

# Explore MHK

2025-2026



collegian  
MEDIA GROUP

THE K-STAT-ER'S GUIDE  
TO MANHATTAN

ADDITIONAL

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# ABOUT THE *Guide*

Explore MHK, a K-Stater's Guide to Manhattan is a collaboration between the Parents and Family Program and the students of Collegian Media Group. Our goal is to provide families with the information and messages that they care about most. The content is crafted by students to target K-State parents and their new Wildcat students.

Please refer to the Parents and Family program at [k-state.edu/parentsandfamily](http://k-state.edu/parentsandfamily) and [k-state.edu](http://k-state.edu) for updates about the university. If you have questions about this guide or suggestions for its content, please contact us at [guide@collegianmedia.com](mailto:guide@collegianmedia.com). Collegian Media Group makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of the information in this guide.

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### *K-State Parents and Family Program*

122 Anderson Hall  
(785) 532-2222  
[parentsandfamily@k-state.edu](mailto:parentsandfamily@k-state.edu)  
[k-state.edu/parentsandfamily](http://k-state.edu/parentsandfamily)

### *Collegian Media Group*

103 Kedzie Hall  
(785) 370-6350  
[guide@collegianmedia.com](mailto:guide@collegianmedia.com)

Find the digital version of this guide at  
<https://www.collegianmedia.com/explore-mhk/>





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# WELCOME

## Dear Wildcats,

We are thrilled to welcome parents, families and guests to Kansas State University!

As a member of the K-State family, we invite you to get engaged with the K-State Parents and Family Program. This is a resource designed to keep families informed, celebrate student achievements and to help make family memories at K-State. Our program embraces an extensive definition of family. This may include families of origin and families of choice. If you are a friend, spouse, neighbor, extended family member, guardian, or sibling, we welcome everyone. We seek to create an inclusive environment for all students and their family members.

One of the most exciting ways K-State connects with parents and families is through our K-State Parents and Family Connections newsletter and portal. This resource is designed to provide you with all the up-to-date information about what is happening on campus and ways to support your student during the college experience. You can sign up now by going to our website: <https://www.k-state.edu/academic-success-student-affairs/parents-and-family-program/>. Additionally, the Parents and Family Program has a free hotline that parents and families can call with questions. The number is (785) 532-2222 and open for any questions you or your family encounter between now and college graduation!

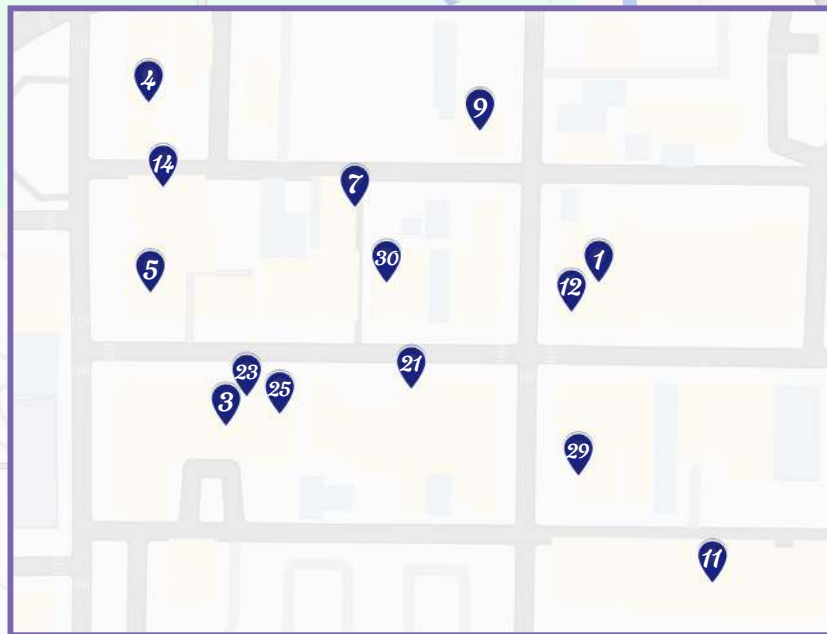
Mark your calendars now for our signature event, the 96th Annual Family Weekend celebration held on Friday, September 27 and Saturday, September 28, 2024 (registration opens in late summer). We invite families to experience K-State, eat great food, and make memories with your student. Families can hang out at the pre-game Tailgate Party or celebrate your student at the Family Pinning Ceremony. During the ceremony, we welcome everyone into the K-State family including students who are the first in their family to attend K-State and students who are following a long family legacy of Wildcats.

