Inside:
The Impact of Demand Transfer Losses
The Importance of Civic Space
2014 Legislative Preview
Get Control. Get KMIT.
Let Us Work For You!

Providing workers' compensation coverage to Kansas cities

Enhanced workers’ workplace
Provides claims management
Delivers cost effective loss preventar

- Risk Management — No more worries waiting for your health management, no more missing payroll and lost margins with our preventative care

- Claims Management — "Dissas" claims determinations, work orders and return to work

- Safety Programmes — Our 5S, safety, fall protection, and health and safety policies ensure a safe working environment and compliance with safety regulations.

- Claims Administration — Worksite clinics and claims management for all safety programs.

KMIT is a worker's compensation program endorsed by the League of Kansas Municipalities and the Kansas Municipal Insurance Association.
Joseph William “Joe” Cabrinha, died Thursday, November 14, 2013. His education included the St. Louis School, Honolulu, Hawaii, The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina and Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana.

Joe embraced Atwood as his home and sincerely cared about its future. He was involved in the work of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church through his participation on several committees and his guidance in beginning a weekly Adult Bible Study Class. He was a member of the City Council for 12 years and served as Atwood City Mayor for 2 ½ years.

Raymond “Weez” Vernon E. Duntz Jr, 56, died October 28, 2013, in Raymond. A lifetime Chase and Raymond Community resident, he was head of Maintenance at Chase High School and a 1975 Chase High School graduate. His memberships included Raymond City Council Member, Assistant Chief Raymond Fire Department, Baptized Raymond Baptist Church, Kansas Fur Harvester Association, Kansas Muzzle Loader Association. He maintained the Raymond Hilltop Cemetery and Raymond Baptist Church Properties.
Merriam’s first lady, Irene Belle French, 86, died in her home surrounded by her family. Irene was one of the pioneer builders of Johnson County and was one of the early women leaders to make a significant impact on her beloved Merriam, Kansas and the county.

She is survived by her two sons Russ French and James C. French II, Russ’ wife Carol French and Jim’s ex-wife Teri French, grandchildren Regan French and Matt French, Matt’s wife Sarah French, J. C. French III, Alexis French and great grandchildren twins Emerson Belle French and Colbie Caroline French, Chancellor French and a surviving sister Edna Swayden. Her husband James Calvin French is deceased (April 10, 1994) and her parents Merlin and Thelma Lahey are also deceased.

French served on the city’s Citizen Advisory Committee and Planning Commission before being elected to the City Council in 1973. She served on the Council until she was elected Mayor in 1981 and held that office until 2002, being elected to five terms.

In addition to her service as Mayor, French served a term as president of the League of Kansas Municipalities and as interim president/CEO of the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce.

Irene and her husband Calvin moved to Merriam in 1963. She immediately became involved in the community. Over a period of 50+ years she helped weave the fabric of her community and made public service her passion. She served as Mayor of Merriam for 20 years. During that time she accomplished the Baron BMW Automotive Plaza redevelopment, Merriam Town Center redevelopment, a park for the community and her crown jewel, the saving of the now named Irene B. French Merriam Community Center. Irene was visionary and passionate in establishing the Merriam Parks, Recreation, Community Center Foundation to support the work of the parks department and to grow the arts in Merriam.

During her time as Mayor, Irene also provided great leadership to many local, regional, state and national efforts. Her service and awards include member of the Merriam Chamber of Commerce, 1990 Merriam Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the year, Johnson County Parks Department, Streamway Parks, National League of Cities Finance, Administration Committee, Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce interim President, Shawnee Mission Medical Center Recognition, Association of Mayors Kansas Mayor of the Year, Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh Recognition, Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, Johnson County Rotary Board of Directors, Rotary Assistant District Governor, District 5710, Johnson County Transit Board, Overland Park Chamber of Commerce interim President, Certificate of Merit for 30 years of Service from Johnson County Board of County Commissioners, a director and officer of the Mid America Regional Council, Chairman of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority, Vice-Chair of the Johnson County Republican Party as well as other state and national political efforts.

Reprinted with permission from The Amos Family Funeral Home.
After 28 years of exemplary service to the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM), Executive Director Don Moler will be retiring at the end of the year. Don’s entire career has been dedicated to serving the cities of Kansas. His legacy is a vibrant organization that has excelled in providing research, training, and advocacy for the communities of Kansas.

After receiving both a Bachelor and Master of Arts in Political Science from Eastern Illinois University, Don obtained a Masters degree in Public Administration from the University of Illinois. In addition, he has a J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law.

Don was hired by then-Executive Director Ernie Mosher as the research attorney for the League in July of 1985. He immediately began answering legal questions and doing codifications for cities. Under Don’s supervision, the LKM codification service grew to over 150 cities. Over the years, Don’s workshops and roundtables were always among the best attended and the highest rated. His presentations for the City Attorneys Association of Kansas were always praised for both their content and their forthright humor.

Don rose to the position of General Counsel where he supervised the LKM legal department. In that capacity, he also served as Executive Secretary for the City Attorneys Association of Kansas. Taking on a more administrative role in the organization, Don was appointed LKM Deputy Director by then-Executive Director Chris McKenzie in 1995. It was during this period, that Don worked on the purchase of the LKM Building at 300 S.W. 8th Ave. in Topeka. The building has proven to be one of the organization’s most important assets. The rental of the top two floors of the building serves to provide critical income to LKM. But, most importantly, the proximity of the building (just across the street from the State Capitol) emphasizes the role of cities as part of the governmental structure in Kansas.

It was also during this time, that Don began his monthly column, “Moler’s Musings.” Through this writing, Don has shared much of his personal life and his thoughts about governing. LKM receives many requests to reprint these columns and Don always receives positive comments from various city officials after reading the latest musing.

Following a nationwide search, Don was selected as the eighth Executive Director in 1999. As the LKM Executive Director, Don worked to enhance the organization’s financial standing and he is leaving the organization with a budget that is balanced and with appropriate reserves. In addition, member services have been a focus of Don’s time as Director. The success of those efforts is apparent in that LKM is at an all-time record high of 598 member cities.

On the legislative front, Don was an ever-present fixture in the Capitol. He is well known to legislators as the dean of local government. Over his career, Don successfully lobbied multiple transportation bills. In addition, he testified on innumerable tax bills and personally stopped many bad pieces of legislation. Most recently, Don successfully lobbied against legislation that would have prevented city officials and cities in general from spending any money to lobby the Legislature.

Perhaps Don will be most remembered for his staunch support of Constitutional Home Rule and local control. Don believes in a philosophy of governing which rests authority in the level of government closest to the people. Throughout his time at LKM, Don has espoused this philosophy in both word and deed.

In 2010, Don was honored by the National League of Cities (NLC) with the John G. Stutz award. This award is named for long-time LKM Executive Director John Stutz and is presented to individuals who serve state leagues for 25 years. Upon announcement of Don’s retirement, NLC also presented Don with a resolution (right) honoring his service to Kansas and to the NLC.

