to hospital mergers.

Adopted last November, **PlanKCK** is our updated comprehensive plan which has opened up many conversations about the standards and what our community is ready for today. Finally, the Fourth and Minnesota redevelopment initiative is moving forward with the recent announcement of the developer. Stay tuned for an upcoming announcement around Indian Springs site redevelopment.

The **Rock Island Bridge** is moving toward a summer opening. Once the levee construction is complete, a west parking lot will be constructed to support visitors to what promises to be a very exciting destination as part of our obligation to the project. In addition, we are excited to have the **Homefield Training Center and Ball Fields** open in addition to **OrangeEV** facility, a company that manufactures electric vehicles for airports and other ports. We've seen the groundbreaking for the Downtown campus of the **Kansas City, Kansas Community College** as well as the **Marvin Windows** facility, the **American Royal**, and the multi-family projects of **Yards II and Yards III** which will bring hundreds of new residential units to the community.

We are still hoping to recruit a Director of Economic Development but we have had some challenges due to the UG's reputation, perceived or real. I alone cannot fix this as it will take all of us to shape a reputation as an employer of choice.

COMMUNICATIONS

We have seen a dramatic improvement in our communications with our Strategic Communications team. We have launched UG STAT, for example, as a regular report to our elected officials and community on what is happening with our departments. We will continue to expand this to include more storytelling in addition to the data. We promised you last year a better means of communicating what's happening and this is just the beginning.

We have been hosting all-staff meetings to establish expectations as we approach change. I have also been convening our directors in an ongoing conversation about our UG Mission and strategic goals. As an organization, we have had to deal with rapid change - whether it was the global pandemic, elections, and more. I have focused on developing an understanding among our leadership team that change happens and we must be ready to adapt. For us to continue to be viable in the future, we must work with our community to help develop an understanding and appreciation for the change that is coming.

OPERATIONS

We have successfully implemented Workday to provide the much needed system of record for our human resources and finances. This new system helps us maintain better internal accountability and transparency as we have combined the

software implementation with process and policy improvements.

PARKS

We have seen multiple improvements across our parks system, including the opening of new pickleball courts at the **Wyandotte County Lake** and a remodeled **Bethany Community Center**. We have been collaborating with the Piper School District to create a new park in the Piper area. Additionally, we will be repairing the rock wall that collapsed at Wyandotte County Lake will be finished this year.

As part of an overarching study, Parks & Recreation is investigating the role of our **community centers** in the community our ability to manage levels of service.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

We recently achieved the bronze level designation as a **Community for All Ages**, working closely with Commissioner Melissa Bynum. This multi-department effort is ongoing and we look forward to continuing to achieve higher levels of recognition for being a friendly community for all generations.

Meanwhile, we are working on relocating the Willa Gill Center and the scope of services provided as their current location will eventually be replaced with the KCKCC downtown campus. Additionally, we have opened a satellite public health clinic in Bonner Springs to help connect county residents with basic healthcare services.

Looking Forward

Upon establishing the 2024 Commission priorities earlier this year with our elected body, we have been working diligently to define strategies and a path forward to help us meet these goals.

PRIORITY ONE: UPHOLD FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Some of the actions we are taking include:

- Support ResourceX and the (re)introduction of priority-based budgeting for a more rational approach to making the necessary fiscal changes.
- Define a debt management policy and strategy.

- Identify tax relief strategies which covers a range of topics, include BPU PILOT relief, revenue neutral versus non-revenue neutral budgeting, etc.
- Plan for the post-American Rescue Act Plan funding world when we will not have the same federal funds to support our COVID recovery.

PRIORITY TWO: FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Some of the actions we will be taking include:

- Define our economic development “product” on many fronts with a challenge to the community to participate. We need to define our community and the type of businesses we want here.
- Market to targeted employment sector(s).
- Continue our relationship with the Kansas Department of Commerce.
- Leverage STAR Bonds effectively and consider different approaches to how we use this powerful development tool responsibly.
- Foster an understanding of economic development in all departments.
- Activate 4,600 land bank parcels.
- Focus on activating connections and development between Quindaro and Rock Island Bridge.
- Move the redevelopment of Fourth and Minnesota and Indian Springs forward.

PRIORITY THREE: FOCUS ON SERVICE & COMMUNICATIONS

We will be focusing on the following areas for improvement:

- Participate with wider media in sharing our story.
- Increase UG department use of Strategic Communication services.
- Work closely with the Clerk on departmental processes and improvements.
- Work on a better overall attitude of service for the public we service.
- Instill an appreciation for public accountability.
- Continue the evolution of UG STAT as a primary communications tool.

PRIORITY FOUR: IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE

With aging infrastructure that serves a sprawling community, we must focus on what we can realistically accomplish within our means, including:

- Apply for grant funding to replace the Kansas and Central Avenue bridges.
- Launch a public education strategy to support stormwater capital improvements.
- Develop a better understanding of UG building and facility needs for both today and into the future.



The Rock Island Bridge will open to summer as a destination for entertainment, food and community.

AT-A-GLANCE

2024 Commission Priorities

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS (UG) Commission has identified four priorities for 2024. These priorities will guide budget development and an organizational deep-dive to improve internal operations, increase our efficiency, and address community outcomes. County Administration has been working with leadership across the UG to operationalize these priorities and establish a clear strategic vision for the organization.

**PRIORITY ONE
UPHOLD FISCAL
SUSTAINABILITY**



**PRIORITY TWO
FOSTER ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**



**PRIORITY THREE
FOCUS ON SERVICE
& COMMUNICATION**



**PRIORITY FOUR
IMPROVE
INFRASTRUCTURE**



If reading this edition of UG Stat digitally, please be advised that there are hyperlinks throughout the document to referenced content and additional information.



- Resolve the question about implementing a trash cart pilot program.
- Foster better public accountability on project management.
- Take a hard look at our underutilized parks inventory.

Issues to be Addressed

All of us need to look at the challenges that we can all address together, not just as a government but with our elected officials as well. We have more challenges to tackle which we will be looking at in the coming years, including:

- Prioritizing recruitment and the question about residency. With housing challenges and a competitive job environment, we need to work together to attract the type of talent we need.
- Plan for the Silver Tsunami through effective secession planning.
- Address our image as an organization and community.
- Establish strategies and goals to serve as indicators for success, moving beyond running our government on a year-to-year basis and move to a longer term view.
- Acknowledge that there are still many other challenges to address and it will take time to address them all. We must be open to continued change and adapt how we operate as the world around us evolves.

Thank you for the privilege of serving Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. I look forward to continuing the work underway to improve our community and Unified Government.

David W. Johnston, ICMA-CM
County Administrator



PRIORITY ONE

UPHOLD FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Personnel Deep Dives

The Budget, Strategy & Research Department has been evaluating solutions to curtail increasing personnel costs across the organization. This is part of the “deep dive” strategy introduced by the County Administrator to closely evaluate and identify potential cost savings across the Unified Government.

Debt Authority Review

The Budget, Strategy & Research Department is running through due diligence exercises for all capital projects from 2023 to ensure compliance with existing debt authority.

2023 Purchase Orders

The Budget, Strategy & Research Department is examining all prior-year purchase orders that are still open. Results from this evaluation are expected soon.

Priority-Based Budgeting: Ramp Up

The Budget, Strategy & Research Department, along with consultant ResourceX, re-introduced priority-based budgeting to department directors on Wednesday, April 10. This approach, which focuses on budgeting from the perspective of greatest priority versus starting from last year’s spend, is being supported by a consultant team to help us walk-through implementation. Previously introduced to the organization, this approach only stalled due to the pressures of our COVID response and the need for additional capacity to champion this transformation. A presentation of priority-based budgeting was shared with the UG Commission on Thursday, April 18 and the team is currently working on updating program inventory data during the month of May.

2025 Budget Engagement Continue

The UG Commission has had a busy schedule this spring with several budget workshops. Broadcast live and open to the public to attend, these sessions

dive into the data behind our current budget, revenue and expense projections for next year, and other key considerations for the Commission to establish budget priorities. The next budget workshop is scheduled for May 16, 5PM to discuss the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan.

In April, the UG hosted five DotteTalks, conversations about the 2025 budget across the county with a record number of 60 participants. We also received 180 community submissions of the budget simulator which is a 300% growth in response rate since 2023. The community is invited to a **public budget hearing at 7PM on Thursday, June 6** as another opportunity to provide feedback on the 2024 city and county budget.

2025 Budget Hearing: June 6, 7PM

The community is invited to share their ideas and priorities for the 2025 city and county budgets at the upcoming budget hearing with the UG Commission. Join us in-person at the Commission Chambers or tune-in online.

Top Spends: Top 10 Suppliers YTD

The following, provided by the UG Purchasing Department, includes a ranked list of the top 10 suppliers, sorted by total spend for January 1, 2024 through May 3, 2024.