Every year our program is looking for leaders to serve on the Parents & Family Advisory Board. This group provides a voice for K-State families for issues pertinent to student life. If you would like more information about this opportunity you can email [parentsandfamily@k-state.edu](mailto:parentsandfamily@k-state.edu). Additionally, you can also follow PFP on Facebook to stay informed and engaged with the K-State community.

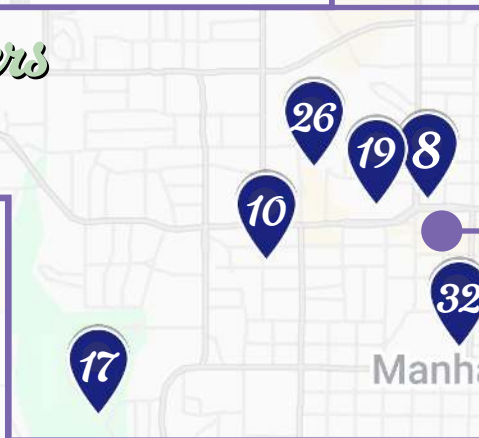
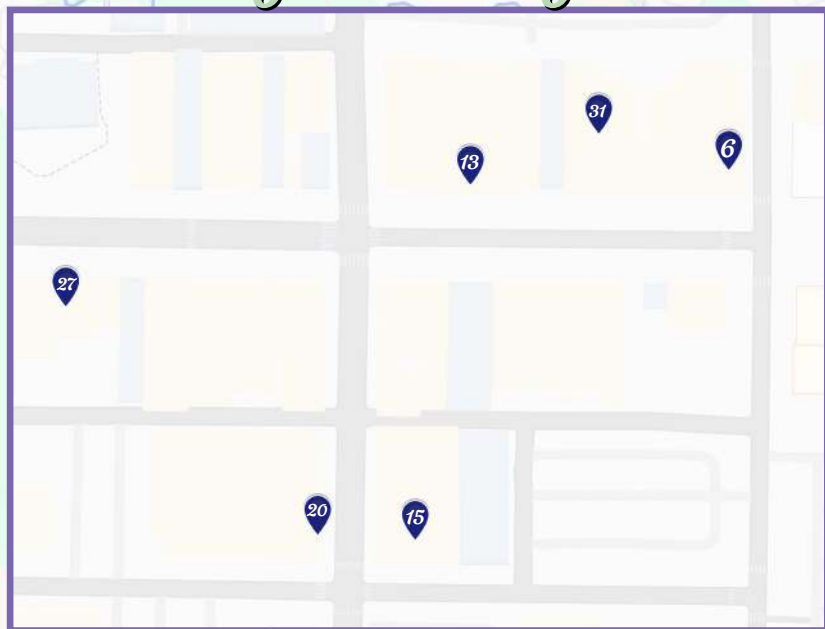
With purple pride,

