

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 96-NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2010

Inside:

Hiawatha's Historic City Hall

The City of Colwich Honors Veterans

Kinsley's Claim to Fame: The Carnival City



2010 CONFERENCE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS & RESERVATION PROCEDURES

October 9-12 • Overland Park Convention Center & Sheraton Hotel • Overland Park



Sheraton Overland Park Hotel**

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Single/Double \$134 + tax per night
Cut-off Date: 9/18/10
Connected to the convention center



RESERVATION PROCEDURES:

- LKM has made special arrangements with the hotels listed to provide accommodations during our Annual Conference. Room reservations should be made by contacting the hotels directly.
- Attendees are responsible for making their own reservations.
- Remember to ask for the special LKM conference rate when making reservations.

SPECIAL NOTE:

If you are making hotel reservations for someone else, please confirm with each person that they actually need hotel accommodations and intend to use the accommodations before making the reservation.

**Sheraton Hotel requires a non-refundable deposit equal to one night's stay in order to secure reservations.

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10920 Nall Avenue
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Courtyard by Marriott

11001 Woodson Street
Overland Park, KS 66211
(913) 317-8500
Single/Double \$104 + tax per night
Cut-off Date: 9/17/10

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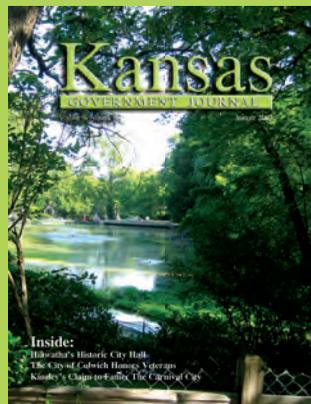
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About the Cover:
Willow Lake is one of three waterways that the City of Mission Hills has targeted for their waterway project. See related article beginning on page 235. *Photo provided by the City of Mission Hills.*

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The mission of the League shall be to unify, strengthen, and advocate for the interests of Kansas municipalities to advance the general welfare and promote the quality of life of the people who live within our cities.



September

10 - LKM Governing Body Meeting, Manhattan

10, 11, 17 - MLA: Sexual Harassment

LKM will be offering three MLA elective classes on *Sexual Harassment*. The course will be held in Scott City on September 10, Minneapolis on September 11, and Westwood on September 17.

October

9-12 - LKM Annual Conference, Overland Park

You are invited to join LKM for their 2010 Annual Conference and 100th Anniversary celebration. This year's conference will be held at the Overland Park Convention Center and Sheraton Hotel, October 9-12. LKM will hold a Governing Body Meeting on October 10 and KMIT will hold an Annual Meeting on October 11 at the conference.

27, 28 - LKM Regional Suppers

Goodland is the first stop for LKM's annual Regional Suppers on October 27. Dodge City will follow as the second stop on October 28.

November

3, 4 - LKM Regional Suppers

LKM will make its third stop in Wichita on November 3 for the annual Regional Suppers. Concordia will follow on November 4.

5, 6 - MLA: Community & Media Relations

LKM will be offering two MLA elective classes on *Community and Media Relations*. This course will be held in Manhattan on November 5, and Fort Scott on November 6.

17, 18 - LKM Regional Suppers

Leavenworth is the fifth stop for LKM's annual Regional Suppers on November 17. Parsons will follow as the sixth stop on November 18.

December

10 - LKM Governing Body Meeting, Topeka

17 - KMIT Board Meeting, El Dorado

Obituaries

Anita Niles Beattie, 90, passed away July 2, 2010. She was elected to five terms as the 17th District Representative to the Kansas Legislature.

Norbert N. Hoffman, 96, passed away June 23, 2010. He previously served on the Centralia City Council.

Marvin Frank Huddleston, 95, passed away June 16, 2010. He served on the Haysville City Council for two years and was mayor for 18 years.

Nick F. Martens, 87, passed away June 23, 2010. He had served on the Inman City Council.

Norman L.F. Matal, 67, passed away June 24, 2010. He was formerly the Mayor of Liebenenthal for 14 years and also a city council member.

Charles E. McDonald, 76, passed away July 4, 2010. He served on the Satanta City Council and Recreation Commission.

Clark Stocking, 89, passed away June 8, 2010. He was previously the City Manager of Stockton.

Oral William Taylor, 73, passed away July 6, 2010. He was City Commissioner in El Dorado from 2001 to 2005.

Marjorie Louise Wright, 83, passed away June 8, 2010. In 1972, she was elected to serve as Barber County's Register of Deeds. She held the position until 1989.



INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE LKM GOVERNING BODY?

Now is your chance to submit your name or a name of another city official. The Governing Body consists of 12 directors, a president, vice president, and past presidents who meet six times each year across the state. Nominees are expected to make a commitment to attend all meetings and participate on Governing Body Committees. Any travel expenses are paid by each member's city. Nominees typically have some prior service on a LKM policy committee or task force. Each nomination form will be considered by the LKM Nominating Committee.

If you are interested, please fill out the nomination form on the reverse side. Persons with questions are urged to call, write, or email Don Moler, Executive Director, at (785) 354-9565 (dmoler@lkm.org). All nomination forms should be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 10, 2010.

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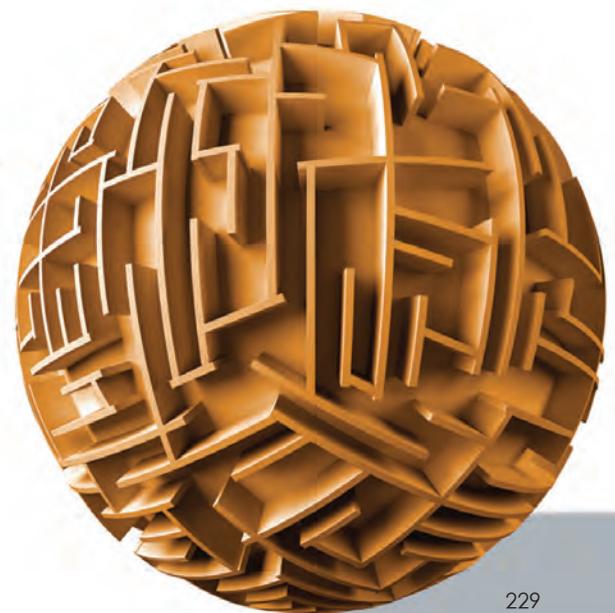


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Childhood Causes and Comm

America's youth are getting heavier. In the last 30 years, obesity has doubled in every age category.²

The following table compares obesity rates in the late 1970s with those in the late 2000s.

Table I. Comparison of obesity rates in Kansas³

Ages 2-5		Ages 6-11		Ages 12-19	
1976-1980/2007-2008		1976-1980/2007-2008		1976-1980/2007-2008	
5%	10.4%	6.5%	19.6%	5%	18.1%

Waistlines in Kansas have followed the national trend. According to the Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), Kansas possessed the 18th highest rate for adult obesity (27.2%) and the 22nd highest rate for youths (ages 10-17 at 31.1%, 2006-2008).⁴ A Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) study offered additional evidence. It found that nearly a quarter of Kansas teens, or approximately 105,000, are either obese or overweight.⁵ The KDHE study identified similar patterns and trends for the younger age groups as well.⁶ Even more alarming is that between 2003 and 2007, the percentage of obese girls in Kansas (ages 10 to 17) almost doubled. Unfortunately, this represented the largest jump of any state during the period between 2003 and 2007.⁷

A failure to address the obesity epidemic will have profound economic and social consequences for Kansas and the United States. Obese youth are at a higher risk for a number of physical and psychological health problems. Physically, heavier children possess a greater likelihood of developing cardiovascular disease (CVD) and other risk factors such as: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and Type 2 diabetes.⁸ In fact, approximately 70% of obese 5 to 17 year-olds will contract at least one CVD or more risk factors before they reach adulthood while 39% will develop 2 or more CVD risk factors.⁹ They are also at a higher risk for developing asthma and other breathing difficulties.¹⁰

Obese children also have a greater chance to suffer psychological abuse from their peers. Heavier children and adolescents are often teased and bullied, which contributes to a myriad of psychosocial problems. According to the Centers for Disease Control, (CDC) prolonged teasing and social isolation can lead to lower self-esteem, anti-social behavior, and poorer academic performance.¹¹

Childhood obesity costs the United States and Kansas taxpayers millions. Costs exploded from \$35 million (between years 1979 and 1981) to approximately \$126 million for just hospitalizations in 2001. By 2005, in-patient hospitalization costs for obese children exceeded \$237 million. As these children age, their health will

Over-simplification frequently characterizes difficult and complex policy issues. Typically, a tactic of the media and politicians is to promise easy and attractive solutions. Yet, it often leads to policy that is misguided and ineffective. It may also conceal the true complexity of the challenges confronting public servants at all levels of government. Many of today's issues are neither simple nor straight-forward, nor addressed successfully by quick and easy solutions. In fact, they frequently require a more systematic approach to policy-making. Such an approach will likely necessitate the interaction, cooperation, and input of multiple stakeholders. When the public debate centers on public health, for example, pragmatic problem-solving requires collaborative policy-making and actions.

A superficial understanding of childhood obesity (defined as having a body mass index, or BMI, of greater than the 95th percentile) would likely limit discussion to caloric intake.¹ Such a limited viewpoint would fail to reflect the deeper social, cultural, ecological, and economic factors that influence the choices that children and adolescents make relative to diet and exercise. In other words, it may provide a framework for discussion, but the substantive causes would likely be overlooked. Discussions that fail to consider the impact of sidewalk availability, traffic density, perceptions of public safety, and even the ability to access healthy and nutritious foods on obesity are missing. Each of these factors affects a person's behavior and decision-making in ways that go beyond calorie counting. As such, blaming a single source is imprudent. A more complete understanding of childhood obesity includes the realization that its origins lie within an informal network of relationships and choices made by millions of individuals. To fully address this issue, a network of stakeholders, including parents, schools, businesses, and governments must join in a collaborative effort to reduce child and adolescent obesity.

