

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

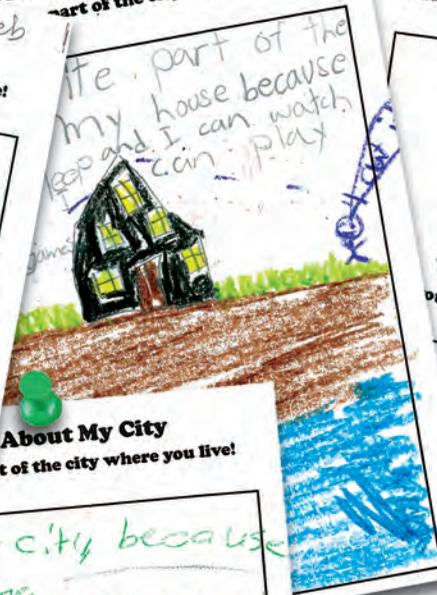
VOLUME 97 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2011

What I Like About My City
Draw your favorite part of the city where you live!



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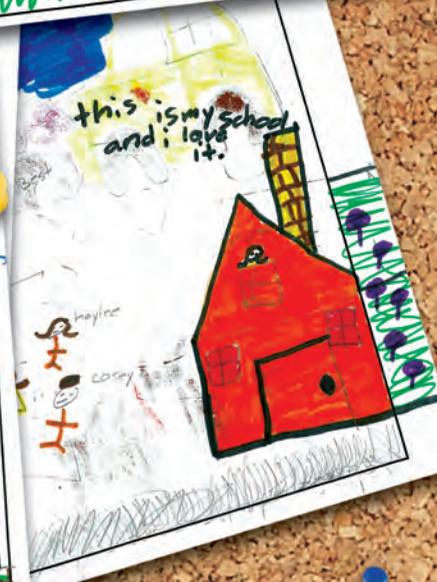
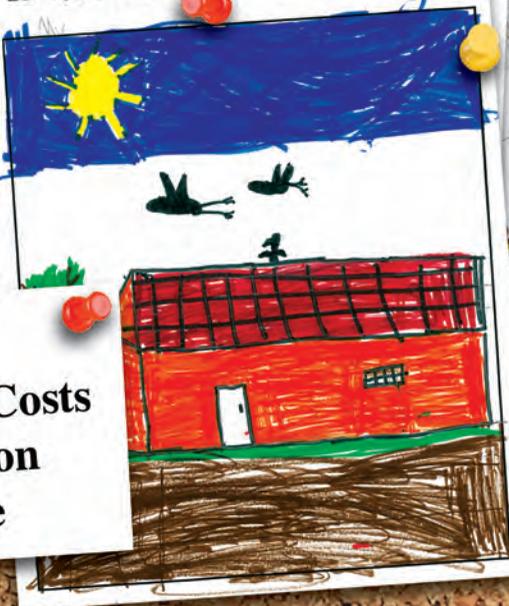
About My City
Draw your favorite part of the city where you live!

my city because the



PET SHOP
Or shelters.

What I Like About My City
Draw your favorite part of the city where you live!

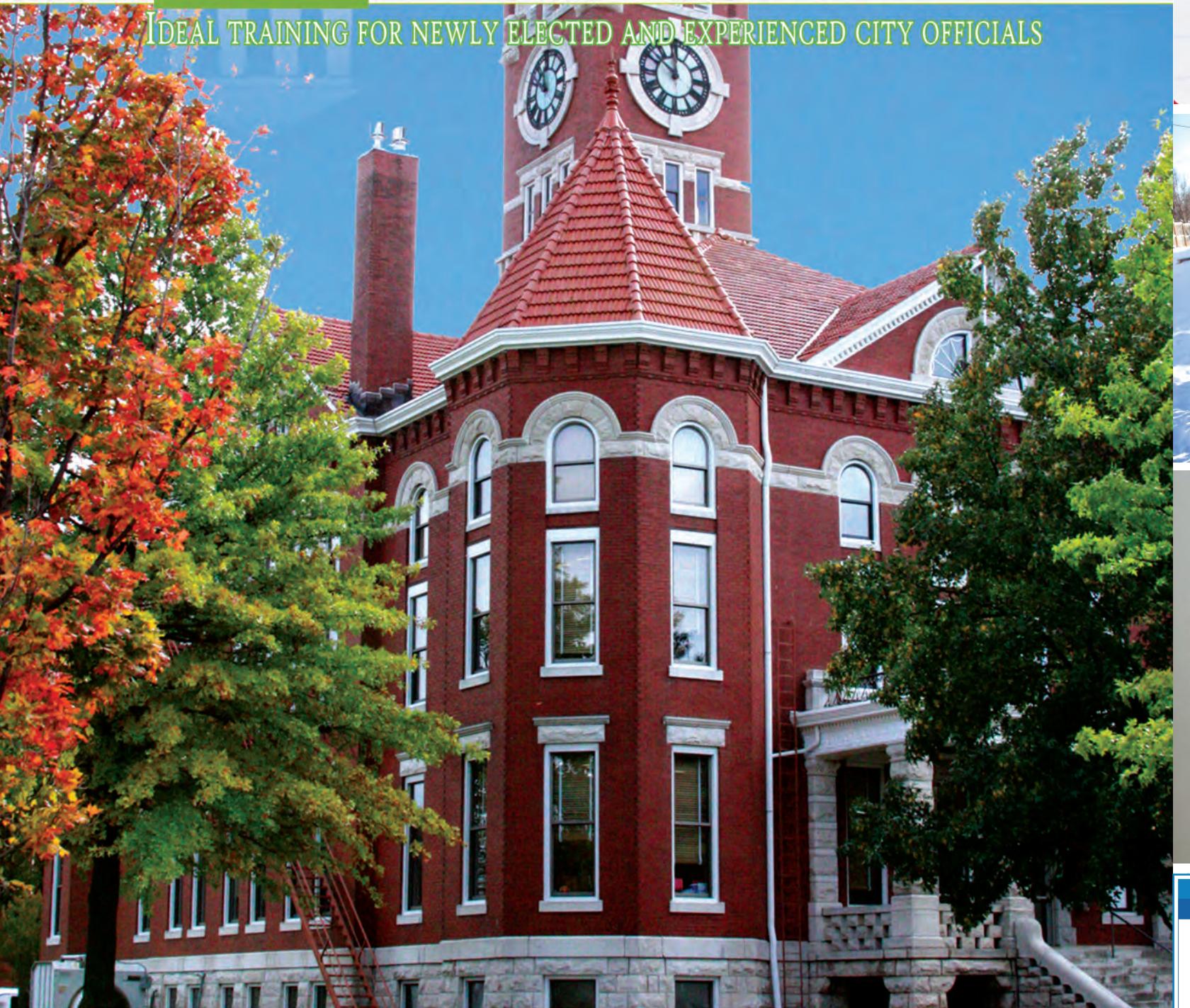


Inside:
Reducing Service Line Repair Costs
LKM Promotes Civics Education
SmartStar Energizes Lawrence



GOVERNING BODY INSTITUTE & MAYOR'S CONFERENCE

IDEAL TRAINING FOR NEWLY ELECTED AND EXPERIENCED CITY OFFICIALS



MAY 13-14, 2011 TOPEKA, KANSAS

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AND THE KANSAS MAYORS ASSOCIATION

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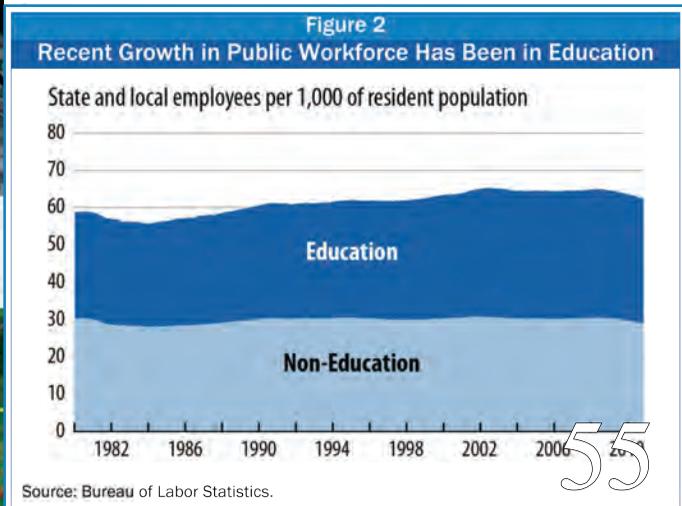
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About the Cover:
Students from Avondale East Elementary School in Topeka submitted copies of coloring book pages from the *My City, My Home* LKM coloring book. See related article, beginning on page 40.

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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.



April

- 15 - MLA: Civility and Public Service, Great Bend
- 16 - MLA: Civility and Public Service, Fort Scott
- 29 - KMIT Board of Trustees Meeting, Neodesha

May

13-14 - Governing Body Institute & Mayor's Conference

The Governing Body Institute & Mayor's Conference will provide elected municipal officials with a curriculum that will assist them in effectively meeting the requirements and gaining knowledge of their elected role.

- 30 - Memorial Day

June

- 10 - MLA: Personnel Management, Colby
- 11 - MLA: Personnel Management, Arkansas City
- 17 - LKM Governing Body Meeting, Wichita
- 24 - MLA: Personnel Management, Atchison
- 30 - KMIT Board of Trustees Meeting, Andover

July

- 4 - Independence Day
- 20 - MLA: City Clerk Fundamentals, Dighton
- 21 - MLA: City Clerk Fundamentals, Clay Center
- 29 - MLA: City Clerk Fundamentals, Iola

Obituaries

William "Bill" Gewecke, 68, died on December 27, 2010. He was a former City Councilman in Russell and was also a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club. Professionally, Gewecke owned a car dealership in Russell.

Millard Lindsay, 80, died on December 29, 2010. A Kansas native, he was a former City Councilman at Potwin and Hill City. In his professional life, Lindsay worked as a production foreman for Cities Service Oil Co. and Helmerich and Payne. He was also a U. S. Air Force veteran, serving in the Korean War.

Norman Linton, 81, died on December 22, 2010. He was a Holyrood City Councilman, having been a resident since 1969. In his professional life, Linton worked as a teacher and most recently as the superintendent of USD 328.

