

LANSING CONNECTION

Third Quarter 2025



Lansing Had A
BLAST



MAYOR'S BYLINE

By Mayor Tony McNeill

One of the most enjoyable things about being Mayor is the opportunity I have to attend Lansing's public events and speak to folks. On June 28, I had the pleasure of addressing attendees at our Lansing Independence Holiday fireworks show at Lansing High School. This year's event stood out to me for many reasons, one of which was the increased number of young people I saw out there. It's rewarding to know our community (and all ages of that community) are partaking in City events. If you haven't already, check out some of the photos of the fireworks show to see the diversity and numbers of people. Knowing this information also helps our City staff plan for future events as far as what kind of activities and attractions we pursue.

Earlier in June, I also attended the grand opening of our new Lansing Aquatic Center. Many patrons came out and were brave enough to swim in a pool that was still a little on the cool side, water temperature-wise. I was one of the people and if you looked real quick, you may have seen me scramble up the poolside climbing wall. We are now well into swimming season and so far, the new pool and associated activities at 630 W. Mary are proving to be very popular.

Earlier this summer the City welcomed BrightMed Clinic to our community. BrightMed is a general medical practice treating adults 18 years and older, located at 712 1st Terr. This spring we saw the opening of HotWorx, a new fitness studio and gym in the Eisenhower Crossing commercial area. And Main Street

Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram is completing a major renovation, making their dealership even more attractive for prospective shoppers.

There have also been several property rezonings this year in Lansing focused on the E. McIntyre Rd. corridor. Epic Estates has three components: multi-family residential, commercial and industrial. Delaware Ridge has residential and commercial components. It is important to note that just because land has been rezoned does NOT mean development of that land is imminent; there is a fairly lengthy public process those proposed projects need to go through before any brick and mortar is laid down. As of this writing, action on those two proposed developments is still pending.

As I wrap up this article, I wanted to make special mention of my appreciation for the hard work the Lansing city staff continues to exhibit day in and day out. It was never more evident than during our Independence holiday celebration and fireworks show. City employees were out there several days before the event and also spent Sunday and Monday cleaning up afterwards. That's in addition to working all day on Saturday to make sure the event went off as smoothly as possible. Given the summer heat and humidity that weekend, it was a challenging task to say the least. We salute those who participated in helping to make our fireworks show a top-notch event. So, a special thanks to all the City staff for always being there when we need you.



Cover image:

Aerial view of Lansing Independence Holiday Fireworks Show, June 28

Back cover image:

Sunset over Lansing Independence Holiday Event, June 28

Photo credits: Ken Miller; Tony Zell; Cara Thiele; Jackie Nelson; Drone Lawrence

Ken Miller
Connection Editor

Tim Vandall
City Administrator



CONNECTION CALENDAR

City of Lansing Third Quarter 2025

AUGUST

- 7 City Council Meeting
- 20 Planning Commission Meeting
- 21 City Council Meeting
- 28 City Council Work Session

SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day Holiday - City Offices Closed
- 4 City Council Meeting
- 10 Citizens' Academy Begins
- 17 Planning Commission Meeting
- 18 City Council Meeting
- 25 City Council Work Session

OCTOBER

- 1-31 Registration: Youth Basketball
- 2 City Council Meeting
- 11 Lansing Fall Festival
- 13 Staff Training Day - City Offices Closed
- 15 Planning Commission Meeting
- 16 City Council Meeting
- 25 Spooky Center
- 30 City Council Work Session

Independence Holiday Event Shines in Lansing

By Public Information Officer Ken Miller

The patriotic holiday season got underway early on June 28 when a combination of food, fireworks and fun thrilled thousands at Lansing High School.

A nearly 30 minute fireworks show choreographed by Victory Pyrotechnics closed out the evening. Prior to that finale, attendees could choose from more than a dozen food trucks, listen to live music and enjoy activities ranging from a climbing wall to a dunk tank.

“Having this event at the high school for a second time helped with planning and execution,” said Community and Economic Development Director Joshua Gentzler. “The great weather also helped – we were fortunate the rain held off until well after our event was over.”

