

# THE CITIZEN

ISSUE NINETEEN • FALL 2016

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



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## STAR Bond Revenues Lower Property Taxes and Fund New Services

BY MIKE TAYLOR  
Unified Government Staff

The Unified Government Commission has adopted a 2017 Budget which uses new STAR Bond revenues from the Village West tourism and shopping area to reduce property taxes and pay for a number of new programs and services.

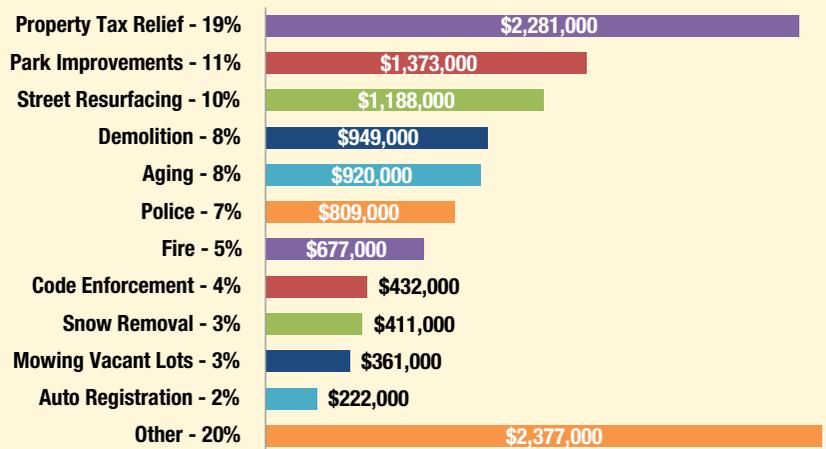
The bonds used to finance development and construction of the popular Village West district are paying off five years early. The Unified Government expects to see more than \$12-million in new sales tax revenue annually as the result. Those funds will allow the Unified Government to provide new services and enhance existing programs as identified by citizen engagement efforts such as the Community Survey and the Mayor's Listening Tours. Services which otherwise would not have been possible. The State of Kansas is expected to receive at least \$40-million a year in new sales tax from Village West.

"The people spoke and their elected officials have listened. The Unified Government Commission adopted a 2017

See STAR BOND Page 6 ►

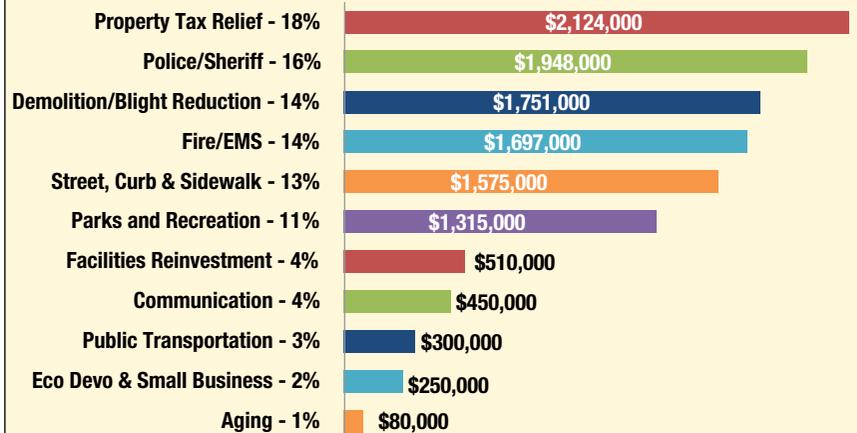
### LISTENING TOUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Results and feedback from 703 attendees at eight events. This chart shows the average percentage and dollar amount per service allocated by attendees.



### APPROVED 2017 BUDGET

This chart shows where STAR Bond Revenues were allocated in the approved Unified Government Budget



## UG STEPS UP BATTLE ON BLIGHT

BY MELISSA MUNDT  
Unified Government Staff

Kansas City, KS has struggled with housing issues for decades as many historic and older neighborhoods have fallen into extreme disrepair. The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS has demolished thousands of homes so neglected they could not be saved. A land bank was established to handle the vacant lots that now total more than 2,000 parcels. Unfortunately, the decline continues. Unlike other urban communities, Kansas City, KS has not seen a significant renewed

investment in its older neighborhoods, despite an unprecedented period of urban reinvestment in the United States. Additionally, positive new economic and housing growth in the western part of the community has created an even sharper contrast between the older and newer parts of the community. Therefore, over the last couple years, the County Commission has placed a renewed emphasis on urban renewal issues.

An initiative called SOAR, "Stabilization, Occupation and Revitalization", was created late last fall by staff to tackle these very

See BLIGHT Page 6 ►



## Stay Connected with the UG



### Website

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

### UG ENews Source

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

### UGTV

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



### Facebook

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



### YouTube

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



### Social Media

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

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

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

## Motor Vehicle Facebook Page

The Motor Vehicle Department now has its own Facebook page to continue their efforts to communicate with the public about its services in a more innovative fashion.

You can find Motor Vehicle by visiting [www.facebook.com/wycodmv](http://www.facebook.com/wycodmv) or when searching on Facebook, they can be found by searching @wycodmv.

The advertisement of the Facebook page will happen mostly through the texting feature of Motor Vehicle's online check-in system. The Facebook page will be monitored daily and all posts prior to 4:00 pm will be responded to the same business day.

