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# THE NORTHEAST NEWS



## YOUR NORTHEAST NEWS TEAM

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- All rights reserved. 816-241-0765
- northeastnewskc@gmail.com
- 2659 Independence Blvd
- Kansas City, MO 64124

-  /NortheastNewsKC
-  @NortheastNewsKC
-  @NortheastNewsKC
-  @NortheastNewsKC

Managing Editor  
**DORRI PARTAIN**

Education Reporter  
**DAISY GARCIA-MONTOYA**

Circulation Manager  
**RAYNA OLDHAM**

Createive Director  
**BRYAN STALDER**

Editorial Intern  
**RYAN MILLAN-PULLEY**

Cover Illustration  
**MARTI DODGE**

Northeast News Mascot  
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**Dear Northeast News readers;**

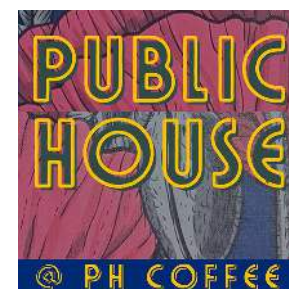
**The coffee steams on morning porches,  
As neighbors walk the familiar street,  
While we capture every story—  
The bitter news, the bittersweet.  
From the council hall to the high school field,  
We're the mirror of all you do,  
A paper built on the local soil,  
Written for, and by, you.**

**But the ink requires a helping hand,  
To keep these pages bright and clear,  
We don't rely on distant boards,  
But the people who live right here.  
We're a labor of love and community trust,  
A voice that refuses to fade,  
But we grow through the kindness of our friends,  
And the small foundations they've laid.**

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A DONATION TO  
NORTHEAST NEWS**



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



**Haiku by Sam Crowley**

Haiku poetry  
So wonderful and magic  
Short but oh so sweet

**Poem by Kiki Swift**

It's finally time and spring arrives  
The trees burst forth in blooms.  
Robins hop across green lawns  
And birds sing happy tunes.

The sun is out  
The weather warm  
But then old winter reaches out  
For one last icy taste.

How could it drop so very fast  
From eighty down to ten?  
With hail and rain and cloudy skies -  
I want spring back again!

### Want to go to Planet Comicon? Show us your inner nerd!

We're giving away six pairs of tickets to Planet Comicon to our readers with the most creative entries.

Here's how to enter:

1. Option 1 (The Scribe): Write a short poem (20 lines or less) about your favorite comic book, sci-fi, or fantasy character or universe.

2. Option 2 (The Artist): Draw a picture of your favorite character or a scene from a beloved nerd culture universe.

How to enter: Send poems or artwork to [northeastbuzz@gmail.com](mailto:northeastbuzz@gmail.com), or reply to our contest announcement on Facebook, which was posted Monday, March 16, with your poem or artwork. The deadline to enter is Tuesday, March 24 at 11:59 p.m.

We will select six winners and post the winning creations on Thursday, March 26.

Good luck, Northeast! We can't wait to see your creativity!



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**Wednesday, March 18-** Community Updates and Listening Session, 6 p.m., Northeast Chamber of Commerce, 2657 Independence Blvd. This session will focus on community concerns as the Kansas City Psychiatric Hospital at Belvidere Park (Independence & The Paseo) readies to begin construction. Representatives from University Health, Missouri Department of Mental Health and Missouri Office of Administration will provide information and answer questions.

**Wednesday, March 18-** One of the Good Ones, 2 p.m., North-East Branch Library, 6000 Wilson Ave. Kansas City Repertory Theater presents a performance of this comedy that focuses on the ups and downs of family dynamics. For ages 13+, free performance provided through the KC Rep for All initiative.

**Wednesday, March 18-** 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.

**Wednesday, March 18-** KCPS School Board "On the Road", 6:30 p.m., Northeast High School Gymnasium, 415 van Brunt Blvd. The Kansas City Public School Board will hold its March meeting at Northeast High School. Alumni, students and community members are invited to attend.

**Wednesday, March 18-** Community Updates and Listening Session, 6 p.m., Northeast Chamber of Commerce, 2657 Independence Blvd. This session will focus on community concerns as the Kansas City Psychiatric Hospital at Belvidere Park (Independence & The Paseo) readies to begin construction. Representatives from University Health, Missouri Department of Mental Health and Missouri Office of Administration will provide information and answer questions.

**Wednesday, March 18 & Thursday, March 19-** Feast of St. Joseph, various times, Holy Rosary (911 E. Missouri) Holy Cross (5106 St. John Ave.) St. Anthony (300 Benton Blvd.) This celebration of the Feast Day of St. Joseph includes Table blessing and viewing, mass services, Pasta Milanese dinner and cookie sales. Check [www.northeastnews.net](http://www.northeastnews.net) for a complete listing.

**Thursday, March 19-** 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 20-** 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 20-** 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 21-** Noche de juegos (Game Night), 1 to 3 p.m., North-East Branch Library, 6000 Wilson Ave. Stop by the library for an afternoon of fun, bring your friends or come make new ones. For adults, free.

**Tuesday, March 24-** Gran Noche de Loteria, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., North-East Branch Library, 6000 Wilson Ave. Come play this traditional Mexican matching game for fun and prizes, fun for the whole family. Free.

# Remembering Joe Pace — A Kansas City Legend and Creator of Dreams

Bryan Stalder  
Contributor

Kansas City has lost one of its most cherished creative spirits. Joe Pace, beloved custom car builder, maker of iconic movie replica cars, and longtime fixture of Northeast, passed away on Sunday, March 1 — leaving behind a legacy celebrated by friends, fans, and car lovers across the country.

