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LET'S CELEBRATE FREEDOM DAY

SCHEDULE OF JUNETEENTH EVENTS AND MORE PAGE 7-10



WYCO Commissioner Andrew Davis
Faces a Crowded Field of
Opponents in Bid for Reelection
Page 4

Legendary Bass Man Henry Walker
He Played Leading Role in Close-Knit
Community of Wichita's Black Musicians
Page 14



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THE VOICE

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LOOKING AHEAD

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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.

Hollywood Cowboy Exhibit Brings Cowboy Legacy to Life at Bruce R. Watkins



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CONTACTS:
Editor-in-Chief/Press Releases
Bonita Gooch
Wichita | press@tcvpub.com
KC | cvoicekc@tcvpub.com

Press Releases: press@tcvpub.com
Advertising: adcopy@tcvpub.com

Contributing Writers:
Thomas White | Kansas City
twhite@tcvpub.com

Advertising Sales:
Cornell Hill | hill@tcvpub.com

Office Administration:
Elaine Guillory | guillory@tcvpub.com

Voice's Calendar Now 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're use 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 and click on "calendar" on our toolbar for our full=featured online calendar of events. It's free to post and to view.

Now that the calendar is online, we will significantly cut back on the space we dedicate to events in our

print edition. More good news, that frees up space for more great stories.

Because of the importance and the vast number of Juneteenth events, we included all of them as part of our Juneteenth coverage.

The user-friendly online 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. For example you can sort by category Juneteenth and your city name to find all the Juneteenth events in your town.

TO SUBMIT AN EVENT

Submitting an event is free and

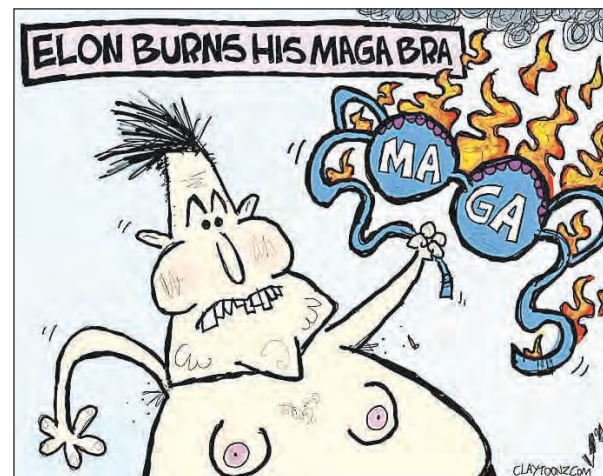
easy. Click on "submit an event" – it's below "calendar" on the toolbar. Submissions can include an event flyer and a link directly to your website or event ticketing site.

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.

CARTOON Burn Baby Burn



Before we get too giddy about this, at any time, Trump and Elon can kiss and make up, gaslight the entire GOP into believing this feud never happened, and Trump will get mad at reporters for bringing it up, like the T.A.C.O. (Trump Always Chickens Out)..

Trump knows that deep down, Elon has \$400 billion. Well, maybe not now after dancing around with Trump and destroying his credibility. And his feud with Trump has reportedly dropped shares of Tesla to the point that Elon has lost around \$27 billion.



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We've launched our new The Voice KC Facebook page – created exclusively for the Kansas City metro area.. TheVoice KC is your space, with news, stories, and updates focused entirely on the Kansas City community. The Voice KC gives

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Critics Question 2024 Results as Musk Tactics Surface

Now, a Wisconsin nonprofit has filed a legal complaint accusing Musk, his America PAC, and a Musk-affiliated group called United States of America Inc. of violating state election laws by bribing voters.

By Stacy Brown
Black Press USA

Donald Trump's return to the White House in 2024 has reignited questions about election integrity, particularly after his remarks thanking Elon Musk for what he called a "landslide" win in Pennsylvania.

"He knows those computers better than anybody ... all those vote-counting computers," Trump said. "So, thank you to Elon." The comment set off alarms, including for Texas Rep. Jasmine Crockett. "So, Trump is rambling on about he and Elon rigging the election?! Am I missing something or is he confessing to yet another damn crime?!" she posted on social media.



Wisconsin law prohibits offering anything of value over \$1 to encourage someone to vote. Musk handed out \$1 million checks and his PAC paid \$100 to registered voters who signed petitions and gave their contact info.

Now, a Wisconsin nonprofit has filed a legal complaint accusing Musk, his America PAC, and a Musk-affiliated group called United States of America Inc. of violating state election laws by bribing voters.

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign and two voters allege Musk handed out \$1 million checks and that his PAC paid \$100 to

registered voters who signed petitions and gave their contact information. Wisconsin law prohibits offering anything of value over \$1 to encourage someone to vote. The complaint also cites violations of the state's lottery ban. The plaintiffs are asking a court to declare the actions illegal, prevent future violations, and award damages if applicable.

The lawsuit follows a failed attempt by Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul to block Musk's actions earlier this year. Kaul argued that Musk's conduct amounted to illegal inducement, but courts declined to intervene before the April state Supreme Court election. Jeff Mandell, president and general counsel for Law Forward, which represents the plaintiffs, said this new case is being filed under more typical legal timelines. "We're trying to create ... accountability in a more regular timeline, in a way that gives the courts the opportunity to look at this more carefully," Mandell said.

Musk, who served briefly as a Trump adviser and led a short-lived federal agency focused on cost-cutting, has denied wrongdoing. He initially promoted the giveaways as rewards for early voters but later revised eligibility criteria following legal scrutiny. The controversy has added fuel to growing concerns over anomalies in places like Rockland County, NY, where Vice President Kamala Harris reportedly received virtually no votes despite Democratic victories in other races. "We know exactly what happened and how it unfolded, and we're asking the court to say this is not acceptable," Mandel has said.

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Andrew Davis



Mark Gilstrap



Jacob Handy



Madella Henderson



Lavert Murray



Gwendolyn Thomas



Nanette Tucker



Lisa Walker Yeager

Wyandotte County Races Packed With Candidates, Primaries Required

Primary elections will be held August 5 in the mayor, sheriff, Board of Public Utilities At-Large Position 1, and the following Wyandotte County Board of Commissioner seats – District 2 At-Large and Districts 1, 5 and 8.

By Bonita Gooch

The Voice Editor-in-Chief

It appears a number of people have brought into the concept of “Being the Change” in Wyandotte, with what is likely an unprecedented number of candidates stepping up to help make change in Kansas City, KS.

Only Chuck Stiles, who represents District 7 that covers Bonner Springs, Edwardsville and a small part of KCK near the Legends, is running unopposed. The rest of the seats had enough candidates to require a primary to reduce the number of candidates down to two for the November general election.

