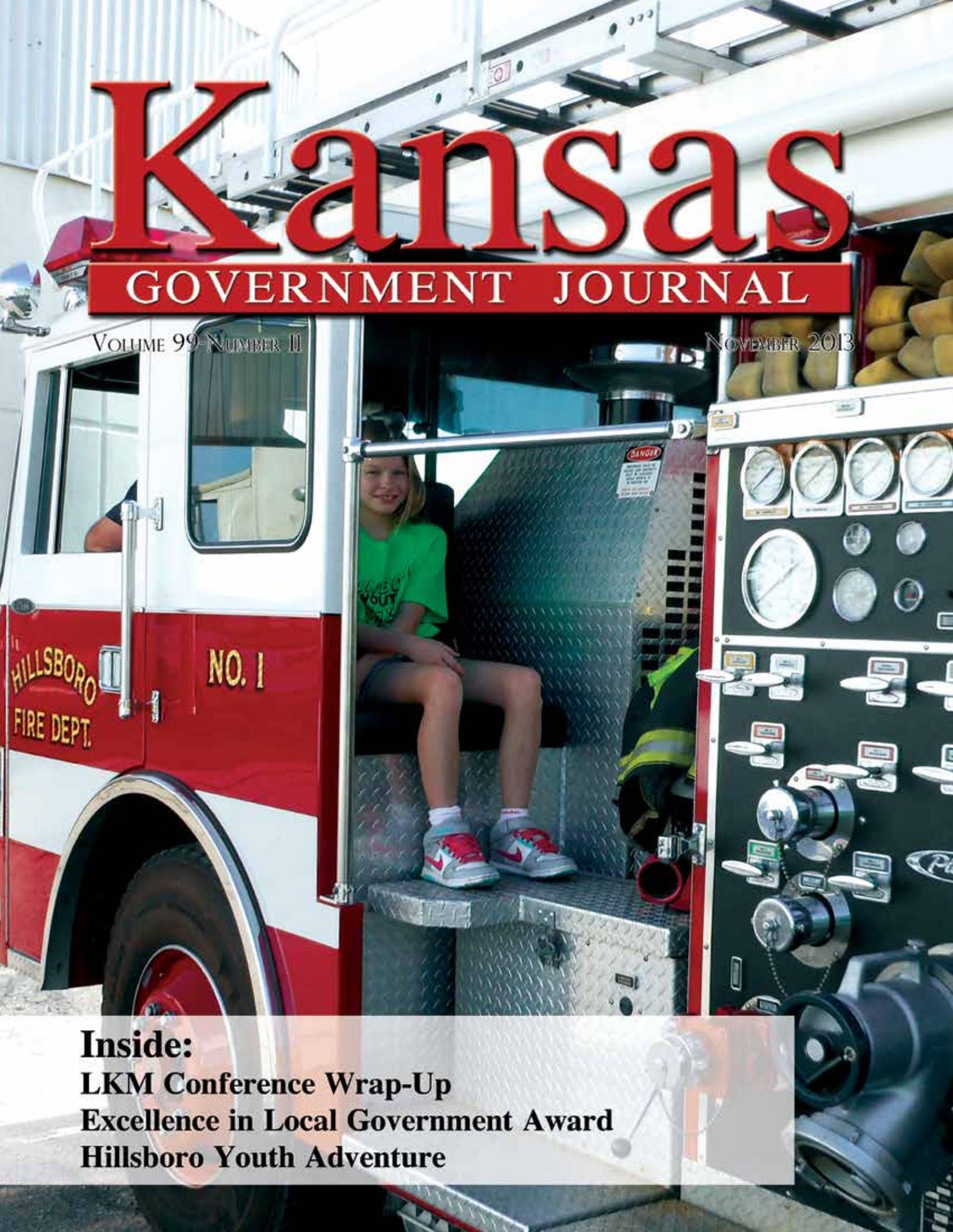


Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 99 NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER 2013



Inside:
LKM Conference Wrap-Up
Excellence in Local Government Award
Hillsboro Youth Adventure

Get Control. Get KMIT.

LET US WORK FOR YOU!

KMIT

www.kmit.net



Providing workers' compensation coverage to Kansas cities

Enhances a city's work force
Provides solutions to an aggressive
Delivers cost-effective loss prevention

• Risk Management — An annual risk assessment from a leading insurance broker to help the city and its employees understand their current risk level

• Claims Management — "Dispute" claims education, services and tools — including training, coaching and mediation services — to help prevent claims

• Safety Publications — City & County Safety Publications help cities and employees stay safe and healthy. Publications include a comprehensive set of safety materials for city employees and their families

• Annual Evaluation Reports — Measure and monitor the city's safety, work force and compensation in 30 days programs

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

For more information, contact
DAN BROWN • dobrown@kmit.net



326



328



332



338

Contents

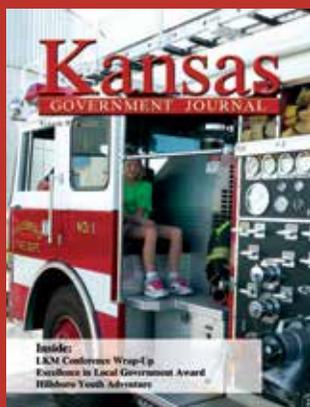
Volume 99 • Number 11 • November 2013

Features

- 326 LKM Conference Wrap-Up
- 328 LKM Elects New Leaders
- 330 Excellence in Local Government Award
- 332 Hillsboro Youth Adventure
- 338 The Strawberry Hill Community

Departments

- 325 State Scene
- 331 Did You Know
- 337 Legal Forum
- 334 Mainstreet News
- 335 Best Practices
- 346 Classified Advertising
- 348 Professional Services
- 350 Moler's Musings



About the Cover:
Hillsboro youth take turns in a fire truck. Photo provided by Larry Paine, City Administrator for Hillsboro. See related article on page 332.

The *Kansas Government Journal* is published monthly by:

© League of Kansas Municipalities
300 S.W. 8th Ave. • Topeka, Kansas 66603-3951
phone: (785) 354-9565 • fax: (785) 354-4186
www.lkm.org

General subscriptions are \$40 annually. Subscriptions for League member cities and research subscribers are \$20 annually. Individual issues cost \$5, with an additional \$5 charge for the Tax Rate Book edition.

Nothing herein shall be construed to have the endorsement of the publisher unless expressly stated.

Governing Body

President

John Deardoff, City Manager, Hutchinson

Vice President

Terry Somers, Mayor, Mount Hope

Immediate Past President

Brenda Chance, City Clerk, Phillipsburg

Past Presidents

Mike Boehm, Mayor, Lenexa
Carl Brewer, Mayor, Wichita
Carl Gerlach, Mayor, Overland Park

Directors

Herb Bath, Mayor, Altamont
Lori Christensen, Mayor, Leoti
Joe Denoyer, Vice Mayor, Liberal
Tom Glinstra, City Attorney, Olathe
Daron Hall, City Manager, Pittsburg
Mark Holland, Mayor, Kansas City
Blake Jorgensen, Mayor, Ottawa
Jerry Lovett-Sperling, City Clerk, Lindsborg
John "Tiny" McTaggart, Mayor, Edwardsville
Kim Thomas, Mayor, Stockton
James Toews, Mayor, Inman
Larry Wolgast, Mayor, Topeka

Executive Director

Don Moler, Publisher

Kansas Government Journal Staff

Editor in Chief

Kimberly Winn

Managing Editor

Andrey Ukrazhenko

League Staff

Jay Bachman, Information Services Manager
Larry Baer, Legal Counsel
Kate Cooley, Conference/Marketing Coordinator
Anna DeBusk, Secretary to the Executive Director
Nikki Harrison, Administrative Assistant
Michael Koss, Member Services Manager
Tami Martin, Administrative Assistant
Don Moler, Executive Director
Rynae Plue, Accountant
Nicole Proulx Aiken, Legal Counsel
Eric B. Smith, Legal Counsel
Andrey Ukrazhenko, Communications Specialist
Kimberly Winn, Deputy Director

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.

© 2013 League of Kansas Municipalities



November

- 6 - Regional Supper, Beloit
- 7 - Regional Supper, Pittsburg
- 8 - MLA; Civility and Public Service (core), Russell
- 9 - MLA; Civility and Public Service (core), Eureka
- 11 - Veteran's Day
- 20 - Regional Supper, Lenexa
- 21 - Regional Supper, Marion
- 28 - Thanksgiving Day

December

- 7 - MLA: Mini Governing Body Institute, Great Bend
- 13- Governing Body Meeting, Topeka
- 25 - Christmas Day
- 31 - New Years Eve

Obituaries

Josephine Marie Castagno, 88 of Cherokee, Kansas died Wednesday, October 2, 2013 at Medicalodge South in Pittsburg.

She was born August 11, 1925, in Fleming, Kansas the daughter of Rudolph and Frances (Cukjati) Karlinger. She graduated from Joplin High School with the Class of 1944. On October 25, 1947 she was united in marriage to James P. Castagno in Chicopee, KS; he preceded her in death on April 2, 2011. Josephine worked for the City of Cherokee as the City Clerk and Treasurer for 34 years, before retiring in 2003.

Glenn Opie, 87, of Great Bend, died August 11, 2013, in Olathe. He was a member and past president of the Barton County Bar Association, where he served 19 years on the Public Information Committee with 11 years as chair.

He was an Explorer Scout Leader for Troop 110, served on the school board for USD 428 for 14 years and the Great Bend City Council for 2 years. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church, where he served on the Board of Trustees and sang in the choir for over 50 years. Throughout the 1950's, 60's and 70's he served as Executive Director of the Argonne Rebels Drum and Bugle Corps, culminating in three national championships in 1971, 1972, and 1973. Most recently he served as the Chairman for the Jack Kilby Memorial Plaza honoring Great Bend's own 2000 Nobel laureate in physics.



Kansas Board Approves Healthier Snacks In Schools

Your school's vending machine could soon get a makeover.

The Kansas State Board of Education Tuesday discussed a new federal rule that will provide healthier snack and food options for students.

Some Kansas schools have already taken steps to provide healthier options, but starting July 2014, all schools nationwide will have to meet these requirements.

From Sun Chips and granola bars to strawberry milk, Topeka students have a number of snack choices in school vending machines.

But, starting in July 2014, the USDA will require all food sold in schools participating in the National School Lunch program to meet healthy snack requirements, including items sold in school lunches and in school vending machines.

Rural Opportunity Zone Scholarships

The Kansas Department of Commerce has announced that eight additional counties certified by the Kansas Legislature to participate in the Rural Opportunity Zones (ROZ) program have decided to partner with the State in the student loan repayment program. Doniphan, Haskell, Meade, Morris, Nemaha, Ottawa, Rice, and Stevens counties have voted to opt in to this portion of the ROZ program.

"The Rural Opportunity Zones program has done a great job in drawing residents and skilled workers to rural areas of Kansas," said Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George. "As additional counties continue to partner with us, the initiative will provide benefits for more rural residents, communities, and businesses."

Enacted in 2011 by Governor Sam Brownback and the Legislature, the ROZ program allows qualifying individuals who move to a ROZ county to have their state income taxes waived for

up to five years. In addition, counties that opt to partner with the State may offer student loan repayments of up to \$15,000.

The ROZ program initially included 50 counties, 46 of which have opted to partner with the State in the student loan repayment program. In 2013, the Legislature expanded the program to include 73 counties. So far, 10 of the 23 newly designated ROZ counties have opted to participate in the program.

Since July 2011, the Department has received 989 applications for participation in the student loan repayment program from residents of 41 counties. Applicants represent a wide variety of industries, with education and healthcare as the two largest professions.

