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YOUR NORTHEAST NEWS TEAM

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Dear Northeast News Reader,

My name is Ryan Millan, and I'm the brand new Editorial Intern here at Northeast News! Right now, I'm majoring in Communications at UMKC and if all goes well, I should be able to graduate this May. I picked this internship not only because it's required for my degree, but because I saw a unique opportunity to enhance my writing skills and gain more experience and confidence in working with people. I have a great deal of respect for Northeast News' goals as a free, non-profit source of local news.

My father worked for the Kansas City Star and Lee's Summit Journal for a number of years. As a kid, I remember accompanying him to a variety of places and events to gather information for whatever he was working on. Because of this, ever since I started my major, I've had an interest in newswriting and journalism, and have taken several classes on the subject. While I don't plan on going into journalism as a career, I'm excited to put what I've already learned to good use. I'm also minoring in Film, so I'm hoping to also contribute to Northeast News' social media pages, if the opportunity arises. You should be seeing my contributions in the coming weeks.

Looking forward to meeting you,

Ryan Millan

Editorial Intern Ryan Millan

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Community Forum Addresses Detention Facility Ordinance Process

Dorri Partain
Managing Editor

Concerned residents and City government representatives came together on Thursday, January 29, to address questions amid the approval of City Council Ordinance #260061 passed on January 15, 2026. This same day ordinance initiates the site of a temporary Detention Center Facility, under construction at 7750 E. Front Street, to expand as a permanent location.

During this forum hosted by Latinx Education Collaborative (LEC) and Revolution Educativa (RevEd) at 2301 Lexington Ave., parents representing students attending Frontier Charter Schools, neighborhood leaders, and other organizations attended to direct their questions and concerns to invited speakers.

These speakers included:

- Crispin Rea, City Council, Fourth District-at-Large
- Rayna Parks-Shaw, City Council, Fifth District & Mayor Pro-tem
- Lindsey French, City Council, Second District-at-Large
- Jonathan Duncan, City Council, Sixth District
- Mario Vasquez, Kansas City City Manager

All City Council members and Mayor Quinton Lucas had been invited to appear. Mayor Lucas was out of town on City business and could not attend.

Councilman Rea addressed attendees, beginning with an explanation that prior to the council session on Jan. 15, he was not aware of the ordinance that Mayor Lucas, along with councilman Kevin O'Neill (First District-at-Large), were introducing that day.

"The major issue I have with this are same day adoptions (of ordinances) should be saved for very rare circumstances," stated Rea, "because we are bypassing some very important steps along the way."

Rea explained that in most cases, not only are there discussions among council members but also testimony from citizens, either during a council session or during public engagement.

"My greatest frustration with this is we (the council) unilaterally changed the location without any prior engagement from the community, zero recognition that there's a school 3000 feet away."

The site chosen for this facility, as passed by the April 2025 voter approval of a Public Safety Tax, was to be located adjacent to the Jackson County Detention Center under construction at 7000 E. US Highway 40.

Rea told attendees that the council passed #260061 with a 10-3 vote; he, Councilwoman Melissa Patterson-Hazley and Jonathan Duncan voted no.

Rea added that he was the sponsor for the ordinance (#250969) passed by council last year to build a temporary detention center at the Front Street site. That ordinance passed with a 12-1 vote, with Councilman Duncan voting no.

Duncan told attendees he voted no due to the expense of the temporary facility, the construction contracts, and the location.

"This council knew exactly what they were doing", said Duncan. "They wanted a jail on Front Street. And whether it's there for three to five years or twenty years, that is what we voted on- I voted no."

Chief Operations Officer Dr. Elyar Issandarli attended on behalf of Frontier Charter Schools and stated that prior to being contacted by Councilman Rea, no one at the school -staff , students, or parents- were aware of any detention facility construction.

Frontier STEM, the system's high school, is one of three schools within 4000 ft of the facility under construction, but the closest with frontage on Front Street.

Issandarli stated he has reached out to the mayor's office and hopes they can have a public meeting so parents can get more information.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, Feb. 5- Art Club, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., North-East Branch Library, 6000 Wilson Ave. Celebrate Black History Month by creating art inspired by Black American artists and movements. For ages 5 to 12, free.

Saturday, Feb. 7- First Saturdays at Keystone, 3 to 10 p.m., Keystone CoLab, 800 E. 18th St. Artist and vendors market, DJ's, food trucks and more. Sponsored by 18th & Vine Art Festival Foundation. For more information visit: www.18thandvineartsfestival.com

Tuesday, Feb. 10- Craft Circle, 6 to 7 p.m., North-East Branch Library, 6000 Wilson Ave. Whether you knit, crochet, embroider, etc., bring your project and chat with other Northeast crafters during this monthly session. For ages 12 and up, free.