The Motor Vehicle Department seeks to encourage more direct communication between the public and staff, and to increase the public's use of the online check-in system. The overarching goal is to enhance customer service by providing better information about the documents required for registering vehicles or renewing registrations, and to encourage the use of the online check-in system to diminish wait times.

Take a moment to visit our page and like us on Facebook!

WYANDOTTE COUNTY • KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

## Memo from the Mayor:

By MARK R. HOLLAND, MAYOR/CEO

The charts on the front page of The Citizen say it all: The people spoke and their elected officials listened. I am very pleased to tell you that the Unified Government Commission adopted a 2017 budget that cuts the city's property tax rate while investing in core services. By doing so, it responded to the priorities our residents have expressed in a recent Community Survey and the Listening Tour my office conducted.



That tour asked a simple question: How should the Unified Government spend the expected \$12 million in annual sales tax

revenue from the retirement of bonds used to help build Village West? More than 700 people participated. Their collective answer appears on the "Listening Tour" chart on the front page.

As you can see from both charts, the Commission and the residents both put property tax cuts at the top of their list of priorities. The cut, made on the

*"...the Unified Government Commission adopted a 2017 budget that cuts the city's property tax rate while investing in core services."*

city side of the budget, by no means marks the end of our efforts to lower the Unified Government's property taxes. I, for one, am committed to further reductions next year. Our policy should be a steady, strategic, and responsible reduction that still allows us to invest in services.

And the services we are investing in reflect what many residents say are this community's most pressing needs. They want to see a greater effort to demolish our blighted structures. They want more street repairs, curbs and sidewalks. They want a greater investment in parks and recreation. And, as expressed in the Community Survey, they want us to keep our community safe with a strong investment in law enforcement and fire services.

You should also know that these investments are not one-time commitments. We can count on that revenue in future years to fund core services that help create a healthy, safe community where people want to live.

Crafting a budget is never easy work. But this year I can say the work was made less cumbersome because of citizen participation. For that reason, I want to thank everyone who attended one of my Listening Tours, as well as those who completed the Community Survey. I also want to thank everyone on the Commission who voted for this budget. Together, I believe, we have created a strong foundation for a stronger community.



*Leavenworth Rd. improvements focus on safety for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians along the 3 mile stretch from 38th Street to 63rd Street. Phase 1 is a \$16-million project.*

## Construction to Begin on New South Patrol Station

The Unified Government held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the construction of a new \$2.25 million South Patrol Division to be built in the Argentine area of Kansas City, Kansas.

Police Chief Terry Ziegler, Mayor Mark Holland, UG Commissioners and representatives from Crossland Construction kicked off construction with the shoveling of dirt at the future site of the new police station to be located at 2100 Metropolitan Avenue; to the east of Walmart.

“Our public safety infrastructure has been neglected for many years, and the South Patrol building will mark a huge step toward addressing that neglect,” says Mayor Mark Holland. “Just as important, it signals our commitment to creating a more efficient and more responsive public safety system in Kansas City, Kansas.”



**Current South Patrol 2151 South 34th Street**

The new station will replace the South Patrol Division currently located at 2151 South 34th Street. The building was built in 1950 and was modified decades ago to be used as a sub-station. KCK Police Chief Terry Zeigler says the new station will provide additional police services that will engage residents and further support the department’s current community policing efforts.

“The new location will further stabilize the surrounding areas and make officers more visible as they travel through the neighborhoods during their daily patrol,” Zeigler says. “South Patrol will be built with a multi-purpose room. This additional space will be designed for community groups to meet, which will help encourage officer - citizen interactions. This new station truly speaks to the Department’s commitment to community policing.”

The new station will also be equipped with Wifi and downloading capabilities for video when body and car cameras are installed in the future.

South Patrol is one of four patrol stations used by the department. There’s an East, West and Midtown patrol station. South Patrol serves approximately a 27.7 square mile area, which is the second largest patrol division in Kansas City, Kansas. For Commission Ann Murguia, the new station is a much welcomed addition to her district.

“We are excited to see, and have eagerly awaited, today’s groundbreaking for the new southside police substation. This new building will provide our police department with much needed space and upgraded equipment to assure our officers have the resources necessary to carry out their law enforcement duties,” says



Murguia. “The 3rd District, and our County, truly appreciates the daily sacrifices and professional work of our police officers in serving and protecting our community.”

The 6,000 plus square feet of space will house about 45 offices and unlike the current station, it is specifically designed for police operations. There will also be a report desk at this location that will provide staffing Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm.

“The design of the station is a very open concept with a modern feel. Concrete floors and exposed trusses speak to the emphasis on functionality and low maintenance. We believe the design will be ‘in style’ for years to come,” says Ziegler.

“Both this site and the Midtown Patrol at Indian Springs are located in retail centers, making it possible for our police to provide improved customer service and access for our citizens,” Holland said.

*“Our public safety infrastructure has been neglected for many years, and the South Patrol building will mark a huge step toward addressing that neglect,”*

The project is being funded through the development Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district, which incorporates the land for the new South Patrol facility. Crossland Construction Company, Inc. is the lead general contractor for this construction project.

### **Background**

South Patrol will be constructed on a 9 acre site that was donated to the Unified Government by Argentine Retail Developers, Inc. (ARD). Before the acquisition of the property by ARD, the land was previously occupied by a smelting and refining facility from 1880 to 1901. A steel fabrication plant acquired the facility from 1907 until 1984. The land was remediated for soil contamination by the EPA

in 1993.