LKM is a stronger organization because of Don’s service and his leadership. We will miss him and wish him well in his retirement.
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

NLC BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLUTION OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT
FOR DON MOLER’S SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF KANSAS
AND THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

WHEREAS, the State Municipal Leagues are important partners of the National League of Cities, helping to protect and promote the interests of cities and towns across the country, and;

WHEREAS, cities and towns are the economic engines of the country, and the State Municipal Leagues have been tireless advocates on behalf of their cities and towns at the state and federal government levels, and;

WHEREAS, Don Moler has served municipal officials in the state of Kansas and across the country with distinction for many years, as Executive Director for the League of Kansas Municipalities, as a member of the NLC Board of Directors, as a member of the State Municipal League Steering Committee, and as chair of the National League of Cities Legal Advisory Committee, and;

WHEREAS, Don has been a tireless advocate and leader endeavoring to assist municipal officials in Kansas in their efforts to strengthen their communities, and;

WHEREAS, Don has enriched the National League of Cities and its membership through his leadership and collegiality, and;

WHEREAS, Don will be remembered by the National League of Cities as a true and unwavering friend, and;

BE IT RESOLVED that the NLC Board of Directors, on behalf of its members, recognizes Don Moler and his dedication to local governments, and extends our gratitude for his contributions to the League of Kansas Municipalities and the National League of Cities, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NLC Board of Directors extends its sincerest thanks and appreciation for his time, skills and contributions, and wishes him all the best in his future endeavors.

Passed and Adopted this 26th day of June 2013.

Mayor Marie Lopez Rogers  Clarence Anthony
President, National League of Cities  Executive Director, National League of Cities
Mayor, Avondale, Arizona
Blood Tests and Cheek Swabs and Drug Dogs, Oh my!

The Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution protects individuals from unreasonable searches and seizures. What constitutes an unreasonable search and seizure is heavily litigated. The United States Supreme Court decided several search and seizure cases during 2013. This article provides a synopsis of a few of these prominent cases.

In Missouri v. McNeely, 133 S.Ct. 1552 (2013), a Missouri highway patrol officer stopped Tyler McNeely’s truck at 2:08 a.m., after he observed McNeely drive above the speed limit and cross the centerline. The officer arrested McNeely after he failed field-sobriety tests and refused to use a portable breath-test device. On the way to the police station, McNeely stated that he would refuse a breath sample. With no attempt to secure a warrant, the officer changed course and drove McNeely to a hospital for blood testing. The lab technician took a blood sample, despite McNeely’s refusal to consent and the lack of a warrant. Lab tests confirmed McNeely was intoxicated. Subsequently, McNeely was charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI).

McNeely moved to suppress the blood test, arguing that the test violated his Fourth Amendment rights because it was a warrantless search.

The trial court agreed, holding that the officer did not face an emergency that would have prevented him from obtaining a search warrant. The Missouri Supreme Court affirmed the trial court’s decision. The Court opined that this was a routine DWI case and that no emergency, including the fact that blood-alcohol levels naturally dissipate over time, existed to allow for a warrantless search. The United States Supreme Court granted certiorari and upheld the Missouri Supreme Court’s decision.

In its opinion, the Court reiterated that except in emergency situations, a search warrant is required to obtain a nonconsensual blood test. The Court concluded that it must look at the totality of the circumstances of each case to determine if a warrantless search is justified. The Court refused to adopt a per se rule that all DWI stops in which an individual refuses to take a breath test are emergency situations, because blood-alcohol levels naturally dissipate over time. The Court opined that an emergency situation might occur if a magistrate judge is unavailable to secure a warrant, but in this case the officer did not even attempt to secure a warrant. Thus, the warrantless blood test violated McNeely’s Fourth Amendment rights.

In Maryland v. King, 133 S.Ct. 1958 (2013), Alonzo King was arrested and charged with first and second degree assault. During booking, personnel collected a sample of King’s DNA with a cheek swab. The DNA from the cheek swab matched DNA that had been collected in an unsolved rape case. King subsequently was charged with the unsolved rape. King moved to suppress the DNA evidence arguing that the cheek swab was an unreasonable search under the Fourth Amendment. The Circuit Court Judge denied King’s motion to suppress and King was convicted of rape.

King appealed to the Maryland Court of Appeals. There, the Court held that the cheek swab was an unreasonable search under the Fourth Amendment. The State filed a petition for writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court. The Court granted certiorari and reversed the Maryland Court of Appeals’ decision.

In its opinion, the Court noted that the Maryland law authorized the collection of DNA samples only if an individual was charged with a felony. Moreover, DNA samples were not processed until probable cause was established and the individual was arraigned. Furthermore, the State destroyed DNA samples if the charges did not result in a conviction. The Court likened the cheek swab to routine police booking procedures like fingerprinting and photographing. It noted that DNA collection was an accurate way to identify an individual and that the cheek swab was a minimal intrusion. Thus, it did not violate the Fourth Amendment.

In Florida v. Jardines, 133 S.Ct. 1409 (2013), Detective William Pedraja received an unverified tip that Joelis Jardines was growing marijuana in his home. One month later, Pedraja, along with a team from the Drug Enforcement Administration, surveyed Jardines’ home. Fifteen minutes after the start of the surveillance, Pedraja approached the home with Detective Douglas Bartlet and a drug-sniffing dog. The detectives had not witnessed any activity in or outside of the home during those 15 minutes. The drug-sniffing dog detected drugs as it approached Jardines’ front porch and sat at the base of the front door. Pedraja received a warrant based on the dog’s positive alert for narcotics and marijuana plants were later found. Jardines was charged with trafficking in cannabis.

Jardines moved to suppress the evidence, arguing that the canine search was unreasonable under the Fourth Amendment. The trial court agreed, but the Florida Third District Court of Appeals reversed the decision. On a petition for discretionary review, the Florida Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals’ decision, agreeing with the trial court to suppress the evidence. The Court held that the canine search was not supported by probable cause and therefore violated the Fourth Amendment. The United States Supreme Court granted certiorari to determine if the detectives conducted a search.

In its opinion, the Court determined that there was no doubt the detectives’ investigation took place in curtilage, a constitutionally protected area. Moreover, the Court concluded that the detectives only learned of the narcotics because they physically intruded on Jardines’ property. Thus, the Court held that it was a search under the Fourth Amendment, affirming the Florida Supreme Court’s decision to suppress the evidence.

Nicole Proulx Aiken is Legal Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at naiken@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.
Kimberly Winn has been with the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) since joining the organization in November of 1995. She will be leaving LKM at the end of the year to begin her new position in Richmond, Virginia. In August, Kim was picked by the 13-member Virginia Municipal League (VML) Executive Committee to lead that association following a nationwide search. She will be the sixth VML Executive Director in the organization’s history. She will replace the retiring Virginia League Executive Director Mike Amyx, who is retiring after 33 years of service.

Kim has a B.A. in political science from Yale University, an M.P.A. from the University of Kansas, and a J.D. from the University of Kansas School of Law. As Deputy Director, Kim supervises the publication of the monthly Kansas Government Journal, oversees the League’s Annual Conference and the Municipal Leadership Academy, and performs a variety of lobbying duties on local government issues. She is also a part of the League’s legal team where she responds to legal inquiries from member cities. She has also authored various League publications including the Kansas Open Meetings Manual.

