

## New Administrator Speaks at Congressional Forum



By Murrel Bland

One of the first things Cheryl Harrison-Lee plans to do is listen. That was the message she delivered as the featured speaker at the monthly meeting of the Congressional Forum. About 35

persons attended via ZOOM Friday, Feb. 18.

The Forum is part of the Kansas City, Kansas, Area Chamber of Commerce.

Harrison-Lee was recently appointed Interim Wyandotte County Administrator succeeding Doug Bach who resigned. She comes after Tyrone Garner became Mayor and Chief Executive Officer of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. Harrison-Lee will serve until April of 2023; when asked what the future might be after the interim period, she said she will be taking it one day at a time and will make a determination then.

Harrison-Lee, who is also chairperson of the Kansas Board of Regents, discussed the importance of an educated workforce. Many Wyandotte County businesses continually complain that their top need is having well-qualified employees. She said it will be important for the public and private sectors to cooperate to help meet that need. Greg Kindel, the President of the Wyandotte County Economic Development Council, told Harrison-Lee that there are about 7,000 job openings in Wyandotte County.

Harrison-Lee said it will be important to establish short-term and long-term goals after her listening tour. These goals will be established

after a strategic plan determines community needs.

Before coming to Wyandotte County, Harrison-Lee was Executive Director of the Kansas Office of Recovery; she administered and distributed federal funds of \$1.034 billion statewide to those impacted by Covid-19. Gov. Laura Kelly appointed Harrison-Lee to the position.

From 2012 until 2018, Harrison-Lee was City Administrator for the City of Gardner in Johnson County. She resigned from that post and received \$350,000 in severance pay.

Much of Harrison-Lee's professional life was spent in the Central Florida Area. She worked in management for cities including Orlando, Daytona Beach, Osmond Beach and Titusville. One of her more significant accomplishments was developing a plan for the reuse of Orlando Naval Training Center.

Harrison-Lee has an undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of South Carolina and a graduate degree from the University of Florida.

She has one son.

*Murrel Bland is the former editor of The Wyandotte West and The Piper Press. He is an advisory director to Business West.*

## New Funding to Improve Community Health and Alleviate Poverty

### Unified Government receives \$689K grant for AmeriCorps VISTA Program

Kansas City, KS – On February 10, 2022, Representative Sharice Davids announced that AmeriCorps awarded \$689,595 to the United Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS (UG) to improve community health and strive to eliminate poverty by placing AmeriCorps VISTA members in the Kansas Third.

The 2021-2022 grant funding is the Unified Government's eighth year as an AmeriCorps grantee. During the initial grant funding in 2014, four AmeriCorps VISTA members served in the Mayor's office and since then the program has expanded to over 11 UG departments and nine community partner agency placements. With having over 90 individuals sworn into service

since 2014, the UG is the largest AmeriCorps VISTA intermediary program in the state of Kansas.

"We thank Representative Davids and her office for the continued support and funding of the AmeriCorps VISTA program within the Unified Government," said Mayor Tyrone Garner. "The service of VISTA members brings great value to our UG departments and community organizations. Their skills not only directly benefit our organization but support community empowerment across Wyandotte County. I want to reiterate that the support of Congresswoman Sharice Davids is both valued and appreciated. Again, on behalf of Wyandotte County KCK,

thank you Representative Davids."

With the additional funding support, the UG AmeriCorps VISTA program has been able to increase the number of available positions to allow for 35 year-round positions and 20 summer members to work full-time within various departments. The secured funding has also allowed for one additional full-time staff person to be hired to assist with the VISTA program.

UG AmeriCorps VISTA members have served in various UG departments such as public health, the budget office, public works, and

# Sue's Sudsy Soapbox



By Sue Reich

**T**his has been a heck of a month. To start with there were two cars in wrecks in front of my house. One was a van that slid off in a fairly wide ditch right on the corner of my lot, the other was a car that slid in a ditch across the street. The van stayed there several days and finally got it pulled out. That snow was a booger this time. These roads here are narrow, curvy, have potholes, etc. I stayed in a couple of days and finally was able to get out to get some groceries. The other day, a herd of deer was in my neighbors' back yard. Really neat. I love to

see deer around here.