Wyandotte County Board of Commission races are non-partisan, which means candidates run in a big pool, rather than by political party. Here’s who’s running.

Mayor

This seat opened up when incumbent, one-term Mayor Tyrone Garner announced he

would not seek reelection. In Wyandotte County’s Unified Government structure, this position serves as mayor of KCK and as CEO of Wyandotte County.

INTERESTING FACT: Four of the six candidates for mayor/CEO are women and three are African-American women.

Candidates Include:

Tom Burroughs is the current Wyco Board of Commission At-Large District 2 representative. He’s served in that position since 2017. Burroughs served in the Kansas House 1997-2023. He worked almost 30 years at Colgate Palmolive.

Mark Gilstrap retired from the UG Finance Dept. after 30 years of service and served in the Kansas Senate 1997-2009. It’s not clear whether he’s just starting slow, not really interested in running, or jumped in the race to make sure there’s a Republican candidate – even though these are non-partisan races – but, so far, we’re

not finding a Gilstrap for Mayor website that can provide us with more info on his candidacy.

Gwendolyn S. Thomas is a former executive assistant to the mayor under Mayor Joe Reardon, who held the position 2005-2013. She continued her service to the district in many capacities but eventually sued the UG for discrimination. She says her time working for the UG made her realize she can make the most impactful change by running for office.

Rose Mulvaney is an attorney who serves as VP of Regulatory Affairs at Metro Net, a high-speed internet service provider. She identifies herself as a “passionate advocate for criminal justice reform and workforce development. She currently serves as BPU Board Member At-Large Position 3.

Christal Watson has a long-term history of service in the community. She currently serves as CEO of the Kansas City Kansas Public Schools Foundation for Excellence. Prior to that, she served as chief of staff to KCK Mayor David Alvey and as CEO of Heartland Chamber of Commerce.

Janice DeWitt is a perennial

candidate for KCK mayor and advocate for change and transparency in KCK. According to the KC Star and other reports, since 2011 she and her husband have operated the Reola Grant Center for Family Life Development, which has helped feed numerous families in the Kansas City area.

District 1

There are five candidates running for this race that will replace incumbent Gayle Townsend. This district covers Northeast KCK, an older and heavily African-American district.

We identified the early candidates in this race in an April 2025 article. They are:

Darnell Busch, an IT manager at Jade Alarm

Korri Hall, the director of KU Gear UP program in KCK

Victor Harris, owner of Harris Lawn Care and Snow Removal

Jermaine Howard, longtime community resident active as a “teacher, coach, housing navigator and advocate.”

Lisa Walker Yeager is the only new candidate in this race. She’s a local community activist and a member of the Commonwealth Advocacy

Coalition. She campaigned against the School Board Bond election, instead encouraging the district to invest first in improving student performance.

All of the candidates are political novices except Harris, who ran for this office in 2017.

To read more about the other candidates go to <https://bit.ly/4mUVXnv>.

District 8

Incumbent Andrew Davis has drawn four competitors in his race for a second term on the UG Commission. The district covers mostly north central KCK from the Missouri River on the north to the Kansas River on the South. The district’s most eastern boundary is 38th Street and the most western boundary is 83rd Street.

Andrew Davis is a first term incumbent for the district. He works as a senior program manager at the Community Capital Fund Development, a nonprofit that provides grants, technical assistance, and

coaching to support under-resourced neighborhoods and businesses in the KC Metro. He’s running to continue the progress he’s made in his first term and vision for a more economically strong city.

Jacob Handy is a program director for High Aspirations who has worked closely with strengthening youth in KCK. “I believe it’s time to step up and serve the community that’s poured so much into me. I’m running on integrity, innovation, and impact,” wrote Handy on his Facebook page.

Mandella Henderson identifies as a victim of former KCK detective Roger Golubski. Not a rape victim, but a victim of his violence. He pulled a gun and placed it to her head.

Nanette Tucker wrote on Facebook, “I stepped up because I have seen problems that need addressing and a community that deserves better than what we have been receiving. This isn’t about power, status, or playing games. It’s about people.”

For space purposes, photos are only included of candidates not featured in our April 2025 article. For write-ups and photos of those candidates go to <https://bit.ly/4mUVXnv>.

We’ll Cover More Races In Our Next Edition

There’s still more to cover in the packed Wyandotte County Elections. We’ll cover the balance of the races in our next edition or sooner on CommunityVoiceKS.com.

• After 20 years on the commission, **District 1** incumbent

Mike Kane chose not to seek reelection, opening up his seat. Three candidates have filed for his seat, including **LaVert Murray**, a former UG employee and recent economic development adviser and business liaison to Mayor Tyrone Garner.

• There are five candidates for the **UG Commission District 2 At-Large** being vacated by Tom

Burroughs who is running for mayor.

• Candidates have lined up to fill the **BPU At-Large Position 1** seat being vacated by Mary Gonzales, who has served on the board since 2001.

• Also we’ll cover the **Wyandotte County sheriff’s** race, where two candidates are vying to unseat incumbent Sheriff Daniel Soptic.

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KC Council Approves \$500 Million Prospect Corridor Plan

KCMO promises half-a-billion to help fix what racism broke on Prospect Ave.

By **Thomas White**
Kansas City Reporter

The Kansas City Council unanimously passed legislation June 5 directing the city to implement a \$500 million investment strategy for the Prospect Avenue corridor over the next decade.

Resolution 250413 creates a community advisory group and funds a full-time manager position to oversee development along the historically disinvested thoroughfare.

The resolution builds on the ProspectUS plan the council adopted in February, which targets the 10-mile stretch of Prospect Ave. from downtown to 75th Street for transit-oriented development.

“This resolution takes us from planning to action,” says Councilwoman Melissa Robinson, who sponsored the legislation. “It takes us from inequitable development practices to equitable development practices.”

The ProspectUS plan aims to add 40,000



City Hall approved a plan to reinvest \$500 into the Prospect Corridor.

residents, 17,000 new homes, and 15,000 jobs to the area while leveraging the success of the Prospect MAX line, now Kansas City’s most-used transit route.

Community Oversight Built In

The legislation requires the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City (EDCKC) to create an advisory group appointed by community members, not city officials. The group will monitor implementation and make recommendations on which areas get developed first.



Prospect Avenue, once a thriving economic hub, is full of shuttered and dilapidated business structures.

The resolution also shifts funding for a director-level position from the planning department to the Economic Development Corporation of Kansas City, putting oversight closer to economic development work rather than long-term planning.