Charles Rowland, 69, died on December 29, 2010. He was a former Alden City Councilman and lived there since 1984. Rowland also had a distinguished banking career, serving as President and CEO of the Alden State Bank, Director of the Kansas Bankers Association, and President of Golden Belt Bankers Association.



State Scene

Kansas Receives Stimulus Funds

The State of Kansas was awarded \$4.4 million to expand broadband Internet services in rural areas. Kansas has already received \$2 million in other federal grants for its Connect Kansas broadband initiative. This latest installment of grants will go toward paying for mapping and data collection in these rural areas, in addition to providing staffing.

Nationwide, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has provided \$7.2 billion to help states achieve similar objectives. This same fund has provided \$147 million in grants to private Kansas companies and organizations for the same express purpose of setting up rural broadband systems.

KDOT Secretary Receives Award

Kansas Transportation Secretary Deb Miller received national recognition from a Washington, D.C.-based research organization.

Secretary Miller, who was first appointed Kansas Transportation Secretary in 2003 by Governor Kathleen Sebelius and reappointed by Governor Sam Brownback, received the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) W.N. Carey Jr. Distinguished Service Award at the organization's Chairman's luncheon. The Carey Award recognizes individuals who have given leadership and distinguished service to TRB.

"Secretary Miller has provided outstanding leadership in policy and strategic planning for the Board, served with distinction on study committees and technical project panels, and championed research and policy analyses that address long-term challenges

faced by transportation agencies at all levels of government," according to TRB.

During her time as the state's longest-serving transportation secretary, she has helped shape national transportation policy as a member of several national transportation boards, including TRB. Secretary Miller was the 2008 chair of TRB's Executive Committee and she also chaired its Subcommittee on Planning and Policy Review. In addition, she chaired the National Cooperative Highway Research Program Project Panel on Commuting in America III and was chair of TRB's standing committee on Transportation and Economic Development. Secretary Miller is the only person to be appointed Kansas transportation secretary by two governors.

Kansas Receives "Early Innovator" Grant

Kansas will benefit from a \$31.5 million federal grant to design the backbone technology needed to operate the insurance purchasing exchange it must establish to comply with the federal health reform law.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced that Kansas is among seven states receiving the "early innovator" grants.

Maryland, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Wisconsin and a consortium led by Massachusetts were the others.

Sebelius said the states were chosen because they already have a leg up on developing the information technology that will be needed to run the exchanges, because they represent different regions of the country and because each proposed different approaches to developing the exchanges.

"As a former governor, I know well that states are the laboratories of our democracy and for innovation and as they move forward we will continue to listen to them very carefully."

Sebelius said the states that received the grants will serve as models for the rest as they implement their exchanges.

"Everyone doesn't want to reinvent the wheel over and over," she said. "That's what make the grants today so important."

The grant was requested last year by Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger with the endorsement of the then-Governor Mark Parkinson, the Legislature and incoming Governor Sam Brownback.

The reform law requires that the purchasing exchange be up and running by 2014. Kansans will use the Web-based exchange to purchase private health plans that meet federal coverage requirements, which are still being developed.

The Kansas Insurance Department originally requested \$21 million but that figure was increased during negotiations with HHS in order to cover the anticipated costs of completing a new Medicaid enrollment system being developed by the Kansas Health Policy Authority and adapting it to work with the purchasing exchange.

The Medicaid eligibility system, known as KMED, is being developed using a \$40 million grant awarded in 2009 by another federal agency, the Health Resources and Services Administration.

KDOT Receives Rail Grant

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) received an \$87,563 grant to improve and restore the Amtrak Station in Lawrence as part of the federal High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) Program.

KDOT will work with the City of Lawrence on this project, which involves the preliminary engineering and final design for station improvements. It will ultimately improve the station for

passengers on the Amtrak Southwest Chief national route between Chicago and Los Angeles.

"This is the first step in improving the station so that it can better serve the traveling public," said John Maddox, KDOT Freight and Rail Program Manager. "We look forward to finalizing plans and beginning work on this project in the near future."



...Sharing Some History

The League offices are closed on Martin Luther King Day, as are the schools in Derby. What better way to honor such a significant historical figure than take a grandfather/granddaughter history-seeking mini-tour? So, Maddi and I ventured west, to my original hometown of Hutchinson.

As a few of you know, I was born in Hutchinson (in the old Grace Hospital), as were my three sisters (though the younger two of those were hatched out in the old St. Elizabeth Hospital). We moved to Haysville when I was in the fifth grade. And, so, I call Hutch my “original” hometown, though I did my “coming of age” thing during the 1½ years I lived in Haysville. (A side note, some months ago it occurred to me that I have lived in 5 DIFFERENT cities in Kansas for at least 10 YEARS each...how many people can say that?) I have had several other “hometowns”—currently it’s Derby.

A trip to Hutchinson is always special for me, as it is also where virtually all the members of my extended families, on both sides, lived (and where many of those are now buried, including my mom and dad, and both sets of grandparents). Maddi wanted to take in some great antique shops located on Main Street, so that is where our adventure began. As luck would have it, most of the “old things” stores are closed on, you guessed it, Mondays—though the best one (in our view) was not. Take your kids and/or grandkids to a really good “antique store” (i.e., lots of old things, some of which are not exactly full-fledged antiques, which collectively, give a hands-on view of what real life was all about in various periods in the past); where SO MUCH history is on display. Maddi loves to look at, and touch, old things, and I love to, too...sometimes, I can even tell her what they are and what they do. Our browsing (“snooping around?”) at the Bear Blessings Antique BTQ resulted in only two purchases by Maddi: a 1970 Reno County, Kansas car tag (green, with white lettering) and an original 1940 Captain Midnight (radio show) medallion (which, I have to admit, is pretty-darn cool). I almost bought a two-volume set of Hutchinson pictures of the past (and still wish I had—sometimes my basic cheapness overtakes me).

After looking at old stuff in stores, I decided to show Maddi some more old stuff in the “lower east end” (along east Fourth Street) of the city, where my mom grew up, and where I also lived during some of my youngest years. First, we went to see if any of the Bell Street Quonset huts (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quonset_hut) were still standing. We lived in the east end of one of those (another family lived in the west end, when I was about two-years-old (my absolute earliest memory is here)...in the morning-shadow of a grain elevator (the same one that was featured in a scene from the movie “Picnic,” but, that is a story for another time). Coincidentally enough after all these years, somebody was in the current-process of tearing down the “ancient” round-top metal buildings (“houses” back when). I grabbed my BlackBerry, got a picture and saved a memory of this small bit of history. I remember an old family photo of our “house” on Bell, but have no idea if it still exists or where it could be...so this turned out to be a VERY fortuitous day for me.

From Bell Street, we drove back to the west a few blocks, and then south on Chemical Street, and past the house at 220 N., into which my Grandpa and Grandma Wells moved in 1921, where they raised their five children, in which Grandpa died in 1964, and where Grandma lived until her own death, in 1988. For three or four of those years, our family lived in the house that was “catty-corner” across the street, at 217. Those were the years that I attended kindergarten through second grade at Grandview School, located back up the road to Fourth Street and just west. The old (circa 1925) red-brick, single-story school was razed just a year or two ago, but the old (red-brick, two-story) Fire Station #4, at Fourth and Grandview St., long-since retired as a fire house, still stands, and has now been given new life, as the Firehouse Café.

My mom’s oldest sibling, Dick Wells (now the only living child of that family), began his career as a Hutchinson firefighter at Old #4, on February 1, 1947, and was stationed there for many years, including when I went to Grandview School, and ultimately retired as an Assistant Chief, about 25-years-ago. (Uncle Dick, as did my mom’s other two brothers, Don and Gene, served in WWII... in Dick’s case, he was on an Army transport ship, headed for the invasion of Japan, when the war was ended by the first (and second) and only military use(s) of an Atomic Bomb, dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in August, 1945—rendering the American invasion unnecessary, and, likely, saving Dick’s life. It was over a year after that before he got back home.)

As Maddi and I sat down to order a late lunch at the Firehouse Café, I noticed that the shiny old brass pole (once leading down to the trucks from the upstairs living quarters) is still there. As I remembered it being in another spot (it WAS nearly 60 YEARS ago!), I asked the owner/waitress if the pole had been moved since my Uncle Dick was a firefighter there so long ago. She asked me if I meant Dick Wells. Needless to say, I was astonished, and almost speechless (SOME accomplishment that would be!), that she knew of Dick. But, she not only knows him, he has been there to eat, and pictures and a story about him are affixed to the walls. You see, Uncle Dick made a famous rescue, via a very long fire-truck ladder, off the top of one of those ubiquitous Hutchinson grain elevators (not the one by Bell Street) in the early 50s—saving a man’s life, after a massive wheat explosion (which, in fact, killed another man). A picture and diagram (from the old *Hutchinson News-Herald*) are also displayed in the café. How cool was that?

So, this particular day of seeking out history was a good one. Tell your kids and grandkids stories about the past. And show them, too...you just never know when a VERY special moment, or two, might arise.

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

LKM Promotes Civics Education

As part of the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) civics education efforts, LKM has developed a number of programs designed to aid teachers and to assist educators in meeting the state's civics standards. These materials include: *Local Government in Kansas*, a book designed for 7th and 8th graders; the annual "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest; and a downloadable 3rd grade coloring book. All materials can be found at <http://www.lkm.org/youtheducation/>.

Each year, The "If I Were Mayor" essay contest asks seventh-graders from around the state to describe what they would do if they were elected mayor of their city. This year, over 1,200 students participated in the essay contest. Five winners were selected as regional winners, two were honorable mention recipients, and one was declared the overall state winner. All winners were presented with a plaque and a savings bond.

Honorable mention winners received \$200, regional winners received \$250, and the overall state winner received \$500.

LKM Executive Director, Don Moler presented the awards on February 9, 2011 as part of the LKM's annual City Hall Day in Topeka.

LKM's 3rd grade coloring book, *My City, My Home* has been a great asset to teachers in the classroom. The coloring book is designed to teach students about their community and local government. Miss Hodge's 3rd Grade Class from Avondale East Elementary School in Topeka submitted copies of their coloring books. Some of the students' illustrations are shown below and on the following pages. The coloring book can be downloaded at <http://www.lkm.org/youtheducation/coloringbook.pdf> or mailed by contacting Tracy at tmacdanel@lkm.org.

