

# THE CITIZEN

ISSUE TWENTY-FIVE • SUMMER 2019

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



## BOOMTOWN



**3** UG Stormwater Fee Meetings

**4** 2020 Budget Initiatives

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### **Downtown. Midtown. Boomtown.**

*Kansas City, Kansas is experiencing an economic development explosion bringing hundreds of millions of dollars in new projects and jobs across the city.*

#### **THE MERC**

The MERC CO+OP is breaking ground at 5th and Minnesota for its downtown grocery store. The city has been eyeing a grocery store for the food desert for a decade and The Merc will provide residents with natural groceries and necessary amenities.

The store will hire about 25 employees, including a manager. All employees will be KCK born and raised, people who know the community. The store aims to open by early summer 2020.

Unified Government Eco-

conomic Development Director Katherine Carttar said. "It's going to not only provide an amazing asset to the rest of downtown and the residents here, but also will be a catalyst for some really exciting future development."

#### **KU HOSPITAL STRAWBERRY HILL**

KU Hospital is set to open its new behavioral and psychiatric health facility in the former EPA office building across the street from THE MERC in September. The Strawberry Hill campus will initially bring 300 employees new employees to downtown,

with the number expected to grow to many as 600.

"I think we're bringing a health campus that is more than just a neighbor, but really a partner, an investor," said University of Kansas Health System official Chris Ruder. "We're engaging in the development and revitalization of the downtown area."

Mayor David Alvey says the KU facility is one of the main drivers of the KCK revitalization, with hundreds of employees fueling other development.

"I think people will want

See **BOOMTOWN** Page 5

## **2020 Unified Government Budget**

### **Budget Holds the Line on Wyandotte County and KCK Property Tax Rate**

The 2020 Unified Government budget holds the line on property taxes for KCK and Wyandotte County home and business owners.

The no tax increase budget follows three consecutive years of property tax reductions. The 2019 Budget reduced property taxes by 5% which was added to an 8% reduction since 2016. At the time of the Unified Government consolidation in 1997, the owner of a \$100,000 house paid \$1,116 in city/county property tax. More than 20 years later, an owner of a \$100,000 house will pay \$943 in Unified Government property tax. That's 15% less in property taxes.

The UG Commission property tax rate reduction for Kansas City, Kansas from 43.875 mills in 2016 to 38.138 mills in 2019, equates to an annual savings to taxpayers of \$6.3 million

The Unified Government makes up 46% of the total tax bill, with public schools, the Kansas City Kansas Community College, public library and State of Kansas collecting the majority of property taxes paid by residents.

"The budget is designed to improve critical

See **BUDGET** Page 5 ►

## 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 Spectrum cable and Channel 141 on Google TV.

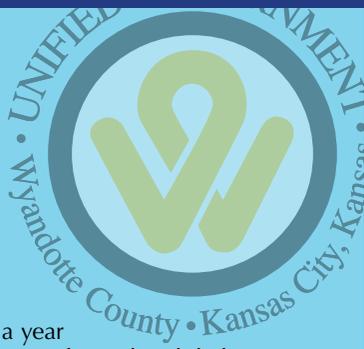
**Facebook** The Unified Government is officially on Facebook with it's Kansas City, Kansas Unified Government page. It's easy to take part. Just go to [www.Facebook.com/cityofkck](http://www.Facebook.com/cityofkck). Click the "Like" icon and you'll be a member of the Kansas City, Kansas Official FB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



## Alvey Continues Goal of Improving KCK from the Neighborhoods Up

KCK Mayor David Alvey called for the community to "double down on neighborhood rejuvenation" in his second State of the Government Address.

Alvey stated the mission of the Unified Government is to improve the quality of life for citizens and businesses.

"That quality of life is most directly impacted by the quality of neighborhood-based services," Alvey said.

Finding ways to provide those services in an affordable way is the challenge. The Unified Government has reduced KCK property taxes about 15% over the past three years, moving KCK from once having the highest property tax rate of among the state's largest cities to number 13 out of 25.

