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Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 100-NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2014



Welcome to
BURLINGTON

Inside:

**If I Were Mayor Contest
City of Riley Builds New Library
Custom Welcome Signs**

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Kansas

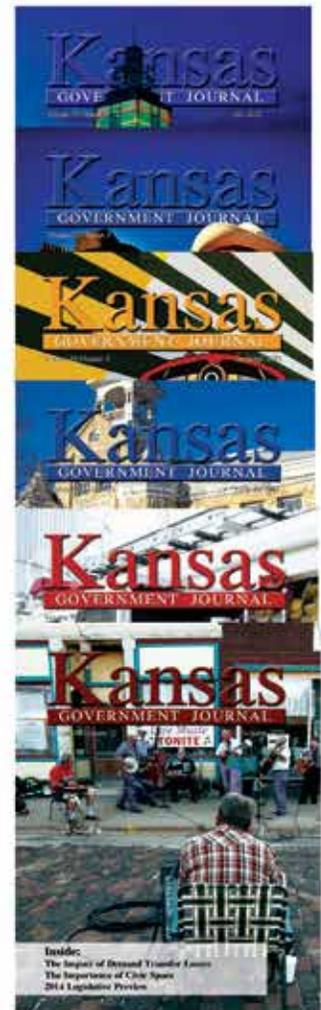
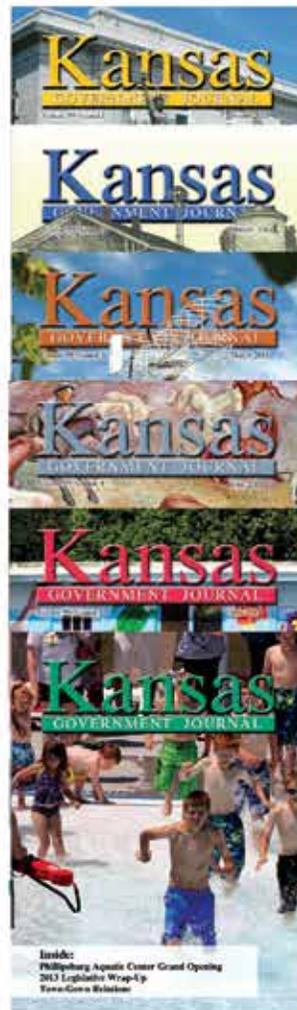
GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

Each year, the League of Kansas Municipalities binds all 12 issues of the *Kansas Government Journal*. Now is the time to collect your monthly copies and send them in to be preserved in hard, bound cover.

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Please have all your magazines sent in no later than April 11, 2014. Questions? Please contact Andrey Ukrazhenko at aukrazhenko@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.



Inside:
Phillipsburg Aquatic Center Grand Opening
2013 Legislative Wrap-Up
Town-Gown Relations

Inside:
The Impact of Broadband Transfer & Loans
The Importance of Civil Space
2014 Legislative Preview

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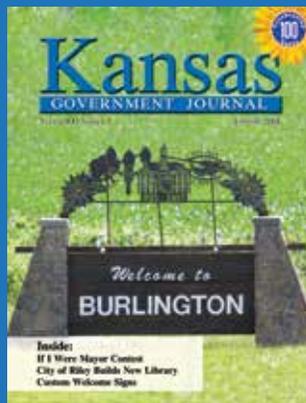
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About the Cover:
One of the custom-made
Burlington welcome signs.
*Photo provided by The Coffey
County Republican. See
related article on page 42.*

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The mission of the League shall be to 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.

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March

07 - Governing Body Meeting - Topeka

21 - MLA : Municipal Finance, Beloit

22 - MLA: Municipal Finance, Pittsburg

April

25 - MLA: Emergency Planning, Lyons

26 - MLA: Emergency Planning, Council Grove

May

9,10 - Leadership Summit & Mayors Conference, Manhattan

June

27 - MLA: Civility and Public Service, Holcomb

28 - MLA: Civility and Public Service, Andover

Obituaries

Ted Dewey, 84, Mayor of Cheney from 1965-1968 and 1989-1991, died January 21, 2014. Mr. Dewey was born July 2, 1929. On June 6, 1948, he married Evelyn I. (Black) Dewey in Cheney.

Felix Herrman, 87, died Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

Mr. Herrman was a lifelong resident of Liebenthal until he resided in La Crosse in 2007. He worked for the city of Liebenthal and was a former city council member.

Jess Johnson, 87, of De Soto, Kansas passed away January 20, 2014.

Mr. Johnson was born Aug. 22, 1926 in Tonganoxie, Kansas and moved to De Soto in 1938. He served as part time City Clerk of De Soto for seven years, and one term on the City Council.

Josephine Mary McCauley, 90, of Merriam, Kansas, died January 29, 2014. Ms. McCauley was born in Kansas City, Missouri, and was a life-long area resident, moving to Merriam at the time of the Kansas Centennial in 1961. In 1968, she went to work for the City of Merriam as an Assistant City Clerk. She became the City Clerk in 1976. In 1983, she was named the City Administrator for Merriam, retiring in 1985.



Directors Foreword



We are now reaching the middle of the 2014 legislative session and the law of unintended consequences is alive and well. One needs to only look at the Religious Freedom Act passed by the House as a perfect example. The measure, HB 2453, was quite controversial on its merits because it dealt with the volatile issue of gay marriage. Specifically and in simple terms, the bill sought to protect from civil

or administrative claims individuals or religious entities who refused to do business with or otherwise recognize gay marriage, domestic partnership, civil union, or similar arrangement. Once the bill was passed by the House and sent to the Senate, however, the business community raised numerous troublesome employer-employee issues that the bills language seemed to suggest. The Senate President immediately declared that the majority party caucus would not support the bill in the form passed by the House because of the bills many unintended consequences. Stay tuned!

In addition, the legislature is considering several measures that deal directly with issues of local control. One such measure, HB 2473, would nullify any current city ordinance that in any way regulates firearms or knives and makes clear that cities could no longer enact any ordinance that sought to regulate firearms

or knives. In addition, HB 2047, passed last year by the House, was heard in the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation. That bill would require additional disclosure by city officials under certain conditions related to revenue from property taxation. Further erosion of local control! Still another measure, HB 2227, would move city elections to the fall in odd-numbered years. City elections have been in spring since statehood and our member cities have voiced strong objection to this effort. In the Senate, SB 211, would move the city elections to the fall in even-numbered years. In fact, on my courtesy visit with the House Speaker several weeks ago, Representative Merrick told me that the change to odd-numbered years was going to happen. Though the issue is not yet settled, it is clear that the leadership of both chambers is sympathetic to the effort.

Finally, let me also say that it is never too late to let YOUR legislators know how you feel about these and other issues with which you may also have an interest. It is always best to contact them personally if possible, but a letter or email can also be helpful. Legislators do listen when their own constituents contact them. They may not always vote as you wish but they listen when folks from “back home” contact them.

Please let us hear from you on these or other matters that merit your interest.