*Kevin M. Cook*

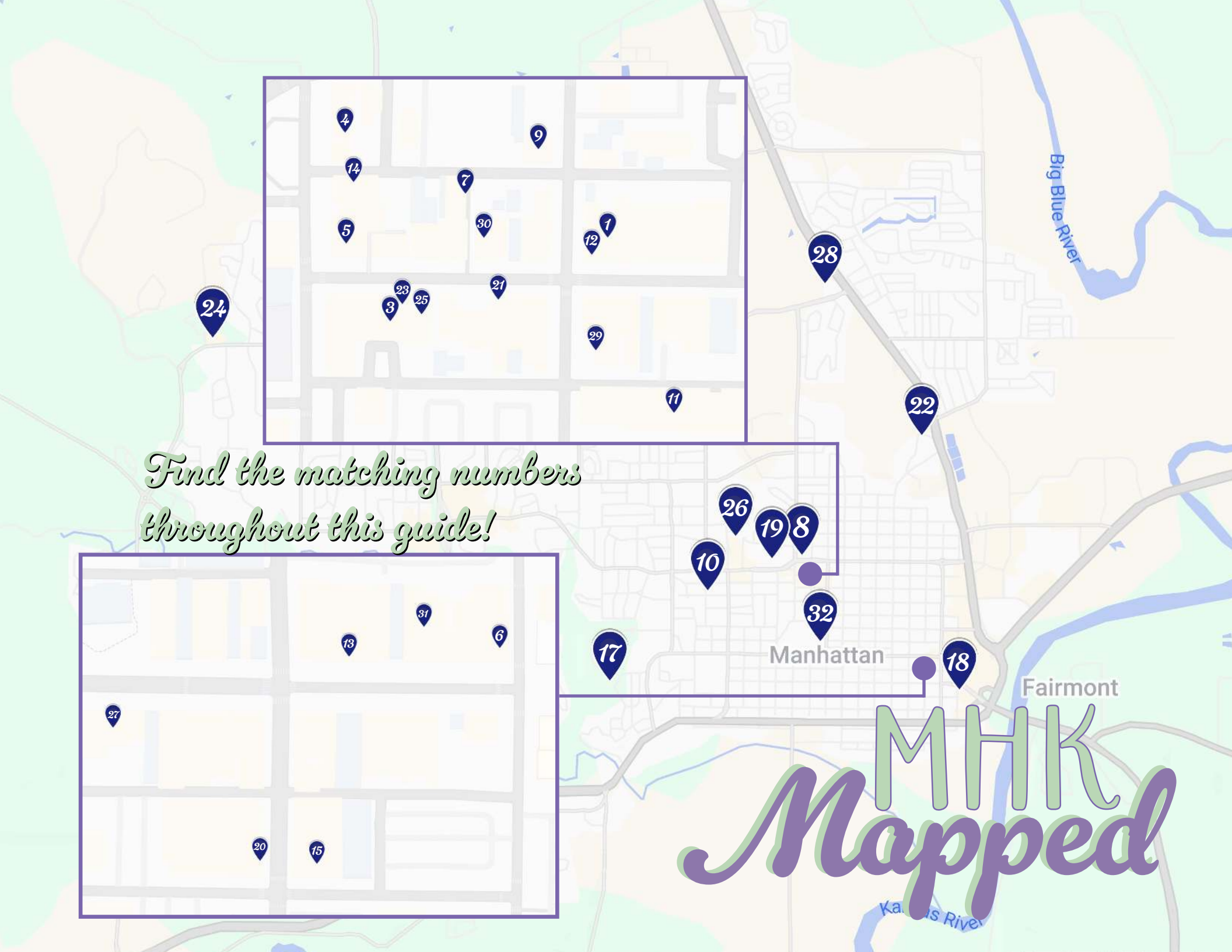
Dr. Kevin M. Cook  
Director of Communication and Parent Engagement  
Division of Academic Success and Student Affairs



*Find the matching numbers  
throughout this guide!*



MHK  
*Mapped*



# KANSAS STATE CAREER CENTER

## DEVELOP YOUR POTENTIAL

- Activate Handshake to search for jobs and internships
- Try out options through networking and job shadowing
- Gain experience via LEAD 399 Internships for Career Development

## TELL YOUR STORY

- Gain skills for writing a resume or cover letter
- Participate in a mock interview
- Shop for free professional wardrobe items from the Career Closet