Wednesday, Feb.11- Homework Club at PH Coffee, 2200 Lexington Ave, from 4 p.m.to 5 p.m. followed by Teen Club from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14- Table Beats, 1 to 2:30 p.m., North-East Branch Library, 6000 Wilson Ave. Explore rhythms and beats through drumming and simple instruments, learning to improvise and create music. For ages 5 to 12, free.

Saturday, Feb. 14- Valentine's Day Baskets, 5;30 to 7 p.m., North-East Branch Library, 6000 Wilson Ave. Create a special gift for your Valentine, all supplies provided. For ages 5 to 12, free.

Saturday, Feb. 14- Healing House Valentine Dance, 7 to 10 p.m., Recovery Community Center, 112 N. Elmwood Ave. Enjoy a fun evening with music, food, a raffle and more. Visit www.healinghousekc.org

Monday, Feb.16- Presidents Day- In observance of this holiday to honor our nation's leaders, banks, schools, and government offices will be closed. The Northeast News will be open.

Tuesday, Feb. 17- Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), Beans, Beads & Booze, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. J. Rieger Distillery, 2700 Guinotte Ave. Let the good times roll at the Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce's annual Mardi Gras party, featuring Cajun dishes, jazz, costume contest, raffle baskets, dancing and more. See pages 8 and 9 for more information.

February is Black History Month

Kansas City has a robust lineup of events for Black History Month in February 2026. A major highlight this year is the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Black History Month celebrations. We've created a list of events and ongoing exhibits at local museums and libraries.

Black Archives of Mid-America

1722 E 17th Ter

- **Annual Black History Luncheon (Feb 21, 11:30 AM):** A celebration honoring the rich legacy and cultural contributions of African Americans in the region.
- **Permanent Exhibit:** With My Eyes No Longer Blind traces the story of African Americans in KC from Lewis and Clark to the city's first Black mayors.
- Learn more at **blackarchives.org**

Negro Leagues Baseball Museum (NLBM)

1616 E 18th St

- **Free Admission All Month:** For the fifth consecutive year, the Kansas City Royals Foundation is sponsoring free admission for all visitors throughout February.
- **Extended Hours:** The museum will be open on Mondays (10 AM – 5 PM) and will open early at 9 AM every Wednesday in February.
- Learn more at **nlbm.com**

American Jazz Museum & 18th & Vine

- **The Blue Room Live Shows:** The museum's "living exhibit" jazz club will host over 20 live performances in February, honoring the legacy of KC jazz.
- **Poetry & Jazz: Unapologetically Black (Feb 23):** An open mic event celebrating Black creativity through storytelling and music.
- Learn more at **americanjazzmuseum.org**

The KC Public Library has a full "Signature Event" series for the month:

- **The Legacy of Bruce R. Watkins (Feb 15, 2 PM):** A tribute to the KC political leader and activist at the Central Library, 14 W 10th St.
- **Community Conversation: 'Porgy and Bess' in Context (Feb 17, 6 PM):** A discussion and live performance exploring the opera's impact at the Plaza Branch, 4801 Main St..
- **Black Union Soldiers and the Fight for Freedom (Feb 18, 6 PM):** The story of Black soldiers in the Battle of Westport at the Plaza Branch, 4801 Main St..
- **An Evening with Imani Perry (Feb 23, 6 PM):** Award-winning author Imani Perry discusses her book Black in Blues at the Central Library, 14 W 10th St.
- **Black History Month Challenge (Feb 1–15):** A trivia challenge at the Central Library, 14 W 10th St, with prizes.
- Learn more at **kclibrary.org**

Other Notable Events

- **Reclaiming The Canvas (Feb 7, 2 PM – 10 PM):** An immersive night of live music, dance, and visual art by local Black artists at the Zhou B Art Center, 1801 E 18th St.
- **KUMC Black History Month:** The KU Medical Center, 3901 Rainbow Blvd, KCK, is hosting several panels, including "History of Desegregation at KU Medical Center" (Feb 16) and a Research Day (Feb 23).

Tip: You can pick up a physical copy of the **2026 Kansas City Black History Compendium** (a booklet of local biographies) at any KC Public Library branch or the Black Archives of Mid-America, 1722 E 17th Ter, Kansas City, MO.

Magic and Pasta Highlight Feast Day for St. John Bosco

Dorri Partain
Managing Editor

To honor the Feast Day for St. John Bosco, the patron saint for magicians and school children, the Don Bosco Community Center (526 Campbell Ave.) hosted a celebration on Sunday, Feb. 1. Attendees enjoyed a free spaghetti dinner, along with salad, bread and cake for dessert. Juggler Matt Brummett was joined by magician Tim Hill-Dingus to entertain diners with feats of skill and comedy.

St. John (Don) Bosco became a priest in 1841 and served until his death on Jan. 31, 1888. He achieved sainthood in 1934. The community center named in his honor opened in 1940. For a full schedule of upcoming events, visit www.donbosco.org

Hill-Dingus and Brummett perform together.

All photos by Dorri Partain

Magician Tim-Hill Dingus performs a scarf trick with a young assistant.

