

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

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JULY 2011



Inside:

Kansas Welcomes Bikers

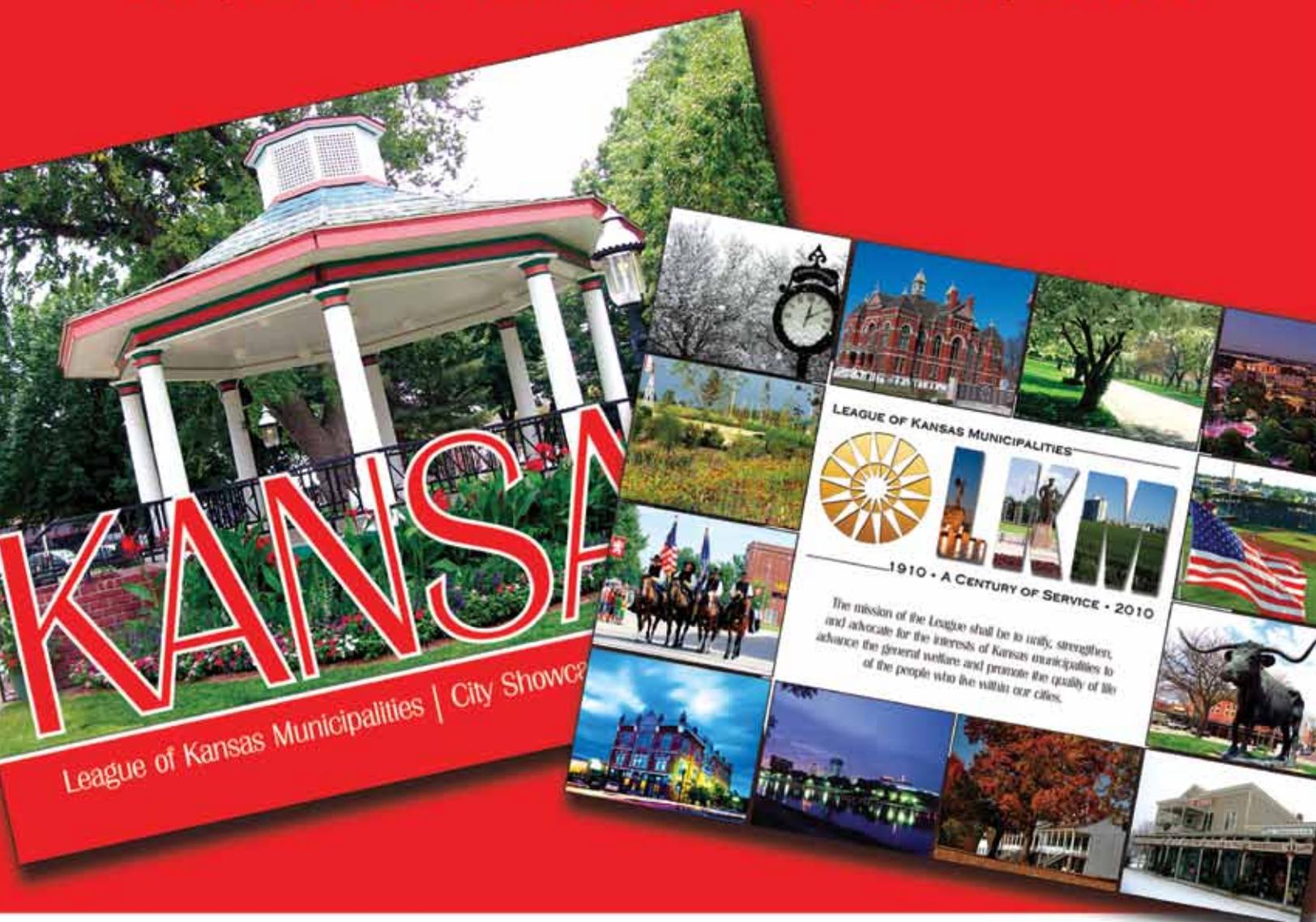
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League of Kansas Municipalities

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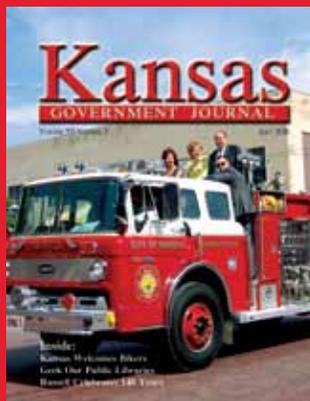
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About the Cover: Senator Bob Dole along with his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Robin, attended the Prairiesta Parade in the City of Russell. See related article, beginning on page 212. *Photo by Dallas Harmon.*

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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.



August

- 16 - Finance and Taxation Policy Committee, Topeka
- 18 - Utilities and Environment Policy Committee, Topeka
- 19 - MLA: KOMA/KORA, Newton
- 20 - MLA: KOMA/KORA, Lawrence
- 23 - Public Officers and Employees Policy Committee, Topeka
- 25 - Legislative Policy Committee, Topeka
- 26 - MLA: KOMA/KORA, Oakley
- 26 - KMIT Board of Trustees Meeting, Arkansas City

September

- 5 - Labor Day
- 9 - LKM Governing Body Meeting, Hutchinson
- 9 - MLA: The Power of Leadership, Hays
- 30 - MLA: The Power of Leadership, Topeka

October

- 8 - 10 LKM Annual Conference
- 9 - LKM Governing Body Meeting, Wichita
- 10 - KMIT Annual Meeting, Wichita

Obituaries

Owen E. Duer, 75, died May 18, 2011 in Onaga. Duer served as Mayor of Onaga and was the Chamber of Commerce President. He was a member of the Lions Club where he was a Melvin Jones Fellow and served as District Governor. In addition, Duer served on the Extension Board in both Riley and Pottawatomie Counties, the Pottawatomie County Planning and Zoning Committee, the Pottawatomie County Solid Waste Board, and the Onaga Community Hospital Board for 11 years. Duer worked as a banker from 1986 to 1996 for the First National Bank of Onaga.

Elwaine Pomeroy, 78, died June 29, 2011 in Topeka. He served four terms in the Kansas Senate from 1969 to 1984, one term as Senate Local Government chair, two as Senate Judiciary chair. Pomeroy was first appointed to the National Uniform Law Commission in 1979 and continuously appointed by both Republican and Democrat governors until 2007 when he was awarded lifetime status. In 1984, he was appointed as chair of the Kansas Parole Board, serving until 1990, at which time he returned to his full time private practice, Pomeroy and Pomeroy in Topeka.

Merle William Gaylon, 87, passed away May 30, 2011 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Gaylon lived in Valley Center for 61 years. He served on the Valley Center Planning Commission, was a councilman and mayor of Valley Center. Gayle was also a past president of the Chamber of Commerce.



BREWER APPOINTS LKM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

LKM President Carl Brewer, Mayor from the City of Wichita, has appointed a nine member committee to serve as the 2011 LKM Nominating Committee. These appointments were confirmed by the LKM Governing Body at its June meeting in Wichita. The Committee will be chaired by Carl Gerlach, LKM Past President and Mayor from Overland Park. There are four director positions on the Governing Body, each with a three-year term of office, considered each year. In addition, the Committee will consider nominations for President and Vice-president for one-year terms.

LKM encourages officials from all member cities to participate in our organization and to consider serving on the Governing Body. Being part of the Governing Body is an excellent way to shape the future development of your organization. LKM welcomes officials

from both large and small cities, from all regions of Kansas, to nominate their colleagues or even themselves for Governing Body positions. See the guidelines for selection below.

Article 4 of the LKM Bylaws charges the Nominating Committee with submitting a written report at least 24 hours prior to the start of the annual business meeting of the organization. This year's business meeting, including elections, will be held Monday, October 10, during the LKM Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Wichita & Century II Convention Center. In order to facilitate the process, we ask that all nominations be received by Friday, September 9, at 5:00 p.m. to the League of Kansas Municipalities, 300 SW 8th Ave., Topeka, KS 66603.

2011 NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carl Gerlach (Chair)
Mayor
8500 Santa Fe Drive
Overland Park, KS 66212

Daron Hall
City Administrator
115 W. Grant
Ulysses, KS 67880

Kathy Raney
City Administrator/City Clerk
125 W. Rosewood, PO Box 185
Rose Hill, KS 67133

Clausic Smith
Mayor
205 E. 2nd
Bonner Springs, KS 66612

Phil Dudley
Mayor
439 Main St.
Osawatomic, KS 66064

Bob Myers
City Attorney
201 E. 6th, PO Box 426
Newton, KS 67114

Brad Smiley
Mayor
100 S. Main, PO Box 476
Canton, KS 67428

Kim Thomas
Mayor
115 S. Walnut, PO Box 512
Stockton, KS 67669

Lavonta Williams
Councilmember
455 N. Main
Wichita, KS 67202

Nomination forms have been mailed to mayors of all LKM member cities. Additional copies are available by contacting Anna DeBusk at adebusk@lkm.org or visit our website at www.lkm.org.

GUIDELINES FOR LKM GOVERNING BODY SELECTION

Pursuant to Article 4, Section 3 of the LKM Bylaws, the Governing Body has established the following guidelines for LKM Governing Body and Officer Elections: **Section 1. Primary Considerations.** The overall strength of the individual candidates for the LKM Governing Body should be the primary consideration of the nominating committee. Candidates should be evaluated based upon the length of term in office, past service to LKM, potential leadership contributions, and their willingness to serve the organization. In addition, the nominating committee should consider the following factors: **A) Class and Size of City.** A concerted effort should be made to provide for diversity on the Governing Body based on city population. As is traditional, there should be a representative on the Governing Body from each of the cities with a population in excess of 120,000. **B) Elected and Appointed Officials.** The large majority of the Governing Body members should be elected officials. The office of city manager/city administrator should be represented by one or two members. Other appointed officials may be represented by one or two

members. **C) Regional Distribution.** It is important to try to reach a regional distribution that is as diverse as possible. The LKM Governing Body has adopted a regional map as a benchmark. Regional diversity is a general goal that we strive to maintain. **D) Gender, Race, and Ethnicity.** The Committee should factor in gender, race, and ethnicity considerations in order to achieve diversity as well. **Section 2. Officer Candidates.** **A) President.** In keeping with long-standing LKM tradition, the Vice President ascends to the position of President. This policy enables the Vice President to participate on the LKM Executive Committee for a year before leading the organization. **B) Vice President.** Candidates for Vice President should be evaluated primarily based upon the length of term in office, past services to LKM, potential leadership contributions, and their willingness to serve the organization. Other considerations include: 1) at least one year of prior service on the LKM Governing Body; 2) alternation between large and small cities; and 3) geographic diversity.



DUI Law Requirements

SB 6, the new driving under the influence (DUI) bill, represents a philosophical shift in focus for the handling of DUIs. The goal of SB 6, while still punitive, seems to focus on reducing the number of multiple DUIs by the same offender through the use of evaluations to determine treatment needs, providing options for the court in sentencing the offender, and allowing the offender to maintain the ability to safely get behind the wheel of a motor vehicle through the use of interlock devices. This allows the offender to maintain a job and lessens the economic impact on families.