Organizers spent months crafting a community benefits agreement to assure equitable development after feeling excluded from early planning discussions. Marvin Lyman of Equitable Development Partners LLC, said that the need for a community benefits agreement became obvious in early discussions.

“I simply asked: What is the benefit for Black people?” says Lyman. “It was so quiet you could hear a rat licking ice. That silence told us everything.”

The community benefits agreement developed by residents emphasizes local hiring, affordable housing, and support for existing Black-owned businesses.

Preventing Displacement

Unlike typical Kansas City development projects, the resolution specifically requires strategies to prevent displacement of current residents and avoid repeating past inequitable practices.

Linda Brown, former Blue Hills Neighborhood Association president, said the investment addresses decades of neglect.

“What has happened to Prospect is shameful,” says Brown. “As a city, we’ve got to take better care of our Black community.” Missouri state Rep. Mark Sharp called the plan “long overdue justice” for a corridor that served as

the commercial heart of Black Kansas City before highway construction and urban renewal policies damaged the area.

In the book “Race, Real Estate, and Uneven Development: The Kansas City Experience,” Tulane sociology professor Kevin Fox Gotham writes that 12,000 KC households were displaced for highway construction and urban renewal efforts in the 1950s -1970s alone. Highway 71 demolished 2,000 homes and displaced thousands more during its decades-long construction process.

What’s Next

The \$500 million commitment over 10 years represents \$50 million annually — comparable to what Kansas City spends on other major initiatives like World Cup preparations and building a park over Highway 670 downtown.

“We’ve seen what the city can do when it chooses to prioritize something,” said Karris Harrington, COO of Kansas City G.I.F.T. “The east side deserves that same level of commitment.”

However, the just-passed resolution doesn’t identify specific funding sources beyond reallocating existing budget items. The city manager has until Oct. 15 to report back with financing strategies.

The EDCKC will negotiate the details of the advisory group structure and community benefits agreement. Mayor Quinton Lucas said the city will also explore connecting the investment with a \$5 million federal highway grant for Highway 71 corridor improvements.



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Amethyst Place to Cut Ribbon on 32 New Homes

Supportive housing nonprofit nearly doubles its capacity; ceremony and open house to be held June 27.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Amethyst Place — Kansas City’s long-term supportive housing program for women and children recovering from generational poverty, substance use, and trauma — will celebrate a massive expansion this month that slashes its wait list.

The organization will cut the ribbon at 10 a.m. June 27 on 32 new housing units at 2750 Tracy Ave., increasing housing capacity by 86%. The \$16 million project brings Amethyst Place to 69 total units across its two midtown campuses.

All 32 new units — 25 apartments and seven townhomes — come fully furnished and subsidized to maintain affordability. Dozens of families have been waiting up to a year in a backlog for housing.



The brand new Amethyst Place campus site at 2750 Tracy Ave.

“Often in that time, children are in foster care and separated from their mom because she doesn’t have a safe place to go,” says Lauren Clifton-Thompson, director of development at Amethyst Place. “With the affordable housing crisis in Kansas City, we wanted to be a part of the solution.”

Since 2000, Amethyst Place has served 400

families, including 767 children. The expansion allows them to serve approximately 300 women and children annually, nearly double their previous capacity.

Founded 25 years ago when KC leaders saw women leaving short-term treatment only to return to environments where addiction began, Amethyst Place offers something different:

families stay as long as needed, averaging 28 months, all while receiving wrap-around support services.

“They’re learning those skills that often were broken or never established just because of the background of trauma that they’ve experienced,” Clifton-Thompson said.

The women served average 30 years old with two children under 7, surviving on less than \$10,000 annually. Nine in 10 have both substance abuse and mental health diagnoses. Most lack high school diplomas. Many experienced foster care as children themselves.

While living at Amethyst Place, residents receive therapy, case management, job training, and youth programs. The majority of residents work or are in school and pay no more than 30% of their income toward rent.

“For many of them, they’ve been in survival mode for a long time,” says Clifton-Thompson. “Getting here, they have the opportunity to get settled and know that they have a community.”

Private donors purchased the Tracy Avenue land for \$500,000 in 2021. The city’s housing department also recommended that Amethyst

See **HOUSING** Page 15 →

“... if we work together, there is no problem in the world that can stop us.”

— Ewing Marion Kauffman



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Jazz, Stories, and BBQ: Weston's 5th Juneteenth Heritage Jubilee Brings Hidden History to Life

Free event on June 14 features live music, historical interpreters, and tales of unlikely neighbors who built a community together.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

When jazz vocalist Angela Hagenbach discovered her mother had passed away without sharing that their ancestral roots traced back to Weston, MO, it launched a genealogical quest that would transform how an entire town sees its past.

Hagenbach, a two-time U.S. Cultural Jazz Ambassador who's graced stages in 17 countries and the Kennedy Center, uncovered something remarkable.

Weston — a popular weekend



Angela Hagenbach is the founder of the Black Ancestor Awareness Campaign, which organizes Weston's annual Juneteenth Heritage Jubilee.

getaway destination 40 minutes north of Kansas City — used to have a large Black community.

In 1850, more than a third of Weston's 5,000 residents were Black. Today, the town of 1,700 is about 95% White, and the stories of the city's former Black residents had vanished from the historic

river town's narrative.

"There wasn't any of that history there when you go there," says Hagenbach, whose research revealed her third great-grandmother, Dinah Robinson, was enslaved in Weston and bought her freedom in 1859.

That discovery sparked the Black Ancestors Awareness Campaign

(BAAC), which operates as a standing committee of the Weston Historical Museum and puts on the town's annual Juneteenth commemoration. This year marks the organization's fifth annual Juneteenth Heritage Jubilee — taking place this Saturday, June 14, at Red Barn Farm.

The jubilee draws around 200 attendees annually to the charming river town famed for its historic bed & breakfasts, wineries, distillery, and nearby state park.

Hagenbach hopes the jubilee will inspire other Black descendants of Weston to come forward with their own family histories.

"We're telling Weston stories," Hagenbach says. "We want to tell those stories because they're worthy."

This year's theme, "The Neighbors of Blackhawk Street: 1850-1920," explores a diverse

community building bonds from the pre-Civil War era through Jim Crow, and brings to life the remarkable community where formerly enslaved people, abolitionists, and White allies worked together to build churches, schools, and businesses.

"History is more interesting than fiction," Hagenbach says, describing her organization's approach to education through entertainment.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. with a jazz performance by Roger Wilder, Steve Rigazzi, and Michael Warren, followed by Baba Danny Diallo Hinds' African drum call to order and a welcome from Weston Mayor Kim Kirby.

