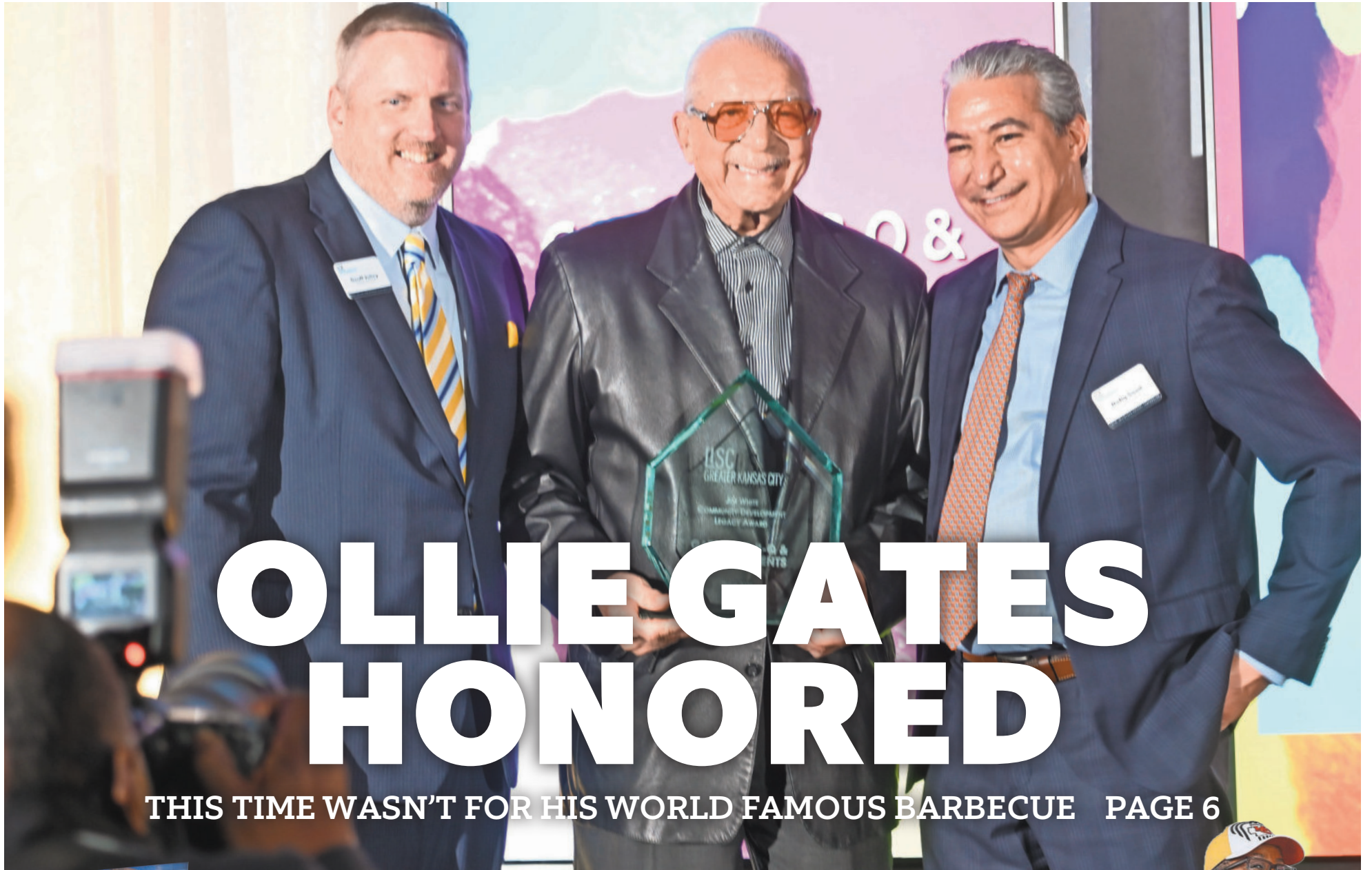


THE VOICE

A Trusted Voice From The Community's Perspective



OLLIE GATES HONORED

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Super Bowl Bound

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THE VOICE

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We Need You to Step Up

You Read Us. You Trust Us. Now, We're Asking for Your Help.

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

For nearly 30 years, The Community Voice has shown up for this community — through every triumph, challenge, election, celebration, crisis, and conversation that mattered. We've done it with a small team, enormous commitment, and a mission that remains unchanged: **To inform, empower, and strengthen Black communities across Kansas and the Kansas City metro.**

But, we need your help.

The hard truth is this: **Journalism costs money — real money — and the revenue that once sustained local news no longer exists.** We lost our dedicated Kansas City reporter this year when another publication offered him twice what we were struggling to pay. We can't blame him — but we cannot keep losing the talent our community deserves.

Many of you follow us closely — on our website, on social media, and through our newsletters. Those digital platforms are essential to our future, but they're expensive to maintain and even more expensive to

grow. At the same time, our print readers still rely on holding that paper in their hands, and print costs have skyrocketed.

Yet, we provide it all free to our community. And while it is **free to take**, it is **NOT free to make.** Please sit with that for a moment.

As Giving Tuesday approaches, we're asking you — our readers, supporters, and partners — to help ensure The Community Voice not only survives, but continues to grow. Last year's donation campaign fell short. This year, we must do better.

We are operating with too few staff for the work required. Our team gives everything — often more than we can reasonably ask — and it isn't sustainable. To meet the expectations of a changing media landscape, we must hire: a digital producer and a full-time reporter in 2026. With benefits and overhead, the cost is **\$150,000.** That is what it will take to strengthen our newsroom and deepen our coverage of the issues that shape Black lives in Kansas and Kansas City.

Can you help us get there?

A gift of **\$20** matters. A recurring monthly gift matters even more. And yes,



we also need larger donations to finish this year in the black and enter 2026 ready to grow.

We often ask others to invest in our community. Today, we're asking you: If The Community Voice matters to you — if you read us, share us, rely on us — please give.

Visit CommunityVoiceKS.com and click **DONATE** today. Help ensure we remain here — stronger than ever — for the next 30 years.

A Note to Our Readers

Our regular Claytoonz cartoon is taking a temporary break. Clay Jones, the brilliant cartoonist behind the strip, recently suffered a stroke. We're keeping him in our thoughts and wishing him a strong and speedy recovery.

Clay is an independent creator, so when he's unable to draw, his income stops. If you've enjoyed his work over the years, please consider offering support during his recovery. Donations can be made at gofundme.com/f/clayjones.

We hope to welcome him back to these pages soon.

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Dec. 19: Holiday Greetings Issue

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Feb. 20: The Reflector — Our Black History Issue

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New prosecutor takes on the Georgia election case against Trump and others

By Associated Press

Take Aways

- New prosecutor accepts Georgia election case after multiple candidates decline.
- Fani Willis removed over appearance of impropriety in prosecution.
- Case unlikely to advance against Trump while he remains president.
- Co-defendants still face charges; case direction now in Skandalakis' hands.



Fani Willis

Donald Trump and others, after Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis was removed from the case and no one else wanted the job.

The nonpartisan Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia was tasked with replacing Willis after she was disqualified over an "appearance of impropriety" created

by a romantic relationship with the special prosecutor she had chosen to lead the case. The organization's executive director, Pete Skandalakis, said Friday that he would take the case on himself.