While it is the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) that will be suspending the offender's drivers license in most cases, the suspension statutes have changed significantly. Whether it is for a test refusal, DUI with .08% blood or breath alcohol concentration, or DUI with greater than .15% blood or breath alcohol concentration, the maximum suspension is for 1 year. Then, after the one-year suspension is served, the offender may only drive a motor vehicle that is equipped with an ignition interlock device for up to 10 years, depending on the offense. For the first DUI, the suspension is for 30 days and after that is served, the interlock device requirement is for an additional 180 days. There are additional penalties if the individual drives in violation of the interlock requirements.

Several provisions have been added regarding the use of interlock devices. First, for individuals with the requirement to use an interlock device for 10 years, after serving five years of the penalty, the offender may petition the court, which may restore the offender's driving privileges. Persons serving suspensions under violations occurring prior to these amendments may request to come under the current law for drivers license suspensions and use of interlock devices. In addition, after serving 45 days of the one-year suspension, the offender may apply for the use of an interlock device to go to work, school, or drug and alcohol treatment.

There are several small changes of which law enforcement officers should be aware. First, DUI testing was previously required to be done within two hours of driving the motor vehicle. This has been changed so that the testing may be done within three hours. The preliminary screening of an offender's breath has been broadened to also allow the testing of saliva, or both, if the law enforcement officer has reasonable suspicion that an individual is operating or attempting to operate a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. All screening devices must be approved pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Health and Environment.

The penalties for DUI have also changed. A first DUI violation is a Class B misdemeanor or ordinance violation. It requires not less than 48 consecutive hours or more than 6 months of imprisonment or 100 hours community service, and a fine of not less than \$750. The court may also sentence the offender to house arrest, but only after the offender has served 48 consecutive hours of imprisonment. The second offense is a Class A misdemeanor or ordinance violation and requires a minimum of 90 days to a maximum of one-year imprisonment and a \$1,250 minimum fine. The court may utilize a work release program, but only after the offender has served 48 consecutive hours of imprisonment. Then, work release must include another 120 hours of imprisonment from the end of the workday in the evening to the beginning of the workday in the morning. In addition, house arrest is also an option after the offender has served 48 consecutive hours of confinement, but also must serve at least 120 hours of confinement inside the offender's residence.

Third DUIs have two classes. First, if the offender has not had a prior DUI conviction within the previous 10 years, it is a Class A misdemeanor or ordinance violation. The minimum imprisonment is 90 days. Work release or house arrest may be ordered after 48 consecutive hours of imprisonment. Either of the latter options requires 240 hours of confinement, either in the residence for house arrest, or in jail during non-working hours for work release. The third DUI for those having a conviction within 10 years is a felony level. In one place in the bill, cities are prohibited from taking jurisdiction over felony level offenses, but in another section, cities are granted such authority. Thus, with this internal inconsistency, it would be ill advised for cities to attempt prosecution of felony DUIs in municipal court.

From the penalties outlined above, it should be apparent that prosecuting DUIs is going to require the city to house the offender for some period of time. In many counties, the city must pay to utilize the county jail for such imprisonment. Because of the significant imprisonment required and the potential to wrongly charge the third DUI, this level of offense was omitted from the 2011 Standard Traffic Ordinance (STO). SB 6 imposes some other requirements on cities. First, the city attorney, upon the filing of a complaint, citation or notice to appear in municipal court for a DUI violation and prior to conviction, must request DMV records for any violation of the motor vehicle laws of Kansas, and from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, all criminal history record information. Interestingly, the district attorney has a similar requirement, but must request the information before a complaint is filed. The look-back period for DUI for the purpose of enhancing the level of penalty is any conviction from 2001 and after. The look-back period for commercial DUI violations is forever.

Municipal courts must order a drug and alcohol evaluation of the offender before sentencing by an approved provider. In addition, such evaluation must be ordered for any offender going into a diversion program. The court shall order the cost of the evaluation to be paid by the offender at the time of the service, not to exceed \$150. For cities that prosecute third DUIs, the court, to determine whether the offender must be supervised after release from imprisonment, must utilize a risk assessment tool approved by the Sentencing Commission. Therefore, municipal courts would have to establish a program much like the district courts' community corrections program.

Another issue that has come up is in regards to the section (Sec. 8(p)) of the bill that requires \$250 of each fine amount to be sent to the state treasurer for the community corrections supervision fund. This section specifically states that it is the clerk of the district court that remits the money, so it does not apply to municipal courts. The municipal court judge must ensure that the court reports the filing and disposition of each DUI case to the KBI central repository. After July 1, 2013, such reporting must be electronic.

Only municipal courts capable of complying with all of the requirements of SB 6 may prosecute violations of the DUI laws. Cities need to weigh the cost of compliance with the benefits of prosecuting the law in municipal court. In addition, those cities wishing to prosecute third violations of the DUI law will need to adopt an ordinance amending the STO to add that offense. Otherwise, cities will be restricted to prosecute only first and second violations.

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

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback announced his appointments to the 911 Coordinating Council.

Established by Senate Bill 50, the 911 Coordinating Council will monitor the delivery of 911 services in our state, develop strategies for future enhancements to the 911 system, and distribute grant funds to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs).

“New technologies give Kansans in emergency situations more options to call for assistance but unless our 911 call centers keep up with that changing technology, they can’t take the calls or receive

the texts or emails. This council will play a critical role in shaping our state’s approach to how we invest in new technologies,” Governor Brownback said.

The Governor appointed Walter Way to serve as the council’s chairman.

The council also will establish rules and regulations necessary to carry out the new law and will designate the Local Collection Point Administrator (LCPA) to assist the council as it moves forward.

Legislative leadership also is responsible for appointing four voting members.

THE 12 VOTING MEMBERS APPOINTED:

2 representing information technology personnel from government units

- Richard Vogt, Newton
- Chris Kelly, Louisburg

1 representing a law enforcement officer

- Chief Gary Smith, Emporia

1 representing a fire chief

- Chief Mike Naploitano, Great Bend

1 recommended by the Adjutant General

- Jessica Frye, Topeka

1 recommended by the Kansas Emergency Medical Services Board

- Bob Boaldin, Elkhart

1 recommended by the KS Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

- Rebecca Rosenthal, Lawrence

2 representing PSAP’s located in counties with less than 75,000 population

- Michele Abbott, Hutchinson
- James Reed, Sumner Co.

2 representing PSAP’s in counties with greater than 75,000 populations

- Walter Way, Johnson Co.
- Kim Pennington, Sedgwick Co.

1 representing PSAP’s without regard to size of county

- Pat Collins, Riley Co.

THE 10 NON-VOTING MEMBERS APPOINTED:

1 recommended by the Kansas rural independent telephone companies

- Jimmy Todd, Little River

1 representing incumbent local exchange carriers with more than 50,000 access lines

- Phillip Ryan, AT&T

1 representing large wireless providers

- Larry Meyers, Overland Park

1 representing VoIp providers

- Coleen Jennison, Cox Communications

1 recommended by the League of Kansas Municipalities

- Kimberly Winn, Topeka

1 recommended by the Kansas Association of Counties

- Rob Roberts, Paola

1 recommended by the KS Geographic Information Systems Policy Board

- Ivan Weichert, Topeka

1 recommended by KAN-ED

- Dennis George, Ottawa

1 recommended by the Kansas Division of Information Systems and Communications

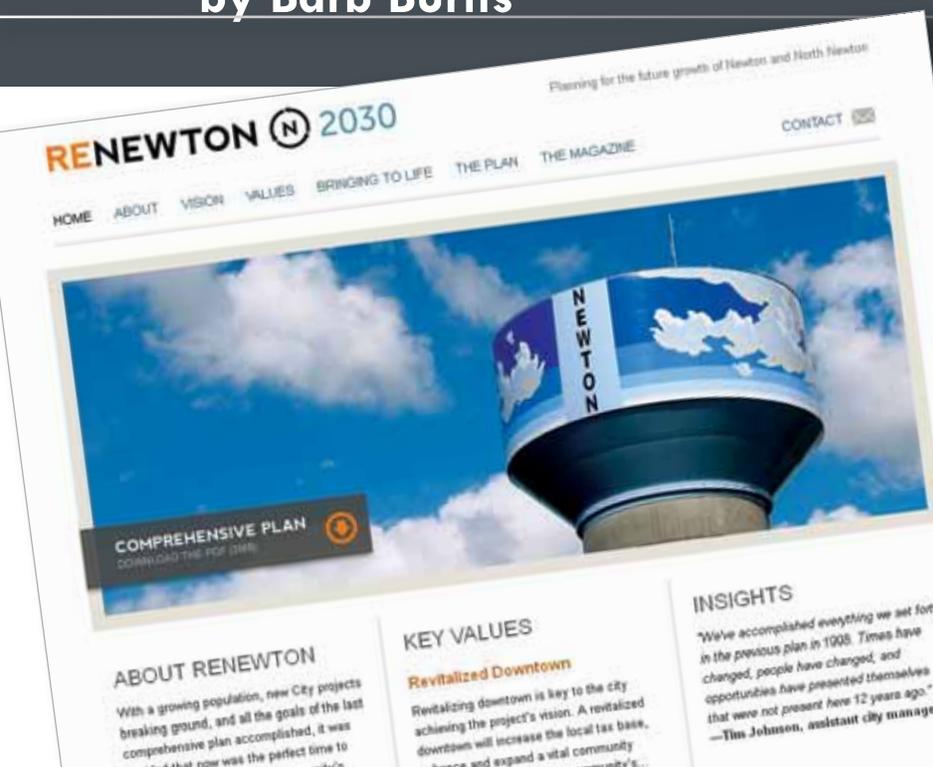
- Jay Coverdale, Topeka

1 recommended by the Mid-America Regional Council

- Keith Faddis, Overland Park

NEWTON CITIZENS INTEGRAL TO COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

by Barb Burns



ReNewton has developed several new marketing materials to kick off their 2030 comprehensive plan.

Remodel, refinance, realign. Rekindle, readjust, refinish.

A pocket dictionary lists over 125 action verbs beginning with the syllable re. The prefix is Latin and connotes “to do again” or “to go back to.” Re- words imply purpose. They are proactive.

REDEFINE. RESTRUCTURE. RENEGOTIATE.

When the City of Newton set forth to update its comprehensive plan, officials acknowledged it had to be different this time. With a surge of economic activity on the horizon, Newton was ready to re-energize citizens, renew dreams, rethink how the City would move forward. City staff knew this comp plan needed to be more than the perfunctory revision of land maps and sewer extensions. This was not going to be another bureaucratic document relegated to the City Manager's bookcase. Newton's future warranted a roadmap.

Located in Harvey County at the intersection of Interstate 135 and US Highway 50, Newton is a community of 20,000. The town enjoys a rich history from its early days on the Chisholm Trail and its Golden Years as a hub of the Santa Fe Railroad. Despite easy proximity to shopping malls and big box stores in Wichita, Newton's Main Street has remained viable and is enjoying a bump in private investment.