Poor babies were looking for some grub. Lots of birds, geese, all kinds of wildlife. Nature sometimes can be beautiful.

It's a shame that two teenage boys were murdered over by Argentine Middle School. What in the world is going on? Those apartments were such a nice place to live years ago and now it isn't anything for anyone to be shot and killed anywhere around our little towns. So, so sad. It happened up at 22nd and Birch.

On the funny side, (which there are still some you know) a man in a Cow Costume was snow blowing the snow off of people's sidewalks and driveways. I wish all of our neighbors were like him. He was on tv, the local news, national news, in the paper on Facebook, such a wonderful man to do that for his community. I would rather see people do that than carry guns just to bump people off. He was a resident of Argentine, couldn't tell who he was, because he looked like a cow. lol

Gonna break some news to my readers. Mr. Ed has dementia and bilateral pneumonia. That is one reason I haven't written much about him. I have been having quite a time with his situation so he is in nursing home so I can get things done that believe me is quite a bit. If it wasn't for my wonderful daughter-in-law, Matilda, I couldn't get thru this. She knows what she is doing and has been a great big help for me. So thanks sweet lady. I have two of the greatest kids and believe me I really appreciate them, John and Matilda.

Well my great readers, please take care and mind your p's and q's. Be kind and keep your distance from those who might be contaminated. Never know, right? Ivya all, really do! Still get nice compliments about the New Record. Seems to have gone over pretty well. Remember, you can read in online at: [recordnews.com](http://recordnews.com)

Your little ol Argentine gal, Sue.




This van went off in a deep ditch. It stayed this way for a few days at 73rd and Gibbs Road.



Another car, same area of 73rd Street.



Several emergency vehicles blocked off the whole area at 73rd and Gibbs Road.



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By Sharon Hoover

**P**onder this. If March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, what if March comes in like a lamb does it go out like a lion? My old bones keep aching every time the temperature and barometer fluctuate. On to bigger and better things.

Rosedale Developments Association has rescheduled its Annual

# Comin' & Goin' Turner Style

Meeting. It will be March 10, 2022, from 5pm-7pm at 1444 Southwest Blvd. It will be a come and go open house affair. Guests will be able to visit several booths manned by RDA and a few community partners.

If you or someone you know is living with a chronic disease, you may be interested in a series of free online Zoom workshops – Chronic Disease Self Management hosted by Kansas University Medical Center. Starting March 7 through April 11 from Noon -2:30 pm. Registration required. [mchandler@kumc.edu](mailto:mchandler@kumc.edu).

KCK Public Library is hosting “Exploring the Myths of Retirement Investing”. How should investments be managed during the retirement years? You may be surprised. This three part Zoom seminar will be held March 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 am.

You will need to preregister. <https://kekpl.librarymarket.comevents/exposing-myths-retirement-investing>. A link will be sent to you.

KCKCC Spring Evening classes are available at Wyandotte High School, 2501 Minnesota Ave. Math, Business, and Ged Classes For more information contact Nora Brown (habla espanol) 913-601-9092 or [nbrown@kckcc.edu](mailto:nbrown@kckcc.edu). For help with the application process call 913-288-7600.

James Patterson and co -author Richard GiLallo’s newest book “The Paris Detective” is a series of three short mysteries that could have been entitled “The Adventures of a Rich Paris Detective in New York City.” It is one of the cozy mysteries (not gory) and reminds me a little of Stuart Woods’ Stone Barrington character as far as money and availability of

services is concerned. It was a fun read.

To more serious matters, Jodi Picoult’s “Wish You Were Here” takes place in the Spring of 2020 when the countries of the world closed down its borders. Our heroine finds herself stranded on a tiny island in the Galapagos as the only tourist. The village is shut down with spotty internet and cellphone coverage, literally shut off from the outside world. Periodically she receives emails from her boyfriend, a doctor in New York who tells of the trials and tribulations in treating covid-19 patients. Slowly life on the island becomes appealing and she questions her future. This book is for anyone questioning their choices in addition to learning about the seriousness of Covid-19.

