

# Kansas

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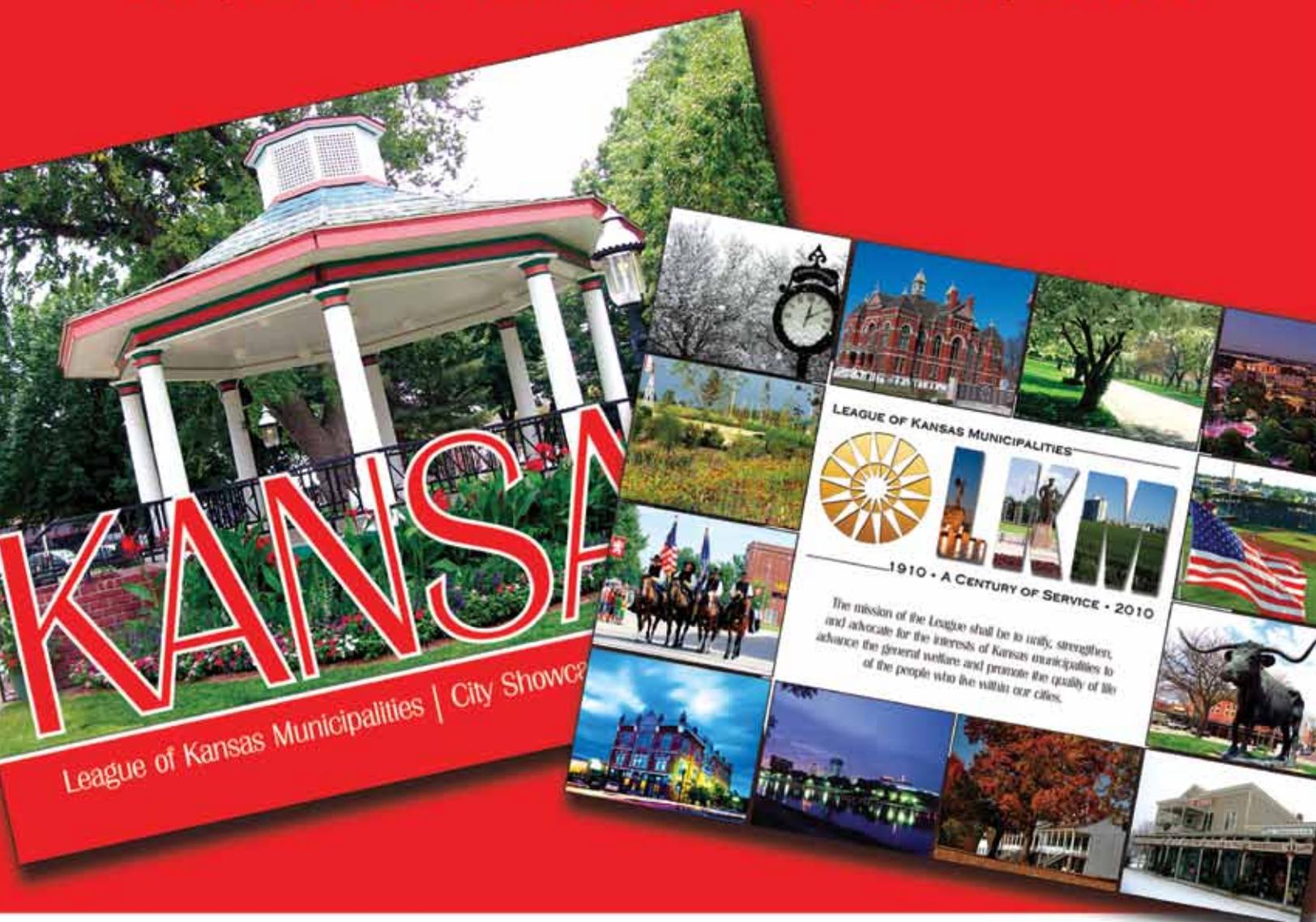
AUGUST 2011

**Inside:**  
**Flunking Civics**  
**An Essay on Humble Cuba**  
**Governor Announces Festival**

# League of Kansas Municipalities

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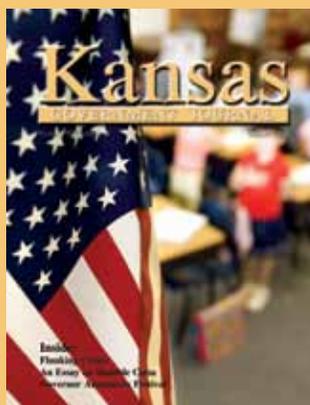
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A recent study shows civic and government standards in schools are failing in the United States, see related article beginning on page 230.

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



## September

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

## November

- 4 - MLA: Sexual Harassment, Garden City
- 4 - MLA: Sexual Harassment, Prairie Village
- 24 - Thanksgiving

## December

- 9 - LKM Governing Body Meeting, Topeka
- 16 - KMIT Board of Trustee Meeting, Wichita
- 25 - Christmas

## Obituaries

**William D. "Bill" Anderson, Jr.**, 83, died June 2 at his home in Wichita. He was elected to the Wichita City Commission in 1965 and served as the Mayor of Wichita from 1968-1969. During that time, he cut the ribbon at Century II and hosted the second inaugural of former Kansas Governor Robert B. Docking. Anderson later served on the state Board of Tax Appeals and was Sedgwick County Purchasing Director from 1977-93.

**Warren S. Bissell**, 90, died March 24, 2011. Warren served as Mayor of Simpson for 10 years and was an active member on the board of North Central Kansas Area Agency on Aging. Before retiring, Bissell was a Plant Kingdom Manager.

**William S. Bowers**, 93, died March 4, 2011 in Ottawa. Bowers served as Franklin County Attorney from 1951-1954 and in the Kansas Senate from 1957-1968. He was a member of the Franklin County and Kansas Bar Associations. He also served as president of the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce and Ottawa Industrial Development Committee.

**William E. (Charlie) Wasyk**, 63, died August 9, 2011. While serving his country in Vietnam in the infantry, he was injured in the line of duty and earned the Purple Heart. In the late 1980s he served as the local Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 558, and was also a Councilman in Park City, KS for nearly three years in the early 1990s.



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## Cities Selected as Inside Track Communities

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The Kansas Main Street program of the Department of Commerce announced that Anthony and Medicine Lodge have been selected for the Inside Track program for Fiscal Year 2012.

To be eligible for the program, the communities need to have a population between 1,000 and 50,000, have a traditional downtown district, the ability to raise a minimum budget to cover program expenses, a signed endorsement by the local government, and a genuine interest in applying to become a designated Main Street city.

The Kansas Main Street program uses the successful Main Street methodology developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as its foundation for assistance. The methodology emphasizes four critical areas of revitalization, including organization (maximizing involvement of public and private leaders), promotion (attracting visitors, shoppers, and investors),

design (enhancing a district's appearance and preserving historic features), and economic restructuring (stimulating business development and strengthening a district's economic base).

The program provides a range of services and assistance to meet a variety of community readiness levels. A core feature of the services to Inside Track participants is access to training by state and national downtown development experts. Inside Track participants will have the opportunity to learn about best practices in the field and to network with peers from around the state.

To learn more about the Kansas Main Street program and its tiers of services, contact Jeanne Stinson, state coordinator at [jstinson@kansascommerce.com](mailto:jstinson@kansascommerce.com) or Mary Helmer, assistant state coordinator, at [mhelmer@kansascommerce.com](mailto:mhelmer@kansascommerce.com), or visit [KansasCommerce.com/MainStreet](http://KansasCommerce.com/MainStreet).

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## Corporate Company to Expand in Overland Park

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PNC Bank's regional headquarters for Midland Loan Services plans to expand in Overland Park. Midland, a PNC Real Estate business and division of PNC Bank, National Association, plans to add more than 140 jobs during the next 5 years, representing a significant investment in the region. The company now employs more than 500 people at its Corporate Woods headquarters, and plans an \$8.7 million expansion, adding 26,500 sq. ft. to its current 133,776 sq. ft. space.

"This expansion represents our continued commitment to the Overland Park business community, the greater Kansas City

metro and the state of Kansas," said Steve Smith, executive vice president and head of Midland Loan Services. "Our new space provides opportunities to retain our current staff, as well as attract new talented employees to join the Midland team."

"Creation of new jobs by an existing Overland Park business demonstrates success and sound fiscal and management decisions," said Overland Park Mayor Carl Gerlach.

Midland Loan selected Overland Park as its headquarters location in 2002.

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## U.S. 50 Highway Gets Improvements

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Kansas officials have broken ground on a construction project designed to improve travel and safety along U.S. 50 near Hutchinson.

Department of Transportation Secretary Deb Miller and House Speaker Mike O'Neal, a Hutchinson Republican, were among the dignitaries at the ceremony, Monday August 22.

The \$132 million project will extend U.S. 50 to just east of the Airport/Yoder Road in Hutchinson, including a new interchange with Kansas 61. It also will smooth a sharp curve in the highway south of Hutchinson.

KDOT officials expect the project to be completed in late 2013. Among the benefits will be improved access to the Salt City Industrial Park, home to a new wind turbine factory, and for people heading to the Kansas State Fair.

"These improvements will make Salt City more enticing to new businesses and help create opportunities for growing the local, regional and state economies," said Secretary Miller.

The project is part of the T-WORKS transportation program passed by the 2010 Legislature.

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## Properties Nominated for National Register

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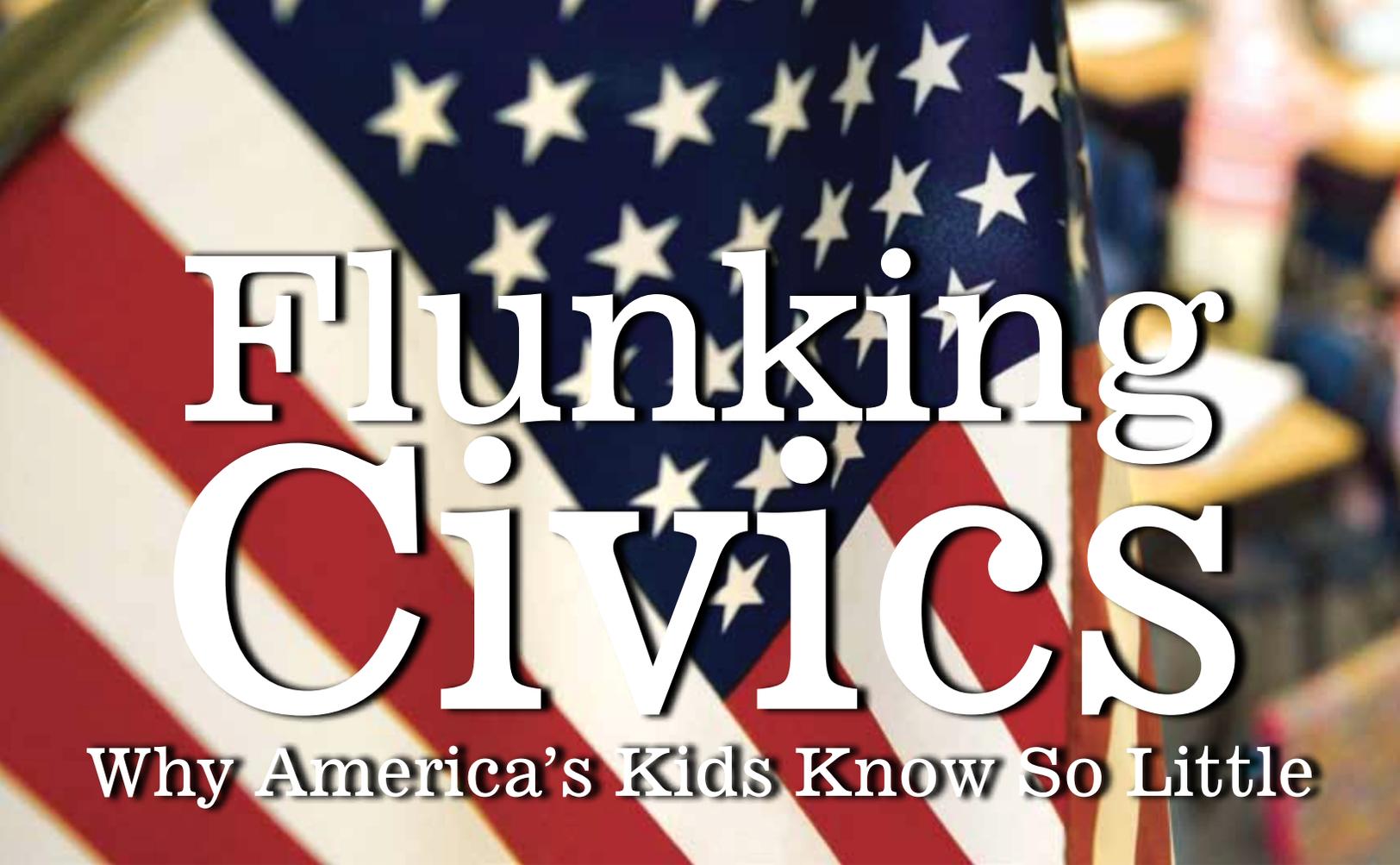
The Kansas Historical Society has nominated six properties for the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, three properties were reviewed to be listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

