



Unlocking Northeast Kansas City's Community Resources

NORTHEAST NARRATIVES



WHERE COMMUNITY STORIES UNFOLD,
HISTORY COMES ALIVE, AND UNITY THRIVES

“NORTHEAST IS HOME.”

- Nabil Abas, resident of Northeast for 15 years

Introduction written by EllieAna hale

Welcome to Northeast Narratives, a vibrant multimedia project poised to capture the essence of our beloved Historic Northeast community. Through this dynamic magazine, we go on a journey of our rich history, a celebration of community engagement, highlighting local resources, and sharing inspiring stories of everyday people and social non-profits.

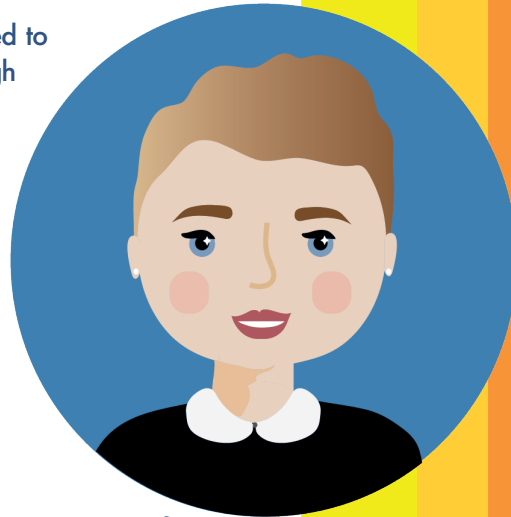
At the heart of our initiative lies a commitment to fostering a deeper understanding of our past, present, and future. Through working on this project, we delved into the historical tapestry of the Northeast, unearthing key events, landmarks, and cultural aspects that have shaped the identity of the Historic Northeast. Through engaging storytelling and impactful visuals, we aimed to preserve our heritage and celebrate the diverse experiences that define us.

But Northeast Narratives is more than just a reflection of our past; it's a catalyst for positive change. We wanted to shine a spotlight on the remarkable efforts of individuals, groups, and projects that strengthen our community bonds. From highlighting neighborhood resources to spotlighting the invaluable work of local non-profits, we wanted to inspire active participation and support.

Our magazine is not just a publication; it's a platform for unity, pride, and collective action. Through inclusive storytelling and a commitment to authenticity, we seek to amplify the voices of our residents and promote a deeper sense of belonging.

As we embark on this transformative journey, we invite you to join us.

Welcome to Northeast Narratives – where every story matters, and together, we write the narrative of our community's future.



EllieAna Hale



TABLE OF CONTENTS

HISTORY OF NORTHEAST

- History of Northeast News 4
- Northeast Timeline 5
- Map of Northeast 6
- History of Northeast Neighborhoods 8
- United in Diversity 10
- North-East Branch Library: A Journey Through Time and Community 12
- Postcard from the Past: The Birth of Nor'easter - Northeast High - School's First Edition of 1913 13
- Celebrating 'Remember This?': The Legacy of 'Somethin's Cookin'!' Cookbook 14
- Reflecting History: The Resilience of the Kansas City Museum 15

EVERYDAY PEOPLE

- Kent Dicus: Preserving the Past and the Heart of Old Northeast 16
- Nabil Abas: Making the Northeast neighborhood home for over 15 years 18

SOCIAL SERVICES SPOTLIGHTS

- Mattie Rhodes Organization: Nearly 130 Years of Community Service and Support in Northeast 19
- Empowering Latinx Education: The Collaborative Force of LEC, RevED, and LAF 20
- Harmony Project KC: Cultivating Musical Talents and Community Unity 21
- Della Lamb Community Services: A Century of Compassion in Kansas City 22
- Jerusalem Farm Facilitates Neighborhood Empowerment Through Community - Research Project 23

SOCIAL SERVICE DIRECTORY

- Social Services 26, 27

HISTORY OF NORTHEAST NEWS

Dorri Partain
Assistant Editor



Matthew Orr and his wife, Jessie Elvira Tuttle Orr.

Since its first edition in 1932, The Northeast News has been headquartered at several different addresses.

At 102 S. Brighton, founding publisher Matthew Orr (1888-1963) worked from a small office in the basement at Budd Park Christian Church. Later, the News office was in the Orr home at 340 S. Van Brunt Blvd.

Tom Patton and Howard Hill would purchase the publication in the 1950s and by 1964 were doing business at 3615 St. John Ave. The paper was published at that time on Thursdays.

In 1975, new owners Terry and Mary Brock moved the news offices to 6612 Independence Ave.

Still titled "The Northeast News," ads were more prevalent than news as the paper's focus continued to shift. The Brocks took the publication to 4603 St. John Ave. after vacating their Independence Avenue office.

Operating as Northeast Publishing, Inc. the Brocks also offered typesetting as Northeast Typography. A brochure produced to

promote this service shows 19 typefaces with bold, italic, bold italic options, and 16 specialty types, and reads, "Northeast Typography offers customers access to its graphics library, which contains tens of thousands of illustrations on virtually every subject. Need professional copy editing for your publication? Northeast Typography's experienced staff can provide this service."

The typography side of the business had its own phone number, 241-3255, which has been retained as a fax number for the House of News.

In 1998, Terry Brock, then a widower, sold the publication to Northeast residents Michael Bushnell and Christine Adams, who focused on returning The Northeast News to a community news publication. The news office continued to operate at 4603 St. John until 2001, moving into a former real estate office at 5715 St. John Ave., since dubbed "The House of News."

With a new sign that better reflected the publication's brand, the old metal signs that projected out above the doorway at 4603 St. John were left behind. Found languishing behind the old building in 2022, the News Dog sniffed them out and one 3-by-6-foot sign is now on display at The Northeast News' new location in the Economic Growth Gallery (the EGG), located at 2659 Independence Ave.

In May of 2022, The Northeast News was purchased by Historic Northeast Media Inc., officially transitioning to a non-profit journalism entity. The

move follows a growing trend in the Community Journalism world as ad revenues for Newspapers continue to decline while at the same time, revenue for non-profit newsrooms continues to trend upward.

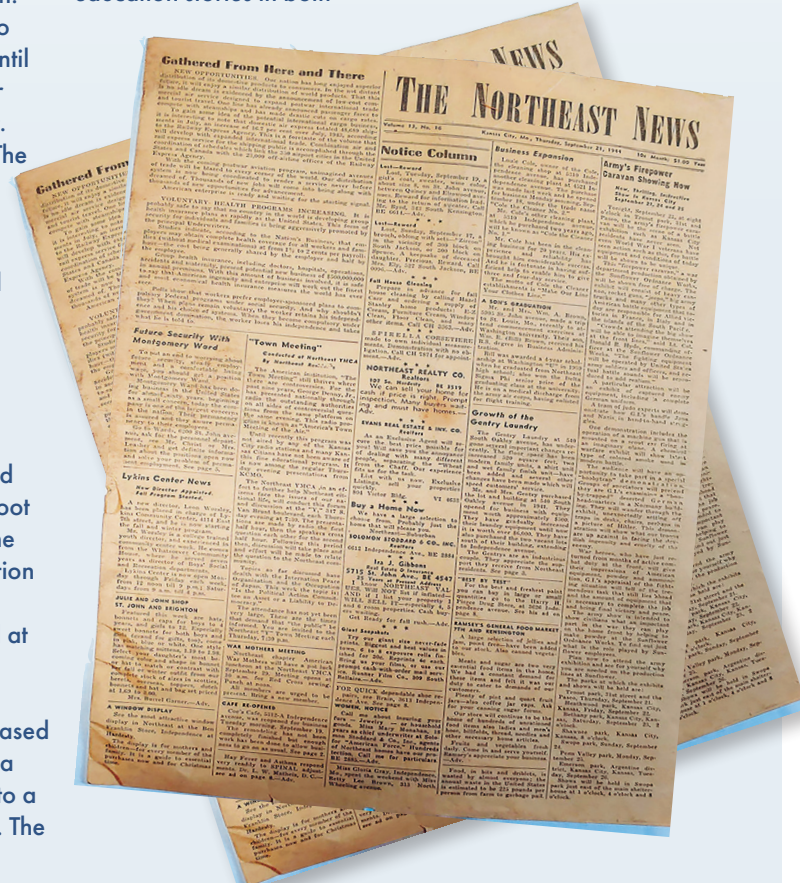
The move also allowed The Northeast News to explore paid partnership agreements that fund a part-time news reporter that covers a specific news "beat."

