

# LANSING CONNECTION

*Third Quarter 2023*

## **Music and Fireworks Headline Lansing Summer Event**



800 1st Terrace, Lansing, KS 66043

(913) 727-3233

[www.lansingsks.org](http://www.lansingsks.org)

# Lansing Celebrates Independence Day Early

By Public Information Officer Ken Miller

Lansing residents and visitors to our City started Independence Day “weekend” early on Sat., July 1 with music, food and fireworks – despite a weather forecast that saw a severe storm to our north and rain to the south that afternoon and evening.

More than a thousand attendees enjoyed music from Flashback KC, who performed with nationally known singer Daysia Reneau. “That was a highlight of the event,” said Lansing Event Coordinator Denise Souza. “The band’s performance, along with local DJs Nick and Tammy, kept a musical beat right up to the fireworks show.” The young and young-at-heart enjoyed rides and a variety of food trucks provided fare to those who were hungry.



Veterans form a flag line along W. Mary St. during Lansing’s July 1 event

Lansing Mayor Tony McNeill welcomed those gathered prior to the start of the fireworks display. Victory Pyrotechnics, who has provided fireworks for Lansing events for a number of years, set their latest creation to a patriotic-themed musical accompaniment.

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**Cover image:**  
Local entertainer Daysia Reneau headlines July 1 Fireworks show

**Back cover image:**  
Aerial photo of Bernard Park Baseball Complex, May 2023

**Photo credits:** Ken Miller, Josh Gentzler, Denise Souza, Cody Burnett, Don Studnicka, Dustin Dreiling

**Ken Miller**  
Connection Editor

**Tim Vandall**  
City Administrator

## CONNECTION CALENDAR City of Lansing 2023, 2nd Quarter

- AUGUST**
- 3 City Council Meeting
  - 16 Planning Commission Meeting
  - 17 City Council Meeting
  - 24 City Council Work Session

- SEPTEMBER**
- 4 Labor Day Holiday - City Offices Closed
  - 7 City Council Meeting
  - 13 Citizens' Academy Begins
  - 20 Planning Commission Meeting
  - 21 City Council Meeting
  - 28 City Council Work Session

- OCTOBER**
- 5 City Council Meeting
  - 9 Staff Training Day - City Offices Closed
  - 14 Lansing Fall Festival
  - 19 City Council Meeting
  - 25 Planning Commission Meeting
  - 26 City Council Work Session
  - 28 Spooky Center



# MAYOR'S BYLINE

By Mayor Tony McNeill

I hope everyone enjoyed our Independence Day celebration on 1 July as much as I did. It was a great crowd, and I am thankful the weather cooperated (although it did look a bit ominous for a while there.) As I mentioned during my remarks, I really like the convenience of the Towne Center location for the fireworks. That said, the hosting of the event at Towne Center may be drawing to a close – and for good reason.

Over the past year, the City has worked closely with Tractor Supply Company (TSC) to find a suitable new home to accommodate our local store’s growth. I’m happy to say TSC has a contract on acreage in Towne Center, located just to the north of where the new Kansas City Kansas Community College will be. I expect these two additions will serve as a catalyst for additional development in the area – joining Family Eye Care as well as the banks and businesses already located in Towne Center. I am excited that Lansing is poised to fulfill the promise of a vibrant Towne Center, and I am sure many of you share that same excitement as it has been nearly two decades since its initial development plans were announced.

Good news regarding commercial development isn’t limited to Towne Center. Building on existing growth at the K-7/Eisenhower Rd. intersection (think Quik Trip, Club Car Wash and a remodeled Aldi’s,) Lansing is also awaiting the imminent opening of Take 5 Oil, an automotive oil change operation where you can stay in your vehicle as the work is performed. TSC’s move south to Towne Center will also make available the current store’s location on the southwest corner of that heavily traveled intersection, a location that will certainly generate a lot of interest from businesses. A little further south on K-7, you’ve probably noticed great progress on

the new dental clinic; Filliman Dental will be located just south of Mutual Savings Association. There are several other small businesses planning to make Lansing their home in the near future and we welcome each and every one of them to our City.

There’s no doubt that commercial growth is good for Lansing for many reasons, not the least of which is additional revenue for the City. The commercial development plays into one of the greatest responsibilities I and the City Council have: funding City operations fairly and sufficiently. At the time of this writing, I can say that City staff, at the direction of myself and the Council, are once again lowering the property tax mill levy rate for 2024. Following up on last year’s nearly five mill reduction, the City Council is scheduled to vote on next year’s budget which contains another 1.5 mill reduction. As the City’s commercial growth continues to bring in new revenue, this will also enable us to lower the property tax burden even more. Please see the excellent chart in the City Administrator’s article from Finance Director Beth Sanford showing Lansing’s recent property tax mill levy history – as well as the history of other taxing entities affecting the Lansing property owner’s bottom line. It’s clear to me that City leadership has done a lot to try and ease the tax burden of our citizens to the extent that we can.

There is plenty to be proud of in Lansing, with more to come soon. Our new baseball complex out at Bernard Park is seeing its first season of youth games. And in the summer of 2025, we expect our Municipal Aquatic Center to be open at the corner of Bittersweet Rd. and W. Mary St. Despite challenging times nationally and globally, I feel confident in saying that Lansing is thriving. I hope you feel the same.



# From the Desk of the City Administrator

By City Administrator Tim Vandall

Quality of life is a term tossed around pretty frequently. In all honesty, it can mean different things to different people. Over the last few years, the City has tackled various projects that should hopefully improve the quality of life for our residents, whether they are eight years old, or 80.