Bills to Watch

SB 10 (KOMA/KORA)

HB 2227 (Elections)

SB 211 (Elections)

HB 2372 (Fluoride)

Sub SB 298 (Mortgage Registration Fee)

HB 2421 (Fourth Amendment Preservation & Protection Act)

SB 304 (Municipal Broadband)

HB 2431 (Knives)

SB 343 (Public Funds for Lobbying)

HB 2456 (Machinery and Equipment: Cement)

SB 353 (Machinery and Equipment: State Valuation)

Sub HB 2473 (Firearms)

SB 363 (Rural Opportunity Zones)

HB 2533 (KPERS: Cash Balance Plan)

S Sub for HB 2023 (Workers' Compensation)

HB 2597 (Municipal Recycling)

HB 2047 (Property Tax)

HB 2643 (Machinery and Equipment: Legislative Predetermination)

HB 2075 (Abandoned Property)

HB 2185 (Consolidation of Local Governments)

“If I Were Mayor” Essay Contest Winners



On February 19, 2014, the League of Kansas Municipalities (LKM) honored six Kansas students for their winning essays in the annual “If I Were Mayor” contest. As part of LKM’s civics education efforts, the essay contest asked seventh-graders from around the state to describe what they would do if they were elected mayor of their city. This year almost 1,360 students participated in the contest. Winners were selected as regional winners and one winner was declared the overall state winner.

The “If I Were Mayor” essay contest awards were

presented as part of LKM’s annual City Hall Day. Hutchinson City Manager and LKM President John Deardoff presented the awards to the seventh-graders.

LKM believes that civic education is the foundation of an active and informed citizenry. 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.

More information about all of LKM’s civic education initiatives can be found online at www.lkm.org/youtheducation.



The “If I Were Mayor” essay awards were presented to the winners at LKM’s annual City Hall Day. From left to right: Abigail Meyer, City of Leawood; Irit Sanchez, City of Scott City; Amanda Ankrom, City of Burden; Logan Weimer, City of Grinnell; Nathan Moon, City of Phillipsburg; Alexander Cline, City of Wichita. Photo by Jay Bachman.

City of Wichita
South Central Region
& Statewide Winner
The Independent School



Alexander Cline

If I were mayor, I would focus on three ideas: the economy, city departments, and our community.

To keep the economy rolling, I would promote our city to new employers to provide jobs for our citizens. Citizens must be employed in order for wealth to be created by their earnings. The government then taxes those earnings and spends that money to provide services for the community. Many municipalities use financial incentives to attract businesses. Good schools, vibrant arts and entertainment, and highly skilled workers are appealing to business owners. If the businesses locate in our area, they can employ our citizens, whose earnings the city taxes, and the money is used to improve the community.

The city's departments would be scrutinized for waste, duplication of services, and possible ways to stream line the processes. Better planning for emergency services is a priority of mine as well. Proper budgeting cannot be overlooked. Our city is a reflection of our values. We work with a diversity of people who can help, and those who need help. City services are one part of our ability to build and maintain a desirable location.

Who does not want to decrease crime, play in green spaces, graduate intelligent thinkers, and care for the people and animals that cannot care for themselves? With careful selection and investment in our community, our citizens can enjoy a high quality locale. Through a wide choice of services, medical care, job opportunities, reliable utilities, attractive entertainment, leisure options, and partnership with private sector organizations we can live in a number one city. I would invest in recruiting citizens who share my high standards for honesty, responsibility, and charity to work for the city and for organizations within our community. Together we could achieve our goals more effectively.

If I were mayor I would try to accomplish all of these tasks. I would try to accomplish them to the best of my ability. There are those people who will try to stop or switch my direction of planning. My goals are lofty but not unobtainable. We do not live in a perfect world, but we can always build up to that expectation as much as we can.

City of Phillipsburg
North Central Winner
Phillipsburg Middle School

If I were mayor I would help to bring the community together. As a mayor I will set goals and budgets for the town so it could continue to move forward and prosper into the future.

I would encourage all citizens, including the youth, to help make decisions. The youth can help give advice with the new technology that will be used in the future. Many future changes can be made to the comprehensive plan by the youth that will affect their generation.

I would encourage citizens to come to city council meetings to hear what I and the council members talk about. I would provide the community with events that would help bring the people of the town closer together. As mayor I believe that when new people become part of the community it is awesome because with new people comes more creative thinking with great ideas to keep the town moving forward. One plan to move forward would include a YMCA to keep kids active while swimming or shooting baskets.

Adults can stay in shape by using the lifting and exercise equipment. Another plan could be a shopping center to have the community come together and shop in one spot. I think being mayor is an honor. Mayor is a job that is not done for the fame or the fortune. I believe mayor is done for the generations and the citizens living in the town. I wish I could become mayor one day.



Nathan Moon

City of Burden
Southeast Winner
Central Jr/Sr High School



Amanda Ankrom

If I were Mayor I would keep this quotation in mind, *“Put your heart, mind, and soul into even your smallest acts. This is the key to success.”* I would have three goals to improve my town.

One of my goals would be to change the minds of people who think they can't do this or don't even start to try. It's infuriating to see someone give up like that. When you have no electricity, no clean water, a house that can barely stand on its own, and its crumbling into ruin, I don't want to see the owner and neighbors sitting there watching it happen like hawks! I want to see them helping, trying to improve the houses and other buildings that are crumbling.

This brings me to my second goal, volunteerism. I think the community would be happy to know that if something happened, the volunteer fire department/police would be there. I'm not saying they have to work all the time, but unless they want to, it would be only part-time. I'm sure this would make the people in the community feel safer.

My third goal would be public safety. I would pour concrete for safe sidewalks, fix houses that are breaking, and have a tornado alarm; when you live in Tornado Alley, you have to be ready for the worst. I would add community celebrations like the 4th of July and Labor Day.

This meeting is dismissed.

City of Scott City
Southwest Winner
Scott City Middle School

If I were mayor, I would improve my town with my ideas, by making it greener, smarter, and bigger. Building a wind farm would make our town greener. Not only is wind free but we could sell excess energy to neighboring places. This idea would also boost up the town's economy. I would try to find a way to make the wind turbines out of renewable or recyclable material to make it cheaper.

Then I would build a homework center. A homework center would be a small building with a gym. The homework center would be open to all students from pre-k to a senior in high school. Tutors would be hired to come to the center to help children if they don't understand their homework. Student-teachers can come and help the students/ anyone can come to the gym and practice skills they need to learn. Equipment would be provided like rulers, calculators, basketballs, desks, and even locker rooms. Turning this idea into a reality would boost grades up and help kids get fit.

After that I would get busy building houses where the old hospital is located. Housing here is a problem. Businessmen come to our town wanting to set up their business. The only problem stopping them is there isn't enough housing for their workers. That's where removing the old hospital and building a few houses would be helpful. When building houses, I would make sure they would be affordable houses, not extravagant mansions. Building new houses would also create more jobs for construction workers. More people will be encouraged to come live in Scott City if there are more houses.

These ideas would make my town a bigger, healthier, smarter, better place to live.



Irit Sanchez



Abigail Meyer

City of Leawood
 Northeast Winner
 St. Michael the Archangel

As mayor of my community, I will be proud to be the head cheerleader for my team! To help build the community I will get to know as many of the citizens as possible and make them excited about our city.

My first job: interview the citizens to learn their thoughts about the city's strengths and weaknesses. I will get facts about businesses and schools, tax money collected, and other important information to help with decisions. I will promote my city's strengths in order to attract strong businesses and workers. I will understand its weaknesses and work hard to help improve issues. For example, if there are too few grocery stores, I will work with business leaders to open more stores so that residents have close, convenient places to shop.

I will also help my community by making sure there are enough green spaces for recreational activity. I will strive to have top notch parks, athletic fields, pools, community centers, dog parks, etc. This is vital because it will keep my citizens happy and active and encourage others to visit my city.

I believe I can help improve the city and make it unique. I'll work hard to be a good community leader who knows the residents and works with them to make it a place where everyone is proud. I will create enough green space to make my city a great place for recreation. With more residents and visitors, we will have more tax dollars to use for improvements.

