

# KCMOre

KANSAS CITY, MO., RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT MAGAZINE

K | FALL/WINTER 2017



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# GREETINGS FROM MAYOR JAMES

Fall is upon us and it's time to enjoy the cooler nights and kaleidoscopic foliage that highlight our city. We've exchanged our Royals blue outfits for the t-shirts, sweatshirts and caps that signal Red Friday and our undying devotion to the Kansas City Chiefs. Let's cheer them on to the AFC championship and, ultimately, Super LIII.

Our professional teams are fantastic but we have many examples of fabulous teamwork to recognize. We recently held a Digital Inclusion Summit at the Kansas City Public Library, bringing together nearly 20 mayors from across the State of Missouri to talk about why it's necessary for citizens to be digitally connected in the 21st century. I was honored to host this collaboration and I believe the insight provided by the expert panelists we invited will help open doors of opportunity that will change lives.

Digital connectivity is the new infrastructure and it's essential to a community's strength, growth and success. I believe cities that want to grow their economies must aggressively provide opportunities for every family, especially children, so that they can have a clearer pathway to the best education possible.

Staying on the topic of education, I was delighted to announce Turn the Page KC earned national recognition as recipient of the All-American city Award for accomplishments in improving education outcomes for children under the age of 8. Kansas City is one of just 15 communities nationwide to receive the award from the National Civic League. We were cited for reporting measurable progress in school attendance, summer learning and overall grade-level reading for children from low-income families.

Studies show that reading proficiency by the end of third grade is a critical milestone toward high school graduation and career success. Students who have not mastered reading by then are more likely to drop out of high school and struggle throughout their lives. I'm very proud to say we are giving our kids a much better chance to create a more successful life.

We are also closing in on another milestone, with the pending November 7 vote on whether to bring a modern and convenient single terminal redevelopment at KCI. The selection committee had a challenging job to drill down into the detailed proposals before selecting a partner to deliver the world-class facility our residents deserve. The rest is up to you.

Finally, I want to thank you for passing the \$800 million General Obligation Bond package we need to strengthen our city. We're breaking ground on projects that will improve our roads, sidewalks, bridges and enhance our infrastructure for many years to come. Tackling these priorities gives us a reason to celebrate and I hope every resident is satisfied with this progress and looking forward to continuing to make Kansas City an amazing place to live, work and grow!



Mayor Sylvester "Sly" James

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<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Resources and helpful phone numbers</p> <p>● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●</p>	<p>ABOUT THE COVER:</p> <p>Contractors install a new ADA compliant curb cut at 21st St. and Kansas Ave., one of many projects being paid for by bonds approved by voters. Read more on page 24. For a full list of year one projects, visit <a href="http://kcmo.gov/gokc">kcmo.gov/gokc</a>.</p>  <p>SIDEWALKS, ROADS &amp; BRIDGES</p>		

Throughout this publication, you will see the following color-coded dots accompanying each article. They represent which City goal the article addresses. Learn more about the Citywide Business Plan at [kcmo.gov/finance/citywide-business-plan/](http://kcmo.gov/finance/citywide-business-plan/).

- Customer Service and Communication
- Finance and Governance
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Housing
- Neighborhoods and Healthy Communities
- Planning, Zoning and Economic Development
- Public Safety

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*CHIEF OF POLICE*

# RICK SMITH

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## *KCMO's new police chief has clear vision for success*

BY SARAH BOYD, KCPD PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST



Richard C. Smith was all smiles on Aug. 15, 2017, and rightfully so. Because that was the day this 29-year veteran of the KCPD was sworn in as the city's 45th "top cop."

"Being selected to be the Chief of the Kansas City Police Department is a great honor," Smith said. "I am excited to lead the organization that I have grown up in, where I have been fortunate to build great relationships and friendships along the way."

But Smith isn't kidding himself about the challenge he's accepted. Fighting crime in KCMO is serious business and, as the man designated to take over for former Chief Darryl Forté, Smith knows he needs cooperation on several fronts to succeed.

Clearly, his many years on the force has prepared him for this opportunity. It took three public forums, hours of interviews and a final, public question-and-answer session with another finalist before the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners picked Smith from a pool of 42 applicants from around the United States.

Originally from St. Paul, Minn., Smith has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Park University and a master's degree in criminal justice from the University of Central Missouri. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Since joining KCPD in 1988 as an officer, he's worked his way up the ranks, with assignments in Robbery and Homicide, Tactical Response, Planning and Research Division and Kansas City No Violence Alliance. Most recently he has commanded the East and Central Patrol Divisions.

"Having had the experience of being assigned to two Patrol Divisions, both East and Central, was a huge benefit," Smith said. "When I attended the Senior Management Institute for Police, Chuck Wexler (Executive Director of the Police Executive Research Forum, an organization of law enforcement officials and others dedicated to improving the professionalism of policing) stated, that being in charge of a Patrol Division is like being the chief of police for that area, and how you run that division gives insight to those who do the hiring for a chief."

The uptick in crime stats isn't unique in Kansas City. Cities across the country are battling similar issues and expert observers say a key to reducing crime involves building stronger relationships between neighborhoods and police.

Smith agrees.

He said he'll continue to stress the importance of working with neighborhood groups to combat crime and build trust, lessons he learned firsthand. Community Interaction Officers (CIOs) at patrol stations will play a key role in this effort.

"They're the point of contact for almost everyone in Kansas City," he said.

CIOs often have more work than they can handle -- an issue Smith said he may address by assigning more staff to the position. He also is creating a CIO position to coordinate citywide events and address broader issues.

His three-pronged vision for the department is clear and concise:

1. Set employees up for success.

2. Reduce crime and address neighborhood issues.

3. Become more efficient and effective through partnerships.

To set employees up for success, Smith said he wants to restore an internal audit unit to ensure the department is operating efficiently. He also wants every officer to receive Crisis Intervention Team training to better equip them to deal with individuals who are in a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

Making better use of technology is another avenue that Smith plans to pursue. He'd like each station to create a database of neighborhood concerns and track how those are being addressed.

He also wants to expand the program he implemented at Central Patrol, where a social worker was assigned to the station. He said the social worker uses community resources to address residents' home-life problems that have become public safety issues.

Smith supports increased recruiting efforts in minority communities, emphasizing that policing is a noble profession. He also wants his staff to especially encourage minority candidates to climb the ranks.

The second point of his vision -- reducing crime -- will be the most difficult to achieve.

"The biggest challenge moving forward is working on the crime issue in Kansas City," Smith said. "If I had one goal, it is to get Kansas City off the top-10 violent crime list. Even if that goal may be lofty, our department should work toward that goal every day."