## CONNECT WITH EMPLOYERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Network with employers at career fairs and career meet-ups
- Use tech-ready rooms for video interviews
- Receive support with salary negotiation and accepting an offer

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# 2025-2026 CAMPUS CALENDAR

## Fall 2025

AUG. 25  
Fall semester begins

AUG. 30  
First home football game v.  
North Dakota

SEP. 1  
Labor Day — no classes

SEP. 26-27  
Family Weekend

OCT. 3-4  
Junction City Oktoberfest

OCT. 5-11  
Homecoming Week

OCT. 18  
Walk to End Alzheimer's/Little  
Apple Marathon

OCT.-NOV.  
Britt's Farm Pumpkin Patch  
Open

NOV. 23-30  
Fall break

DEC. 15-19  
Finals Week

DEC. 19  
Fall semester ends

DEC. 19-20  
Fall commencement

## Spring 2026

JAN. 19  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

JAN. 20  
Spring semester begins

MAR. 22  
St. Patrick's Day Race/events in  
Aggieville

MAR. 15-22  
Spring break — no classes

MAY 11-15  
Final Week

MAY 15  
Spring semester ends

MAY 15-16  
Spring commencement



# TRADITIONS at Kansas State

## ALMA MATER:

Get ready to sing along to K-State's Alma Mater! Written in 1888 by H.W. Jones, the Alma Mater was selected by K-State students in 1903 as the representative song for the university, rousing the loyal KSU fans to sing their school pride.

## OPEN HOUSE:

K-State welcomes 20,000 visitors every April for the annual Open House. Attendees are able to visit K-State's campus and all it has to offer, from academics to interactive exhibits, entertainment and food for a full day of family fun!

## PURPLE POWER PLAY:

Purple pride is shown city-wide on Thursday and Friday nights before the first home football game of each season. The community gathers in Downtown Manhattan to cheer on the team, enjoy samples of local cuisine and watch fireworks.

## WABASH CANNONBALL:

Jump on your feet to join in on the next "Washbash Cannonball" during an athletic event. Synchronized motions of bending, clapping and twisting continue the grand tradition like generations of K-Staters before. Fun fact: the "Wabash Cannonball" was the only music to survive the fire of the music department in 1968.



**Riley County Democrats**

[rileycountydemocrats.org](http://rileycountydemocrats.org)



**KSU Young Democrats**

[orgcentral.k-state.edu/KSUJD/club\\_signup](http://orgcentral.k-state.edu/KSUJD/club_signup)



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- 3 Become a part of the executive board
- 4 Help organize and promote different events



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# Shopping

## 1 ON THE WILD SIDE:

This eclectic shop accommodates those who enjoy hobbies out of the ordinary. From tarot and incense to all your herbal necessities and quirky clothing in the back of the shop, On the Wild Side definitely lives up to its name – and don't forget to greet their elderly cat, Star!



## ECLECTIC CHARM:

Eclectic Charm is a unique boutique featuring over 30 vendor booths with handmade, vintage, and upcycled items. Shoppers can find everything from home décor and jewelry to rare books and local art. Open Thursday through Saturday, it's a go-to spot for one-of-a-kind gifts and creative finds.

## 3



## ACME:

Acme Gift and Acme Local are a staple in Aggieville. Local's sweet Manhattan-centered attire is great for Manhattan newbies or oldies, and Gift boasts unique knick-knacks, games and decor for anyone who loves some high quality, quirky products.

## 4

## ELLEN'S PLANTED TEA:

Ellen's Planted Tea might sit between a few bars, but fret not. Ellen's focus is plants and tea! The shop is filled to the brim with greenery, both for beginners and the advanced plant caretakers. Ellen also offers loose leaf tea for tea-addicts who are searching for natural blends, and boasts the consistency that only small-businesses can claim.

# MFLK Local

## 5 THE DUSTY BOOKSHELF:

For 126 years the Dusty Bookshelf has served K-State students and the community alike. Stop in to find a book or two, and maybe even a hot drink and a friend in the cozy bookstore!



