



Chief Dennis L. Rubin Stepping Down as Fire Chief For the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department

Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department (KCKFD) Chief Dennis L. Rubin will be leaving his position after completing three and a half years of dedicated service. His day as Chief will be October 31, 2026.

Since assuming the position in June 2023, Chief Rubin has helped move the KCKFD forward through changes that directly support the department and the residents of Kansas City, Kansas. Under his leadership, the department has made improvements to its emergency response fleet, including the addition and replacement of fire engines, ladder trucks and ambulances, strengthened the community paramedic program, enacted the Whole Blood Program, and reduced over \$5 million in Unified Government expenses related to overtime. In 2025, Chief Rubin testified in front of Congress on behalf of the Unified Government and Fire Departments across the country in opposition to fire apparatus manufacture monopolies.

“On behalf of the Unified Government, I want to thank Chief Rubin for his service and commitment,” said Interim County Administrator Alan Howze. “His dedication to the department and the greater good of the fire service has been greatly appreciated. We wish him all the best in his next chapter.”

Chief has worked alongside firefighters,



emergency responders, local officials, and community members to support the safety and well-being of the community. During Chief Rubin’s tenure, the department has expanded KCKFD training programs, increased community engagement and public education, implemented strategic initiatives to cut costs, and worked to strengthen community organization partnerships.

“It has been an honor and a privilege to be the 19th Fire Chief for Kansas City, Kansas,” said Chief Rubin. “I have enjoyed my time leading a great Fire Department. I am certain that KCKFD will continue to do great and wonderful work for the Community.”

The UG will soon announce plans for interim leadership along with a national search process for selecting the department’s next fire chief.

IRS launches new mobile app, expanding digital services for taxpayers

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service today announced the launch of the new IRS mobile app, replacing IRS2Go and expanding the agency’s digital services to give taxpayers more ways to securely access IRS tools and account services from their mobile devices.

“The new IRS app puts more services at taxpayers’ fingertips,” said IRS Chief Executive Officer Frank J. Bisignano. “It advances our digital-first agenda to meet taxpayers how and where they choose to interact with the IRS, whether at home or on the go. Our goal is to

make IRS services easy to access and more consistent across all of our platforms.”

For more than a decade, IRS2Go has helped taxpayers check refund status and find free filing resources. The new IRS app builds on that foundation by adding a broader set of secure, account-specific features. Taxpayers can now securely sign in to the official IRS app and access selected account information and self-service options, including:

- * Check refund and amended-return status
- * View available balance information

- * Make payments and review payment activity
- * View select notices and letters
- * Access available tax records and transcripts
- * Manage certain profile and communication preferences

* Access an Identity Protection PIN (IP PIN)
This is just the beginning—the IRS will continue expanding the app with new capabilities and services over time.

The IRS app is free and available through the

Stock Market Insights

Why Rising Interest Rates Aren't Scaring Investors This Time

Dr. Richard Baker, AIF®, is the CEO and executive wealth advisor at Fervent Wealth Management

After six weeks, I am finally getting rid of my sling after rotator cuff surgery. I have mixed feelings about it. While I look forward to more mobility, I am also a little afraid I might do something to reinjure myself. The market feels about the same to me right now; a few real concerns, but overall great days ahead.

The Federal Reserve (Fed) raised rates for the first time in three years; bond yields are at their highest level since 2009, and Treasury yields are also near recent highs. Usually, surging interest rates will get seasoned investors nervous, but I'm not seeing that this time.

I am not saying professional investors are thrilled, but I am sensing excitement about market opportunities that I hadn't expected. Usually during times like these, investors

see rising rates as a sign of higher borrowing costs, higher inflation, and a drag on stocks. In the past, several investors have worried that higher borrowing costs would hurt corporate profits and slow the overall U.S. and global economy.

What is different this time around?

We're at a unique time in the economy: First, most Americans have locked in low mortgage rates and aren't affected by rising rates. Second, the biggest corporate borrowers lately are artificial-intelligence (AI) companies with plenty of cash that also aren't susceptible to higher interest rates. It's been interesting to watch how the Magnificent Seven used to steer the market, but now AI-related companies are powering the U.S. economy. It looks like they are going to keep spending, which is another reason investors expect continued growth.

It's not all sunshine and fairy dust for every part of the economy.

Some parts of the economy remain interest-rate-sensitive and will struggle. Housing and commercial real estate are chief among them and are feeling pressure. I think they will likely remain under pressure for the near future.

Oil prices are still too high. When oil gets pricey enough to slow down consumer spending, it can slow the economy. Thankfully, the U.S. isn't as susceptible to high oil prices as it used to be because the U.S. produces more oil than it needs. Higher energy

prices aren't necessarily the biggest concern, but they do lead to higher inflation because it costs more to ship goods. This leads the Fed to raise rates, which is the financial cycle of life.

Bond investors are saying, "Yield baby yield!"

The biggest bond investors love this rising rate environment. That is because for the first time in years, you can buy high-quality bonds at higher interest rates. You can get higher yields without dipping into the junk bond category and getting yields in the 6-7% range. The downside is that higher interest rates push bond prices lower, but for income investors, this is a breath of fresh air.

I got my first investment license thirty years ago this past Spring. Over the years, I have learned that there are always opportunities to add value to portfolios; you just have to find them. Another thing I learned is that over the long term, it's the fundamentals—revenues, net income, profit margins, and cash flow—that drive markets, not news headlines.

Some parts of the economy are concerning and could cause some slowing, but I don't see a recession anytime soon outside of a major terrorist attack. Overall, I feel good about the market for the rest of the year. Whatever is ahead, I still believe that a diversified portfolio is the best tool for navigating unexpected twists and turns in the market.