For more information about the ROZ program, please visit KansasCommerce.com/RuralOpportunityZones.

46 Counties Qualify for Federal Disaster Aid

Kansas officials say President Barack Obama has issued a federal disaster declaration for 46 counties hit by severe storms, high winds, tornadoes and floods from July 22 to August 22.

This declaration allows the counties to apply for federal aid to repair roads, bridges and other infrastructure damaged or destroyed by the violent weather.

Counties covered by the declaration are Barber, Barton, Bourbon, Butler, Chase, Cherokee, Clark, Clay, Cloud, Coffey,

Comanche, Cowley, Crawford, Dickinson, Edwards, Elk, Ellsworth, Ford, Geary, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harper, Harvey, Hodgeman, Kingman, Kiowa, Lane, Linn, Lyon, Marion, McPherson, Meade, Montgomery, Morris, Ness, Ottawa, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Republic, Rice, Saline, Sumner, Washington, Wilson, and Woodson.

The declaration also authorizes all Kansas counties to apply for federal grants to mitigate the effects of future disasters.

Governor Appoints New Chief Counsel

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback announced the appointment of Brant Laue as his Chief Counsel. He will join the administration staff on November 4, 2013.

"Brant brings extensive legal experience to this position and possesses a deep knowledge and understanding of the law," Governor Brownback said. "I am pleased to welcome him to the team."

Born in Hanover, Laue is a 1986 graduate of the Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York. He was a note editor for the *Cornell Law Review* and was awarded the Order of the Coif.

After graduation Laue clerked for the Honorable Roger L. Wollman, Circuit Judge in the Eighth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

in South Dakota and served as Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division, in the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. He currently is partner with Armstrong Teasdale, LLP in Kansas City.

"I am honored to have this opportunity to serve the Governor and Kansas," Laue said.

Laue is a partner in his family's ranch, Laue Charolais Ranch, which includes one of the Midwest's oldest purebred Charolais cattle breeding establishments. He is active in the Thoroughbred horse community as a horse owner and breeder and is the current Chairman of the Board of Governors for the American Royal Livestock, Horse Show, and Rodeo.

LKM CONFERENCE WRAP-UP

BY KATE COOLEY

Elect and appointed officials from across the state of Kansas gathered in Overland Park for the 105th Annual Conference of the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM), October 12-14. The event, titled “Investing in Healthy Communities,” brought together more than 900 participants, including local government officials, sponsors, speakers, exhibitors, and guests.

Each day, city governing bodies make the decision to invest in the health of their community. A healthy community can mean a number of different things—from the availability of jobs, to wellness opportunities, quality infrastructure, and more. This year’s conference addressed a number of these topics, along with forming a special partnership with the American Cancer Society in honor of the individuals and their caregivers who have been affected by cancer.

Throughout the conference, attendees had the opportunity to hear keynote addresses from a number of local and national leaders, including Governor Sam Brownback, Dr. Benjamin Barber, a well-known author and political theorist, and cancer survivor Matt Jones, an Emporia native who gave an inspirational speech and shared life lessons. There were also a wide variety of scheduled workshops, educational sessions, informal networking opportunities, and activities for attendees. Nearly 100 exhibitors gave attendees an opportunity to network and learn about government-related products and services during the trade show in conjunction with the annual conference.

The opening general session speaker, Dr. Benjamin Barber, discussed elements of his new book, *If Mayors Ruled the World*. Dr. Barber demonstrated that regardless of city size or political affiliation, local executives exhibit a non-partisan and pragmatic style of governance that is lacking in national and international halls of power.

Matt Jones, who was Monday morning’s general session speaker, gave a highly energetic and motivational talk using a marathon as a metaphor for leadership. He shared his “marathon mentality,” an inspirational message about how to overcome challenges and achieve victory as a leader.

The League conference was honored to welcome Governor Sam Brownback during Monday’s Public Service Awards luncheon for a special keynote address. Governor Brownback gave a brief “report card” of how various projects under his leadership were developing.

In addition to the keynote presentations, attendees had the opportunity to participate in a number of educational sessions, including workshop and roundtable discussions. This year, LKM added a second section of the popular municipal practice roundtable event, holding 20 sessions on Saturday afternoon, and 20 different topics on Sunday. Topics ranging from using utilities as business incentives, to discussions of changes in KPERS benefits, and operating a volunteer fire department were discussed. Breakout sessions ranged in topic from updates on Kansas gun laws, to changes in Health Care Reform proved popular subjects for many. Divided into three sessions of one hour each, attendees had the opportunity to choose from 12 different topics.

LKM went digital this year, offering roundtable and workshop materials via a scannable QR code, and on flash drives available to conference attendees. Also being implemented for the first time was Twitter, allowing attendees a “virtual” gathering place to talk about the conference and exchange ideas.

Preparations are already under way for LKM’s 2014 Conference in Wichita. This conference will be held October 11-13, 2014 at the Century II Convention Center and Hyatt Regency Wichita. Hotel arrangements for the 2014 conference will be available as of February 1, 2014. More information about the event will be posted at <http://www.lkm.org/conference/> as it becomes available.

 Kate Cooley is the Conference/Marketing Coordinator for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at kcooley@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.



Passing of the gavel from immediate past president Brenda Chance to current president John Deardoff.



City service
Rocker, Ran

LKM 2013 Annual Conference

Investing in
Healthy Cities

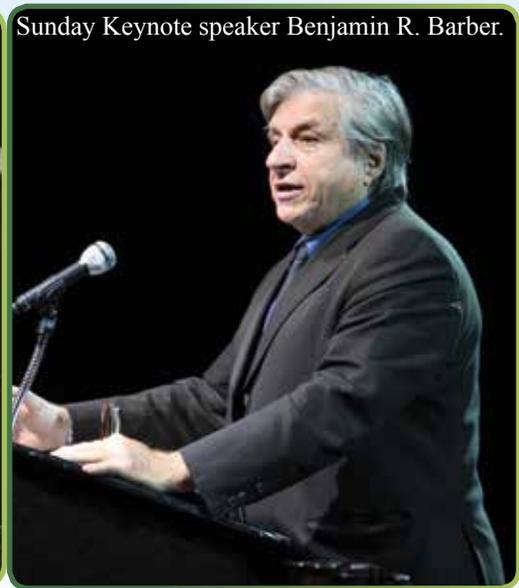
October 12-14 • Overland Park, KS



Monday Keynote speaker Matt Jones.



Award winners from left to right. Shirley J. Grove, Terry J. Solander, Earl M. Randall Oliver, Larry Alan Bradford, Joyce E. Martin, and John Douglass.



Sunday Keynote speaker Benjamin R. Barber.



LKM Elects New Leaders



John Deardoff, President
Hutchinson



Tim Somers, Vice President
Mount Hope

On Monday, October 14, 2013, the Convention of Voting Delegates for the League of Kansas Municipalities selected new officers and directors for the Governing Body. The group convened in Overland Park, Kansas and elected Hutchinson City Manager John Deardoff as President, and Mount Hope Mayor Terry Somers as Vice President.

John Deardoff has been Hutchinson's City Manager since 2005. He is responsible for implementing the policy direction of the City Council and administers and oversees City operations. Deardoff has spent his entire career serving cities in Kansas, previously in Dodge City and Sterling. In addition to his dedication to local government, he has been active in the Kansas Association of City/County Management for the past 16 years, serving on a variety of committees, the Board of Directors, and as President in 2002.

Terry Somers has served as Mayor of Mount Hope since 2003. His duties include general supervision of the officers and affairs of

the City, presiding over governing body meetings, and representing the Mount Hope community. He has been actively engaged in his city and region for many years, serving on the K-96 Corridor Development Association, the Mount Hope PRIDE Organization, the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP), along with many other organizations. Somers has been on the League's Board of Directors since 2009, and served as President of the Kansas Mayor's Association in 2012.

At the annual conference, the Convention of Voting Delegates also selected four Governing Body members to continue in their current positions: Tom Glinstra, City Attorney, Olathe; Mark Holland, Mayor, Kansas City; Blake Jorgensen, Commissioner, Ottawa; and Kim Thomas, Mayor, Stockton. In addition, Jim Toews, Mayor of Inman, was appointed to fill the vacated seat of the new Vice-President. LKM is proud to welcome these city officials to the 2013-2014 Governing Body.



Tom Glinstra
Olathe



Mark Holland
Kansas City



Blake Jorgensen
Ottawa



Kim Thomas
Stockton



James Toews
Inman

2013-2014 GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS

PRESIDENT

John Deardoff, City Manager, Hutchinson

VICE PRESIDENT

Terry Somers, Mayor, Mount Hope

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Brenda Chance, City Clerk, Phillipsburg

PAST PRESIDENTS

Mike Boehm, Mayor, Lenexa

Carl Brewer, Mayor, Wichita

Carl Gerlach, Mayor, Overland Park

DIRECTORS

Herb Bath, Mayor, Altamont

Lori Christensen, Mayor, Leoti

Joe Denoyer, Vice-Mayor, Liberal

Tom Glinstra, City Attorney, Olathe

Daron Hall, City Manager, Pittsburg

Mark Holland, Mayor, Wyandotte County/KCK

Blake Jorgensen, Commissioner, Ottawa

Jerry Lovett-Sperling, City Clerk, Lindsborg

John "Tiny" McTaggart, Mayor, Edwardsville

Kim Thomas, Mayor, Stockton

James Toews, Mayor, Inman

Larry Wolgast, Mayor, Topeka



2013 E.A. Mosher Excellence in Local Government Award

Mayor Brad Smiley • City of Canton



In 2001, the League of Kansas Municipalities established the E.A. Mosher Excellence in Local Government Award to recognize the accomplishments of distinguished leaders in the local government community. Since its creation, this award has been presented to Mayor Bob Knight of Wichita, Mayor Carol Marinovich of Kansas City, Mayor Warren Hixson of Colby, Mayor Ed Eilert of Overland Park, Commissioner John Zutavern

from Abilene, Commissioner Richard Jackson from Ottawa, Commissioner Pat Pettey from Kansas City, Mayor Don DeHaven from Sedgwick, Councilmember Diane Linver from Lenexa, Commissioner Bruce Snead from Manhattan, Mayor Clausie Smith from Bonner Springs, and Mayor Ken Bernard from Lansing.

This year's recipient has been described as an active leader both within his community and among the cities in his region. Mayor Brad Smiley has served the City of Canton since 2006. During his tenure he has been a strong advocate for growth and development in his community. He has actively pursued new walking trails, and tennis and basketball courts. He is currently working on a major street project. His nomination form summed it up best, saying "Mayor Smiley always makes time for the citizens of Canton and is always thinking about their welfare, safety, and prosperity." For his dedication to his community and to the League, we are proud to honor Mayor Brad Smiley with the 2013 E.A. Mosher Award for Excellence in Local Government.



Excellence in Local Government Award Past Recipients

2001 • Mayor Bob Knight • Wichita
 2002 • Mayor Carol Marinovich • Kansas City
 2003 • Mayor Warren Hixson • Colby
 2004 • Mayor Ed Eilert • Overland Park
 2005 • Commissioner John Zutavern • Abilene
 2006 • Commissioner Richard Jackson • Ottawa

2007 • Commissioner Pat Pettey • Kansas City
 2008 • Mayor Don DeHaven • Sedgwick
 2009 • Councilmember Diane Linver • Lenexa
 2010 • Mayor Bruce Snead • Manhattan
 2011 • Mayor Clausie Smith • Bonner Springs
 2012 • Mayor Kenneth Bernard • Lansing

DID YOU KNOW?

by Kimberly Winn



William Allen White drinking a coke. Photo provided by The Emporia Gazette

Did you know that “Project Kansas” was the name of one of the most famous marketing blunders in history?