Adjacent to the city limits of Newton is the City of North Newton (pop. 1,900). The two cities are distinct municipalities with divergent cultural and socio-economic demographics, differing property tax rates, and distinct social priorities. The two municipalities share fire and EMS, water and wastewater utilities, and have common interests and ties.

TWO CITIES. ONE COMMUNITY.

The Newton area experienced an 11% growth the past decade. With anticipated growth and activity associated with the Kansas Logistics Park (see inset), the City of Newton recognizes the importance of bringing citizens into the conversation as we plan for the community's future. Newton is a friendly, caring town, but seldom have large groups of diverse citizens come together in a decision-making context.

THAT WAS ABOUT TO CHANGE.

Tom Phillips, AICP, Phillips & Associates, was hired in 2009 to oversee the creation of a new comprehensive plan. Because of the cities desire to make this effort a community project, Phillips brought in the marketing firm, New Boston Creative Group (NBCG). All are out of Manhattan, KS. Together, Phillips

and Kristin Brighton, NBCG, guided a 13-member steering committee comprised of City staff, Newton/North Newton Planning Commission, and community representatives. The steering committee was hands-on in the oversight of this authentically community-informed plan.

Conversations acknowledged the reality of Newton and North Newton remaining separate cities, yet a single, strong community. To that end, there was a need to be proactive and purposeful in bringing together diverse opinions, backgrounds, and visions for the future. There was work to be done.

In asking the steering committee what it hoped to accomplish, responses included words such as re-energize, revitalize, reimagine Newton. Revise, reconnect, reinvest in our community. A new action word emerged: ReNewton.

And with that, the ReNewton Project was launched. A vital first step was instilling the word ReNewton into the context of the community conversation. Over a thousand ReNewton business cards, providing a link to an interactive ReNewton web page, were distributed. Informative columns were written for the local newspaper. Staff made presentations to every civic group that would listen.

Months of meetings and dialogue, surveys and anecdotal feedback, information, and opinion-seeking engaged the community. The heart of ReNewton lies in its process. The steering committee had hoped 500 citizens would become engaged. The process actually brought together over 1,600 residents to discuss, prioritize, ideate, and create a roadmap for their community's collective future. Countless others shared opinions and offered suggestions.

Following is a summary of the structured process, led by New Boston Creative Group working in conjunction with Phillips & Associates. City of Newton staff actively encouraged participation and supported civic engagement. It takes both technical skill and personal relationships to bring a process such as this to fruition.

RENEWTON 2030

ReNewton has been an opportunity to revisit what is working in Newton today and to rethink what needs to change over the next two decades. Participants want Newton to be a place in 2030 where people enjoy life and where businesses can thrive. The inevitable changes that come with growth meant the entire community needed to be part of the conversation. Community leaders and elected officials. Long-time citizens and new residents. Social service agencies and the business and professional community. Youth and retirees. Rich and poor.

If the comp plan is the roadmap, the ReNewton process is the driver.

The ReNewton planning project was initiated in November 2009, and consisted of 6 phases that lasted just under 18 months (April 2011).

Phases 1 & 2: Review existing plans, studies, and reports pertinent to the preparation of a new

KANSAS LOGISTICS PARK. A proactive partnership between the City of Newton, Harvey County, and Harvey County Economic Development has resulted in the development of the Kansas Logistics Park (KLP). The 500+ acre heavy industrial park provides manufacturing access to two Class I railways and WATCO, the country's largest short line rail system. Additionally, Newton has road and rail access to Tulsa's Port of Catoosa and the inland waterway that leads to global commercial trade through the Panama Canal. Additionally, truck transport to and from OEMs and end-users is facilitated through immediate proximity to I-135 and U.S. Highway 50, and near proximity to Interstates 35 and 70.

The KLP, with its central location, access to transportation, and abundant, infrastructure-rich green space, is primed to accommodate manufacturing, storage, and transportation of components, commodities, and finished products for a wide range of industries. The National Renewable Energy Lab has identified KLP as a premier national logistics venue for the wind energy industry. Tindall Corporation, based in Spartanburg, South Carolina, will break ground this fall on a \$66 million, 250,000 sq. ft. facility. Eventually creating over 400 jobs, the company will produce extended height pre-stressed concrete turbine bases.

MERIDIAN CENTER. The Newton community is preparing to celebrate the opening of the Meridian Center, a 15,000 sq. ft. conference and events facility. The Meridian represents a public-private partnership that has resulted in the new conference center facility, an adjacent Holiday Inn Express, and a Huddle House Restaurant, all of which support the tone and priorities of the ReNewton plan.

The Meridian Center, which will welcome a League event in August 2011, is another example of Newton's history and location guiding its future growth and development. The Meridian Center is named for the vital Meridian Highway, the first north south contiguous hard-surfaced road in North America. The Meridian Highway was spearheaded by Newton's Mayor John C. Nicholson, a road activist in the early 1900s. Not only did Nicholson work diligently to bring the Meridian Highway through Newton, but he is also responsible for connecting U.S. Highway 50 east to west through Newton.

The Meridian Highway became U.S. 81, the precursor to Interstate 135. Newton is proud to have a state of the art conference/events center that carries the rich and vital history of the Meridian Highway.

The Meridian Center is booking events into 2013. Reserve your next meeting or special occasion at Newton's Meridian Center!



A rendering of the Newton Meridian Center set to open in 2013. Photo provided by the City of Newton.

 Tom Phillips, AICP, Phillips & Associates, can be reached at tphillips3@cox.net; Kristin Brighton with the New Boston Creative Group can be reached at kristin@newbostoncreative.com.

comprehensive plan. Steering committee researched award-winning plans and marketing efforts nationwide. Update plans and reports relevant to land acquisition, infrastructure, anticipated growth, and population trends.

Phase 3: This vital stage explored the community’s values, vision, and goals.

Three general public forums led by consultants helped the community identify common dreams and concerns. A series of smaller forums focused on specific issues: health care, education, public utilities, local economy, parks and recreation, demographic changes, and transportation options. Citizens were briefed on issues, conditions, and possibilities. Trained volunteers moderated table discussions.

Small groups of individuals with a common bond—business and retailers, Baby Boomers, youth, young professional families, new residents—provided an opportunity to hear from those who might be reluctant to attend larger public forums. All group discussions were held away from City Hall in familiar, accessible community venues.

Feedback was also garnered through anecdotal survey cards sent to every household via utility bills; responses were compiled and shared back with the community. A professional research firm made 800 phone calls, soliciting opinions and ideas. Facebook prompts were posted daily and responses compiled.

Phase 4: Consultants analyzed data and feedback from groups and activities to begin developing long-term marketing strategies and goals.

Phase 5: Ideas, vision, suggestions, and dreams were assimilated into the reality of statutes, laws, and fiscal restraints. The final draft appeared as a full-page spread in the local newspaper, and was presented at an after hours community social mixer, well-attended by a diverse group of Newtonians.

Phase 6: Adoption by governing boards.

VISION & VALUES

The following vision statement and 12 community values emerged from the ReNewton process to form the roadmap we were seeking:

Between 2010 and 2030, Newton will expand its tax base and enhance community amenities, while preserving its richness of character, heritage, and way of life.

- Vibrant economy
- Revitalized downtown
- Community livability
- Healthy living
- Commitment to lifelong education
- Innovations in transportation
- Housing options for all
- Sustainability
- Preserving town character
- Cultural diversity and social cohesion
- Community development
- Visionary leadership

With the adoption of the comprehensive plan, NCGB developed vital communication pieces.

• Formal comprehensive plan is over 160 pages of updated, detailed professional city planning guidelines and projected land use maps. The bright orange, spiral-bound document is formatted and designed to be professional, yet user-friendly.

• www.renewtonkansas.com Video-enhanced website includes the complete, comprehensive plan, plus a softer, more personal presentation of the ReNewton Vision and Goals. Key points are

enhanced by video interviews of local citizens. The website is a virtual course in city planning for citizens!

• *ReNewton 2030: The Magazine.* This reader-friendly coffee table magazine is content-rich, but readable and engaging. It was mailed to every address in Newton zip code. Feedback has been very positive. This piece will be used as part of a “welcome to Newton” mailing sent to new residents, and will be a key piece in strategic marketing and economic development activities.

Finally, ReNewton moves into implementation.

The vision of ReNewton must be brought to reality by local citizens. The City’s strategy is to support community champions—Leaders who can coalesce groups fueled by common interests and a shared passion for projects aligned with ReNewton values and priorities.

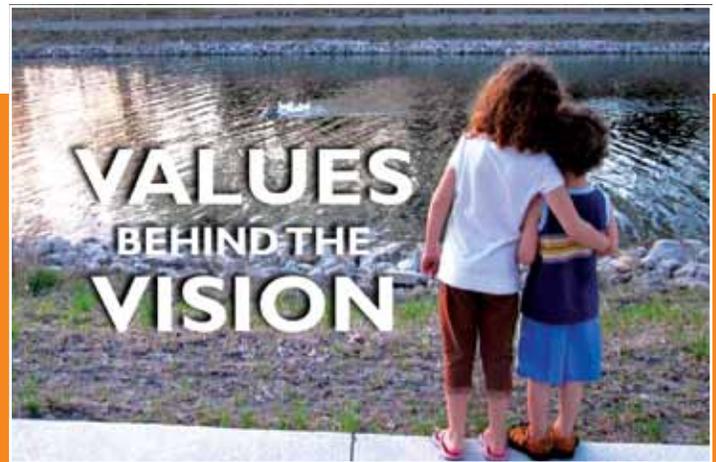
Several of these are already in motion, including a group leading the charge on creating a bike-friendly environment, another looking at housing options, and a team promoting the need for a new library.

ReNewton appears to be assimilated into the vocabulary and context of the community.

Interested, curious, skeptical, determined, or excited, 1,600 citizens came together to have productive conversations and explore options. Individuals worked together who otherwise would have had no reason to interact. Our community is beginning to learn how to dialogue and reach out to others who think differently.

The process wasn’t flawless. We would have liked another 1,600 participants. Some citizens are frustrated that there is not a clearly defined, specific implementation plan for the next 20 years. Good ideas were left on the cutting room floor. ReNewton was time intensive and expensive.

But Newton is stronger in character and vision than ever before. Community groups have galvanized around common interests. The governing board and city officials have a roadmap for future decisions that carries the input of hundreds of citizens. Priceless.



Assistant City Manager Tim Johnson points out, “We inherited a wonderful community. It is our job as citizens and leaders to find ways to make it better and more beautiful than we inherited it. That is our challenge, and I think Newton is up to it.” Indeed.

☀️ *Barb Burns is the Community Advancement Coordinator for the City of Newton. She may be reached at bburns@newtonkansas.com or (316) 284-3605.*



...Headed West

The first leg of this year's Clerks MLA Seminar Tour (three cities, total) was to begin with a day-long training in Dighton on a Wednesday. So, Tuesday morning, I headed north out of Derby on K-15, to US-54/400 in Wichita, and then west from there. And, it was HOT!...even in the morning.

