The Homestead Tax Refund

The Kansas Homestead Property Tax Refund is a refund program for eligible Kansas homeowners. This program provides homeowners an opportunity to directly apply a portion of their expected Homestead Property Tax Refund toward the first half of their real estate taxes in their respective counties.

To qualify for the refund for 2018, you must be:

- a homeowner with a total income for everyone in the household of $35,000 or less and, born before January 1, 1963; or
- have dependents under the age of 18 who lived with you and were born before January 1, 2018; or
- be totally and permanently disabled or blind; or
- a Veteran with 50% or more permanent disability or the surviving spouse of a disabled veteran who has not remarried, or the surviving spouse of an active duty military personnel who died in the line of duty and not remarried.

To apply for the refund applicants must provide proof of all income for 2018. Assistance with forms related to this refund can be by way of a paid or volunteer tax preparer, or applicants living in Wyandotte County can visit the Clerk’s Office of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County for assistance.

The Clerk’s office is located at 701 N. 7th Street, Suite 323, Kansas City, Kansas. Assistance is offered from 8:30-4:00 Monday-Friday through April 15, 2019 on a first come first served basis.

Questions regarding this refund be directed to 913-573-5276.

Information provided by UG E-News
Starting on Thursday, April 4, 2019, the Wyandotte County Recycling & Yard Waste Drop Off Center is resuming regular hours. The regular hours of operation for the Center are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday each week. (April thru November) The Center will be closed on holidays. The Center is located at 3241 Park Drive, Kansas City, Kansas and is for residents of Wyandotte County.

Clear, brown, and colored glass is accepted at the Center. The glass does not have to be separated by color and is to be placed in the same container. In addition, other recyclables do not need to be separated and will be placed in one container. Other recyclable items accepted include newspapers, magazines, mixed office paper, cardboard, paperboard, food & beverage cans and plastics.

But there are some plastic items that are not accepted: No plastic bags. No plastic toys. No motor oil or other auto product container. No herbicide or pesticide containers. No Styrofoam materials such as peanuts, packaging blocks/sheets or cups. No plastic cereal box or cake box liner bags. No plastic 6-pack holders. No plastic pipe, PVC pipe. No plastic building materials or plastic sheet materials.

In addition, Wyandotte County residents can take grass clippings, garden trimmings, leaves and branches to the Recycling & Yard Waste Drop Off Center. The Center cannot accept stumps and logs larger than 12 inches in diameter or items more than four feet in length. Wyandotte County residents will need to show a proof of residency such as a driver’s license. Commercially generated yard waste material will not be accepted.

For more information about the Recycling & Yard Waste Center, during hours of operation you can call 913-371-2034. During other hours please call 913-573-8318 or 913-573-5400.

FREE LOW INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

The following information is offered as a courtesy. All questions or concerns regarding the locations, times of service or filing requirements should be directed to the participation organization.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free, individualized tax preparation for low to moderate income taxpayers especially those 50 and older. To the right, you can view sites in the Wyandotte County area.

Should you need information regarding the AARP Tax Assistance Program, please contact AARP at 1-866-389-5627.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free tax help to people who generally make $54,000 or less, persons with disabilities and limited English speaking taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their own tax returns. IRS certified volunteers provide free basic income tax return preparation with electronic filing to qualified individuals. www.irs.gov

AARP TAX SITES

KCK City Hall
701 North 7th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
Mondays (9am - 2pm)

KCKCC
7250 State Avenue
Jewell Bldg. - Upper level - Student lounge
Kansas City, Kansas 66112
Tuesdays & Thursdays
9am - 1pm

Turner Rec Center
831 S. 55th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66106
Thursdays by appointment only (9am - 2pm)
913-295-8250 - Option #4

Providence/Ball YMCA
8601 Parallel Pkwy.
Kansas City, Kansas 66112
Wednesdays & Fridays
By appointment only
12p - 4pm
913-378-9622

VITA TAX SITES

El Centro, Inc.
2006 North 3rd Street, KCK 66101
Tuesdays (9:30am - 4:30pm)
Saturdays (9am - 2pm)
913-730-0677

KCKCC - Flint Bldg. Rm 3632
7250 State Avenue, KCK 66112
Wednesdays (5p - 8p)
Saturdays (9am - 12pm)
913-288-7644

Catholic Charities
2301 Central, KCK 66102
Drop Off Only
### 2019 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days Set

The schedule for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection days for Wyandotte County residents has been set for 2019. The site will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, and October 19.

Wyandotte County residents need to take their household hazardous products to 2443 South 88th Street in Kansas City, Kansas. (South on 88th Street from K-32) or (East of I-435 using Woodend exit near Kaw River) The HHW Days are not for business or nonprofit groups.

When bringing items to the collection site, please label or identify all items. Items accepted include automotive products, home improvement products, household items, as well as lawn and garden products.