Activities officially started mid-afternoon with local DJs Nick and Tammy entertaining the early patrons. At dinnertime, featured band One Night Stand took the stage south of the high school and performed many tunes reminiscent of the “yacht rock” genre of classic 70s and 80s songs.

Then as twilight approached, with the band wrapping up it’s last set, Lansing Mayor Tony McNeill took the stage and thanked the event’s sponsors – including Mutual Savings Association, Linaweaver Construction, Luxury & Imports, Exchange Bank &

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Mayor Tony McNeill thanks attendees at the Independence Holiday event



DJs Nick and Tammy Dominguez entertain the crowd



From the Desk of the City Administrator

By City Administrator Tim Vandall

What does Gardner, Kan. have in common with Colby, Kan.? What similarities do Emporia and Concordia share? While these cities are in different regions of the state, they all share housing shortages and worked to address the shortfall by enacting the Reinvestment Housing Incentive District (RHID) program. Over 70 communities in every corner of the state, from Liberal to Belleville, from Pittsburg to Hays, and everywhere in between, have utilized the RHID program to alleviate housing shortfalls.

The RHID program works remarkably like a Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district. A portion of the new property taxes generated from the construction in that district is used to offset infrastructure costs, making homes more attainable and reducing risk to builders. Some people may ask why this program is necessary, which is a valid question. The cost of new housing, like everything, has skyrocketed. Increases in material and labor costs have significantly increased the cost of building homes. As the cost of new homes jumps, fewer people can purchase those homes. This is a problem

throughout the United States and the RHID program is one tool available to help spur more housing in Kansas.

Several years ago, a resident encouraged the city of Lansing to purchase some vacant land that was available and develop it ourselves. The downside with that idea is in that scenario, all risk would fall to the City and our taxpayers. If the City pays to construct roads, storm sewers and all necessary infrastructure, and if the lots and homes do not sell, the City would be out millions of dollars. By partnering with the developer, any risk associated with the project falls unto that developer. If the homes do not sell, or sell slower than anticipated, there is no risk to the City the way there would be if the City acted as the developer.

Another comment we have heard is the program incentivizes housing projects that would have occurred even without the program. As someone who talks to builders and developers regularly, I can tell you that is not the case. If building new

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(Holiday event continued from pg. 3)

Trust, Main St. Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram and GBA. "Our corporate sponsors and our City staff made this event great with their support and hard work," said City Administrator Tim Vandall. "We couldn't pull this off without them."

The fireworks show was spectacular, and that's what event attendees have come to expect as Victory Pyrotechnics has authored each show for the past seven years. The city of Lansing has contracted with Victory for the next three years as well.

"It was exciting to see all the families and kids out at the show. Everyone I saw enjoyed the rides, music and fireworks," said Gentzler. "We're excited to keep this event going in the future and look forward to the 250th Anniversary of our Country in 2026."

Up next for the city of Lansing in 2025 is our annual Fall Festival, scheduled for Sat., Oct. 11 at St. Francis de Sales Church, 900 Ida St. Contact Denise Souza at 913-364-6927 for details.



The Lansing Fire Dept. provides a refreshing spray to event attendees





Ward News CHECK OUT WHAT YOUR COUNCILMEMBERS HAVE TO SAY...

Good day to all and I hope your summer has been enjoyable and full of activities, including the use of our new aquatic center in Lansing.

2025 has seen different opportunities for growth in Lansing which we haven't seen for some time. Navigating through the next few years, we will need input from residents.

We also need decision making that balances current priorities with future goals and objectives the next generation can use to maintain, improve and grow when opportunities arise. The past few years the quality of life in Lansing has improved with the Bernard Park ballfields and the aquatic center. We have a school system that provides a variety of educational options. We have a library director, staff and support that continues to excel and provide learning opportunities for residents of all ages. Once the Kansas City Kansas Community College doors open in Lansing, the level of educational opportunity will also rise. And soon a Lansing youngster will potentially be able to earn a technical certificate or an associate degree (or two) locally before continuing their journey into adulthood.

Growth includes growing pains so balancing housing, commercial and industrial opportunities can be challenging and rewarding for the future stability and quality of life for Lansing residents. Another school year is almost upon us, so let's use this time to improve ourselves and inspire classmates as we all make Lansing a better place to live and prosper.



