

# THE VOICE

A Trusted Voice From The Community's Perspective



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# THE VOICE

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## LOOKING AHEAD

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on our website. Not just current and recent issues. You can read issues dating back several years. Go to [www.CommunityVoiceKS.com](http://www.CommunityVoiceKS.com), click on "e-editions." Plus, our archive is searchable. If there's a particular story you're looking for, just enter a defining word for the story in the search box.

## If You're Not Reading Us Online...

YOU'RE MISSING A LOT

Here are a few of the stories we've published exclusively online. Go check them out online or sign up for our one of our newsletters so you don't miss any of our great news.

**Amazon Drone Delivery Coming to Kansas City:**  
What You Need to Know



# Five Years After George Floyd's Death, Hope for a Better Black Future is Near Dead

**By Bonita Gooch**  
The Voice Editor-in-Chief

Five years ago this Sunday, White police officer Derk Chauvin was filmed killing George Floyd, in Minneapolis during an arrest. Video of the killing sparked protests, violence, and a racial reckoning in the United States and across the globe. Many segments of the public, especially on the left, clamored for institutional changes in the wake of Floyd's murder — including an overhaul of US police departments — with the aim of addressing perceived systemic biases and advancing racial equality.

Five years later, after all the marching, demanding Black Lives Matter, and movement to hold police accountable, all in response to a series of "Say Their Names Deaths," a Pew Research Center Report poll finds 72% of U.S. adults say the increased focus on race and racial inequality after George Floyd's killing did not lead to changes that improved the lives of Black people.

Nearly three out of every four people say it was all in vain, and in the wake of the Trump Justice Department's moves this week, it's hard to believe even the one in four who remained optimistic would still be so.

In case you missed it, this week the DOJ cancelled settlements with Minneapolis and Louisville and six other cities that called for an overhaul of their police

departments following proven patterns of biased policing.

Combine this with other Trump administration actions like:

- Ending DEI programs,
- His "big beautiful budget" that will cut programs for the poor while giving tax cuts to the rich,
- How his party refuses to take steps against him even when his actions are obviously against the constitution — like accepting a jet from Qatar,
- Trump selling access to himself to the individuals who buy the most of his new crypto currency issue by his corporation just days before he took office, and it makes you feel like we're living in a third world country where almost anything could happen to us, where we have reason to fear what's coming next.

No wonder, the Pew Research Poll also found Americans have almost no belief left that Black Americans will ever have equal rights with White people.

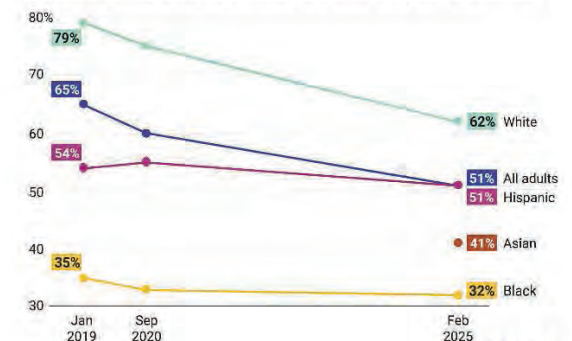
In January 2019, 65% of US adults believed that Black Americans would have equal rights with White people. Per Pew Research Center polling in February 2025, that figure is 51%. The drop in optimism has been especially pronounced among White Americans, as the graph shows.

African-American belief dropped only slightly, because we had given up believing the equality bus was

### The Graphic Truth by GZERO

Five years on from George Floyd, hope for racial equality is on the wane

The proportion of adults, by race, who think it is somewhat or very likely that Black people in the United States will eventually have equal rights with White people.



Source: Pew Research Center

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Credit: Luisa Vieja

coming years ago. But now, even White people can no longer pretend not to see the writing on the wall.

Things are bad for Black people and five years after

George Floyd's death, it's hard to believe we'll ever be able to come back from where Trump and his go along Republicans will take us to in the next four years.

## CARTOON



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# Supreme Court Ruling Makes it a Little Harder to Get Police Off on Excessive Use of Force

Court rules against narrow “moment of threat” rule in determining police “reasonably fear for their life” standard.

## By Associated Press

A unanimous Supreme Court last revived a civil rights lawsuit against a Texas police officer who shot a man to death during a traffic stop over unpaid tolls.

The justices ordered the New Orleans-based 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to take a new look at the case of Ashtian Barnes, who died in his rental car in April 2016 on the shoulder of the Sam Houston Tollway in Houston.

Barnes was shot by Officer Roberto Felix Jr., who jumped on the sill of the driver’s door of Barnes’ car as it began to pull away from

the stop. Felix fired twice in two seconds because he “reasonably feared for his life,” his lawyers wrote in their Supreme Court brief.

Lower courts had dismissed the excessive force lawsuit filed against Felix by Barnes’ mother, Janice Hughes. The district court granted summary judgment to Felix under a narrow interpretation of the Fourth Amendment known as the “moment of threat” rule.

The rule, adopted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, limited the analysis of whether the shooting was reasonable to the roughly two seconds that Barnes’ car was in motion



Ashtian Barnes died during a police traffic stop in 2016. (SCREENSHOT: BARNES FAMILY GOFUNDME)

with Felix on board. The appellate court affirmed the lower court’s ruling.

The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that the narrow

examination of Barnes and Felix’s encounter prevented the district court from examining all of the circumstances leading up to the

shooting. Writing for the unanimous court, Associate Justice Elena Kagan likened the “moment of threat” rule to putting on “chronological blinders,” preventing courts from examining use-of-force cases with a context-sensitive approach.

Kagan wrote for the court that courts should look at the “totality of the circumstances” to evaluate the suit against Felix. The standard embraced by the court Thursday often will be friendlier to plaintiffs in civil rights cases.

U.S. appellate courts had been divided on the “moment of threat” doctrine, with only four of the nation’s

13 circuit courts of appeal actively applying it, Barnes’ attorneys noted in a legal filing.

The Supreme Court’s decision requires the Fifth Circuit to reexamine Barnes’ case under the broader standard set forth in its opinion. However, the justices chose not to opine on the issue of how an officer’s own actions might create a dangerous scenario.

“While the situation at the precise time of the shooting will often matter most, earlier facts and circumstances may bear on how a reasonable officer would have understood and responded to later ones,” Kagan wrote.

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# Downtown KCK Transit Hub to Get Facelift

GM Main Street grant of \$60K awarded to help reimagine the 7th & Minnesota transit hub.

By Thomas White  
Kansas City Reporter

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, KS, Transportation Dept. has won a \$60,000 grant to transform the 7th & Minnesota Transit Hub.

The money will fund a large-scale mural and other

improvements at the downtown bus stop. JT Daniels, a local artist who created murals at Jersey Creek basketball court and The Merc downtown, will design the mural.

“We fully support community beautification,” said Deasiray Bush, UG transportation director. “This project will allow us to revitalize the 7th Street hub and bring it back to life.”