Until next time, stay safe, and be kind to those around you.



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# SENATE NEWS



By Sen. Pat Pettey

## ALMOST HALFWAY THERE

Next week is turnaround - the midway marker for session and the deadline for most bills to clear their house of origin. With a few exception, bills that do not make it out of their first chamber will remain in committee and are considered "dead" for the session.

I am honored to serve you in Topeka. I welcome your input on any of these issues. Please feel free to contact me at 785-296-7375 or pat.pettey@senate.ks.gov.

## GENERAL ORDERS

The Senate met on Tuesday to vote on four bills, and lawmakers trekked through the snow to meet on Thursday to debate four more.

The bulk of the bills were uncontroversial. I voted YES on SB 343, SB 331, SB 200, SB 394, SB 335, SB 12, and S Sub HB 2262.

SB 12 was introduced by my colleague and the assistant minority leader, Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau. It requires the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) to collaborate with community partners and stakeholders to develop a plan for implementation for a set of performance-based contracts to provide an array of evidence-based prevention

and early intervention services for an out-of-home placement, families that have a child in out-of-home care, and children who are awaiting adoption. The bill is a culmination of years of work by Senator Faust-Goudeau to advocate for our state's most vulnerable children, and I was proud to support its unanimous passage in the Senate.

There was a bit of drama surrounding SB 200, which authorizes pharmacists to initiate treatment for the flu, strep throat, and UTIs. The topic of the bill created an opportunity for Senator Mark Steffen to debate his bill requiring pharmacists to fill off-label prescriptions to "treat" COVID-19, but when debate began, Senator Steffen left the chamber. That didn't stop Senator Alicia Straub—a vocal supporter of Senator Steffen's—from questioning whether pharmacists were qualified to diagnose these infections through testing. She and Senator Mike Thompson were the lone "no" votes on this bill. I voted YES on this consumer-friendly bill.

## COMMITTEE UPDATE

Monday is the last day for committees to meet ahead of the turnaround deadline. Some of the bills with hearings or discussion include:

• **APRN SCOPE OF PRACTICE:** On Monday, February 21 in Public Health & Welfare Committee, we discussed SB453 (dealing with training for nursing home aides), which received a couple of amendments, one raised by me about changing the title of unlicensed employee to certified aid, which was accepted. The bill was passed through committee and will be heard on the senate floor sometime this week. SB174 and SB454 were heard next. There was a hearing for SB174 (APRN - independent practice bill), last year but nothing happened with it. Today, after the hearing for SB174 was over the chair made a motion to substitute HB2279 with SB454 (APRN - 2022 bill), since SB174 and SB454 are similar, we as a committee decided to make a movement on SB454 to replace HB2279. Under SB454 an APRN has to be nationally certified and the bill specified that they only have independent authority when it is

consistent with their specific licenses and population focus. They are also able to prescribe drugs including controlled substances.

• **STANDARD DEDUCTION:** The Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation will consider SB 519, which raises the Kansas standard deduction, on Monday.

• **FIND ACT:** The "Firearm Industry Nondiscrimination Act" would prohibit certain government contracts with companies that discriminate against firearm entities and firearm trade associations. Senator Kellie Warren promoted this legislation after the families of children killed in Sandy Hook received a settlement from Remington.

• **ELECTIONS BILLS:** Senate Fed & State will hear two elections bills on Monday. SB 438 requires audits of any federal, statewide, or state legislative race that is within 1% of the total votes cast. SB 439 requires a county election officer to send a confirmation of address when there is no election-related activity for any four calendar year period.

Senators will be on the floor all day for the rest of the week to debate bills that have made it out of committee and that legislative leadership chooses to address.

Here are some bills on the calendar that may be of interest to you:

• **EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMALS:** S Sub for HB 2057 would enact the Kansas Assistance Animals in Housing Act. The bill would allow a housing provider, upon receiving a request for exemption from a pet policy for the purpose of housing an assistance animal, to require the requestor provide reliable documentation of the disability or disability-related need for the animal. This bill passed the House in March 2021 by a vote of 124-0.

