

Hazelwood School District to Host Recruitment Fair

The Hazelwood School District is seeking teachers, counselors, and librarians for the 2019-2020 school year. The district will host a Recruitment Fair on March 30 at Hazelwood Central High School Fieldhouse, 15875 New Halls Ferry Road from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Interested applicants are encouraged to register for the fair by visiting www.HazelwoodSchools.org and submitting a Recruitment Fair Application on the Employment page. The district will conduct on-site interviews during the fair, and applicants are encouraged to bring plenty of resumes, copies of credentials, and other professional documentation. Walk-ins are welcome. Call (314) 953-5059.

The Independent News



Sally Gacheru of
Hazelwood West HS;
2019 Jaycees Community
Service Scholarship winner.



April Municipal Elections



**Zella Williams
(Incumbent)**

Dr. Williams was appointed to the Hazelwood School District School Board in 2018, to complete the term of a board member who resigned.

She said that the number one mission of a school district is student achievement. "I further believe that to meet that goal, the school board must ensure that an environment conducive to teaching and learning exists throughout the district. I am a candidate for the school board because I love the Hazelwood School District and desire to work with other board members, using my deep knowledge of the district and education to improve and enhance student achievement."

Williams retired from the Hazelwood School District in 2008 after 38 years in education and 31 years of service to the district. While in the district, she served as a classroom teacher, counselor, administrative intern, assistant principal, principal, and five years as assistant superintendent for accountability.

"I have mentored countless educators, showing them by example how to develop relationships with each other, staff, students, parents, and the community at large. I felt that it was necessary for staff to respect and collaborate with each other in order to love students and meet their needs. Whatever my position, I believed that an excellent teacher was invaluable, and that parent and community involvement were critical components in educating students. I hold students, staff, parents, and community leaders in high esteem, considering it a privilege to serve and work with them."



**Cheryl Latham
(Incumbent)**

Latham has lived in North County for 17 years after relocating from Tampa, Fla. A prior Army family, she has lived in several communities, both civilian and military. She joined the Hazelwood Board of Education in 2007 after serving as a volunteer and PTA officer in her children's schools and on many school and district committees. "I began volunteering in my sons' schools to help them adjust to our new community."

"I consider it both an honor and a tremendous responsibility to participate in decision making on behalf of the district. I believe that it is important and necessary to advocate for each of the district's 18,000 students as if they were my own."

"I am a dedicated and passionate advocate for children in both my personal and professional life. I have worked as a social service professional for more than 25 years." Currently, Latham is the director of County CASA, volunteer and community engagement, at Voices for Children/CASA of St. Louis, an area non-profit that advocates for abused and neglected children and youth in St. Louis County and City's foster care systems. In her previous position, she taught sixth-grade students in Louisiana, and taught GED courses for at-risk youth in Florida.

Latham has a bachelor's degree from Fisk University. She and her husband have been married for 32 years and have two sons who are both graduates of Hazelwood Central. They are grandparents of six. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated.



Jennifer Bagwell

Bagwell has been a member of this district for 12 years and she has enjoyed raising her family in this district and community. "I am a very active member of the community." She works as an advocate and volunteer in the district and community to help do her part in making it the very best it can be.

"I do this not just for my family, but for as many families and businesses as I can." Prior to moving to Missouri, she attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and was an American Red Cross volunteer at Makalapa Medical Clinic while completing her certificate in clinical assistant and E.M.T. training. She obtained a BSN-RN from Hawaii Pacific University. During this time, "I found my heart and passion was in community nursing, which involved, among other things, being an advocate for the military families living in Schofield Barracks (in Hawaii)." While working with those families, she received a Letter of Appreciation and Resilience from the Base Commander. She said she was the only person in her senior class to receive the honor from Hawaii Pacific University and Schofield Barracks.

She said she would like to become a board member because she loves the district. Her daughter and son both graduated from Hazelwood West High School, and her two other boys attend Russell Elementary School.

"I believe my background demonstrates such a commitment not just for the schools but the entire district."

To view school board candidates complete bios and video messages, visit the district's website at www.hazelwoodschools.org/AboutUs/BoardofEducation/BoardCandidatesApril2019.

3 Hazelwood School Board Candidates on the April 2 Ballot Includes Two Incumbents

Three individuals have filed to run for the two open Hazelwood School District Board of Education seats in the April 2 election. The three-year term will run from April 2019 through April 2022. The candidates and their edited bios are listed at the left in the order they will appear on the ballot.

VOTE

**JENNIFER
BAGWELL**

**HAZELWOOD SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION**



VOTE APRIL 2, 2019

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BOARD. ADAM BAGWELL TREASURER

19 years gone: Mother of slain high school student still holds out hope for justice

ST. LOUIS – Tuesday marks 19 years since Cara Davenport was murdered in St. Louis. And to this day, no justice has been served.

Each year on March 26, Cara's mother, Sharon Webb, visits Calvary Cemetery where she is buried. she cleans and decorates it. She also prays for justice in her daughter's death.

"It is really difficult (to keep hope alive) after 19 years but I always promised my girls that if anything happened that I would fight until my last breath," Webb said.

Cara was 18 and a senior at Hazelwood West High School when she was shot in a car. Police said she was not the intended target. They said two people ran up to the car and started shooting. Cara was shot in the head and died.