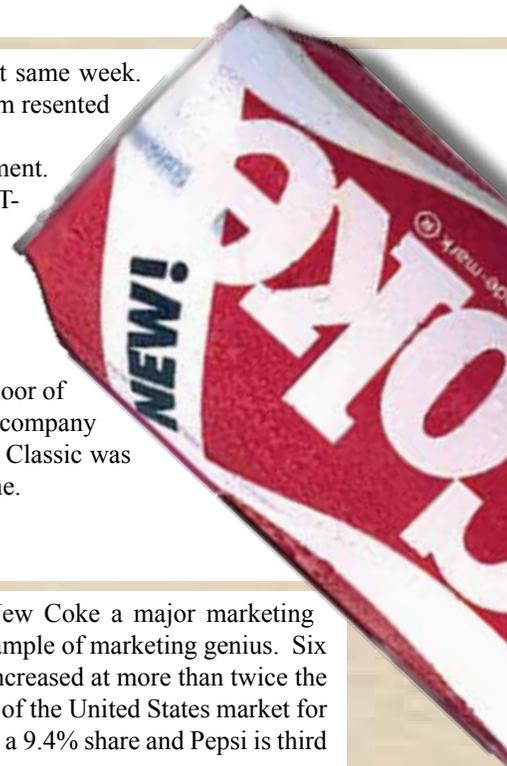
In the mid-1980s, Coca-Cola’s most senior executives commissioned a secret effort named “Project Kansas” to test and perfect a new flavor for Coke. It took its name from a famous photo of renowned journalist William Allen White drinking a Coke; the image had been used extensively in its advertising and hung on several executives’ walls.

New Coke was introduced on April 23, 1985. Production of the original formulation ended that same week. Despite New Coke’s acceptance with a large number of Coca-Cola drinkers, a vocal minority of them resented the change in formula and were not shy about making that known.

Company headquarters in Atlanta started receiving letters expressing anger or deep disappointment. Over 400,000 calls and letters were received by the company. The company hotline, 1-800-GET-COKE, received 1,500 calls a day compared to 400 before the change. Coke hired a psychiatrist to listen in on calls and told executives some people sounded as if they were discussing the death of a family member.

Coca-Cola executives announced the return of the original formula on July 10, less than three months after New Coke’s introduction.

ABC News’ Peter Jennings interrupted *General Hospital* to share the news with viewers. On the floor of the U.S. Senate, David Pryor called the reintroduction “a meaningful moment in U.S. history.” The company hotline received 31,600 calls in the two days after the announcement. By the end of the year, Coke Classic was substantially outselling both New Coke and Pepsi. In 2009, the “classic” was dropped from the name.



Some have called the introduction of New Coke a major marketing blunder. Others have referred to it as an example of marketing genius. Six months after the rollout, Coke’s sales had increased at more than twice the rate of Pepsi’s. Today, coke maintains 17% of the United States market for carbonated soft drinks. Diet coke maintains a 9.4% share and Pepsi is third with an 8.9% share.

Sources: http://www.slate.com/articles/business/rivalries/2013/08/pepsi_paradox_why_people_prefer_coke_even_though_pepsi_wins_in_taste_tests.html and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Coke

CONFIDENTIAL

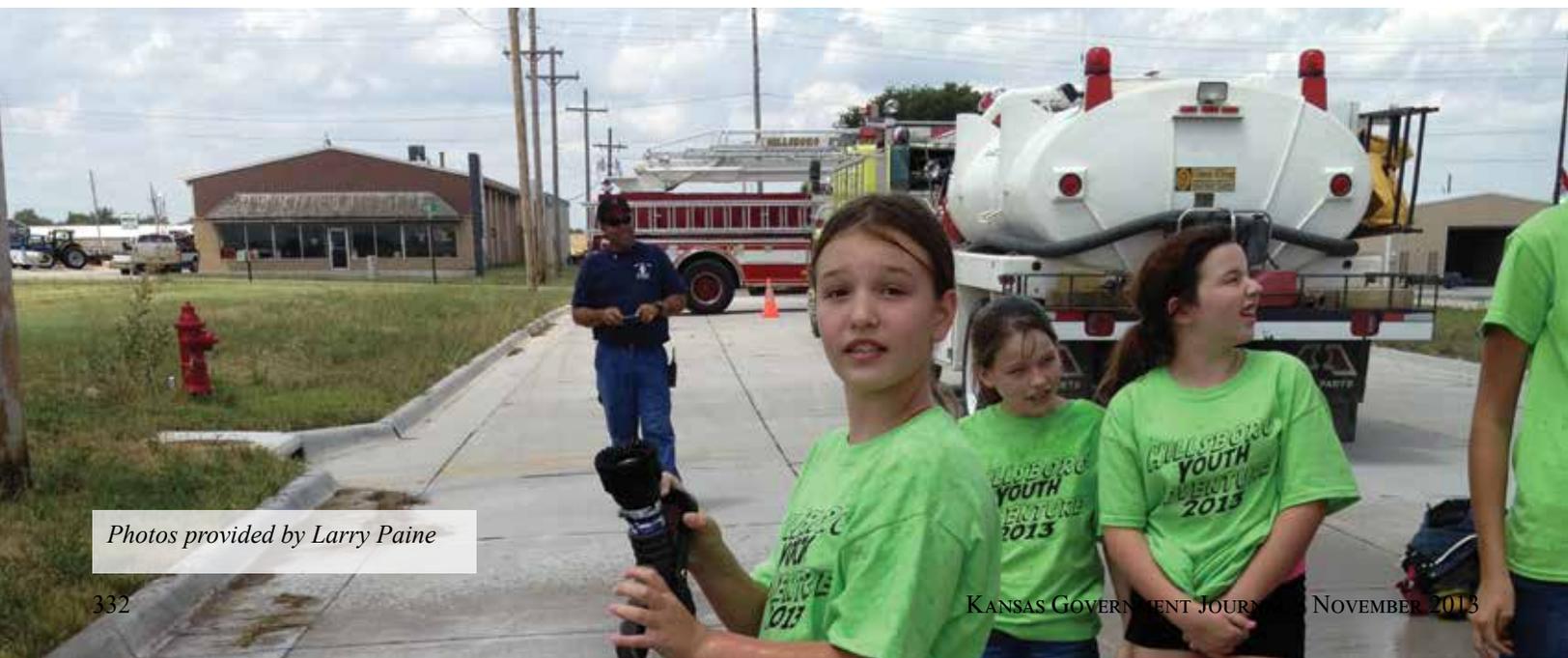
INTRODUCTION OF NEW COCA-COLA
(PROJECT KANSAS)





Hillsboro Youth Adventure

By Larry Paine, Ashlee Gann, and Clint Siebel



Photos provided by Larry Paine



Organizers and participants of the first Hillsboro Youth Adventure use the city's front-loader as a prop for a group shot. Pictured from left are Clint Seibel, Larry Paine, Elli Weisbeck, Lynne Johnson, Trinity Donaldson (top), Jenna Hinerman, Grace Major, Trace Jost and Ashlee Gann. Photo provided by the Hillsboro Free Press.

Getting kids in the community to think where they grew up would be a cool place to live as adults is a major undertaking. This summer, six 7th and 8th graders got an opportunity to experience what it would be like to do things city workers do on a daily basis by participating in a program called Hillsboro Youth Adventure.

The program grew out of several years of planning how to engage younger people in the community experience. In 2010, several community members participated in the Home Town Competitiveness (HTC) program. The program focuses on four key elements (four pillars) of overall community success—leadership, entrepreneurship, wealth retention, and youth engagement. Once the HTC program was completed, leaders from the community met to discuss how the four pillars could be developed and implemented into the daily live of Hillsboro.

The youth retention committee started working on ways to focus the attention of the community's youth on staying in Hillsboro. Entrepreneurship is working its way into the school district's business curriculum letting students know it is OK to start and run a business in their home town. Another element in youth retention is giving kids an opportunity to see what job opportunities exist in a community if they are not interested in creating their own companies. This is where the Hillsboro Youth Adventure was born.

USD 410 School Superintendent, Dr. Steve Noble placed the development of the new project on the new director of Families and Communities Together (FACT), Ashlee Gann. Ashlee joined Clint Siebel, Economic Development Director and Larry Paine, City Administrator in developing the core experiences for the program. Siebel and Paine had been working on elements of the HTC program. From Paine's experience in the Kansas City/County Management Association, he knew of the success the City of Great Bend had in doing a similar program.

The group traveled to Great Bend to visit with employees that put their program together. The Great Bend program has been operating for 15 years and has produced the type of results the Hillsboro team was looking to duplicate.

Out of the visit, the Hillsboro group developed the outcomes they expected from the program:

- Open the eyes of community youth to future job opportunities;
- You can live in Hillsboro and have a successful job and life style;
- Encourage their future community involvement; and
- Encourage their openness to elected and board positions in the future.

The planning process was focused on those students entering the seventh and eighth grades. The Great Bend experience has shown

that this age group was receptive to learning about the community and beginning to ask questions about their future.

The group hoped to have a large group of students for the inaugural event. To get the students interested in the event, they made a presentation to the incoming 7th and 8th graders at an assembly at Hillsboro Middle School. The presentation included pictures of the Great Bend experience and video of some of the Hillsboro heavy equipment and trucks in operation. During that assembly program applications were handed out to the students.

The team went to work on planning the day's activities which would include a pizza lunch with Mayor Delores Dalke. The schedule was designed to open with donuts and juice at City Hall. They would then travel in city vehicles to the sewer plant, water plant, street department, electric department, lunch, to a fire department training location then to the police department. The day's activities would wrap up with talk with Larry Paine, City Administrator. Each department head was given liberty to design the experience with the students the way they wanted it to be.

The participants were eighth-graders Trace Jost and Elli Weisbeck and seventh-graders Trinity Donaldson, Jenna Hinerman, Lynne Johnson and Grace Major. It ended up being a smaller group than expected. Ashlee Gann was quoted in the Hillsboro Free Press "If we had more kids, we probably would've needed to split into groups, and we were not prepared to do that the first time around. If we have more students sign up next year, we will be prepared to have different groups at different stations throughout the day.

Sewer Plant—Students were met by treatment plant worker Joe Alvarez. He introduced the group to the various tasks he does each day. It included a look at the main influent box where incoming sewer flow is measured then to the bar screen where solids are removed from the waste stream. This equipment washes and then presses everything dry then pops out what he calls his "Lincoln Logs" into a trash dumpster. The students were then shown the main pump station that pushes all the water out to the treatment lagoons east of town. Due to the evaporation at the lagoons, no water was returning to the outfall. Students learned that when the treatment process is complete, water will go into the creek and leave town.

Water Plant—Morgan Marler, Senior Water Treatment Operator, showed the process of treating lake water into drinking water. The students walked all over the plant learning what we have to do to provide their families water. They started at the clarifier where the raw water is separated from dirt and other impurities and shown how it settles out into clear water. From there, they saw the filtering process just before the water goes into the distribution system to their homes and schools.

Street Department—Students were given an opportunity to run several pieces of heavy equipment including the front end loader and the backhoe. The Street Department crew members Johnny Gilkey and Mason McCarty set up the loader and the back hoe at the City's compost site. Students climbed into the loader and ran into a pile of compost and lifted the bucket overhead then dropped the load in place. The final act was to back the loader to the starting location for the next student. On the backhoe, students were able to dig a small trench then scoop the material back into the hole.