I hadn't been in Greensburg for a few months, and wanted to take in the ever-ongoing progress. As I knew Mayor Bob Dixon was in D.C. (we had exchanged emails), I stopped by city hall, and had a nice chat with someone I've known a while—City Treasurer Pamela Reves, who has been with the City for eight years (four years before 5/4/07 and four years after), meaning that she has seen more changes than most of us can even imagine in her time with the City. Pam filled me in on the just-opened Kiowa County Commons (www.greensburggreentown.org/home/2010/12/9/kiowa-county-commons-links-past-to-future.html), located directly adjacent (eight feet south, to be exact) to city hall. This fabulous \$5 million, 20,000 sq. ft. facility houses the Kiowa Historical Museum, the Kiowa County Media Center, the Kiowa County Library, and the offices of K-State Research and Extension; it is a pretty amazing building and place, and it, like virtually all the public structures in Greensburg, is, of course, rated LEED Platinum. I know you have all read about what is happening in Greensburg, but, really, this is just one of those things you must see to understand. Do yourself a favor and plan a late-summer day trip to peek in on the continuing amazing saga that is Greensburg.

Leaving Greensburg, I motored north along US-183, to where that highway intersects with both US-50 and US-56, I stopped in to briefly chat with Kinsley City Manager Jay Dill. Jay is an active member of my Baseball Trivia "club," and a devoted Phillies fan and trivia expert (whenever I ask a question about Michael Jack Schmidt, I know who will be the first to answer). And, no, Jay is not from Philadelphia...he is Kinsley-born and raised. Even, perhaps, more interesting, though, is that Jay's favorite pro football team is the Cleveland Browns (he started paying attention during the Jimmy Brown era), and, he tells me, his dad had different favorite teams from him, and those weren't midwest either. At least Jay is a KU fan.

Leaving Kinsley, I hustled up US-56, to the northeast, and to a planned late-lunch meeting with brand-new Larned City Manager Lane Massey. Lane was in his fourth week on the job, following the departure of longtime manager Don Gaeddert (who is now headed to teach English in China). Lane grew up in St. John, which is about 30 miles southeast of Larned; his mom still lives there and the (still-in-the) family farm lies between the two cities, so this move is a homecoming of sorts. Lane is adjusting well to his new city, and looks forward to when he can get his wife and two golfing sons (his 12 year-old is already something of a phenom) moved to town. I have known Lane for a number of years, and I expect him to do great things in Larned.

My last stop that day was west on US-156 at the City of Rozel (pop. 156), where I met City Clerk Amie Henbest for the first time. We had only a brief chat, as I had arrived right at the close of the day there. One really cool thing I noticed on the door as I entered, is that, as of the spring election, the mayor and four of the five council members are women in Rozel...something, unfortunately, one does not often see (not near as often as one should, that's for sure). I did get to listen in on a short conversation between Amie and a citizen about the contents of a recently-opened "time capsule," which had been sealed in 1986 (in a concrete burial vault), and had been broken open (those things stay sealed!) just the weekend before, during the celebration of the city's 125th birthday. Happy birthday, Rozel.

My recommendation this month is a music CD—by a very talented, unique, transplanted Kansan. Robin Macy was born and raised, and lived the first stage of her adult life in Texas, and came to Kansas just over a decade ago. I have mentioned Robin before...she was a founding member (www.freewebs.com/originalchicks/robinmacyandlauralynch.htm) of the Dixie Chicks; in the early-90s, she and her (mostly Bluegrass) band (at that time), The Big Twang (www.dixie-chicks.com/bigtwang/bio.html), entertained us at the League Conference in 2002 (I believe it was). Since then, Robin has continued to perform (still possessing that incredible voice—sort of a cross between Allison Krauss and Nanci Griffin, for those of you who follow this genre of music), to teach geometry at Wichita Collegiate School and to own, love, and nurture the magnificent Bartlett Arboretum, in Belle Plaine (www.bartlettarboretum.com). She also (among her seemingly-endless ventures) produces a wonderful summer music series at the arboretum, called the Tree House Concert Series (we took in the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band show there on Memorial Day last year). It was an email alert to an upcoming show in that series which got my attention early last week, and which prompted me go to Robin's website to see how to get her latest album (which, as it turns out, is not so new...having come out in 2008). I wanted the album, and discovered that the only place to get one (other than waiting for an online purchase to arrive by mail) was at one of the several outlets of one of the better nurseries in Wichita. So, the next day, over a long lunch hour, granddaughter Maddison and I took off toward the northeast side of Wichita to run a couple of errands and buy the CD. In one of my rather-regular, weird "qwinky-dink" episodes, we ran smack dab into Robin on the parking lot of the nursery, as she was getting out of her car and heading toward the greenhouse, and as we were heading for the front door of the inside part. So, may I highly recommend that you try "Songs From The Garden," by Robin Macy. My CD, of course, is a fortuitously-autographed one.

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

Kansas Cities Roll Out Red Carpet to Honor Families of the Fallen

by Kimberly Winn

September 11, 2001, is one of those dates in history that causes each of us to think back to where we were on that day. I was at the dentist's office that day, watching the tragedy unfold on the television in the exam room. I was particularly concerned watching the twin towers fall because I knew that both of the brothers of my college roommate (Eileen Mincio) worked in and around the Trade Center complex. It was several hours before I got the word that they had managed to find each other in the chaos and both of them were safe.

At the time of the September 11th attacks, one of Eileen's brothers, Kevin Mincio, was a Vice President at Goldman Sachs. Kevin is like a little brother to me and I still remember the day not long after the 9/11 attacks that Kevin called me at work to say that he was leaving his job on Wall Street to join the Army to serve our country. Kevin is a man of principle and integrity and I knew that this was a sincere calling to public service.

Kevin served the Army with distinction leading Stryker brigades into Iraq. It was also during this time that Kevin met SSG Jesse Williams. Before Williams left for his second tour in Iraq (he had already earned a Purple Heart in his first tour), he asked Kevin to look after his infant daughter, Amaya, if he didn't make it back.

On April 8, 2007, SSG Jesse Williams died in Iraq from wounds suffered from small arms fire. Kevin kept his promise to Amaya, but that wasn't enough for him. He, and a group of other committed volunteers, have set up Team Jesse to honor SSG Williams and to help families of the fallen. Donations to Team Jesse provide education and support for families of fallen soldiers.

This summer, Kevin and friend Matt Sauri are biking across the country to raise awareness and funds for the Team Jesse

Foundation. They left from SSG Williams gravesite in Santa Rosa, CA on June 9, 2011, the date that would have been his 30th birthday. The ride will conclude on the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, September 11, 2011, at Ground Zero in New York, NY.

When I heard that Team Jesse would be riding through Kansas, I contacted each of the cities that they would be staying in to make sure that the bikers would receive a warm Kansas welcome. And, just as predicted, the cities of Kansas showed exactly why this is called the Heartland! Cities and their citizens across this great state rolled out the red carpet to welcome Kevin and to honor his cause.

The following are excerpts from the Team Jesse Blog on their ride across Kansas:

Garden City

It's hard to describe how it felt to arrive in Garden City. The police escort into town was a wonderful touch. It was also a relief to get off of the ominous Route 50 and take the character-laced community streets of G.C. After a few twists and turns, all of which were accompanied by sirens granting us the right-of-way through traffic lights and stop signs, we pulled into the downtown area. Wow.

The first indication that this stop would be unique was the cheering and clapping that came from a park to our left, immediately upon entering the downtown area. "Ah, this must be the welcome crew," I thought. But, no, it wasn't. We kept pedaling to hear more cheering, this time from the right. Then, more from the left. We watched, dumfounded as people stopped what they were doing to smile, wave, pump their fists, and clap. Then, we noticed that people were coming out of their stores,

proprietors and patrons alike, to applaud our arrival. The tree-lined sidewalks were buzzing with warmth, and there were no unsmiling faces. It was incredible to behold. After at least a half-mile of this reception, we came to park our bikes in front of a bike shop, in front of which there were easily 30 people. Grimy and in shock, we dismounted and were offered ice-cold water, more smiles, and entrance into the air-conditioned shop itself. As people came up to personally shake our hands and thank us, we came to know that amongst many city officials (including around 10 police officers) the mayor of the city had come out to greet us. In his hand, he held a plaque. Once we were surrounded by even more smiling faces from this gem of a town in Middle America, he began to speak. He was proud to let us know that the people of Garden City had elected to call July 7th, 2011, "Team Jesse Foundation Day." The look on Kevin's face was one of gratitude, and talking with him later brought little surprise that he couldn't wait to show the plaque to the Williams family, specifically, Jesse's father Herb.



Team Jesse and members of the Garden City Police Department.

It was a sensory overload experience when the ceremony was over (and they'd given all of the Team Jesse Foundation members as well as the Media Crew pieces of brick from the City, a generous and thoughtful gift indeed). Instead of saying, "thanks again for coming," they gave us another police escort back to our hotel. This time, it wasn't an SUV with lights flashing and sirens sounding; instead, this time there were three cars involved (yes, lights flashing/sirens sounding) and six or seven bicycle officers. The two and a half mile route back to the hotel was a special time indeed, and no expense was spared to make us feel welcome. Even the drivers who would now have to wait for the lights to turn green again as we cruised through what should have been their turn smiled at us. They gave encouragement with their faces and their gestures. They wanted to be part of our success, and they wanted their appreciation to be registered. It certainly was!

After more hospitality and a great dinner, it sunk in that this day was a microcosm of the opportunities that we have, in large part due to our veterans. We worked hard throughout the day. We saw adversity and persevered beyond it. We pulled together as a team. We were tested. In the end, though, we pressed on for a cause much bigger than us. We were rewarded in a way that none of us could have expected, and by kind people who saw their gift as an opportunity in and of itself.

Thank you, Garden City. You have just fueled the fire, and we're so grateful. It strikes me that you know what creates community.

[Special thanks to City Manager Matt Allen and Office Manager Celyn Hurtado.]

Dodge City

To say that the reception party was gracious would be a huge understatement. We were greeted by a police escort as well as a contingent of The Patriot Riders, an outfit that rides Harleys for escort and transit of veterans and interests. You have probably seen them escorting funeral processions as well as vets returning from overseas duty. The leather-clad bikers and the sunglass-wearing police officers escorted us through the center of the town toward a memorial park. As we cruised, there were references to the lore of Dodge City everywhere. Doc Holliday had once been here to keep the peace through intimidation. He was asked to do so by Wyatt Earp and his brothers. In fact, we were cruising down Wyatt Earp Boulevard. It was very cool.