A prime example of this partnership is Revolucion Educativa, (RevEd) a Latino education advocacy organization based in the Pendleton Heights neighborhood, which has funded a part-time education reporter, Daisy Garcia-Montoya, who covers local education stories in both

English and Spanish since Jan. 2023. Following the inception of this partnership, The Northeast News has experienced a 26% growth in our Spanish-speaking readership.

This move to a non-profit model also allowed us to become a working partner in the Kansas City Media Collective, a coalition of five, dynamic non-profit journalism outlets in Kansas City. These include The Beacon, Flatland KC, KCUR and American Public Square.

Through these evolving changes and partnerships, The Northeast News has always sought to be committed to its mission of serving the community with informative, inclusive journalism for years to come.



Settlement and Development

Northeast, also known as the Northeast Neighborhood or Northeast KC, is a historic district in Kansas City. It was one of the earliest areas settled in the city, with development starting in the late 19th century. The neighborhood was initially a streetcar suburb, attracting residents who wanted to live outside the downtown but still have easy access to the city center.



Industrial and Commercial Growth

This area saw industrial and commercial growth, with manufacturing plants, warehouses, and flourishing businesses. Many of the neighborhoods within the Northeast were filled with workers from nearby factories.



Diversity and Cultural Heritage

Today, the Northeast is known for its cultural diversity, reflecting its immigrant history. It remains home to a mix of families, young professionals, and artists. The area is celebrated for its ethnic restaurants, cultural festivals, and vibrant community life.



Immigrant Communities

Northeast became a melting pot of cultures, with various immigrant groups settling in the area. Large populations of Eastern Europeans, including Czech, Polish, and Slovak immigrants, made the Northeast their home in the late 19th century. Italian immigrants also played a significant role, particularly in the Columbus Park neighborhood, known as "Little Italy."



Revitalization

In the mid-20th century, the Northeast experienced a period of decline as residents moved to the suburbs and businesses closed. However, in recent decades, there has been a revitalization effort led by community organizations, such as Jerusalem Farm and Della Lamb and residents. Historic homes have been restored, and new businesses have opened, bringing life back to the area.

NORTHEAST TIMELINE


MAP OF NORTHEAST



HISTORY OF NORTHEAST NEIGHBORHOODS




Columbus Park




Columbus Park has a rich history dating back to the late 1800s when Italian immigrants settled there, creating "Little Italy." It has also become well known for its Vietnamese community. It's an arts hub with galleries, monthly art walks, and diverse eateries like Vietnam Cafe and Garozzo's Italian Restaurant. The Sewing Labs offer job skills training, and the Community Council, led by Jeff Albright, is active in issues like Short Term Rental regulations. Residents, known for their hospitality, make Columbus Park one of Kansas City's trendiest neighborhoods.

Pendleton Heights



Pendleton Heights is a charming neighborhood with a rich history and diverse community. Its Victorian-style homes and tree-lined streets offer scenic views of the downtown skyline. The Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association (PHNA) is actively engaged in preserving the neighborhood's historic integrity while fostering community involvement through events like Porchfest. Residents enjoy easy access to attractions such as the Kansas City Museum and Cliff Drive Scenic Byway, making Pendleton Heights an inviting place to call home.

Indian Mound




Indian Mound is named after the historic Native American burial mound located in the area. The neighborhood is home to various cultural establishments and businesses, including restaurants and shops. In addition to the North-East Branch Library, Indian Mound is home to several schools: Northeast High, Northeast Middle, James Elementary, Gladstone Elementary, and Holy Cross School. Indian Mound Park is a green space in the neighborhood, offering recreational opportunities along with Budd Park, which features two playgrounds, a swimming pool, a futsal court, and a walking trail.

Independence Plaza




Independence Plaza is a neighborhood brimming with history and character. Situated just east of the downtown area, they are known for their diverse population and historic architecture. Independence Plaza is home to a mix of Victorian-style houses and more modern residences. The neighborhood boasts a strong sense of community, with residents actively involved in the Independence Plaza Neighborhood Council. Local amenities include beautiful parks like Harmony, Prospect Plaza, and Independence Plaza, offering green spaces for recreation and relaxation.

Scarritt Renaissance




Located in the northeastern part of the city, Scarritt Renaissance is known for its historic homes and Judges Row, a street lined with historic houses of former well-known judges and attorneys. The neighborhood is home to the Scarritt Point North Historic District, featuring beautiful Victorian and early 20th-century homes. It has a strong sense of community, with active neighborhood associations and events. Attractions include the Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall, a historic mansion with exhibits on local history.

Lykins




Lykins is a diverse and vibrant neighborhood with a rich history. The neighborhood is named after Johnson Lykins, the first Kansas City Mayor. Situated northeast of downtown, it is bordered by I-35 to the west and Truman Road to the south. Originally developed in the late 1800s, Lykins is known for its mix of historic homes, including Victorian-style houses and bungalows, alongside newer residential developments. Community engagement is strong, with the Lykins Neighborhood Association actively working to improve the area's quality of life.

Sheffield



Sheffield blends industrial history with residential charm. Once a hub for steel manufacturing, it now offers a mix of historic and modern homes. The neighborhood's character shines through the efforts of the Sheffield Neighborhood Association, working on beautification and community events. Residents enjoy Sheffield Park's amenities and a sense of pride in their evolving community. With its unique blend of history and modern living, Sheffield attracts those seeking a distinct neighborhood in Kansas City.

Paseo West



Paseo West is a community with a rich history, historic architecture, and a strong sense of growing community. The association works to improve the quality of life in the area by making it safer and more beautiful. Paseo West is bordered by The Paseo to the east, I-70/35 to the west, Admiral Boulevard to the north, and Truman Road to the south. In the heart of Paseo West are several historic landmarks, such as the First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Calvary Baptist Church. These landmarks have a rich history and have contributed to the community in various ways.

UNITED IN DIVERSITY

Exploring the Culture Mosaic in Northeast Kansas City

Northeast Kansas City has a deep and intertwined history as a melting pot of diverse cultures and ethnicities. From Czech to Mexican, African American to Polish, this vibrant area has been shaped by the contributions of various immigrant communities.

Flourishing around cultural institutions like churches and social clubs, each group brought its unique traditions and flavors, weaving a diverse tapestry that defines Northeast Kansas City.