Kim was instrumental in numerous legislative victories over her 18 legislative sessions at the League. She, in conjunction with Judy Moler of the Kansas Association of Counties, successfully lobbied for the implementation of the E-911 legislation which has had the effect of making all Kansans safer. She successfully lobbied numerous environmental and utilities issues, both large and small, over the years. But, her greatest legislative success came in the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA). Almost singlehandedly she was able to achieve a long-needed change in the KOMA language concerning what constitutes an open meeting in Kansas. This was accomplished by changing the language in K.S.A. 75-4317a from “a majority of a quorum” to simply “a majority.”

Through her leadership as Editor-in-Chief, the Kansas Government Journal has become the preeminent state municipal league publication nationwide. She has continually focused, modernized, and improved the annual League conference with innovative ideas to keep the event fresh on a yearly basis. She insisted on obtaining the www.lkm.org website address back in the day when they were still available. She also was the driving force in moving toward branding the moniker LKM with a corresponding change to the League logo.

Kim also wrote the book Local Government in Kansas for use as part of the curriculum in the public schools of Kansas. She also played a key role in the development of the Guide for City Candidates brochure which is used statewide. Quite simply Kim has been instrumental in many of the successes of this organization over the past two decades, and she will be sorely missed. We wish her only the very best as she undertakes her new challenge as the Executive Director of the Virginia Municipal League.
Budget and tax decisions made by the Kansas Legislature have a serious impact on local governments. This article recounts the history of several key revenue sources and the impact of losses in the last 23 years. These losses have forced cuts in local budgets, cuts in services to citizens, and property tax increases in some cases.

Since 1991, cities and counties in Kansas have lost a total of $1,886,922,544 as a result of the State’s decision not to fund demand transfers. It is very important to note that while some of these monies are often referred to as “state aid” in budget documents, the history of these funds does not support that classification. The LAVTRF and the CCRS funds (explained below) were a part of an agreement between the State and local governments that involved the loss of local revenue sources in exchange for the establishment of these funds.

Table 1. Reductions in LAVTRF

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Table 2. Reductions in CCRS

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LA VTRF (Local Ad Valorem Property Tax Reduction)
Established under K.S.A. 79-2959, LA VTRF is currently supposed to transfer 3.63% of state sales and use taxes to cities and counties. Revenue sharing in this manner dates back to the 1930s with the current statutory framework being established in 1965. At that time, the local share of certain cigarette revenue stamp taxes and cereal malt beverage taxes were rolled into the state general fund and a direct transfer was made into the LA VTRF to replace the loss of these funds (Kansas Session Laws, Chapter 530, 1965).

CCRS (County City Revenue Sharing)
Established under K.S.A. 79-2964, CCRS is supposed to transfer 2.823% of state sales and use taxes to cities and counties. CCRS was established in 1978 as part of an agreement between the State and local governments regarding a number of different taxes. In particular, the local share of cigarette and liquor enforcement tax revenues was traded for the establishment of the CCRS (Kansas Session Laws, Chapter 401, 1978).
### SCCHF (Special City-County Highway Fund)

Established under K.S.A. 79-3425(I), this portion of the Special City-County Highway Fund is funded by the motor vehicle property tax. The other portion of SCCHF is funded by the motor fuels tax and transfers from that portion of the fund have not been reduced to date.

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</table>

Total through FY 2014: $449,680,091 - $178,245,000 = $271,435,091

* The Kansas Department of Transportation has quit calculating this number, so it represents a conservative estimate of the amount that should have been transferred.

Total of All Demand Transfer Losses Since 1991:

- LAVTR: $885,871,076
- CCRS: $729,616,377
- SCCHF: $271,435,091
- Total: $1,886,922,544

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

The U.S. Census Bureau has suspended the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) in fiscal year (FY) 2014, which runs from October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014. The FY 2014 budget for the Department of Commerce and the Census Bureau reflects an effort to balance the desire to fund the many important statistical programs and services the Census Bureau provides within the current budget environment. That effort required the Census Bureau to make some difficult resource allocation decisions that unfortunately resulted in the suspension of the BAS in 2014.

What is the BAS?
The Census Bureau conducts the BAS to provide state, county, minor civil division, and local governments; as well as tribal governments the opportunity to submit changes to their legal boundaries, names, and governmental status effective on or before January 1 of the survey year. However, a subset of the 40,000 legal governments nationwide forms the core ‘reporting universe’ for BAS production each year. The reporting universe consists of governments known to experience boundary changes. The BAS is voluntary and every legal government has the opportunity to participate. In the 2013 BAS, 2,522 governments reported boundary updates.

The Census Bureau works closely with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to ensure that the BAS reflects official boundaries for federally recognized American Indian reservations, off-reservation trust lands, and tribal subdivisions.

What are the exceptions from the suspension?
There are two exceptions to the processing of legal boundary updates in fiscal year 2014. The Census Bureau will continue to process National Standard code changes, new incorporations, disincorporations, and name changes due to our agreement with the U. S. Geological Survey. The Census Bureau, also, maintains the Federal Information Processing Series (FIPS) codes for all federal, state and local governments separate from the BAS program as well as tribal governments. In addition, the Census Bureau will continue to process legal boundary updates as part of the Special Census Program and Geographically Updated Population Certification Program. To learn more about these programs, please visit the Census Bureau website at http://www.census.gov.

The result of your 2013 BAS submissions
We completed the updates of all the materials submitted for the 2013 BAS before August 2013 into the MAF/TIGER database. There will be no material created such as PDF maps or BAS forms to verify your submission from 2013 BAS. We will post shapefiles containing the updates in March 2014 to the Census Bureau website at http://www.census.gov.

If boundaries are submitted in FY14
With the suspension of the 2014 BAS, the Census Bureau will not solicit boundary updates from local and tribal governments. If governments submit boundary information such as annexation notifications, map submissions, and digital updates during FY14 then the Census Bureau will hold those materials in preparation of the 2015 BAS.

Contact Information
If you have any questions about this statement on the 2014 BAS, please e-mail geo.bas@census.gov, or visit http://www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas.html.

Kansas Highway Patrol Troopers Recieve Awards
Recently, some Kansas state troopers were honored for their efforts in keeping people safe, and reducing crime on Kansas highways. Two Kansas Highway Patrol troopers were honored with the coveted DIAP/EPIC (Drug Interdiction Assistance Program/El Paso Intelligence Center) awards for their interdiction efforts in removing illegal substances from Kansas highways.

Technical Trooper Chris Nicholas was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for Interdiction Efforts. Technical Trooper Nicholas has had a successful record in helping free Kansas highways of illegal substances.

Technical Trooper Jason Edie was honored with a DIAP/EPIC (Drug Interdiction Assistance Program/El Paso Intelligence Center) award for the Largest Heroin Seizure from 2012-2013. Technical Trooper Edie was honored for a February, 2012 case, in which he conducted a traffic stop and seized 67.5 lbs of heroin.

November Revenue Receipts Meet Monthly Target
The Kansas economy continued to show signs of steady growth with November sales tax receipts beating projections.

“It is encouraging to see sales tax receipts topping expectations because that means people and businesses are confident enough in the economy to spend their money,” said Revenue Secretary Nick Jordan. “Lowering the individual income tax rates has let people hold on to more of the money they earned. They are now able to spend it as they see fit.”

Sales tax receipts were $1.1 million more than anticipated or about 1%. Overall, fiscal year to date revenue receipts remain on target with budget estimates.
Outside of home and beyond the workplace, civic spaces throughout Kansas allow people to gather and share stories that can both build relationships and community.