The grant will help fund these improvements at 7th & Minnesota:

- New bus shelter panels
- Custom-designed artistic seating with anti-loitering features



Mural by JT Daniels at the Community Health Council of Wyandotte County building.

- Large mural on the retaining wall reflecting Wyandotte County’s history
- Bike racks to promote eco-friendly transportation

A committee with downtown representatives and nearby neighbors will meet to collaborate with the muralist before selecting from three mural designs by late June.

KCK was one of five communities nationwide selected

for GM’s Main Street Grant Program, which funds pedestrian-friendly and inclusive design projects.

“We’re excited to bring art, accessibility, and essential upgrades together in a way that truly connects people and place,” Bush said. “This grant gives us the opportunity to reimagine the 7th & Minnesota transit hub — not just as a stop, but as a vibrant space that reflects and serves our community.”

## Broader 7th Street Improvements Coming

The receipt of the GM Main Street Grant coincides with a separate Transportation Improvement Plan grant to the KCATA from 2022 that will upgrade a larger stretch of 7th Street from Minnesota Avenue to KU Medical Center.

This 7th Street corridor project includes:

- New bus shelters
- Benches and trash receptacles

- Real-time arrival signs similar to those on KCMO Streetcar

Both grants should begin implementation by July, and a joint future groundbreaking ceremony is being planned by the UG.

“It will look completely different than what you see today,” Bush says. “We want something that’s more of a modern style, that’s colorful, open, and benefits community morale.”

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## KCKPS Announces the Hiring of New Principal at Wyandotte High School

By The Voice News Service

Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) has announced the hiring of Dr. Brian Guliford as the new Principal of Wyandotte High School. He will start work July 7.

He has served for nearly five years as principal at Tempe Union High School in Tempe, AZ. Prior to that, Guliford served as principal at The Academies at South Mountain High School in Phoenix, AZ, for four years.

Guliford led both schools with vision and purpose, emphasizing academic excellence, college and career readiness, equity, and restorative practice. His tenure at each campus was marked by improved student outcomes, strengthened school cultures, and meaningful

partnerships with families and community stakeholders.

Before becoming a principal, Guliford served as an assistant principal at the K-8 level for nine years. In that role, he supported student achievement, led staff development initiatives, and fostered a safe and an all-embracing school culture. During that time, he also served as an athletic director, where he championed student-scholars, promoted teamwork, discipline, and built athletic programs rooted in character and sportsmanship.

Guliford has nearly 30 years of dedicated service in public education. He holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, a master's in K-12 education leadership, a post-baccalaureate

in secondary education; social studies, and a doctorate in K-12 educational leadership.

“What I look forward to the most is getting to know the students and staff at Wyandotte High School,” said Guliford. “Equally, I look forward to understanding how I can contribute to making Wyandotte High School a special place for students.”

Guliford is replacing long-time Wyandotte High School principal Mary Stewart. She served as the principal for nearly 20 years, and has been with the school district for more than 40 years.

KCKPS is the largest school district in Wyandotte County and the fifth-largest in Kansas. The district serves 21,000+ students at nearly 50 school sites.



Brian Guliford

# Summer's Almost Here – *What's a Kid to Do?*

ThrYve Youth Opportunities & Resource Guide offers a laundry list of summer activities

By **Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

Keeping kids engaged during summer break just got easier for KC-area families looking to trade screen time for dream time.

The 2025 Youth Opportunities & Resource Guide just dropped, created by ThrYve (Together Helping Reduce Youth Violence for Equity), and it's packed with everything from paid gigs for teens to free spray parks for the little ones. Visit [WeThrYve.org](http://WeThrYve.org) and click on "Youth Resources"; the guide is the top item on the page.

This 54-page treasure map, which covers both sides of

the state line but has a strong Wyandotte County presence, offers a stunning variety of options:

- Youth Navigator Program with leadership training and stipends
- Armourdale Renewal Association's paid summer employment for ages 14-18
- Health Sciences Academy at KU Medical Center with \$1,000 stipends
- Academic research training at Children's Mercy
- Ailey Camp dance program for ages 11-14
- KCYA Art Sampler Camps running June-August
- Camp Fury where girls train alongside female emergency responders

- KC Farm School's agricultural apprenticeships
- Free Wyandotte County Spray Parks open daily 9AM-9PM
- Parkwood Pool \$1 admission

From college campus experiences like UMKC's Pharmacy Camp to community service through Youth Volunteer Corps, the guide spans activities for every interest, age group, and budget.

Programs run the gamut from one-day workshops to eight-week intensives, with start dates scattered throughout June and July. Many of the activities are free or paid opportunities.

The resource section of the guide extends beyond recreation, connecting families with food pantries, health-care resources, educational support, and even gardening assistance through KC Farm School's "Let's Grow Wyandotte" initiative.

With most programs beginning in early June and many offering limited spots, families still looking for activities should get busy exploring options at [WeThrYve.org](http://WeThrYve.org) before registration deadlines pass.



## Voice Launches New Voice KC Facebook

By **Bonita Gooch**  
Voice Editor in Chief

We're excited to announce the launch of our new Voice KC Facebook page—created exclusively for Kansas City metro readers like you. Our Voice KC Facebook page is your space, with news, stories, and updates focused entirely on the Kansas City community.

This is part of our ongoing commitment to the Kansas City metro area.

- The new Facebook page gives you:
- Real-time KC news and

updates throughout the week

- A platform to engage directly with stories and your community
- Content curated just for Kansas City, without the mix of Wichita coverage

Whether you read our free print edition, visit our always free access state-of-the-art website, or follow us on social media, we're constantly working to bring you news and information that empowers you and reflects your experiences. We're proud to be a consistent, trusted resource for our

readers in Kansas City.

We've also recently added a Community Calendar (see story page 12) on our website, so you can find and share events happening throughout the KC metro. From neighborhood gatherings to major happenings, it's a growing hub for what's going on around you.

Plus, don't miss our Kansas City Monday email newsletter, packed with top local stories, upcoming events, and fresh updates to kick off your week.

Follow us today on Facebook at @VoiceKC —KC news, your way.

# New Ashland Square 'Spray-Ground' Replaces Former Pool

Spray grounds cost less and are more accessible than traditional pools

By **Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

Water jets shot skyward as children frolicked about Ashland Square Park's new \$1.4 million spray ground following a Wednesday-afternoon ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The 7.5-acre park at 2200 Elmwood Ave in KC's east side has been a community hub since 1913. The park also boasted a pool for generations that had been in danger of

closing since 2006 before being officially and permanently closed by the city in 2022.

"Looking around you, this is 18 years of hard work in our community coming together to make sure that we have recreation and a safe place for our children," said Rachel Riley, President of the East 23rd Street PAC neighborhood association.

The city shuttered the Ashland Square Pool along with Jarboe Pool and Arbor Villa Park Pool in 2022. All three were "drain and fill" pools that lacked filtration systems. Instead of filtering water, they were completely drained and refilled daily, with cleaning done through



Cutting the ribbon to officially open the \$1.4 million spray ground. The ceremony featured beach balls tossed in celebration.

draining or adding chemicals—methods no longer considered sanitary.