• **SPECIALTY COURTS:** S Sub for HB 2361 would require the Kansas Supreme Court to create specialty court programs. Specialty courts use therapeutic or problem-solving procedures to address underlying factors—such as mental illness or drug, alcohol, or other addictions—that may contribute to a person's involvement in the judicial system.

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**Petty...**  
*...from page 4*

This bill passed the House in March 2021 by a vote of 122-1.

- **THREADING:** SB 348 would exempt the practice of threading – a method of temporary hair removal from the body by use of a strand of thread to pull hair from follicles – from the practice of cosmetology, thereby exempting practitioners from training and licensing requirements.

- **SUSAN B. ANTHONY:** My colleague Senator Jeff Pittman has a bill that would designate February 15th of each year as Susan B. Anthony Day.

- **FIREWORKS:** This bill would regulate the retail sale of fireworks all year and extend the time period for seasonal sale of fireworks to June 15 - July 6.

- **BLIND PARENT RIGHTS:** Senator Mary Ware’s bill strengthening blind parents’ rights has made it out of committee. The bill would ensure that a parent’s blindness could not serve as a basis for denial or restriction of legal custody, residency, or parenting time when such legal custody, residency or parenting time is determined to be otherwise in the best interests of the child.

- **FOOD SALES TAX:** Debate on eliminating the state sales tax on food could begin if we hear the Republican bill that came out of the Tax committee. This bill, sponsored by Senator Caryn Tyson, is much broader than our plan to Axe the Food Tax; hers includes food purchased at restaurants, and amendments made in committee would provide a sales tax exemption for businesses on utilities.

I welcome your input on any of these issues. Please feel free to contact me at 785-296-7375 or pat.petty@senate.ks.gov

**GOVERNOR KELLY ANNOUNCES GRANT AWARDS TO ENHANCE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT CRIMES**

On Wednesday, Governor Laura Kelly announced more than \$1.8 million in grant awards to enhance

the responsiveness of victim advocates to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, and stalking.

These grants are provided through the Federal Services, Training, Officers, and Prosecutors Violence Against Women Act Formula Grant Program (S.T.O.P. VAWA). The program supports the efforts of communities to strengthen effective law enforcement and prosecution strategies to combat violent crimes against women, provide victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women, and promote a coordinated community response to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault/rape, and stalking.

Funds from the Federal Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) assist programs in providing victims of sexual assault with crisis intervention and accompaniment and advocacy assistance through the medical and criminal justice processes. The funds also provide educational information to survivors of sexual assault.

Funds are made available through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

**FOLLOW OUR WORK**

In addition to watching legislative proceedings live, you can always stay up to date with legislative matters by following our caucus’s social media accounts. Our staff live-tweets Senate session daily, provides updates on legislation regularly on Facebook, and shares resources to help you advocate for your issues on Instagram.

**IMPORTANT STATE PHONE NUMBERS**

Here is a list of numbers I often receive requests for during the Legislative Session. I hope you will find this information helpful.

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**Tom’s Tasty Treats**

**By Tom Valverde**

Nothing can beat a traditional cookie for tasty goodness. This week’s tasty treat is a very traditional treat from Italy, and they are made for celebrating Saint’s days, for Easter and Christmas. That’s when these homemade cookies are typically prepared by everyone’s Nona, or grandmother. Bakeries sell them all year round, they’re so popular. Easy to make, they are like little, soft cakes. So please bake a batch soon of:

**NONA’S GLAZED RICCOTTA COOKIES**

Ingredients:

- 2 sticks Butter or Margarine
  - 1 3/4 c Sugar
  - 4 t Vanilla\*
  - 15 oz. Ricotta cheese
  - 2 Lg. Eggs
  - 4 c Flour
  - 2 t Baking Powder
  - 1/2 t Baking Soda
  - 1/4 t Salt
  - 2 t Orange Zest, finely grated^^
- Glaze:
- 2 c Powdered Sugar
  - 4 T Orange juice
  - 1/2 t Vanilla
  - Multi-color Sprinkles