## No Business Like Snow Business

BY BETH BREITENSTEIN, PUBLIC WORKS



As Devin Moses gets behind the wheel of his three-ton dump truck to plow city streets, he has one thing on his mind. "Safety, it is always safety first," says Moses. Moses is a Public Works equipment operator and has been plowing for three and a half years. After a mild Kansas City winter last year, Moses is gearing up for whatever this winter has in store.

Snow removal crews start 'dry runs' (the truest sense of that phrase) as early as October, to learn their routes before the winter rears its snowy head. "You have to memorize the character of the road. You want to remember tight spots, which hills are steep and where medians and speed bumps are located," says Moses. "When the snow hits, obviously everything gets buried." Moses, who focuses on making curbs accessible for people with disabilities the rest of the year, says he has a special place in his heart for the snow season. "It isn't glamorous by any means, but it is my honor to serve the residents of Kansas City."

Public Works prepares for the season as early as late summer, coordinating shipments of more than 35,000 tons of salt

that are stored in five salt domes across the city. Fleet managers focus on tuning up more than 150 city vehicles, from several city departments, that will deploy across the city's 6,500 lane miles.

When a significant snow or ice storm hits, the city activates both of its two snow removal programs, residential and arterial. The arterial (or main streets) program is a 24/7 operation, where crews work 12 hour shifts in dump trucks. The residential program operates on neighborhood streets from sun up to sun down. Moses is on the night shift with the arterial program. "Those nights get long, I'll be honest. But, thinking about my purpose and the end result, I find a way to get through those long hours," he says. "I like knowing I am helping residents to get out of their driveways and head to work to go about their day."

Marva Combs has been at the wheel of a pick-up plow for more than 28 years in the Public Works department. She can recall some of the worst storms that many Kansas City residents are also likely to readily recall. "The one that sticks out as the worst for me was that ice storm in the early nineties. I

had to rescue my supervisor who was stuck in a dump truck skidding down a hill. I had to back a dump truck down the road to pull him out." Combs has also encountered the hurdles that come with being in a large vehicle navigating treacherous conditions. "It is frightening, treacherous and requires quick thinking. When you start sliding and you know you have so much metal in front of you and weight on top of you, it is truly terrifying. However, it is my job to keep control and stay safe to keep the public safe. It's a human thing to be afraid at times," she says.

Both Combs and Moses recall stories of drivers cursing and honking at them while on the job. After recounting a story about a driver yelling obscenities from their vehicle, Combs passed along this reminder for drivers: "Give us space, be patient, and stay off the road if you don't need to be out. We may be in a large truck, but we are in just as much danger as anyone else and we need room to do our job," she says.

During the winter season, residents can stay abreast of the city's plowing plans by visiting [kcmo.gov/snow](https://www.kcmo.gov/snow).

# SNOW PATROL



*Devin Moses and Marva Combs*

WATER SERVICE



**JAMES  
WALTON**



## *KC Water's dedicated 'Rain Man' keeps a sharp eye out for potential flooding*

BY BROOKE GIVENS, WATER SERVICES



Few of us want rain while on vacation. But for James Walton, as long as it's dry in Kansas City, rain doesn't ruin his day no matter where he is. "The only time I get to sit back and enjoy the rain is when it's raining somewhere else."

Walton is a Registered Engineer for KC Water's Stormwater Utility. Much of his work focuses on flood warning systems. That means when a rain event is forecast for Kansas City, Walton keeps the Emergency Manager and other city department leaders aware of potential threats and risks.

Walton monitors flood gauges during storms and can predict what will likely happen at specific locations. For instance, a flood gauge reading in Roeland Park tells him what is headed toward Ward Parkway. These readings are the driver for whether a road is closed or an area is evacuated due to stream flood response to rainfall.

There are nearly 200 flood gauges across the metro that can issue as many as 550 warnings such as rain intensity and water levels, also called "stages" in local streams and rivers.

Heavy rains in late summer of 2017 kept Walton busy. "I've been doing this since 2000 and this is certainly the most packed period of rain we've had in such a short amount of time."

Walton grew up in Edwardsville, Kan., where he spent hours with his father outside fishing and hunting. But it was his

health that led him to a career in public service. "When I was 15 I became a type 1 diabetic and that changed how I looked at things. I kind of looked into things from a perspective of what can I do for the public. What can I do to essentially help others given I'm only here thanks to science, technology and others."

When Walton isn't watching the radar, he's digging through the volumes of data to better understand watershed studies and modeling, GIS (Geographic Information System), and stormwater plan reviews.

"We just don't have enough data yet," Walton said. "One of our biggest challenges is the unknown. The federal government can identify flooding risks down to the square mile. The City knows about flooding down to on average 50 acres, but I want to know down to the half-acre. What happens to your home and your neighbor's home when it rains? Twin Creeks, in the Northland, will be our first effort to reach that 0.5 acre drainage area resolution. Where we had 60 miles of known stream flooding, we'll now have 180 miles with better data and modeling."

When it looks like Kansas City is about to get significant rain, Walton recommends to Emergency Management where to pre-stage street barricades. Workers from KC Water, Parks and Recreation, and Public Works set them up at 100 sites that commonly flood. But, that's nowhere near a comprehensive list. Walton says there are

10,000 places that can flood and he says drivers can't be reminded enough: "Don't drive into standing water. Turn around. The risk to your safety is too high. Your family and friends want to see you alive, not buried under flood debris in your car. 50% of flood deaths happen in vehicles."

KC Water continues to work to reduce the threat of flash flooding.

Along Brush Creek and in other parts of the city you'll notice big, blue, steel posts. Inside each of those is a flood gauge. There were just 18 in Kansas City when Walton joined KC Water in 2000. Now, there are 72. Each of these gauges provides valuable data in tracking stormwater.

In 2016, after years of work, KC Water celebrated the completion of the Blue River Channel Project. It minimizes the flood risk to homes and businesses along the Blue River, from 63rd Street all the way to the Missouri River.

Kansas City will never be immune to flash flooding. More development usually means more concrete, which creates storm runoff. But, KC Water will continue making smart investments to lessen the effect of stormwater. And, Walton will be following the path of stormwater and alerting those who might be impacted.

"Mother Nature is creative and rain can fall however and wherever it likes," Walton said.



## *KC Streetcar moving farther and faster than anyone predicted!*

BY ROD RICHARDSON, CITY EDITOR



If you live downtown, riding the streetcar is probably as natural for you as grabbing that first cup of coffee to start your day. And even if you don't occupy one of the trendy lofts along Main Street, boarding one of these hi-tech trolleys to traverse a 2.2-mile downtown route is just as likely to be a familiar part of your day.