People come together in these spots and may discover common ground they may not even know exists until they start talking. That conversation may start because they’ve read the same book, or live in the same place, or care about the same thing, even though their viewpoints may be diametrically opposed.

These communal areas, our civic “front porches,” if you will, take many varied forms, from public libraries to bookstores to coffee shops and diners. Sociologist Ray Oldenburg coined the term, “third place,” for spots where we engage outside the confines of home (first place), or work (second place).

“It’s all about telling stories and building relationships,” says Gina Millsap, Executive Director of the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, which was designed with spaces where community members could gather. “I think it’s in our DNA — stories and storytelling. We’re hardwired to need those, to want them, and to seek out connections with people that create and share those stories.”

In his book, *The Great Good Place*, Oldenburg posits that the interactions we have in these “third places” are essential for a functioning democracy. These gathering places provide opportunity for interactions we may not have in any other part of our lives. The interactions there, both planned and unplanned, can lead to creative thought and connections.

Yet our use of civic spaces remains under pressure in our society. The pull of both work and home is strong, with commitments to duty and family often overwhelming. We can easily barricade ourselves in the comforts of home or become enthralled in the challenges of work. Many of our communities have spread geographically to encompass great distances. Civic spaces themselves can diminish in their importance as the way we live changes or disappears, such as when a coffee shop goes out of business. Long before the widespread use of the Internet at home, Oldenburg saw a “structure of shared experience beyond that offered by family, job, and passive consumerism” being “small and dwindling.”

For civic spaces to remain a key part of the Kansas landscape, we must consciously seek them out and even create new ones — formal and informal; temporary and permanent — to foster the relationships and community necessary to work for the common good. “The availability of public space has actually shrunk over time,” Millsap says. “This is an issue we in the library world talk about a lot.” As new buildings are considered, “a focus is to really become a destination to the community, to help build community, to be a part of the neighborhood,” she says. “People are hungry for that.” By their nature, libraries are repositories for collections that take up considerable space. “The people space we have is jealously guarded,” she says of the Topeka library.

Libraries in smaller communities may host everything from political forums to baby showers. In all circumstances, they’re a chance for people to connect. “Sometimes just seeing a person and sitting down face to face is a treat,” says Sue Blechl, Director of the Emporia Public Library. The benefits become clear when you can see what happens in a truly impactful civic space, says Martha Slater Farrell, one of the organizers for Kansas Dialogue, a gathering of people from across the state and many walks of life who come together once a year at different places for an “off-the-record” weekend retreat to talk about issues shaping the state, world, workplace, and family.

“I am absolutely fascinated by what happens when you gather a group of people under the same roof to talk,” Farrell says. “We create a new space every year. It has been under trees, in hotel rooms, museums, store fronts, and on university campuses.” She says the purpose is, “just bringing people together for the sole purpose of getting to know each other and having really great conversation.”

**CREATING A CIVIC SPACE**

What makes a great civic space? And, how do you create one? One important aspect is making sure that the space is built or designed in a way that actually encourages people to linger, connect, strengthen existing relationships and build new ones. When thinking about creating a space that will foster interaction, even small details matter.
Sarah Bagby, owner of Watermark Books and Café in Wichita, says she has changed the layout of the store and café near the College Hill area of Wichita over the years to facilitate more interaction.

At one time there were book cases separating the café, but they realized people were bonding in the café and they were doing a disservice to people to have it closed off. They responded to people’s movement and opened up the space so people could share more freely.

But while the environment matters, good civic spaces are primarily about people and their needs, not the structure itself.

When Greensburg suffered a devastating tornado in 2007, most of the town’s buildings were destroyed, including their communal gathering spots. It now has “The Commons,” a 20,000 sq. ft. building that houses the library, historical museum, extension office, and the town’s media center.

“Truthfully, the entire idea for the facility as it was first envisioned was an effort to save money,” says Matt Christenson, Kiowa County IT director. “Having lost pretty much every major facility we had, and being under-insured to boot, we were trying to save money wherever we could.”

Initially, the plan was to house the library and the museum. When the courthouse was being renovated, it made sense to move the extension office to the commons as well. The media center grew out of a need they realized after the tornado. It is focused on student
journalism and maintains an online presence with information about Greensburg. “It’s a hub of community communication updated for 21st century,” Christenson says of the center, which can be found online at http://www.kwksmedia.org.

“Communications was a big hole after the tornado,” Christenson says. Population of the city scattered while the rebuilding was happening. “The facilities are nice to have,” he says, “but the takeaway is that the people are the really important part of any community. They’ll find a way.”

PLACES FOR DIFFERENT VOICES

Another measure of a great civic space is whether it brings different kinds of people together.

Katy Reinecker manages the Harvest Café in Inman, a city which has fewer than 1,400 residents. Although there is a senior center in town, the café is where all ages can gather. “You find 20-year-olds sitting with 80-year-olds in here,” she says.

The café encourages communal gathering. “We have a table right outside our kitchen door called, ‘The Family Table.’ If you come in here by yourself, we’re going to encourage you to sit at the family table,” Reinecker says. “Especially the ones we know are widowed or otherwise live alone, this is a place for them to come where they can be with a lot of people. They’re only alone until they get here.”

The welcoming nature in such places is part of what makes people feel they can relax and be open to conversation in a civic space. As a result, civic spaces might just as easily be a private business as they will a government building.

When Blenda Hoskinson started College Hill Coffee in Winfield 12 years ago, she was single. “A coffeehouse was a place you could go if you were alone or with a group, and be comfortable.” she says. “I wanted it where people could come in and spend as much time as they wanted.”

That doesn’t fit with the typical business model of turning over tables quickly, which leads to selling more product. But private businesses, both large and small, can own the identity of being a crucial civic space and prosper at the same time.

In Inman, the café has a sign on the wall that says, “Sit Long, Talk Much.” Reinecker says, “You’ve got to have a hometown place to go.” But there’s still a balance to be had.

“Watermark as a civic space, as a place to gather, is at the core of everyday of our lives at Watermark,” Bagby says. “If people don’t support local businesses, there aren’t those civic spaces.”

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER, IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT

Great civic spaces also create an environment that offers opportunities for unexpected or incidental connections — the kind of contact with friends, neighbors, and acquaintances that makes you feel like you’re truly a part of the community.

The Lied Center at the University of Kansas in Lawrence is used for a variety of events, including graduations, lectures, meetings and performances ranging from professional ensembles to local dance schools.

Executive Director Tim Van Leer says, “When you come to the Lied Center you’re going to see your friends and neighbors.” He says the conversations that happen before and after performances give people a way to connect again later when they run into each other. The shared experience is a conversation starter.

Speaking about the Topeka library, Millsap says, “If you stand in our rotunda and you live in this community, you’re almost certain
to see someone you know. It makes everybody who comes in here feel they’re part of something bigger. It broadens perspective and I think that’s so critical; there’s great power in that.”

While some of the connections people form in civic spaces will be temporary, others can be long lasting. Both have value by either exposing us to new people, views, and ideas or strengthening our connections to a community.

Annie Wilson is a musician who regularly plays at the Cottonwood Falls Jam Sessions held every Friday night. “With musicians it’s a deep bond to play with other people, even if you never speak with them or even know their names, you’ve done something creative and very emotionally fulfilling together and you feel like you are on the same team or almost family,” she says. “It’s quite a deep connection.”

