



COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA

KANSAS CITY • MISSOURI • SINCE 1923

96th Annual Evergy Plaza Lighting Ceremony Welcomes KC Current to “Flip the Switch” and Unveil Countdown Clock to Next Summer’s Global Soccer Event

Kansas City Current's Kayla Sharples, Laurel Ivory and teammates will kick off the holiday season by "flipping the switch" while KC2026 will unveil a Countdown Clock for next summer's global soccer event at Country Club Plaza on November 27, broadcasting live on KMBC 9 News.

KANSAS CITY, MO. (October 30, 2025) – The **Evergy Plaza Lighting Ceremony** returns Thursday, November 27, 2025, to **Country Club Plaza**, marking 96 years of this beloved Kansas City holiday tradition. Kansas City Current team members, including Kayla Sharples and Laurel Ivory, will “flip the switch” to illuminate the Plaza with thousands of twinkling lights. Ceremony partner KMBC will broadcast the event live beginning at 7:00 p.m. with KMBC 9 News Anchor Lara Moritz as host. The event starts at 6:30 p.m., with hours adjusted to accommodate the Kansas City Chiefs game that afternoon.

“The Plaza Lights are one of Kansas City’s most beloved traditions, and having our players chosen to flip the switch is such a powerful reflection of how deeply the Current has become woven into the fabric of this city,” said Dani Welniak, Vice President of Communications for the KC Current. “It’s a moment that represents connection, celebration, and pride, not just for our team, but for every fan who has believed in the growth of women’s sports here in Kansas City. To see our players standing at the heart of one of the most iconic moments in our community is incredibly special.”

As part of the excitement leading up to the global celebration in 2026, Country Club Plaza, in partnership with KC2026, will unveil its official Countdown Clock alongside CEO Pam Kramer. The clock will serve as a vibrant reminder of the hundreds of thousands of soccer fans soon to be visiting Kansas City.

“We are proud to continue this longstanding Kansas City tradition and officially usher in the holiday season,” said Scott Keller, General Manager of Country Club Plaza. “We are equally honored to welcome KC Current players to lead this year’s Evergy Plaza Lighting Ceremony, and KC2026 to unveil our Countdown Clock—marking another exciting milestone as Kansas City, and Country Club Plaza, prepares to welcome the world in 2026.”

In addition to the longstanding tradition of flipping the switch, the event will feature performances by Isaac Cates, QUIXOTIC, and DJ Kirby Hamm, as well as the legendary Gary Neal Johnson

and the Kansas City Repertory Theatre (KC Rep). Evergy returns as this year's presenting sponsor.

"The Evergy Plaza Lighting Ceremony is a beloved tradition that draws thousands from across the region to experience the magic of Kansas City during the holidays," said Katie McDonald, Vice President of Public Affairs at Evergy. "Evergy is proud to illuminate this iconic celebration, which not only brightens the season but also showcases the spirit and vibrancy of our community. We're honored to power a moment that brings people together and shines a light on what makes our region so special."

Hendrick Lexus Kansas City and Hendrick Lexus Kansas City North join as new partners this year. A Lexus vehicle will be on display near the main stage—complete with Santa's sleigh in tow—offering the perfect photo opportunity for families.

Evergy Plaza Lighting Ceremony Schedule*

6:00-6:30 p.m. Holiday music with DJ Kirby

6:30-7:00 p.m. Event begins with pre-lighting performances and giveaways from the main stage

7:00-7:50 p.m. 96th Annual Evergy Plaza Lighting Ceremony, broadcast LIVE on KMBC featuring news anchor Lara Moritz

7:55 p.m. Flip of the switch by KC Current's Kayla Sharples, Laurel Ivory and other team members, followed by fireworks

8:00-8:30 p.m. Post-ceremony show with DJ Kirby

*Schedule is approximate and subject to change.

Entertainment

The event will feature performances by Grammy-nominated Isaac Cates and award-winning vocalist Ben Gulley as well as QUIXOTIC, Sound Proof from KC A Cappella, Vocalcity, Monica's School of Dance and DJ Kirby Hamm. The legendary Gary Neal Johnson and the Kansas City Repertory Theatre (KC Rep) will perform a special preview of their iconic show, *A Christmas Carol*.

Special Guests

Kayla Sharples, KC Current

Defender Kayla Sharples joined the KC Current in August 2024 and signed a two-year extension in 2025. A key part of the record-setting backline, she helped the team achieve NWSL marks for shutouts and minutes without conceding. Sharples also set a club record with 29 straight starts and was part of the 2025 NWSL Shield-winning squad.

Laurel Ivory, KC Current

Goalkeeper Laurel Ivory joined the KC Current in December 2024 and made her debut with a shutout in the Teal Rising Cup. She added two more clean sheets during the 2025 season, contributing to the team's record-breaking defense and NWSL Shield victory.

