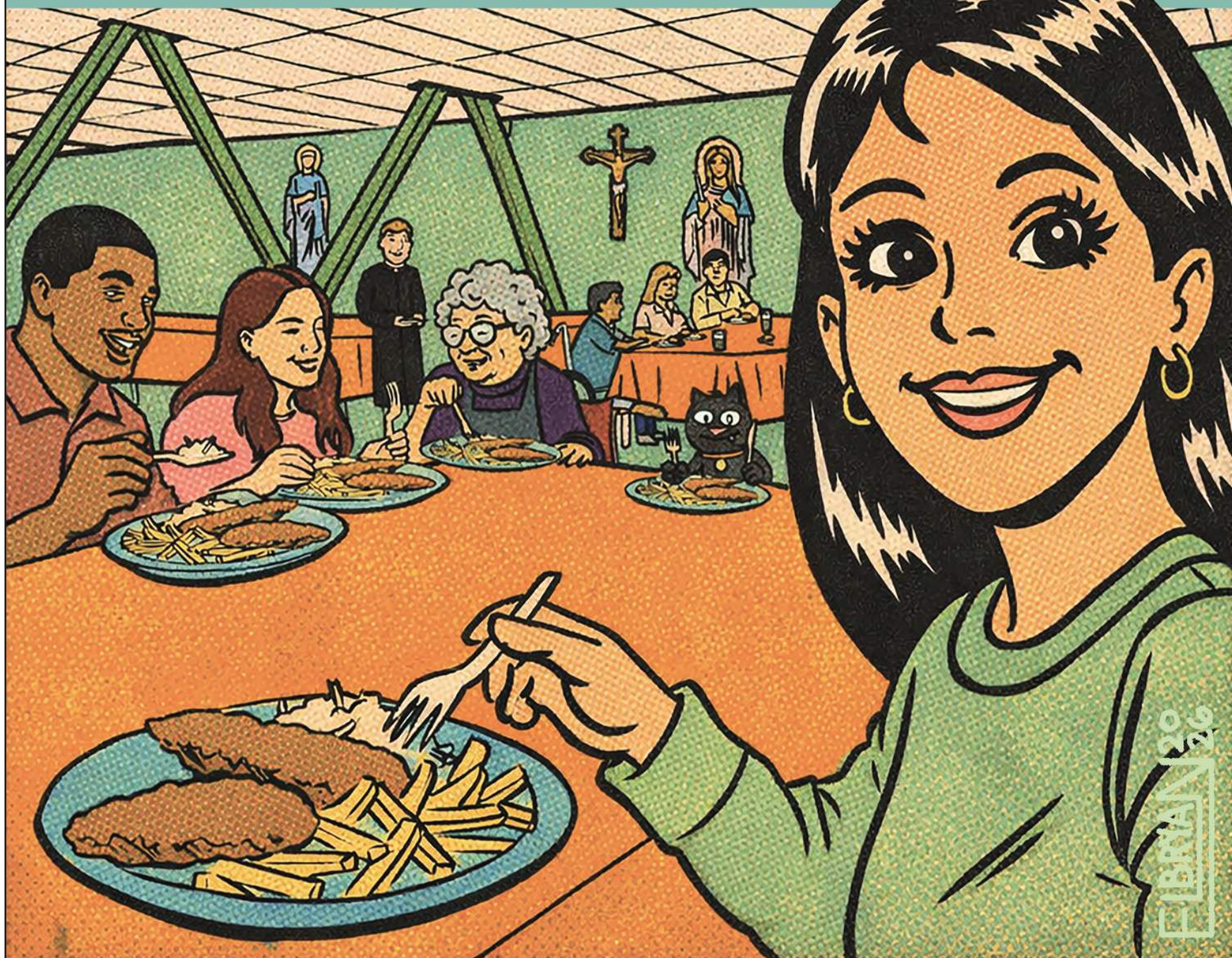


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Dear Northeast News Reader,

The Board of Directors of Historic Northeast Media is issuing this statement to address recent concerns surrounding the appearance of Bryan Stalder, Creative Director of the Northeast News, on Up To Date with Steve Kraske.

At no time was Mr. Stalder authorized to, nor did he represent his political views as those of the Northeast News. He was invited to participate in a public conversation and did so in his personal capacity, just as journalists and community voices regularly appear on programs such as Week In Review. We fully support his right—as well as the right of all individuals—to express personal views freely and without institutional constraint.

The broadcast prompted strong reactions from both listeners of KCUR and readers of the Northeast News. KCUR has since responded to its audience and stood by its decision to host the conversation. Historic Northeast Media stands beside KCUR in defense of open dialogue and responsible journalism. We affirm, with-

out reservation, that the Northeast News is deeply committed to free expression. That commitment includes allowing space for opinions and ideas that may challenge, frustrate, or even anger some, and we invite our readers to submit their opinions as well.

A community that only tolerates viewpoints it already agrees with is not a healthy or honest one.

Let us be clear: the Northeast News has one agenda—to serve the people who live, work, and invest their lives in Northeast. Our mission is to provide access to information, to amplify community voices, and to offer a platform where residents can share ideas, opinions, experiences, and creative work. We consistently invite our readers to partner with us in reporting local news, promoting community events, and strengthening neighborhood dialogue. If this recent radio conversation stirred strong feelings, we encourage our readers to channel that energy into engagement. The pages of the Northeast News are open every week

for thoughtful, passionate, and respectful community voices.

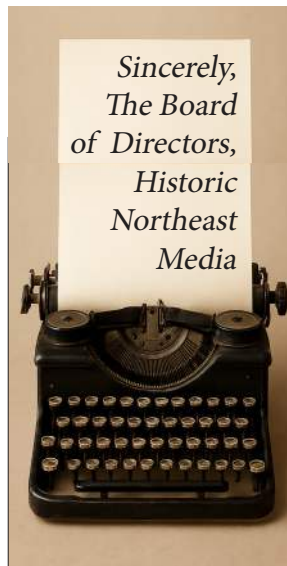
We must also address misinformation that has circulated regarding the nature of the KCUR segment. Mr. Stalder was joined by two other Northeast residents: Gresia Cabrera, who immigrated to the United States from Cuba in 1998, and Michael Bushnell, the former owner and publisher of the Northeast News. Mr. Bushnell and the Northeast News separated their ties in 2023, and like Ms. Cabrera and Mr. Stalder, he appeared on Up To Date as a private citizen sharing personal views. None of the participants claimed to represent the Northeast News, Historic Northeast Media, or the broader Northeast community.

