

Stull

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Father Stull was ordained a priest on March 19, 2021.

He originally joined the Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri in Cincinnati, but after feeling called to come home, he was incardinated into the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas on Nov. 26, 2024, by Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann.

Listen to the music

Father Stull was born in Wichita, but his family moved to the Burlington area when he was 3 years old.

“Nearly all of my mom’s family lives within 15 minutes of where my parents live,” he said. “So, we were very close with our cousins.”

His grandparents also lived close by.

“They had a farm there — cattle, crops, the whole bit,” said Father Stull. “So, we got to go out there and help with all that kind of stuff, stay on the farm in the summers.”

Father Stull has one sister, Bridget, who’s 6½ years older.

His father Bruce was a water treatment plant operator, and his mother Annette worked in HR as a vice president at the nuclear plant in Burlington. Both are now retired.

Bruce isn’t Catholic, but he went to Mass with the family every Sunday.

“Even though my dad wasn’t Catholic, him go-

ing to Mass with us was a good example when we were kids,” said Father Stull. “He thought it was important for the family to go to church together.”

Stull went on to attend the University of Missouri-Kansas City for one year, where he studied organ, and transferred to the University of Kansas, Lawrence, to finish that degree.

While he was in college, Father Hawken had moved to St. Joseph Parish in Shawnee and hired him as an interim director of one of the choirs there.

Stull also worked at Christ the King Parish in Kansas City, Missouri, while doing master’s work in church music at KU.

Eventually, he felt an undeniable call to the priesthood.

“Of course, there are times when you think, ‘Am I really meant for this type of thing?’” he said. “But I never had a serious doubt.

“It was always hands to the plow and here we go.”

Home sweet home

Stull was drawn to the Congregation of the Oratory of Saint Philip Neri after it was featured on the New Liturgical Movement blog.

“I researched that particular oratory, and they were very much focused on liturgy and music and bringing beauty back into the Mass,” said Father Stull. “I thought, ‘I’ve got to go visit these people.’”

He visited for the first time in January 2013 and moved there in August of that year. He completed

his seminary studies at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary of the West in Cincinnati.

Near the beginning of 2022, Father Stull wanted to make a change. He reached out to Archbishop Naumann, requesting to be accepted into the archdiocese on a trial basis.

“I wanted to come home and be with my people in my diocese where I was raised and help my local church that raised me in the Catholic faith,” said Father Stull.

He let the oratory know about his decision, and they offered him a three-year period of exclaustation so he could live outside the order.

“I knew very shortly after arriving here that this was definitely for me — that I was back home,” he said.

Father Stull is now the associate pastor at Church of the Ascension in Overland Park, where he’s been serving since July 2022.

“What I like to say about Ascension is that it’s a massive parish,” he said, “but it feels like a small one because the community is so great here.”

He’s enjoyed teaching adult faith classes each year in the fall, spring and summer.

“That has been very rewarding,” he said. “And it also helps you get to know the people very well.”

Father Stull is grateful to be back in his home archdiocese and continues to find joy in the Catholic faith — and the music that led him to the priesthood.

County

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vacant seat on the Coffey County Tourism and Visitors Board through December 31, 2026.

The board waived landfill fees for three structures owned by Gordon and Collene Gleue (310 Miami St. and 306 N. 3rd St.) and Mike Abendroth (1108 Mohawk St.) in Burlington.

Highway Department

The board approved a new job description and pay range for a seasonal light equipment operator position.

They awarded a striping bid to Straight-Line Striping for \$25.61 per gallon for edge and centerline striping (Project S2501-C).

Seasonal mowing contracts were approved for: Dalen Kistner; Hope Cemetery and Strawn Monument — \$62/event; and David Lendo Mowing Service, Old Highway 50 Park and Rock Creek Cemetery — \$110/event.

Commissioners authorized hiring Gavin Conkle as a seasonal light equipment operator at \$17.93/hour, not to exceed 1,000 hours.

Personnel

Commissioners entered a 10-minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters; no action was taken afterward.

They authorized advertising and hiring a full-time custodian to fill a vacancy.

The board approved hiring Jenny Tatman as the new economic development director at \$67,500 per year, effective March 31.

Revised job descriptions and pay grades were approved for the deputy appraiser and senior field appraiser positions.

County Appraiser Connie Lawrence is combining the deputy appraiser and GIS coordinator positions, which will reduce from eight to seven the number of employees in the appraiser’s department.

Land Lease and Construction Project

Three sealed bids were received to lease agricultural land at the county’s industrial park. Commissioners awarded R.D. Linsey the highest bid of \$41.50 per acre, totaling \$10,060 for the 2025 season, for 242.4 acres at.