Matt Brummett performs during Sunday's Feast Day celebration.

Area businesses donated all the food for Sunday's spaghetti meal.

La Asociación de Vecinos de Indian Mound invita a la comunidad a participar

Daisy Garcia Montoya
Education Reporter

El vecindario Indian Mound en el Noreste ha visto un aumento de nuevos proyectos en el último año, como la instalación de alarmas de humo en las casas, inversiones a Budd Park y la adición de topes de velocidad.

Aunque estos proyectos se han llevado a cabo por financiación municipal, son un resultado directo de las discusiones entre vecinos a través de la Asociación de Vecinos de Indian Mound (IMNA).

IMNA— que se junta una vez al mes para compartir actualizaciones generales, escuchar de invitados de diferentes organizaciones e información de la vecindad -- declara que quiere escuchar de más voces en la vecindad.

"La vecindad está en una posición donde hay mucha oportunidad para tener una voz y colaborar con otras organizaciones para mejorar cosas. Queremos escuchar de otras personas que viven en la vecindad, que tienen ideas en que mejorar y tratar de escuchar esas voces," Secretario de IMNA Dustin Fish dijo.

Para su primera reunión de 2026, reunidos en la iglesia de Jesucristo El Buen Pastor ubicada en 4925 St. John Avenue el 19 de enero, la junta directiva realizó su primera reunión bilingue (Ingles y Espanol) como una forma de atraer e invitar participación de Hispanos y Latinos.

Con casi 20 miembros de la comunidad en presencia, la reunión se enfocó en destacar los proyectos de 2025, detalles de cómo involucrarse y ver una presentación de Conocer Sus Derechos presentada por la organización Advocates for Immigrants and Refugee Rights (AIRR KC).

Con casi 50% de residentes Hispanos/Latinos en Indian Mound, IMNA dice que involucrar la comunidad hispanohablante es importante para poder reflejar bien la demografía de la comunidad.

"Es un deseo que hemos tenido por algún tiempo de involucrar más a las familias hispanohablantes ya que 50% de la vecindad de Indian Mound habla Español," Fish dijo. "Hemos hecho un poco para involucrarnos pero no hemos tenido una reunión solamente en Espanol."

Fish declaró que como secretario, correos mensuales en relación con las reuniones son enviados en Inglés y español para los suscriptores. Un desafío es que solo aquellos suscritos tienen acceso.

Como solución, la junta directiva está buscando relacionarse con más negocios, usándolos como un puente para interactuar con más familias para que se puedan subscribir o mantenerse conectados a través de folletos y publicidad.

Durante esta reunión, miembros de la comunidad escucharon detalles sobre los varios proyectos e iniciativas que se llevarán a cabo en 2025. Esto incluye la adición de topes de velocidad en St. John Avenue para decrementar la velocidad, contenedores gratuitos para basura voluminosa cada primer sábado del mes, de mayo a septiembre, más de un millón de dólares invertidos en renovaciones para Budd Park, así como 70 detectores de humo a través del programa 'Suena la Alarma' de parte de la Cruz Roja, en adición a otros proyectos y eventos.

To read this story in English, please visit northeastnews.net.

Miembros de la comunidad preguntaron sobre cómo involucrarse y compartieron preocupaciones que tenían.

Durante la segunda mitad de la reunión, AIRR KC compartió una presentación en español, traducida al inglés.

La presentación informó individuos sobre las diferentes ramas del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional y su misión. Adicionalmente, los participantes aprendieron sobre sus derechos constitucionales reservados para ciudadanos e individuos indocumentados cuando interactúan con agentes de orden público, en particular agentes federales como los de Immigracion y Control de Aduanas (ICE) y cómo crear un plan de emergencia.

Sobre invitar a AIRR KC como su invitado para la reunión, Fish dijo que la meta es invitar organizaciones que puedan proveer información útil y dado a que AIRR KC es una organización confiada entre la población Hispana, los consideran como la organización perfecta para la reunión.

IMNA miembro Jesus Diaz, quien se ofreció como voluntario para traducir durante la reunión de enero, dice que él espera que con más participación, IMNA pueda organizar una versión de la reunión en español.

"Yo quisiera ayudar a romper la barrera porque a veces puede

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Documentation for Doing Business with Your Valentine

Dr. Adrienne B. Haynes, Esq., Contributor

As Valentine's Day approaches, I am thinking about the SEED Law client couples we've worked with over the years. It's been great to learn from entrepreneurial couples and help document their wishes both for their companies and their estate. If you're thinking about starting or growing a business with your Valentine, here are a few best practices to make sure your legal rights and obligations are as evident as your love:

Business Governing Documents

Having the right business documentation in place with your partner can help ensure clarity for ownership percentages, voting, key responsibilities, and more. Discussing who "owns" more of the business may seem silly, but it is a vital consideration for the intended division of work and management responsibilities. If you and your partner are the only owners of the business, making sure there is a way to avoid deadlock and streamline decision making contributes to efficiency. This clear articulation may also impact other matters, such as eligibility for certain business certifications or licensures.