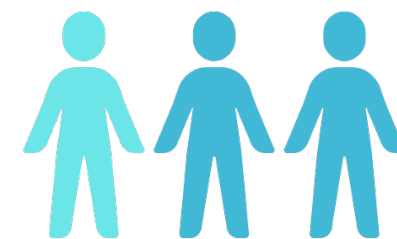
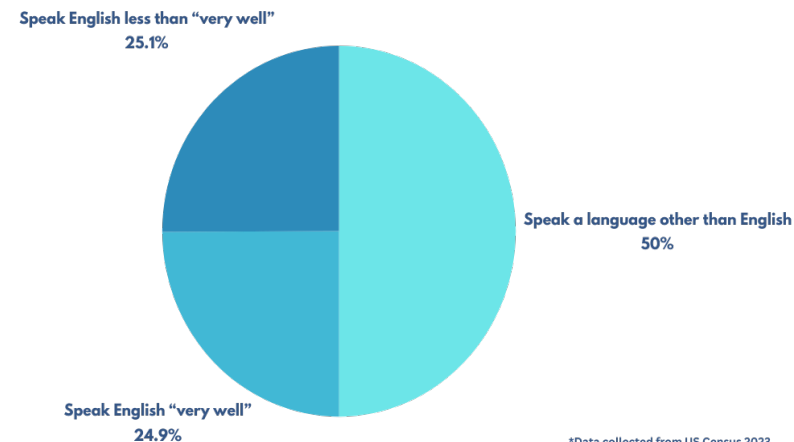
In the late 20th century, Kansas City emerged as a beacon of hope for refugees fleeing conflicts worldwide. Organizations like Della Lamb Community Services and Jewish Vocational Services (JVS) have played pivotal roles in resettling refugees, offering a new beginning in this welcoming community.



Abdi
Al Rahman Halal Market

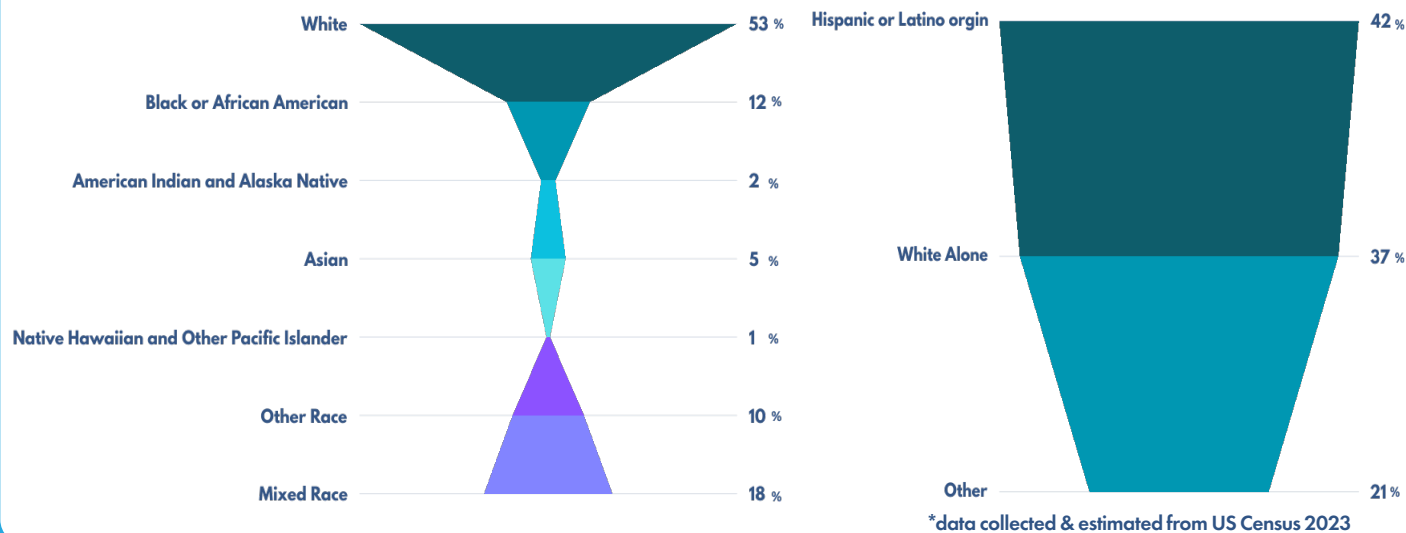


Language Demographic Data from Zip Codes 64123 & 64124



1 in 3 residents in Northeast can speak English

Racial Demographic Data from Zip Codes 64123 & 64124



Jawahir
Ayser Jewelry Store

While the journey for refugees is not without its challenges, the residents of Northeast Kansas City have demonstrated remarkable resilience.

Language barriers and cultural adjustments are initial hurdles, but through tight community bonds, refugees support each other in navigating their new lives.

Support through community services allows refugees and immigrants to feel safe and more accustomed to living in Kansas City. An example of this can be seen through the Northeast Kansas City Public Library's Driver's License Exam preparation course for immigrants. "We all come from different cultures, and different places, so it's nice to share everything we have together and learn about each other," said Julie Robinson, Refugee and Immigrant Services Outreach Manager (RISE)

for the KC Public Library. Refugees have revitalized neighborhoods, started businesses, and become integral parts of the local workforce. From restaurants to shops, refugee-owned businesses not only contribute to the economy but also add to the area's cultural tapestry. As Northeast Kansas City continues to evolve, its future is intricately woven with the tapestry of diversity that defines its essence. Looking ahead, the area is poised to build upon its foundation of multiculturalism, creating a vibrant and inclusive community for generations to come.

The future of diversity in Northeast Kansas City is bright and promising. As the community continues to embrace its multicultural identity, it will thrive as a beacon of inclusivity, innovation, and resilience in an ever-changing world.

By celebrating its differences and uniting in a common cause, Northeast Kansas City will remain a shining example of the power of diversity to enrich and strengthen communities.

Story By EllieAna Hale

BOSNIAN



In the 1990s during the Bosnian War, Bosnian refugees made significant contributions to the city's culture and economy, leaving an indelible mark on Northeast Kansas City.

SOMALI



Hailing from Somalia, refugees have brought their rich cultural heritage to the Northeast, adding to the area's vibrancy.

SUDANESE



From Darfur and beyond, Sudanese refugees have formed tight-knit communities, making substantial economic contributions and enhancing the city's diversity.

VIETNAMESE



After the Vietnam War, many Vietnamese refugees found solace in Kansas City, establishing thriving communities that continue to enrich the city's fabric.



HISTORY OF NORTHEAST

North-East Branch Library: A Journey Through Time and Community

Dorri Partain
Assistant Editor

On December 5, 1873, the Kansas City School Board decreed the development of a public library for officers, teachers, and students in the district. The first collection available was an eight-volume set of the New American Encyclopedia, placed on a bookcase in the superintendent's office.

The collection would grow to 1,000 books in three years and was now available to anyone who purchased a yearly subscription for \$2.00.

In 1889, the library moved into a new building at 8th and Oak, and again in 1897 a new building was completed at 9th and Locust, which remained the main location until 1960. A new modern facility at 12th and Oak St. combined the library with the school district offices. From 1914 to 1988, the Northeast branch was located at Northeast High School. Severing its ties to the school district, a series of new branch libraries are built, with a new North-East branch location opening in 1989 at 6000 Wilson Rd. The Central library moved into a renovated First National Bank building at 10th and Baltimore in 2004.



Kansas City Public Library: North-East Branch located at 6000 Wilson Rd. Open Mondays through Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

To better serve the Northeast community, the North-East branch was completely remodeled in 2021 and now houses the RISE (Refugee & Immigrant Services & Empowerment) program and offers books in multiple languages.