Ward 1 News
Councilmember
KEVIN GARDNER

(Kirby Ward 1 cont.)

And then there is the big question: is Lansing growing? The answer to that is no. Some people are happy with that. Others would like to see the sales tax money stay in Lansing, to see the City grow. The number of housing units in 2023 was estimated to be 3,724 according to the American Community Survey. In 2023, five new homes were built in Lansing and three in 2024. Yes, I am aware that 50 new apartments are currently being built. There is the possibility of 21 new townhomes coming up in the future, maybe. If the City fails to grow, the same 3,724 homes will continue to bear the burden of financing the city. In short, if the wish is for new businesses, the City needs more rooftops. To attract more housing, you need to bring in the businesses. Which brings us to RHID.

That is short for Reinvestment Housing Incentive District. RHID is a statewide program to assist cities in providing a program to increase growth. There are 105 counties in Kansas and 70 cities have taken advantage of this program to date. Tonganoxie has three different RHID programs currently. Bonner Springs has one and Edgerton has just approved one. As you may be aware, the City was approached by the Riverbend Heights developer with a proposal involving land that was voluntarily annexed into the City. In short, the home buyers pay their property taxes. There are agreed-to terms involving an amount to be paid back to the developer for upfront infrastructure costs, roads, sidewalks, curbs and utilities. The following entities have a say in the matter: City, School district and County. If any of these reject the proposal, it's over. Riverbend made an initial proposal and then changed the terms. A public hearing was held and no one was denied the opportunity to speak, either for or against. If the developer fails to build out, the loss is on them. The City is under no obligation to make up for the difference. Eventually the City decided to end the proposal. The developer has requested another public hearing. At this point, I'm not sure that will happen as this edition of the Connection's deadline is before that potential meeting.

As a council member, we owe it to the City's residents to hear all proposals. That does not mean we will agree to any new terms. I hear and understand that there will always be differing opinions on the many things that come before us.

Lastly, a brief word on the new Aquatic Center. The attendance and the number of family passes sold is positive. We have had some minor setbacks but all in all, the pool is a great asset to the Lansing community. If you can, enjoy it. Have a great summer.

One of the disadvantages of being retired is the time I have time to think about various issues. My head gets full of ideas, concerns and useless details that I can't seem to get it together. One of the issues that seems to come up regularly is the lack of regional or national businesses in Lansing: sit-down restaurants, shoe and clothing stores; specialty stores of many varieties and the big one, another grocery store: Hy-Vee, Trader Joe's among others. National and regional businesses will look at the history of the area as well. At one time, this area had a steak house, an all-you-can-eat buffet, a bowling alley and a mall. As we are all aware the mall closed long ago. That doesn't look good to future developers.



Ward 1 News
Councilmember
GENE KIRBY

Before any company decides to set up shop in Lansing, the following criteria will be used: how big is the city? What is the educational level and the average salary? Will the City's available work force be able to staff their business based on the salaries they will pay? What is the average age? How soon will they be able to get their ROI (return on investment?)



(Continues on pg. 6)

(Ward News continued from pg. 5)

The Lansing Aquatic Center is finally open and it is a big hit. I took my two youngest grandchildren there while they were visiting from out of town. Needless to say, they loved it. I had a heck of a time getting them out to go home when it was time. There has been a minor problem with a burned-out motor for the splash pad but that was replaced. So if you haven't been to our pool yet, give it a try. I'm sure you will like it.

I hope you all came out for our Independence holiday celebration. I think the show itself was better than last year's. The parking lot filled up fast and the folks that were there looked like they were having a great time. I know my family and I did. Big shout out to our Fire Department for keeping us cooled down. Also, a big shout-out to all of our City employees. It takes all of our staff to make this event a success. Again, thank you!

On the economic development side, the City has sold another three acres of Town Center to Kansas City Kansas Community College. They are planning to build a campus here in a couple of years and not only provide college level courses but vocational training. In this area and across the nation there is a shortage of qualified people in the trades.