Abandoned and underutilized properties present a significant barrier to future economic development for many cities. These properties blight neighborhoods and represent potential environment hazards for local residents. By cleaning up these properties, local municipalities can protect the environment while transforming these properties into viable commercial sites that spur economic growth and create jobs.

The UG has been working closely with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to help turn underutilized sites like these into success stories for our community. The EPA approved construction and operation of the new South Patrol Division on this site. 



*The number of single family homes being built in KCK is on the upswing. So far this year, 129 new single family housing permits have been issued. That compares with 92 at this time in 2015 and just 30 in 2012.*

## New Piper Fire Station

The Unified Government has earmarked \$4-million for construction of a new fire station in the Piper area. The new fire station is part of an overall plan which reviewed fire department operations. The study found the fast growing Piper area needs more fire protection. District 5 Commissioner Mike Kane gained unanimous support in his effort to earmark the money for future construction. 



# Amazon Breaks Ground on New KCK Center

## amazon.com

said Kansas City Mayor and Unified Government CEO Mark Holland. "But most significantly, it is transformative because of the quality employment opportunity Amazon will offer. Our residents will now have access to a career pathway that includes not only a job, but a chance at an education. I'm thrilled to welcome Amazon to our community."

"The investment Amazon is making in Wyandotte County is more than an economic development success, it is also a key component to solving the employment gap" said President of Wyandotte Economic Development Council Greg Kindle. "Bringing new jobs and the opportunity for career paths to Wyandotte County is essential to growing our local economy."

"This exciting project again demonstrates how important Wyandotte County is to the overall Kansas economy and why the Unified Government is recognized as a progressive, innovative and business friendly local government," said Doug Bach, Unified Government County Administrator.

Full-time employees at Amazon receive competitive hourly wages and a comprehensive benefits package, including healthcare, 401(k) and company stock awards, starting on day one. Amazon also offers regular full-time employees maternity and paternal leave benefits and access to innovative programs like Career Choice, where it will pre-pay up to 95 percent of tuition for courses related to in-demand fields, regardless of whether the skills are relevant to a career at Amazon.

To learn more about working at an Amazon fulfillment center, visit [www.amazondelivers.jobs](http://www.amazondelivers.jobs).

This project is a joint effort of the following partner organizations: Kansas Department of Commerce, Kansas Department of Transportation, Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Wyandotte County Economic Development, Council to WYEDC, Board of Public Utilities, Kansas Gas Service, KCK Community College, and NorthPoint Development.

Amazon.com, Inc. is building a massive fulfillment center near River-view and the Turner Diagonal which will create at least 1,500 new jobs in KCK. The new facility is the second large-sized fulfillment center Amazon has announced within a span of four months.

"Strategically located in the middle of the country, Kansas is an ideal home for businesses looking for a skilled workforce and pro-growth environment," said Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback. "The state is dedicated to attracting companies and helping them grow and create jobs. I am proud that Amazon has chosen to once again expand its footprint in the state and am confident this continued partnership will benefit all Kansans."

"We are thrilled to continue investing in Kansas, proud of our ability to create great jobs, and most importantly, excited to better serve our customers throughout the Midwest," said Amazon's vice president of North American operations Akash Chauhan. "Together with the addition of the Kansas City and the Edgerton fulfillment centers, there will be 2,000 new Amazon jobs in Kansas and none of this would have been possible without the support we've received from state and community leaders."

Amazon employees at the 855,000-plus square-foot Kansas City fulfillment center will pick, pack, and ship smaller customer items, such as books, electronics and toys.

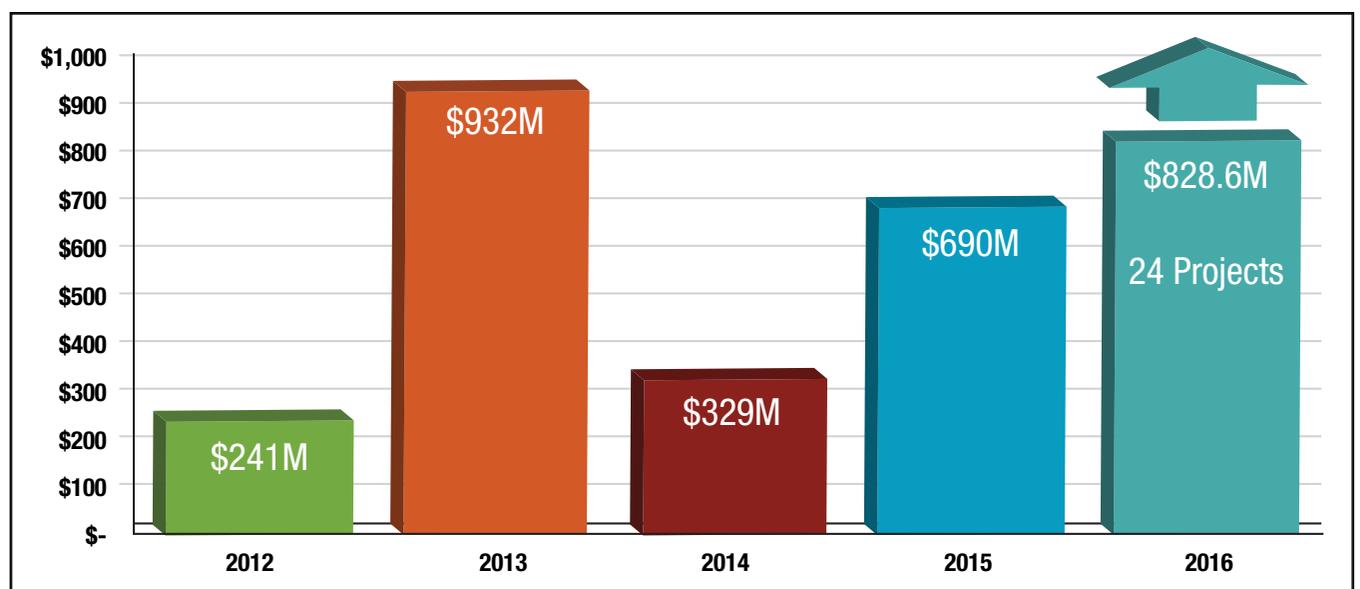
"This is a transformative capital investment in our city. It continues the growth Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, has enjoyed for more than a decade, building on its status as a leading job creator in the state,"



