



Second Half May 2025 Newsletter • May 14, 2025

Be sure to read about your fellow North Kansas City businesses and other important news.

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Special Luncheon to Honor Women Leaders of North Kansas City Businesses

Join in a special Monthly Membership Luncheon of the North Kansas City Business Council on Thursday, May 22 to honor women business leaders in North Kansas City. The program will be a panel discussion moderated by Jeanette Prenger, Founder and CEO of Ecco Select. Panel members include: Kelli Alldredge, President of Chicken N Pickle; Michelle Lane, Sr Director of Community and Corporate Health and Wellness at North Kansas City Hospital; Victoria Ressler, Director of North Kansas City Parks & Recreation; and Kathleen Salerno, Director of Lease Administration with Helzberg.

The event will be held at North Kansas City Parks & Recreation Center, 1201 Clark Ferguson Dr (next to Macken Park), beginning at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 22. Go to this link to register and pay. [2025 May NKCBC Luncheon: Woman Leaders in Business - May 22, 2025](#) The cut off for registration is Tuesday noon, May 22nd.

The Commons at Cinder Block will open on May 29th

The Commons is a neighborhood hangout attached to Cinder Block Brewery featuring free billiards, yard games and arcades and bringing you hand-crafted cocktails, yard beers, and other favorite local libations; complimented by Bay Boy Sandwiches.

The Grand Opening is set for Thursday, May 29th, at 12pm. The Commons will be open 4 days a week, Thursday-Sunday, noon-midnight.

North Kansas City's New Mayor, Jesse Smith, makes news in the Kansas City Star

In a long interview available in the May 9th Kansas City Star, new North Kansas City Mayor Jesse Smith shared a lot about his style and priorities of being Mayor of North Kansas City. (at this link [Jesse Smith brings fresh leadership to North Kansas City | Kansas City Star](#))

Mayor Smith also offered a brief video Tuesday of this week on Facebook explaining what he knows so far about a possible KC Royals stadium in North Kansas City and offering his pledge to have open communication about the possible impact of such an event. At this link [Jesse D. Smith | Facebook](#)

The new USPS Goodnight Moon stamps were unveiled at The Rabbit Hole in North Kansas City

The U.S. Postal Service unveiled stamps based on artwork from the classic children's book "Goodnight Moon" at The Rabbit hOle, a museum that brings to life a century of American children's literature, including the book's iconic Great Green Room.

"These nostalgic stamps not only celebrate the timeless charm of 'Goodnight Moon' but also highlight the enduring relevance of both stamps and children's literature in a digital age," said Lisa Bobb-Semple, the Postal Service's stamp services director, who spoke at the event. "The enthusiastic response from the public about these stamps has been exciting — a reminder that the joy of stamps continues to inspire all generations."

Written by Margaret Wise Brown with artwork by Clement Hurd, "Goodnight Moon" revolutionized children's publishing when it debuted in 1947 and has since become favorite bedtime reading for millions of families around the world. A celebration of the everyday, this quiet, lullaby-like book encourages children and their parents to imagine themselves in the book's familiar Great Green Room, saying goodnight to everything they see. The sense of peace and security that the book brings helps ease children to sleep, reassuring them that all the familiar things of daily life will still be there in the morning.

Pete Cowdin, co-director of The Rabbit hOle, said the exhibit was an ideal setting for the stamps' unveiling. "We knew that the Great Green Room exhibit would kindle a powerful emotional connection with some of our visitors, but the impact of the room has exceeded our expectations. Walking into the exhibit is like walking into the book itself, a time machine that sets free a flood of memories and reconnects adults with their families and their own childhood. It reaffirms what we know already — that 'Goodnight Moon' is not just an American classic but a cultural touchstone that celebrates and spans all generations and all demographics."

Learn all about it here. [Goodnight Moon Stamps | USPS.com](#)
and here [0502-goodnight-moon-stamps-available-today.pdf](#)
and here [The Rabbit hOle | An Immersive Museum for Children's Literature | Kansas City](#)

Proposition A impact on paid sick time benefits

Beginning May 1, Proposition A's paid sick time benefits took effect. Employers must now retain records documenting the hours worked by employees and their accrued earned paid sick time.

Under the law, employers with business receipts greater than \$500,000 a year must now provide at least one hour of paid leave for every 30 hours worked. Employers with fewer than 15 workers must allow workers to earn at least 40 hours per year, with larger employers mandated to allow at least 56 hours. Employers are responsible for tracking the number of hours accrued.

Employees may use sick leave to:

- Care for their mental or physical health, including preventative care;
- Care for a family member's mental or physical health;
- Stay home when their business is closed due to a public health emergency;
- Care for a child whose school or daycare has closed due to public health emergency;
- Address domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking (in certain circumstances.)

As of this writing (May 14) the Missouri legislature is wrestling with possible legislation rolling back the paid sick leave and modifying an accompanying boost to the minimum wage. That bill has stalled in the face of Democratic opposition, and the legislative session ends May 16.