It is our sincere desire to protect the integrity of our Historic Northeast community through storytelling and news reports, to defend the free exchange of ideas, and to ensure that the Northeast News provides a space where our diverse perspectives can be shared in a spirit

of seeking to understand each other and strengthen the fabric of our community. We understand this is not always comfortable, however, we are committed to providing a safe space that is free from institutional retaliation or ideological gatekeeping.

We are united in our belief that the principles of free expression, responsible journalism, and community dialogue are foundational and non-negotiable. We value your participation and contribution as we move forward in our pursuit to remain a resource for this community and a representation of the beautiful fabric that is the Historic Northeast of Kansas City.

*Sincerely,
The Board
of Directors,
Historic
Northeast
Media*



LTE: Many Cultures, One Community: Chamber Voices Support for All Residents

The Northeast has always been and will continue to be one of the most welcoming places in Kansas City. The Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce acknowledges and embraces the multicultural nature of our heavily populated and generationally changing immigrant and refugee communities. From the embrace of

Historic Italian immigrants to the welcoming of Afghanistan refugees, these neighborhoods have always been a place for new Americans. Without their vibrant, unique and empowered businesses, this organization would not exist. The Chamber is aware of the recent KCUR interview on its program "Up to Date" involving the former publisher and

the current creative director (contractor) of the Northeast News. While the Chamber has generously supported the paper for many years, the viewpoints and opinions expressed during that interview do not reflect the views of the Chamber, and they were not made on the Chamber's behalf. The Chamber Board wishes every-

one to know that we all value the support and vibrancy of our international marketplace, and the Chamber is committed to embracing and empowering all those who call the Northeast home.

Sincerely,
The Board of
Directors
NEKC Chamber of
Commerce

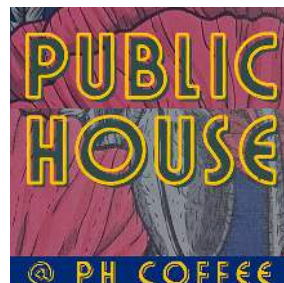
Signs Mark Behavioral Health Site; Public Meeting Set for March 18



Signs denoting the area for the State's Behavioral Health Facility were installed on Sunday, March 1 to begin securing the area for construction. Current homeless campsites will be removed and fencing installed to support No Trespassing signage. Community members can learn more and ask questions during a meeting hosted by University Health at 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at the NEKC Chamber office, 2657 Independence Blvd. State Representative Wick Thomas will be in attendance.

Photo by Dorri Partain

The Northeast News is sustained through our advertisers, community support, and donations, including In-Kind Donations from the businesses listed below:



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Now Through April 10- Exhibit: Our Voices Our Truth...In Peace, Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, 3700 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. This exhibit features 25 works by local and national artists curated by the African American Artists Coalition. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Thursday, March 5- Art Club, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., North-East Branch Library, 6000 Wilson Ave. Come paint, draw, craft and create something new. For ages 5 to 12, free.

Friday, March 6- St. Anthony's Parish Lenten Fish Dinner, 5 to 7 p.m., 3208 Lexington Ave. (St. Joseph Hall) Observe Lent with some tasty fish tacos for \$12, includes drink, or a slice of cheese pizza for \$5, includes drink. Meals will be available every Friday during Lent.

Friday, March 6- Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry, 6 to 9 p.m., Holy Cross Catholic Church, 5106 St. John Ave. Every Friday during Lent, serving 2 Tilapia filet, french fries, salad (\$15), 3 fish taco lettuce & tomato (\$10) or whole Tilapia (fried), fries, salad (\$15). All plates include drink, dessert also available. For advance carry out orders call 816-305-4417.

Saturday, March 7- Family Music Class, 10:30 to 11 a.m., IntersectKC, 606 Gladstone Blvd. This free class will let families with children ages 0 to 12 explore music with songs, body movements, and simple instruments. Lead by musician and educator Jena Vangjel. Meets every Saturday through March 28.

Saturday, March 7- Kansas City Public Budget Hearing, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., Winnetonka High School, 5815 N.E. 48th St. Overview presentation Fiscal year 2026-2027 Submitted Budget with public comments and testimony. Visit kcmo.gov/budget for more information.

Tuesday, March 10- Craft Circle, 6 to 7 p.m., North-East Branch Library, 6000 Wilson Ave. Join other Northeast crafters to work on a project or start something new. For teens and adults, free.

Wednesday, March 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.

Feast of St. Joseph Celebration Raises Funds for Sister Servants of Mary

Dorri Partain
Managing Editor

The American Sons of Columbus and American Daughters of Columbus (2615 Independence Blvd.) combined forces to host their Second Annual Feast of St. Joseph table on Saturday, Feb. 28 and March 1. While many Catholic parishes celebrate this Feast Day on March 19, this cultural heritage club has selected the first Sunday in March for their celebration to allow members to later participate in celebrations at other parishes.

In addition to the

traditional tiered table laden with Italian and Sicilian specialties—cookies, cakes, bread, seafood, vegetables and more—special table decorations were crafted by one member to show which city traditional dishes originated from. During the table viewing on Saturday, cookies and cannoli were offered for sale, while other members began making the sauce for Sunday's dinner featuring Pasta Milanese or spaghetti with traditional red sauce.

Proceeds from this year's event were donated to Sister Servants of Mary.



Above. American Daughters of Columbus members Rosa Gemina and Rosetta Guarino began preparations on Saturday for the Sunday pasta dinner.

Right. To honor their homeland, decorations and signs were placed next to foods on display, crafted by one member to honor her father's devotion to St. Joseph.