*The population of KCK is growing. The most recent estimate is 151,306. In 2010, the number was 145,786. This represents a population gain of 5,520 persons or 3.8% since the 2010 Census.*

## 2016 Economic Development Projects

Wyandotte County continues to lead the State of Kansas and KC region in new economic development projects and job creation. New business developments total more than \$828-million so far this year.



## Improving WyCo Parks

The Unified Government Parks and Recreation Department has a major effort to improve the county's extensive networks of parks.

The project started this summer with groups of stakeholders discussing the future of parks and recreation in Wyandotte County. A consultant team lead by Vireo with support from GreenPlay, Gould Evans, and RRC Associates is assisting with the Wyandotte County Parks Master Plan.

Citizen input gathered during the focus group meetings will be used to help develop the improvement scenarios and key recommendations that will guide the places to relax, play, recreate, and exercise in Wyandotte County over the next decade and beyond.

If you have questions or need further information about the Wyandotte County Parks Master Plan, please contact Jeremy Rogers, UG Parks and Recreation Department Director, at parksinfo@wycokck.org and 913-573-8327.

## U.S. Soccer Facility Under Construction

Construction of the world-class U.S. Soccer National Training and Coaching Development Center at 98th and Parallel is underway. The facility will provide a world-class environment to develop players, coaches, and referees of all ages.

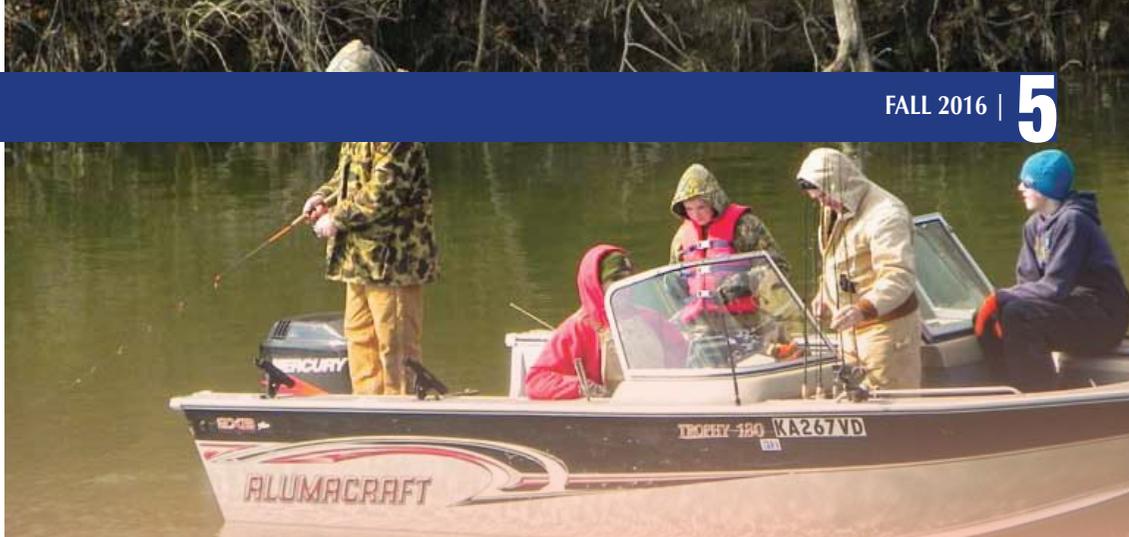
"We would like to thank the State of Kansas, the Unified Government, U.S. Soccer and Children's Mercy for all of their strong efforts in making this a truly transformational project for soccer in this region," Sporting Club CEO Robb Heineman said. "The National Training and Coaching Development Center is an extremely important asset in growing our soccer program and attaining our goal of winning World Cups. This also solidifies our position of Kansas City being the soccer capital of America."

Set to open in November 2017, the NTCDC is a first-of-its-kind collaboration between a professional sports team, a national sports federation and a first-class sports medicine provider. The site will be home to the U.S. Soccer National Coaching Education Center - providing a permanent, national home for the education of coaches and referees - and the Children's Mercy Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center, which will offer a full range of sports medicine services, resources and programming for youth athletes in all sports.

The Wyandotte Youth Soccer Complex, which comprises the youth component of the NTCDC, broke ground in February east of Schlitterbahn Water Park between Parallel Parkway and State Avenue. Set to open in March 2017, the complex will host the nation's premier youth soccer tournaments upon its completion. The WYSC will have 12 fields - four fully lit on synthetic turf, four on sports turf and four on native soil. Six Wyandotte County futsal court locations have opened since 2013 in an initiative targeted to local youth, with another four expected to open by the end of this year.



