

Livable Neighborhoods Meeting

Thursday, July 27th, 2023

Meeting Minutes

Presentations:

VI. Wyandotte County Public Health Department

Anthony Lee, Lead Hazard Control Program Supervisor, aolee@wycokck.org

The Wyandotte County Public Health Department educates the public on the lead and its effects on our health. Lead is a heavy metal that can cause serious health problems. Lead is a commonly used substance and can be found in numerous products such as paint, ceramics, plumbing, batteries, and cosmetics to name a few. Most individuals are exposed to lead through lead-based paint which was commonly used on homes built prior to 1978. Young children and fetus are the most at risk to the harmful effects of lead exposure. Children under 6 years old absorb lead more easily due to their developing nervous systems. Lead can be found where children live and play like on toys, in dirt, and all over their hands. This often leads children to ingesting and poisoned by this toxic metal. If you see peeling or chipping paint on the inside or outside of your home, keep your children away from those areas to reduce chances of lead exposure. The health risks of lead exposure are impaired growth, hearing loss, behavioral problems, reduced IQ, decreased attention span, and severe cases can cause seizures, comas, and even death. The symptoms of lead exposure can be tricky to identify because they mirror many other illnesses' symptoms, for example, fatigue, diarrhea/constipation, high blood pressure, nausea and vomiting, flu-like symptoms, and loss of appetite are all signs of lead poisoning. A well-balanced diet and regular hand washing can help to reduce the chances of lead poisoning and its severity. Be sure to regularly test your child(ren) under 6 for their lead levels. Pregnant people should also request lead testing as part of their prenatal exams. If you have questions or suspicions that your home contains lead, call your primary healthcare provider and the Public Health department at (913) 573-6773. The Public Health department has a lead abatement program for pre-1978 homes. This program is available to both homeowners and renters.

Question: Renovation projects on pre-1978 homes need extra care and precautions due to lead dust spreading. What specific types of renovation projects need extra precautions?

Answer: All remediation for pre-1978 homes need to be handled with care by certified professionals. Exterior painting, structural changes (knocking down walls), or window repair and replacement are a few examples of projects that need special precautions completed by a certified professional.

Question: How can I safely repaint my pre-1978 home?

Answer: Be sure to use encapsulating paint to cover and abate lead-based paint.

Question: What resources are available for lead remediation?

Answer: [kNOw Lead KCK](#)

Question: *What are the costs of lead testing?*

Answer: *Lead testing (or screening) can be quite expensive—especially if the tests are thorough. Call your primary healthcare provider or the WyCo Public Health Department for more information and assistance on lead testing or to make an appointment.*

Question: *Does the kNOw Lead program encapsulate or abate the lead that they find?*

Answer: *Both! However, due to funding, it is more common for the lead to be encapsulated.*

Regular Updates:

II. Mayor's Office

Irene Caudillo, Chief of Staff, icaudillo@wycokck.org

Irene Caudillo introduces herself as the newly appointed Chief of Staff for the Mayor's Office. Irene reaffirms the mayor's commitment to community voice. The Mayor's Office acknowledges the importance and impact of the work happening in our neighborhoods and community and invites community members to continue this work by joining one of the taskforces housed in the office. [Visit the Unified Government's website for more information on these taskforces](#). Reach out to Irene if you are interested in joining any of these taskforces by emailing the address provided above or calling (913) 573-5011.

III. KCKPS USD 500

Edwin Birch, Executive Director Communications & Marketing, edwin.birch@kckps.org

Kansas City, KS Public Schools USD 500 is hosting their annual back-to-school fair on Saturday, August 5th, 2023, at Central Office from 8 AM to 1 PM. School supplies, hygiene kits, backpacks, and books will be distributed at the event. The Unified Government's Parks and Recreation Department will be in attendance with useful information about programs and activities available to Wyandotte County youth. Students can also receive immunizations, health screenings, and sports physicals. KCKPS is launching a new program called the dual language program which offers students the opportunity to become biliterate in English and Spanish. Kindergarten enrollment for this program has begun and students in the Francis Williard, New Stanley, and Silver City attendance zones. On Thursday, August 10th, 2023, the Opening of Schools Convocation will take place at the Monarch's Stadium. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening on the Bethel Early Childhood Center will take place Friday, August 12th at noon.

