

July 2023

# Livable Neighborhoods News

## Mission of Livable Neighborhoods

To improve the quality of life in our community through organized neighborhood and government partnerships that provide information, training, resources, and a forum for open discussion.

Office: Neighborhood Resource Center (NRC), 4953 State Ave

Hours: 8am-5pm (NRC lobby closes at 4pm)

Contact: [livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org](mailto:livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org) or 913-573-8737



Stay connected with us via Facebook or

Receive our weekly e-news by emailing [livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org](mailto:livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org)

## Livable Neighborhoods

### Monthly Meeting:

**July 27th**

4th Thursday of the month

January to October

9:00am - 10:30 am

Attend via Zoom or in person at the Neighborhood Resource Center.

To be added to the Zoom invitation please send an email to:

[livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org](mailto:livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org)

### Updates from:

UG Mayor's Office

UG Public Health Department

WYCO Sheriff's Department

WYCP/KCK District Attorney's Office

KCK Police Department

KCK Fire Department

UG Neighborhood Resource Center

KCK School District USD 500

Turner School District

Board of Public Utilities

Livable Neighborhoods Task Force

DO  
something  
**GOOD** in your  
neighborhood

## Reminders

July 4th — Independence Day

July 12th — Law Enforcement Advisory Board

July 15th — Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

**THE DUTY OF HELPING  
ONE'S SELF IN THE  
HIGHEST SENSE  
INVOLVES THE HELPING  
OF ONE'S NEIGHBORS.**

Samuel Smiles



"There is no  
power for change  
greater than a  
community  
discovering what  
it cares about."

MARGARET J. WHEATLEY

POP-UP GALLERIES.  
FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES.

Creative, inclusive, and free to attend!  
Park and start at 6th & Tauramee.

LIVE MUSIC, LOCAL FOOD.  
INTERACTIVE ART.



MORE INFO AT [THIRDFRIDAYKCK.ORG](http://THIRDFRIDAYKCK.ORG).

5-9PM

## FREE COMMUNITY LAUNDRY DAYS



FREE LAUNDRY  
SUPPLIES  
TO BE USED  
DURING EVENT



FREE WASHERS  
AND DRYERS  
3PM-6PM

EVERY 3RD MONDAY IN 2023

FEB 20    MAR 20    APR 17    MAY 15  
JUN 19    JUL 17    AUG 21    SEP 18  
OCT 16    NOV 20    DEC 18

FULLY VACCINATED STAFF



1920 QUINDARO BLVD. KCK 66104  
913-232-9008    OPEN 7 DAYS 8A-8P

## PRIORITIZING EQUITY IN WYANDOTTE COUNTY: DISMANTLING SYSTEMIC RACISM LISTENING SESSIONS RESULTS

Declaring racism is a public health crisis, is an important first step toward acknowledging the unequal and unjust systems that Black Wyandotte County community members have to contend with on a daily basis. Words are not enough to begin addressing and reversing the harms those systems perpetuate. Action is needed in the form of policy reform and funding. In order to prioritize which actions should be taken first, we engaged our community to ask: What are your top priorities to dismantle systemic racism in Wyandotte County?

### 11 COMMUNITY SESSIONS IN ALL 8 COMMISSION DISTRICTS

In February and March of 2023, eleven community listening sessions were held throughout Wyandotte County. Dinner and a stipend was given to everyone who participated. Licensed therapists, childcare and transportation were available.

### 149 UNIQUE PARTICIPANTS

Participants gathered in work groups to review data, talk about their experiences, and learn from each other. Some of the conversations were difficult and traumatic. Other conversations resulted in a sense of joy and healing that can only be found through community connection.

Participants gave input and selected specific policies and programs that they considered to be the most urgent and impactful ways to address systemic racism and its effects in Wyandotte County.

## PRIORITIZING EQUITY IN WYANDOTTE COUNTY: DISMANTLING SYSTEMIC RACISM

### 4 PRIORITIES CHOSEN OUT OF 36 POTENTIAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

#### TOP PRIORITIES



Decriminalization  
of Marijuana and  
Expungement of  
Past Charges



Creation and  
Implementation of  
a Racial Equity Plan  
within the Unified  
Government



Repair Fund for  
Family Homes in  
Need of  
Maintenance &  
Upkeep



Property Tax Relief  
for Low Income  
Owners Facing Tax  
Sale Auction

#### BENEFITS

- Provides relief to those needing medical treatment
- Prevents entrance into the criminal legal system for low level non-violent crimes
- Reduces the jail population, saving the UG money
- Reduces violence from illegal drug trade
- Provides roadmap for leadership
- Analyzes and removes policies that perpetuate racism
- Mandates assessment of policies for fairness and equity
- Reduces risk of litigation against the county/city
- Increases property values.
- Addresses dangerous codes violations.
- Increases community pride and empowerment.
- Improves quality of life
- Improves physical and mental health
- Prevents foreclosures
- Creates positive interactions between residents and UG
- Improves credit scores and increases tax compliance
- Decreases homelessness and transiency



Information compiled by the Unified Government Public Health Department of Wyandotte County. Updated: May 22, 2023



Partnership Between Community & Law Enforcement



**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 2023**

**5 PM - 8 PM**

**KCKCC FIELDHOUSE**

**7250 STATE AVE. KCK 66112**



Come out for a night of fun and relationship building with law enforcement to promote safe neighborhoods.