Five of the Seven winners from L to R: Emily Waren, Lenexa; Cole Howerton, Augusta; MacKenzie Breuer, Courtland; Shelby Hudson, Shawnee, and Dusty McCloud, Inman. Not pictured: Emily Yoder, Harper and Rebecca Hicks, Elkhart. Photo by Jay Bachman.



Emily Waren, Lenexa Northeast & Statewide Winner Holy Spirit Catholic School

In the Webster dictionary, a mayor is defined as the chief administrative official of a city or town. In my own words, a mayor is defined as a “leader.”

Mayors are categorized under the executive branch in the government. They usually don't make laws; but they are in charge of keeping their city in tip-top shape. It is mostly a volunteer job, but mayors do get paid. Towns vote every four years for their mayor. There are no term limits, so if your town keeps on voting for you, then you could end up being a mayor for 20 years!

If I were mayor, I would want to be the Urbanist/Neighborhood mayor of Lenexa. This type of mayor is in charge of making the neighborhoods and downtown of a city healthy. The three main things I would want to accomplish during my four-

year term would be: decreasing unemployment rates, decreasing crime, and making the city an attractive place to live. If there was a need for a new school, grocery store or restaurant, it would also require creating new jobs to build these sites, and employees to work at these facilities. This would improve the unemployment rates. I would also work closely with the Lenexa police department to make sure the citizens of Lenexa were kept safe. I would continue to make Lenexa attractive by making sure it continued to be well maintained by the city.

If I were mayor of Lenexa, I would take the job very seriously and be a leader to the city. Harold R. McAlindon once quoted, “Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

I like my city
because
of all the
lights.



**MacKenzie Breuer, Courtland
North Central Winner
Pike Valley Junior High**

If I were mayor, I would like to change many different things in my urban area. I would like to build apartments, expand our pool, and build a bigger park.

If I were mayor, the first thing I would like to do is build some larger and more improved apartments. Making more housing available would attract families to our community and help our economy.

The next thing I really want to change is to expand our city park so more families can hang out and have fun there. I would like to add more equipment like more swings, slides, and a basketball court.

A bigger pool would attract younger families. Making our pool deeper, with a high dive and two slides, a straight one and a swirly slide, would be enjoyable to the young families. The families that attend our pool would feel safer, and there would be more room for them to swim and have a fantastic time. Hopefully, they feel safe enough so they will come back again.

In conclusion, if I were mayor the three most important things I would like to change are: I would like to build apartments, expand our pool, and build a bigger park which, hopefully, will attract younger families to our community.

hiss
meow
PET SHOPS
Or shelters.

I like pet shops because they take care of them.



**Rebecca Hicks, Elkhart
Southwest Winner
Elkhart Middle School**

If I were mayor, I would be responsible for heading the city, running the day-to-day duties, and also caring for the city's future. The mayor is chief spokesperson for the city's activities and legislation. He helps enforce the laws and appoints positions for those who run the city. The mayor helps maintain current businesses and jobs while creating new ones. He likes to keep the city looking lovely by asking people of the community to help with beautification projects. The city's budget is very important, and as mayor, he has a duty to help prepare and keep the city's budget.

First, as mayor of our city, I would like to put a bowling alley back into our community, so we would have something

for entertainment. This would create jobs and excitement for our city. Next, I would want to keep my city looking nice, so I'd have clean up days. Then I'd listen to the people and make laws and a budget that would make my city great, therefore, helping keep the citizens of our community happy. Last, I'd help in appointing the right people to help run our city and make it an excellent place to live.

The mayor's responsibilities are many. Being the mayor is an important job, and I would help make decisions that are fair and in the best interest of my city. In my leading role of mayor, I hope to create a strong, caring community!

Cole Howerton, Augusta Southeast Winner Augusta Middle School

If I were mayor, I would build a minor emergency center, improve the levee, and improve the streets and roads of Augusta. For the citizens that live here, these improvements would be beneficial for the community. Although these goals would be challenging, if we work together they could be achieved.

My first priority as mayor would be to build a minor emergency center; I would like to do this because when someone gets injured, they have to go to El Dorado, Andover, or Wichita just to see a doctor. If we build one in Augusta, it would be a faster way to get in and see a doctor. We could raise the money by holding a fundraiser for the emergency center.

My next objective would be improving the levee. By improving the levee, it makes the town safer. In 1997,

there was a disastrous flood that damaged many homes and businesses. We need to improve the levee so that a flood like that won't happen again. To get the funds needed, we would have to raise taxes.

My final project would be to improve the roads and streets of the city. There are many cracks and ruts in parts of the city. This wears down the tires of the citizens, if we improve the streets, it will improve the lives of citizens. We would access the funds through a grant from the state.

As mayor it would be of most importance to achieve these goals. By improving the levee, building a minor emergency center, and improving the roads and streets, this would make the lives of the citizens much better.

Shelby Hudson, Shawnee Honorable Mention Monticello Trails Middle School

If I were Mayor for a day, even forever,
I would make a law that you could never say never.
Responsibility and always caring,
Even grownups I know dislike sharing.
Bullying is the "thing" that we all try to stop,
But the thing we can't stop is that life losing shot.
Maybe a seminar that all parents go to,
So they can stop their kids from taking their lives also.
Tax cuts and more everyone says,
I think some of us are losing our heads!
Some taxes are good but some are bad,
Look out for your outraged dad!
What about the lost animals,
Where do they belong?
In the cages that are way too small.
Maybe if I were Mayor I would say enough,
To the life takers who have been cuffed.
For in the night when your street lights go out,
Who will go there without a pout?
The brave men and women with such good hearts,
Who give smiles and fresh new starts.
If I were Mayor what would I do?
Recycle more and speak the truth to you!
Make sure everyone's safe when you're tucked in at night,
Never giving you a thought of fright.
Traffic is heavy and slow,
Most likely your temper is going 0 below!
If I were Mayor some would like me,
Others sadly disagree.
But it's an imperfect world,
So I will do good.
Always keep my word.
Say what would you do?



my favorite part of the
city is the neighborhood.

**A poem does not meet the guidelines for the competition. However, reviewers wanted to honor the creativity and substance in this submission.*

Dusty McCloud, Little River Honorable Mention Little River Jr. High School

If I were mayor, I would change things for the better. I would also create new opportunities and increase property values. My ideas would help local businesses that may be struggling by bringing in new people. This would create a society in which people would have interest in being apart of.

Next, I would want an animal shelter. This would reduce the amount of strays and help animals find homes. It would also help by keeping them from being put down. I believe the adoption fees would help fund this shelter.

I would use tax incentives to encourage the building of a convenience store/gas station. This would provide more revenue, job opportunities, and allow people to shop locally to keep our money in town.

A city pool is something else that people constantly express interest in. I would build it in the new part of town. This pool could possibly raise money and bring families together. Also, it would increase property values, and that would be great for landowners.

Last, but not least, Little River is in need of a fast food restaurant. We could use our tax incentives to encourage small business owners to purchase Main Street property. This would revitalize our Main Street, and they wouldn't have to drive to surrounding towns to grab a bite to eat.

With my new ideas and the right council members, we could make Little River a better place! Now here's the big question! Would you make me your mayor?

I like the buildings and the lights. I like it because they are beautiful.



**Dusty was not eligible to enter the contest as a sixth grader. However, reviewers felt this submission was worthy of recognition .*



Ponca City, OK
Interior/Exterior Painting &
Roof Replacement

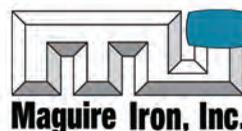
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Mainstreet News

KCK Ranked For Jobs

The Associated General Contractors of America ranked Kansas City, Kansas (KCK) third in the nation for new construction jobs. According to the report, KCK added 1,700 jobs over 2009 for a 9% gain in construction employment. The total number of construction jobs in the city is pegged at 21,000.

Construction of the Kansas City Wizards stadium and the Hollywood Casino at Kansas Speedway are credited with the

increase. The AGC study shows construction employment dropped in 276 out of 337 metro areas studied. KCK is one of just 30 areas nationally experiencing an increase in construction jobs. Meanwhile, Kansas City, Missouri recorded a decline of 2,700 jobs to 24,000, for a 10% decrease.

Dodge City Finds that Casino is Paying Out

Dodge City has reported extra revenues thanks in large part to the year-old Boot Hill Casino. Dodge City Public Information Director Jane Longmeyer said, "It's worked well for us, for the City, and for the community as a whole." Ford County also receives a portion of revenues from the casino. Commission Chairman T. Kim Goodnight added "...I think we're seeing the

ability to provide a better service. What we're seeing is this all coming true." The additional revenue from the casino is primarily being used to improve city streets. Longmeyer also commented on the additional tourist impact seen in other venues around the city and county from visitors at the casino.

Pittsburg Paves Way for Trash and Recycling Facility

The Pittsburg City Commission approved a conditional-use permit for the Southeast Kansas Recycling Center to accept specially marked trash bags of household trash. The approval will allow users of the facility to drop off their household trash while dropping off their recyclables, all in one stop.

The idea is that certain people who generate more recyclable material and compost than trash will be able to stop paying for

a monthly trash pickup fee of \$16 and simply "bag it" at the Recycling Center. Jim Triplett of SEK Recycling Inc. explained, "If they don't generate a bag a week [of trash], then they're paying \$16 a month for a service they don't really use."

Communities Compete to Reduce Energy Use

Sixteen Kansas communities are competing in a Take Charge! Challenge sponsored by the Kansas Energy Office to reduce their energy use and win a \$100,000 grant to be used for an energy efficient community project. The communities of Lawrence and Manhattan in particular are competing against each other because of their strong ties, similar populations, and strong rivalry between the universities that call each city home.

"We're in this to win it. Small steps toward energy efficiency... will contribute to our overall success and subsequently winning the challenge," said Margaret Tran, the Lawrence Take Charge

Challenge coordinator. Small steps like caulking around windows, adding weather stripping and changing out your light fixtures to CFLs are all things that can improve energy efficiency.