The streetcar is a hit with downtown residents, as well as local patrons and tourists who routinely praise the clean, smooth rides and the free Wi-Fi. The original forecasts of 2,700 for average daily rides have been dwarfed by an actual average that nearly doubles that figure.

This amazing success story has caught even the most ardent supporters by surprise and is sweeping across the country with facts and figures that are unmatched and hard to ignore.

In May, KC Streetcar celebrated its first year of operation with a birthday bash fit for a king. Hundreds of people converged upon Union Station to sing, dance and embrace this rail line that soared past 2 million rides far faster than anyone predicted. And if that wasn't enough, the economic development underway in the area has eclipsed \$2 billion.

"We've said from the start that the streetcar was about more than just transit," City Manager Troy Schulte said. "Fixed rail generates economic development, and combined with the city's investment in smart city technology, we are building a tax base that will benefit residents citywide both now and in the future."

Kansas City has more than two billion dollars in economic development

underway within the boundaries of the KC Streetcar TDD, or Transportation Development District. This includes more than \$2.1 billion in development projects completed, in progress or publicly announced since voters approved the streetcar in December 2012.

Planners predicted Kansas City's system would reach 1 million rides by its first anniversary. However, that mark was reached in October 2016.

Among many noteworthy achievements are:

- 97 percent of businesses surveyed along the route credit the streetcar with having a positive impact on their business
- 3 million rides by fall of 2017
- Winner of 2017 American Council of Engineering Companies Award

But awards, ascending ridership stats and cascading economic development only tell part of the streetcar story. As with any successful venture, questions of expansion are frequent. In the spring, the City Council approved buying two additional streetcars for the existing downtown route. The total purchase plan is \$11.9 million, with streetcar costs at approximately \$4.9 million apiece. It will take about 24 months to build the vehicles.

The KC Streetcar system is comprised of four streetcar vehicles, with a three-streetcar operation running daily. But with demand staying high and extending the line on the horizon, it only makes sense to add more vehicles.

"It is a good problem to have, our streetcars are running at or near capacity

on a regular basis and we need additional capacity to ensure reliable operations and improved service in the years to come," said Tom Gerend, executive director of the KC Streetcar Authority.

As for the future, the KC Streetcar Authority (KCSA), in coordination with the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (KCATA), is promoting the Streetcar Southern Extension project. This phase of planning, estimated to cost about \$1 million, is jointly funded by the KCSA and KCATA and should take about nine months.

The KC Streetcar Southern Extension planning will focus on:

- Data collection (utilities, current conditions, etc.)
- Refining alignment details (curb-running / center-running)
- Station stop locations and terminus configuration
- Plan for coordinated regional transit service integration and improvement
- Updated cost estimates
- Initiation of federal funding process

The KC Streetcar Southern Extension planning will build upon the downtown streetcar service and will support work required to further develop and advance the southern extension toward the University of Missouri, Kansas City (UMKC).

The primary area for this effort extends from downtown Kansas City and Union Station, south to UMKC in the vicinity of 51st and Brookside Boulevard. The area is generally bounded on the west by Broadway Boulevard and on the east Gillham Road.

More information about KC Streetcar can be found online at [kcstreetcar.org](http://kcstreetcar.org).

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2017





## Kansas City peddling to become a more bike-friendly city

BY JOE BLANKENSHIP, CITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



For many of us, our first sense of freedom and independence came when we jumped onto our bicycle. This was the driver's seat where we were in command and could easily rendezvous with friends in the neighborhood, ride to the corner store or even make our own way to school. But the love for bicycling often goes beyond childhood memories.

"We recognize that the more things we can do to facilitate more forms of transportation, other than cars, the better the City will be, the more residents will like it and the healthier we'll be and also the cleaner environmentally we'll be," Mayor Sly James told a group of bike enthusiasts gathered at City Hall last spring.

Across the country, more communities are promoting cycling as a meaningful part of their overall transportation system through the installation of bike lanes, bicycling events, integration of bike-share systems (such as the Kansas City B-Cycle bike rental stations), and the assurance that bikes and vehicles can safely use the same streets.

Our City wants to make it safer and more appealing, which is why the City Planning & Development Department is working with Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Health and other departments to engage the community in what bicycling in Kansas City means now and how it can improve.

To help Kansas City move toward this goal, the City is leading a rewrite of the Bike KC master plan. Milestones such as the installation of over 38 miles of on-street bike lanes, the launch of the Kansas

City B-Cycle stations and community bike events have been proudly achieved since its creation in the 2000s. But the new Bike KC plan will ultimately lead to better bicycling in the City.

Bicycle Friendly Community, the League of American Bicyclists' program, ranks U.S. cities on how well they welcome and accommodate the bicycle as a means of transportation and recreation. The rankings include bronze, silver, gold, and platinum. The higher the score, the more accommodating a city is to bicyclists. More than 400 communities nationwide are recognized as "Bicycle Friendly Communities" at one of those levels. In 2008, the City Council set the goal of Kansas City achieving platinum status by 2020. The City is currently a bronze level community. (Only five cities across the country are ranked platinum – Boulder, Colo.; Fort Collins, Colo.; Davis, Calif.; Madison, Wis.; and Portland, Ore.)

collected. Some outreach highlights are:

- Over 1,500 opinion surveys gathered
- Four Bike KC public meetings held in April & May
- Student focus groups conducted & East High School's Bike Club rode to City Hall for a proclamation of May as Bike Month in Kansas City
- Participation at local events like BikeWalkKC's Tour de Bier, the Celebration at the Station, and Jazz Fest
- A Bike Month event called "Bike to Boulevard" led by city leaders
- An online mapping tool activated for the public to draw bike routes
- A project website, [kcmo.gov/kcbikeplan](http://kcmo.gov/kcbikeplan), launched for review of materials and updates

All this outreach and feedback points to one simple theme – people want to bicycle more in Kansas City as a means of transportation, but the City must install additional infrastructure and create educational programs to make it safer.

### HOW WILL WE GET THERE?

At this point, the City is ensuring the Bike KC network is taking people where they want and need to go. The conversation is starting to focus on how much money a built-out network would cost, how it could be financed, what would be phased when, and what supportive programming would help make bicycling better in Kansas City. Please keep up to date with the rewrite process via [www.kcmo.gov/kcbikeplan](http://www.kcmo.gov/kcbikeplan).