The main program runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., co-hosted by Princess Leah Becker-Ricketts and Vincent Bell. The centerpiece is

See **JUBILEE** Page 10 →

Juneteenth Calendar Kansas

BONNER SPRINGS

Sat., June 14, 1 pm - 3 pm: Bonner Springs NAACP Juneteenth Unity in the Community Event, Lion's Park, 300 W Morse Ave. Celebrate Juneteenth with great food, great music, and great line dancing. Children are welcome and encouraged to come, as there is a big playground there for them to play on. **FREE**

HUTCHINSON

Thu., June 19, 6 pm: Hutchinson Juneteenth celebration & Health Fair, Chester I Lewis Plaza 15 E 1st Ave. Celebrate freedom,

culture, and community at Hutchinson's 6th Annual Juneteenth Celebration. What's Happening: Bounce House & Games for Kids, Health Fair, Food Vendors, Music, Dancing & Entertainment, Local Vendors & Community Resources, Family Fun, Unity & Cultural Pride. This is more than just a celebration—it's a time to honor history, uplift our community, and create joyful memories together. Let's show up, show out, and keep the tradition growing stronger every year! **FREE**

Thu., June 19, 6 pm: Talent Show, Chester I Lewis Plaza 15 E 1st Ave. Juneteenth talent show night! Registration is **FREE**. Message us to sign

up. Open to all youth 21 and under! Sign up Here: <https://forms.gle/BYbEgcQjyM6jK4aA9> 1st Prize \$100! **FREE**

Fri., June 20, 7 pm: Juneteenth BarB Que Cookoff. Chester I Lewis Plaza 15 E 1st Ave. Community BBQ — Come hungry and enjoy delicious food on us! **FREE**

JUNCTION CITY

Sat. June 14, 1 - 8 pm: 30th Annual Juneteenth Festival, Heritage Park, Historic Downtown District. Featuring the incomparable Keith Staten. Keith will share his anointed singing while backed by Junction City's own Family Affair, Justin Aaron & Royal Priesthood and Mervyn Hammond III This is sure to be a celebration you don't want to

miss. Jordan Cortez & Big Mike Pugh. Live DJ, Food, Crafts, Kid Zone & Informational Vendors. **FREE**

LEAVENWORTH

Sat., June 14, 6:30 - 10 pm: Leavenworth Juneteenth Parade & Festival, Haymarket Square, 649 Cherokee St. A day filled with music, food, and fun for the whole family. The parade will kick off the festivities, showcasing vibrant floats and lively performances. Afterward, immerse yourself in the festival atmosphere, where you can indulge in delicious food from local vendors, enjoy live music, and explore

See **KANSAS** Page 8 →

KANSAS, from Page 7 ↓

various activities and exhibits. Don't miss out on this incredible event that honors African American history and culture. Mark your calendars and join us for a day of joy and unity! **FREE**

LENEXA

Thu., June 19, 4:30 - 6:30 pm: Juneteenth Celebration, Lenexa Civic Campus Commons, 17101 W. 87th St. Theme is "Milestones of Freedom: Celebrating 160 years of Progress." The program will include the following: Keynote speaker Victor Webb, whose parents fought school segregation in Merriam. Master of Ceremonies, Poet and writer Steve Arledge. Musical performances by the Kansas City Boys and Girls Choir as well as the James Ward Band with Piaget Long. A roller-dance performance by SK8SHOT Studios. A proclamation honoring Juneteenth in Johnson County, presented by Board of County Commissioners Chairman Mike Kelly. Activities especially for children are also planned, beginning at 4 p.m. **FREE**

MANHATTAN

Fri., June 13, 5:30 pm: MHK Juneteenth Celebration, Manhattan City Park, 1101 Fremont Street Area. Grill Cook-off in City Park. Music by Heatwave - an international funk/disco band **FREE**

Sat., June 14 MHK Juneteenth Celebration, Proclamation by



Mayor - Traditional Unity Walk from Longs Park to Douglas Park

OVERLAND PARK

Sat., June 14, 10 am-1 pm: 6th Annual Juneteenth Peace March and Rally, The Commemorative Peace March will start at Overland Park City Hall and will march approximately 1 mile to Thompson Park. The Rally will start at 11AM. The Rally theme this year is "Freedom is Good for your Health." Join us for speakers, entertainers, and events for the entire family. Host: The Advocacy and Awareness Group of Johnson County (AAGJC). **FREE**

SALINA

Thu. June 19, 3:00 pm & 6:00 pm: Juneteenth Movie Screening "Juneteenth Faith and Freedom", Salina Art Center Cinema, 150 S Santa Fe. After the 6:00 pm showing there will be a live panel discussion, moderated by Pastor Robert M. Cunningham of Lift Church of God in Christ. **FREE**

Fri., June 20, 6:00 - 10:00 pm Friday Night R & B in the Park. Oakdale Park. The night features live soul music from Rudy Love & The Encore alongside special guests DJ Detroit and Cash Hollistah. Food trucks will be on site, and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and coolers (no glass bottles permitted). **FREE**

Sat. June 21, 10:00 am, Juneteenth Parade at the corner of 9th Street & Iron Avenue. Iron Street to Santa Fe to Oakdale Park. **FREE**

Sat., June 21, 11:00 - 4:00 pm: Citywide Celebration (OAKDALE PARK) Festivities will include live performances from Kim Paige and special guest Zafaja, with a keynote address from Brenda McDaniel, 2025 inductee into the Kansas Teacher Hall of Fame. There will be food trucks, vendors, as well as kids' games, and prize giveaways. Vendors, food trucks, and volunteers are encouraged to join in the celebration. **FREE**

TOPEKA

Sat., June 14, 11 am: Juneteenth Parade & Car Show. Judicial Building on 10th Street Parking Lot 301 SW 10th Ave. **FREE**

Mon., June 16, 6:30 pm: Pop n Paint Day. Lois Curtis Center, 1921 SE Indiana St **FREE**

Tue., June 17, 6:30 pm: Taco Tuesday. Austin Park, 2300 SE Jefferson **FREE**

Wed., June 18, 12 pm: The Statewide Juneteenth Heritage Luncheon, Kansas State Capitol Building, SW 8th & Van Buren St, 1st floor, North Wing. Keynote speaker

Dan Stanley, former assistant secretary of U.S. Dept. of Defense. Carol Brewer will receive the 2025 Volunteer of the Year award. COST \$50 www.naaausa.com

Thu., June 19, 1 pm: Fun @ One Kids Celebrate Freedom, Topeka Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave. **FREE**

Thu., June 19, 6 pm: Juan "Poppy" & Helen Abbot Essay Contest & Banquet, St John AME Church, 701 Topeka Blvd