Wilson, who won the Flint Hills Balladeer award, writes songs that capture the sense of the Flint Hills area and has a band that plays regularly and records CDs, says that would not have happened without participating in the civic space created by Sue and Monty Smith, owners of the Emma Chase Café, who started those jam sessions. “I would never have done this,” she says. “It would NOT have happened.”

Wilson also believes the stories in the songs and the ones people tell during the jam session are important. “It helps people in the Flint Hills realize this place has a great value, and is also of value to other people,” she says.

Connections formed through creative work are strong. The Topeka library is considering “maker spaces,” where people can come together for the express purpose of creating something together. “We have a mandate to serve everyone,” Millsap says about the Topeka library. As a result, the staff is constantly trying to figure out how people use the space and what would make it more enticing. She wants everyone to feel welcome.

FIGURING OUT WHAT’S RIGHT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

Technology also creates the opportunity to have civic spaces that are virtual in nature. Olathe has held an e-town hall meeting the last three years to engage people in their budget process. It takes questions by phone, email, Twitter and Facebook. “Generally we say we want to engage the public, but it’s on our turf. I think this pushes that conversation to a space that’s a little bit more comfortable and easier to access and engage in,” says Michael Wilkes, Olathe City Manager. He cautions that what works for Olathe may not be good for others. “You have to figure out what’s right for your community,” Wilkes says.

But more civic spaces that encourage more face to-face interaction are hardly a thing of the past in Olathe. The city is trying to create opportunity for intergenerational bonding in its new Community Center, the first one ever in this city of 130,000.

As city leaders design what Wilkes calls the “community living room,” they’re taking into account what people have said they wanted in the 71,000 sq. ft. building. One of those things is cross-generational interaction. “We really feel like there’s value to the seniors interacting with the teens,” Wilkes says. “We want that interaction and conversation.”
Farrell says setting an intention for the space and having ground rules helps Kansas Dialogue create the space in which it exists each year.

“Connections are made that would not have happened otherwise,” says Farrell of the Kansas Dialogue experience. “People get immersed in their own worlds, and it’s easy to lose sight of the fact that you have a very particular perspective that’s based on that world.”

**FOSTERING ACCOUNTABILITY, RESPONSIBILITY**

Civic spaces offer opportunities for interaction that breaks people out of that mold. “If I were to distill this down to the basic essence of what it is, it’s that third place,” Bagby says. “It can be serendipitous. They can just walk in and be in a place that feels like a community.”

Perhaps the best news of all is that a civic space to facilitate that interaction can be formed easily. “You can create a space wherever you are,” Farrell says. For instance, at least 19 “little free libraries” have been established and registered in Kansas. Typically wood boxes placed on posts in the front yards of homes, the miniature libraries allow people to pick up and donate books as they wish. Alice Mills of Hutchinson got a Little Free Library as a gift from her children last Christmas. Shortly after they put it up in their front yard in the historic Hyde Park area, people started visiting. “It’s a pretty simple concept, but it’s just great,” she says. She enjoys the idea that she’s contributing to the neighborhood and has visited with a number of people who have come for books. “It has become a stroller destination,” she says. It gives the neighborhood another way to connect.

Making connections is also happening today in social media. But those relationships don’t exist only online. “Tweet-ups” bring people who are on Twitter together for social occasions. Social media clubs offer more chances for those who regularly connect online to meet face to face. In all cases, these are open to anyone who wants to join in, solely for the purpose of gathering.

But what do these spaces have to do with, as the sociologist Oldenburg claimed, maintaining social vitality and a functioning democracy? Millsap says they give people a chance to see the importance of the common good and that they have a role in fostering it.

“Places where people can come and gather encourage people to not turn over the reins of governance,” Millsap says. “It fosters that sense of what the public good is, and why it matters.” She says it helps people see they’re part of a larger community. “It not only creates a sense of well-being; it also creates a sense of accountability and responsibility.”

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Did you know that Amelia Earhart was a famous...author?

Did you think I was going to say aviatrix?

We all know Kansas native Amelia Earhart as a pioneer in the world of aviation. And, we all know that her plane was lost during her attempt at a circumnavigation of the world. Recent attempts to locate the wreckage have captivated both the serious historian and the historically curious.

But, the private side of Amelia Earhart is not often discussed in the fantastical articles about her mysterious disappearance.

“During her lifetime, Amelia Earhart (1897-1937) wrote three books about her flying career: 20 Hrs. 40 Min. (1929), The Fun of It (1932), and Last Flight2 (1937). In addition to these accounts, she wrote chapters and introductions for several children’s books and articles on aviation for numerous magazines and newspapers such as the New York Times and the New York Herald-Tribune. She even served a brief stint as Aviation Editor for Cosmopolitan magazine, writing articles and answering readers’ questions about flying. It is still widely unknown today, however, that Amelia Earhart secretly dreamed of becoming an accomplished creative writer.” See, http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1031&amp;context=lib_research

As I prepare to leave Kansas for a new adventure with the Virginia Municipal League, I know that my Kansas roots will serve me well. And, I am both moved and heartened by Amelia’s words:

**Courage**

Courage is the price which life exacts for granting peace.

The soul that knows it not, knows no release

From little things;

Knows not the livid loneliness of fear

Nor mountain heights, where bitter joy you can hear

The sound of wings.

How can life grant us boon of living, compensate,

For dull gray ugliness and pregnant hate

Unless we dare

The soul’s dominion? Each time we make a choice we pay

With courage to behold resistless day

And count it fair.

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

CITY HALL DAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2014

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

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

All city officials are then invited to join LKM for an
evening reception with legislators at the Capitol Plaza
Hotel.
Anticipated Bills. Legislators introduced several bills during the 2013 legislative session that, if passed, would have negatively impacted city government. While LKM defeated these bills during the 2013 legislative session, they are still alive and can be reconsidered during the 2014 session. LKM anticipates the following bills will rematerialize:

Public Funds for Lobbying. Last session, legislators introduced a bill that would have prohibited the use of public funds for lobbying. This bill, as originally written, would have effectively barred city officials and staff from advocating for their local government. The bill also would have prohibited cities from paying dues to associations that lobby. This means cities could not join associations like LKM or their local chambers of commerce if they lobbied. In addition, city employees would not be able to participate in various trade associations like a bar association or public works association if the association lobbied. Fortunately, because of the significant advocacy efforts of our members, this bill did not make it out of Committee. Nevertheless, legislators gutted another bill and added language that, if passed, would have mandated onerous reporting requirements related to city funds used for lobbying. While neither of these bills passed during the 2013 legislative session, LKM expects similar bills to return during the 2014 Legislative Session.

Local Elections. Legislators introduced several bills last session that would have moved local elections to the fall. Many of the bills also proposed to make local elections partisan. In the end, the House Committee on Elections passed a bill that would have moved local elections to the fall of odd-numbered years. The bill, however, was later stricken from the House Calendar. Although the bill was stricken in 2013, LKM expects it to return, along with other election bills, in the upcoming legislative session.