City of Grinnell
 Northwest Winner
 Grinnell Middle School

If I were mayor, I would make Grinnell, Kansas, a better town for our community. First of all, I would fix up Main Street by trying to bring in more businesses. I would make the businesses fix up their store fronts. I would make the owners of the older, rundown houses that are no longer in use be torn down. I would

re-open Stuckey's Dairy Queen again and make sure it stays open for locals and I-70 travelers alike. Moreover, I would remodel some of the businesses. Give them a new coat of paint.

I would make a good leader because I would work with the city council to fix up the city of Grinnell, Kansas. The community would benefit from our group efforts and improvements. I would organize community events like a soup supper, a town barbecue, and other events. I would put Grinnell, Kansas on the map. I would bring back summer sports like baseball and softball. I've heard that the ball park used to host State baseball tournaments. I would like to bring that back.

If I ever become fortunate enough to be mayor of Grinnell, Kansas, I would hope I can simply do my best to make it the best town it can be. It's a very big responsibility being mayor, but my working with the city council and new business owners. By making it the town it can be.



Logan Weimer

Custom Welcome Signs



By Becky Reeves

Two Burlington men have combined their distinctively different talents to create unique, one-of-a-kind art pieces that welcome visitors to Burlington.

For several years, the city has had “Welcome to Burlington” signs at the north and south entrances to the city. Last year, a committee was formed, led by Burlington city council members Bill Scott and Jerilyn Curtiss, to come up with new signs for the east and west entrances and to update the existing signs at the north and south entrances.

The committee began the project by meeting with artist Jim Stukey and Ryan Menard, with Kan-Seal, in the spring of 2012.

“Bill Scott called me because he knew what we could do with signs,” Menard said. “Jerilyn Curtiss, Parks Superintendent Kevin Boyce, Bill, Jim and I got together and talked about it. At first, we didn’t have anything drawn up. Bill just said he wanted something nice at the city’s entrances. He asked Jim to make the mock up drawings for all four signs. After Jim came up with the designs, we talked some more. I told them what we could and couldn’t do and what I needed in the way of drawings. We figured it out, and Jim got the final drawings to me.”

Stukey said the committee wanted a design that incorporated Burlington’s famous landmarks. The signs at the east and west entrances, which spell “Burlington,” have a different symbol in each of its letters. The words “Welcome To,” in script lettering, is completed and will be mounted above the word “Burlington” by the Burlington Parks Department as time and personnel are available.

“The east-west signs are kind of modeled after those old postcards you used to see,” Stukey said. “I’ve been to Key West and saw a postcard with similar lettering and have seen them around quite a bit. The sign, which is made of 3/8 inch carbon steel, is designed to rust. As it rusts, it will turn more orange and be easier to read.”

The letters and the symbols in each of the letters are: B, the old courthouse; U, the nuclear plant; R, a downtown street light with a banner showing the city was established in 1857; L, an American flag; I, a sunflower; N, the Marsh arch bridge, which used to span the Neosho River on the east side of Burlington; G, the top portion of the building that houses Silver Threads and Golden Needles fabric store; T, the water tower; O, the old hollow tree; and N, a symbol depicting Burlington as the Catfish Capital (of the World).





Stukey also designed the arches that have been attached to the existing signs at the north and south entrances of the city, which also depict Burlington's history. From left to right are a sunflower, the old hollow tree, a downtown light fixture, the old courthouse with the city's establishment date of 1857, a catfish with the words "Catfish Capital" above and below it, the top of the Silver Threads building and another sunflower.

"The reason I made the symbols in an arch is so it would attract a little more attention to the sign," Stukey said. "A lot of places have signs that look a little like the bottom portion, but nobody else really has the type of arch this one has."

Once Stukey had completed the drawings, the next step was for Menard to scan them into Kan-Seal's digital scanner and then vectorize them into a CAD program.

"I had to clean up a lot of the lines," Menard said. "That's where most of the work was. That was the tough part, honestly, redesigning pretty much the whole drawing. It probably took, from start to finish, 30 hours of programming time. I had to figure out where I could cut metal out and where I had to leave metal so it would be stable."

Menard used 16 3/8-inch thick 4'x8' sheets of carbon steel. Since the work surface of their water jet is only 6'x6', he could only cut out two or three letters at a time. The water jet is capable of cutting up to six-inch thick steel, using water pressure of 55,000 psi. When Kan-Seal cuts rubber and gaskets, they use water only. But when they cut hard materials, such as metals, glass and marble, an abrasive is added to the water, which causes accelerated erosion.

"After the letters were cut out, we put them on the ground and assembled them," Menard said. "I made everything so it was like a puzzle, and Sam Keifer welded it all together."

Everyone involved with the project is pleased with its outcome. "I really like the signs on the east and west entrances of Burlington because they are a little bigger and you can see them better," Menard said. "The word 'Burlington' is 20 feet wide and 42 inches tall and the arches on the north and south signs are 15 feet long. I'm honored to be a part of it and glad that Kan-Seal could be represented. It was a huge project that I was excited to be a part of. It took 30 hours to do the computer programming, and 60 hours to cut out the letters, but it was a lot of fun."

"A lot of people have stopped me and told me how much they like the new signs," Stukey said. "It's very unique. Other towns have things that involve cutouts, but I don't think anyone in Kansas has anything this elaborate. Some people say they (the signs) are hard to read, and others say they aren't hard to read at all. Everyone has an opinion. The most important thing is that they are stopping and looking at them. So as a piece of art, I've done my job. It's getting a response from people."

 *Becky Reeves is the News Editor for The Coffey County Republican. She can be reached at ccrepub@gmail.com. Reprinted with permission from The Coffey County Republican. All photos provided by The Coffey County Republican.*

Governor Backs Oil Payments to Counties

Governor Sam Brownback is proposing \$7.5 million in payments to oil and gas producing counties, putting an end to a lawsuit filed against the state by 52 counties, including all of southwest Kansas.

The dispute arose when counties received roughly half of their expected Oil and Gas Depletion Trust Fund payments on October 1st, 2013. The counties had to sue by October 30th to preserve their right of judicial review. After filing, the counties put the suit on hold until the legislature could meet to debate the issue.

Brownback and a group of legislators released a joint statement praising the agreement.

"I am pleased the Governor is taking steps to assure the intent of the 2013 legislature regarding distribution of oil and gas depletion trust funds to counties is being met in his supplemental budget proposal," said Rep. Russ Jennings, R-Lakin, in a statement issued by the Governor's office.

Last year, Brownback had sought to repeal the 12.41 percent disbursement of severance taxes to counties from which oil and gas was extracted. Instead, the Legislature accepted two years of reduced remittance, before returning to normal levels in the third year.

KDOT Announces Airport Funding

Twenty-seven projects have been selected to receive funding to enhance safety and service at public-use airports in the state through the Kansas Airport Improvement Program.

The Kansas Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation, which manages the program, received 95 applications for projects totaling more than \$35 million. Recognizing the needs of continued investment in aviation infrastructure, the 2010 Kansas Legislature passed the T-WORKS Transportation Program, and gave the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) a funding level of \$5 million a year.

"Each year the project selection process becomes more competitive," said Jesse R. Romo, KDOT Director of Aviation. "The projects selected have a great geographic spread across the state and continue to preserve our airport system to a level that's beneficial to the communities."

Under guidelines of the program, project sponsors are required to pay a minimum of 10 percent of the total project costs, up to a maximum of 50 percent based on project category.

Kansas Communities Awarded \$4.4 Million in Federal Grants

The Kansas Department of Commerce has announced that 10 Kansas communities will share a total of \$4,484,000 in federal grants through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

"These grants will help fund several important projects in communities across our state," said Kansas Commerce Secretary Pat George. "It's great that we can use CDBG grants to assist the small and rural communities that are so important to the economy and quality of life in Kansas."