We are also in talks to bring some additional commercial development to Town Center. We are hoping we can make a deal soon. Also, with the help of our State Senator, the City may acquire some property within our city limits on the northeast side of town by the river. We are working with the State and the County to potentially develop this area into an industrial park or distribution hub. There is already rail access along the river. This isn't going to happen right away, but we are reaching for the future.

The City is continuing efforts to bring more housing to Lansing. In the last year we only had permits for three new houses issued. We would like to develop housing that our kids and grandkids would consider buying in order to stay in the area. It's a tough nut to crack but we are working on it.

This will probably be the last Connection newsletter published until after the Fall 2025 elections. I encourage all of you to research the candidates for the various offices, register to vote and get out and vote.

As always you are invited to YOUR City Council meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month. Have a great rest of the summer and if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas please give me a call at 913-306-1051 or email me at dstudnicka@lansingks.org



(Continued from pg. 4)

From the Desk of the City Administrator

homes was the lucrative venture its being made out to be, we would have people knocking down the doors to build in Lansing. Instead, we only have three new single-family homes being built this year. Lansing's housing shortage is real and we currently lose people to other communities with more housing stock.

We have also heard from people who are convinced this will raise taxes. While nobody can predict the future, a broadened tax base typically stabilizes property taxes. More housing means more people shopping at local businesses

generating sales tax. What business doesn't want more potential customers? It's also a fresh labor pool for our local employers. This also equates to more kids signing up for T-ball, attending local churches and becoming the fabric of our community.

Addressing housing shortfalls is a complicated issue and there is no silver bullet. While this program is one thing the City Council is looking at, we are always open to ideas to spur housing that have been successful in other communities. Doing nothing is not an option and stagnation helps no one.

Take a Dip at the New Lansing Aquatic Center

By Public Information Officer Ken Miller

A warm afternoon greeted swimmers of all ages as Lansing unveiled its new Aquatic Center to the public on Sat., June 14.

Prior to jumping in, a short ribbon cutting ceremony took place with Lansing Mayor Tony McNeill doing the honors. Nearly 100 people gathered around the Mayor at the pool to get their first look at the six-lane pool, lazy river, slides and other amenities within the center located at 630 W. Mary St.

"I'm pleased that we were able to hire enough people – managers and lifeguards – to fully staff the facility as we get into the hot summer months," said City Administrator Tim Vandall. "Pool manager Joe McGuire and the entire Parks and Recreation staff did a great job taking on this huge project and making sure the opening season is a success."

For those considering a visit to the aquatic center for the first time, daily admission for a Lansing resident costs \$5; non-residents will pay \$7. Non-swimmers can get in

(Continued on pg. 8)