Electric Department—Linemen Randy Jantz and Jason Plett set up a demonstration on how electricity is delivered from the high voltage distribution to a transformer then to a customer's house. The linemen then showed how local squirrels can sometimes cause outages. They took a stuffed toy squirrel and wrapped copper wire around to the feet of the animal and demonstrated how they



Electric department helps students with safety equipment before they step into the bucket truck for the opportunity to toss water balloons at 2 targets from about 40 feet up. Photo provided by the Hillsboro Free Press.



Trace Jost takes his turn scooping dirt with the city's backhoe. Offering instruction is Johnny Gilkey (left) of the street department. Photo provided by the Hillsboro Free Press.

will move across the transformer and cause a fuse to break, thus losing power to the house or business. After the demonstration, the students went up in the bucket truck about 30 feet and dropped a water balloon on a ground target.

Fire Department—After lunch, everyone went to a street in the business park where the fire department set up their equipment. Students were given the opportunity to put on “bunker gear” but due to the temperature, they all declined. Fire Chief Ben Stekete set up a hose line and some cones that they used as targets. A smaller hose was used so each student could operate the nozzle independently. Because of the heat, students took advantage of shooting water in the air and getting themselves cooled off. Training Officer Randy Moss demonstrated how the various rescue tools work. One tool was used to lift one of the fire trucks off the ground. This simulated a traffic accident where someone might be trapped.

Police Department—K-9 Officer Brad Richards and his dog Remo showed the students how Remo works looking for drugs. Officer Richards hid a stash inside the police garage and put Remo

in the search mode. Following that demonstration, Chief Dan Kinning and Deputy Chief Jessey Hiebert set up a mock traffic stop. One student was in the stopped vehicle and two students were in the patrol car. The scenario was set that the student in the stopped vehicle would flee and the other students would chase with a water gun. It was another opportunity for students to get wet.

Four participants contacted afterward were unanimous in their endorsement of the event. Each found something to enjoy. (Student quotes were taken from the *Hillsboro Free Press* article published July 23, 2013.)

Grace Major said eating lunch with the Mayor was the highlight of her day.

“I liked that we were able to ask her questions, ask her what she does and that kind of stuff,” she said.

Jenna Hinerman said the chase simulation at the police station was her favorite activity.

“I liked running in after Trinity Donaldson with the water guns and shooting her in the bathroom,” she said with a laugh.

Elli Weisbeck said, "I liked the police and fire fighting stations the best. I like working with animals, so I think it would be a cool job to work with a (K-9) dog."

Trace Jost gave Hillsboro Youth Adventure a fun factor of 10 on a 1-to-10 scale, but had trouble identifying his favorite activity.

"I guess I couldn't pick a favorite part—I enjoyed all of it," he said. "They were all pretty interesting."

Students did have one practical suggestion for next year's event: Bring a gas mask or nose plugs to the waste-water treatment plant.

"It was surprising to me that the sewer plant smells like the bottom of a sink," Jenna Hinerman said. "Everybody was holding their noses while we were there. I was going, 'Sink.' I do the dishes a lot."

With the event being the first ever, several things were learned. The process of getting information to parents is the first thing to change next year. Students picked up their applications at school and they did not get to mom and dad to fill out. We need a way to get the information to parents through the school email system. Additionally, having student members of the class making part of the announcement presentation will be an addition to our presentation process. Having kids talk to kids about the program will get us a little more excitement with them.

One of the other interesting things we observed was the amount of interest from the volunteer fire fighters who assisted with driving the kids around. Their observation was that they didn't know the city did the things we showed the kids. They suggested that we do take the same program and make it available to adults in the community. A number said that members of the City Council should be involved in the program as well.

 *Larry Paine is the City Administrator in Hillsboro. He can be reached at lpaine@cityofhillsboro.net. Ashlee Gann is the Director of Families and Communities Together. She can be reached at (620)947-3184. Client Siebel is the Economic Development Director in Hillsboro. He can be reached at (620)947-3458.*



Todd Helmer of the electric department helps Jenna Hinerman with safety equipment before she steps into the bucket truck for the opportunity to toss water balloons at two targets from about 40 feet up. Photo provided by the Hillsboro Free Press.



Berkshire Hathaway
HOMESTATE COMPANIES

Kansas' Government Insurance Specialist

Offering Insurance Protection for:

- Property
- Equipment
- Crime
- Workers' Compensation
- General Liability
- Automobile
- Public Officials E&O, EPLI
- Police Professional

Contact your local independent insurance agent or contact us directly!

Mike Johnson mjohnson@bhhc.com 800.488.2930

Insurance written through the Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Companies, including Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Insurance Company (Omaha, NE), Brookwood Insurance Company (Coralville, IA), Continental Divide Insurance Company (Englewood, CO), Farmers Group, Inc. (Des Moines, IA), Farmers New World Life Insurance Company (San Francisco, CA), Oak River Insurance Company (Omaha, NE), Redwood Life and Casualty Insurance Company (Omaha, NE). Not all insurance products or features of products are available in all states or through all companies.



Conceal Carry Four Year Exemption

I am writing this on my first day back to work following the annual conference which was in Overland Park this year. At the conference, I presented a workshop on the new conceal carry statutes and the process of establishing the four year exemption that is available to municipalities. The four year exemption will allow municipalities to continue to prohibit those with a conceal carry license from entering a public building while carrying their concealed handgun. Based on the discussion and questions asked, I felt that there was still some confusion about this issue and so I will attempt to answer some of the questions and clear up the confusion this change in the law has created.

First, I will review the requirements for establishing a four year exemption pursuant to 2013 Kan. Sess. Ch. 105. This is the legislation that, in part, allows conceal carry license holders to enter public buildings armed with a concealed handgun. If a governing body does not want to allow this to happen they have two options, meet the “adequate security measures”¹ as defined by the statute or establish a four year exemption. Assuming the desire is to establish the four year exemption a city must:

1. Adopt a resolution or draft a letter containing the legal description of the building being exempted, the reason for the exemption and this statement; “A security plan has been developed for the building being exempted which supplies adequate security to the occupants of the building and merits the prohibition of the carrying of a concealed handgun as authorized by the personal and family protection act.”²

2. A copy of the security plan must be maintained on file by the city.

3. The security plan must be made available to the Attorney General and local law enforcement if requested.

4. Notice of the exemption as well as a copy of the resolution or letter must be sent to the Kansas Attorney General and local law enforcement.

What do you accomplish by doing this? A city is able to continue to post public buildings with the sign that tells all licensed conceal carry members of the public they must not enter the building carrying their concealed handgun. In other words, the way it has been since conceal carry was first established in Kansas.

Who says what the security plan is and if it is sufficient?

The answer is each governing body since there is no state agency oversight. A majority of the governing body will have to agree that the security plan is sufficient for them to approve the resolution or letter containing the language required by the statute.³

Does the security plan need to include the installation of the equipment needed to meet the definition of adequate security measures? My answer is that it can if that is the goal of the governing body but, there is nothing in the statute mandating what is in the security plan so it is not necessary.

Who determines if the security plan supplies adequate security to merit prohibiting the carrying of a concealed handgun? The governing body makes the decision. If a majority of the governing body agrees to approve the language in a resolution or letter then it is deemed adequate.

What are adequate security measures? Adequate security measures, as defined by the statute, “means the use of electronic equipment and personnel at public entrances to detect and restrict the carrying of any weapons into the state or municipal building, including, but not limited to, metal detectors, metal detector wands or any other equipment used for similar purposes to ensure that weapons are not permitted to be carried into such building by members of the public...”⁴

If we install adequate security measures do the personnel need to be armed law enforcement officers? No. The statute only requires that a city have personnel at the public entrance monitoring the metal detector or using the metal detector wand.⁵

What happens in four years when the exemption expires? If there is no change in the law a city will have to remove the no conceal carry signs from all public buildings that do not have adequate security measures in place.

What is the penalty for not establishing the exemption but keeping the signs on the doors? There is no penalty in the statute for leaving the signs up without establishing the exemption or installing adequate security measures. However, a governing body would be exposing the city to a civil lawsuit. It is not recommended that any city take this position.

Can a city prevent a conceal carry license holder from carrying in open areas such as parks and ball fields? No. This law only applies to public buildings and not open areas. If a city has signage banning conceal carry at these types of facilities the signs need to be removed.

Can a city combine several buildings into the security plan and resolution? I do not recommend that a city attempt to combine multiple buildings. The statutes refer to the building being exempted and therefore, I interpret that to mean that each building should have its own plan, resolution and notice. Keep in mind that a resolution is all that is required so there is no publication expense.

I hope that this has helped to answer some questions that a local governing body might have concerning the establishment of the four year exemption. If this has raised other questions please feel free to contact me at the League offices. As always the League of Kansas Municipalities takes no position concerning individual gun rights. LKM is concerned with the ability of local governments to control and regulate the use of locally owned public buildings.

 Eric Smith is Legal Counsel at the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at esmith@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

(Endnotes)

1 2013 Kan. Sess. Ch. 105, New Sec. 2(1)(1)

2 2013 Kan. Sess. Ch. 105, New Sec. 2(i)

3 Id.

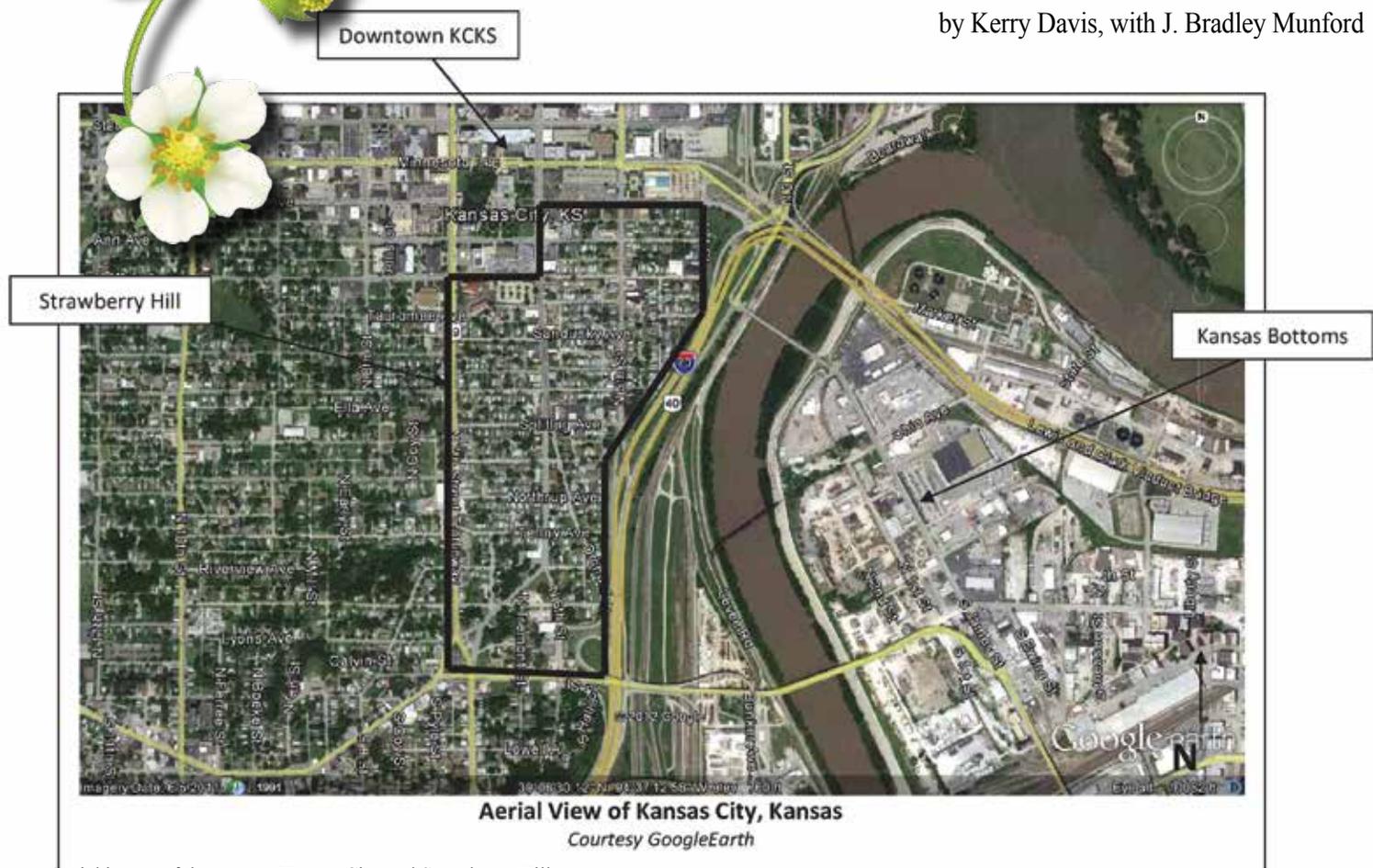
4 2013 Kan. Sess. Ch. 105, New Sec. 2(1)(1)

5 Id.



The Strawberry Hill Community

by Kerry Davis, with J. Bradley Munford



Aerial image of downtown Kansas City and Strawberry Hill.