Photos by Dorri Partain



Annual Feast Day Offers Italian Cookies, Pasta and More

Each year, the Feast of St. Joseph is celebrated on March 19. In addition to a special Mass, the event includes the blessing and viewing of a table dedicated to St. Joseph, laden with foods in thanks to prayers. Centuries ago, Sicilian Italians were plagued with famine and drought and prayed to St. Joseph (patron saint of the worker) for rain, with a promise to produce a feast if their prayers were answered. The annual celebration came to America as immigrants settled into their new home but continued the traditions of their homeland.

Central to this cel-

ebration, each parish constructs a tiered display showcasing shaped breads, carved vegetables and fruits, and a variety of baked goods. Pasta Milanese is served and topped with bread crumbs which symbolizes the sawdust created, as St. Joseph was a carpenter. Proceeds from donations and sales from table items help contribute to parish programs and services.

Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 911 E. Missouri Ave.

St. Joseph's Table Viewing and Blessing on Wednesday, March 18.

Pasta Milanese dinner in Scalabrini Hall,

910 Pacific, on Thursday, March 19. Cookies and cannolis will be available for purchase. (Exact times were not available at press time, check www.northeastnews.net for updated information.)

St. Anthony Catholic Church, 309 Benton Blvd.

Viewing of St. Joseph Table and Italian cookie sale from 5 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, March 18.

Italian Mass in honor of St. Joseph, Thursday, March 19, 9 a.m. Blessing of the St. Joseph Table following Mass, in St. Joseph Hall.

Pasta Milanese dinner served in St. Joseph Hall, 3208 Lexington Ave. from 10 a.m. to

7 p.m. on Thursday, March 19. Free will donation, carry out available (\$3.00 charge) Cookies, cannoli, cakes, and table items available for purchase.

Holy Cross Catholic Church, 5106 St. John Ave.

St. Joseph Table viewing on Wednesday, March 18, in the parish hall from 6 to 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 19, Table Blessing at 9 a.m., Mass at 6 p.m. Pasta Milanese or pasta w/ red sauce, salad, frozia and Italian bread served from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., free will donation (Suggested \$10). Italian cookies, cannoli and Table items for sale until 8 p.m.

Buona Festa Di San Giuseppe

St. Anthony Catholic Church
St. Joseph's Table 2026
309 Benton Blvd Kansas City, MO 64124

Viewing of the St. Joseph Table
Wednesday,
March 18th
5:00pm-7:00pm
St. Joseph Hall
3208 Lexington Ave
KCMO 64124

Mass in Honor of St. Joseph
Thursday, March 19th
9:00am
Mass Celebrated in Italian by
Fr. Andrés Moreno
Please join us for the
Blessing of the St. Joseph Table
following the Mass Celebration

Pasta Dinner
Thursday, March 19th
Served from
10:00am-7:00pm
(Carryout \$3)
Dine-in
Donations Welcome
St. Joseph Hall
3208 Lexington Ave
KCMO 64124

Italian Cookies, Cannoli, Cakes,
Fruits, Vegetables & Candles

Items from the table
will also be available
for purchase

Northeast Youth Soccer Organizations Gear Up for World Cup

Daisy Garcia Montoya
Education Reporter

With only 100 days away from the World Cup soccer championship games, Northeast youth soccer organizations are preparing their programs for the world's biggest sporting event coming to Kansas City.

To take advantage of this once-in-a-generation event, organizations are holding conversations and sharing ideas on how they can best create programming that will further excite youth in the Northeast, provide them with opportunities to be involved and create long-lasting memories.

During the Northeast Kansas City (NEKC) Chamber of Commerce February Luncheon on February 24th, leaders and members of Northeast youth soccer programs and surrounding areas gathered to discuss their current programming, what they do, and what they have in store for this summer.

The luncheon began with individuals introducing themselves and stating who they represented before luncheon attendees filled their plates.

Although the luncheon was set as a round-table discussion, featured panelists in-

cluded:

Reggie Francois: Senior Recreation Director with Kansas City Parks and Recreation
Rev. Nicholas Kaufmann Mamisashvili: Operations Director with Global FC

Brad Leonard: Ryogoku Soccer Academy Director

Hector "Moy" Solorio: Director for Coaching at Ryogoku Soccer Academy and Youth Development Coordinator at Mattie Rhodes Center

Seyoum W. Kassa: President of Heartland African Soccer Federation

Diego Barrera: Student-athlete at Ryogoku Soccer Academy

Since the Northeast is home to one of the most diverse communities in Kansas City in regards to culture and business, the World Cup provides an extraordinary opportunity for businesses to connect with international visitors.

NEKC Chamber Events Director Rebecca Koop said that the chamber has developed the International Marketplace, a website designed to showcase local businesses and make them more discoverable for out-of-town visitors, especially during the World Cup.

This website is currently up and run-

ning while still being designed further to improve it before the start of the World Cup. More information can be found at <https://nekc-internationalmarketplace.com/>

President of the NEKC Chamber Bobbi Baker said that she is excited for the opportunity this will bring to the youth and various businesses located in the Northeast.

"We are really, really excited to be able to promote our businesses in a more focused manner during the World Cup," Baker said. "Not only our businesses, but we want to be able to support other cultural entities that we have here in the northeast area, our churches, our mosques, our parks, places that people come together from around the world."

Although programming is being planned for the duration of the World Cup, many of the organizations present shared the current soccer programming they have available and how they plan to align it with the international tournament.

Senior Recreation Director with Kansas City Parks and Recreation Reggie Francois provided information about the 'Let's Play Soccer' initiative that starts in the spring and is in-

tended to teach children aged 3-6 the basics of soccer. Additionally, there is a 8v8 Women Soccer League that runs for seven weeks and is intended for women +18 who wish to participate on a team. Both programs take place at the 9th & Van Brunt Athletic Fields and have a fee in order to join.