Business governing documents also give couples an opportunity to discuss their exit strategies and consider the impact of life events such as disability, divorce, or death. While it may not sound romantic, considering these big topics in advance can bring you and your business partner closer.

Marital Governing Documents

Over the years, we've been fortunate to celebrate with a few clients who have gotten married. If you already own a business and you decide to get married, you and your spouse may consider a premarital agreement. A premarital, or prenuptial agreement, is an agreement between spouses made in contemplation of marriage and it is intended to be effective at the time of marriage. Missouri does not follow the Uniform Premarital Agreement Act but instead applies a substantive fairness-at-execution standard.

Some couples also choose to enter into a post-nuptial agreement, an agreement made between spouses while married. Topics that entrepreneurial couples may want to consider and document include:

- The rights and obligations of both parties with respect to property, now owned and later acquired;
- Considerations regarding business financial and economic interests developed before and during the marriage;
- How business and personal debts or obligations will be managed;
- The disposition of property in the event of dissolution of the marriage, separation or death;
- Decisions around spousal support;
- Gifts and inheritance; and
- The making of estate planning arrangements.

Succession & Estate Planning

Business succession planning for couples can be complex. Partners may have different goals regarding continuity, ongoing income or involvement, and how the business impacts their personal and collective legacies. Owners should give themselves time to assess their needs and goals, review best case scenarios, and explore possible options before they design and implement a succession plan.

For estate planning, business equity may be a significant value contributor to one's overall estate. We encourage SEED Law client couples to document their full estate plan and implement risk mitigation measures through tools like insurance, buy/sell agreements, and non-probate transfers.

Once the first iteration of an estate plan is complete, it should be reviewed regularly. We recommend reviewing at key moments, such as a marriage, a new addition to the family, a move with the intent to establish residency, or if you have experienced one of the five D's:

- Reached a new decade
- Experience the death of a friend or family member
- Divorce
- New diagnosis
- Significant decline in condition

Doing business with your Valentine can be a rewarding way to make a collective impact. These recommendations can help aspiring and existing couples to make sure that they are legally prepared to grow a business together. This article is an overview of legal considerations and it does not cover every legal right or obligation, consideration, exception, or restriction. The documentation and decisions involved are complex, and should be well researched and discussed with a team of professionals before being made.

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Thanks for reading!

My name is Dr. Adrienne B. Haynes and I'm an entrepreneur and attorney based here in Kansas City. My law firm, SEED Law, has been partnering with business owners across the Northeast and the city for almost 11 years. I loved living in the Northeast and I was fortunate to serve as an Entrepreneur in Residence for the Kauffman Foundation in 2017. Together with a dedicated group of Northeast residents and leaders, we explored a community designed innovation district pilot program. I was able to present this work during a TEDxUMKC Talk on Community Innovation Design in 2020.

Over the next few weeks, I'll be contributing articles and resources on small business and estate planning legal considerations. If you have questions, please reach out directly at adrienne@seed.legal.

Dr. Adrienne B. Haynes, Esq.

Northeast Chamber of Commerce Collaborations

Let the Good Times Roll at Mardi Gras: Beads, Beans & Booze

Bryan Stalder
Contributor

Kansas City's most spirited Fat Tuesday tradition is back, and the beads are ready to fly.

The Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce invites the community to celebrate Mardi Gras: Beads, Beans & Booze on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2026, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the iconic J. Rieger & Co. Distillery, located at 2700 Guinotte Ave. in the Historic East Bottoms.

Now in its 14th year, Beads, Beans & Booze has become a beloved Northeast FUN-raiser known for bringing together food, music, costumes, and community—all in true New Orleans style. Hosted by the Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Kansas City's Northeast News and the Independence Avenue Community Improvement District, the event continues its tradition of celebrating culture while supporting the work of the Chamber.

"Mardi Gras is a celebration of New Orleans' culture, food and music," said Bobbi Baker-Hughes, President and CEO of the Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce. "What better place to honor Mardi Gras and 'let the good times roll' than at our own neighborhood distillery, J. Rieger & Co., on Fat Tuesday?"

This year's celebration promises a lively evening packed with Cajun-inspired food, Zydeco music with second-line dancing, a costume contest, and a raffle featuring a massive basket of booze. Guests are encouraged to don their masks, beads, and boldest Mardi Gras attire and come ready to dance, mingle, and toast to the season.

Over the years, Beads, Beans & Booze has grown from a small pub gathering into one of the Northeast's signature annual events, moving through beloved neighborhood spaces and continuing to

Continued on next page

Sponsored by these NEKC Chamber Members:

Continued from previoius page

reflect the Chamber's mission of connecting people to places.

"At its heart, this event is about bringing people together—neighbors, businesses, and friends from across the city—to experience the Northeast and support its future," Baker-Hughes said.