The extensive renovation involved demolishing the existing pool structure,

installing new water and electrical systems, and completely redesigning the space for accessibility. Construction crews added new pavement, restored historic structures, and rebuilt street connections surrounding the facility.

The improvements include:

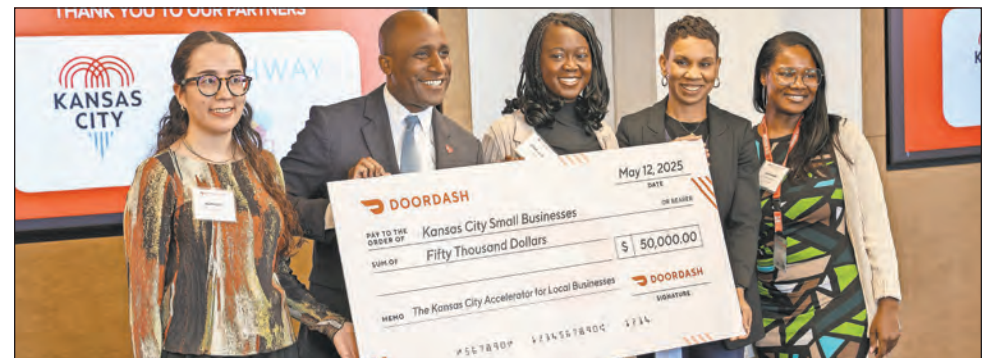
- 22 interactive water features with synchronized sprayers
- Seven limestone benches and three metal benches
- Three shade canopies for summer heat relief
- Five picnic tables (including two ADA-accessible)
- New rail fencing and a drinking fountain

Third District

Councilwoman Melissa Patterson-Hazley shared the neighborhood's excitement — and said that KC's parks are one of her favorite parts of the city — at the ribbon cutting.

"I am excited for the kids that are going to get to enjoy this splash park, including my own family, and I will see you out there," she said.

The splash pad represents a citywide trend toward more affordable and accessible water recreation. Spray grounds require less maintenance than traditional pools, eliminate drowning risks, don't require lifeguards, and can serve people of all physical abilities.



A \$50K check from DoorDash for 10 local entrepreneurs. Regina Sosa, Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City; Mayor Quinton Lucas; Esther Ladipo Hill, DoorDash; Nia Webster and Janá Wagner, KC BizCare.

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## 10 KC Entrepreneurs Get \$50K Boost from DoorDash Program

Small businesses were chosen for a new accelerator aimed at boosting local restaurants ahead of the 2026 World Cup.

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

Ten local shops are getting a boost to help them gear up for next year's World Cup and beyond through DoorDash's first Midwest restaurant accelerator program.

DoorDash chose Kansas City as the Midwest launchpad for its Accelerator for Local Restaurants, providing 10 selected entrepreneurs with mentorship, training and \$6,000 in financial support through July.

Mayor Quinton Lucas joined DoorDash representatives and business owners at city hall for Monday's kickoff event.

"When our small businesses succeed, Kansas City succeeds," said Lucas.

The program arrives as the city's 50,000 small businesses prepare for economic opportunities, including the 2026 FIFA World Cup events.

"Small businesses are the heart of Kansas City, and

the Accelerator for Local Businesses will help these incredible entrepreneurs take their businesses to the next level," said Esther Ladipo Hill, social impact manager at DoorDash.

From more than 70 applicants, DoorDash selected 10 businesses representing KC's diverse entrepreneurial landscape. Each receives a \$5,000 grant, 12 weeks of business education, and personalized mentorship. Each participant in the accelerator receives:

- One-on-one mentorship from experienced peers on the DoorDash platform.
- Tailored programming on optimizing menus, operations, and their DoorDash storefront and help accessing small business resources, including financing options, certification programs, government contracting opportunities, and local business support services.
- A \$5,000 grant.
- \$1,000 in DoorDash advertising credits.

For Tanyech Yarbrough, owner of Wah Gwan, a Jamaican and Liberian restaurant on Troost approaching its five-year anniversary, the opportunity means growth.

"We are using food as a way to really educate and

share culture," Yarbrough told Startland News. "I'm always like a sponge, the more that you're open about your business, people are willing to give you information, and I'm just taking it all in."

The businesses selected for the 2025 accelerator program:

- Ruby Jean's Juicery
- Fifth & Emery Frozen Yogurt & Chocolate
- Gomers Wine and Spirits
- Jovitos Italian Cafe & Deli
- Mixing Bowl On The Go
- PH Coffee LLC
- SAUCED
- Shop Local KC
- Wah Gwan
- Zero Zero Handmade Pasta

Local partners including Pathway Financial Education, CrossFirst Bank, and Soda Pop Graphics will provide specialized training in financial management and marketing strategies.

Each participating business receives a \$5,000 grant plus \$1,000 in DoorDash advertising credits alongside one-on-one mentorship from experienced merchants already on the platform.

The accelerator represents DoorDash's largest program update yet for supporting local entrepreneurs as Kansas City prepares for increased tourism and economic activity.

# More Than Just a Stretch: Watson Uses Yoga to Heal His Community

By TyJuan Davis  
Wichita Reporter

Donnie Watson is reshaping the way the Black community thinks about wellness. As a part-time yoga instructor, he's using movement, breath work, and faith to help Black men and women confront stress, trauma, and the stigma around mental health.

"I'm born and raised here in Wichita," he said. "I was

a first responder for many years and worked in sales. But I needed something to help reset my nervous system — something active but spiritual. That's when I discovered yoga."

His journey began through Yoga for First Responders, a nonprofit that helps emergency professionals build resilience and process trauma. After practicing at Limitless Yoga Studio, Watson began teaching and volunteering at



Donnie Watson, a rare Black male yoga instructor, snaps a selfie with some of his yoga class participants at The Phoenix, a sober active community gymnasium. Watson says yoga is a way to confront stress and trauma we experience in our lives.

The Phoenix, a sober active community gym.

"I first heard about yoga back in college at Wichita State," he said, "but it wasn't until that first responder program that it really clicked."

## Breaking Stigmas Around Black Men and Yoga

Yoga is still seen by many as a White, female-dominated practice. But Watson is challenging that perception with both presence and purpose.

"If you look at the history of yoga, it was originally practiced by men in India to train warriors' minds," he explained. "It [yoga] is not about the shape of the body. It's about the shape of the mind."

Standing over 6'2" and weighing more than 300 pounds, Watson surprises people.

"People are shocked. I didn't know a Black person taught yoga — let alone a Black man," he said he often hears.

With his yoga, he shares a message that resonates — especially with Black men



Watson does the downward dog, a foundational pose in yoga. Known for its stretching and strengthening qualities, it also improves circulation by positioning the head below the heart, a beneficial inversion.

carrying unspoken trauma.

