

# Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 98 NUMBER 8

AUGUST 2012

**Inside:**  
Touchstone Management  
Russell Armory Becomes Community Center  
The Yoder Backup Center—A Lifesaver



## Dion Avello

Mayor - City of Derby



“For years, we tried to manage employee benefits ourselves. We hired Hardman & Howell to help us. They provide great advice and saved us money.”

Hardman & Howell Benefits focuses 100 % of their time helping clients manage their employee benefit plans including group insurance, voluntary plans, communication, technology solutions and HR assistance. These solutions have a positive impact for their clients and make a real difference in the lives of the employees. Their success is attributed to their ability to discover the specific and unique challenges of each client.

**Hardman & Howell Benefits ...*There is a difference!***



316.977.9779 | [hhben.com](http://hhben.com)



239



248



251



254

# Contents

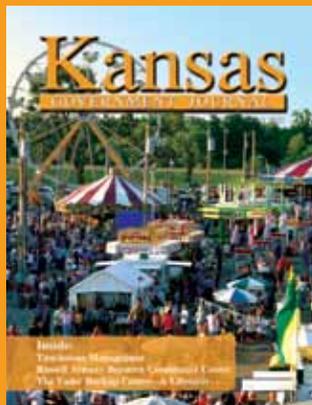
Volume 98 • Number 8 • August 2012

## Features

- 239 Touchstone Management
- 244 A Tree of a Different Color
- 246 Downtown Abilene Looking “Trashy”
- 248 Former Armory Becomes Community Center in Russell
- 251 The Yoder Backup Center—A Lifesaver
- 254 Our Town: Winfield

## Departments

- 237 Mainstreet News
- 238 Legal Forum
- 242 State Scene
- 245 Best Practices
- 253 On the Road
- 257 Classified Advertising
- 259 Professional Services
- 262 Moler’s Musings



About the Cover:  
The annual Cowley County Fair located in the City of Winfield. See related article, beginning on page 254. *Photo provided by the City of Winfield.*

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](http://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

Jim Sherer, Commissioner, Dodge City

### Vice President

Brenda Chance, City Clerk, Phillipsburg

### Immediate Past President

Carl Brewer, Mayor, Wichita

### Past Presidents

Mike Boehm, Mayor, Lenexa

Carl Gerlach, Mayor, Overland Park

Joe Reardon, Mayor, Unified Govt. of Wyandotte County/KCK

### Directors

Herb Bath, Mayor, Altamont

Bill Bunten, Mayor, Topeka

John Deardoff, City Manager, Hutchinson

Donald DeHaven, Mayor, Sedgwick

Joe Denoyer, Vice Mayor, Liberal

Tom Glinstra, City Attorney, Olathe

Daron Hall, City Manager, Pittsburg

Blake Jorgensen, Mayor, Ottawa

John "Tiny" McTaggart, Mayor, Edwardsville

Lynn Peterson, Mayor, Abilene

Terry Somers, Mayor, Mount Hope

Kim Thomas, Mayor, Stockton

### Executive Director

Don Moler, Publisher

## Kansas Government Journal Staff

### Editor in Chief

Kimberly Winn

### Managing Editor

Amanda Schuster

### League Staff

Jay Bachman, Information Services Manager

Larry Baer, Assistant General Counsel

Kate Cooley, Conference/Marketing Coordinator

Anna DeBusk, Secretary to the Executive Director

Deanna Furman, Administrative Assistant

Nikki Harrison, Administrative Assistant

Sandy Jacquot, Director of Law/General Counsel

Michael Koss, Member Services Manager

Jennifer Miller, Administrative Assistant

Don Moler, Executive Director

Don Osenbaugh, Director of Finance & Field Services

Rynae Plue, Accountant

Nicole Proulx Aiken, Staff Attorney

Amanda Schuster, 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.*

© 2012 League of Kansas Municipalities

## September

3 - Labor Day

7 - LKM Governing Body Meeting, Kansas City

7 - MLA: Preparing for Retirement, Webinar

8 - MLA: Preparing for Retirement, Webinar

## October

6-8 LKM Annual Conference, Topeka

7 - LKM Governing Body Meeting, Topeka

7 - KMIT Annual Meeting, Topeka

23 - Regional Supper, Liberal

24 - Regional Supper, WaKeeney

30 - Regional Supper, Kansas City

## November

1 - Regional Supper, Mount Hope

7 - Regional Supper, Neodesha

8 - Regional Supper, Minneapolis

9 - MLA: Sexual Harassment, Webinar

10 - MLA: Sexual Harassment, Webinar

22 - Thanksgiving

## Obituaries

**Byron Gardner "Skip" Larson, 88**, died May 2, 2012. Larson served as a city attorney for Dodge City from 1953 to 1961. He was a member of the Kansas and American Bar Associations, the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel, and the Defense Research Institute.

**Robin D. Leach, 72**, died June 16, 2012, at the University of Kansas Medical Center Cardiac Unit. Leach served in the Kansas Legislature as a State Representative of the 46th and 47th districts from 1976-1988. While he was in the Kansas House, he once testified as a Kansas Representative to the Senate Agriculture Committee in Washington, D.C. He maintained a strong interest in politics his entire adult life.

**Honorable Patrick J. Reardon, 77**, died June 3, 2012. Reardon served as Leavenworth County Attorney from 1971 to 1981, Leavenworth County Counselor from 1985 to 1990, and municipal judge from 1984 to 1990. In addition, Reardon served as a law clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

**Honorable Richard W. Wahl**, died May 21, 2012, at Salina Regional Health Center. Wahl was appointed chief judge of the 12th Judicial District in 1975. Wahl retired in 1989 but continued to sit by appointment, including on the Kansas Court of Appeals a few years before his death.

**Lucetta "Jayne" Tippie Yates, 70**, died June 3, 2012, at Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice in Wichita. Yates formerly served on the Lyons City Council, the Kansas Department of Aging, and enjoyed being involved in the theater in Lyons. She had also worked as a registered nurse for the Hutchinson Medical Center, the Good Samaritan Center, and Dillon's bakery in her early years.



## City of Lawrence Launches New Program

For many University of Kansas students, the college experience includes living in an off-campus house or apartment in a Lawrence neighborhood, often alongside non-student residents and families.

With this in mind, KU has partnered with the City of Lawrence to create the Good Neighbor program, a new initiative to help students understand the responsibilities of living in Lawrence neighborhoods and how to be a good neighbor and community member.

The program kicked off Thursday, August 15, 2012, with 50 volunteers from various KU fraternities canvassing the Oread Neighborhood—roughly defined as the area between Ninth and 17th streets, and between Louisiana and Vermont streets—which each year comprises a large number of KU students. The volunteers

delivered welcome bags filled with information on city ordinances regarding pets, bikes, parking, trash, noise, alcohol, and other topics related to being a good neighbor and community member.

“We want students to understand that they’re not only part of the KU community, but that they’re also part of the larger Lawrence community,” said Tim Caboni, Vice Chancellor for Public Affairs at KU. “

In addition to helping students understand their responsibilities, the program is designed to help students understand their rights and access resources. The Good Neighbor welcome bag and website (<http://www.studentaffairs.ku.edu/goodneighbor/>) includes information on topics such as how to deal with landlords and how to stay safe when living in Lawrence.

## Overland Park Named Kansas Main Street City

The Kansas Department of Commerce announced the selection of Overland Park as the newest Kansas Main Street city, bringing the total number of designated Kansas Main Street cities in the state to 25.

“I congratulate Overland Park on their selection as a designated Kansas Main Street community,” said Pat George, Commerce Secretary. “The community demonstrated both the need and the ability to successfully implement the Main Street philosophy, and the Department of Commerce looks forward to working with all the stakeholders in Overland Park as they focus on economic and community development in their downtown.”

The Department’s Business and Community Development Division administers the Kansas Main Street program. Main Street is a self-help, technical assistance program that targets preservation and revitalization of downtown districts through the development of a comprehensive strategy based on four points: organization,

design, promotion, and economic restructuring. Communities become designated through a competitive application process. Workshops are held each spring for communities interested in seeking Main Street designation.

The Kansas Main Street program is affiliated with the National Main Street Center, a division of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. While there are no federal funds provided directly to Main Street communities, designated cities are eligible for the state-funded Incentives Without Walls (IWW) program. The intent of the IWW program is to create or stimulate private investment in designated Kansas Main Street downtown areas. Overland Park will be eligible for IWW funds.

For more information on the Kansas Main Street program visit <http://ksmainstreet.kansascommerce.com/> or contact Mary M. Helmer, Kansas Main Street state coordinator, at (785) 296-0091 or [mhelmer@kansascommerce.com](mailto:mhelmer@kansascommerce.com).

## Cities Will Share Federal Funds

Projects that will improve intersections and address road deficiencies in 18 cities throughout Kansas will receive fiscal year 2015 funding under the Kansas Department of Transportation’s (KDOT) Geometric Improvement Program.

The State will provide \$10.9 million for the projects, which will be built at an estimated cost of \$15.4 million. The cities will provide matching funds to cover the remainder of the costs.

KDOT received 40 applications requesting \$27 million in funding (for projects totaling \$37 million).

Roads selected for Geometric Improvement funding are part of the state highway system but located within city limits.

Communities selected for the program and the State contribution can be found at [http://www.ksdot.org/PDF\\_Files/GeometricImprovementsAcrossKansas.pdf](http://www.ksdot.org/PDF_Files/GeometricImprovementsAcrossKansas.pdf).

The Geometric Improvement Program is funded under the T-WORKS transportation program, which was passed by the 2010 Legislature. To track these and other T-WORKS projects, visit the T-WORKS website at <http://kdotapp.ksdot.org/TWorks/>.

## Funding for Kansas Projects Announced

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has announced \$5.45 million in 2012 discretionary funding grants for 5 projects in Kansas.

The project to receive the largest funding is in Wyandotte County for the reconstruction of the I-70 and K-7 interchange—a project necessary to reduce traffic congestion, improve access, and support future economic development. Grant funding of \$3.34 million will go toward preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, and construction of the west half of the interchange.

Two projects will go toward supporting the national scenic byways program in the state. Also included is improvements at the Fort Larned National Historic Site and a fitness and school trail in the city of Hiawatha.

The national discretionary program represents special funding categories where the FHWA solicits for candidates and selects projects for funding based on applications received.

A description of the Kansas projects and their funding amounts can be found online at [http://www.ksdot.org/PDF\\_Files/FHWAannouncesgrantfundingforKansas.pdf](http://www.ksdot.org/PDF_Files/FHWAannouncesgrantfundingforKansas.pdf).



## Highway Signs and Solid Waste

### Highway Sign Deadlines Extended or Eliminated

In contrast to the temperature outside, there are not many hot topics in the legal world for municipalities in Kansas right now. There are, however, two recent issues in which city officials should be aware. First, most cities were aware of, and concerned about, the Federal Highway Administration requirement for street sign replacement to meet new federal guidelines. These regulations mandate characteristics such as size, color, design, and retroreflectivity. The retroreflectivity references the amount of light that bounces off of traffic signs making the signs easier to see. This, in turn, reduces the incidence of vehicle crashes due to vehicles leaving the roadway. The retroreflectivity decreases over time as the signs age. The compliance deadlines for most changes have been extended or eliminated as outlined below.