"Several prosecutors were contacted and, while all were respectful and professional, each declined the appointment," Skandalakis said in an emailed statement.

Legal action against Trump is unlikely to proceed while he is president. However, 14 other defendants still face charges, among them former New York mayor and Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani as well as former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows.

Trump earlier this week announced pardons for people accused of backing his efforts to overturn the 2020 presidential

election — including those charged in Georgia — but Skandalakis has said that has no bearing on these state charges.

How Skandalakis Ended Up With the Case

After the Georgia Supreme Court in September declined to hear Willis' appeal of her disqualification, it fell to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council to find a new prosecutor. Skandalakis can continue to follow Willis' vision for the prosecution, decide to pursue only some charges, or dismiss the case altogether.

He said he could have let the deadline pass or told the court no prosecutor was available, which would have led to the case's dismissal, but he decided that wasn't "the right course of action."

"The public has a legitimate interest in the outcome of this case," he wrote. "Accordingly, it is important that someone make an informed and transparent determination about how best to proceed."

Skandalakis said Willis' office delivered 101 boxes of documents on Oct. 29 and an eight-terabyte hard drive with the full investigative file on Nov. 6. Although he hasn't completed his review, he took on the case so he can finish assessing it and decide what to do next.

Steve Sadow, Trump's lead attorney in Georgia, said he is confident that "fair and impartial review" will lead to a dismissal of the case against his client.

Allyn Stockton, an attorney for Giuliani, called Skandalakis'

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Chiefs Moving to WYCO?

Are the Chiefs really moving to Kansas? New reports say negotiations are already happening. Here's what we know.

By The Voice News Service

The Kansas City Chiefs put out a request for proposals to design a new stadium on the Kansas side of the state line with Missouri and are negotiating for land near the Kansas Speedway, according to two reports from KC-area talk show hosts.

Pete Mundo of KCMO talk radio broke the news that the Chiefs contacted multiple firms regarding a new stadium to be built at Interstate 435 and Interstate 70. He said the news was confirmed by several sources.

Mundo stressed that the RFP didn't mean the Chiefs had selected Kansas as the location for a new stadium and added that his "gut" said they would stay in Missouri.

On Nov. 9, sports columnist Kevin Kietzman said on his podcast that the Chiefs are in negotiations with NASCAR and the state of Kansas to acquire land just west of the Kansas Speedway. He said the Chiefs also may be building a hotel by the Hollywood Casino and creating an entertainment district.

"NASCAR owns a total of 880 acres of land at Village West, folks," Kietzman said. "They only use 300 of them."

Patrick Lowry, spokesman for the Kansas Dept. of Commerce, said major development projects require confidentiality and the agency has no comment on negotiations regarding the stadium.

"Kansas Dept. of Commerce continues to conduct a careful analysis of costs and benefits as part of crafting agreements to keep



Kansas continues to compete to pull the Chiefs stadium across the state line, even though the economic benefits of stadiums are considered few by most economists. SUBMITTED BY ERIC THOMAS

the Chiefs and Royals in the region while maximizing growth opportunities for Kansas," Lowry said.

The Kansas Legislature agreed to finance up to 70% of the project, with a minimum \$1 billion price tag, by issuing bonds to be repaid with sales tax collected in the STAR Bond district.

Wyandotte Opportunity

The possibility of moving the Chiefs stadium across the state line has both excited and concerned Kansas leaders. In Wyandotte County, where the Village West area is located, an economic

development leader is hesitant to talk about what the stadium might bring to his county, although he's positive that location would be a strong one for the Chiefs.

"I think that area is the No. 1 tourist destination in the state of Kansas," said Greg Kindle, president of the Wyandotte Economic Development Council. "There's infrastructure and highway infrastructure. We know there's an ability to get people in and out of major sporting events, and if we can put a deal together that works for everybody, it's a win-win."

Much still needs to be assessed in terms of the economic development benefits for Wyandotte County.

"We're still working through the economics of it," Kindle said. "It has to be revenue development that works for the sports teams but also drives revenue into the community. On the front end, it's super exciting to have a national sports team in your community because you get a lot of branding, you get more tourism, you get people who are excited about being near that environment."

Kindle referred to the

success of the Kansas Speedway and Sporting KC, both of which are in the area and hold numerous events all year.

"Tourism areas benefit," he said. "New things have to be happening. This would be an interesting additional asset to the area that we hope would bring in additional hotels and restaurants and interest in that area."

Kindle said the negotiations with the Chiefs are going on through state officials and Wyandotte has offered support as needed. He's excited about the idea the team may come to his county, but

he also wants to encourage everyone to think long-term.

"They've been in their current location for what, 50 or 60 years. We want to make sure that whatever happens here builds on what they've done and the success that they've had, but also that we ensure that we do, in fact, get that ancillary growth that goes with the project," Kindle said.

Stadium investments

J.C. Bradbury, an economist and professor at Kennesaw State University in Georgia, is releasing a book next year titled "This One Will be Different: False Promises and Fiscal Realities of Publicly Funded Stadiums."

He said economic justifications for putting tax dollars behind stadium development don't hold up.

Economists look at economic development differently than other professionals, who consider the process about increasing business activity in a community, Bradbury said.

"Economists use the term economic development to describe improving economic outcomes. And stadiums are absolutely not true economic development catalysts," he said.

Bradbury said he has looked for studies that show there is an economic benefit to stadiums and hasn't found one.

"If you went and called a doctor for a study on the dangers of smoking, you wouldn't be able to find a doctor who would say smoking is good for you, right?" Bradbury said. "If

See CHIEFS Page 7 →



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Ollie Gates & KC Leaders Honored for Community Building

From corridor revitalization to housing, finance, and education, this year's honorees reflect Kansas City's commitment to inclusive progress.

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

Thrive 2025, Kansas City's signature community development celebration, was held Nov. 12 at the Zhou B. Art Center in KCMO, bringing together hundreds of residents, civic leaders, and partners to honor individuals and organizations whose work strengthens neighborhoods and expands opportunity.

The annual awards are sponsored by Kansas City LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation), which provides capital, technical assistance, and partnerships to support economic development, affordable housing, sustainability, and other programs in low-income and historically under-invested communities. LISC's Thrive event honors those whose work ensures all Kansas Citians have the opportunity to prosper.

Among the five honorees, one name stood out — not only for his iconic barbecue legacy, but for a development impact few in Kansas City fully understand: Ollie W. Gates, recipient of the Jim White Community Development Legacy Award.

Ollie Gates: From Barbecue Icon to Corridor Builder

Most Kansas Citians know the Gates name because of the family's famous barbecue restaurants. But the deeper story — and the one being honored at Thrive — is Ollie Gates' sweeping influence on corridor revitalization, business development, cultural preservation, and real-estate investment across KC's east side.

Even as Gates grew the family's barbecue business, he was helping grow the communities around his restaurants. In 1970, Gates created OG Investment, his real-estate arm, and began acquiring and redeveloping commercial and residential properties east of Troost, investing heavily in the areas around his restaurants.