"Growing up in fight-or-flight mode — surrounded by violence, survival or fatherlessness — your nervous system is always activated. That kind of stress leads to disease and bad decisions."

Watson teaches his students to breathe with intention and move mindfully. Each class ends in shavasana, a resting pose used to reset the mind.

"We take between 17,000 to 28,000 breaths a day," he said. "But how often are we intentional about them? When you breathe deeply — even for 20 seconds — you stop reacting out of stress and start making clearer, more grounded decisions."

## Recovery, Mental Health & Community

Watson's heart is deeply tied to The Phoenix, where he volunteers weekly.

"When I found out The

Phoenix offered free yoga and fitness for people in recovery, I had to get involved. But I didn't realize how much I needed it too," he said.

He recalled two meaningful encounters. A woman once thanked him for encouraging her to volunteer, saying the community changed her life. Moments later, a man said he practiced yoga in jail for 90 straight days after taking Donnie's class. "He said yoga got him through."

## Faith & Accountability

For Watson, wellness isn't just physical — it's spiritual. He attends a Christian boot camp every Wednesday at 5:30 a.m. for prayer and connection.

"Yoga is what you make it," he said. "Traditional yoga may include chanting to other gods. That's not me. I focus on being present and breathing. There's only one God ... and that's who I serve."

Newly married, Watson also practices yoga with his wife at home.

"There's intimacy in it. You're breathing together, calming your bodies, side by side."

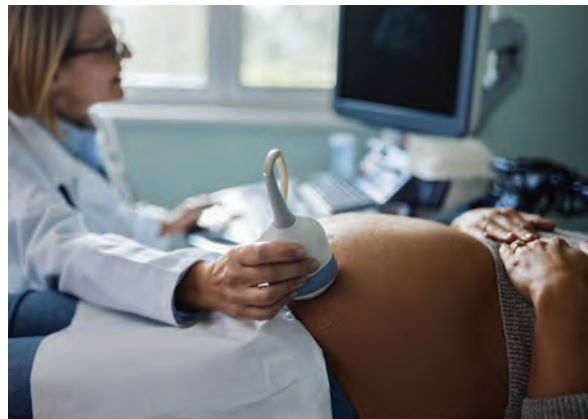
## From Healing to Action

Watson hopes to become a licensed therapist and open a space that offers counseling and yoga to first responders, veterans and the Black community — for free.

He's honest about the challenges facing Black men but calls for accountability.

Even though his father struggled with health and addiction since Watson was a child, he believes self-work can lead to real-world change.


"If a man can heal, he can go back and be the father our communities desperately need," says Watson. "If you learn how to be the best version of yourself, love yourself, you can make an impact."



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# Monk's Moment: A New Chapter for Riverfest

BreAnna Monk, the new CEO of Wichita Festivals, Inc., brings fresh energy to a festival long celebrated — but not always embraced — by Wichita's Black community.

**By Bonita Gooch**  
The Voice Editor-in-Chief

When BreAnna Monk was hired as the CEO of Wichita Festivals, Inc. in January, it was good news for her and Wichita's African-American community.

She had been appointed to head up the largest community event in Kansas. Wichita's Black community was proud. They were also hopeful.

They hoped the festival's first African-American female CEO would bring fresh energy to a festival long celebrated — but not always embraced — by Wichita's Black community.

## Not for Us

There's been a long running complaint among members of Wichita's Black community that the festival hasn't always wanted "much" participation from all facets of the community. That's especially true for young Black youth, who've complained for years about being "othered" by police, especially when there were large numbers of them in attendance.

From the rest of the Black community, the complaint has been the lack of events that cater to the community's interest and culture.

As Wichita Festivals' president and CEO, Monk's job is to oversee the strategic planning and execution of WFI's events, manage organizational operations, lead staff and volunteer teams, and drive revenue growth.

Onboarded just four months before festival kick off, planning for this year's festival was well underway when she took

over. Instead of focusing heavily on events, she turned her attention to raising much-needed sponsorship dollars.



So this year's festival differs very little from previous years' festivals and doesn't reflect much of Monk's vision for the festival's future.

As a 10-year Riverfest volunteer and an active member of the community, she's heard the complaints, and as an experienced and creative event specialist, she's open to a Riverfest refresh.

She's been visiting with a cross-section of Wichita community members to gain their perception of what's right and what needs to be fixed. She wants to hear what more people have to say.

To be heard, she suggests emailing her or posting your comments on any of the festival's social pages.

She also has a few ideas of her own, including a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, an "America's Got Talent"-type competition and possibly bringing back the festival's Block Party just to name a few.

## Prepared for the Job

Monk arrived at her position with years of experience, including 10 years as a Riverfest volunteer. She started by volunteering with the River Run and, along the way, served in numerous volunteer positions before joining the festival's Volunteer Committee.

An avid volunteer, Monk

donates more than 3,500 hours each year to volunteer work including the Sedgwick County Extension, No Veterans Die Alone, Chisholm Life Skills Center and her sorority Delta Sigma Theta. She was also appointed to serve on the State of Kansas Volunteer Commission by Gov. Laura Kelly.

Monk was born in Chicago and moved to Wichita as a preteen when her parents relocated here.

After graduating from East High, she attended Cowley County Community College on a full academic scholarship and finished her Bachelor's Degree at Friends University. She's gone on to earn two master's degrees at Friends University: one in health care leadership and the other in business administration.

She worked 11 years in the health care industry, then with the City of Derby as director of its senior center and senior transportation services. She lived in New Jersey for two years, where she was hired to help a company grow and obtain government contracts.

She returned to Wichita when her father began having some health issues. That's when she saw the job opening for WFI CEO. Now, here she is — in charge of a nine-day festival that will draw more than 250,000 attendees to downtown Wichita over nine days.

## A Festival for Everyone

The 53-year-old Wichita Riverfest evolved from the 1972 celebration of Wichita's centennial called the Wichitennial. A stated goal of that original event was to bring people together across the community and in 2025, that's still a stated goal of the festival.

It's a goal Monk believes in and is committed to.

"We have to make sure we appeal to everyone," says Monk "It's not just a one particular kind of festival."



Having popular Gospel singers like Marvin Sapp, who will appear at Gospelfest this year, can be expensive. Gospelfest is the only major Riverfest concert that doesn't attract a sponsor that pays the entertainer's cost. Can the community continue to depend on the WFI Board to support an event that loses money each year?

She notes the festival's efforts in the last decade or more to include a more diverse and broader selection of talent and activities, particularly with the headline concerts, which are among the festival's biggest draws.

"I do believe we should continue to put diverse acts into our lineup and it's something I will continue," says Monk but she notes she and the festival team must make wise and fiscally responsible decisions when it comes to selecting the annual concert lineup.

A major determinant in what acts are booked is the act's overall appeal, which converts to how many people will this act bring to the festival? Will the crowd spend money on food, alcohol and merchandise? Finally, can we get a sponsor to underwrite this act?

"We have a concert almost every night and that concert has to support itself," says Monk.