In November of 2010, the Federal Highway Administration issued a notice seeking comments on proposed rules that would require larger lettering, in some cases larger signs, and various other requirements that would have called for the replacement of almost all traffic signs. The proposed changes had numerous associated deadlines. Because of the massive fiscal impact, municipalities complained, both in their comments to the rulemaking and to their congressional delegations. Part of the complaint was that cities should not have to spend money to replace perfectly good signs. The administration heard those complaints and determined that only the most safety critical upgrade deadlines should be maintained. Most other signs will be allowed to be upgraded as signs wear out and need to be replaced. Thus, city officials should check the new deadlines on [http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway\\_dept/night\\_visib/signreg.cfm](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/roadway_dept/night_visib/signreg.cfm).

### Solid Waste Franchising Requirements

Two legislative sessions ago, HB 2195 was passed and signed into law. It is codified in K.S.A. 12-2034 *et seq.*, the “Organized Solid Waste Collection Service Act.” The bill requires certain procedures and waiting periods before cities may franchise solid waste collection. The new law has caused some cities to reassess whether to move forward with their franchise plans, but the biggest concern is that many cities may not be aware of the new law. While this bill was much publicized by the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) during the legislative session and written up in the final legislative summary in the June 2011 *Kansas Government Journal*, it did not get on some cities radar screens, so what follows is a summary reminder of the solid waste franchise requirements.

A little history on the process that led to the procedural requirements may be helpful. For several years, the solid waste industry has come before the Legislature seeking certain concessions for providers. Their complaint was that by franchising solid waste service, cities were putting providers out of business in the city without much notice. Therefore, one of the linchpins of their proposed legislation year after year was that cities should have to pay the haulers for the going concern value of their business for any hauler displaced by a

franchise. LKM fought this provision on an almost yearly basis and, at the end of the 2010 Legislative Session, LKM was told to negotiate with the solid waste industry to see if there was any common ground on the issue. There were indications that some kind of solid waste bill was going to pass. LKM, along with the Kansas Association of Counties, entered into discussions with the industry prior to the 2011 session and agreed to some procedural changes. LKM did not ever agree to a waiting period, which did make it into the new law. That will be discussed below. Despite the length of time it will now take cities to put a solid waste or recycling service in place, there is no requirement to pay going concern value for a provider’s business.

The bottom line is that the days of being able to use a simple procedure to franchise solid waste collection are gone. The first thing cities need to know is the definition of the activity that will bring the city under the act. The definition of organized collection service means, “a system for collecting solid waste, recyclables, or both, including franchise, organized collection, or a process in which a municipality goes from multiple haulers to one single contracted hauler in which a specified collector, or a member of an organization of collectors, is authorized to collect from a defined geographic service area or areas some or all of the solid waste or recyclables that is released by generators.” (K.S.A. 12-2035) Thus, just about any combination of ways to provide solid waste collection service to the citizens which differs from the way it is being done now will require that the city follow the requirements of the statute. That will include adding recycling to the services being offered in the city.

The beginning of the process begins with a resolution of intent to consider the adoption of an organized collection service. At that point, the city gives notice of a public hearing whereby interested parties may comment on the intent to establish the organized collection service. For the next 90 days, the city shall develop a plan to implement the service, also including members of the industry and others interested in the process. Then there is another 30 day notice period before another public hearing on the proposed organized collection service plan. Once the plan is adopted, the service may not begin until the passage of 18 months. If the city does not adopt its plan within one year of the adoption of the resolution of intent, it has to start over from the beginning. Originally, the 18 month period was 2 years, both of which LKM opposed.

The important point to remember from this discussion is that there is a new procedure for providing solid waste service in the city. Whenever a city is thinking of providing for solid waste collection or the collection of recyclables, the city attorney should review the new statutes and make a determination of whether the city must comply with the new statutory requirements and how the city should proceed.

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



# Touchstone Management

by Larry Mullikin

**D**o you have a set of management touchstones? Odds are you do, even though you may not realize it or haven't taken the time to list them. But, you should.

A touchstone is simply a test or criterion for determining the quality or genuineness of an organization, service, or in this case setting forth in very specific terms what you, as a manager, believe in. If someone asked you what your touchstones are, can you describe them with clarity?

The Salina Fire Department has just below 100 members in the organization. Like many organizations in today's world, mounting pressures for increased efficiency in the face of dwindling or stagnate resources is a reality and with the hot Kansas summers, there is no relief in sight. The organization you lead will only benefit if you identify and maintain your focus on what is really important to you as a professional. But, you have to go way beyond that in educating, teaching, and reinforcing your touchstones to the organization or group you lead. As an example, I want to share with you my six management touchstones; yours will probably be different, but you have them nonetheless.

## One: Employees Need to Know the Mission

There are hundreds of thousands of organizations with mission statements. Many of the statements ramble on to the point where nobody remembers what they say nor can they tell you what they are when asked. Without focus—without simplicity—a mission statement is meaningless.

Oddly enough, our mission statement was not written by the fire department. It was written by the citizens we serve. Don't get me wrong. Our department did have a multi-paragraph mission statement that glorified every facet of the fire service—made us look like we were all things to all people. However, when the

department asked the citizens through customer surveys what they thought and valued, they consistently responded with one to four items—some times all four. The citizens valued the fact that we:

- Responded quickly
- Performed professionally
- Saved lives and property
- Were caring and compassionate to all

That is our mission statement today; those four items to which we added a fifth stating that, "Everybody goes home." I would challenge anyone to walk into any of our fire stations and ask any of our firefighters what the mission is and be met with a blank stare—they all know the mission statement. Further, they are expected to execute it in every contact we have with our community. The firefighters also have the latitude to go further and deliver exceptional care without asking permission from anyone.

In one instance, we had a medical shift supervisor who responded to a diabetic patient that had no food to balance his insulin—and no money to boot. The medical officer personally went to the food bank and got two bags of groceries and delivered it to the patient. First, the act delivered exceptional customer service and fulfilled the mission statement on several levels. Second, it kept the department from having to repeatedly go back to the residence for the same situation.

## Two: Knowing Workplace Principles are Important

The workplace principles for Salina's department began to take shape in a strategic plan in 2008 and were reinforced by the City Manager when he distributed them as a challenge to all City departments. They are establishing:

- Clear ethical and cultural standards;
- Performance oriented environment;

- Implementation capability;
- Open multi-dimensional communications;
- Empower those who execute;
- Build capability in the workforce; and
- Build capacity in the workforce.

Let's diverge for a minute and address cultural standards. I have seen many newly appointed leaders announce that they were going to "change the culture" of their organization. In reality they don't get very far. Why? The reason is they do not understand what makes up a culture and how to subtly change it. Drastic changes rarely, if ever, work.

Sociologists have identified dozens of characteristics that are part of a culture. Of those they have identified, I think these are most important.

- Signs and Symbols
- Unique Language
- Ethical and/or Cultural Standards
- Rites and Rituals
- Myths, Legends, and Heroes
- Norms of Behavior (formal and informal)

Believe it or not you have every one of these in your organization, group, or club. If you want an eye opening experience, find out who the organization remembers in mythic proportions, legendary tales, and is seen as a hero for today and tomorrow.

If that person is someone who showed up for work everyday for 30 years, executed exceptional work, treated others kindly, and taught everyone everything he knew, then I would say you have a pretty solid foundation. On the other hand, if the person was always a stumbling block to every change initiative, cast supervisors above and subordinates below as less than intelligent, and departed in some wild crazy manner—if this is who the rank and file see as a legend and hero, your organization will never progress beyond the bickering. If this is the case, you have to help them create new heroes through rites and rituals—through new norms of behavior and fair treatment—and through a renewed emphasis on ethical and cultural standards.

### Three: Employees Want to Know the "Boss"

Everyone wants to know who they are working for. There is nothing that I do, read, participate in, or show interest in that the firefighters don't pick up on. More importantly, they want to know who I am in a genuine sense. They want to know what I value, what is important, and how I view the world around us.

One of the ways I try and accomplish this is to author and distribute a simple one page *Keys to Leadership* that is emailed to every firefighter. It gives me a chance to step out of my formal role and just talk about what I observe as really good leadership inside the organization and without. I will also touch on personal items and challenges I face that I think they can learn from. In that way, they know what I value and how I will approach various subjects.

Also, I meet with all the firefighters about every five weeks in a group setting. I have always told them that short of questioning my heritage, they can ask me any question on any subject they would like. They may not like the answer, but they gain an understanding of why and how a certain decision or action was arrived at. But, I have to emphasize that you have to be thick skinned to make this work; that is, if you want complete honesty. Sadly, some supervisors and managers don't—it is to their detriment.



If you're not doing something along this line, you are making a big mistake on the impact you can have on your organizations culture and performance. But make no mistake, if you say one thing and do another—let me say that you won't be the first boss who was vilified by the organization for a lack of integrity and ethics.

### Four: Employees Want to Be Part of Something "Big"

I will tell groups that the worst thing an organization or supervisor can do is make someone feel small in the job or task they perform. We have no small jobs in the fire service. All of the jobs are big and important. From the day new recruits walk in the door, they are told they are being given the opportunity to execute the most important job we have as firefighters—they are part of something big.

Every person is vital to the success of any organization, group, or family for that matter. Honestly, in today's world you just can't afford a supervisor that makes people feel small. I have come to realize that this behavior becomes self-perpetuating in the way that the abused becomes the abuser. We teach people how to be successful. If the employee sees a "belittler" as a successful supervisor, they are more than likely to adopt that attitude and behavior when they become a supervisor.

### Five: Supervisors Need to Know Critical Skills to Succeed

Do you know the critical skills your employees and supervisors need to have to be successful? Here is a really short list of three:

- Know the five characteristics of functional teams.
- Know how to build and reach consensus by addressing two items.
- Know the five steps of how to create change.



These three items would take too much space to do them justice in this article. Suffice to say, that all three would apply to your organization or group regardless of whether it provides a service, builds a product, or has a support role in the community.

It's important to know that firefighters are part of a team from their very first day on the job. They are exposed to all of the five characteristics of functional teams almost on a subliminal level.

The five characteristics are: (1) Trust among team members, (2) productive and constructive conflict, (3) commitment of team members to the goal, (4) individual accountability to the team, and (5) clear focus on goal attainment. Lacking any one of these can spell disaster for a team effort. Because your employees may not have significant team experience, you have to build these characteristics within them and help them move forward and be successful.

### Six: Allow Employees to "Self Select" Themselves Out of Advancement

Your business or organization may be different from the fire service, but I doubt it. We have a rules and regulation book two inches thick and just about every rule was written for one or two people—because they did the wrong thing or exhibited bad behavior or judgment. As people in the organization rise to strategic positions, all they ever did was not break any rules that applied to them. When they reach that strategic position where most of the rules fall away—all of a sudden the train leaves the tracks and they get embroiled in an abuse of trust, loyalty, power, integrity, or any one of a number of things we read about in the paper. They had these weaknesses within them; we just never allowed them to show us.