General admission tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available now. Tickets can be purchased online at www.NEKCChamber.com.

For more information, contact Bobbi Baker-Hughes at (816) 215-6813 or BobbiBaker@NEKCChamber.com.

So grab your beads, bring your friends, and head to the East Bottoms on Feb. 17. One night. One neighborhood. And plenty of reasons to let the good times roll.

NEKC Chamber member benefits:

Monthly Business Section: The Chamber sponsors a monthly business section in the Northeast News. Businesses that commit to a monthly ad enjoy an annual feature story on their business.

Monthly Newsletter: Monthly member newsletter with updates on upcoming events, new businesses, workshops, and other important news impacting the Northeast business community.

Technical Assistance: The chamber provides technical assistance and referrals to help with business plans, developing working capital, and business licenses and permits.

After Hours Events: The Chamber invites members to host periodic After Hours events. These informal gatherings provide opportunities to enhance new and old relationships; exchange ideas on products, services, and sales; and meet new business owners and government officials.

Commercial Listings: The www.nekcchamber.com website provides free commercial property listings to members. property descriptions and a map help to encourage new businesses in the Northeast area. Non-members pay a fee for these listings.

Public Policy Advocacy: The Chamber promotes policies for economic development in the Northeast. Its Governmental Affairs Committee works with officials to keep members updated on business growth issues.

Facade Rebate Program: The Independence Avenue CID also offers member businesses the opportunity to apply for facade rebate funding to assist in updating or improving the exterior of their retail outlet in the CID's footprint.

Avoiding Costly Pitfalls: Common Homebuying Mistakes Local Experts Say Buyers Should Watch For

Illustration by Bryan Stalder

Gary Goebel, Certified Property Manager

For many residents, buying a home is one of the largest financial decisions they will ever make. But local real estate professionals say first-time and repeat buyers alike often make preventable mistakes that can lead to stress, unexpected expenses, or long-term problems after closing.

Here are some of the most common missteps buyers should avoid when purchasing a home—and what experts recommend doing instead.

Shopping Before Financing Is Secured

One of the biggest mistakes buyers make is touring homes before securing financing. Without a pre-approval or financing in place, buyers may fall in love with a property they cannot ultimately purchase, or lose out to a better-prepared bidder when it's time to make an offer.

Overlooking Easement Issues

Homes with shared or easement driveways can present unique challenges. Buyers are encouraged to have in-depth conversations with neighboring property owners to fully understand access rights, maintenance responsibilities, and potential disputes before signing a contract.

Skipping Critical Inspections

Inspections are a crucial step in identifying costly repairs or safety issues. Experts recommend not cutting corners and ensuring inspections are completed on key systems, including:

Roofs, especially those with multiple layers of asphalt

-Foundations

-Electrical systems

-Sewer lines

-Furnaces and air conditioning units

Failing to complete these inspections can result in major expenses shortly after moving in.

Not Having Legal Guidance Ready

Real estate contracts can be complex. Buyers who wait until problems arise to consult an attorney may find themselves at a disadvantage. Having legal counsel available early in the process can help protect buyers' interests.

Misunderstanding How Agents Are Paid

Many buyers are surprised to learn that most real estate agents are paid only if a deal closes. Understanding this structure can help buyers better navigate the relationship and ask informed questions throughout the process.

Neglecting Insurance Coverage Questions

Before closing, buyers should speak with an insurance agent to confirm what coverage is available, what is required by lenders, and whether additional policies may be needed for specific risks.

Not Hiring an Experienced Real Estate Agent

Experience matters in competitive or complicated markets. An experienced agent can help buyers negotiate, identify red flags, and guide them through each step of the transaction.

Skipping Title and Deed Checks

Finally, buyers are advised to work with a title insurance company to verify deed history, taxes, and ownership records. This step helps ensure there are no unresolved liens or legal issues tied to the property.

Local professionals say taking the time to prepare, ask questions, and assemble the right team can help buyers avoid costly surprises—and make the path to homeownership a smoother one.

Indian Mound invita a la comunidad a participar

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ser intimidante estar sentado en una reunión que es completamente en inglés y no poder entender todos los detalles que tiene que ver con todo lo que estamos discutiendo," Diaz dijo.

La asociación planea incrementar su accesibilidad a través de tener reuniones bilingües donde todo es traducido en tiempo real otra vez o organizar dos reuniones con el mismo contenido en los dos lenguajes.

Adicionalmente, esfuerzos en una comunicación más amplia y marketing esta acabó con un sitio web expandido que incluye un calendario para que miembros de la comunidad puedan ver información sobre eventos por venir.

La creación de subcomités, como el actual subcomité de vivienda, es otra estrategia que IMNA está planeado usar para involucrar individuos basados en sus intereses específicos.

"Entre más personas, mejor. Es un ambiente seguro y una oportunidad para compartir tu opinión y hacer nuestro vecindario mejor. Con más representación, más personas que involucremos, hará que otros se sientan más cómodos e incluidos," Diaz dijo.