Free hotdogs and chips for the first 500 people!

Free t-shirts for the first 150 people!

Stay for a chance to win amazing box prizes or a TV!



Catch someone  
DOING  
something  
**GOOD** in your  
neighborhood

Have you seen someone doing something good in your Wyandotte County or KCK neighborhood?

Send in a photo with a brief description to [livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org](mailto:livableneighborhoods@wycokck.org) and they will be featured in an upcoming e-newsletter.

**We want to recognize them!**



# COMMUNITY PET FORUM

For Kansas City, Kansas Residents



**KCK residents...We're here to help with your community pet needs!**



**Neighborhood Resource Center**

July 18, 2023  
5:30pm - 7:30pm

4953 State Ave, Kansas  
City, KS 66102

PLEASE CONTACT [HERO@GREATPLAINSSPCA.ORG](mailto:HERO@GREATPLAINSSPCA.ORG) WITH QUESTIONS!



"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate action of its members."

CORETTA SCOTT KING



**The Affordable Connectivity Program can save you or your household \$30/month on your internet bill.**

Apply now at [GetInternet.Gov](https://www.GetInternet.Gov)

**ONLINE FOR ALL**

## In the Kitchen

- When cooking, peel & clean vegetables in a large bowl of water instead of under running water.
- Fill your sink or basin when washing & rinsing dishes.
- Only run the dishwasher when it's full.
- Only use the garbage disposal when necessary (composting is a great alternative).
- Install faucet aerators.

## In the Bathroom

- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Turn off the water to brush teeth.
- Shave in the shower or by filling the sink with water.
- Repair leaky toilets.
- Install a toilet dam, faucet aerators, & low-flow showerheads.

## Water Conservation & Saving Tips for Summer

With the heat and humidity of summer near, water usage & consumption can go up. The Kansas City Board of Public Utilities (BPU) has compiled a list of recommendations to help conserve this precious natural resource, while also reducing the energy usage needed to process and deliver water to homes and business - which can lead to a reduction in overall utility costs.

## Laundry

- Run full loads of laundry.
- When buying a washing machine, get a water saver model that can adjust to the load size.

## Outside the Home

- Set the mower blades to 2-3 inches high.
  - Longer grass shades the soil which improves moisture retention.
- Only water the lawn when necessary, and avoid doing so in windy days, hot days, or during afternoon hours to reduce evaporation.
- When washing a car, wet it quickly. Then use a bucket of water to wash it. Only turn on hose to final rinse.
- Always use a broom to clean walkways, driveways, & porches rather hosing off these areas.



### Stormwater Treatment Facilities are for Everyone!

Ever noticed the lush gardens at Wyandotte County Lake or Waterway Park? Or maybe the sprawling green spaces at Wyandotte County Youth Soccer Complex? These are not just your regular parks, they're actually Stormwater Treatment Facilities, or STFs.

Let's break that down. **STFs are basically nature's superheroes that combat water-related issues such as flooding and water pollution.** At the same time, they spruce up our parks and protect our rivers and streams. What's even cooler is that you can have these heroes right in your backyard.

Experiencing waterlogging in your yard after it rains? Here's how you can turn the situation around:

- **Create a Rain Garden** – Picture a garden that doesn't just look great, but also works smart. That's a rain garden. It slows down rainwater, spreads it out, and helps it sink into the ground. This magic garden not only reduces water overflow but also purifies it, refills our underground water reserves, and creates a natural paradise for wildlife. Plus, rain gardens can soak up 30% more water than an equivalent patch of lawn!
- **Set up a Rain Barrel** – This is a neat little device that collects and stores rainwater running off your roof. Imagine capturing 600 gallons of water from just an inch of rainfall. You can use this stored water for watering your garden, filling up birdbaths, caring for indoor plants, or cleaning your garden tools.
- **Grow Native Plants** – Did you know our local plants can help prevent water runoff? They have deep roots that penetrate the dense clay soil in our area, making it easier for rainwater to be absorbed. As an added bonus, these plants often need less mowing, watering, or chemical treatment.

**Here's the best part** – the Unified Government has a special program to help you set up an STF at your home or business. However, there's limited funding, and it's given on a first-come, first-served basis. So, hurry up!

If you live in Kansas City, Kansas, you're eligible to apply. **Visit the Stormwater Quality Programs webpage at [wycokck.org/Stormwater](http://wycokck.org/Stormwater) for more details** or to get your application form.

If you want to learn more or have any questions, simply dial 3-1-1 and ask to speak with Public Works' Stormwater team.

**"ALONE, WE  
CAN DO SO  
LITTLE;  
TOGETHER,  
WE CAN DO  
SO MUCH"**

**HELEN KELLER**