Fri., June 20, 6 pm: Sounds of Freedom by Pastor Mae Hall, Brown V Board National Park, 1515 SE Monroe **FREE**

Sat., June 21, NOON - 10 pm: 12th Annual Family & Friends Juneteenth Community Celebration. Hillcrest Community Center, 1800 SE 21st **FREE**

Sat., June 21, Wu-Tang Born Divine, Hillcrest Park, Live spoken word. Kids Zone, Food Trucks, DJ & Vendors. **FREE**

WESTON, MO

Sat. June 14, 11 am: 5th Annual Juneteenth Heritage Jubilee Event. Weston Red Barn Farm, 16300 Wilkerson Rd. History Revealed, Storytellers, Music, African Drummers & Dancers, Poetry, Vendors, & BarBQue. JHJ5 presenters include poets Phyllis Becker and Rebecca Ehrich, actors Gena Bardwell and John Anderson, jazz legends Roger Wilder and Steve Rigazzi, with Angela Hagenbach, Michelle Cook, and Steve Harris. And back by popular demand, Art in Motion, the African Drum and Dance ensemble. **FREE**

Juneteenth Wichita & KC Metro

KANSAS CITY, KS

Fri., June 13, 4 - 9 pm Juneteenth Celebration and Wellness Fair -2025, University of Kansas Medical Center - Health Education Building Courtyard 3901 Rainbow Boulevard, Kansas City, Kansas Celebrate community, culture, and progress at the Juneteenth Celebration! Join your neighbors for this powerful day of connection hosted by Grammy-nominated artist Jo Blaq. Start your journey indoors (4-6PM) **FREE**

Sat., June 21, 9am - 2 pm: Juneteenth in the Dotte Parade & Celebration. A huge parade will kick off at 27th and Vernon Ave., near the Quindaro Ruins Overlook at 9AM, ending at Klamm Park (2515 N. 27th Street, KCK). Beginning at 11AM, community members can enjoy a fun filled Juneteenth celebration, including lots of great vendors, live

entertainments, games, a car show, drill team competition and so much more. **FREE**

Sun., June 22, 12- 7 pm: Juneteenth BlaKCK Business Festival, 1801 Quindaro Blvd. Come enjoy live music from some of the hottest local artists around the Kansas City Metro area). We also have some amazing Vendors and community business partners.

KANSAS CITY, MO

Thur, June 12, 10 am - 9 pm Storytelling at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak Street. ALL AGES are welcome to join the fun! Jazz Storytelling, Fun-filled art activity, Music, Food, Dancing. **FREE**

Fri., June 20, 6 - 8 pm: BLOC 5th Annual Juneteenth Freedom Celebration, The Rochester - Luxury Apartments, 4001 Blue Parkway, #Suite 301 Come hang with



your favorite educators and celebrate Juneteenth! Each year for Juneteenth, Brothers Liberating Our Communities gathers to celebrate the end of another school year, the beginning of summer, and LIBERATION in our communities. Through revolutionary educational work,

our teachers and leaders are creating a better tomorrow, today. Come celebrate the graduation of Akoma Ntoso Fellows Cohort 2, The Black Male Educator of the Year award, and Black power.

Sat. June 21, NOON - 10 pm: 14th Annual Juneteenth KC Heritage Festival, 18th & Vine Historic Jazz District. Main stage: Gospel Jubilee, Joe Thomas, Brass & Boujee with host Cherayla. Carnival, Kid's Zone & Golden Feather Hunter Indians. **FREE**

WICHITA

\$6 Armbands Required at all events.
Mon, June 16, 6:30 pm "Rooted in Freedom: A Juneteenth ICT movie night featuring "Just Mercy", Wichita State University Connect, 1845 N Fairmount Armband Required

See **METRO** Page 9 →



Miss Juneteenth ICT 2025 Ta'Lyiah Lewis (center) with her court (left) Jewell Moore, 1st Runner-up, and (right) Zoe Washington, 2nd runner-up.

Ta'Lyiah Lewis Crowned Miss Juneteenth ICT 2025

By Voice News Service

Ta'Lyiah Lewis, a 16 year-old junior at Northwest High School was crowned Miss Juneteenth ICT 2025, winning out over five other contestants, at the pageant held Sun., June 8 at the Wichita State University's Duerksen Fine Arts Center.

Lewis is the daughter of Chandra Lewis and Adrian McClough and the granddaughter of Janice Lewis. Her winnings included a cash prize of \$1,500.

First runner-up, or Miss Dockum Sit-in, was Jewell Moore, who received a \$500 cash prize and

second runner-up was Zoe Washington, who received a \$300 prize.

Zoe Washington also won the essay contest and Julianna Moore won the People's Choice Award. The other contestants were: Makylia Smith and Alanah Wesley.

About Lewis

Lewis plays both basketball and volleyball for her high school team and hopes to attend college on an athletic scholarship. A member of St. Mark COGIC, Lewis performed a praise dance as her talent during the pageant.

Her platform for the year will focus on teen mental health.

As Miss Juneteenth ICT,

Lewis will reign over the week-long list of activities for Wichita's Juneteenth celebration and represent the organization in the community during the upcoming year.

In addition, she will compete in the Miss Kansas Teen next year as Miss Juneteenth ICT. Miss Juneteenth 2024 Tiana Hardwell competed in that pageant, placing third.

Each year the pageant sponsorship team awards a Black Girls Rock Award to a Black woman who has done an exceptional job in support of and mentoring Black girls. This year's recipients were Miss Juneteenth ICT committee members Ashlee McLaurian and Gabrielle Owens-Bruce.

Miss Juneteenth KC Crowns Makayla Marshall in 4th Annual Pageant

The biggest Miss JuneteenthKC pageant yet also crowns Jasmyne Harris Junior Miss Juneteenth.

By Thomas White
Kansas City Reporter

Makayla Marshall claimed the Miss JuneteenthKC crown May 31, capping a 10-week journey that transformed 18 young women into ambassadors of Black excellence. The fourth annual pageant at the GEM Theater marked the program's biggest year yet.

Marshall will represent KC at the National Miss Juneteenth Pageant in Galveston, TX, this fall. She takes home \$1,000 — double last year's prize money. Trinity Brown earned first runner-up, with Londynn Pickens as second runner-up.

Jasmyne Harris won Junior Miss JuneteenthKC for contestants ages 12-15. Janiah Smith placed as first runner-up in the junior division.

The program started in March with 28 participants, but finished with 18 young women who completed the intensive curriculum. They studied Juneteenth history, practiced public speaking, learned etiquette, and served their community through volunteer work.