Originally known as Spitlog’s Hill, Strawberry Hill is adjacent to the south of downtown Kansas City, Kansas. Historically extending east down the slope to the banks of the Kansas River, more than 200 parcels along the east side of the neighborhood were created in the late 1950s to make way for the Muncie Expressway (present-day I-70). Present-day Strawberry Hill comprises approximately 130 acres bounded by Armstrong Avenue to the north, I-70 to the east, Reynolds Avenue to the south, and 7th Street to the west.



Strawberry Hill is one of several neighborhoods in Kansas City, Kansas, historically settled by immigrant groups and anchored by culturally-specific Catholic parish churches. A large number of current residents are members of the initial immigrant families that settled in this area, with houses having been passed down through the generations. The densely populated neighborhood has seen few tear-downs and some infill housing, with narrow lots, predominant front porches, and stone retaining walls tying the lots together. The neighborhood's overall design is continually studied by planners and emulated by architects in new housing developments around the country.



Survey areas within the Strawberry Hill neighborhood.

Survey

In an effort to retain its historic character and to understand the historic significance of the neighborhood, the Strawberry Hill Neighborhood Association petitioned the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas (UG), to apply for a Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant through the Kansas Historical Society (KSHS) to fund an intensive-level survey. In May 2011, a grant was awarded to the UG, who contracted with Preservation Solutions, LLC (Kerry Davis), to survey properties within two representative areas of the Strawberry Hill neighborhood. These areas were in the vicinity of two cultural anchors—St. John's Church (Croatian) and Holy Family Church (Slovenian)—comprising approximately one-third of the present-day neighborhood boundaries.

The primary objectives of this project were to complete survey documentation and evaluation of resources in these two separate survey areas to determine the potential eligibility of buildings, structures, and sites for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Partially funded by the HPF grant, this survey project identified broad historic contexts, individual building histories, functional property types, eligible historic resources, and the boundaries of the geographic area containing the largest concentrations of eligible resources. Additionally, this project was meant to fulfill the UG's duties as a Certified Local Government (CLG). Kansas City was recognized as a CLG in 1986, and a key requirement of the CLG partnership is that a municipality must maintain a system for the survey and inventory of historic properties. This survey updated information found in the 1978 Strawberry Hill Historical Study.

Neighborhood History

Early Settlement Period: 1830-1864

In 1843 approximately 700 members of the Wyandotte tribe arrived from Ohio and purchased more than 23,000 acres in the easternmost portion of the Delaware nation's lands.

Among the Wyandotte settlers was Mathias Splitlog, who claimed more than 280 acres. As the largest landowner in the vicinity, the area became known as Splitlog's Hill; his house, built circa 1870 is located at 251 Orchard Street.

In 1857 three members of the Wyandotte nation and four Euro-Americans together filed a plat for Wyandotte City. The large plat was comprised of 185 blocks and featured a grid system of





431 Armstrong

31 streets oriented with the cardinal points (N-S). Most of the streets were 80 ft wide, with the exception of the five designated commercial corridors, which were 100 ft wide. Most blocks were approximately the same size, with an alley bisecting the block east-west and featuring evenly spaced lots aligned north-south.

Industry & Immigration: 1864-1900

More than 33% of the resources surveyed for this project date to the short period between 1880 and 1893. These resources are directly linked with the growing industry in the Kansas Bottoms, which necessitated large numbers of workers who settled in the adjacent areas, including Strawberry Hill.

Strategically located at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers, Wyandotte City (designated county seat in 1859) stood poised to become a major overland trading center with the expansion of the railroad. The natural landscape of the river bottom area—spanning the state line between Wyandotte City and Kansas City, Missouri—provided ready-made access to primary rail lines, setting the stage for the area to become a national center for livestock and grain trade. The 1869 completion of the Hannibal Bridge over the Missouri River secured Wyandotte City’s access to major national markets. The subsequent movement of cattle through the Bottoms grew rapidly, and new stockyards, large slaughterhouses, and packing facilities were thriving in the Kansas Bottoms.

The remarkable rate of industrial development in the Bottoms during this period prompted substantial waves of immigration that paralleled the growth of the meatpacking industry. The rapid arrival of newcomers more than doubled Wyandotte City’s

population between 1870 and 1880. While the majority of the city’s citizens were U.S.-born, a considerable number of foreign-born (German, Irish, English, and Canadian) residents called Wyandotte City home. The influx of people necessitated the development of housing in Wyandotte City, and especially in the Strawberry Hill area. The 1869 bird’s-eye view of the city shows only about fifty dwellings on the Hill clustered primarily along Armstrong and Ann avenues. Among those shown are the extant homes at 431 Armstrong Avenue and 403 Barnett Avenue. By 1873 developers began filing plats to expand and reorganize the city.

As is found even today, arriving immigrants initially settled in low-cost housing close to their place of employment. For those arriving to work in the Kansas Bottoms, many lived in an area of sub-standard, unorganized housing where they lived amongst the packing plants and spanning the railroad grade. During the early- to mid 1880s rapid residential development occurred on Strawberry Hill and its vicinity. George Fowler of the Fowler Packing Plant developed a block of 18 nearly identical brick houses on the Hill. Additional small developers constructed sets of two to six houses on adjacent lots in an attempt to take advantage of the rapid settlement. Evidence in the survey areas of this pattern during the 1880s can be seen at 411-419 and 527-537 Thompson Street.

Early 20th Century Strawberry Hill: 1900-1930

At the turn of the century, the newest wave of immigrants to Kansas City, Kansas, largely hailed from the Balkan Peninsula (Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia), as well as Russia and Poland. As with those before them, they initially settled in the Bottoms.



537 Thompson Street

In 1900 a sufficient Croatian population was present on Strawberry Hill to support the establishment of a separate parish church, St. John the Baptist at 708 N. 4th Street. By 1908 sufficient Slovenian settlement had occurred on the Hill to justify the formation of their own church, Church of the Holy Family, which opened in repurposed cottages on Ohio Avenue between 5th and 6th streets at the south end of the neighborhood.

The meatpacking industry continued to expand at a rapid rate. The Immigration Authority reported that 86% of the packing house workers were either foreign-born or the child of a foreign-born immigrant. Croats and Poles made up the vast majority of these workers, with the balance represented by Slovenians and Slovaks.

A prosperous economy and population growth led to significant development on Strawberry Hill. Lots that were vacant in the early 1890s saw new residential buildings go up. Small developers continued to build sets of buildings, including the circa 1903 groups at 713-717 and 805-809 N. 5th Street. By 1908 the residential streetscapes that make up present-day Strawberry Hill were full of one-and two-story wood-framed and brick houses generally reflecting the gamut of working-to-middle-class folk house forms. About 39% of the resources surveyed for this project date to the period between

1893 and 1910 and nearly three-fourths of the buildings forming the current streetscapes were in place.

The Slavic residents of what became known as Strawberry Hill established a system of cohesive, permanent community. The formation of cultural and commercial establishments physically bonded the residents to the neighborhood. Though means might have allowed it, many chose to stay near the local parish church and

familiar, Slavic-owned businesses. With the small communities formed, it paved the way for and encouraged new immigrants to come and settle.

Little new development occurred in Strawberry Hill during the 1920s. The streetscapes having already been largely filled, only 34 buildings in the survey areas date to the period between 1910 and 1929. However, among the few new buildings that went up were the 1927 Holy Family Church and rectory at 274 Orchard Street, as well as the 1925-1927 St. John's Catholic Club and School at 422 Barnett Avenue.

The Great Depression: 1930-1940

The onset of the Great Depression led to approximately 103,000 Kansans leaving the state during the 1930s. In Kansas, the meatpacking industry was among the only industries that contributed any stability to the state's economy during this time, though four packing plants closed, and the packing plant employee population dropped by over 41%. Only two houses in the survey areas date to the decade leading up to the onset of World War II. World War II and the Post-War Period: 1941-1960

The population in the city increased after the war especially within the Slavic communities of Strawberry Hill. Even so, only six buildings in the survey areas date to the years between 1945 and the mid-1960s. Notable among these few construction projects was the new Holy Family Hall and School at 515 Ohio Avenue.

Property owners in Kansas City, Kansas, chose to "update" their older buildings instead of build new houses. Improved economic conditions allowed property owners to address



St. John the Baptist, 708 N. 4th Street



713 N. 5th Street

maintenance deferred during the war. While post-World War II remodeling was common nationwide, a notably high number occurred in Strawberry Hill. The majority of these buildings suggest a concerted response to the availability of new materials such as steel siding, asbestos shingles, asphalt siding, and Perma-Stone.

In the 1950s two major events drastically affected Strawberry Hill. The 1951 Flood swept through the bottoms and the meatpacking industry, in general, never fully recovered. The remaining plants closed and/or extensively reduced their operations in the 1960s and 1970s. Another setback to the community was the construction of the Muncie Expressway (present-day Interstate 70) along the north bank of the Kansas River. The project cleared more than 200 parcels along the east side of Strawberry Hill in 1957 and 1958, which included the removal of approximately 150 buildings, primarily late-19th and early-20th century single-family residences.

Findings and Recommendations

A significant number of resources within the surveyed area have undergone changes since their initial construction. Many documentable changes, including the addition of secondary siding and the replacement of historic windows, doors, and porch railings, occurred during the post-war period. Changes made during this time reflect the history of the neighborhood, and often were not determined to negatively impact the integrity of a resource. In contrast, several resources have undergone irreversible changes that detract from their historic integrity.

The neighborhood remains largely intact. Few houses have been demolished. The little infill that has occurred has been on historically empty lots and generally defers to the established aesthetic and design of the neighborhood.

Within the two surveyed areas, 15 resources were found to contain sufficient integrity to be individually eligible for the

National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, sufficient integrity is present to create four potential historic districts that represent the historic contexts described above:

- St. John’s Croatian Historic District located in the vicinity of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church at 4th Street and Barnett Avenue.
- Holy Family Church Historic District located in the vicinity of the Holy Family Church at Orchard Street and Ohio Avenue.
- Thompson Street Shotgun District, a small collection of five shotgun houses at 411-419 Thompson Street built around 1885 as a set by a single developer believed to be Peter Larson.
- Thompson and Barnett Historic District, a small collection of five brick houses at 527-537 Thompson Street built circa 1883 as a set by a single developer believed to be G. Harrison and/or S.E. Lockwood.