The CDBG program provides federal funds to local governments for the development of viable communities by addressing their housing, public facilities and economic development needs.

To be awarded funds, local government units must meet at least one of three program objectives. The grant must benefit low and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slums and blight or resolve an urgent need where local resources are not available to do so.

CDBG funds are one of the Department's primary tools in supporting the state's small, predominately rural communities. The Department has distributed more than \$300 million in CDBG funding in the last decade.

For more information, contact the Kansas Department of Commerce at (785) 296-3004, or visit KansasCommerce.com.

Governor Announces Actions to Minimize Effect of Propane Shortage

Governor Sam Brownback announced actions taken to minimize the effects of a propane shortage on Kansans, particularly during cold winter weather. The shortage is believed to be caused by unusually cold winter temperatures across a large part of the U.S., an increased demand for propane to dry grain prior to shipment and a combination of weather issues across the country.

"For those Kansans who rely on propane, particularly in our rural areas, a propane shortage and rising costs can put them at risk during cold weather," said Governor Brownback. "While Kansas has been spared the worst of the cold weather, we must ensure they have continued access to propane at reasonable cost. This is an issue of safety and well-being for our citizens."

Propane levels in the Midwest are at record lows, posing a

potential risk to the more than 1,400 Kansans who use propane as a primary energy and heating source. Propane costs have spiked in the past two months, rising by 28 percent nationally according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

"Our office is participating in a multi-state inquiry into the recent spike in propane prices," said Attorney General Derek Schmidt. "We are also meeting with local industry representatives to determine the cause of these increases."

"The health and safety of Kansans is my primary concern in taking these actions," Governor Brownback said. "Bringing our state agencies and the propane industry together during this shortage should ensure that Kansans who rely on propane for heat and energy are not faced with losing this critical service."



2014 Annual Conference

Hotel Accommodations & Reservation Procedures

October 11-13 • Hyatt Regency Wichita • Century II Convention Center

Hyatt Regency Wichita**

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Wichita, KS 67202

888.421.1442

Rate: \$124 + tax per night

Cut-off date: September 9, 2014

Or book online: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/2014LKM>



**Hyatt Regency Wichita requires a non-refundable deposit equal to one night's stay in order to secure reservations.

*Complimentary self-park included for overnight guests, otherwise \$6 per vehicle per day for drive-in guests.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS

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Wichita, KS 67213

316.263.1061

\$124 + tax per night

Cut-off date: 9/11/2014

Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview Wichita

400 W Douglas Ave

Wichita, KS 67213

316.263.1061

\$124 + tax per night

Cut-off date: 9/26/2014

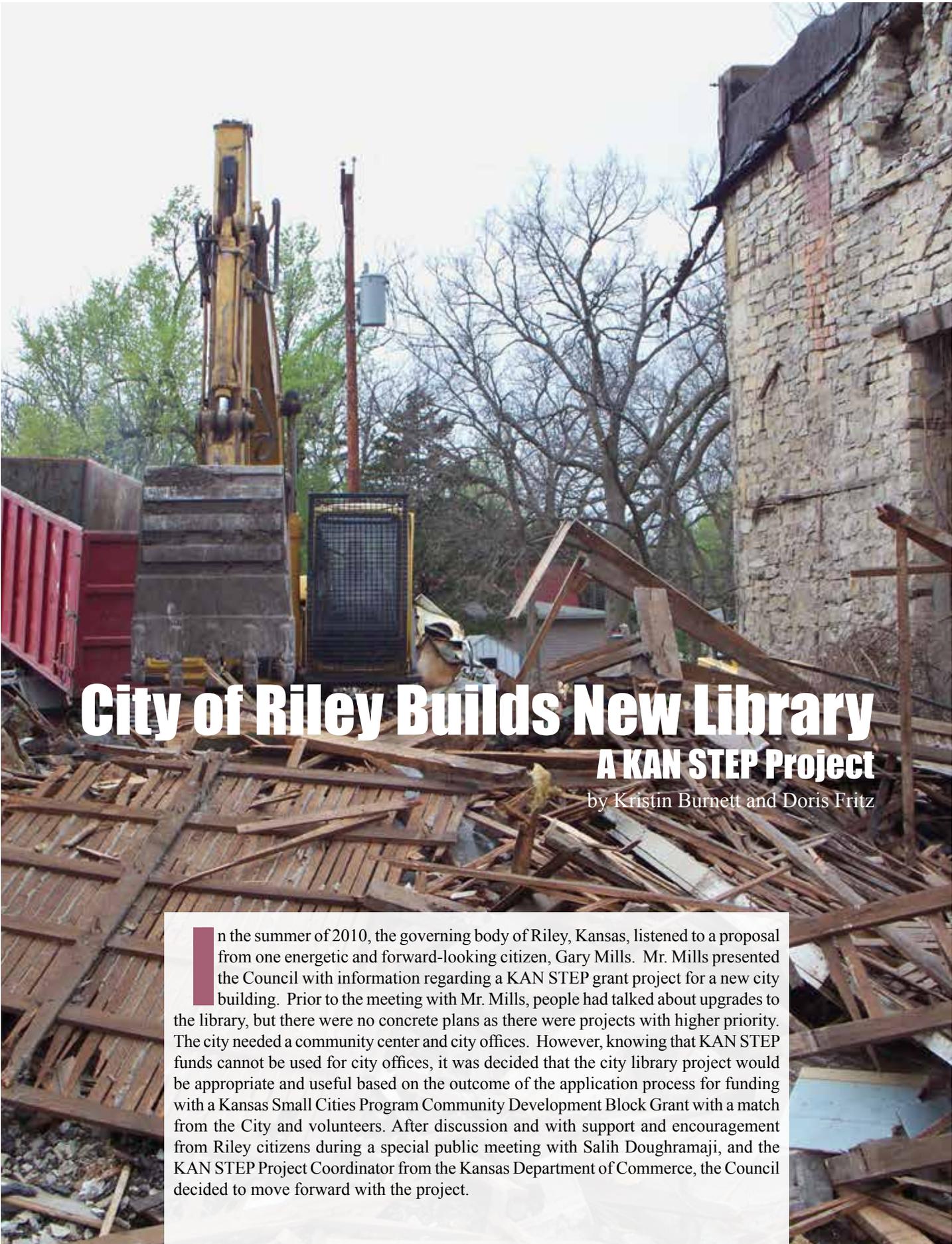
*Hotel parking \$8 per car, per night

RESERVATION PROCEDURES:

- LKM has made special arrangements with the hotels listed to provide accommodations during our Annual Conference.
- Attendees are responsible for making their own reservations. Please contact the hotel directly.
- Reservations may not be made until after 2/1/14.
- Remember to ask for the special LKM conference rate when making reservations.

SPECIAL NOTE:

If you are making hotel reservations for someone else, please confirm with each person that they actually need hotel accommodations before making the reservation.



City of Riley Builds New Library

A KAN STEP Project

by Kristin Burnett and Doris Fritz

In the summer of 2010, the governing body of Riley, Kansas, listened to a proposal from one energetic and forward-looking citizen, Gary Mills. Mr. Mills presented the Council with information regarding a KAN STEP grant project for a new city building. Prior to the meeting with Mr. Mills, people had talked about upgrades to the library, but there were no concrete plans as there were projects with higher priority. The city needed a community center and city offices. However, knowing that KAN STEP funds cannot be used for city offices, it was decided that the city library project would be appropriate and useful based on the outcome of the application process for funding with a Kansas Small Cities Program Community Development Block Grant with a match from the City and volunteers. After discussion and with support and encouragement from Riley citizens during a special public meeting with Salih Doughramaji, and the KAN STEP Project Coordinator from the Kansas Department of Commerce, the Council decided to move forward with the project.