Con una póliza de 'puerta-abierta', IMNA le da la bienvenida a todos, con que sean respetuosos y no disruptivos, a asistir a una reunión y escuchar sobre propuestas, proyectos o eventos.

No es necesario ser un miembro oficial de IMNA para asistir y escuchar una reunión pero para poder obtener derechos para votar en iniciativas o proyectos, uno tiene que convertirse en un miembro que paga sus cuotas.

"La primera reunión que asistí, no era un miembro oficial y no fue hasta después que pague la cuota que mi esposa y yo nos unimos," Diaz dijo.

Para ser elegible para una membresía, tiene que ser resident, dueño de propiedad o inquilino viviendo o operando un negocio entre los límites de INMA (Este-Belmont Blvd, Oeste-Jackson Ave, Norte-North Terrace Park, Sur-Independence Ave) de la edad legal para votar, y pagar la cuota de la membresía.

Para mas informacion de como involucrate o hacerte miembro, visita: imnakc.org

Presidents Day Marks Nation's 250th Birthday With History, Reflection and Local Celebration

Bryan Stalder
Contributor

As the United States approaches a historic milestone — the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding — communities across the country are kicking off a yearlong series of events highlighting American history, leadership and civic pride. Presidents Day offers one of the first opportunities in 2026 to reflect on the people and principles that have shaped the nation since 1776.

While many Americans know this holiday as "Presidents Day," its official federal name remains Washington's Birthday.

The holiday began in 1879 as a way to honor George Washington, the nation's first president, born Feb. 22. Nearly a century later, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act in 1971, shifting the observance to the third Monday in February to create a three-day weekend for workers. Because the date falls between the birthdays of Washington and Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12), states and retailers gradually adopted the broader "Presidents Day" name in the 1980's, expanding the focus to recognize all who have served in the Oval Office.

Today, the holiday serves as both a tribute to individual leaders and a reminder of the responsibilities of democracy itself.

Locally, residents can step directly into history at a special Presidents Day program at the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum, 500 West U.S. Hwy 24 in Independence.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., visitors can celebrate 250 years of the American presidency through interactive presentations and up-close encounters with historical reenactors portraying four iconic presidents: Harry S. Truman, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt. Designed for all ages, this event invites families to hear firsthand stories about the challenges and decisions that shaped the country.

Throughout the day, these presidents will also mingle with guests, answer questions and pose for photos. Light refreshments and self-guided, family-friendly activities will be available.

As residents make plans for the long weekend, it's also important to remember that Presidents Day is a federal holiday. Banks, post offices, government offices and many businesses will be closed. Trash pickup will be delayed by one day; in Northeast neighborhoods, collection will be delayed by one day..

Whether attending a local event or simply taking a moment to reflect, the holiday offers a chance to consider the nation's past — and its path forward — as America enters its 250th year.

Presentation schedule:

10 a.m.
President Harry Truman

10:30 a.m.
President George Washington

11 a.m.
President Abraham Lincoln

11:30 a.m.
President Theodore Roosevelt

ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRYAN STALDER

The "White House West" on 12th Street: The Living History of the Muehlebach Presidential Suite

Bryan Stalder
Contributor

At the corner of 12th and Baltimore in Downtown Kansas City, amid the bustle of the modern Marriott complex, stands a piece of living history that once functioned as a second seat of American power.

Long before Air Force One or secure video calls, U.S. presidents conducted business the old-fashioned way — by train, telegram and trusted hotels. And for much of the 20th century, when the nation's leaders came through the Midwest, they checked in at one place: the Hotel Muehlebach.

While many grand hotels advertise "presidential suites," few can match the Muehlebach's record. The hotel famously hosted every sitting or former U.S. president from Theodore Roosevelt to Ronald Reagan, earning a reputation as Kansas City's unofficial crossroads of American politics.

Opened in May 1915 by developer George E. Muehlebach on the site of the former First Baptist Church, the hotel quickly became a symbol of modern luxury. It boasted some of the region's first air-conditioned rooms, elegant ballrooms and richly detailed interiors that drew celebrities, business magnates and world leaders.

Presidents soon followed.

Woodrow Wilson stayed during his 1919 tour promoting the League of Nations. Herbert Hoover used the hotel as headquarters during the 1928 Republican National Convention. Decades later, Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan worked the lobby during the contested 1976 GOP Convention, courting delegates face-to-face.

But of all its distinguished guests, none left a deeper imprint than Missouri's own Harry S. Truman.

During Truman's presidency, the Muehlebach's top-floor Presidential Suite — which he casually referred to as "the penthouse" — became so central to government operations that it earned a nickname: the "White House West."

It wasn't simply a place to sleep. The suite functioned as a working command post, complete with a direct U.S. Army communications line to Washington. From those rooms, Truman met with advisers, handled official business and, on May 22, 1947, signed the Truman Doctrine, the policy providing aid to Greece and Turkey that helped shape the early course of the Cold War.