Child Obesity: Community Responses

by Jonathan Fisk



likely continue to deteriorate into more dangerous and chronic conditions, which leads to greater medical costs and care.¹² Finally, because nearly 80% of obese pre-teens and adolescents (aged 10-15) remain obese as adults, their health will continue to decline.¹³ As a result, each year thousands of early and preventable deaths are caused by obesity.¹⁴

In response, KDHE and other organizations are reviewing policies presently in place intended to address obesity. The Kansas Board of Education voted in May 2010 to eliminate all candy and junk food in vending machines by the fall of 2011.¹⁵

The following table depicts the proliferation of obesity-related policies in schools:

Table II. Obesity-related policies in school¹⁶

Policy/Strategy	# of States in 2004	# States in 2009	Kansas
Nutritional Standards for School meals/snacks that exceed USDA	4	19	No
Nutritional Standards for Vending Machines	6	27	Yes (by 2011)
Body Mass Index & Other weight related assessments	5	20	No

Instead of state mandated programs, Kansas schools have utilized more of a cafeteria-style approach to health-education programming. In 2008, KDHE published its Kansas School Health Profiles, which inventoried obesity-related strategies undertaken by Kansas schools. Some of KDHE's findings include:

- 36% of schools require two or more health education courses; 48% require physical education courses in all grades.
- 61% taught the 14 key nutrition and dietary behaviors; 48% taught the 12 key physical activities.
- 8% always offered fruits or non-fried vegetables whenever and wherever food is available.
- 33% prohibited advertising and/or promotion of candy, fast food restaurants, or soft drinks on school grounds/assets.
- 44% used the School Health Index or a similar self-assessment tool to assess their policies, activities, and programs in physical activity.

Local Governments

Recent studies suggest that obesity rates and physical and social environments are related. It should be noted that extant research is less definitive, however, regarding the causality between the environment and childhood obesity.¹⁷ However, of the existing

scholarship and related policy recommendations, much is intuitive and already implemented as part of normal city operations. Local governments in Kansas have a long history of promoting the health and wellbeing of their residents. From providing police protection to subsidizing bicycle helmets, cities are in a unique position to reduce obesity rates.

Reducing obesity may be an intentional, stated goal of a program or it may be an unanticipated, and unintended outcome. Some communities choose to promote healthier living through new and innovative zoning and land use controls or by enhancing educational outreach to families. Others attempt to increase physical activity by designing more walkable neighborhoods and by offering more youth sports and activities. Indirectly, the growth of obesity may be slowed by cities that promote farmer's markets or community gardens. Regardless of intent, many such services and programs are already offered by cities.

Consider the role of neighborhood safety. Although researchers have not identified a direct causal relationship between parental perception of neighborhood safety and child activity levels, the two variables are positively correlated.¹⁸ In other words, when an area becomes less safe, the physical activity level for children in the area tends to decline. Heavy and fast moving traffic also contributes to reduced physical activity levels in children, as parents feel that it is unsafe for their children to walk to their destination. A 2004 CDC study concluded that safety was, in fact, one of the top barriers to K-12 students walking or biking to and from school.¹⁹

Communities that have identified traffic volume, congestion, or speed as an obstacle may consider traffic calming policies such as speed bumps, cross walks, sidewalks, bicycle lanes, trails, and increased law enforcement.²⁰ Other policy options include free or reduced prices for bicycle helmets or a subsidized bicycle repair program for low-income families. Communities may also examine



building parks and community centers in residential areas. If new facilities are not possible, cities could consider revising public transportation policies so that access to parks and community centers is improved.²¹

Neighborhood safety helps to build social cohesion and capital. Because of these social connections, parents are more likely to allow their children to walk to places and play outdoors, increasing exercise and physical activity. These neighborhoods are characterized by sidewalks, cleanliness and order, and are free of graffiti.²² In fact, a vibrant social environment may be even more important to preventing childhood and adolescent obesity than physical infrastructure. Social contact between children often contributes to the adoption of more-healthy behaviors and activities.²³

By offering a wide assortment of activities, many communities already provide ample opportunities for socialization. In Garden City, for example, the Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of youth activities. Its programs include: gymnastics (for several age and skill levels), supervised playground activities, tennis instruction, fishing opportunities, and basketball camps. The City also offers summer fitness camp. The camp is free for residents and is a programmed effort to provide instruction on healthy eating choices and exercise.²⁴ The City of Eudora also offers an array of classes. In addition to traditional sports, residents may elect to take tae kwon do lessons, Latin dance classes, and even yoga instruction.²⁵

Improving access to healthy food is another way cities may combat obesity. A community, for example, might seek to attract a new supermarket or grocery store in an underserved area by offering a variety of tax incentives or credits, grants or loan programs, or as part of the community's economic development plan. If new construction is not an option, "smaller grocers" might be assisted in financing refrigeration or other equipment that can be used to enlarge their selection of nutrient-rich foods. If a grocery store is present, but in a perceived unsafe area, simple public safety initiatives, such as enhanced police coverage or outdoor lighting may prove effective.²⁶

When a new market is unlikely, other measures should be considered by city leaders. New incentive programs might be created that encourage stores to limit impulse buys of calorie dense/nutrient-poor foods, i.e. candy-free check-out lines. City leaders might also explore new public transit routes that would improve access to fresh fruits and vegetables. They examine enhanced public subsidies for routes that expand access to healthy food. An additional way that cities might enhance access to nutrient rich foods is through the expansion or development of a farmer's market or roadside fruit stands into areas without access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

Cities may also encourage their residents to improve accessibility by growing their own fruits and vegetables. They may offer educational opportunities related to gardening or even by constructing community gardens.²⁷ In North Newton, city leaders recently implemented a community garden program that allows families to rent a plot and cultivate their own vegetables for \$10.²⁸

Restaurants have also contributed to the obesity epidemic. Although, the federal government will be requiring large chain restaurants to include calorie information on their menus, local governments still have a plethora of options.²⁹ Despite limited data, research has indicated that customer purchasing habits were altered. Specifically, when calorie totals were posted at New York City Starbucks, it reduced overall calorie consumption by 6%.³⁰ City leaders can encourage local restaurants to offer calorie information on their menus. Or, they may work with all restaurants to provide healthier options and to serve age-appropriate portions. Finally, a city could also utilize its zoning authority to limit the density or placement of fast food restaurants near residential neighborhoods, schools, and other locations frequented by children.³¹

Jonathan Fisk was the Research Associate for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He is now in a PhD program at Colorado State University.

¹US Centers for Disease Control. Childhood Overweight and Obesity 31 Mar. 2010. 3 June 2010 <<http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/index.html>>.

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³Trust for America's Health. "Reports." *New Report Finds Kansas Has 18th Highest Percent of Obese Adults and 22nd Highest Percent of Obese and Overweight Children in the U.S.* Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 2010. Web. 3 June 2010 <<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity2009/release.php?stateid=KS>>.

⁴Trust for America's Health. <<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity2009/release.php?stateid=KS>>.

⁵Kansas Department of Health and Environment. *Obesity in Kansas* Nov. 2004. 28 May 2010 <http://www.kdheks.gov/c-f/zips/download/zips_nov_04.pdf>.

⁶Kansas Department of Health and Environment. <http://www.kdheks.gov/c-f/zips/download/zips_nov_04.pdf>.

⁷Gonzalez, Gabriela. *Obesity Rates Nearly Double For Kansas Girls.* 17 May. 2010. WIBW. 3 Jun. 2010 <<http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/93991639.html>>.

⁸US Centers for Disease Control. *Childhood Overweight and Obesity* <<http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/index.html>>.

⁹US Centers for Disease Control. *Childhood Overweight and Obesity: Consequences* 20 Oct. 2009. 3 June 2010 <<http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/consequences.html>>.

¹⁰US Centers for Disease Control. <<http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/consequences.html>>.

¹¹US Centers for Disease Control. <<http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/consequences.html>>.

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¹³US Centers for Disease Control. <<http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/childhood/index.html>>.

¹⁴Kansas Department of Health and Environment. <http://www.kdheks.gov/c-f/ziips/download/ziips_nov_04.pdf>.

¹⁵Gonzalez, Gabriela. <<http://www.wibw.com/home/headlines/93991639.html>>.

¹⁶Trust for America's Health. <<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/obesity2009/release.php?stateid=KS>>

¹⁷Franzini, Luisa, et al. *Influences of physical and social neighborhood environments on children's physical activity and obesity*. The American Journal of Public Health 99.2 (2009): 271+. Expanded Academic ASAP. Web. 25 May 2010.

¹⁸Franzini, Luisa, et al. *Influences of physical and social neighborhood environments on children's physical activity and obesity*. The American Journal of Public Health.

¹⁹DeMattia, Laure, and Shannon Lee Denney. *Childhood obesity prevention: Successful Community-based Efforts*. The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

²⁰Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. *Local Government Actions to Prevent Childhood Obesity*. Washington D.C.: National Academies Press, 2009. Print. Available online at [<http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/20090901iombrief.pdf>].

²¹Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. [<http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/20090901iombrief.pdf>]

²²Franzini, Luisa, et al. *Influences of physical and social neighborhood environments on children's physical activity and obesity*. The American Journal of Public Health 99.2.

²³Franzini, Luisa, et al. *Influences of physical and social neighborhood environments on children's physical activity and obesity*. The American Journal of Public Health 99.2.

²⁴Garden City Parks and Recreation Department. *Youth Sports* May 2010. 5 June 2010. <<http://www.gerec.com/Programs%20Activities/youthsports/YOUTHSPORTS.htm>>.

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²⁶Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/20090901iombrief.pdf>

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²⁸City of Newton. *Sand Creek Community Gardens* 25 May 2010. 5 June 2010 <<http://www.northnewton.org/>>.

²⁹Associated Press. *Will Calorie Labels Kill Cheeseburgers? Health Advocates Hope Mandate to Post Calories at Chain Restaurants Will Lead to Better Choices*. 30 Mar. 2010. CBS News. 3 Jun. 2010 <<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/03/30/health/main6348965.shtml%27>>.

³⁰Associated Press. <<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/03/30/health/main6348965.shtml%27>>.

³¹Robert Wood Johnson Foundation <http://www.rwjf.org/files/research/20090901iombrief.pdf>



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Kansas Green Jobs Survey Released

Kansas employers have more than 20,000 green jobs and expect to have more than 30,000 such jobs by 2012, according to results from the state's first-ever survey to identify and measure green jobs based on information from Kansas employers.

According to the survey of more than 6,000 Kansas employers, the majority of the state's green jobs are in the area of energy efficiency, while the area expected to see the largest increase in jobs over the next few years is renewable energy. A green job is defined as one that produces a green product or provides a green service in one

of the following five core green-related areas: producing renewable energy, increasing energy efficiency, agriculture and natural resource conservation, pollution prevention and environmental cleanup, and clean transportation and fuels.