The communities can gain points by having residents schedule Efficiency Kansas home energy auditing, enrolling in Westar Energy's energy efficiency programs, switching to CFL bulbs, and attending Take Charge! Challenge events. City of Lawrence and Douglas County sustainability coordinator Eileen Horn said, "It's going to be a whole lot of fun." The contest will run through September.

City Fights Crime With New Cameras

The Wichita Police Department has purchased five cameras it hopes will help in areas where graffiti, vandalism, and illegal dumping are a problem.

The cameras use active surveillance, which means they only record when they see motion. The police department says they capture clear, high resolution images, and can read license plates 250 ft. away in total darkness. They are also solar powered.

The cameras can be mounted on a pole, fence or hidden, like in bushes. The Wichita Police Department says they will keep them in plain sight as a deterrent. The cameras are made to withstand vandalism, including gunshots.

There is a camera for each sub-station and one for investigations. An officer is assigned to one camera and once a week, they drive

to the place where it is set up. Then the officer can download the camera's information using a laptop computer, without ever getting out of his patrol car. The cameras are mobile and can be moved to different locations depending on need.

County Commissioner Jim Skelton said this is something he was working on as a City Council member. He believes the cameras "will help catch the bad guys." He says the City spends around \$250,000 to \$500,000 each year cleaning up graffiti and illegal dumping.

The cameras only cost \$28,000 and were paid for through stimulus funds.



Best Practices by Nathan Eberline

Lending A Helping Hand

Any checklist of fundamental city services likely includes providing clean water, drivable roads, and fire protection—each service central to the benefits of living in a city. But, the service most likely associated with a city’s police powers is almost certain to be public safety and the police force.

Despite the importance of city-provided police protection, there are many ways that communities supplement the services provided by brave police officers. Neighborhood watches and crossing-guard volunteers are both common methods that allow lay persons to provide support to the actions of the police. In Topeka, a group of citizens has boldly approached community involvement in providing for public safety by forming the Citizen Patrol Coalition (CPC) of Topeka-Shawnee County.

Fred Martinez, a citizen of southeast Topeka, began a neighborhood patrol almost six years ago. Mr. Martinez and 10 other individuals from his neighborhood responded with action after a stabbing took place in the Highland Park neighborhood. The group went through training with the Topeka Police Department on how to begin a neighborhood watch.

The training included guidance on what to look for in the community and how to identify suspicious people. Instead of focusing on being suspicious of all strangers in the community, the training taught participants to learn to recognize their neighbors—the people who actually live in the neighborhood. The police department also taught the group to look for strangers who were lingering too long and those who were acting abnormally. The community watch proved to be a great success, and crime in that area dropped by over 90% after the program began.

After the significant success of the neighborhood group, Topeka Police Chief Ron Miller wanted to take the program city-wide. Chief Miller had worked with a similar program in Kansas City, and he wanted to bring the results of the neighborhood group to the entire city. He asked the Rolling Meadows group to approach other citizen groups and set up meetings. The result was the Citizen Patrol Coalition.

The Citizen Patrol Coalition (<http://citizenpatrolcoalition.org/home>) takes the objectives of the neighborhood watch and expands its scope by striving to “bring together motivated citizens to assist law enforcement in their fight against neighborhood crime.” Their mission includes the goal of partnering with law enforcement, local governments, religious organizations, and community groups to address neighborhood problems, while increasing the effectiveness of citizen patrols. Specifically, their hope is to increase community involvement to reduce crime in the Topeka-Shawnee County area.

And much like the original Rolling Meadows group, the Citizen Patrol Coalition has continued to help reduce crime in the city. In

an interview with the *Topeka Capital-Journal*, Chief Miller noted the importance of citizen patrols in the effectiveness of community policing: “(Citizen patrols) are very helpful to the police department and the community. The coalitions volunteer thousands of hours a year patrolling the neighborhoods of Topeka. Their presence is very beneficial and greatly appreciated by the police department and the neighborhoods.”

Fred Martinez echoed Chief Miller’s comments by praising the great working relationship between the Coalition and law enforcement. Martinez noted that the group actively works with both the Topeka Police Department and the Shawnee County Sheriff’s Office by maintaining constant contact. The CPC now has over 180 participants located across Topeka. The patrol members must be at least 18-years old, they must be a member of a community or neighborhood organization, and they must pass a background check. Additionally, the patrol members use their own resources, including cars, gas, and time with no compensation. The result is an organization that patrols over 3,000 miles per month over the metro area.

The citizens regularly call in suspicious vehicles, and the result has been active participation in keeping Topeka safe. Patrol calls have led to testimony and convictions for crimes ranging from grand larceny to other major crimes. CPC citizens have helped save a man suffering a heart attack and found a three-year-old child wandering the streets at 2:00 a.m. Many CPC citizens have received awards for their volunteer work, and the entire organization will receive recognition as one of Governor Brownback’s Point of Light winners later this spring. The organization has repeatedly demonstrated how the citizens of a city can be a major part of helping a community thrive.

The element of visible citizens who care is fundamental in cities both large and small. When then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani wanted to take steps to reduce crime in New York City, he incorporated many new programs to address the concerns. But one of the most successful steps was to simply increase the visibility of police officers in communities. The City found that simple activity and engagement in the community had a strong deterrent effect on crime. The Kansans participating in the CPC may not have blue uniforms or shining badges, but their involvement and visibility in the community goes a long way toward helping keep crime in check.

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SmartStar Energizes Lawrence

The Westar Energy Inc. SmartStar program participated in the 2010 annual Downtown Lawrence Sidewalk Sale to promote the new Smart Meters that will be installed throughout the City in 2011. Photos by Westar Energy Inc..

—by Josh Jones—

The City of Lawrence will be the first area in the state where new Smart Grid energy meters will be installed on a large scale.

The 45,000 smart meters that will be installed and networked in Lawrence will allow consumers and Westar Energy Inc. to monitor real-time energy usage. For Westar, this ability equates to improved service reliability and power outage management. For consumers, it means the ability to monitor their own energy usage and will improve energy efficiency in homes and businesses. Consumers will be able to see, for example, that choosing to run the dishwasher during off-peak hours will result in less energy consumption and lower energy bills. The initial program duration will be about three years and is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy as a component of the Smart Grid Investment Grant.

In order to fully understand the new Smart Meters in Lawrence, it is necessary to comprehend the impact of the national Smart Grid. The industry website www.smartmeters.com provides a clear explanation of this innovative technology in a series of articles titled *SmartMeters 101*. The Smart Grid, once it is fully in place, will automate the management of power distribution, which includes every process from generation and transmission to distribution and consumption.¹ Digitizing our nation's energy infrastructure will make this automation possible, particularly through the installation of Smart Meters, which will allow for communication between customer and supplier. In addition, different sectors of suppliers will be able to communicate with each other in a seamless network of power sharing.²

For example, a wind farm is an excellent source of renewable energy, but wind currents rise and fall through the days, nights, and seasons, which creates the problem of an unreliable power source. With Smart Grid technology, a baseload power plant many miles away would be able to detect when the wind farm is not producing an adequate amount of power to meet the demand of its customers, and the baseload plant could make up this difference until the wind currents pick up again. This method of power sharing maximizes the use of clean energy and makes sustainability a more practical endeavor. The Smart Grid would even allow private citizens who have their own source of power generation, whether it is a wind turbine, solar panels, or a geothermal system, to sell off their excess energy to the energy company, adding resources to the Smart Grid.³



There are clearly many benefits to be gained with the implementation of a national Smart Grid:⁴

- Remote monitoring and control of energy usage;
- Reduction in frequency and duration of power outages;
- Energy savings in the amount of power produced by the supplier and the price paid by the consumer;
- Enhanced competitiveness of the marketplace.

U.S. Department of Energy official Mike Lawrence said, "We can either invest the way we have in the past, or we can use the intelligent systems to do for energy what the Internet has done for communications."⁵ Mark Bernstein of the University of Southern California Energy Institute added, "If you think about it, the electric system we have today was built in the 1950s and we're still using that technology. What else do you use every day that uses 1950s technology? Not much. It really puts things at a disadvantage."⁶



residents of Lawrence to monitor personal energy usage and its cost. The *Lawrence Journal-World* also reported that “the energy usage will be given a value in terms of the carbon footprint left behind. Energy usage could be equated to how many cars would produce a similar amount of carbon emission or how many trees would have to be planted to offset the carbon emitted.”¹² Text and e-mail alerts will even be made available that will tell customers when they’ve reached a pre-designated level of energy consumption.¹³ Lawrence resident Lucy McAllister said, “I think it is a tremendous incentive for Lawrence residents...to be more cognizant of what we are doing and what we are spending.”¹⁴ Westar

With this understanding of the Smart Grid and its desirable qualities, it is easier to see that Smart Meters are the devices that make the Smart Grid possible. It is precisely these small wireless devices that eliminate the need for time consuming on-location readings by a meter reader, and it is these devices that have the potential to change the world’s energy consumption habits—everywhere from Kansas to India and in between.⁷

In Lawrence, residents will soon be able to experience all of these benefits that Smart Meters offer. With the preliminary infrastructure in place (including a major computer and software hub in Topeka),⁸ the Deerfield neighborhood will be the first area to receive Smart Meters in all residences and businesses. The neighborhood was selected for its variety of building types, ease of access, and presence of hills and trees that will test the wireless transmission capabilities of the new equipment.⁹ If all goes well, Westar plans to install the Smart Meters in all of Lawrence beginning in May, which is when customers will also be able to go online and track their own energy usage, day by day, even hour by hour.¹⁰ Exchanging old mechanical meters for the new digital meters will only take 5 to 10 minutes and customers won’t notice anything different aside from the new, digitized Smart Meters outside their homes, which are similar in size to mechanical meters.¹¹

Recently, Westar gave a demonstration of Smart Meter technology at the Lawrence Energy Conservation Fair. Attendees observed how energy consumption changed and was displayed on a digital readout as different light bulbs were turned on and off. The change from a traditional bulb to the newer CFL bulbs was apparent. An LED bulb resulted in an even more drastic energy consumption reduction. The effect that new technologies have on our energy usage (and subsequent monthly bills) was made very clear. Attendees were then shown a tutorial of the website that will eventually allow

Energy Representative Matt Lehrman explained the Smart Meter benefit to all users by saying, “If you want to save money, it speaks to you. If you’re interested in the environment, you can look at your carbon emissions and figure out ways to limit your usage.”¹⁵

Westar Energy has several other projects on the table, including a similar Smart Thermostat program. The Smart Thermostats let residences and businesses participate in a voluntary program that allows Westar to remotely adjust their thermostats during peak energy demand periods—like on hot summer afternoons—in exchange for several potential benefits including a discount on monthly bills and the ability for customers to access their thermostats online and heat up their homes before returning home from work among other things. This program will first be offered in the pilot areas of Topeka and Wichita.¹⁶

In summary, the Smart Grid is a reality that is already taking shape with backing by the federal government, and Smart Meters are key components of this digital network. Kansans are fortunate to be at the forefront of such exciting new technological changes through the various pilot programs being offered to residents in Lawrence, Topeka, and Wichita. Westar Energy has launched a



website, www.westarenergy.com/smartstar, to guide residents through these new processes.¹⁷ An outline of benefits, which can be found on the SmartStar website reminds all us that the Smart Grid is indeed the new future of the energy industry and that everyone will benefit from this technology.¹⁸

 *Josh Jones is a Management Intern for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at jjones@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.*

¹SmartMeters 101. "What is a smart grid?" SmartMeters.com. October 9, 2010.