His work helped transform major corridors including the 12th & Brooklyn area

— once distressed and fading — into a thriving business and economic hub. Daughter Kiva Gates noted that her father helped turn around the Brooklyn area by keeping his properties clean, safe, and attractive.

Gates also invested heavily along Emanuel Cleaver II Blvd., rebuilding storefronts, stabilizing aging properties at a time when re-investment east of Troost was rare.

"My dad said in order to protect your property you have to branch out in the community and keep all of it clean," Kiva Gates said.

"The most important lesson here is, if you're willing to invest and maintain commercial properties you can dramatically change the quality of neighborhoods and that's very evident in all the areas where Gates has operations," said civic leader Jack Holland.

He co-founded the Twelfth Street Heritage Development Corporation in 1984 to reverse neighborhood decline and spur new residential construction, including Arzelia Gardens and other housing projects.

"Create and build east of Troost, he is obsessed with it," said Congressman Emanuel Cleaver.

Gates' public-service legacy is equally significant. As a long-time member of the Kansas City Board of Parks & Recreation Commissioners, he helped persuade the board to place funding proposals before voters — supporting expansion at the Kansas City Zoo, improvements at Starlight Theatre, and the renovation of Liberty Memorial.

On the Brush Creek project, Gates insisted that the redesign include beautification, landscaping, and walkable trails — not merely a concrete flood-control channel — arguing that public spaces deserved beauty as well as functionality.

At 94, Gates continues to influence development and mentor future leaders. His work — spanning restaurants, real estate, and civic leadership — has helped shape Kansas City's urban core for generations.



Thrive Award honorees gathered around Ollie Gates (center), who received top recognition for the events as the Jim White Community Development Legacy Award recipient. Other honorees were: Angelique Cheatham, Jim White for KCMO and CCED, Sandra Olivas, LaTasha Jacobs, Marvin Lyman, and LISC CEO Geoff Jolley.

CCED: Economic Development Champion Fueling East-Side Revitalization

The Central City Economic Development (CCED) Sales Tax District received the Thrive Economic Development Champion Award, recognizing its catalytic role in rebuilding the east side. Approved by voters in 2017 as a 1/8-cent sales tax, CCED supports projects within district boundaries stretching from 9th Street on the north to Gregory Blvd. on the south, and Indiana Ave. on the east to The Paseo on the west.

Since its creation, CCED has committed more than \$87 million to more than 52 projects, helping create over 3,500 jobs and hundreds of new affordable housing units. The program's gap-financing approach has made development possible in places where projects were historically deemed too risky.

Recent and ongoing CCED investments include the historic Boone Theater restoration, the SouthPointe project at 63rd Street, the Emmanuel Family and Child Development Center expansion, KC Academy, renovation of Jazz Hill Apartments, and the One Nine Vine mixed-use project.

In many cases, CCED provided the crucial piece of financing needed to make these developments viable. Without it, most of the projects would not have moved forward. The district's 10-year authorization expires soon, and a renewal vote will be on the ballot in April 2026.

Marvin Lyman: Outstanding Partner of the Year

Marvin Lyman, honored as the

Outstanding Partner of the Year, has been a leading voice in development of the ProspectUS plan to reverse decades of disinvestment in neighborhoods along Prospect Avenue in KCMO. He also worked to produce the Heartland Equitable Development Symposium to ensure revitalization includes long-time residents and creates sustainable pathways for shared prosperity.

Pathway Financial Education: Financial Empowerment Champion

Pathway Financial Education was named the Financial Empowerment Champion. The organization served more than 1,500 community members in 2024 through financial workshops, coaching, business-planning support, and programs like the DoorDash Accelerator for Local Business. By connecting residents and small business owners with trusted advisors and tools, Pathway is strengthening financial stability and long-term economic opportunity across the metro.

Sandra Olivas: Affordable Housing Champion

Sandra Olivas, community development director at First Federal Bank of Kansas City, was named Affordable Housing Champion. She has helped nearly 1,000 families achieve first-time homeownership, offering bilingual education and counseling that bridge community needs and lending systems. Her work expands access to stable, affordable housing and supports generational wealth-building in communities across KC.

ELECTION, from Page 3 ↓

decision an “interesting twist,” but added, “Everything I know about Mr. Skandalakis is that he is a fair-minded and honorable man who is void of any political agenda.”

A spokesperson for Willis declined to comment, deferring to the Prosecuting Attorneys’ Council.

Skandalakis, who has led the small, nonpartisan council since 2018, said in his filing that he will get no extra pay for the case, with Fulton County reimbursing expenses. He previously spent about 25 years as the elected Republican district attorney for the Coweta Judicial Circuit, southwest of Atlanta.

“I doubt anything will ever move forward with the president,” Georgia State University law professor Anthony Michael Kreis said, noting that Skandalakis’ appointment is temporary and charges can’t proceed against

Trump while he’s in office.

As for the president’s co-defendants, Kreis said the council’s resources are scarce, which “may lead to a simplification of the case or plea deals.”

How the Case Unraveled for Willis

Willis announced the sprawling indictment against Trump and 18 others in August 2023, using the state’s anti-racketeering law to allege a wide-ranging conspiracy to illegally overturn Trump’s narrow loss to Democrat Joe Biden in Georgia.

Defense attorneys sought Willis’ removal after one revealed in January 2024 that Willis had a romantic relationship with Nathan Wade, the special prosecutor she had hired to lead the case. The defense attorneys alleged a conflict of interest and said Willis profited from the case when Wade used his earnings to pay for vacations the

pair took.

During an extraordinary hearing the next month, Willis and Wade testified about intimate details of their relationship, saying the romance didn’t begin until after Wade was hired and that they split the costs for vacations and other outings.

Judge Scott McAfee rebuked Willis for a “tremendous lapse in judgment” but found no disqualifying conflict of interest, ruling she could stay on the case if Wade resigned, which he did hours later.

Defense attorneys appealed, and the Georgia Court of Appeals removed Willis from the case in December 2024, citing an “appearance of impropriety.” The state Supreme Court declined to hear Willis’ appeal.

Skandalakis’ Earlier Role in the Case Against Trump

This is not the first time Skandalakis has been

involved in this case. Even before Willis obtained an indictment, a judge barred her from seeking criminal charges against Georgia Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, one of 16 state Republicans who signed a certificate that Trump had won Georgia and declared themselves the state’s “duly elected and qualified” electors.

A state senator at the time, Jones also sought a special legislative session to overturn Biden’s win.

As Willis investigated, Jones argued she had a conflict of interest because she hosted a fundraiser for his Democratic opponent in the lieutenant governor’s race. Judge Robert McBurney ruled in July 2022 that Willis’ actions created an “actual and untenable” conflict of interest.

Skandalakis appointed himself to handle that matter as well and ultimately chose not to pursue charges against Jones.

CHIEFS, from Page 4 ↓

you would ask economists about the economic benefits of stadiums, you probably couldn’t find an economist who would say that they’re beneficial. But no one wants to listen to economists on that.”

Multiple changes happen in communities when stadiums are built that lead people to believe the economy benefits, he said. Increased spending definitely happening around the stadium, but Bradbury said that spending is pulled from restaurants and stores not in the stadium’s entertainment sphere.