"This is our biggest class that initially started with 28; we typically have 15 or 16," says Program Director Makeda Peterson. "Life happens, and some couldn't complete the whole program, but this is definitely our biggest, most consistent class, for sure."

The young women toured city hall with Mayor Quinton Lucas, shared an etiquette lunch with District 3 Councilwoman Melissa Robinson, and completed mandatory community service hours. The program demands more than beauty — it builds leaders.

Judges scored contestants on evening gown presentation, creative fashion, talent, stage presence, and interview skills. Workshop attendance and community engagement also factored into



final scores.

The program has grown each year since its 2022 launch. Peterson sees former contestants returning from college, creating a network of young Black women supporting each other's success.

"We're seeing them go off to college and coming back now, and we're excited to see their growth," says Peterson. "In our fourth year, more girls are getting more excited about participating."

Marshall now begins her reign as Miss JuneteenthKC, serving as a community ambassador and role model. She will participate in school visits, community events, and prepare for the national competition that celebrates Juneteenth's significance across the country.

METRO, from Page 8 ↓

Tue., June 17, 2-4 p.m: Rooted in Heritage: Senior Appreciation, Wichita Habitat for Humanity 2200 Opportunity Dr.

Thur., June 19 Doors open 6 pm - show starts 7 pm, Rooted in Poetry: A Juneteenth Celebration! Poetry Night Simply Sangria, 243 N. Cleveland

Fri, June 20, 6:15 pm: Rooted in Joy: Sounds of Juneteenth ICT, Historic

McAdams Park 1329 E 16th St N

5:30 pm: Kickin' it for the Culture, Juneteenth ICT Kickball Game In Partnership with Wichita Urban Professionals, Robert Thurman Field, McAdams Park. Team Registration: \$60 (includes Juneteenth ICT Band!), Ages: 14+ | 6-Team Single Elimination | 8-14 Players per Team. Registration Deadline: June 13, 2025. Register your team now: <https://form.jotform.com/251108457410146>

Armbands 5+ required to watch the game.

Sat. June 21, 11 am: 10th Annual JuneteenthICT Parade. Holy Savior Academy, 3000 E 13th. Parade will go west on 13th Street to McAdams Park. All participants must have \$6 armband.

Sat., June 21, 8 am: 6th Annual Jubilee 2-Mile Walk & Run Redbud Trail (17th & Oliver) Register now at runsignup.com. On-site check-in begins at 7:40 a.m. Start time: 8 a.m.

Questions? Email WichitaAthleticsTCRun@gmail.com

Sat., June 21, Gate opens at 11 am, Festival starts at 11:30 am. Juneteenth ICT Celebration in the Park, McAdams Park, 1326 N Ohio

Sun. June 22 Gate opens 5:30 pm - Festival starts 6 pm. Juneteenth ICT Gospel Night, hosted by Rock Christian Fellowship, Headliner: Brian Courtney Wilson

Manhattan Throws One of the Region's Best Small City Juneteenths

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

A historic lineup of acts that includes jazz saxophonist Kirk Whalum, Regina Belle, Keith Washington and, this year, funk band Heatwave (Fri., June 13) is what you might expect from a large Juneteenth festival. However, this is a list

of some of the national artists who've

headlined Juneteenth in the Little Apple, Manhattan, KS.

Best of all, so far the concerts have been free and part of a two-day community celebration that garners broad community support. How do they do it?

"It's boots on the ground," says Betti O. Jones, a local performer and long-term member of the Manhattan Juneteenth planning committee. "We get in touch with almost every

major business in this town, we send letters and we ask for funding."

They get support from the local chamber and community foundation, who give money, but also provide resources and help open the door for in-kind services and donations from local businesses.

Dating back to 1989, Manhattan Juneteenth is also one of the oldest celebrations in the region. It was started by Diana Caldwell, who at that time was the coordinator of the Kansas State University Student Affairs Multicultural Student Organization. She was convinced by two K-State graduate students to hold the city's first Juneteenth celebration in her backyard.

Over the years, the celebration grew and Donnie Slater began helping Caldwell with the event. He led the planning committee until his death in 2015. Former K-State Baseball Coach Dave Baker took the helm of the organization and raised it to another level.

The festival's growth took it from Caldwell's back yard, to



Manhattan, KS, always kicks off its two-day Juneteenth celebration with a concert featuring national performers, including Kirk Whalum in 2019 and soul band Heatwave this year.

the historic Douglass Activity Center, which was built in 1940 as a canteen for Black servicemen. It eventually became a recreational space for Manhattan's Black community and Baker served there as director after retiring from coaching.

When the committee began

bringing in national acts, they made the controversial decision to move the festival to City Park, where there was a historic bandstand that could better accommodate the acts. The move was controversial because, historically, African Americans had not been allowed to use City Park.

Today, the Friday night Juneteenth concert remains at the park's bandstand. With its raised platform, roof and excellent acoustics, the bandstand and park prove a great venue for a summer concert and opening night events.

Fri., June 13, the concert event kicks off at 7:30 p.m. but consider arriving at 5:30 p.m. for the Barbecue cook-off. For a \$5 sampling kit, you get tastes of food from cook-off participants and have a vote in the People's Choices Awards. Get there on time, the samples go fast.

Sat., June 14, activities begin with a Unity Walk from Long Park to the new much larger Douglass Center. Activities continue at the Douglass Center with vendors, music, speeches, games and activities for children, food vendors and free hot dogs and chips while they last.

"It (the Juneteenth Celebration) is a way of bringing people out to fellowship, some good music, some good food, and just to have a great time," said Jones.



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JUBILEE, from Page 7 ↓

"Feeling the GAP" a multimedia presentation featuring storytelling, poetry, and historical interpretation by Hagenbach, Joyce Johnson, Phyllis Becker,

Rebecca Ehrich, Joy Yolanda Johnson, Sally Gaskill, John "Br. John" Anderson, Gina Bardwell, Michelle Cook, Steve Harris, and Kara Wilson.

The jubilee takes place in Red Barn Farm's climate-controlled barn — itself significant for being on land once worked by enslaved labor. Historical interpreters will portray real Blackhawk Street residents, including Hagenbach's ancestor Mariah Vaughn and Union Major James Price, who built transitional housing for newly freed people.

Programming includes a playful trivia segment about collard greens, exploring their African origins and nutritional power.

"It's educational in the best possible way," says Rebecca

Ehrich, BAAC steering committee member. "Plus, there's food."

The Weston Rotary Club serves a free barbecue lunch (while supplies last) following the program. Attendees can participate in a silent auction featuring unique experiences and enjoy the Pearl Family Farmer's Market, and booths for both shopping and learning.