Machinery and Equipment. During the previous two legislative sessions, LKM – along with several local government partners – have opposed a bill that would change the definition of “fixtures” for property tax evaluation purposes. The bill, as it stands, has the potential to significantly reduce the property tax base and shift the tax burden to homeowners, small businesses, and agricultural concerns. LKM anticipates that this bill will return in the 2014 session.
KPERS. After months of research and hearings, the 2012 Legislature passed legislation that overhauled the KPERS system. Under this legislation, new hires starting January 1, 2015, will be placed in a cash balance plan. Late in the 2013 session, however, the House Pensions and Benefits Committee held hearings on a bill that would move all new hires into a defined contribution plan. After the hearings, the Committee decided to table the discussion and restart it in 2014 when they would have more time to study the matter. LKM expects the Committee to begin these discussions at the start of the session.

Concealed Carry. Last session, the Legislature passed a bill that allows concealed carry permit holders to carry concealed weapons in municipal buildings unless the building provides metal detectors or wands at every public entrance. The bill, however, contains contrasting sections pertaining to employees. One provision states that a municipality cannot prohibit any employee with a concealed carry permit from carrying a concealed handgun at work unless the work building has adequate security measures. A second provision states that a municipality can prohibit by personnel policies any employee with a concealed carry permit from carrying concealed handguns on its premises or while working. The conflicting sections have led to much confusion. Moreover, it has come to LKM’s attention that insurance companies have indicated that they will not insure cities who permit employees to carry concealed handguns. LKM expects clarification on this important matter in 2014.

Tax Lid/Budget Process. Last session legislators introduced a bill that appeared to place a tax lid on cities. While proponents insisted that it was not a tax lid, LKM successfully lobbied and the bill was amended to clarify that it was not a tax lid. In addition, the City of Wichita succeeded in having the bill amended so that it applied to only cities raising property taxes above the CPI. The bill passed the House last session. LKM believes the Senate may consider it during the 2014 Legislative Session.

Nicole Proulx Aiken is Legal Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at naiken@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.
Mayor David Austin and the Bel Aire City Council are pleased to announce the City has been awarded a funding package from the Kansas Department of Transportation to construct a rail siding in the Bel Aire Sunflower Commerce Park.

Bel Aire broke ground on the Sunflower Commerce Park in November of 2012 with the goal to create a premier business park located in South Central Kansas and Sedgwick County. The 800 acre park has a Union Pacific industrial line running through the center of the park which the City envisioned utilizing for businesses needing rail access. With the funding package from KDOT, the siding will become a reality allowing 4 lots totaling more than 60 acres in Phase 1 to now have rail shipping capabilities.

The City has been working with Buzzi Unicem to purchase a 12 acre lot on the southwest corner of 53rd and Greenview. The contract contained a contingency that a rail siding be built in order for Buzzi to construct their $6 million dollar facility. With the funding from KDOT, the City can now move forward with construction of the siding and allow for the land contract to close. Buzzi will begin construction on their facility after the first of the year and utilize approximately 800 rail cars per year. Marlin Penner with John T. Arnold has worked the transaction and is responsible for marketing the Sunflower Commerce Park. The City currently has two other land purchase contracts in the due diligence phase for lots in the park. One is Shuttle Aerospace and the other is a yet to be announced international company. Century Manufacturing was the first business to locate in the park and has been operating for almost a year.

Jeff Lackey with TranSystems worked closely with the City in applying for funding and also was responsible for engineering of the Sunflower Commerce Park. Plating was done by Chuck May with Schwab-Eaton and Jeff Best with Law-Kingdon completed the master plan. TranSystems has competed engineering on the siding and Union Pacific has approved access to their line. Construction should begin on the siding after the first of the year.

The City would like to thank Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary Mike King for his support of this project and the economic benefits it will bring to south central Kansas. City staff worked closely with John Maddox from the KDOT Freight and Rail Division as well as Mike Moriarty with the KDOT Economic Development Division who both were very supportive of this project.

Wichita Area Chosen

The Wichita metropolitan region has been selected to join a prestigious multi-city network that could help spur its economic recovery through expanded international trade.

The offer was extended jointly by the Brookings Institution and JPMorgan Chase, who announced Thursday the launch of the Exchange, a new network of 20 pioneering metropolitan areas committed to increased global trade and economic competitiveness.

Wichita was one of eight communities named Thursday to join the 20-city Exchange. Others include Atlanta, Georgia; Greenville, South Carolina; Indianapolis, Indiana; Jacksonville, Florida; Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Phoenix, Arizona, and Sacramento, California. The eight cities will join 12 other major American cities who already are using Brookings resources for export planning.

The Wichita application to the program was jointly prepared by the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition (GWEDC) and Kansas Global Trade Services, a Wichita-based non-profit organization dedicated to global trade opportunities.

Local funding to support the initiative has tentatively been approved by a coalition of regional partners, including GWEDC, the South-Central Kansas Regional Area Economic Partnership (REAP) and other local government entities. Kansas Global Trade Services will provide management oversight of the program.

Under the Exchange, each metropolitan area will develop a customized strategy for export growth and foreign investment. Leaders of the communities will establish metro-to-metro relationships to share best practices in globally-oriented economic development.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for the Wichita region and the State of Kansas,” said Stan Ahlerich, board chairman of Kansas Global Trade Services. “It is encouraging that the Brookings Institution recognizes the potential for Wichita to return to its top national ranking in export performance.”

The benefits of expanded global trade will have a dramatic impact on the local, regional and state economy, noted Tim Chase, GWEDC president.
Motivating Residents to Serve on their City’s Governing Body

About a year ago, the small town of Little Mountain, South Carolina made national news. It wasn’t the Little Mountain Reunion festival that caught the attention of NPR and the *New York Times*—it was that none of the community’s 292 residents was willing to serve as mayor. After the previous mayor retired, no one ran to take his place, and the top two write-in candidates declined the job. After six months without a mayor, a local accountant agreed to take the position. Little Mountain’s struggle is symbolic of a problem facing municipalities across the country—how do you motivate residents to serve on their city’s governing body?

There’s been very little research in this area, so I decided to look at some data to see what leads to increased participation in Kansas commission and city council races. Looking at last April’s city elections in 30 Kansas communities, I calculated the number of candidates running per open seat in those races. I then checked which of three factors (the number of seats up for election, the city’s population, and the annual salary for each council member or commissioner) best predicted the number of candidates running per open seat. I found no statistically significant association between the number of individuals running per seat and the number of seats open, nor any between candidates per seat and city population. The only statistically significant association I found was between candidates per seat and annual salary paid to governing body members.

The scatter-graph illustrates the relationship between candidates per seat and the annual salary of elected officials. The line plot predicts that a city that pays its council members or commissioners nothing can expect about 1.5 candidates per open seat. A city that pays them each $2,750 per year can expect 2 candidates per open seat. It may not seem especially surprising that increased pay increases the competition for a seat, but it’s helpful to understand the implications of the data. Salary can increase competition, but a meaningful increase appears to require a big investment. If two seats are open on a volunteer five-person council, is it worth it to increase total payments to the governing body by $13,750 to get four candidates to run rather than three?

This data should only be one factor when deciding how much to pay your elected officials. Some other research indicates that increasing municipal legislator pay can increase legislative engagement, decrease missed votes, and decrease expenditure and tax revenue per capita. However, it hasn’t been shown to increase performance or decrease corruption. Additionally, you could argue it’s not in a community’s best interest to have council members or commissioners who are motivated to serve by financial gain.