Best Views and Parking

The stage will be located at the intersection of Nichols Road and Pennsylvania, with the best views along Nichols Road between Pennsylvania and Broadway. Free parking will also be offered at several nearby garages, including:

- Valencia Garage (by H&M) on the north side of 47th Street and Pennsylvania
- Balcony Garage on Wornall near 46th Street
- Seville Garage, entrance on 47th Street between Jefferson and Summit

Holiday Information

Stay up to date on all things Evergy Plaza Lighting Ceremony, store hours, sales and festive pop-up shops throughout the holiday season by following Country Club Plaza on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), or visiting the Country Club Plaza [website](#).

The Evergy Plaza Lighting Ceremony is open to the public and free to attend. The Evergy Plaza Lights will stay on through January 11, 2026.

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About Country Club Plaza

The Country Club Plaza originally opened in 1923 as the first planned suburban shopping center to accommodate shoppers arriving by car. It was designed by prominent architect Edward Delk in Baroque Revival and Moorish Revival styles, to mimic the architecture of Seville, Spain, one of Kansas City's sister cities. The historic, 15-block, 1.3 million-square-foot mixed-use retail property is located in the heart of Kansas City featuring unique-to-market tenants. The Plaza features a dynamic mix of retailers including Anthropologie, Apple, Coach, Free People, J. Crew, Johnny Was, Lululemon, Madewell, Nike, Perch, Sephora, Tiffany & Co, Tivol, Tommy Bahama, Tumi, Warby Parker, and West Elm. In addition, there are more than 25 dining options including Cooper's Hawk Winery, Gram & Dun, Jack Stack Barbecue, Rye, The Capital Grille, and True Food Kitchen.

About Evergy, Inc.

Evergy, Inc. (NASDAQ: EVRG), serves 1.7 million customers in Kansas and Missouri. Evergy's mission is to empower a better future. Our focus remains on producing, transmitting, and delivering reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy for the benefit of our stakeholders. Today, about half of Evergy's power comes from carbon-free sources, creating more reliable energy with less impact to the environment. We value innovation and adaptability to give our customers better ways to manage their energy use, to create a safe and rewarding workplace for our employees, and to add value for our investors. Headquartered in Kansas City, our employees are active members of the communities we serve.

About the Kansas City Current

Founded in December 2020, the Kansas City Current is led by the ownership group of Angie Long, Chris Long, Brittany Mahomes and Patrick Mahomes. The team competes in the National Women's Soccer League (NWSL). The Kansas City Current plays its home matches at CPKC

Stadium, the first stadium purpose-built for a professional women's sports team. Named The Most Ambitious NWSL Club for two consecutive seasons by ESPN, the Current is proud of its many precedent-setting accomplishments. To receive updates on the Current visit kansascitycurrent.com.

About KC2026

A nonprofit organization overseeing strategy and delivering Host City duties for the FIFA World Cup 26™, KC2026 will plan, construct and implement all aspects of Kansas City's largest sports and fan engagement event in the region's history. KC2026 is supported in planning efforts by its Official Kansas City World Cup 2026 Host City Supporters: Black & Veatch, a global engineering firm; Populous, a global design firm; and Nestlé Purina PetCare, a global leader in pet nutrition, health and wellness. Host City Supporters are key civic and brand partners who are helping bring the FIFA World Cup 26™ to life in Kansas City. Learn more at KansasCityFWC26.com.

About KMBC

KMBC is honored to have served Heartland viewers since its first broadcast in 1953. An ABC affiliate, KMBC also airs top syndicated shows like Ellen, ET, Tamron Hall and more. KMBC 9 News produces more than 50 hours of news and informational programming each week on KMBC and its sister station, KCWE. KMBC 9 News has been recognized as the best TV news operation in Kansas and Missouri for six consecutive years by the Radio Television Digital News Association. Both KMBC and KCWE are owned by Hearst Television. Hearst Television owns and operates 33 television and two radio stations serving 26 media markets across 39 states reaching over 21 million U.S. television households. Through its partnership with nearly all the major networks, Hearst Television distributes national content over nearly 70 video channels, including programming from ABC, NBC, CBS, CW, MY Net, MeTV, This TV, Estrella and more. The radio stations are leaders in Baltimore news/talk and rock music listenership. Hearst Television is recognized as one of the industry's premier companies and has been honored with numerous awards for distinguished journalism, industry innovation and community service. Hearst Television is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hearst.

About Lexus

Lexus' passion for brave design, imaginative technology, and exhilarating performance enables the luxury lifestyle brand to create amazing experiences for its customers. Lexus began its journey in 1989 with two luxury sedans and a commitment to pursue perfection. Since then, Lexus has developed its lineup to meet the needs of global luxury customers in more than 90 countries. In the United States, Lexus vehicles are sold through 244 dealers offering a full lineup of luxury vehicles. With eight models incorporating Lexus Hybrid Drive, Lexus is the luxury hybrid leader. Lexus also offers nine F SPORT models, one F performance model and one F model. Lexus is committed to being a visionary brand that anticipates the future for luxury customers.

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