## 6 THE WINGED LION:

Established in 2014, this is the perfect place to find elements that inspire, guide and create the vibe you desire in your home. From lifestyle products to textiles, the Winged Lion's unique atmosphere is a great shop stop in the Little Apple.

## 7



## SISTERS OF SOUND:

Owned and operated by sisters, Sisters of Sound is the only Indie record store in Manhattan. They carry a vast amount of new and used vinyl records, CDs, apparel, decor and all things local music and jazz.



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# STAYING OVERNIGHT?

## 8 *Bluemont Hotel* ★★★★★

Located in a prime spot near the edge of the K-State campus and Aggville, the Bluemont hotel boasts Goolsby's as its neighbor restaurant. Enjoy the Bluemont bar and the ideal location for gamedays at Bluemont Hotel!

## 9 *The Courtyard by Marriott Manhattan Aggieville* ★★★★★

The Courtyard Marriott sits on the edge of Aggieville, giving hotel-goers the perfect excuse for a night out in the 'Ville.

## 10 *Moore House Bed and Breakfast* ★★★★★

Located a mile from Manhattan's City Park and the Sunset Zoo, this charming accommodation is a perfect way to give back to the local economy and fully immerse yourself in the townie lifestyle.







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## OPEN DAILY

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Friday: 9am - 8pm

Saturday: 9am - 6pm

Sunday: 1pm - 6pm

# TOWN'S BEST EATS

@ Aggieville, Downtown & more

## 11 *Green Tea Sushi*

If you're a sushi-lover, Green Tea is a staple in Manhattan. Providing authentic Japanese sushi as well as Sake, appetizers and bento boxes, Green Tea Sushi is perfect for any foodie.



## 12 *So Long Saloon*

When you stop by So Long, you have to order the Raspberry Bean Dip (shown on the right). Not only does So Long offer Tex-Mex cuisine, but they also provide an energetic atmosphere, top-notch drinks and unique burgers even the pickiest of eaters will love.



## 13 *Tallgrass Taphouse*

Taphouse, located in downtown Manhattan, offers tons of variety to their craft beer-loving crowd, as well as tasty dishes to pair with their brews. Taphouse is more upscale than restaurants in Aggieville, so it's perfect for a higher-end evening with friends.



## *McCool's Bar + Kitchen* 14

Stop in to unwind and try their bar food and drinks! Located in Aggieville, this joint is run by an alum of K-State.



## *Wine Dive + Kitchen* 15

Located in downtown Manhattan, this is a great option for a more refined experience and a quieter atmosphere. Try a more elegant dinner of dishes like succulent scallops and savoy duck, or indulge in fancier cocktails for a memorable evening.



## *Liquid Art Winery*

Enjoy an evening in the Kansas Flint Hills with a glass of craft premium wine and a charcuterie board or artisan pizza at Liquid Art Winery. Their tasting room, with beautiful scenic views of the Estate vineyard, sits in the Flint Hills and is a reminder of Kansas' natural beauty.



# Never bored in MFLR



## SUNSET ZOO 17

If you're looking for an activity everyone will love, look no further than the Sunset Zoo! With continent-based sections, the zoo provides a well-rounded experience for cheap admission.



## FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER 18

The Flint Hills Discovery Center is great for history buffs and casual learners alike. The center has outdoor exhibits as well as a theater and interactive simulations. At only \$10 per adult, Flint Hills Discovery Center is great for an afternoon of adventure.



## MARIANNA KISTLER BEACH MUSEUM OF ART 19

The Beach Museum is ideal for people who love change, as the museum updates their exhibitions regularly. Featuring regional art and a knack for storytelling, the Beach Museum is perfect for an afternoon outing.