If your community is looking for non-monetary strategies to encourage residents to run for local office, research on public service motivation (PSM) may be helpful. PSM is a theory that civic-minded individuals are drawn to government service because of their desire to serve the public. Research has shown these individuals are motivated by recognition of their efforts, seeing examples of other elected officials who’ve benefited their communities, sharing in the pursuit of their organization’s mission, a civil work environment, and growth opportunities. Some strategies cities could use to attract these individuals are annual events recognizing their governing body’s hard-work, public thank you’s for leading specific projects, civility codes for meetings, or encouraging council members or commissioners to attend training opportunities.

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2 The populations of the cities tested ranged from 136 to 35,816, and I only used races in at-large districts. This data is on file at the LKM, and I’d be happy to share it with anyone who’s interested in it.


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Michael Koss is Legal Counsel and Membership Services Manager for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at mkoss@lkm.org.
### 2014 LKM OPERATING BUDGET

As approved by the League Governing Body in Topeka on September 6, 2013

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<tr>
<th>REVENUES</th>
<th>2013 Budget</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
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<td><strong>Transfer Out-to General Operating Reserve Fund</strong></td>
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| TOTAL EXPENSES                                 | 1,778,000   | 1,778,000   |
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City Manager

Henderson, Texas, is seeking a new City Manager. The City of Henderson has a population of more than 13,700 and is centrally located in between Tyler, Longview, and Nacogdoches.

Henderson is a home rule city with a Council-Manager form of government. The City has 120 employees and an annual 2013-2014 budget of $18 million. Positions reporting directly to the City Manager are the Public Utilities Director, Public Services Director, Finance Director, Police Chief, and Fire Chief.

Bachelor’s degree and 5 or more years of progressively responsible experience in public administration, at least 3 of which involved city management or general government administration, required. Master’s degree and at least 3-5 years of experience as an Assistant City Manager, City Manager, or general government administrator preferred. View complete position profile and apply online at: www.governmentresource.com/pages/CurrentSearches

For more information contact: Chester Nolen, Senior Vice President Strategic Government Resources Chester@governmentresource.com

City Manager

The City of Sterling is requesting applications for the position of City Manager. Sterling is a growing and vibrant main street city of 2,600 residents with a liberal arts college, a diversified economic base, and is located approximately 20 miles from Hutchinson. Please send resumes to City of Sterling, P.O. Box 23, Sterling, Kansas 67579, or you may contact 620-278-2331 with inquiries.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LEAGUE OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES

The LKM Board of Directors is seeking a business and results-oriented leader to join the team and assist the Board in developing and achieving its vision for the future of LKM.

The successful candidate should possess a BS/BA in Public/Business Administration, Political Science or a related field, with related MS/MA preferred.

The starting salary for will be market competitive, DOQ/E, plus benefits and reasonable relocation expenses. See brochure at www.mercergroupinc.com

Confidential resumes by COB January 6, 2014, to James Mercer, President/CEO, The Mercer Group, Inc., 1000 Cordova Place, #726, Santa Fe, NM 87505. Voice: 505-466-9500; Fax: 505-466-1274. E-Mail: jmercer@mercergroupinc.com, Website: www.mercergroupinc.com

It is expected that interviews of finalist candidates will be conducted later in January, 2014. EOE

Fire Chief

The City of Andover is seeking an accomplished professional to serve as the next Fire Chief. The preferred candidate will have at least 10 years fire service experience with at least 3 at the Captain or higher level in a career or combination fire department. This is a responsible, administrative position that is directly concerned with the development, management and supervision of a complete program of public safety. Must reside within 5 minutes of the City. Salary range is $55,000 to $65,000 depending on qualifications.

To apply for the position and see a full job description, visit www.hirepartners.com

Full Time City Maintenance Certified Water/Waste water Operator

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

General Manager

The Leavenworth Water Department is seeking an experienced General Manager. GM reports to a five member Board of Directors elected for four years.

Responsibilities include management over production, distribution, and administration departments. Able to develop and implement capital improvement and operating budgets. Salary range $80K - $115K. Salary commensurate with experience. Send letter of interest and detailed resume to Chairman Michael Bogner at mbogner@lvnwater.org. For more information see job description at www.lvnwater.com. The Leavenworth Water Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Journeyman Lineman

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

Management Intern

The City of Olathe has a great opportunity for a committed, team-oriented, and highly motivated MPA graduate (or student who has completed all MPA coursework) to join the City Manager’s Office as a Management Intern. The duties and responsibilities of the Management Intern are designed to further prepare the incumbent for a successful career in local government. This is a full-time, paid position with full benefits.

The intern will gain exposure to innovative best practices in our award-winning organization, and will experience a departmental rotation. The rotation begins in the City Manager’s Office. Upon completion of this rotation, the Intern will move to a select operational department, and will then complete the three-department rotation in the Budget Office. Throughout the rotations, the Management Intern will have ongoing responsibilities with the City Manager’s Office. We believe this type of rotational...
experience gives our intern a great overall experience of local government and the challenges and opportunities that can be gained by various projects and experiences.

Successful candidates for the Management Internship Position will have a Master of Public Administration (or be a student who has completed all MPA coursework) or equivalent degree by July 1st and at least 6 months of related work experience. Applicable internships (paid or unpaid) will satisfy the experience requirement. The ideal candidate will have a general knowledge of municipal government operations and be proficient with Microsoft Word, Excel, Power Point, and related applications.

I have attached a flyer that can be posted as well as a packet of information that can be handed out to interested candidates. Please let me know if you have any questions.

For more information, please visit http://www.olatheks.org/CityManager/ManagementInternship

HOW TO APPLY Submit application, cover letter, resume, and 3 references at http://agency.governmentjobs.com/olathe/default.cfm

Park Superintendent

PARK SUPERINTENDENT (Regular Full-Time Exempt) Salary Range: $54,039 - $85,779 Position Purpose: Meet the ongoing facility needs for leisure and recreational activities, ensuring a safe, useable, and quality park system with appropriate facilities; providing complete services for cemetery operations, and providing a quality urban forestry program by directing the operations, maintenance, and development of these units of the Park Division.

Experience Required: Considerable knowledge of modern office methods, practices, equipment, and technology, to include fundamentals of financial record keeping, procedures, and budgeting. Considerable knowledge of parks, aquatic facilities, sport complexes, building maintenance, and turf and horticulture practices. Working knowledge of machinery and strong supervisory skills. Ability to gather and interpret data and to write reports, and to research solutions to problems. Sensitive to recreational needs and programs a must, as are excellent interpersonal and presentation skills and abilities. Five years of related experience to include broad supervisory experience.

Education: Bachelor’s Degree in Park Resources Management, Park and Recreation Administration, or a related field.

Closing Date: 12/31/2013
Apply at www.cityofmhk.com Click on “Jobs” or “Employment” Access the full job description by clicking on the job title.
Click on “Apply Here” to access www. HRePartners.com
Additional [optional] cover letters or resumes may be sent to hackney@cityofmhk.com

Planner

We are conducting a search for a Planner in our Planning and Development Services Division. The Planner manages a variety of assignments, activities, and programs related to the development review process and long-range planning activities.