The 218 resources that were surveyed were meant to be a representation of the larger Strawberry Hill neighborhood. Future survey work should be undertaken in the entire neighborhood to continue to understand the property types, integrity, and significance of Strawberry Hill. All surveyed resources are on the Kansas Historic Resources Inventory (kshs.org/khri) under the survey name “Kansas City – Strawberry Hill Survey (2012).” The survey report prepared by Preservation Solutions, LLC, is available at kshs.org/survey-reports and contains more indepth history and recommendations.

 Kerry Davis is an Architectural Historian at Preservation Solutions. She can be reached at info@preservation-solutions.net. J. Bradley Munford is an Urban Planner for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas. He can be reached at jbmunford@wycokck.org. Reprinted with permission from the Volume 35 - Number 1 - of the Kansas Preservation magazine. All photos provided by the Kansas Preservation magazine.



807 N. 5th Street.

WE LIGHTEN EVERYTHING. INCLUDING YOUR BUDGET.

Spring City LED Technology:

- Cuts energy use up to 70%
- Lasts well over 75,000-hours
- Is ARRA-compliant and LEED-certified
- And like everything else we produce, they're made in America.

SAVE MONEY, ENERGY AND MATERIALS!

Spring City is dedicated to producing quality products that not only meet our own high standards but also our customers.

Our LED luminaire line offers substantial energy savings paired with the great lifespan of LEDs — leading to less waste, maintenance, and increased ROI.

Spring City also offers a wide range of LED conversion kits, requiring only six steps, 10 minutes, and no special tools.

*Ask about our limited
7-Year LED Warranty.*



One S. Main St. | Spring City, PA | 19475
610-948-4000 | marketing@springcity.com

Find out more by visiting
www.springcity.com or by calling 610-948-4000



\$160 Million Development in Goddard Approved

Members of the Goddard Planning Commission gave their stamp of approval to a project that could bring \$160 million in new development to the Goddard community.

The project plan for the Goddard Aquatic Center and Sports Complex was officially unveiled October 2nd. Planning commission members agreed that the STAR Bond project plan conforms with the Goddard Comprehensive Plan, and would be a good fit for the community.

Financing for the proposed development, which would be located on the south side of Kellogg between 183rd and 199th streets, includes formation of a STAR Bond district. Sales tax revenues from the district would help fund improvements within the new development.

Wichita Deploys Electronic Ticketing System

Issuing traffic tickets in Wichita will now be as easy as printing a receipt at the grocery store.

The Wichita Police Department will be deploying its new eCitation electronic ticketing system in select vehicles, testing the system, which has seen numerous delays in the past year.

The project, which cost slightly more than \$500,000, originally was approved in May of 2012. Police had estimated it would be in place by the end of last year.

“As technology often goes, it took a little longer,” Wichita Police Captain Darrell Atteberry said. “We ran into some problems, but we’re getting it done.”

One of the reasons the Department pursued electronic ticketing was the amount of illegible tickets issued by officers, Atteberry said.

“What we found in the research was that many tickets are set for court because of illegibility,” Atteberry said. “Either the vehicle description is wrong or somebody can’t read their own name.”

The Wichita Municipal Court estimates that less than 2% of the approximately 75,000 tickets issued annually require further review because of illegibility, said Donte Martin, municipal court administrator.

That means up to 1,500 per year. For a typical offense, such as speeding 5 mph over the limit, that amounts to \$135,000 per year, Martin said.

Reno County Works on Car Sharing Policy

Reno County Commissioner Dan Deming suggested a car swap between two county departments this week in a move he hopes begins to usher in a new vehicle policy for the county.

The commissioners approved a request by Community Corrections Director Randy Regehr to buy a 2012 Chevrolet Malibu for \$10,443, including trade-in of a gas-guzzling 2004 Chevrolet Blazer.

The commissioners tabled the original request as they debated the need for keeping the vehicle Regehr wanted to trade in for use by another department.

As part of the agreement to trade the car, the Commissioners also agreed to have the Reno County Appraiser’s department transfer a car to the Reno County Health Department.

Marion County Simplifies Recycling

Marion County Transfer Station recently changed its recycling procedure to single stream recycling.

The major difference in the new procedure is that recyclables are now accepted six days a week and residents no longer need to sort their recyclables before or at drop off.

“People can just put all their recyclables together and drop them off on the same floor where trash is dropped off,” transfer station manager Rollin Schmidt said. “Recyclables are kept separate from the trash.”

Schmidt said one key to the new process was getting all the proper materials.

The transfer station still accepts all the recyclables that they previously did, he said, but they still do not accept plastic grocery or trash bags for recycling.

The process is very similar to what they do with trash, he said. Employees simply load all the recyclables onto a trailer. However,

instead of going to the landfill, the recyclables travel to Waste Connections Inc.’s recycling center in Hutchinson.

“There is a multimillion-dollar machine there,” Schmidt said. “It sorts all the recyclables.”

He said there also would be one recycling bin, a 20-yard towable trailer with a lid, set up in six different locations — Burns, Centre, Durham, Florence, Goessel, and Tampa.

“The big scheme is to get more people involved in recycling and less going to the landfill,” Schmidt said. “We also want to get people who don’t already recycle to participate.”

In the past, Schmidt said he received many phone calls from people who said they stopped recycling because the recycling center was only open on Thursday and Saturday. He thought many people would probably start recycling again due to their expanded hours and the simplicity of a one-step drop-off.



Innovative Engagement Strategies

Local governments are unique within our democratic system. While federal and state policies are often driven by ideology, city councils and commissions are more likely to address the specific issues facing their citizens. At the local level, residents have a chance to meaningfully engage officials and influence the decisions that impact their lives. The following are a few Kansas cities that have experimented with innovative ways to bring more of their constituents into the decision-making process.

Budget Town Halls - Roeland Park

Roeland Park's governing body recently won the 2013 Consensus Civility Award for organizing two town halls to engage residents in the budgeting process. At these gatherings, citizens were divided into small groups to talk about the upcoming fiscal challenges facing the city and their priorities for budget cuts. They also could pose questions on the city website, which were then answered by staff for everyone to see.

Council members Marek Gliniecki and Teresa Kelly were instrumental in bringing in the non-profit group that facilitated small group discussions. Mayor Joel Marquardt said the non-profit's strategy to use small group breakouts was critical to the town hall's success, as it gave more people a chance to participate. A spokeswoman from the organization said, "The public hearing... often results in citizens standing at a microphone yelling at elected officials. Roeland Park's elected leaders and staff wanted a meaningful method to engage their residents, and they knew that this wasn't it. Instead, they worked with [us] to craft a small-group process that had people making hard choices as individuals and then in discussion with other residents. I am extremely proud of Roeland Park leadership for making sure their residents had a meaningful voice in difficult budget choices."¹

MindMixer - eNgage Ottawa

The City of Ottawa recently partnered with the company MindMixer.com to develop a new community engagement website where citizens can collaborate with local officials and other residents to shape their community. The website, called eNgage Ottawa, works by giving Ottawans a chance to share new ideas, second others' suggestions, and expand upon existing idea threads. Discussions start with topics such as, "what is the one thing you would change about Ottawa," and grow and evolve based on public participation. Rewards are given out to the most active participants.

The site will hopefully generate new ideas and feedback from citizens, which will then be used by the Commission, department heads and other local stakeholders to plan for a variety of projects. In fact, it is anticipated that goals for the next comprehensive plan will be identified and refined using the site. "I am really excited to see what great new ideas can be shared with us over the next year or two," said City Manager Richard Nienstedt.²

The site isn't meant to replace public meetings, but to gather additional input from residents. "This online format is available to our citizens when they have a few extra minutes, whether it is 10 AM or 10 PM in a format that is ready to enable an engaged community," said Mayor Sara Caylor. MindMixer's tools also allow for easy communication back to participants, and the collection of measurable results that can be used in the planning process. You can check out the site at <http://mindmixer.ottawaks.gov/>.

Activate-Wichita

The City of Wichita has already benefited from their partnership with Mindmixer, but local officials are now turning citizen feedback from the site into real policy. Feedback from the site, along with surveys developed by Wichita State's Hugo Wall School, showed significant dissatisfaction with the local government's willingness to listen. In response, the city is planning to facilitate at least 100 neighborhood meetings by the end of 2013 in an effort to bring municipal policy-making closer to the public. City Manager Bob Layton says he wants to end the tradition of selling staff-developed solutions to the public, and wants more of a partnership with citizens as those solutions are crafted.

Each meeting will consist of an hour-long discussion facilitated by a city staffer, where participants will wade through citizen responses in an effort to come up with solutions. Wichita is targeting any group willing to provide a forum, including neighborhood associations, fraternal organizations, book clubs, and coffee groups. A report with the feedback from the meetings will be available in February, when it will be presented to the Council and other community leaders. Resident Janet Wilson said of the process, "It used to be they told you what they wanted to, and now they're seeking public input. People need to be involved because the City's going to take what we want and then do it."³

 Michael Koss is the Membership Services Manager for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at mkoss@lkm.org

1 Blom, D. (2013, October 11). Roeland Park mayor, council win award for citizen engagement in budget process. Prairie Village Post. Retrieved from <http://pvpost.com/2013/10/11/roeland-park-mayor-council-win-award-for-citizen-engagement-in-budget-process-21994>.

2 City of Ottawa. (2013, October). Ottawa Invites Online Engagement and Asks Citizens to Take Part in Engaging Ottawa's Future [Press Release]. Retrieved from <http://www.ottawaks.gov/NewsInformation/tabid/122/aid/96/Default.aspx>.

3 Wilson, B. (2013, October 6). Public invited to debate Wichita's future. Wichita Eagle. Retrieved from <http://www.kansas.com/2013/10/06/3042508/public-invited-to-debate-wichitas.html>.

Budget Manager

The City of Topeka seeks an innovative, strategic thinker with excellent financial and communication skills to serve as the Budget Manager for the City.

The Budget Manager is responsible for the development, day-to-day management and monitoring of the City's budget. The position will work directly with the government body, all departments in the City and various community stakeholders as part of the budget process. The successful candidate will be a strong collaborator, who is comfortable working and leading in an environment going through significant change. This position plays a key role in the development and strategic planning for the Administrative and Financial Services Department.

Candidates for the position must possess a Bachelor's degree (MA preferred) and five years of previous municipal experience, with at least three years of significant budget experience.

Annual starting salary: \$76,848 - \$96,678, DOQ.

For additional information about Topeka and the position, please visit <http://www.topeka.org/pdfs/ManagerProfile.pdf>

Please submit on-line employment application at www.topeka.org/employment.

City Administrator

Girard, Kansas is seeking a City Administrator. Girard, with a population of 2,856, is located in rural Southeast Kansas. The position reports to a five-person City Commission, and manages a full service municipality with 33 FTE's, a \$6M budget. Candidates are preferred to possess a Bachelors Degree in Public Administration, Marketing or related field and have three to four years of experience serving in a position of leadership. The successful candidate will have proven budgeting and administrative skills, while demonstrating financial accountability, a good work ethic, and strong leadership. Competitive benefits, Salary DOQ. Interested candidates should submit a resume with cover letter, five work-related references and previous salary history to: cityclerk@girardkansas.gov or City Administrator-Girard, ATTN: City Clerk, 120 N. Ozark, Girard KS 66743. If confidentiality is requested please note in application materials. Applications accepted until January 3, 2014. EOE.