NKC Police Department Foundation Kickoff Event May 15 at Chicken N Pickle

The North Kansas City Police Department Foundation will have a Kickoff Event at Chicken N Pickle tomorrow May 15th from 4 to 6 p.m.



Public Safety Memorial

The Public Safety Memorial concept began after the tragic homicide of Officer Daniel Vasquez on July 19, 2022. In the days following Daniel's death, Rick Kuhl, with WSKF Architects, offered his design services should the Police Department wish to erect a memorial in Daniel's honor.

In the weeks following Daniel's death, we met with Rick and his team to conceptualize the best way to honor Daniel. It was decided that the best course was to honor members of the Police and the Fire Departments who have lost their lives protecting the City of North Kansas City, both past and future. This is where the memorial turned from one singularly honoring Officer Vasquez to a Public Safety Memorial.

Rick and his team presented several concepts to the team from the city, eventually deciding on the concept that began construction in March of 2025. McClure Engineering, another North Kansas City Company, has donated its services and been working with the team from WSKF on the final design and construction documents. The design team and the city made every effort to source the construction materials and building trades from businesses in North Kansas City. MEGA KC was selected as the Construction manager for the project, with Johnson Granite (a North Kansas City company at the time) won the bid for the granite work. Wil-Clair Sheet Metal won the contract for the metal work, Stine-Nichols Plumbing won the bid for plumbing, and Fry & Associates donated two benches to be used at the memorial. Overall, the construction budget is estimated to be around \$525,000, with completion expected in June (maybe July) of 2025. Once completed, the public will be invited to a dedication ceremony.



Join others at the Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care *Circle of Lights* event Tuesday, May 20

On Tuesday evening, May 20, the Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care organization (which includes the Northcare Hospice House at North Kansas City Hospital) community will gather for Circle of Lights, an evening dedicated to remembrance, connection, and hope. For many, this tradition offers a quiet space to reflect and feel the presence of loved ones who are no longer with us.

As one participant shared, *"Being there, surrounded by others who understand loss, brought me comfort. Seeing my loved one's name glowing in the candlelight made me feel close to them again."*

This shared moment of light and memory brings healing to many. There's no cost to attend, but contributions help sustain vital grief support and hospice care for families

across our region. [To reserve a luminary, make a gift, or learn more click here.](#) [Circle of Lights - Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care](#)

More Good News for North Kansas City Hospital: “A” Rating for Hospital Safety

North Kansas City Hospital earned an “A” Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit focused on patient safety. This mark of distinction comes from the only hospital ratings program exclusively focused on addressing preventable medical errors, infections and injuries.

“Earning an ‘A’ grade reflects our dedication to preventing harm and putting our patients’ care first — every single day,” said Kerri Jenkins, MBA, RN, CENP, NKCH senior vice president and chief operating officer. “It serves as a reminder that we are making measurable improvements that not only impact our patients’ care, but our community.”

Nearly 3,000 U.S. hospitals receive Leapfrog grades, which are updated twice annually. Grades are determined by 30 measures from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), the Leapfrog Hospital survey and information from other supplemental data sources. Performance measures include errors, accidents, injuries and infections as well as the system's patient experience scores.

Looking for Healthcare Insurance for your employees?

One of the benefits of membership in the North Kansas City Business Council is the healthcare benefits program offered through the Missouri Chamber Federation. If you are considering a change in the healthcare insurance for your employees you might want to check this out. Here is a link to the program. [Missouri Chamber Benefit Plan | Missouri Chamber](#)

For your business to be eligible to participate in the Chamber Benefit Plan, you must:

- Have 2–50 eligible employees enrolled in your medical plan
- Be domiciled in Missouri
- Be in good standing with the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry or your local participating chamber that satisfies the Missouri Department of Insurance requirements

If your business is not a member of the North Kansas City Business Council, here is a link to a brief online form to join. [Member](#)

North Kansas City Business Council Events

- **Monthly Membership Luncheon**, Thursday, May 22 at North Kansas City Parks & Recreation Center, 1201 Clark Ferguson Drive featuring “Women Leaders in Business” with a panel moderated by Jeanette Prenger, Founder and CEO of Ecco Select. Beginning at 11:30 a.m. Register and pay at this link: [2025 May NKCBC Luncheon: Woman Leaders in Business - May 22, 2025](#)
- **Mickey Finn Scholarship Golf Classic**, Thursday, June 5 at Tiffany Greens Golf Club. Register and pay at this link for one or more teams and/or a Hole Sponsorship. [2025 Mickey Finn Scholarship Golf Classic - Jun 5, 2025](#) The Presenting Sponsor for this event is the Country Club Bank in North Kansas City.



Note: Only North Kansas City Business Council member businesses will be featured in these eNewsletters, although the distribution goes to ALL businesses to get more attention for the featured businesses. Whenever any member business is mentioned, I will also include the website address of that business so readers can inquire further about your business if they are interested.

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