Renovations to the library can be seen the moment visitors step through the first set of double glass doors. The entrance to the library has been extended, allowing space for the P.O. boxes, among other things between the two sets of doors.

A Welcome Wall greets visitors to the library in about 15 different languages, many of which are spoken by residents of the Northeast.

Many original features remain in place, including the skylight right inside the main entrance. The remodeled building has maintained the same footprint as the original.

To the left of the entrance is a space dedicated to cafe-style furniture, which meets a variety of needs. Amanda Rodriguez, Library Manager, said the idea for the space grew out of feedback from the community. It will be ideal for stopping in to quickly utilize internet access, eat takeout or a bagged lunch, or gather with friends once it is safe.

In Northeast, a community of diverse cultures, needs, modes of transportation and lifestyles, the remodeled North-East Branch is accessible to everyone. The branch has long served as a cooling or heating center, depending on the season, for members of the community.

Courtesy Photos



"We have some of the most creative people ever working in our library system," Former Media Relations Specialist Talia Evans said. Pictured above is shelves from North-East Branch.



**Kansas City
Public Library**

Postcard from the Past

The Birth of Nor'easter - Northeast High School's First Edition of 1913

Michael Bushnell
Publisher

According to the Nor'easter, Volume 1, Number 1, under the leadership of Editor Nathan Scarritt, the first journalistic endeavor at Northeast High School was launched on December 25, 1913.

A scant 50 or so pages, the first Nor'easter exemplifies the "spirit of the purple" through its faculty led by Clifford B. Reynolds, Principal, and Clifford H. Nowlin, Vice Principal. Construction of the edifice itself began in October of 1912 when the contract was let to Mr. Lovett.

Ground was secured for the building on what was then known as Abington Boulevard, between Smart and Thompson.

Classes were actually held in the old Central High School building at 11th & Locust prior to the building's completion.

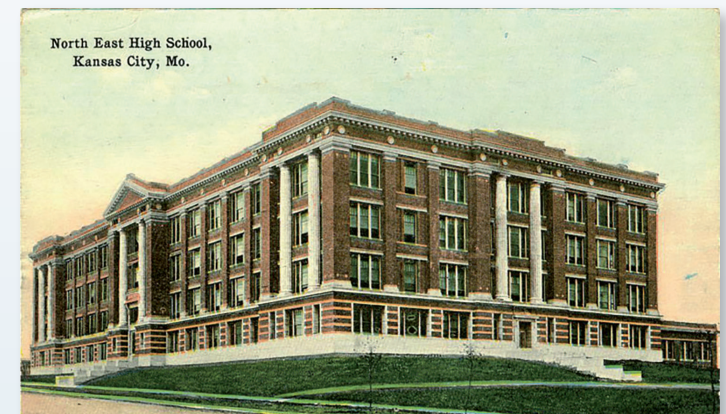
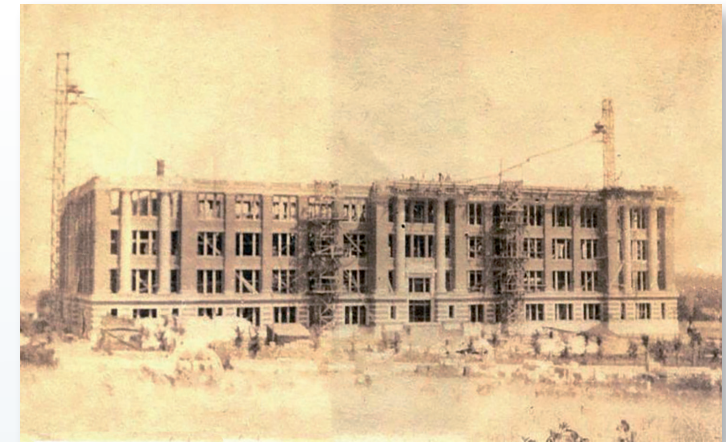
Enrollment at the time was 55 Seniors, 93 Juniors, 169 Sophomores and 317 Freshmen for a total of 634 students.

By the time the first edition of the Nor'easter was produced in December of 1913, enrollment had swelled to 710.

The building we know as Northeast High School opened in April of 1913 and Miss Nelson began work as the school clerk in May of that same year.

The school colors of Purple and White were chosen by election. A committee of eighteen students submitted purple and white vs. the second place colors of Black and Old Gold. (Mizzou anyone?)

Published by the Southwest News company of Kansas City,



shows the finished school looking (fittingly) to the Northeast from the intersection of Van Brunt Blvd. and Thompson Ave.

Northeast has produced its share of notable alumni through the years from the class of 1917's Clarence "Charles" Nash who was the original voice of Disney's Donald Duck to the class of 1986's Ron Mott, an award winning TV news correspondent.

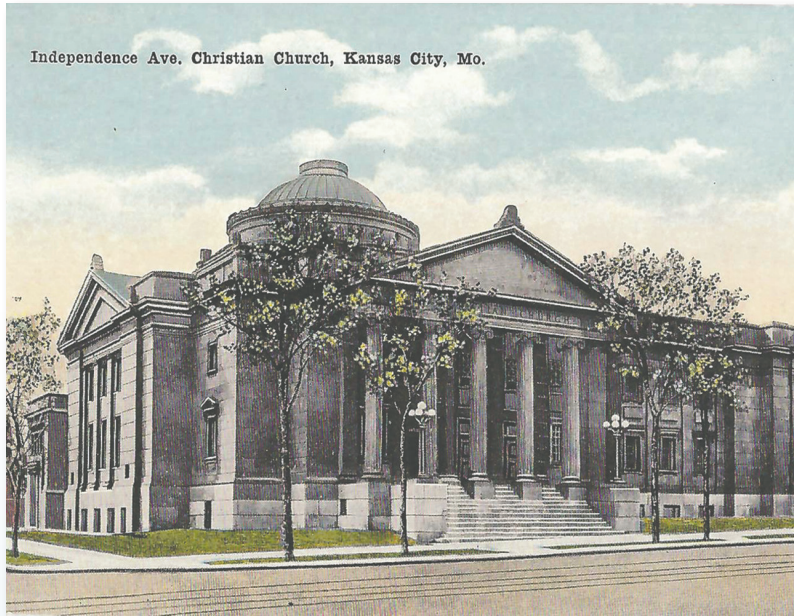
The class of 1941 produced world renowned cartoonist Addison "Mort" Walker and in 1944, Mr. Kansas City himself, Carl J. DiCapo graduated, later becoming one of Kansas City's most noted restaurateurs.

Today, Northeast High School, despite having been on the district's "chopping block" for closure a number of times, continues to thrive with an incredibly diverse student population of over 1,300 students.

The top photo showing the school under construction comes from the Val B. Mintin collection courtesy of Mr. Ray Elder.

HISTORY OF NORTHEAST

Independence Ave. Christian Church, Kansas City, Mo.



Celebrating 'Remember This?' The Legacy of 'Somethin's Cookin'!' Cookbook

Dorri Partain
Assistant Editor

Every kitchen probably has at least one on the cookbook shelf – the school/church/club fundraising cookbook. The churches and schools within a neighborhood help develop a sense of community. Their clubs and organizations create friendships where dinners are prepared, served, and recipes for family favorites are shared and remembered. Titled "Somethin's Cookin'!" this edition was published by members of the Independence Boulevard Christian Church.

The title page reads, "June 1964: By popular demand, the Beau Knot Class is printing a second copy of their cookbook, 'Somethin's Cookin'!'"

The original book was printed in 1948, and outside a few minor changes, this book remains the same. You will note the recipe for 'Baked Fish' by our minister, Charles M. Bretz."