²SmartMeters 101. SmartMeters.com.

³SmartMeters 101. SmartMeters.com.

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⁶SmartMetering News. "Smart Meters deployment looks strong for 2011." SmartMeters.com. January 1, 2011.

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⁸Metz, Christine. *Lawrence Journal-World*. "Deerfield neighborhood to be first in Lawrence to try electricity-tracking program." December 10, 2010.

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¹¹Metz, Christine. *Lawrence Journal-World*. "Westar Energy begins smart meter transition in Lawrence." January 12, 2011.

¹²Metz, Christine. *Lawrence Journal-World*. "Energy conservation fair offers first look at Westar's smart meters." September 12, 2010.

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¹⁴Metz, Christine. *Lawrence Journal-World*.

¹⁵McNaughton, Angelique. *The University Daily Kansan*. "Westar presents smart meters on Saturday." September 12, 2010.

¹⁶Penzig, Gina. *The Topeka Capital-Journal*. "Energy savings is goal for power company, too." February 27, 2008.

¹⁷SmartMetering News. "Westar launches website to help consumers with smart meter usage." SmartMeters.com. November 5, 2010.

¹⁸Westar Energy. "SmartStar Project Fact Sheet." <www.westarenergy.com/wcm.nsf/con

SmartStar

Customer Benefits

- Enhanced service reliability and response to outages.
- Daily energy use and cost information available to the customer.
- Optional services such as text and email alerts for bill trends and outages.
- Robust web portal with energy savings tips, carbon footprint calculator, neighborhood comparative analysis information.
- Enables innovative program offerings such as two way thermostats and smart time of use rate options.
- Supportive of "behind the meter" emerging consumer products such as smart appliances in home energy displays and personal home energy management applications.



John Valdez installs Westar Energy's new SmartStar meters Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2011 at the Graystone Apartments in Lawrence. Photo by Lawrence Journal-World.

Westar Benefits

- Improved ability to meet changing customer expectations.
- Increased reliability of the electric system.
- Advanced management tools for outage restoration efforts.
- Better utilization of existing electrical system assets.
- Operational efficiencies from automated meter reading, remote service switches, improved knowledge of outages, location and restoration.
- Validates smart grid benefit assumptions before larger deployment.
- Identifies most effective customer products and services.
- Identifies required business process changes to support smart grid.

Source: <http://smartstarlawrence.com/benefits>



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Recent Changes in Laws Affecting Cities

In the past year or so, several changes in statutes and regulations have affected how cities do business in some instances.

IRS Changes Cell Phone Rules

The first change has to do with taxable benefits pursuant to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). As most cities are aware, cell phones have always been difficult to manage from an employee benefit perspective. Under the IRS regulations, a compilation of property called “listed property” determines how employers are to treat equipment provided to employees for the benefit of the employer. This list contains property that is also capable of being used for an employee’s personal use, such as computers, digital cameras, vehicles, and many more types of property. The approach taken by the IRS has been to require justification of the business use of the property, and if it cannot be justified, the entire cost of the benefit was taxable to the employee. The enforcement of this provision was inconsistent, although the IRS interest in this issue was high when doing audits, and the IRS guidance on the matter was less than clear.

Thus, with cell phones, unless the employer had records showing the phone was only used for business use, the cost of the cell phone and service was taxed to the employee. Some cities quit providing cell phones and just paid the employee a stipend to obtain their own service. Others either ignored the rule and hoped for the best, or accounted for the entire cost to the city for the cell phone and added that into the employees’ salary as a taxable benefit.

The Small Business Jobs and Credit Act of 2010, passed and was signed into law late last year. It took cell phones out of the IRS’s “listed property” schedule. Therefore, for the 2010 tax year and beyond, cell phones provided by cities for their employees should not be considered a taxable benefit to the employee. Really, this change eliminates the heightened substantiation requirements for cell phones that employers had to make for depreciation purposes. Cities might want to double check with their auditors to determine that this change has no adverse consequences.

Despite the change in the law, however, cities may continue to have policies regarding employees’ use of cell phones and other property. The change is only regarding how it is handled for IRS purposes. Cities may want to revisit their current regulations in light of the change in the law.

Alcoholic Liquor/CMB Licenses

The second change in the law affecting cities has to do with the length of alcoholic liquor licenses issued by the State and by cities.

K.S.A. 41-310 specifies that cities may levy and collect a biennial license tax for packaged liquor retailers. This is for any license issued after July 1, 2010. For a retailer selling packaged liquor, the license shall be in an amount not less than \$200 or more than \$600. For clubs and drinking establishments, pursuant to K.S.A. 41-2622, the license is again biennial after July 1, 2011, and the license fee shall be in an amount not less than \$200 or more than \$500. This would include both Class A and Class B licenses.

The license for cereal malt beverage continues to be a one year license, and while there has been discussion of changing that to biennial, nothing has emerged in this legislative session to date. As cities know, the other issue in the area of cereal malt beverage is the ability to issue temporary CMB licenses for special events. Right now, K.S.A. 41-2703 reads that licenses must be issued on an annual basis or for the calendar year. Thus, unless the city issues a one year license for specific events or a one year license that the licensee returns after the completion of the event, distributors may not sell CMB to the vendor. A bill in the Legislature would create the category of temporary CMB license and, at this writing, seems to be on its way to passage, so stay tuned on this issue.

Pawnbrokers & Precious Metal Dealers

Finally, pursuant to K.S.A. 16-707, pawnbrokers and precious metal dealers must first obtain a license before operating a business. In cities of the first and second class, the business must obtain the license from the city. The application must be on a form approved by the attorney general and must be accompanied by a \$25 fee that is deposited in the general fund of the city. Renewals are a like amount. The attorney general has issued a new application that may be found under the “Sample Ordinance” section of the LKM website, www.lkm.org.

One issue has arisen with K.S.A. 16-708(b), which requires Kansas citizenship as a condition of licensing pawnbrokers and precious metal dealers. Attorney General opinion 98-44 found this requirement unconstitutional, but the Legislature has never repealed this section. Thus, cities should consult their city attorneys regarding this issue.

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FUNDING SHORTFALL NEEDS COOPERATIVE SOLUTION AND PROACTIVE STEPS

BY GLENN DECK

According to the latest valuation, KPERS has a projected unfunded actuarial liability (UAL) of \$7.7 billion and a funded ratio of 64%. The UAL is the gap between the actuarial value of assets and the actuarial liability for service already earned by public employees.

Benefit payments are safe in the near-term. More than \$12 billion in assets are available to pay retirees. While the System does not have an immediate crisis, long-term funding is in serious jeopardy. KPERS has a fundamental shortfall and it will get larger unless legislative action is taken.

Benefits and Funding Basics

The Legislature defines what benefits employees will have and controls how those benefits are funded. The basic equation for funding benefits over the long-term is:

Employee Contributions + Employer Contributions + Investments = \$\$ for Benefits

Employee contributions are set by statute at a fixed percentage (Tier 1 at 4%; Tier 2 at 6%).

Employer Contributions

Employer contributions are the flexible and moving component in funding. As an employer, your contributions change annually based on actuarial calculations. These calculations take into consideration things like recent investment returns and member experience, as well as how many people retired, how many took early retirement, and how long they are living. Actual experience affects the actuary's projections for future costs. These projections affect changes in the employer contribution rate. KPERS employers do not pay the full actuarially required contribution rate because of statutory limits.

Investment Earnings

Investment earnings have an assumed 8% rate of return. That means over the long-term, KPERS investment returns should average 8%. Under statute, the KPERS Board of Trustees sets this assumption and it has been at 8% for nearly 25 years. Currently, 8% is the most predominate assumption rate among pension systems. Over the long-term, KPERS has hit the 8% return rate, but not over the last decade, a period marked by two recessions, one with loss levels unseen since the Great Depression.