Other factors include being unable to track businesses that don’t open up in a stadium district, such as doctor’s offices and retail stores, because of traffic and people who don’t want to live near stadiums, he said.

“There’s actually some negative spillover effects

that no one likes to talk about,” Bradbury said. He gave an example of an area in Atlanta that was near where stadiums were formerly located. For years, it was a “ghost town,” but after stadiums moved, it is now a thriving commercial district.

There are positives, including the novelty effect when the stadium first opens, Bradbury said.

“This is a private business that largely benefits the owners of the team. It’s generating hundreds of millions, if not billions, of dollars,” Bradbury said. “Athletes are paid millions of dollars of salaries. These organizations exist as economic entities because they’re profitable. There’s zero justification for taxpayers putting a dime for professional sports stadiums, but we just sort of got in the habit of doing that, and now I’m hoping to try to break this habit.”

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Crews continue final work on the Carl Brewer Recreation Center, with landscaping and parking lot paving underway. The original building sits to the left, and it connects to the new building. The blended facility is three times larger than the older facility which is also undergoing some renovation.

Carl Brewer Center Opening in McAdams Park

New gym, classrooms, event space, and a rentable commercial kitchen anchor the expansion of the Carl Brewer Community Center at McAdams Park.

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

Readers of The Community Voice have followed updates on the planned recreation center at McAdams Park since the project was first approved in 2022. But even if you haven't tracked every step, there's plenty to be excited about on the north end of

the park.

Originally opened in 1958, the **McAdams Recreation Center** has undergone a major renovation and expansion — along with a name change to the **Carl Brewer Community Center**. The new facility opens Dec. 6 as a shining addition to McAdams Park.

Nearly triple the size of the original building, the

expanded center strengthens the momentum of a park once considered an afterthought and now recognized for its vibrant mix of activities: League 42 baseball, youth football, basketball, softball, tennis, a large playground, and a state-of-the-art swimming pool.

The new facility finally gives the park an indoor hub that matches the scale and energy of everything happening outdoors.

A Long Road to Opening: Funding Challenges & Construction Delays

The journey from concept to completion has not been

simple. The project began with a **\$10 million** approval

in 2022, but as planning progressed, construction costs climbed to **\$13.7 million**, creating the first major obstacle.

Even once the funding puzzle began to take shape, construction stalled for reasons no one expected. Engineering reviews determined that part of the park sat within a **FEMA-designated floodplain**, forcing the city to halt progress until new flood maps could be reviewed and approved. That process brought months of delay, pushing what some hoped would be a 2024



The new gym features two full basketball courts with retractable baskets, retractable bleachers and a sound system for announcing games.



There are numerous drawings of community heroes including this one that features entertainers and artists with Wichita/Kansas roots. Do you know who these three are?

Inside the Brewer Center's Bold New Art Installations

The center's walls come alive with images of Mayor Brewer, Black Wichita legends, and African-inspired designs.

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

Visitors stepping inside the new Carl Brewer Community Center, are greeted by artwork that cannot be missed. From the tiled portrait of late Mayor **Carl Brewer** at the entry, to drawings of Black Wichita

heroes, to bold Ghanaian designs and symbols, the center's art sets a tone that highlights Black Wichita's past, present, and global connections.

The art direction was led by **Ellamonique "Ella" Baccus**, who curated a mix of local, national, and international artists to help

bring the center's cultural identity to life. At the heart of the collection is a powerful portrait series by nationally renowned artist Larry "Poncho" Brown. Among his work in the center is a full wall drawing tracing Brewer's journey from boyhood to his military career and through his years of public leadership. The images capture not just a mayor, but a man shaped by service, family, and community.

Brewer's legacy also

touches the center in another way. During his time in office, he led two delegations to Africa and traced his own family lineage to **Ghana**.

That personal connection — and the broader connection many African Americans feel to the continent — inspired Baccus to incorporate Ghanaian influences throughout the building. Bold Ghanaian symbols and print-style designs appear across the center, honoring heritage that extends

ribbon-cutting into late 2025. What could have become a stalled project instead gained momentum thanks to determined leadership and community support, allowing construction to begin in June 2024.

Leadership That Made It Happen

District 1 City Councilmember **Brandon Johnson** was one of the project's most persistent advocates. For years, he pushed for investment in McAdams Park — historically known as Wichita's Black park and too often overlooked despite its central location and heavy use. Johnson called the center's upgrade long overdue and a symbolic moment of reinvestment in a neighborhood that deserved better.

"This wasn't just a project; it was a promise," Johnson has said repeatedly during public updates. "The community deserved a facility worthy of McAdams Park."

This project would not have been possible without Fidelity Bank who loaned the City of Wichita \$10,000,000 for this project. "Without their generous offer to support this project, we simply would have done minimal maintenance work on the facility," said Johnson "Their support is building a flagship

community center in the heart of our community."

Honoring a Legacy: Why It's Now the Carl Brewer Community Center

Renaming the center honors former Wichita Mayor **Carl Brewer**, the city's first popularly elected African-American mayor, who served from 2007 to 2015. Brewer was known for his relentless focus on neighborhoods, public service, and lifting up young people through mentorship and opportunity. He died in 2020.

For many residents — including the Brewer family — having his name on the community center in McAdams Park feels like a fitting tribute to his leadership style: hands-on, community-centered, and grounded in the belief that neighborhoods flourish when they have resources close to home.

What's Inside the New Center

The **Carl Brewer Community Center** is a fully unified facility that brings together the renovated 1958 recreation center with the new addition, creating a single, seamless complex that blends the center's long history with a modern layout designed for today's community needs.

The large main entry area is

centrally located where the two buildings connect, making it easy to head left into the original facility or right into the expansive new area.

At the heart of the addition is a spacious new gymnasium featuring **two full-sized basketball courts** with a **walking track circling the floor**. Combined with the gym in the original section, the Brewer Center now offers **three full-sized courts**, greatly increasing capacity for leagues, practices, recreational play, **and tournaments**. The expansion also includes **new locker rooms and showers**, giving athletes and visitors an upgraded experience.

A fully equipped **commercial teaching kitchen** broadens the center's purpose even more. It will host culinary classes for youth and adults, and it's designed to be rented by licensed caterers — offering small businesses a professional kitchen within the neighborhood.

For those who want to watch the action or simply gather, a comfortable **lounge area** overlooks the gym and provides a natural spot for parents, spectators, and community members to connect. Nearby, **a couple of flexible multipurpose rooms** offer space for recreational classes, meetings, workshops, and other programming the center plans to grow over time.

Leadership & Programming Will Define the Brewer Center

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

When the Carl Brewer Community Center opens its doors, two women will be at the heart of shaping what the new facility becomes: **Angela Buckner**, Wichita's newly promoted recreation director, and **Elisa Accardi-Harrison**, the center's new director. Together, they bring decades of experience and a shared vision for how the Brewer Center can serve the community in ways the old McAdams Recreation Center simply couldn't.



Angela Buckner (L), Wichita's newly promoted recreation director, and Elisa Accardi-Harrison (R), the Brewer Center's new director, bring decades of experience and a shared vision for how the Brewer Center can serve the community in ways the old McAdams Recreation Center simply couldn't.