Traffic is usually something we do not hear about too often in Lansing. Congestion in town is generally consolidated to a few areas and only takes place at certain times. Although congestion is not brought up often, safety at certain areas is a key issue. The City is working to address major roadways and intersections as time and funding allow. In 2019, we wrapped up DeSoto Road and the Eisenhower/DeSoto intersection. Does anyone remember how that intersection looked before that project? Yikes! That intersection currently handles a greater amount of traffic in a safe and efficient manner. In

building off the success of that project, we worked together with KDOT and the city of Leavenworth to improve the K-7/ Eisenhower intersection. The project wrapped up a couple of months ago. It has been gratifying to see the intersection accommodating more traffic, especially the traffic heading toward West Eisenhower. We are hopeful improvements to these crucial intersections can reduce commute times, alleviate safety issues, and improve the quality of life for our residents.

We have worked hard to make improvements for our younger residents and families. We recently wrapped up the inaugural season of Parks & Recreation t-ball, baseball and softball at Bernard Park. What a beautiful facility for our community. All three of my children were playing ball this summer so I was at the

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

Good day to all and hope your summer is going well. As I continue to learn and assist in Lansing's growth, I am seeing positive results from the perseverance of the Mayor, Council, staff and employees. New businesses, existing businesses moving to better locations, infrastructure and amenities are all moving Lansing in a direction that allows for consistent growth while remaining financially stable. There have been brick walls and road blocks the council and staff experienced in the mid and late teens of the past decade along with the widening division on issues affecting our community, state, and nation in this decade. Fortunately for our citizens, most of the decision makers we currently have are the ones who endured those struggles and are able to knock down walls, navigate through the road blocks, and put aside differences when it pertains to what is best for Lansing, the city.



Ward 1 News Councilmember KEVIN GARDNER

Experience, fiscal responsibility, cooperative efforts, and dedication to Lansing's future continue to be a strong asset for this city.

One situation was brought up at a recent meeting where Lansing's Wastewater Utility Director put in the extra time and effort during a sewer line project to avoid eliminating some trees by working with engineers and KDOT. As a citizen, I probably would not have known about this unless I was an avid viewer of city council meetings. Leaders like Tony Zell and others, who do things to improve Lansing while using the talents they possess to accommodate concerns and requests of citizens are big reasons why Lansing continues to progress. Sometimes it is difficult to understand or even accept decisions made by leaders in Lansing, but I hope that seeing our future developing each year will be acknowledged. Have a great summer.



So, it's the Fourth of July and here I sit doing an article for this issue of the Connection. It's actually a break for me as I am not assisting my wife as we get things in order at our new home. Boxes and crates everywhere. Where's this, where's that?



Ward 1 News Councilmember GENE KIRBY

Although I was not able to attend (because of moving,) I understand that it was a great fireworks show, again. Hats off to everyone that had a hand in pulling off another great job. Things are moving along commercially in Lansing, slowly but surely. We have enjoyed the additional businesses that have moved to town. Aldi's recently completed a major expansion, a sign of their commitment to doing business in Lansing. How about Quik Trip and all of the business they do. Yes, QT is in Lansing, as well as Club Car Wash. I understand the confusion but they are located in Lansing. Towne Center, home of the new Family Eye Care facility. The expansion of Tractor Supply, which will stay in Lansing. The KCKCC satellite campus to begin construction in 2027. The new dental office on Main Street, soon to be open. Five Minute Oil Change where you don't even get out of your car, looks to open soon. Lansing city staff continue talking with potential new businesses.

We look forward to more good news in the days ahead. Slow but steady, progress is being made. Additional businesses bring in sales tax dollars, a benefit to all of us here. We have a great staff here in Lansing, home to many of our employees. A fantastic working relationship between the staff and council, and a council that actually gets along. It's not about us, it's about you, our citizens, and the place we call home. You have

often heard me talk about slow and steady, take our time, look at all of the facts, and get it right the first time.

Personally, I am getting used to retirement from my full-time job of many years. I keep asking myself, when will my internal alarm clock stop going off? One of the few times that I would welcome speed – and ditch the “slow and steady.”



We made it through the 4th of July with the weather being OK. We had a small threat of severe weather prior to our July 1 fireworks event, but the storms stayed away and moved out in time. I hope everyone that came out with families and friends had a great time and enjoyed all the activities.



Ward 2 News Councilmember DON STUDNICKA

Last quarter I provided a picture of a mother goose setting on six eggs at the Twin Oaks care facility in Lansing. The picture below was taken a couple of weeks later. Mom and Dad are leading seven chicks away – I guess I can't count!

I reported last quarter about the state redoing the intersection at K-7 and Parallel Parkway; more recently, our Capital Improvement Program (CIP) in Lansing has taken off for this year and the curb replacements and road resurfacing should be done by the time school starts or a little after. If you have crumbling curbs and pot holes by your house or in your neighborhood, please call the Public Works Dept. and report it. The City uses a scale of pavement and curb deterioration to help budget for fixing the worst ones, then budgeting for the next worst curbs and streets to be done next year and so on. In between the City will patch as best it can until the next year.

On the economic development front, a major happening is taking place. Tractor Supply has a large parcel in Towne Center under contract with the intention of building a new and bigger store and move there. The old parcel at Main and Eisenhower will be put up for sale. If you know of a business or someone to redevelop that area, send them in our direction.

The City has been working on its budget for 2024 for several months. Last year we were able to abide by the Revenue Neutral Rate set by Leavenworth County. Note: the city of Lansing was the only taxing entity



to do so! This year it looks like we will be close, but we won't quite get there because of a couple of expensive budget items that are must-haves. However, we will be able to lower our mill levy from 36.448 to 34.85! We work very hard at being good stewards of **OUR** tax dollars.

You should already be seeing fall youth sports registrations on the web site so you can get an early start on that.

