

January 2019

Diversity On Boards Summit

HEARTLAND VISIONING

TOPEKA IS A GROWING,
PROSPEROUS, INCLUSIVE,
DYNAMIC, AND TRUSTING
COMMUNITY.

Heartland Visioning has a panel that will discuss the importance of board diversity and how to make your organization more adaptable to the changing environment with the [Diversity On Boards Summit](#). Guest panelists, such as Mayor Michelle De La Isla, and special guest speaker Dr. Susan Wilson, of UMKE, will be discussing “Unconscious Bias: Its Impact on Decision Making, Judgment and Relationships.” This event will be held on Friday, February 8th from 9 am - 1 pm at the Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library. Registration is requested. You can RSVP to Liz Cornish at liz.cornish@TopekaPartnership.com. All non-profit board members, CEOs, and executive directors are encouraged to attend! For more information go to this [website](#).

Franchise Fee For 2019

The CRC is pleased to announce that the [2019 Franchise Fee Credit Program](#) is open and accepting applications! CRC administers this program for the City of Topeka, providing eligible households a standardized credit for utility services. A significant change to the program this year is the amount of credit per utility. This year, the City has approved a 60% increase overall to the budget, which makes each eligible household able to qualify for up to \$320 in credits. This allows us to provide more families and individuals with a larger credit allowance for the year.

The breakdown of this is as follows:

- Electric - Westar -- \$100.00 Credit
- Gas - Kansas Gas -- \$100.00 Credit
- Water - City Water -- \$70.00 Credit
- Wastewater - City -- \$50.00 Credit

To qualify for the City of Topeka Franchise Fee Credit Program you must: be a Topeka resident, have a household income for 2018 of less than \$34,450; AND meet the age, disability or dependent child qualifications.

This means that you must be born before January 1, 1963 OR be blind or totally and permanently disabled OR have a dependent child living at the home under the age of 18. Applicants must show proof of address, income from 2018, Driver's license, birth certificate for child if qualifying by dependent child in the household, and Social Security cards for every individual in the household in order to meet the residency and income requirements.

You are only allowed to sign up for the Franchise Fee once a year, so come in soon to apply for it!

Any questions call 785-23-1365 or click [here](#) to view more information.

You can also visit our [website](#) to download the application papers.

Free Income Tax Assistance

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) has trained close to 90 volunteers to help prepare people's taxes for free! This opportunity is for individuals and families with incomes totalling less than \$54,000 a year. Through this program, people are able to save tax preparation fees that can vary from \$80 to \$300. There are 11 sites in Shawnee County that open January 28th through April 15th. Each site has specific days and times each week that they are open so check this [brochure](#) to figure out which site fits your schedule.

Please be sure to bring last year's tax return and the other tax information needed to complete your income tax forms. All of the information is on this [form](#).

To find free tax sites outside of Shawnee County call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.



Members

[American Tax Service](#) | [Blessing Boxes of Topeka](#) | [Brewster Place](#) | [Brooksfest](#) | [CASA of Shawnee County](#) | [City of Topeka Fire Department](#) | [Community Action](#) | [Cornerstone of Topeka](#) | [Doorstep](#) | [Downtown Topeka](#) | [E2 Communications](#) | [Envista Credit Union](#) | [Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce](#) | [Harvesters](#) | [Heartland Visioning](#) | [Hi-Crest NIA Historic North Topeka West NIA](#) | [Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging](#) | [Jefferson Square NIA](#) | [Kansas Volunteer Commission](#) | [KTWU](#) | [Max Wilson](#) | [Meals on Wheels of Shawnee County](#) | [North Topeka West NIA](#) | [Shawnee County Health Department](#) | [Shawnee County K-State Research and Extension](#) | [Tennessee Town NIA](#) | [The Villages, Inc.](#) | [Topeka LULAC Senior Center](#) | [Topeka Metro Transit Authority](#) | [Topeka Rescue Mission](#) | [Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library](#) | [Valeo Behavioral Health Care](#)