Joe was more than a builder — he was a storyteller who brought imagination to life through metal, paint, and sheer determination. From his body shop on the corner of Independence Ave-



Joe Pace poses with an actor dressed as “Doc” Brown next to a replica of the DeLorean Time Machine that Joe Pace built.

Photo submitted by Joe Pace

and Monroe, Joe built some of the most memorable replicas of beloved Hollywood vehicles, including the Back to the Future DeLorean Time Machine

and the Ghostbusters Ecto-1. These rolling works of art didn’t just look the part — they captured the wonder of the movies themselves and sparked joy in generations of fans.

His lifelong passion for cars began in childhood, nurtured by family and community. As a young man he learned the trade early, eventually opening Pace’s Body Shop on Independence Avenue in 1978 — a local hub where craftsmanship met creativity. It was here that Joe began transforming everyday vehicles into unforgettable icons of pop culture. Through countless hours of labor,

creativity, and heart, he became known not just for what he built, but for how he made people feel.

Those “movie cars” weren’t just projects — they were beloved neighborhood fixtures. For years, families visiting Scare-It Halloween and other city events would line up to see Joe’s creations, talk with him, and share in the fun that came with his work. His cars toured shows, conventions, and even landed on permanent display at the Celebrity Car Museum in Branson, Missouri — testaments to his talent and the impact his work had beyond Kansas City.



Joe Pace stopped by the Northeast News office in 2021 to pick up some copies of our newspaper featuring a story about him.

Photo by Bryan Stalder

Friends and fellow builders remember Joe not just as an exceptional craftsman, but as a warm, generous, unmistakable presence in the car community. Tributes flooding in on social media describe him as a mentor, a friend, and an inspiration to anyone who ever dreamed of turning passion into something real and shared.

Earlier memories — including a visit to the Northeast News offices in 2022 when we revisited his story — capture Joe’s boundless enthusiasm and humility. Even as he faced health challenges in recent years, his love for connection and creativity never wavered.

Joe Pace built cars that took people back in time, but more im-

portantly, he touched lives in the present — sparking curiosity, smiles, and memory after memory. His spirit will live on in every engine rev, every gleaming hood, and every child wide-eyed at the sight of something extraordinary on wheels.

He will be deeply missed, and fondly remembered by all who knew him and admired his work.

A Celebration of Life for Pace will be held on Saturday, March 28 from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. at the Boulevard Drive-In Theater, 1051 Merriam Lane, in Kansas City, KS. Attendees are encouraged to bring their hot rods, motorcycles, and custom cars to celebrate... exactly the way Pace would have wanted to be remembered.

**PACE'S BODY SHOP**  
Auto Body Work & Painting  
3533 Indep. Ave.  
483-1235

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NOT just puttied up; we replace it with NEW METAL. Nothing too small! Better than new!  
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**REPAIRED TO LAST... QUALITY YOU CAN TRUST!**  
The Pace Family has been serving Northeast since 1945.

# Columbus Park Eatery's Soft Opening Draws Crowds, Warm Welcome

**Bryan Stalder**  
Contributor

A new neighborhood restaurant is already finding its footing in Kansas City's historic Northeast.

After months of anticipation, Dear Donna, 549 Gillis St, held its soft opening weekend in Columbus Park between Thursday, March 5 and Sunday, March 8., and the response from the community was immediate: a full dining room, a steady line out the door, and a sense that the neighborhood's newest gathering place had already begun to feel like home. Helen Jo and Johnny Leach have partnered with Sony Bojanic to bring Dear Donna to the Columbus Park community.

"The neighborhood filled up our dining room," Bojanic said. "It was bustling, jovial and emotional to see people gathered and having a good time."

Opening weekend brought out a wide mix of neighbors, including longtime regulars from Happy Gillis, the popular restaurant which previously occupied the space. Many of those customers stopped in

to see what this new restaurant offered.

Community support was clear from the start. The owners said it was especially meaningful to be welcomed by longtime neighborhood figure Jo Marie — often affectionately referred to as the "mayor" of Columbus Park — whose family once ran Chee-Bay's, a beloved soda fountain and grocer that operated in the building many decades ago.

"It means a lot to be welcomed," Leach said.

One moment from the soft opening that will likely be remembered for years? The City health inspector, arriving just ten minutes after the doors opened — right as a large crowd formed outside.

"All went well across both fronts," Bojanic told us.

Though the kitchen is intentionally small, the early menu is already drawing enthusiastic reactions. Among the most popular items so far are their egg sandwiches and the fried chicken Dutch baby served with hot buttered maple syrup. Leach is also encouraging guests

not to overlook some of the quieter stars of the menu.

"We put a lot of love into our salads," she told us, adding that desserts are another highlight.

Dear Donna plans to keep its menu focused, due to the limited kitchen space, but expects seasonal evolution. A rotating vegetarian soup option will also keep things fresh for returning diners.

While the restaurant won't feature a full bar, the beverage program is designed to complement the food. Guests can expect a curated list that includes wine by the glass, a small beer selection, mimosas and Bloody Marys. One standout will be the restaurant's Bloody Mary, made with house-made giardiniera as a nod to the area's historic Italian community. Coffee was also carefully considered. Dear Donna partnered with Broadway Roasting Company to develop an exclusive house blend.

"We are as intentional about our drinks menu as our food," Leach said.

Dear Donna's connection to the com-

munity runs deeper than its location. The owners live nearby in Pendleton Heights, just a short distance away. That proximity helped shape everything from the restaurant's service style to its interior design.

"Keeping it friendly and human," they said, was a guiding principle.