As always, you are invited to **YOUR** City Council meetings which are held the first and third Thursdays of each month. If you have concerns, comments, ideas or just need to talk about something going on in the City, you can reach me by email at [dstudnicka@lansingsks.org](mailto:dstudnicka@lansingsks.org) or by phone at 913-306-1051.



I would like to recap a few key events and business development accomplishments by Lansing over the last year. The business development accomplishments listed are improvements to services within our community. The date in parenthesis is first date discussed by the City Council.



Ward 4 News Councilmember DAN CLEMONS

- Fiber Installation (15 June 2022). The council contracted for fiber optic internet service using ARPA Funds in a phased approach. Phase I revenue is to be used to extend services to other locations within Lansing. AT&T Fiber did come in later with a desire to install fiber in Lansing. Clearwave installed primarily in City owned right-of-way areas using below-ground pots. AT&T installation is primarily in utility easement areas and existing utility poles. AT&T began using above ground stands but agreed to transition to below-ground pots. AT&T work is currently ongoing. Clearwave has notified the City they are prepared to close out their Phase I efforts.
- Bernard Park (23 June 2022). The Lansing City Council voted to secure bonds for Bernard Park improvements. On 3 Nov 2022, a change order was approved adding a batting cage. The Bernard Park projects are now completed. If you have not visited the Park recently, you should. The improvements are significant.
- Pool (23 June 2022). The Council voted to put the Aquatic Center on the General Ballot using a .45% sales tax starting 1 July 2023. On 25 Aug 2022, The Council voted to purchase 19.9 acres at W. Mary and Bittersweet Rd. In November, voters approved the Aquatic Center and sales tax for a 20-year period. On 5 Jan 23, the council contracted for development of a design plan with citizen committee input. On 6 July 2023, The Council voted to place the Aquatic Center at the western most area of the Mary St. location just east of the Angel Falls walking trail. Construction is projected for Spring 2024 with opening in Summer 2025. The actual design approval will be presented at a later date.
- Take 5 Oil Change (4 August 2022) – Take 5 Oil appealed to the Council for City Code variances. They were approved. Take 5 Oil Change is located at K-7 and Eisenhower across from Tractor Supply. It opens August 2023.
- Filliman Dental Clinic (18 Aug 2022) – Building plans for the Dental Clinic between Mutual Savings and Anytime Fitness on K-7/Main St. were submitted. The Dental Clinic is projected to open in August or September 2023.
- Family Eye Clinic at Towne Center (18 Aug 2022) – Building plans for the business were submitted. The clinic faces Main St. and is North and adjacent to the lot owned by McDonald's. The Eye Center Clinic is now open for business.

- Revenue Neutral Rate (1 Sept 2022) – The Council voted to keep the 2023 Budget at the same rate as 2022. Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) means the mill rate is set so that the same dollar amount as the previous year is achieved. Lansing was the only taxing entity that voted for RNR in 2022.
- Housing Analysis (17 November 2022) Council voted to contract for a housing study to support rezoning and housing decisions. On 6 July 2023 the Lansing KS Housing Analysis Study was presented.
- KCKCC Campus at Towne Center (17 November 2022) Council voted to sell Kansas City Kansas Community College Lot #1, a 12-acre parcel across from Sonic on the west side of Towne Center. Approximately 500 people are projected to be at the campus daily when it opens. The new campus is projected to open in 2027.
- Covington Woods Phase II at Towne Center (5 Jan 2023) Zimmerman Properties was offered a contract to purchase approximately four acres in Lansing Towne Center (approx. 14.5 acres) just East of the Lansing Elementary School on Mary Street to construct a Phase II - 50 unit apartment complex. The final sale of the property is contingent upon Zimmerman receiving tax credits. On 4 May 2023, the Council rezoned the area to accommodate the project for the next phase of tax credit consideration of which Zimmerman Properties was invited to participate. The tax credits decisions are anticipated to be released in late July or early August. There are approximately 31 applications and only enough funds for 11 or 12 to be approved.
- Towne Center Lighting & Median improvements (2 February 2023). The Council voted to remove the center median within the south Towne Center Drive and install updated lighting to replace aging light systems. On 16 June 2023, the Council voted to partner with Lan-Del to extend water services to Towne Center lots without water utility access.
- County Transportation Study (6 April 2023). The council received a progress report on the Leavenworth County transportation study. This study incorporates all transportation project recommendations submitted by cities and government bodies within Leavenworth Co. The intent is to submit a report to the State and/or Federal agencies for grants and funding transportation projects in Leavenworth Co. in a priority order. The final study will be submitted in November or December 2023.
- McIntyre Rd. Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Project (16 May 2023). This project is a sanitary sewer service extension from Gilman Rd. to the southernmost part of Lansing at McIntyre Rd. A Sanitary Sewer Base Grant of \$1.3 million from State of Kansas for sewer development to McIntyre was announced in late May 2023. The remainder of costs are to be paid locally.
- Fairway Estates Expansion rezoning (1 June 2023). This area is bounded by Desoto Rd., and subdivisions of Willows, Pebble Beach & Fairway. This allows for development of new residential homes.
- Tractor Supply Company at Towne Center (1 June 2023) The Council voted to sell TSC a 4.5 acre lot North and adjacent to KCKCC. The move is anticipated in 2026 or before.
- Santa Fe Townhome Phase II Rezone (6 July 2023)(14 units) are in their final stage and expected to be completed by the end of July or August 2023. The Council voted to rezone the Phase II land area from business to residential as a more appropriate code alignment of land use. These are the townhomes across from IHOP. As of the printing of this connections, the Phase II design plans have not been finalized or submitted to City Staff.