Use the new 311 online service at 311.wycokck.org to submit new service requests for a wide range of municipal and court services.



## Integrated Overflow Control Plan

### System Overview

The Unified Government has a complex system of pipes and treatment facilities that transport and treat wastewater generated by over 150,000 residents. Our wastewater system includes:

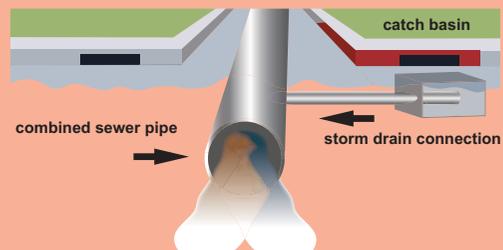
- 5 treatment plants
- 70 pump stations
- 1,200+ miles of sewer lines

Our system consists of both combined and separate sewer systems.

### What's the Problem?

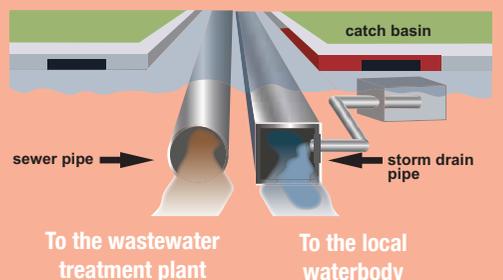
The Clean Water Act of 1972 requires reduction of combined sewer overflows and elimination of separate sewer overflows.

A **combined sewer system** is simply a single sewer that carries both wastewater and rainwater within one pipe to a treatment plant. During heavy rainstorms, the combined sewer pipes overflow sending a mixture of wastewater and rainwater into a nearby stream or river.



Combined wastewater and stormwater my flow untreated to local waterbody during heavy rain storms

A **seperated sewer system** consists of two pipes - one carries rainwater runoff to a nearby stream or river and the other transports wastewater to a treatment plant. Sometimes when it rains, this system overflows sending a mixture of rainwater and wastewater into our waterways.



To the wastewater treatment plant To the local waterbody

### Progress

Our wastewater system protects public health and the environment. Over the past 15 years, ratepayers significantly invested in upgrades to our sewer system. As a result, there are 18 fewer locations where combined sewage no longer overflows into out waterways and the total volume of overflow was reduced by 20%.



In March of 2013, the Unified Government entered an agreement with the federal government requiring more investment and further overflow reduction. The agreement required improvements to the existing system and the development of an Integrated Overflow Control Plan.

### Recommended Plan

To prepare the Integrated Overflow Control Plan, we've studied the sewer system and identified problem areas. We found



cracked and leaking clay pipe over 50 years old in many parts of the community in need of significant repair. We asked citizens where they would like to see dollars invested. The community indicated that the highest priority is to improve service reliability by fixing the existing system where it is most cost effective.

The recommended 10-year, \$200 million plan targets resources on renewing wastewater pipes and facilities to make more progress towards meeting the goals of the Clean Water Act. Sewer ratepayers fund the work recommended in the plan.

Specifically, the Recommended Plan includes:

- Investigate and repair existing sewer infrastructure across the community
- Upgrade technology throughout facilities to better monitor the system
- Construct a new wastewater treatment plant to substantially reduce overflows and accommodate new ratepayers
- Reduce rainwater getting into combined sewers by rehabilitating sewer pipes and installing green infrastructure
- Increase maintenance of existing sewer pipes and facilities

Unified Government will submit the recommended **Integrated Overflow Control Plan** to regulators by September 30, 2016.

## 2017 BUDGET

cont. from page 1

budget that cuts the city's property tax rate while investing in core services. By doing so, it responded to the priorities our residents have expressed in a recent Community Survey and the Listening Tour my office conducted," stated Mayor Mark Holland.

The adopted budget uses the new STAR Bond revenues in a responsible way through a mix of one-time and on-going investments. The sales tax dollars generated by tourists and shoppers in Village West play an important role in helping the Unified Government pay for public safety and programs citizens want.

"The services we are investing in reflect what many residents say are this community's most pressing needs. They want to see a greater effort to demolish our blighted structures. They want more street repairs, curbs and sidewalks. They want a greater investment in parks and recreation. And they want us to keep our community safe with a strong investment in law enforcement and fire services," Holland said.

If STAR Revenues come in as expected, the two mill property tax reduction in 2017 can be followed by an additional property tax reduction in 2018.

"Wyandotte County is well known in the region for innovative and progressive approaches to growing the community, creating jobs and bolstering the economy through new development. There is no better example than the innovative use of STAR Bonds to create the successful Village West area. With the STAR Bonds paying off much earlier than anticipated, it is time for citizens to reap the reward," said

County Administrator Doug Bach.