Original library. All photos provided by Doris Fritz.



Construction of new library.

Until recently, the library was housed in a small commercial building downtown—a building with historical charm as its only asset. While the building adequately served the purpose for patrons who came to check out books and movies, there was little to no meeting space for the community. The same could be said for the Community Food Basket (CFB), which serves northern Riley County. The CFB supported by 10 area churches and many private donors had been located in the Riley Presbyterian Church basement and served a singular purpose of providing sustenance to families in need. However, space was limited and difficult to access, and privacy was minimal. Each building/space served a narrow purpose that was adequate at best.

That would all change. In 2010, after hearing from the community and receiving opportunities from the state, the Library/CFB project kicked off. The new project would not only ensure more space and privacy, but both sites would now be easily accessible for all. The city submitted the Kansas Small Cities Program Community Development Block Grant application in October of 2010. On November 9, 2010, the City of Riley was awarded a KAN STEP grant in the amount of \$299,932 to build a combined use facility to house a new city library and Community Food Basket. With a KAN STEP project, all materials are paid through the grant with the remaining matching funds provided through volunteer labor.

Thanks to the donation of a building, one hurdle was cleared. While preparing to demolish the derelict building, asbestos was discovered, and the situation had to be remediated. The City used the Brownsfield program for the asbestos removal, and once all-clear, the building was demolished by G & G Dozer, Caney, KS. With demolition complete, bids for materials were opened on July 26, 2011. With a design by architect Dan Hall and with the assistance of grant administrator Rose Mary Saunders the project began. Volunteers began pouring the foundation and building walls with

oversight and assistance from Kansas Rural Water Association.

For the next two years, a core group of volunteers completed one phase after another. In addition to this strong core, the project was completed through the work, time, and generosity of many people in Riley and the surrounding area over 90! Donations came in many forms: time, skills, money, food, furnishings, even porcelain tile and installation for the CFB. Soldiers from neighboring Fort Riley, students from the local school district and Kansas State University, 4-H groups, Friends of the Library, the Library Board, employees from Kansas Rural Water Association, vendors, the mayor, city council, and many fine citizens contributed to the success of this project. It must be noted that throughout the process city employees spent considerable time and energy, above and beyond any regular job requirement. Without the dedicated city staff, this project and the efforts of so many would have been less successful.

On a bright and windy Kansas day—Sunday, November 17, 2013—the Mayor, along with representatives from the City and many volunteers, cut the ribbon at the new building to pronounce the project complete. The doors opened to the community with nearly 100 people in attendance. While it was crowded, the space did accommodate this group—another goal met. The new building has 2,376 square feet with a 20x50 library space, a 20x40 CFB space, ADA-accessible restrooms, mechanical and storage rooms, and ADA-accessible entries at front and rear of the building. While the building seems light-years away from the previous library location, it is, in fact, only feet away.

When the Riley City Library was established in August, 1982, the library was located at the “old City Hall” at 222 S. Broadway Street. The library, formed with Railroad tax settlement and Revenue sharing for funding, soon outgrew this space; Mayor Lloyd Johnson and the Council moved forward with the purchase of the building at 206 South Broadway. In 2007, voters approved establishing a City



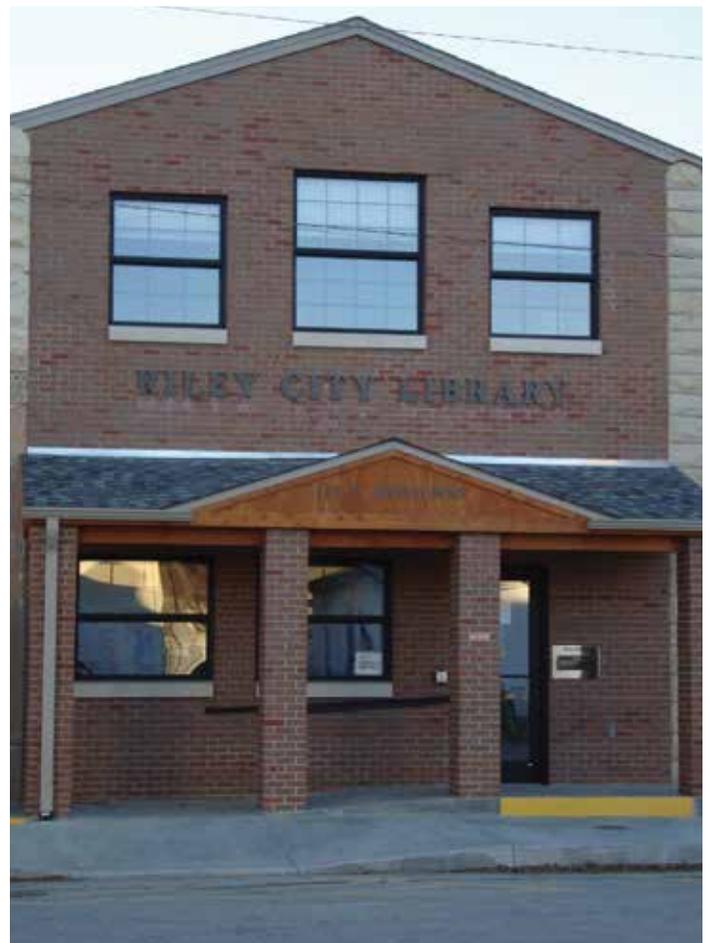
One of the many groups that volunteered to make the new library possible.

Library supported by a property tax levy. This action provided tax dollars that pay for personnel, books, and equipment. Also, as part of the North Central Kansas Library System, assistance has been received in the form of grants, rotating books, and training for the library staff. In 2012, the city council dedicated funds, along with an NCKL grant, for the purchase of software that allowed for the computerization of the card catalog.

Days before the Open House, the State Librarian of Kansas, Jo Budler, came to visit the new facility. In one day, she visited the oldest library in the state in Blue Rapids, and the newest—the Riley City Library. Ms. Budler was one of the first of many patrons to enjoy the library which is currently open five days a week and employs one librarian who is assisted by dedicated volunteers. The Community Food Basket serves families and individuals in northern Riley County. The CFB is open every Saturday morning, 9-11:00 a.m., and provides emergency stocks of food and paper goods. The CFB also provides Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets and coordinates the Adopt-a-Family program to give clothing and toys to children in the service area.

From start to finish, the process was challenging and rewarding at the same time. This building is a testament to the good that is produced when dedicated people offer their gifts and work with cooperation and community spirit. With the completion of the new building and with both entities already open and serving, those involved with this project can be proud of their accomplishment—one that will nourish both mind and body for years to come.

☀️ *Kristin Burnett is the City Council President in Riley, Kansas. Doris Fritz is the City Clerk for Riley, Kansas. They can both be reached at criley@eaglecom.net.*



The new Riley City Library.



Michael James Peterson
(D - 32)
1941 - 2014

Michael James Peterson, 72, Kansas City, Kansas passed away peacefully at KU Medical Center surrounded by family on February 18, 2014.