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BIKING IN KANSAS CITY?  
REACH OUT TO US AT:  
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or [BIKEKC](https://twitter.com/BIKEKC)

### WHAT HAVE WE HEARD & WHERE IS IT TAKING US?

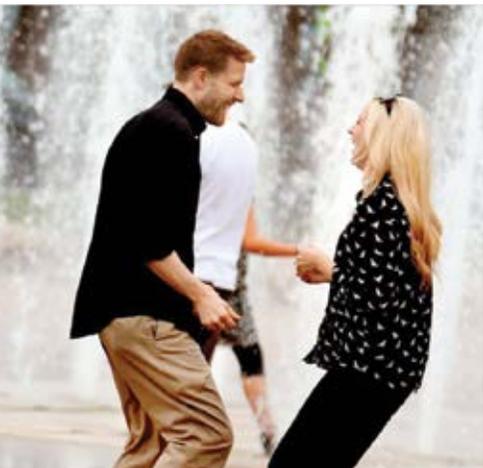
The City began an extensive public outreach process this past spring. Utilizing in-person and virtual platforms at formal and informal events, thousands of people have been engaged and their opinions



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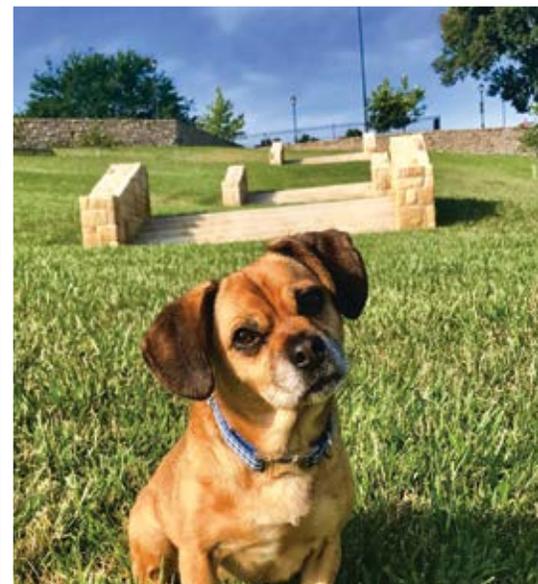
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## Outtakes with KCMO's Cookingham-Noll fellows



Remember when you dove into your first real job thinking you were well on your way to making a difference and changing the world? Well, even if you can't immediately recall that moment of optimism, you still can appreciate meeting a young professional filled with that type of eternal hope.

Javon Davis, Alyssa Dinberg and Dillon Wood are three such professionals who are eager to make their mark as public servants. They're the latest KCMO employees who have toiled tirelessly at City Hall as part of the Cookingham-Noll Management Fellowship. This two-year rotation offers recent graduates of Public Administration (or related) Master's programs a complete tour of the City, with designated stops in the City Manager's Office, the Office of Management and Budget and several other departments of their choice.

More than 100 city management fellows have completed the program and moved on to rewarding jobs within municipal, state and federal government, as well as not for profit organizations.

Here's a quick Q&A with this impressive trio:

### *Why did you apply for this fellowship?*

**JD:** In 2015, while serving as a Virginia Governor's Fellow, I had the opportunity to go to Washington to meet with Virginia's elected officials in the Senate and House offices. While meeting with Sen. Tim Kaine, former City Councilman and Mayor of Richmond, Va., he explained to the group that working in local government was one of the most rewarding experiences that he has had as a public servant. That conversation, paired with advice from

other mentors in local government service, really inspired me to look for opportunities to work at the local level. While I knew that I wanted to explore local government service, I had no idea which department best fit my interests. This is where the truly unique structure of the Cookingham-Noll Management Fellowship really drew me in. This opportunity has given me an unparalleled opportunity to see all that city administration has to offer.

**AD:** While I've always worked in community development in some capacity, I felt that I could make the most impact by working in local government. As graduation approached, I quickly realized that, in the three years I've lived here, Kansas City had stolen my heart and contributing to the renaissance was my calling. An ad for the Cookingham-Noll Management fellowship popped up on my Facebook newsfeed and I guess you could say the rest is history.

**DW:** I applied for the fellowship because when I was an intern for the City of Mountain Brook, Ala., their city manager and my mentor told me to read "This City, This Man: The Cookingham Era in Kansas City" by Bill Gilbert. The book starts out discussing Kansas City in the Pendergast Era and all the corruption that occurred. As the book progresses, it delves into how Mr. Cookingham was hired as city manager to come in and clean up the city. I was completely enamored with the book, and I could not put it down. Mr. Cookingham is truly the gold standard as far as professional city management is concerned, and once I saw that a fellowship opportunity that he started was available I knew that I had to apply.

### *Behind your back, what do you want your boss to say about you?*

**AD:** I'd really like for my boss to say that I am someone he/she can count on, regardless of what the task is. I've always enjoyed finding answers to tough questions and thinking outside the box to find solutions.

**DW:** Behind my back, I want my boss to say that I am someone who takes initiative, is a constant learner, and does not look the other way when faced with a difficult problem. I believe in trying new experiences and not being afraid to fail because this is how I learn.

**JD:** I would love to be known as someone who is reliable, innovative, highly effective, and fun to work with and be around. It is my hope that as I go through my career, I will leave a legacy of being all those characteristics, and more.

### *If you could choose to have just one superpower, what would it be? Why?*

**JD:** If I could have one super power it would definitely be teleportation. It would be the perfect way to visit family and friends in Virginia, and see all of the world's beauty without spending thousands of dollars. I have fully bought into "millennials love to travel" stereotype and this ability would make all of my travel goals become a reality.

**DW:** If I had one superpower, it would be the ability to read someone's mind. I think that would make it easier to know what residents want and their thoughts on how to better improve Kansas City.

*continued on page 18*

*continued from page 17*

**AD:** I'd really love to time travel. While hearing stories and reading articles is beneficial for learning about our past, it would be pretty neat to experience both the good and bad times of our City to see how it has impacted the future. I'd also like to travel to the future and see how some of the decisions we are making right now will help or hurt us later down the road.

*So City Manager Troy Schulte directs you to change one thing about the City and how it operates, what do you change?*

**AD:** If the City Manager were to give me power to implement one change, it would absolutely be a coffee shop in City Hall. While I am not dependent on caffeine to function, there are definitely mornings I need the boost and the watered down mass produced coffee just won't cut it. As Assistant City Manager for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, Rick Usher, pointed out in his interview with Startland News last January, coffee shops are not just places that fuel caffeine additions, they are hubs for collaboration and provide "serendipitous collision density, which is critical to innovation and creativity". Having a coffee shop inside City Hall would give us an informal location for meetings and provide me an opportunity to develop a caffeine addition. And Kansas City has some of the best coffee roasters in the country so I'm sure finding a supplier wouldn't be hard...

**JD:** I would love to see the City become more collaborative. There are a lot of great minds at City Hall and I think we could accomplish a lot more by having interdepartmental groups working on certain, complex issues. We have already seen progress in this area by initiatives led by the Kansas City Health Department but we certainly can do more. Ideally, there would be a co-working type space on a floor at City Hall where any City employee can come and work in an innovative space that was conducive to collaborating in the 21st century.