Francios also shared that one of the initiatives Parks and Recreation is preparing is a world cup styled tournament to take place at the 9th & Van Brunt Athletic Fields in May, a month before the kickoff of the World Cup. To ensure that the entire community partakes in the planned tournament, the city department plans to bring food trucks from local business, live music and entertainment, teams that represent the Northeast as well as inviting other communities.

Other free programming, sponsored by VISA, is being planned to be available closer to the start of the World Cup.

Jordan Shiele, a mentor with Global FC, said that the organization will have a league that will run through the spring. Efforts are also being made by the organization to organize youth and help neigh-



The logo for the International Marketplace is featured on a new soccer jersey sponsored by the NEKC Chamber for the Global FC soccer program. Additional jerseys will also be worn by the CID street ambassadors on World Cup game days.

Photo by Dorri Partain

borhood associations that may want to create soccer teams.

Baker reminded the audience that creating a lasting legacy for area youth through the connections and guidance to follow a positive path in life, was the goal.

As discussions continued about programming, leaders emphasized the importance of putting Northeast youth at the forefront and finding ways for them to be an active participant in planning and in activities during the World Cup.

"When all this is said and done, it's the experi-

ence that kids had, and what memories they're going to carry with them because this should be something that they're talking about for the rest of their lives," Director of Ryogoku Soccer Academy Brad Leonard said.

Such an opportunity will be granted to 110 kids that will be chosen to be official escorts for players during the matches taking place in Kansas City. Ryogoku, Mattie Rhodes Center and Football for the World, an organization

**Continued on
page 11**

Federal Grant to Fund Violence Prevention Program in Northeast Schools

Dorri Partain
Managing Editor

Nearly one million dollars in federal grant funding has been awarded to Mattie Rhodes Centers (148 N. Topping Ave.) to implement the Department of Justice's STOP School Violence Program. This funding will provide behavioral health intervention for more than 3000 students attending Northeast High and Northeast Middle schools.

STOP (Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing) School Violence Act of 2018 provides funding through the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance. This award of \$999,998 will fund two Behavioral Interventionists- one at each school- for a period of 36 months.

In a statement released by Mattie Rhodes Center (MRC), "Youth violence remains a critical public health concern in Kansas City, particularly in communities facing economic hardship and limited access to resources. In the Historic Northeast, where 36.1% of residents live below the poverty line and nearly one-third of the population is un-

der 18, prevention and early intervention are urgently needed."

To highlight the community partners involved in this program, MRC hosted a presentation at Northeast Middle School (4904 Independence Ave.) on Friday, Feb. 27. Kansas City Public Schools, Jackson County COMBAT, Family Court, the Kansas City Police Department and the office of Mayor Quinton Lucas were identified as partners by Angela Brunner, MRC Chief Financial Officer.

"We are all working together to ensure a co-ordinated community-wide approach to safety and prevention," said Brunner. "Each of these partners are actively committed to serving on an advisory coalition that will direct resources and enact policy that will create a larger impact outside just our neighborhood."

Angela Florez, MRC Manager of School Based Services, spoke about how MRC has been able to expand services and impact the community by addressing issues before they can escalate.

"We have invested and we believe in the school district. We

have started, in the past two years, with a few of these service coordinators, from elementary to middle and now high school," said Florez. "We can build a rapport with the students, we can build a rapport with the families, and we're able to work with community partners to collaborate together. The root causes of mental health, trauma, and violence within the neighborhood and the school can only trickle down so much because we are here full time and actually invest in everything else."

Two Northeast Middle School students offered remarks about the impact their school's interventionist has made in their daily school experience.

Seventh grader Ja-miyla said their conversations made her feel safe and Lydianesh offered that she's received help with her behavior and feels more confident interacting with students and teachers.

Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas told attendees that his sister was once an instructor at Northeast Middle and he recalled conversations regarding her experience there



Mattie Rhodes Center President John Fierro chats with Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas following the presentation on Feb. 27.



Northeast Middle school's Interventionist Jessica Jimenez provides support for students Lydianesh and Ji-Miyla.

Photos by Dorri Partain

and how she wished she could affect more students experiencing trauma and other issues.

"The more that we can make sure there is behavioral health intervention for our young people, the

more we can make sure that they're appreciated, the better our community will be for all," said Lucas.

After acknowledging all the local partners and the STOP School Violence program funding, Lucas

said, "This is a difference-maker for our community, the more we care about our young people, the more we treat them as the important, growing - sometimes vexing-

**Continued on
back page**

Local and Statewide Small Business Resources Available in March

Dr. Adrienne B. Haynes, Esq., Contributor

The first quarter of the year is a great time to get organized, make professional connections, and outline your company's strategic plan and next steps. At SEED Law, we have relationships with small business resource partners across the region and state to help support aspiring and existing entrepreneurs. In March, there are two education opportunities available to owners in the Northeast who may be looking to start or scale their business this year.

The 2026 Food Business Conference will take place on March 4th and 5th at the Kansas State University-Olathe Campus (22201 W. Innovation Dr., Olathe, KS 66061). Whether you are currently running a food business or have an amazing idea for one, you'll find the support you need at the 5th annual conference presented in partnership with the Ennovation Center, Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops, Kansas State

University, Kansas State University-Olathe Campus, KC-SourceLink, MCPL Culinary Kitchens, Missouri SBDC at University of Missouri Kansas City, and Square One Small Business Services by MCPL.

This free, two-day conference provides valuable business education related to mobile food businesses, manufacturing, restaurants and agriculture. In addition to a business pitch competition, there will be opportunities to connect food entrepreneurs with support organizations, coaches and information.

SEED Law will be presenting Legal Considerations for Food & Beverage Entrepreneurs on Wednesday, March 4th. Launching a food business requires much more than a love of food. Whether you're launching a food truck or stand, opening a café or restaurant, or you are a farmer and producer, there are several things to consider around the business of food. This workshop will cover learn the details of establishing your business

legally, maintaining compliance, and protecting your brand.

To register, apply to pitch, and see the full schedule of events, please visit www.foodbizcon.com.