Set oven to 350°. Line 2 cookie sheets with parchment paper. In a mixer, cream the butter, sugar and the Vanilla until creamy in texture. \*4 t Vanilla is the best amount to use any less, and the taste isn’t as good. Beat in the Ricotta cheese. Beat the eggs in one at a time; scraping down the bowl as needed. Combine and whisk together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Stir in the finely grated Orange rind. ^^Best results when a micro-planer is used. Avoid the white pith of the orange, it’s bitter. With a sturdy spatula, slowly add in the flour mixture. Once all combined, set aside for five minutes. (At this point, the dough may be kept for five days refrigerated or up to one month, frozen.)

Form dough with a tablespoon sized scoop. Space cookies 1 1/2” apart on the cookie sheet. Bake at 350° on the center rack, for 8-10 minutes. Cookies are done when the bottoms are just lightly golden. These do not take on much color. Once out of the oven, set aside for 4 minutes. Then transfer to wire rack to cool completely. Let the oven return to temperature before baking the next sheet of cookies.

Prepare the glaze. Combine all the ingredients except for the orange juice. Start by adding 2 T orange juice. Add in just enough juice to have the glaze “ribbon” off the spoon. Place the sprinkles in a small bowl. Place a wire rack over wax paper to catch drips from the cookies. Dip each cookie into the glaze, return to the rack, and quickly top with the sprinkles, before the glaze hardens. Store in an air-tight container at room temperature for 3-5 days for best freshness. These cookies will soon become a fun tradition as everyone loves these tender and flavorful cookies from Italy. They make great gifts to hand-deliver, but aren’t good for sending by mail.

Variations: Use the zest of 2 lemons or 1t lemon extract. Or flavor with 1/2 t of Almond or Anise extract, with 1/2 t of Vanilla. Use a full teaspoon of the almond or Anise extract if you desire a stronger flavor. Use corresponding extract for the glaze. Start with 1/4 t and taste. Add another 1/4 t if a stronger flavor is wanted. To vary the glaze, frost the cookies with a cream cheese frosting or your favorite buttercream frosting.

The sprinkles makes these cookies appear very festive but, it’s how good they taste that will have everyone hooked. Make some now, and more at Easter to start a new family tradition. Clip the recipe for use this Christmas! Enjoy!

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# Guest Editorial

By Tom Valverde

President Biden has extended the US National Emergency beyond the former March 1 cutoff date, "Due to the on-going risk to Public Health posed by variants in the COVID virus."

A rare Syndrome has been found in at least 7,000 cases in minors. This rare infection has resulted in the deaths of over 70 children. The rare COVID-19 related illness is called Multi System Inflammatory Syndrome in children (MIS-C).

"The deaths of over 900,000 Americans from COVID-19 emphasized the need to respond to the on-going pandemic with the full capacity of the Federal Government," President Biden said.

A letter was sent to Congress by the Biden Administration that warned, "The US lacks sufficient, on-hand funding to respond to future Covid-19 variants, stockpile vaccines, or for the development of new technologies to combat new virus variants."

A just released document from Health and Human Services states

that \$70.4 Billion of the \$80 Billion that was made available by President Biden's \$1.9 Trillion American Rescue Plan had been spent. The disbursed funding was used for pandemic response including Testing, Vaccine distribution, and to purchase medical supplies.

It is now up to Congress to appropriate the additional resources. The CDC has provided Parental guidance regarding MIS-C: "MIS-C is a condition where different parts of the body can become inflamed. These include the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs. Prompt medical care is needed when the patient shows signs of MIS-C:

•On going fever PLUS more than one of the following:

- Stomach pain
- Bloodshot eyes
- Diarrhea
- Dizziness or being
- Light-headed
- Skin rash
- Vomiting

Call 911 if the patient has trouble breathing, has persistent pain in the

## State of Emergency Extended for Covid-19

chest, experiences new confusion, or cannot wake or stay awake

When calling 911, notify the operator that you are seeking treatment for someone who may have COVID-19.