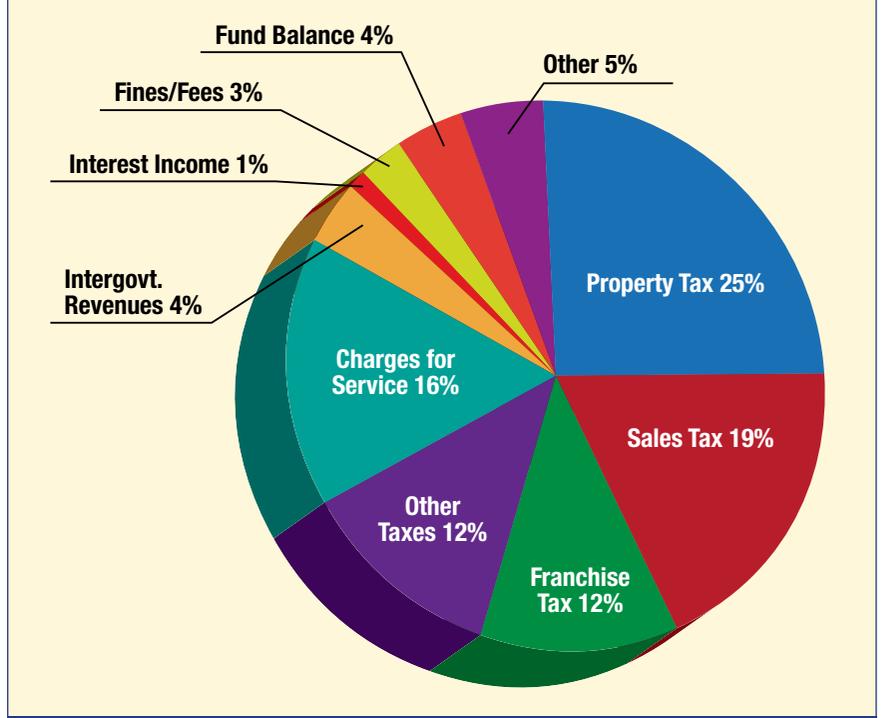
The total Unified Government budget is \$345,751,474. The largest share of the General Fund budget is spent on Public Safety— Fire, Police and Sheriff. The second largest category is Public Works— streets, sewers and infrastructure.

The 2017 Budget reduces the Unified Government property tax rate by more than \$2-million, from 82.6 mills to 80.6. The Unified Government receives about 48% of the total property tax bill paid by a resident in KCK. Public schools, the Kansas City Kansas Community College, KCK Public Library and State of Kansas make up the remaining 52%. The current property rate is still much lower than before the Unified Government was created. In 1997 it was 97 mills. Under the proposed 2017 Budget it will be 80.6 mills. That's nearly 17% less than two decades ago.

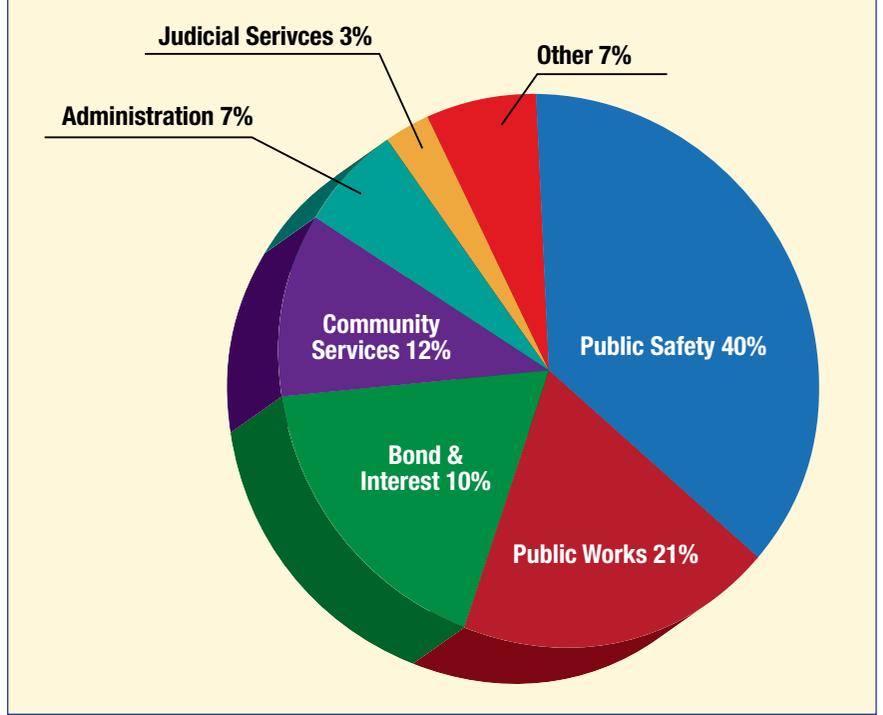
The 2017 Unified Government Budget takes advantage of the positive growth and progress occurring in Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. It uses new revenue to invest in the continued success of our community by addressing goals set forth by the Unified Government Commission and residents.

"The 2017 Budget funds initiatives which will benefit our citizens— better streets; less blight and trash; improved and more cost effective Public Safety; and robust efforts to bring new development which will create job opportunities for our residents," Bach concludes in the budget message. 

### REVENUE Overall \$345,751,474



### EXPENDITURES Overall \$345,751,474



## HOUSING BLIGHT

cont. from page 1

difficult issues around housing rehabilitation and renewal of the built environment. The first SOAR Summit was held in January of 2016 to facilitate staff to discuss shared experiences and frustration in trying to address these issues over the years. Feedback was captured throughout the day long event.

As a result, staff identified four (4) core areas of work needed to put plans into place to address the housing challenges facing the community. Consequently, four working groups were established in March 2016 charged with bringing back work plans around Research, Data, Processes and Communications.

**1 Research** – other governments' programs and policies around decline of housing stock, abandoned housing and vacant lots

**2 Data** – understand what data is and is not col-

lected throughout the organization and how it is used or can be used to solve the issues of declining housing stock and abandoned housing

**3 Processes** – understand internal work flow processes that are used to tackle problem properties. Determine efficiencies that can be created to deal more effectively in handling these complex situations

**4 Communication** – Put together a plan to communicate internally and with the community around the issues of housing decline and renewal of the built environment.