Automotive products accepted include auto batteries, brake fluid, carburetor cleaner, degreasers, gasoline & fuels, and used motor oil. In addition, residents can bring 10 car and/or pickup tires if the rims are removed from the tires.

Home improvement products accepted include concrete cleaner, driveway sealer, furniture stripper, glue with solvents, latex & oil based paints, paint thinner, putty, grout, calk & spackle, roofing tar, stain varnish & lacquer, turpentine, water-based glues, and wood preservatives.

Household items include aerosol products, drain & oven cleaners, mothballs, nail polish remover, polishes with solvents, spot remover, and propane cylinders.

Lawn and garden products include fertilizers with weed killer, herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, and rodent bait.

For additional information call 913-573-8318 or 913-573-5400.

### 2019 Kansas City, Kansas Burn Permit Process

Many residents assume that it is local government’s responsibility to maintain trees in the street rights-of-way. While this may be the case in some cities, in Kansas City, Kansas it is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain, prune, and remove if necessary, trees that are planted along the street rights-of-way. One way residents can legally dispose of limbs is through open burning.

Residents in Kansas City, Kansas may apply for a burn permit for the time period of the month of April 2019 and the time period of October 16, 2019 through November 15, 2019 at any of the Fire Stations currently staffed by the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department. Kansas City, Kansas residents are limited to one 3-day burn permit per burn period that allows for the combustion of one 10 foot by 10 foot or smaller pile of naturally occurring residential organic yard waste generated onsite. If you operate a business out of your home, you are classified as a business and cannot participate. Applications must be received and approved at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of burning. Open burning with a permit is allowed between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The owner of the property must apply for and sign the permit. A copy of the permit must be on-site during the open burn. A responsible party must always be present until the fire is completely extinguished. An adequate water supply and/or other comparable extinguishing resource must be immediately available while conducting open burning. In no circumstance shall open burning occur within 15 feet of any building or within 15 feet from any one’s property line, street, or sidewalk.

All organic materials burned within the city limits of Kansas City, Kansas are limited to organic materials (yard waste such as tree limbs, leaves, weeds, brush, and grass) generated on the property. Burning without a permit shall be subject to Section I-7 (General Penalty, Continuing Violations) of the general provisions code of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/KCK. At no time shall rubbish, wire insulation, tires, rubber products, plastic, treated lumber, automobile products, paper, cardboard, construction debris/chemicals, household chemicals or any other material that emits dense smoke, noxious odors or hazardous air pollutants be burned.

At any time, the Director or the Chief of the Fire Prevention Division may revoke any permit or ban open burning if either determine open burning would constitute a danger to public health or safety. Weather conditions (high winds sustained over 15mph, low humidity) may make open burning too dangerous. Suspension of open burning will be posted on the Unified Government’s website and on the KCKFD web and Facebook pages. Open burning may also be suspended when air pollution “Red Alert” days are declared by the Mid America Regional Council, MARC, and the Unified Government.

Information provided by the Division of Fire Prevention, John Droppelmann, Fire Marshal
Going Green with Lawn Care

With spring time here, we are seeing all of the colors of early flowers, of green leaves on our trees, and of a nice green lawn. But we don’t always think about how some of our lawn maintenance issues can impact our environment.

For example, over application of lawn chemicals can result in stormwater runoff that carries toxic levels of chemicals or excessive nutrients in our streams, lakes and groundwater. Many fertilizers can threaten our ecosystem and pose health risks for humans, pets, wildlife and aquatic organisms. It is possible to minimize lawn chemical runoff with actions such as:

* Go Natural: Consider compost or natural lawn chemical alternatives.
* Landscape with Native Plants: They require less watering, fertilizers, pesticides, & care.
* Conduct a Soil Test: To determine type and amount of fertilizer if you use them.
* Follow Label Instructions: Read labels on lawn chemicals carefully.
* Fertilizer Location: Use caution on slopes & lawn edges so it doesn’t wash away.
* Let fertilizer dry properly: Allow time for liquid chemicals to dry and don’t use lawn chemicals before a heavy rainfall.

Lawn care options involved with mowing your grass may also have environmental impacts. Many people will bag their grass clippings and send them to the landfill. An alternative to bagging your grass clippings is to leave them on your lawn. Some are worried that grass clippings cause thatch in your lawn but research by K-State has shown that grass clippings do not cause thatch. In fact grass clippings can serve as a natural lawn fertilizer.

Some tips to consider when leaving grass clippings on your lawn include:
* Mow only when your lawn is dry.
* Cut grass regularly. Don’t remove more than 1/3 total leaf length on one mowing
* Maintain a sharp blade on your mower.

You should never blow and leave your grass clippings on the street or on your driveway. Grass clippings can then be carried away by rain water into storm drains which will enter and pollute local streams, rivers, and lakes.

Your lawn care can also impact air quality. Lawn mowers are a major air pollutant. You can reduce air pollution by scheduling regular maintenance and oil changes for your mower. In addition, mowing your lawn in the evening is recommended over mowing in the heat of the day.