Another key resource for business owners across the state, technology startups, and venture investors is the ShowMe Network, an initiative of Missouri State University's efactory and codefi. This new statewide network of regional and community connectors and training partners is designed to connect entrepreneurs, innovators, and small businesses with the resources, training, and funding they need – right in their own communities.

Through the ShowMe Network, SEED Law will be offering legal technical assistance and monthly virtual business law workshops to entrepreneurs in Kansas City, Springfield, and to rural communities across the state. A national accounting firm, RubinBrown, will be offering accounting technical assistance and ongoing financial ed-



Dr. Adrienne B. Haynes, Esq.

ucation. To access these free services and complementary resources funded by the Missouri Technical Assistance State Small Business Credit Initiative program, please visit <https://showmenetwork.org>.

The first business law workshop, Startup Law- Preparing to Open Your Business, will be hosted on Wednesday, March 11th from 12-1 pm on Zoom. Almost all business decisions have legal consequences. Understanding where the laws apply to your business operations can help you make confident decisions, protect your rights, minimize risk and save money. This workshop will offer an overview of business law hot topics, including choice of entity, managing

contractual obligations, and compliance. Looking ahead, the next class, Contracts in Your Business, will take place on Wednesday, April 8th from 12-1 pm on Zoom.

There will be workshops offered each month from SEED Law, RubinBrown, Justine PETERSEN and other statewide resource partners. To register for free and see the full list of virtual and in person events, please visit <https://showmenetwork.org/calendar/>

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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 over 10 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.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to contribute articles and resources on business and estate planning legal considerations. If you have questions, please reach out directly at adrienne@seed.legal.



Northeast Chamber of Commerce Collaborations

NEKC Chamber Welcomes Boujee Baker KC: A Sweet New Addition to the Northeast Community

Bryan Stalder
Contributor

The NEKC Chamber of Commerce is delighted to welcome its newest member, Boujee Baker KC, to the Northeast business community. Just in time for National Women's Month, this women-owned bakery brings heart, creativity, and unforgettable flavor to Kansas City's historic Northeast.

Founded by Joyce Watts, Boujee Baker KC is more than a bakery — it's a space built on warmth, connection, and community. Located at 2311 E 12th Street in Kansas City, the bakery has quickly become

known for its inviting atmosphere and handcrafted baked goods that bring people together around the table.

Watts' journey into entrepreneurship was rooted in a love for baking and a desire to create something meaningful for her community. What began as a passion project has grown into a thriving local business, offering everything from soft dinner rolls and gooey cinnamon rolls to cakes, cupcakes, cheesecakes, pies, and cookies — all made fresh with care.

As a women-owned business, Boujee Baker KC is a powerful



Joyce Watts, owner of Boujee Baker KC, 2311 E 12th Street.

Photo by Bryan Stalder

example of local leadership, resilience, and creativity. During National Women's Month, the NEKC Chamber is proud to highlight businesses like Boujee Baker KC that reflect the

strength and innovation of women entrepreneurs in the Northeast.

With spring right around the corner, Boujee Baker KC is a go-to destination for seasonal celebrations

and special occasions. Whether you're planning an Easter gathering, a graduation party, or a spring wedding, the bakery offers custom desserts and crowd-pleasing treats perfect for events of any size. From elegant cakes to dessert tables that wow your guests, Boujee Baker KC helps make life's biggest moments even sweeter.

Community members and local professionals will soon get a taste of Boujee Baker KC firsthand. The bakery will be catering the upcoming NEKC Chamber Luncheon on March 24, giving attendees a chance to sample

their signature flavors while connecting with fellow Chamber members.

"We're excited for our members to experience the quality and heart behind Boujee Baker KC," said Bobbi Baker, president of the NEKC Chamber. "This partnership reflects our mission to uplift local businesses and foster meaningful connections within our community."

By joining the NEKC Chamber of Commerce, Boujee Baker KC is stepping into a broader network of support, collaboration, and growth. Communi-

Continued on next page

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Enhance the quality of life and economic competitiveness in historic, multicultural and contemporary Northeast

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NORTHEAST KANSAS CITY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Want to become a NEKC Chamber member? Check out these five easy steps:

1. Go online to <https://nekcchamber.com/join-today>
2. Decide the type of Membership that best suits your business/organization
3. Fill out information about your business/organization
4. Pay your membership fee
5. You are now officially a NEKC Chamber member



Sponsored by these NEKC Chamber Members:



ty members are encouraged to shop small, support women-owned businesses, and discover what makes this neighborhood bakery so special.

To learn more about Boujee Baker KC, place orders, or explore catering options, visit their website or follow them on social media. To discover the full potential of NEKC Chamber member businesses



and unlock new opportunities for growth and connection, visit

www.nekcchamber.com. neighborhood, Boujee Baker KC — we're Welcome to the so happy you're here.



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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.

Warm February Sets the Stage for Community Action in Sheffield Neighborhood

Ryan Millan-Pulley
Contributor

As Kansas City experiences one of its warmest Februaries on record, residents in the Sheffield neighborhood turned the unusually pleasant weather into a weekend of meaningful community action.

According to climate records for Kansas City, February 2026 was the second-warmest February since recordkeeping began in the 1880s, trailing only 1954. With sunshine and mild temperatures in the forecast, volunteers across Sheffield were out in force, cleaning up streets, restoring community spaces, and strengthening connections with neighbors.

Mark Morales, president of the Sheffield Neighborhood, said the past few days have been especially productive as residents, partners, and youth came together to address local challenges.

“It’s been a productive three days in the Sheffield Neighborhood as we have been coming up with solutions on some of the challenges in our area,” Morales shared on social media. “Through the Community Capital Fund resource called The Health of Neighbor-

hoods, which provides support and resources to advance violence prevention projects, we’ve strengthened our relationship with stakeholders and the youth in our community.”

The Health of Neighborhoods is a resource provided through the Community Capital Fund, designed to help neighborhoods build safer, stronger communities. The program supports resident-led efforts by offering funding, technical assistance, and connections to local partners. In Sheffield, these resources are being used to strengthen violence prevention initiatives, expand youth engagement, and build lasting relationships between community members, organizations, and local leaders. The goal is not just short-term cleanups, but long-term community health—socially, emotionally, and physically.