RANK/SUPPLIER	TOTAL BILLING	TRANS-ACTIONS
1. Amazon Marketplace	\$116,429.73	811
2. Life Assist Inc.	\$115,251.31	46
3. Grainger	\$45,296.85	70
4. Kansas City Winnelson	\$40,362.47	38
5. AT&T	\$33,024.78	64
6. Zoll Medical Corp	\$30,284.72	8
7. Autocraft KC LLC	\$29,147.17	8
8. Restockit Inc.	\$25,888.03	9
9. Key Equipment & Supply	\$25,825.07	39
10. Lowes	\$25,219.90	245

Top Spends: By Department YTD

The following, provided by the UG Purchasing Department, includes a ranked list of the top Purchasing Card Spends across the organization. The top 15 spends shown are as of May 7, 2024.

RANK/DEPARTMENT	TOTAL BILLING	TRANS-ACTIONS
1. Water Pollution Control	\$391,104.36	799
2. KCKFD	\$335,977.52	569
3. Fleet Services/Streets	\$268,299.35	809
4. KCKPD	\$155,424.58	773
5. Health Department	\$153,731.86	440
6. Parks & Recreation	\$124,513.43	527
7. WyCo Sheriff	\$117,985.15	353
8. Buildings & Logistics	\$70,372.88	324
9. Technology	\$66,777.58	90
10. District Courts	\$64,297.51	178
11. West Building Maintenance	\$61,253.27	170
12. District Attorney	\$49,606.40	196
13. Community Corrections	\$48,606.40	234
14. Public Works	\$22,541.12	78
15. Finance Department	\$18,909.44	71

Lawsuits, Appeals and Contract Negotiations

The UG Legal Department was recently successful in having two lawsuits dismissed. Legal Counsel also defended the appeals of Cabela's/Bass Pro and Kohl's in Topeka in front of the Board of Tax Appeals.

The UG continues with negotiations with the various bargaining units for new contracts.

2024 Presidential Preference Primary Election

The Wyandotte County Election Office submitted direct expenses related to the 2024 Presidential Preference Primary Election to the UG Commission for approval. The State of Kansas will reimburse the Election Office for \$164,865.25, the costs to oversee the election in February.

Q1 Recordings at Register of Deeds are Down as Compared to 2023

The total recordings for the first quarter of 2024 are 4,150 documents. This is a drop in total recordings as compared to the previous year.

RECORDINGS	2023	2024
Paper	1,361	921
E-Recorded	3,354	3,229
Total First Quarter	4,714	4,150

Transportation Funding: Grants Pursued

The UG Transportation Department recently applied for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) grant opportunity on April 19. Two projects were submitted for funding included:

- Defensive Driving Training:** Our goal is to partner with Apex CDL Institute for hands-on defensive driving training. The institute is located less than a mile from our facility, and we've obtained many of their graduating students. Apex CDL Institute uses only modern equipment, experienced instructors, and a first-class facility to ensure that training is complete, professional, and enjoyable. Additionally, Apex submitted a letter of support to ensure the UG Transportation efforts of providing quality training.
- Revenue Fleet Camera Equipment:** Our goal is to upgrade our existing vehicle cameras with HD heavy-duty ultrasonic system that includes real-time access to videos and data, including cloud-based software to download images and videos. Additionally, our goal is to Increase fleet safety, efficiency, and performance. The full-featured transit bus system increases fleet safety and reduces operational risk by allowing you to see and do more on and around your bus

and access in-depth insight faster in real-time.

The total grant request is approximately \$250k with no match requirement. Applicants should know by July if they were approved for the grant funding opportunity.

Inter-Departmental Grants Working Group 2024 List of Projects Approved

A collaboration between multiple UG Departments and the Board of Public Utilities, this working group was initiated by the Planning + Urban Design Department in 2022 when it was clear that multiple agencies in Kansas City, Kansas were competing and/or pursuing the same grant funding that came from the deluge of federal pandemic, infrastructure and climate change bills. After increased success and coordination during the 2023 grant cycle, on April 4, the UG Commission approved the working groups updated list of 13 projects to pursue grant funding for in the coming year, including:

- Levee Betterment Project
- East-West Transit Study Phase II
- Countywide Deficient Watershed Betterment
- NE KCK Heritage Trail and Quindaro Townsite
- Regional Public Safety Training Facility & Community Center
- Countywide Weatherization Program
- Kansas and Central Avenue Bridges Replacement
- Northeast and Other Rideshare Programs
- Urban Heat Island Strategy Implementation
- Rainbow Boulevard Implementation
- Citywide Fleet Electrification Pilot Project
- Planning, Design & Construction for Parks and Community Centers
- K-32 Corridor

More information on all of these projects is provided in the meeting materials for the April 4 Commission Meeting and is available at wycokck.org/clerk

Fleet Vehicles: Finding Efficiencies with Smaller Vehicles

The Neighborhood Resource Center replaced 16 previously leased Chevrolet Traverses with 16 Chevrolet Equinoxes through the Enterprise Fleet

Equity Lease Program. This trade moved us to smaller more economical vehicles and reduces our monthly payment. We are still working towards replacing our mixed bag of remaining UG-owned vehicles with Chevrolet Equinox or comparable make and model through the Enterprise program.



PRIORITY TWO

FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Better Mobility = More Opportunity

The UG Transportation Department has successfully combined the **Edwardsville and Midtown Microtransit** services for even better coverage in Wyandotte County. The service area now covers Leavenworth Road to the North, N. 110th Street on the West, the Kansas River and Metropolitan Avenue on the South, and 42nd Street and I-635 on the East. This on-demand shuttle service is affordable at just \$3 per person per trip within the zone and can be booked via app, website or by UG Transportation Dispatch. The **Northeast Microtransit** service will be coming soon. The expanded service will also overlap with the existing microtransit zone, connecting 7th Street to I-635 and Fairfax to I-70.

2023 Tax Rebate Program

The Utility/Sales/Property Tax Rebate season ended April 15, 2024, with a total number of applications of 1,345. Dollars rebated back to eligible residents in Kansas City, KS and Wyandotte County were \$464,034.01 in Utility/Sales rebates and \$429,006.46 from the State of Kansas in property tax dollars.

To say the programs were well-received and successful is an understatement. The Clerk's Office takes great pride in being able to administer these programs and appreciates the volunteers from the Area Agency on Aging and the Treasury Department who assisted in processing applications.

There's a new way to get around Wyandotte and it is as easy as...



Download the Iris app, visit the Iris website, or call our dispatch.



Schedule and pre-pay for your ride. \$3 per passenger each way.



Meet us at your pickup spot, then sit back and leave the driving to us!



Discover our new microtransit services. wycokck.org/transportation



HELP US BY SPREADING THE WORD!

We are looking for as many ways to encourage ridership of this new on-demand service and appreciate your help in spreading the word. Feedback from customers to date has been very positive! Check out our website or scan the QR code for a brief article on the new service and how to get started.



SERVICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 5:30AM-8PM
Saturday & Sunday, 7AM - 4:30PM

Book by Phone: 913-573-8351 (M-F)
Weekend Dispatch: 913-469-8747 (S & S)
By App or Website: wycokck.org/transit

FARE

- \$3/person per trip within the zone
- FREE for Urban Outfitters Employees

Microtransit is a new on-demand service to help Dotte move...

- ...to jobs.
- ...to shopping.
- ...to entertainment.
- ...to regional transit.
- ...to so much more.

Travel within the above zone for only \$3/passenger per ride.

Discover our new microtransit services. wycokck.org/transportation



Unified Government
of Wyandotte County | Kansas City, KS
701 N 7th Street 17th Fl, Suite 323
Kansas City, KS 66101

**Apply for your rebates
January 2 - April 15, 2024.**

Start gathering your 2023 income statements and utility bills now. Income can include your 2023 Social Security statement, W-2, interest statements, pension statements, retirement income, and/or disability income. You'll need proof of disability, if applicable.

If you're applying for the Property Tax Rebate, collect your 2023 real estate tax statement too.

Call 3-1-1 for more on how to qualify and schedule an appointment.

wycokck.org/taxrebates

If you are 65 years old or older on January 1, 2024 OR disabled with an annual income of \$40,500 or less...

You may be eligible for a tax rebate.



BPU PILOT Relief

for Wyandotte County residents with a BPU Account.



Property Tax Rebate

for Wyandotte County residents who own property.



Utility Tax Rebate

for KCK residents who pay franchise fees on utilities such as gas, internet, cable, and phone.



\$200 Sales Tax Rebate

for KCK residents.

A postcard (pictured) was mailed to every WyCo household in late December 2023 to announce the tax rebate program and bring in new customers. A budget request has been made to send a postcard for this year's program.

