



CITY OF TOPEKA

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For Immediate Release

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Kansas River Weir Safety

TOPEKA, KS – The City of Topeka recently completed Phase 1 of the Kansas River Weir Project, creating a safe passage for recreation and use of the Kansas River. Anyone using the river for recreation should only pass through the boat chute, which includes the fish ladder, adjacent to the north bank as it is the only safe passage. There is a galvanized pole sticking out of the water at the signal boulder approximately 50' from the bank which signals boaters, kayakers and others enjoying the river to stay left to enter the boat chute. The river weir project constructed a north bank fish passage and recreation enhancement including boat chutes and fish ladders, energy dissipation rock placement, stairs, downstream boat ramp and parking lot resurfacing.

Phase 2 of the River Weir project will be completed in September 2021 and will add safety enhancements to the low water notch and the mid-level of the weir. However, it will not create a safe passage for those accessing the river. The low water notch near the south bank is not safe for those accessing and traversing the river. It is dangerous because of the hydraulic drop. Anyone using the river should pass through the boat chute at the north bank.

A map of the Kansas River Weir and safe access points is attached to the release.



A \$19K Gas Bill Had Us in Crisis Mode

Hundreds of animals took shelter in our facility through the polar vortex winter storm in February which resulted in a gas bill over three times what we had budgeted for. When we opened that bill, we panicked. The much-needed funds we were raising at Paws in the P.A.R.K. were supposed to help get us through the busy summer months when our shelter numbers skyrocket, but now it was looking like that money would be eaten up by one unexpected expense. We turned to you, our community, and your support has been immense. Not only have you donated money, but local artists have stepped forward to give unique pieces for our first ever art auction to benefit the animals. Warm Paws, Warm Hearts was born when local artist Kris Saia asked Grace Clinton of HHHS, "What can I do?" In less than two weeks, Grace pulled together this auction!

**WARM PAWS
WARM HEARTS**

Art Auction benefitting Helping Hands Humane Society

Gallery opening at HHHS and online bidding kick-off Saturday, May 8th at noon

View the artwork, donated by local artists, and bid online Saturday, May 8th - Sunday, May 16th

Gallery Opening & Online Bidding

Join us in the Hill's Room at Helping Hands Humane Society this Saturday, May 8th at noon for our official gallery opening and online bidding kick-off event. Pieces will be available for viewing in person during adoption hours (Mondays-Saturdays 11:30am-6pm, Sundays 1-5pm) through Sunday, May 16th. Online bidding will close Monday, May 17th at 12am. From seasoned artists to Topeka West High School students from just across the street, we love that creatives in our community have come together to help lost and homeless animals by sharing their passion. Get registered at <http://e.givesmart.com/events/IP9> and bid freely to warm their paws while warming your heart! 25 sneak peek items are available for viewing now, and more will be revealed as our gallery opening nears.



Open Arms, 2401 SE 11th St. 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

1st & 2nd dose Pfizer

Tuesday May 4

Tuesday May 11

Tuesday May 18

Tuesday May 25

Avondale East, 455 SE Golf Park Blvd.

Friday May 7; appointments for Johnson & Johnson,
12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Saturday May 8; walk-in Johnson & Johnson, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Friday May 14; appointments for Johnson & Johnson;
12:30 p.m. -3:30 p.m.

Friday May 21; scheduled appointments for 2nd dose Moderna
12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Rossville, Citizen Potawatomi Nation Community Building,
806 Nishnabe Trail**