The restaurant has already hired some immediate neighbors, and the team hopes to build a workplace where staff members stay long-term.

"We want to be someone's work home for a long time," they said.

The owners say their biggest goal is for Dear Donna to become a natural gathering place for residents across Northeast and Columbus Park neighborhoods.

"We want to feel like a neighbor to our direct geographic neighbors and the rest of the city," they said.

Even during the soft opening, they noticed something encouraging: people returning multiple days in a row. Opening week also reinforced something they already suspected about the Northeast community.



Crowds filled the dining room at Dear Donna early Saturday morning on March 14. Photos by Bryan Stalder



A bouquet of flowers adorns the window sill facing Pacific St.

"These are neighborhood ritual." More than anything, they want guests to feel comfortable lingering over coffee, meals and conversation.

The long-term vision for Dear Donna is simple but meaningful. If everything goes according to plan, a year from now the owners hope the restaurant will be "a beloved neighbor-

"This is a place that feels like home," they said. "And a place where people want to spend their time."

# “Starting a tradition” — Scuola Vita Nuova Girls Basketball Team Makes School History in First-Ever Season

**Bryan Stalder  
Contributor**

For the first time in its history, students at Scuola Vita Nuova Charter School had a team to cheer for this winter.

The school’s newly-formed girls basketball team recently wrapped up its inaugural season—marking the first athletic program ever launched at the Northeast Kansas City charter school. While the team spent much of the season learning the fundamentals of the game, players, coaches, and school leaders say the impact went far beyond the scoreboard.

Coach Nacho Garrido said building the program from scratch meant starting at square one.

“None of them had prior basketball experience, and none had ever been part of a sports team,” Garrido said. “From explaining the rules of the game and the layout of the court to teaching fundamental skills, everything was new. The greatest reward has been seeing their improvement week after week.”

Without previous teams to model themselves after, Garrido said the players created their own culture—one built around encour-



SVN girls compete in their first ever basketball season.

**Photo submitted by Scuola Vita Nuova**

agement and teamwork.

“The team truly became like a second family,” he said. “They embraced each other and encouraged each other to get better.”

School leaders say the new program has

also transformed the atmosphere at the school. Principal Jessica DiGiovanni said games quickly became community events, with families, teachers and classmates filling the stands.

“The school spirit has been amazing,” DiGiovanni said. “From handmade posters to chants and cheers, the SVN Warrior pride at each game was unmatched.”

For the players themselves, the season carried special meaning. As eighth grader Maria Sandoval Gomez noted, the team will always hold a unique place in school history.

“It feels really special to know that we were the first basketball team in SVN history,” Gomez said. “Our names

will always be remembered as the ones who started it.”

Fellow eighth grader Lesslie Alcaraz said the team’s biggest improvement came in how they learned to work together.

“Looking back at our first practice, I see the most improvement in the way we worked together to learn new things and help each other out,” Alcaraz said.

Players say the season taught them lessons in confidence, discipline and perseverance. Even during difficult games, the team focused on supporting one another.

“One moment I felt really proud was when we supported each other during a tough game,” Gomez said. “Even when the score

wasn’t in our favor, everyone kept encouraging each other.”

School leaders say the success of the first season has already sparked plans for the future. DiGiovanni said launching athletics has been a goal for years, and the response from students and families has reinforced the value of expanding opportunities.

“The success of our first basketball season has given us the confidence to keep building,” she said.

For the players who started it all, the message to future teams is simple.

“Work hard, support each other, and have fun,” Gomez said. “Being part of the first team means starting a tradition.”



SVN girls basketball team.

**Photo submitted by Scuola Vita Nuova**

# Key Provisions for Your LLC Operating Agreement

**Dr. Adrienne B. Haynes, Esq., Contributor**

When you start a limited liability company, most states will require the preparation of an operating agreement. An operating agreement is an internal document that outlines the legalities around business ownership, including equity divisions, management, decision making, and exit provisions. Missouri requires that limited liability companies create an operating agreement to address “the conduct of the business and affairs of the limited liability company, its rights and powers, and the rights, powers and duties of its members, managers, agents or employees.” (RSMo §347.081)

In the operating agreement, the provisions should respond to your state’s corporate laws and ensure that key information is not only documented in your mental hard drive as a founder or leadership team. Some of these key decisions include:

**• Who owns the business?**

**• What is the business purpose and primary activity?**

**• How are decisions made as a leader or leadership team?**

**• How and when can owners take money out of the business?**

**• How are new owners brought in?**

**• How can owners transition out? What happens if there needs to be a vote out or removal of a partner?**

**• What happens to one’s ownership stake in the case of disability, divorce, or death?**

**• Who is the appointed “winding up person”?**

**• How will tax obligations be managed?**

Whether the business is owned by one person or several, taking the time to develop an operating agreement gives the founders time to consider important business decisions and details, and to put them in writing. This process minimizes the

guess work in conflict, making it easier to make, grow, and have trust in the relationship. This is also why it’s important to work with legal counsel to ensure your wishes are properly reflected. Many early entrepreneurs find operating agreements online, only to find that their key document is written for another state’s laws, allows business conduct they would prefer to prohibit, or is silent about important legal rights or obligations. Without a customized document, in the case of triggering events, the law may dictate how your final business decisions are made through statutory defaults.

An operating agreement is a guiding document for major decisions between business owners and includes business owner preferences when they may be unable to communicate their final wishes. When you start a business, it’s also the right time to consider succession and exit planning scenarios and appropriate documentation.