"How do we bring necessary services to citizens to improve the quality of life in a manner that is fiscally sustainable? The answer is to continue to broaden and diversify the tax base. We must double down on neighborhood rejuvenation," Alvey stated.

Alvey pointed to several positive signs:

- Population is slowly growing.
- Overall crime has decreased 11% citywide and as much as 28% in some neighborhoods.
- New homes are being built or remodeled across the city.
- Dozens of once vacant, tax delinquent homes are being renovated through the Land Bank Rehab program and sold to citizens.
- The \$155-million Turner Logistics Center project will rebuild the I-70/Turner Diagonal interchange, add up to two-million square feet of distribution/warehouse space and create 1,800 new jobs.
- The former Indian Springs site is moving toward redevelopment as a \$100-million "Foodie Park".



KCK Mayor David Alvey and new KCMO Mayor Quinton Lucas meet at KCK City Hall to discuss mutual issues and future cooperative efforts between the two Kansas Cities.

- The American Royal will break ground on its multi-million dollar complex in western KCK next year.
- The Police Athletic League is serving 400 kids in the long empty St. Mary's Church downtown.



Mayor Alvey concluded his address with a pledge.

*"We will continue to move forward to improve the quality of life of residents who live, work and play in KCK and Wyandotte County, who go to school here, who invest their lives and families here... by opening our hearts and minds to all who come here, by seeking ways to serve the needs of one another, and by doing the small things well and simply always working to improve the quality of lives of our citizens."*

## UG Enacts Penalties on Waste Management for Missed Trash

The Unified Government (UG) has enacted penalty provisions in its service contract with Waste Management based on continued missed collections for trash and recycling pick-ups. The penalty provision allows for the UG to withhold payments based on misses.

Hundreds of residents have complained for more than a year that trash and recycling hauler is unreliable in its service, picking up trash late or not at all. While the percentage missed weekly is usually less than 1% of households, it is critical that the fluctuation in service is stabilized.

The UG has been working with Waste Management on ways to improve service with moderate success, but the company is still not consistently operating as defined under the contract.

In February, with the support of the UG, Waste Management changed its routes in an effort to resolve collection issues by adding additional trucks to routes, smoothing the number of homes collected daily, and reducing workloads that contribute to performance difficulties. In total, 14,381 residences saw their collection day change.

The UG continues to meet with Waste Management looking for ways to improve the trash and recycling service.

**Residents who do not have their trash or recycling picked up on the scheduled day need to call 3-1-1 and report the problem.** The UG tracks and monitors those problems and reports them to Waste Management to be collected. 



## Right-of-Way Mowing

Thank you to everyone who mowed and trimmed in the right-of-way on their property last year! In the past, Public Works mowed or trimmed the right-of-way in many areas, but the two most recent Citizen Surveys showed that street maintenance is a higher priority.

Street maintenance programs require a committed and disciplined approach to ensure costly roadways last as long as possible. To meet the expectations of residents, the Board of Commissioners worked with staff to phase out right-of-way mowing in 2018. Beginning in 2019, Public Works will only mow and trim publicly-owned property in the right-of-way. "This change allows Public Works to focus resources on curb replacement, alleyway improvements, and increased pothole patching," said Dave Reno, Public Works Community Engagement Officer.

Beginning this spring, property owners are responsible for mowing or trimming grass and tree branches within 12 feet of the surface of the street on the right-of-way on their property. Roadside ditches should also be maintained, but vegetation may not be entirely removed or killed without approval from the Unified Government. For undeveloped or agricultural land, property owners only need to maintain the first 25ft from the road or curb edge.

The Public Works Department looks forward to focusing on what is most important to everyone in Kansas City, Kansas through this change. To learn more about right-of-way mowing or trimming, visit [Wycokck.org/Street/Mowing](http://Wycokck.org/Street/Mowing).

## Adopt-A-Spot

As part of the 5-year Stabilization, Occupation, and Revitalization (SOAR) plan to confront some of Wyandotte County's most pervasive challenges in the appearance, communication, and safety of

neighborhoods, the Unified Government is excited to announce the Adopt-A-Spot WyCo program.