Covering that cost begins with a sponsorship. Every concert has sponsorship that covers the costs of the musical act. Every concert, that is, except Gospelfest.

"It wasn't because we didn't ask," says Monk about Gospelfest's lack of sponsorship.

Gospelfest is the only concert

that doesn't pay for itself. In addition, Gospelfest draws the smallest crowd and has the resulting lowest food, alcohol and merchandise sales.

"There's no reason for it," says Monk. "We have enough people in our community that we could pack that place."

In addition to showing up, Monk says she also needs Gospelfest attendees to spend money while they're there. In an economically-driven festival model, the community could get more if we support more.

As an example, she says Fiesta Del Rio, started a few years ago as just a concert like Gospelfest.

"Then it started getting heavily attended. It went from a concert, to a few more events, to a half-day. Now they have a day," says Monk.

## Button Price

Another major complaint, not limited to Wichita's Black community, is the rising cost of Riverfest buttons.

Even with the price of everything going up, there's a lot of grumbling each year when the price of Riverfest buttons are announced.

See MONK Page 15 →

# Wichita Riverfest is Back Along the River Fri., March 30 - June 7

The format hasn't changed much this year, the festival Kicks off Friday night with the Sundown Parade and ends 9 days later with a big bang fireworks exhibition.

In between, there's the food court daily, the Wee carnival (tickets extra) and tKids corner with great activities for children, all included with your button.

The concerts remain the big nightly draw,

but a big difference is Sun., June 1 there isn't a closing night concert, instead it's family movie night. In fact all day Sunday is Family Day, see more below.

For a complete lineup of activities, check the guide included with your button, or you can find it all online at [wichitariverfest.com](http://wichitariverfest.com).

As always, we've gone over the schedule and here are our picks.

## Special Day Activities

### Sundown Parade

Fri., May 30, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Grab front row seating to watch entrants strut their creative stuff with floats, bands, flags, performers, and all your favorite parade traditions.

The parade route will offer excellent viewing of the parade entries inspired by this year's theme, "The Spirit of Wichita Riverfest!" — and the lure of cash prizes! Free for everyone to view, with or without a button.

### Artfest Pop Up Market

Sat., May 31, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun., June 11am -6pm

Original art,  
c r a f t s ,  
j e w e l r y ,  
some clothes,

EDITOR'S  
PICK

packaged foods and more, all handmade. If you're a vendor and want to participate, go to: <https://www.hautehandmadepopup.com/participate>

### Children's Entrepreneur Market

Sun., Jun 1, | 1 - 4 p.m.

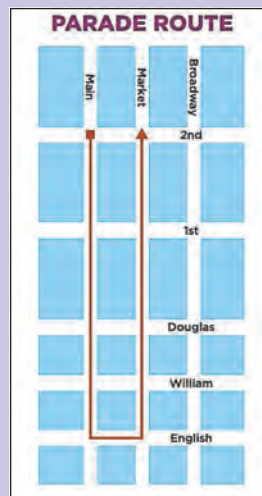
Douglas Street between Main and Water

A hands-on experience empowering kids to develop life skills through entrepreneurship. Registration is still open at <https://kidsmarkets.com/event/wichita-2/>

### Fireworks Displays

This year there are three fireworks displays.

Don't miss the Textron Aviation Opening Night



Fireworks, Fidelity Bank Fireworks on Wednesday, and Capitol Federal Fireworks Finale!on is still open.

Fri., May 31, 10:45 p.m.

Wed., Jun 4, 10:15 -10:30 p.m.

Sat., June 8

## Every Day Activities

### Kid's Corner

Bring the family and enjoy inflatables, bubble shows, balloon twisting, princesses, art, music and great outdoor family fun! All free with a Riverfest button, and no button is required for children 5 and under.

Kid's Corner is located by the South Gate entrance, behind the old library.

Weekdays 5-10 p.m.

Weekends 11 a.m. -

10 p.m.

Fri June 6 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.

### Wee Carnival

This is the paid version of games and rides for children. It requires a button to enter the area, but ride tickets are extra.

Saturdays and Sundays 2-10 pm.

Weekdays 6-10 p.m.

Fri., June 6, 2-10 p.m.



### Wee Carnival

### River Vista Paddle Boats

Enjoy a spin on a paddle boat at Boats & Bikes facility at River Vista! 150 N. McLean Blvd. Free with a button

Weekday 6-8:30 p.m.

Fridays 5-8 p.m.

Weekends 3:30 - 8 p.m.

## Family Fun Day

Family Fun Day is a new activity this year, thanks to the sponsor City of Wichita. It's a day full of activities designed with the family in mind. Best of all, all children ages 12 and under are admitted for free. Everyday and a few special day events are available on this day without a button. However, here are a few family-oriented activities scheduled just for this day.

Here's a highlight of the planned family oriented events

### Cornhole Tournament, noon to 4 p.m.

### Wind Surge Game, 1-4 p.m.

- tickets half price

### FutureFest (S.T.E.A.M. CITY), 1 - 4 p.m.

FutureFest is a place where young people can appreciate the 'coolness' of Wichita Companies and get introduced to skills and potential occupations they may never have

considered otherwise. Located outdoors at Main & Douglas.

### Put-Put ICT, 1-8 p.m.

Stay on Par at Riverfest with a 9 hole round of Put-Put with ICT Mobile Golf.

### Cardboard Regatta, 1:30 - 5 p.m.

For children to watch, but not to participate in.

### All Saints Dragon and Lion Dance Team Performance, 5-6 p.m.

All Saints Dragon and Lion Dance Team is a non-profit youth organization part of a local Vietnamese Catholic church. The team is made up of young members varying in age, from beginners to experienced performers. Lion dancing is performed by two people wearing a colorful lion costume. Plus dragons, that are like a puppet on poles. Together, they create an energy that is both dynamic and uplifting.

### More Events

### Robot costume contest, 6-8 p.m.

In conjunction with The

Wild Robot family movie night you have the chance to win amazing prizes! Dress in your best robotic get-up and enjoy the movie! Winners will be announced before the movie starts! Under 6 and 7-12



### Family Movie Night, 8 p.m.

The Wild Robot (2024)

The Wild Robot is a 2024 American animated science fiction film produced by DreamWorks This animated film follows Roz, a service robot shipwrecked on an uninhabited island who must adapt to its surroundings, build relationships with the local wildlife, and become the adoptive mother of an orphaned goose, Brightbill (Connor).

## Concerts



### Flo Rida

Sat., May 31

Flo Rida is one of today's most vibrant and recognizable superstars, a true international icon and history-making hip-hop hero. Since bursting out of the gate over a decade ago with the RIAA 7x platinum

certified hit, "Low (Feat. T-Pain)."

- 9:30 p.m. Flo Rida
- 8 p.m. Sir Charles III
- 6:30 p.m. DJ Cadence

### Gospelfest

Mon., June 2

Widely known and celebrated for his massive cross-over hit "Never Would Have Made It," Marvin Sapp is a multiple-award winning Gospel artist and one of the most beloved voices in this vital genre.