UG CLERK'S OFFICE

2023 Tax Rebate Program

AT-A-GLANCE

1,345

Total Applicants

\$464,034

Utility/Sales Rebates

\$429,006

**State of Kansas
Property Tax Dollars**

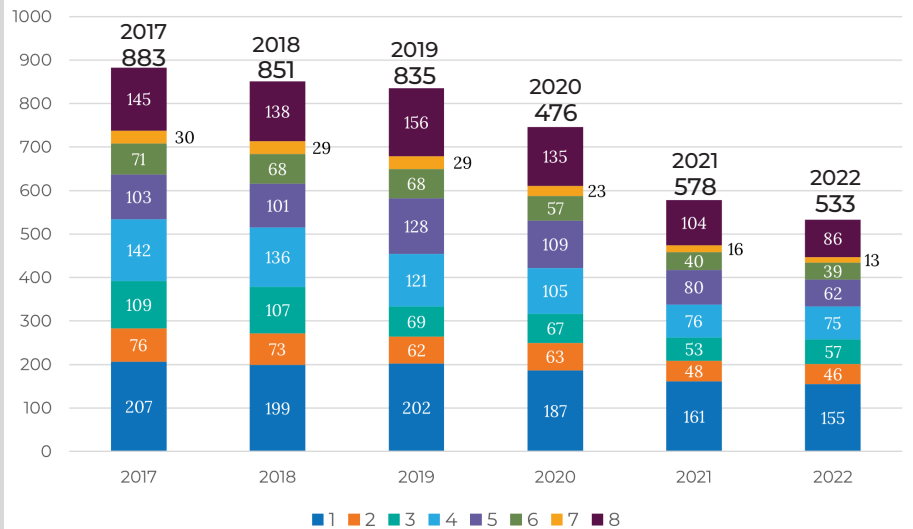
2023 Applications by Site

Municipal Building	925
UG Annex	129
Eisenhower	100
Turner	7
Area Agency on Aging	137
Argentine	47

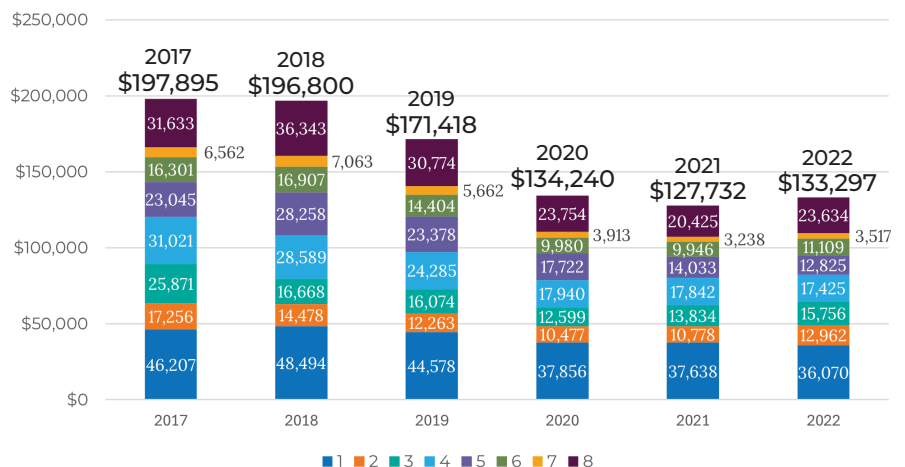
2023 Applications by District

District 1	317
District 2	112
District 3	106
District 4	162
District 5	164
District 6	116
District 7	62
District 8	211
Unable to Process	95

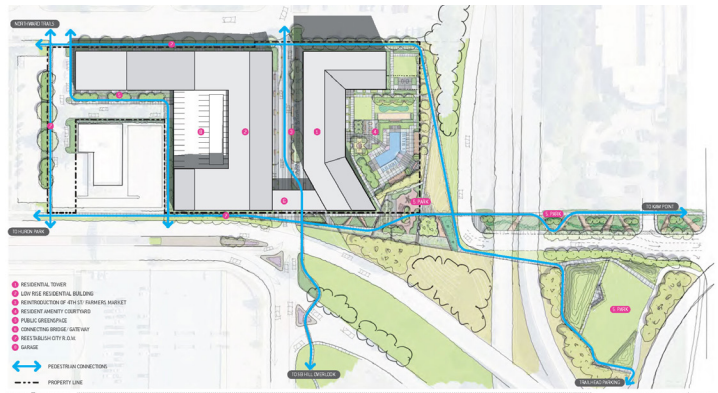
Total Applicants by Commission District (2017-2022)



Total Rebates Paid by Commission District (2017-2022)



These are the preliminary numbers, not yet audited for accuracy.



PICTURED: Renderings of the proposed development at Fourth & Minnesota, provided by Flaherty & Collins and created by the architecture firm KEM Studio.

Fourth & Minnesota Redevelopment Proposal Announced

On Monday, April 29, 2024, the Economic Development & Finance Standing Committee heard a presentation from the selected development team, Flaherty & Collins, for the redevelopment of UG-owned land at Fourth and Minnesota. This project went through an extensive Request for Qualifications (RFQ) and Request for Proposals (RFP) process that redefined what community development should look like in KCK by putting the community’s input and codified long-range plans at the heart of the evaluation criteria.

The result is an amenity rich, 500+ apartment mixed-use project that has the potential to reimagine the KCK skyline and catalyze the revitalization of the urban core. For more information about this project and the overall redevelopment initiative at wycokck.org/redevelopment

Preparing for the World Cup 2026

The UG Transportation Department has been actively engaged in the KC2026 World Cup Transportation Working Group along with the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA), Johnson County, Kansas Department of Transportation, the Mid-America Regional Council and the KC Sports Commission. Meeting monthly,

the working group is developing a high-level mobility plan with potential transit routes, ingress/egress plans from venues, fan fest sites, and park-and-ride sites. The working group is also developing a procurement strategy that will include a regional request for proposals for contracted mobility support, if needed. Plans will include a mode split of transport services, extended hours of operation, and weekend service to move visitors across our metro area.

Bikeshare Phase 2 Amendment

On Wednesday, May 8, the Mid-America Regional Council’s (MARC) Active Transportation Committee approved the amendment to a \$100,000 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant that the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas was awarded in 2023 to move the proposed bikeshare expansion to Village West.

Originally intended for an expansion of the Rosedale Bikeshare program into the broader urban core, this change was initiated to better prepare KCK for World Cup 2026 where we know at least one team will be hosted in the facilities and accommodations in western Wyandotte County. With this change, the UG will move forward with the purchase of 25 new e-bikes and stations in advance of World Cup 2026 as a legacy project to make the entire Village West area more walkable.



**PLAN
KCK**

wycokck.org/PlanKCK



Read the latest PlanKCK email and subscribe today!

Implementation Updates

PlanKCK Comprehensive Plan

In a recent update, the UG shared progress in meeting the many goals, objectives and strategic action items of the comprehensive plan, including:

- Ongoing KCK Redevelopment Initiative and the development proposal for UG-owned land at Fourth & Minnesota proposal;
- Ongoing Land Bank Policy Review Process;
- Recently launched Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment;
- MARC Bronze-Level Community for All Ages Designation;
- Partnership with Re.Use.Full to launch Recycling Challenge to divert plastics from our landfills;
- Support for Peer Learning Groups in the Historic Northeast on brownfields and site contamination;
- Advancing the Rainbow Complete Streets project from planning to pursuit of grant funding;
- \$1M in revitalization to Boston Daniels Park starting this spring; and,
- Designation of the Downtown Historical Commercial District by the Kansas State Historic Sites Board of Review.

Community Partners Continue to Grow Resident Takes Action

During the PlanKCK summer of outreach last year, a KCK resident partnered with the UG to host a session for her peer real estate professionals to brainstorm opportunities and ideas for the comprehensive plan update. Through ongoing engagement with UG staff and learning more about the opportunities across KCK, this resident was inspired to take action herself and has launched her own development company. While early days, it is exciting to see this entrepreneurial initiative to make a difference for our neighborhoods. It will take many partners to bring our shared vision to a reality.



EMAIL FROM RESIDENT: “Introducing one of your Newest Female Wyandotte County Community Developers. It’s official. This is your sign to consider yourself abundantly thanked for everything you have done to support me in this last year. Each one of you has played a significant role in where I am going from here.” - Fran Sutton

Learn more about PlanKCK Request a Speaker

Know a community organization or neighborhood group that would like to learn more about our comprehensive plan? Please contact Long-Range Planner Alyssa Marcy at amarcy@wycokck.org to request a speaker to present to your group.