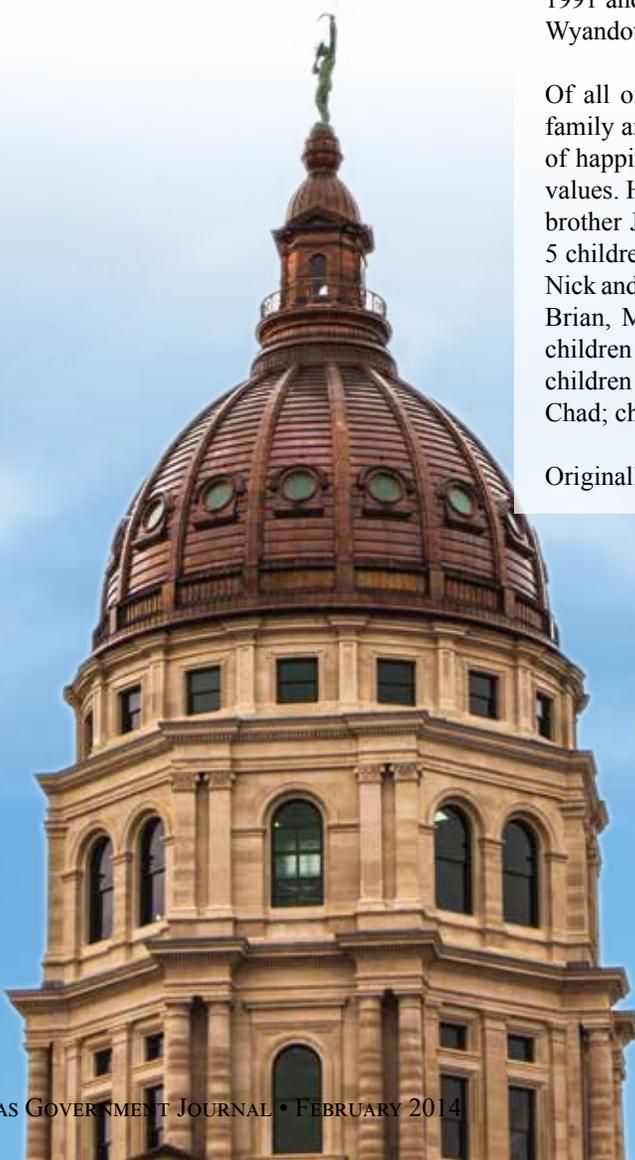
Michael was born on September 18, 1941 in Kansas City, Kansas to Joseph and Mary Peterson. He was a lifelong resident of Wyandotte County. He attended St. Peters Cathedral and Bishop Ward High School, where he graduated in 1959.

Michael attended the University of Notre Dame on a full football scholarship. An injury cut short his career at Notre Dame in 1961, but was able to finish playing at Northwest Missouri State University. He also managed to marry his life long love, Robin (Novak) Peterson on September 7, 1963. He graduated in 1965 and turned down the NFL to teach and coach at Rockhurst High School and attend night law school at UMKC. After graduating from UMKC in 1969, he passed the bar and began his legal career. He also found time to coach football at St. Peters Cathedral during the 70's, establishing many championship teams and compiling an 84-4 record.

He was a member of many civic organizations, as well as being a precinct committee man, ward captain and Wyandotte County Democratic Central Committee Chairman for over 4 decades. He served in the Kansas State House of Representatives from 1979 to 1991 and then from 2005 until his death. Michael also owned the Wyandotte Echo Newspaper with his wife, Robin.

Of all of his many accomplishments he was most proud of his family and grandchildren, which brought him the greatest amount of happiness and joy. He was a man of deep religious and moral values. He is survived by his wife, Robin Peterson of 50 years, his brother Joseph and sister Mary Ann Yoder. He is survived by his 5 children, Anita Cash, married to Brian; children Marlo Schwab, Nick and Tony Clark. Ann Golubski, married to Fred; children Paul, Brian, Michael and Mark. Margaret Shriver, married to Kevin; children Jake and Jessica Shriver. Joe Peterson, married to Kendra; children Jacob and Michael Peterson. Molly Watskey, married to Chad; children Joseph, Jillian and John Watskey.

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Form I-9: Is Your City Ready for an Audit

In 1986, the United States Congress passed the Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA).¹ The IRCA's intent was to prevent unlawful immigration by requiring employers to complete a Form I-9 verifying the identity and employment eligibility of every new hire.² Twenty-seven years later, Form I-9s have become a routine part of new hire paperwork. Yet a recent increase in Form I-9 audits conducted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has brought renewed attention to the form. During the 2012 fiscal year alone, ICE conducted 3,000 on-site inspections and levied almost 13 million dollars in fines.³ Not completing a Form I-9 properly can cost a city up to \$1,100 per form.⁴ Now is a good time for every city to review their Form I-9s to make sure they are completed properly. Here are steps the League of Kansas Municipalities recommends every city follow to ensure you are ready for an audit.

Use the right Form I-9.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigrations Services (USCIS) issued a new Form I-9 on March 8, 2013. All employees hired after May 7, 2013, must complete the new form.⁵ If you have been using the wrong form you can correct the error by completing the new form and stapling it to the old form with an explanation of what happened.⁶

Ensure all sections of the Form I-9 are completed accurately and in a timely manner.

Section 1 of the Form I-9 must be completed by an employee's first day of work. Although employees complete this section on their own, it is up to the city – as an employer – to make sure it is completed accurately.⁷ Something simple, like inputting a date of birth in the wrong format, may result in a penalty. Thus, it is important to review every box in section 1 for accuracy. If something is inaccurate or missing, have the employee fix it right away.

Section 2 of the Form I-9 must be completed by the city within three business days of the employee's first day of work. Section 2 requires employees to provide certain documents proving their identity and eligibility to work in the United States. A city cannot specify the documents it will accept. Rather, employees should be provided the "Lists of Acceptable Documents" published by USCIS. As an employer, the city should physically examine the documents and complete section 2 in its entirety. Photocopying the documents is not necessary. If you choose to photocopy the documents, however, you must make a copy of every new hire's documents. A photocopy of the documents does not take the place of completing section 2.⁸

Section 3 of the Form I-9 must be completed when reverifying an employee's eligibility to work. Reverifying is necessary if an employee provides an employment authorization expiration date in Section 1, or a document in List A or List C of the "Lists of Acceptable Documents" expires. It is not necessary to reverify a U.S. citizen's or noncitizen national's employment. If you are reverifying employment of an employee who completed a previous version of the Form I-9, complete section 3 of the new form and staple it to the employee's original form.⁹

Section 3 of the Form I-9 may also be completed if the city is

rehiring an employee and the employee completed an original Form I-9 within three years. If the rehire completed a previous version of the form, complete section 3 of the new form and staple it to the original form.¹⁰

Properly store Form I-9s.

Form I-9s should not be stored in an employee's personnel file. Rather, to help facilitate an audit, USCIS recommends that all Form I-9s be stored in one central location. Form I-9s may be stored electronically.¹¹

Destroy Form I-9s at the appropriate time.

Once employment ends, cities may destroy a Form I-9 three years after the employee's date of hire or one year after the employee's last day of work, whichever is later.¹²

Conduct a self-audit.

Conduct a self-audit of your Form I-9s. Make sure you have a Form I-9 for every employee hired after November 6, 1986. If you find incomplete or inaccurate information, fix the information and initial and date the correction. Include a note in the file of the date you conducted a self-audit.¹³

Following these five steps helps to ensure you are accurately completing Form I-9s. It also lowers your city's liability and the potential of being assessed large fines. For more information on completing Form I-9s visit the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website at <http://www.uscis.gov/i-9-central>.