Local artisans will demonstrate period crafts like lace-making, while Civil War historical interpreters and Buffalo Soldiers operate displays throughout the event.

BAAC deliberately chose "jubilee" over traditional parade formats to spotlight local Black history through immersive presentations rather than generic celebrations.

"Before we start doing all

the parades and stuff, we want people to know about the Black people that were in Weston, that helped build Weston," Hagenbach said.

The family-friendly event welcomes all ages and is free to attend, though support through silent auction purchases helps BAAC offer year-round programming. For those interested in more local Black history, BAAC also created a 30-stop Black heritage walking tour throughout the town.

Juneteenth Heritage Jubilee

Saturday, June 14

Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Program 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Two More Candidates Makes Five For Wichita District 1 Seat

Darryl Carrington and Chris Pumpelly filed ahead of the June 2 deadline forcing a primary election for the Wichita City Council District 1 Seat



Chris Pumpelly

By Bonita Gooch
The Voice Editor-in-Chief

With Wichita Councilman Brandon Johnson unable to seek reelection due to term limits, five candidates recognized the opportunity to help shape the policies that impact us most.

Four or more candidates trigger a primary, which will be held on Aug. 5, making it important to get up to speed quickly on the candidates vying to represent near-northeast Wichita residents.

The final two candidates to enter the race were Chris Pumpelly and Darryl Carrington,

both of whom have been active in leadership roles in Wichita's communities.

Chris Pumpelly

Pumpelly, a College Hill resident, is a political operative more used to working in support of candidates than being the candidate. In 2016 he founded Inclusion, LLC, a full-service communications company based in Wichita. In 2022 he founded Proud of Wichita, Inc., the LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

Pumpelly told The Wichita Eagle his platform includes



Darryl Carrington

building additional housing units, east-bank riverfront development downtown, and acting on a "backlog of existing city recommendations" including police reform recommendations from the Jensen Hughes study.

Darryl Carrington

Carrington has been active in the Wichita community for 20 years and has served on the executive board of the Fairmount Neighborhood Association for 10 years and has held most of its offices, including president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

As part of his advocacy, he encouraged the city to install a landscaped traffic diverter at the intersection where LaVon, Gentry and Matlock streets come together. He personally entered a contract with the city to maintain the island and to maintain in a way that doesn't create a

liability for the city.

"I planted trees, tulips we get from the [Wichita State] university and irises, which are the official Fairmount Neighborhood flower.

Carrington spent several years working at WSU, beginning as a plumber, but involvement with the Fairmount Neighborhood Association led to his recruit-

ment as the community liaison for a three-year grant between WSU and the Fairmount Neighborhood. In this position, he was paid to engage with neighborhood members to help make their area better. He currently works for FEMA, but his long-term employment is in question due to cutbacks by the Trump Administration.

With his neighborhood roots, Carrington's platform focuses heavily on strengthening neighborhoods. He'd like to see WSU do more to help neighborhoods in the designated Shocker Community and wants to look into how a portion of the WSU 1.5 mill levy assessed on all Sedgwick County properties can be used to help neighborhoods.

He suggests some of those funds could be used to help bring a grocery store to the community.

Other Candidates

Early candidates included active community members Joseph Shepard and LaWanda DeShazer, whose announced run we covered on March 1, even though both had been "low-key" campaigning for almost a year. You can read that story here <https://bit.ly/4mZR6kF>.

We announced Northeast Millair Neighborhood Association President Aujanee Bennett's entry into the race on May 9. You can read that story here <https://bit.ly/3Zsk9DE>.

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Riverfest Struggles to Keep Gospelfest

Gospel singer Marvin Sapp attracted a decent size crowd, but Gospelfest continues to be one of the least attended mainstage concert events at Riverfest and fails to support itself financially.

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.

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."

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. This year, every concert had sponsorship that covered the costs of the musical act.

Every concert, that was, except Gospelfest. A lack of corporate sponsorship and support for Gospelfest is an ongoing issue.

"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,



While the Gospelfest crowd this year was much larger than the disastrously small crowd in 2023, it was still the smallest for the festival this year. Even the VIP fenced and ticketed area for Gospelfest — an additional way for Riverfest to make money — was especially small compared to the VIP area for other festival concerts.

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 points to 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.

While Monk is committed to diversity at Riverfest, she reports to a board of directors who may tire of supporting Gospelfest financially and look for other activities to replace it.



Gospel singer Marvin Sapp attracted a decent size crowd, but Gospelfest continues to be one of the smallest mainstage concert events at Riverfest and fails to support itself.

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A Bassline of Resilience: The Story of Henry Walker

Like the bassline he was known for playing, for more than 60 years, Henry Walker also played a supporting role in Wichita's tight-knit community of Wichita's Black musicians.

The midwest is not without racism and Henry Walker, and other Black musicians, experienced it in Wichita. But a resilient Walker, and his various members of The Regents, preserved, becoming one of the most popular and long-running bands in the city.

By TyJuan Davis
The Community Voice

In a quiet Wichita home filled with memories and music, 90-year-old Henry Walker reflected on a life shaped by unexpected opportunity, hardship, and perseverance. A lead guitarist who began playing at age 27, Walker never chased fame—but built a legacy through resilience and quiet strength.



Walker at a gig with his bass.

Walker's entry into music came by chance. Asked to fill in for a missing bass player, he picked up the instrument with no prior training. He credits the late Barry Harris and peers with helping him learn. That impromptu gig sparked a journey lasting more than six decades.

Born and raised in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, Walker grew up surrounded by gospel and blues. He recalled how music was part of everyday life—even if opportunities for Black musicians were limited.

"Back then," he shared, "you didn't plan to be a musician—it found you."

Building Brotherhood Through Sound

Despite a late start, Walker's dedication and natural talent led him to join several local groups before co-founding The Regents—one of Wichita's most respected Black bands. He recalled names like Ray Valentine and Barry Harris, noting that the band became more than a group of musicians—it became a brotherhood.

Rooted in blues, gospel, and jazz, The Regents offered more than entertainment—they offered both escape and identity at a time

when few stages welcomed Black performers. Their music resonated with those who felt unheard and unseen—people burdened by daily struggles, searching for something to lift their spirits, even if just for a moment.

As the band's popularity grew across Wichita and the region, Walker stayed grounded.

"We had to be tight. Not just in how we played—but in how we treated each other," he said.

That unity was key—not just musically, but socially. Playing in mostly White clubs as a Black band required discipline, professionalism, and trust. In a time when many groups fell apart, their bond became their edge.