Supporting Artists in Our Local Economy

The Unified Government will be featured prominently in an upcoming workshop for the **Mid-America Regional Council** as the organization kicks-off its 2024 Planning Sustainable Places Grant Program. As part of Strategic Communications effort with ArtsKC, we are highlighting the value that local artists bring to planning and community development as an important sector in our economy. This is an extension of the work being completed under a **National Endowment for the Arts** grant awarded last year to promote more artists in civic leadership positions, whether as volunteers on boards and commissions or as part of project teams. The deadline for completing this work has been extended to the end of the calendar year so stay tuned for more updates!

Appraisal Process Update: Informal Appeals

The Office of the Appraiser received quite a large number of property appraisal appeals due to their community outreach this season. They are currently working through all of the informal appeals for each property owner who applied. **Values will be certified by the Clerk by June 1, 2024**, a key factor in estimating potential revenues across all taxing jurisdictions in Wyandotte County.

Neighborhood Revitalization Program

A friendly reminder that the Neighborhood Revitalization Act (NRA) rebate program is administered by the Office of the Appraiser. Property owners are encouraged to look into this program before starting an major renovations or improvements to their property as they may qualify for an abatement on property taxes once the project is complete. This allows property owners to save a percentage on their property taxes for qualified improvements within the designated zones. Learn more at wycokck.org/appraiser

Home Repair Programs: Coordinating for Success

2025 Home Repairs are underway. Livable Neighborhoods staff has been collaborating with the Community Development Department to explore options to best align UG home repair programs. This includes ensuring that we are taking full advantage of grant money, and discuss possible

changes to the application/intake process to improve customer service.

Lead Abatement: Awaiting Federal Guidance

The UG Department of Community Development is awaiting clarification on the \$25K threshold that triggers a complete lead-based paint removal. Once confirmed, the UG will resume abatement efforts.

SAVE THE DATE: Lead Abatement Workshop

Homeowners and renters are invited to attend the **kNow LEAD KCK Application Workshop** being held on **Wednesday, May 22, from 5pm to 7PM** at the West Wyandotte Library. Come and learn more about this program and guidelines.

Rental License: Springtime is Time to Renew

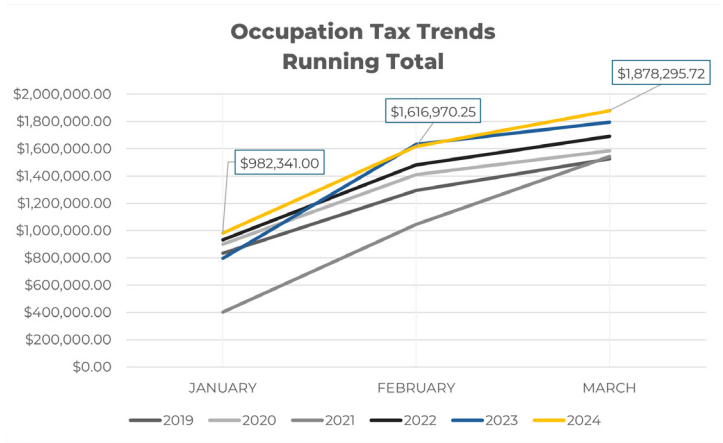
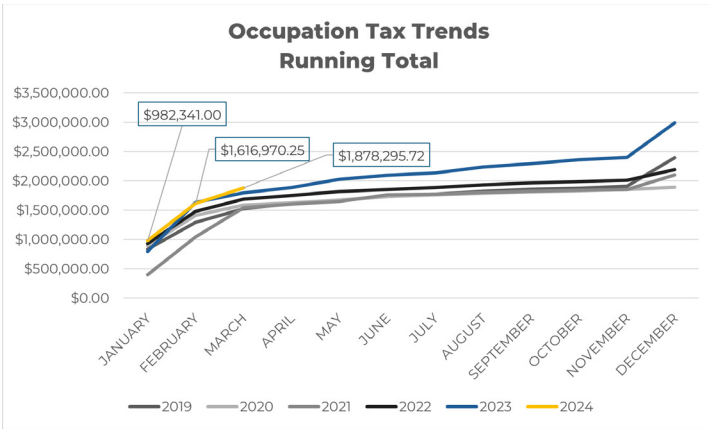
Rental license renewals were mailed out the first week of April and staff are receiving and processing payments as timely as they are able. Renewals were mailed along with a brochure from the Property Maintenance Compliance Division regarding the most common property maintenance violations, to help educate both landlords and tenants to assist them in not allowing their property to become in violation.

Rental Inspections (January-April 23)	2023	2024
Initial	163	347
LHS/Re-Inspections	368	587

Business License & Occupation Tax Updates

Currently there are 6422 businesses registered in our city. Since the last report, the Neighborhood Resource Center has reduced the number of delinquent occupation taxes from 1,964 to 1,066. The occupation tax renewals became delinquent on March 1st and started accumulating a 10% delinquent fee every month the occupation tax is not paid.

The two UG business license inspectors have been visiting delinquent businesses throughout our city to collect the **occupational taxes due**. We anticipate this outreach will help reduce the



number of delinquent businesses considerably in the coming weeks as businesses catch-up on their payment. Over the coming months, the team will also be collecting all taxes owed from vendors that participate in the NASCAR race at Kansas Speedway on May 4-5.

Since 2023, we have seen a steady increase in the collected amounts and anticipate seeing this trend continue this year as we catch-up on delinquent taxes from previous years. The past years' uncollected fees include many businesses that are behind on 2020 and 2021 occupation tax payments because of complications created by COVID. Also, this time frame is when we updated our database and not all businesses made the transition correctly.



**Starting a New Business?
Check out DotteBiz**

A reminder that there is a one-stop shop for resources on starting your business in Kansas City, KS and working with the Unified Government as a supplier. DotteBiz, launched last year, provides valuable checklists, links to resources and information, and other supports for potential small business owners to launch their business. Check out dottebiz.wycokck.org for more information today!

Don't forget we are now posting deadlines for upcoming bid opportunities on our calendar in addition to our **Facebook Group on business opportunities in Wyandotte County**. Be sure to register a potential vendor for the UG to receive updates on relevant contract opportunities as they become available.

Local Business Opportunities

SOLICITATIONS/CONTRACTS TO DATE	2024
Bids	7
Request for Proposals	7
Sole Source	8
Piggyback Contracts	20
Emergency Contracts	1
Quotes	4
Contract Renewals	10

By the Numbers: Building Permits and Inspections

Permits Issued (January-April 23)	2023	2024
Commercial	40	29
Electrical Permit	386	360
Fire Suppression	13	11
Gas Permit	33	21
Mechanical Permit	192	180
New Single Family	30	37
Plumbing Permit	351	347
Pool-Spa	3	2
Private Demolition	23	9
Re-Roof	10	8
Residential	177	203

Permits Issued (January-April 23)	2023	2024
Residential Solar Permit	43	63
Safe to Restore Electric	79	73
Grand Total	1,380	1,343

Inspections by Type (January-April 23)	2023	2024
Business Occupancy	70	56
Commercial	112	78
Electrical Permit	826	800
Gas Permit	59	41
Mechanical Permit	373	369
New Single Family	387	281
Plumbing Permit	748	848
Residential	333	431
Residential solar Permit	148	91
Safe to Restore Electric	96	77
Grand Total	3,152	3,072

'Tis the Season: Firework Stands



The UG is now in the process of accepting applications for an estimated 30 **firework stands** that plan to operate during this 4th of July season. Revised standards for firework stands were issued following the 2021 season at which time the UG issued a memo to all past firework stand applicants outlining these changes ahead of both the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

ZONING REQUIREMENTS: FIREWORK STANDS

No permit for retail sales shall be issued unless the proposed location is on property zoned at a minimum of retail-commercial use (C-1 Limited Business or CP-1 Planned Limited Business Districts or more) or can be shown to be a legal, nonconforming retail-commercial use effective January 1, 2022. No permit shall be issued for any location within 100 feet of any structure used in whole or in part as a residence.

A scaled and dimensioned site plan that depicts the property lines, all buildings, and approximate location of firework stands as well as all on-site and off-street parking is required with the Occupation Tax Application.

If co-located with an existing business, the fireworks stand/tent shall not reduce the minimum off-street parking requirements for the primary business on-site. Customer parking shall be on a paved (concrete or asphalt) surface. Grass and gravel parking is prohibited.

From the Kansas City, KS Fire Department

Hot Tips for Fireworks Safety



Purchase fireworks from licensed merchants.



Read and follow all directions.



Have a responsible adult in charge.



Prepare a safe, outdoor environment clear of other fireworks, dried wood, long grass and buildings.



Have water, such as a garden hose, bucket or portable pump sprayer, readily available in case of a grass fire.



Light fireworks one at a time and away from your body (and other people).