City Administrator

Lakin, Kansas (pop. 2,207; \$5.1 million budget; 25 FTE's), the county seat of Kearny County, is located twenty miles west of Garden City on the historic Sante Fe Trail. Lakin has an excellent school system, state of the art health care facilities, and a variety of recreational and cultural amenities. Attractions include the Lakin Municipal Golf Course, Beymer Aquatic Center, Kearny County Museum, and numerous Sante Fe Trail Landmarks. The city operates electric, water, and wastewater utilities, a municipal airport, and provides solid waste disposal. The administrator position reports to a mayor and five-member city council, and oversees all departments. For more information, visit <http://www.lakinkansas.org/index.php>.

Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in public administration or a related field and at least four years of management experience. The successful candidate will have proven budgeting skills, while demonstrating financial accountability, strong leadership, and sound decision-making ability. Applicants must possess the knowledge necessary to manage federal grants, and have some experience with public utilities. Candidates must also display the communication and interpersonal skills needed to maintain good relationships with elected officials, department heads, and the public.

Competitive benefits, Salary \$50,000-\$66,000 DOQ. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three work-related references to LEAPS-Lakin@lkm.org or LEAPS-Lakin, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66603. If confidentiality is requested, please note in application materials. Position will remain open until filled. Application review will begin November 25. EOE.

City Clerk

The City of Grandview Plaza, Kansas is seeking a qualified application for the position of City Clerk to oversee the daily office management procedures in Utilities, Personnel records, Court Management, Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable, Payroll. Will prepare and sign all checks for the city. Maintain Ordinances, resolutions, assessments, city property, titles. This person will provide assistance in response to the Mayor and City Council, and serve as Public Information Officer, and any other duties as assigned.

Applicant must have supervisory/management experience, excellent communication skills and be self motivated. Certified Municipal Clerk certification is preferred but not required. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience.

Applications are available at City Hall, 402 State Avenue, Grandview Plaza, Ks 66441, or call 785-238-6673. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. All offers of employment are conditional upon the successful completion of a post off physical exam, drug and alcohol screen and background check. A benefit package is available. Applications may be turned in to Shirley Bowers, City Clerk, or Mayor Rick Geike.

Full Time City Maintenance Certified Water/Waste water Operator

The City of Hanston, KS is seeking a Full Time City Maintenance Certified Water/Waste water Operator. Must possess the ability to obtain water/waste water certification within 1 year of employment. Paid vacation, sick leave, and KPERS. For a full job description email hanston@ucom.net Send resumes to City of Hanston P.O. Box 165 Hanston KS 67849.

City Engineer

The City of Alice, Texas, is seeking a new City Engineer. Alice, with a population of almost 20,000 and a trade population of 80,000 - 100,000, is strategically located 44 miles west of Corpus Christi. Positions directly reporting to the City Engineer include one assistant city engineer, two engineering technicians, one administrative assistant, one special projects/maintenance and construction superintendent.

Bachelor's Degree in Engineering and 10 or more years of progressively responsible experience required. Master's Degree and local government experience preferred. Must possess or have the ability to obtain within 6 months of employment a Professional Engineer license. Experience with design, bid, and construction phases of extensive and large-scale infrastructure projects, including water, sewer, roads, and landfill is required. The salary range is \$90,000 - \$110,000 DOQ.

To view a complete position profile and online application instructions, visit: www.governmentresource.com/pages/CurrentSearches For more information on this position, please contact: Chester Nolen, Senior Vice President Strategic Government

Director of Tourism

The City of Lebanon, MO (pop. 14,543) is currently seeking qualified candidates to fill the position of Director of Tourism. Lebanon is host to many visitors who come to enjoy its attractions, its shopping, and the beauty of nearby Bennett Spring State Park. Located along Interstate 44 and historic Route 66, Lebanon is close to many of Missouri's major tourism destinations and is the perfect hub from which to explore. Under general direction, this position develops and administers specific marketing programs, conducts market research, and utilizes a competitive market strategy that fosters a good public image and promotes City and county-wide tourism assets, programs, events, cultural, historic, and agricultural tourism resources.

Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in tourism, public relations, marketing, hospitality management or a closely related field with a minimum of three years of professional experience in an appropriate position that must include supervisory and management level experience preferably in the area of travel and tourism. A Certified Travel Industry Specialist is highly preferred, but not required.

The application deadline is November 15, 2013.

To view the complete job description, minimum qualifications, and salary range, please visit www.lebanonmissouri.org.

Grant Administrator (City of Manhattan)

GRANT ADMINISTRATOR (Full-Time Exempt) Starting Salary: \$1803.20 Bi-weekly Position Purpose: Perform various administrative, analytical, and technical duties related to grant programs including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), and other grant programs. Conduct research; prepare grant applications; administer grant activities.

Experience Required: Bachelor's degree in planning, business administration, public administration, or a related field. Master's degree in a related field preferred. Two years of progressively responsible professional experience, preferably in federal or state grant related programs. Requires broad ability with computer software applications including word processing and spreadsheets, knowledge of recordkeeping requirements, and knowledge of applicable state and federal statutes. Writing skills and effective, professional communication are central requirements.

Must have and maintain a valid driver's license. Closing Date: 11/21/2013

Human Resources Director

MIAMI COUNTY, KS seeks a HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR responsible for overseeing all phases of County human resources programs by performing professional and administrative functions. Duties include management of employment programs, including benefits, compensation, training and recruitment, budget preparation, overseeing relevant policies and procedures, legal compliance, and record keeping and establishing departmental goals and objectives. Requires BA/BS degree in human resources, public administration, or closely related field; five years of HR experience, including successful budget management, supervision and strong communication skills. Professional certification in human resources (PHR, SPHR, IPMA-CP) preferred. Excellent benefits. Send resume & cover letter with salary requirements to breed@miamicountyks.org by November 21, 2013 OR to Miami County Administration, 201 S Pearl, Suite 200, Paola, KS 66071; or online at www.hrepartners.com. Miami County is an EOE.

Journeyman Lineman

The City of Greensburg is looking for a skilled lineman to perform construction and maintenance for the City's electric distribution system. Need knowledge of all primary circuit feeds, load consumption, metering ratios, electrical hook-ups, hot line work, environmental rules, transformer hook-ups, conductor and fuse sizing and all related line work. Requires: Valid Kansas Driver's Licenses, 4-5 years of electric distribution installation and maintenance is required. Contact the City Hall at 300 South Main, Greensburg, or call 620-723-2751. Is also posted on our web site at www.greensburgks.org

Municipal Court Administrator

The City of Derby (pop. 23,000) seeks person with can-do attitude for Municipal Court Administrator to manage an efficient Court operation. Derby is a family-oriented, growing community in the Wichita metropolitan area. Appointed by the City Manager, the Court Administrator is an exempt position responsible for the operation, administration, and accounting functions of the Court as well as providing overall leadership. The ideal candidate will have management skills and work as a team member to improve cross-departmental processes. Requires bachelor's degree or combination of at least

60 hours of college credit and three years management experience in a court or police department. Master of Public Administration preferred. Three years of criminal justice or law enforcement management experience, preferred. Supervisory experience, preferred. Salary \$41,811 DOQ, excellent benefits. Open until filled, preference given to applications received by November 18, 2013. Apply online at derbyweb.com. On-line application, resume, cover letter and three professional references required. For information, contact Jenny Turner, Director of Human Resources, at 316-788-1519 or jennyturner@derbyweb.com. EOE.

Public Works - Water and Wastewater (City of Manhattan)

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SUPERINTENDANT (Regular Full-Time)

Supervise, plan coordinate, and direct the services and operations of the City's Wastewater Treatment process to meet Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements. This includes operating and maintaining one Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) Activated Sludge Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) with UV disinfection, Biosolids operations and equipment, Lift Stations, Grinder Pump Stations, Activated Carbon Odor Control system, and other operating and support equipment.

Supervisory and management skills and experience are fundamental, including ability to schedule and direct the work of operators, mechanics, lift station technicians, and laboratory staff, and the ability to work professionally and cooperatively with contractors and regulatory agencies.

Starting Salary: \$51,376.00 – 81,473.60

Closing Date: 11/18/2013

Public Works/ Wastewater – Louisburg, Kansas

This position is responsible for maintenance of the City sanitary sewer system including two sets of aerated lagoons. Other responsibilities include water and natural gas operations. Preferred applicant should have knowledge of pumps, motors and controls. Class 3 Wastewater license required. CDL is a plus. This is a full time position that reports to the Public Works Supervisor. Must reside within a 20 minute drive time to Louisburg. Salary DOQ. Applications are available at City Hall 5 S Peoria Suite 104. For information contact Rita Cassida at (913) 837-5371. The City of Louisburg is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Professional Services

AOS
Expect the Best!

Your LOCAL technology partner

Networking	Physical Security
Security	Virtualization
Data Center	Microsoft
Unified Communications	Video
Wireless	Cloud Computing

Visit us online: www.aos5.com / E-mail: info@aos5.com

Natural gas system design, construction, maintenance & operations services for cities.

For information contact lezli.root@blackhillscorp.com or call **785-832-3925**



Burns & McDonnell
SINCE 1896

9400 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64114
816 333-9400 • Fax: 816 333-3690

3839 Dora
Wichita, KS 67213
316 941-3921 • Fax: 316 941-4730

- Roads & Bridges
- Water & Wastewater
- Storm Water
- Hazardous & Solid Waste
- Electric Power
- Airport Facilities
- Resource Recovery
- Air Pollution Control

www.burnsmcd.com

Central States Capital Markets

245 N. Waco, Ste. 545
Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 265-9411
1-800-444-9411
(316) 265-9415 (fax)

Contact: Mark Dettler and Dave Malone
Mark Dettler: mdettler@centralstatescapital.com
Dave Malone: dmalone@centralstatescapital.com

- Full Service Financial Advisors
- Full Service Broker / Dealers
- Municipal Bond Underwriting
- Financial and Capital Planning Services

Member FINRA / MSRB / SIPC
MSRB & SEC Registered Municipal Financial Advisors

CFS ENGINEERS
One Vision. One Team. One Call.

2930 SW Woodside Drive
Topeka, KS 66614
785.272.4706 | 785.272.4736 fax

Manhattan | Wichita | Kansas City
www.cfse.com | facebook

EEI www.EarlesEngineering.com
Earles Engineering & Inspection, Inc.

Salina, KS Liberal, KS
785-309-1060 620-626-8912
Fax 785-309-1061 620-626-5408
Email: earlesinc@earleseng.com

Design of water, sewer, drainage, streets, bridges, wells, pump stations, wastewater treatment and surveying, construction inspection and testing, including QA/QC

Place a new ad in the
Kansas Government Journal



RATES START AT ONLY \$275.
CONTACT KATE COOLEY AT
KCOOLEY@LKM.ORG OR
(785) 354-9565.

Kansas **NO MORE DEFERRED MAINTENANCE!**
NO RFPs. ONE CONTRACT.
FCIP FACILITY CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
785-271-3352

BOB WESTMORELAND
AMR/AMI Systems Sales & Service

11510 Strang Line Rd
Olathe, KS. 66062
T 913.469.5820
F 913.469.5825
bob.westmoreland@hdsupply.com
CELL: 913.660.8800



HARDMAN & HOWELL
BENEFITS

8110 E. 32nd St. N., Suite 100
Wichita, KS 67226
Phone: (316) 977-9779
Toll Free: (855) 399-9779
www.hhben.com

Gary Hardman
Mike Howell
Jeremy Gilson
Mike Keller
Rich Ewen

Jim Heinicke, LLC
Pathways to Realistic Solutions
www.jimheinicke.com

(316) 573-9903 • 501 Mead • Newton, KS 67114 • jim@jimheinicke.com
Municipal Consulting • Economic Development • Planning • Finance

LOCHNER

Enhancing People's Lives through Sustainable Infrastructure

Salina 785.827.3603 • Kansas City 816.363.2696 • www.hwlochner.com

GRM

IS NOW

THOMSON REUTERS
AUMENTUM™

We invite you to learn more at ExperienceAumentum.com



COLLECTION AGENCY EFFORTS



LEGAL PROCESSES

**NEWMAN,
REYNOLDS
& RIFFEL, P.A.**

in partnership with
LML Payment Systems Corp.