Buckner has spent more than **20 years** working in the City of Wichita's Park and Recreation Dept., rising through the ranks with a reputation for building strong programs and connecting with families. Her promotion comes at a pivotal moment, as the city reinvests in McAdams Park and looks to rebuild community trust in recreation services.

"This center has to be more than a place to play basketball," said Buckner who was a Wichita high school and Wichita State University basketball standout. "It needs to be a space where people of all ages feel welcome, supported,

and excited to take part."

Accardi-Harrison echoes that vision. Stepping into a role once held by respected leaders like Emerson McAdams, Cliff Normore, A.J. Jones and Larry Dennis, she is aware of the legacy she inherits — and the responsibility that comes with it.

She says the new building offers opportunities the old center couldn't: more rooms, more equipment, and the flexible spaces needed for a full range of classes, workshops, and community events.

Both leaders talk about the need to bring back **safe gathering spaces** for youth, including social events similar to the

TARP programs that once drew teens to the center in the '60s and '70s. They also emphasize that programming must be shaped with the community, not simply offered to it.

"If someone has an idea for a class or activity, we want to hear it," Accardi-Harrison said. "This center belongs to the community. The programs should come from the community too."

Together, Buckner and Accardi-Harrison hope to usher in a new era — one where the Brewer Center becomes not just a recreation facility, but a gathering place rooted in connection, opportunity, and community pride.

far beyond U.S. borders.

To deepen that connection, Baccus worked with **two Ghanaian** artists, whose contributions blend seamlessly with the work of Wichita artists **Paris Cunningham** and **Priscella Brown**.

The result is a vibrant mix of styles and stories that speak to both local pride and global identity.

Inside the center, the walls celebrate some of Wichita's most influential Black figures — cultural artists, educators,



A tiled drawing of former Mayor Carl Brewer graces the entry way to the new Brewer Center

athletes, and community leaders — whose stories deserve to be told. Their portraits and images remind visitors that McAdams Park

has always been shaped by the people who poured into it.

The art isn't limited to the building's interior. The



This drawing is some of the work contributed by Ghanaian artists and imported to Wichita. The drawings are scanned, printed on heavy vinyl and then glued to the walls.

exterior, front wall of the old building will be wrapped in an original African-inspired design, transforming the outside of the center into a bold

visual statement that matches the energy and history inside.

For Baccus, the goal was never to decorate a building — it was to honor a



This drawing by national artist Larry "Pancho" Brown depicts former Mayor Carl Brewer through the ages. Brown was lead artists for the project.

community. "You should walk in and know immediately who this place belongs to," she said. "This art tells our story."

A Growing Alternative for the Uninsured

Direct Primary Care

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

With more people losing or walking away from health insurance due to rising premiums, a growing alternative is filling the gap. **Direct Primary Care** offers an affordable way for those who can't afford ACA or other insurance plans — along with people who have gone uninsured for years — to build and maintain an ongoing relationship with a primary-care doctor.

Direct Primary Care (DPC), sometimes called direct patient care, is a membership-based model in which patients pay a flat monthly fee directly to a primary-care provider instead of relying on insurance.

The model has expanded rapidly across the country and is now widely available in Kansas, east Wichita, and the Kansas City metro. Although still unfamiliar to

many, it continues to grow because patients who use it recommend it to friends and family.

How Direct Primary Care Works

Most DPC clinics charge **\$40 to \$100 per adult per month**, with lower fees for children and family bundles. That membership typically includes:

- Routine primary-care visits
- Sick visits
- Preventive care
- Virtual consultations
- Ongoing chronic-disease management for conditions like **high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol**
- Basic in-house testing such as labs or simple diagnostics (varies by provider)

Because clinics don't bill insurance, patients avoid co-pays, deductibles, and surprise costs. Many practices also offer labs, X-rays, and other essential diagnostics

at **near-wholesale pricing**, reducing out-of-pocket expenses significantly.

Family nurse practitioner **Chela Love**, who operates a direct-care practice in **east Wichita**, says the biggest benefit for patients is the ability to build a real relationship with their primary-care provider.

Without insurance restrictions controlling scheduling and visit times, Love says providers can focus on understanding the whole person and keeping patients healthier long-term. Her clinic offers in-house labs and diagnostics at discounted rates and aims to keep patients out of the emergency room and urgent care whenever possible.

What Direct Primary Care Is — and What It Is Not

DPC is designed for everyday care: annual checkups, illness visits, medication adjustments, preventive



A patient receives an exam from Dr. Chela Love, whose east Wichita practice offers affordable, membership-based primary care.

screenings, and the long-term management of common chronic conditions. It gives patients predictable monthly costs and reliable access to a provider who knows their history.

However, DPC **is not health insurance**. It does

not cover:

- Hospital stays
- Surgeries
- Emergency-room visits
- Specialist care

- High-cost imaging (CTs, MRIs)
- Expensive prescriptions

See **HEALTHCARE** Page 15 →

Health Insurance Enrollment Deadlines Approaching

Don't miss the deadlines to sign up for or make changes to your health insurance. Annual Open Enrollment Period for Medicare Advantage (Part C) and Medicare prescription drug plans (Part D) ends Dec. 7.

- Coverage changes made during that period generally take effect January 1, 2026.
- For the 2026 plan year, open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act in Missouri and Kansas is Dec. 16 have coverage starting Jan. 1, 2026 and
- The last day for enrolling or changing plans for 2026 is Jan. 15, 2026. For insurance coverage effective Feb. 1, 2026.

No, there hasn't been an extension of the expanded subsidies that were at the heart of the government shutdown. To make sure you don't have a lapse in your insurance, make sure to act by Dec. 15 and all you can do is make your decision based on the status of the subsidies at the time you enroll.

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6 Warning Signs: Early Detection Is Key to Surviving Pancreatic Cancer

We can't over emphasize how important it is to pay attention to these signs since most cases aren't caught until it's too late.

By The Voice Health News

Pancreatic cancer is sometimes called a silent killer, and for good reason. According to experts, it is now the **third-deadliest cancer in America**, largely because it's so difficult to detect early. Many people feel fine until the disease is already advanced, fast-moving, and hard to treat.

Family members and individuals suffering from the disease share heartbreaking truths about being blindsided by sudden diagnoses — loved ones who went from healthy to hospitalized in weeks, and patients who didn't know anything was wrong until it was too late.

The message from every survivor and grieving family member is the same: **know the signs, listen to your body, and be proactive. Early awareness can save lives.**

What the Pancreas Does — And Why It Matters

The pancreas is a small but powerful gland. It has two crucial jobs:

- **Digestive function:** Releasing enzymes that help break down fats, proteins, and carbohydrates.

- **Blood sugar function:** Producing hormones—including insulin and glucagon—that regulate blood sugar.

Because the pancreas sits deep inside the abdomen, tumors often grow quietly and without symptoms. By the time signs appear, cancer has usually spread.

What Causes Pancreatic Cancer?

Doctors still don't know the exact cause of pancreatic cancer, and most cases cannot be traced to one specific trigger. Instead, researchers describe risk factors, conditions that can raise the likelihood of developing the disease, but do not guarantee it.