IV. Turner USD 202

Lauren Aiello, Director of Public Relations, aiello@turnerusd202.org

Renovations for the Turner Aquatic Center are wrapping up! The renovations are going according to the set timeline which means the center should open back up as expected in early August. The Turner school district is hiring for certified teaching positions as well as

transportation, custodian, and food services positions. The first day of the school year will be Monday, August 14th.

V. KCK Police Department

Not in attendance

VI. Neighborhood Resource Center

Not in attendance

The Neighborhood Resource Center has no updates.

VII. BPU

David Mehlhaff, BPU Communications, dmehlhaff@bpu.com

David informs residents that the recent extreme heat is affecting the electric grid load. The heat can cause power shutoffs due to overheating of wires and machinery at the electric grid. BPU is watching these substations very closely. Here's how you can help reduce strain on the electric grid and practice energy efficiency: (1) Use electricity primarily during the off-peak hours which are early morning & late night, (2) Make slight adjustments to your thermostat instead of large adjustments, (3) use fans to supplement air conditioning, (4) utilize natural shading from curtains and shades, (5) close air vents in rooms you don't frequent often, and (6) use large appliances wisely and sparingly.

VIII. Sherriff's Department

Michael Kroening, Administrative Support Captain, mkroening@wycosheriff.org

The Sherriff's Department will be hosting a pool event at Parkwood Pool on August 5th, 2023. Be there or be square. The first 200 people swim for free! Also, the Sherriff's Department is currently hiring for sworn deputies and civilian positions.

IX. District Attorney's Office

Jonathan Carter, Public Information Officer, jcarter@wycokck.org

The District Attorney's Office is hosting their annual [Expungement Fair](#) at the KCKCC Technical College on August 8th and August 9th from 4 PM to 8 PM.

X. KCK Fire Department

John Droppelmann, Fire Marshal

KCK Fire Department shares that fire hydrants undergo annual inspections. However, the Fire Department does not maintain fire hydrants. Report damaged fire hydrants to BPU by calling (913) 573-9622. Droppelmann notifies the public that there have been over 100 reports of illegal

burning. Open burn season has ended. If you see someone illegally burning at this time, please notify law enforcement by calling 9-1-1.

XI. Planning & Urban Design

Alyssa Marcy, Long Range Planner, amarcy@wycokck.org

The Planning Department is doing engagement over the summer for PlanKCK, the comprehensive plan, which covers a multitude of topics and you can find more info on the [PlanKCK website](#). The next PlanKCK event will take place August 14th, 2023, at Memorial Hall from 1 PM to 3 PM. This event will discuss the role of the Mainstreet Program in the economic development plan for KCK and speakers will present a draft of the current economic development plan.

XII. Health Department

Jennifer Jamison, WyCo Public Health Social Worker, jjamison@wycokck.org

The start of the school year is right around the corner! Jennifer speaks with us about childhood immunizations and their role on public education. Students should receive their immunizations before they begin school as to not disrupt the student's learning. Students must be removed from class if their immunizations are not current. The health department has Thursday evenings appointments available for parents that need accommodations to their work schedule. There are free prenatal classes offered through the health department for expecting mothers. "Becoming a Mom" classes are Tuesdays from 9 AM to 11 AM and Thursdays from 4 PM to 6 PM. Register today by calling (913) 573-6713. Lastly, fentanyl is devastating communities across the country--Wyandotte County included. Narcan is used for the treatment of life-threatening opioid overdose such as fentanyl overdose. The health department has Narcan for those interested in carrying it as a safety net to protect our friends, family, and community members in need, and would be more than happy to educate you on how to safely dispense it.

XIII. Livable Neighborhoods

Kayla Hower, Program Coordinator, kjhower@wycokck.org

Livable Neighborhoods is looking for new members to sit on our executive taskforce. There are no requirements or qualifications needed to serve on the board. We only ask that you have a desire to "do something good in your neighborhood". Feel free to reach out to current executive committee members for any questions about their experiences, roles, and responsibilities as members of the taskforce board. Those members are Carole Newton, Donnie Thomas, Deniese Davis, Chandra Ward, and Kendall McReynolds. Finally, Livable Neighborhoods is looking for organizations to sponsor light refreshments or breakfast-type items for future Livable Neighborhoods Monthly Meetings. The office is also looking for sponsorships for our strategic planning session on October 7th, 2023. Please reach out to our office or Kayla directly if either of these two opportunities interest you.