DON'T



Never discharge homemade or illegal fireworks such as bottle rockets, missile-type rockets, and sky lanterns.



Never give fireworks to children.



Never try to extinguish live fireworks that are on fire. Back away quickly and call 9-1-1.



Never carry fireworks in your pocket.



Do not point fireworks at people or animals.



Never use metal or glass containers to launch fireworks.

In Kansas City, Kansas, it is illegal to:

- Launch fireworks from, on, or under a moving or parked vehicle.
- Throw or place fireworks in any gathering of persons.
- Launch fireworks from any public roadway, alley or sidewalk or near a hospital or home for the aged.
- Ignite or discharge fireworks in any building.

CLEANING UP AFTER THE SHOW

- Soak fireworks debris in water.
- Leave debris in a non-combustible container curbside.
- For "dud" fireworks that fail to launch, wait 20 minutes and soak it with water before disposing of it.



**Report illegal fireworks by calling 9-1-1
or the Arson Hot Line 913-573-5555.**





PRIORITY THREE

FOCUS ON SERVICE & COMMUNICATION

Voter Education & Outreach

The Wyandotte County Election Office sent mailers to 34,000+ households with notification of the May 7 USD 500 Special Election and options for voting in advance by mail, early in-person or on election day. Election day postcard reminders were sent to 34,000+ households letting voters know the location of their polling place, hours and locations for early in-person voting, ballot drop box locations, and a link to review the sample ballot for the Special Election. The Elections team also processed and mailed approximately 1,700 advance by mail ballots for the USD 500 Special Election. The team has continued to respond to inbound inquiries via phone, email and walk-ins about election deadlines.

The Election Office sourced three early in-person and 20 election day polling places for the 2024 USD Special Election in addition to recruiting and training approximately 160 election workers for the election.



FAST FACT: WyCo Election Office

The Wyandotte County Election Office tests approximately 200 pieces of voting equipment prior to every election to ensure your elections are accurate and safe.



Voter Registration

Year-to-date, the Wyandotte County Election Office has processed 9,942 changes to the voter registration database as provided by voters. 9,682 documents were processed through the statewide voter registration programs. There are several requirements of the National Voter Registration Act and Help America Vote Act for routine checks on registration list maintenance. Check out the types of updates below and the numbers from past years.

Freedom of Information Act Requests

An essential service of the UG Clerk’s Office is serving as the Freedom of Information Officer for the Unified Government. Requests for information are processed through NextRequest. Over 19,000 requests for information were processed in 2023, with an average response time of 1 day, with 6 days to fulfill the request. A total of \$31,000 was generated from processing these requests.

TOP FIVE DEPARTMENTS IN RECEIPT OF FOIA REQUESTS	2023
Kansas City, Kansas Police Department	1,269
Municipal Court	1,086
Office of the Appraiser	374
Planning & Urban Design	144
Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department	109

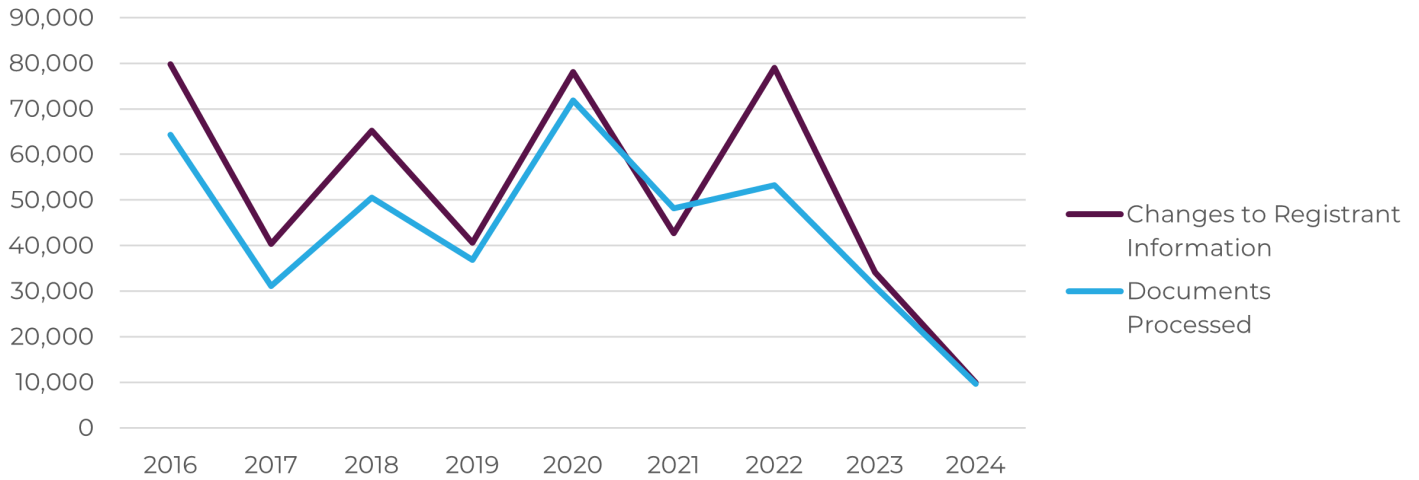
Property Maintenance Compliance

While the Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC) continues to be short-staffed, we are initiating new cases from public complaints we receive and properties referred to us from other Unified Government Departments. Inspectors will continue to maintain their re-inspections for already existing cases. Even though our Problem Property Team will be 1 inspector short, there will be no interruption to time sensitive cases such as property fires and Stop Work Orders for work being done without proper permits. We will also continue to address repeat offenders of our Overgrown Vegetation Ordinances.

Property Maintenance Compliance has ceased issuing citations for Abatement re-inspections and for most Tow Notices. There are three reasons for this change:

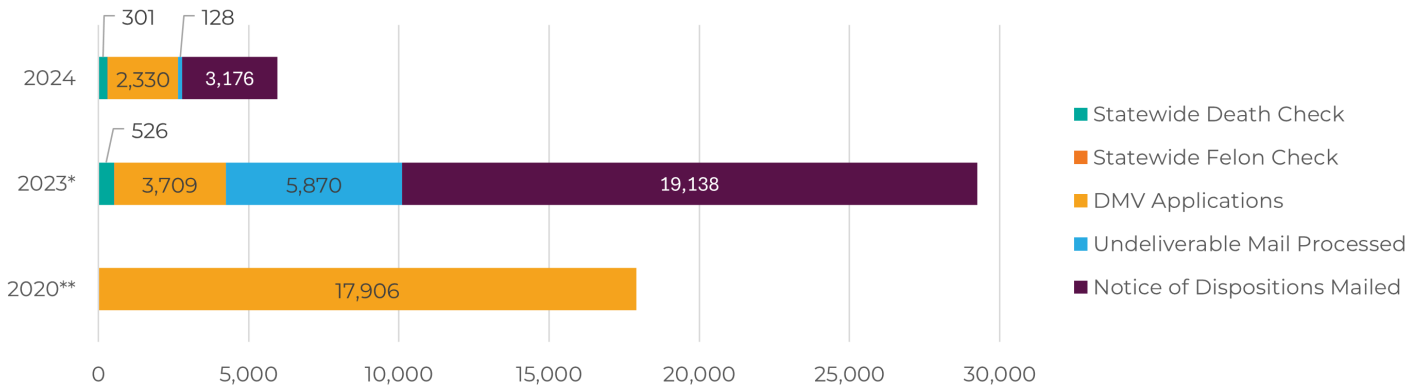
1. Abatements and Tow Notices end with the UG correcting violations for the homeowner at their expense. Once the City Abatement Crew cuts the grass or our contractor boards a structure, a significant bill is sent and if not paid, applied to the following year’s tax assessment.

Changes to Voter Registration & Documents Processed



Help America Vote Act (HAVA)

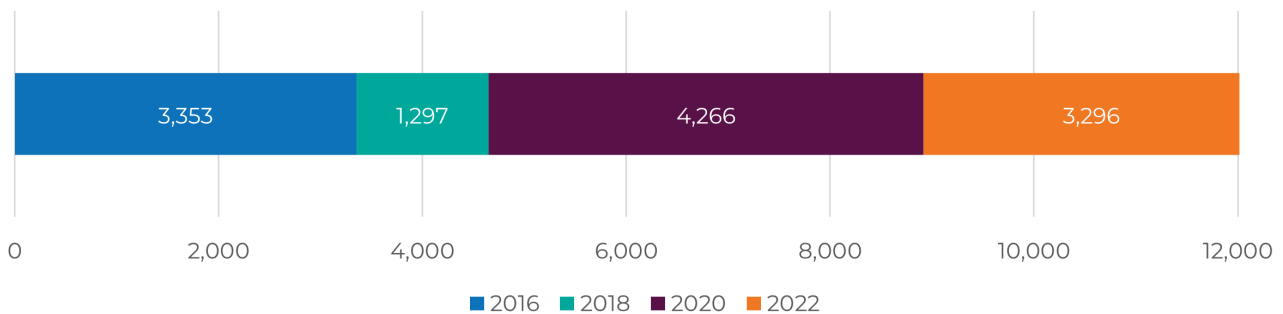
List maintenance from the following sources: statewide death check, statewide felon check, DMV applications, undeliverable mail processed, and notice of dispositions mailed.