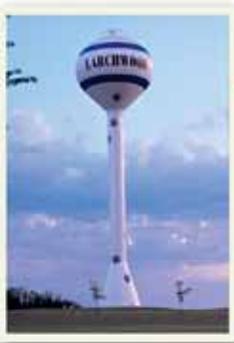
By "empowering those who execute," it doesn't take long for them to tell you what they are best suited for and when that climb up the ladder of success should come to an abrupt end. By writing processes so strictly that no one can do anything without advanced permission, you lose the ability to spontaneously resolve issues or increase the capacity of the organization by those who are in the best position to do so.

So, there you have it—those are my six touchstones that I repeatedly front to my organization. The firefighters hear and see them time and again. It just has to be that way to ingrain it in the organization and effect a cultural change.

☀️ *Larry Mullikin is the Fire Chief for the Salina Fire Department. He can be reached at [larry.mullikin@salina.org](mailto:larry.mullikin@salina.org).*

## From the Ground Up!

**Building and maintaining** great tanks, that's what Maguire Iron has been doing since 1915.  
We are now in 30 states so let us do it for you too from the ground up!



**We *designed* it. We *fabricated* it. We *erected* it. We *Painted* it. We *maintain* it.**



**Maguire Iron, Inc.**  
*Towering above the rest*



NOW IN  
**30**  
STATES

P.O. Box 1446 Sioux Falls, SD 57101 605 334-9749  
[www.MaguireIron.com](http://www.MaguireIron.com)



## Hospital Receives Remarkable Designation

Governor Sam Brownback and Lieutenant Governor Jeff Colyer offered their congratulations to The University of Kansas Cancer Center and all those involved in attaining recognition as a cancer center by the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

“NCI designation has been a key initiative for our state and my administration, primarily because it ensures that our citizens are receiving the best possible care without having to leave the state. We are also excited about the economic growth, jobs, and investments it brings to multiple sectors of our region. When the KU Medical Center improves, the positive effects it has on the community and the state are immeasurable,” said Governor Brownback.

A surgeon, Dr. Colyer practices at the University of Kansas Hospital and Medical Center.

“The drive for NCI designation has been a priority for the state for many years. As a doctor, I know firsthand how these efforts have given many people great hope for better cures and treatments for cancer,” Dr. Colyer said. “Governor Brownback and I know that the best is yet to come.”

The University has estimated that the NCI effort has created more than 1,100 jobs and contributed more than \$450 million to the state’s economy.

## Free Tuition Offered

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback encourages high school students to take advantage of free tuition offered through the state’s new Career and Technical Education Act. On July 26, 2012, Brownback unveiled a list of high-need occupations that are eligible for the incentive program passed by the 2012 Kansas Legislature.

“When a high school student earns a technical certificate in a high-need occupation, everybody wins,” Brownback said. “That student will be equipped with the skills necessary to enter the workforce or help pay their way through college—without paying a penny in tuition. The positive impact is felt by the student, the

high school, the technical or community college, the industry hiring the skilled student and the state’s economy.”

Beginning in the 2012-2013 school year, Kansas high school students can get their tuition paid for if they take qualified technical courses offered at Kansas technical and community colleges. The incentive program also will give school districts \$1,000 for each high school student who graduates from that district with an industry-recognized credential in a high-need occupation.

For a list of eligible occupations for the tuition assistance and incentive program, visit <http://www.kansascommerce.com/civicalerts.aspx?AID=614>.

## Southeast Kansas Receives Grant

An initiative to spur investment, economic development, and job growth in a 17-county region in southeast Kansas has received a \$715,000 matching federal grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development and U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. This funding is in addition to \$1 million worth of leadership training for the initiative from the Kansas Leadership Center that was previously announced in March.

The “Together We Succeed: Southeast Kansas Economic Improvement Initiative”—more commonly called Project 17—will be managed by southeast Kansas stakeholders and in cooperation with Kansas State University’s Advanced Manufacturing Institute (AMI) and the Kansas Department of Commerce.

The goal of Project 17 is to create and sustain well-paid jobs in advanced manufacturing and other sectors in southeast Kansas. The initiative will involve local stakeholders throughout the region, who will develop a strategic plan that identifies opportunities for

investment and economic development assets in the region and then will link those opportunities and assets to businesses and other resources in the area.

The counties involved in Project 17 are Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Coffey, Crawford, Elk, Franklin, Greenwood, Labette, Linn, Miami, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson, and Woodson.

“I’m extremely excited about this news and commitment of funding,” said Yvonne Hull, Executive Director of the Coffeyville Area Chamber of Commerce and President of Southeast Kansas Inc. “For many years, Southeast Kansas has been the weakest link in the state, and the Project 17 initiative is a real, major effort to make this region the strongest link in the state.”

USDA announced there were 62 applicants nationally for Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge grant funding, and 13 projects were picked. For more information about Project 17, go to [www.twsproject17.org](http://www.twsproject17.org).

## KAB Award Applications Open

Keep America Beautiful is now accepting applications for the 2012 National Awards Program.

Annually, Keep America Beautiful recognizes and rewards the best of the best among affiliates, leading corporate partners, and volunteers across the country in a variety of different awards and honors. They look for organizations and individuals whose commitment to community improvement deliver more beautiful, cleaner, and improved neighborhoods, and public spaces.

The deadline to enter the awards program is October 1, 2012. Awards descriptions and applications can be found online at [www.kab.org/awards](http://www.kab.org/awards).

Award winners will be honored at Keep America Beautiful’s 60th Anniversary National Conference in Washington, D.C. on January 29, 2013, during the National Awards Ceremony.



LKM

## GROWING STRONG CITIES

**2012 Annual Conference • Topeka, KS • October 6-8**

REGISTRATION IS NOW AVAILABLE  
ONLINE AT [WWW.LKM.ORG](http://WWW.LKM.ORG)

# A Tree of a Different Color

by Sheena Schmutz



*Transformation of the painted elm tree from start to finish. Photos by Bill Houk.*

**L**iberal is a thriving community nestled in the southwest corner of Kansas along U.S. Highways 83 and 54. Most people know Liberal as the home of Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz and host of the annual International Pancake Day Race. While these are the most notorious and iconic symbols of the community, there is far more to Liberal than you might imagine. Liberal is located in the heart of the Midwest with a warm and welcoming atmosphere that visitors expect in the heartland. Visitors are greeted as they enter the home of Dorothy by welcoming flags inviting them into the community and reminding them that there is no place like home. Over the years, Liberal has transformed into a community with pride that exuberates family fun through many attractions such as the refreshing water park, exquisite baseball complex, and premiere outdoor parks.

A staple of pride, the City of Liberal boasts 9 parks scattered throughout its 85 acres. The City parks draw crowds every day of the week for family recreation and relaxation, especially in the cool evening hours. In the parks, visitors are seen playing tennis, shooting hoops, or kicking around soccer balls while enjoying the beautiful and tranquil environment. One specific park, Blue Bonnet Park, is home to the Recreation Center and the hub of many public activities. A sprawling playground area, walking paths, soccer fields, and exercise equipment scatter the beautiful landscape of grass and blooming trees. With these features, you can easily see why Blue Bonnet Park is a focal point of the community. Even with all the activity in the park, it is hard not to notice a bright new addition to the canopy of elm trees.

One tree fell victim to harsh winter elements, but just before the tree was cut down to make way for new trees, a creative idea was

brewing in the mind of Bill Houk, Director of Parks for the City of Liberal. He was looking for inspiration for different ways to make the landscape more interesting and appealing in the already beautiful Blue Bonnet Park when he read a story about a Colorado artist that uses dead trees as a painting medium to re-energize the landscape with various colors. With this inspiration, Houk decided to paint the dead tree rather than cut it down. Houk, along with Jordan Mangold, Beautification Supervisor for the City of Liberal, spearheaded a tree painting project with vibrant colors and pizzazz.

City staff took safety into consideration before painting the dead elm tree and cut smaller branches to reveal the inner beauty of the dead tree. Employees of the Parks Department gathered paintbrushes and loaded them with vivacious hues of green, yellow, blue, and red to create a one-of-a-kind piece of artwork that has grabbed the attention of the entire community. Employees have taken great pride in their creation and have been applauded for making what would normally be considered an eye sore into a fun, welcoming, and tangible piece of art. “Wow,” “it’s so unique,” and “beautiful” are just some of the descriptions the citizens of Liberal have used to describe the vibrant transformed tree.

Employees do not consider themselves artists but believe they created another reason to visit “our town” by doing something different. So if you are looking for something out of the ordinary, we cordially invite you to visit Liberal to see our “tree of a different color.”

☀️ *Sheena Schmutz is the Director of Human Resources for the City of Liberal. She can be reached at [sheena.schmutz@cityofliberal.org](mailto:sheena.schmutz@cityofliberal.org) or (620) 626-2240.*



## Encouraging Homeownership

There's a lot of meaning attached to buying a home. Some say it's part of the pursuit of the American dream, or that it signals the moment one reaches the middle class. For some it's a place to raise their family, and for others it's a source of equity. But whatever homeownership means to you, for many it's becoming a more and more distant dream. Homeownership rates in America are at their lowest levels in 15 years. In Kansas, it's at its lowest level in 60 years.<sup>1</sup> A major contributor to this trend is that millennials, who have been most affected by the poor economy and are burdened by trillions of dollars of student loan debt, are finding it difficult to take on home mortgages. And although "Generation Rent" is receiving most of the publicity for the downturn in homeownership, each state has its own unique contributing factors.

In Kansas, an oil boom in the south central part of the state has increased the demand for rental units so much that even low-quality housing is being leased for \$2,000 per month.<sup>2</sup> Because area homeowners can often make more than \$20,000 per year renting their properties, many have replaced the "For Sale" sign with a listing on Craigslist. Another region facing housing issues is southwest Kansas. Due to a shortage of lot availability, skyrocketing land values, and high infrastructure costs, several cities there have declared a housing crisis.<sup>3</sup>

Decreased homeownership has hurt local communities. Rolf Pendall, a housing expert at the Urban Institute, says that local officials will "absolutely have a problem for [their] long-term commitments, [their] long-term budgets."<sup>4</sup> Homeownership also affects the quality of life within a community. Research has shown that when more people own homes in a city, it causes increased civic participation, higher educational attainment, lower crime, and healthier and happier residents.<sup>5</sup> For all of these reasons, communities want to increase homeownership and eliminate housing shortages, and many Kansas cities are using incentives to do just that.

One of the most popular tools cities use to encourage new homes is reduced building permit fees. In Baldwin City and Kechi, the cities give a 50% discount on their permits to anyone who builds a new residence within city limits. Tonganoxie gives a \$3,000 rebate for the permit fee for any new home costing over \$185,000 to build, and De Soto waives the building permit fee entirely.

Another important incentive available to cities is property tax rebates. For example, in Augusta and El Dorado the cities provide a 95% tax rebate for 5-10 years for new construction on vacant lots as part of the Neighborhood Revitalization Act. Bonner Springs, Rose Hill, and many other communities provide similar rebates as part of their Neighborhood Revitalization Plans. These plans were made possible by the Neighborhood Revitalization Act, which authorizes any municipality to designate neighborhood revitalization areas and to provide rebates to taxpayers for increases in property taxes resulting from construction or improvements to properties in those

areas. Some cities also offer to prepay special assessments in certain areas.

