



Second Half December 2024 Newsletter

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

- **City Sidewalks Tree Festival** - Enjoy the 52 sponsor-decorated Christmas trees (List of winning trees shown below)
- **Helzberg** Diamonds' New Brand Name: *Helzberg*
- **North Kansas City Schools'** CFO Matt Fritz on KC Business Journal Healthcare Panel
- KC Business Journal Award for **North Kansas City Hospital's** Chief Information Officer Kristen Guillaume
- Thank you, **donors of auction items**
- **Holiday Magic Dinner & Auction:** A Fabulous "Taste of North Kansas City"
- Frontline **Leader Training Opportunity**

City Sidewalks Tree Festival

Enjoy the sponsor-decorated Christmas trees through December




The North Kansas City Business Council is thrilled to unveil the winners of this year's Tree-Decorating Contest, highlighting creativity across four exciting theme categories. These beautifully adorned trees, part of the 2024 City Sidewalks Tree Festival, showcase the holiday spirit and talents of our community.

NKCHS Hornet Elves Category




(Decorated by North Kansas City High School clubs, sponsored by NKC-based businesses):

- 🏆 **1st Place:** Verimore Bank / Women's Empowerment Club (Tree #24)
- 🥈 **2nd Place:** Fry Park & Playground Equipment / Asian Student Union (Tree #12)
- 🥉 **3rd Place:** Attic Storage of NKC / National Honor Society (Tree #3)

Business Theme




-  **1st Place (tie):** McDonald's of North Kansas City / Bell's Management (Tree #26)
-  **1st Place (tie):** Sail Away Wine (Tree #36)
-  **3rd Place:** McLain's Market North Kansas City (Tree #48)

Traditional Theme

-  **1st Place:** North Kansas City Electric Co. (Tree #20)
-  **2nd Place:** Maxus Properties (Tree #23)
-  **3rd Place:** Windfield Real Estate (Tree #35)

2024 Children's Literature Theme

(Specialty theme celebrating children's books and literature):

-  **1st Place (tie):** North Kansas City Hospital / Meritas Health (Tree #1)
-  **1st Place (tie):** Tnemec Company (Tree #5)
-  **3rd Place:** Breakthru Beverage Missouri (Tree #43)

About the Festival

The City Sidewalks Tree Festival is a beloved annual event coordinated by the North Kansas City Business Council. Featuring more than 50 trees sponsored by local businesses, the festival transforms downtown North Kansas City into a magical winter wonderland for the month of December.

Special Thanks

We extend heartfelt gratitude to the **City of North Kansas City**, the **Public Works Department**, and the many businesses and organizations that made this event possible through their sponsorship of 52 trees this year.

Thanks, too, to Jack Fry and **Fry Park & Playground Equipment** for creating and donating the banners for each tree.

Visit NKC and Celebrate!

We invite the public to enjoy these uniquely decorated trees, shop local, and dine in the warm and welcoming atmosphere of Northtown.

Locate the winning trees on our **online map**:  <https://bit.ly/2024NKCTreeMap>

Happy Holidays from the North Kansas City Business Council! 

Helzberg Diamonds' New Brand Name: *Helzberg*

Under the leadership of CEO Brad Hampton, North Kansas City-based Helzberg Diamonds has shortened its brand name to “Helzberg” to put a “fresh spin” on their brand name. It also helps articulate that Helzberg sells a lot more than diamonds in their 170 retail stores and online. Helzberg has also changed their logo colors to rich shades of blue. Two other ways to better connect with customers are the online custom ring builder and the Love & Marriage Studio. www.helzberg.com

The North Kansas City Business Council is proud to have both giant North Kansas City-based jewelry businesses – Helzberg and Meierotto’s Jewelers - as members.

NKC Schools CFO Matt Fritz on *KC Business Journal* Healthcare Panel

Matt Fritz, Chief Financial Officer for the 21,000 student/3,400 staff member North Kansas City school district, was one of the business leaders chosen to serve on a panel on the topic of The Rising Costs of Healthcare. Matt has led the health benefits renewal process for the North Kansas City school district the past 8 years. He was chosen as CFO of the Year by the Kansas City Business Journal in 2022.