Biden Administration officials informed Congress that Health and Human Services plans to seek an additional \$30 Billion in conjuncture with the \$1.5 Trillion government funding package which lawmakers want to complete by March 11.

The president and CEO of the American Hospital Association, Richard J. Pollock, wrote to President Biden. This is an excerpt from his letter:

American hospitals, health system, and frontline workers continue to face historic and unprecedented staffing and financial pressures. The most recent surge resulting from both the Delta and Omicron variants, has once again, threatened to overwhelm the US Health Care system... So far, in the past week, there are over 1.5 Million new COVID-19 cases with

over 101,308 hospitalizations, up from 96,425 in the prior week. Everyone wants to see a return to life as before COVID-19, but as new variants emerge, it still may be some time before that occurs. If you have family or friends with minors, please share this information with them. Thank you.



## Passings...

By Sue Reich

Verna Fay Hanson, age 95, passed away on February 5, 2022. Verna was a Harvey Girl for Fred Harvey Restaurant at Union Station in Kansas City, Missouri and held several jobs as a secretary for numerous companies. She was a life-long member of the Church of Christ in Argentine.

Agnes Mary Moore, age 86 passed away on February 18, 2022. Agnes was a 1952 graduate of Bishop Ward High School and was a 60-year resident of the Argentine area where she was an active member of St. John the Evangelist Parish. She loved to sew, cook, and bake, which her family and friends greatly enjoyed and appreciated.

Steve Schuler, age 63, passed away on February 19, 2022. He was a 1976 graduate of Turner High School. Steve was the CEO of Schuler Heating and Cooling in Kansas City, Kansas. His career encompassed many years of expanding the family business where he later passed it down to the third generation owner, his daughter Jennifer, upon his retirement in 2017.

## New Funding...

...from page 1

planning + urban design to name a few. VISTA members also serve in different roles in area organizations and provide direct support with the focus on community engagement, local health initiatives, neighborhood revitalization efforts and capacity building for organizations that support sustainable solutions to poverty in Wyandotte County. The majority of partner agency placement sites are located in Wyandotte County, but there are some sites that exist across county lines. Regardless of the site location all VISTA positions directly benefit Wyandotte County residents.

"The Unified Government is a proud AmeriCorps grantee. With the continued support from AmeriCorps and specifically the

AmeriCorps North Central Regional Office, we have seen impacts in areas from community engagement and outreach to violence prevention and everything in between," said Alli Zuel, AmeriCorps Initiatives Supervisor, Unified Government Public Health Department. "We have had AmeriCorps members in our program coordinate 700+ volunteers in our COVID-19 vaccination clinics, support local organizations with programming and communications, and assist with the implementation of new programs all right here in WyCo. AmeriCorps members are helping us work towards a healthier and safer Wyandotte County."

Get Involved

The AmeriCorps VISTA program is always looking to engage citizens about the AmeriCorps VISTA service. There are current-

ly about a dozen open positions the program is looking to fill and will begin recruiting for summer associate members soon.

For more information on how to apply for the VISTA program or how to host AmeriCorps members at your organization, please contact [UGVISTALeader@wycokck.org](mailto:UGVISTALeader@wycokck.org).

About AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps is a federal agency that brings people together to tackle the county's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering. AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers serve with organizations dedicated to the improvement of communities. AmeriCorps helps make service to others a cornerstone of our national culture.

To learn more about AmeriCorps and the VISTA program, please visit [AmeriCorps.gov](http://AmeriCorps.gov).



Periodical Postage Paid  
at Kansas City, Kansas

# CARING CONNECTION COLLABORATIVE



## CLOTHING & FOOD:

- Clothing; children & adults
- Food
- Miscellaneous items

## LOCATION:

First Baptist Church of  
 Turner  
 701 s. 55th St. KCKS 66106  
 Call 913-287-7756

By appointment M, W, Thur.  
 Walk-in Saturdays 1-3pm