



The Record

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Seniors Encouraged to Apply for Tax Rebate Programs

Unified Government launches services to help eligible seniors take advantage of savings

Kansas City, KS – Starting on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, the Unified Government (UG) will be launching neighborhood outreach to Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas seniors to help them apply for tax rebates on their homes and utilities. Seniors can call 3-1-1 to make an appointment to present their paperwork and complete applications at any of the available locations throughout the week and, if needed, can arrange for free transportation to their appointment. Seniors are advised to plan at least 48 hours in advance for transportation.

There have been some changes to the senior tax rebate programs from the State of Kansas this year and the Unified Government has posted updated qualifications and documentation requirements on their website at wycokck.org/clerk.

Homestead Safe Senior Rebate Program: Wyandotte County residents born before January 1, 1967, blind or disabled prior to 2022 and own their home for an entire year or have dependent minors under the age of 18 living with them, with an annual income of \$37,750 or less may be eligible for a tax refund. With the new Senior Veteran Rebate, a disabled veteran or spouse of a disabled veteran may qualify if the annual income is \$50,000 or less.

Utility & Sales Tax Rebate Program: Seniors residing in Kansas City, Kansas and born before January 1, 1967, with an annual income of \$25,000 or less the opportunity may be eligible for refunds of up to \$150 for utilities (electricity, gas, water, phone).

Make an Appointment Today for any of these Locations

To ensure residents fully understand the application process and document requirements, the Unified Government Clerk's Office will be hosting one-on-one appointments starting Tuesday, January 3 through Friday, March 31 to help answer any questions and walk residents through their applications. Appointments will be available at the following community centers



and business locations throughout Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas:

- Beatrice L. Lee Community Center (Tuesdays), 9AM – 12PM
- Armourdale Community Center (Tuesdays), 1PM – 4PM
- Joe E. Amayo Community Center (Wednesdays), 9AM – 12PM
- The Windmill KC (Wednesdays), 10AM – 2PM

- Eisenhower Community Center (Thursdays), 9AM – 12PM
- KCK Annex Building (Thursdays), 1PM – 4PM
- City Hall, Office of the Clerk (Mondays & Fridays), 8:30AM – 4PM

For more information regarding the tax rebate programs, transportation and appointment scheduling, please call 3-1-1 or visit our website at www.wycokck.org/clerk.

Governor Kelly Announces Nearly \$3 Million to Support Kids Exposed to Drugs

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) will receive nearly \$3 million from the U.S. Department of

Justice to better identify and support children exposed to drugs, increase public safety, and re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Keep Kids Safe In and Around Vehicles

Do you know the best way to keep your kids safe in case you are in a crash?

Decades of research and data tells us the answer is to correctly use the right car seats (rear-facing car seats, forward-facing car seats, or booster seats) or seat belts for a child's age and size.

We encourage parents and caregivers to make sure your car seats and booster seats are just right. Double-check that your children are in the right types of seats for their ages and sizes, that the car seats fit your children properly, and that the seats are correctly installed in your vehicle. If you aren't sure, Child Passenger Safety Technicians are available to help you make sure.

Why is it so important to check your car seats to make sure they're the right seats? Your children's lives are riding on it. Below you'll find some startling statistics about child crash fatalities and injuries.

KEY STATISTICS

- Car crashes are a leading cause

of death for children.

- On average, two children under 13 were killed, and an estimated 278 were injured every day in 2020 while riding in cars, SUVs, pickups, and vans.

- In 2020, 604 child passenger vehicle occupants died in traffic crashes.

- In 2020, 38% of children who died while riding in passenger vehicles were unrestrained.

- From 2016 to 2020, 3,267 children under 13 were killed while riding in passenger vehicles.

- From 2016 to 2020, there were 1,721 "teens" (8 to 14 years old) killed in passenger vehicles. In 2020, the 8- to 12-year-old age group had the highest number of fatalities (216) among children in passenger vehicles.

- In 2020, an estimated 101,656 children riding in passenger vehicles were injured in traffic crashes.

- Children from some minority groups are at greater risk of being unrestrained when killed in traffic crashes: According to 2019 data from NHTSA, 54% of Black children killed in car crashes were unrestrained, followed by Hispanic children (41%) and American Indian children (31%). By comparison, white children killed were unrestrained 26% of the time.