The six nominations for the National Register of Historic Places include: North Broadway School in Leavenworth; the Crosby, William, and Delora House in Topeka; the 1927 water tower in Hillsboro; Beaumont St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad Retention Pond in Beaumont; Heptig Barn in Pottawatomie County; and Lamborn Farmstead in Leavenworth.

The three properties to be listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places include: Gorrill, Robert, and Helen Farmstead in Lawrence; Lane-Duncan Stable in Lawrence; and the Youse, Clare, and Glad House in Baxter Springs.

The National register of Historic Places is the country's official list of historically significant properties and the Register of Historic Kansas Places is the state's official list of historically significant properties.

For more information on these nominations please visit <http://www.kshs.org/p/hsbr-meeting-august-13-2011/14633>.

The background of the top half of the page is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The title text is overlaid on this background.

# Flunking Civics

## Why America's Kids Know So Little

by Mark Hansen

Only one state deserved a rating of A when it came to teaching its students American history, according to a recent study. Most states fall in the category of “mediocre to awful.”

The study ranked history standards in 49 states and the District of Columbia (Rhode Island has no mandatory history standards, only suggested guidelines) for “content and rigor” and “clarity and specificity” on a scale of A to F. Only South Carolina got straight A’s.

Nine states’ standards earned a grade of A- or B. But a majority of states—28 in all—had standards ratings of D or F, the study found.

The findings confirm what the study’s authors have long suspected, says Chester E. Finn Jr., president of the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, the Washington, D.C.-based educational think tank that conducted the study.

“No wonder so many Americans know so little about our nation’s past,” he says.

And Americans’ lack of civic knowledge disturbs some of the most respected figures in government and politics.

“When I went to school, we had all kinds of courses on civics and government,” says retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, who is pushing to revive civic education. “Today, at least half of the states don’t even require high school students to take civics; only three states require it in middle school.”

Teaching government, civics, and history is becoming a more pressing need than before. With school cutbacks, the Internet distracting students, and the disappearance of traditional newspapers and TV news shows that objectively report information, youngsters have become increasingly disengaged from civic and political life, experts say.

### YOUNG NONVOTERS CITED

Those under the age of 25 are less likely to vote than were their elders or younger people in previous decades, according to a 2003 report by the Silver Spring, Md.-based Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools, a coalition of about 40 organizations, including the American Bar Association (ABA). According to the report, students also are less interested in public or political issues than were previous generations, and they exhibit gaps in their knowledge of fundamental democratic principles and processes.

“As a result,” the report said, “many young Americans are not prepared to participate fully in our democracy now and when they become adults.”

The report also found that schools in many ways are uniquely suited to addressing the situation because they reach virtually every young person in the country, they represent a community of different views and opinions, and they are well-equipped to deal with the cognitive aspects of good citizenship, such as critical thinking and deliberation.

Other studies have also documented the need for improvement and reform in civic education. The Denver-based National Center for Learning and Citizenship maintains a database on citizenship education, which shows that while 49 states have standards that address citizenship, fewer than half have any testing or assessment programs in place.

And the National Center for Education Statistics in Washington, D.C.—which issues periodic progress reports on what students know in various subject areas, known informally as the Nation’s Report Card—found that only 27% of 12th graders in 2006 were proficient in civics and government. (The center reassessed students’ knowledge of civics and government in 2010; the results are due later this year.)



A 2007 survey of 350 school districts nationwide by the Center on Education Policy found that instructional time for subjects not tested by the NCLB had fallen by one-third since the law was passed.

### NOT JUST KIDS

Adults, perhaps unsurprisingly, don't appear to have a better grasp of law, history, or government—all of which could be considered essential to civic responsibilities—than students do.

A 2005 survey by the ABA, for example, found that nearly half of all Americans were unable to correctly identify the three branches of government. A Find Law survey that same year found that only 57% of Americans could name any Supreme Court justice.

Some public figures seem to know as little about history—and geography—as many private citizens. In a speech in March, U.S. Representative Michele Bachmann of Minnesota, a possible Republican candidate for president in 2012, identified New Hampshire—instead of Massachusetts—as the “state where the shot was heard around the world.” And in 2008 when he was the Democratic candidate for Vice President, Joe Biden declared that Franklin D. Roosevelt had educated the nation about the 1929 stock market crash—on television.

At least one expert says that the picture is not as bleak as others say.

While it's true that most young Americans don't know all that much about politics and government, they know as much as their parents did and more than their peers in other countries, says Peter Levine, Director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, and one of the leading researchers in the field.

Young people also vote, Levine says. Though voter turnout among younger voters was down in 2010 from 2008, there is no evidence of a systematic decline in youth voting compared with the 1980s and 1990s, he says. And volunteering is at record levels.

Levine says that schools are still teaching civics as much as or more than ever before. The amount of time devoted to social studies in elementary and middle school has remained pretty constant over the years, he says, and the amount of time devoted to social studies in high school is up substantially, although the mix of courses has changed appreciably since the 1950s. Civics and problem or discussion oriented classes are less common today than they were in the 1950s, he says, but political science, economics, and social studies classes are more common.

That's not to suggest that all is rosy, Levine cautions. Teaching civics is only partly the job of the schools. Other providers of such teaching—newspapers, unions, membership organizations, and community groups—aren't taking up the slack. People are sorting themselves into more politically and ideologically homogenous communities than they used to, he says. And the gap between the haves and the have-nots when it comes to opportunities for civic engagement is bad and getting worse. “Democracy depends on citizens who are motivated and able to participate effectively in the process,” Levine says. “Otherwise, we run the risk of replicating an unjust democracy in the future.”

Advocates of better civic learning aren't waiting around for that to happen. They say the cause is too important to ignore and the consequences of not acting too grave to contemplate.

### HIGH-LEVEL HELP

ABA President Stephen N. Zack, for one, has made the improvement of civic education in this country one of his top priorities.

Zack has lobbied U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan to make civic education a national priority. He also persuaded the ABA Board of Governors to create a Commission on Civic Education in the Nation's Schools to serve as both an advocate for and a provider of effective, high-quality civic education programs.

Parents traditionally worry about what their children are learning in school, but it's what those students are not learning that's even more unsettling.

The problem is exacerbated by evidence of what researchers describe as a growing “civic achievement gap” between white, wealthy, native-born youths—who demonstrate consistently higher levels of civic and political knowledge, skills, attitudes, and participation—and poor, nonwhite, and immigrant youths, who are thus at a disadvantage politically.

Since the late 1990s, when American students tested poorly in reading, science, and math against students from 20 other Western nations, federal educational policy has focused strongly on those three subjects at the expense of history, social studies, government, and civics.

That trend began in 2001 with the Bush Administration's landmark No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), which gives priority to federal funding for efforts to improve student performance in reading and math, skills that are considered fundamental to student success in the workplace. The program continues under the Obama Administration's support for so-called STEM programs, which reward student achievement in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Educators fear that this long-range focus on a few limited subjects that are considered fundamental to student success is squeezing out the amount of time and effort devoted to subjects considered nonfundamental, such as history, social science, government, and civics.

And they say the evidence of that continues to mount—both empirically and anecdotally.

In 2006, the Center on Education Policy, an independent advocate for public education, conducted a survey on the effects of No Child Left Behind on elementary school instruction. Of the school districts surveyed, 71% said they were spending less time on subjects like social studies, music, and art to devote more time to reading and math, the two subjects tested under NCLB.

Zack says our country's future as a democracy depends on the integrity of our legal institutions, our commitment to justice and our understanding of constitutional self-government. But he says that future is now being threatened by a basic lack of understanding among Americans about what a democracy is and how it's supposed to work.

He cites figures showing that two-thirds of all Americans can't correctly identify the three branches of government, and that three out of four people don't know that the Bill of Rights protects religious freedom.

"It would be amusing if it weren't so tragic," he says. "But the sad fact is this is a pervasive problem that starts in the schools and permeates our entire society."

Zack also notes the outrage many people feel when the U.S. Supreme Court issues a controversial First Amendment ruling, as it did in early March, when it upheld the right of hate groups to protest at military funerals; and in 1989, when it affirmed the right of an anti-war protester to burn the American flag.

"People don't realize that while the executive and legislative branches are based on majority opinion, the judiciary is beholden only to the Constitution," he says.

For Zack, who fled Cuba as a 14-year-old boy during the revolution there in 1961, the cause is personal. He still keeps a copy of the old Cuban Constitution, which he says was nearly identical to ours, on his desk to remind him that words alone will not protect our rights.

"We all need to do our part to ensure that the words in the Constitution are not just words," Zack says.

The ABA Commission created by the board at Zack's urging is sponsoring a series of civics and law academies at various locations around the country where lawyers, judges, teachers, and other

community leaders can teach students in middle and high school about the law and the Constitution, as well as the importance of civic engagement.

The first such academy, co-sponsored by Florida International University's College of Law, took place on the school's Miami campus over the President's Day weekend. A second—co-sponsored by Close Up, a Washington, D.C.-based citizenship education organization—was scheduled for the last week of April. Other academies are in the works.

The Commission has also created a resource guide and a website where bar associations, law schools, courts, civic organizations, young lawyer affiliates, and others interested in sponsoring such a program can find suggested curricula, formats, lesson plans, strategies, and other information.

In addition, the commission has conducted an online survey of bar associations and other organizations to compile a comprehensive and up-to-date database of existing civic education activities and to help identify what types of programs work best.

#### SUPREME ASSISTANCE

Retired Justice O'Connor, a longtime champion of civic education, serves as a special adviser to the Commission. She describes her duties in the role of special adviser as "putting my two cents' worth in" and encouraging lawyers and others to do whatever they can to help. But she is also a tireless crusader and forceful advocate for the cause.