**DW:** Considering that I just moved to Kansas City a little over two months ago, I am still learning all about the city and its operations. However, I will say that one project that I would be happy to take on would be to look into the cost of installing a

separate call button for the express elevator. It never fails that that is the elevator to show up when I need one, yet it never goes to the floors that I need!

*What do you think the City does well?*

**DW:** One thing I think the City does well is use data for decision making. My first rotation is in the Office of Performance Management (OPM), and I have just been blown away at how data helps guide city operations. The OPM team consists of some of the smartest people — "data wonks," as I am sure they would prefer to be called — that I have ever met. Kansas City is definitely a leader in data driven decision making, and the City should be proud of these efforts.

**JD:** I have been impressed with the amount of engagement opportunities that the City provides for its residents. Between budget sessions, Community Engagement University, virtual streaming of most public meetings, and public votes on big issues, it is obvious that KCMO values and encourages citizen participation and engagement.

**AD:** I think the City is doing a really great job putting KC on the map nationally. By investing in Visit KC, we are attracting larger conventions, meetings and sporting events to the city and our reputation is continuing to grow as a cost-effective, fun and cultured place to live. Corporations are moving their headquarters here and the startup community is continuing to grow. Things will only continue to improve with a brand new, single-terminal airport (fingers crossed!!).

*What is one thing about you that would surprise people?*

**AD:** Parking spot luck. Seriously. Regardless of where I am, I always manage to find the absolute best parking spots. My friends consistently give me a hard time about it and have even begun to have me drive places because they know I will find us a spot right up front.

**DW:** One thing that might surprise people about me is that I am currently trying to teach myself how to play the banjo. I think it is one of the coolest instruments around. I

am pretty bad right now, so if anyone in city hall knows how to play and would not mind helping me then let me know!

**JD:** I am always picking up new hobbies and trying my hand at new skills. I am currently bartending in the Crossroads and plan to continue to pick up different skill sets as long as I have the time and energy to do so. A few things that are in my mental queue are: juicing, playing guitar, writing my own cookbook, basic Adobe Suite knowledge, and learning how to use popular music production softwares like FL Studio and Albeton Live.

#### **ABOUT JAVON DAVIS**

Javon Davis is a native of South Hill, Va., and a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University. He is currently in his second year of the Cookingham-Noll fellowship and is working on projects to help make Kansas City a more equitable place. If Javon is not at City Hall, you can probably find him watching Netflix, admiring murals in the Crossroads, or jamming out to live music somewhere in the City.

#### **ABOUT ALYSSA DINBERG**

Alyssa is a native of Atlanta, Ga., and received an undergraduate Interdisciplinary degree in Community Development from The University of Alabama. Her passion for creating citywide change led her to seek an Executive Masters of Public Administration from the University of Missouri — Kansas City's Bloch School of Management. When she's not working, you can find her exploring the newest hole-in-the-wall restaurant, attending any and all sporting events or hanging with her little sister through Big Brothers Big Sisters.

#### **ABOUT DILLON WOOD**

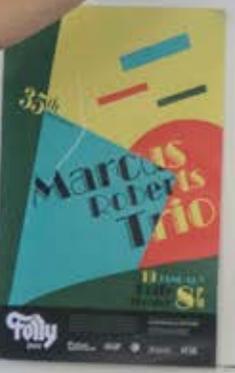
Dillon is a native of Talladega, Ala., and he attended Jacksonville State University for his undergraduate degree in political science. It was there he found a passion for local government and decided to attend the University of Alabama at Birmingham for his Master's in Public Administration. Dillon is a huge sports fan, and he is going all in on KC's major sports teams. So, the next time you are at a Chiefs, Royals, or Sporting KC game, take a look around and you might see him there.

# COOKINGHAM-NOLL

*Management Fellowship*



*Alyssa Dinberg, Javon Davis and Dillon Wood*





## *Kansas City's oldest theater is positive inspiration for art students*

BY CONSUELO CRUZ, OFFICE OF CULTURE AND CREATIVE SERVICES



The Folly Theatre has been a premier venue for performing arts in Kansas City since 1900, serving as host to iconic entertainers ranging from the Marx Brothers and Humphrey Bogart to Gypsy Rose Lee. Since 1982, the Folly has presented jazz greats from around the world through the Folly Jazz Series. Musicians like Eliane Elias, Arturo Sandoval, Karrin Allyson, Robert Glasper and Jon Batiste have not only captivated audiences from the Folly stage but have also inspired students at the Kansas City Art Institute (KCAI).

This collaboration really took off about eight years ago when the Folly, which is supported by the Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund, was looking to improve designs used to promote the Jazz Series. In search of a more professional look, Folly Executive Director Gale Tallis turned to KCAI.

"With Jazz being a very improvisational type of art form, it seemed natural to collaborate with the Kansas City Art Institute with their innovative and improvisational approach to art," Tallis said.

For years, Tallis has worked with KCAI Graphic Design faculty and students to create posters for each of the Jazz Series performances. At the beginning of every academic year, students get to tour the Folly so they can learn of its history and architecture, take photographs for inspiration and hear stories about past performers. Each tour ends on the Folly stage so that the students can experience

what it's like for the performers.

The students' work is shared during design development and upon design completion. Completed designs are evaluated by a panel that includes Tallis as well as art, design and marketing professionals. After designs are selected, posters are printed and ultimately placed in display cases. On the night of each performance, the artist and KCAI are recognized from the stage and acknowledged in the printed performance program. Each student gets to meet the performer who inspired his or her design, and gets it signed by that performer.

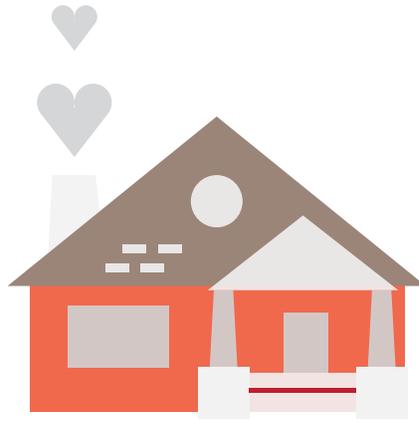
The Folly is among the litany of arts and leisure activities that receive money from the City's Neighborhood and Tourist Development Fund. Managed by the Office of Culture and Creative Services, the NTFD program has been in place for 28 years and continuously strives to meet the growing demands to fund programs showcasing the cultural diversity of the City.

This particular project's impact on students -- both professionally and personally -- is evident. Artists like Grammy Award winner Fred Hersch, have maintained contact with the students, hoping to one day collaborate with them on an album or other artistic project. Several years ago, Hersch slipped into a coma and nearly died from AIDS. When he recovered, he had to re-learn the piano. He says he was touched by the design that was created for his poster, that "told his story" in a creative way.