Mayor Tony McNeill throws out first pitch during Bernard Park baseball complex opening night

## Playing Ball at Bernard Park *By Public Information Officer Ken Miller*

More than 150 Lansing residents and sports fans ushered in a new era of baseball and softball at Bernard Park on May 22. Located 2.5 miles west of City Hall at 15650 Gilman Rd., attendees participated in a ribbon cutting led by Mayor Tony McNeill and were able to see youth ball players scrimmage during a game that broke in the new playing fields. The National Anthem was performed by former City council member Ron Dixon prior to Mayor McNeill throwing out the ceremonial first pitch.

Construction on the \$5 million project began in 2022, with grading the area formerly used for annual fireworks shows. Culminating years of planning and construction, five new ballfields and associated infrastructure are currently being used by area youth to develop their games and more importantly, have fun. "My sons will be playing here, so I have an added perspective on the importance of this facility to the future of Lansing," said City Administrator Tim Vandall. "As Lansing grows and new neighborhoods start to be built closer to Bernard Park, the facility's value to this community increases even more."

The Bernard Park Baseball/Softball complex was designed by Vireo Landscape Architecture and Planning, MHS Engineers, VSR Design, SFS Architecture, PKMR Engineers and Stand Structural Engineering. Construction completed by general contractors Sands Construction, with their subcontractors Linaweaver Construction, Laven Electrical, Blue Cedar Landscape, Dayco Painting, Thompson Masonry, Quality

Fence, Updike Paving, Bryant Heating and Cooling, MCS Plumbing, Kent Kramer Framing and Erosion Specialists.

The city of Lansing also acknowledges the support of Landel Water, Everyg and the Kansas City Royals Charities.



Lansing resident Ron Dixon sings National Anthem as local Boy Scouts look on



Aerial view of Bernard Park opening night ceremony on May 22



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## Lansing Celebrates Independence Day Early

"Given the threat of severe weather and just the sheer amount of effort it takes to coordinate an event like this, I think everything went extremely well and according to plan," said City Administrator Tim Vandall.

This year's event took place at Lansing's Towne Center, near the intersection of W. Mary St. and K-7/Main St. "The location of future fireworks shows in Lansing will be impacted by the continuing commercial development of Towne Center," said Vandall. "We are fortunate in Lansing to have another terrific location for this event – Bernard Park, where the show has taken place in past years as well. It remains to be seen where the 2024 show will be, but the location will be determined well in advance to help plan another great Lansing fireworks show."



Mayor Tony McNeill welcomes attendees to July 1 Independence Day event



Folks line up at one of the many food trucks at the July 1 event



Kids enjoy rides at Lansing's Independence Day event on July 1, 2023

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH AT ANGEL FALLS TRAIL - 900 IDA ST, LANSING, KS 66043 - FREE SHUTTLE AND PARKING  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 14, 2023 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

# Lansing's FALL FESTIVAL 2023

FREE ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

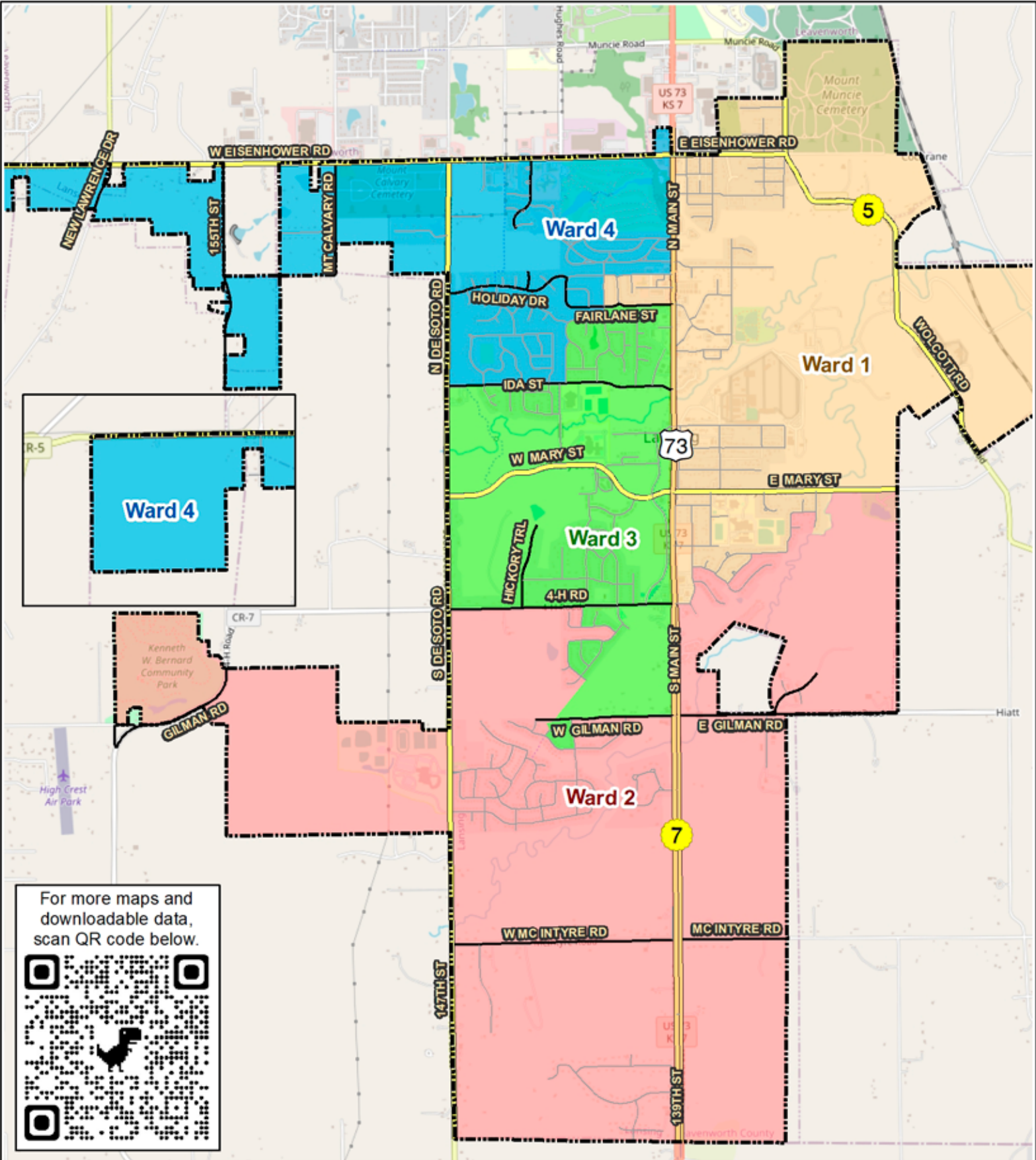
LIVE PERFORMANCES THROUGHOUT THE DAY  
MUSIC, MAGIC, & JUGGLING!

ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS CARNIVAL RIDES & FUN INFLATABLES FALL FOOD & REFRESHMENTS  
PONY RIDES | PUMPKIN DECORATING | FACE PAINTING | GAMES | DOG COSTUME CONTEST

THIS YEAR'S SPONSORS



Please contact Denise Souza at (913) 364-6927 or dsouza@lansingsks.org for more information.



**Official Ward Map  
City of Lansing, KS**

**Legend**

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

0 3,000 6,000 Feet

**CITY OF LANSING KANSAS**  
www.lansingks.org

## 2023 Voter Information

By City Clerk Tish Sims

Oct. 17 is the last day to register for the November 7 General Election. You may request a Voter Registration form at Lansing City Hall, Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or online at [www.voteks.org](http://www.voteks.org). You must re-register each time you change your name, address or party affiliation for voting.

You may return your completed application to the city of Lansing or the Leavenworth County Clerk. If you choose to register, your information will be kept confidential and will be used for voter registration purposes only. According to the Voter Registration Instructions issued by the Office of the Kansas Secretary of State, to register to vote you must:

- ★ Be a U.S. citizen and a resident of the State of Kansas.
- ★ Reach the age of 18 years before the next election.
- ★ Receive final discharge from imprisonment, parole, or conditional release if convicted of a felony.
- ★ Have abandoned your former residence and/or name.

You may also request an Advance Voting Application at City Hall, Leavenworth County Clerk's Office or online at [www.leavenworthcounty.gov](http://www.leavenworthcounty.gov).

*For additional information regarding voter registration, contact the Lansing City Clerk's office at (913) 727-3036.*



## Political Signage Rules – 2023 General Election

By Public Information Officer Ken Miller

In Lansing, political yard signs for the 2023 General Election can be placed in local right-of-way beginning Sat., Sept. 23 - 45 days prior to the Nov. 7 election. Some political signs have occasionally been placed contrary to local regulations. City staff reminds candidates to be careful where they put their outdoor signage. Here is a guideline for candidates and supporters:

1. Political Signs: Political campaign signs, not exceeding eight (8) square feet in area in residential districts and sixteen (16) square feet in commercial districts, may be displayed no more than 45 days prior to, and two (2) days following an election.
2. Oversized Signs: Signs larger than the permissible size must obtain a sign permit (no fee charged) for City staff to track locations of larger signs.  
  
*There's an easy way to apply for a political sign permit - <http://permits.lansingks.org>*  
  
Under building and codes, there's an "Apply for a Sign Permit" that says: This application is for sign permits for the city of Lansing, including permits for new signage on existing buildings, and political signs during election seasons.
3. Private Property: No sign shall be placed on any private property without the consent of the owner of the property.
4. Prohibitions: While signs are now temporarily allowed in the road right-of-way, they are not allowed in areas where they block motorists' line of sight – within 300 feet of an intersection, for example. Signs found in these areas will be picked up and retained for a period of five (5) working days, then disposed of.

According to the sign ordinance, political signs are banned from being attached to traffic signs or devices, trees, stones, fence posts and utility poles. State statute also prohibits the placement of political yard signs and other campaign materials within a radius of 250 ft. of a polling location's entrance.

When a sign is placed in a non-conforming location, the candidate or property owner, if readily available, will be contacted and asked to remove the sign. Should it not be removed or the responsible person not immediately available, city staff will remove the sign, which will then be stored for a short period of time, allowing the candidate a chance to retrieve it. If a sign is not retrieved, it will be disposed of. Call Code Enforcement at 913-364-6924 with questions.

## Never Too Early To Think About Christmas...

By City Clerk Tish Sims

The Lansing City Clerk's Office is gearing up for the 2023 Mayor's Christmas Tree Program. The Mayor's Christmas Tree Program is for Lansing families in need during the holiday season. The City Clerk's Office accepts applications from families starting in October, verifies residency (must be a Lansing resident) and income eligibility status and promotes the program through Angel Tree Tags and monetary donations. This program provides participating families with non-perishable food items, a gift card for groceries, coats, shoes, clothing, toys and gift items for children. We are also very fortunate that Lansing Correctional Facility has provided many children with bicycles through their Bike Program.

Applications open in October, so check the City Website and Facebook Page for the application.

If you would like more information now about the Mayor's Christmas Tree Program, contact the City Clerk's Office at 913-727-3036.