- 6:15 - 6:30pm: New Lyric
- 6:40 - 6:50pm: Arise
- 6:55 - 7:05pm: Jermance C. Milton & Breaking Ground
- 7:15 - 7:30pm: Alvin

Mason

- 7:40 - 7:50pm: Arayia Holder
- 8:10 - 8:30pm: Christ United
- 9:00 - 9:45pm: Marvin Sapp

### Allen Stone

Thurs., June 5

8:30 -10:30 p.m.

Allen Stone, a soul/R&B luminary, has enraptured global audiences with his electrifying performances and soulful melodies, embodying the essence of classic soul legends. His genre-defying style, blending funk, gospel, folk-rock, and soul, has garnered critical acclaim and a devoted following.

# Free Tennis Camp For Adults & Youth in McAdams Park

Classes are for youth and adults, beginners or experienced.

**By Bonita Gooch**  
The Voice Editor-in-Chief

Have you admired Serena and Venus Williams for their cute outfits? Maybe you're looking for a sport you can participate in no matter your age, or for a socialization activity that gets you out of the house and helps improve your health.

Then, you might check out learning to play tennis this summer during the free McAdams National Junior Tennis Program. It's kicking off at the McAdams Tennis Courts in Wichita.

Even though the camp name includes "junior," it's for players of all ages and all experience levels.

The spring session, underway now, runs May 13 to 29 on

Tuesdays. The summer session runs June 3 to July 24 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes in both sessions are from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

They break participants down by age and skill levels, so there's a place for everyone to fit in.

Preregistration is not required. Just show up. The more you show, the more you'll learn.

There are also two free intensive week-long summer camps for those who are more committed to learning or mastering the game. Those sessions are 9 to 11:30 a.m., Monday thru Friday. Session 1 runs June 2 to 6 and Session 2 runs June 9 to 13.

If you don't have a racquet, it's a small investment. You can purchase a beginner-level racquet from Walmart or any local sporting goods store for less than \$20. If that's a stretch, a few racquets are available for use at each session.

The classes will be taught by Alex Lee, Ron Thompson and Avon DeGraffenread. All three are

great players and official United State Tennis Association instructors. A great win for the more accomplished player – Lee is the coach for the Friends University women's and men's tennis team.

Thanks to names like Serena and Venus Williams and newer standout Coco Gauff, tennis is growing in popularity in the Black community, even though for decades, it's been offered in pockets for socialization and exercise in inner-city.

Across the country, you can find and make friends around tennis in community parks like McAdams Park in Wichita and MLK Park in Kansas City. Many of those organizations offer tennis programs as a way to introduce youth and adults to the game they love.

In Wichita, the free lessons date back more than 50 years to Coach Goose Doughty, who began teaching students the game of tennis and life at L'Ouverture Elementary, across the street from



Avon DeGraffenread, Alex Lee, and Ron Thompson will be the instructors at this summer's free NJTL tennis program at McAdams Park.

the McAdams Park tennis courts. From his effort, generations of students have gone on to attend college on tennis scholarships and others have found a game they can enjoy for life.

Lee, Thompson, DeGraffenread and members of the McAdams Tennis community have worked to continue his legacy and haven't missed a year in offering the program since Doughty died in 2013.

## TODAY is for tackling your next big project.

Some projects require a trip to the hardware store. Others, such as a new kitchen or outdoor living space, require more resources. Your home equity can help you set those larger plans in motion, and our lending professionals can help you every step of the way.

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# Shabazz Files for Wichita City Council District 6

**By Bonita Gooch**  
The Voice Editor-in-Chief

Margaret Wheeler Shabazz has filed to run for the District 6 seat on the Wichita City Council. The district covers Riverside and much of north central Wichita.

First-term councilmember Maggie Ballard currently represents the district and is seeking reelection.

Shabazz, age 40, grew up in Wichita and is a third-generation activist. Her grandmother Margaret – whom she’s named after – and her mother Kathy Johnson, had Shabazz active in the community as a

teenager. She became actively involved with Hope Street Youth Development, which encouraged youth to be leaders in the community.

“We had anger management classes that we went to schools and gave,” recalled Shabazz. “Because we wanted us to be better people and understand how to handle our anger ... to not give your power away.”

The group was also responsible for getting the City of Wichita to pay for police officers to have business cards. The youth called them STOP cards.

“That was if you stopped

a police officer, if you asked, they could have a card to give to you,” said Shabazz.

The cards were about more than reporting “problem” officers. They were also, “so you could have that relationship, or have someone to call on if you needed them.”

**Candidate Platform**

Shabazz, who is a homeowner and resides in Wichita’s Midtown

area, says she’s running to improve safety in the community. Midtown is a great historic district, but she’s concerned it’s becoming overrun with homeless people, drug addicts and the mentally ill.

While she wouldn’t have supported the homeless center the city opened in the old Park Elementary, 1025 N. Main, she’s concerned



Margaret Shabazz

that more people seem to be outside the center than inside and that the city isn’t doing enough to help those individuals, many of whom need more than just a place to stay.

She’s also concerned about the number of businesses closing along Broadway and the intrusion of homeless people off Broadway and deep into the community, where they can be found sleeping on porches, benches and the ground throughout the neighborhood.

**Personal**

Shabazz graduated from Bishop Carroll High School and attends Holy Savior Catholic Church. She’s a

young widow. Her husband, who was in the military, died in his sleep less than a year after they were married. She has two daughters, ages 9 and 19.

Her passion is working with people, that’s why she began her career working in daycares and with the disabled. Wherever she’s been employed, Shabazz says she’s started at or near the bottom and worked her way up.

She currently works remotely for Vestas, a wind turbine company, where she trains people at 52 sites on the company’s processes.

The primary election is Aug. 5 and the general election is Nov. 4. The deadline to file to run is June 2.

# Kansas State Rep. Patrick Penn of Wichita Plans to Quit House

**By The Voice News Service**

Rep. Patrick Penn, a Wichita Conservative Republican elected to the Kansas House of

Representatives in 2020, has sent a letter to the Sedgwick County Republican Party and state officials announcing

plans to resign effective in June.

John Whitmer, chairman of the county’s GOP

organization, said he received the letter, but it did not explain why Penn would exit the Legislature six months after winning reelection to a two-year term.

While it hasn’t been made public why Penn is resigning, insiders know he’s not leaving without plans for his future. According to the State House rumor mill, he’s been tapped by the Trump Administration for an appointment.

The precinct election is scheduled for 6 p.m. May 28 to nominate a person to serve the remainder of Penn’s term.

The bulk of Penn’s 85th District is in Sedgwick County, including parts of the cities of Wichita, Bel Aire and Kechi, as well as a small portion of Butler County.

While anyone who lives in the district can run to fill his seat, the replacement process, which gives only Republican committee members a vote, will definitely result in a Republican replacement.

The elected person would be eligible to complete Penn’s current term in the House, which ends in January 2027.