When we got to the Memorial, I knew why this day would be different than any other. You see, we have made it a point to stop along the way at any and all parks/statues/tributes to veterans. Both the survivors and those who paid the ultimate price were those that have felt appropriate to honor as we trek across the country trying to raise money and awareness for the families of the fallen. But...this memorial was different. I would hear Kevin describe it as a tribute to the first casualties of the War on Terror. This was a tribute to the victims of 9/11. It was beautifully done; there were three unique artifacts that lined a path. On either side of the path were two reflection pools; each pool had a replica of one of the Trade Towers. They were built to scale so that every inch represented a floor of the building. Water seeped from the tops of the towers into the reflection pools, symbolizing the tears of the victims' families. The artifacts were A) a piece of limestone from the Pentagon, B) a rock from Shanksville, PA, where the heroes of Flight 93 famously said, "Let's Roll" and sacrificed themselves to prevent widespread destruction. Finally, there was C) a large chunk of twisted steel from one of the fallen towers. It was a striking and beautiful memorial, well designed and flawlessly maintained. It's with good reason that I can recite the details of the place as well as the symbolisms; the designers were present, along with around 30 others that included reporters (TV as well as newspaper), city council members, police officers, and the Marshal.



LKM Vice President and Dodge City Vice Mayor Jim Sherer, along with Kevin Mincio and his mother, Karen Mincio, at the 9/11 Memorial.

Everyone knew Kevin's story, so he was given plenty of space as he walked the exhibit. It struck me that he'd seen that piece of twisted metal before; the last time that he saw it, he was drawn to make a major decision in his life, and one that not many would have made.

Next, Kevin and I were both sworn in as Deputies of Dodge City. It was a very legitimate ceremony, and it was carried out by Marshal Allen Bailey, who carried a huge moustache and a Ruger .45 caliber revolver with a gun-belt lined with polished bullets. Old-school, but not a costume by any means. You could tell. You probably didn't want to trifle with Marshal Bailey. Before he gave us our heavy and authority-bearing badges, he told us that he was honored to do so, and that "there was nothing more American" than what we were doing. He looked us each in the eye when he said it, and he was not smiling. He again told us that he was honored to be there, and I'll never forget it.



Team Jesse and Marshal Bailey after being sworn in as Deputies of Dodge City.

Finally, we were asked to lay a wreath upon the Memorial, in particular, the piece that represented the World Trade Centers. With cameras rolling and the proud creators of this site watching, we walked together to lay it down. Again, I'll never forget it. How could I?

That evening, we went to Casey's Cowtown Club for dinner, where we were joined by many from the day's events, and the entire media and SAG crew. It was a great time, and we were joined by the proprietor, Mike Casey, a veteran himself. His two-year old grandson was with him, and it felt like family.

I've always heard the phrase "let's get outta Dodge" and thought of it as a deliberate, planned escape. It was a phrase that those who said it were happy to utter. Now, I think differently.

[Special thanks to LKM Vice President and Dodge City Vice Mayor Jim Sherer and Public Information Director Jane Longmeyer.]

Larned

So far, "Kansas has been the best state we've traveled through, hands down," Mincio said. "We've just had an outpouring of support." Pawnee County Economic Development Director Courtland Holman was kept busy arranging for the team's arrival



Team Jesse and Larned Mayor Bob Pivonka.

in Larned collaborating with Dennis Wilson and the Legion Riders to meet them at the city limits and provide an escort through town. The entire team was treated to tours of the Santa Fe Trail Center and Fort Larned, as well as a three-hour "meet-and-greet" Sunday at the Larned Pizza Hut.

"We just can't get over the hospitality that the state of Kansas has shown," Sauri noted. "I believe that it's because Kansas is in the center of the country, it is in the middle of everything. It proves that what happened in New York City didn't just affect New York, it affected the entire country." [From the July 12, 2011, edition of the *Tiller and Toiler* newspaper]

[Special thanks to City Manager Lane Massey, Mayor Bob Pivonka, and Chamber Executive Director Courtland Holman.]

Hutchinson

The escort into town was not to be believed. Three motorcycle officers, three squad cars, an additional unmarked car, and three fire trucks all played roles in getting us as well as our accompanying America Legion motorcycle riders into the downtown area. The City Manager, Deputy Mayor and council members, and senior officers from the police and fire departments greeted us as we rolled into our requested venue: a bike shop where we could get some proactive maintenance done. They were all smiles, showing teeth all the way around as they proclaimed, with a plaque, the day to be Team Jesse Day. Personally, I very much appreciated that they had named Kevin in the document, and referenced his enlistment and sacrifices. Class act, Hutchinson. My friend stepped up after 9/11, and you did today as well. They were kind enough to give us the Key to the City as well!

[Special thanks to John Deardoff, Hutchinson City Manager]



Hutchinson City Manager John Deardoff greeted Team Jesse at the local bike shop.

Eureka

A Proclamation was issued by the City of Eureka in honor of "Team Jesse" which kindly read:

WHEREAS, No one pays a higher price for our freedom than members of our nation's military and their families. As sons and daughters, husbands and wives, and mothers and fathers are deployed, military families endure with exceptional resilience and courage. They provide our troops with invaluable encouragement and love, and serve our nation in their own right.

WHEREAS, On September 11, 2001, Kevin Mincio watched as a Boeing 767 flew into the South Tower of the World Trade Center. Just prior, it had been a typical morning for him, a Vice President at Goldman Sachs, the investment bank at which he had worked for nine years. Shortly thereafter, Kevin enlisted in the United States Army as an infantryman eager to fight for his country.

2002 - 2006: During a combat infantry tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Kevin befriended Staff Sergeant Jesse Williams, a young, free-spirited kid from California. Before Jesse left for his second tour of duty, he asked Kevin to look after his infant daughter, Amaya, in case he did not make it home.

April 8, 2007: SSG Jesse L. Williams, 25, of Santa Rosa, CA, died in Balad, Iraq, of wounds suffered from small arms fire while conducting combat operations in Baqubah.

2007 - Present: Initially, Kevin focused efforts on ensuring Amaya's financial future. Inspired to do more, he co-founded The Team Jesse Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, in the Fall of 2010.

WHEREAS, To further a mission for helping families of fallen soldiers and to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of September 11, 2001, US Army Veteran Kevin Mincio and entrepreneur and philanthropist Matt Sauri will cycle across America this summer:

- * Complete 95 days / 4,200 miles
- * Depart June 9, Jesse's birthday, from his gravesite in Santa Rosa, CA and finish at Ground Zero on September 11
- * Visit children and families of fallen soldiers in communities along the route
- * Stop at US Naval Academy, Arlington National Cemetery, and Gettysburg Battlefields

All donations that are received during this event will provide education and support to families of fallen soldiers.

The initial education target will be to fund at least five college scholarships. Team Jesse will also partner with the Travis Manion Foundation (www.travismanion.com) to assist families of fallen heroes through programs, which are geared toward community service and leadership.

Let us honor the memory of all those we who died by being of service to one another and by building a stronger, more united community than we have ever known before.

SIGNED AND SEALED THIS 11TH DAY
OF JULY, 2011

CAMMIE WILSON, PRESIDENT OF
CITY COUNCIL

RENEE HARRINGTON, CITY
CLERK



[Special thanks to City Clerk Renee Harrington.]

Iola

When we got to Iola, we were received by a "quadfecta" (bear with me, I just made this word up. It supposed to be "trifecta plus one." You liky?). The four entities were: A) Police, including the Chief of Police; B) Fire Department, including the Fire Chief; C) Bikers (not cyclists, bikers); and D) National Guard. This marked the first time that we had been greeted by military personnel, and it was really something. It meant a ton to Kevin, and they knew his story a bit prior to our arrival. We were greeted at the Armory, and sat down. Also, the media was there along with the City Manager. We set up a press-conference style discussion, and we were allowed to tell our story and then answer questions about

the Ride, our cause, and Kevin's experience being in Manhattan on 9/11, just a block from the towers. They fed us like kings and sent us on our way, though Kevin would later return to the fire station to hang out.



Team Jesse entering the City of Iola.

Later in the afternoon, I received a visit from Richard Gilliland, one of the bikers who had escorted us into town. He showed up with a serious look in his eye and apologized for bugging me. I told him that it was absurd that he would think that he was bugging me, and he let me know that he felt that what we were doing was beyond important, and he had brought some keepsakes with him that he wanted us to attach to our bikes for good luck. Weighing next to nothing, there would be zero "ounces equal pounds" conversation about this, but instead an opportunity for us to receive the good wishes of a very sincere person who just wanted us to be safe and successful. We would later find out that Richard is a retired EMT/Fireman, and he has seen a lot in his day. He had gone all the way home, thought about it, collected some things that meant something to him and returned to share them with us. We'll rock them proudly, Richard, and as I promised you: yes, safety first. Thanks for caring...

[Special thanks to City Administrator Judy Brigham.]

Ottawa

We made up some time and arrived in Ottawa only slightly behind schedule and received ANOTHER great welcome from a town in Kansas. This time, Matt and I both got keys to the city and the iced tea, cookies, and donuts hit the spot. I would like to thank Air Force Veteran and current Ottawa City Manager Richard Neinstedt for his kind words and participation in this event. I think it was his day off, but he would not admit it.



Ottawa City Manager Richard Neinstedt and Kevin Mincio.

The people of Kansas are great. If you have not been here, you should come.

We had the opportunity to visit the resting place of Ottawa, Kansas native Lance Corporal Christopher Wasser today, who died while conducting combat operations in the Anbar province of Iraq on April 8, 2004. Coincidentally, and sadly, this is 3 years to the day that SSG Jesse Williams was killed on April 8, 2007. I know this is a day that will always be difficult for both families.

Thanks to the permission we received, Christopher's parents, Scott and Candy, Matt and I finished the ride today with a trip to Highland Cemetery to pay our respects to a fallen hero and thank him for the sacrifice he made on our behalf.



Kevin Mincio riding through the sunflower state.

As I approached the site, I immediately was able to find and read the stone marked at the base with "WASSER." As I gazed from bottom to top, the next words I read were "Freedom isn't free," a phrase that means everything to me as it describes what our country is all about—men like Christopher, who gave his life for our country at age 21 and chose to be a Marine knowing the dangers of doing so. His act of courage has afforded others to

choose their own path and to be who they want to be. It allows all of us to go to bed at night knowing it will be ok as we sleep. We live in America. How lucky are we?

In my conversations with Scott, I learned Christopher's first day of basic training was September 11, 2001. I also learned his last day of basic training was December 7, 2001, the 60th anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Christopher was destined to defend our country and he wanted to do it. Scott explained to me how being a Marine was Christopher's goal in life and that as tragic as it was for him to only live to age 21, that both he and his wife, Candy, were pleased as parents that their son had achieved his goal. What an unselfish and positive way for two loving parents to look upon the loss of their oldest son. My heart goes out to the Wasser family and I thank them for allowing me to discuss Christopher's sacrifice today.

[Special thanks to City Manager Richard Nienstedt.]

I am forever grateful to these wonderful communities for their support of this important effort. The week that Team Jesse spent in Kansas was a meaningful one for them and a meaningful one for me. I am so proud of my "little brother" Kevin for his selfless acts of heroism and support for the families of the fallen. And, I am so proud of my home state for showing what Midwest hospitality and patriotism really mean.

Team Jesse's motto is "To the Limit." We, in Kansas, understand that motto and to the members of Team Jesse we say, "To the Stars Through Difficulties...To the Limit."

For more information about Team Jesse and the ride, go to www.teamjesse.org.

 Kimberly Winn is the Deputy Director for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at kwinn@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.