O'Connor says she first began to realize how little people know about the way government works during her years as a judge, when she became increasingly alarmed by the efforts of lawmakers and others to politicize the judiciary and "punish" judges for their decisions.

## American Know-How & the ABA

The ABA's involvement in civic education dates back to the early 1920s, when it joined calls for the study of the Constitution in the nation's schools as a bulwark against radicalism and for the "Americanization" of immigrants, according to R. Freeman Butts in his 1988 book, *The Morality of Democratic Citizenship: Goals for Civic Education in the Republic's Third Century*.

That involvement continued in the 1930s, when the ABA, under President Frank J. Hogan, created a special committee on the Bill of Rights to defend the rights and liberties of individuals. The Committee filed an amicus brief on behalf of two Jehovah's Witness students who had been expelled from school for refusing to salute the American flag during the Pledge of Allegiance. The students lost before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Minersville School District v. Gobitis* in 1940.

The Committee also prepared a brief in a second flag-salute case that came before the Court in 1943. This time, in West Virginia, *State Board of Education v. Barnette*, the Court reversed its earlier decision and sided with the students.

World War II dampened whatever impetus there was at the time for teaching the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in the schools, according to Butts' book. And the 1950s saw a resurgence of conservatism that helped drive progressive social studies teaching

out of the schools and resulted in laws in 30 states requiring teachers to sign loyalty oaths.

But the 1960s and 1970s brought about a renewed interest in the teaching of social studies and law-related education in the schools, with an emphasis on individual rights and liberties and the responsibilities of citizenship, Butts wrote.

The ABA's efforts on that front have been ongoing since 1971, when then-ABA President Leon Jaworski—who would later become famous as the Watergate Special Prosecutor—established a special committee on youth education for citizenship, the genesis for what 12 years later became the ABA's Division for Public Education.

The Division, created to promote public understanding of the law and its role in society, today acts as a proponent of civic education and as a civic educator. It provides national leadership for law-related and civic education efforts in this country, conducts its own educational programs, develops resource material, offers technical assistance and information clearinghouse services, presents awards for civic activism, and fosters partnerships among like-minded bar associations, educational institutions, civic organizations, and others.

The ABA House of Delegates has been a longtime, consistent supporter of law-related civic education efforts, beginning in the 1970s. It has passed six such resolutions in the past seven years alone, including one at last year's annual meeting in San Francisco urging all lawyers to consider it part of their fundamental duty to help ensure that students get a high-quality civic education, and one at this year's midyear meeting in Atlanta urging the federal government to require the teaching of civics in public schools and to provide grant funding for such efforts.

That led her—along with Justice Stephen G. Breyer—to convene a conference on the state of the judiciary in 2006 to try to get to the root of the problem. The overwhelming consensus of the attendees was that public education is the key to preserving the independence of the judiciary and sustaining our constitutional democracy.

O'Connor thinks the evidence is pretty convincing. "There are all kinds of polls out there showing that barely one out of three Americans can name the three branches of government, let alone describe what they do," she says.

To help fill that gap, O'Connor joined forces with experts at Georgetown University Law School, Arizona State University and others to develop an interactive, Web-based educational project aimed at teaching students about civics and inspiring them to become active participants in our nation's democracy.

The website—at [iCivics.org](http://iCivics.org)—features lesson plans, Web quests, discussion forums, and games designed to teach students about the Constitution, the three branches of government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

The project, which has been up and running for 6 years, is now being used in all 50 states, O'Connor says, though admittedly more so in some states than in others. But her goal is to get it into every school in America.

The only thing standing in the way, she says, is bureaucracy. "It's free, it's teacher-friendly, and it's a lot of fun for the kids."

Sorely needed, too, as O'Connor is quick to point out.

Because an understanding of and appreciation for democracy is not an inherited trait that is passed along through the gene pool, she says.

"It has to be taught anew to each generation."

☀ *Mark Hansen is a Senior Writer for the ABA Journal. He can be reached at [mark.hansen@americanbar.org](mailto:mark.hansen@americanbar.org).*

*This article was reprinted with permission from the May 2011 issue of the ABA Journal.*

## LKM's Civic Initiatives

The League of Kansas Municipalities believes that civics education is the foundation of an active and informed citizenry. LKM has developed a number of programs designed to aid teachers in teaching students about local governments in Kansas and to assist educators in meeting the state's civics standards.

- *Local Government in Kansas* - This is a book designed for 7th and 8th grade students. Certain key concepts are highlighted throughout the book that focus on cities, counties, school districts, intergovernmental relations, and paying for local government. To order a copy, contact Anna DeBusk at [adebusk@lkm.org](mailto:adebusk@lkm.org).

- *My City, My Home* - An interactive coloring book distributed annually to 3rd grade teachers is available for download at <http://www.lkm.org/youtheducation/coloringbook/>. The coloring book highlights city government and laws, and lets students be creative by drawing their favorite part of the city where they live.

- "If I Were Mayor" Essay Contest - This contest is designed specifically for 7th grade students. It is held annually and awards students for writing an essay about what they would do if they were mayor of their city. For more information about the 2011 essay contest see the ad on page 234, or visit <http://www.lkm.org/youtheducation/2011mayoressay.pdf>.

☀ For more information about LKM's Youth Education Programs, contact Nathan Eberline at [neberline@lkm.org](mailto:neberline@lkm.org) or visit <http://www.lkm.org/youtheducation/>.

## BACK IN THE DAY



Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a tireless crusader for better civic education says that when she was a child, kids took lots of courses in civics and government.

Today, at least half of all states' high schools don't even require students to take civics; only three states require it in middle school.

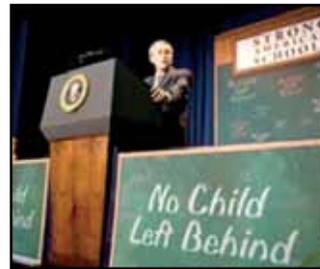
## IT'S ALL RELATIVE



While kids today don't seem to know all that much about civics and government, researchers say, they appear to know as much as their parents did and more than kids their age in other countries.

Youth voting patterns are mixed. But volunteerism among young Americans is now at record levels.

## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND



Since the late 1990s, when American students tested poorly in reading, science, and math against students from 20 other Western countries, federal educational policy has focused more on the

teaching of those three subjects at the expense of other subjects like history, social studies, and civics, experts say.

## CIVICS AND LAW ACADEMIES



The ABA Commission on Civic Education in the Nation's School is co-sponsoring a series of academic events at various locations around the country where community leaders can teach students about

the law, the Constitution and the importance of civic engagement. The commission has also created a resource guide and a website where bar groups, law schools, courts, civic organizations, and others interested in sponsoring such a program can find suggested curricula, formats, lesson plans, strategies, and other helpful information.

# 2011 CALL FOR ENTRIES

## "IF I WERE MAYOR, I WOULD..."

7th grade students from around the state are invited to enter the "If I were mayor, I would..." Essay Contest to tell others what they would do as mayor to make their cities the best place to live.

Six geographic regional winners around the state will be selected. Winners will receive a \$250 savings bond. One grand prize winner will be selected to represent the entire state. The winners, along with their parents and teachers, will be recognized at a special ceremony in Topeka on February 1, 2012.

- The contest is open to all Kansas students enrolled in the 7th grade during the 2011-2012 school year.
- Each entry must contain the student's name, home address, telephone number, school, and teacher's name.
- Essays may not exceed 250 words and must fit on one page.
- Essays must address the subject and begin with "If I were mayor, I would..."
- Only one essay may be submitted per student.
- Essays will be judged based on the following: creativity, clarity, sincerity of thought, understanding of city services, and proper use of grammar.
- Essays will not be returned and will become the property of LKM.
- LKM retains the right to publish essays along with the names and likenesses of each student.

A completed entry form must accompany each essay. You may download the form a at [www.lkm.org/youtheducation](http://www.lkm.org/youtheducation). All entries must be received by Monday, November 28, 2011. Winners will be notified by the beginning of January 2012.

Mail to: LKM, Attn: 7th Grade Essay Contest, 300 SW 8th Avenue, Suite 100, Topeka, KS 66603



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## Kansas Counties and City Receive Funds

Douglas County, Nemaha County, and the City of Moundridge will benefit from almost \$1.4 million in Small Cities Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The projects will create or retain 43 permanent jobs.

Douglas County will receive \$700,000 on behalf of Berry Plastics, a manufacturer of plastic packaging products. The CDBG funds will be used for road improvements and a water tank designated for fire suppression. The County is providing approximately \$435,000 for the road improvements and a water line. KDOT is committing \$300,000 for highway improvements. The private parties are providing \$17.9 million to fund the cost of acquiring the land and constructing the building. The project will create a minimum of 20 permanent jobs within a 2-year period.

Moundridge will receive \$476,725 of CDBG funds on behalf of Tortilla King, a producer of flour and corn tortillas. The CDBG funds

will be used to construct a wastewater pretreatment facility. This will be matched with \$245,275 of private investment in equipment and inventory. The project will retain 15 permanent jobs.

Nemaha County will receive \$210,000 of CDBG funds on behalf of KSi Conveyors, a manufacturer of conveyors and seed handling equipment. The CDBG funds will be used to make improvements on the county road serving the facility. The company is investing \$200,000 of private funds in the plant expansion and equipment. The project will create eight jobs.

The Department's Rural Development Division administers the CDBG program in non-metropolitan areas of the state. Economic development grants are given to cities or counties that, in turn, loan the funds to private businesses that create or retain permanent jobs. Funding is also available for infrastructure improvements that lead to the direct creation or retention of permanent jobs.

## Kansas Named in Top 10 Lists

A nationally-recognized real estate company has named Kansas to its "Top 10 Pro-Business States" list, ranking Kansas sixth.

"Our administration is committed to making Kansas the top place in the country to do business," said Governor Sam Brownback. "This recognition shows our great state can compete and win. Kansas has scored a number of economic successes recently, but we still have a lot of work to do."

The company bases its rankings on 32 factors controlled by state governments, including taxes, energy costs, workers' compensation laws, economic incentive programs, and infrastructure spending.

Other states rounding out the top ten: 1. Virginia; 2. Utah; 3. North Dakota; 4. Wyoming; 5. Nebraska; 6. Kansas; 7. South Dakota; 8. Missouri; 9. South Carolina; and 10. Indiana.

The State introduced a new expensing deduction that can be used by companies to purchase business equipment and machinery. In addition, a Job Creation Fund was started that will provide money over time to help secure new companies to Kansas and compete

globally. The Promoting Employment Across Kansas (PEAK) has been expanded to include business retention projects, which is an important component to keeping employers in the state growing.

The ranking by Pollina Corporate is the latest in a string of recent positive business rankings for the state.

In April, Kansas received *Area Development* magazine's Silver Shovel Award, which recognizes state economic development agencies that drive significant job creation through innovative policies, infrastructure improvements, and processes and promotions that attract new employers, as well as investments in expanded facilities. This was the fifth time in six years Kansas has received this distinction.

In May, Kansas was named the sixth most competitive state in the nation by *Site Selection* magazine, a leading publication for site location consultants, for capital investment and new facility development. The state ranked 10th for this award last year, and it is the third consecutive year Kansas made the top 10.

## State Improves Web Portal

The state of Kansas has given its official website, Kansas.gov (<http://www.kansas.gov>), a complete refresh, including look and feel, content organization, new technologies, customized search, language translation, and improved mobile access.