Once you get your

operating agreement prepared, please sign it! You’d be surprised how many businesses pay for good legal counsel, only to leave the long-negotiated agreement without the necessary signatures. Not SEED Law clients, of course. Lastly, even when you have all of your “i’s dotted and t’s crossed”, it’s important to have all of your business agreements reviewed every 2–3 years to ensure that they are still consistent with the law and with the way you want to do business.

The next SEED Law workshop, Contracts in Your Business, will be hosted on Wednesday, April 8th from 12-1 pm on Zoom. A business is only as strong as its relationships, and those relationship details should be documented in writing. This session will provide owners with a legal perspective on how to plan, review and prepare the key documents for your business, including governing documents, vendor agreements, team contracts and more. Looking ahead, the next workshop,

Recruiting and Hiring Considerations, will take place on Wednesday, May 6th from 12-1 pm on Zoom. To register for free and see the full list of virtual and in person events, please visit <https://showmehere.org/calendar/>

This article is an overview of formation decisions, including governing documentation and key terms, and does not cover every legal right or obligation, consideration, exception, or restriction. These documentations and decisions are complex and should be well researched and discussed with a legal professional 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*



*Dr. Adrienne B. Haynes, Esq.*

*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](mailto:adrienne@seed.legal).*



# EXPLORE • DISCOVER

*More than just coffee on Independence Avenue*



## Coffee With a Mission: Eleos Coffee House 3401 Independence Ave

The nonprofit coffee house roasts and serves specialty drinks, pastries, breakfast and lunch items, while also offering a welcoming gathering space in the Historic Northeast.

For more than a decade, Eleos Coffee House has been quietly serving more than just coffee along Independence Avenue. Founded as part of Eleos Ministries, the café was created with a simple goal: bring people together over great coffee while serving the surrounding community.

But what makes Eleos distinctive isn't only what's on the menu—it's the mission behind it. The café intentionally located itself in the neighborhood to build relationships and provide opportunities for service and outreach. Over the years, it has become a familiar stop for neighbors grabbing a morning latte, meeting friends for lunch, or simply enjoying a quiet place to sit.



## A Neighborhood Gathering Spot: Core Coffee & Eatery 546 Olive St

Owners Eric and Deana Bellamaganya took over the space after the closure of Splitlog Coffee, continuing the tradition of neighborhood hospitality by putting their own stamp on the café. Today, Core has become a cozy gathering spot for residents looking for good coffee and a relaxed place to connect.

Tucked just off Independence Avenue in the Pendleton Heights neighborhood, Core Coffee & Eatery has built its reputation as a welcoming place where strangers quickly become friends.

The menu goes beyond espresso drinks. Customers can find hearty breakfast items and light lunch options, including favorites like avocado toast and vegan tacos. The café also offers pastries and sandwiches alongside its coffee and tea selections.



# ER • EXPERIENCE



## Independence Avenue

Inside, the atmosphere reflects that purpose: warm, friendly, and community-oriented. Regulars know the shop as a place where conversations are easy to strike up and where the baristas often know customers by name.

With a decade of service behind it, Eleos remains a staple along Independence Avenue—proof that a neighborhood coffee shop can be both a café and a community hub.

And there's more on the horizon. The owners say they are working to expand their offerings with a new brunch menu in the near future. They also hope to obtain a liquor permit that would allow them to pair brunch dishes with classic breakfast cocktails.

With its welcoming vibe and evolving menu, Core Coffee continues to build on its roots—serving as both a café and a neighborhood meeting place in the heart of the Northeast.



### FOUR CORNERS COMMUNITY CALL



Last week's Independence Avenue Community Improvement District 4-Corners Community Call was at Huda Food located at 3239 Independence Ave

**JOIN US THIS FRIDAY AT 3PM FOR OUR 4 CORNERS COMMUNITY CALL**

**Premium Wireless  
2321 Independence Ave**



### Eleos Coffee House Latte

### Core Coffee & Eatery Vegan Tacos



# Real Estate Outlook: What Current Trends Mean for Northeast

**Gary Goebel,**  
Certified Property  
Manager

If you want to understand the real estate market in Kansas City, you do not have to look far. A walk down almost any block in the Historic Northeast tells the story. Our neighborhoods are still filled with early 20th-century single-family homes built for working families. At a time when housing costs across the metro continue to climb, that makes the Historic Northeast one of the few places where homeownership remains within reach for many buyers.

Recent housing data shows the median home price in 64123 is roughly \$150,000, while the median in 64124 is about \$180,000. Those numbers reflect the neighborhood's historic

housing stock and also explain why the area continues to attract both first-time buyers and investors looking for long-term opportunities.

For much of the past decade, there has been a persistent shortage of affordable single-family homes across the country, and that trend does not appear likely to change soon.

Construction costs remain high, and most new homes being built in the metro area are priced well above what many working families can afford. As a result, older neighborhoods like Northeast continue to play an important role in the regional housing market.

Of course, affordability is not just about the purchase price of a home. Monthly costs—utilities, insurance, tax-

es and maintenance—can make just as much difference.

Many homes in the Historic Northeast are more than 100 years old. While that gives the neighborhood much of its character, it can also mean higher heating and cooling costs. When energy prices rise, the impact is often felt quickly by households already managing tight budgets.

That fact is one reason it is important for communities to pay attention to infrastructure and energy issues. One emerging topic nationally is the rapid growth of large data centers used by the artificial intelligence industry. These facilities require enormous amounts of electricity and water to operate. While the technology sector can

bring economic growth, communities will need to carefully consider how these projects affect long-term utility costs and infrastructure demand.

Kansas City's central location has long made it a hub for transportation and distribution, and warehouses remain a major driver of the regional economy.