These include smoking, chronic pancreatitis, obesity, certain genetic mutations, family history, long-term diabetes, and exposure to specific workplace chemicals. Age is also a factor, with most diagnoses occurring after age 60. Even with these known risks, many people who develop pancreatic cancer have **no clear**

risk factors at all. That uncertainty, experts say, is one reason early detection and symptom awareness are so important.

6 Warning Signs of Pancreatic Cancer

1. Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes)

A tumor blocking the bile duct can cause bile to build up, leading to yellow skin, dark urine, and itching — often one of the first noticeable symptoms.

2. Sudden, unexplained weight loss

Many patients lose weight without trying because the body struggles to digest food properly and appetite often drops sharply.

3. New or worsening abdominal pain

Pain in the upper stomach that may spread to the back can signal a tumor pressing on organs and nerves.

4. Nausea & vomiting after meals

Pancreatic tumors can block the stomach, preventing food from passing through. This leads to severe nausea and vomiting, especially after eating.

5. Changes in bowel movements

When the pancreas isn't releasing enough digestive enzymes, food—especially fats—doesn't break down properly. This can cause stools to become pale, greasy, loose, or difficult to flush. These changes often appear early and should not be ignored.

6. New-onset diabetes — including increased thirst, hunger, and frequent urination

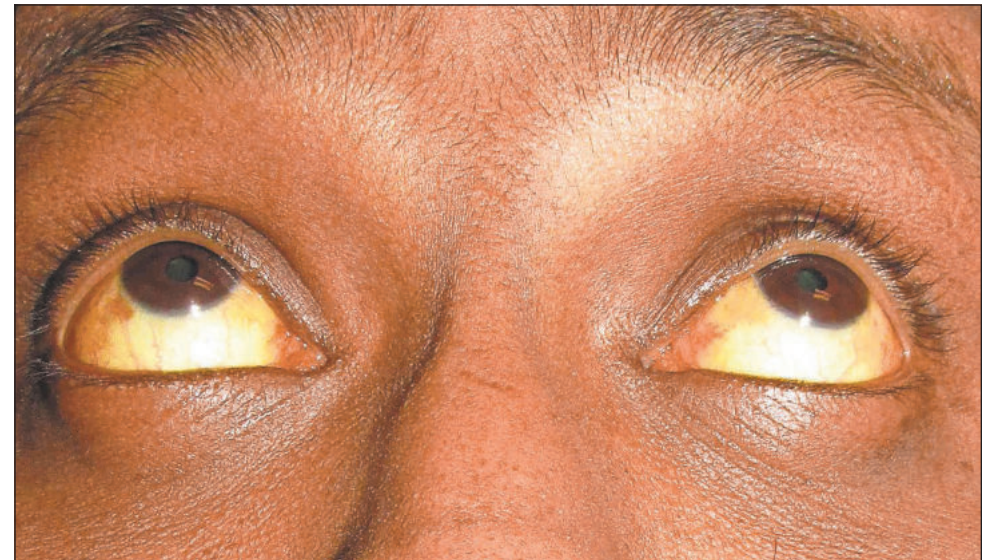
Pancreatic cancer can damage the insulin-producing cells of the pancreas. While uncommon, this can cause sudden diabetes, often with symptoms such as excessive thirst, frequent urination, and increased hunger. People who develop diabetes later in life without risk factors should talk with their doctor about screening.

Treatment: The Whipple Procedure and Other Options

For tumors that haven't spread, the most common surgery is the **Whipple procedure**, a complex operation that removes the head of the pancreas along with part of the small intestine, the bile duct, and the gallbladder. Recovery is difficult, but for many patients, it offers the best chance at survival.

Other surgical options include:

- **Distal pancreatectomy:** removing the body and tail of the pancreas, sometimes the spleen



Jaundice—yellowing of the eyes—can be an early sign of pancreatic cancer, though many patients never develop it.

- **Total pancreatectomy:** removing the entire pancreas

- **Operations involving blood vessel reconstruction** when tumors grow into major vessels

Because these surgeries are so specialized, patients are urged to seek second opinions at experienced cancer centers.

Can You Live Without a Pancreas?

Yes — people can live without a pancreas, although major lifelong adjustments are needed. Without this organ:

- The body **can't produce insulin**, so patients will have diabetes and must take insulin daily.

- The body **can't make digestive enzymes**, so enzyme replacement pills must be taken

with every meal.

With careful management and the right medicines, many people go on to live full, meaningful lives.

Why Early Awareness Matters

Pancreatic cancer often moves fast. Families in our video shared how loved ones were diagnosed at Stage 4 and gone in months. This is why recognizing symptoms early — and seeking help quickly — is so important.

Doctors emphasize: **If something feels off, speak up. Don't wait. Early detection is the strongest tool we have.**

Source: Cleveland Clinic video - **6 Warning Signs of Pancreatic Cancer and Mayo Clinic: Whipple Procedure**

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Dr. Yvette Richards Named KC Chiefs Fan of the Year

By Bonita Gooch
Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Yvette Richards thought she was attending a church spirit rally meant to show which congregation could demonstrate the most Chiefs pride.

Instead, she found herself at the center of a surprise announcement. In front of her St. James United Methodist Church family, a Chiefs representative revealed that Richards had been selected as the team's 2025 Fan of the Year, an honor that also places her in the running to become the NFL's Fan of the Year.

The celebration had



been weeks in the making. With Richards' schedule full of community commitments and frequent travel, Chiefs staff worked with St. James to coordinate a moment when she would be in town and in one place long enough for a formal reveal. The plan worked. "My whole church, they got me," Richards said with a laugh.

A Lifetime of Football & Family

Richards' love of football began in childhood. Raised in a military family, she spent part of her youth overseas, including five years in Mannheim, Germany.

Wherever the family lived, football served as their weekend ritual. Her father made chili, her mother spread oversized pillows across the floor, and the family spent entire days watching bowl games and NFL matchups together. Back then, she was a Dallas Cowboys fan, cheering on cousins Tony Dorsett and Steve Wilson.

After college, Richards moved to Kansas City — a place she already knew well from summers spent visiting her father's family in Sedalia, MO. It didn't take long for Chiefs Kingdom to win her over. Her Uncle Robert and his close friends, George Walters and



Dr. Yvette Richards is visibly moved as she learns during a church pep rally at St. James UMC that she has been named the Kansas City Chiefs' 2025 Fan of the Year.

Gene Agans, longtime season-ticket holders, began inviting her to games.

Over time, as their ticket group shrank from four seats to two, Agans asked whether she would like to take over the pair. She agreed and paid for the tickets and parking pass for roughly 25 years. When Agans died 11 years ago, his daughters wrote to the Chiefs explaining that he wanted Richards to have the seats permanently. The team approved the transfer, making the tickets officially hers.

She has attended games since 1985 and is known in her section as the "00 fan" — the one who never leaves before the clock hits 00:00, even during the franchise's 2–14 seasons. Over nearly four decades, she has watched generations of families grow up in the seats around her and forged enduring friendships. Those relationships, she says, are part of what makes Arrowhead feel like home.

A Life of Service & Ministry

Richards joined St. James United Methodist Church in 1986 and quickly became active in the denomination's ministries, eventually rising to serve as national president of United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith) from 2012 to 2016. Her leadership roles have taken her across the world, serving on major United Methodist boards and participating in global mission work.