KCAI alumni Samantha Mak, now a design consultant with IBM Watson in Austin, Texas, summed up her experience by saying, "The Folly Theater project was one of the earlier design challenges where we needed to represent a community outside of our own." At the time, I had zero understanding of jazz music. The project taught me many lessons in navigating unfamiliar terrain, especially how to get informed and inspired on any given topic. Dive in. Keep an open mind. Develop context and perspective. These lessons served me well as a student where everything was uncharted territory. Now, they're now a daily occurrence for me as a design consultant. I live for it!"

Fellow KCAI alumni, Eli Brumbaugh said, "At the time of the Folly Theater project, I had previously worked on a handful of poster projects. None of them prepared me for the delicate and iterative process of pairing visual metaphor with an artist. I haven't looked at poster design the same way since." Brumbaugh works in San Francisco, Calif., at Data @ Airbnb.

Stay tuned to the Channel 2 Weekly Report and city social media outlets for updates on the designs selected for the 2017-2018 Folly Jazz Series season. The season kicks off with an Oct. 28 performance by Grammy award-winning guitarist Lee Ritenour. For more information about the series, visit [FollyTheater.org](http://FollyTheater.org). For information about the NTFD, visit [KCMO.gov/ntdf](http://KCMO.gov/ntdf).



## KCMO Land Bank making dreams of home ownership come true

BY JOHN BACCALA, NEIGHBORHOODS AND HOUSING SERVICES

He is not a genie, a fairy godmother or 'The Wizard of Oz.' But Ted Anderson does make dreams come true! Anderson is the executive director of the KCMO Land Bank and thanks to creative ownership programs and a hard-working, dedicated staff, he is making the dream of home ownership a reality for many Kansas Citians. Anderson is taking abandoned and sometimes blighted properties and creating life-changing opportunities for individuals and families across the city. Anderson said putting someone into a home who never thought they could own a home is an "awesome" feeling.

"Many people have told me their lives have been changed for the better in the process," he said. "Typically, our buyers are paying anywhere from \$850 to \$1,200 per month in rent. With these houses, there are no payments, so once the rehab work is done, the buyer owns the house free and clear."

Established five years ago, the KCMO Land Bank takes unproductive tax sale properties and gets them back on the tax rolls, thus improving and stabilizing neighborhoods. Anderson and his staff have used some very creative marketing strategies, like the Dollar Home Sale and #HeartofKC home sale, to generate interest and ownership.

"With the Dollar Home Sale, we tried to save some houses in fairly poor condition instead of demolishing them," Anderson said. "We knew it would cost the City about \$8,500 to demolish each house, so we took some demolition candidates and sold them, with

the promise if the house were rehabbed, we would pay the cost we saved - \$8,500- to the person who did the rehab.

"That program was wildly popular!"

The #HeartofKC homes sold for \$999, but the houses were in much better shape and required a lot less work.

Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City has purchased three homes in the 3000 block of Highland Ave. from the Land Bank. Each has been rehabbed and has families living in them. "Habitat for Humanity of Kansas City is very appreciative and grateful for our partnership with the Land Bank," said Lindsay Hicks, Habitat's development director. "The properties we have acquired through the Land Bank have been instrumental to our neighborhood revitalization efforts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE LAND BANK, GO TO:  
[KCMOLANDBANK.ORG](http://KCMOLANDBANK.ORG)

"We look forward to serving more families and building homes, communities and hope in partnership with key stakeholders like the Land Bank."

The KCMO Land Bank has thousands of properties for sale - from homes to vacant lots. Most of the properties are in the city's urban core, leading many to believe getting financing to buy and rehab a Land Bank property would be difficult, if not almost impossible. Anderson said nothing could be further from the truth.

"You can get bank financing for the purchase and rehab of a Land Bank home," Anderson said. "We have several banks willing to approve purchase and rehab money for persons to buy Land Bank homes.

"Although it seems a little complicated at first, the process to buy a Land bank property is pretty simple. Lots of people do it every month!"

Even those with past credit problems can buy a Land Bank property. Anderson said the KCMO Land Bank works with a credit repair company willing to lend money once a homeowner education program is completed. Obtaining title insurance also was once a deterrent to selling Land Bank properties, but no more.

"It used to be 'buyer beware' when a person bought a property at the tax sale," Anderson said. "Now we have two title companies who specialize in providing title insurance for tax sale properties."

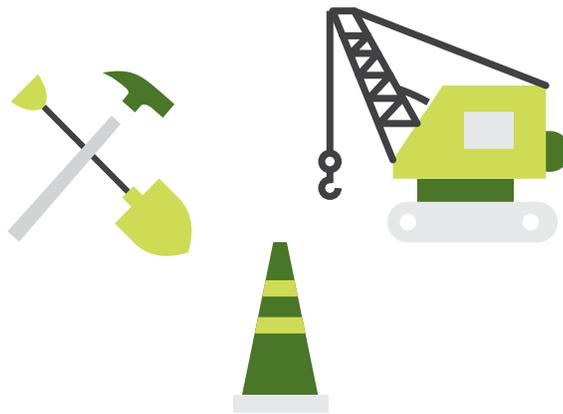
Few are lucky enough to see how their work changes someone's life for the better. Anderson is one of those lucky few.

"The greatest Land Bank success story, I think, involves the low to middle income family," he said. "It (home ownership) changes their life forever because they no longer have that huge rent payment. They are no longer simply throwing away their money with absolutely nothing to show for it.

"They have a home that's theirs!"

# TED ANDERSON





## New projects improve neighborhoods



### Parks and Recreation

Those loveable dogs and their owners have another place to roam – leash-free no less – now that Kansas City Parks and Recreation has opened a \$700,000 dog park.

More than 200 dogs showed up for “Yappy Hour” at the West Terrace Dog Park, 750 Pennsylvania Ave., when it opened in July. This is the City’s fourth off-leash dog park and the first located downtown.

Fully enclosed, the 1.5-acre park provides a great place for dogs to play, exercise and socialize. The members-only park includes benches, fantastic views of the West Bottoms and Missouri River, park stairs, a shade pavilion with picnic tables, controlled access entry, disposal bags/receptacles and two drinking fountains. It is open daily from 5 a.m.-10 p.m.

The park was funded by the City’s Public Improvements Advisory Committee (PIAC), KC Parks Developer’s Allotment funds and a private donation from the William T. Kemper Foundation.