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Governor Brownback Helps Kansas Organizations

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback made good on a campaign promise to donate his unspent inauguration funds to non-profit organizations.

“I am pleased the Kansas Legislature agreed to change the law so our inaugural committee could give the unspent funds to organizations that make our great state even better through their various missions,” Governor Brownback said.

The Brownback for Governor Inaugural Committee made the following contributions totaling \$150,152.99:

- Friends of Cedar Crest Association - \$10,000
- Jayhawk Area Council Boy Scouts of America - \$5,000
- Rescue missions in Emporia, Salina, Topeka, and Wichita - \$35,000

- Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation - \$10,000
- Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland - \$5,000
- Power Community Development Corporation (Dunbar Theatre) - \$5,000
- Kansas Arts Foundation - \$30,152.99
- Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved - \$50,000

The new law allows inaugural committees to donate to non-profit organizations that qualify as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporations and to the Executive Mansion Gifts fund for expenditures related to Cedar Crest, the governor’s official residence, and historic properties.

State Treasurer Pushes to Return Money

Kansas State Treasurer Ron Estes’ office is currently safeguarding over \$220 million worth of unclaimed property for their rightful owners or their heirs.

As part of the Treasurer’s “Unclaimed Property Returns” tour, Treasurer Estes and staff members held an open house, May 19, 2011 and searched for Kansans’ unclaimed property.

“In this economy everyone could use a little help and we feel it is important to be sure that these resources get back to the rightful owners. The Unclaimed Property Returns tour is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect Kansans with cash and property currently being held by our office for free,” Estes explained.

Unclaimed property includes inactive savings and checking accounts, uncashed checks, stock shares and bonds, dividend checks, insurance proceeds, mineral royalties, and utility deposits.

In addition to cash, stocks and bonds, safe deposit boxes are also turned over to the State Treasurer’s office. There are currently over 15,000 safe deposit box properties on file. Approximately 600 new boxes are turned over to the treasurer’s office each year.

There are no fees involved in searching for or claiming cash and property. To search, a last name is required and a first name is recommended. Kansans may search for unclaimed property by calling the State Treasurer’s office at 1-800-432-0386 or visiting www.KansasCash.com.

Non-profit Organizations Receive Tax Credits

The Kansas Department of Commerce has awarded \$4.13 million in Community Service Tax Credits to 22 nonprofit organizations around the state.

These future Kansas income tax credits are a major fundraising tool for community organizations engaged in services for children and families, health care, or crime prevention. Businesses and individuals who contribute to the awarded organizations are eligible for a 70% tax credit in rural areas or a 50% tax credit in urban areas.

The Community Service Tax Credit Program is a way for charitable organizations and public health care entities to improve their ability

to undertake major capital fund-raising drives for projects involving children and family services, non-governmental crime prevention, and health care. Each year, non-profit community service organizations submit proposals to the Department. If the organization is awarded tax credits, it is then authorized to offer tax credits to donors making contributions to the approved fund-raising project.

A complete list of Community Service Tax Credit recipients can be found at <http://www.kansascommerce.com/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=227>.

Governor Establishes NBAF Steering Committee

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback signed an executive order establishing the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility in Kansas Steering Committee. The Committee will coordinate the State’s efforts in building the facility in Kansas and transitioning research currently at Plum Island to Manhattan.

The Committee will consist of federal and state elected leaders as well as key stakeholders in the NBAF project:

- U.S. Senator Pat Roberts
- U.S. Senator Jerry Moran
- U.S. Congressman Tim Huelskamp
- U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins
- U.S. Congressman Kevin Yoder
- U.S. Congressman Mike Pompeo
- Kansas Senate President Steve Morris
- Kansas House Speaker Mike O’Neal
- Kansas House Minority Leader Paul Davis

- Kansas Senate Minority Leader Anthony Hensley
- Kansas Board of Regents Chair Ed McKechnie
- KSU President Kirk Schultz
- Mark Parkinson, Former Kansas Governor
- KBA Chairman John Carlin
- Manhattan Mayor Jim Sherow

The State of Kansas has committed \$105 million dollars of matching state funds to the NBAF project and \$35 million dollars of research funding for transitioning the NBAF mission to Manhattan. Brownback said both require active management so he has appointed Policy Director Landon Fulmer to assist the Steering Committee with its coordination with federal, state, and the private sector as its executive director.

The \$650 million laboratory will research and develop counter measures to animal, human, and zoonotic diseases. So far, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has invested more than \$150 million into site preparation, engineering, design, and site specific risk-assessments.

Small System Training
August 31, 2011
Capitol Plaza Hotel • Topeka, KS

KWEA & KsAWWA Joint Annual Conference

New training designed especially for small water and wastewater systems!

The League of Kansas Municipalities and Kansas Municipal Utilities have partnered with KWEA and KsAWWA to establish training specifically geared for small systems. Plan now to attend!

For more information and to register online, visit <http://www.kwea.net/Joint-Conference/index.shtm>.



Small System Training - KWEA & KsAWWA Conference - Wednesday, August 31, 2011

Enhanced Nutrient Removal in Wastewater Lagoons - 8:30 a.m.

- Dr. Kraig Johnson
- Taylor Reynolds

Effective Utility Communication: Delivering Your Message - 9:15 a.m.

- Colin Hansen, KMU Executive Director
- Brad Mears, KMU Director of Operations

Keeping the Books: Sound Record-keeping and Reporting - 10:30 a.m.

- Brenda Chance, Phillipsburg City Clerk

Plant Design and Modifications: Making the Process Work for Your Utility - 11:15 a.m.

- Dennis Ashcraft, City of Holton Superintendent & Public Wholesale Water Supply Dist. #18 Operator
- Jim Martin, PEC

Rate Design in a Changing Environment - 1:30 p.m.

- Angela Buzard, Director – Environmental Finance Center
- Kelly Fuller, Program Manager – Environmental Finance Center

Importance of Flushing for Water Distribution Systems - 2:15 p.m.

- Brian Rusche, Seneca Utility Superintendent

Think Safety: Changing Employee Behavior - 3:30 p.m.

- Rick Aguilar, KMU Job Training & Safety Specialist

Keys to Successful Water Distribution Operations - 4:15 p.m.

- David Kendrick, Lyons Utility Superintendent



City to Get Airfare Funds

For the first time, air service outside Wichita will receive funding from the state's affordable airfares program.

Money from the program—\$250,000—will go to Garden City to help initiate regional jet service to Dallas by American Eagle.

The funds were approved by the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP). REAP also approved a request from Sedgwick County for \$4.75 million to subsidize air service at Wichita Mid-Continent Airport.

Sedgwick County commissioners approved a new contract with AirTran Airways that would give the carrier up to \$6.5 million in revenue guarantees for the next 12 months.

AirTran will receive \$4.75 million from the state, with Sedgwick County and the City of Wichita providing the rest of the money.

The Kansas Legislature approved \$5 million for the state's affordable airfares program during the 2011 session.

The money going to Garden City will help start commercial jet service to serve western Kansas and capture passengers now driving to Amarillo, Texas, Wichita, or Denver to fly east, said REAP chief executive Joe Yager.

"There is no other jet service in western Kansas," Yager said.

The move would eliminate Garden City and Dodge City service to Denver by Great Lakes Aviation, which uses 19-seat Beechcraft

1900 turboprops. Flying to Dallas gives passengers more options for connecting service than the Denver service, Yager said.

Great Lakes' service to Hays, Liberal, and Great Bend would continue, Yager said.

Total cost of the American Eagle service would be about \$2.83 million, he said.

Garden City would provide \$83,333, and the airport would use \$1 million in federal Essential Air Service funding. Dodge City, which is about 50 miles away, would partner with Garden City by providing \$1 million of its Essential Air Service funding toward the service.

Commercial jet service to Dallas would serve about 440,000 people, REAP said.

Money from the Affordable Airfares program for the Dallas service is contingent upon Department of Transportation approval to use the funds to contract with American Eagle, KDOT approval to use Dodge City's Essential Air Service funding, and receipt of the local matching funds, REAP said.

Sedgwick County's new contract with AirTran would be paid out monthly. AirTran would receive the money if revenue from its Wichita service was less than its costs.

City Gets New Manufacturing Facility

Mars Chocolate North America announced plans to build a new state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Topeka, KS. The announcement was made in Topeka by Mike Wittman, Vice President of Supply at Mars Chocolate North America, and Kansas Governor Sam Brownback on the campus of Washburn University. The new facility will be the first new chocolate site built in the U.S. in 35 years.

"We are excited to announce our plan to construct this new manufacturing site in Topeka," said Wittman. "The site will be a reflection of our commitment to manufacture our products in the markets where we sell them. Mars looks forward to becoming an important part of the Topeka community."

Phase I of the new site is planned to be complete in 2013, at which time the site will begin manufacturing M&M'S® and SNICKERS® Brand candies. Mars expects to make a capital investment of over \$250 Million in the first phase of this multi-phased project. In addition, the company expects to hire approximately 200 full time operations associates to resource the lines installed during the

initial phase. Subsequent phases of development will then expand the capacity of the facility, and more product lines will be added. The new facility will be built to meet leading-edge environmental standards, and will pursue a LEED Gold Certified designation upon completion, demonstrating Mars' commitment to sustainability.

The site selection process was led by Governor Brownback, the Kansas Department of Commerce, and the GO Topeka Economic Partnership, a subsidiary of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce. The Topeka facility will be built in the Kanza Fire Commerce Park, which was developed and is now managed by Go Topeka.

"This will be the most significant economic development for Topeka and Shawnee County in many years. The positive economic impact for the community will endure for decades. Mars will join a long list of other stellar primary employers in our community creating exceptional economic opportunities for our residents," said Steve Jenkins, Senior VP, GO Topeka Economic Partnership.

FishNet Security Moves to Kansas

Governor Sam Brownback welcomed FishNet Security to Kansas after the company announced that its headquarters and 175 employees are moving to the Sprint World Headquarters Campus in Overland Park.

"I am pleased to welcome FishNet Security to Kansas," Brownback said. "This means more good jobs for years to come. This is a win for the entire Kansas City region, as a locally grown company remains local and its expansion benefits the entire area."

Founded in Kansas City in 1996, FishNet Security reported \$316 million in revenue in 2010 and is expected to surpass \$400 million in revenue in 2011. The company currently has more than 400 employees nationwide, with 175 employees located across 3 buildings in Kansas City's Crossroads district. The company plans to add 119 employees in Overland Park within 5 years.

PRAIRIESTA

RUSSELL COUNTY'S BIGGEST FESTIVAL

BY AMANDA SCHUSTER

Cowpokes, prairie girls, cattle drives, and wheat threshing—this was just the beginning for the City of Russell's 140th Anniversary and decennial Prairiеста celebration. Prairiеста is Russell County's biggest festival that celebrates the history of Russell dating back to the 1871 era. Planning for the massive celebration was carried out by a steering committee made up of 10 members and implemented with community support and many volunteers. "Windmills to Wind Power" was this year's theme for the celebration.