Confronting Racism with Rhythm

Growing up in the Jim Crow South and performing through decades of discrimination, Walker navigated racism both on and off stage. He spoke of being barred from restaurants, forced to enter through kitchen doors, and denied access to a lot of places in downtown Wichita.

"You had to know how to handle things," he explained. "If you argued, you were going to have problems."

But music gave him a way to defy those restrictions. He performed in venues across Wichita, with audiences that included governors and senators. He remembers even being welcomed into elite clubs like the Candle Club which is still his favorite venue.

"They tipped good and treated us right. For a Black man navigating systemic racism, that meant more than just money—it meant dignity."

Staying Grounded in Family and Faith

At home, Walker's son reflected on his father's character. Though Henry rarely took credit for his influence, he made lasting contributions.

"My dad never looked for recognition—he just helped others, gave what he had, if they didn't have an instrument, he'd buy it for them or get it out the pawn shop," said his son Henry Walker III.

He recalls his father having him and his siblings up at night practicing music or hosting others.

"Through it all he could've chased the spotlight, but he chose to raise us instead."

He remembers the dedicated father who worked at Safeway, then Farmland, and eventually Smithfield to provide for his family instead of chasing a career in music.

Walker, Jr, has no regrets. His legacy isn't defined by charts or record sales, but by how he consistently showed up for his family and the community. Young

musicians sought his guidance, and families remember his heartfelt performances at weddings, funerals, and local celebrations.

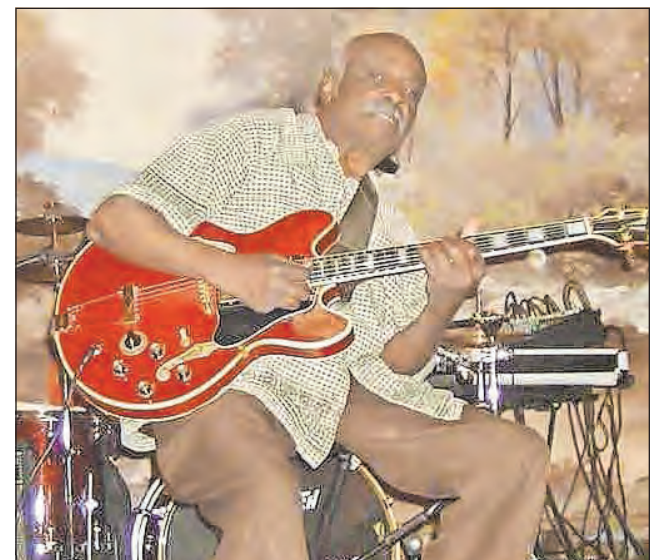
Legacy in the Key of Service

Now facing health challenges, Walker still plays when he can; still willingly contributing his sound to a cause or a community gathering.

His partner, Lucy Griffin, describes him simply as, "A very good person with a heart of gold and an ear for music."

Walker's journey reminds us that greatness doesn't always arrive with spotlight and applause. Sometimes, it's found in a sustained rhythm, the lives uplifted, and the resilience passed down from one generation to the next.

This story is published in a collaboration between The Community Voice and Active Aging as part of a joint effort to highlight elders who shaped our communities.



Historic photo of Henry Walker doing his thing... Playing his bass with his band Regents.

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Aug. 30, 1931 - June 9, 2025

Service will be held at 11 am on June 21 at New Testament Baptist Church.

Clarence Wesley, 84

Sept. 25, 1940 - June 1, 2025

Service was held June 14 at Central Community Church.

John Gamble, 64

Feb. 5, 1961 - May 22, 2025

Service was held June 13 at Antioch Baptist Church

Juanita Price, 83

Oct. 24, 1941 - May 22, 2025

Service was held May 28 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

Erma Markham, 81

Feb. 23, 1944 - May 20, 2025

Service was held June 7 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church

Octavio Cornelius Ballard Sr., 43

March 16, 1982 - May 19, 2025

Service was held June 14 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church

James Garrett Jr., 89

July 26, 1935 - May 17, 2025

Service was held June 9 at Tabernacle Bible Church

HOUSING, from Page 6 ↓

Place receive funding from HUD's Housing Trust Fund, due to the foundation's work to prevent homelessness. Women arrive through referral partners, including ReDiscover, Sheffield Place, and Children's Mercy.

The ribbon cutting will feature remarks from Executive Director Starla Brennan and city officials, followed by open house tours and refreshments from Ruby Jean's Juicery.

"We hope to have this as a national model to copy for other nonprofits to take notice and take the lead in this effort," Clifton-Thompson says.

Even after families move on, they can return for services including the food pantry, therapy, and youth programs — support that continues for life.

To volunteer, donate furniture or contribute financially, visit AmethystPlace.org. The organization needs mentors, tutors, and volunteers to help support the incoming families.

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Mubarak Brothers LLC, Attn: S. Khowaja
7700 E. Kellogg Dr., Suite E11, Wichita, KS 67207.

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Were You or Your Family Displaced in Topeka? Share Your Story.

The Lighthouse TCO Foundation is conducting a study on the long-term effects of displacement caused by the U.S. Interstate System and urban renewal projects in Topeka, Kansas, during the 1950s and 1960s.

We are looking for adults (18 and older) who:

- Were displaced by these projects, or
- Are children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren of those who were displaced.

Participation involves completing a confidential survey that takes approximately 15–20 minutes. Some participants may also be invited to share their story in a follow-up interview.

To participate, visit:
<https://tinyurl.com/23cblvzv> or scan

LighthouseTCO
THERAPEUTIC COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICE

For more information, call: (785) 633-9453 Or email: tara.wallace@lghthse.com

Your voice matters and can help uncover Topeka history.

10th ANNIVERSARY

JUNETEENTH ICT CELEBRATION
JUNE 15-22, 2025

Find our full list of events here:
COREOFWICHITA.ORG/JUNETEENTHICTSCHEDULE

PURCHASE YOUR ARMBANDS!
Support the Juneteenth ICT Celebration — grab your armband! Available at all Juneteenth events or at The Blackprint ICT, located at 104A St. Francis.
GENERAL ADMISSION \$6
KIDS AGES 4-13YRS \$3
Bring a lawn chair. No coolers allowed.

A FEW CAN'T-MISS EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 20
Kickin' it for the Culture
Juneteenth ICT Kickball Game
In Partnership with ICT UP
Gates open at 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21
Juneteenth ICT Parade Presented by Every 10 a.m.
Celebration in Park
Immediately following the parade.
Includes live performances.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22
Juneteenth ICT Gospel Night
with Headliner Brian Courtney Wilson
Hosted by Rock Christian Fellowship
Gates open at 5:30 p.m.

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