Membership in the park is \$5 and includes one key fob, additional/replacement FOBs are \$10 each. Memberships can be purchased at KC Parks downtown community centers -- Tony Aguirre, Westport Roanoke, Garrison and Gregg/Klice -- during regular business hours. Cash, check and credit card are accepted forms of payment. Current rabies vaccination records are also required to join. For more information and to download a membership application, visit [kcparks.org/park/wtdp](http://kcparks.org/park/wtdp). See you at the park!

### Public Works

It is green light GO for **GO KC projects** in the Public Works department. The first General Obligation bond funded capital improvements are underway, including the first rollout of sidewalk spot repairs under the city’s new sidewalk program and the kick-off of Paseo Bridge improvements over Brush Creek on the city’s east side.

Another project on the east side, the 22nd and 23rd Street corridor improvements, will start this fall. The bond-funded project will include road realignment and widening, curbs and gutters, sidewalks and storm sewer and water main upgrades between Brooklyn Avenue and Chestnut Avenue. The project will take about a year to complete.



The final piece of a reconstruction project along 135th Street in Martin City will bid this fall. Also funded with bond funds, the

improvements span from Wornall Road to M-150, and will include roadway widening, streetlights, on-street parking, new curbs and sidewalks and new water lines. This will complete a three-phase project along 135th Street.

Public Works will continue to move forward on capital improvements in the Northland. The complete street project along Englewood Boulevard from US-169 to Waukomis Drive will bid out in fall and include multimodal access improvements, including sidewalks and bike facilities, as well as streetlights and traffic signal upgrades. Another Northland project will upgrade a section of N. Northwood St., bringing roadway upgrades, as well as a new sidewalk, from NW 52nd Street to NW Prairie View Road. The old Tiffany Springs Road bridge over I-29 will become new, as replacement of that bridge will bid out this fall or winter and will include a connection from the bridge to the local trail system.

The city’s south side will see several capital improvement projects move forward, including work on the Kenneth Road bridge. The city will bid out that work within the year. That project will replace a bridge damaged and closed years ago. The bridge crosses the state line and provides a key connector to multiple cities and counties. Multiple municipalities will fund the improvements, and Kansas City’s contributions will include pedestrian access across the bridge.

The city’s east side will see some improvements to Bennington Avenue from 67th Street to just north of 66th Street. That work will bring road reconstruction,

new sidewalks, and drainage and street lighting improvements.

For more information on GO Bond projects you can visit [kcmo.gov/gokc](http://kcmo.gov/gokc) for more information on the city's new sidewalk program you can visit [kcmo.gov/sidewalks](http://kcmo.gov/sidewalks).

### Northland Water Main, Wastewater Plant Odor Control Highlight KC Water Capital Improvements

KC Water is turning the valve on a major transmission line that will improve efficiency while also setting the stage for continued growth in the Northland.

Phase 3 of the Arrowhead Transmission Main winds its way from North Oak Trafficway, north of Vivion Road, to NW Englewood Road near Highway 169. The 54-inch to 48-inch water transmission main will supplement two existing but stressed water mains built in the early 1950s and the 1980s.

Two previous phases of this major project improved water delivery from KC Water's Water Treatment Plant on the Missouri River at North Oak Trafficway and Missouri 9. A fourth phase will continue north to the Arrowhead Pump Station located east of Highway 169 at Northeast 75th Street.

"This new water transmission main will increase capacity and reliability to serve the developing areas of the Northland," said Terry Leeds, KC Water Director.

This and other KC Water infrastructure expansion is designed to support up to 70,000 new residents in the growing Northland.

The transmission line project is in addition to KC Water's comprehensive water main replacement program, which has resulted in a 56 percent decline in water main breaks since 2012. Water main replacement is occurring throughout the city.

KC Water also is completing an odor-control project at the Blue River Wastewater Treatment Plant. Bacteria are already used to treat wastewater, so these same bacteria will now help remove noxious and offensive smells from the plant itself.

Sewage produces hydrogen sulfide, which is toxic and can be a hazard for treatment plant employees. The new equipment will ventilate air from structures through towers that include oxidizing bacteria that changes hydrogen sulfide into sulfuric acid.

"This project is focused on improving working conditions for treatment plant employees and help limit odors in the area around the plant," Leeds said. "Proposed phases will further reduce offensive odors along I-435 near the plant and in the East Bottoms industrial area."

The Blue River Wastewater Treatment Plant, the largest of KC Water's six sewage treatment plants, processes an average of 70 million gallons of wastewater daily.

More information about KC Water capital improvement projects can be found at [www.kcwaterservices.org/projects](http://www.kcwaterservices.org/projects).

**DON'T FORGET THAT  
NOVEMBER 7 IS A  
CITY ELECTION DAY!**



Kansas City voters will be asked for their approval to build a new passenger terminal at Kansas City International Airport.

A "yes" vote, with a simple majority, would allow the City to move forward with the project. In August, the City Council voted unanimously to place this question on the ballot:

*Shall the City of Kansas City be authorized to construct a new passenger terminal at Kansas City International Airport and demolish existing terminals as necessary, with all costs paid solely from the revenues derived by the City from the operation of its airports and related facilities, and without the issuance of general airport revenue bonds unless such general airport revenue bonds have received prior voter approval?*

YES  NO

All financing will be paid back through airport revenues. The city will continue to own and operate the airport.

The project calls for building a new terminal at the site of the closed Terminal A, while terminals B & C continue to operate without interruption.

To learn more about the KCI terminal development process, go to [kcmo.gov/newkci](http://kcmo.gov/newkci).



## COMPLIMENT A KCMO EMPLOYEE

City of Kansas City, Missouri, employees always strive to make our City better and we want to recognize the good work that they do.

If you want to share a positive experience with a KCMO employee and would like to let them know you appreciate a "job well done," then please pass along your thanks using the compliment form online at [kcmo.gov/citykudos](http://kcmo.gov/citykudos). It only takes a few minutes to really make someone's day with your kind words.

[KCMO.GOV/CITYKUDOS](http://KCMO.GOV/CITYKUDOS)



## KC Water customers experiencing far fewer main breaks



The 5-year-old strategic and data-driven plan to replace water mains throughout the City is working!

It was a mere five years ago that Kansas City was averaging about five water main breaks a day due to aging pipes. KC Water responded by developing a comprehensive Water Main Replacement Program that took aim at water pipes most susceptible to breaks due to age or other factors. The results of this program are nothing short of extraordinary.

There has been a 56 percent drop in water main breaks and KCMO customers are enjoying a more reliable and consistent flow of service. This past spring, city officials celebrated completion of 100 miles of the program with a pipe-signing ceremony on a residential street in the Northland.

"It's great to measure our progress and to recognize all the hard work that went into this program," said KC Water Director Terry Leeds. "We look forward to many years of ongoing water main replacement to protect

the public health and safety of our residents now and in the future."