"We've long contended that there was great potential for Kansas in the green economy," said Lt. Gov. Findley. "This survey puts measurable data behind those contentions and bears out the optimism we have for building green employment in Kansas."

State Ranks in Business-Friendly Climate

Kansas has been ranked No. 11 in CNBC's annual America's Top States for Business report. The CNBC report analyzes all 50 states by examining 40 different measures of competitiveness, which are then grouped into 10 broad categories: cost of doing business, workforce, quality of life, economy, transportation, technology and innovation, education, business friendliness, access to capital, and cost of living. Of those 10 categories, Kansas ranked among the Top 10 in three — transportation, economy, and cost of living — en route to its No. 11 overall rank.

Kansas finished one spot behind Georgia and one spot ahead of North Dakota. Iowa (No. 6) was the only Midwestern state ranked ahead of Kansas.

"This national ranking is another example of how Kansas has positioned itself well above the rest of the country," said Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson. "As we continue to strengthen our economy, it is encouraging that prestigious organizations like CNBC are recognizing our state's efforts in creating job-producing policies

and promoting economic development. This ranking not only speaks volumes about the amazing workforce and businesses in our state, but also the strong schools, public infrastructure and communities that have created Kansas' success. We remain committed to continuing this success and furthering our economic recovery."

CNBC is the recognized world leader in business news, providing real-time financial market coverage and business information to more than 340 million homes worldwide, including more than 95 million households in the United States and Canada. The complete Top 10 ranking is available at www.cnbc.com/id/37554006/.

In 2009, the Kansas Department of Commerce was involved in 58 successful recruitment projects in which Kansas was competing with at least one other state. Those projects totaled 11,888 new jobs and \$685.2 million in capital investment. The Department was also involved in 141 expansion/retention projects with existing Kansas businesses, totaling 21,600 new or retained jobs and \$1.37 billion in capital investment.

State Receives Education Data Grant

Kansas will receive \$9.1 million to help fund a statewide data system that will better measure the progress of students. U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced that Kansas is one of 20 states receiving a piece of \$250 million in grants to develop a longitudinal data system. The grant is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"Data gives us a road map," Duncan said. "It tells us where we are, where we need to go, and who is at risk. Data helps expose the good, the bad, and the ugly about our current state of education."

A longitudinal data system has long been a priority in Kansas. One of the concerns about data reported through the federal No Child Left Behind Act has been that it focuses on groups of students that change from year to year.

He added that by "Improving the quality of data is essential to judging improvement efforts, identifying the best teachers, helping teachers identify students that are falling behind, aiding principals in evaluating curriculum, and turning around low-performing schools."

Recruitment Website Revamped

The Kansas Business Recruitment Team announced that they have revamped ThinkBigKS.com for business leaders and site location experts. The redesign includes a new look and feel, improved navigation, and an increased focus on Kansas target industries such as manufacturing, distribution, energy, and bioscience.

The site will also continue to provide information on the business climate in Kansas, the Business Recruitment Team, incentive programs, recruitment news, rankings, and our property/site location database.

Kansas Leads Nation in Income Growth

During the first quarter of 2010, Kansas led the nation in personal income growth, according to estimates released by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

The Bureau defines personal income as the income received from all sources. The report showed that personal income grew by 1.9% in Kansas. The Bureau attributed much of the increase to farming, likely a product of high earnings from wheat.

North Dakota, which also has a largely agriculturally based economy, suffered the largest drop in income. The state experienced a decline of 2.5%. According to the Bureau, North Dakota's decline is likely a result of livestock operations.



Waterway Management

by Courtney Christensen

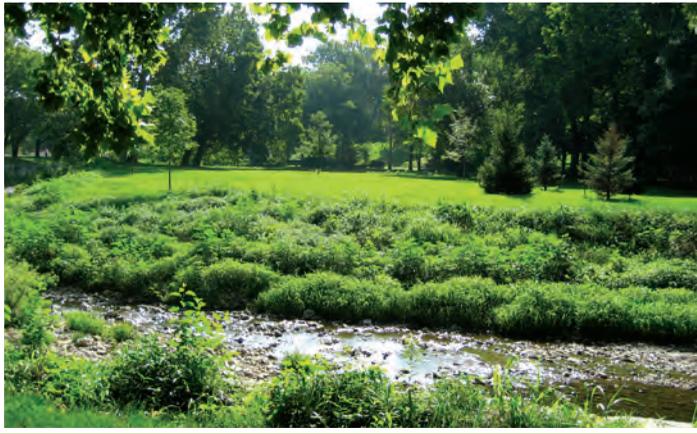
Waterways, like all things of beauty, must be nurtured and cared for. Benign neglect can result in damage to utilities, city right of ways, and private property. What should be an amenity becomes an eyesore. For decades the civil engineering way to deal with waterways was to encase the channels in concrete and move the water as quickly as possible out of the community. This resulted in several long-term problems. One, the structures that encased the creek channels are strongest on day one. From day two forward, the water eats away at the encasement causing continuous maintenance costs. Two, the water that enters the encasement is polluted from dirt, debris, and oils from the roadways and the encasement does not allow the water to clean itself. Thus, the water that we pass from one community to the next and from one tributary to the next all the way to the rivers, becomes more and more polluted as it goes. And lastly, because the water is a living thing, it becomes hungry when deprived of nourishment, i.e. sediment, thus the first time it finds a source of sediment it ravages the area causing extreme erosion, and then further down the waterway, it will discard the excess sediment.

Mission Hills, in its commitment to its riparian corridors along Brush Creek and its tributaries, spent the last decade studying alternative approaches to waterway management in partnership with the residents of Mission Hills, the City's three country clubs, Johnson County, and the State of Kansas. The City completed an open channel master plan that evolved from a detailed assessment of every foot of the open channels in the City, whether publicly or privately owned. The Planning Commission then worked for over a year with

consultants to digest the meaning of the data and what could be done in Mission Hills to protect and enrich our open channels. The goal was stabilizing the ecosystems within the open channels and to output to our neighbors downstream cleaner, healthier water than we received from our neighbors upstream.

A long-term plan was designed and adopted by the Planning Commission and the City Council. The City was divided into six reaches, and property owners along each reach were invited to a public meeting to discuss the overall plan but to also individually consult on issues with their particular piece of the open channel. The City has now moved into the demonstration phase of the plan and has three demonstration projects nearing initial completion. The word initial is important as much of the health of the waterways is tied to the development of plant material along the waterways. While we can construct the new channels or build walls where necessary to protect property, the actual growth of the plant material will take several years to really see the benefits. In addition, each of the three demonstration projects is also a research project. Mission Hills is implementing theoretical solutions to real problems. Each project will be followed for 10 years and the projects will see adjustments as we learn new information.

The first project began five years ago in Hiawasse Park. The Park is surrounded on two sides by Brush Creek and on the third side by a tributary to Brush Creek. The park is bordered on the north by 63rd Street, which is a major arterial road. Previously, to protect the roadway from erosion, a massive stone and mortar wall more than 800 ft long and ranging from 18 ft. to 3 ft. was constructed. The



Photos T to B: Hiawassee Park and Peetwood Park are two of three waterways that Mission Hills has targeted in their waterway project. Photos provided the City of Mission Hills

construction, while protecting the roadway, caused the water to be pushed back against the creek bank threatening the viability of a sanitary sewer and eroding the park.

As the wall reached the end of its useful life and the cost to replace the wall was escalating toward \$1 million, the City made the decision to model the creek and see if there was a way to protect the roadway and work with the creek. The result was a softening of the turn of the creek with a stack stone wall, energy dissipaters, and bioengineering the opposite banks. The wall cost just under \$500,000 and the plantings so far have cost around \$40,000 during the last 3 years. The park has withstood several flood events and the creek is protecting the park, side of the channel, and the footing of the stack stone wall. Looking at the destruction caused by the tributary entering the park, which did not receive this work, portrays the positive effect of the work accomplished in the park so far.

The second project occurring is in Peetwood Park. Peetwood Park is a linear park that is an arboretum. It is one of the first places that hungry water can feed, thus erosion was an ongoing problem that threatened many of the trees in the park. In Peetwood, a model of the creek predicted where the creek should be in 50 years. The creek was then moved to that location. Theoretically, if the creek is where it is working to go, erosion should slow or stop altogether. It also presented the challenge of protecting older mature trees, yet allowing the movement of the creek. The common solution is tree wells. Yet knowing that the park floods several times a year, a standard tree well could cause the trees to literally drown. Therefore, a design was needed that would support the tree but not hold water. Two types of tree wells were designed so they could be studied for effectiveness. The first

is a simple stack stone wall. With no mortar used and only the weight of the stones holding them in place, the water should be able to seep out between the stones once the flood subsides while the sheer weight of the stones should support the trees.

The second type of tree wells are made of stone and mortar, but the mortar is pervious concrete. Pervious concrete, while being used for parking lots, is not typically used vertically. The walls resemble a dry-lay stone wall, but the back of the wall is filled with pervious concrete to give strength to the tree well, yet allow water to drain. Since the channel was moved and the tree wells were constructed, there have been two floods in the park. So far, both tree well types are holding up for strength, but the pervious concrete tree well drains more quickly. The creek channel movement appears to have stabilized the banks except for one location where the new bridge's retaining wall is impeding flow and pushing it toward the other bank. An adjustment to that retaining wall will be made this fall. The banks of the creek channel have been seeded with a variety of native grasses and brushes under blankets. The banks will receive shrubs in the fall.

The last project is at Willow Lake. Urban lakes are a challenge as they fill with trash, bio-matter, and sediment. Typically, Mission Hills must drain the lake and dredge it approximately every 10 years because the sediment and bio-matter builds to an unhealthy level for the aquatic life and plants. Rather than continue this cycle indefinitely, the City has designed a research project attacking the problem on multiple fronts. The lake's water sources are an open creek channel to the south, a piped system to the west, and the roadway adjacent to the lake. To deal with the open creek channel debris and sediment, we designed and installed a baffle box structure. The structure diverts normal rainfall through a series of boxes under the roadway designed to cause the trash and sediment to drop out of the water as it loses momentum. In a significant rainfall, half the water will go through the structure, but the other half will go directly into the lake to keep water from backing up on the street. The baffle structure can be cleaned through two manholes in the roadway blocking only one lane of traffic.