The new portal follows Governor Brownback's graphics standards and sets the visual pathway for agency Web design. The site is fresh, has automatically-fed content, and brings the "essence" of the state through vibrant photos of Kansas by Kansans. Website highlights include:

### Find It!

- Powered by Google Custom Search, the search box is prominently featured in the top header to quickly find what you need.
- Auto-complete and custom search promotions provide for fast and effective search results.

### No wrong door

- Main categorical navigation: The UberMenu tool provides for fast access to relevant content, and incorporates informative videos in the categories.

- Audience-based navigation: Featured in the center of the page, this user-friendly content is designed to categorize information for our various visitor types.

### Map It!

- Using Google maps, the user can quickly and easily visualize the locations of state agencies, parks, libraries, universities, and more.

### You are mobile, so are we

- Mobile access is automatically detected and mobile-ready versions of the portal provide fresh content for both smart phones and mobile tablets.

### Just being social

- Find all agency social media sites in our Statewide Social Media page, enabling our visitors to interact with state and local government 24/7.
- A share/save feature on all secondary pages is incorporated for all major social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Delicious, etc.).

# The Value of Public Service



by Randall Reid

We find ourselves today as public sector leaders working in an era of dynamic global economics, stormy political discourse, and facing yet another crisis in confidence in our public institutions. Memories of 9/11 sacrifices of public servants have faded as we debate the causes of our national afflictions, and diminished financial security, and face the current rhetoric frequently condemning the public sector. That said, I continue to feel an undiminished pride in working as a professional in local government. I know my jurisdiction, like the ones many of you work for, have a brighter economic future and are kinder and gentler places because of the personal investment and labor of public employees.

My jurisdiction, perhaps like yours, is blessed with innovative, dedicated and creative public employees and our community is recognized by the innovation in our programs and excellence of our public academic and healthcare institutions. Thanks to the actions of our citizens through public programs, the natural beauty of our countryside remains intact and protected and our economy is rebounding. The collaboration and work of many people makes these community achievements possible: people in both the private and public sectors. It is folly to think that only the private sector strives for obtainment of excellence or causes our communities to achieve it. The role of public employees and the value of public service is vital to our republic and the success of our communities.

Public sector employees are not the “non producers” of the currently popular Ayn Rand’s *Atlas Shrugged* worldview. The public sector serves a three-fold vital role as the provider of public goods, guardians of the commons, and promoters of a civic life essential to our communities. Private sector organizations while effective community partners, can be trusted to desire to do so only to the extent they can commercialize it for profit or create positive branding through their actions.

Early in my career as a manager I was influenced by a book, *Reinventing Government*, not with just the examples of change oriented, transformational management I had learned under my first boss and coauthor, Ted Gaebler, but most of all by five principles outlined in the preface of the book. This book, critical of government bureaucracies, stated that first, as practitioners, we must strive to preserve in this era our fundamental belief in democratic government. Secondly, we must believe that a

civilized society cannot function effectively without “effective” government and we make that effectiveness a reality each day to the degree we can attain it.

Thirdly, we must believe that those dedicated employees around us working in government are not the problem as much as the bureaucratic systems in which we are to this day forced to work in that are the principle problem with government. Fourthly, we must believe that neither traditional liberalism nor conservatism has much relevance to the problems that our governments face today and there exists a need for pragmatic and non-ideological solutions. Finally, we must commit to provide equal opportunity for all of our citizens to prosper and reach their potential. These thoughts continue to serve me now in this time of public criticism of local government and continue to motivate me through periods of frustration in my public service.

Response to public sector critics must be viewed as a teachable moment and a time for civic education. In our comments and speeches, we need to recognize with humility our organizational shortcomings and explain those essential inefficiencies within public processes that represent the conflicting yet important values we adhere to as a democracy. Most importantly, we must boldly and unabashedly defend the public sector’s role in defending the “commons” and the competency and value of those individuals employed or called to public service. I suggest that public employees, whether as a commissioner sitting at the dais or a member of a road construction crew, devote their lives to making local places better places for all our citizens.

They are not nameless, faceless bureaucrats living in faraway places. They are your neighbors, and your friends. They sit next to you in your place of worship. They have families. They pay taxes. They are the customers in your businesses and the volunteers in your favorite organizations. They are fellow citizens of our community and it is their honor and passion to serve you. They do not grow rich in doing so, as a narrowing minority continues to do in the private sector, but they serve you well and deserve your respect. In my experience, our public sector peers start off each morning with a totally different set of fundamental questions in their minds than our private sector counterparts in community life, who must measure their profit margins and commercial viability. Many of our public employees start every day with the well-being of the entire community in mind and specific issues essential to community prosperity and health they must grapple. Sometimes these seem like Don Quixote assaults on society’s

broken institutions. They ask important questions and develop strategies to solve increasingly complex community problems. Questions considered by the private sector are tangential or seek a nexus to community problems only if they can commercialize the opportunity, profit off the commons, or assist their corporate branding by association to community building efforts. Corporate loyalty to a specific place is a dying value in today's global or absentee businesses ownership.

Public employees ask humane questions such as if anyone is going hungry today? Are citizens in danger because of temperature extremes? How can we help keep citizens healthy? Is someone in despair because of illness but unable to afford treatment? Is a veteran feeling lost and isolated? Does a victim of violent crime need assistance? Can a non-profit organization help tend to those in need? Did a person's race prevent them from renting a home?

Public employees plan for a better future for their communities. They plan for the benefits of their citizens and preservation of historical places while balancing the impact of new development. We ask what our communities will look like in 50 years. Are we building safe structures? Can we grow in a way that creates a sustainable future? What will transportation look like as gasoline costs increase? Can we use energy more wisely? Will there be farms here in the future or only houses? Will future generations have access to our beautiful wild spaces?

Public employees ask if precious natural systems and our environment that undergirds our communities are safe. Are our water supplies and air quality healthy? Are we safe from exposure to dangerous toxins? How do we dispose of dangerous chemicals? How can we assist parents prevent childhood obesity?

Public employees ask questions out of concern for our citizens' quality of life and public safety. This quality of life focus is a

clear responsibility of the public realm and makes for sustainable and resilient businesses and neighborhoods. How can we improve our transportation infrastructure? How can we pay for a park or fire station? How can we encourage business retention? Can we recycle more and limit non renewable resource use? How do we best respond to the devastation of a fire, a hurricane, a medical emergency? How do we make our neighborhoods safe? Are there safe alternatives to jail and long-term incarceration?

Public employees ask if we have responsibly enhanced our democratic ideals and sufficiently gathered citizen concerns on important issues. Have we made our government more accessible to all people? Have we responded to citizen questions in a helpful and timely way? Are we providing civic education opportunities and forums for civic conversations, as well as formal public hearings and processes? Do we properly engage citizens in problem solving or have we made them only consumers of our services?

As ethical public managers and employees we need to listen to our critics closely and respectfully as citizens and concentrate on fiscal accountability, effective governance, and outstanding performance at each of our public tasks and responsibilities. We must, however, never dismiss the fact that what we do as public employees is essential to the functioning of our communities and the welfare of our citizenry. If we work hard, treat our elected officials, peers, and our citizens with respect and civility, we can answer any question and respond to any challenge our communities face. We can bring honor back to public service and attract a new generation to public service.

 *Randall Reid is the County Manager for Alachua County in Florida. He can be reached at [rhr@alachuacounty.us](mailto:rhr@alachuacounty.us).*



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## Summer in the City

Recently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration made an announcement that was not surprising to most Kansans who stepped outside in July: “The South climate region [of the United States]—Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas—had its warmest single calendar month for any climate region on record. The average temperature of 86.1°F, bested the previous all-time record of 85.9 set in July 1980 in the South climate region.” And while the heat was at best uncomfortable, the unrelenting weather had additional consequences on cities and their water supply. The result was action by a number of cities across Kansas to enact water restrictions.

The City of Augusta was one of the communities on the forefront of responding to the water emergency, and it was fortunate to have a staff that closely monitored the issue long before it became a crisis. In May, City Manager Bill Keefer informed the Council that unless there was some much needed rainfall, the Augusta City Lake was going to hit dangerously low levels. Augusta normally averages over 30 in. per year, but this year the City has received only 13 in. of rain to date. Since summer of 2010, the City has received only around 20 in. of rain.

The Augusta City Lake is located in the northwest part of the city and covers nearly 190 acres. Individuals use the lake for fishing, picnicking, feeding ducks and geese, and sailboating, but its primary use is providing the City of Augusta with a third of its water supply. Similar to many cities in Kansas, Augusta and its lake has suffered from a drought that actually began in 2010.

The result was noticeably lower water levels and a city that was primed to act when the 100° temperatures accompanied by little rainfall began in June. The Augusta Lake has four intake valves, which provide the water flow for the City. As the temperatures continued rising from June into July, the water receded to the point that one of the intake structures became visible, which put the City into an alarmed state.

In July, the staff informed the Council about the serious nature of the decreased water supply. They suggested that the City impose some water-conservation practices. On July 5, 2011, the City Council asked for voluntary water conservation. The action followed the City’s plan according to Article 6, Chapter 15 of its city code, which calls for “the declaration of a water supply emergency and the implementation of voluntary and mandatory water conservation measures throughout the city in the event such an emergency is declared.”

Unfortunately, the City found that the voluntary request prompted higher use as citizens tried to use the water before further restrictions came. After the run of heightened use, the City posted notice that if changes did not occur, it would have to impose mandatory restrictions. As the high temperatures bore down on the city and rain continued to evade the community, the City once again had to act.

On July 11, the City Council called a special meeting and voted to restrict outdoor-water usage to certain hours and days, depending on the location within the city (Monday/Thursday for even-numbered addresses and Tuesday/Friday for odd-numbered address). Augusta currently limits watering between 4:00-8:00 a.m. and 7:00-10:00 p.m. with no outdoor-water usage on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday. This is similar to action that Cimarron, Hesston, Sublette, and other Kansas communities have enacted.

In early August, the progress has been encouraging, but the City is still in a perilous position. The City received significant attention from the press and citizens in the weeks following the restrictions, and the citizens’ cooperation led to meaningful improvement. As the restrictions have gone on, the City staff has monitored the lake levels each day. Currently, the City receives additional water from the El Dorado Lake, but the aged piping limits how much support Augusta can receive from its neighboring body of water.

The City hopes that the current water restrictions will maintain the water levels, but there is still a possibility that the City will need to add additional restrictions, including a complete ban on watering lawns. The City expects to maintain the current restrictions through September, but the situation depends on rainfall and temperature in the upcoming weeks.

Fortunately, as City Manager Keefer noted, Augusta has had sound planning by having a conservation plan on the books since the early 1990s. Keefer complimented the citizens on meaningful community support: “The citizens seem to understand the pressing need for action, and they have responded positively. There are certainly those who are frustrated by the restriction, but overall people understand the need for drinking water is most important.”

Tina Rajala from the Kansas Water Office noted that their office has been incredibly active this summer in helping communities and has responded by providing regular updates to help Kansans deal with the drought conditions ([http://www.kwo.org/reports\\_publications/Drought.htm](http://www.kwo.org/reports_publications/Drought.htm)). Rajala noted that many of the water policies are sensible regardless of drought conditions: “We shouldn’t wait for a drought to limit outdoor watering. Significant amounts of water are lost to evaporation during the heat of the day. Watering in the early morning or late evening makes sense because it provides more moisture to the plants and saves on your water bill.”

As the adage notes, “necessity is the mother of invention,” and whether the ideas arise from drought conditions, economic downturn, or a local community crisis, our cities continue to respond to adversity with ingenuity to provide for citizens across the state.

