

# Immigrant rights group decries ICE arrests at Lenexa restaurant

Kyle Palmer  
EDITOR

Local immigration rights activists say four or five workers were arrested and taken away from a Lenexa restaurant on Wednesday as part of a raid carried out by agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The reported arrests at El Toro Loco, 10088 Woodland Road, in Lenexa occurred nearly simultaneously with a raid at another El Toro Loco location in Kansas City, Kansas, just before midday, according to the nonprofit Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation, or AIRR.

In all, at least 12 workers were taken into custody between the two locations, AIRR said in a statement.

According to AIRR, “community members and allies” showed up in person at both restaurants as the raids were being carried out.

Still images and video shared by AIRR with the Post showed men in tactical vests bearing the letters HSI, which stands for Homeland Security Investigations, a division within ICE, on the premises of both restaurants.

In one picture, four people who appear to be restaurant workers can be seen sitting on the ground outside the back door of the El Toro Loco in Lenexa, their hands cuffed behind their backs and two agents with HSI vests standing over them.

In another video, HSI agents can be seen bringing seven people out of the El Toro Loco in Kansas City, Kansas, all in handcuffs, and leading them to an unmarked van.

When questioned by AIRR represen-

tatives, federal agents cited a “criminal search warrant” and suggested the enforcement actions were in connection to alleged labor trafficking and exploitation, AIRR’s statement said.

The Post’s requests for comment and more details sent to ICE’s office in Kansas City, Missouri, by both email and voice message were not returned Wednesday.

“These raids come as part of a broader pattern of targeting immigrant workers under the guise of enforcement, further traumatizing communities already vulnerable to exploitation,” AIRR said in its statement. “We stand in solidarity with the workers and demand answers regarding the conduct of HSI agents and the basis for these actions.”

On Wednesday afternoon, dozens of people gathered outside the El Toro Loco location in Lenexa, which is in the middle of a strip mall just off Woodland Road and Kansas Highway 10.

Julie Lopez, who owns a salon two doors down from the restaurant, joined the crowd. She said federal agents arrived around 11 a.m., creating a stir among her employees.

She said she’d never seen anything suspicious happening at El Toro Loco and that the people who worked there were “super kind” and that the restaurant was beloved by the community and other businesses in the strip mall.

“These people came to work early to get their day going. They were not causing any trouble. They were not doing anything unseemly,” she said. “This is ridiculous, but like, it’s finally in our backyards now, which we should have assumed was going to happen. These

are human beings that were trying to go to work and make a living.”

In its statement, AIRR said federal agents left the Lenexa restaurant unlocked, left burners on in the kitchen and turned off the restaurant’s Wifi and surveillance system. Someone had left a handwritten sign that read “Closed” on the front door.

Lenexa Police spokesperson Master Police Officer Danny Chavez confirmed ICE officials notified the department ahead of time that agents would be executing a warrant at El Toro Loco but that no Lenexa Police personnel participated in the raid.

“Agencies (federal/state/local) operating in our city often notify us as a professional courtesy, but they are not obligated to seek our involvement, nor do they always do so. If assistance is ever requested of us ... we evaluate those requests carefully on a case-by-case basis to ensure alignment with our mission and priorities,” Chavez said in an emailed response to questions.

Speakers at the gathering Wednesday, including Democratic state Rep. Susan Ruiz of Shawnee, said the raids could violate constitutional guarantees of due process.

“They’ve [ICE] been given a quota: 3,000 immigrants a day,” Ruiz said, a reference to the Trump administration’s publicly stated goal of the number of daily arrests being sought. “So what’s it going to take to meet that quota? Go where the Latinos are. Come into a restaurant and just kidnap people.”

Federal immigration officials, including border czar Tom Homan, have said immigrants in the United States



People gathered outside El Toro Loco in Lenexa on Wednesday, July 30, after federal agents appeared to arrest several workers at the restaurant earlier in the day. At center, state Rep. Susan Ruiz of Shawnee speaking. Photo credit Kyle Palmer.

illegally pose a public safety threat and that federal immigration authorities are focusing on arresting those with criminal records. The front page of ICE’s website touts arrests of the “worst of the worst” offenders, including immigrants here illegally who have been charged with rape, assault and driving under the influence.

According to U.S. government data, the Trump administration from Jan. 20 to early June arrested more than 100,000 people in the country illegally, an average of some 750 arrests per day. That is more than double the daily average last year under former President Joe Biden. Of those arrested, about 17,000 either have criminal convictions on their record or face criminal

charges.

Arlín Pacheco said she came to the gathering outside the Lenexa restaurant Wednesday as soon as she got off work. She said she works in the food and hospitality industry around the Kansas City area, hosting “taco and margarita” tours. She has eaten at El Toro Loco in Lenexa numerous times.

“I’ve never had a bad experience here. The Hispanic community loves to serve. We are eager to work and we’re eager to be a part of that, not because we work for cheap or we work for any other reason except that hard work keeps you alive,” she said. “And that’s why our communities are strong. But this is terrorizing.”

# KC Bier Co. hopes to open Lenexa brewery and restaurant in time for World Cup

Lucie Krisman  
STAFF REPORTER

A Kansas City-based brewery’s Johnson County debut has officially begun to take shape.

Initial site work recently began on KC Bier Co.’s new Lenexa restaurant and beer garden.

Pending construction, KC Bier Co. founder Steve Holle estimates the new Lenexa spot will open in the spring or summer of 2026.

The brewery will build a new space at the northeast corner of 98th Street and Ridgeview Road in Lenexa, just north of Kansas Highway 10.