A wetland forebay was designed and constructed to clean the water from the westerly pipe system and from the roadway. The curb was notched to allow water from the roadway to more easily enter the forebay and the pipe outlet was incorporated into the actual forebay. The forebay uses a series of steps with native plantings to slow the water, allowing dirt, debris, and oil to fall out into the soil where the plants break it down and use the components for food. The forebay is not only useful, but it will be attractive as it creates a series of small waterfalls and ponds. In addition, we have installed a series of wetland benches surrounding the lake with a mixture of native plants and decorative plants to clean the water entering the lake from the surrounding yards and roads.

Lastly, an underwater aeration system was installed to move the bio-material around allowing it to dissolve. The goal is to, if not eliminate the need to ever dredge the lake again, to at least double or triple the time between dredging. While this project is still being planted and the Canadian geese have been a challenge in establishing the wetland bench, the ecosystem is already responding with heron fishing in the lake and dragonflies flitting about—two things Mission Hills had not seen in a number of years.

 Courtney Christensen is the City Administrator for the City of Mission Hills. She can be reached at cchristensen@missionhillsks.gov or (913) 362-9620.



A Sound Investment

In the original 1978 *Superman*, villain Lex Luthor discusses his plan to hurtle California into the Pacific with a nuclear bomb. Luthor hopes to turn the land he owns east of the San Andreas Fault into ocean-front property and make a killing in real estate. He punctuates his plan with a quote from his father, “Son, stocks may rise and fall, utilities and transportation systems may collapse. People are no [darn] good, but they will always need land and they’ll pay through the nose to get it!”

Even apart from the world of super-heroes and villains, land has always held significant value to people. And for those who prefer their real estate lessons from more credible sources than fictional characters, Carnegie, Rockefeller, and, of course, Donald Trump have all offered their pithy quotes on the value of property: “Ninety percent of all millionaires become so through owning real estate;” “The major fortunes in America have been made in land;” and “It’s tangible, it’s solid, it’s beautiful. It’s artistic, from my standpoint, and I just love real estate.” It is perhaps with these principles in mind that the City of Marquette has set out to grow its community.

Despite its close proximity to Salina and McPherson, Marquette saw its population dip in the 2000 census to the low 500s. The City knew it had much to offer in addition to its friendly sense of community and close proximity to larger Kansas cities. It knew itself to be safe with a sense of neighborly kindness and home to a number of museums including the Kansas Motorcycle Museum, The Railroad Depot Museum, and the Hanson-Lindfors Home, a National Register of Historic Places Mansion. But the City still found itself struggling to attract new citizens. So in 2004, Marquette took radical action. It enacted a plan to give away land.

Community Partnership

The plan to attract new inhabitants to Marquette actually began in the early 1980s when community leaders formed the Marquette Development Company, a non-profit organization devoted to economic development in the community. The group undertook a number of projects, including the establishment of a medical clinic, a hog-farm, and a daycare.

Despite the many successful ventures by the Marquette Development Company, the 2004 City Council found itself in the midst of a serious discussion on development. The City was facing two major issues that prompted the discussion. First, the school was facing the possibility of closure and greatly needed new students. Second, even if potential citizens were interested in Marquette, there was not a single lot available for new construction.

At the time, current Marquette Development Company President, Steve Piper, was also serving as mayor. Piper and other community leaders realized that their problems were intertwined and set out to make new lots available. The Marquette Development Company agreed to work with the City to make lots available to interested parties without a fee.

The Marquette Development Company borrowed \$100,000 to purchase 80 lots. To help fund the project, the Marquette Company bought an older house in the City, which it refurbished with the help of interested citizens. After flipping the house for a profit, the revenue went to the free-lot project.

Shortly after launching the 2004 project, the *Hutchinson News* covered the story. CBS soon followed with a story of their own, which led to other media outlets running with the story. In fact, the Development Company had 400 phone calls from interested parties. Consequently, Marquette soon had individuals claiming 30 lots. Even better, 30 claimed-lots led to 30 new homes in Marquette, \$1 million in increased property valuation, and a saved school for the community.

Process for a Free Lot

After the initial housing bump, the Marquette Development Company turned the remaining lots over to the City. Today, the City runs the program and has individuals who have expressed interest in each of the remaining lots. Current Mayor, Allan Lindfors, noted that Marquette continues to receive phone calls from across the United States.

The City has provided information for the program through their website at www.marquettek.org/land.html. The City uses its site to market both the program and the City itself. It bills itself as “a progressive community and a great place to live, retire, or raise your family.” The site adds that Marquette offers “a friendly, small-town atmosphere and an excellent education for your children.” The community description serves as the lead-in to the actual process for securing a lot.

The process includes completing an application, which is available at <http://www.marquettek.org/lotapplication.html>. The City requires basic compliance requirements including roof pitch, residential design standards, minimum size, and foundation requirements. The only additional requirement is a special assessment that the City charges for water lines and streets. The assessments are billed along with property taxes, and new residents can either spread the fees over 20 years or pay them in a lump sum at the time of building. Aside from those requirements, Marquette welcomes anyone who is looking for “an extraordinary small town, in the heart of America, to call home.”

Today, the Marquette Development Company has re-entered the business of free land. Recently third-generation descendants of the Hanson family—part of the original town founders—donated a 20-acre plot of land to the organization. After finding success in the residential field, the Marquette Company is now using free land to attract businesses instead of residents. And you don’t have to be a Rockefeller to know that that’s a good deal.

☀️ *Nathan Eberline is the Intergovernmental Relations Associate for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at neberline@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.*



Chief Justice
2009-2010
Justice, Kansas Supreme Court
1993-2009

Remembering the Honorable Robert E. Davis 1939-2010

Chief Justice Robert E. Davis passed away Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at his home in Leavenworth. He was 70 years old and had just announced his retirement from the Kansas Supreme Court after 17 years of service earlier that week. He had been Chief Justice since January 2009.

In a letter he submitted to Governor Mark Parkinson announcing his retirement, Chief Justice Davis cited medical issues as prompting his decision to retire. He was on medical leave during the spring and summer, but continued to work on court administrative matters and his caseload as his health permitted.

Chief Justice Davis engaged in private practice in Leavenworth from 1967 to 1984, when he was appointed associate district judge. He also served as Leavenworth County attorney from 1981 to 1984. He also served as a magistrate judge in Leavenworth County from 1969 to 1976. After serving as an associate district judge for two years, Chief Justice Davis was appointed to the Kansas Court of Appeals in 1986, where he served until appointment to the Kansas Supreme Court in 1993.

Chief Justice Davis had been a member of the Supreme Court since 1993. Before his appointment to the Supreme Court, he served eight years on the State Court of Appeals and before that as a judge of the Leavenworth County District Court. He also served a term as Leavenworth County Attorney.

Davis worked on the bench when many landmark cases came through, including those involving the death penalty, school funding, and Native American casino gaming.

In addition to service with the Kansas courts, Chief Justice Davis served as a member of the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, including as trial counsel in the Republic of Korea and as government appellate counsel in Washington D.C. from 1964 to 1967. He received a BA degree from Creighton University, Omaha, and a law degree from Georgetown University Law School, Washington, D.C.



Mainstreet News

Wichita Project Regional Winner

A rail project to improve safety and reduce traffic delays in downtown Wichita has been named a regional winner in the America's Transportation Awards national competition. Wichita's Central Rail Corridor currently carries more than 40 trains per day, a number that is expected to double in the future. Accidents had become an increasing issue, large trucks had trouble with inadequate clearance, and congestion was seriously disrupting traffic flow.

The \$105 million project raised 2 miles of track to carry trains over the 5 arterial streets below. For the first time in 100 years, street traffic and emergency vehicles can now cross beneath 5 bridges carrying trains without any disruption to traffic. Also, temporary retaining walls were constructed to keep the project within the confines of the existing right of way, significantly reducing project cost and environmental impact.

This improvement project took more than four years to construct and was a joint effort of the City of Wichita, the Kansas Department

of Transportation, and other entities. It removed a major obstacle to downtown Wichita, sparking new economic development that will benefit the City and south central Kansas.

"The Central Rail Corridor project was a great example of a collaboration among local, state, and federal entities," said Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer. "This far-sighted project has greatly improved the quality of life in our community by reducing pollution and improving traffic flow through our City. We are pleased that AASHTO has recognized the value of this project and brings much deserved national attention to one of the greatest public works accomplishments in the country."

The America's Transportation Award competition highlights transportation improvements across the country and is sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, AAA, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Library Wins National Innovations Award

Johnson County Library's "GovFest for Entrepreneurs," targeting would-be entrepreneurs and small business owners, has been recognized with a 2010 Top Innovations Award from the Urban Libraries Council (ULC), headquartered in Chicago. Given in the Economic and Workforce Development category, this program is one of just 12 recognized from a field of more than 200 submissions from member urban libraries.

GovFest is celebrated annually during Global Entrepreneurship Week and was highlighted at the Kauffman Foundation-Global Entrepreneurship Week/USA Partners Forum held in Kansas City in 2009. In addition, GovFest was previously recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo) in 2008 and is now in NACo's Model Programs library.

Partners for GovFest include the Small Business Development Center at Johnson County Community College, and KCSourceLink, a small business services organization. Government Documents Librarian, Martha Childers coordinates the annual event.

County Librarian Donna Lauffer received the award on behalf of the Johnson County Library at the American Library Association's conference in Washington, D.C. In its award citation, ULC officials said, "The Johnson County Library's annual GovFest for Entrepreneurs provides one-stop shopping to connect small businesses with government and non-profit resources. The combined education and one-stop connections to sources of funding and program support help individual businesses thrive and grow, which contributes to the region's long-term economic health."

Lawrence Wins Award

The Lawrence City Commission received written notification from the First Lady of the United States that it would be designated as a Preserve America Community. Communities designated through the program receive national recognition for their accomplishments in preserving our special places and telling the nation's story.

Benefits of the designation include use of the Preserve America logo on educational and promotional materials; a community sign; listing in a web-based directory that showcases Lawrence's preservation efforts and heritage tourism destinations; and other support.

The Preserve America program is a federal effort to encourage and support community efforts to preserve and enjoy America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets; and support for the economic vitality of our communities.

Cities Rank in "Best Places to Live in America"

In its 2010 100 Best Places to Live in America between 50,000 and 300,000 people, CNNMoney.com ranked Overland Park in its top ten. The City received recognition for its strong schools, 300 acre arboretum and botanical gardens, its bi-weekly farmers' market, and its new soccer complex.