Events for Prairiеста started as early as May with the "promenade." The main events took place June 9-12. During the "promenade" the queen, prairie girl, and cowpoke were all crowned at a ceremony that was held May 12. Candidates earned votes by selling tickets for the Prairiеста Historical Pageant and gathering donations for the event.

The highlight of the weekend festival was the Prairiеста Parade. With over 140 entries, the parade kicked off with a 100 herd of longhorn cattle down Main Street. Many prominent figures attended the parade including Russell natives, Senator Bob Dole, his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Robin; Senator Arlen Specter; U.S. Senator Jerry Moran; and U.S. Representative Tim Huelskamp. Governor Sam Brownback also made an appearance in proper cowboy attire—cowboy boots and denim. In addition

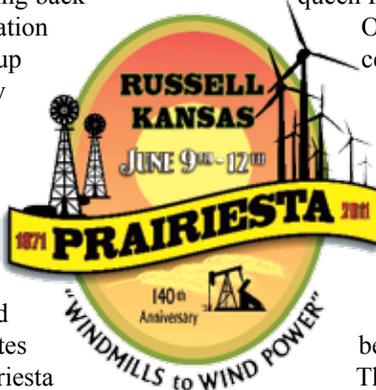
Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt and Secretary of State Kris Kobach attended. Other entries included the Prairie Duster drill team from Phillipsburg, the Nicodemus Buffalo Soldiers Association, and previous crowned royal courts including the first queen from the 1941 Prairiеста.

One of the great things about Russell's Prairiеста celebration is how the community comes together to make the event truly memorable. One of those events is the "Brothers of the Brush" competition. For three months, men who live and or work in the confines of the city were "required" to grow a beard in the spirit of Prairiеста. This year, Russell Mayor Carol Dawson signed a proclamation saying no male is exempt after they have "reached the age when shaving is feasible," from growing a beard.

Those who chose not to grow a beard did have an option to purchase a "smoothie" button for \$5.

On June 9, the official measuring of the beards took place. Contestants who proved to have the best beard cultivating skills were categorized by whitest beard, best mutton chops and sideburns, most neatly-groomed beard, fullest beard, best moustache, best goatee, and the longest and best overall beard.

Another memorable moment is the traditional Prairiеста Historical Pageant. The theatrical performance spanned over two evenings during the festival. Allen D. Bailey, host of the *Western*





Swing and Other Things radio show narrated the event. Some of the topics illustrated during the pageant included Native American times; the coming of the railroads; the naming of the town and county; the arrival of what populated most of the area, large numbers of Volga German immigrants; the early years of the 20th Century; a 1903 whistle-stop visit by then-President Theodore Roosevelt; the discovery of oil in Russell; and a number of tributes to Russell natives, Bob Dole and Arlen Specter's presidential campaigns.

The pioneer encampment was another historical part of the Prairiasta celebration. Attendees had the opportunity to view a living history exhibit of life on the Kansas plains during the 1870s. There was also a Buffalo Soldier and Cheyenne Indian encampment.

Historical practices were also reenacted during the heritage demonstrations. Some of them included blacksmithing, weaving, corn shelling, soap making, quilting, tatting, leather work, boot making, butter making, bread and noodle making, and stone cutting. Wheat threshing was demonstrated as well. This process of separating the wheat kernels from the stalks was accurately portrayed using a 1940s thresher, powered by a steam-driven tractor.

The Russell Airport hosted the last day of events for Prairiasta. An airplane fly-in of actual private, specialty, and military aircraft was on static display for public viewing. A fly-over by military aircraft followed. Enthusiasts who fly remote-controlled model airplanes also conducted flight demonstrations and memorabilia from Walker Air Force Base and Russell's Airport was also on display.

Russell was busy every night with a carnival, a variety of bands and dances, an antique appraisal fair & flea market, an anvil shooting, a quilt show, a 5 and 10k run, and even a vintage baseball game was played.

As if all the previously mentioned events didn't fill the weekend celebration schedule, an all-school reunion was also planned. All graduates from Russell High School were invited to participate in the festivities. Tours of the high school and middle school were conducted along with a band program and other gatherings for the different graduated classes.

Russell native, Patty Davidson also came back to the City to perform. Davidson is a multi-talented performer whose popularity as a top-notch ventriloquist has brought her success in Branson, Missouri and around the country.

Russell's 2011 Prairiasta events certainly made a mark in Russell's history. Current and past community members along with their friends and families came from around the nation for a once in a decade celebration. Back to the historical beginnings in 1871 to the present community pride the City now portrays, Prairiasta 2011 and Russell's 140th Anniversary shall never be forgotten.

 *Amanda Schuster is the Communications Specialist for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at aschuster@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.*

Left: The Nicodemus Buffalo Soldiers Association led the 100 herd cattle drive down Mainstreet at the beginning of the parade on Saturday. Photo by Amanda Schuster.

Above: A wheat threshing demonstration that was once practiced during harvest season. Below: The pioneer encampment featuring Blacksmith

Bill Moffet from Rose Hill and a view of the live Prairiasta Historical Pageant. These photos were furnished by www.kansastravel.org, which is devoted to subjects as diverse as Kansas waterfalls, grassroots artists, museums, zoos, and unique locally owned restaurants.





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It's Time to GEEK Our Local Public Libraries

by Lynne Hewes

I've been laboring under some misconceptions:

(1) That the word GEEK is a noun, meaning someone weird, maybe even a nerd.

(2) That public libraries are in the business of checking out books.

Well, okay, maybe my misconceptions are not total, complete misconceptions. Perhaps it's more accurate to say that my knowledge just needs updating. And if that's true, then perhaps I'm not the only one out there whose knowledge could use an overhaul. Read on....

Let's start with the word GEEK. My computer's thesaurus tells me that GEEK is indeed a noun; it refers to someone who is socially awkward, and it's an insult.

New information, however, from a website called www.geekthelibrary.org, suggests that GEEK has lately also become a verb, a word which means "to feel passionate about," or "to be fascinated with" or "to love." Suggested phrases include "to geek football or hip hop" or "get your geek on" or "share what you geek." Advertising posters for this new part of speech include a picture of a young boy who starts out "geeking worms," and ends up "geeking" his future.

And that's what the Geek the Library campaign is all about: learning that, no matter what we're passionate about, we can find information about it or help with it at our public libraries. That information is free of charge, and



The Dodge City Public Library kicked off their Geek the Library program on June 16, 2011. Patrons heard live music, signed the “what do you geek,” board, and made geek buttons. Photos provided by the Dodge City Public Library.

brary.org
Foundation.

that information will help us grow. Perhaps it will even change our lives.

The Geek the Library program intends to promote conversation about the role public libraries play in their communities.

The program encourages the public to talk about what they “geek,” whether it’s art, or superheroes, or agriculture, or sports. The idea is that everyone is passionate about something—everyone “geeks” something—and our public libraries support it all. The campaign website, www.geekthelibrary.org, provides information about how people can get active and support their local library.

That knowledge brings us to my second misconception: that public libraries are in the business of checking out books. Well, yes, that’s true, but they do so much more than that.

A visit with Emily Sitz, Director of the Southwest Kansas Library System; Sara McFarland, Southwest Kansas Library System Library Development Coordinator; and Cathy Reeves, Director of the Dodge City Public Library, updated my perception of what exactly goes on in public libraries. Essentially, these women taught me that “Whatever you geek, your public library supports.”

“A problem is that most people, even people who support their libraries, don’t know what libraries have to offer,” said Reeves.

Sure, public libraries are all about books. But they’re also all about services such as children’s literacy programs, innovative programs for adults, live online homework help, genealogy research, financial planning classes, employment applications, training programs, video conferencing, Internet research, online cattle auctions (yes, cattle auctions), and much more. Whatever a community shows a need for, their local public library is there to try to meet that need.

But meeting the needs of their communities is getting harder these days as libraries, like most other agencies, experience cuts in their budgets.

Funding cuts impact library materials, programs, and the number of staff members available to help. In large part because of the declining economy, there’s more traffic in and out of public libraries. People use their libraries for entertainment, research, job searches, almost anything imaginable. Library usage is increasing, but funding is decreasing. According to data put out by the State Library of Kansas, library materials circulation has increased 35% since 2000. On a typical day, Kansas public libraries welcome 59,884 people, answer 8,559 reference questions, provide 3,033 children with learning programs, and connect 25,165 people to the Internet.

“The recession has made the need for public libraries even greater than before,” Reeves said. “On any given day, the Dodge



City Public library alone has 500 visitors. These people are here for a variety of reasons, but a need for the Internet is huge.”

Today job searches and applications are done on the Internet, income tax forms are filled out and submitted on the Internet, virtual classes are taken on the Internet.

“We’re busier than we’ve ever been,” Reeves said. “We have 34 public computers with Internet access, and on some days there’s a wait. In addition to local visitors, we also have lots of people traveling through town who look for the public library so they can connect to their email.”

The “Geek the Library” campaign hopes to raise awareness about the importance of library funding support.

“Most people aren’t sure how libraries get their money,” McFarland said. “Public libraries are supported by local tax funds and the budget is supplemented by some regional or state funding, but that level of support is decreasing as well.”

Since library usage is up and funding is down, there is a problem. Many libraries are facing decreasing budgets, which will result in a devastating impact on their services and programs.

The Geek the Library campaign hopes to encourage more people to do what they can to keep their libraries afloat.

“The idea is to get people to visit the Geek website, to learn about programs available, and to tell their local government how important libraries are to the community,” said Sitz. “Some libraries are taking significant budget cuts. This affects what we’re able to do. Library services are important throughout Kansas, but they’re especially vital to rural areas, where other services, like early childhood education, just aren’t available. That’s when local funding becomes even more important than ever.”

In upcoming months, Kansas libraries will begin to provide a variety of activities associated with Geek the Library. Some area libraries have already started promotions.

Let’s think about it: our libraries provide high-speed Internet access for everyone, knowledgeable and helpful librarians, a wealth of entertainment and informational materials, and a variety of local programs for people of all ages. They do these things for us free of charge.

 *Lynne Hewes is a Community Editor for the Legend Magazine. She can be reached at hewes@cimarronschools.net.*

This article was reprinted with permission from the Summer 2011 issue of the Legend Magazine.



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Grow Local, Enjoy Local

Once our daughter was born last year, the usual assortment of children's music began joining the musical playlist in our home. "A Bushel and a Peck," "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," and "Old MacDonald" regularly fill the air. Most Americans are familiar with Old MacDonald, the farmer with an assortment of cows, pigs, and horses filling his farm.

And while most envision Old MacDonald raising his animals in the open land complete with a farmhouse and barn, my daughter just might grow up in a city that depicts a more urbane Mr. MacDonald. Two reasons for the changing perspective is the popularity of the local-food movement and her proximity to Roeland Park—a Kansas City suburb at the forefront of the local-food movement.

Last winter, Roeland Park considered and passed Ordinances Number 857 and 862, a change that allows residents to raise chickens within city limits. The ordinance—now incorporated in the city code as §2-401-404—steps away from the norm of restricting animals within city limits:

(a) Any person who keeps chickens in the City of Roeland Park shall obtain a Special Permit from the City Council prior to acquiring chickens. No permit shall be issued to a person, by the City, and no chickens shall be allowed to be kept unless the owners of properties adjacent and across the street of the applicant's property are notified (by certified mail, return receipt) of the date and time of the council meeting, as well as providing contact information of the Council or alternate city contact.