Thursday May 27; arrival at 9:00 a.m.; walk-in for 2nd dose Moderna

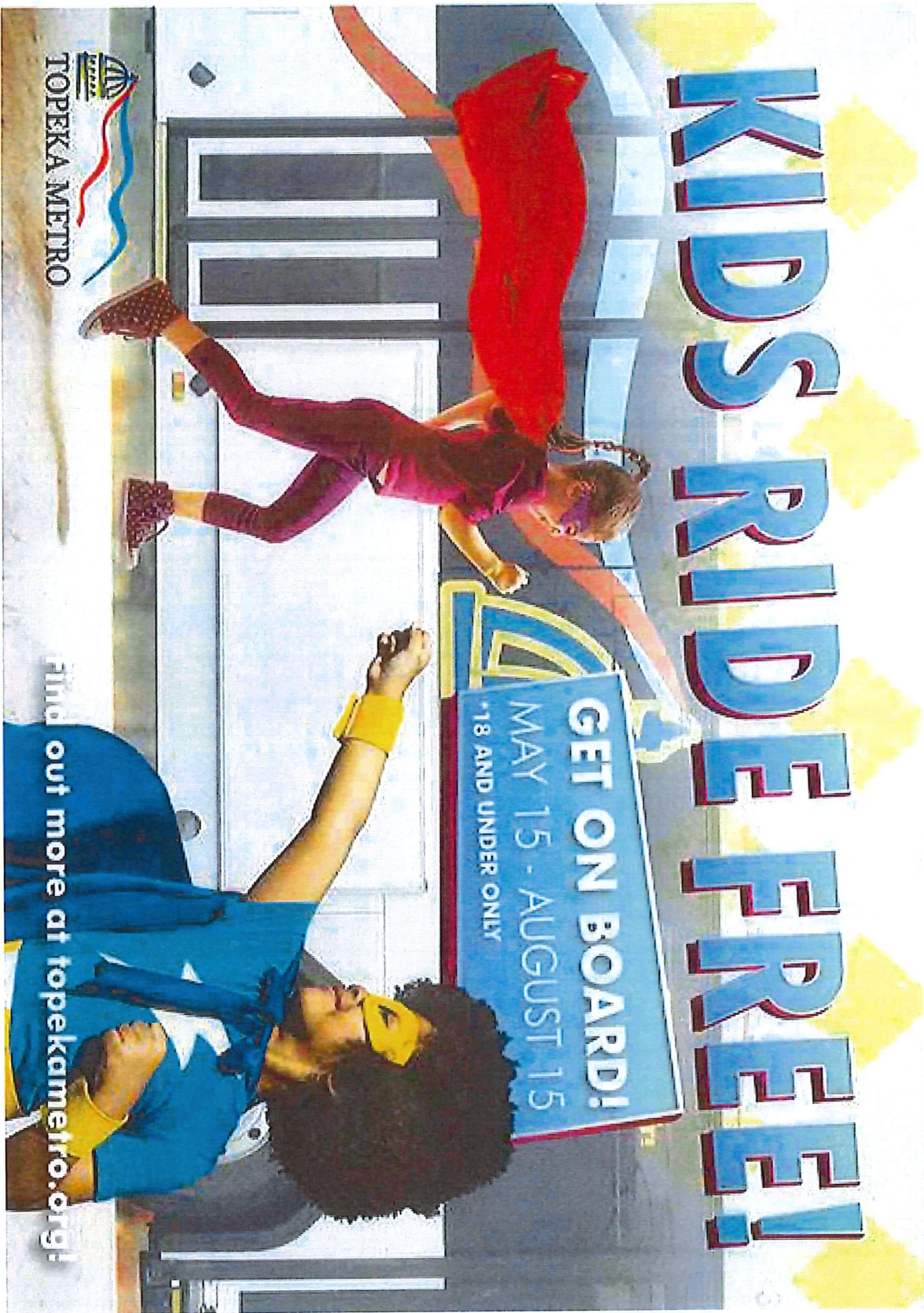
Polk Plaza/THA, 1312 SW Polk St.

May 20; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.; Johnson & Johnson

We continue to reach out to homebound but are having little interest lately. Call 251-4949 if you have someone needing vaccinated in home or you have questions about any of the clinics.

KIDS RIDE FREE!

GET ON BOARD!
MAY 15 - AUGUST 15
*18 AND UNDER ONLY



**TOPEKA METRO**

Find out more at topekametro.org!



Information for Struggling Families about benefits now available to them

The American Rescue Plan of 2021 has changed many things for low income families. Use this list to be sure you get all the help you can. These resources are available to families with no income or modest income.

Monthly Child Care Tax payments:

___ File a 2020 tax return, even if you don't owe taxes, so you are eligible for the Child Care Tax Credit

Tax Filing Date: May 17, 2021

This will help you to get the 2021 advance monthly payments of up to \$300 per child. You can claim the other half of the payment by filing a 2021 tax return. You may file even if you HAVE NO INCOME in 2021.

You can file a **free** tax return at [TurboTax](#), [My Free Taxes](#), [credit karma](#), [H&R Block](#) online resources. You don't need to pay anyone for this simple tax return.

These tax-filing programs all have both free and other paid choices. The free way of filing will work for what you need.

The tax helpers want you as a future customer. They also get some Federal support for filing simple tax returns. With many filing helpers, you have to make an account before you can find out if you are eligible. The companies safely save your information and will write you in the future (by email) about filing a tax return.

Filing a return will also let you to see if you can get an earned income tax credit for the past three years. It will also make sure you have gotten all the stimulus payments for which you are eligible.