The Adopt-A-Spot program is voluntary and designed for civic-minded groups, businesses, and organizations with an interest in keeping Bonner Springs, Edwardsville, and Kansas City, Kansas litter-free. The Adopt-A-Spot program is open to families, youth organizations, civic groups, non-profits, churches, schools, social organizations, retiree organizations,

and city, county, or state agencies.

"Adopt-A-Spot WyCo is a great way for community members to help beautify parks, portions of streets, & Land Bank properties, and be recognized for their hard work," said Logan Masenthin, SOAR Program Coordinator. In recognition of their hard work, program sponsors will receive an on-site Adopt-A-Spot sign with their organization, business, or group name printed on it after performing at least three cleanup events during a two-year period.

Adopt-A-Spot WyCo is open to everyone on a first-come, first-served basis. At this time, 34 parks, 15 portions of streets, and 66 Land Bank properties are eligible for adoption. The program, which will kick-off officially in September 2019, is accepting location reservations now. To learn more and check out the list of adoptable spots, visit the Adopt-A-Spot WyCo page at [wycokck.org/SOAR/Adopt](http://wycokck.org/SOAR/Adopt).

## Debris Removal

Do you or your neighbors have yard waste, recycling, or storm debris? Drop it off at the Yard Waste & Recycling Center for free! The Center is open to Wyandotte County residents every Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 AM to 3 PM until November 30. Yard Waste includes grass clippings, garden trimmings, leaves, and branches. Recyclables accepted include: clear, brown, and colored glass, newspapers, magazines, mixed office paper, cardboard, paperboard, aluminum cans, and various plastics. For a full list of acceptable items, visit the Solid Waste Management webpage at [bitly/AdoptASpotWyco](http://bitly/AdoptASpotWyco).

The Center cannot accept stumps and logs larger than 12 inches in diameter or items more than four feet in length. Commercially generated yard waste is also not accepted. 

## Stormwater Fee Meetings

The Unified Government is considering a change to the current stormwater fee. The most recent proposal includes feedback from businesses and homeowners. Community feedback was clear – KCK needs a stormwater rate structure that is fair for all users, reduces frequent flooding risks, and adequately funds the maintenance & enhancement of stormwater infrastructure like inlets, culverts, underground pipes, and roadside ditches.

Many community members were surprised to learn that under the current structure, small properties and large properties pay the same \$4.50 monthly user fee regardless of their total contribution to stormwater runoff. The current fee structure is not just unfair for many homeowners and small businesses; it also fails to generate the funding needed to mitigate flooding risks, repairing failing stormwater infrastructure, and perform routine maintenance.

To address this disparity and the need for additional funds to repair and enhance stormwater management, the Unified Government is looking to implement a fee based on the amount of hard surfaces - such as parking lots - which creates more rain runoff. The new fee, as proposed, does not change the fee of \$4.50 for the majority of residential property owners in KCK, in the first year. As the Unified Government Commission continues to study the change to the stormwater fee to better align with the rain runoff properties are creating, they would like more residents' input on the proposed fee change.

The Unified Government Commission invites all residents of KCK to one of the following open houses:

- September 25, 5:00 – 7:00 PM at the Neighborhood Resource Center (4953 State Avenue)
- October 9, 5:00 – 7:00 PM at the Patricia "Diane" Kane Community Center (3130 N. 122nd)
- October 23, 5:00 – 7:00 PM at the Joe E. Amayo Argentine Community Center (2810 Metropolitan)
- November 6, 5:00 – 7:00 PM at the Beatrice L. Lee Community Center (1310 N. 10th)

Learn more about the Unified Government's recommendation at [bitly/StormwaterRate](http://bitly/StormwaterRate). 



Job growth in Wyandotte County ranked #149 in the nation for 2018. Johnson County ranked #198.