(b) The principal use of the person's property must be a single-family use dwelling or duplex-family dwelling as defined in Chapter 16.

(c) The property must be occupied by the person requesting the permit.

(d) Application shall be made to the City Clerk with a fee of \$100.00. Special permits expire and become invalid 1 year after the date of issuance.

Additional requirements include a maximum of six chickens and maintenance of a city-inspected wood or wire chicken coop with a roof that is "clean, safe, and healthy." Other coop variations from their rural counterparts include a setback rule that requires coop placement in the rear of the house.

Roeland Park also imposed odor and noise restrictions, while noting that the owner is responsible for feeding, watering, and cleaning the chickens. The coop owner must also take steps to restrict the presence of predators and rodents.

The City spells out the local requirements in its application, which is available at www.roelandpark.net/DOWNLOADS.htm. In addition to completing the application, the potential coop owners must also participate in a hearing for the council to consider the addition of the chicken coop to the community. The first permit hearings took place in April, and several applicants have begun raising their own chickens.

Roeland Park Mayor Adrienne Foster noted that the decision to allow chicken coops in city limits was not an easy decision. When the City originally considered the ordinance, they had several workshops to

consider the policy implications. The meetings included participation from a local group of engaged citizens who refer to themselves as CHIRP (City Hens In Roeland Park)—individuals seeking to build "a community of people who care where their food comes from, believe in sustainability, and choose to take charge of their health" (www.chirpks.blogspot.com).

During the meetings, the representatives of CHIRP noted that raising local chickens provides benefits on multiple levels. First, it provides a steady source of quality food from an easily manageable source, as eggs are high in protein and chickens are small and urban-friendly. They also touted that local eggs are better quality than those treated, stored, and shipped from out of town. Finally, the advocates noted that chickens provide natural fertilizer while eliminating pests like cockroaches, aphids, and grubs.

The City had to consider these benefits and the desires of their citizens against the opposing concerns, which include the prospect of unhappy neighbors who are uninterested in living near chickens. The concerns also include whether raising chickens carry any health and sanitation risks and how the City would handle any escaped chickens.

Mayor Foster noted how beneficial it was having a group of dedicated citizens to serve as a resource in response to the concerns of the opponents. At end of the discussions, the City decided that the benefits of encouraging locally-grown food aligned with the City's goal to be a healthy and sustainable community. The disease and health risk of maintaining chickens was a manageable concern. The City also determined that it would rely upon the owner's and volunteers to be accountable for any escaped chickens.

Fortunately, the City has not had to deal with the negatives at this point. Travis & Jaelyn Cool were one of the first Roeland Park couples to complete the application, and they praised the City's forward approach to the local-food movement. Ms. Cool commented that, "I grew up on a ranch outside of Louisburg, and we always had animals. Now that we have two daughters of our own, we thought it would be fun to raise animals with them." She continued to note that after reading in Roeland Park's newsletter that the City was considering allowing chicken coops, they wrote letters and attended meetings in favor of the proposal. The result has been great for the Cools, and the City has also enjoyed the benefits.

Mayor Foster pointed out that Roeland Park has worked very hard to promote healthy initiatives. The City is working with KC Healthy Kids to make walking and biking more safe and convenient and parks more accessible (www.kchealthykids.org). Roeland Park seeks to be a healthy and environmentally-friendly City, and the promotion of locally grown food was a natural step in that process.

Cities have always encouraged their citizens to buy local. And while this has traditionally meant spending on Main Street, the movement to buy—or raise—local-grown food is, perhaps, the next stage in keeping our cities strong.

☀ *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.*



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City Manager

The City of Yoakum, Texas is seeking a new City Manager to replace its long serving City Manager who is retiring. Known for its family friendly community and low crime rate, Yoakum is home to 5,815 residents who enjoy numerous attractive parks, ongoing civic events and academically recognized schools. Yoakum is located 88

miles south east of Austin, 100 miles east of San Antonio and is only one hour away from the Texas Gulf Coast. Economic development in Yoakum is very strong, with an established economic development corporation that was recognized in 2010 for its outstanding achievement in community development activities and efforts. To view a complete position profile, visit: <https://www.governmentresource.com/pages/CurrentSearches>.

To apply, please email resume and cover letter to:

Alan Taylor
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More job opportunities available at: www.sgrjobs.com. The closing date for this position is August 15, 2011.

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County Administrator

Cowley County, Kansas (pop. 36,311). County Administrator. Salary competitive DOQ/E. Previous salary, \$90.9K. 2 Administrators since position established in 2003. Chief Administrative Officer for County Commission. Winfield is County Seat in south central Kansas. Budget \$27.5M. 160 FT employees. Position requires Master's degree in public/business administration or closely related field, five years of progressively responsible administrative experience in a local government or similar organization, or combination of education

and experience that provides required skills and abilities. Excellent budgeting and financial management skills required. Excellent inter personal skills and ability to relate to broad range of individuals required. 3 member county commission elected on staggered basis for 4 year terms. Submit confidential resume and salary history to Bob Saunders, rjs Organization Consultants, 1542 Merit Lane, Liberty, Missouri 64068 or bob@rjsorganizationconsultants.com by August 15, 2011.

County Administrator

Leavenworth County (pop. 75,000, \$45.8 million budget, 400 employees) is seeking a candidate for County Administrator. The administrator serves as the chief administrative officer of the County. Bachelors/Masters degree in business or public administration, planning or related field. Five or more years of responsible experience in government administration or any equivalent combination of training and experience. Salary: \$81,549-\$91,549 To see a detailed job description go to www.leavenworthcounty.org or to apply; send a cover letter, resume and 3 professional references to Leavenworth County Administration, 300 Walnut Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048. EOE. This job closes Wednesday, August 17, 5:00 p.m. or open until filled.

County Administrator

County of Los Alamos, NM \$140,000 - \$170,000. For complete job description and application materials, visit the Prothman Company at: <http://www.prothman.com/Current.htm> or call (206) 368-0050.

Los Alamos County, New Mexico, employs 681 FTEs and has a FY12 adopted budget of \$189,985,391.

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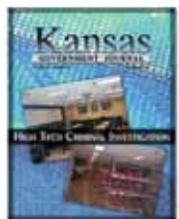
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The Apple Store



I am sitting here at my desk, thinking about how hot it is outside, and wondering when it will be possible to get outside again and do a little yard work (if I have any yard left to work on) when the 100° temperatures finally abate. It got me to thinking about earlier this summer, when wife Judy and I took a couple of short excursions, and we ended up stopping at the Apple stores in Kansas City and Oklahoma City.

Without going into all of the somewhat ridiculous details, a few months ago I purchased for sweet wife Judy an Apple iPad so that she could purchase books to read from the Internet, and read them without having to buy a hard-bound book. This entire undertaking started largely as an experiment as it was unclear whether she would really take to this new technology. She is an avid reader who reads over 100 books of substance each and every year. It was unclear to me, and to her, whether or not she would be comfortable reading books off of an electronic device rather than holding a book in her hands. So, just as the new iPad 2 was being released, we found a “old” original iPad at Best Buy for a significantly reduced price. I should also mention that it was an open box item which contributed greatly to this entire story. In any case, we went for the original iPad simply because it was less expensive, and if Judy didn’t like it, well, at least we hadn’t paid full price for the new iPad 2. In a nutshell, Judy loves it. While she was concerned about moving to this technology in the first place, she now can’t believe that she ever was without it.

So, she began to download books onto the iPad. At some point, within her first 90 days of ownership, Apple sent an update for the software operating program on which the iPad system is based. She found that she could not download it because someone else had entered an email address and password into the device. Apparently, this happened when they were looking at it at Best Buy, or they had taken it home and returned it. In either case, it meant that the device was in need of some help from Apple professionals who knew what they were doing. So we decided to go to the Apple store on the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City. We arrived at the Apple store on a Saturday afternoon at approximately 2:00 p.m. It was so crowded we could barely get in the front door. When a sales representative working at the Apple store approached us a few minutes later, we were told that we would have to talk to a service technician about the issue in question. He told us that was done by scheduling appointments, most typically online although they can be scheduled in the store, and that there was currently a 2 ½ hour wait until the next available time slot. Deciding that we had other things to do with our day, we moved on and did not get the problem solved.

A couple of weeks later we were in Oklahoma City so that Judy could see some of her relatives. This time we made an appointment to have Judy’s iPad inspected by a Apple technician. Once again, when

we arrived, the store was full with wall-to-wall people. At this point, Judy and I both took note. It was not just full of young people, it was full of people of all ages, just as the store in Kansas City had been a few weeks earlier. The store included people who were at least in their 80’s all the way down to toddlers who couldn’t have been more than two years of age. I would add at this point that Apple doesn’t miss a trick as they had a small table, with munchkin-sized chairs, and little computers sitting in front of them, which were clearly intended for the under five-year-old crowd. Simply unbelievable! What hit me and Judy was the simple fact that it represented a cross-section of the community that had gathered in the Apple stores to purchase, contemplate purchasing, or discuss various Apple products.

Our problem with Judy’s iPad was quickly and efficiently solved by the technician in Oklahoma City. Before we left, we noted that it was an exciting place to be, with what seemed to be the most diverse and enthusiastic gathering of people we had seen in a long time. Both in Oklahoma City and Kansas City, this technology had brought people together of many different ages, races and technology challenged individuals, who were interested, intrigued, and willing to spend a sizeable amount of time and money to understand and perhaps purchase these devices.

What I think it tells us in government is that the world continues to be ever more connected online. The key for the iPad is that for you to be able to go online and download a book to read, you must be where there is a Wi-Fi connection. Thus, you need to have computer service and high speed Wi-Fi. For cities looking towards the future, it is going to become increasingly important to have high-speed Internet connections as well as over the air Wi-Fi services which will allow people within the community to avail themselves of the new technologies which continue to come out at an ever increasing pace. It is unbelievable how quickly these devices are changing, and how we have all gotten so used to using them on a regular basis. Smart phones seem to be everywhere and they continue to proliferate in both usage and usability.

We, as city leaders, are going to have to continue to make our cities as technologically advanced as possible so as to help provide communication services, or to help them be distributed in our communities, so that we have the ability for our citizens to participate in this unfolding communication revolution. I have a funny feeling that the ability to link into the wider world via these new technology devices will be one of the key components for young people staying or leaving a particular area, state, or perhaps even region. Clearly, the technology has an appeal to people of all ages, but it is particularly relevant for the upcoming generations. As a result, we must be moving towards further linking our communities to the outside world with these devices and expanding the communications network as much as we possibly can in order to remain competitive well into the 21st Century. It remains hard for me to believe how far we have come the past 15 or 20 years. The real question is where will we be in another 20 years?



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For more information about the City Showcase, contact Lara Malakoff at malakoff@nlc.org or Will McGahan at mcgahan@nlc.org.

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