Companies such as Amazon, UPS, and FedEx rely on transportation networks that move through the Midwest. When fuel prices rise, those industries sometimes slow expansion or adjust operations, which can influence demand for warehouse space and industrial real estate.

Congress is currently considering housing legislation aimed at addressing supply and affordability, largely

through incentives for additional residential development. Whether those policies will significantly affect housing supply remains to be seen.

For individuals interested in real estate investment but not ready to purchase property directly, another option sometimes discussed by financial advisors is a Real Estate Investment Trust, or REIT. These allow investors to purchase shares in portfolios of real estate assets, often with relatively small initial investments.

Meanwhile, many experienced investors who already own industrial, retail or mixed-use properties may simply choose to hold those properties as long as their markets remain stable.



**GARY GOEBEL**

Real estate is shaped by many factors—housing supply, wages, interest rates, transportation costs and even global events that affect energy markets.

For residents of Northeast, one point remains clear: the Historic Northeast continues to play an important role in providing attainable homeownership within the Kansas City metro. Protecting that opportunity while encouraging reinvestment in the neighborhood's historic housing stock will remain an important issue in the years ahead.

## The Inconvenience of Connected Convenience

**Dorri Partain**  
Managing Editor

We've all done it at one time or another—rushed out the door and left our cellphone behind, leaving us unconnected and inconvenienced. No way to call or text, let alone entertain ourselves by taking photos or watching videos. In that one

moment, when you realize you're phoneless, you panic—that convenience of always being able to communicate is momentarily gone and your thoughts immediately ask, "Now what do I do?"

In my latest instance of this scenario, it was important for me to

be able to call home as soon as I arrived at my destination—but I couldn't. Decades ago, this wouldn't have been a problem. I wouldn't be dependent on a cellphone, making sure the battery was charged or if I had service bars. I would simply find a public payphone and

make a call—there's a whole generation of us that remember a life sans cellphones.

With the popularity of cellphones and the increasing amount of features and conveniences they provide, the pay telephone has virtually become obsolete. With the cost to maintain a

device that increasingly saw little use by the public, phone booths were removed or at least stripped of their equipment, leaving behind odd relics to the days of yore.

In the early days of telephony, phones were devised for home or business usage. But just

as today, travelers found that having a telephone accessible to make a call would be a highly convenient option. Inventor William Gray devised and patented the first pay telephone in 1889. His Coin Controlled Apparatus for Telephones

**Continued on  
page 12**

# RevEd Program Brings Civic Knowledge to Northeast Participants



Left to right: Reid Day, Pat Contreras, Crispin Rea, Manny Albarca, Rebeca Amezcua-Hogan, Tricia McGhee  
Photo by Daisy Garcia Montoya

**Daisy Garcia Montoya**  
Education Reporter

When people think about civic engagement, more often than not, voting is the first set of actions that may come to mind. Defining and exploring all the ins and outs of civic engagement is exactly what local organization *Revolucion Educativa* (RevEd) sought to do and as a result created a new series on local civic power. This series aims for participants to have an opportunity to learn about how local government works and speak with elected officials.

For its first event in the series: *Local Civic Power 101*, attendees arrived at RevEd (2301 Lexington Avenue) on March 6th, to hear an overview of different local government op-

erations from featured panelists.

“When you don’t know the system, the system forgets about you. We expect people to take action, to run for something, to take leadership, but really, we don’t teach ourselves how the system works, so that’s why we are here tonight,” said Ivan Ramirez, Director of Digital Experiences at RevEd.

“Tonight, we’ll learn about what it takes to be in city government, in the county legislature, and also in the school board and I am excited to get started, to give a voice to those who are in leadership now and hopefully you, by listening, will be inspired to be involved or hopefully learn on how you can grow in the future.”

This event was struc-

tured as an interactive learning experience led by Deanna Munoz, in a Q&A style for panelists and followed by small group discussions. Panelists featured elected officials, local government staff, board members, and individuals with previous or current campaign experience.

Featured panelists included:

- **Reid Day: Chief of Staff for Mayor Quinton Lucas**
- **Manny Albarca: Jackson County Legislature Chairman**
- **Rebeca Amezcua-Hogan: Candidate for City Council (4th In-District)**
- **Crispin Rea: Councilman (4th District-at-Large)**
- **Davin Gordon: Small Business Task Force Appointee**
- **Tricia McGhee: Kansas City Public Schools, School Board member**

(Sub-district 3)

• **Pat Contreras: Former U.S. Diplomat**  
Mayor Lucas’s Chief of Staff Reid Day opened the discussion by explaining the mayor-council-manager form of government, detailed the roles of the mayor, council members and the city manager’s office.

In Kansas City, Missouri, the mayor and council members set the policy while the city manager handles administrative tasks and oversees the department’s day-to-day operations such as street plowing and trash pick up. On the other hand, the council focuses on setting policy, negotiating deals, and authorizing resources. City Council meetings also include committee discussions and legislative

sessions where ordinances and resolutions are considered and voted on.

When asked how an individual can influence a city-level decision, Day said that engaging with the city via email, attending community meetings, or even providing a public testimony can make a difference.

“You can email, call, text, or show up at City Hall. You can give a public testimony and share your view and opinion,” Day said. “It is about being accessible so that you can come and talk, request a meeting and share your views.”

After a basic overview of city government was established, panelists focused on campaigns, elections, and leadership. Councilman Crispin Rea (4th Dis-

trict-at-Large), candidate for Kansas City’s 4th District-at-Large Council seat Rebeca Amezcua-Hogan, and former U.S. diplomat Pat Contreras talked about their experiences on running a campaign, what led them to take that leap, and the challenges behind it.