# 2020 BUDGET INITIATIVES

The 2020 UG Budget includes initiatives aimed at achieving the Commission’s strategic goals:

## Investing in Public Safety

- **Dedicated Public Safety Officers** – Over 1,105 public safety, dispatchers, firefighters and other peace officers are on-duty to keep residents safe and our violent crime rates low, decreasing by 11% last year. KCK has one of the highest solve rates for murders in the region.
- **Building Security** – Over \$1.5 million is included in this budget to augment security in the courthouse and city hall based on a consultant study. The safety of our residents conducting business in UG facilities, employees, and judges is vitally important.
- **Community Connect Intel Unit** – Technology advancements create opportunities for efficiency and this project pulls it all together. Video surveillance from across the county can be consolidated and shared to achieve a safer environment for residents and police.
- **Fire Truck Lease Turn-In Program** – Acquisition of 4 fire pumpers and 2 aerials through a cost effective program that allows us to lease fire apparatuses for only the period in which the assets are most useful, and for only those stations that have the highest level of service calls.
- **Other related capital investments in public safety** – dispatch center upgrades, repurpose juvenile pod to adult jail space, and the courthouse fire alarm system.

## Improving Streets

The UG is committed to improving streets within our community.

- **Repair and Maintenance** – The 2020 budget includes \$9 million for preservation and maintenance of streets



- **Leavenworth Road 78th to 63rd** – Project is \$11.5 million and is a continuation of the improvements for the Leavenworth Road Corridor.
- **Minnesota Ave 6th to 7th** – Integrate and connect the improvements and appearance from the previously completed improvements on Minnesota from 7th to 8th street.
- **Other street projects** – 131st & Leavenworth Road, 7th & Central, Fairfax Industrial, I-70 & Turner Diagonal Interchange.

## Economic Development

- **I-70 & Turner Diagonal Interchange** – The reconstruction of the interchange into a diverging diamond structure. This project has a Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant from



the US Department of transportation. This configuration would eliminate several of the extra ramps needed and would make this interchange more efficient for traffic flow and future development.

- **Minnesota Avenue Streetscape** – \$1.1 million is proposed to accelerate urban revitalization in downtown Kansas City, Kansas. Elements of the project include curb and gutter, sidewalk, planting areas, road surface, stormwater, and parking.

## Protecting Neighborhoods and Business

- **Army Corp Argentine/Armourdale/Central Industrial District Levee Raise Project** – Joint project with the Army Corp of Engineers, KCMO and Kaw Valley Drainage District for necessary improvements to the levees. This project is part of a \$453 million federal funding program.
- **Turkey Creek Wingwall Repair Project** – Stabilization of the Kaw River bank due to wingwall failure along Turkey Creek.

## Enhancing Systems and Providing Solutions for the Future

The 2020 Proposed budget includes a 5% sewer rate increase to meet the mandatory Environmental Protection Agency requirements to repair aging sewers and to implement other projects.

- **Wolcott Treatment Plant Expansion** – Replacement of the temporary treatment plant that has reached its capacity to serve western Wyandotte County.



- **Kaw Point Biosolids Project** – Rehabilitate current structures and install new equipment to restore the digestion process and allow for the handling of sludge which is currently landfilled, which is not cost efficient and will likely not be an option in the near future.

## Community Improvement

- **Blight Remediation** – Continued funding to enhance of the quality of life by improving the physical, social, and economic conditions of the environment. The SOAR initiative is a 5-year plan that addresses vacant and abandoned homes, property maintenance, loose dogs, mowing frequency, graffiti, and more.
- **Trail Network Development** – Development and implementation of a more robust trails network that will allow for connection points to neighboring community through the use of sidewalk improvements, on-street trails/bike paths, off-road trails, and other mixed-use forms of trails.



- **Online Park Facility and Program Reservations** – \$125,000 for the implementation of new software that will allow customers to register for recreation programs online and make the entire process more efficient for all parties involved, including giving access to the recreation system to Parks & Recreation staff at the Community Centers to facilitate better customer service.
- **Unified Government Improvements** – Investment in the hardscape and landscape to improve the appearance of UG facilities and grounds. \$413,000 is specific to addressing the issue of lack of parking at the Annex, a location that is heavily trafficked by visitors of the Treasurer’s office and Appraiser’s office, in addition to the parking needs for staff and UG owned vehicles.