Enjoying the Lansing Aquatic Center's climbing wall on opening day



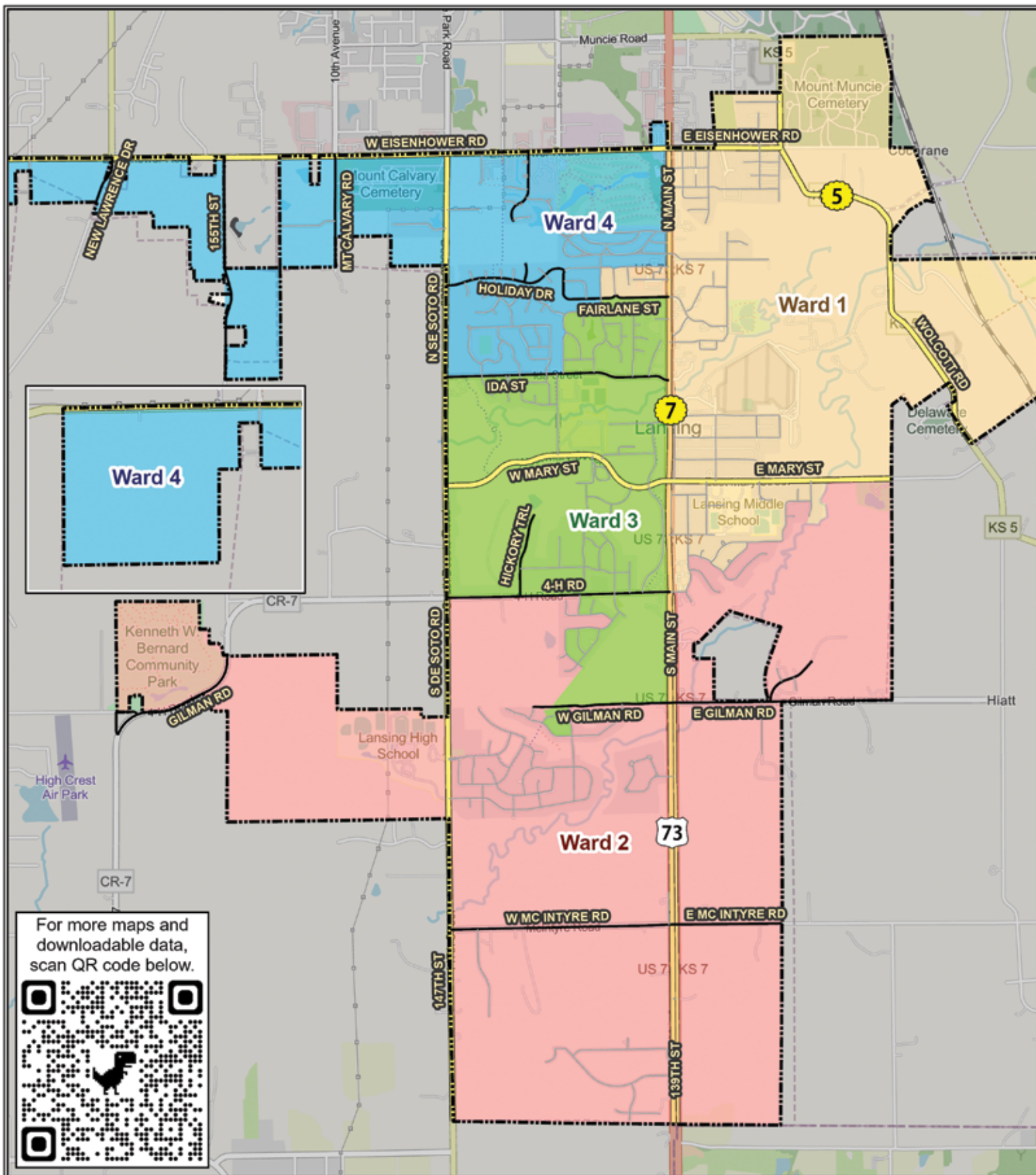
(Aquatic Center continued from pg. 7)

for \$2. Open swim is from 1 – 8 p.m. Mon. – Fri.; Sat. and Sun. open swim hours are 1 – 7 p.m. More information about the aquatic center can be accessed at <https://www.lansingks.org/parksrec/page/city-lansing-aquatic-center>. The Lansing Aquatic Center is open daily until August 13. Once the Lansing School District (USD 469) starts school in August, the facility will be open only on weekends through Labor Day.

A 0.45 percent City retailers sales tax approved by local voters in 2022 will provide about \$7 million in construction funding over time. That additional tax was collected beginning on July 1, 2023 and was recently projected to raise between \$600 and \$700 thousand per year over the next 20 years.



Mayor Tony McNeill (with bullhorn) officially opens the Lansing Aquatic Center on June 14



Legend

- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- City Boundary

Official Ward Map City of Lansing, KS 2025

1 inch = 3,000 feet

0 3,000 6,000 Feet



CITY OF
LANSING
KANSAS
www.lansingks.org

Can Young Adults Afford to Buy a House in Lansing Today?

By Community and Economic Development Director Joshua Gentzler

In short, they probably can't. In May 2025, the median Lansing home listing price was \$380,000 according to realtor.com, while the Kansas City metro's existing-home median was \$315,000. Lansing's \$65,000 price gap has widened every quarter since 2022, pricing entry-level buyers out before they even open up Zillow.

Demand: Full-Throttle

Kansas City's economy generated 14,500 net new jobs in the twelve months ending December 2024, according to the Mid-America Regional Council. A solid slice of those paychecks drive up K-7 to Lansing because of USD 469's high test scores, the City's quiet blocks, and our 20-minute shot to downtown KC. Meanwhile, apartments across the metro stay 94.5 percent occupied, squeezing renters toward the for-sale market and increasing purchase bids even higher.