As of today, much of the initial work has been completed. The groups will then come back together to help fill in missing pieces in the other groups work plans with a goal to present a formal program to the County Administrator in the

summer of 2016.

Just as this we began this very critical first step of assessment and planning, we received notice we would be receiving assistance as a "Bloomberg Philanthropies What Works City!". The excitement is immense as this will help propel data driven decision making and utilization of the processes that have been identified through our SOAR initiative. Having national experts available to help the Unified Government put together an open data portal and the necessary performance metrics to share among staff and the community will help best allocate scarce resources to help Kansas City, KS soar again is simply amazing. The timing could not have been better for this community of deserving and caring people. 

## Fire Department Starts its Preapprentice Trainee Program



The Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department has launched a paid preapprentice program which was recommended by a task force last year.

Doug Bach, UG administrator told the Public Works and Safety Committee that the trainee program was recommended by a task force last year.

Chief John Paul Jones said the program will identify and hire qualified Wyandotte County residents as paid, pre-apprentice firefighter trainees who then would be placed in an accelerated emergency medical technician training.

The mission is to quickly get the minimum requirement for certification, he said. EMT training would occur as the schedule allows within a partnership with Kansas City Kansas Community College, he added.

Currently there are eight seats reserved for the fall session there in an accelerated EMT program, he said. There will be a competitive selection process including testing.

The trainees will be paid \$25,292 plus benefits while they are in this program, Jones said. Besides their classroom work, they may be asked to do other training as required by the Fire Department.

Applicants for firefighter trainee must be 18 years old by the date of hire, must be a Wyandotte County resident, must have acquired a high school diploma or GED, and will be subject to the same disqualifiers as other firefighters. Automatic disqualifiers include DUI within the last three years, multiple DUIs, marijuana use within the last 12 months, illicit drug use within the last three years, falsification of documentation and felony conviction.

The first firefighter trainee is expected to be hired by mid-August, Jones said.

The trainees will be in an accelerated immersion-style program at KCKCC from Aug. 22 through Dec 19, 2016, he said. Advertising for the hiring process is expected to begin by mid-June or earlier, he said.

Bach said the objective is to get trainees in, and through EMT and to the first available academy. But the academy will not always be available when the trainees finish their coursework.

The trainees will either go right in to the academy, or wait a year until the next academy,

he said. There will be an effort to provide programs to keep them active and instrumental in assisting with firefighter operations while they are waiting, he said.

Jones said the department is looking at this program in phases. The process to become a paramedic takes about four semesters of community college.

"Now we're exploring the possibility of how we grow more paramedics within the community, and how do we home-grow paramedics within the Fire Department," Jones said.

After asking several questions about benefits, the timeline of the program, and psychological testing by the department, Commissioner Jane Phillbrook said, "I'm so excited that we've gone through this as a community and as the Fire Department."

Jones said the department is using a different group for the testing now, and testing will be improved.

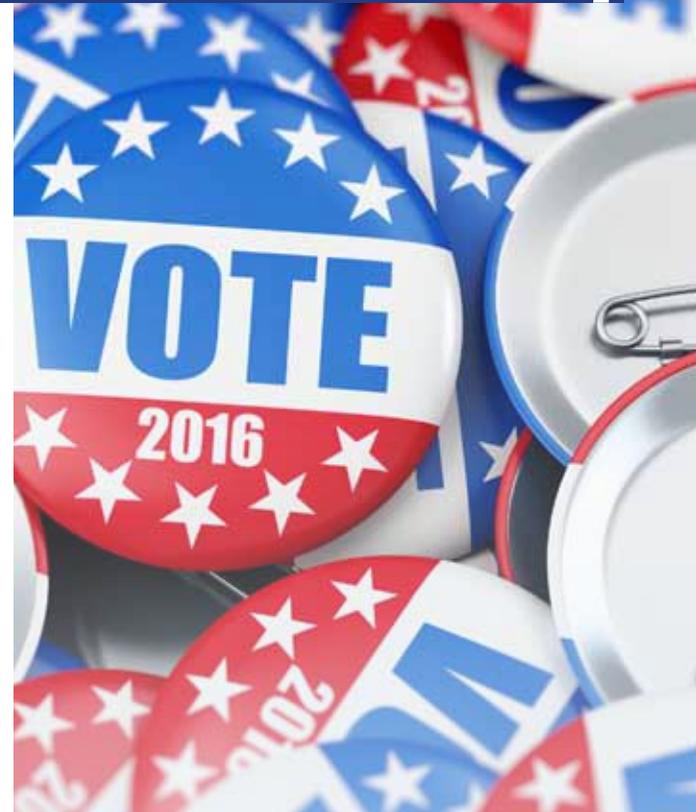
Commissioner Harold Johnson asked if there would be definitive goals on minority hiring.

Bach said the UG is not able to establish goals for minority hiring. One of the goals is to make the Fire Department and all departments more reflective of the community, he said. He added the recruitment base will be in Wyandotte County.

"We're starting from a base of recruits of people we're going to. If we hire people that are a cross-section of our community, then we're going to ultimately end up and be reflective of our community," Bach said. He said the end result would show a good reflection of the community.