## Park Improvements

- \$700,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds is proposed to renovate the infrastructure of City and Regan Park. These improvements include building three ADA accessible restrooms, a drainage system, creating shade structures, and developing an ADA compliant entrance to the City Park Ballfields. There is additional funding proposed to address park restroom improvements per the 2017 Parks Master Plan recommendation.

## BOOMTOWN

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places to eat, and they'll want places to live and buy groceries and purchase gas, and all those things that you want close to your work environment," says Ruder.

### DOWNTOWN LIVING

For the first time in 30 years, new apartments are being built downtown. The BLVD Lofts broke ground in June on a 50-unit complex at 8th and Washington. The apartments will feature a community garden and kitchen. Of the 50 units, 38 will be one- and two-bedroom lofts, and 12 will be sixplexes. Rent ranges from \$500 to \$1,500, with most going for between \$500 and \$1,000.

"I see this project — and my district, in particular, as it relates to Wyandotte County — really providing that strong housing component that's necessary to build up a downtown component, much like we see over in Kansas City, Mo.," said Commissioner Harold Johnson.

Johnson said the community's response has been "phenomenal," with some residents already taking the plunge and preregistering for a unit. Proximity to thoroughfares and neighborhood schools, such as Sumner Academy, drove the choice for the lofts' location.

The Prairie Fire Development Group which is building the BLVD Lofts is also planning to redevelop the former YMCA building at 900 N 8th Street.

The Y Lofts project proposes to redevelop the YMCA building into 44 senior residential units, for persons 55 and older. The Y Lofts renovation project is estimated at \$8.9-million. When completed, there would

be 29 one-bedroom, one-bath units with estimated rents of \$355 to \$700, and 15 two-bedroom, one-bath units at \$430 to \$900 per month rent.

Mayor David Alvey says downtown KCK offers affordability, accessibility and authenticity.

"If you go down to Central Avenue and you see the number of people who come to Splitlog Coffee or to Slap's BBQ, you begin to see this is a really vibrant place, and we like being here," Alvey said. "It's comfortable. It's authentic. And that's really what we have to offer: a real sense of authenticity."

### Turner Logistics Center

Plans for a \$155-million logistics and distribution center at I-70 and the Turner Diagonal are moving forward.

The complex of up to eight warehouses will be constructed north of I-70 and a newly designed Turner Diagonal interchange. When completed, the Turner Logistics Center will have one-million square feet of industrial space, which could grow to as much as 2.7-million square feet in the future. It is expected to create 1,800 new jobs.

The Turner Diagonal, with its looping on and off ramps, will be rebuilt as a diverging diamond interchange giving direct access in all directions to I-70 and opening up hundreds of acres which are now landlocked and undevelopable.

Construction of the new interchange will cost \$30-million, paid with a \$13.8-million federal BUILD Grant, \$7.5-million in local funding and millions more in funding from the Kansas Department of Transportation. The investment in the commerce center is \$125-million.

NorthPoint Development will build the logistics center. NorthPoint currently has 11.7-million square feet in industrial space leased with another 13.3-million under construction, including several buildings in the KCK Fairfax Industrial Area.

Design work on the interchange and first warehouse will begin later this year and is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2020. 

## Parks and Rec News

By Angel Obert

Unified Government Staff

- In June kids from the community put crayons to paper to draw their dream playground, which ultimately became a reality with support from CarMax and KaBOOM! KaBOOM! is the national non-profit dedicated to giving kids the childhood they deserve through great, safe places to play. Elements from their drawings will be incorporated into design options for the playground. On June 5, 2019 a playground was built in 5 hours with the help of hundreds of volunteers.
- The 6th annual unofficial "Christmas in July" was a success. This Event included activities for the whole family as well as a pontoon boat parade in the evening! There were fireworks, face painting, fishing derby, bounce house, food and an outdoor movie at dusk. We had over 22 boats register for the boat decorating contest bringing in a lot of creativity. Congratulations Mary Meyer on your 2nd time winning 1st place at Christmas in July boat decorating contest.
- Start your weekend relaxation with FREE Yoga in the Park! Yoga in the park will be held at Kaw Point Park on September 28, 2019 10:30am-11:30am. Yoga instructor, Mary Butler will lead you through a series of poses designed to improve balance, flexibility, and breathing. Please bring a towel or yoga mat and wear comfortable clothing. Kaw Point Park is located at 1403 Fairfax Trafficway, Kansas City, KS 66115.
- Sports programs being offered by Parks and Recreation this Spring include Flag Football, Youth Soccer, and pickleball. Bring your best game! For detailed information please stay tuned for our Fall and Winter program guide or contact Olijoeel Sheppard at (913) 573-8330. 