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



## Florence, Kansas: A Short Film About a Small Town

by Thomas Fox Averill

In the summer of 2009, a group from Topeka spent a weekend at the Doyle Creek Bed and Breakfast near Florence, Kansas. Fascinated by the downtown buildings of a once-thriving Florence—now mostly empty—they wanted to understand the history and character of the place. Working with the Florence Historical Society, two members of the Topeka group, Steve Lerner and Frank Barthell, both seasoned filmmakers, applied for and were awarded a Kansas Humanities Council short film grant. Together, they spent over a year in production, interviewing citizens, poring over historical records, and recovering old film footage. The result is “Florence, Kansas,” a 21-minute film documenting the growth, decline, struggles, and dreams of one small Kansas town, told entirely in the voices of the people of Florence. According to Lerner, “It was critical to let the people of Florence tell their own story. Viewers learn about the growth, decline, and dreams of the future from many, many people. Our interviews spanned an age range from current high school students to those old enough to vividly recall Florence’s glory days.”

The film opens with never-before-seen footage of the great flood of 1951, followed by archival footage of what Florence was like before the flood, when every building on Main Street had a business in it, and Saturday night was jammed with cars and people.

Then the interviewees tell their history. The town, like many in Kansas, was developed by the railroad. A French agricultural settlement grew up near Florence on land distributed by the railroad, and a large Mexican community was recruited by the

Santa Fe to maintain equipment and tracks. A 1919 oil boom brought the town population to a peak of 4,000. Surrounded by prime Flint Hills cattle country and farmland, with an abundant supply of some of Kansas’ best water, Florence seemed poised for a prosperous future.

But every boom has its bust, every investment its need for profit, and soon oil production declined, along with the loss of oil field jobs. The railroad shifted its maintenance facilities farther west, leading to the gradual disappearance of the Mexican community. The automobile, along with increasingly powerful farm equipment, allowed townspeople to drive to neighboring towns to shop, and encouraged farmers to cultivate vast acreages, leading to a sharp decline in the farm population. In the early 1970s, the Florence schools closed, and several years ago the last grocery store in Florence also closed.

Given these circumstances, “Florence, Kansas” speaks directly to the challenges facing small town rural America, where changes in technology and demographics require small towns to re-invent themselves if they are to survive in the 21st Century. Put another way, University of Kansas historian Donald Worster, said that the film “...illuminates well the conflicting forces that are facing many Kansas towns that no longer have much of an economic function.” The central question running through this film is captured in the first line of the closing song: “Will you go into the wind, or will you learn to grow again?”

The film premiered in Florence over Memorial Day weekend, 2011. When asked whether they thought it positive or negative, many in the audience answered, “Both.” One woman said, “It’s

not positive or negative, it's true." Indeed, the film might serve as an example for other towns as they face similar issues, discuss the futures of their communities, and wrestle with psychological, economic, and social questions that face so many Kansans and Kansas towns today.

- To see the Florence, KS short film online, visit [www.kansashumanities.org](http://www.kansashumanities.org).
- To show this film as part of a facilitated community discussion in your own town, contact Julie Mulvihill, KHC Executive Director, [julie@kansashumanities.org](mailto:julie@kansashumanities.org) or 785-357-0359.
- To apply for a short film grant, contact Edana McSweeney, KHC Director of Programs, [edana@kansashumanities.org](mailto:edana@kansashumanities.org) or 785-357-0359.

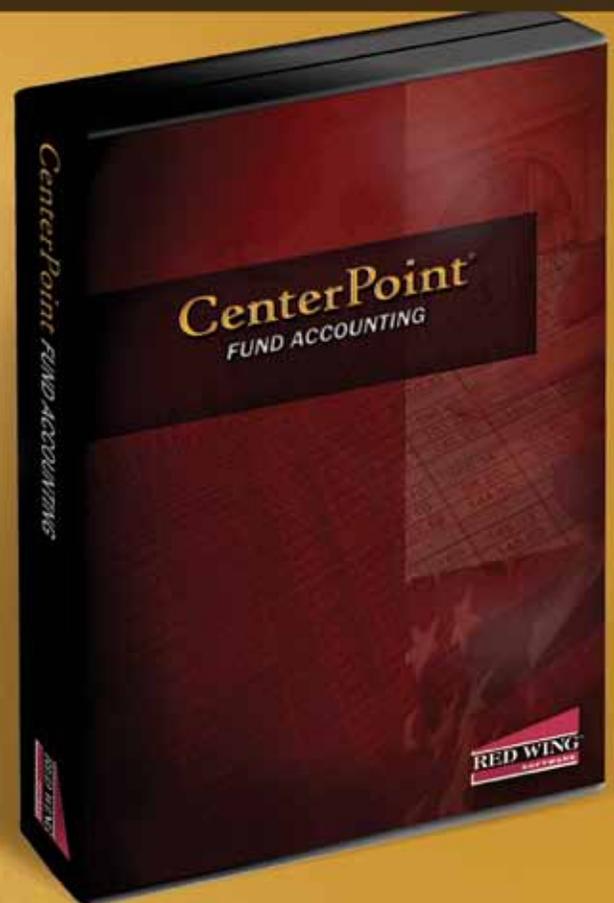
The Kansas Humanities Council (KHC) conducts and supports community-based humanities events, serves as a financial resource for non-profit cultural organizations through an active grant-making program, and encourages Kansans to participate in their communities. KHC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and is not a state agency.

 *Thomas Fox Averill is a Writer-in-residence and Professor of English at Washburn University. He served as the humanities consultant for the Florence, KS short film project and can be reached at [tom.averill@washburn.edu](mailto:tom.averill@washburn.edu).*



Photo previous page: The Atchison, Topeka, & Santa Fe Railway Company Depot that was once the hub of activity for the small Flint Hills town. Above: Historic Main Street in Florence, estimated to have been taken in February 1921. Photos provided by [kansasmemory.com](http://kansasmemory.com) and the City of Florence.

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## ...Back Home, to Halstead

As those of you who know me well know, I call several cities “home.” Halstead is one of those, as both our kids were raised there during our 12-year residence at the wonderful, old (built by a banker in 1914, and moved to its current spot in 1965) humongous house at 728 Chestnut (while I was serving as City Administrator); son Brek graduated from Halstead High School (daughter Morgen graduated from Derby High—as we moved following her freshman year). But, I admit to not having been back to Halstead very many times over the past 14 years (and some of those were on the sad occasion of a funeral of an old friend). J.R. Hatfield, the current Halstead City Administrator, has asked me a number of times to come by, but I just hadn’t done it.

So, on this the last day-trip of the “summer,” and the first and last one for granddaughter Maddi for this year—it has been HOT (duh!) and Maddi has now joined the ranks of teenager-dom...’nuff said?—the two of us headed out to follow a map outline that looked like a picture of Texas (as Maddi pointed out), with the primary goal to arrive in Halstead right after lunch. (I will cover the rest of our stops in the next issue.)

A few miles west of Newton, we turned left, off US-50 onto K-89 (one of the shortest state highways in Kansas), with the Halstead Cemetery (which I still lovingly call the “world’s largest small-town cemetery”—though I realize that statement surely is not true) on the left and the Halstead Mausoleum on the right (both owned by the City, though they are located a mile and half north of town). K-89 is a picturesque drive, with old elms (most of the intermingled cedars are gone now) lining the highway on the left, which makes a turn just before it passes by Riverside Park (featured in the movie *Picnic*), then over the Little Arkansas River and through the open steel flood gates and onto Main Street in Halstead. The Farmers’ COOP east elevator is on the immediate left (directly abutting the flood control levy) and the new swimming pool is on the right. Straight ahead, we crossed over the Santa Fe tracks and then under the familiar Old Settlers (the City’s annual event, which started that same day) banner hanging over the street. It did feel like home.

We drove around town just a bit (it was not quite 1 o’clock), and checked out the Chestnut house and a few other things before parking at 3rd and Main, at City Hall, where we were immediately greeted by a familiar face. Deputy Clerk Mary Patrick worked for the City several years with me (I was somewhat surprised she still recognized me, though she looks very much the same to me). Mary introduced me to Deputy Clerk Anita VanSchaick, who was a new face for me, then brought me a little bit up-to-date with her three sons and 11 (soon to be 12) grandkids—lucky Mary, grandkids are an incredible gift. Turns out that J.R. had to be out of town that day (I asked Mary to give my card to him, to prove that I made it to town). A few minutes later, Deputy Clerk (yes, there are three in Halstead) Kris Mueller came back from lunch, and that led to a long chat about our respective families. Kris also worked at the City with me, but we know each other much better than that, as our sons went to school 10 years together and graduated in the same class (in fact, Brek and Scott even shared

an after-graduation party at the Senior Center). And, Kris’s husband Alfie (recently retired) and I coached baseball together, among many other endeavors. And, Kris’ younger son, Eric, and our Morgen were in the same grade, too. Small towns are like that...one of the best parts of living in a small place.

During our visit in city hall, Fire Chief Jim VanSchaick came in the office. He (and Anita, his wife) have been in town for over six years—he came to be Chief; she started working at city hall later on—from the Emporia area (Jim once worked for the City of Waverly). Jim told me about the new, and BIG, firehouse being constructed directly behind, and across the alley from city hall. The much-anticipated \$800,000 structure is really needed by the Halstead safety services (including police, fire, and EMS), as the current “firehouse” (part of the city hall building) is crowded to the point of overflowing (speaking of which, one “fond” memory of the past was watching wife Sue get into a rowboat and float out of the back of the firehouse during the 1993 [pre-flood control] flood...luckily, there was somewhat of a highpoint in the middle of the firehouse, which slopes significantly back toward the alley and toward Main Street in the front).

We didn’t stay long enough to get to see City Clerk Dianne Mueller (interesting enough, Kris and Dianne share the same last name, but pronounce it differently), so we missed seeing her this day. I was involved in the hiring of Dianne several years before I left, so I am very pleased that she is still there. Dianne and I also had sons the same age, and Troy and Brek were also good buddies. Dianne’s husband Keith (who also helped coach some, and many other things) is now retired from the COOP.

While at city hall, Maddi purchased an Old Settlers button (#1127... it was a good Osenbaugh number). It is the 124th Old Settlers (which is thought to be the oldest continuous such celebration in Kansas); I was fortunate enough, therefore, to have been a part of the 100th, back in the 80s, of the past Century. Old Settlers was, and still is, a whole lot of the very best kind of old-time kid and family fun, and the Saturday morning parade is about the best (and biggest) small-town event of its kind around. Old Settlers brings back SO MANY memories that it is hard for me to think of any one special moment, but ONE moment does come to mind—when I won the “Celebrity” Cow Chip Throwing Contest on a Friday early-evening, right outside City Hall, on Main Street. Can you believe that I was good at that? Actually, I drew the best-shaped dried-up cow patty, and it worked like a charm, as I heaved it like a flat rock. Now the best part (other than my “prize,” which was a gold-painted cow patty): Wichita’s KSNW News (channel 3) chose THAT evening to cover Old Settlers LIVE, and, wouldn’t you know it, they had several minutes to “kill” at the end of the 6 o’clock news. Have you ever had the pleasure of a live interview about throwing cow stuff...one which went on and on and on and on...? My advice: don’t.