Community Announcements:

- *Krystal McFeders, UG Strategic Communications, Krystal spreads the word about Parkwood Park Build Day. The Unified Government is looking for 200 volunteers to help*

rebuild the playground at Parkwood Park. If you are interested in this project, [please sign up here](#).

- *Tamara Barnes, A Loving Space*, A Loving Space Foundation is planning a back-to-school cleanup bash. If anyone has connections for supply sponsorships or donors, they would greatly appreciate it. There are several community cleanups throughout the year please go to [their website](#) to RSVP and help clean the community.
- *Jennifer Mills, Historic Westheight Neighborhood Association*, Judge Tony Martinez is the guest speaker at the Westheight Neighborhood meeting on August 9th. He will be discussing the Fentanyl epidemic in our area. The meeting will be at 7 PM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 18th and Washington Blvd. This is such an important topic, and all neighborhood groups are invited to attend.
- *Leslie Scott, KC Digital Drive* is still looking for community partners to help us spread the word about the Affordable Connectivity Program, which is a federal program that provides a \$30/month discount on internet service. Please email lscott@kcdigitaldrive.org for more details. Re.Use.Full is looking for more KCK non-profit organizations, schools, and churches that could use more in-kind donations, like still-good clothing, books, toys, bikes, furniture, and other household items, to participate in our first Un-Dumpster Day in KCK on Saturday, September 23, from 8 a.m.-noon. It's FREE! Email Rachel@reusefull.org for more info.
- *Denise Dias, K-State Research and Extension*, New Kitchen Restore Program Kick Off Event August 1, at KCKCC Back to School Fair. Donations of new or gently used kitchen items are needed to create basic kitchen kits for those with minimal or no resources for cooking. Flyer to follow or contact Wy. Co Extension. Board Leadership Series begins August 24 from 1:30 to 3pm. Livable Neighborhood members can attend for free (\$20) with the coupon code: LNLEADERS2023Flyer will follow or contact WyCo Extension or Denise Dias at ddias@ksu.edu for more info.
- *Matt May, Director of UG Emergency Management*, The recent high winds and heavy rains caused substantial damage across the county. The UG is applying for reimbursement from FEMA for these damages. There have been some hurdles regarding collection of FEMA funds—there needs to be a state threshold of damage incurred to qualify, and while the county has hit the local required threshold the State of Kansas currently does not meet that state-level threshold. This makes even the county ineligible for FEMA funding. The State is searching for a work-around. The UG intends to use this FEMA funding for debris cleanup and financial support for BPU amongst other things.
- *JoAnn Woody, Greater Kansas City American Red Cross*, the American Red Cross first aid app is a free download for Apple and Android. The app has a plentiful list of emergency medical situations that you might encounter and provides tips on how to respond to these medical situations. There are buttons within the app that calls 9-1-1 and provides directions to the closest hospital. Have questions for the Great Kansas City American Red Cross? Reach out to JoAnn at joann.woody@redcross.org.
- *Connie Brown-Collins (conniejbrowns53@gmail.com), Voters Rights Network of WyCo*, The Voters Rights Network of Wyandotte County works at the state level for legislation that impacts Wyandotte County. The organization push for civil, human, and voting right, and among their most notable works was actions that led to the redistricting of the county. The Voters Rights Network of Wyandotte County has an upcoming event called Legislative Lunch and Learn that will take place Saturday, August 26th, 2023 from 11 AM to 1 PM at the KCKCC Technical Education Center.
- *Donnie Thomas, Kensington Neighborhood*, The Kensington Neighborhood Association will have Narcan training at their next neighborhood meeting on Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023 from 6 PM to 7 PM at Grace Lutheran Church.

- *Patrick Devine, Cross-Lines Community Outreach*, Cross-lines has an informational powerpoint on affordable housing that they'd love to share with you and/or your neighborhood group. Invite Pat to your next neighborhood or organizational meeting to discuss our community's housing needs and to provide feedback on housing plans. You can reach Pat at patrick@cross-lines.org .
- *Mata Townsend, Groundwork Northeast Revitalization Group*, Join Groundwork as they celebrate the life and legacy of musical genius Charlie Bird Parker. The Bird tribute will take place August 26th, 2023 from 11 AM to 4 PM at the Community Boxing & Fitness Youth Club (2055 N 17th St.).