KC Bier Co. will be part of the new Vista Village mixed-use development, which is being spearheaded by Kansas City-based

West Star Development

Regular hours for the new Lenexa location have not yet been finalized, but Holle said it will likely be open every day of the week.

At the two-acre site in Lenexa, plans call for a large beer hall, where beer is produced and served on site.

One key difference from the Waldo location, Holle said, is that the Lenexa location will have a full kitchen.

Its menu will offer classic German dishes like schnitzel, rotisserie chicken, Döner kebabs and pretzels — as well as some other non-German dishes like pizza.

Other features at KC Bier Co. will include an event space with room for roughly 200 people, a Biergarten

with a children’s area, a covered patio, an off-leash dog park and an amphitheater.

The Biergarten will also feature a covered stage with a large TV, where Holle hopes customers will be able to watch the World Cup in 2026.

“Our little location in Waldo, draws a lot of German soccer league fans, and just soccer fans in general,” he said. The brewery opened its flagship location in Kansas City, Missouri’s Waldo neighborhood in 2014.

Since then, Holle said the brewery has become popular among Kansas Citians on the Missouri side.

On the retail side, KC Bier Co. also produces a variety of German-style beers in kegs, bottles and

cans, which are distributed across Kansas and Missouri markets.

Holle said the decision to bring the concept to a new market in Johnson County came with the opportunity to try some new things for the brand itself.

“I just feel like we had an opportunity to do what we do in Waldo on a bigger scale,” he said. “When (West Star Development) approached us, I thought it was a tremendous location and it was a new area of town for us. Quite the distance from Waldo, and great highway access.”

Ultimately, he said he’s looking forward to bringing something regionally unique to the area, where the community can come together the way that they do overseas.



Rendering courtesy KC Bier Co.

“I think that’s one of the really unique things and special things about visiting Munich,” he said. “It is Bavarian-inspired, but in essence, it’s just a place people come and talk, eat, drink, listen to music, and bring their families.”

## LEGAL NOTICES

Resolution No. 25-1  
A RESOLUTION OF THE MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS STATING THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE OF ALL REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS; FURTHER STATING THAT IF A REGULAR MEETING DATE OCCURS ON A LEGAL HOLIDAY OR A HOLIDAY SPECIFIED BY THE BOARD, THE MEETING SHALL BE HELD AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE ON THE NEXT DAY FOLLOWING THE HOLIDAY; FURTHER STATING THAT MEETINGS CAN BE HELD AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIRPERSON OR A MAJORITY OF THE BOARD; AND FURTHER STATING THAT A BOARD MEMBER MAY ATTEND A MEETING BY ELECTRONIC MEANS UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas (hereinafter also “the Board”) wishes to set the time, date, and place of its regular meetings for 2025 and going forward; and

WHEREAS, the Board also wishes to set meetings in the event a regularly-scheduled meeting should fall on a legal holiday or a holiday specified by the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to promote transparency and adhere to the requirements of the Kansas Open Meetings Act, K.S.A. 75-4317, et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to regular in-person meetings at a defined physical location in order to provide a predictable, regular forum for the Board and the public to gather to discuss matters pertaining to the Drainage District; and

WHEREAS, the Board wants to maximize opportunities for participation by its members; and

WHEREAS, on occasion illness, travel,

or other circumstances may make physical attendance at a Board Meeting difficult or impossible for a Board member; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that when necessary or desirable, a Board member should be permitted to join and participate virtually or otherwise electronically in the physical meeting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MERRIAM DRAINAGE DISTRICT OF JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS:

Section 1. The Board of Directors of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas shall hold its regular meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the offices of Higdon & Hale CPA PC, 6310 Lamar Avenue, #110, Overland Park, Kansas 66202.

Section 2. In the event the first Monday of any month is a legal holiday, or is declared to be a holiday specified by the Board of Directors of the Merriam Drainage District of Johnson County, Kansas, the regular meeting for that month will be held on the next day, which is the first Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. at the offices of Higdon & Hale CPA PC, 6310 Lamar Avenue, #110, Overland Park, Kansas 66202.

Section 3. Meetings may also be held on the call of the chairperson or at the request of a majority of the members of the Board. Written notice of any special meeting shall be given to members of the Board at least two days in advance of the meeting. The notice shall specify the time, place, and purpose of the special meeting.

Section 4. If, because of illness, travel, or other exceptional circumstance, a Board member cannot be physically present at a meeting, that Board member may attend by teleconferencing, telephone, or other virtual or electronic means as the Board may determine.

Section 5. This Resolution shall be published once each week for two consecutive

weeks in the Johnson County Post.

ADOPTED this 7th day of July 2025 and SIGNED by the Chairman.

/s/Eric Jackson  
Chairman  
07/28, 08/04/2025

**Annual Public Notice Regarding Developmental Screenings**

The Gardner Edgerton School District provides a free appropriate public education to all exceptional students within school district boundaries. This includes special education and related services provided in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and state laws for all students with exceptionalities (0-21 years of age). Services are provided in each child’s neighborhood school when possible.

The Gardner Edgerton School District offers developmental screenings for children up to five (5) years old (who are not kindergarten-eligible). We also coordinate services with Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County (ITS) and USD 231 Parents as Teachers (PAT) for children birth to three (3) years of age. If you live in the Gardner Edgerton district boundaries, have a child from birth to age five (5), and have concerns about his or her development, please call the Special Services Office at (913) 856-2080 to schedule a screening appointment.

There are other rights that, according to federal and state laws, are afforded to you and your exceptional child. A copy of these rights may be obtained free of charge by contacting the address or phone number below. If you have a child you feel may need special education service(s), please contact your child’s building principal or Gardner Edgerton Special Services, 231 E Main, Gardner, KS 66030 — phone (913) 856-2080.

08/04/2025



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