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## From the Desk of the City Administrator

fields frequently. I heard so many wonderful things about the shade structures above the bleachers, the concession stands, and the new tournament grade lighting. These improvements were funded by a sales tax approved by our voters in 2017. On top of this, we are currently close to wrapping up the final design of our new pool and splash pad. We anticipate construction to take much of 2024 with an opening for swim season in 2025. I have heard from some residents that they wish the pool could be open faster, and I understand that thought process. One thing to keep in mind is that this is a \$9 million project. We wanted to take our time, engage our residents, and make sure to create a project Lansing can be proud of. I know there are some segments of our population that may not be enthusiastic about a pool. Keep in mind, on top of an aquatic facility for kids, this facility will have lanes for lap swimmers, and with our new lazy river, we can potentially have time when senior residents can water-walk into the current of the river! We truly are working to make this a facility all of Lansing's residents, regardless of age, can utilize and enjoy.

When hearing about quality-of-life items, residents are often concerned about fiscal responsibility. The city of Lansing is one slice of a property tax pie, with other portions coming from USD 469, Leavenworth County, the State of Kansas and the fire district. These other entities are independent from the City and have

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
State of KS	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
LV Co	37.127	37.608	37.363	37.112	37.184	36.946	36.691	35.924
Lansing	41.838	41.82	41.556	41.555	41.554	41.571	41.031	36.448
LCFD1	7.694	8.5	8.99	8.919	8.92	8.923	8.923	8.925
USD 469	59.844	59.011	58.958	58.948	58.946	58.958	57.371	57.377
Total	148.003	148.439	148.367	148.034	148.104	147.898	145.516	140.174

nothing to do with the City's slice of the property tax pie. Above is a summary of the different taxing entities over the last several years.

What do these figures mean and how can you calculate your property tax bill? For residential properties, take the appraised value, multiply by .115, multiply by the mill levy, and then divide by 1,000. For example, a \$275,000 home in Lansing would have paid \$1,314.68 in City property taxes in 2021. Fast forward to today, that same home that is appraised at \$300,000 would pay \$1,257.46 in City property taxes. There are quite a few variables here, such as the rates of other entities, as well as the exact change in your appraisal. If your appraisal increase was more substantial, your numbers could be different. Suffice to say, we are working hard to be responsible with your tax dollars.

What is important to you, and how would you define quality of life? We are hopeful that our residents can see the fruits of our labor, whether it is new amenities, upgraded infrastructure, or fiscal responsibility. Let us know what we can do better too. We'd love to hear from you.

## Trash Tips *Carts should be placed 3 feet apart at the curb no later than 6:00 a.m.*



### TRASH

- ✓ All trash should be bagged and placed inside the 95 gallon cart provided by Waste Management.
- ✓ Trash bags that will not fit into the cart require overage tags, which are available for purchase (\$2.00) at City Hall.
- ✓ Additional trash carts are available for \$10.00 per month.



### RECYCLING

- ✓ Recyclable materials should be rinsed and placed inside the 65-gallon cart with the yellow lid. No pizza boxes, plastic grocery bags, Styrofoam, or glass!

### BULKY ITEMS DISPOSAL

- ✓ Each household is allowed 1 free bulky item pickup per year. To schedule a pickup, residents should contact Waste Management at 913-631-3300.



### YARD WASTE

- ✓ Yard waste should be placed in paper bags. NO DIRT!
- ✓ Bags should not weigh more than 65 lbs.
- ✓ Twelve bags of yard waste are allowed weekly from Mar 1 – Nov 30. Twelve bags are allowed the first service day of the month from Dec 1 – Feb 28.

### REPORT MISSED TRASH

- ✓ <https://lansingks.portal.iworq.net/portalhome/lansingks>
- ✓ Or Call City Hall at 913.727.2487
- ✓ Get information about last minute trash service delays by calling the trash hotline at 913-364-6869 or by subscribing to the City Alerts email notification system. (Email [kmiller@lansingks.org](mailto:kmiller@lansingks.org) for City Alerts)



### TRASH SERVICE DELAYED 1 DAY FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

Labor Day	Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day	New Years Day
Memorial Day	Independence Day

*This information is also listed on the back of your monthly bill.*

## Flood Protection Assistance

There are several different ways to protect a building from flood damage. One way is to keep the water away by regrading your lot or building a small floodwall or earthen berm. These methods work if your lot is large enough, if flooding is not too deep and if your property is not in the floodway. The Lansing Public Works Department can provide this information and is the local permitting agency if the proposed work requires a permit.

Another approach is to make your walls waterproof and place watertight closures over the doorways. This method is not recommended for houses with basements or if water will get over two feet deep.

A third approach is to raise the house above flood levels. The cost for raising a small or moderately sized house may be far less expensive than the uncovered loss from flooding.

Some houses, even those not in the floodplain, can experience flooding. A plugged pipe or failed sump pump are often causes. In many situations the installation of a check valve or battery backup and resolve these issues. A licensed plumber can help you determine the appropriate method of protection and make the installation for you. The Community and Economic Development Department or Wastewater Department may be able to provide helpful information about these kinds of problems.

Property protection, retrofitting advice, property protection site visits and flood insurance information can be requested by contacting Floodplain Manager Mike Spickelmier at 730 First Terr., Suite 3, Lansing, Kansas; 913-727-2400 or [mspickelmier@lansingks.org](mailto:mspickelmier@lansingks.org). You can find information at <https://www.floodsmart.gov/>



Lansing Police Chief Steve Wayman commends officers Ethan Beltz (center) and Lee Adkisson (right)

## Lansing's Finest Save A Life

By Public Information Officer Ken Miller

Two of Lansing's patrol officers knew what to do and how to do it when a local citizen suffered a drug overdose earlier this year.

Officers Lee Adkisson and Ethan Beltz were honored during the June 15, 2023 Lansing City Council meeting. Police Chief Steve Wayman presented the pair with commendations and cited their quick thinking and decisive action in reviving the victim through cardiopulmonary resuscitation. "We were able to stabilize the subject until EMS arrived," said Adkisson. "Our training was utilized and it really happened so quickly – like second nature – to begin the technique that ultimately led to a life being saved that day."