Supply: Stuck in First Gear

Builders are not replacing the units being absorbed. 294 single-family permits cleared the eight-county metro in January 2025, down from 310 a year earlier and barely half the 2021 pace. The



Mid-America Regional Council pegs the region's deficit at 12,000 to 24,000 homes. Until local output outruns that gap, each new Lansing listing enters a bidding cage match, which is good for the seller, but not necessarily for our potential residents.

A Broader Housing Menu

Price relief can arrive when production expands fast and wide

(Continued on pg. 11)

LANSGING PARKS & RECREATION



YOUTH WINTER BASKETBALL

PRACTICES BEGIN THIS DECEMBER. GAMES START AFTER THE HOLIDAY BREAK IN JANUARY AND RUN THROUGH MID-MARCH.

REGISTRATION: OCTOBER 1 - 31

SAVE THE DATE! LATE REGISTRATION MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED

LANSGING RESIDENTS: \$50 | NONRESIDENTS: \$60

FEES ARE DUE AT REGISTRATION & INCLUDE A JERSEY

AGE DIVISIONS BY GRADE LEVEL:

1ST & 2ND | 3RD & 4TH | 5TH & 6TH



FACEBOOK:
LANSGING KS PARKS & RECREATION



EXPLORE
WWW.LANSINGKS.ORG/PARKSREC

(913) 727-2960 | PARKS@LANSGINGKS.ORG

IN-PERSON REGISTRATION:
PARKS & RECREATION: 108 S. 2ND STREET
MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8:00 AM-4:30 PM

ONLINE REGISTRATION:
WWW.LANSINGKS.ORG/PARKSREC

(Buy a House continued from pg. 10)

enough to outnumber new buyers. Lansing can spark that expansion by widening our definition of “home”. Over the past 70 years, we’ve seen home be defined as one unit on ever-expanding minimum lot size, sometimes approaching ¼ acre. We can move toward a more traditional style of home development where:

- Small-lot detached houses (think Craftsman-style homes): classic single-family curb appeal, half the land cost;
- Duplexes, triplexes, four-plexes: one foundation, multiple front doors, and lower cost per household;
- Cottage courts and courtyard townhomes: eight to twelve compact units clustered around a shared yard; perfect for first-timers and downsizers alike;

All are welcomed and easily built by developers from both inside and outside Lansing. Cities that deploy this mix grow listings faster than demand grows buyers. More doors per acre, more variety per block and there is far less room for the next seller to post a record price. That is a flexible supply.

What Lansing Wins by Moving First

Stick with one-house-per-lot tradition and watch prices climb until the rising generation, including your own family, chooses

another City to spread their roots. Expand the menu of options now and tomorrow’s teachers, nurses and entrepreneurs can sign mortgages here, keeping tax rolls strong, school rosters healthy and moving toward a vibrant Main Street. Price obeys math. Increase the number of homes fast enough, and Lansing rewrites the next decade from scarcity to opportunity and abundance.



ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Important Voting Information for Lansing City Council/School Board Elections Fall 2025

- October 14 - Last day to register to vote
- October 15 - Begin mailing advance voting ballots and advance voting begins in office
- October 28 - Last day to request advance ballot to be mailed
- November 3 - Noon deadline to vote in person at the County Courthouse
- November 4 - GENERAL ELECTION
- November 5 - Voter registration books reopen

Register to Vote

- Online Voter Registration can be completed at the www.ksvotes.org website. If you register online, please do so at least **45 days** before any election to allow time for the application to process. You are not officially registered to vote until the County Clerk’s Office has processed your application.

Where Can I Register to Vote?

- **County Clerk’s Office, County Courthouse, 300 Walnut St., Leavenworth**
- **Leavenworth City Clerk’s Office, City Hall, 100 N. 5th St., Leavenworth**
- **Lansing City Clerk’s Office, City Hall, 800 1st Ter., Lansing**

For further information, contact the Election Office at (913) 684-0419.