“Showing up is the first step, and all of you being here, I want to thank you for showing up. For me, it’s always about making sure that communities like mine where I grew up have a voice at the decision making table,” Contreras said. “I wanted to make sure that my community has a shot at the same opportunities as others, no matter what zip code you live in. It

**Continued on  
next page**

## Phones *Continued from page 10*

(US #408,709) was the first of 20 patents Gray devised to improve the public payphone, setting off the installation of phones across the country, from locations in cafes, restaurants, gas stations, movie theaters, hospitals and more.

Some businesses even offered “courtesy phones” that customers could use to make short calls at no charge.

Until cellphone technology took over how we communicate, the public payphone made sure anyone away from home could call home or call for assistance, at one time for as little as a

dime. These days, many of us can’t even recall the last time we used or even saw one, except maybe at an antique mall.

Progress in technology is great, but what happens when you need a back up communication plan? Turns out that Australian communication provider Telstra provides free public phones. In 2021, instead of removing all the payphones, Telstra converted them to free phones, with several offering Wifi hotspots as well. This nationwide Universal Service Framework maintains

a line of communication for emergencies, during natural disasters or service outages, citing that providing free service as more cost effective than removal and just good publicity.

Perhaps American phone companies could have been more forward thinking, like Telstra. While leaving a phone behind or misplacing a phone only causes a temporary loss of communication for one individual, what if something larger happened and none of our expensive devices no longer worked? One

small thing that makes me a dinosaur in today's world is that, GASP, I never disconnected our home's landline. It's been our safety net when batteries are low or service is bad and everyone has access to it.

With my latest situation of needing to make a call but not having my cellphone, the business I was patronizing understood my emergency and allowed me to use their phone, a landline, in a separate room for privacy- just like the old days. In any emergency, I hope that customer service always stays a constant convenience.



A bank of private public payphone booths still occupy a space in the lobby of Kansas City's Music Hall, While the phones were removed years ago, they remind visitors of the history of telephone usage.

**Photo by Dorri Partain**

## ReVed *Continued from previous page*

is always about being engaged, being curious and asking the tough questions and putting yourself out there and risking the chance of losing.”

Current candidate Amezcua-Hogan said that although she never pictured herself running for office, she began to consider it after encouragement from others and said that one of the biggest hurdles was overcoming her own self-imposed barriers.

“I did have a perception of what a politician looks like and that was probably the hardest thing that I had to get over,” Amezcua-Hogan said. “I feel like that’s something that I had

to give myself peace and mercy around and realize that a regular person can do it and I do encourage regular people to do it. Stick to your values and don’t just mimic what somebody else is doing because you’re not going to be successful if you’re trying to copy someone else, do it your own way.”

As the conversation and panelists focused on local government, an overview of the county legislature was also provided for further understanding by Manny Abarca, Jackson County Chairman.

Abarca shared more insight of one the most common complaints

heard by the county: property taxes. Although a topic of interest among most tax-payers, Abarca shared that ideas such as changing collection dates may not be as simple as it may seem, as those are state laws and budgeting implications for the various taxing jurisdictions.

Attendees heard about the financial impact of not paying property taxes, the shortfall that can occur and the generational burden it can create, and the importance of regional leadership.

Davin Gordon, who served on the Small Business Task Force for the City, reminded people that there are other ways to serve your

community and make a difference without having to run for office. Through the Small Business Task Force, Gordon along with other appointees helped create a long-term strategic plan that would assist the long-term goal of ensuring that small businesses in Kansas City can have the support and resources from the City and continue to grow more businesses in our community.

In addition to task forces at the City level, Tricia McGhee shared her experience and involvement as a Kansas City Public Schools board member and the importance of using your role to encourage

engagement from the community.

“I really want people to feel like if you have something that you want to share, if it’s something you care about, bring it up,” McGhee said.

The featured speakers closed out the panel by emphasizing the importance of being involved, paying attention to what’s going on at a local level and encouraging others to learn and share their thoughts and concerns.

“Leadership doesn’t begin when you win an election, it begins when you decide to take responsibility,” Contreras said.

As the event came to a

close, attendees enjoyed dinner and also had the opportunity to directly ask panelists questions over their area of expertise and engage in small group conversations.

The next part of the series, Power Moves: Power on Tap, will take place on April 2nd at Public House at PH Coffee Social Gallery (2200 Lexington Avenue) from 5:30-7:30 pm. This session will provide participants an additional opportunity to speak with elected officials and share concerns. For more information on how to reserve a free spot, visit: [powerontap.eventbrite.com](http://powerontap.eventbrite.com)

# Letter to the Editor: A Neighborhood Shouldn't Be Governed by Facebook Admins

The rise of the Neighborhood Facebook Page has eclipsed the Neighborhood Associations in both influence and tone by having more engagement, more influence, and more visibility than the official neighborhood association does. This phenomenon is happening in the Historic Northeast and it's important to highlight because either one can make or break a neighborhood. Neighborhood Associations still have their place because a 501c3 tax status is of utmost importance when applying for grants but this makes them puppets with strings leading directly back to Neighborhood Facebook pages. Multiple residents in both past and present leadership roles in the Northeast recognize this as a problem but realize without a movement from many hundreds of residents, it is not one that can be overcome easily.