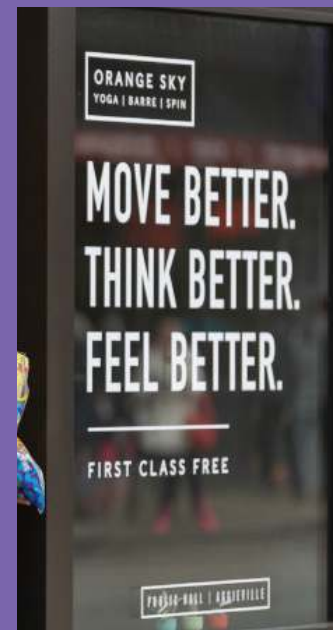
## LOCKED MANHATTAN 20

Want a challenging, unique team experience? Locked Manhattan provides the perfect environment for puzzle-lovers and adrenaline junkies, as it "locks" players inside a giant, puzzle-filled room and gives them an hour to escape. Do you have what it takes?

## SELF CARE

### Orange Sky: 21

Yoga, Barre, Spin, Strength—oh my! Orange Sky's variety of classes will have you moving better, thinking better and feeling better.



### Mason Wells Day Spa: 22

Enjoy an oasis free of outside distractions at this luxury day spa. With emphasis on intentional holistic wellness, find relaxation in a massage and sauna session.

### Uncorked Inspiration: 23

Let your creative juices fly, and your mind rest at ease with a peaceful activity of painting. Uncorked offers ceramics and canvases, and kid friendly activities too. Walk-ins are welcome, and take home kits are available for purchase.





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*Choose Topeka and invest in your future.*





# Need coffee?

24 *Paramour*



Paramour is perfect for people in a rush. Located near the scenic drive running outside Manhattan, Paramour offers local coffee and unique, seasonal drinks for coffee lovers.

Bluestem is a popular destination for coffee dates, meetings and homework. Offering smooth espresso, yummy brunch and lunch plates, Bluestem is great for your next trip to Manhattan.



*Bluestem* 25

26 *Radina's*



Radina's is a Manhattan staple and gives customers a robust espresso option and house-made food for people looking to sit inside or those in a hurry. Radina's also sells handmade pastries bread to take a taste of the coffeehouse with you.

Located on Poyntz, Flight Crew is an airline-themed coffee shop with a relaxed vibe. Flight Crew opened up a couple years ago, and has proven itself to the Manhattan community.



*Flight Crew* 27

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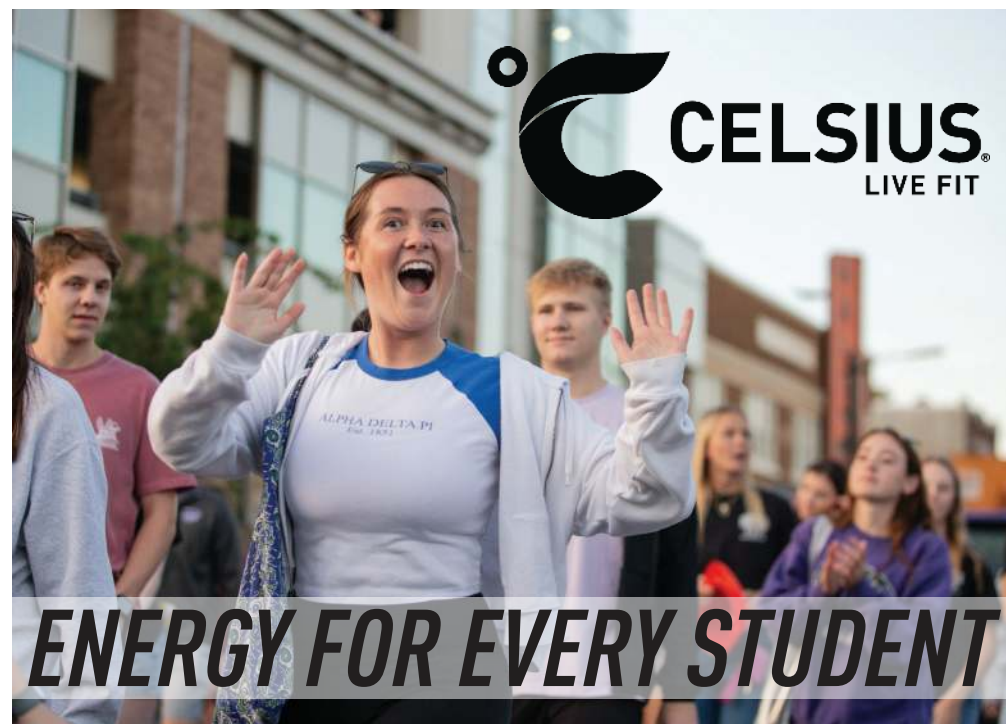
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## Bars TO BEAT