Penn, a former U.S. Army officer who deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, sought the House seat and defeated Rep. Michael Capps in the August 2020 primary. Penn was a persistent advocate for the Second Amendment right to bear arms and sought passage of legislation that introduced firearm training to elementary students.

*Contributing: Kansas Reflector*



Patrick Penn

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WICHITA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

## Summer Classic Movies Under the Stars Continue June 14 in McAdams Park

This is a special Father's Day edition with games and friendly father/child competition and prizes.

**By Bonita Gooch**  
The Voice Editor-in-Chief

The Summer Classic Movie Series continues Sat., June 14, in McAdams Park with a special Father's Day Eve edition.

Children bring your fathers out for music, fun, games and a movie, and the gift of time together all for FREE. The evening begins at 7 pm. With music by DJ Don and a series of fun, but competitive, games pitting father and child against other father and child teams.

Bring your lawn chairs, or



"Black Panther" will be the special Father's Day weekend movie for the Classic Movie Under the Stars. Come early for father/child pre-event contests and prizes.

enjoy the movie from your car, drive-in movie styles.

There will also be a food truck on site, but you can bring your own food to enjoy. We just ask that you pick up and take your trash with you.

Movie Under the Stars is an ongoing monthly series and continues through September. The movie begins at dark.

**BLACK PANTHER:** After the death of his father, T'Challa returns home to the African nation of Wakanda to take his rightful place as king. He is exposed to a mystical herb that enhances his strength and agility to near-superhuman levels. When a powerful enemy suddenly reappears, T'Challa's mettle as king - and as Black Panther - gets tested when he's drawn into a conflict that puts the fate of Wakanda and the entire world at risk.

## Voice's Calendar Goes Online

What happened to our full page of calendar events? We've made it easier to read.

**By Bonita Gooch**  
The Voice Editor-in-Chief

If you've been used to reading our event calendar in The VOICE print edition, we have great news. You no longer have to have a print edition of the paper to find out what's going on. Our extensive event calendar is now online.

Just head to our website [CommunityVoiceKS.com](http://CommunityVoiceKS.com) and click on "calendar" on our toolbar.

It's a full-featured calendar and it's free to post and view.

Now that the calendar is online, we will significantly cut back on the space we dedicate to events in our print edition. The good news is that it frees up space for more great stories.

The user-friendly calendar can be viewed by the



month, week or day. In addition you can filter the calendar to just see events in your area or certain kinds of events

### TO SUBMIT AN EVENT

It's also free to post your event.

Submitting an event is easy. Click on "submit an event" - it's below "calendar" on the toolbar. Submissions can include an event flyer and a link directly to your website or event ticketing site.

THE VOICE does

maintain the discretion to not accept events that don't meet our standards.

### UPGRADE YOUR SUBMISSION

If you want to promote your event further, reach out to our team and we'll discuss paid - but very affordable - options to further feature and promote your event. Options include promoting your event in one of our weekly newsletters, in our print edition or through our social media.

**THE VOICE**

Cameroon Association of Wichita

**MUSIC, FOOD, DRINKS & DANCE**

Join the Cameroon Association of Wichita (CAW), one of the most vibrant African communities in Wichita, as we celebrate our 10th anniversary. Don't miss out on our biggest gathering of the year, where you'll get to experience traditional values, from a broad selection of dishes to distinctive native clothing.

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5500 W KELLOGG DR  
WICHITA KS 67209

**\$40** advance tickets  
**\$500** VIP table  
Six seats per table. Enjoy table service and free drinks

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316 518-3563  
316 651-0772  
316 616 5306

## Submit Your Juneteenth Events

**By The Voice News Service**

It's starting to be that time! If you're planning a Juneteenth Event, good news: People are looking for ways to engage in Juneteenth and we have free ways to let more of them know about your events.

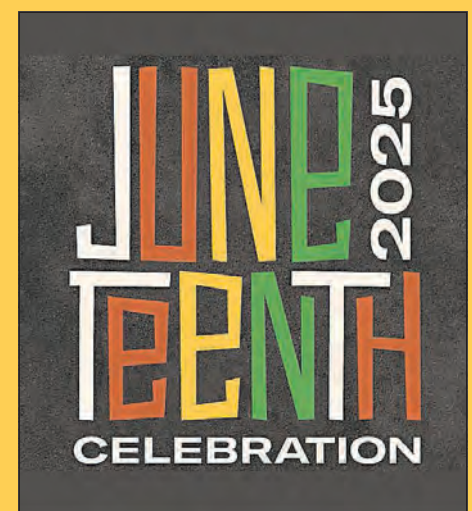
Even though we're moving our calendar online, we will run a complete Juneteenth calendar of events across the state in our June 13 print issue.

In addition to the print version we're planning an all-out push of Juneteenth events on our website, with promotions on social and in our newsletters.

If you're sponsoring Juneteenth events, use our free online calendar to post your events. If your event is posted online, you'll benefit from all of our online promotions. Online promotion of the calendar begins June 6, so get your event online early.

To be included in the print calendar, email your event details to [guilory@tcvpub.com](mailto:guilory@tcvpub.com) no later than June 6 to have them included in the June 13 edition.

If you have marketing funds, visit with our team about additional and affordable ways we can help promote your event. Reach out to [Hill@tcvpub.com](mailto:Hill@tcvpub.com).



# Care doesn't have to wait for open enrollment



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 Ascension Living

**HOPE**

*Participants must be at least 55 years old and live in Sedgwick County. All PACE participants agree to receive all services other than emergency services from HOPE staff and its network of providers, and may be fully and personally liable for the costs of unauthorized or out-of-network services.*



## Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) benefits and services highlights

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- Day center and activities
- A personalized plan to help you with your symptoms and to help you reach your goals

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## Congratulations Project Grantees

The Kauffman Foundation is pleased to award **\$32 million** in inaugural project grants to 27 organizations that have the potential to close economic mobility gaps.

These multi-year Project grants will drive impact across the Foundation's strategic priorities – college access and completion, workforce and career development, and entrepreneurship.

Meet the grantees  
at  
[Kauffman.org](https://Kauffman.org)



# New Mural Series Celebrates Black Connection to Water at Southeast Community Center

Public art project channels history, healing & spiritual power through depictions of water.

**By Thomas White**  
Kansas City Reporter

“Water People,” a four-panel mural series, was unveiled this month at the indoor community pool at Kansas City’s Southeast Community Center, 4201 E. 63rd St.

The installation by artist Woke3 explores Black communities’ spiritual and ancestral connections to water through vibrant portraits of KC residents.

“Water is more than just an element,” says Woke3.

“It’s power, memory, spirit. And if we don’t protect it, we lose our joy, our strength, and our connection to something greater than ourselves.”

The work was commissioned through Kansas City’s One Percent for Art program, which allocates 1% of municipal construction budgets to public art projects throughout the city.