Bretz, minister at the church from 1963-1971, also submitted a recipe for "Pork and beans a la Preacher," while his unnamed "Preacher's Wife" submitted recipes for Spanish Steak and Barbecued Ribs.

Cookbook committee members Becky Bryant, Virginia Edwards, Maxine Hamilton, Nora Mae Herrell, Frances Phenix, Roselyn Rucker, Helen Ryan, Hazel Shour and Moneta Swenson collaborated on the 108 pages of the 1964 printing.

The first meeting of the Beau Knot class is unknown but the class has continued to meet regularly since; the name Beau Knot was a play on words for bowknot and simply meant the class was all females. At the time of the second printing in 1964, the class met at the church on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Spiral-bound cookbooks were produced by many companies and came into popularity by the 1930's when both spiral wire and plastic comb binding were developed. First patented in France, comb binding was then patented in America by R.M.L. Drouvry in 1934. Patented as a "Binding Arrangement" (US #1.970,285) it was trademarked as Cerlox in 1940; comb binding is a popular choice for cookbooks as the book can lay flat while reading a recipe.

Here's a simple recipe from page 23, Lemon salad dressing for tossed salads, submitted by Mrs. Howard P. Horn: 2 Tbs. salad oil, 1 Tbs. lemon juice, pinch dry mustard, ½ tsp. salt, beat well with fork, pour over ingredients. Serves 4.



Reflecting History: The Resilience of the Kansas City Museum



EllieAna Hale
Community Engagement Intern

The Kansas City Museum, located at 3218 Gladstone Blvd, has a storied history intertwined with the city's growth and culture. Founded in 1939 when Robert Alexander Long's daughters gifted his opulent mansion, Corinthian Hall, to the city, it became the museum's first home.

This Beaux-Arts masterpiece provided a window into the lavish lifestyles of early Kansas City elites. Over time, the museum expanded its collection, showcasing exhibits on Native American heritage, the Santa Fe Trail, and the city's industrial and cultural evolution. Situated in the vibrant Northeast neighborhood, known for its diverse community and rich culture, the museum became a reflection of the city's multifaceted identity.

Facing challenges like

maintenance issues and the need for modernization, the museum closed in 2016 for a significant renovation and expansion.

The project aimed to preserve Corinthian Hall's historic charm while adding new exhibition spaces and outdoor areas. Reopening in 2021, today the museum stands as a beacon of Kansas City's history, with exhibits exploring its early settlers, jazz era, and more. It serves as a vital cultural hub, offering educational programs and community events, cementing its place in the heart of Northeast KC.

One of the most anticipated events hosted by the Kansas City Museum is its annual Derby Party, a celebration that combines the elegance of the Kentucky Derby with the vibrant spirit of Kansas City. Party guests come decked to the nines in their most festive and fabulous Kentucky Derby attire, as pictured to the right.



Kansas City, Mo. Spokeswoman Sherae Honeycutt, alongside her husband and Scarritt Renaissance Neighborhood Association President Jacob Luke, share a KCM Derby party moment with 5th-District City Council Member Darrell Curls.

EVERYDAY PEOPLE

Kent Dicus: Preserving the Past and the Heart of Old Northeast



Kent Dicus

**EllieAna Hale
Community Engagement Intern**

Within the streets of the Historic Northeast Kansas City resides a man who is deeply enthralled with its history and preservation. Meet Kent Dicus, a community figure whose passion for historical homes and dedication to the community has left a mark on the neighborhood.

For 21 years, the Northeast community has been more than just a place of residence for Dicus – it has been an opportunity for him to share his passion for historic preservation and historical nuance.

Dicus' journey in the Old Northeast began over two decades ago when he, alongside his partner Michael Ohlson, was on the quest for a home that carried a sense of history and character.

"We were looking for a large home at a fairly-reasonable price," Dicus said. "I had driven through the area countless times and fell for its history, architecture, and potential. That passion has not faded."

It wasn't long before Dicus found himself deeply involved in the fabric of the neighborhood's preservation efforts. Instrumental in the establishment of the Northeast Kansas City Historical Society, he has dedicated himself to the cause of maintaining the integrity of the area's historical homes.

Dicus continues to honor this sentiment by throwing theme parties in his home to honor the history and the people around him.

As the former president and current chairman of the historical homes tour, Dicus plays a pivotal role in showcasing the architectural gems that define Old Northeast's identity.

"Living here provides a sense of pride when I tell other non-Old Northeast residents of how this part of town has striven to restabilize," Dicus explains, emphasizing the importance of historic preservation. "Without both, we could become a random, nondescript neighborhood that just happens to be close to Downtown."

For Dicus, the essence of Old Northeast goes beyond bricks and mortar – it's about memories and moments that shape the community's identity.

"My favorite memory is visiting the Reservoir with my four brothers when I was about seven years old," Dicus shares.

Dicus's own home stands as a testament to his commitment to preserving history while embracing modernity.

"I plan to continue to promote historic preservation through my home," he affirms, outlining his approach to updating and modernizing without compromising the original character or details that make each home in Old Northeast unique.

In the heart of this historic neighborhood, Kent Dicus stands as a reminder that the preservation of history is not merely a duty but a love letter to the very essence of community.



Dicus (Far Left) sings along with musicians in fun costumes staying in theme!



Our very own Dorri Partain poses in costume with Ohlson at one of the Dicus themed parties.



Dicus (Left) poses with a party-goer (Middle) and his partner Michael Ohlson (Right) in themed costumes. (Courtesy Photos)



Party-goers take pictures in theme at Dicus' Great Gatsby themed party!



Nabil Abas: Making the Northeast Neighborhood Home for Over 15 Years

EllieAna Hale
Community Engagement Intern

In the heart of Kansas City's Northeast neighborhood resides Nabil Abas, a young man whose passion for community, dedication to service, and vision for the future are shaping a brighter tomorrow.

Abas, a resident of the Northeast neighborhood for over 15 years and an immigrant from Kenya, is not just a familiar face to social



Nabil Abas poses for his graduation photos from the University of Missouri Kansas City with his stole from the Multicultural Student Affairs and various other organizations he was very active in. (Courtesy Photos)



events in the area or Concourse Park; he is a driving force behind the positive change he wishes to see enacted in the area.

Abas shared his joy and aspirations for the Northeast, reflecting on his journey, his love for the community, and his unwavering commitment to its betterment.

"I can see, in 10 years from now, the betterment of Kansas City, especially this area... when you invest in the youth, and you bring more youth programming and engagement to them... you change everything," Abas said.

His roots in the Northeast run deep, as he fondly recalls his childhood memories and the warmth of community events.

"I found everything I could ask for in this neighborhood," Abas said.

Abas has a drive for advocacy, specifically for the betterment of the overall community of Northeast and for the youth who serve as the future of the neighborhood.

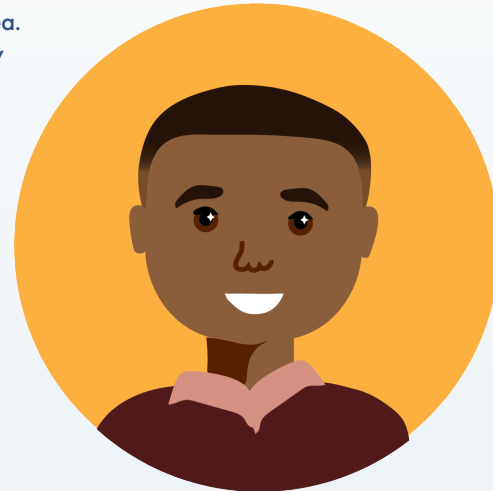
"My experience has been something very cherished... I currently serve as a community activist for the Northeast, advocating for different voices," Abas said. Currently serving as an Academic Advisor for TRIO Student Support Services at Kansas City Metropolitan Community College, Abas seeks to help students navigate their educational paths or support those for whom English is not their first language, Abas is a relentless advocate for inclusivity.