She spent 28 years with State Farm Insurance — including 19 years as a catastrophe adjuster — before retiring in 2017. That same year she joined the staff at St. James as **director of community connections and missions**, a role created to strengthen partnerships and serve families in and around the Blue Hills neighborhood.

Under her leadership, St. James launched **Loads of Love**, a free laundry program born during the pandemic to support families who lacked access to clean clothing. Now entering its fifth year, the ministry includes both a monthly laundry day and an emergency voucher system in partnership with a Black-owned laundromat. Richards also helps coordinate the church's food pantry, coat drives, winter gear distribution, homeless outreach, hydration efforts, and other community partnerships.

She holds a master's degree in leadership, another master's degree in Christian ministry, and a **doctorate of ministry** from United Theological Seminary — a degree focused on ministry and mission rather than preaching. Though not an ordained pastor, she is part of the worship team every Sunday and often in the pulpit, even when the Chiefs have early games.

A Historic Honor & a National Stage

Richards is the **first African-American** and the **first woman** to be named Chiefs Fan of the Year. The honor includes a trip for her and her sister to **Super Bowl LX in San Francisco**, where she will be recognized on the field and attend the NFL Honors ceremony the night before the game.

Voting for NFL Fan of the Year is open through Feb. 7 at NFL.com/FanOfTheYear. Richards plans to tap her global network of church and community partners to support her campaign.

"I am just so humbled that somebody would think enough of me to nominate me," she said. "To be selected by the Chiefs — an organization I've loved for so many years — is so special."

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KC's Power Football League Steps Into the Spotlight

Growing Success Comes With Growing Needs as KC Youth Football Continues Its Climb

By **Matt Resnick**
Voice Contributor

Maurice Woodard vividly remembers his early days playing youth football in Kansas City and watching his father, Murray, help run the KC Keys youth program in the early 2000s. KC Keys was once a major presence in the city's youth sports scene, and seeing that impact made an impression on a young Maurice. Now, as president of Dynasty Youth Sports Club and co-founder of the Kansas City Power League, he's working to build something even larger for the city's youth.

Woodard said his father always hoped to expand the reach of youth football in Kansas City, and he sees his current work as continuing that legacy.

"A lot of times it just comes down to resources or manpower," he said. "Our youth need an outlet, and our goal is to teach life skills through sports."

A Growing League Model

Today, the Power League includes around 70 teams from Raytown, Lee's Summit, Grandview, Kansas City, Kansas, and beyond — with clubs from Wichita and Columbia also traveling to compete. Programs like Dynasty field teams from ages 5 through 13. Younger players (K–2nd grade) participate in flag football, while tackle divisions begin in 3rd grade and continue through 8th.

While Woodard oversees Dynasty's operations, he is supported by his brother Daniel, his father, and former semi-professional player D'Andre Sanders.

Teams typically play at least 12 regular-season games, though that number increases if they participate in out-of-state tournaments or advance into national competitions.

This season has been a standout. Dynasty's 13-year-old team is ranked No. 4 nationally with a perfect 15–0 record heading into AYF nationals in Naples, Florida. In October, they earned a statement win by defeating the nationally ranked OG Ducks in Los Angeles, 13–12. Four additional Dynasty teams have also qualified for national tournaments in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The victories are helping raise Kansas City's national visibility.

"Some of the teams in LA didn't even know we had youth football in Missouri — and now they know," Woodard said. "We want every team in the Power League to have that same platform."



The Kansas City Dynasty Football Club 10-and-under team is all smiles after winning the American Youth Football D2 state championship last week. (PHOTO COURTESY OF KANSAS CITY DYNASTY FOOTBALL CLUB)

Recently, five of Dynasty's teams also captured state championships, further highlighting the growth of the program.

Challenges Off the Field

Despite the on-field success, significant challenges remain. Dynasty operates as a nonprofit, and fundraising for equipment, uniforms, travel, and other expenses is an ongoing effort. Securing adequate practice space is also difficult, and Woodard says it remains one of the biggest obstacles for teams throughout the metro.

Currently, Power League games are played on three fields at the former Archbishop O'Hara High School campus, now informally known as "Dynasty Valley." Woodard appreciates having the fields available for league play, but he hopes to someday build a facility dedicated to Dynasty's programs.

A statewide shortage of referees has also made it harder to consistently staff youth games. Recruiting officials is a challenge, and the job brings its own pressures, including navigating intense sideline environments and passionate parents.

Seeking Support — and Hitting Limitations

Woodard says he has reached out to community institutions for partnership or visibility, including **Kansas City Parks and Recreation** and the **Kansas City Chiefs**, but has not been successful. According to Woodard, Parks and Rec expressed interest only in taking full

control of the league rather than forming a partnership, and its football facilities are not always near the communities participating in the Power League.

He also says that despite multiple attempts over the years, he has never received a response from the Chiefs organization.

"Any level of visibility or encouragement from major organizations can make a difference for our kids," he said.

The Community Voice has not independently verified the details of Woodard's outreach efforts or the responses he describes.

He did note positive individual connections, including a prior relationship with former Chiefs cornerback L'Jarius Sneed. And just last week, Chiefs wide receiver Rashee Rice made an unexpected appearance at a Power League game. Woodard, thrilled by the visit, chose not to use the interaction to seek support.

"That wasn't the setting for that," he said.

Why Youth Football Matters

Decades of research show that youth sports play an important role in children's development. Participation is linked to improved academic performance, increased confidence, reduced risky behavior, and stronger emotional resilience. Football, in particular, fosters discipline, leadership, teamwork, and perseverance — skills that last long after players age out of youth leagues.

Woodard believes that is the true purpose of the work.



Kansas City Chiefs star wide receiver Rashee Rice poses for a picture with a member of Kansas City youth dynasty football during a game Tuesday evening. (PHOTO COURTESY OF KC DYNASTY FOOTBALL CLUB)



Maurice Woodard, a Raytown South and Lincoln University standout, has turned his skills to coaching and growing Kansas City's Power Football League.

"It's pretty major to be able to compete at this level," he said. "We want to push the envelope as much as we can."

Looking Ahead

With or without large institutional backing, Woodard believes the future of competitive youth football in Kansas City is bright.

"We're focused on giving our kids the best opportunity possible," he said. "We're going to keep elevating the standard and helping these players reach their full potential."

Holiday Activities Packing VOICE Online Event Calendar

As the holidays celebration begins to gear up, THE VOICE, online event calendar is starting to get packed. To make sure your holidays are full of fun and good cheer, make sure to check our online calendar on a regular basis. If you have an event, make sure to post it... IT'S FREE. Go to communityvoiceks.com and click on calendar.

Editor's Choice

Here are a few items selected for your enjoyment by our editor.

Support Black & Small Businesses

There are a number of posted Black Business Shopping events we hope you'll stop by.

Small Business Saturday, Sat., Nov. 28, 11am - 4 pm. **Small Business Saturday**, Sat., Dec. 13, 11am - 4 p.m. **Holiday Retail Market**, KC GIFT, 5008 Prospect Ave., KCMO. Shop local, connect with community, and invest in the growth of Kansas City's Black businesses.