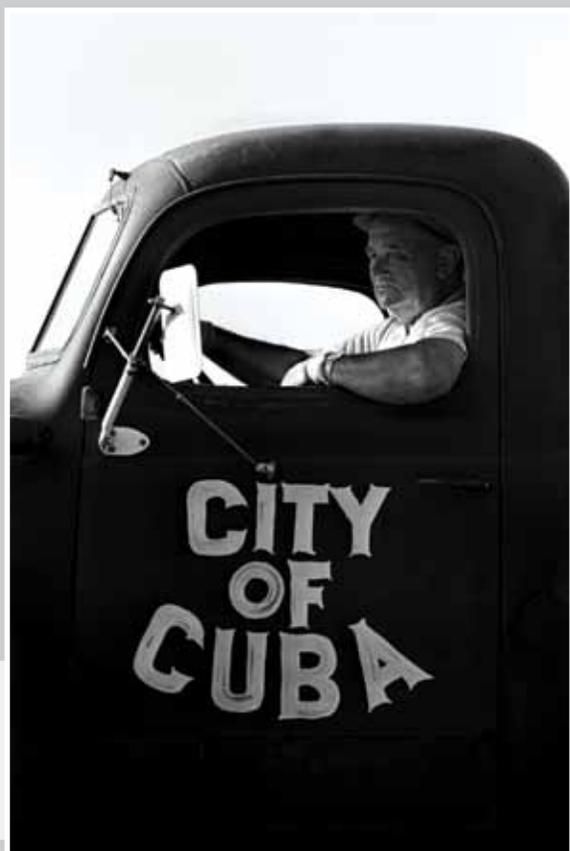
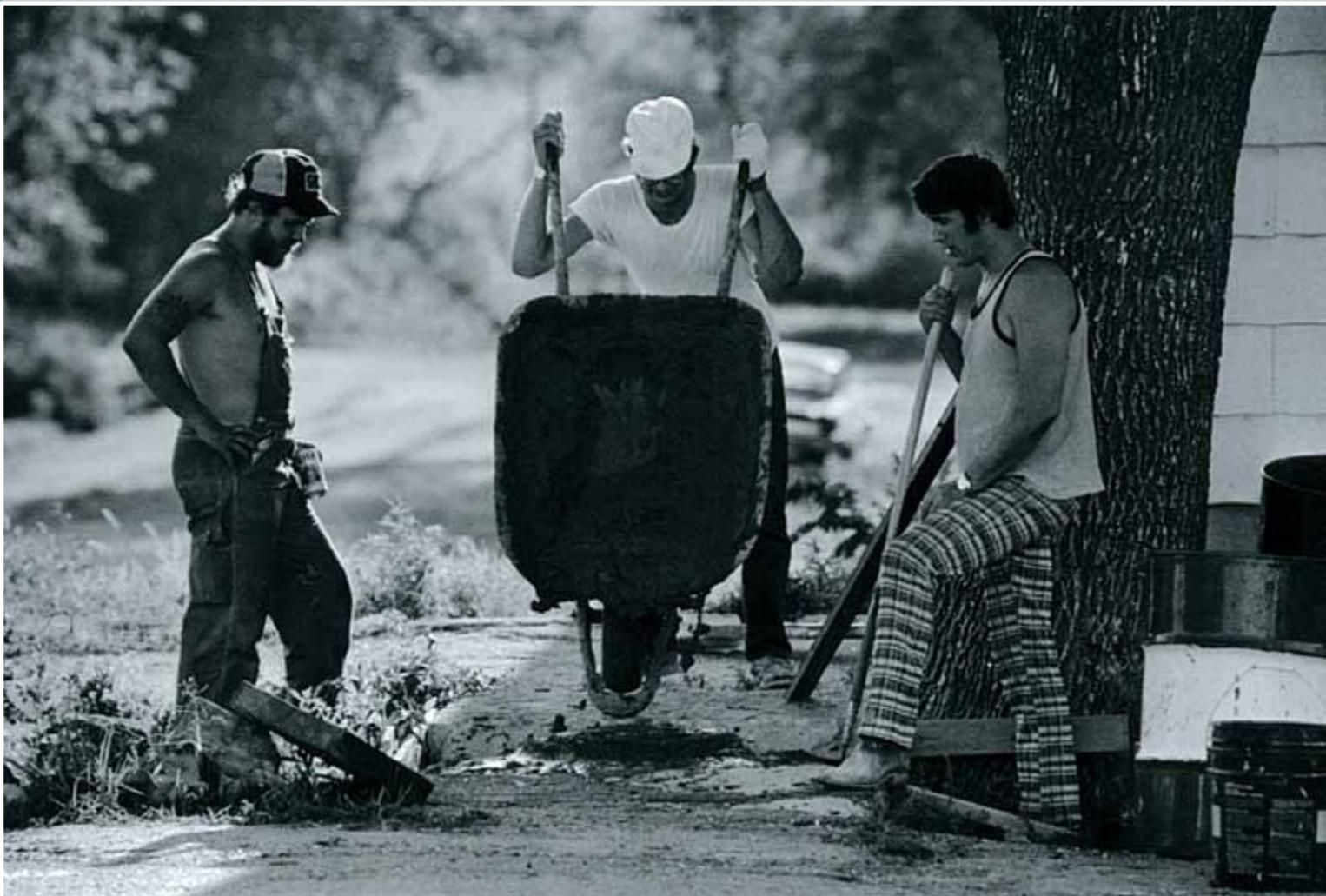
☀ *Don Osenbaugh is the Director of Finance and Field Services for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at [dosenbaugh@lkm.org](mailto:dosenbaugh@lkm.org)*

# Our Town, My Town

Photographs and story by Jim Richardson



An essay on the humble  
community of Cuba



Towns linger in a special province of the America soul.

We expect wonderful things of towns—that they should somehow make our lives complete, fulfill our deepest longings or make our republic whole. Blithely we exchange the words town and community, back and forth without distinction as if they were one and the same, when in fact, they rarely are.

The expectations for our towns are often unrealistic but always with us as we drive down prairie main streets, gauging each with hope, but finding fault without mercy. In the end, when we fail to see what we want among the shops, lodges, and dwellings, we assume it never existed. The literature of small towns is laden with bitter disappointments.

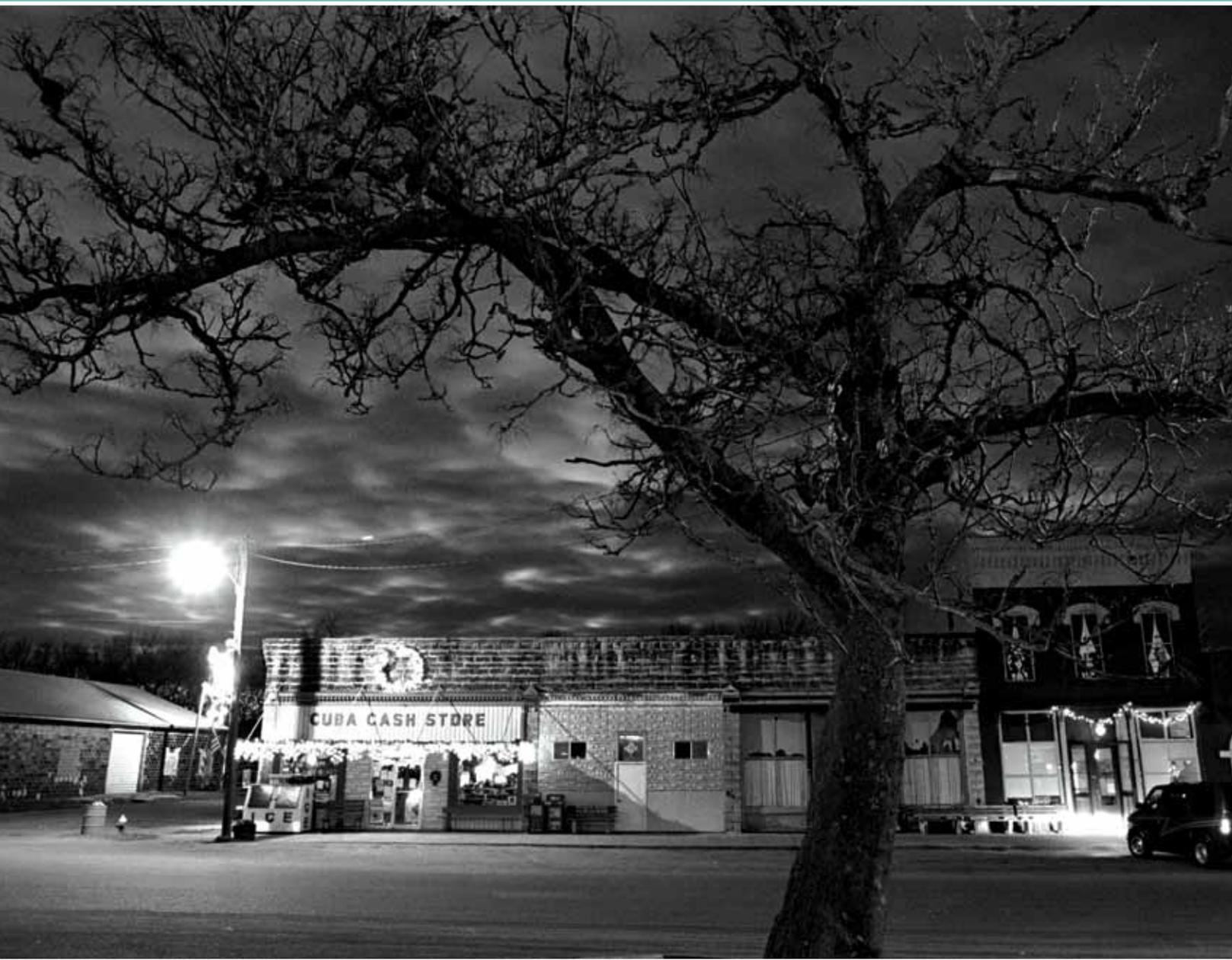
I, too, am guilty of this sentiment. But, after 35 years of visiting Cuba, I am learning.

Founded in 1868 on a typical frontier-town grid and sliced on an angle by the railroad, which the town moved itself to intercept, Cuba's storefront facades are now a gap-toothed remnant. In that pioneer era, the Czech immigrants made the town dance with polkas and schottisches, called beer "pivo," ate kolaches, held raucous wedding dances in Bohemian National Hall, and buried their elders at the National Bohemian Cemetery. Most of all, they made the heart joyful with a special knack for bringing people together to have fun.

*Far Left: Sunday morning after church services at St. Isadore's Catholic Church in 1976. Outdoor tables are laden with fried chicken and pies as the children are shooed into line first.*

*Left: Out fixing chuckholes in Cuba's municipal truck, 1973.*

*Top: Three Cuba City Councilmen fixing the sidewalk in 1977. Many public works projects are still completed by city council and community volunteers today.*



Cuba still does all of those things and that is the wonder of this place.

I don't remember my first day in Cuba, probably because I didn't expect to stay so long. Perhaps I was like everyone else, seeing only a dusty main street.

But, in the intervening decades, the good folks of Cuba have taught me well. I learned during Saturday nights at the Mustang Inn and rain-day beer gatherings for farmers at the Lazy B Bar. I learned while practicing on the main street with the Cuba City Band, led by plumber Elmer Dolezal, and on afternoons in Wes' gas station with the old guys playing cards. I learned while Doc McClaskey settled on a stool in the café where he could collect gossip and keep an eye on his office across the street. Especially ripe was the Harvest Festival with unfamiliar events like the People Pull (better than a tractor pull) and the not-to-be-missed Nighttime Blindfolded Riding Lawnmower Races.

It was nothing like what I expected, but it was everything I wanted. I decided I should stay a while, and, after 35 years, I'm still going back to visit.