"I speak three languages... I understand those who, you know, English is not their first language... I have sympathy, and I also find myself always trying to find ways to help them," Abas explained.

Abas sees himself playing a large role in Northeast's future. He seeks to "de-escalate the crime rates in our area" and continuously serve the community in any capacity that is possible for him.

Nabil Abas is more than a resident; he is a community champion.

As he continues to advocate for youth and for the future of the Northeast, Abas stands as a testament to the power of individuals to transform communities.



Nabil Abas

Mattie Rhodes Organization: Nearly 130 Years of Community Service and Support in Northeast



EllieAna Hale
Community Engagement Intern



Courtesy Photos

For almost 130 years, the Mattie Rhodes Center has been a pillar of support and assistance for the community of Kansas City. Founded with a mission to promote individual and family well-being through social services, behavioral health counseling, and the arts, Mattie Rhodes has evolved into a vital hub for the area, particularly focusing on youth development.

Mattie Rhodes began with Mattie Florence Rhodes, a teenager alongside her Little Gleaners church group, who dedicated herself to aiding the community youth. At 19 years old, Mattie passed away from typhoid fever, leaving behind a \$500 inheritance to continue their work with children.

In 1894, the Little Gleaners honored Mattie's wish, founding the Mattie Rhodes Memorial Society with a desire to assist the needy and suffering. Initially offering daycare for working mothers and basic necessities for struggling families, the organization evolved to meet the community's ever-changing needs.

By the late 1980s, recognizing the growing demand for services for Spanish speakers, Mattie Rhodes Center began offering bilingual therapy and case management.

"We're an organization that is for the community and by the community," said Molly Manske, an Addiction Specialist for the organization. Manske says the organization strives to provide services that

match the needs of the community. Public safety programs, workforce development, and ESL classes are some of the opportunities the organization provides for the community.

While their history starts with aiding the Hispanic community, the organization works to provide support for everyone in the community.

"We have a lot of members of the community, we're here to serve every one of them," said Scott Wagner, Director of Community Development.

Community members who call the Mattie Rhodes number are connected to a bilingual phone operator. "This is a huge part of who we are and why we have such a big impact within the Northeast," said Manske.

The organization works to destigmatize the northeast community. "If people were to give this area a change and allow themselves to be introduced to what is here, I think they would be very surprised," said Wagner.

Manske is optimistic about the future of the organization, "The community's invested in us, the residents are invested in us, organizations are investing in the work that we do."

Mattie Rhodes remains deeply rooted in its mission to uplift and strengthen the Northeast community of Kansas City.

For more information visit Mattie Rhodes at 148 N. Topping Ave. Or call them at 816-241-3780.



SOCIAL SERVICES SPOTLIGHT

EMPOWERING LATINX EDUCATION

EllieAna Hale
Community Engagement Intern & Reporter

The Latinx Education Collaborative (LEC), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, stands as a beacon of hope and change for Latinx educators and students alike. Founded by Edgar Palacios, the LEC's mission is clear: to create a home for Latinx educators, fostering a sense of community, support, and empowerment.

The LEC's efforts extend far beyond the confines of traditional education. Collaborating with Revolución Educativa (RevED), a 501(c)(4) advocacy organization, they are addressing systemic issues and building collective power within communities. Their shared space at 2201 Lexington Ave. houses not only RevED but also Show Me KC Schools, a testament to their commitment to collaboration and unity.

Representation lies at the heart of the LEC's mission. With only 8% of educators identifying as Latinx while 25% of K-12 students across the country do, the organization recognizes the urgent need for increased representation of Latinx teachers in the education system.

They believe that diverse teaching staff leads to improved educational outcomes for students, especially in the Northeast Neighborhood where the Latino population sits at 42%. Susana Elizarraraz, Vice President of Educator Supports for LEC, is deeply rooted in the cause. "Our mission is to create the conditions necessary for Latino student advancement," Elizarraraz said. "We're more than just increasing representation; we're a catch-all for Latino education issues."

Having grown up in Northeast Kansas City and taught at Gladstone Elementary, her passion for education is obvious.

"We are trying to make our city and our system more equitably accessible to Latinos in terms of education," Elizarraraz said.

The Latino graduation rate remains one of the lowest in the country. It's a reality the LEC is actively working to change.

But their impact doesn't stop at the classroom door.

Partnering with the Latino Arts Foundation (LAF), the LEC is engaging youth through art and mentorship programs.

These initiatives not only honor cultural identity but also serve as a life source for at-risk youth.

"If they're at risk of dropout... turning to drugs or gun violence... it's been really cool to watch youth engaged with our organizations through LAF," Elizarraraz said.

The collaboration between LEC, RevED, and LAF forms a comprehensive support system. RevED focuses on parents, LEC on teachers, and LAF on youth, creating a holistic approach to education equity.

Through their multifaceted efforts, the Latinx Education Collaborative is not only closing the representation gap in classrooms but also empowering entire communities.

"We are building a community of amplified voices, bridging gaps, and creating opportunities for a brighter, more equitable future," Elizarraraz said.

For more information visit their website at latinxedco.org or call 305-906-0644.



Latinx Education Collaborative™



Edgar Palacios, Founder and CEO of Revolución Educativa



2024 Latinx Educator Awards (Courtesy Photos)

Harmony Project KC: Cultivating Musical Talents



EllieAna Hale
Community Engagement Intern & Reporter

In a tucked away corner of Historic Northeast Kansas City, sits The Harmony Project KC — a no-cost program centered around providing music education to families in the Northeast. Located within the Northeast Community Center, The Harmony Project KC aims to provide a stronger community through better access to music education and wraparound services including educational and supportive programs.

Partnered with the Hispanic Development Fund's Family College Preparatory Program, the Harmony Project aims to continue the support of all families in the Northeast Neighborhood.

By providing free instruments and free involvement in the program, The Harmony Project KC seeks to implement music education as a fundamental tool for success in young children's lives.

The Harmony Project offers graduating students, from its program, to receive \$2,000 worth of scholarships per year for four years.

Qualified individuals can additionally receive \$1,000 each year through obtaining the Laura Schultz Heart of Service Scholarship Award.

"Part of my work in the Northeast is how can I provide back to a predominantly immigrant community, the warmth and the wealth of the hospitality that my family received and I received when I was a child?" said Executive Director of Home of Harmony Project KC, Kyla Pitts-Zevin.

Children can begin involvement with The Harmony Project as young as seven years old and can continue receiving program support until high school graduation. Individuals involved in the program span 51 schools — highlighting its continual dedication

to diversity.

"It's not a monolith. It's not one-dimensional. It's constantly, constantly revising and growing and adapting," Pitts-Zevin said.