- In 2020, over half (53%) of the children killed while riding in light trucks were unrestrained, followed closely by SUVs (46%), passenger cars (34%), and vans (34%).

Car seats save lives

- It's estimated that since 1975 there have been 11,606 children under age 5 saved because of child restraint use.

- In passenger cars, car seats reduce the risk of fatal injury by 71% for infants and by 54% for toddlers. For infants and toddlers in light trucks, the corresponding reductions are 58% and 59%, respectively.

- Most parents are confident that they have correctly installed their child's car seat, but in almost half the case, the seat has not been installed correctly. Having your car seat checked is a quick, free, and im-

portant way to have peace of mind.

Booster seats—don't skip a step

- Booster seats are an essential step between car seats and seat belts. These transitional seats position the seat belt so that it fits properly over the stronger parts of your child's body to protect them in a crash.

- According to NHTSA, in 2019, about 16% of children ages 4-7 were prematurely moved to seat belts, when they should have been in booster seats.

- In every phase, keep your child in the right seat as long as their age and size allows. Check the size limits on your forward-facing car seat with a harness. You may be surprised how long your child can safely use it.

- Don't rush to put your child in a seat belt too soon. If a booster seat is still appropriate for their age and size, then that is the safest way for your child to be buckled.

- When your child is ready to use a seat belt, ensure the seat belt fits correctly: The seat belt should lie across the upper thighs and be snug across the shoulder and chest. Remember that seat belts should

never rest on the stomach area or across the face.

Common mistakes parents and caregivers make with car seats

- Failing to read the car seat instructions and the vehicle owner's manual. This can lead to incorrect installation, exposing a child passenger to the risk of injury or death in a crash. If you need help with the installation, reach out to a Child Passenger Safety Technician who will help for free.

- Moving children to the next type of car seat before they're old enough and big enough.

- Letting young kids ride in the front seat. All children under 13 should always ride buckled up in the back seat. The air bags in the front seating position are designed with an adult passenger in mind. Never place a car seat in the front seat.

- Forgetting to use the top tether on a forward-facing car seat. A tether should always be used to install a forward-facing car seat; it prevents the car seat from moving forward in a crash. Read your vehicle owner's manual to find the correct anchor for installation.

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Support Kids... ...from page 1

duce overdose death. These efforts are part of KDHE's All Hands on DECK (drug-endangered children in Kansas) project.

"It is critical that we make resources and help available to stop the impact of drug addiction on our children," Governor Laura Kelly said. "This funding will be instrumental in curbing the generational impact drugs have on Kansas families."

In Kansas, an estimated 140,860 children live in environments where their parent or caregiver has a substance use disorder (SUD), and an estimated 5,155 Kansas infants are born exposed to substances every year. Drug-endangered children are more likely to develop chronic diseases like diabetes, heart disease, and obesity. They are also more

likely to develop substance use disorder, financial difficulties, and employment challenges.

"This important All Hands on DECK funding is an investment in Kansas children and a lifeline for family members with substance use disorder," Joan Duwve, M.D., KDHE State Health Officer, said. "The funds will provide the support needed to implement DECK coalitions in six funded communities and will help to increase education and awareness of drug-endangered children in Kansas."

The project will work with populations of focus who are disproportionately impacted by substance use disorder and drug overdose. It divides the state into six regions to ensure geographic equity between rural/frontier and urban areas of the state and will engage Kansas tribes, including Iowa, Kickapoo, Potawatomi and Sac and Fox.



By Sharon Hoover

What a difference a day makes or a week for that matter? Today I wanted to rake leaves, but the wind had other ideas. I decided to check my email since I've either had my nose in a book or binge watched some shows on TV for the past week.

Turner Recreation Commission has partnered with the First Baptist

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

Church and United Healthcare Community in creating a DME (Durable Medical Equipment) Community Health Closet at the Rec Center. All medical supply inventory will be donated by outside organizations and community patrons. Supplies will be given out on a first come, first serve basis, and vary depending on availability. Everything is free to the community. There is no charge to keep or borrow supplies. Supplies that can be borrowed and returned: walking boots, walking shoes, back braces, leg braces, leg splints, arm & leg wraps, crutches, therapy pillow, sleep pap systems & accessories, respiratory devices & accessories, blood pressure monitors, and additional items as they are donated. Supplies that can be kept: waterproof cast protectors, blood glucose monitoring supplies & accessories, adult Depend under-

wear, stoma cone irrigation systems, catheters, and additional items as they are donated. If you need any of these supplies or would like to donate supplies call 913-287-2111 ext.1006 or contact spencerr@turnerusd202.org.