The past decade's experience, along with a muted financial market outlook going forward, has KPERS and other pension

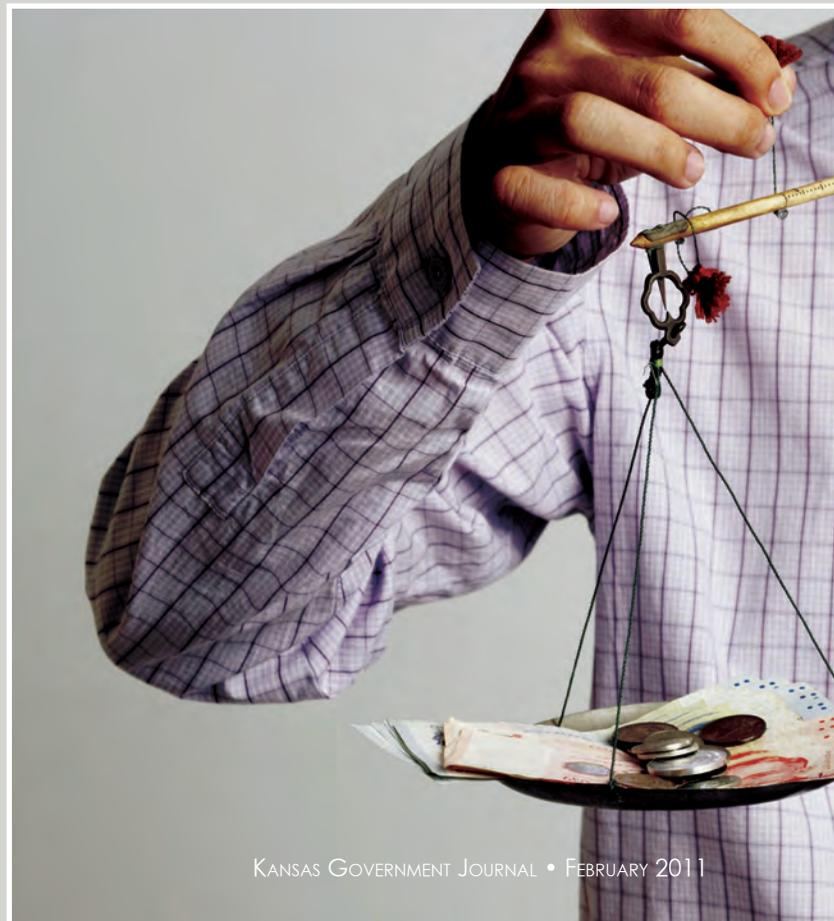
systems rethinking this long-held return assumption. There is a significant likelihood that KPERS will reduce its assumption rate in the next few months. This change would further increase the UAL.

Reasons for the Funding Shortfall

In 1993, the Legislature improved benefits and established a 40-year payment plan. This was pivotal because it was the first time that the Legislature delayed funding KPERS benefits.

Instead, the Legislature set up a payment schedule with limits on how fast employer contributions could increase to fund the improvements. This created what is known now as the statutory rate, the rate employers actually pay. These statutory increases were designed so that the statutory employer rates would eventually meet with the actuarial rates required to fund benefits.

In 2001 and 2002, projections showed that the KPERS plan was not in actuarial balance. The statutory and the actuarially required rates were not going to meet within the 40-year payment plan.



Not paying the actuarially required rate is like only paying part of a monthly mortgage payment. The unpaid amount each month is added back to the principal and causes the debt to continue to grow. The statute has not allowed employer rates to increase enough over time to fund benefits.

Causes for the funding shortfall:

- Benefit increases in the 1990s;
- Employers haven't contributed at the required rate for over 15 years;
- Large investment losses during the recession; and
- Members living longer and retiring earlier.

Earlier Efforts to Address the Shortfall

Following the 2001 actuarial valuation results, KPERS worked with the Legislature to develop and implement a comprehensive, long-term funding plan.

- 2003 legislation increased the state/school group's employer contribution rate cap and authorized issuing pension obligation bonds.
- In 2004, the state issued pension obligation bonds that added an additional \$440.2 million to the System's fund balance. Also in 2004, legislation increased the local group's employer contribution rate cap.
- 2007 legislation modified benefits for future members, creating a new plan tier. The new plan design included increased service requirements for retirement eligibility, increased benefit reductions for early retirement, and a 2% increase in employee contributions for new members. It also changed vesting to five years and added a regular cost-of-living adjustment for members in the new tier. These changes will significantly lower liabilities and employer contributions beginning in approximately 20 years.

These efforts along with strong investment returns began to improve KPERS' funding projections. However, unprecedented investment market declines in 2008 due to the financial crisis had a substantial negative impact, reversing the progress made in previous years.

KPERS' Financial Snapshot

The impact of the recession was clearly seen in the 2008 actuarial valuation. The System's funded ratio declined by 12% to equal 59%. The unfunded actuarial liability (UAL) increased by \$2.7 billion to equal \$8.3 billion.

Due to strong investment performance in 2009, the 2009 valuation showed a modest improvement. The UAL decreased by \$602 million to \$7.7 billion and the funded ratio rose to 64%. Despite that short-term improvement, the System's fundamental, long-term shortfall remains and will continue to grow.

Investment returns alone cannot fix the funding shortfall. Even with a yearly 8% return, the UAL will continue to increase in the coming years and the funded ratio will continue to decline. If returns over the next few years are weak or see new lows, the funding status could deteriorate further from current projections.

For public pension plans like KPERS, a funded ratio over 80% and rising is good. Funding below 60% is poor and needs prompt attention. The System as a whole and the school and local groups, in particular, are still near or below the 60% benchmark.

The school group is out of actuarial balance. It will not reach the actuarially required contribution (ARC) rate during what's left of the payment plan (through 2033). ARC rates for the school and local groups are significantly higher than their current statutory contribution rates.

GROUP	2012 CONTRIBUTION RATES*		FUNDED STATUS	
	Actuarial Rate	Statutory Rate	Unfunded Actuarial Liability (in Millions)	Funded Ratio
State	9.55%	9.37%	\$806.2	78%
School	14.69%	9.37%	\$4,998.8	56%
Local	9.44%	7.34%	\$1,315.5	64%
KP&F	16.54%	16.54%	\$530.3	76%
Judges	23.75%	23.75%	\$261.1	82%
System			\$7,676.9	64%

*Effective for fiscal year beginning in 2012. (FY 2013 for State and School Groups, State KP&F employers and Judges. CY 2012 for Local Group and Local KP&F employers.)

Efforts Since 2009

Since the recession, KPERS has worked with the Legislature's Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits and other committees to study a range of possible options to address the continuing problem.

- Increased employer contributions
- Increased employee contributions
- Changes in the statutory multiplier for future service
- Bond issues
- New mandatory defined contribution plan for future employees



During the 2010 Legislative Session, the Joint Committee introduced SB 564. It would have increased employer and employee contribution rates and increased the multiplier for future service. The House Select Committee introduced House Sub for HB 2400 that would have raised employer contributions. Both bills had hearings, but neither bill passed. A few days before session adjournment, the House Appropriations Committee introduced HB 2751, a bill to create a Tier 3 KPERS defined contribution retirement plan for new hires. No hearing was held.

The Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits voted in December 2010 to reintroduce versions of 564 and HB 2400 in the 2011 Legislative Session.

Now What?

National and regional media coverage about KPERS and other pensions has continued to increase awareness. Members and employers are more informed and concerned than ever about solving the problem.

In his state of the state speech, Governor Brownback included addressing KPERS as one of three core responsibilities that have a major impact on the state budget. At his request, the Senate has taken up the challenge to address the unfunded liability and ensure the integrity and soundness of the Retirement System. Senate leadership has appointed an 11-member special committee. In addition, the Kansas House leadership has created the Committee on Pensions and Benefits, a new standing committee, to focus on KPERS long-term funding and benefits.

These committees will take the lead in studying and developing a solution for KPERS' long-term funding. Two bills have now been introduced, SB 49 and HB 2086. The bills are in the early stages of consideration and make a good starting point from which to work.

The Legislature and Governor are ultimately responsible for benefits and funding. Continued legislative action is needed. The longer we wait to fix the problem, the more it will cost.

 Glenn Deck is the Executive Director of KPERS. He can be reached toll-free at 1-888-275-5737 or (785) 296-1019, or by e-mail at gdeck@kpers.org.



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Some Basic Facts on State and Local Government Workers

by Elizabeth McNichol

The public workforce has been the subject of much discussion lately—and, unfortunately, much misinformation. This brief report presents some basic facts about state and local employees: the jobs they perform, how many there are, how their pay compares with pay in the private sector, and how much states and localities—mainly school districts, cities, and counties—spend on pay and benefits.

Who Are Public Employees?

By far the largest share of state and local government workers are the nearly 7 million teachers, aides, and support staff working in the nation's elementary, middle, and high schools (see Figure 1). Other prominent categories of state and local employment are protective services (including police officers, fire fighters, and correctional officers), higher education, health care (including nurses and other workers at public hospitals and clinics), and transportation (including road maintenance workers and bus drivers).

How Has the Number of Public Employees Changed Over Time?

Over the last 30 years, the total number of state and local workers has grown modestly relative to the overall population, from about 59 per 1,000 in 1980 to 62 per 1,000 in 2010 (see Figure 2). All of that growth has been in education workers and reflects demographic changes and policy initiatives, such as efforts to reduce class sizes and better help children with special needs. Over the same period the number of non-education workers has declined relative to the overall population. Since August 2008, the total number of state and local government employees has declined by 426,000.

How Does Their Pay Compare to That of Private-Sector Workers?

Studies find that public workers are paid 4 to 11% less than private-sector workers with similar education, job tenure, and other characteristics.¹ This wage disadvantage is greatest for higher-wage public workers. The typical middle-wage worker earns about 4% less in the public sector than the private sector.² Low-wage state and local workers, by contrast, receive a small wage premium. (See Figure 3 on next page.)

While the average pay for all public employees exceeds that of all private workers, this reflects the fact that public-sector jobs are much more likely to require higher education; teaching positions require a college or master's degree, for example. State and local employees are twice as likely as private-sector workers to have a college or advanced degree.³

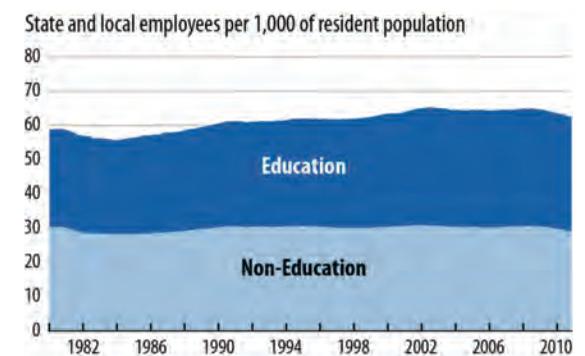
Public-sector workers also earn less than their private-sector counterparts when one counts both their wages and benefits such as pensions and health insurance. Benefits are more generous and secure for public employees than for most private-sector workers, but factoring in the value of these benefits does not eliminate the gap between state and local employees and their counterparts in comparable private-sector jobs.⁴

Figure 1
State and Local Jobs by Function



Source: CBPP calculations of 2009 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll (U.S. Census).

Figure 2
Recent Growth in Public Workforce Has Been in Education



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

How Much Do States and Localities Spend on their Employees?

Because providing services is the primary business of states as well as school districts, cities, counties, and other local governments, labor costs — i.e., wages and benefits — make up a significant share of their annual spending.