In 1948, as one of the most surprising elections in American history unfolded, Truman's staff gathered at the Muehlebach amid the steady clatter of teletype machines tracking returns from across the country. Though the president himself avoided the press elsewhere that night, the hotel served as the hub for his inner circle as the upset victory took shape.

Through the decades, the Muehlebach became more than lodging. It was a backdrop for deal-making, campaigning and moments that quietly influenced national history — all happening just blocks from Kansas City's streetcars and storefronts.

Today, the original 1915 structure remains part of the Kansas City Marriott Downtown. Visitors can still walk through the restored lobby spaces, including the ornate Trianon Ballroom and walnut-paneled elevators that hint at the hotel's early grandeur. Meanwhile, the long-closed upper floors — including the historic suite — are slated for redevelopment into luxury apartments, giving the building new life while preserving its architectural character.

Though its role has changed, the legacy lingers.

For generations, when presidents came to the heartland, they didn't stay behind gates or motorcades. They stayed downtown, shook hands in the lobby and conducted the nation's business from a Kansas City hotel room.

For a time, the road to the White House ran straight through 12th Street.

Front Street Detention Facility

Continued from page 3

One parent spoke on behalf of other parents, as many who do not speak English. Enrollment at Frontier is currently 70 percent Hispanic, adding to the difficulty to engage with parents and provide information.

She questioned council members in attendance, "What are you going to do to keep kids safe next to a jail facility?"

City Manager Vasquez responded that the site on Front street was considered because there were no residential areas nearby, the area is zoned industrial, and the location is more than 1000 feet from a school, as the code requires. As with any correctional facility, there will be fencing, guards and security measures in place 24 hours, seven days a week.

To address the lack of public engagement prior to the council's approval of the ordinance, Rea told attendees that he and Councilwoman Melissa Patterson-Hazley had crafted a Resolution (#260077) on Jan. 15 that would direct the City Manager to "engage in community engagement in relation to the Detention Center."

City Manager Vasquez stated his staff was working on what that engagement would look like as this site was a "very sensitive topic."

Vasquez continued that the engagement process should start from the beginning.

"What makes this (Front St.) a good location?" he stated. He wants his staff to "refresh what are the necessary services that need to be included at this location because when the work (engagement) was done for the I-70/ 40 Highway, there was a lot of engagement, but plans for the temporary facility will differ greatly from a permanent facility."

In response to questions about whether the ordinance or facility site could be changed or halted, Councilwoman French stated she thought she had voted for the City Manager to prepare a report regarding necessary changes to the plan, not voting for an actual location change- otherwise she would have also voted no.

Vasquez responded, "The ordinance two weeks ago jumped ahead. We (the manager's office) still owe that information.. We have a thick report that explains what those differences are. But now we have an ordinance that says - but now we're going to move this- so now I've got to figure out how I do this, how do I engage the public with this decision. Part of this (process) is doing a comparison, telling you the differences from this (site) and that (site) and deciding if this (site change) is the right thing to do."

As this nearly two-hour forum concluded, Edgar Palacios, founder of LEC and RevEd, reminded attendees that they were stakeholders in City matters and needed to continue to look out for the future of the community and understand the impact of development issues.

A final question and confirmed response was that the Front Street location was "Not a done deal."

Next Page: Saints, Sinners, and Union Strong *is the fifth installment of Nadine's Northeast, a series that follows the life of Nadine Burnett (née Pulliam), who was born in 1921 and spent most of her life in Northeast Kansas City, where she raised ten children amid the city's rapid changes in the 20th century. Written by her granddaughter, Betsy Cochran, these historical fiction stories draw from Nadine's lived experiences, local history, and a little family lore. Each installment stands alone while weaving into a larger portrait of Nadine's past. For a deeper dive, visit betsycochran.substack.com, where you can subscribe for free or choose a paid plan for extended content.*

Saints, Sinners, and Union Strong

Historical fiction written by Betsy Cochran

This story is a work of historical fiction set against the backdrop of the 1934 Municipal Election in KCMO, a day that came to be known as "Bloody Election Day." Please read with care.

March 27, 1934

"Be good."

That was what Marie always told me before I left the house, and today was no different. I was twelve years old, walking to St. Michael's School each morning, finishing my eighth-grade year, living with my older sister, Marie, and her family.

We were a Railroad Union Democrat family. That's all I knew. No one ever explained why. It was just who we were. As far as I understood, this was all right and good. We were lucky that Marie's husband had a job with the railroad, and we were grateful. I didn't ask questions about that. That job allowed me to come home from the orphanage. That job put food on our table. There was no real reason to ask questions.

As I walked the block on my way to school, I noticed the yards. One after another, they all carried the same signs for the same Democratic candidates we had posted in our own yard. I assumed that meant everyone liked them. I thought that meant they were the good ones.