Adkisson has been with the Lansing Police Dept. since February 2022. Beltz has been a Lansing police officer since January 2021.



# Lansing Community Library Update

by Library Director Terri Wojtalewicz

We are happy that so many are participating in the Summer Reading program. At the time I am writing this in mid-July, we have:

- 👤 199 people participating
- 📖 5,803 books read
- 🏆 3,388 badges earned
- 👏 521 rewards earned
- 👥 780 people attending one of our 74 programs

Based on feedback and attendance at some of our summer programs, we are excited to add some new quarterly events for our school-age patrons. This fall we will be showcasing specially designed fun activities that include arts and games.

Our weekly programs for babies and preschoolers will be coming back as well. Each week, we explore ideas and activities through song, books, and rhymes. We will reintroduce a baby lap sit program designed for children under two years. Our preschool children continue to enjoy a weekly Storytime as they learn through stories and other fun activities.

Our **Book Club** for adults meets on the last Thursday of the month at the Library. You can follow along, join in discussions, and keep up with meetings by using their new app, Bookclubs. They will be reading *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig, *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Remarque, *The It Girl* by Ruth Ware, and *Maus I* by Art Spiegelman. Drop and in for one or all of the discussions.

As part of our **1000 Books Before Kindergarten** program, we have added a few new books and brag tags just for the kiddos. We received books from a 1000 Books Before Kindergarten Foundation grant. Families have the option to track their books and activities through our Beanstack app or with a traditional paper log. How many different book packs can your child collect?

The Lansing Community Library Imagination Library is going strong! We are excited to now partner with the **Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund and the Rotary Club of Leavenworth** to bring this program to Lansing residents. The Dolly Parton Imagination Library Foundation provides one free book every month to children from birth until they turn five and live within the city limits of Lansing, KS. Parent just need to stop by the library to register their eligible child. There are no fees, the books are delivered directly to the child's home, and the child gets to keep them forever. If you would like to help give the gift of reading to a child in the community, contact the library to find out how to donate.

In the meantime, you can stay up to date with all things Lansing Library by downloading our app, myLIBRO. It can be found in your app store. You can always visit our website at [lansings.org/library](http://lansings.org/library) or on Facebook and Instagram. As always, share your suggestions and comments with us.



## LANSING KANSAS - PARKS & RECREATION

# YOUTH BASKETBALL REGISTRATION: OCTOBER 2023

From October 1st through 31st, the Lansing Parks & Recreation Department will accept registration for youths enrolled in grades one through six for the 2023-2024 Winter Basketball Program.

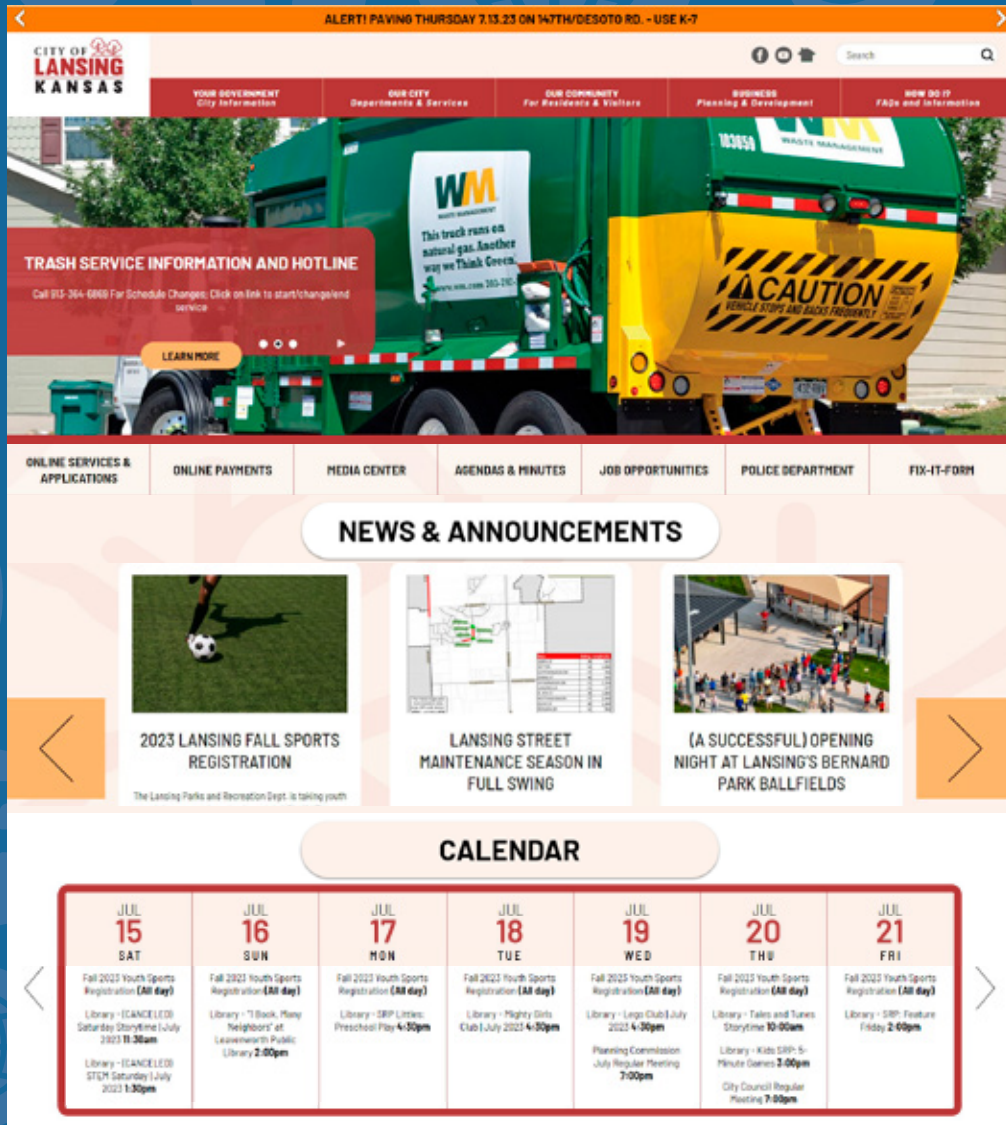
THE PARTICIPATION FEE IS \$45 PER REGISTRANT, DUE AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION. NON-RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO REGISTER, BUT AN INCREASED REGISTRATION FEE OF \$50 WILL APPLY. THE REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES A JERSEY. REGISTRATIONS MADE AFTER OCTOBER 31ST MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED. IF LATE REGISTRATIONS ARE PERMITTED, AN ADDITIONAL FEE OF \$10 PER PARTICIPANT WILL BE ASSESSED.