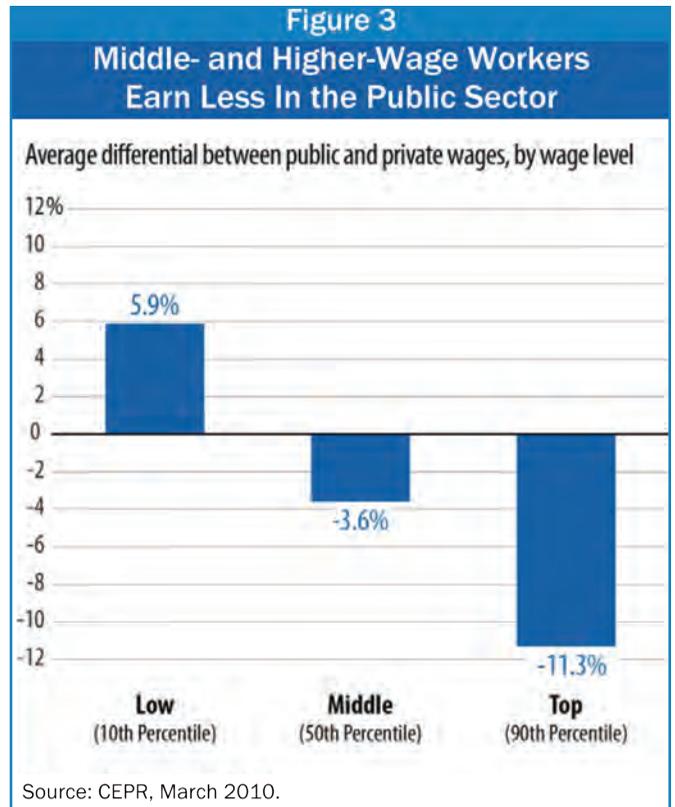
* **Wages and salaries.** Wages and salaries make up about one-third of state and local governments' general spending, on average, according to Census Bureau data. States spend a considerably smaller share (about 15%) than local governments (41%).

* **Total compensation.** Spending on benefits such as health insurance and retirement is not reported to the Census but can be estimated using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Adding these costs brings the total costs of compensation for state and local workers to about 44% of state and local spending. Some 20% of state spending is for employee compensation, compared to about 55% of local government spending.⁵

 Elizabeth McNichol is a Senior Fellow specialized in state fiscal issues for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. She can be reached at mcnichol@cbpp.org.

¹Keith A. Bender and John S. Heywood, *Out of Balance? Comparing Public and Private Sector Compensation over 20 Years*, Center for State & Local Government Excellence (CSLGE), National Institute on Retirement Security, April 2010, <http://www.slgc.org/vertical/Sites/%7BA260E1DF-5AEE-459D-84C4-876EFE1E4032%7D/uploads/%7B03E820E8-F0F9-472F-98E2-F0AE1166D116%7D.PDF>. See also John Schmitt, *The Wage Penalty for State and Local Government Employees*, Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), March, 2010, <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/wage-penalty-2010-05.pdf>.

²Schmitt, pages 8-9. In addition, the Economic Policy Institute. www.epi.org has prepared a series of analyses that focus on individual states.

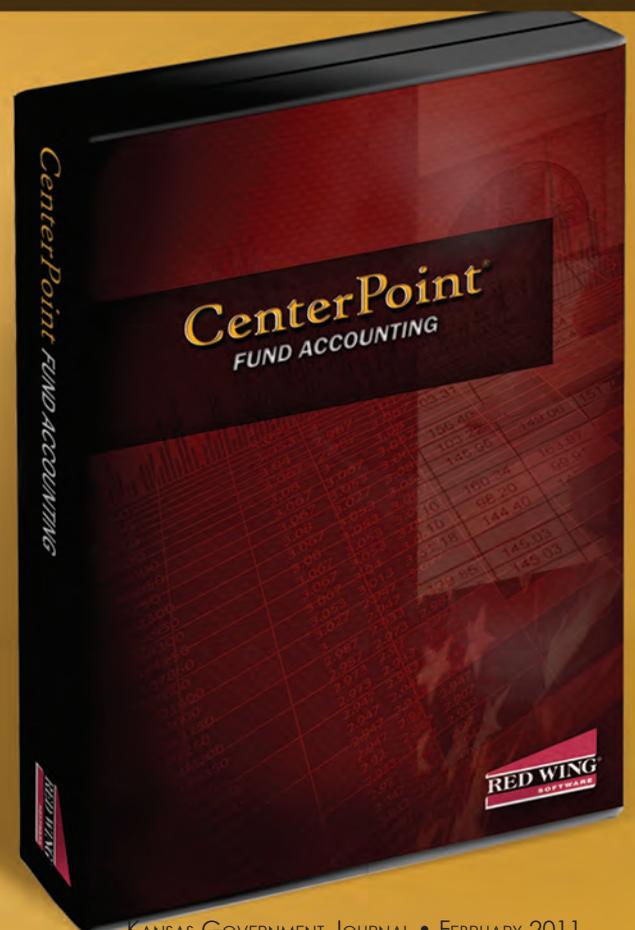


³See analysis of Current Population Survey data in Bender and Heywood, page 7.

⁴Bender and Haywood, pages 14-15.

⁵Total compensation figures were estimated by applying a multiplier for state and local workers based on the BLS Employer Cost survey to the wage data from the Census Government Finances data. All data are for 2008.

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Assistant City Manager

City of Ellisville, MO is seeking a new Assistant City Manager. Manager/Council Charter Government, Pop. 9,100, \$9 million budget. Full position details available at www.ellisville.mo.us/jobs.

To apply, send resume and cover letter to: City Manager's Office
1 Weis Avenue
Ellisville, MO 63011
636-227-9660

City Superintendent

The City of Conway Springs is seeking an experienced working supervisor who will be responsible for all aspects of public works, including the maintenance and operations of the water and wastewater distribution systems, and for facility and road maintenance. Class I water or wastewater certification is preferred. Applicant must have a valid driver's license and high school diploma or equivalent. Salary is based on qualifications and experience. Applications are available at City Hall 208 W. Spring Ave. Conway Springs KS 67031, cscity@haviglandtelco.com or 620-456-2345.

Deputy City Attorney

The City of Topeka is seeking a Deputy City Attorney. This position reports to the City Attorney/Director of Law, is the

principle assistant in the administration of the City's legal affairs, serves as the Acting City Attorney in the City Attorney's absence and supervises other attorneys. Responsibilities include legal work in the areas of Administrative Law, Finance, and Contracts, serving as the legal advisor to various departments and drafts contracts, pleadings, motions and other legal documents on behalf of the City of Topeka and its elected officials, and/or employees. This position also drafts and/or reviews ordinances and resolutions for form, content and legality prior to presentation to the City Council for consideration.

Minimum qualifications include graduation from an accredited school of law with a Juris Doctorate and licensed to practice law in the State of Kansas. Must have at least five years of professional law practice with two years of supervisory experience.

Minimum starting salary is \$67.6K, actual salary DOQ.

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City of Topeka employment application and resume required. Full position description and application available at www.topeka.org/employment

Director of Finance

The City of El Dorado, Kansas, is seeking a Director of Finance. The City of El Dorado is located in South Central Kansas, approximately 30 miles northeast of Wichita, KS, with a population of approximately 13,000.

El Dorado is the County seat of Butler County and provides residents easy access to the amenities of Wichita, Kansas the most populous City in the State. Access to the rest of the state is facilitated by El Dorado's location at the intersection of major highways, including I-35 and KS-254.

The position will be responsible for, but not limited to, financial policy development and implementation, financial statements,

forecasting, monitoring of the CIP and operating budgets, fund allocation, preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, assessments, and bond sales. The Finance Director will manage fiscal strategies in conformance with generally accepted governmental finance accounting and auditing principles and practices. The City's 2011 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan is \$26,986,033.

The minimum requirements are a Bachelor's degree in Finance, Accounting, Business or Public Administration, or related field. Prefer 10 years of progressively responsible experience, including five years of managerial experience in government accounting, financial management or related field. A Certified Public Accountant license is preferred. An MPA or MBA is desired.

The salary range is \$51,417.60 to \$74,547.20 with an excellent fringe benefit package. All offers of employment are conditional upon the successful completion of a credit and background check, physical screening, and drug/alcohol screening. Applicants may apply at www.hrepartners.com or send cover letter and resume including three (3) references should be submitted to Human Resources, City of El Dorado, 220 East First St., El Dorado, KS 67042.

Director of Member Services

The Kansas Power Pool (KPP) is accepting applications for the position of Director of Member Services. The Kansas Power Pool located in Wichita, KS is a Municipal Energy Agency currently supplying full requirement electric service to 26 cities in Kansas.

KPP seeks candidates that have demonstrated ability to organize, set and implement priorities, manage multiple tasks and evaluate performance. Preference to candidates with experience with municipal (public power) organizations in particular previous experience communicating effectively with City Governing Bodies and Staff in Kansas. Knowledge and experience in developing and preparing presentations, budgets, including management of programs developed to assist and enhance programs associated with municipal electric systems. Candidate will in particular be responsible for the development, enhancement and implementation of the KPP's energy



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efficiency program(s). Strong interpersonal and professional skills. Candidates must be willing to travel to meet with members cities on a regular basis as well as to participate in industry related organizations. Degree in appropriate field or equivalent experience is required.

Benefits include vacation, KPERS, health insurance, holidays and sick leave.

Submit applications/resumes, work and salary history with a cover letter and four work related references to Kansas Power Pool, 200 W. Douglas, Suite 601, Wichita, Kansas 67202. The position is open until filled. Kansas Power Pool is an equal opportunity employer.

Finance Director

The City of Prairie Village is seeking a highly responsible, creative, and progressive individual for the position of Finance Director. This position is responsible for, but not limited to, the day-to-day management of the City's finance department, maintaining and reporting the financial resources of the City, preparing special financial information and forecasting as needed and preparing the City's annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and annual budget. For more information about this opportunity, please go to the City's website at www.pykansas.com.