Some cities offer less conventional incentives to encourage residents to build new homes. In Wellington, the City will pay \$1,750 toward the closing costs of new homes. Upon completion of any house built on an existing lot, the City of Moundridge provides a \$6,000 "housing grant." Wellington and Moundridge also help pay for utilities. Bel Aire may offer the most generous utility credits, providing free water and sewer for up to six months on new homes. The City offers other non-financial rewards too, including a free family membership to the Bel Aire Recreation Center.

One city outside of Kansas is considering using housing incentives to target those least willing to buy homes. Niagara Falls, New York is discussing implementing the Downtown Housing Incentive Program. This program would offer \$3,500 per year for up to two years to college-aged individuals who buy homes within a designated area. Members of the board for the Niagara Falls Urban Renewal Agency have already approved funding for the project. Community Development Director Seth Piccirillo says the goal is to breathe new life into one section of the city in hopes that incremental improvements in the overall quality of the neighborhood will follow.<sup>6</sup>

Cities can also work with businesses and colleges to increase homeownership. The Detroit Medical Center offers up to \$20,000 over a 5-year period to employees who purchase a condo or home nearby as long as the employee maintains their employment. Similarly, Yale offers up to \$35,000 over 10 years to full-time employees who buy a home within the university's home city of New Haven, Connecticut. These arrangements create a commitment not just to the city, but also to the employer, which benefits both parties. By entering into partnerships with businesses and colleges, cities can create another tool to encourage residents to buy homes.

Homeownership in America may have become more difficult, but many communities have recognized its importance and are using incentives to encourage its practice. By implementing these programs, your city too can make life easier for those who want to own their own home.

☀ *Michael Koss is the Membership Services Manager for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at [mkoss@lkm.org](mailto:mkoss@lkm.org) or (785) 354-9565.*

<sup>1</sup><https://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/census/historic/ownerchar.html>

<sup>2</sup><http://money.cnn.com/2012/05/23/pf/america-boomtown-kansas/index.htm>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.gctelegram.com/progress/Progress-Housing-3-31-12>

<sup>4</sup>[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/08/millennials-chose-rent-over-mortgages\\_n\\_1582420.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/08/millennials-chose-rent-over-mortgages_n_1582420.html)

<sup>5</sup><http://economistsoutlook.blogs.realtor.org/2012/03/27/social-benefits-of-homeownership-and-stable-housing/>

<sup>6</sup>[http://www.planning.org/news/daily/story.htm?story\\_id=175563771](http://www.planning.org/news/daily/story.htm?story_id=175563771)

# Downtown Abilene Looking “TRASHY”



Downtown Abilene has gotten very “trashy” recently.

A lot of folks have taken notice, and that’s a good thing.

Thanks to a joint effort by the Arts Council, the Community Foundation of Dickinson County, and Abilene art students, the City’s 22 trash can receptacles have been recently decorated and painted.

The project got started when Denise Blehm, Director of the Arts Council of Dickinson County, was sitting in her car downtown waiting on her son. She noticed a white trash can.

“While the trash can appeared clean, it was quite unattractive,” Blehm said. “I thought this would be a wonderful project for youth, and also spruce up the downtown area.”

She went to her board of directors who contacted the Community Foundation of Dickinson County and President Kristine Meyer and funds were established.

“The project was approved for funding and now we have fabulous downtown trash cans,” Blehm said.

After the funds were approved, the next step was to contact Toni Britt, the high school art teacher who is also a member of the Arts Council.

“They said, ‘Do you think your kids would want to do this?’ So, I said, ‘Yeah. I think we could probably do it.’ It turned out to be a lot of cans,” Britt said.

“We thought it was going to be fun,” said Breckyn Dunlap. “When we started we thought ‘Oh. This is going to be so cool.’ But toward the end it was like, ‘Get it done.’”

“It was very stressful,” said Mikiah Dykes. “It was finals week and we were coming in on our own time to finish them up.”

“They were coming in and out all day long and all evening,” Britt said.

Before the project started however, the art students had to present designs. Dunlap drew up the original designs with Kansas themes like Eisenhower, buffalo, sunflowers, and meadowlarks. Most center around these four themes but there are three special trash can with unique Kansas themes of their own.

“We did it in two weeks,” Britt said. “We had to submit the designs and then there was a little bit of down time. They originally submitted six cans and then I called and said we really need to have them all at once. We had them outside and it was too windy, too hot, too cold.”

“When the cans were outside everyone was getting frustrated,” Dykes said. “We put trash bags underneath them and the bags kept blowing up onto the paint and messed everything up. We had to keep repainting them.”

“Yeah,” Britt added. “They have a lot of coats.”

“When we first started we couldn’t get very far,” Dunlap said. “It was like, will we ever see the final result?”

The solution? Move all the cans into the high school art room, which naturally made the room smell like a trash can.

“They had spiders in them, and gum!” Dunlap said.

Abilene art students took part in designing and painting trash can covers in downtown Abilene. Some of the students include (back row, left to right) Alyshia Anguiano, Stacy Hanson, Keanna Sager, and Samantha Hinkle. (Front) Mikiah Dykes and Breckyn Dunlap. Photo by Tim Horan.



As the 22 trash covers filled the art room, other students were surprised there were even trash cans downtown.

"People would walk in and ask where have these been around town because nobody has seen them," Dykes said.

"There are NOT trash cans downtown?" Samantha Hinkle said was a common comment.

Twenty-two high school students and Alicia Anguiano, who was home from college, started on the project. Some students did a whole can, some painted just one side.



"We had one kid that all he did was make sure they were all primed correctly," Britt said.

All of the cans are painted in Latex house paint, which is supposed to handle the weather better.

Students would text Britt that they found their trash can. They have been driving around looking.

The city actually has a map of where all the trash cans are located. The map can be found at [http://matchbin-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/public/sites/1045/assets/H787\\_080620121339166297.jpg](http://matchbin-assets.s3.amazonaws.com/public/sites/1045/assets/H787_080620121339166297.jpg). Britt said she often receives text message from students saying, "I found my trash can."

Students that worked on the project include: Mikiah Shouse, Breckyn Dunlap, Chelsea Keller, Jeremy Smith, Emily Smith, Brittany Jamison, Samantha Hinkle, Katelyn Barrett, Katie Howie, Rachell Dick, Alyshia Anguiano, Alexis Wilson, Keanna Sager, Shelby Parks, Stacy Hanson, Holley Potter, Jennifer Hagedorn, Jessica Woofert, Kara Gale, Maddie Mulanax, Krista Reynoso, Kaylea Nelson, Brittany Akers, Garret Sprouse helped prime the trash cans and did touch ups, Slayde Markley brought the majority of the trash cans to the high school, and Cole Jaderborg helped deliver the cans.

 *Tim Horan is a Sports Editor for the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle. This article was reprinted with permission from the online edition of the Abilene Reflector-Chronicle at [http://www.abilene-rc.com/view/full\\_story/18922050/article-Downtown-Abilene-looking--trashy-?instance=main\\_article](http://www.abilene-rc.com/view/full_story/18922050/article-Downtown-Abilene-looking--trashy-?instance=main_article).*



**America's Tank Maintenance Company!™**

**Utility Service is the premier provider of professional water tank services:**

- Maintains thousands of potable water tanks under full service asset management programs
- Delivers true sustainable solutions and peace of mind
- Provides site management services for antennas on existing and new tanks

**A water quality management tool...**

- Minimize organics
- Stabilize disinfectant residuals
- Eliminate thermal water stratification
- Maximize filter media efficiency



Call your local Utility Service Representative today...

**Tom Stechmann • 314.420.4912**  
**tstechmann@utilityservice.com**  
**Liberty, MO**

[www.utilityservice.com](http://www.utilityservice.com)

*Russell Recreation Commission offers several classes and exercise programs at the new Recreation Center. Yoga instructor Bethel Stuart is silhouetted against a large window that overlooks the Russell Memorial Golf Course to the east. Photo by Mike Blanke.*



# Former Armory Becomes Community Center In Russell

by Ralph Wise



*The former National Guard armory in Russell was closed in 2010. The City of Russell and Russell Recreation Commission worked together to transform the facility into a community recreation center. Photo by Ralph Wise.*

*Russell Mayor Carol Dawson (center) receives the last folded American flag from Major General Tod Bunting during the closing ceremony of the National Guard Armory in Russell on March 30, 2010. Also pictured is Captain Peter Euler. Photo by Hays Daily News.*



Now the City was getting back the land and a building that had recently been remodeled with new windows, a new kitchen, and restrooms.

Mayor Carol Dawson appointed a committee to look at the former armory and come up with a recommendation on how best to use the building. “We want to make sure we get this right and put the building to good use,” Mayor Dawson said at the time.

But first, the City wanted to take the time to have a closing ceremony, to remember and honor the soldiers who had been trained there since the building was erected in 1956.

A closing ceremony was held on the morning of March 30, 2010 and about 75 people attended as Major General Tod Bunting presented the last American flag flown over the Armory to Mayor Dawson for the City to keep.

That ceremony had been delayed a week to allow for one of Russell’s own, Staff Sergeant Dan Bender, to attend. Bender, a city street department employee, had recently returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan. He and the other soldiers who attended received a standing ovation for their service.

“You [Russell] have produced some of the best soldiers around. We will always be indebted to you for that,” Major General Tod Bunting said to the crowd that day. “Just remember, even though we might not have an armory here in Russell, we are always a phone call away,” he said, referring to the role the Guard plays in the event of a natural disaster.

Following the ceremony, the task force began its work. The Committee included Councilmembers Mick Allen and Blaine Stoppel, City Manager Ralph Wise, Parks Superintendent Rich Krause, and Public Works Director Arlyn Unrein. The group researched what uses other cities had found for their former armories and heard ideas from the public on what this building would best be suited for.

The Committee discovered that other cities had found a wide variety of uses for buildings once used as armories including use by schools, a city hall, and a community recreation center.

Ironically, three months before the announced closing, Russell City Council had approved partnering with the Russell Recreation Commission on a recreation study conducted by Bartlett & West.

Budgeting for maintaining the former armory began right away. The City of Russell added the armory as a separate department within the general fund for the 2011 budget as the Committee completed their work and the recreation study was finalized in late 2010.

That study, which included a survey of community residents, found that 60% of those surveyed supported the concept of a community recreation center and nearly two-thirds were in favor of helping to fund such a facility.

The Russell Recreation Commission has been in existence for more than 40 years and has a long track record of running successful recreation programs, utilizing the City outdoor facilities as well as some USD 407 facilities.

**T**he City of Russell was one of 18 cities that received some disappointing news 2 weeks before Christmas in 2009. The Adjutant General’s office announced that 18 National Guard armories, including the one in Russell, would close to save operating costs for the state.

Instead of bemoaning the fact the City was losing a long-held community asset, city leaders went to work in determining what the best use should be for the 13,655 sq. ft. facility.

When the City had donated the two acres of land to the Kansas Military Board in 1955, there was a reversionary clause stating the property would revert back to the City in the event it was no longer used as an armory.