## THE BUDGET

cont. from page 1

infrastructure; increase operational efficiency and effectiveness; improve appearance and safety in neighborhoods; targeted investment to drive future growth; and long-term fiscal sustainability," stated County Administrator Doug Bach.

The 2020 Budget works to meet community needs and Commission goals by:

- Increasing funding for public safety;
- Improving streets through construction projects and better maintenance;
- Igniting economic development and creating new jobs;

- Protecting neighborhoods and businesses through major flood control projects;
- Protecting the environment through sewer and waste treatment processes;
- Enhancing quality of life by reducing blight and improving parks and trails;
- Elevating customer service with greatly improved on-line functions, making it easier to pay bills, check municipal court appearances and a variety of other communications with the Unified Government.

The 2020 Proposed Budget totals \$394.8-million, or 2.9% more than 2019.

For complete details on the 2020 Proposed Unified Government Budget go to [www.wycokck.org](http://www.wycokck.org). 



Wages in Wyandotte County increased 6.4% in 2018 ranking it 18th in the nation for pay increases. The average weekly wage being \$1,083.

# A New Way to Pay

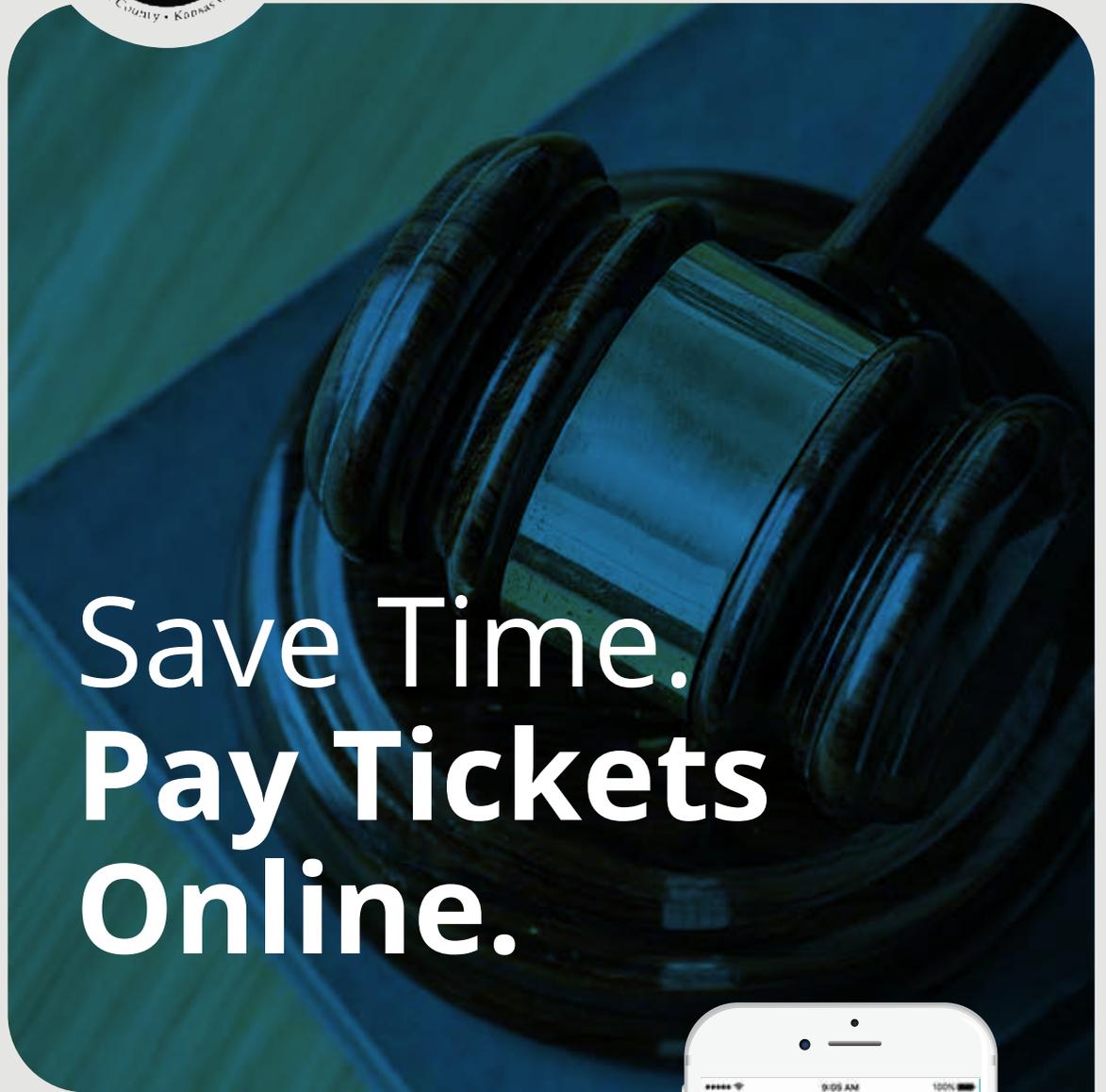
The KCK Municipal Court is now on the myWYCO App!. The Court joins the Treasury and 311 in using this technology to improve citizen/government transactions. Citizens can now track court dates, make payments, and access information about the Court from all devices.