A powerful combination of collection agency strategies and proven legal tactics

Collect your accounts!
1-866-954-6800

RIGGS ASSOCIATES

PLANNERS • LAND PLANNERS • LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

- ▶ Comprehensive Planning
- ▶ Land Use Regulations
- ▶ Annexation Studies
- ▶ Subdivision Design
- ▶ Resource Evaluation
- ▶ Landscape Design
- ▶ Corridor Analysis
- ▶ Park Planning

P.O. Box 147

Lindsborg, Kansas 67456

Phone/Fax: (785) 227-3787

Turn what you have into what it's worth.

equipment
- vehicles
- surplus

purple wave
auction

1.866.608.9283 www.purplewave.com

RANSON Financial Consultants L.L.C.

200 W. Douglas, Ste. 600
Wichita, KS 67202
Voice: 316.264.3400
Fax: 316.265.5403

TOLL FREE: 866.436.1100
www.ransonfinancial.com

Tran Systems

EXPERIENCE | Transportation

Engineering Architecture Planning

www.transtystems.com

Stillwater Technical Solutions

Disaster Recovery

- Utility Restoration Management
- Construction Program Oversight
- FEMA Appeals
- Regulatory Support

6505 South Highway 83
PO Box 93
Garden City, KS 67846
(620) 260-8767

Complex Problems Solved Well

Environment

- Wastewater NPDES Permitting
- Landfill Operating and Design Plans
- Groundwater Studies & Remediation
- ESA, Wetlands & 404 Permits
- Noncompliance Support

Dedicated UMB service.
Now wallet-sized.

UMB Commercial Card Solutions have the benefits to make your job easier.

Learn more about one of the nation's largest issuers of purchasing cards:

umb.com/cards

Tom Carignan - 816.860.7033



Kansas Government Journal Classifieds

Employment • For Sale • Bid Requests • Wanted Ads

Place your next classified in the *Kansas Government Journal* and online at www.lkm.org

- 50 words or less • \$40
- 51-100 words • \$65
- 101-150 words • \$90
- 151-200 words • \$115
- 201-250 words • \$140

WILSON & COMPANY

- Water/Wastewater/Stormwater
- Transportation Planning & Design
- Mechanical & Electrical Engineering
- Structural Engineering
- Architecture
- Surveying, Mapping & GIS

HIGHER Relationships

Salina - 785.827.0433
Kansas City - 816.701.3100

www.wilsonco.com



Selfishness



It never ceases to amaze me how many incredibly rude, self absorbed people I encounter on a daily basis. It seems to be almost to epidemic proportions. Now I am not suggesting that rude, selfish people haven't always been with us. They have always been around, and I suspect they always will be around, as that is the nature of some people. But what seems to be increasingly common is a sense of not only entitlement, but a sense that these people are the only people in the world.

Certainly they must believe that they are the only ones that matter and whose feelings need to be considered at any given time. Recently, and I am not drawing on ancient history here, I have encountered people in grocery stores, restaurants, banks, while driving, and innumerable other places that I frequent, who seem to be totally absorbed in what they are doing with no regard whatsoever for the rights, enjoyment, and perhaps even safety of others.

To relate only a very few of the many recent examples that I have personally witnessed, please consider the following. While attempting to leave a restaurant a few weeks ago my family encountered a group of about six people who had decided that the ideal place for them to continue their dinner conversation was immediately outside the front door of the restaurant, thus effectively blocking all ingress or egress from the restaurant. After waiting for perhaps a minute for this group to move aside, in an effort to respect their rights to public space, I finally concluded that they weren't going to move until they had concluded their conversation. They were completely oblivious to the fact that anyone else might possibly wish to use that door. When we finally decided that enough was enough, we had to thread our way through them in an effort to reach our car. Then, of course, they were outraged that we had interrupted their conversation. Typical, and unfortunately not even rare or surprising given our recent experiences.

When going to the grocery store I routinely encounter people who have placed their cart diagonally across the aisle so that no one can proceed in either direction because it is entirely blocked by their inconsiderate placement of the cart. Inevitably, these are the same people who when checking out in the grocery store line engage the checker in a conversation about something that has nothing whatsoever to do with buying groceries. Now this may be fine if the checker has nothing else to do after this customer is served, and the customer feels compelled to do this, but inevitably this behavior occurs when there are half a dozen people waiting in that checking line with no other alternatives.

I feel like I am being assaulted, on a daily basis, by people inanely talking on their cell phones in public places where they need to basically put them away, and let other people enjoy the public space as well. If you have ever been in a restaurant where someone is yammering on their cell phone nearby, you know

exactly what I am talking about. As a matter of fact, one time my family was subjected to an individual who had decided to demonstrate for their tablemate, at a restaurant over lunch, all of the cell phone ring tones that they had on their new cell phone. These two morons thought it was hilarious, but it was rude and disruptive for everyone else in the restaurant. Unfortunately, the list goes on and on.

Finally, I believe some of the most selfish people, and self absorbed for that matter, are those who are texting while driving. It is not only selfish and stupid, it's incredibly dangerous and puts everyone else on the road at risk. The idea that someone could be seriously injured or killed so that a text could be sent is simply outrageous IMHO, but that, dear readers, is the world we now live in on a daily basis. (Editor's note: IMHO is texting or tweeting shorthand for "in my humble opinion," and was an attempt by the author at humor.)

I sense that our society is starting to change from a place where most people believed in a common good to one in which more and more people feel everything is about them. You see it in popular culture, you see it in the cult of personality that we have on popular websites all over the web, and you find it in people's behavior which seemingly becomes worse and worse by the day. You know it is happening when more and more people start to believe that whatever they want is the only thing that matters. When people no longer believe in the importance of collegiately, kindness, and politeness, then I think we have a serious problem in our society.

So what in the world does all of this have to do with government? Certainly government throughout the ages has had its share of people who were focused on themselves, but that has always been balanced by the fact that MOST in public service are focused on the public service and the stewardship that goes with that for doing the best possible job for their citizens. The problem, I am afraid, is that government, especially at the federal level, is starting to reflect this "me first" attitude, thus leading to various types of gridlock and a reluctance to ever compromise for the greater good.

One only has to look to recent events in Washington, D.C. which demonstrate this unfortunate turn of events. It strikes me that government needs to lead by example. In fact government needs to be the place where civility, decorum, and advocating for the common good is demonstrated and held up as a guiding principal for the rest of society. Unfortunately, selfishness does not lead to good governance. What it leads to is more selfishness, and its ultimate outcome is represented by decision making that only benefits a small group of individuals.

We as governmental leaders need to push back against this disturbing societal trend. We need to start showing in our acts and deeds that the common good is what we are all about. Failure to stop this ever increasing selfish attitude will ultimately lead to a breakdown in the ability to effectively govern. We have the power to change this disturbing trend. Future generations are counting on us to do the right thing.

SAVE THE DATE

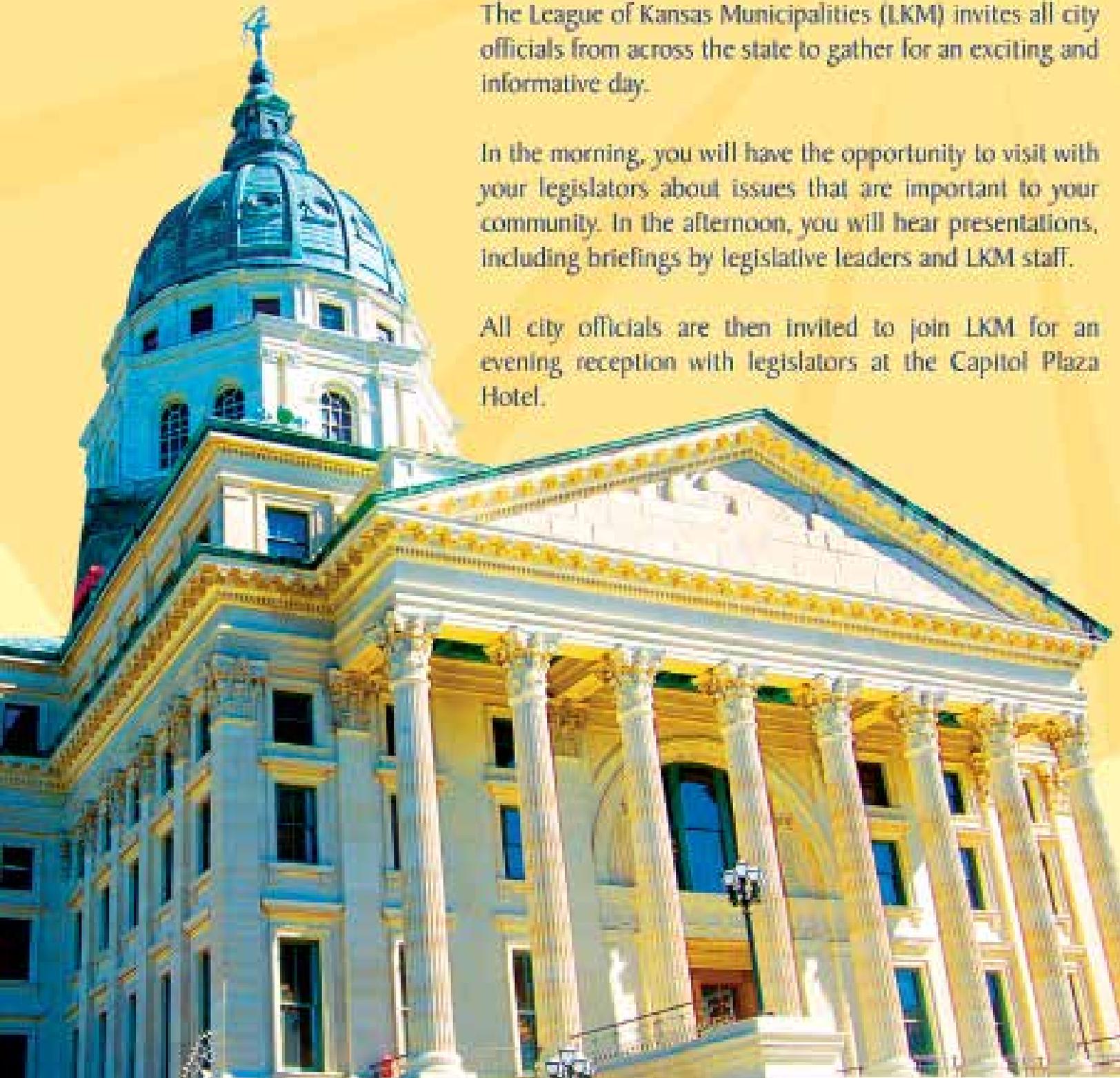
CITY HALL DAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2014

The League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) invites all city officials from across the state to gather for an exciting and informative day.

In the morning, you will have the opportunity to visit with your legislators about issues that are important to your community. In the afternoon, you will hear presentations, including briefings by legislative leaders and LKM staff.

All city officials are then invited to join LKM for an evening reception with legislators at the Capitol Plaza Hotel.



“WHY STUDY
THE STARS?
they all look
THE SAME TO ME.”

{ *Apprentice to
Galileo Galilei, 1636* }

It matters who you listen to.


GILMORE BELL

GILMORE & BELL, P.C.

BOND COUNSEL