QUALIFYING INDIVIDUALS CAN RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ELIGIBILITY, PLEASE VISIT THE PARKS & RECREATION PAGE ON THE CITY OF LANSING'S WEBSITE TO ACCESS THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION FLYER AND APPLICATION.

REGISTRATION CAN BE COMPLETED IN PERSON AT THE LANSING ACTIVITY CENTER, 108 S 2ND STREET, FROM 8 AM TO 4:30 PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

REGISTRATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [WWW.LANSINGKS.ORG/PARKSREC](http://WWW.LANSINGKS.ORG/PARKSREC)

- Practices will begin this December. Games start after the holiday break in January 2024 and will continue through mid-March.
- Scholarship requests must be received by 4:30 p.m. Friday, October 20th.
- Refunds for this program will NOT be offered after the uniform and equipment order is placed on Friday, November 17th.



## LANSING TRADITIONAL/SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION

### CITY WEBSITE FEATURES

- Check out the city of Lansing Website: [www.lansingsks.org](http://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 1,830+ residents
- Lansing's *Facebook* Page has 6,200+ followers

- Lansing's *Twitter* Feed has 1,200+ 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, and Happenings *Facebook* Pages, Too

### LGTV - CHANNEL 2 UPDATE

- 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](http://www.lansingsks.org)
- Local musician and Lansing city employee Kris Bennetts Provides Background Music

# USD469 Lansing School District Update

(Content Provided by USD469 staff)

## MESSAGE FROM NEW SUPERINTENDENT MARTY KOBZA



Welcome to a new school year! Returning to school brings excitement and anticipation of the possibilities for every child who enters our doors. I feel that same excitement as I begin my tenure in Lansing USD 469. The opportunity to serve the students, staff, and patrons of this incredible district is very humbling. Thank you for being part of our district and for your commitment to the children in our community. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or if I can be of assistance.

The decisions made by school board members affect our children's educational trajectory and our communities' well-being, and we hope to see a large turnout in November.

## JOIN THE LANSING USD469 TEAM

Lansing USD469 values the contribution our employees make across the district. From our hard-working custodians to our incredible teaching staff, each employee plays a vital role in the success of our students.

We offer part-time and full-time positions across the district and are always looking for substitute teachers. Being a substitute teacher is an excellent way to give back to our community, earn some extra money, and have a flexible schedule!

We offer referral bonuses for non-supplemental positions. Full-time Lansing USD 469 employees and substitute teachers can receive a \$250 referral bonus if the person they refer is hired and has a good evaluation after 60 days of employment. Be sure to have them put you as a referral in their application. We also offer sign-on and quarterly bonuses for prospective substitute teachers.

## UPCOMING ELECTION LANSING USD469 BOARD OF EDUCATION POSITIONS

Four spots are open for the Lansing USD469 Board of Education, and the election season is upon us. We encourage our community to register to vote and learn about the candidates running for the Board of Education by attending community forums, engaging in discussions, and exploring the candidates' platforms and visions for our district. It is also helpful to reach out to candidates with questions or concerns and make an effort to understand their perspectives on critical educational issues.

Please visit the Employment Opportunities page on [www.usd469.net](http://www.usd469.net) for a list of all open positions and instructions on how to apply.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Lansing District Office at 913-727-1100.

## STAY UP TO DATE!

You don't have to have children in the district to stay updated on all the fantastic things happening here! Visit [www.usd469.net](http://www.usd469.net) and download our free Lansing USD469 mobile app, available on the App Store or Google Play. The app will provide access to important information about the district, including news updates, calendars, and more.

Voting in local school board elections is important for several reasons:

- School board members have the power to set policies and make decisions that affect curriculum development, teacher hiring, professional development, school budgets, and the allocation of resources.
- Local school board elections provide an opportunity to advocate for the welfare of our children. By participating in these elections, you can support candidates who enact policy that aligns with your values.
- School board elections directly impact the equitable distribution of educational resources. Your vote can influence funding allocation for essential programs, such as arts and sports, technology integration, and support services for students with special needs. By participating in these elections, you have the power to ensure that every student has access to a high-quality education, regardless of their background or circumstances.

We also encourage our community to listen to our Lansing USD469 podcast, *The Lion Pride-Cast*. This bi-weekly podcast, hosted by Lansing USD469 Director of Teaching and Learning Miles Azzeh and Director of Communications Sharon Burns, was recognized by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPRA) and features all things related to education and recruitment/retention. Visit [www.usd469.net](http://www.usd469.net) to stream it on your device.

(Content Provided by USD469 staff)