I expected the town to die. That's what small towns on the prairie are supposed to do, and that's what documentary photographers

like me are supposed to record. But it hasn't happened in Cuba, largely because these folks have an absolute genius for staying alive. It would be a mistake to look for one secret of survival, when surviving has to be done every day with hard work and passion.

Jeanine Kopsa taught me how small towns live and die. Kopsa, who wrangled event after event, year after year, told me once that Cuba was a town of 300 but a community of 700. People from other places came to Cuba to be part of the community, and, likewise, some people who lived in Cuba never took part in the community. The Cuba community was a whole bunch of connections among people.

I could see what she meant when the Harvest Festival was dedicated to Doc's 50th Anniversary of practicing in Cuba. Baby pictures papered his office wall and parade floats were loaded with the family generations he had delivered, people now pushing middle age aside and looking toward retirement. That evening we gathered some 200 of the 700 people he had brought into this world for a picture. It was profound.

Two years later, Doc retired. A month later, he had passed away. It was a dark, dark day in our hearts as we stood around his



Left: Dale Huncovsky's grocery store and Two Doors Down Cafe lights up Main Street during the Christmas Season in 2002.

Top: The Rock-a-thon tradition sets a new world record every year for rocking around the clock—in rocking chairs.

Bottom: One of the last members of the Cuba Czech Club holds the backdrop of a painting on canvas of the town square in Prague. The backdrop is used on stage in the social hall.

casket. But, then, like a miracle, the Reverend Tom Ballard gave us a blessing, confirming, "Doc is not here. He is gone."

Life would have to go on, and it has. Some buildings are gone now, but there is a new bank building on the main street. The blacksmith shop where I photographed blacksmith Joe Sturba's last days had been restored. The old one-room schoolhouse has been moved and re-opened as a museum. Dale and LaVerna Huncovsky keep the groceries (and homemade sausage) available at the Cuba Cash Store, and they've opened a new cafe that's absolutely jumping on the weekends. Jay Beam's new service station stands where Wes' once stood, and the annual Rock-a-thon sets a new record for rocking-chair rocking each year. This simple event has raised nearly half a million dollars for community projects since it began 25 years ago.

Cuba is rich in ways I never could have imagined. The people taught me a lot about small towns, but they taught me more than that. Richness exists in many places, and in many ways we do not expect. I carry that lesson with me around the world when I'm on assignment for *National Geographic*; it remains one of my most valuable tools, making me more humble.

As I look back on those years in Cuba, I am struck by one thought: I missed so much. It was richer that I could ever have imagined or could hope to capture.

Earlier this year, the community had a polka dance on the street in front of the Cuba Cash Store for Bessie Chizek. Her failing health called for one last dance, and she laughed all night long. She passed a week later. I wasn't there. I was someplace else in the world.

☀️ *Jim Richardson is a Lindsborg-based photographer who travels the world for National Geographic magazine and owns Small World Gallery. More photos can be found at [www.jimrichardsonphotography.com](http://www.jimrichardsonphotography.com).*



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# Erie's Park Project

by Cindy Lero



**T**he Erie City Park is located in the center of town and is dissected by Puckett's Run (a slough that runs north and south through town). The swimming pool, library, tennis court, and playground are located on the west side of the slough, with picnic shelters and RV parking located on the east side.

During the 2007 flood, Puckett's Run swelled damaging the park's playground and destroying several houses in the block, just south of the park. Using funds provided by the FEMA Flood Mitigation Buyout program, the City purchased and demolished those flooded homes. The mitigation program

stipulates that nothing can be built back on that property and can only be used for public use such as a park. The Erie Park Board discussed using the flood property to expand the existing park and researched ways to revive the aging damaged playground equipment. Countless meetings and hours put in by the park board, resulted in the creation of a new park design that includes new playground equipment, multi-use sport courts, a t-ball/whiffle-ball field, expanded RV parking, and a walking trail.

The park board approached the City Council with their new park plan and requested funding the park project in three



More than 60 volunteers from the Erie community came together to complete the first phase of park improvements. Photos provided by the City of Erie.

phases. The City Council voted unanimously to adopt the new park plan, however told the park board that even though they felt the park project was important, they had committed to making street repairs a priority and no funds were available. The Council challenged the park board to find other sources of funding. The award of a Small Communities Improvement Project (SCIP) grant of \$105,065 by the Kansas Department of Commerce was enough to start work on the first phase of park improvements in Erie. The SCIP grant provides funds for 40% of the total project for materials and equipment, however 60% of the total project costs must be in-kind labor and donated materials.

This type of project involves tremendous commitment from the community and businesses. Park Board Chairman Buddy Stark (also a city employee) was deemed the “spark-plug” of the project.

He rallied over 60 volunteers from the community who showed up with gloves, rakes, shovels, tools, and tractors for the first workday in the park. Local businesses donated and cooked food to feed the hungry workers. The momentum evident during that first workday carried over into several more workdays resulting in the new playground equipment being assembled and installed, the multi-sport courts cement poured and the t-ball/whiffle-ball field completed. The community as a whole remains committed to building a park that is both beautiful and functional for recreation and fitness.

☀️ *Cindy Lero is the City Clerk for the City of Erie. She can be reached at [cityclerk@cityoferie.kscoxmail.com](mailto:cityclerk@cityoferie.kscoxmail.com) or (620) 244-3461.*



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Governor Sam Brownback signed the Kansas 150 Festival Celebration Proclamation on July 29, 2011. In attendance were from left: Danika Swoyer and Shakila Saifullah from Go Wichita; Mary Madden, Kansas Historical Society; Richard Smalley and Kelli Hilliard from the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism. *Photo by Amanda Schuster*

## GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES FESTIVAL

**K**ansas' 150th Anniversary continues to be honored this year with a 150 Festival Celebration. On Monday, July 29, Governor Sam Brownback signed the Kansas 150 Festival Celebration Proclamation to announce the "...Once-in-a-lifetime party that Kansas won't want to miss."

The Kansas 150 Festival will be held October 8 in the City of Wichita. The sesquicentennial celebration will showcase the state's proud cultural heritage with a "Kansas Sunflower Parade," a special "Kansas: Home on the Range" concert, and an encampment featuring representatives from Kansas cities and counties along with historical re-enactors.

The Festival will start with the Kansas Sunflower Parade featuring marching bands and floats commemorating Kansas' heritage. The parade will lead to a fair held at Kennedy Plaza at Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center. The festival will conclude with a "Kansas: Home on the Range" concert at 2:30 p.m. The Festival will also include the running of the Prairie Fire Marathon on October 9.

Everyone in Kansas is invited to participate in the festival. Towns, cities, high schools, universities, civic organizations, companies, and re-enactors are invited to enter floats and marching units in the Kansas Sunflower Parade to show off their unique part of Kansas' history and heritage. Marching bands from across Kansas—from high schools, colleges, universities, and the military—are invited to help make the parade a "rousing, rollicking good time." Kansas vendors and re-enactors are encouraged to show off their wares at the fair.

"The festival offers Kansans from across the state to come together and celebrate our state's great history. Beginning with the 'Bleeding Kansas' battle over slavery to the days of the wild-west cattle drives and ultimately becoming the nation's

breadbasket and supplier of the world's energy and aviation needs, we are proud of our great heritage," Brownback said.

Participation in the parade is free, but registration is required. Tickets for the "Home on the Range" concert are \$5 and may be purchased at [www.wichitaTIX.com](http://www.wichitaTIX.com). There is a \$25 registration set-up fee for booths at the fair, but that price includes two tickets to the concert. For all inquiries related to the Kansas 150 festival, please visit [www.ks150.com](http://www.ks150.com).



The Kansas birthday celebration is one of many events in Wichita that weekend. The 2011 League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) Annual Conference, "Cities Celebrate Kansas" will be held October 8-10. This premier training event for city officials will feature many new workshop sessions and roundtables to benefit every city in Kansas. Registration is now available for the 2011 LKM Annual Conference. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.lkm.org/conference/>.



## Special Event CMB Permits

The hot topic this summer for city officials is how to take advantage of the new special event Cereal Malt Beverage (CMB) permit process. City officials have, for years, been issuing temporary CMB permits, but because of a sudden change by the Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) division of the Kansas Department of Revenue, for the past year distributors were no longer able to deliver CMB to vendors that did not possess a calendar year or annual license, which was technically what the statute stated. This past Legislative Session, SB 80, Kan. Sess. L.2011, Ch. 57, Sec. (e)(f), was passed and it allows for issuing these short term CMB permits. Following is a summary of the requirements for cities to be able to issue special event permits and a sample ordinance if a city chooses to utilize this permitting process.

*Does the city need an ordinance in order to issue special event permits?* Yes, the statute specifically states that the city may provide by ordinance for the issuance of a special event retailers' permit. The permit allows retailers to offer for sale, sell, and serve CMB for consumption on the premises where the special event is occurring. The city should also specify the cost of the CMB permit in its ordinance. The fee must be between \$25 and \$200.

*Does the ABC require payment of the \$25 fee like for regular CMB permits?* Yes, the ABC requires that the \$25 fee be collected for special event permits.

*What does the statute mean when it states that the special event permits are in addition to and consistent with K.S.A. 41-2701, et seq, the CMB Act?* The reference to the CMB Act means that regulations applicable to applicants for regular CMB permits also apply to special event permit applicants. Thus, if an individual would not qualify for a regular CMB permit, that individual would not qualify for a special event permit.

*Is there a specific form for the application?* The Attorney General will be issuing an approved form at some point, but until then, cities should adapt the current form used for the regular CMB permit.

*Are there limitations on the duration of the permit and the number of permits per applicant?* The duration of an individual permit is for the length of the special event. Cities should specify the dates and hours that the permit is valid in the actual permit. The statute states that no more than four special event permits may be issued to any one applicant during a calendar year and the permit may not be assigned or transferred.

Following is a sample special event permit ordinance. Cities should discuss this issue with their city attorneys to make sure they are taking action appropriate for their cities.

### SPECIAL EVENT CMB PERMITS

**Section 1. PERMIT REQUIRED.** It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or serve any CMB at any special event within the city without first obtaining a local special event permit from the city clerk.

#### Section 2. PERMIT FEE.

(a) There is hereby levied a special event permit fee in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ on each group or individual, which fee shall be paid

before the event begins. Such fee shall be in addition to the \$25 fee to be remitted to the Division of Alcohol Beverage Control.  
(b) Every special event permit holder shall cause the permit receipt to be placed in plain view on any premises within the city where the holder of the special event permit is serving CMB for consumption on the premises.

#### Section 3. CITY SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to serve CMB at a special event without first applying for a local special event permit at least \_\_\_\_\_ days before the event. Written application for the local special event permit shall be made to the city clerk on the form used for annual cereal malt beverage sales or, when available, the special event CMB permit application approved by the Attorney General, as directed by the city clerk. In addition to any other information required, the applicant shall provide the following:

- (1) the name of the applicant;
  - (2) the group for which the event is planned;
  - (3) the location of the event;
  - (4) the date and time of the event; and
  - (5) any anticipated need for police, fire, or other municipal services.
- (b) Upon meeting the requirements to obtain a special event permit, the city clerk shall issue a local special event permit to the applicant if there are no conflicts with any zoning or other ordinances of the city.
- (c) The city clerk shall notify the chief of police whenever a special event permit has been issued and forward a copy of the permit and application to the chief of police.