Apply for no-cost medical coverage

Adults: Through August 15

___ Apply: <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/health-insurance-marketplace-glossary/>

For people with income between \$17,430 for a household of 2 (1 child) up to \$43,550 (150% of Federal Poverty Level) – zero cost for the **silver** plan – NO premium.

Higher incomes have major decrease in premium costs.

This goes on through 2022.

The money to pay for your coverage comes as tax credit. If you already have health insurance through the Federal Marketplace, sign in to your account to request this and lower your cost for remainder of the year. This benefit is retroactive, so some of the money will come in a tax refund on income tax return filed for 2021.

Information provided by Kansas Legal Services – www.kansaslegalservices.org

Information is accurate as of 4/28/2021. By necessity, all eligibility criteria for each program are not listed in the summary. For updated information, check <https://bit.ly/32WR2ul>

If you got any **Unemployment Benefits** in 2021, you are automatically eligible for Zero cost, if you select the silver plan. Anyone who got **Unemployment Benefits** in 2021 can buy health insurance in the marketplace - this coverage will only last for 2021.

If you could be eligible for **COBRA coverage** after leaving a job, you can sign up for COBRA with your former employer for one year or for 60 days after the end of the COVID National Emergency. You can get a tax credit equal to 100% coverage for up to 6 months in 2021, for payments made between 4/1/21 and 9/30/21.

Health Insurance for Children: Health Wave - In Kansas, you may apply for children's health insurance any time. Apply online at <https://cssp.kees.ks.gov/apspssp/>. You can view eligibility, after answering some simple questions and apply online if you are eligible.

Internet (Broadband) program – Please check the FCC website, www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, often for the latest information. You are eligible if your child gets reduced school lunches, or if you have loss of income due to COVID, or if your 2020 income was below \$99,000. (Not yet available) This will provide free internet for eligible families. You will be able to choose your own provider.

Back rent due or need for future rent:

KERA – Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance - help with paying rent, some utilities, including internet

Up to 12 months of payments (past due rent since April 1, 2020 and future rent)

You must make a joint application with your landlord

Must have had financial hardship due to COVID

Your income now (varies by county) has to be less than about \$40,000. Check on the website for specific information.

Apply here: <https://kera.kshousingcorp.org/kera#/>

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH YOUR APPLICATION IN THE TOPEKA AREA, YOU CAN CALL COMMUNITY ACTION AT (785) 836-4500. Trained, professional staff will assist you and/or your landlord at no cost.

SNAP (Food Help)

The amount of benefits for a family are up by 15% through September. This is about \$25 per person per month. Children who would have gotten free or reduced food from schools can get more money on the family SNAP electronic card, if they are not eating at school. This should continue through the summer.

The highest monthly income limit is \$1868 for a family of two, \$2353 for a family of three. The highest benefit is \$374 for a family of two, \$535 a month for a family of three. There are limits on resources (money in the bank, etc.)

Apply: <https://cssp.kees.ks.gov/apspssp/sspNonMed.portal>

Information provided by Kansas Legal Services – www.kansaslegalservices.org

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Información para Familias con Dificultades sobre beneficios ahora disponibles para ellos

El Plan de Rescate Estadounidense de 2021 ha cambiado muchas cosas para las familias de bajos ingresos. Utilice esta lista para asegurarse de obtener toda la ayuda que pueda. Estos recursos están disponibles para familias sin ingresos o con ingresos modestos.

Pagos Mensuales de Impuestos por Cuidado Infantil:

___ Presentar una declaración de impuestos para el año 2020, incluso si no debe impuestos, para que sea elegible para el crédito fiscal por cuidado infantil/de niños.

Ultima fecha para la declaración de impuestos: Mayo 17, 2021

Esto le ayudará a obtener los pagos mensuales por adelantado de 2021 de hasta \$ 300 por niño. Puede reclamar la otra mitad del pago presentando una declaración de impuestos de 2021. Puede presentar su declaración incluso si NO TIENE INGRESOS en 2021.

Puede presentar una declaración de impuestos **gratuita** en los recursos en línea de [TurboTax](#), [My Free Taxes](#), [credit karma](#), [H&R Block](#). No necesita pagarle a nadie por esta simple declaración de impuestos.

Todos estos programas de declaración de impuestos tienen opciones gratuitas y de pago. La forma gratuita de presentación funcionará para lo que necesite.

Los ayudantes fiscales los quieren como futuros clientes. También reciben apoyo federal para presentar declaraciones de impuestos simples. Con muchos ayudantes de presentación, debe crear una cuenta antes de saber si es elegible. Las empresas guardan su información de forma segura y le escribirán en el futuro (por correo electrónico) sobre la presentación de una declaración de impuestos.