Commissioners approved Payment Application No. 15 from River City Construction for \$1.26 million for the Coffey County Law Enforcement Center Project.

Three change orders were approved for the jail project:

- Change Order 29: \$26,889 for revised parking changes.
- Change Order 31: \$6,651 for changes to administrative areas and lockers.
- Change Order 32: \$5,276 for IT room fire protection changes.

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Election

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Waverly: Two council members (positions 2 and 4).

Hartford: Two council members (positions 2 and 4).

School Board Members

USD 243: Position 3 (west), position 5 (west) and position 6 (east).

USD 244: Positions 4, 5 and 6; also position 1 to fill a 2-year term.

USD 245: Three positions in District 2.

USD 252: Positions 2, 3 and 6.

USD 365: Positions 4, 5 and 6.

Lakeview Drainage District: Three board members.

Technology and Meetings

Commissioners approved a telecommunications agreement with MT Networks for Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) services.

During a recess for lunch, commissioners met for an hour in the emergency management office to receive emergency operations center (EOC) role training.

The meeting recessed until 9 a.m. Thursday, March 27, to review and sign warrants and vouchers for March.

The next regular weekly meeting will be held 9 a.m. Monday in Room 201 of the Coffey County Courthouse. As of press time, the agenda includes (9:05) River City Construction update, (9:15) SOS proclamation, (9:25) Burlington High School Class of 2026 officers – 2025 prom sponsorship, (9:30) introduce Jenny Tatman as economic development director, (10) Tyler Ellsworth of Kutak Rock, (10:30) GAS Services Garrett Nordstrom and Waverly-Lebo USD 245 Superintendent Duane Ford – CDBG grant, (11) Road and Bridge Superintendent Ryan Durst – update, and (11:20) salary work session.

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City

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Streetlight Request

Mike Abendroth requested the installation of a streetlight at the corner of 12th and Mohawk, where new homes have been built. Mayor Luke confirmed the availability of streetlight materials and indicated installation should happen soon. Abendroth also said the corner of 13th and Mohawk does not have a streetlight.

Infrastructure and City Services Updates

❖ **Electric Department:** Crews are replacing power poles weakened by recent storms. The new jail facility is serving its electrical needs from permanent power, since the city has finished its portion of the project. Generators at the electric plant are being serviced for routine maintenance. Crews used city equipment to clear debris after high winds tore a mobile home’s roof off on Third Street.

❖ **Water and Wastewater:** Crews completed a new water meter installation on Mohawk Street and successfully repaired a fuel system issue at the water plant’s generator. Water operators ensured stable water levels during recent wildfires.

❖ **Street:** The council approved the purchase of a \$60,070, 600-gallon trailer mounted asphalt distributor from Pavement Technologies International Corp., the lowest of three quotes. Crews removed downed trees and re-

paired multiple signs following high winds.

Public Safety

❖ **Police Department:** With two officer vacancies, the remaining four officers are covering shifts 24/7. Officers have been assisting with traffic stops, welfare checks, and storm cleanup. The department has issued nuisance property citations and is working with residents to take advantage of the upcoming citywide pickup on April 14.

Park and Recreation

Seasonal restrooms will reopen April 1, and crews are cleaning parks and removing debris from recent storms.

The council approved a one-year extension on a 15-year lease that allows the Coffey County Agricultural Fair Association to lease Kelley Park for the Coffey County Fair and other scheduled events.

The USD 244 Recreation Commission accepted a \$596,625 bid from GeoSport to replace poles and lighting in Kelley Park and Jones Park, as well as upgrade lighting at Katy Park. The city council approved \$150,000 in funding over seven years for the project, with funds from the city/county parks grant fund.

City Hall and Financial Matters

City Clerk Anne Brown announced that Admin-

istrative Assistant Mary Mader resigned, effective March 28. The city will advertise for a replacement.

The council donated \$500 to the Burlington Branch of the Coffey County Library to support a summer lunch program. Insurance costs through EMC will increase 9%, lower than last year’s rise.

After a 40-minute executive session, the council approved evaluations as presented and merit pay increases for city employees. Brown did not immediately know the additional yearly cost to taxpayers as a result of the merit increases.

The council approved Claims Ordinance No. 2025-05 totaling \$326,260.40, including \$172,311.89 to Kansas Power Pool for February electricity purchases.

Payroll Ordinance No. 2025-06 was approved for \$160,826.66, about \$48,000 higher than the previous meeting, in part due to a significant payout for retiring police chief Doug Jones’ accrued sick leave and vacation.

Next Meeting

The Burlington City Council will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 2, at Burlington City Hall, 1013 N. Fourth Street.

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PRIOR TO 7 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 21st, 2025.

BRUSH AND LIMBS MUST BE CUT IN
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