This includes, for the first time, making partial payments without a trip to City Hall. Citizens can access this conversation-based interaction on mobile devices, something previously unavailable for online ticket payment or Court communications.

The myWYCO App is a cornerstone in the planned enhancements for improved citizen access to the KCK Municipal Court. Download the myWYCO App today! 



# myWYCO

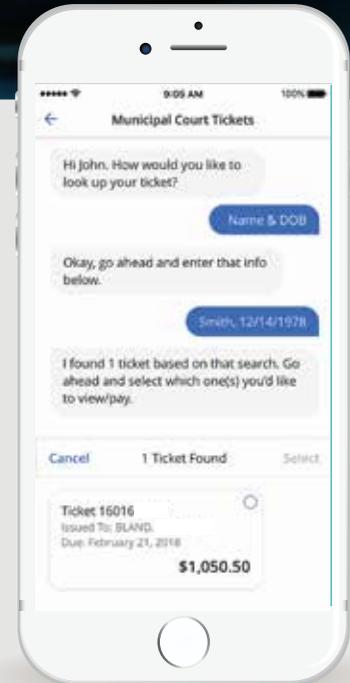


# Save Time. Pay Tickets Online.

 powered by **payit**

## Municipal court services are now digital.

With myWYCO, you can quickly and easily pay municipal court tickets in just a few easy steps using the official app of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas.



Wyandotte County population grew by 5% since the 2010 Census with 7,819 new residents. The total population stands at 165,324.

Also available online at [mywyco.wycokck.org](http://mywyco.wycokck.org)

# KCK Police Chief Terry Zeigler Retires

After nearly 30 years with the KCK Police Department, Chief Terry Zeigler is retiring in September.

Zeigler says he has had a front row seat to see all of the great work KCK Police Officers are doing in the community.

County Administrator Doug Bach, who hired Zeigler as Chief says,

“Terry Zeigler has been a great Police Chief. He has led efforts to reduce crime and improve morale in the Police Department. I hired Chief Zeigler because I had great confidence in his ability and still do today. I did try to talk him out of retiring, but he decided he was ready for his next adventure in life. I will announce who I will be appointing as Acting Chief in a couple of weeks, while I develop a process and timeline to select the next Chief of Police for our community. KCK has a Police Department with dedicated men and women here to serve our community with professionalism and high standards.”