 *Nicole Proulx Aiken is Legal Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at naiken@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.*

1 Department of Homeland Security. Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Web. 4 March.2014. Available from <http://www.uscis.gov/tools/glossary/immigration-reform-and-control-act-1986-irca>

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5 Department of Homeland Security. I-9 Central. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Web. 4 March.2014. Available from <http://www.uscis.gov/i-9-central>

6 Department of Homeland Security. Self Audits Q&As. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Web. 4 March.2014. Available from <http://www.uscis.gov/i-9-central/i-9-central-questions-answers/self-audits-qas>

7 Department of Homeland Security. Form I-9. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Web. 4 March.2014. Available from <http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/i-9.pdf>

8 *Id.*

9 *Id.*

10 *Id.*

11 Department of Homeland Security. Storing Form I-9. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Web. 4 March.2014. Available from <http://www.uscis.gov/i-9-central/retain-store-form-i-9/storing-form-i-9>

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Gardner Implements Priority-Based Budgeting

by Laura Gourley



Laura Gourley

With a population of just over 20,000, Gardner is the seventh largest among the 21 communities in prosperous Johnson County and continues to be one of the fastest growing cities in the state. As a full-service city with its own municipal utilities, the City incurred significant debt during the last decade to expand its streets, utility infrastructure, and parks facilities to accommodate an influx of new residents.

Further, due to Gardner's direct access to a unique combination of interstate, air and rail infrastructure, its proximity to the newly opened Burlington Northern Santa Fe intermodal "inland port" facility, ample developable land, professional staff, and a governing body dedicated to economic development, this growth is expected to continue.

However, this growth creates both opportunities and challenges. The economic recession halted the previous, annual double-digit growth of the City's tax base and severely reduced the once robust excise tax and utility impact fee revenues created by the flurry of building activity in the "boom" years prior to 2008; it was these revenues that were needed to pay for the previously incurred debt. Using the same tactics as many cities faced with similar revenue shortfalls, Gardner's short-term solution was to reallocate resources to pay for the debt by deferring maintenance and capital projects, reducing personnel, and implementing a three-year salary freeze for remaining employees.

After City Administrator Cheryl Harrison-Lee took the helm of Gardner upon her arrival in July of 2012, her assessment of the City began immediately. She engaged in a series of business community workshops to gain input regarding the City's image and challenges and quickly deduced that the previous solutions had resulted in a backlog of unfunded capital projects and severe understaffing resulting in a decline of customer service, as well as an unhappy business community and citizenry.

A seasoned veteran of municipal management from the progressive east coast with 30 years of municipal experience including planning and economic development, Ms. Harrison-Lee knew that to manage the pending growth wave caused by accelerating activity from the intermodal facility on Gardner's doorstep and a recovering economy, the City needed to prepare by visioning, planning, and appropriately staffing in order to be proactive instead of reactive

to opportunities. Obviously, it was no longer sufficient to continue the previous practice of creating a budget by merely increasing or decreasing expenditures from the previous year. That previous line item variance review process was inefficient and wasted the governing body's time and talents, which were better spent in creating a vision to guide the City.

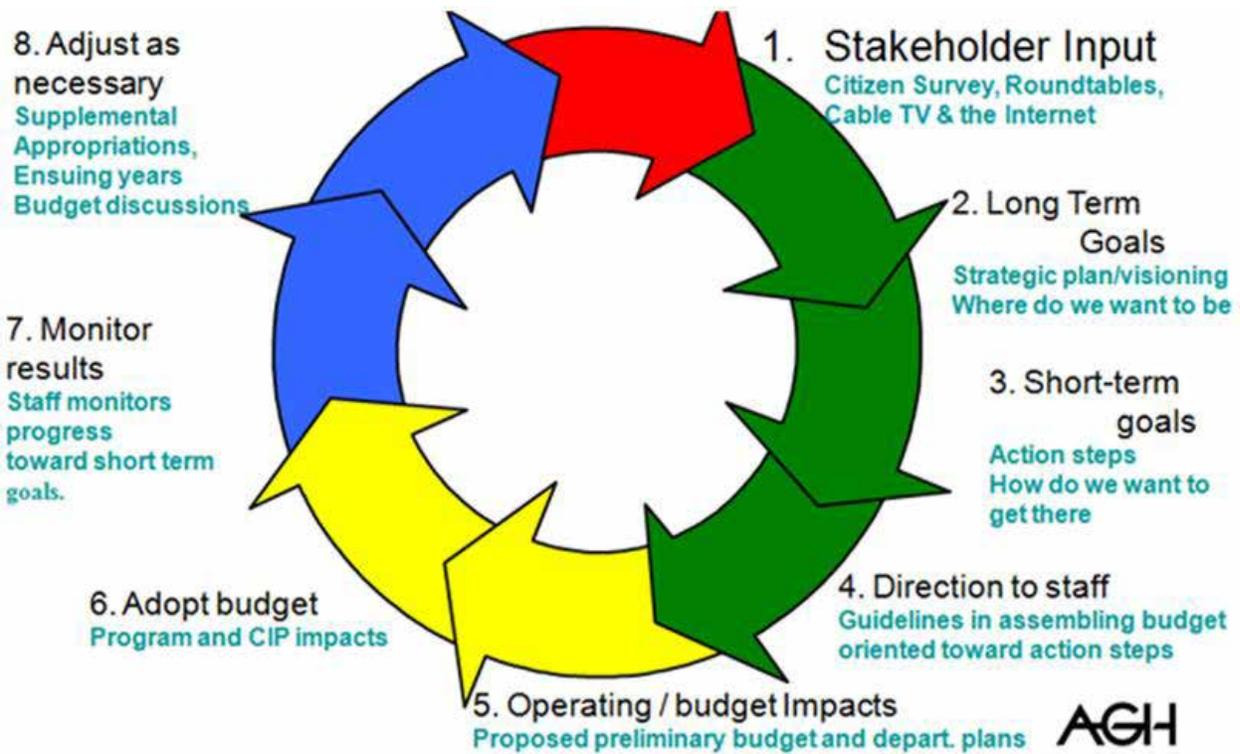
A much more strategic process would be required to balance maintaining quality of life for the citizens while maximizing economic opportunities. Ms. Harrison-Lee's oft-quoted mantra, "If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there", became the impetus for Gardner's implementation of the best practice of Priority-Based Budgeting. Due to her experience with ICMA best practices, Ms. Harrison-Lee knew the process was the perfect answer to Gardner's problems: it is proactive instead of reactive; it involves community input; the budget is created using vision and strategic goals; and resources are budgeted to support those strategic goals.

Priority-Based Budgeting is a long, multi-year planning process that includes evaluating results and adjusting the process as needed. It is an 8-step, cyclical process illustrated by a diagram Gardner obtained from its consultants at Allen, Gibbs & Houlik, L.C. shown on next page. The Priority-Based Budgeting process enables the governing body and staff to be excellent stewards of taxpayers' dollars by making strategic decisions with limited resources while monitoring and correcting to ensure the validity and sustainability of those decisions.

As stated by Robert L. Bland in his book, *A Budgeting Guide for Local Government: Third Edition*, "When formulating a budget, the manager must balance what is economically best, politically expedient, and administratively possible." From her assessment, Ms. Harrison-Lee knew Gardner's next growth wave was imminent, and with assistance from a committed and experienced staff, she wasted no time implementing Priority-Based Budgeting into her first budget cycle for Fiscal Year 2014. In slightly less than one year, she guided City staff and the governing body through the implementation by gathering input from the business community, organizing a series of educational workshops from area experts, and facilitating the governing body's determination of their strategic goals to guide staff's creation of strategic initiatives and alignment of resources to support those goals.

"When formulating a budget, the manager must balance what is economically best, politically expedient, and administratively possible."