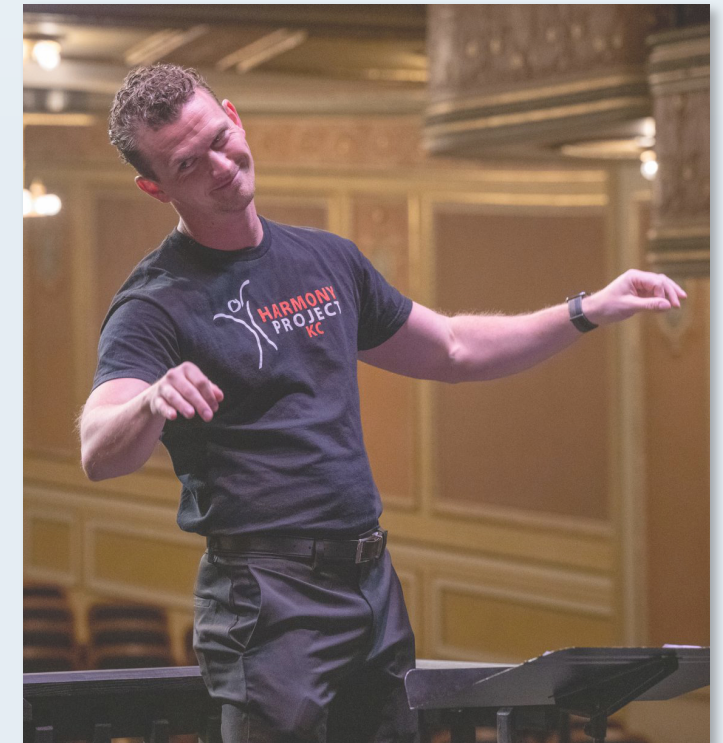
The opportunities offered range anywhere from free instruments and lessons to group music therapy. Participants also have the chance to engage in performances and workshops led by accomplished musicians, fostering a holistic musical experience.

"I feel like it [The Northeast] is under-invested in by the city, by other Kansas Citizens ... I want other kinds of citizens to like, see it [The Northeast] and be like, oh, there's a really cool community right there that was being missed," Pitts-Zevin said.

Recognizing the vibrant community of Northeast Kansas City, The Harmony Project hopes to shed light on its talent and the youth in the neighborhood, inviting all citizens to witness the potential that has long been overlooked.

"I think the best part about this place is the families who choose to be a part of the community and allow us to walk alongside them and their kids as they grow up," Pitts-Zevin said.

For more information visit their website at www.necc-kc.org or call at 816-231-7738.



A Harmony Project conductor takes the stage to guide students. (Courtesy Photos)

SOCIAL SERVICES SPOTLIGHT

Della Lamb: A Century of Compassion in Kansas City



EllieAna Hale
Community Engagement Intern & Reporter

Della Lamb Community Services, founded in 1897, started as a humble mission to serve the city's impoverished and marginalized. Renamed for Della C. Lamb in 1946, the center was originally known as the Institutional Neighborhood House. Today, it stands as a comprehensive social service organization, a beacon of hope for thousands of individuals and families. In its early days, Della Lamb focused on the essentials — providing food, shelter, and clothing to those in need. Quickly gaining recognition for its compassionate approach, the organization became a lifeline for Kansas City's most vulnerable residents. These services became a lifeline for families struggling in the face of economic hardship. One of Della Lamb's cornerstone programs is its refugee resettlement services. Since the late 20th century, Kansas City has been a safe haven for refugees fleeing conflict and persecution worldwide. Della Lamb, alongside partner organizations, has played a pivotal role in welcoming and supporting these newcomers as they navigate the complexities of starting anew in a foreign land. Today, Della Lamb Community Services continues to be a lifeline for the people of Kansas City. Their broad array of

programs covers everything from early childhood education to job training, housing assistance, youth development, and senior services.

The organization remains committed to its core values of compassion, service, and community, standing as a testament to one woman's vision that has changed countless lives. "We were the best-kept secret in Kansas City... everyone needs to know," said Marketing Director Ashley Foster.

As the organization grows, with its team expanding and services reaching more individuals, the dedication remains unwavering.

"I love working with people that don't look like me and think like me because I did not grow up learning like that," Foster said. Joni Weis, Director of the Early Learning Program, feels similar. "I just want to be a beacon for anybody who needs help," Weis said.

With determination, Weis added, "I want all of Kansas City to know who Della Lamb is."

As the city evolves, Della Lamb Community Services stands as a reminder of the power of compassion and community, leaving a mark of hope and resilience in the heart of Kansas City.

For more information, call Della Lamb at 816-842-8040 or visit their website www.dellalamb.org



Law enforcement poses with staff and parents in a celebration of First Responder Day in the Week of the Young Child Celebration Week at Della Lamb, running from April 8th to 12th annually.

Jerusalem Farm & Neighborhood Empowerment



Jordan Schiele, Project Director of Jerusalem Farm. (Courtesy Photo)

EllieAna Hale
Community Engagement Intern

Founded in 2004 in Kansas City, Missouri, Jerusalem Farm emerged from the inspiration of the Catholic Worker Movement. Initially focused on home repair and renovation for low-income residents, it expanded to include community gardening and sustainability education. With a commitment to service and empowerment, Jerusalem Farm continues to grow, fostering community engagement and promoting social justice through direct action and sustainable living practices. Located in Historic Northeast's Pendleton Heights neighborhood, the organization is a non-profit Catholic Intentional community that spearheads a variety of community improvement projects.

Jerusalem Farm is once again taking the lead in fostering community engagement through its biennial community research project. Following the success of the research project in 2020 and 2022, the organization is setting ambitious goals for 2024, aiming to surpass the remarkable 500 responses received in the previous cycle. This extensive community research initiative spans almost six months, beginning with listening sessions. At this stage of the research project, residents are invited to actively participate in shaping

the future of their community by advocating for their opinions and identifying the most pressing needs within the Northeast neighborhood.

The listening sessions go beyond a simple census report; they serve as a platform for

residents to voice their

thoughts on various areas of the community, including public safety, transportation, environment, recreation, housing, jobs, health and education. Jerusalem Farm seeks to create a comprehensive and accessible understanding of the challenges and aspirations of the community.

Two distinct approaches are being employed for the listening sessions. In February 2024, public sessions were held at the Kansas City Public Library, providing an opportunity for residents to collectively contribute to the conversation. Covering a spectrum of topics, these sessions allowed attendees to express their concerns and hopes for the future.

Simultaneously, a different approach allows individuals and organizations to host private listening sessions. For those eager to bring the discussion directly to their community or organization, Jerusalem Farm welcomes the opportunity to facilitate these sessions and extends the opportunity to be invited into those spaces of the community.

Hosted listening sessions can additionally be conducted in various languages as Jerusalem Farm intends to provide interpreters.

Listening sessions are about empowering the community to contribute to conversations about the betterment of the community that

shape their lives. The goal is to hear from as many voices as possible, ensuring the findings reflect the diverse and vibrant nature of the Northeast neighborhood. "There are a lot of surveys that take place in the Northeast," Jordan Schiele, Founder and Project Director at Jerusalem Farm said. "With this community research project, we want the survey to essentially come directly from the community, not from us."

Once the listening sessions conclude, the insights will be compiled and transformed into a comprehensive community-wide survey. This survey, enriched by the authentic voices of Northeast residents, will be distributed throughout the community, amplifying the reach and impact of the research project.

By August, a final report will emerge from the collective voices of the Northeast community. This report will be distributed to stakeholders and community members. It will also serve as a vital resource for new developers entering the area, providing a roadmap that aligns with the unique needs and priorities of the Northeast neighborhood.

The overarching goal of the community research project is to create a symbiotic relationship between the community and a new future of what the Northeast could be. Jerusalem Farms aims to foster a deep connection that ensures positive and sustainable development.