Qualifications include a Bachelor of Science/Arts degree from an accredited university or institution in Urban Planning, Engineering, Architecture, Landscape Architecture or Geography. Master’s Degree preferred with minimum of 2 years’ experience in the planning profession.

Starting salary is $40,870 to $56,000 dependent on qualifications. The selected candidate will be required to pass a pre-employment physical, drug test and background investigation.

To apply for the above position and for more information on this opportunity, please complete the following application or visit our website at www.lenexa.com/hr/careers. Be sure to attach your cover letter and resume reflecting any work history you may have during the past 10 years.

Public Works Director

The City of Fredonia is seeking to replace the retiring Public Works Director. This employee is responsible for the planning, directing, and management of all buildings/properties, street, parks, airport, cemetery, and solid waste. Requires at least two years of relevant experience; the ability to operate heavy machinery; a high school diploma or GED; and a valid driver’s license with a good motor vehicle record. Supervisory experience preferred. Salary range DOQ. Submit your application online at www.fredoniaks.org. Open until filled.

Public Works Employee

The City of Protection Kansas is now accepting applications for full time Public Works employee. Those interested can pick up an application at City of Protection PO Box 7, 108 W Walnut, Protection, Ks 67127 between hours of 9 am – 2 pm or call 620-622-4696 to request application mailed out. Wage based on experience. City of Protection is searching for an individual with mechanical aptitude and ability to live within city limits. Public Works employee applicant must be able to pass drug testing. Open until filled. City Clerk, Sue Grennan-Murphey EOE

Public Works/ Wastewater – Louisburg, Kansas

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

Water Plant Operator

The City of Emporia is accepting applications for Class III and Class IV Water Plant Operators. This employee performs technical and skilled work in the operation of the water pumping stations and treatment plant and related equipment to provide safe drinking water. Initial Requirements: Class III or Class IV Water Plant Operator certification; valid Kansas driver’s license; ability to pass a thorough medical exam, a drug/alcohol screening, and a background check upon conditional offer of employment; must be resident of Lyon County or willing to relocate upon employment. For more information on this position and to apply, please visit the City of Emporia’s website at www.emporia-kansas.gov. The City of Emporia is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
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“Everything has to come to an end, sometime.”

-L Frank Baum, The Marvelous Land of Oz

This is my 205th, and final, “Moler’s Musings” in the Kansas Government Journal. Hard to believe how quickly the time has passed, but it has, and I find myself looking back over many years of writing this column, and enjoying working with the people in the local government community.

I guess when you are at the end of something it causes you to think about the beginnings, and the transitions and changes over the years. So in this, my final column, I plan to highlight some of my experiences at the League, and a few of the great people I have met along the way. I was hired into the League on July 2, 1985, by then League Executive Director E.A. (Ernie) Mosher. Ernie had been at the League at that point for about a quarter of a century and gave a young, newly minted attorney right out of KU Law, an opportunity to begin his career at the League of Kansas Municipalities. One thing about Ernie, he was very “conservative” in the salaries that he paid. I remember signing on the dotted line for the modest sum of $18,276 for my first year of service here as the League Research Attorney. I had found the job as a result of a classified ad that I read in the Topeka Capital-Journal while sitting on the couch at my Aunt Joye’s house in Manhattan. As memory serves, my folks were there too, and I remember saying to my father that it was “the perfect job for me.”

As time passed, I moved up from Research Attorney to Attorney and ultimately was appointed General Counsel of the League by Ernie’s successor, Chris McKenzie. I have always felt a close kinship with Chris as he afforded me the ability to advance at the League, and provided numerous opportunities for me to grow and reach my potential over the years. One of the things I remember about Chris was spending a Martin Luther King weekend, many years ago, working with Chris on developing some of the language that ultimately became the legislation which allowed for the unification of Kansas City, Kansas, and Wyandotte County. It was Chris who suggested that perhaps I should start writing a monthly column for the Kansas Government Journal. This column actually began with the December, 1996 edition of the magazine. The format of the column, and its focus, were not crystal clear when I began writing way back in 1996, but the format emerged after a few columns. In 1999, after Chris was appointed the Executive Director of the League of California Cities, I was selected as the LKM Executive Director after a nationwide search.

I am proud of the fact that there were 528 member cities when I took over, and there are 598 member cities today, an all-time record. I am proud of the fact that when I took over, the audited reserves of the organization were $731,758, and today they are $1,294,015. I remember with great clarity the leap of faith it took for the League to move forward with the purchase of the existing League building at 300 S.W. 8th Avenue in Topeka. I remember heading out on the road with Chris to do seven regional meetings to explain the proposed purchase of the building to the membership, to answer any and all questions concerning that purchase, and to explain how the League member cities would vote on whether or not to purchase the building, and to issue the bonds that would be necessary to fund the project. I remember being so proud of the League membership when they/vou voted to buy the building, which has turned into a great asset for the organization, and will continue to be a great asset indefinitely. The fact that the League owns a building directly across the street from the State Capitol cannot be understated. It was a true masterstroke, and the League membership will continue to benefit from its purchase so long as the organization exists.

I also have been most proud of numerous League legislative victories over the years. To recall just a few, I will never forget that late night back in 1999, during the legislative veto session, when the tax conference committee was meeting in the Senate Majority Leader’s office, and it became clear that the then existing tax lid on local governments would be allowed to sunset. I am proud of the fact that despite constant attacks on the local annexation authority of the cities in Kansas, Kansas cities have retained most of their annexation authority. I am proud of the fact that in my time as Executive Director of the League, Kansas cities were granted the ability to levy up to 3¢ of local sales tax effort. Finally, I am proud of the fact that the Constitutional Home Rule authority of cities in Kansas remains strong, and has been well defended by this great organization. The reality is that we live in a state where cities have a huge amount of autonomy and local authority as a result of a diligent League lobbying team, and the dedicated city officials who have carried the message of local governance to the Kansas Legislature. Through those efforts, we have allowed cities in Kansas to remain strong, independent entities able to govern at the local level, and to do what is necessary to make their communities the best they can possibly be.

It never fails to amaze me how many truly great public servants we have in Kansas, and how truly dedicated and excited they are about improving their cities and the communities which surround them. Regardless of the size, type, or location of the city, this excitement and belief in the underlying good of the community and its people seem to form a truly strong basis for successful cities. It is a tribute to you, the city officials of Kansas, that your cities and citizens are successful and that they keep improving.

As I leave the League Executive Director’s office after 14 years of service in this position, I leave with my head held high looking forward to the next chapter of my life. I would like to personally thank my friends Deputy Director Kimberly Winn, and former General Counsel/Director of Law Sandy Jacquot, whose work ethics, comradery, and outstanding professionalism are beyond compare. I would like to thank my Executive Secretary, Anna DeBusk, who has faithfully served the League for the past 38 years, a majority of that time as Secretary to the Executive Director. I would also like to thank current and former LKM staffers who have helped to make this great organization what it is today. Finally, I would like to thank the city officials of Kansas for allowing me the great privilege of both working for and serving the cities of Kansas, and for allowing me to be the Executive Director of this great organization. It has been a pleasure, and I look forward to seeing all of you down the road.
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"WHY STUDY THE STARS?
they all look THE SAME TO ME."

{ Apprentice to Galileo Galilei, 1636 }

It matters who you listen to.

Gilmore Bell
Gilmore & Bell, P.C.

Bond Counsel