Mayor David Alvey also praised Zeigler.

*“On behalf of the citizens and businesses of Kansas City, Kansas I want to thank Chief Ziegler for his 29 years of service to our community. He will be remembered for his devotion to our citizens, his pride in his officers and staff, and his hard work and professionalism spanning nearly three decades. Our city is a better place because of Chief Ziegler’s commitment to protect and serve.”*

In his retirement announcement, Zeigler cites some of his proudest accomplishments during his four and a half years as Chief.

- The Department’s Community Policing program has gained international attention, particularly the way we engage our community with surveys about crime and quality of life issues. Officers have embraced the community policing philosophy at every level and work in partnership with our citizens to address their concerns

in their neighborhoods, as well as, crime related issues. Our citizens have been the cornerstone of our crime reduction, as they are not afraid to take a stand against those who commit crimes in our community.

- In 2015, the Department adopted a mandatory Crisis Intervention Team training program. As of today, 80% of the officers are CIT certified. We have adopted the same mandatory training program for members of our Dispatch Unit.
- The establishment of Project ACT and ICON as the premier crime fighting initiatives in our city. The ICON initiative received \$700,000 in federal funding for its innovative crime fighting strategy. Overall crime in Kansas City, Kansas dropped nearly 11% in 2018 over the previous year. Incidents of total crimes decreased from 8,810 in 2017 to 7,850 in 2018. Homicides declined by

14.6%, while drive-by shootings showed the sharpest drop at 17.6% from the year before. In June of 1985, there were nine (9) reported homicides in our city and year to date we have had ten (10) homicides.

- Summer Cadet Program – A program that hires 18 high school students a year, for eight weeks, and teaches them life skills that they otherwise may not learn. Officers work to instill discipline in the cadets, a spirit of community service, and good citizenship. This program has won the support of many of our businesses because they understand the importance of helping set young adults up for future success in life.

Zeigler concluded his retirement announcement expressing strong confidence in the department.

“I am leaving the Department at a time when the leadership is strong, the morale is high, and community support and trust is steadfast.”

## How one of your 2020 Tax Dollars is Spent for Household in USD #500

(Kansas City, KS School District)

UG 46%

OTHER 54%



## How one of your 2020 Tax Dollars is Spent for Household in USD #203

(Piper School District)

UG 44%

OTHER 56%



## Service Alerts Property Owners to Potential Fraud

A new Property Fraud Alert Program is being offered by the Wyandotte County Register of Deeds Office.

The program is a free online subscription service. Owners of property can subscribe at [www.propertyfraudalert.com/wyandotteks](http://www.propertyfraudalert.com/wyandotteks) or call 1-800-728-3858. This is an automated database that monitors activity involving land records filed with the Wyandotte County Register of Deeds Office.

According to the FBI, property and mortgage fraud is the fastest growing white collar crime in the United States. Register of Deeds Nancy Burns says the fraud service alerts property owners to possible fraud involving land records, including fraudulent liens or mortgages.



KCK is named the #4 city in America for best drivers by Allstate Insurance in the America’s Best Drivers Report. Olathe was #6 and KCMO was #37.



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

Presorted  
Standard  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Mail-Sort, Inc

The KCK Forward Young Professionals group visit the Police Athletic League during their 3rd annual History and Culture Tour of KCK. The group is sponsored by the Unified Government through the KCK Chamber of Commerce.



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



# 3-1-1.

One easy number to contact the Unified Government with questions, concerns, complaints, comments or to pay taxes. Just call, go online or use the mobile app.

## 2019 Unified Government Commission



**DAVID ALVEY**  
Mayor/CEO  
[mayoralvey@wycokck.org](mailto:mayoralvey@wycokck.org)



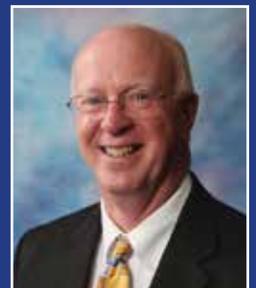
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