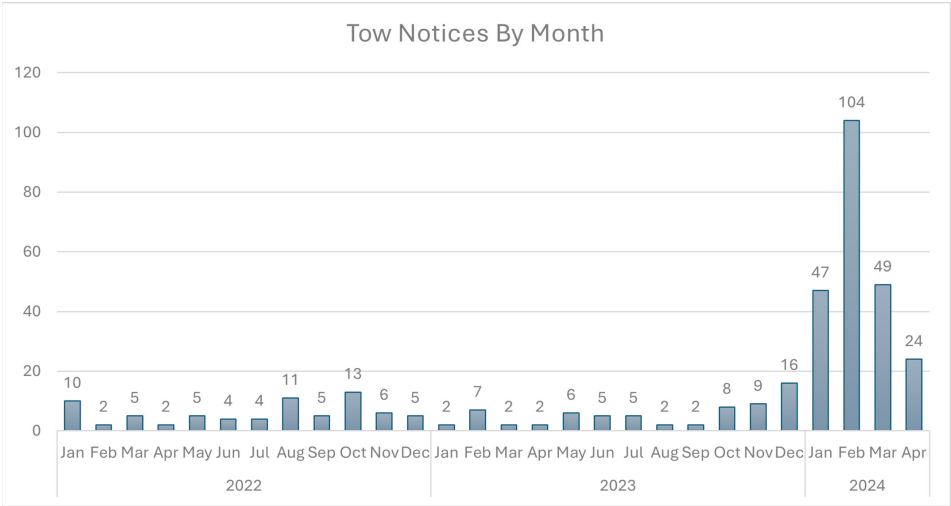


*2023 numbers tracked starting May 2023. **2020 numbers only available for DMV applications.

National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) Purge

Voters who have indicated that they have moved AND have no interaction with the Election Office for two federal elections are purged from the voter rolls.





The chart to the left illustrates the tow notices by month over the last couple of years. Recent efforts to coordinate between the Neighborhood Resource Center and KCKPD Community Policing have produced better data for tracking purposes as well as overall use of time.

- Most of these bills/citations go unpaid. The NRC will generally collect about 20% of the bills and Administrative Citations issued each year. The amount of money we bill more often becomes an artificial inflation of property taxes. As of our first Department update, provided in March, we had only collected 2% of what we had already billed for 2024.
- Finally, the number of unpaid citations and bills which end up going to Special Assessment is overwhelming for both NRC Administrative Staff who prepare the liens, and for the Clerk’s Office who apply the liens. Administrative Citations will continue to be assessed against properties which fail to comply with Notices of Violation sent to property owners for Fire damaged and/or Unfit structures, structural violations, environmental violations which cannot be abated, zoning violations, and for failure to register a property as vacant.

Since the start of this year, the Property Maintenance Compliance has partnered with KCKPD Community Policing to address inoperative, unregistered, and illegally parked vehicles. In the past, both teams would address vehicles with 10-Day Tow Notices, creating inefficiencies in the process. Additionally, there was no way of knowing how many vehicles were being addressed throughout the city. We have since reinstated a process where our police officers address the vehicles with placards at the property and our inspectors sending out the paperwork and conducting the hearings. We believe this strengthens the partnership between our two divisions while also allowing for better data collection.

Property Maintenance Compliance will be revisiting

our Mission, Vision, and Purpose Statements. We believe making possible revisions to these as well as making them more prominent for public consumption will provide greater insight into our role within the Unified Government. We believe there are many misconceptions about what we can and cannot do when it comes to enforcing city ordinances. By proactively educating the public about our scope and jurisdiction, perhaps we can be less reactive to complaints over which we have no control.

Livable Neighborhoods Updates

Engagement & Outreach Summary (as of April 23, 2024)	
Task Force Meeting Attendance (March - Online)	41
Task Force Meeting Attendance (March - In-Person)	25
Task Force Meeting Attendance (April - Online)	56
Task Force Meeting Attendance (April - In-Person)	27
Weekly E-Newsletter Subscribers	6,275
Facebook Followers	841
Instagram Followers	205
Printed Newsletters	375
Call Hub Messages	1,575
Registered Neighborhood Groups	55

Being a good neighbor in an industrial area

Maintain **fences** so they are in good condition and free of weeds. Make sure fences don't block the sight distance triangle if located on a corner. Contact Planning for razor/barbed wire and electric fencing regulations.

Use appropriate **dust control** techniques on gravel surfaces so dust not leave the property.

Enclose/screen all **outside trash receptacles** and **storage** up to the height of the items so they are not visible from outside the property. Cover trash so it does not blow away.

Maintain your **building**, keeping exterior paint, windows, and awnings in good repair.

Maintain your **signs** in good condition and make sure permanent signs have the proper permits. Check temporary sign rules with the Planning Department.

Install outdoor **security lighting** to help maintain a safe environment.

Manufacturing, Inc.

Maintain **landscaping** and **sidewalks**, keeping them free of weeds, trash, debris, trip hazards, and overgrown grass.

Report issues such as unmaintained weeds/grass and improperly boarded vacant property through the myWyCo mobile app, by calling 3-1-1 (913-573-5311), or by visiting mywyco.wycokck.org

Report suspicious activity to 9-1-1.



wycokck.org

General Property Maintenance Regulations

Neighborhood Resource Center
913-573-8600 | nrc@wycokck.org
wycokck.org/NRC

Air Quality & Dust Control

Wyandotte County Public Health Department
913-573-6700 | airquality@wycokck.org
wycokck.org/airquality

Fencing, Screening, Signage & New Development

Planning & Urban Design Department
913-573-5750 | planninginfo@wycokck.org
wycokck.org/planning

Business Association

Fairfax Industrial Association
execdir@fiakck.org
fiakck.org

In collaboration with the Fairfax Industrial Association, the Unified Government has been providing information and education to property owners about how to maintain industrial properties. In addition, volunteers from the Unified Government are participating in a neighborhood clean-up on Thursday, May 9.

Neighborhood Business Revitalization Organizations - Contract Renewals

All Neighborhood Business Revitalization Organizations (NBRs) contracts have been executed for 2025. A review of the first quarter 2024 reports submitted by the NBRs is underway to ensure funds are being used appropriately.

Technology Support

From March 1 through April 30, 2024, the Department of Technology Services (DOTS) received 1,039 support tickets for internal service requests on technology-related issues. Using Microsoft's advanced tools during the same time period, the team blocked/stopped 153,382 SPAM and potentially malicious messages from reaching UG email inboxes. This is a critical step in the process to protect us from spam. In the future, additional security features will be implemented to strengthen and increase overall security for the UG.

Communications by Channel

2024 Community Survey: The Unified Government anticipates going out for proposals for a community survey provider shortly. Currently deployed every other year, the Community Survey provides a statistically valid snapshot of community sentiment and feedback on city and county services and priorities. While we await selection of a vendor, the UG is working with departments to further hone the language of survey questions to focus more on programs and services (versus departments), qualify respondents based on whether they have used the service or not, and simplify the total number of questions for survey length and ease of use. We are tracking all of the changes to allow for comparison to previous survey questions so that we can still look at trend data over time. Once a vendor is selected, the UG will finalize the survey questions and invite input from the UG Commission. The goal is to release the Community Survey in Fall 2024 as a resource for the 2026 budget process.

Email Newsletters: Since the beginning of 2024, the UG has seen a growth of more than 3,400 new subscribers with an increase of 14,400+ new subscriptions to our various email newsletters. In addition to the weekly DotteNews (Tuesday mornings), subscribers can opt-in for updates from the Wyandotte County Museum, Area Agency on Aging, Livable Neighborhoods, on PlanKCK with more options coming soon. Since we launched the new newsletter platform last spring, initially

funded by funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), we have had more than 54,000 subscriptions to this important channel. The Strategic Communications team appreciates the positive feedback on these newsletters received to date.

UGTV: To date, the UG has used 6,993 minutes (116.55 hours) of closed captioning services through Cablecast. With some of our remaining ARPA funds, we plan to replace a piece of equipment that creates a buzzing sound on some of our broadcasts.

FAST FACT: Meeting Broadcasts

The UG currently contracts professional services to support live meeting broadcasts of the Commission and standing committees to UGTV. To date, the UG has spent \$12,000 to cover meetings held from January-April 2024. Due to the increase in scheduled meetings, the Strategic Communications team is closely monitoring budget as this exceeds the budgeted amount for this time period.