Since I can't hike or play golf, I

have been doing a lot of home chores. Last weekend, I went through our tax returns and receipts from the late 90s, which were overdue to be shredded. Three hours into sorting boxes, my injured shoulder started hurting terribly. I had been using the hand from the injured shoulder to take the paper and drop it into the shred box on my right side. That small use set me back a few days in rehab, which is why I am a little concerned about taking off the sling. I just have to tell myself not to believe the fears and trust that better days are ahead. I believe that for my shoulder and the markets.

Have a blessed week.

www.FerventWM.com

This article was written by humans for humans because AI doesn't have this quality of sarcasm.

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The Record Publications, LLC

Publishers of *The Record*

(913) 362-1988

Jon A. Males

Owner/Publisher/Editor

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The Record (USPS No. 002269) is published weekly every Thursday by The Record Publications at 14690 Parallel Rd, Basehor KS 66007. Newsstand price, single copy, 78 cents; subscription price per year, \$40.50. For editorial, display, and classified advertising information call 362-1988. Periodical postage paid at Kansas City, Kansas 66110. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Record, P.O. Box 6197, Kansas City, Kansas 66106-0197

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Apple App Store and Google Play. Current IRS2Go users do not need to download a separate app. Users with automatic updates enabled will receive the IRS app through the normal update process. Taxpayers can also visit IRS App on IRS.gov for verified links and additional information.

The IRS app expands secure mobile access to selected IRS Individual Online Account services.

It does not replace IRS.gov or the IRS online accounts. IRS.gov continues to provide comprehensive tax information, guidance, forms, tools and services. IRS Individual Online Account, Business Tax Account and Tax Pro Account will continue to be available through IRS.gov, with the IRS app initially extending selected Individual Online Account features only. Telephone and in-person assistance also remain available for taxpayers who need individualized help or whose issues cannot be resolved through self-service.

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Investing in a Healthier Wyandotte County

This November, Wyandotte County voters have an opportunity to make an important investment in the health of our community. The ballot will include a new Wyandotte County healthcare sales tax, a quarter-cent tax that could generate an estimated \$12 million each year for health-related services. I am asking you to support this measure.

What could \$12 million do annually for the health of our community? Those dollars could make a real difference.

The Wyandotte County healthcare sales tax could support behavioral health and substance use treatment, preventive health care, and services for people who cannot afford care, along with the county health department. It could also help our community strengthen its response to homelessness.

People experiencing homelessness often face far more challenges than just a lack of housing. Many also need mental health or substance use treatment, medical care and help navigating systems that can be challenging, even under the best circumstances.

If we want to help people move from homelessness into housing, we have to address those needs together.

The Wyandotte County healthcare sales tax could help provide the resources to do that. It could support wraparound services that connect people with housing, health care and behavioral health treatment. It could also potentially make larger investments possible, such as a year-round shelter or an inpatient substance use treatment facility.

After more than 30 years in behavioral health, I have seen what happens when people cannot get the right care when they need it. Problems grow into crises. People end up in emergency rooms, jail, or out on the streets. The human cost is significant, and so is the cost to our community.

This measure will not solve every health or homelessness challenge in Wyandotte County. But it would give our community more tools to address them.

That is why I'm supporting the Wyandotte County healthcare sales tax, and why I encourage Wyandotte County voters to vote yes this November.

— Wyandot Behavioral Health



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- ◆ Area Schools – sports, activities and issues that affect parents, students and the community.

Consumer Connection: Your autumn-ready checklist

Topeka, Kan. – As seasons change, bringing falling leaves and cooler temperatures, Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt encourages Kansans to use the Kansas Department of Insurance’s autumn-ready checklist to identify and address seasonal hazards such as clogged gutters, water damage and strain on heating systems to prevent potential insurance claims.

* Clean and inspect gutters, drainage, and the roof. Clean gutters before leaves accumulate, make sure downspouts are securely attached and direct water away from foundations. Look for damage around skylights and chimneys, loose vents and ponding-water issues.

* Remove hazardous limbs and secure exterior property. Address branches that may touch roofs or siding, trees with visible cracks and dead or dying limbs ahead of autumn storms that often produce damaging wind and hail.

* Check for water intrusion and foundation drainage. Don’t forget to check for moisture in basements and crawlspaces, or by windows, door seals, sump pumps and backup systems.

* Prepare plumbing for freezing temperatures. Disconnect exterior hoses, insulate vulnerable pipes, and know where your home’s main water shutoff is.

* Service heating equipment and inspect fire hazards. Proactively examine chimneys and flues, test smoke and carbon-monoxide detectors, and make sure your fire extinguisher is in good condition and easily accessible.

“Taking a few simple steps to prepare your home as the seasons change can help prevent insurance claims,” said Commissioner Vicki Schmidt. “By addressing potential hazards now, homeowners can reduce the risk of damage to their property throughout the fall and winter.”

The Department is available to assist Kansans with insurance issues. Please contact the Kansas Department of Insurance Consumer Assistance Division at 785-296-3071, email kdoi.complaints@ks.gov, or visit the Department online at insurance.kansas.gov for any claims-related questions or concerns.



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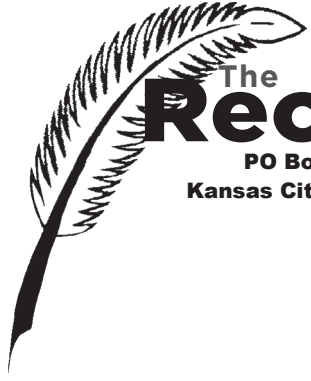
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