28

### RC MCGRAWS BAR AND GRILL

A bar and grill that serves up American favorites for lunch and dinner, legend says it was founded by a cowboy named RC McGraw. Stop in and check out what all the outlaws are talking about!

29

### AUNTIE MAE'S PARLOR

This bar is set in a 1930s speakeasy with a quirky, laid back atmosphere. Live music in a variety of styles is performed, and don't miss trivia on Wednesday's!

30

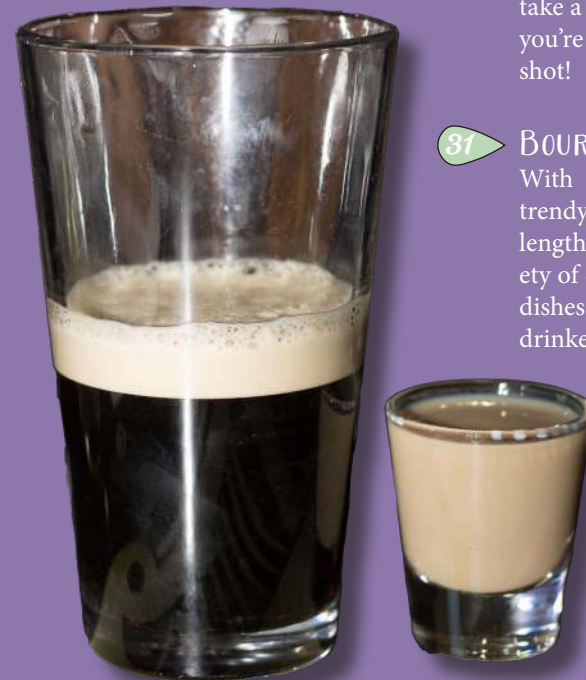
### O'MALLEY'S ALLEY

Grab a drink and enjoy some fresh air on O'Malley's spacious outdoor patio, or take a seat inside their sports bar. While you're there, be sure to try a Mini Beer shot!

31

### BOURBON AND BAKER

With southern-inspired roots, this trendy venue has on-tap wines and a lengthy bourbon list. Experience a variety of cultures through the vast culinary dishes offered in this soulful eatery and drinkery.







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## KONZA PRAIRIE

A beauty of tallgrass prairie known for its rolling hills, plants and animals, the Konza Prairie is a Flint Hills gem. Take a hike along its trails and soak in the stunning landscape this ecosystem has to offer.

## TOP OF THE WORLD

Sitting just outside Manhattan, Top of the World boasts a beautiful view of the city and its surrounding on a hill. With a roughly one mile long walking/hiking trail, this is a great spot to venture to.