The City's low unemployment rate and economic development were also cited as factors in [CNNMoney's.com](http://CNNMoney.com) ranking. The unemployment rate is still well below the national average and the City received a commitment from J.P. Morgan to move 800 positions to the City in 2011. "Overland Park leaders have

continuously strived to be above and beyond in every effort of building this top notch city," said Mayor Carl Gerlach. "Today's recognition is acknowledgement of that achievement. However, know that Overland Park will not remain still. We know we have more to achieve."

Shawnee also ranked very high. The magazine highlighted how the City celebrated its history in "Shawnee Town" and "Old Shawnee Days." The City's modern side was also credited as the City's proximity to jobs, entertainment, and parks were also lauded as the City was ranked the 17th best City to live in.



Hiawatha's Historic City Hall

by Lynne Ladner

Not many cities can say that their city office building has been previously condemned, but Hiawatha can. In late March 2010, Hiawatha's administrative offices relocated to the Frances Sewell Plamann History Center in downtown Hiawatha—a historic building fully restored, thanks to the generosity of long-time Brown County resident Frances Sewell Plamann and her desire to preserve the history of the local area.

In 2007, shortly after Ms. Plamann's passing, the committee entrusted by her estate to carry out her wishes to preserve the history of Brown County for the future, approached the City Commission. Their idea was to provide a new museum for the area, rejuvenate a downtown building, and provide a new showcase office space for the City's administrative offices. The building known simply as "the Clocktower" was originally built as a bank, but has been a grocery, Five & Dime, clothing store, and most recently, a shoe store. The second floor served as the Order of the Odd Fellows Hall. The building was condemned by the City in 1982 after deteriorating to such an extent that the limestone trim on the building, brick exterior, and roof were all in need of replacement or repair. The building underwent some repairs that kept it from being demolished, but sat empty for several years—an iconic building waiting to come into its own.

The Frances Sewell Plamann Trust purchased the building from previous owners, David and Laurie Nachtigal, who had made improvements to, and continue to own, several downtown buildings and businesses. With the generosity of Ms. Plamann, the renovation was continued on the building. The drop ceilings on the first floor were removed and the tin ceiling on the second floor was repaired and restored. The original marble floors and pillars were cleaned and restored and the light fixtures were cleaned and wired for new electrical codes. The historic clock on the original bank vault was repaired and the vault provides a storm shelter to employees, as well as a fire-proof file storage for the City. A new staircase was installed to connect the interior of the first and second floors as well as the installation of an elevator to meet ADA accessibility requirements. City administrative offices occupy the majority of the first floor with the City Commission chambers located on the second floor.

The Hiawatha Chamber of Commerce also relocated their office to the second floor. The remainder of the building, including the majority of the second floor, houses museum display space to showcase different aspects of Brown County history including many antiques and family heirlooms left by Ms. Plamann. The second floor is also home to the Ron Allerton 1961 mural *The History of Brown County* that depicts settlers, American Indians hunting bison, agricultural life, industry, and an old-fashioned revival. The exterior of the building also underwent major changes with the main entrance relocated to its original location along Oregon Street and inset from the street. The corner turret and windows were restored on the first floor to mirror the second floor. The limestone trim along the windows and on both stories were carved out and replaced as they had deteriorated with time and water damage. Finally, the building peaks were cast and replaced to duplicate their original shape and trim work.

The \$1 million restoration project, done through the generosity of the Frances Sewell Plamann Trust with the help of tax credits, dedication, and hard work of Jim Bush, Trust Officer at Citizens State Bank and Trust Co.; Treanor Architects; and AHRS Construction of Bern has provided Hiawatha and Brown County with a brand new, old building.

This ongoing project is a great example of public and private partnerships at work. The Frances Sewell Plamann History Center restored a building that represented the heart of downtown Hiawatha and provided space to preserve the history of the area for future generations. The City has been provided with beautiful office space located in a building that represents Hiawatha in a positive manner, while allowing the History Center to be open five days a week without having to worry about paying for staff or seeking volunteers for operations.

☀️ *Lynne Ladner is the City Administrator for the City of Hiawatha. She can be reached at cityadministrator@cityofhiawatha.org or (785) 742-7417.*

Photos below L to R: The renovation of the commissioners chambers; the maple leaf bannister that was added to the stairway; and a view of the original ceiling being restored on the 2nd floor. All photos provided by the City of Hiawatha.





...To Caldwell, Anthony, and Norwich

A mid-summer day-trip took me to the west of the extreme south end of the Kansas Turnpike (which is also I-35 at that point), along the Kansas side of the Oklahoma border. (Have you ever seen those old pictures of the Turnpike, back when the spanking-new toll road just ended abruptly at the state line, and looking south there was nothing but wheatfields. A terrific history of the Kansas Turnpike was recently compiled by the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA), during its 50th Anniversary year; it can be found at www.ksturnpike.com/history.) Just a short distance north of the state line, the last TP exit in Kansas is onto US-166 (east to Arkansas City or west in this case) to South Haven—where it intersects with US-81.

US-81 was, for a long time, the main north/south traffic artery between north Texas and Kansas...the commerce link from Dallas/Ft. Worth through Oklahoma City to Wichita and was ultimately replaced by I-35 (in Kansas, by the Turnpike to Wichita and by I-135 from Wichita to Salina; US-81 is now a four-lane extension of the interstate from Salina north into Nebraska), as the interstate system took form a half-century ago. Much of the old road is still well-maintained and regularly utilized, albeit primarily sub-regionally, including the stretch headed into South Haven from Wellington to the north.

Like most very small cities, the City office is not open a lot in South Haven (pop. 350), and was not open this day, so I left my card in the mailbox and drove on west on US-81 about 11 miles to Caldwell (pop. 1,144). Caldwell “The Border Queen” was one of only six cowtowns in Kansas during the cattle-drive days (roughly about 1867-1887) when real cowboys pushed thousands of longhorns from Texas to Kansas, along the old Chisholm Trail (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chisholm_Trail) which was essentially a forerunner to US-81. The community is still very proud of its cowtown heritage. (A great overview of the history and a listing of all Caldwell’s historical-reference signs can be found at <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/history/caldwell.html>.)

I arrived at city hall just as Casie Risley was walking to the door to start her day. Casie (an OU grad) has been City Clerk for about four years (and was Deputy Clerk for about four years prior to that), and just four days before my visit was given the additional title of City Administrator by the City Commission. I had a nice chat with Casie and Deputy Clerk Kristin Hutsler...mostly about budgets and finance. Included in that was the fact that the City of Caldwell is just finishing the purchase of the local private water company. During our chat, Caldwell’s City Treasurer, Lucille Wolff (a VERY nice lady), joined in our conversation. Retired from a 40-year career at the local bank, Lucille this year celebrates 50 years as City Treasurer... WOW! Congratulations, Lucille!

From Caldwell, I traveled mostly west, along Sumner and Harper County blacktops, and then K-44 to Anthony, where I met up with an old friend, I.D. Creech, who is the Harper County Administrator.

I.D. gave me a great tour of the Historic (on the National Register) Harper County Courthouse, which celebrated its 100th Birthday in 2008. The beautiful and incredibly well-preserved courthouse (the third-floor courtroom is virtually original and is unbelievable) was 1 of 13 Kansas courthouses designed by the famous Ottawa, KS Architect George P. Washburn.

After the tour, I.D. and I ventured the short distance over to Main Street, where brand-new Anthony City Administrator, Amber Kummer was waiting on us to share a planned lunch. A native of Mitchell, South Dakota, Amber just finished her MPA degree at the University of South Dakota (Vermillion) in May and is immediately off and flying in her professional career. Amber was a classmate of Ellsworth City Administrator Tim Vandall...do I see a South Dakota/Kansas trend in the making?

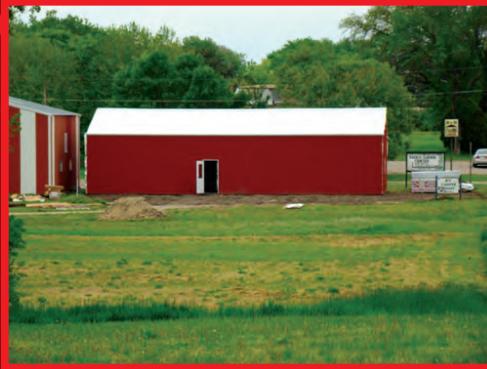
As I had a late-afternoon meeting in Wichita scheduled that day, I hurried out of town, headed north by northeast, first stopping in nearby Harper just long enough to indulge myself with a fabulous double-dip (caramel with chocolate chips over raspberry, as I recall) ice cream cone to-go at the Country Creamery ice cream parlor and café. Up the road, it looked like I had just enough time for a quick city stop, so I took a short detour off K-2, north along a Kingman County blacktop, and stopped just long enough to say hi and have a short chat with Norwich (pop. 499) City Clerk Kindra Dick. One interesting tidbit I learned is that Kindra doubles as the assistant girls basketball coach at Norwich High. From Norwich, I headed straight east on yet another county (actually TWO counties) blacktop into western Sedgwick County to Suppesville, and to K-42 and on to the big city. I was, of course, a few minutes late.

My eatery recommendation this month is *Kristie’s*, located on Main Street in Anthony, right across from where a huge fire destroyed most of a square block of downtown a couple of years ago. The City is doing a terrific job of jump-starting redevelopment of the area, and I look for great things to happen there. At *Kristie’s*, you’re better off ordering just half a sandwich for lunch...as the food comes as plentiful as it does scrumptious. Thanks for the treat, I.D.

For a great American History read, try David Halberstam’s wonderful 1993 effort, *The Fifties*. As is most of Halberstam’s work, this book is much more than just a government and politics examination. All the elements of American society of the period (from Eisenhower, to *Brown v. Topeka Board*, to Little Rock, to The Bomb, to Sputnik and Von Braun, to Elvis and Rock and Roll, and much more) are covered in this very readable book. Try it; you’ll like it.

 Don Osenbaugh is the Director of Finance and Field Services for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at dosenbaugh@lkm.org

Construction of the new ambulance station in Cawker City. All photos provided by the City of Cawker City.



New Ambulance Station Improves Response Time by Carol Weeks

Cawker City, home of the World's Largest Ball of Twine, located in North Central Kansas, had a problem common to many small cities. It is not located in close proximity to the county seat. Cawker City sits 20-miles west of Beloit, the Mitchell County Seat. Beloit is also the City where the ambulance service for Cawker City is located. This presents a major problem for our little city in emergencies.