The goal of the program is to replace 1 percent of the system, or 28 miles, of break-prone pipe each year. The program is being funded with a \$500 million water revenue bond authorization that voters approved several years ago.



## City Adds Charging Options for Electric Vehicles



A fully-charged battery is now at the fingertips of environmentally-conscious electric vehicle owners in Kansas City. Over the summer, the City installed its first on-street electric vehicle charging stations. The installs are part of the KCP&L Clean Charge Network, a partnership between the City and Kansas City Power & Light that launched in 2015.

To meet the demands of downtown EV users, two charging stations were installed on Southwest Boulevard near Broadway Boulevard and another at 9th and McGee. Previously, the Clean Charge Network only included stations in parking garages and some surface lots.

Kansas City resident Jonathan Wagner, who works in the Crossroads and drives a Nissan Leaf, is thrilled with the new installs. "The benefit of an on-street charging

station is increased visibility and access. Some stations are located in parking lots that aren't always open."

KCP&L recently reported that Kansas City leads the nation in electric vehicle adoption with a 78 percent increase in the first quarter of 2017 compared to 2016.

"We're proud to continue our dedication to sustainability by offering more parking options for residents and visitors who drive electric vehicles. We have a great partner in KCP&L," says Public Works Director Sherri McIntyre.

A typical electric vehicle takes between two to four hours to charge. Wagner says it takes time and practice to gauge how far your vehicle can go on a full battery, even with range estimating technology in the vehicle. "Once, I ended up about a half-mile away from my house with a dead

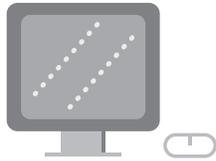
battery and when the tow truck arrived, we both laughed for a good five minutes at the absurdity of the situation," Wagner said. "She said I was the first EV she had towed."

Nate Staley, a Northland resident who also drives a Nissan Leaf, says he mainly uses the EV chargers at Kauffman Stadium and the Zoo. However, he likes the idea of being able to access a station on street downtown. "Lack of walkability surrounding EV charging spots is a major gripe for EV users. It is nice to charge my car and have a sidewalk nearby for a change."

Upping the ante for the electric vehicle users is yet another green move for the City, after a recent listing among the EPA's 2017 list of top cities with Energy Star certified buildings.

You can find a link to a KCP&L map of EV charging stations at [kcmo.gov/parking](http://kcmo.gov/parking).

## Resources and Helpful Phone Numbers



### KCMO.GOV

Type your topic in the search bar or visit:  
[KCMO.GOV/NEWS](https://www.kcmo.gov/news)  
(recent city news releases)

[KCMO.GOV/SOCIAL](https://www.kcmo.gov/social)  
(City social media directory)

[KCMO.GOV/ALERTKC](https://www.kcmo.gov/alertkc)  
(free community messages on your mobile phone or email)

[KCMO.GOV/CAREERS](https://www.kcmo.gov/careers)  
(job openings in city government)

[KCMO.GOV/BIZCARE](https://www.kcmo.gov/bizcare)  
(how to start up a business and obtain licenses and permits)

[KCMO.GOV/NEWKCI](https://www.kcmo.gov/newkci)  
(latest info on the airport proposal)

[KCMO.GOV/GOKC](https://www.kcmo.gov/gokc)  
(G.O. bond funded project updates)



### 311 CALL CENTER

Call 311 or 816-513-1313 or email [311.call.center@kcmo.org](mailto:311.call.center@kcmo.org) or visit [kcmo.gov/311](https://www.kcmo.gov/311) for general questions and service requests.



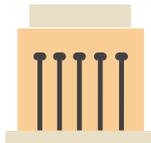
### ANIMAL SHELTER

Call 311 or 816-513-9821.



### CHANNEL 2

See [kcmo.gov/channel2](https://www.kcmo.gov/channel2) for live coverage of City Council, weekly city news and special events.



### MUNICIPAL COURT TICKETS

See [kcmo.gov/court](https://www.kcmo.gov/court) to learn about the many ways you can look up a case or call 816-513-2700.



### TOW LOT

[Autoreturn.com](https://www.autoreturn.com) or 816-513-0670



### TRASH SERVICE

Call 311 or see [kcmo.gov/trash](https://www.kcmo.gov/trash).



### CUSTOMER SERVICE

Call 311 or 816-513-0567 or email [water.customerservice@kcmo.org](mailto:water.customerservice@kcmo.org).

## Contact your councilmembers

**1 Mayor Pro Tem Scott Wagner**  
816-513-6503 • [scott.wagner@kcmo.org](mailto:scott.wagner@kcmo.org)  
Legislative Aide: Kimberly Randolph  
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**2 Councilwoman Teresa Loar**  
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**2 Councilman Dan Fowler**  
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**3 Councilman Quinton Lucas**  
816-513-6511 • [quinton.lucas@kcmo.org](mailto:quinton.lucas@kcmo.org)  
Legislative Aide: Carlota Halpern  
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# LEAF AND BRUSH SET-OUT DATE SCHEDULE

SET OUT ALL SACKS AND BUNDLES BY 7 A.M.

Trash day	North REGION	Central REGION	South REGION
<b>Monday</b>	MONDAY, NOV. 13 MONDAY, DEC. 11	MONDAY, OCT. 30 MONDAY, DEC. 4	MONDAY, OCT. 23 MONDAY, NOV. 27
<b>Tuesday</b>	TUESDAY, NOV. 14 TUESDAY, DEC. 12	TUESDAY, OCT. 31 TUESDAY, DEC. 5	TUESDAY, OCT. 24 TUESDAY, NOV. 28
<b>Wednesday</b>	WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15 WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13	WEDNESDAY, NOV. 1 WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6	WEDNESDAY, OCT. 25 WEDNESDAY, NOV. 29
<b>Thursday</b>	THURSDAY, NOV. 16 THURSDAY, DEC. 14	THURSDAY, NOV. 2 THURSDAY, DEC. 7	THURSDAY, OCT. 26 THURSDAY, NOV. 30
<b>Friday</b>	FRIDAY, NOV. 17 FRIDAY, DEC. 15	FRIDAY, NOV. 3 FRIDAY, DEC. 8	FRIDAY, OCT. 27 FRIDAY, DEC. 1

## Curbside collection

- ▶ Same day as trash/recycling collection
- ▶ Curbside by 7 a.m.
- ▶ Limit of 20 sacks and/or bundles
- ▶ Paper sacks only.
- ▶ Brush bundled 4' x 2' with twine only
- ▶ No duct tape
- ▶ No trash
- ▶ Call 311 within 24 hours to report a miss.

**HOURS ARE 7 A.M. TO 7 P.M. ON WEEKDAYS.**

## FALL 2017