## PILLSBURY CROSSING

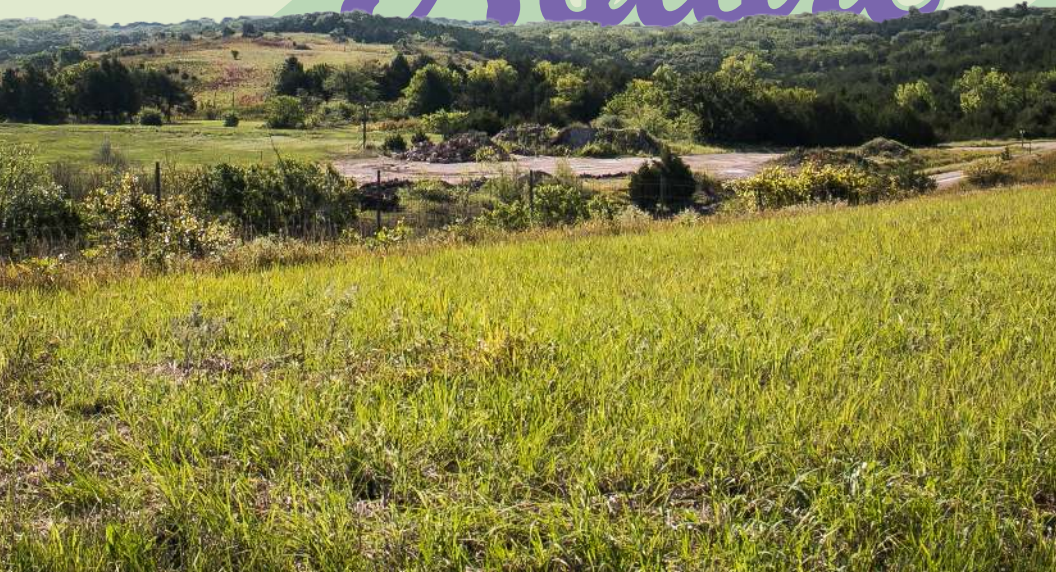
A sweet escape on a warm day, Pillsbury Crossing is a refreshing shallow stream surrounded by wildlife and shade—perfect for an afternoon in nature.

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## MANHATTAN CITY PARK

Manhattan City Park is one of the oldest parks in the community, but holds its own. With a rose garden, daylily garden, aquatic center, pavilion and family center, several ball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, playground and multi-use trail running along the outer edges of the park, there is something for all at this local hotspot.

# Manhattan's Nature



# REPURPOSING for a PURPOSE

Every purchase and donation helps Habitat for Humanity of the Northern Flint Hills build **homes, community and hope.**



514 Pillsbury Dr,  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
785-537-7545  
HabitatFintHills.org



*It's Your Time to Make a*  
**BIG DIFFERENCE**

At KSBBBS, we match local youth with a mentor who meets with them at school once a week. Just by showing up, listening, and being an encouraging presence, you can help a child feel valued, supported, and hopeful for the future.

### BECOME A SCHOOL-BASED BIG

- Big meets with Little at school on a chosen day once a week during lunch time or before/after school hours
- Spend time eating, reading, playing games, or talking
- Minimum of one school year (two semesters)



SCAN TO LEARN MORE  
[kansasbigs.org/be-a-big](https://kansasbigs.org/be-a-big)



### OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- Volunteer at one of our events
- Host your own fundraiser
- Refer a friend to be a Big

Email [msink@kansasbigs.org](mailto:msink@kansasbigs.org) to get involved!





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SUP

By JT Daniels  
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LOCATED AT 410 S. 4TH ST



# ABOUT THE STAFF



## Zara Thomas

Zara Thomas, designer, is a junior studying advertising and public relations with a minor in Spanish and visual communication design. She is from Derby, Kansas and is excited to present you with this guide in the hopes that it elevates your time in Manhattan. Throughout her time at Kansas State thus far, she has worked for the Manhappenin' Magazine for two years and currently serves as the Assistant Editor in Chief. This is her second year working for Explore MHK to bring you this guidebook and looks forward to the future and what she will get the chance to work on next.

Jenna Fiscus, writer & designer, is a senior studying agricultural communications and journalism. She is from Valley Center, Kansas and is thankful for the chance to use her skills to show others around her favorite town! Jenna has had the opportunity, in her time with Collegian Media Group, to serve as the Copy Editor for the Manhappenn' Magazine for the fall semester of 2024, and was the Editor in Chief of the Royal Purple Yearbook for the 2024-25 school year. She is excited to finish her senior year this December and looks forward to whatever comes next!

## Jenna Fiscus



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