Presentar una declaración también le permitirá ver si puede obtener un crédito tributario por ingresos del trabajo durante los últimos tres años. También se asegurará de que haya recibido todos los pagos de estímulo para los que es elegible.

Solicite cobertura médica sin costo:

Adultos: hasta el 15 de Agosto

___ Aplicar aquí: <https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/health-insurance-marketplace-glossary/>

Para personas con ingresos entre \$ 17,430 para un hogar de 2 (1 niño) hasta \$ 43,550 (150% del nivel federal de pobreza) – cero costos para el plan **silver** - SIN prima

Los ingresos más altos tienen una disminución mayor en los costos de las primas.

Esto continúa hasta el año 2022.

El dinero para pagar su cobertura viene como crédito fiscal. Si ya tiene seguro médico a través del Mercado Federal, inicie sesión en su cuenta para solicitar y reducir el costo durante el resto del año. Este beneficio es retroactivo, parte del dinero vendrá en un reembolso de impuestos en la declaración de impuestos presentada para 2021.

Información proporcionada por los Servicios Legales de Kansas– www.kansaslegalservices.org
La información es precisa al día 4/28/2021. Por necesidad, todos los criterios de elegibilidad para cada programa no se enumeran en el resumen. Para obtener información actualizada, consulte <https://bit.ly/32WR2ul>

Si obtuvo **beneficios por desempleo** en 2021, automáticamente es elegible para cero costos, si selecciona el plan silver. Cualquiera que haya obtenido **beneficios por desempleo** en 2021 puede comprar un seguro médico en el mercado; esta cobertura solo durará hasta 2021.

Si puede ser elegible para la **cobertura de COBRA** después de dejar un trabajo, puede inscribirse en COBRA con su antiguo empleador durante un año o durante 60 días después del final de la Emergencia Nacional de COVID. Puede obtener un crédito fiscal equivalente al 100% de cobertura hasta por 6 meses en 2021, para pagos realizados entre el 4/1/21 y el 9/30/21.

Seguro médico para niños: Health Wave: en Kansas, puede solicitar un seguro médico para niños en cualquier momento. Aplicar en línea en <https://cssp.kees.ks.gov/apspspp/>. Puede ver la elegibilidad, después de responder algunas preguntas simples y presentar la solicitud en línea si es elegible.

Programa de Internet: consulte el sitio web de la FCC, www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit, para obtener la información más reciente. Usted es elegible si su hijo recibe almuerzos escolares reducidos, o si tiene una pérdida de ingresos debido a COVID, o si sus ingresos en 2020 fueron inferiores a \$ 99,000. (Todavía no disponible) Esto proporcionará Internet gratis para las familias elegibles. Podrá elegir su propio proveedor.

Renta atrasada o necesidad de renta futura:

KERA - Kansas Emergency Rental Assistance - ayuda con el pago de renta, algunas utilidades, incluido Internet

Hasta 12 meses de pagos (alquiler vencido desde el 1 de abril de 2020 y pagos para el futuro)

Debe hacer una aplicación conjunta con su propietario

Debe haber tenido dificultades financieras debido a COVID

Sus ingresos ahora (varían según el condado) deben ser inferiores a aproximadamente \$ 40,000. Consulte el sitio web para obtener información específica.

Aplicar aquí: <https://kera.kshousingcorp.org/kera#/>

SI NECESITA AYUDA CON SU APLICACION EN EL ÁREA DE TOPEKA, PUEDE LLAMAR A ACCIÓN COMUNITARIA AL (785) 836-4500. Personal capacitado y profesional lo ayudará a usted y / o al propietario sin costo alguno.

SNAP (Ayuda Alimentaria)

El monto de los beneficios para una familia aumentó 15% hasta septiembre. Esto es alrededor de \$ 25 por persona al mes. Los niños que hubieran recibido comida gratis o reducida en las escuelas pueden obtener más dinero en la tarjeta electrónica SNAP familiar, si no están comiendo en la escuela. Esto debería continuar durante el verano.

El límite de ingreso mensual más alto es de \$ 1868 para una familia de dos, \$ 2353 para una familia de tres. El beneficio más alto es \$ 374 para una familia de dos, \$ 535 al mes para una familia de tres. Hay límites de recursos (dinero en el banco, etc.)

Aplicar aquí: <https://cssp.kees.ks.gov/apspspp/sspNonMed.portal>

Información proporcionada por los Servicios Legales de Kansas— www.kansaslegalservices.org
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