Sat., Nov. 29, 10 am - 2 pm, **Bring it Black Vendor Fair**, The Center, 1914 E 11th St. Wichita. We'll be spotlighting amazing

minority-owned businesses, enjoying delicious food, sweet treats, and spreading nothing but good vibes. All that's missing is you!

Fri., Nov. 28, 5-9p.m. **Black Friday Night Market**

Sat., Nov. 29, 10am - 2 p.m., **Shop Small Saturday**, 4620 E. 13th St., Wichita Two fun-filled indoor events celebrating local small businesses. Let's make this holiday shopping weekend unforgettable for our local small business community!

Holiday Fun


Sun, Dec. 7, 3 p.m., **Wendell Smith Senior Citizen Appreciation Luncheon**, WSU **Marcus Welcome Center**, 1845 N. Fairmount, Wichita. Gamma Upsilon Graduate Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and the Office of The Vice President- Division of Military & Veteran Affairs & Community Engagement at Wichita State University invites all seniors 65+ to join them for a FREE luncheon. Come celebrate, fellowship, and honor the elders who paved the way for us! FREE

Sat., Dec. 14, 10:30 a.m. - 2p.m., **Holidazzle 2025**. **Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center**, 3700 Martin Luther King Blvd, KCMO. Children's Holiday festival. Come

Bringing it Black Presents

Shop Black. Shop Local. Support the Movement.

Small Business Saturday



Location: 1914 E 11th St
November 29, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Open to the Public | Free Admission

Holidazzle 2025*

A Children's Holiday Festival

Come Enjoy Family Breakfast, Live Entertainment, Photos with Santa and a Toy Give-Away!

Saturday, December 13th
10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

This is a FREE event for families with children, ages infant to 14 years. Limited seating. RSVP by December 9th at 816-513-0700. Children must attend to receive a gift. One gift per child.

Bruce R. Watkins
Cultural Heritage Center
3700 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, KCMO 64130
brucewatkinscenter.com
kcparks.org



enjoy family breakfast, live entertainment, photos with Santa and a toy give away! This is free event for families with children ages infant to 14 years. Limited seating. RSVP by Dec. 9 T (816) 513-0700.

Arts & Culture

Jaja's African Hair Braiding, Nov. 21-23,

29 & 30th, MCC Penn Valley Campus, 3201 Southwest Trafficway, KCMO, a production of **Black Repertory Theater** of Kansas City. The story: in Harlem is a salon full of funny,

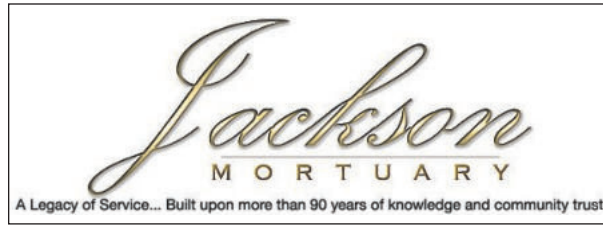
See **CALENDAR** Page 15 →



ILLUMINATIONS

November 22, 2025 - January 3, 2026

BOTANICA.ORG



Moses Greasham, 77

January 14, 1948 - November 16, 2025
Service will be held at 11 am on Fri., Dec. 5 at New Jerusalem Baptist Church, 1625 N Madison.

Joyce L. Franklin, 90

March 11, 1935 - November 11, 2025
Service will be held at 1 pm on Fri., Dec 5 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel, 1125 E. 13th St.

Ricky "Slick Rick" L. Johnson, 71

April 27, 1954 - November 10, 2025
Service was held Fri., Nov. 21 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

Murl L. Anderson, 92

February 22, 1933 - November 9, 2025
Service was held Fri., Nov. 21 at Greater New Testament Baptist Church.

Alena "Gizzy" Dawn Horn, 42

July 22, 1983 - November 9, 2025
Service was held Tue., Nov. 18 at Jackson Mortuary Chapel.

Betty J. Porter, 84

June 17, 1941 - November 9, 2025
Service was held Fri., Nov. 21 at Greater Mizpah Baptist Church.

Dreshawn Avant Hardyway, 16

September 3, 2009 - November 3, 2025
Service was held Sat., Nov. 22 at St. Matthew C.M.E. Church.

Robert Andrew Burns, 42

Jan. 25, 1983 - Nov. 1, 2025
Service was held Sat., Nov.15 at Antioch Missionary Baptist Church

CALENDAR, from Page 14 ↓

whip-smart, talented women ready to make you look and feel nice-nice. On this particularly muggy summer day, news pierces the hearts of the women of the salon, galvanizing their connections and strengthening the community they have longed to make in the United States. For tickets & show times go to brtkc.org

Exhibit: KC Fire!, Black – Dec. 2 - Dec. 29, Mon. - Fri., 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Black Archives of Mid-America, 1722 E. 17th Terr., KCMO. This is a once in a lifetime exhibit in partnership with the Kansas City Fire Historical Society will tell the story of the KCFD and the City's Black Firefighters. Photographs and uniforms from within the Black Archives Collection will be on display, with multiple items from KCFHS.

Death of a Salesman, December 4 - 13, at Just Off Broadway Theater, 3051

Penn Valley Dr., KCMO, a production of **KC Melting Pot Theater.** The Story: The American Dream crumbles under the weight of truth in this reimagined take on Arthur Miller's classic. Willy Loman, an aging salesman, clings to the illusion of success, but his relentless pursuit has driven a wedge between him and his sons. As decades of sacrifice unravel, the family is forced to confront a heartbreaking reality: what happens when the dream was never meant for you? This powerful reinterpretation centers voices often left out of the narrative, making Willy's tragedy even more resonant and urgent today. For tickets and show times go to kcmeltingpot.com

Find More Great Events Online
communityvoiceks.com
Click on calendar
For the best view, click list



HEALTHCARE, from Page 10 ↓

People who rely on DPC alone still risk substantial medical bills if a major illness or accident occurs.

Who This Works Well For

- DPC is often a good fit for:
- People dropping ACA plans due to rising premiums
 - Younger adults who don't qualify for subsidies
 - Families wanting predictable monthly costs

- Gig workers, contractors, and the self-employed
- People who have gone uninsured because traditional insurance feels out of reach
- Anyone needing steady support for common chronic conditions

Covering Major Medical Needs

With their primary-care needs taken care of, many DPC patients cover potential major health-care costs by adding a **high-deductible or catastrophic insurance plan.** These plans — often with deductibles

between **\$5,000 and \$9,500** — offer lower monthly premiums and provide financial protection if hospitalization or surgery becomes necessary.

Finding a DPC Provider Near You

Dozens of clinics in Kansas and the Kansas City metro now offer this model. To explore your options, search for "Direct Primary Care" along with your city. For those priced out of traditional insurance, this growing model may offer a practical, affordable path to ongoing, relationship-based primary care.

The Nearman coal-burning
power plant costs you
~\$500 every year*



The Board of Public Utilities can:

- Close Nearman
- Lower your costs
- Clean our air

Sign the petition here:



**BPU: CLOSE Nearman and adopt
an AFFORDABLE clean energy plan
on DECEMBER 3.**

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*\$52.3M annual cost / 67,000 BPU electric customers, rounding down considerably to be conservative