On Thursday, February 26, volunteers gathered at the mural located at 9th Street and Hardesty Avenue, dedicated in 2001 to the victims of 9/11. With approval from a contractor working nearby, the group cleared more than 350 pounds of accumulated dirt and gravel from

the curb face along busy Hardesty Avenue and used blowers to clean the area, improving safety and appearance for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Friday’s efforts focused on graffiti removal and neighborhood outreach. Volunteers partnered with the violence prevention team from Mattie Rhodes Center to connect with residents and paint over graffiti at Our Lady of Peace Church, working alongside Father Angel Lemus. The collaboration highlighted how faith-based institutions and community organizations can work hand-in-hand to promote pride and safety in shared spaces.

The weekend wrapped up with continued beautification efforts at the Parish Hall and School, where Morales worked with two local youth to improve the property. The hands-on work not only improved the look of the space but also gave young residents an opportunity to take ownership of their neighborhood.

The Sheffield neighborhood is a mix of industrial and residential spaces, with two of its



Cleanup efforts made a noticeable difference clearing dirt from underneath the overpass at 9th St & Hardesty.



Father Angel Lemus works with a team of Youth Volunteers to paint over graffiti at Our Lady Of Peace Church.
Photos submitted by Mark Morales

main neighborhood entrances passing under active railroad underpasses. Unlike some nearby Historic Northeast neighborhoods that have adopted blocks, alleys, or parks, Sheffield has chosen to “adopt railroad underpasses” as a way to raise awareness about the many challenges these gateways present. These areas face ongoing issues including

the lack of scheduled trash removal, the need for improved lighting, blind spots that make them accident-prone, and low-lying areas that frequently flood after heavy rains.

Another ongoing concern is the Independence Avenue Viaduct at Cambridge, a secluded location that has been a frequent site of illegal dumping. Local

business owners have worked closely with the Sheffield Neighborhood Association and Kansas City Public Works to repeatedly clean the area, highlighting both the persistence of the problem and the commitment of those invested in keeping the neighborhood safe and clean.

**Continued on
next page**

Youth Soccer Organizations

Continued from page 5

based in Omaha, Nebraska, have been selected to take on the task of selecting kids ages 8-11 years old that will fulfill this memorable role.

“Kids that are gonna be able to walk out with these players and just experience a once in a lifetime opportunity and so when we think about legacy, that’s a really cool experience but we’re thinking about the legacy behind that and the storytelling,” Leonard said. “So once that experience is over, how do we keep eyes on the northeast, how do we keep eyes on these kids?”

One Northeast student-athlete from Ryogoku Soccer Academy is contributing to the global stage directly while also bringing new ideas and feedback to his community.

As the youth representative for Kansas City on the Generation 2026 Youth Leadership Council, led by the Cen-

Sheffield Neighborhood

Continued from previous page

Morales said the momentum is just getting started. In the coming months, Sheffield plans to host more youth-centered activities, including litter prevention projects, community cleanups, and learning experiences that give young people positive

tre for Sport and Human Rights, with support from UNICEF USA and UNICEF Mexico, Diego Barrera is serving as a youth advocate and exchanging ideas with other youth leaders across the 16 World Cup 2026 host cities and bringing recommendations.

Barrera is planning on bringing another edition of Copa de Calle, a soccer-tennis tournament that first took place during Spring 2025 in the Crossroads, to further engage the community and heighten the excitement and teach others about the World Cup. Along with the plans for Copa de Calle, Barrera wants to focus on content creation and storytelling, creating videos that share the stories of many student-athletes, their backgrounds and the impact soccer has had on their lives.

Hector “Moy” Solorio, Director for Coaching at Ryogoku Soccer Acade-

outlets and leadership opportunities.

With warm weather giving residents a head start on spring-like projects, the Sheffield Neighborhood is showing how a few good days—and a lot of teamwork—can turn into lasting community impact.

my and Youth Development Coordinator at Mattie Rhodes Center shared with attendees and other panelists the work being done at Mattie Rhodes Center regarding health and nutrition.

With on-going after-school programming, students are able to learn about healthy habits and how to implement them every day.

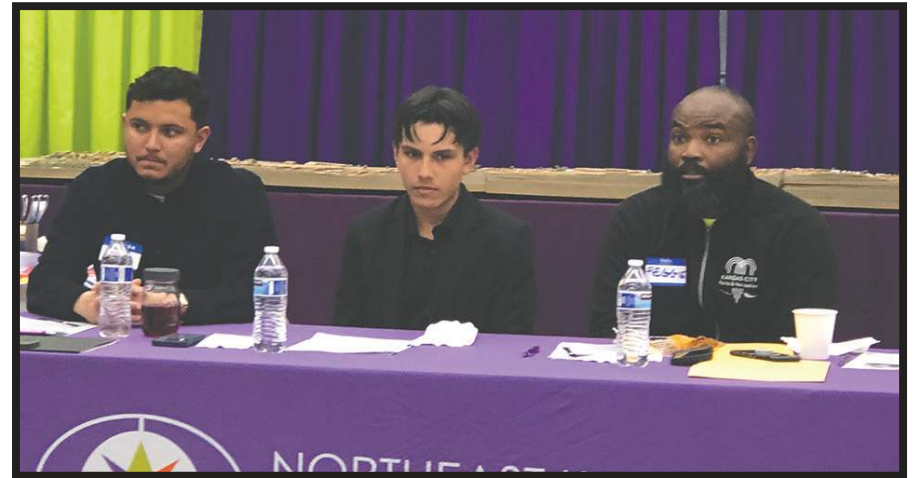
“We have parents saying ‘I don’t know what you’re telling my kid but they’re now eating more fruits and paying attention to how much water and sleep they get,’ we are getting positive feedback from parents,” Solorio said.

Violence Prevention Program

human beings that they are, the more we can build an outstanding community long term.”