The closing of the armory represented an estimated loss of \$250,000 a year in economic impact. Located across the street from the county 4-H building, the building was used by the Russell County Free Fair as a merchants building.



*Above: Russell Recreation Director Mike Blanke assists Russell resident Rich Reynolds on how to operate the new exercise equipment in the Recreation Center. Photo by Ralph Wise.*

*Below: Erica Cline, a dispatcher for the City of Russell 911 Department, prepares for a workout on her day off at the Russell Recreation Center. Photo by Mike Blanke.*

But their offices were in the basement of City Hall and maintaining their own building with offices, classrooms, and a basketball court had not been part of their responsibilities.

The five-member Commission had hired a new director in April 2010, Mike Blanke, a long-time local educator and coach. He and the board began to study how to utilize a building of this size and how it could be maintained. There were many issues that needed to be addressed, including which items the City of Russell would be responsible for, and which items the Russell Recreation Commission would pay for and maintain.

After a number of meetings between City representatives and the Recreation Commission members, a 10-year agreement was finalized by the two sides and approved by the Recreation Board and the City Council.

On September 1, 2011, the Recreation Commission moved its office from the City Hall basement out to the former armory. The move allowed the Board a chance to start gradually offering recreation programs such as after school art, Zumba, Tae Kwon Do, and Red Cross classes while the extensive remodeling began.

Plans called for the City to install a new heating and air conditioning system in the north bay where vehicles had been stored by the National Guard. The two bay doors were removed and replaced with retail-style glass windows. Brick accents were placed around the door areas to match the original brick work on the 55-year old structure.

Jones Gillam & Renz of Salina were the architects on the remodeling project. The company was very familiar with the building as they had done the previous rehabilitation for the Adjutant General's office. The estimated \$100,000 project ended up being done by Coal Creek Construction of Auburn for slightly more than \$80,000.

The north bay area was repainted and ready for the fitness center and exercise area. The new glass window allows patrons to look out over the beautiful Municipal Golf Course.

Russell Recreation Commission then went to work to have the entire main area repainted to match the north vehicle bay area. A new rubber safe floor was put down over the entire area at a cost of \$38,000. Blanke said the Board also approved spending another \$12,000 in a heavy vinyl covering that can be placed over the rubber floor to protect it when the building is used by the Russell County Free Fair and for an occasional auction or other public purpose.

The Recreation Board then invested another \$75,000 in cardio exercise equipment and \$24,000 in strength equipment. Much of that equipment was paid for by private donations, which have currently totaled more than \$85,000. That recreation study, showing the public's willingness to support a community center, has been validated.

The final touches include a \$15,000 security and card-reading entry system to allow the facility to be open longer hours without the additional burden of having paid staff there throughout the early morning to late evening. There is a 24-hour drop box at the front of the building to allow residents to sign up for one of 32 programs now offered by the Recreation Commission.

A "soft" opening was held on August 4, 2012, where community residents began signing up for monthly memberships to use the new facility. More than 70 memberships were sold within the first week.

A more formal opening for the facility is planned for later this year.

☀️ *Ralph Wise is the City Manager for the City of Russell. He can be reached at [rwise@russellcity.org](mailto:rwise@russellcity.org). Some material attributed from the Russell County News and Hays Daily News.*

# The Yoder Backup Center—A Lifesaver



*The Yoder Backup Center at Hutchinson Community College's campus near Yoder, played a key role for the City of Greensburg when a tornado struck the City in May, 2007. The Center took the City's calls for three days after the EF5 tornado hit. Photo courtesy of Greg Henshall / FEMA.*

by Michael Koss

Public safety is one of the most important functions of government. One group that is essential to that safety is emergency dispatchers, who are always available to respond if we face a crisis. Because of the rural nature of our state, responding to these situations can sometimes be logistically difficult, but leaders at the state and local level have made sure that when a Kansan needs help, they have someone to turn to. The Yoder Backup Center, a 911 facility in south central Kansas, is proof of that continued commitment.

To fully appreciate the importance of the Center, one first needs to understand our current emergency communications system. If someone experiencing an emergency calls 911 on a landline or cell phone, information about the caller's location is processed by Automatic Location Information (ALI) or radiolocation database. That information is then sent along with the call itself to a local facility called a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), which then passes on the relevant information to nearby 911 personnel who are equipped to respond to the emergency.

Located at the South College Campus of Hutchinson Community College, the Yoder Backup Center's goal is to enhance these emergency services for the 815,081 Kansans in the South Central Region of the state. The project accomplishes this by backing up all services for the existing PSAP facilities and improving training for the Region's 911 operators.

The reason back-up centers exist is because emergency communication systems need to continue operating even if personnel at the primary PSAP must evacuate the facility or their

phone system shuts down. In a state known for its tornadoes, having a fully functioning emergency communications network during disasters is essential, and endangered citizens can't afford to lose that resource when their local PSAP facility is evacuated or having technical difficulties. The Yoder Backup Center serves as a backup to all 24 of the PSAP's in the South Central Region. Without it, these PSAP's would be backed up by variety of facilities utilizing conventional phone lines. If 911 communications relied on these conventional lines and the primary PSAP ceased operating, 911 operators would lose enhanced services critical to determining the caller's location, and could also lose telecommunications device for the disabled (TDD) functionality.

The Center has already played an important role during some of our state's worst disasters. After the Greensburg tornado, staff at the Center realized calls from the city were not being delivered, so they decided to activate on Greensburg's behalf and took the city's calls for three days. Most of the calls were officers in need of assistance and support, but there were also numerous outside calls from individuals trying to find family members. In April of 2012, when a tornado came through Rice County and hit the county's dispatch facility, the Center took calls on their behalf. The Center staffed itself with dispatchers from Hutchinson/Reno County, Pratt, and Great Bend, and handled calls for Rice County until they were able to get their own facility running again.

The Center is also increasing the quality of 911 training in Kansas. Because Yoder is centrally located in the South Central Region, the backup center has allowed personnel from throughout



*The Yoder Backup Center assisted Rice County with all of their 911 calls until the County's Law Enforcement Center was back up and running after a tornado hit St. John in April, 2012. Photo provided by The Hutchinson News.*

the region to train on the backup equipment and become familiar with its use. Training officers have also been available for on-going training of dispatch personnel, focusing on call-taking procedures, use of the equipment in locating wireless 911 calls, and use of the integrated TDD. The Center has also given Hutchinson Community College access to their equipment so the college can use it in their dispatch accreditation course.

The Yoder Backup Center is a critical safety net for the PSAP's in the South Central Region, and has been an important training resource for Kansas 911 operators. This collaborative effort of the region's 911 centers to include training and the creation of backup support of 911 is unprecedented in the State of Kansas and perhaps in the United States. The project is currently trying to secure funding so it can continue these services. When it does, south central Kansans

will be able to sleep a little easier at night, knowing they can continue to count on a top quality communication system to respond to their emergencies.

*The Department of Homeland Security South Central Regional Council is comprised of 19 counties- Barber, Barton, Butler, Cowley, Comanche, Edwards, Harper, Harvey, Kingman, Kiowa, Marion, McPherson, Pawnee, Pratt, Reno, Rice, Sedgwick, Stafford, and Sumner. For more information on the Yoder Backup Center, please contact Michele Abbott, KCEM, Director of Hutchinson Reno County Emergency Communications, at [michele.abbott@renolec.com](mailto:michele.abbott@renolec.com).*

☀️ *Michael Koss is the Membership Services Manager for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at [mkoss@lkm.org](mailto:mkoss@lkm.org) or (785) 354-9565.*

# Bartlett & West & YOU

**At Bartlett & West, you are our priority. When your needs grow, we grow to meet that demand. By creating cost-effective design, adding new technology and providing innovative services, we become more than your engineering firm - we become your solution.**

**From start to finish...it's Bartlett & West and you.**

### Public Works Services

- Right-of-way and legal descriptions
- GIS development and implementation
- Wastewater collection and treatment
- Traffic analysis
- Street and highway design
- Stormwater collection & management
- Water treatment and distribution

**BARTLETT & WEST**  
SERVICE. THE BARTLETT & WEST WAY.

TOPEKA • LAWRENCE • MANHATTAN • 888.200.6464 • [WWW.BARTWEST.COM](http://WWW.BARTWEST.COM)



## ...Talkin' Wells, Tornadoes, and Warnings

July road trip time. Maddison on crutches.

Fortunately, my now 14-year-old granddaughter still enjoys (endures?) multiple days in the car with me. I am a lucky grandpa. Hence, even though Maddi had an injured ankle, which turned out NOT to be a stress fracture—apparently too much band marching—we took off for parts north and west, crutches and all.

Our first, and unplanned, stop on the three-day/two-night tour was in Lyons. Coming into town from the south, along K-14/96, we took notice of several of the city water wells a mile or so out, and how they were numbered (non-sequentially), and I told Maddi (somewhat to her dismay/embarrassment) that I was going to stop by and ask my buddy John Sweet, City Administrator, about the well-numbering process. As we barged into John's office, he (along with his Administrative Assistant Anita Johannsen) was just finishing up a city government educational session with a young lady from Austria named Daniela Holzinger, along with her Lyons host parents, Ron and Angela DeVore. Daniela is a visiting student (through the International 4-H Youth Exchange Program) who also works in city administration back in her European home town.

As for the water wells question...after the above meeting finished (and we got there right at the end), John virtually immediately produced a short report, which his utilities director had prepared for the budget this year, that showed a brief history of each Lyons water well, what kind of maintenance is planned for what year, and how much it is expected to cost. I had told Maddi that John's organizational skills make me look VERY UN-organized, and she now knows I was telling the absolute truth. John also shared with Maddi and me some detailed reports he had prepared for FEMA (the field rep was due in that day), concerning the two tornado-related events of the evening of April 14. The great big tornasties (one an EF-4) in this area of the state that day (the same night that Haysville and Wichita got hit by an EF-3) were just west, north, and northeast of Lyons, but city property (including the airport) on the west and northwest sides of the city sustained some fairly significant "wind sheer" damage from the too-close, near-miss twisters.

Two days later, our last day out (more about the rest of the trip next time), we stopped by to say hi at city hall in La Crosse, and chatted a while with City Manager Duane Moeder and City Clerk Kimberly Jay, and the subject was again tornadoes. On the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend (May 25, 2012), a "small" tornado (they are never small when they hit you, by the way—they still hurt) came spinning into the City from the southwest, and smashed into the City's only food store (on Main Street, a few blocks south of city hall), after doing quite a bit of mostly tree damage to that point. The twister also leveled a concrete-block car wash and a couple of mobile homes directly east of the grocery. That small tornado did quite a bit of damage. But, again, the City was also spared, as the monster tornado (an EF-4) that evening passed just to the west-to-north of La Crosse, crossing over US-183 little more than a mile north of the City. Duane's brother (also a city employee) lost about half of his herd of cattle that night. And, any number of other tornadoes formed just northeast of La Crosse and throughout Rush County over a several-hour period. It was a very scary night in Rush County. Duane told me there were so many stormchasers

out that the officials had trouble tracking the storms and getting into places that got hit.