#### Section 4. PERMIT REGULATIONS.

- (a) No special event permit holder shall allow the serving of CMB between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. at any event for which a special event permit has been issued.
- (b) No CMB shall be given, sold or traded to any person under 21 years of age.
- (c) No more than four special event permits may be issued in a calendar year to the same applicant.
- (d) No special event permit issued hereunder may be transferred or assigned to any other vendor.
- (e) All local ordinances and state statutes for the sale and consumption of CMB apply to holders of special event permits.

NOTE: The fee must be between \$25 and \$200. In addition, the hours should be consistent with the current local ordinance specifying hours for CMB establishments. Finally, cities must send the \$25 to the ABC, just like for any other CMB permit.

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



# Classified Advertising

## County Administrator

Harper County (pop. 6,034), is seeking qualified applicants for the position of County Administrator. Salary range for this position is \$55,000 - \$75,000. Bachelors/Masters degree in business or public administration, planning or related field required. Five or more years of responsible experience in government administration or any equivalent combination of training and experience preferred. Pre employment drug test required. Information and job application available online at [www.harpercountyks.gov](http://www.harpercountyks.gov). Send a cover letter, application, resume, and three professional references to Harper County HR, 201 N Jennings, Anthony, KS 67003 or e-mail [hrclerk@harpercountyks.gov](mailto:hrclerk@harpercountyks.gov). Applications accepted until position filled. EOE.

## Line Foreman

The City of Dighton is seeking qualified candidates for an electric line foreman.

Line foreman shall be a skilled worker having 7 or more years' experience in this trade, or having been previously classed by a company as a first class lineman. Applicant must possess the required knowledge, skills, and physical ability to perform any work which they may be called upon to do on the City's transmission and distribution line. Lineman will be required to operate all types of motor-driven equipment used in overhead, underground, and construction equipment, building of new line, installing AMR meters, and whatever other work may be required of them.

Line foreman shall be a journeyman lineman who has demonstrated their leadership and ability to plan and direct the work of others and who has thorough knowledge of the specifications and safety rules and practices. Foreman must be able, and will be required to perform as a journeyman when necessary.

The successful applicant is subject to call outs, must possess a valid commercial driver's license, must possess a high school diploma or GED certification, and will be required to live within 15 minutes driving time of the City of Dighton, KS.

We provide an outstanding salary/benefits package with paid health insurance, paid vacation, paid sick leave, paid holidays, and with the opportunity for professional growth and development. Qualified candidates may apply at City Hall, 147 E. Long St., Dighton, KS, or by sending resume to City of Dighton, PO Box 848, Dighton, KS 67839, or email [cityclerk@st-tel.net](mailto:cityclerk@st-tel.net). Application deadline is October 10, 2011. EOE.

## Legislative Consultant Services

The City of Overland Park is issuing a request for qualifications for contractual legislative

consultant services. Primary duties included in performance of this contract include:

- State Legislative Consultant – Serve as the primary City contact for the state legislature and agencies. Track and monitor legislation affecting the City's interests, providing weekly updates to the City Manager and Governing Body. Aid in the preparation of testimony and the City's annual legislative agenda, appearing before legislative committees when necessary. Monitor legislative interim hearings. Coordinate visits between the City Council and State legislators.

- Federal Legislative Consultant – Serve as the primary City contact for members of the Kansas Congressional delegation. Assist in the preparation of the City's annual national legislative program, and coordinate meetings between City officials, the Kansas delegation, and federal agencies as needed. Coordinate visits between the City Council and the Kansas Congressional delegation.

- Johnson & Wyandotte Counties Council of Mayors – Attend monthly meetings of the Johnson & Wyandotte Counties Council of Mayors to provide legislative updates.

Selection will be based on/among the following factors:

- Background and credentials
- Experience
- Demonstrated communication skills
- Knowledge of city issues
- Knowledge of and connection to Johnson County and other cities in Johnson County
- References

Please submit qualifications in writing, including a resume and applicable experience, and three references to:

Bill Ebel, City Manager  
City of Overland Park  
8500 Santa Fe Drive  
Overland Park, KS 66212

Submissions also may be sent via email to: [Bill.Ebel@opkansas.org](mailto:Bill.Ebel@opkansas.org). Information must be received no later than close of business on September 9, 2011.

## Police Chief

The City of Altoona, IA (pop. 14,541) (<http://www.altoona-iowa.com/>) a growing full-service community in the Des Moines Metropolitan area, is accepting applications for the position of Chief of Police. The current Chief is retiring after 27 years with the department and 15 years as Chief. Salary \$93,000 - \$109,000. Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, Public Administration, or related field with 10 years experience in law enforcement, including 5 years at a senior management level is required. Advanced degree and graduate of FBI National

Academy or comparable program is preferred.

The Department has 1 lieutenant, 4 sergeants, 15 patrol officers, 2 investigators and a \$2.6 million operating budget for 2011. The Chief of Police is a department head reporting directly to the Mayor. Department heads are part of the City Administrator's management team and share the responsibility of supporting programs and exercising control over the budget. The successful candidate must have experience in leading community policing activities and exhibit a participatory management style.

Candidates must meet the licensing standards established by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (<http://www.state.ia.us/ilea/IndexOrig.html>). The successful candidate must pass a physical examination including a drug screen. The City would prefer the Chief establish residency in the City. Send resume, references and salary history by September 19, 2011 to:

City of Altoona  
c/o Jack A. Lipovac  
HR-OneSource  
5619 NW 86th Street, Suite 600  
Johnston, IA 50131-2955  
Ph. (515) 221-1718 Fax (515) 327-5050  
[lipovacj@hr-onesource.com](mailto:lipovacj@hr-onesource.com)

## Public Works Assistant Superintendent

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

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



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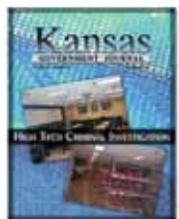
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## 150 Years of Statehood



It is hard to believe the State of Kansas is celebrating its 150th Anniversary this year. So far, the sesquicentennial celebration has been pretty low key. It is anticipated that this will change with the Kansas 150 Festival which is to be held in Wichita on Saturday, October 8th. The central force in this sesquicentennial celebration is Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer with an assist from many members of the Wichita business community as well as various civic supporters and groups. With their assistance, Mayor Brewer has moved forward in attempting to create, from virtually nothing, a Kansas 150th year festival on that day.

As Kansas mayors are aware, League President Carl Brewer, along with League Vice-President Jim Sherer of Dodge City, and immediate Past-President Carl Gerlach of Overland Park, sent a letter last month to all of the mayors of Kansas inviting the cities of Kansas to participate in this festival. It is not coincidental that the festival is scheduled for the first day of the Annual League of Kansas Municipalities Conference which also begins in Wichita on October 8th.

It is also not coincidental that cities are at the forefront of this effort as there were 15 operating cities in Kansas, and undoubtedly a significant number of town companies and others setting up municipalities in this state, before there even was a State of Kansas. Back in the mists of time, there were cities in Kansas before Kansas was Kansas. Those 15 cities which predate statehood are as follows: Leavenworth, Lecompton, Atchison, Highland, Ogden, Manhattan, Topeka, Lawrence, Hiawatha, Eudora, Junction City, Troy, Paola, Fort Scott, and Burlingame. The cities of Kansas are, and have always been, the foundation of this great state.

The festival will commence at 11:00 a.m. on October 8th with a Kansas Sunflower parade featuring marching bands, floats, and commemorating the great heritage of our State. The parade route will be throughout downtown Wichita with it ending at Century II Performing Arts Convention Center. It is anticipated that the festival will last from 10:00 in the morning until 5:00 in the afternoon. The festival will include historic re-enactors, various Kansas attractions, along with numerous vendors of food, arts, and cultural products at the Kennedy Plaza Century II Performing Arts Center. At 2:30 in the afternoon there will be presented, the "Home on the Range" concert with over 60 musical performers telling the story of Kansas in song, poetry, and video.

It is hoped that as many cities as possible can participate in this festival so as to provide a true birthday celebration for this great state of ours. As with all things these days, you can find out specific

information about both the parade and festival by going to, <http://ks150.kansas.gov/Pages/Kansas150Festival.aspx>.

Whenever we commemorate milestones such as the 150 years of statehood of Kansas, it allows us to look back across the State's history and to remember the great things that make this State great, and the people who helped found it as well as those that helped develop and continue to develop it to this day. We should always remember that the Kansans who came before us overcame numerous hardships to settle this great land.

I suspect there were many, many times that our forefathers and mothers questioned the wisdom of fighting it out against elements here on the great plains of Kansas. But ultimately, they stayed and fought it out. That is what has allowed this great state to prosper over its 150-year history. It is not necessary for me to regale you with the great things that have gone on over the many years, but I do think that we should at least reflect on the fact that Kansas is a land that attracts strong, independent people who have the ability to overcome difficulties. They were willing to take the time, energy, and ultimately blood, sweat, and tears to make this place their home—a place for their families and future generations to grow and prosper. It is not a coincidence that the state motto, *Ad Astra Per Aspera*, is translated from the Latin to mean: To The Stars Through Difficulties.

No one would ever argue, at least not in my acquaintance, that the settling of Kansas was anything but difficult. My great grandfather, William Richard Ansdell, and his brother rode across the Kansas prairie on horseback to establish a land claim on what became Ansdell Acres back in 1870 (only 9 years after statehood). As I am writing this, I am looking at the Pioneer of Kansas certificate which was awarded to my mother, Margaret Ansdell Moler, back in July of 1996 which certified the fact that William Richard Ansdell was a Kansas pioneer who came to the State of Kansas in 1870 and ultimately settled in Cloud County. I remember when my mom got this certificate years ago how proud she was of it, and of the memorial to my great-grandfather who overcame adversities too numerous to mention, so that he could make a better life for his family in the great State of Kansas.

This story is not unusual, and many people who live in Kansas today have similar stories of their forefathers and mothers coming to this state and hacking a living out of the wilderness. We owe them and our children and grandchildren the best effort we can make to continue the greatness of this State, and to make it even better as we go forward for the coming 150 years. I hope you all will consider joining us in Wichita, Kansas at the League Conference and the 150th birthday festival of the State of Kansas. It is certainly a State worthy of celebration, and I know we all hold it very dearly in our hearts.



# 2011 LKM Regional Suppers



Please join us for the 2011 Regional Suppers. These informative sessions will feature a discussion of the LKM 2012 legislative priorities. We hope you will participate in this important networking opportunity.

Registration is now available online at <http://www.lkm.org/regionalsuppers/>.

**October 26– Oakley**

Colonial Steakhouse  
464 US Highway 83  
\$14.00 per person  
RSVP by Oct. 19  
Registration - 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

**November 2 – Iola**

Bowlus Fine Arts Center (Creitz Hall)  
205 E. Madison  
\$11.00 per person  
RSVP by Oct. 26  
Registration - 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

**November 16 – Belleville**

The Treasurer Tree  
1826 M. Street  
\$12.00 per person  
RSVP by Nov. 9  
Registration - 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

**October 27 – Cimarron**

Basement of the City Library  
120 N. Main  
\$13.00 per person  
RSVP by Oct. 20  
Registration - 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

**November 3 – Canton**

Community Center  
100 W. McPherson  
\$8.00 per person  
RSVP by Oct. 27  
Registration - 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

**November 17 – Leawood**

Lodge at City Park  
4800 Town Center Drive  
\$10.00 per person  
RSVP by Nov. 10  
Registration - 5:30 p.m.  
Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

For more information contact: Anna DeBusk  
[adebusk@lkm.org](mailto:adebusk@lkm.org)  
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