"It's important that we as a community engage in activities like this because without data, without meeting our neighbors and brainstorming, and working on these things, we're kind of at a whim with people outside the community," Schiele said. "The more we organize, the more we share our voices, the more we can come together to advocate for the community we want to create."

For more information visit their website www.jerusalemfarm.org or give them a call at 816-421-1855.



Mattie Rhodes Center is a community engagement organization dedicated to individual and family well-being through social services, behavioral health counseling and the arts.

MRC is proud to partner with The Northeast News on their inaugural issue of Northeast Narratives, a community engagement guide for the Historic Northeast community.



MATTIE RHODES
CENTER

Monday – Friday
9am – 5pm

148 N. Topping Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64123
Phone: 816-471-2536



Revolución EDUCATIVA



Building Collective Power for the Latinx Community

RevEd is proud once again to partner with The Northeast News on their inaugural issue of Northeast Narratives, a community engagement guide for the Historic Northeast community

Every day, Latinos contribute to Kansas City's shared prosperity. However, time and again, these contributions do not translate into long-term generational achievement. When we launched the Latinx Education Collaborative (LEC) in 2018, our vision was to increase the representation of Latinx education professionals in K-12.

At the same time, we saw an opportunity to further expand our reach and empower our community through political engagement and advocacy. We started Revolución Educativa, an affiliated 501(c)(4) organization, because we believe that in order to truly effect positive change and improve education outcomes, we must come together and give our communities the tools, resources and supports needed to build sustained collective power in Kansas City and beyond.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL

Facebook: /latinxedco /RevEDKC
Instagram: @latinxedco @revedkc



YOUR NEIGHBORS



KANSAS CITY MUSEUM

Engaging our community is at our core

Museums play a vital role in the life of a city and are catalysts for community engagement and positive social change. They foster understanding and knowledge, nurture social connections, illuminate potential and partnerships, improve health and well-being, and contribute to the preservation and development of neighborhoods, communities, and public spaces.

The staff and board of the Kansas City Museum believe in Kansas City's enduring spirit, legacy, resilience, and impact. We value creating a welcoming, inclusive, accessible, and dynamic learning environment that brings all people together to learn about our city's history, cultural heritage, current issues and events, and future projects and aspirations.

Kansas City Museum is "The Home of the Whole Story," where lived human experiences that are often underrepresented and overlooked are acknowledged, honored, and elevated to tell more accurate and complete stories about Kansas City and its people.

Kansas City Museum endeavors to prioritize and feature stories that contribute to repairing historical harms, restoring trust, and strengthening relationships so that those who live in and visit Kansas City are moved to create a more just and unified city.



Corinthian Hall at the Kansas City Museum is open
Thursdays 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Fridays and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sundays Noon to 5:00 p.m.
General admission is FREE

KANSAS CITY MUSEUM

SOCIAL SERVICE DIRECTORY

i.e. services provided for the benefit of the community, such as education, medical care, and housing.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SERVICES

Della Lamb
500 Woodland Ave
(816) 842-8040

Healing House
4505 St. John Ave
(816) 920-7181

Sheffield Place
6604 E 12th St, Kansas City
(816) 483-9927

Hope Faith Ministries
705 Virginia Ave
(816) 471-4673

Cherith Brook
3308 E 12th St.
(816) 241-8047

Re-Start
918 East 9th Street
816.472.5664

City Union Mission Family Center
1310 Wabash Ave
(816) 474-9380

Micah Ministries (IBCC)
606 Gladstone Blvd
(816) 231-0016

YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

Della Lamb
500 Woodland Ave
(816) 842-8040

Mattie Rhodes Center
148 N Topping Ave
(816) 241-3780

Jerusalem Farm
520 Garfield Ave
(816) 421-1855

Sheffield Place
6604 E 12th St, Kansas City
(816) 483-9927

Whatever Community Center
1201 Ewing Ave
(816) 231-0227

Neighbor2Neighbor
3551 Wabash Ave
(913) 219-3123

James LINC Caring Communities
5810 Scarritt Ave
(816) 418-3724

Amethyst Place
2735A Troost Ave
(816) 231-8782

Newhouse
PO Box 240019
816.471.5800

SENIOR SERVICES

Don Bosco Senior Center
580 Campbell St, Kansas City
(816) 691-2900

IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE SUPPORT

Guadalupe Centers
1015 Avenida Cesar E Chavez
(816) 421-1015

Jerusalem Farm
520 Garfield Ave
(816) 421-1855

Refuge KC
3401 Independence Ave
(816) 579-0040

Jewish Vocational Service
4600 The Paseo
(816) 471-2808

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Rev Ed
2203 Lexington Ave

Jerusalem Farm
(816) 421-1855

Cherith Brook
3308 E 12th St
(816) 241-8047

Lykins Neighborhood Trust
715 Jackson Ave
(816) 298-7276

Neighbor2Neighbor
3551 Wabash Ave
(913) 219-3123

James LINC Caring Communities
5810 Scarritt Ave
(816) 418-3724

Lykins Neighborhood Trust
715 Jackson Ave
(816) 298-7276

Harmony Project
544 Wabash Ave Kansas City, MO
(816) 231-7738

Latinx Education Collaborative
2203 Lexington Ave
(305) 906-0644

FOOD ASSISTANCE AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Bishop Sullivan Center
6435 E Truman Rd
(816) 231-0984

City Union Mission Family Center
1310 Wabash Ave
(816) 474-9380

The Tamale Kitchen
620 E Armour Blvd
(816) 679-8119

Hope Faith Ministries
705 Virginia Ave
(816) 471-4673

Salvation Army Bellefontaine Corps
3014-19 E. Ninth St.
816.483.8484

ADDICTION AND RECOVERY SUPPORT

Healing House
4505 St John Ave
(816) 920-7181

Cherith Brook
3308 E 12th St
(816) 241-8047

Amethyst Place
2735A Troost Ave
(816) 231-8782

COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAMS

Harmony Project
544 Wabash Ave Kansas City, MO
(816) 231-7738

Jewish Vocational Service
4600 The Paseo
(816) 471-2808

Sewing Labs
526 Campbell St
816) 888-3051

Latino Arts Foundation
1128 Oak St

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mattie Rhodes Center
148 N Topping Ave
(816) 241-3780

Jewish Vocational Service
4600 The Paseo
(816) 471-2808

WOMEN'S SERVICES

The Beehive KC
750 The Paseo

Amethyst Place
2735A Troost Ave
(816) 231-8782

Newhouse
PO Box 240019
816.471.5800

DISABILITY SERVICES

The Whole Person
3710 Main St
(816) 561-0304



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Concluding Statement and Thank you

In conclusion, Northeast Narratives is an appreciation of our past and an establishment of hope for our future. Through this magazine, I have been able to embark on a journey to chronicle our rich history, celebrate community engagement, highlight local resources, and share inspiring stories of everyday people and social non-profits.

This magazine is not just a publication; it's a platform for unity, pride, and collective action as a neighborhood. Through inclusive storytelling and a commitment to authenticity, we sought to amplify the voices of our residents and promote a deeper sense of belonging. In a time where our neighborhood may feel divided, this is a remembrance that was are part of a larger community that is unlike any other part of Kansas City.

Thank you to all of those who assisted me in this project and those who shared their narratives with me along the way. It is your story that reminds me that community is vital.

I truly hope you have enjoyed getting to know your neighbors a bit better and getting to know the Northeast Narratives – where every story matters, and together, we write the narrative of our community's future.



EllieAna Hale



**KANSAS CITY
MUSEUM**



**MATTIE RHODES
CENTER**



**Revolución
EDUCATIVA**