YouTube and Other Social Media: Year-to-date, our YouTube channel has had more than 22,600 views of our video content. 69.3% of the audience is watching videos while 30.6% of viewers are tuning in for livestreams of our various Commission meetings.

The Strategic Communications team is currently hiring for a Digital Content Coordinator to develop a social media strategy and manage content on a regular basis. Additionally, we are in the process of reviewing the Social Media Policy to ensure it reflects updated standards for participation and management of these critical channels.

Text-to-Citizen Capabilities: As part of the process for submitting capital projects for consideration in the Capital Improvement Plan 2024-2029, the Unified Government is proposing the adoption of a text-to-citizen capability for both emergency notifications and other important community updates. Several departments have been contributing to this conversation, including Emergency Management, Strategic Communications, Department of Technology Services, and the Wyandotte County Health Department.



On May 8, the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and community leaders honored the memory of officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our community at their annual Memorial Service.

In Appreciation: Honoring Public Service

The 55th Annual Professional Municipal Clerk's week is scheduled for May 5 -11, 2024. Initiated in 1969 by International Institute of Municipal Clerks and endorsed by its members throughout the United States, Canada and 15 other countries, the week is a time of celebration and reflection on the importance of the Clerk's office. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation that officially declared **Municipal Clerks Week** the first full week of May. In 1994 and 1996, President Bill Clinton also signed proclamations confirming Municipal Clerks Week.

Last month, the UG recognized the great work of our administrative staff during **Administrative Professional's Day**. The Legal Department, for example, treated support staff to flowers and pastries in their appreciation for their service to our organization and community at-large.

On March 18, the UG celebrated **Transit Operator Appreciation Day**, recognizing the significant impact of the entire team that keeps our community moving. From our public transit vehicle operators to maintenance crews who keep stations in good order to our mechanics who keep our buses running smoothly and the dispatchers who keep us



With a Legal Department and Prosecutor's Office of only 18 employees, including 12 attorneys, our support staff is key to ensuring timely response and efficient management of our office. With five new attorneys joining the department over the last year, the institutional knowledge of the support team has been instrumental to the continuity of service. Thank you!

on schedule - we appreciate you!

The UG also recognized **National Public Safety Telecommunication Week** from April 14-20, 2024. It is a special occasion when we honor telecommunications personnel, such as our transit dispatchers, in the public safety community. We thank them for their commitment, service, and sacrifice.

UG Teams: Focused on Continuous Improvement

During Municipal Clerks Week, the **UG Clerk's Office** will be conducting a training retreat on May 7 and 8 entitled *Reskilling and Upskilling: Tools for Success*. Staff will be focusing on the essential services of the Clerk's office and working on team building. Several UG departments will be participating in the training and offering their insights and expertise to collaborate on processes and essential services, including the Appraiser's Office, Treasury, Register of Deeds, Geo Spatial Services, Legal and Fire.

The Legal Department continues to support the law enforcement academies hosted by both KCKPD and the Wyandotte County Sheriff by teaching sessions on the law and other best practices.



Pictured above is Jeff Maxon, Chief Information Technology Officer with the State of Kansas at the recent 2024 Kansas Cybersecurity Summit

Members of the **UG Cybersecurity Team** attended the 2024 Kansas Cybersecurity Summit located in Wichita. The Summit provides an opportunity for government technology professionals to learn about the latest efforts to defend, respond and recover from cyber criminals. The Summit included cybersecurity leaders from state and local government throughout Kansas.

Staff Vacancies and Hiring

The **Strategic Communications** team is now hiring for a Digital Content Coordinator, a position focused on enhancing our online communications, including our website and social media. We are currently accepting applications and hosting preliminary interviews. The team of three looks forward to being fully-staffed in the near future.

Currently, the Administrative Division of the **Neighborhood Resource Center** has one vacancy for an Administrative Support Specialist with interviews scheduled. Building Inspection is currently down one inspector after a resignation in April, allowing us just one week as a fully-staffed team. Of the eight (8) Building Inspector I positions, all but one are still in training so it will take some time before staff can be self-sufficient and out on their own. Supervisors are working to get the open position posted in Workday to start accepting applications.

As of March 14, Property Maintenance Compliance promoted five Inspectors to Sr. Property Maintenance Inspectors, requiring that we fill five vacant Inspector I positions. Following several interviews, there are currently two (2) prospective candidates making their way through the Workday hiring/on-boarding process. Our first candidate is currently scheduled to start May 9th. Unfortunately, mixed in with the promotions and new hires, our division did lose our one existing Sr.



Pictured above is the team from the Unified Government Clerk's Office during their Reskilling and Upskilling: Tools for Success retreat.

Property Maintenance Inspector who transferred to a Building Inspector I position in the Building Inspection Division. Although this leaves us with only two members of the Problem Property Team, we are electing to focus on filling our open Inspector I positions.

New Hires: Welcome!

The **Register of Deeds** recently hired a new Administrative Support Specialist, **Dalia Enriques**, who started on April 11, 2024. The Register of Deeds is now fully staffed. The Neighborhood Resource Center has recently hired **Max Avila-Franco, Jr.** as a Building Inspector I and **LaTosha Peoples** as an Administrative Support Specialist. **Ashley Eickhoff** has recently transferred from Senior Property Maintenance Inspector to Building Inspector I.

NEW HIRES	2024
March 2024	18
April 2024	40

Promotions: Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Neighborhood Resource Center team members who have recently been promoted to Senior Property Maintenance Inspector: **Jessie Applin, July Sandoval, Keith Schwartz, Steven Strother and Orlando Washington.**

Recruitment News

The first three Cadets graduated recently from the KCKPD Police Dispatch Center and Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office program. These students participate in a quarter-long work-study program developed with our school district to introduce high

school seniors to public safety job opportunities. Earning \$15/hour, students gained valuable job training and knowledge as **911 Call Operator Cadets** (one cadet) and **Correctional Specialist Cadets** (two cadets). The UG encourages these students to now apply for full-time positions with the departments.

Various UG Departments have been attending **high school career fairs** throughout our community in addition to participating in other school career days at all-levels. Many of these career fairs are hosted by Workforce Partnership and the Human Resources team has established a goal to meet as many local high school students introduce them to career opportunities in public service. In fact, the Human Resources team have been challenged to go back to their high schools in Wyandotte County to share their experience working in local government. To date, students have been very engaging and many of them have had interest in our cadet programs with the Police Dispatch Center, Animal Services, Police Outreach Cadet program, summer positions within Public Works, Treasury positions and the Sheriff's Office.

Human Resources hosted the **Third Annual UG Career Expo** at Memorial Hall in late April. This was an opportunity for our community to engage with various UG departments and learn about career paths in public service, participate in introductory interviews with departments that are currently hiring, and access additional resources such as educational advancement opportunities here in Wyandotte County. While only 50 members of the public attended due to poor weather, the Neighborhood Resource Center shared that they have received at least one job application as a result of the event.

The UG Transportation Department is hosting a **Transit Operator/Driver Recruitment Fair** on Thursday, May 23, 4PM to 7PM and Friday, May 24, 10AM to 1PM at the 47th Street Transit Center.



A team from our Legal Department participated in the Third Annual UG Career Expo, inviting participants to learn more about public service careers.



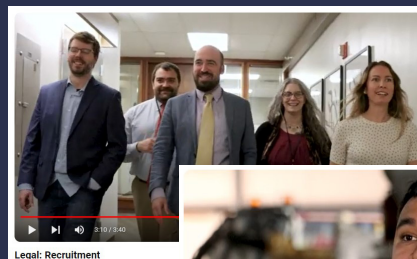
UG staff participated in the Summer Academy Career Technical Education Showcase on May 7, providing feedback on various student projects.



RECRUITMENT

Outreach

The UG recently began releasing YouTube videos about various career opportunities and departments as part of an overall recruitment campaign effort. These videos will soon be embedded in Workday as part of our Careers page to help the community familiarize themselves with the many skills needed and opportunities available across the UG as an employer. Be sure to check out the videos!





PRIORITY FOUR

IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE

2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan

It's budget season! The Budget, Strategy and Research Department trained staff on budget software earlier this year as part of the kick-off for the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan. Departments submitted proposals on for infrastructure, technology, facilities and equipment to be evaluated by an internal committees. Recommendations for upcoming capital projects will be presented to the UG Commission at the May 16 Budget Workshop (5PM) for discussion and feedback.