I hope I am not beating a dead horse, but I finally finished the three Thursday Murder Club novels. I think I enjoyed them so much because of the age of the main characters. I would recommend them but if you are of their age group, I would recommend getting the large print editions. The type in the regular editions was small and difficult to read for any length of time.

Last year, I reported on a couple of books by Louise Penny, "Still Life" and "The Madness of Crowds". "Still Life" was the first in a series of 17 novels about Chief Inspector Armond Gamache in the Canadian village of

Three Pines and "The Madness of Crowds" was the latest published in 2021. Amazon Prime is now streaming the first season of Three Pines starring Alfred Molina. Since I haven't read the books in-between the above two, the stories were new to me. There are 4 two part stories that are interconnected. Really interesting.

About six years ago, I read a book entitled "A Man Called Ove" by Frederick Backman about a widower. Yesterday I noticed a movie trailer for "A Man Called Otto" starring Tom Hanks. A few of the scenes seemed familiar. I would bet that the movie is based on that book. Both old gentlemen were curmudgeons. With that I take my leave.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind to those around you. Continue to pray for the brave Ukrainians fighting for the right to remain free.



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Low-Income Energy Assistance Program to Continue Heating Homes this Winter

TOPEKA – Colder temperatures and winter weather has arrived in Kansas. The dropping temperatures and necessity of raising the thermostat are leaving some families vulnerable when it comes to covering their heating bills.

The Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), implemented in the state by the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF), allows peace of mind and financial assistance to families struggling to pay their heating bills during the cold winter months.

“LIEAP has helped our Kansas

communities stay warm for many years,” DCF Secretary Laura Howard said. “It is an important and valued support program provided to families during cold Kansas winters.”

Last year, \$47 million aided approximately 40,000 households in covering winter heating bills, averaging \$1,180 per home.

To receive assistance, applicants must apply on the DCF website, www.dcf.ks.gov, by clicking “Apply for Services” or in person and be eligible according to the qualifications. Find a DCF service center

closest to you at www.dcf.ks.gov/services/Pages/DCFOfficeLocator-Map.aspx.

The applications are available beginning Jan. 3, 2023, and must be received by 5 p.m., March 31. More information and FAQs on the LIEAP program is available at www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/EnergyAssistance.aspx.

To qualify, households must have an adult at the address that is responsible for the heating costs of the home. Applicants must be able to prove a recent history of payments on the energy bill (within the past three months), along with being at or below 150% of the federal poverty level.

The one-time assistance payment is determined by household income, number of persons living

at the address, type of dwelling, and type of heating fuel. Income eligibility guidelines are as follows. Funding for LIEAP is provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Community Service through the Federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

Persons Living at the Address/	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$1,699
2	\$2,289
3	\$2,879
4	\$3,469
5	\$4,059
6	\$4,649
7	\$5,239
8	\$5,829

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The person named below has been designated to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s regulations implementing Section 504 (24 CFR, part 8 dated June 2, 1988).

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YOU are invited

Anyone who believes in the mission of The League of United Latin American Citizens LULAC is eligible to join us. Being part of the conversation will bring us together with all of society.

Wikipedia:

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the largest and oldest Hispanic and Latino civil rights organization in the United States.[2] It was established on February 17, 1929, in Corpus Christi, Texas, largely by Hispanics returning from World War I who sought to end ethnic discrimination against Latinos in the United States. The goal of LULAC is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health, and civil rights of Hispanic people in the United States. LULAC uses nationwide councils and group community organizations to achieve all these goals. LULAC has about 132,000 members in the United States.

Council 11085 has LULAC members in the counties of Douglas, Johnson and Wyandotte (Kansas) – Clay and Jackson (Missouri).

Join us in monthly Zoom meetings – the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

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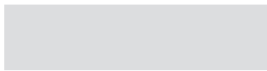
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