But, alas, the area was not declared as a FEMA disaster during this event, so the city and its citizens did their own cleanup, at their own expense. They also got some cool pictures of a "stove pipe" tornado out of the deal...here are some of the best photos: <http://stormchase.net/chase-accounts/2012/397-may-25th-lacrosse-kansas-tornadoes.html>.

Kimberly, and many other townsfolk, were not at home that evening, as the La Crosse track team (including her son) were at Wichita State University, in the process of winning the state track meet. Congrats La Crosse Leopards.

Following the April 14 tornado outbreak, the City of Lindsborg had a serious discussion about the worthiness of its storm warning system, especially given it had also been "near-missed" (as has been stated by many others before me, it's weird, but "near miss" is one of those words that really means exactly the opposite of what it says) by at least one EF-4—the same twister that was north of Lyons...it crossed K-4 headed north about halfway between Lindsborg and Geneseo...here is a video of this "wedge" tornado, as it was being followed due north of Marquette, west of Lindsborg, and southwest of Salina: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNAJDnb4ZTY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uNAJDnb4ZTY). To make a long story short, Lindsborg decided NOT to spend the \$350,000 to \$500,000 it would take to repair and upgrade their current system. Instead, the City applied for a newly-developed grant, matched (75/25) it with some \$9,000 of city money, and purchased enough weather radios for a mass distribution to its citizens. Makes a lot of sense. Storm sirens are not meant to be heard well indoors, and while they have been lifesavers for a LONG time, outdoor (i.e., pre-A/C, etc.) sirens are part of a now 50-year-old warning "system." We can do better nowadays. To learn more about the grant (State Weather Radio Program, administered by KDEM), talk to City Administrator Greg DuMars, who told me about the City of Lindsborg's changing approach to storm warning during my early-August (KMIT training) visit to his City. By the way, that particular massive "nasty" eventually dissipated just southwest of the Salina airport, on a path that would have taken it right across the heart of the city.

My recommended book this month is one that I am actually just starting to read, but which I already know is going to be interesting to Kansas weather and history buffs, especially those, like me, who have been endlessly fascinated by the amazing Greensburg story. *The Greening of OZ: Sustainable Architecture in the Wake of a Tornado* (2012), by Robert Fraga, is the story of the last 5 years in Greensburg, since the fateful late evening of Friday, May 4, 2007. Though its focus is on the "green" aspect of the rebirth of Greensburg, the work also includes stories of real people, whose lives have intertwined with a remarkable stretch of history. I am very much looking forward to enjoying learning more about this slice of history that will be forever be remembered, and, in my view, also seen as a model for all that comes after.

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

# OUR TOWN: Winfield | by Brodie Phillips



*Island Park playground that was recently cleaned up by local residents. Photo provided by the City of Winfield.*

Through the eyes of a college student, Winfield is an all-encompassing home base.

**D**eep blue-black clouds roll in from the west and cast a shadow over the treetops in the valley. Flashes of lightning and low growls of thunder punctuate the growing darkness as a gentle rain washes overhead. I enjoy watching the storms as they roll into the city.

The mornings are often filled with fog. But soon the peaks of houses, green squares of farmland, and inky black traces of train tracks that fade off into the distance emerge from its hovering haze.

No matter the weather, the view of Winfield from my balcony is always impressive. This was not immediately apparent to me, but something I came to discover over time.

I was introduced to Winfield in 2008, fresh out of high school and only somewhat ready to attend Southwestern College. Over time I have come to consider this my new home, and for more than one reason.

Winfield offers the comforts of a small community without feeling isolated, thanks to the conveniences of a nearby larger town

like Wichita. For me, the town begins in the north, as the highway curves around and smoothly transitions into Main Street. The street encapsulates the small-town style that people would expect from a destination in the heart of the Midwest. Corner banks take up stately masonry buildings at the main intersection, while locally owned restaurants and shops fill in the spaces alongside them.

To the north is Island Park. This large park has a good view, shady trees, and all the playground equipment imaginable to keep young children occupied for hours. Unseen by playing children is the care that neighbors give to maintaining this space. This sense of small-town community and responsibility helps illustrate Winfield's charm.

For a college student like me, however, much of my life in Winfield revolves around my academic activities. Set on the highest point in the city, Southwestern College is where I spend the vast majority of my time. This 125-year-old university is pivotal in helping students obtain professional degrees. While it may be a



*A view of Winfield's downtown area.  
Photo provided by the City of Winfield.*



*The popular College Hill Coffee shop near Southwestern College.  
Photo by Gabe Chapman.*

Of course, like all college students, I have a big appetite and find Winfield comforting when I can't have mom's cooking.

One of the best places I've discovered is College Hill Coffee. Located inside a house, it could easily be missed. For those of us trekking to class, it is convenient and in easy walking distance of the school. It features a large selection of coffees, from organic to decaf, cappuccinos, espressos, and the like. There are also teas, smoothies, and my personal favorite, milkshakes such as the Peanut Butter Chocolate Big Train. I often stop in for the daily specials and sandwiches. This small, comfortable restaurant is probably my favorite in the city and should not be missed.

Neives' Mexican Restaurant is also a must. Located just off Main Street, this small restaurant boasts modern architecture and excellent handmade fare. Try the chicken and cheese chimichanga with rice and beans. The proportions are just right to make a filling but not excessive dinner, and you can add or remove ingredients as you like. Be sure to arrive early to avoid a wait in line.

Winfield is a town that should not, and cannot, be taken in with just one stay. Whether one is looking for education, a place to live, or just a weekend out, Winfield has it.

*☀ Brodie Phillips is a Southwestern College senior studying English and history. This article was reprinted with permission from the Fall 2011 issue of Kansas! magazine published by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism.*

small private college, it is one on the cutting edge of technology, thriving with arts and events, and is a large part of the community.

Outside of class, I am an avid outdoorsman and hunter. Therefore, I've found a number of nice public hunting areas. Slate Creek Wetland is just a few miles south of Oxford, which is only eight miles west of Winfield. This area is fairly large, but accessible, and excellent for upland bird and waterfowl. The Slate Creek area has great cover and feed opportunity for deer; on the last day of the late season, I saw a large 10-point buck within sight of the road. Likewise, the Kaw Wildlife Area just south of Arkansas City presents a good hunting opportunity and is particularly thick with turkey. Either way, the interested hunter should have no difficulty finding hunting experiences in the Winfield area.

## Call for Entries: "If I Were Mayor, I would..."

The League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) invites all Kansas 7th graders to join our essay contest, "If I were mayor, I would..." to tell others what they would do as mayor to make their cities the best place to live.

Promoting good city government is important to LKM, and this essay contest provides students the opportunity to reflect on the role of key elected officials in their own city.

Six geographic regional winners around the state will be selected. Winners will receive a \$125

cash prize and plaque. One overall winner will also be selected to represent the entire state and will receive a \$250 cash prize and plaque. The winners, along with their parents and teachers, will be recognized at a special ceremony in Topeka on February 6, 2013.

Essays must be received at the LKM office by Monday, November 26, 2012. For more information, or to download the official entry form, visit <http://www.lkm.org/youtheducation>.



# PHOTOS WANTED

The League of Kansas Municipalities is seeking new photos to add to the photo database. Photos will be used for our ANNUAL LEAGUE CALENDAR, on the website, or in other publications. Send your best city photos to [photos@lkm.org](mailto:photos@lkm.org). Please make sure all photos are sized at least 300 ppi for best quality printing. Questions? Contact Amanda Schuster at [aschuster@lkm.org](mailto:aschuster@lkm.org) or (785) 354-9565.



# Classified Advertising

## City Administrator

City of Alma (pop. 1133) is a progressive community located in south central Nebraska next to the Harlan County Reservoir. The city has a Mayor/City Council form of government. The City Administrator is responsible for coordinating, overseeing and managing the operations of all city departments including economic development, public works, utilities, and personnel. The ideal candidate would possess a participatory leadership style, strong organizational skills, good communication skills, grant writing ability, networking and research techniques, and have experience in strategic planning, management and budgeting. Qualified candidates should possess a Bachelor's Degree with major coursework in Public Administration, Business Administration, Economics, Finance or related fields, and a minimum of two years of progressively responsible job-related experience in a professional management position. Evidence of continued professional development is important. Salary DOQ. Comprehensive benefit package included. EOE. Please submit your resume and application to Mayor Hal Haeker, City of Alma, P.O. Box 468, Alma NE 68920, or by phone 308-928-2242, or visit: [www.almacity.com/JobListings](http://www.almacity.com/JobListings) for more information or to view the job description. For additional community information please visit: [www.almaisforyou.com](http://www.almaisforyou.com).

## City Administrator

The City of Wentzville, Missouri (pop. 29,000) offers a unique opportunity in a rapidly growing community forty minutes from downtown St. Louis. A small town environment is coupled with convenient access to cultural, art, and sports attractions known worldwide. The City is seeking a dynamic change agent to position Wentzville for the significant growth which will continue. The City enjoys a healthy financial condition (Aa2 credit rating) and thriving economy.

Qualified candidates will have a Master's Degree in public/business administration or a related field; 10 years of management experience with three to five years city

manager experience preferred. Assistant city manager experience in a larger community will be considered as well.

Salary range: Low to mid \$100k DOQ with excellent benefits package.

Send letter/resume to Gary Holland, The Mercer Group, at [gholland73@hotmail.com](mailto:gholland73@hotmail.com) by September 28, 2012. For more information go to [www.mercergroupinc.com](http://www.mercergroupinc.com)

## City Attorney

The City of Derby (pop. 22,523) seeks a public service-minded attorney, licensed in Kansas. Serves as general counsel to management and elected/appointed officials. Drafts and reviews contracts, advises management on employment issues, drafts ordinances, reviews policies, provides legal counsel to police and other departments, and oversees contract attorneys for trials and other matters.

Reports to City Manager and participates as key member of senior management team. Supervises part-time City Prosecutor.

Bloomberg Business Week recognized Derby, the 18th largest city in Kansas, as the Most Affordable Suburb in the state (2010). Derby is proud of its quality schools, parks and recreation, and new library. Quality homes, low taxes, and quick commutes to all the amenities of the Wichita metro area make Derby the place to be. *Family Circle Magazine* named Derby one of the Top 10 Places to Raise a Family (2007).

Prefer municipal law experience. Minimum salary \$71,890, actual salary DOQ. View job description and apply online at [www.derbyweb.com](http://www.derbyweb.com). Application, cover letter and resume required. Preference to applications received by October 18. For more information call MacKensie at (316)788.1519x276. EOE.

## City Clerk

The City of Ogden, Kansas is accepting applications for the full-time position of City Clerk. Benefits include vacation/sick leave, health/dental insurance, KPERS. Pre-employment drug screening required. Job description available upon request. Applicants should send a resume along with an employment application available at City

Hall, 222 Riley Avenue, PO Box C, Ogden, KS 66517. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

## City Manager

The City of Rio Rancho (pop. 87,521) is located in Central New Mexico, in the Land of Enchantment. The City boasts magnificent views of the Sandia Mountain range, affordable housing, excellent schools, and temperate climate. The City is a progressive community established in 1981 and is in close proximity to skiing, hiking and numerous outdoor and cultural activities.