Residents need to be aware that in many cases, the ownership of the neighborhood Facebook pages – both public and private- usually aren't the Official Neighborhood Association. I have heard admins of these pages

directly state that they don't want to be responsible to follow the rules and would rather be "behind the scenes". And for sure, there is a lot going on "behind the scenes". One of my hopes as a result of this letter is that residents of the Historic Northeast will begin to engage more directly with their Official Neighborhood Associations, who are bound by laws and rules. The admins of the Facebook pages are not bound to any rules, not even their own. Admins of neighborhood pages decide what comments/posts are allowed to be seen by their residents and their public, and they decide what will never be seen. These decisions cast enormous control and influence over the current and future direction of the neighborhood and in my opinion, can guide the neighborhood right over Cliff Drive.

I recently resigned as President of the Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association due to an anonymous post that appeared to be a direct attempt to influence an official decision of PHNA. The anonymous post was allowed to stay up by page admins, which was a sig-

nal that it was okay to anonymously pressure the neighborhood association / the president of the association on a neighborhood page. The other six members of the board silently condoned the anonymous behavior. I loved my neighborhood and spent five years and three months of my life in official capacity fundraising, educating and trying to create relationships. I wrote a letter to the public, as closure, as a goodbye, as an apology and posted it to the public social media page, but it was deleted by an admin of the page who is not a part of the PHNA board. It was explained to me that the Pendleton Heights social media pages are not for "personal statements" even though it was a letter of the outgoing President to the public and in my opinion, the perfect place to be posted. Instead, the board sent out an email to membership informing them of my resignation in the most generic of ways. Although it was sent to PHNA membership, it ignored many other entities. It is important to me that my words are read not only by the limited members

on our mailing list, but to all of the people and businesses that I worked with, throughout the city, over the past many years. I am submitting this Letter to the Editor exactly as posted in February, without changes and hoping it will be printed so that the hundreds of people I have worked with and spoke with throughout the years will see that my resignation was not generic, it was not without thought, and it was not without heartbreak. It was not a light decision. I encourage residents of the Historic Northeast to please pay attention to the neighborhood Facebook pages, the admins, and their agenda. Social media can erode community cohesion much more quickly than it can build it. Attending in-person meetings and directly engaging your neighborhood associations with your input is the best way to improve the neighborhood vibe and efficiency. Also, watch those treasurer's reports.

2-20-2026

Dear Pendleton Heights Neighborhood, as well as my friends outside our neighborhood boundaries and our partners through-

out the city:

At the beginning of this year, it was with much excitement and eagerness that I volunteered to be President of the Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association. I love this neighborhood, I had optimistic goals for it, and I believed in us. I made beautiful plans with you, I promised we would have fun, and I had very much looked forward to completing those plans together.

However, due to multiple circumstances that were beyond my control both as a human being and as the sitting president of the Neighborhood Association, I have decided the healthiest course of ac-

tion for myself is to step away from the Pendleton Heights Neighborhood Association and all of its affiliated committees and activities.

This decision is solely my own and for that, I am heartbroken to cease the plans I made with all of you.

I hope everyone continues to support our positively urban and uniquely eclectic neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Christy Maddux

Recent President of

PHNA

Longtime Resident of

Pendleton Heights

**Next Page: Bonded to Ghosts: The Kansas City Home Front** is the eighth 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](http://betsycochran.substack.com), where you can subscribe for free or choose a paid plan for extended content.

# Bonded to Ghosts: The Kansas City Home Front

*Historical fiction written by Betsy Cochran*

March 18, 1943  
Kansas City, MO

The headlines used words like buried alive, sun treatment, starvation, and deprivation. The papers were no longer simply reporting the news. They were serving a larger purpose.

The Army and Navy had finally begun releasing stories of what American soldiers on Bataan and Corregidor had been forced to endure. Relief, they said, could no longer reach the prisoners.

The public was given a clear message: be angry, be afraid, and put that anger to work.

At the Rock Island Railroad telegraph office in Kansas City, we were told to stay focused, keep the wires clear, and keep the messages moving.

New bond posters went up: Back the Attack. Buy an Extra \$100 Bond.

Every payday, a few dollars disappeared from my envelope before I ever touched it. They were set aside for my Series E war bonds. "For the War," they said.

Every time the newspaper printed another casualty list, my sister Marie and I would scour the columns, searching for familiar names.

A cousin.

Four boys from St. Stanislaus.

Nine from Holy Cross.

And then, a man I had secretly admired for as long as I could remember. A dear friend. Seeing his name in print stopped me cold. The quiet admiration I had carried for him had nowhere left to go.

Marie's son, Charlie, was drafted and returned home with what they called "shell shock." He barely spoke. The young man in the portrait on the mantle no longer matched the quiet man who sat alone in the corner of the room each evening.

Nothing felt certain anymore.

My job at Rock Island was steady union work, and good money for a girl like me, but there was not much to spend it on. No landlord would rent to a single woman unless she had a father, a husband, or a story convincing enough to pass a man off as one. I had none of these.

I spent my free hours at the soda counter in Kline's Dime Store, nursing a cherry Coke and reading the Kansas City Star, or anything else I could get my hands on.

It was there that I met Joey.

He leaned against the counter one afternoon and asked about the weather. Something about the rain. I told him I was ready



**Seven of the ten adult Pulliam children with their mother, Maude Pulliam (née Owen), Kansas City, 1943. Nadine is seated at the far right beside her mother.**

for spring, for a little sun. He smiled, his eyes that impossible shade of blue. I returned the smile, and I suppose that was the beginning of all my mistakes.

He talked about big things. Buying property, running a business, getting ahead once the war was over. It all sounded possible in the way things do when you want them to be.

He told me I wasn't like most girls. Said a woman with her own paycheck was worth her weight in gold.

"You and me," he said one dusty evening, "we could get ahead quick. A woman who knows how to work, a man who knows how to work the table. It's a good mix."