Fall Festival Is Second Saturday In October

The Lansing Fall Festival takes place on Sat., Oct. 11, 2025. This year's event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. along and near Angel Falls Trail, located by St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, 900 Ida St. **Admission is free.** Attendees will enjoy the usual variety of fall specialties: food and craft vendors as well as kid-friendly performers. Scheduled to perform this



Ventriloquist Diana Rockwell with one of her characters

year is Ventriloquist Diana Rockwell and Magic Man Reggie Regg.

As always, pumpkin decorating at the Lansing Community Library tent will be featured. There will be several additional activities including face painting and balloon art. About 70 vendors are expected near the Trail by the Church for your browsing pleasure.



"Magic Man" Reggie Regg

Shuttle service will be available - the Park 'n Ride will be located at one of Lansing's public schools. Attendees are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the free shuttle, which will run every 15 minutes. Onsite parking will be limited.

The Lansing Community Library and the Activity Center will be closed on Sat., Oct. 11 in support of this event. **Please note: The Lansing Fall Festival will take place rain or shine. In the event of severe weather, the event may be canceled.** For more information, go to City of Lansing and/or Lansing, Kansas Happenings on Facebook or contact the Community and Economic Development Dept. at (913) 364-6927.

LANSGING TRADITIONAL/SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION

www.lansingsks.org

CITY WEBSITE FEATURES

NEW WEBSITE DESIGN UNVEILED SUMMER 2025

- Check out the city of Lansing Website: www.lansingsks.org
- Modules So Residents Can Interact with their City Government
- Use the Web Calendar to Check on Dates for City Events and Meetings
- View the Latest City Council Meetings and Newsmaker Interview Shows via YouTube
- Pay Your City Bills Online
- Report a Pothole or Other Maintenance Issue
- Report Trash Service Problems
- Register for youth sports leagues or city events!

CITY'S SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

- Lansing has a Nextdoor Presence Accessing 2,300+ residents
- Lansing's City Facebook Page has 7,350+ followers

- Lansing's X Feed has more than 1,220 followers
- Links to City Videos on YouTube
- Check out photos from City staff and the community
- City Job Opportunities Announced
- Updates from Lansing and KDOT Tweeted Instantly!
- "Like" Our Library, Parks, Police, Fire Dept. and Happenings Facebook Pages, Too

LGTV - CHANNEL 2 UPDATE

CH. 2 IS NOW AN ONLINE ONLY PRESENCE ON YOU TUBE

- www.youtube.com/@lansingsks
- Local Weather Forecast Instantly!
- City Council and County Commission Meetings Rebroadcast 10 Times/Week
- Legislative Forums
- Historical Documentaries about Lansing and Leavenworth County
- Complete Program Guide on www.lansingsks.org
- Local musician and Lansing city employee Kris Bennetts Provides Background Music



MAYOR'S ANGEL TREE PROGRAM

The City of Lansing will accept applications for the Mayor's Angel Tree Program beginning Sept. 22, 2025. If you would like to be considered for the program, please visit our City Website www.lansingks.org for an application and eligibility requirements.

Contact the City Clerk's Office for more information at 913-727-3036 or via email at tsims@lansingks.org or lwelch@lansingks.org.

The application deadline is Noon on Friday, Oct. 24, 2025.

MAYOR'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY NOVEMBER 30

Lansing Mayor Tony McNeill and City staff will celebrate holiday traditions at 6 p.m. on Sun., Nov 30 during the 39th Annual Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. This free event takes place at the Lansing Middle School Auditorium (220 Lion Ln.) There will be performances by Katie's Dance Studio and Christmas songs sung by Lansing High School's Choir. Mayor McNeill will accept donations and ask everyone to join in singing traditional carols during the lighting ceremony. Those wishing to donate to the Mayor's Angel Tree Program can bring their donations to the Lighting Ceremony. Private individuals, civic organizations and businesses are asked to participate in the fund drive. For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at 913-727-3036.

Lansing Community Library Update

by Library Director Terri Wojtalewicz

This summer, the Lansing Community Library grew in more ways than one. Thanks to a generous donation from the Friends of the Library and grant funding, we've added a beautiful new patio space. This multipurpose area will be used for programs—and also makes the perfect spot to relax with a good book when the weather is nice. We hope you'll stop by and enjoy it as the days start to cool off.