The North Kansas City School district is the 3rd largest in the KC area and tied for the largest in all of Missouri. In the panel discussion Matt emphasized that obesity and the related conditions that go along with that incur the biggest costs.

NKC Hospital's Chief Information Officer Kristen Guillaume nominated for a *KC Business Journal* Award

Kristen Guillaume is one of the recipients of a *Business Journal* “ORBIE” award which is given to chief information officers who have distinguished themselves and their organization because of leadership excellence in technology innovation, business value creation and community involvement. North Kansas City Hospital

Thank You to Generous Donors of Auction Items

If you missed the recent North Kansas City Business Council online and in-person auction you missed out on some good opportunities for gifts or for yourself. Here is the list of generous donors for the auction:

- Breakthru Beverage Missouri
- Brew Brothers at Harrah's
- Jim Chappell
- Chicken N Pickle
- Country Club Bank
- Erin Rose Boutique
- Fry & Associates
- Gordon Ramsay Steak at Harrah's
- Harrah's Kansas City Casino & Hotel
- Helzberg
- [k] Warman Architecture+Design
- KMG Hotels: Aloft and Element
- Leisure World Pool & Hearth
- Life Unlimited
- McLain's Bakery + Market
- Mid-America Contractors
- Midwest Aortic & Vascular Institute
- North Kansas City Fire Department
- North Kansas City Hospital/Meritas Health
- North Kansas City Parks & Recreation
- Outlaw Cigar & Brewery
- Paul & Jack's Tavern
- Riekes Equipment
- Resources KC
- Restless Spirits Distilling Co.
- RoKC NKC
- Sail Away Wine
- Scimeca's
- Tnemec Company
- Verimore Bank

Holiday Magic: A Fabulous "Taste of NKC"

Many thanks to the 14 North Kansas City businesses that donated food and beverage for the North Kansas City Business Council's Holiday Magic Dinner & Auction on Thursday, December 5.

Here is the list of participating food and beverage providers:

- Callsign Brewing
- Chappell's Restaurant & Sports Museum
- Chef Tito's Mexican Restaurant & Cantina
- Chicken N Pickle
- Cinder Block Brewery

- Donut King
- F325 BBQ
- Jefferson's
- Harrah's Hotel & Casino Catering
- McLain's Market & Bakery North Kansas City
- Old Chicago Pizza & Taproom
- Paul & Jack's Tavern
- Sail Away Wine
- Sugar & Spice Bakery/b4 Bakery & Eatery

Frontline Leader Development Training

Sign up now to participate in this training for potential leaders on your team who could benefit from leadership training.

To register and pay for this training, go to this link. [Frontline Leadership Training - Jan 16, 2025](#)

Have you promoted the best person on the floor to a leadership position simply because they were the best at their job only to discover that being the best at that job doesn't automatically make them a great leader or supervisor?

Some are natural leaders. For the rest, North Kansas City Business Council, in cooperation with Missouri Enterprise, offers Frontline Leader Development training which is designed to develop workers into leaders. Leadership is a continual journey. Each course builds on the previous course. Four 4-Hour sessions on Thursdays, 10am—2pm (with lunch break)

- Jan 16 - Foundation of Communication, helping leaders recognize the role of emotional intelligence, engaging the 'head' and the 'heart' to build and retain your work force
- Feb 20 - Coaching in the moment to be able to approach most any situation
- Mar 20 - Resolve Conflict in a way to minimize potential damage
- Apr 10 - Setting Goals and Reviewing Results with SMART goals for a positive outcome for you and your employees.

\$295 Per Session, \$1,180 Total

Business Council Members receive a \$120 discount: \$1,060 Total

To register and pay for this training, go to this link. [Frontline Leadership Training - Jan 16, 2025](#)

If you have questions, contact Doug Schmitz at dschmitz@missourienterprise.org

Only North Kansas City Business Council member businesses are 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 people can inquire further about your business if they are interested.