Webb said there hasn't been any activity in the case over the years.

"But that don't deter me," she said.

Webb said she talks with St. Louis County Police Chief John Belmar. The case remains open—but on the backburner—until investigators catch a lead.

Webb said she always talks to Cara, especially on this anniversary day, but added that it never gets any easier.

"The happiness that was here before is gone. You learn to move on but the happiness is not there anymore," she said.

Webb said she'll never forget how Cara's smile would light up a room, how vibrant she was, and what a great dancer she proved to be for the St. Louis Storm.

"I wanted to die. Kill myself. You go through many emotions when it happens," Webb said.



INFORMED INFRASTRUCTURE

The *construction engineer's* source for projects, products and technology

KAI Celebrates Construction Milestone at Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis Teen Center of Excellence in Ferguson, MO

(St. Louis, MO) Local officials, stakeholders, residents, staff and representatives of General Contractor KAI celebrated a topping out ceremony on March 27 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis Teen Center of Excellence currently under construction in Ferguson, MO. During the construction milestone, the final beam signed by donors, community partners, staff and others was hoisted high into its final position. The City of Ferguson and its Fire Department showed their support for the project by flying a large American flag from their ladder truck during the event. "The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis is excited to reach this milestone regarding the construction of our Teen Center of Excellence. The topping out ceremony gives us a chance to include our club members and supporters in this important community resource. It symbolizes the role and responsibility we all have to foster hope and opportunity for all children," said Dr. Flint Fowler, President of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis. According to KAI Senior Project Manager Jeremy Lammers, construction of the \$12.4 million facility is on track to open in the Fall of 2019. "Predominantly, topping out ceremonies are reserved for projects that hold significant meaning to the organization and, most importantly, to the community," said Lammers. "Completing the steel for this building gets us one step closer to opening the new Teen Center of Excellence that will be serving the youth of Ferguson and its surrounding communities. KAI is excited to be a part of this project and helping transform this community." The Teen Center of Excellence, located at 9200 West Florissant, will offer afterschool and summer programs to youth ages 12-18 in the North St. Louis County area. One of the first of its kind in the country, the 26,856-square-foot, 3-level center will provide a safe place for area youth to gather and participate in a variety of activities. Designs for the facility include a nutrition education center, gym, teen lounge, outdoor garden, auditorium, music and art studio, office space, intellectual commons, innovation center, and outdoor basketball and activity court. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis has a 50-plus-year track record of success in the St. Louis region as a youth services provider and will implement nationally acclaimed programs at the new Teen Center similar to those offered in the 10 locations it presently operates (seven of which are located in North St. Louis County). Programming will include an emphasis on health and wellness (such as yoga, healthy habits, open gym), education and workforce development (such as college tours, ACT/SAT prep, tutoring), STEAM (such as coding, app creation, robotics) and leadership and civic engagement (such as fine and performing arts, community service, applied arts). KAI is serving as the General Contractor on the project, and the architect is Arcturis of St. Louis, MO.

About KAI Enterprises

KAI Enterprises is a national design and build firm providing delivery-oriented building solutions with a diverse portfolio of experience, in-house multi-discipline professionals, and expertise in both design and construction delivery. Founded in 1980, KAI has grown into one of the largest minority-owned firms in the AEC industry. For nearly 40 years, KAI has been instrumental in transforming communities through its expertise in residential, commercial, K-12, higher education, healthcare, science and technology, aviation, mobility, sports and entertainment, government, water and community-focused projects. KAI Enterprises is comprised of four distinct business units—KAI Design, KAI Engineering, KAI Build and KAI 360 Construction Services. To learn more about KAI, visit www.kai-db.com.

About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater St. Louis (BGCSTL) is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. For over 50 years, BGCSTL has been providing after-school, teen, sports and summer programs to youth in the St. Louis area while also providing a safe place for them to learn and grow. The Clubs now serve St. Louis youth at ten locations (Adams Park Club, Ferguson Middle School Club, **Grannemann Elementary School Club**, Herbert Hoover Club, Lee Hamilton Elementary School Club, O'Fallon Park Club, Riverview Gardens Club and **Hazelwood Southeast Middle School Club**), within two High Schools (Normandy and Roosevelt High School) and four additional elementary schools through our Mentor St. Louis Program.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Black History Month celebration takes place at Hazelwood Central High School

Hazelwood Central High School held a Black History Month Celebration on Feb. 21. Guest speakers included St. Louis County Prosecutor Wesley Bell, St. Louis Surge Team Owner Khalia Collier and KSDK Meteorologist Anthony Slaughter. All three shared messages of inspiration with Central High School students and answered student questions about their careers. Bell and Slaughter both attended Hazelwood schools and are graduates of Hazelwood East High School.



Photo courtesy Hazelwood School District

THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

91 years of serving the St. Louis community

CAC Audited
MARCH 28 – APRIL 3, 2019

Vol. 90 No. 53
COMPLIMENTARY

stlamerican.com

FRONT PAGE BANNER



Hazelwood School District
High Expectations For All!

RECRUITMENT FAIR: HIRING TEACHERS, COUNSELORS, AND LIBRARIANS
Saturday, March 30 from 9 am - 1 pm
Central High School Fieldhouse,
15875 New Halls Ferry Road in Florissant
Pre-register: www.HazelwoodSchools.org
For more information: 314-953-5000