County Ambulance Director Ed Debesis recognized the problem and came up with the idea that an ambulance station should be built in Cawker City to improve the response time in the west end of the county. The Mitchell County Commissioners approved the application for a Kan Step Grant, but it failed because it did not contain enough low-to moderate income information to qualify. The idea was put to rest.

The City recently sold its cable TV business and put the money into a Capital Improvement Fund. The City Council was then informed at one of the monthly meetings and was asked to consider constructing a building for the County to house an ambulance and crew in town. The City Council was receptive to the idea, and the County was then contacted to see if an ambulance and staff could be housed in Cawker City, if there was a building available to house them. After several meetings between city and county officials, an agreement was signed.

In the spring of 2010, a contractor was hired and construction started. The building was starting to become a reality.

August 1, 2010 was the project completion date for this intergovernmental effort to have an ambulance and a 2 person crew housed 24-hours a day in Cawker City. Not only will this improve the response time in Cawker City, it will also improve the ambulance response time in the Cities of Glen Elder, Tipton, and Hunter.

A grand opening for the new ambulance station is planned for the fall.

 Carol Weeks is the City Clerk for the City of Cawker City. She can be reached at cawcty@nckcn.com or (785) 781-4713.



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The City of Colwich Honors Local Veterans

by Diana Brooks



On May 31, 2010 a community gathered to honor their heroes, both living and dead, their families, and loved ones “who shared these individuals with us for the protection of our City and this great nation” so stated Mayor Terrence D. Spexarth.

Cooperative efforts brought the dream of a Veteran’s Memorial to its dedication after three-and-a-half years of planning and design. The Colwich City Council, veterans in the community, and various civic and business organizations all lent resources to bring about the dream of former Councilmember Stephanie Guy and Mayor Terrence D. Spexarth, along with a group of World War II veterans lead now by deceased Robert “Bob” Maus. The Veteran’s Memorial cost \$44,000 to construct with funding provided by the City of Colwich, private donations, and the selling of lapel pins and memorial bricks that line the walkway around the memorial. A community of volunteers donated architectural services, construction services, and materials, playing a key role in the completion of the project. These donations held down the costs and produced a monument the community is proud of, and that will stand for centuries to come.

The City of Colwich has a rich history of veterans throughout the community, most notably Wilfred Voegeli, one of the men

present at the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima. Mr. Voegeli’s military collection served as one of the resources used as well as City history books and first-hand accounts to compile the list of names etched on the granite plaques attached to the limestone walled memorial. The granite plaques display the five branches of military service and commemorate to date 332 veterans throughout the City of Colwich and Union Township who have or are currently serving in the military. Etched bricks line the walkway memorializing the veterans, the families, and the friends who supported its development.

As the dedication service concluded with the sounding of taps, the lowering of the flag to half staff by the McConnell Air Color Guard, the words presented by Mayor Spexarth reverberated, “Freedom is one of the most powerful words, but has the most deadliest consequences. So, today we honor all veterans past, present, and future. This memorial will be a reminder to all of us, of the people who helped protect our freedom.”

 Diana Brooks is the City Clerk for the City of Colwich. She can be reached at colwichclerk@sbcglobal.net or (785) 796-1025.

The Veterans Memorial pays tribute, to date 332 veterans in the City of Colwich and Union Township. All photos provided by City of Colwich former Councilmember, Stephanie Guy.



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Kinsley's Claim
to Fame

The Carnival City

by Mary Hooper

Kinsley, in Edwards County, prides itself on being the Midway City—1,561 miles from San Francisco and 1,561 miles from New York City. It can be called the Midway City for another reason, too.

For decades, little Kinsley was headquarters to an extraordinary agglomeration of family-owned carnivals that entertained boys and girls of all ages throughout the Great Plains from roughly the first decade of the 20th Century to the mid-1980s.

The Brodbeck-Schrader-Strate-Rockwell carnivals are gone, but hardly forgotten in Kinsley where a group of residents formed the National Foundation for Carnival Heritage in 1991 to collect and preserve relics, documents, rides, and artifacts from the City's golden age of carnivals.

It all began in 1901 on a sweltering July day in Hutchinson's Carey Park. Charles Brodbeck, an Edwards County farmer, saw something amazing—a steam-powered merry-go-round. What was more amazing was the long line of adults and kids waiting to pay a nickel for a ride on the contraption.

Brodbeck was sold. Not on a merry-go-round ride, but on the merry-go-round itself. He offered the owner/operator some cows, horses, and a quarter of land in Hodgeman County for the carousel, loaded it onto a wagon and hauled it back to his farm near Kinsley. He set it up and offered rides.

"Mr. Brodbeck would laugh about the cowboys who rode all day on a real horse, willing to pay a nickel for a ride on one of the wooden horses on the merry-go-round," wrote local historian Myrtle Richardson.

Charley and his son, Fred, decided to take the carousel on the road. First stop was a picnic in Larned, in Pawnee County.

It was a big hit there, so they hauled it around to other small towns in central and southwestern Kansas.

Business was so good that Charley and another son, Eugene, bought other carnival rides and formed Brodbeck Amusements.

These early successes were the start of what was to become one of the longest-running family carnivals in the business. Loosely termed the Brodbeck carnivals, members of the large, extended family, whether named Brodbeck, Schrader, Rockwell, or Strate, operated a total of five carnivals, all headquartered in Kinsley, into the 1980s when the last, Strate's Midwest Shows, folded its tents.

In the 1920s, Fred and yet another of Charley's sons, Ben, formed Brodbeck Brothers. The flagship, Brodbeck Amusements, was forced into bankruptcy in the '30s after a death on one of its rides. But the carnival business continued to thrive, even in the years of the Great Depression.

"People waited for the carnival to come to town. It was big entertainment then. Folks didn't have TV," recalled Buford Brodbeck, a Kinsley resident and a grandson of Charley.

In 1941, as the business continued to boom, Fred and Ben split up. Ben and his wife Ruth formed Brodbeck Shows, and Fred and his son-in-law, Louis Schrader, set up Brodbeck & Schrader. Another of Fred's sons-in-law, Mike Rockwell, branched off with Rockwell Amusements that had a run of a few years until his death in 1951. His widow, Phyllis, married Lionel Strate, who joined Brodbeck & Schrader, and finally went out on his own with Strate's Midwest Shows.

It was a colorful but difficult life, recalled Buford. He spent much of his youth touring with Brodbeck Brothers. The carnival wintered in Kinsley and hit the road in April, traveling throughout western Kansas, western Oklahoma, the Texas panhandle, and eastern Colorado. In October, it was back to Kinsley to take the rides apart, repaint the carousel horses, and make new parts.

"It was hard work, and you're gone so much, but I had some of the best times of my life in the carnival. When I was a little kid, I got to go to the carnival every night."

One of his first jobs on the midway was waterboy, carrying gallon cans of water to the cookhouse that his mother ran. He learned how to operate the rides and helped older brother, Melburn, run the bingo stand. His mother and twin brothers, Ernest and Ermill, operated the tilt-a-wheel, and sister Bernice ran the penny pitch game.

Meanwhile, Brodbeck & Schrader, the largest and most well-known of the Brodbeck carnivals, played towns from Texas to the Dakotas, and all the state fairs. It traveled 5,000 miles during the season and employed up to 150 people. Truck drivers, teachers, mechanics, people from all walks, would answer ads seeking temporary carnary work. Some joined the carnival for the fun, adventure, and romance of it all. Some were experienced hands who brought their own game booths or rides. Others signed on as roustabouts to raise and break down the equipment.

The rides, concessions stands, and game booths (called "joints") had to be set up and taken apart by hand. It took a crew of four, several hours to set up the Ferris wheel.

Those were the days of snake handlers, sword swallows, magicians, jugglers, fire-eaters, barkers (“Step right up, ladies and gentlemen...”), and games of chance.

And the characters!

There was Louie the Louse, whose specialty was guessing people’s weight; Hugo Zacchini, the human cannonball; and Ernestine Pike, the sword-swallower.

According to her son, James Ball, Ernestine told him as a child: “I don’t want you to play with knives, but you can swallow swords.”

A walking repository of carnival yarns and lore is John Ploger, Kinsley realtor, who heads the foundation to preserve not only Kinsley’s carny heritage, but the story of the American traveling carnival in general.

“We’ve just barely touched the surface. The potential is mind-boggling, “the stories, the behind-the-scenes, the language. The carnies’ lingo alone is worth an exhibit,” said Ploger.

He went to school with members of the Schrader family and recalls some of the rides wintering in their back yard. Today, as the recognized expert on Kinsley’s carny past, he’s friends with current and former carny folk from around the country.

A fellow known as Fast Eddie, who runs the Pride of Texas shows, has contributed artifacts to the carnival heritage museum.

“A lot of carnival families have brought stuff to us,” said Ploger.

A former carny worker drove up to Kinsley from Houston in his gold Cadillac (carny folks don’t stop being flamboyant just because they’re retired) to see Ploger.

“He had heard of the museum and the foundation and said that a lot of carny people are excited about the museum because nobody else is recording their history.”

Today, the foundation owns three buildings in Kinsley where carnival artifacts are displayed and stored. These include huge canvases called “broadside,” which advertised featured attractions. Broadside

are a lost art. It involved painting the picture in oils on a wet canvas. The process of drying and shrinking preserved the oils, so that the colors are as vivid today as when they were painted decades ago.

The foundation has a fine collection of carousel horses and other animals, posters, historical displays, booths, rolls of tickets, all sorts of interesting stuff.

The foundation recently won a \$3,800 grant from the Kansas Humanities Council to have its photos and documents scanned and digitized so they can be viewed online. Denver artist Michael Ricker, who works in pewter, has loaned the museum his sculptures of a Ferris wheel and a carousel to be placed on display. In time, Ploger said, the foundation hopes to be able to purchase the sculptures, which are several feet high.

Currently, foundation members are dividing their trove of treasures between their Hall of Fame, which resides on the first floor of the former Fox Department Store building, which the organization owns. They have placed games, a merry-go-round, and hands-on exhibits for children on the second floor. The group also has another building nearby that is popular with local organizations as a site for fundraisers and parties.

A long-range goal is to restore and house an antique double-deck carousel that the foundation bought in the 1990s. It was made in the workshops of Friedrich Heyn in Germany in 1900. Restored, it would be the only operating antique double-decker in North America, Ploger said. A few other Heyns survive in Europe.