Commissioner Melissa Bynum asked about working with the Kansas City, Kan., Public Schools in the Diploma Plus program before students graduate from high school. Jones said he is working on a meeting with the district on this subject, and there could be another program in the future with the district.

Bynum also asked if the applicant and department come to a mutual understanding that the job is not right for the applicant, would the Fire Department steer the applicant toward another UG department job that might be more suitable. 



## Are You Ready to Vote?

The last day to register to vote is Monday, October 17th. If you are already a registered voter, you do not need to re-register unless your address or your name has changed.

Your voting options include vote by mail, vote early at an early voting location, or vote on Election Day, November 8th. Any registered voter is eligible to vote early. If you want to avoid waiting lines, an advance ballot by mail is your best option.

Advance (early) voting by mail begins Wednesday, October 19th. The deadline to apply for an advance ballot by mail is Friday, November 4th. The advance ballot application is available on the Election Office websites. Deliver, mail, email or fax (913-573-8580) your signed advance ballot application to the Wyandotte County Election Office, 850 State Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66101.

Advance voting in person begins Tuesday, October 25th. Voters will be notified of the satellite voting locations. Voting hours will be:

### Election Office:

Mon-Fri	8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Saturdays	10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Sundays	Closed
Monday, Nov 7	8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. (Noon)

### Satellite(s):

Mon-Fri	11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.
Saturdays	10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Sundays	Closed
Monday, Nov 7	Closed

Vote on Election Day, November 8th, 2016. Voting on Election Day is at your assigned polling place only. If you go to the wrong polling place, an election worker will direct you to your assigned polling place.

Your polling place is shown on your voter registration card and on the Kansas VoterView website, <https://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/>. If you need a new registration card or don't have access to the internet, please call the Election Office.

The Wyandotte County Election Office websites are [www.wycokck.org/election](http://www.wycokck.org/election) or [www.wycovotes.org](http://www.wycovotes.org). You can also call 913-573-8500 or email your question to [election@wycokck.org](mailto:election@wycokck.org). 



*Wyandotte County experienced a nearly 2% increase in jobs from 2014 to 2105 pushing the total number of jobs in the county to 90,300.*



UNIFIED GOVERNMENT  
 Wyandotte County • Kansas City, Kansas  
 701 North 7th Street  
 Kansas City, KS 66101

PRSR STD  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 66106  
 Permit No. 175



*The former Indian Springs Mall is demolished and work continues to find a new development for the prime tract of ground at I-635 and State Avenue.*

Website: [www.wycokck.org](http://www.wycokck.org)



## UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OFFICE NUMBERS

**For general information and numbers not listed, please call 3-1-1**

Animal Control.....321-1445  
 Appraiser, Personal Property.....573-8400  
 Appraiser, Vehicle Property.....573-8400  
 Area Agency on Aging.....573-8531  
 Auto Licensing.....573-2821  
 Base Mapping.....573-2942  
 Building Inspection.....573-8620  
 Business License.....573-8780  
 Code Enforcement.....573-8600

Commissioners Office.....573-5040  
 Community Development.....573-5100  
 Community Policing.....573-8720  
 County Administrator.....573-5030  
 County Clerk's Office.....573-5260  
 Delinquent Tax.....573-2817  
 Dept. of Technology.....573-2885  
 Dispute Resolutions.....573-5225  
 District Court Clerk.....573-2901  
 District Attorney.....573-2851  
 Election Commissioner.....573-8500  
 Emergency Management.....573-6300  
 Fire Department.....573-5550

Health Department.....573-8855  
 Human Resources.....573-5660  
 Legal Department.....573-5060  
 Livable Neighborhoods.....573-8737  
 Mayor's Office.....573-5010  
 Municipal Court.....573-5200  
 Operation Brightside.....573-8734  
 Parks Department.....573-8327  
 Planning and Zoning.....573-5750  
 Police Chief's Office.....573-6010  
 Police (non-emergency).....596-3000  
 Public Relations.....573-5565  
 Public Works.....573-5400

Purchasing.....573-5440  
 Recreation.....573-8327  
 Regional Transit.....(816) 221-0660  
 Register of Deeds.....573-2841  
 Rental Licensing.....573-8649  
 Service Requests, Info.....573-8790  
 Sheriff.....573-2861  
 Solid Waste Coordinator.....573-5400  
 Street Department.....573-8307  
 Treasurer.....573-2821  
 UG Transit.....573-8351  
 Water Pollution Control.....573-5400  
 Wyandotte County Museum.....573-5002

## 2016 Unified Government Commission



**MARK HOLLAND**  
 Mayor/CEO  
[mayorholland@wycokck.org](mailto:mayorholland@wycokck.org)



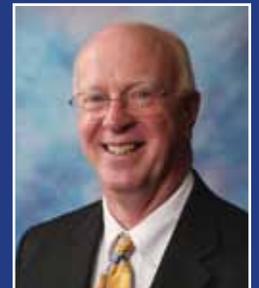
**MELISSA BYNUM**  
 District 1 At-Large  
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**HAROLD T. WALKER**  
 District 2 At-Large  
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**GAYLE E. TOWNSEND**  
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**ANN BRANDAU-MURGUIA**  
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**ANGELA MARKLEY**  
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**JAMES F. WALTERS**  
 District 7  
[jwalters@wycokck.org](mailto:jwalters@wycokck.org)



**DR. JANE WINKLER PHILBROOK**  
 District 8  
[jphilbrook@wycokck.org](mailto:jphilbrook@wycokck.org)