Behavioral Interventionist Jessica Jimenez began working with Northeast Middle students in December and said her focus is to make sure students feel safe as they discuss issues that are affecting their lives, in and outside of school.

“Every day there’s a situation, and it’s new every day,” said



The luncheon panel on Feb. 24 included (left to right) Hector Solorio, Diego Barrera and Reggie Francois.

Photos by Dorri Partain

Northeast’s neighbors, KC Current women’s soccer league at CPKC Stadium, are also hoping to contribute to the activities and entertainment available during the month-long tournament.

“We are working on

watch parties at CPKC,” Executive Director of Community Relations DePrice Taylor said. Other programming with KC Parks and Rec is also in the planning process, with details being released later.

As the luncheon came

to an end, organizations agreed on a key takeaway, that this summer, Northeast’s hidden secret, their youth and high quality soccer programs, will shine in the spotlight for Kansas City and beyond.

Continued from Page 6

Jimenez about her work with students.

“I’m excited,” said Northeast Middle principal Dr. Allenda Wilson about the program. “We need the extra staff to reach more students, it creates a different scene for students, when they build relationships outside classrooms. I think it’s going to be wonderful.”

According to its website, the Bureau of Justice Administration

(BJA) helps America’s state, local, and tribal jurisdictions reduce and prevent crime, lower recidivism, and promote a fair and safe criminal justice system. BJA provides a wide range of resources—including grants, funding, and training and technical assistance—to law enforcement, courts and corrections agencies, treatment providers, reentry practitioners, justice information sharing professionals,

and community-based partners to address chronic and emerging criminal justice challenges nationwide.

MRC staff are overseeing the STOP School Violence program and ensuring program compliance. In addition to its school-based services, MRC offers a wide range of activities for families, youth and communities. Visit www.mattierhodes.org for more information.

Housing Committee Targets Vacancy and Neglect in Northeast Kansas City

Ryan Millan-Pulley
Editorial Intern

Between Jackson Avenue and Chouteau Trafficway lies Kansas City's Indian Mound neighborhood, where residents are taking housing concerns into their own hands.

The Indian Mound Housing Committee, formed through a partnership between Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) and Legal Aid of Western Missouri, is working to stabilize housing, promote equitable development, and address long-neglected properties.

Indian Mound is just one of several neighborhoods with housing committees in the Northeast. According to Amanda Wilson, senior program officer at LISC and Indian Mound resident, the committees originated from an offhand comment by Brandon Mason, a former attorney at Legal Aid. During a housing coalition meeting, Mason suggested creating neighborhood-level housing committees that focus on abandoned and investor-owned properties.

Months later, when LISC was applying for

a grant, Wilson included the idea. "So then we got some money from Health Forward Foundation a couple years ago to start neighborhood housing committees with the neighborhoods that Legal Aid already works with," Wilson said. LISC also acquired funding from the Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation.

Most of the initial funding went to Legal Aid's paralegals and staff attorneys to support background training and information used by the housing committees. The remaining money went to LISC and the neighborhood associations.

The Indian Mound Housing Committee is led by Chairman Michael Adams. Since joining the Indian Mound Neighborhood Association in August 2024, Adams has taken on dual roles as Housing Committee chairman and Association treasurer. He also serves as treasurer for Friends of Sacred Structures, an organization dedicated to restoring historic religious buildings. "I'm particularly invested in the stability and development of our neighborhood after purchasing a house here,"

Adams said. "We want to ensure that Indian Mound remains an accessible and well-maintained community for both long-term residents and new homeowners."

The Indian Mound Housing Committee has been very active in rehabilitating neglected properties. They've made partnerships with local organizations like Jerusalem Farm, who are currently working on 342 N. White Ave.

The property at 534 Denver Ave. has also undergone significant change. While its case was opened before the committee was created, it was rehabilitated using the same methods as recent projects, and in collaboration with the same organizations, such as Legal Aid of Western Missouri. "I think it's a good success story," said Sarah Kaldenburg, an active committee member.

The committee's most recent project is at 440 N. Wheeling, where they've been working with Gunnar Hand, Executive Director of KC Land Bank, to ensure it'll be restored responsibly and kept away from potentially predatory investors.

To start these proj-



342 N. White Avenue before (left) and during (right) rehabilitation.

**"Before" photo courtesy of Google Street View.
Current photo by Ryan Millan-Pulley**



534 Denver Avenue before (left) and after (right) rehabilitation.

**"Before" photo courtesy of Google Street View.
Current photo by Ryan Millan-Pulley**

ects, housing committees file lawsuits through Kansas City's Abandoned Housing Act. To fall under this act, a property must be abandoned for six months, owe taxes, and have city code violations.

"We want to focus

on the houses that have been literally forgotten. Owned and then abandoned for some reason or another. Houses that are vacant, falling apart, at risk of fires or squatters," Kaldenburg said.

If residents are interested, they can contact

local neighborhood associations through their respective websites.

Indian Mound:
<https://imnkc.org/contact-us/>

Lykins:
<https://www.lykinsneighborhood.com/contact-us-2>

Community Comes Together at PH Coffee Neighborhood Nights



Photo submitted by Eric Rosell

Bryan Stalder Contributor

PH Coffee Neighborhood Nights are a simple but powerful idea: create a regular, welcoming space where neighbors can show up, share what they care about, and connect around ideas, needs, and projects that make our community stronger. Hosted at PH Coffee, these evenings bring together people from different neighborhoods, backgrounds, and stages of life—many of whom might otherwise never cross paths.

The vibe is casual and open. Folks grab a drink, sit together, and take turns sharing what's going on in their lives or what they'd like to see happen in the community. Some people come with a clear idea they want to build. Others just come to listen and meet their

neighbors. Both can feel equally welcome.

This particular Neighborhood Night was emceed by Hepsibah [last name] from Indian Mound, who helped guide the conversation and encouraged neighbors with ideas for new groups or clubs to speak up and find others who might want to help get things started. The emphasis was on initiative: if you're feeling the need for something in the neighborhood, chances are you're not the only one.