Understanding Our Community Risk: Resiliency Technical Committee Launched

On Tuesday, April 16, the Planning & Urban Design Department in collaboration with the UG's FUSE Fellow for Resiliency hosted the inaugural meeting of the Resiliency Technical Committee. Less than a year following the PlanKCK Resiliency Roundtable (April 2023), a FUSE Corps Executive Fellow is developing a Climate Risk and Vulnerability assessment to be released this summer. The goal is to gather existing data and resources to understand our ability to recover from a serious

event (such as storms, pandemic, economic recession, etc.).

The technical committee includes experts on a variety of issues and represent various UG departments and partner agencies. The report will create an inventory of our current state and be the basis for developing a strategy to address impacts later this year.

This **PlanKCK** implementation action supports important, ongoing community conversations to build a baseline of data and understanding necessary to think globally and act locally for a more resilient Wyandotte County.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 5-year Floodplain Audit

Starting at the end of 2023, FEMA initiated its regular 5-year audit of Kansas City, Kansas' participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. Last month, the federal government confirmed that the UG was deemed in full compliance, and that our current Class 6 status in the Community Rating System was upheld. Last year the UG moved up from a Class 7 community, which increased the discount rate for all KCK residents with flood insurance up to 20%.



John Fiske Elementary School: Crosswalk Art Project

Students painted artful crosswalks at John Fiske Elementary. Watch the short video on our YouTube channel about the days event and this great community partnership between KCKPS, Armourdale Renewal Association, and the UG. Funding provided by a grant from Union Pacific Railroad.

John Fiske Elementary Sidewalk and Crosswalk Safety Improvements

On April 22, 2024, the Armourdale Renewal Association in collaboration with the Unified Government and the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools District held a crosswalk painting party at John Fiske Elementary School. The project, which was funded by a grant from the Union Pacific Railroad Foundation and leveraged into the UG's 50/50 sidewalk replacement program closed multiple sidewalk gaps within the walkshed of the school, planted an oak tree at its primary entrance, and restriped and painted the two primary crosswalks of the school with designs developed by the students. This identified implementation action of the Armourdale Area Plan increases the safety, walkability and livability of the neighborhood.

47th Street Complete Street Improvements Receive "Project of the Year" Award

The 47th Street Complete Street Plan is primarily focused on 47th Street from Rainbow Boulevard in the east to Mission Road in the west. Originally planned with a grant by the Mid-America Regional Council, this complete street implementation has made the street safer and more accommodating for all users - no matter your preferred way to travel. This project was recently designated **2023 Project of the Year by the Kansas City Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers.**

Rainbow Boulevard Complete Corridor Plan Implementation

As this roadway redesign process nears completion, the project partners, which includes the Unified Government, KU Medical Center, and the cities of Westwood, Westwood Hills and Mission Woods, submitted an initial Phase 1 application on April 5, 2024 to the Mid-America Regional Council's (MARC) Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding program. This initial application was accepted and moves the project into the Phase 2 application process, which is due in the Summer 2024. Once a final design is developed and confirmed by the community in May 2024, this traffic and streetscape improvement project between I-35 and Shawnee Mission Parkway could be one step closer to reality. For more information, please visit the project website at publicinput.com/rainbowboulevard



47th Street Complete Streets Program

Click the image to link to a short video with Rosedale Development Association Executive Director Erin Stryka and City of Westwood Administrator Leslie Herring as they share the features and benefits of these improvements.

Bus Shelter Expansion

The UG Transportation Department will use the remaining funds from their allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to purchase new bus shelters for the 57th and State and the Walmart Legends locations. Gordian Commercial Contracting is collaborating with the department to create the scope of work and assist with bidding the project to contractors.

Elections Ballot On-Demand Printers

The Wyandotte County Election Office has fully implemented ballot on-demand printers for all early in-person voting locations, starting with the May 7 USD 500 Special Election. This allows any person voting early in-person to vote via a touchscreen ballot or paper ballot as they would on election day. As of this report, 37% of all paper ballots issued were distributed at a location that previously was unable to use paper ballots demonstrating how this is meeting a need of our community.

Permit Processing and Technology Upgrades

The Neighborhood Resource Center has been working to upgrade the Accela, the software used by several departments to manage build permits. Scheduled to be completed by the end of the year, this upgrade will move all data to the cloud which will make it available to our inspectors and field teams for more efficient service delivery. Upon completion, updates on applications will be

available without the delay of returning to the office to finish reporting. On April 8, the Neighborhood Resource Department and Department of

Technology Services completed the first download of the Accela database to the new solution. The goal is to complete this full transfer by the end of 2024.

MEMORIAL HALL

100th Anniversary

Did you know that the original Wyandotte County Historical Museum was located at Memorial Hall?

The Wyandotte County Historical Museum is curating an exhibition on the 100 year history of Memorial Hall. This will be part of a larger effort to celebrate this important memorial, cultural and community center in Kansas City, KS. If you have any memorabilia from Memorial Hall such as

pictures, programs, concert tickets and posters that you would be willing to share, the Museum team will take great care of these items while on display. Call 913-573-5002 for more info. From roller derby and wrestling to countless concerts and community celebrations, Memorial Hall has been part of our collective memory. Stay tuned for an announcement later this month on other ways we plan to celebrate this historic moment.



Pictured above is the groundbreaking ceremony for Memorial Hall.



AT-A-GLANCE MAY 2024

All of these calendar events can be found with all details on wyockck.org. If viewing the digital copy of this calendar, you can click each event name for a link to the event details.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 Last day of Spring Open Burn Period (extended due to weather)	6 Advisory Board on Human Relations & Disability Issues Landmarks Commission	7 USD 500 Special Election	8 Fraternal Order of Police and KCKPD Police Memorial Service Law Enforcement Advisory Board Park Board	9 Solid Waste Management Committee KCDC Central Avenue Housing Study Open House	10 Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office Memorial Service	11 Mother's Day Crafts with Parks & Recreation
12	13 Board of Zoning Appeals and City Planning Commission	14 CHAMPSS Orientation - Food Program for Seniors Civic Connect with Livable Neighborhoods	15 KCKPD Police Academy Testing Special Meeting: Neighborhood & Community Development Standing Committee	16 2025 Budget Workshop with UG Commission Wyandotte County Sheriff's Office Testing Day Movie Night at Kensington	17	18 Kids to Park Day Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
19 Wyandotte County Historical Society Quarterly Meeting and A Father's Poder	20 Public Works & Safety Standing Committee Administration & Human Services Standing Committee	21 8th District Parks & Recreation Townhall with Comm. Davis	22 Area Wide Advisory Council on Aging Community Corrections Advisory Board kNOw LEAD KCK Application Workshop 2nd Session T-Ball Begins	23 Livable Neighborhoods Task Force Area Agency on Aging Annual Sock Hop East Patrol Open House	24	25 Opening Day for Parkwood Pool and Spray Parks
26 Parkwood Pool open for Memorial Day UG Offices Closed	27 Parkwood Pool closed Mayor Tyrone Tuesday	28 Parkwood Pool closed Mayor Tyrone Tuesday	29 Teen Baby Shower	30 Protect Your Identity & Assets Workshop Planning & Zoning and Full Commission Meeting	31	



AT-A-GLANCE

JUNE 2024

All of these calendar events can be found with all details on wvcockcck.org. If viewing the digital copy of this calendar, you can click each event name for a link to the event details.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 Economic Development & Finance Standing Committee Neighborhood & Community Development Standing Committee Advisory Board on Human Relations & Disability Issues Landmarks Commission	4	5	6 Senior Medicare Patrol for Medicare Fraud Prevention Week Budget Workshop #6 Public Hearing on 2025 City and County Budget Full UG Commission Meeting	7	8 Third Annual Tackling Conflict Together Football Camp with KCKPD
9	10 Board of Zoning Appeals and City Planning Commission	11 CHAMPSS Food Program for Seniors Orientation Civic Connect with Livable Neighborhoods	12 ServSafe Food Handler Course KCKPD Police Academy Testing Law Enforcement Advisory Board Park Board	13	14	15 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
16	17 KCKPD Summer Youth Academy	18	19 Juneteenth - UG offices are closed in observance of the holiday	20 Community Corrections Juvenile Advisory Board	21	22
23	24 Public Works & Safety Standing Committee Administration & Human Services Standing Committee	25 Mayor Tyrone Tuesday	26 Tax Sale 355	27 Community Corrections Advisory Board Livable Neighborhoods Task Force KCKPD West Patrol Open House Budget Workshop #7 Planning & Zoning and Full Commission Meeting	28	29
						30

**Unified Government of Wyandotte County
and Kansas City, Kansas**

701 N. 7th Street Trafficway
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-573-5311

wycokck.org

COMMISSION VISION

We are a vibrant, resilient community of compassionate and diverse neighbors, united for an equitable, healthy, prosperous future that is proudly Wyandotte.

UNIFIED GOVERNMENT MISSION

We strive to provide excellent public service as responsible stewards of our community's trust.