To preserve such a colorful part of America’s past is a worthwhile goal by itself. But there’s another, Ploger says. To give folks a reason to visit Kinsley, the Midway City.

 *Mary Hooper is a freelance writer in Kinsley. This article was reprinted with permission from Kansas Country Living’s July 2010 issue.*

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Revised ADA Regulations

The U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has finished its work on a revision of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, and issued the Final Rule entitled *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability in State and Local Government Services*. The Rule was published on July 28, 2010 and takes effect six months after publication. The DOJ has delayed compliance, however, for the design standards portion of the rule until 18 months after the publication date. All cities have been required to meet accessibility requirements since 1991. This revision updates, and in some cases, expands the scope of those requirements. Commentators have begun speculating that the new rule will significantly increase the cost to small entities, including local governments to become compliant, despite the DOJ's efforts in the comments to downplay such impact.

Several changes in the new regulations are worth noting, although there are quite a few provisions that may impact cities in one way or another. Remember that the ADA governs how cities interact with their employees and citizens regarding accessibility issues. It also requires new construction or alterations of existing facilities to be readily accessible and usable by persons with disabilities. This includes cities' streets and sidewalks, as well as other facilities. Cities were required to have a transition plan in place by 1992 that identified areas of noncompliance and the time and manner in which cities would become compliant with the ADA. The DOJ has been auditing entities, including local governments, to assure compliance with the law.

There are several problem areas for cities with regard to design standards and a quick reminder of those might assist cities in looking at their transition plans and what projects remain to be completed. Parking areas frequently have too few designated handicapped parking spots with the requisite access aisles and also have no van accessible parking spots. Curb cuts have been neglected in many cities, even when cities have done street improvements such as new asphalt. Counter heights inside city hall or doors that are too narrow are also common problems as well as restrooms that are not accessible. Municipal courtrooms can be a problem if there are no assistive listening devices or are generally not accessible for witnesses or spectators. Recreational facilities and programs are another area that cities should review for accessibility. The general requirement is that no person with a disability shall be denied access to a public entity's programs and services by virtue of facilities not being accessible. Cities do have flexibility in how they achieve this goal. There is the caveat that the city would not have to undertake alterations that would be an unreasonable financial burden or that would fundamentally change the services or programs being offered. For more information on specific ADA rules and requirements, go to www.ada.gov.

One of the recent changes in the 2010 Rule governing local governments is in the area of service animals. Almost 11 pages of comments by the DOJ are devoted to the rules regarding service animals. First, the definition of service animal has changed to make it clear that exotic animals or other species of animals cannot be service animals, as well as excluding attack animals and dogs that have been trained specifically to be aggressive. In this final version of the rule, however, miniature horses are specifically allowed as service animals in certain cases. If the miniature horse has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, it may qualify

as a service animal. Local governments must make reasonable modifications to policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of service animals, including miniature horses, by persons with disabilities.

There are several caveats that exist with service animals. If the animal is out of control or if the animal is not housebroken, a public entity may ask that the service animal be removed. The entity must then give the individual an opportunity to participate in the program or service without the animal. As to miniature horses, the public entity may consider several factors regarding what facilities or programs are appropriate to accommodate the service animal. For example, the type, size, and weight; whether the individual has control of the horse; whether the horse is housebroken; and whether the presence of the horse compromises the safety of the program or facility. Some cities do not allow farm animals in the city limits. That policy should be reviewed as to persons with disabilities.

To determine whether an animal qualifies as a service animal, the city is allowed to ask two questions. First, is the animal required because of a disability and second, what work or task is the animal trained to perform? Emotional support animals are not service animals, but there may be a fine line between someone who has psychiatric problems that allow that individual to have a service animal and one who needs the animal for emotional support. Another major issue for cities is whether or not a city can enforce a breed specific ban, such as a pit bull prohibition, against service animals. The comments to the 2010 Final Rule suggest that a city must do a case-by-case evaluation at each animal and may not enforce a blanket breed specific ban on service animals.

Another issue has to do with mobility devices. The DOJ took a two-tiered approach to the different kinds of vehicles. Wheelchairs, which are devices designed for use by persons with disabilities (and would include mobility scooters) must be allowed anywhere pedestrians are allowed. For the second tier, cities are required to make reasonable modifications to their policies, practices, or procedures to allow for the use of other power-driven mobility devices by those with disabilities. Some of the devices now being used by individuals with disabilities include Segway® Personal Transporters, golf carts, all terrain vehicles, and others, although they are not primarily designed for persons with disabilities. The final rule states that entities must accommodate "other power-driven mobility devices," but may consider factors regarding their use. These include the type, size, weight, and speed of the device; the volume of pedestrian traffic; the character of the facility and program; and the safety requirements for both the public and also the environment. The city may not ask the extent of the disability requiring the use of the mobility device.

The 2010 Rule contains many other provisions and requirements that will affect local government, including the areas of communications, corrections and jail facilities, telecommunications, and others. Cities should become familiar with the requirements and assess what changes, if any, they must make to come into compliance.

☀️ *Sandy Jacquot is Director of Law/General Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at sjacquot@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.*



Classified Advertising

City Administrator

Oberlin, (pop. 1,656), is a scenic community located in northwestern Kansas that blends history, recreation, and family-oriented activities. Oberlin is currently accepting applications for a City Administrator. For additional community information visit <http://oberlinks.com/>.

The City has a \$5.2 million budget, 17 full-time employees, and operates under a 5-member council/administrator form of government. The ideal applicant should have a Master's Degree in public administration and approximately five years of municipal government experience. Public sector work experience may serve as an education substitute.

The successful candidate will need exposure to a wide range of municipal government issues with a proven track record that demonstrates sound judgment and uncompromising integrity. Additional necessities include: success in community/economic development, resourceful fiscal management, long-range planning, and open employee/community communication.

Salary \$50,000-\$60,000 negotiable depending on qualifications. Send resumes and three professional references to LEAPS-Oberlin, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS, 66603. EOE. Open until filled. Submit applications by August 25, 2010.

City Administrator

The City of Prairie City, IA (population 1,365) seeks a City Administrator. The position reports to the mayor and council. Senior professional position responsible for managing day-to-day operations of the City. Should possess a Bachelor's, Master's, or higher desirable. Management and administrative experience in a combination of municipal government and/or similar public/private agency setting necessary. Needs proven capabilities in leadership, problem solving, strategic thinking, and knowledge of governmental operations. More information available at www.prairiecityiowa.us. Salary DOQ/E. Resume with cover letter and references due by Friday, August 20 to: City Clerk, City of Prairie City, PO Box 607, 203 East Jefferson Street, Prairie City, IA 50228. EOE.

Director of Emergency Communications

The City of Hutchinson is seeking candidates for its Director of Emergency Communications position. The Hutchinson Reno County Emergency Communications Center (HRCECC) provides emergency communication services to all public safety entities in Reno County (pop.65,000) with 17.5 budgeted staff.

Essential Functions Include: Planning, and directing the operations for HRCECC including various telephone, radio, teletype, (CRT) and other communications systems serving Law Enforcement, Fire Service, Sherriff's Department and Emergency Medical response agencies serving Reno County. Analyzes and evaluates law enforcement, fire service and emergency medical service response protocols and makes recommendations to public safety officials for the effective delivery of emergency communications services. Overseeing the selection, supervision, and development of departmental staff. Developing/providing effective training programs for new and current dispatchers to maintain and improve HRCECC operations. Developing the HRCECC's annual budget as well as monitoring and approving all HRCECC expenditures, purchase agreements, and service contracts.

Candidates should possess an Associate of Arts degree or equivalent with major course work in public administration, criminal justice, or a related field with a minimum of five years of public safety dispatching experience along with three plus years experience in a managerial/supervisory capacity. Two additional years of qualifying experience may be substituted for the Associate of Arts degree. Candidates must also possess National Crime Information Center and Emergency Medical Dispatcher certifications.

Pay range is \$54,705 to \$77,523 depending upon qualifications. Interested persons may apply at www.hrepartners.com or send resume to toms@hutchgov.com.

Director of Finance

Essential functions of this position include directing and administrating the fiscal operations and activities of the City, which includes production and the administration of the City's budget, investments, financial transaction processing, recordkeeping and reporting, and all activities related to the city's utility billing and central purchasing functions.

This position also provides ongoing financial forecasting and monitoring of CIP and operating budgets to identify issues and trends; developing short and long-term fiscal strategies in conformance with generally accepted governmental finance, accounting and auditing principles and practices; and developing the organization's accounting systems.

Qualified candidates should possess a Bachelor's Degree in accounting, finance, or business administration from an accredited college or university (CPA strongly preferred); seven plus years of senior level experience in the areas of public-sector accounting, auditing, budget development, municipal financing (including bonds, special districts, lease/purchases and public-private partnerships), fiscal policy development, and cash management; five plus years of supervisory experience in a similar environment; and a high level of proficiency with MS Excel and financial/accounting software packages. Annualized Pay Range: \$64,480 - \$97,110.

Hutchinson offers a wonderful quality of life with excellent public and private schools, and numerous recreational and cultural amenities. It is also within a short drive to larger metropolitan areas. For more community information, visit: www.hutchchamber.com

The City of Hutchinson strongly supports employee training and development and offers an excellent total compensation package. Interested persons may apply at www.hrepartners.com or email resume with salary requirements to: toms@hutchgov.com EEO/AA Employer

Economic Development Coordinator

The City of Ogallala, NE (pop. 5,107) is looking for a dynamic leader to serve as its economic development coordinator. The City is poised for economic growth as it looks to focus its energy on its economy. While the position will seek to recruit businesses to the community, it will also need to be filled by an individual who can help create programs that provide entrepreneurial opportunities and that grow and retain current employers of the community. The position will require someone with good communication and collaborative skills. Complete job description and an application may be viewed at www.ogallala-ne.gov. Application and Resume may be submitted to: Harold Stewart, City Manager, at 411 East 2nd Street, Ogallala, NE,



Classified Advertising

69153; or harold.stewart@ogallala-ne.gov. The position will remain open until filled. Salary \$57,203-\$81,471, DOQ.