Tom Pendergast ran our city. That was no secret. And Kansas City was not a quiet town. I saw the headlines before: Rabbi's Car Riddled With Bullets After Anti-Machine Speech; Union Station Gun Battle Leaves Five Dead, Including Federal Officers. I had once heard someone say Kansas City was the wickedest city in the world. But I didn't see it.

I didn't see it, until I did: a procession of black cars creeping down Lexington Avenue. Windows down. You might have thought it was a fancy funeral procession, but a man with dark sunglasses, in the front seat of one of the cars, held a shotgun high.

Today was Municipal Election Day in Kansas City and these men were there to make sure things stayed exactly the way they were.

When I turned onto Benton Boulevard, I saw two men farther down the block. One had another man pinned to the ground while the second yanked a yard sign from his lawn. Then, quick as if he'd done it before, the man brought the wooden stake down across the pinned man's head.

I couldn't hear what was said from where I stood, but I didn't need to. The bloodied man staggered back into his house. The two men climbed into their car and drove off.

I kept walking.

From the author's family collection. St. Michael's graduating class of 1934 in Northeast KC. Nadine is in the second row from the front, third from the right.

As I climbed the stairs to the classroom above the church, the first explosion went off. Then another, close behind it. Inside, the Sisters had already pushed my classmates against the inside wall. We were silent.

Outside, two cars burned. I could hear yelling on the street and see smoke billowing past the window. I heard a voice ask, "Are you okay?" I wasn't sure if I was. Sister Elizabeth began a prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. We followed without thinking.

I spent that evening with Marie, huddled near the radio, lights low in the house. There were reports of beatings, explosions, even murder.

"They say a deputy's been killed."

"Another man… a worker… shot in the head."

"More trouble at the polls."

"A bystander dead."

By the next morning, they said the election was over. The papers said four people had died. But the same signs stayed up. The same men stayed in charge. After all of it. After the yelling and the smoke and the prayers, nothing seemed different.

I went on to graduate eighth grade from St. Michael's that May. I was lucky. I knew I would be attending Loretto Academy that fall. Many of my classmates' schooling would not go beyond eighth grade.

But there were other lessons we all learned that Bloody Election Day. We learned when to be quiet. We learned that silence could save you. But we also learned what it cost.

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We want to express our deepest gratitude to everyone who donated to The Northeast News in 2025. Whether you gave once or contrib-ute monthly, your support sustains the journalism our neigh-borhood relies on. We depend on your gener-osity to report on local schools, government, and the voices that make our community unique. Thank you for investing in indepen-dent local news and for being a vital part of our mission.

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LTE: KCPS Board Invites Engagement

As the board member representing the Historic Northeast, I want to personally invite you to engage directly with Kansas City Public Schools. These are the most effective ways to ensure your voice is heard and formally considered through our public engagement processes.

Here are ways you can participate in person or from home:

Attend a Board of Education Meeting

The Kansas City Public Schools Board of Education meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Board of Education building, (2901 Troost Ave.) Meetings are open to the public, and community members may sign up to provide public comment.

https://www.kcpublicschools.org/about/board-of-directors/speaking-at-a-board-meeting

Join an Advisory Group

KCPS offers several advisory bodies that inform district decision making, including Special Education, the Hispanic Advisory Committee, the District Advisory Committee, and others. These groups allow for deeper, ongoing engagement on specific issues. Learn more and apply here: https://www.kcpublicschools.org/how-to-get-involved

Follow and Engage with the Bond Oversight Committee

The Bond Oversight Committee was recently formed and includes community members who applied to help oversee bond-funded projects. Information on how the public can follow or engage with this work will be shared soon:

https://www.kcps-bond.org/bond-oversight-committee

Email Board Members Directly

Written feedback on any topic related to district governance may be emailed directly to board members. You may contact your subdistrict representative, any other board member, and the at-large representatives.

- Tricia McGhee, Subdistrict 3: tmcghee@kcpublicschools.org
- Josh Jackaway, At-Large: jjackaway@kcpublicschools.org
- Tanesha Ford, At-Large: tford2@kcpublicschools.org

Our schools are strongest when community members engage through clear, public, and accountable channels.

I look forward to hearing from you and working together on behalf of students and families in the Historic Northeast.

-Tricia McGhee, Subdistrict 3

Haiku *by Sam Crowley*

Went shopping today
One hundred and twelve dollars
Food is expensive

Haiku *by Kiki Swift*

Snow fairies
Dance across black asphalt
Winter's beauty

1932 FUN FACT

A unique promotion for H & K Coffee provided a "mechanical man", which made appearances at Kansas City grocery stores. H & K Coffee was produced by the Hanley & Kinsella Coffee and Spice Co. in St. Louis, Missouri. According to an advertisement, this mechanical man was scheduled to appear in the store window of the grocery department of The Jones Store Co., on Friday, Feb. 12, 1932. In addition to free prizes for customers, H & K Coffee was special priced at 37 cents for a 1 pound can or three pounds for $1.05.