It's also been a *spectacular* summer inside the library. So far, we've hosted 103 programs with over 1,280 participants—and we're still going strong. Our Summer Reading Program has been a huge hit, with 270 readers signed up through Beanstack, our digital reading tracker. Together, they've completed over 850 reading and activity challenges and logged more than 2,000 hours of reading in June alone. The fun continues through July.

Looking ahead, we've got more great programming lined up for all ages. This fall and winter, you can look forward to festive favorites like our Trick-or-Treat Storytime, a cozy "Fall in Love with Reading"

challenge, and a special Holiday Bingo & Craft Night for adults. Keep an eye on our website and social media—event details will be announced after our short programming break in August.

In the meantime, our regular programs are still going strong:

-  **Rhyme Time (ages 0–2)** – Tuesdays at 10:30 AM
-  **After Work Story Stop (ages 5 & under)** – Wednesdays at 5:30 PM
-  **Move & Groove (ages 2–5)** – Thursdays at 10:30 AM
-  **Lego Club (all ages)** – Second Thursday of the month at 4:30 PM
-  **Yarn Club (adults)** – Third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM
-  **Book Club (adults)** – Last Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM

We've also expanded **Preschool Play**, our come-and-go activity time designed for ages 2–7. Now happening every other Saturday, it's a great way for caregivers to beat the heat while enjoying hands-on, developmentally appropriate fun.

And there's something new to look for online. This fall, our social media will introduce a fun guest presenter—**Librarian Huckleberry Finn**. He'll be sharing his favorite reads from the Library's collection and what makes each one a "fantastic" pick. Don't miss his bookish adventures!

To see our full event calendar, visit lansingks.org/library and click the Calendar tab. Follow us on Facebook at *Lansing Community Library* and on Instagram at *@lansingcommunitylibrary* to stay up to date with everything happening at LCL.



Lansing USD469 Update

Content Provided by Lansing USD469

USD469 Launches Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy and Celebrates Strategic Plan Progress

Lansing USD469 is excited to announce the new name of its district-run virtual school: Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy. While the name has changed, the mission remains the same - to provide flexible, high-quality learning options for students across the state of Kansas.



Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy is powered by the Acellus learning platform, a state-accredited, trusted, and widely used online curriculum that allows students to move through coursework at their own pace. With the support of certified Lansing teachers, students receive a structured yet flexible experience that combines online instruction with individualized support.

This program is especially ideal for homeschool families and those seeking a personalized educational experience backed by a public school district. In addition to flexible schedules, Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy offers access to enrichment, intervention, and career exploration opportunities - ensuring students receive a well-rounded education tailored to their needs. As an extension of Lansing USD469, the virtual academy reflects the district's commitment to innovation, equity, and academic excellence. To learn more, visit www.usd469.net.

As Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy expands personalized learning options, Lansing USD469 is also making strong progress on its 2023–2028 Strategic Plan. Guided by five major goal areas, the district is focused on ensuring every student receives a well-rounded, future-ready education.

Here are a few highlights from recent progress:

- **Grow Your Own Teacher Apprenticeship Program:** Lansing continues to invest in building a strong future educator workforce. The district's apprenticeship program supports classified employees in becoming certified teachers through scholarships, mentoring, and college partnerships, ensuring we retain talented individuals who are already committed to our students.
- **Flexible & Personalized Learning:** Through initiatives like Kansas Heartland Virtual Academy and individualized learning schedules at the secondary level, the district is delivering on its commitment to adapt education around student interests, goals, and needs.
- **Real-World and Career-Skill Opportunities:** Lansing is expanding access to Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, school-to-career partnerships, and mentoring experiences. These efforts help students build relevant skills, explore future careers, and prepare for life after high school.
- **Streamlined Communication with the Rooms App:** To improve consistency and transparency, the district has launched the Rooms app, a communication tool that centralizes updates and messaging between families and school staff. This supports one of the plan's key goals: enhancing collaboration and streamlining communication from PreK–12.

Community members are encouraged to track the district's progress year-round. Visit www.usd469.net to access our Strategic Plan page and ClearGov dashboard, where you can explore real-time updates on goals, action steps, and outcomes.