Mayor Pro Tem Ryana Parks-Shaw, Councilman Darrell Curls, Parks & Recreation Commissioner Stephenie K. Smith, and Municipal Arts Commission representatives attended the unveiling celebration on May 9.

The four paintings add beauty to the pool area and each has a distinct theme:

See **MURAL** Page 15 →



“Libations” – A sacred moment of pouring water honors ancestors and traditions passed down through generations.



“Memory” – This solemn portrait honors ancestors lost in the Middle Passage, with water carrying their legacy and spirit.



“Force” – A swimmer pushes forward through waves, reflecting strength and determination in the face of obstacles.



“Joy” – Two girls play in water, capturing the innocence and happiness of childhood’s connection to nature.



## Grand Reopening Celebration





Celebrate the newly renovated Maya Angelou Branch Library with a day full of festivities and guest performances!

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
9:45 a.m.

**Activities & Performances**  
11 a.m.-7:30 p.m.



**Saturday, May 31**  
**3051 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St.**







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**Virginia Calhoun, 68**

July 25, 1956 - May 15, 2025

Service will be held at 11 a.m. on May 30 at the Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, 2727 E. 25th St.

**Thelma Scott, 88**

March 23, 1936 - May 14, 2025

Service will be held at 11 a.m. on June 6 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th St.

**Dilce Polite, 99**

Aug. 21, 1925 - May 13, 2025

Service will be held at 11 a.m. on May 31 at Tabernacle Bible Church, 1817 N. Volutsia.

**Nilus Nadine Kinard-Thornton, 88**

Dec. 24, 1936 - May 7, 2025

Service was held May 19 at Greater Holy Temple COGIC.

**Ryan Freeman, 46**

May 26, 1978 - May 6, 2025

Service was held May 23 at New Beginning Seventh Day Adventist Church.

**Cordia Lynne Washington, 63**

May 18, 1961 - May 5, 2025

Service was held May 22 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church.

**Ceily Mason, 69**

Aug. 31, 1955 - May 3, 2025

Service was held May 23 at the Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

**Todric A. McGee, 21**

June 13, 2003 - April 19, 2025

Service was held May 8 at Chapel Hill United Methodist Church.

**Lincoln E. Moore, 93**

Feb. 12, 1932 - April 19, 2025

Service was held May 9 at Tabernacle Bible Church.

**MURAL, from Page 14 ↓**

“Force” — A determined swimmer cuts through waves with home reflected in his goggles, embodying persistence against obstacles.

“Joy” — Two young girls play in water — including the artist’s daughter— capturing childhood’s carefree connection to water.

“Memory” — Honors ancestors lost during the Middle Passage, and the artist says the water symbolically holds the weight of that history in this installation.

“Libations” — Depicts the sacred act of pouring water as an ancestral offering, bridging worlds between living and ancestors.

Each painting contains a hidden heart representing America’s heartland,

alongside sea creatures and subtle pollution elements like discarded bottles.

“This painting is my offering to them, my way of saying: I see you. I remember you. I honor you,” Woke3 said about “Memory” and it honoring the Middle Passage.

The artist constructed each panel using MDO board and treated lumber for durability in humid conditions. Each required at least three people to install and received thorough varnishing to withstand pool conditions.

The artist said he used locals as inspiration points for each of the figures in the series. For example, the painting “Memory” features Kansas City artist J. LeRoy Beasley.

“If I run into people, I feel the energy, I see them, and

it just calls me to paint this person,” said Woke3.

In creating the installation, Woke3 began with a blue base layer and what he calls a “doodle grid” or a subtle sketch guiding the composition. He then blends spray paint with acrylic techniques.

“No matter how far we have to swim, no matter how deep the struggle, we carry the power of water within us. We are the force,” said the Nashville-based artist, who moved from street art to commissioned installations.

The Southeast Community Center pool area and its latest art installation are open to the public, offering swimmers an immersive art experience celebrating water’s profound significance to Black identity, ancestry and community.

**MONK, from Page 8 ↓**

Beyond sponsorship costs, the revenue from button sales help cover the festival’s many indirect expenses, like setup, breakdown, electricity, water, trash pickup and disposal, security and the year-round staffing to plan the event.

This year, early bird buttons were \$15. If you haven’t gotten your button by now, the cost is \$20.

Monk sees the button as a value but she’s also been clear this year to identify

opportunities where people can participate in the festival without a button. They include:

The parade on May 30.

The children’s entrepreneur market on June 1.

The fishing derby on June 7.

Touch-a-truck event on June 5.

The food court from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Volunteer**

In addition to showing up and spending money, Monk’s ask for the community is to

volunteer. Volunteers are needed year-round and especially during the festival, when it takes more than 400 volunteers to help everything run smoothly.

Monk, the avid volunteer, feels there’s a lot to be gained from volunteering in the community. It may not always lead to a job, like it did for her, but you make connections and friends, while doing something for others and the community.

To volunteer, visit [WichitaRiverfest.com/volunteers](http://WichitaRiverfest.com/volunteers) for more info.



**MBE / WBE  
INVITATION TO BID**

JE Dunn Construction Company is bidding the **Northland Workforce Development Center located at 9550 N Platte Purchase Dr. Kansas City, MO 64154**, and request your bid proposal for applicable material and/or labor. This project is a 142,000 SF

Career Tech Center for The Platte County School District. The building consists of a metal stud and metal panel exterior skin with interior classroom finishes. In particular, we are soliciting M/WBE Subcontractor/Supplier Bid Proposals for the following scope(s) of work including, but not limited to:

Final Clean, Building Concrete, Polished Concrete, Structural and Misc. Steel, Pre-Engineered Structures, Rough Carpentry, Millwork & Finish Carpentry, Joint Sealants, Metal Panels and Sheet Metal, Fiber Cement Panels, Membrane Roofing, Firestopping, Sprayed Insulation, Doors Frames and Hardware, Overhead Doors, Won Doors, Glass & Glazing, Drywall, Painting and Wallcoverings, Tile and Stonework, Acoustical Ceilings, Resilient Flooring and Carpet, Resinous Flooring, Specialties, Signage, Food Service Equipment, Roller Window Shades, Elevators, Fire Sprinkler, Plumbing, HVAC, Electrical, Low Voltage, Earthwork, Asphalt Paving, Site Concrete, Landscaping, Fences; Gates, Site Utilities.

We would appreciate your indication of the scope of work you will include in your proposal by **10:00 am on May 30th, 2025**. Final proposals must be submitted via Building Connected by **10:00 am on June 5th, 2025**.

**PRE-BID CONFERENCE - A Pre-Bid Conference will be held virtually on May 28th, 2025 at 10:00 am for the purpose of answering any questions regarding the above scopes of work on the project.**

JE Dunn invites M/WBE subcontractors to call if any assistance is required or questions arise concerning work segmentation, work and contract requirements, or the form of proposal requested. Questions should be directed to (insert name), Project Manager, by phone at (insert phone number), or by email at (insert e-mail address).

EOE, Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity

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*Shawn*

Shawn Lancelot  
President, Bank of America Wichita

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