Energy Manager

The City of Eudora, USD 491, and Baldwin City are seeking qualified and experienced applicants for the position of Energy Manager. Position requires experience in energy management, energy efficiency, engineering, and/or facilities management. Must have strong organizational, communication, and interpersonal skills. The position is a full-time benefited employee of the City of Eudora and is funded by a two-year grant from the State Energy Office. Applicants must be able to pass a drug screen. The position will include mandatory training, energy audits, public meetings, and public outreach.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to City of Eudora, P.O. Box 650, 66025 Attn: Pam Schmeck or at pamcaa@sunflower.com by August 18th. Job description available upon request. Salary range 40,000-50,000. Call 785-542-4111 for more information.

Police Officer

The City of Frankfort is accepting applications for a part-time police officer to work 20-25 hours/week. Must be 21 years of age, have no criminal history or lengthy traffic record, a valid drivers license, and high school diploma or equivalent. Wages dependent on qualifications and experience. Benefits include KPER's retirement, vacation and sick leave, and partial paid health insurance. To obtain an application, contact City of Frankfort, City Hall, 109 North Kansas Frankfort, KS 66427 or call 785-292-4240. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The City of Frankfort is an E.O.E.

Police Officer

The McLouth Police Department is accepting applications for a full-time police officer. Applicants must be 21 years of age, possess a valid driver's license and a high school diploma or equivalent, have no criminal history or lengthy traffic record, be in good physical condition, KLETC certified and preferably, patrol and investigation experienced. Wages are dependent on experience and qualifications. City benefits include BC&BS health insurance, paid vacation and sick leave and KPERs retirement

plan. To obtain an application form visit cityofmclouth.org or the McLouth City Hall at 110 North Union Street, McLouth, Kansas 66054. Completed applications with resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. The City of McLouth is an E.O.E.

Public Works Assistant

Quinter (pop. 800) is a thriving, friendly, family-oriented community, located along I-70 between Hays and Colby, with strong community involvement, high quality schools, a hospital, 65 businesses, four churches, youth and adult recreation programs, pool, park, library, grocery, law enforcement, and nearby farms—a great place to work, live, and raise kids.

The Public Work Assistant Superintendent assists with maintenance of City water, sewer, pool, street, and park facilities, vehicles, and equipment. Duties include assisting with daily inspections and written reports for water wells and sewer lift stations, routine and emergency repairs, snow removal, mowing, reading water meters, mosquito spraying, and tree trimming. Operates backhoe, street sweeper, front-end loader, dump truck, sewer machine, tractor, packer, and mowing equipment. Participates in developing department budget, inventory, and operational guidelines. This full-time, non-exempt employee reports to the Public Works Superintendent and generally receives assistance from summer hires. Quinter residency required. Immediate opening. Position open until filled. EOE. Resumes may be faxed to 785-754-3831. For more information or application form, contact Ericka Gillespie, 785-754-3821. ericka.jean.gillespie@gmail.com

Public Works Director

Public Works Director, City of Eudora, KS (6,200). Salary range is \$50-70K. Position reports to the City Administrator and is responsible for management of the public works department which includes streets, water, wastewater, and electric divisions. Position will take a lead role in capital projects and coordinating activities among contractors and engineers. Qualified candidates should possess a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, public administration, business administration, construction, or related field, or 7-10 years public works experience with 3-5 years in a supervisory role. Must demonstrate progressive project

management and significant understanding of street maintenance and municipal utility operation.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and resume to City of Eudora, P.O. Box 650, 66025 Attn: Pam Schmeck or at pamcaa@sunflower.com by September 3rd. Job description available upon request. Call 785-542-4111 for more information.

Water Distribution/Wastewater Collection Assistant Superintendent

Under the supervision of the Water Distribution/Wastewater Collection Superintendent, the WD/WC Assistant Superintendent performs supervisory and manual labor in maintaining water and sewer lines for the City of Ottawa. Responsibilities include installing new water and sewer service, repairing sewer lines, and manholes. Employee is responsible for the operation of heavy equipment used in the performance of assigned tasks. Duties are carried out with little supervision following established policies and procedures. The WD/WC Assistant Superintendent will assume the supervisory responsibilities during superintendent absence.

Must be a Franklin County resident within one year of employment. High School Diploma/GED required. Requires possession of a valid Kansas Commercial Driver's License (CDL). Three plus years of water distribution, sewer collection system maintenance and construction experience required. Knowledge of water and sewer construction materials, measurements, and equipment maintenance is required.

The ability to read blueprints and operate related equipment is required. Must have knowledge of the operation and maintenance of televised sewer inspection systems and other inspection methods. Knowledge of how to lay sewer and water lines and a working knowledge of all aspects of position is required. Adverse weather conditions and exposure to sewer gas when working underground are factors in this position. Salary range is \$38,126 to \$53,373 annually DOQD. Position is open until filled. Hours are from 7 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., M-F. Some overtime may be needed.

Complete On-Line Application at www.HRePartners.com.

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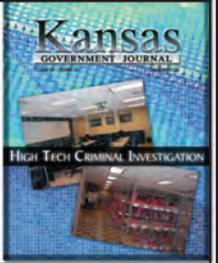
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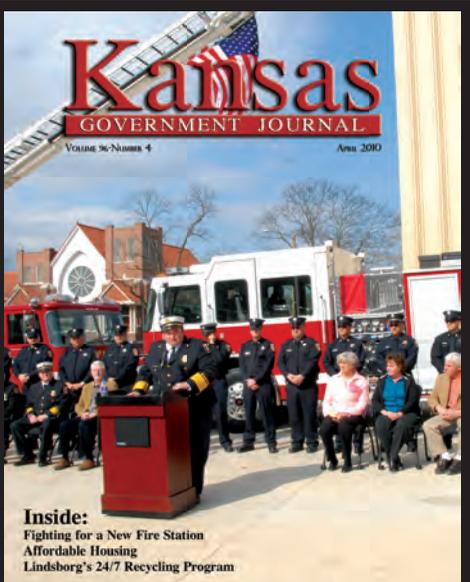


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Volume 36 Number 4 Area 2010



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Moler's Musings

by Don Moler

Old #9



This summer seems to be a time of changes, and apparently license plates are no exception to this rule. For the past 25 years I have had the one digit personalized license plate 9, originally issued in Douglas County, and then in Shawnee County. I had anticipated that when the new personalized plates were issued in 2010, and I went to renew my plates this August, that I would be able to renew them for yet another five years. This

was not to be.

Now, for those who have never engaged in obtaining personalized license plates for your motor vehicles, it has been a very simple process for many, many years. Essentially, when someone wished to put a personalized plate on their vehicle, they would simply request a combination of letters or numbers and pay a one time fee of \$40, (now \$46), to secure a specific plate.

Way back in 1985, right after I had just graduated from the KU School of Law and had passed the state bar exam, I applied for the number 9 license plate in Douglas County. As no one had taken that plate, it was available and I have renewed it consistently ever since, even transferring it to Shawnee County when I moved here after taking a job with the League.

For many years, I have had a very long-standing and positive relationship with old number 9. I had requested the number as it is my lucky number, and is linked to many significant memories in my life. Most notably, I was born on the 9th day of the 9th month. So, operating in complete ignorance and bliss, I thought that I would be able to keep number 9 for as long as I was able to drive and register my automobile in the State of Kansas. But the fates were not that kind.

The rules all changed as a result of the State computer system being updated. With the update of system, the ability to have personalized plates, where similar numbers or series of letters could be issued by each county, was no longer feasible without a significant investment in upgrading the software programing for the new State computer system. As a result, a decision was made to no longer allow duplicate personalized plates for different counties in Kansas. Prior to this law change, different individuals could have the same license plate so long as they were from different counties.

So back in October of 2009 I received a letter from the Kansas Department of Revenue, typed in all caps, which read in pertinent part:

STATUTE REQUIRES THAT ALL COMBINATIONS BE UNIQUE. THIS MEANS THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE (1) OF ANY SPECIFIC COMBINATION WITHIN THE STATE. YOUR CURRENT COMBINATION HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE A DUPLICATE. THE DECISION WAS MADE THAT THE FIRST ISSUED PLATE OWNER WOULD RETAIN THE PLATE. UNFORTUNATELY, YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST OWNER OF YOUR CURRENT COMBINATION.

I immediately called the number listed on the letter thinking there must have been some sort of mistake. I continued to believe that there would be no problem as I had old number 9 for a quarter of a century, and I felt certain that I would be the one continuously holding it the longest. But, I soon learned that was not the case. Actually, a Kansan, in an undisclosed county in Kansas, had continuously carried the plate since the late 1970s, over 30 years! So I was out of luck.

Now this made me sad as I had gotten used to that plate, and enjoyed having it on my vehicle. But as I have aged, I have realized, as my father-in-law, Dr. Jack Enos, would always say, "Things change." How true. They change in large and small ways. While saddened with the loss of my personalized plate, more so than many would think appropriate, I realized that someone else had it longer. They won, and I didn't. That's the way it is.

What concerned me most about the entire process was the fact that according to the State Department of Revenue there are roughly 85,000 personalized plates currently in use in Kansas, with roughly 33,000 being duplicates. So my concern remains that 33,000 citizens of Kansans are potentially at least disappointed, if not upset, with the change. We all understand that change is inevitable, but that doesn't always make it easy. I think the nugget of truth found in this small tale is simply that government needs to always work to minimize the aggravation and disappointment of its citizens.

These governmental decisions impact people in a variety of different ways. I certainly hope that the 33,000 personalized plate holders who failed to get their plates renewed were not angry, but only slightly disappointed. Certainly in the scheme of things it is no big deal, but small things have a way of becoming large things depending upon what they are and where in our lives they occur. It reminds me that we must always strive to keep our citizens at the forefront of our decision making, and whenever possible must attempt to lessen the impact on them as we make governmental decisions. Finally, I wish nothing but good health and safe travels to the lucky motorist, somewhere in the State of Kansas, who has old number 9. May it bring him nothing but good fortune.

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Oct. 27, Goodland

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6450 Rd 16

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Dinner - 6:30 p.m. CST

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Oct. 28, Dodge City

Cowtown Steakhouse
503 E. Trail

Registration - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Nov. 3, Wichita

Wichita Art Museum
1400 W. Museum Blvd.
Beren Conference Room

Registration - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Nov. 4, Concordia

City Hall
701 Washington

Registration - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Nov. 17, Leavenworth

Riverfront Community Center
(RFCC)

123 S. Esplanade

Registration - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Nov. 18, Parsons

City Hall Basement
112 S. 17th Street

Registration - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

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