A Bachelor's Degree in Business, Economics, Public Administration or related field is required, and 10 years of progressively responsible municipality experience, 5 of which must have been in a supervisory capacity. A Master's Degree in Public Administration or related field is strongly preferred. Experience leading a community of similar size is highly desirable.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of application, detailed resume with salary history, and four work-related references by email to: [applyCM@ci.rio-rancho.nm.us](mailto:applyCM@ci.rio-rancho.nm.us). Open until filled. First review of applications begins October 15, 2012. Applicant information is subject to the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. To view the job description and recruitment brochure, please visit the employment section at: [www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us](http://www.ci.rio-rancho.nm.us). EOE

## Community Development Director

The City of Gardner, KS (pop. 19,123) is seeking a Community Development Director to oversee the activities of the Community Development Department and administer the operations of the planning and zoning and codes administration divisions of the department. The director is responsible for all current and long range planning activities including management of the zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations and the Community Development Plan. This is a highly responsible managerial and supervisory position. Work is performed with wide latitude for the interpretation and application of policies, rules and



# Classified Advertising

regulations under the administration of the City Administrator. This position serves as a key member of the City Administrator's management team. Gardner is a growing and progressive community located in southwestern Johnson County within the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Requires Master's degree in urban planning or related field; AICP preferred, ten (10) years of professional experience, preferably in municipal planning, increasingly responsible technical and administrative capacity similar preferably in the municipal public sector.

The starting salary up to \$97,896, commensurate with qualifications and experience. Competitive benefit package is included. Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM plus meetings as required.

Send application, cover letter, resume and salary history to City of Gardner, Human Resources, 120 E Main, Gardner KS 66030. Position open until filled with first review date 9/20/12. E-mail [humanresources@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:humanresources@gardnerkansas.gov). Additional information and application available at [www.gardnerkansas.gov](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov). EOE

### Director of Planning & Community Development

The City of McAlester, Oklahoma (pop. 18,500), a full service city in Southeast Oklahoma, is currently seeking to fill a new position of Director of Planning and Community Development. The Director will be responsible for managing the areas of building inspection, code enforcement, economic development, housing and planning, and zoning. The ideal candidate will possess any combination of education and experience equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree in urban/regional planning or

community/economic development or related field and five years of supervisory experience. A Master's Degree in community/economic development, engineering, finance geography, marketing, political science, urban/regional planning, public administration, or related field is preferable. AICP certification is also preferred.

For additional information on position and to receive the required application, go to [www.cityofmcalester.com](http://www.cityofmcalester.com). Interested candidates should send a letter of interest, resume, completed application, five business-related references and salary history to Mr. Peter Stasiak, City Manager, City of McAlester, 28 E. Washington, McAlester, Oklahoma 74501; (918)423-9300 ext. 4964; fax (918)421-4970; or e-mail to [peter.stasiak@cityofmcalester.com](mailto:peter.stasiak@cityofmcalester.com), prior to close of business on September 14, 2012 or until filled.

### Electric Utility Worker

The City of Goodland is accepting applications for an Electric Utility Worker in the Electric Department. The position performs electrical line work, power plant work, and operates a variety of equipment. CDL preferred. Hiring range DOQ, plus excellent benefits. Applications are available in the City Office, 204 W. 11th or at [cityofgoodland.org](http://cityofgoodland.org). Position open until filled with first review of applications beginning September 21.

### Police Officer

The City of Conway Springs (pop. 1,200) is accepting applications for a full-time police officer. Applicant must be KLETC certified, have a valid driver's license and high school diploma or equivalent. Applications are available at City Hall

208 W. Spring Ave. Conway Springs KS, [cscity@havalandtelco.com](mailto:cscity@havalandtelco.com) or (620)456-2345.

### Street Maintenance Supervisor

Street Maintenance Superintendent (Job ID: 201200100) - Public Works - The City of Olathe, Kansas is seeking a Street Maintenance Superintendent to plan, direct, manage, supervise, and oversee the activities and operations of the Streets Maintenance Section of the Public Works Department - Field Operations Division. Manage the Street Maintenance Section functions for the City of Olathe including development of policies and procedures and an annual budget in excess of \$3.5 million, monitor and evaluate efficiency and effectiveness of the Street Division utilizing City provided tools. Will coach/lead, motivate, develop, and evaluate staff, represent the Street Maintenance Section to all internal and external stakeholders. Five-seven years of increasingly responsible experience in a heavy construction, maintenance or field operations setting, including 2 - 4 years administrative/supervisory responsibility. Bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university with major course work in Construction Science, Engineering or similar related field preferred. Ten or more years demonstrated proficiency in field operations management may be substituted for education requirement. Hours: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; M-F. Salary \$63,292/yr.-\$98,995/yr. DOQ. Must have a valid driver's license and be able to pass a background investigation, pre-employment physical and drug screen. Apply online at [www.olatheks.org](http://www.olatheks.org) or in Human Resources, 100 E. Santa Fe, Olathe, Kansas 66061. Application Deadline: Open until filled

## KGJ Classifieds

To place an ad online and in the *Kansas Government Journal*, email the ad and billing information to [classifieds@lkm.org](mailto:classifieds@lkm.org). Questions? Contact Amanda Schuster at [aschuster@lkm.org](mailto:aschuster@lkm.org) or (785) 354-9565.

50 words or less • \$40

51-100 words • \$65

101-150 words • \$90

151-200 words • \$115

201-250 words • \$140



# Professional Services

## Architecture, Engineering & Planning

**Kansas**  
 Commission on  
**NO MORE DEFERRED MAINTENANCE!**  
**NO REFS, ONE CONTRACT.**  
**FCIP FACILITY CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**  
**785-271-3352**

**BOWMAN BOWMAN NOVICK INC**

Manhattan Kansas 785.776.4912  
 Kansas City Missouri 816.753.2550

Architecture • Landscape Architecture • Urban Planning  
 WWW.BBNARCHITECTS.COM

**Burns & McDonnell**  
 SINCE 1898

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  
 www.burnsmcd.com

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

**CFS ENGINEERS**  
 cfs.com 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.cfs.com | facebook

**EEI** Earles Engineering & Inspection, Inc.

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

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

creating remarkable solutions

**GBA** architects engineers

9801 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, KS 66219 913.492.0400 www.gbateam.com

**MA** Miller & Associates

THE ART OF ENGINEERING

308.234.6456  
 www.miller-engineers.com

Roanoke, NE • Holdrege, NE  
 Grand Island, NE • McCook, NE • Olathe, KS

CIVIL  
 MECHANICAL  
 ELECTRICAL  
 STRUCTURAL  
 WATER  
 WASTEWATER

**Applying Science**  
*Creating Quality of Life*

**PEC**  
 SCIENCE ► APPLIED

www.pec1.com

**Tran Systems**

EXPERIENCE | Transportation www.transystems.com

*Our solutions help you create sustainable buildings and public facilities that are fiscally and environmentally responsible.*

**TRANE**  
 www.Trane-KansasCity.com

8014 Flint, Lenexa, KS  
 Ph: (913) 599-4664  
 Fax: (913) 599-4669

Public Sector Consultants  
 Keven.Ward@Trane.com  
 Chad.Remboldt@Trane.com

**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

**Shafer, Kline & Warren, Inc.**  
 Forming Partnerships. Delivering Results.

- Engineers
- Land Surveyors
- Land Planners
- Construction Observers
- Landscape Architects

Kansas: Iola | Lenexa | 913.888.7800 | www.skw-inc.com

# Architecture, Engineering & Planning



**LOCHNER**

Enhancing People's Lives through Sustainable Infrastructure

Salina 785.827.3603 • Kansas City 816.363.2696 • [www.hwlochner.com](http://www.hwlochner.com)



**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](http://www.wilsonco.com)



**PYPONZER-YOUNGQUIST**  
Consulting Engineers & Land Surveyors

*Engineers serving Kansas communities since 1973*

227 E Dennis Ave. • Olathe, KS 66061  
913-782-0541 • Fax 913-782-0109  
[www.pyengineers.com](http://www.pyengineers.com)

For information about advertising in the **Kansas Government Journal**, call (785) 354-9565

# Advertise HERE

## Attorneys



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

A powerful combination of collection agency strategies and proven legal tactics

Collect your accounts!  
**1-866-954-6800**

in partnership with LML Payment Systems Corp.

COLLECTION AGENCY EFFORTS | LEGAL PROCESSES



**Kansas GOVERNMENT JOURNAL**

Advertise Today  
Call  
**(785) 354-9565**

## Auctions

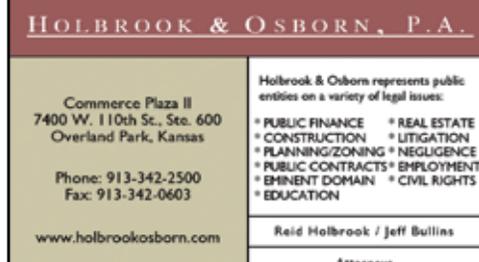


Turn what you have into what it's worth.

*Sell* equipment  
- vehicles  
- surplus

**1.866.608.9283** [www.purplewave.com](http://www.purplewave.com)

**purple wave auction**



**HOLBROOK & OSBORN, P.A.**

Commerce Plaza II  
7400 W. 110th St., Ste. 600  
Overland Park, Kansas

Phone: 913-342-2500  
Fax: 913-342-0603  
[www.holbrookosborn.com](http://www.holbrookosborn.com)

Holbrook & Osborn represents public entities on a variety of legal issues:

- PUBLIC FINANCE
- CONSTRUCTION
- PLANNING/ZONING
- PUBLIC CONTRACTS
- EMINENT DOMAIN
- EDUCATION
- REAL ESTATE
- LITIGATION
- NEGLIGENCE
- EMPLOYMENT
- CIVIL RIGHTS

Reid Holbrook / Jeff Bullins  
Attorneys

## Computer Software



**AOS**  
Expect the Best!

Your LOCAL technology partner

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

Visit us online: [www.aos5.com](http://www.aos5.com) / E-mail: [info@aos5.com](mailto:info@aos5.com)



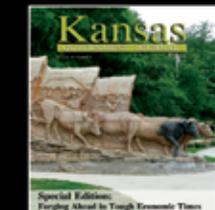
**Professional Business Advertising**  
Call (785) 354-9565 today.

MANATRON IS NOW



**THOMSON REUTERS**

We invite you to learn more at [grm.thomsonreuters.com](http://grm.thomsonreuters.com).



**Kansas GOVERNMENT JOURNAL**

PLACE A NEW AD IN THE KANSAS GOVERNMENT JOURNAL TODAY!

RATES START AT ONLY \$275.

CONTACT KATE COOLEY AT [kcooley@lkm.org](mailto:kcooley@lkm.org) OR (785) 354-9565.