I shared a bit about Northeast News and how neighbors can contribute news, stories, artwork, and creative projects to the paper. The goal is for the newspaper to reflect the voices and experiences of the people who actually live here, not just outside perspectives.

Several neighbors stood up to share what

they're hoping to build:

A young woman named Vega invited folks to spread the word about a teen club that meets every other Wednesday evening at PH Coffee, creating a safe, social space for young people to connect.

Jean Boucher, who recently moved to Kansas City and now lives at Jerusalem Farm, talked about how excited he's been to use free bus transit—and how worried he is about losing that access. He asked neighbors for ideas on how to advocate for keeping transit affordable and accessible.

Corey Crawford-Hine shared that he recently left his day job to develop a Dungeons & Dragons gaming app and is interested in starting a tabletop gaming group for people who want to play, learn, and meet like-minded neighbors.

Janelle Crawford-Hein spoke about how challenging it has been to find childcare for their two young children and floated the idea of starting a neighborhood babysitting co-op for families facing similar struggles.

Hannah Ramsey with PH Coffee let neigh-

bors know about a local school library that is discarding thousands of books. If people are interested in specific titles or genres, PH Coffee is hoping to help connect those books with the community.

Beyond these announcements, what stood out to me most was how much simple human connection happened in the room. I met a young woman who had just moved to the Scarritt neighborhood in January, and I also met a man around my age who has lived in Indian Mound for fifteen years—some-

one I'd never crossed paths with before that night, even though we'd been living near each other for years.

That's what PH Coffee Neighborhood Nights do best: they quietly shrink the distance between neighbors. You walk in as a stranger, and you leave having learned a few names, a few stories, and a few ways you might be able to support one another. It's not flashy. It's just people showing up—and that's kind of the point.

Next Page: Kansas City On My Mind is the seventh 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. This story, particularly the part about Ambassador Nomura, is based on a true story Nadine told us when she was still with us. A day that history quite literally walked past her in a Washington airport. For a deeper dive, visit betsycochran.substack.com, where you can subscribe for free or choose a paid plan for extended content.

Kansas City On My Mind

Historical fiction written by Betsy Cochran

July 2, 1942
Washington D.C.

In July of 1942, I was living and working in Washington, D.C., as a teletypist at TWA.

Shifts stretched twelve hours or more, rotating day into night. The teletype room was a storm of clattering keys and bells, paper spooling across the floor. The machines gave off a steady metallic heat, and the air carried a smoky tang that clung stubbornly to my hair and clothes.

I was fast at my keys, proud to be moving the nation's business. My fingers clacked until they ached. The war was no longer distant. It was everywhere — in the newsboys' shouts, in the conversations on streetcars, in the telegrams that made women go still in their kitchens.

Once, only hours after the Pearl Harbor attack, I stepped out for a quick break in the concourse. I lit a cigarette and leaned against a column, watching passengers shuffle past in the gray light of afternoon, my hands still buzzing with the machine's memory.

Suddenly the rhythm shifted. A line of Army MPs strode in, boots striking sharp against the tile. Between them walked a party of men in dark suits and fedoras, faces grave and unreadable. I recognized one instantly from *The Post*: Ambassador Nomura. Another, shorter man beside him was Kurusu, the envoy who had arrived weeks earlier speaking of peace, even as warplanes headed for Hawaii.

The concourse froze. Baggage boys stopped mid-stride. A stewardess held her sandwich halfway to her mouth. Even the janitor's mop hung suspended. The soldiers marched the diplomats past as if through a tunnel of silence.

They vanished down the jetway to a waiting transport. The spell broke. The stewardess swallowed; the janitor's mop slapped back onto the tiles. I stubbed out my cigarette, smoothed my skirt, and returned to the teletype room.

The world resumed its course.

I lived in a boardinghouse for women. Our room was packed with too many bodies, too much laundry, too many narrow beds and battered suitcases that passed for dressers.

We were "Government Girls" now, or so the posters claimed. In reality, we were displaced young women jammed into a sweltering room in Washington, bound more by circumstance than ambition.

There was a war on, and the whole country seemed determined to prove it. Housewives saved bacon grease in tin cans for munitions plants. Children marched proudly to scrap drives with bundles of newspapers. Factories shifted from dresses to uniforms.

In Washington, evidence of the war was everywhere: posters at streetcar stops reading *Is This Trip Necessary?* and *A Pound of Fat = A Pound of Explosives*. Newsboys hawked bulletins on every corner.

Servicemen were everywhere, too. They crowded ticket lines at Union Station and filled pews on Sundays. On warm nights they lingered outside our boardinghouse, calling up a cheerful, "Hello, ladies!" as if we were a chorus line instead of working girls mending stockings at the kitchen table.

It was nearly the Fourth of July, though you wouldn't have known it in Washington. There would be no fireworks, no parades, no music on the Mall that summer. The city would stay dark, its streets patrolled for light leaks during blackout drills.

During those blackouts, the city seemed to hold its breath. Streetcars stilled. The great dome of the Capitol went dark. Even the summer insects seemed to hush, as if they understood this was rehearsal for something larger.

By daylight, the streetcars were always packed — soldiers, clerks, mothers with children — everyone pressed shoulder to shoulder, the air thick with smoke and damp wool. By the time I reached my stop and walked the last stretch to the boardinghouse, there was little left of me. Most nights I collapsed into bed without even laying out clothes for the morning.

The war was consuming all of us whole. I was honored to do my part.

But one thing had become increasingly clear. I had to get back to Kansas City.



*Nadine, sometime in the 1940s.
Exact date and location is unknown.*



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1932 FUN FACT: The 19th annual Nor'easter yearbook for Northeast High School (415 Van Brunt Blvd.) noted within its pages the passing of composer and bandleader John Philip Sousa (b. 1854) on March 6, 1932. The entry included an account from Nov. 16, 1927, when Sousa visited the school and directed the student bands in three songs; El Capitan, Heads Up, and Man of the Hour. Sousa was in Kansas City in 1927 to perform at Loew's Midland Theater, which opened earlier that year. *Image created with Adobe Firefly*



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