High Voltage Electrical Worker

The City of Herington is currently accepting applications and resumes for the position of high voltage electrical worker. Two years experience is preferred. Applicants must be able to work in inclement weather and have a thorough knowledge of the equipment and procedures used in the construction and maintenance of electrical distribution systems. City of Herington residency is preferred. Must pass a drug screen upon conditional offer of employment. Valid Kansas driver's licence required. Salary DOQ. Excellent benefits including health insurance, life insurance, KPERS retirement plan and paid vacation and sick leave. Applications may be obtained at City Hall, 17 North Broadway, 785-258-2271. Applications and resumes should be returned to the City of Herington, P.O. Box 31, Herington, KS 67449 or faxed to 785-258-3552. For more information contact Mike

Wendt, Utilities Superintendent, at 785-258-0140. Position is open until filled. EOE.

Museum Director

The City of Goodland, KS is looking for a dynamic leader to serve as Director of the High Plains Museum. The successful candidate will be a hands-on, multifaceted leader able to articulate the Museum's mission, maintain and develop relationships, supervise a small staff and volunteers, and creatively promote the Museum in the region, both as an educational institution and as a heritage tourism destination. We seek a leader who is an exceptional communicator and whose passion for the Museum is clearly evident by his or her ability to clearly and enthusiastically articulate its vision. Bachelor's degree, prior success in fundraising, and museum experience preferred, but not required. Review of applications will begin on March 21, 2011 and the position will remain open until filled. Cover letter and resume including three (3) references should be submitted to Doug Gerber, City Manager, 204 W. 11th Street, Goodland, KS 67735, cmanager@goodlandks.us. Salary range is \$35,000 - \$45,000 annually DOQ, plus a competitive benefit package.

Planning & Development Services Director

The City of Overland Park, KS., (pop. 170,000+), an attractive, progressive, AAA bond rated and rapidly growing suburban community in Johnson County (Kansas City metro area), seeks an exceptionally qualified Director of Planning & Development Services to be an integral member of the City's management team. Responsibilities include coordinating the development, implementation, and administration of City's land use and zoning regulations, comprehensive planning projects, building codes, engineering services, property maintenance requirements, environmental health ordinances and programs, public/private partnerships, and GIS & CDBG programs. Will prepare & administer the department budget; select, supervise, and train staff; coordinate Community Development Committee meetings; and supervise staff support of Planning Commission, Board

of Zoning Appeals, Business Improvement District Advisory Board, CDBG Committee, Code Board of Appeals, and Landmarks Commission. Bachelor's degree in city or urban planning, landscape architecture, engineering, geography or public administration with an emphasis in city planning or additional equivalent experience. Master's degree in urban planning or public administration desirable. Eight to ten years of experience is expected in managerial or supervisory positions related to planning, design, bldg codes or construction. Salary is DOQ. Open until filled. Apply by completing an online application at www.opkansas.org and attaching a resume and cover letter with salary history and a brief summary of a major professional accomplishment. If you are unable to apply online, you may visit the HR Office between 1pm-4 pm, M-F, except holidays.

City of Overland Park
HR Department
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Water/Wastewater Superintendent

The City of Burlington, KS is accepting applications and resumes for Water/Wastewater Superintendent until the position is filled. Applications & Job Descriptions are available at City of Burlington, P.O. Box 207, 301 Neosho Street, Burlington, Kansas; or via email to sburlington@mchsi.com. (Phone: 620-364-5334.) Education: Must have HS/GED, technical degree or some college credit in related field, Class III Water Operator Certification, Class II Wastewater Certification, and Valid Kansas Drivers License - or the ability to obtain one within 30 days of employment. Minimum 4 years of similar or related experience. Must possess excellent supervisory, public relation, organizational, and oral and written communication skills. Must be thoroughly knowledgeable in laws/regulations of water and wastewater treatment techniques and laboratory testing equipment and techniques; and must possess a working knowledge of mathematics, chemistry, and biology, as required by KDHE. Must be able to operate department equipment. EOE.



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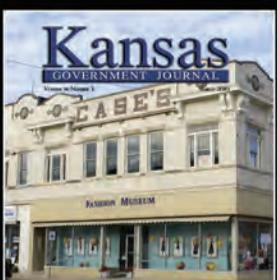
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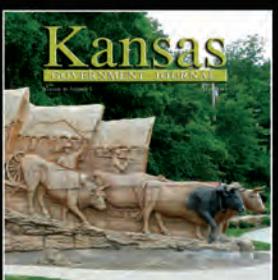
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Never Say Never



Recently, I have been paying close attention to the NCAA Basketball Tournament, and of course have been rooting for the teams from Kansas. As of this writing, the Kansas Jayhawks have advanced to the Sweet 16, and with the Morris twins going strong, a championship run looks to be entirely possible. I also root for the K-State Wildcats. I felt they had a shot to go reasonably deep into the tournament this year, especially given

the excellent play of Jacob Pullen. I can say that despite the fact they did not make it to the Sweet 16, Jacob Pullen went out on a high note with 38 points and an outstanding overall performance. It was clear from observing the KSU v. Wisconsin game that they left it all on the floor, and the team should have no regrets about their play in the tournament.

While watching the tournament it occurred to me that sports, like many endeavors, has a natural beginning, middle, and end. In basketball there is a beginning, middle, and end to the season as well as to the basketball games themselves. Being timed events they take the amount of time they take and are delayed only by timeouts, the occasionally injury, and half time. One can pretty much count on the fact that the entire endeavor will last no longer than about two hours, unless there are numerous foul calls or overtime. At the end of that two-hour period, you will know who won, and who lost, and a team can celebrate victory, or accept defeat. The same is true of the NCAA tournament. There is a beginning, a middle, and an end with the ultimate result being that of the 68 teams that were invited to participate in this year's tournament, 67 of them will go home having lost their last game of the season with one eventual winner who will be declared the National Champions.

But life, unlike basketball games and other sporting events, presents many challenges which you do not necessarily see in a sporting event. I remember the old Steve Martin film *Parenthood*, which involved Steve Martin raising children and at some point in the movie he makes the observation that: "there is no end, you never cross the goal line, spike the ball, and do your touchdown dance, never..." No matter their age or your age, you are always concerned about your children, and there are always challenges to be faced. The same can be said of government and government service.

Governments exist in perpetuity. Governments are expected to provide services and take care of the needs of the public. There is no time limit. There is only the work and the need to continue to provide the services seamlessly over a period of days, months, years, decades, and ultimately centuries. Which means that government service does not allow for a spiking of the ball and a victory dance. While we will celebrate successes involving new projects which have a beginning, middle, and end, ultimately the business of government continues unabated. I occasionally think of the postal service in that every day they move millions of pieces of mail, and then the next day they do the same thing. There is

never a time when the mail is not accumulating. There is never a time when they do not have to deliver the mail. The same is true of local government. The fact that water was successfully delivered today, while a victory today, is not a victory tomorrow. It is only a victory if the service is provided every day, day in and day out, without interruption and without failure.

So it grieves me when I see public figures quoted in news articles, or on television, or on the internet who suggest, or outright state, negative things about public employees. Those comments are at least unfortunate, and at worst are outrageous and dangerous. Certainly, they leave one with a very negative impression of public service. That then raises the question of why anybody in the future would seek to be a public employee when all you may be able to expect are low wages, poor benefits, and the contempt of a certain group of people you are trying to serve. This really hit me the other day as I was reading some headlines in *USA Today*. In the March 2, 2011 online edition was an article which was entitled "Wisconsin one of 41 states where public workers earn more."

Well, sort of, kinda, not really. As it turns out, the methodology of this study, and others purporting to say the same thing, is fatally flawed. When you compare apples to apples, you will find that public employees on average are paid between 4% and 11% less than private-sector employees with similar education, job tenure, and other pertinent characteristics. (See related article on page 55). The simple fact of the matter is that this is the case today, was the case yesterday, and will be the case tomorrow. That said, what is really interesting is that even if you accept the proposition of the study which was reported in *USA Today*, you will find that it still does not hold true for Kansas.

In fact, according to the *USA Today* article, in Kansas a typical state or local government worker earns \$3,229 less than a comparable employee in the private sector. As if that wasn't startling enough, the average compensation for a Kansas state and local worker ranked...wait for it...48th out of the 50 States, trailed only by North Dakota and South Dakota. Which seems to suggest to this writer that perhaps some of the assumptions that have been made and universally touted by some, do not hold true in Kansas. Public workers in Kansas are producing a bigger bang for the buck than in many, many other places.

Rather than being denigrated, as it seems they are in some quarters, public employees should be being celebrated and their achievements held up as an example for others. As I have said in the past, local public employees serve in large part because they feel they are doing something positive for their communities and the citizens they serve. It seems to me that if Kansas is to be successful in this new century, we must find common ground where public employees are not seen as the enemy, nor are they held to some standard which cannot reasonably be met. While public sector employees never get to spike the ball and declare victory, their victory is found in the ongoing success of our cities, counties, and state. We should all be proud of that and of them.



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October 8-10 • Hyatt Regency Wichita & Century II Convention Center • Wichita

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE CHANGE

Please note there has been a change in the overall conference schedule. The annual conference will now begin on Saturday at noon, and conclude at 3:30 p.m. on Monday afternoon.

Hyatt Regency Wichita**

400 W. Waterman

Wichita, KS 67202

(316) 293-1234

Single/Double \$116 + tax per night

Cut-off Date: 9/14/11

Connected to Century II

** Hyatt Regency Wichita requires a non-refundable deposit equal to one night's stay in order to secure reservations.



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.
- Reservations may not be made until after 3/1/11.
- 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.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMODATIONS:

Hotel at Old Town

830 East First

Wichita, KS 67202

(877) 265-3869

Single/Double \$122 + tax per night

Cut-off Date: 9/17/11

Courtyard by Marriott - Wichita at Old Town

820 E. Second S. North

Wichita, KS 67202

(316) 264-5300

Queen/King: \$109 + tax per night

Cut-off Date: 9/16/11

Fairfield Inn & Suites at the Water Walk

525 S Main

Wichita KS 67202

(316) 264-5300 ext 4924

Queen/King: \$89 + tax per night

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- **Annual Contribution Discounts** — Members earn discounts based on safety records and participation in KMIT safety programs.

KMIT is a workers' compensation program endorsed by the League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Municipal Utilities Association.

Contact the League of Kansas Municipalities for more information.
(785) 354-9565 • dosenbaugh@cox.net