I should have heard the warning in that. Instead, all I heard was the word we. For once, it felt like someone really saw me.

So when we were sitting at that same dime store counter a few weeks later, and Joey asked me to marry him, I wasn't saying yes out of love. Not really. I was lonely in a way I could hardly admit to myself.

I said yes because the world seemed to be ending and beginning at the same time, and I needed somewhere to stand.

I didn't know what I was walking into then. I didn't know that this new life would hold my greatest joys and my deepest wounds, all woven together so tightly I couldn't tell one from the other.

The day I stepped into my new vocation as wife and future mother, I believed with all my heart that I was walking toward a better life.

I did not yet understand that sometimes the things we choose to save us can also be the things that undo us.



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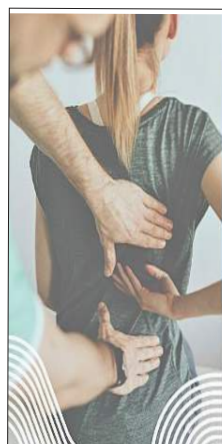
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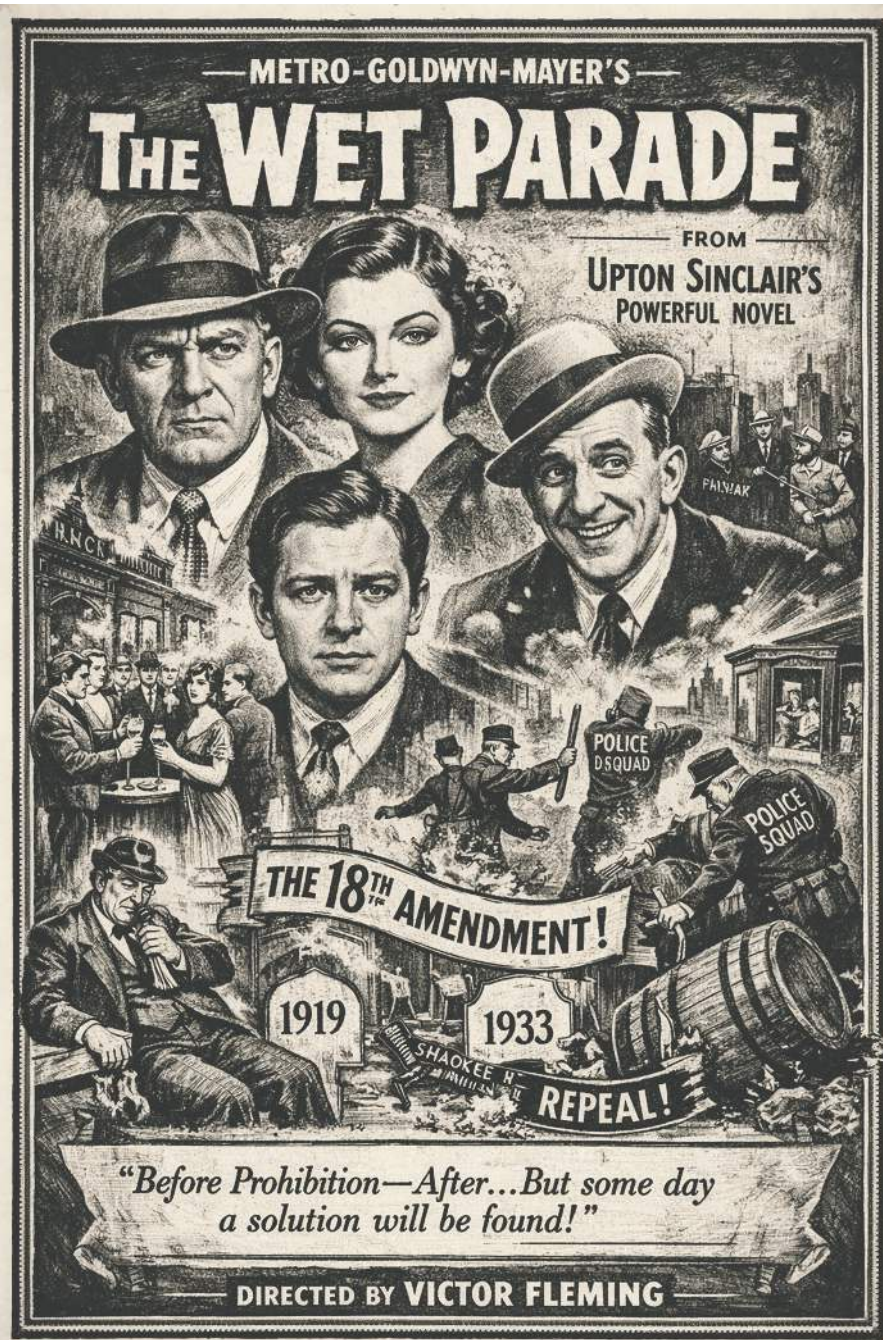


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## 1932 FUN FACT

Hollywood debuted the dramatic film "The Wet Parade" on March 19, 1932. Based on American author Upton Sinclair's novel of the same name, this Metro-Goldwin-Mayer release featured Walter Houston, Jimmy Durante, Robert Young and Myrna Loy. The film was directed by Victor Fleming. Hollywood reporter Mollie Merrick reviewed the release and noted Upton's novel "shows you the picture before Prohibition and after, and ends on the note that someday a solution to this problem will be found." The 18th Amendment (Volstead Act) to the US Constitution was ratified in 1919 and repealed with the 21st Amendment in 1933, thus ending Prohibition.

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