# Disaster Management and Environment

## 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

## Kansas GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

Advertise Today  
Call  
(785) 354-9565



# Financial & Investments



**Jim Heinicke, LLC**  
*Pathways to Realistic Solutions*  
[www.jimheinicke.com](http://www.jimheinicke.com)

(316) 573-9903 • 501 Mead • Newton, KS 67114 • [jim@jimheinicke.com](mailto:jim@jimheinicke.com)

Municipal Consulting • Economic Development • Planning • Finance



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](mailto:mdettler@centralstatescapital.com)  
Dave Malone: [dmalone@centralstatescapital.com](mailto: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

## 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](http://www.ransonfinancial.com)

**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](http://umb.com/cards)

Tom Carignan - 816.860.7033



**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](http://www.hhben.com)

Gary Hardman  
Mike Howell  
Jeremy Gilson  
Mike Keller  
Rich Ewen

# Utilities

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

For information contact [lezli.root@blackhillscorp.com](mailto:lezli.root@blackhillscorp.com)  
or call **785-832-3925**



## 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](mailto:bob.westmoreland@hdsupply.com)

CELL: 913.660.8800



A more comfortable,  
safe and sustainable world.



Cris Christenson 913-217-0482  
[cris.allen.christenson@jci.com](mailto:cris.allen.christenson@jci.com)

Leverage money already in your  
budget to fund energy efficiency  
and infrastructure upgrades.

Call 866-822-4636 or visit [www.schneider-electric.us/go/performancecontracting](http://www.schneider-electric.us/go/performancecontracting)

15200 Santa Fe Trail Drive  
Suite 204  
Lenexa, KS 66219



## 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](http://www.lkm.org)

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



## A Tale of Two Deliveries



Recently we have had several deliveries made to the League offices, and/or picked up from the League offices, as various parts of the League business are still transacted via hard mail services and other private delivery services.

The first story involves the delivery of a League giveaway at the League conference. It is a large, green, tumbler and comes as part of this year's conference registration. We hope you will like it. That said, they are somewhat bulky, especially when you order a thousand of them, and were delivered to the League offices earlier this week. The first words out of the delivery man's mouth were to the effect of how upset he was because our boxes were taking up half the room in his truck. He went on to grumble, moan, and groan throughout the entire delivery process. The staffer he was working with, who is diminutive in size, later told me that he went out of his way to stack the boxes as high as he could, all the way to the ceiling in fact. She felt it was directed specifically at her so there was no way she could pick a box up off the top pile. After the boxes were delivered, some damage to the contents was noted. While I can't lay that damage on the delivery person, it at least makes you wonder. I found it very interesting that this young man, who has a job because of his ability to deliver packages, was grunching because of the fact that he had to deliver some packages. Apparently, his take on life was that if it wasn't easy, he wasn't interested in doing it. A very interesting juxtaposition as compared to that of our regular postman.

The League building is served by one fine gentleman who works for the U.S. Postal Service. From time to time, as I know you are all aware, the League sends out huge mailings of materials to League member cities across Kansas. This week was no exception as we sent out the 2012 orders for the *Standard Traffic Ordinance* and the *Uniform Public Offense Code*. Literally hundreds of packages are involved in mailing these two publications to cities across Kansas. So, when the postman arrived, and a literal wall of publications in boxes stood there to greet him, was he mad? No. In fact his attitude with this, as with all other mailings of the League over the years, has always been the same. He happily picked up the materials, even though it took many trips out to his mail truck. On numerous occasions he has thanked us for our business, and told us the only reason he has a job is because people utilize the U.S. Postal Service. So his take, in direct contrast to our earlier delivery example, was the more packages the better. He knew that in the long run, more business for the organization was good for the organization, and ultimately good for him. This is crucially important, and cannot be underestimated when providing quality customer service.

Now I know that the thought that some people are happy in their work, and some people aren't happy is not a new one, but I thought it was interesting that these two individuals who transport mail and other goods took a completely different approach to their service. This is also the case, of course, in city work. You can find two

individuals doing the exact same job, who have a completely different take on the world. Now, of course, this is not always just limited to the job at hand. Other factors such as home life, the financial state of the world, and the individual, as well as an almost infinite number of other factors, can lead people to be in a bad mood from time to time. For all we know, the delivery man bringing the League conference giveaways was simply having a bad day, and perhaps the rest of the year he is happy as can be. But, the long and short of it is that when employees are in a perpetually bad place, where they are always unhappy, this leads not only to poor service, but ultimately to poor customer satisfaction. Oftentimes our public does not have any personal interaction with the mayor, city governing body members, or the city management staff. Rather, their face to face interactions are with those who are collecting the water bills, working on the streets, in the parks, or who are in law enforcement or other activities that bring them into regular, face to face contact with the citizens of our communities. The entire perception of your city, and the people who work there, can be driven by a single interaction, with a single city employee. I cannot over emphasize how important it is to make sure that those people who are on the "retail" end of city services, are treating the public with respect, and are as positive as they can possibly be about the city and what it is doing.

Years ago I had an encounter with a city employee, along with a number of my neighbors. We had a series of water main breaks on our street and this was the most recent. It was about 7:00 p.m. and a group of neighbors, including myself and my wife were standing around the pit while a city crew was digging out the mud around the broken main with a backhoe. Once the hole was completely dug out, they would then cut out the broken section of pipe and put on yet another sleeve. At some point, one of the neighbors asked the city worker who was standing knee deep in the mud in the hole why the city simply didn't replace the entire pipe line rather than coming out week after week to deal with the breaks. What ensued was perhaps a five minute diatribe from this city worker about all the things he perceived as wrong with the city, the state, and the world itself. It struck me at the time that all of our neighbors standing around that hole were getting a negative impression of the city and the city administration.

While people in all walks of life can be negative, it is unfortunate when a single interaction of this type can color one's perception of an entire organization. We need to be aware that this can happen, and we need to work to make sure that the interactions we have with our constituents are as positive as they possibly can be. My experience has taught me after almost three decades of working at the League, that city officers and employees are good, hardworking people who go out of their way to be as helpful to the public as they can be. While there may be the occasional exception to that rule, it is unfortunate when those exceptions can lead to a broader perception. If you have individuals working for you with this type of an attitude, I would suggest that you need to work with them to improve their attitudes, or to find another line of work. In a world of five second sound bytes, instant perceptions are vitally important.

# Correctional Kansas Industries

*Serving the State of Kansas*

## SPECIALIZING IN:

- ◆ **TRAFFIC PAINTS, INDUSTRIAL PAINTS & HOUSE PAINTS**
- ◆ **TRAFFIC SIGNAGE**
  - ◇ Construction Signs
  - ◇ Highway Regulatory Signs
  - ◇ Warning Signs
  - ◇ School Zone & Crossing Signs
  - ◇ Structural Panel Signs
  - ◇ Parks & Recreation Signs
  - ◇ Custom Signs
- ◆ **CUSTOM METAL PRODUCTS**
  - ◇ Detention Furniture
  - ◇ Outdoor Furnishings
  - ◇ Metal Furniture
- ◆ **CHEMICAL PRODUCTS**
  - ◇ General Cleaning & Disinfecting Products
  - ◇ Floor Wax & Strippers
  - ◇ Laundry & Dish Soaps
- ◆ **FURNITURE**
  - ◇ Desks & Credenzas
  - ◇ Bookcases
  - ◇ Dormitory Furniture
  - ◇ Multi-Use Tables
  - ◇ Office Chairs
- ◆ **CLOTHING & BEDDING**
  - ◇ Inmate Clothing
  - ◇ Mattresses, Pillows & Toweling
- ◆ **DOCUMENT IMAGING**
  - ◇ Computer Logging
  - ◇ Contract Data Entry
  - ◇ 16mm & 35mm Large Document
- ◆ **BLM SPONSORED WILD MUSTANG ADOPTION PROGRAM**



## Contact Us:

Phone: (913) 727-3254

Fax: (913) 727-2331

Email: [kci\\_sales@doc.ks.gov](mailto:kci_sales@doc.ks.gov)

Web: [kancorind.com](http://kancorind.com)

Kansas Correctional Industries  
4th & Kansas

P.O. Box 2

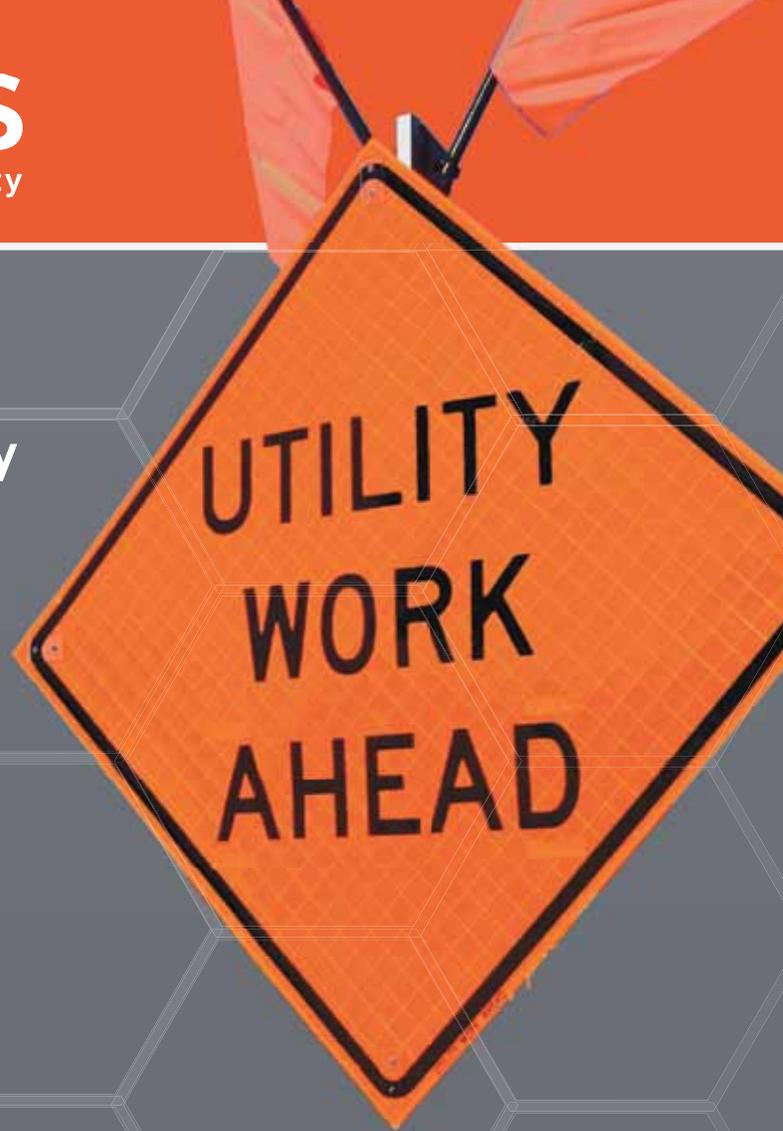
Lansing, KS 66048



# RICE SIGNS

Your Leader In Transportation Safety

- Traffic Signs
- Roll-Up Construction Signs
- Sign Stands & Work Zone Safety
- Pedestrian Safety Signs
- Custom Street Name Signs
- Sign Posts & Hardware



**CALL FOR  
FREE CATALOG**

**Contact Us:**

Orders / Quotes / Bids

Phone: 888-728-7665

Fax: 877-546-6165

Email: [sales@RiceSigns.com](mailto:sales@RiceSigns.com)

Web: [www.RiceSigns.com](http://www.RiceSigns.com)

**EASY Online Ordering**