Priority-Based Budgeting Cycle



Stakeholder Input – Business Community

City Administrator Harrison-Lee gathered stakeholder input from September through December of 2012 beginning with a series of Chamber “Meet & Greets”, which included members of the local business community representing market segments for large retail, financial institutions, small business, manufacturing, and medical services. These sessions were used to discern the business community’s view of Gardner’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges.

At the conclusion of these meetings, common themes were recognized and three priorities were presented for consideration by the governing body for use in determining strategic goals and priorities to guide the City’s 2014 budget process. These priorities were: for the City to implement a mission statement, vision, and strategic plan; to become more business friendly; and to accept and focus on growth. The stakeholder input process took four months.

Stakeholder Input – Staff and Governing Body

From January through April of 2013, Ms. Harrison-Lee organized a series of educational workshops designed to assist City staff and the governing body with understanding how imminent and significant the changes resulting from the pending growth wave were going to be. This information would be critical to the governing body’s development of their vision and strategic, long-term goals to guide the City.

In January, the governing body heard presentations from City staff and a panel of area experts in economic development to give them a comprehensive picture of Gardner’s challenges, potential, and relationship to both the Kansas City metropolitan and surrounding region. The information included Gardner’s demographics for population breakdown and growth trends, educational attainment, household income, and need for a daytime economy and jobs. Johnson County Chairman Ed Eilert presented county-wide information regarding population, employment, business expansion

and comparisons to other metro counties, and major manufacturers of the county and their impact. Presentations from Bob Marcusse of the Kansas City Area Development Council and from Mary Birch and Pete Heaven of Lathrop & Gage included area economic development information with emphasis on the BNSF intermodal facility’s pending impact to Gardner.

Long-Term Goals

In March and April of 2013, additional workshops to facilitate the development of the governing body’s long-term goals were conducted. During these workshops, City staff presented the business community’s input and priorities, and consultants Ben Hart and Derrick Nielsen of Allen, Gibbs & Houlik discussed the governing body’s role in the Priority-Based Budgeting process as that of visioning and setting strategic goals for the community. They also provided a recap of the environmental analysis the governing body received from City staff and area experts, explained the future steps of the process, and provided a future view of a mature Priority-Based Budgeting process, including the eventual development of department business plans. Finally, Mr. Hart and Mr. Nielsen facilitated an exercise that culminated with the governing body’s determination of four strategic goals to support their vision of Gardner and guide the budget process:

1. Promote economic development
2. Improve the quality of life
3. Maintain fiscal stewardship
4. Infrastructure/asset management

The development of the governing body’s long-term goals took four months.

Short-Term Goals

Following the determination of the governing body’s long-term, strategic goals, City staff spent two months identifying short-term initiatives and projects that would support these long-term goals

and created a preliminary budget draft that realigned resources to pay for the short-term projects. These projects were presented for the governing body's review during two work sessions. Staff's presentations illustrated how the short-term projects were associated with and supported each of the long-term goals.

Direction to Staff / Budget Impacts

Following the presentations, staff facilitated the governing body's consensus approval to pare down the number of projects to a level of funding that enabled Ms. Harrison-Lee to further realign any additional resources and staffing needed to ensure successful implementation of the approved short-term projects within the 2014 Proposed Budget.

Following review of the Proposed Budget, the governing body made their final consensus for project funding approval, and the finalized Proposed Budget was presented to the citizens for public hearing; because the Priority-Based Budgeting process is so thorough and interactive, no comments were received from the public.

Adopt Budget

The governing body subsequently adopted the 2014 budget in early August having successfully implemented the best practice of Priority-Based Budgeting to strategically align resources to support their vision and long-term goals created from stakeholder and expert input in just one budget cycle.

Monitor Results/Adjust as Necessary

After the budget is approved and implemented, ongoing monitoring ensues and adjustments are made, including supplemental appropriations in future budget discussions or changes to short-term initiatives.

As a testament to their commitment to their long-term goals, two strategic 'road map' projects, each with significant funding requirements, were approved by the governing body: the development of a Comprehensive Plan and an Economic Development Strategy. Both of these will be used to guide decisions

for future economic development opportunities. Further, the governing body also exhibited their commitment to infrastructure and asset management by approving significant funding for a major overhaul of the City's IT network and the creation of a disaster

Four strategic goals to support the budget process

1. Promote economic development
2. Improve the quality of life
3. Maintain fiscal stewardship
4. Infrastructure/asset management

recovery and business continuity plan. The importance of the IT project cannot be overstated as the City's network supports every aspect of services to citizens.

City Administrator Harrison-Lee reflected on the success of the implementation of the best practice stating, "The Governing Body's best use of their time and talents is as a visioning body. This budget process and the accompanying legacy projects will move Gardner boldly into the future as a quality city. I am proud to be a part of this exciting time and to work with progressive leaders and staff."

 *Laura Gourley is the Finance Director for Gardner, Kansas and can be reached at lgourley@gardnerkansas.gov. A digital copy of the 2014 Adopted Budget is available at www.gardnerkansas.gov/budget.*



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Mainstreet News

City Council Approves \$1.8 Million Project at Kansas Aviation Museum

The Wichita City Council recently voted to invest in building improvements for the Kansas Aviation Museum. The council approved a \$1.8 million project to provide handicapped-accessible

restrooms and modern heating and air conditioning to the historic museum, housed in the old city airport terminal. The project is bolstered, city officials said, by \$900,000 raised by museum staff.

Lawrence Lets Riders Locate a Bus Via Text Message

The City of Lawrence and University of Kansas buses were recently equipped with GPS devices to track their movement. Riders can now check the location of a bus using any phone with text messaging capabilities. The technology is meant to minimize the wait time at bus stops for riders.

The new system — dubbed “Where’s My Bus?”— has been operable for a few weeks, but Danny Kaiser, assistant director of KU Parking and Transit, said the KU and City transit systems wanted to work out bugs before releasing the technology for public

use. To find a bus, rider’s text the bus stop number to a designated phone number. After sending the message riders receive a text back with the wait time, based on the bus’s current location. The service requires no signing up and doesn’t cost anything outside of charges for text messages in an individual’s phone plan.

MV Transportation, which services the City and KU’s transit systems, recently signed another five-year contract with each organization.

Marysville Council Votes to Preserve Historic Train Depot

The Marysville City Council voted to purchase the town’s historic depot and surrounding land from the Union Pacific Railroad. The council plans to sell the building to a local preservation group and then have the option of selling the remainder of the land to adjacent businesses. The vote allows the society to begin fundraising to restore and preserve the historic 1929 train station. The group had waited to begin seeking private donations until the building was purchased. Union Pacific director of public affairs Ben Jones, of Kansas City, Mo., was at the meeting to confirm the company had agreed to the price and to voice support for the transaction.

The vote came after the preservation group’s spokesman urged

the council’s approval. The group noted that the building would be used to exhibit local railroad history, including the possibility of moving the steam engine from City Park to the grounds near the depot and also displaying the caboose already sitting in the former rail yard.

The group, which has about \$13,000 in past donations, has heard from others planning to give to the project once the building purchase is complete. The group plans to apply for grants and to seek nomination of the building on the National Register of Historic Places, a common requirement to qualify for historic preservation grants.

Roeland Park City Councilor Appointed to National League of Cities

Roeland Park City Councilor Becky Fast has been appointed to the National League of Cities (NLC) 2014 Human Development Policy and Advocacy Committee.

This committee has the lead responsibility for developing NLC

federal policy positions on issues involving children, poverty and income support, employment and workforce development, seniors, individuals with disabilities, public health care, mental health parity and immigration reform.

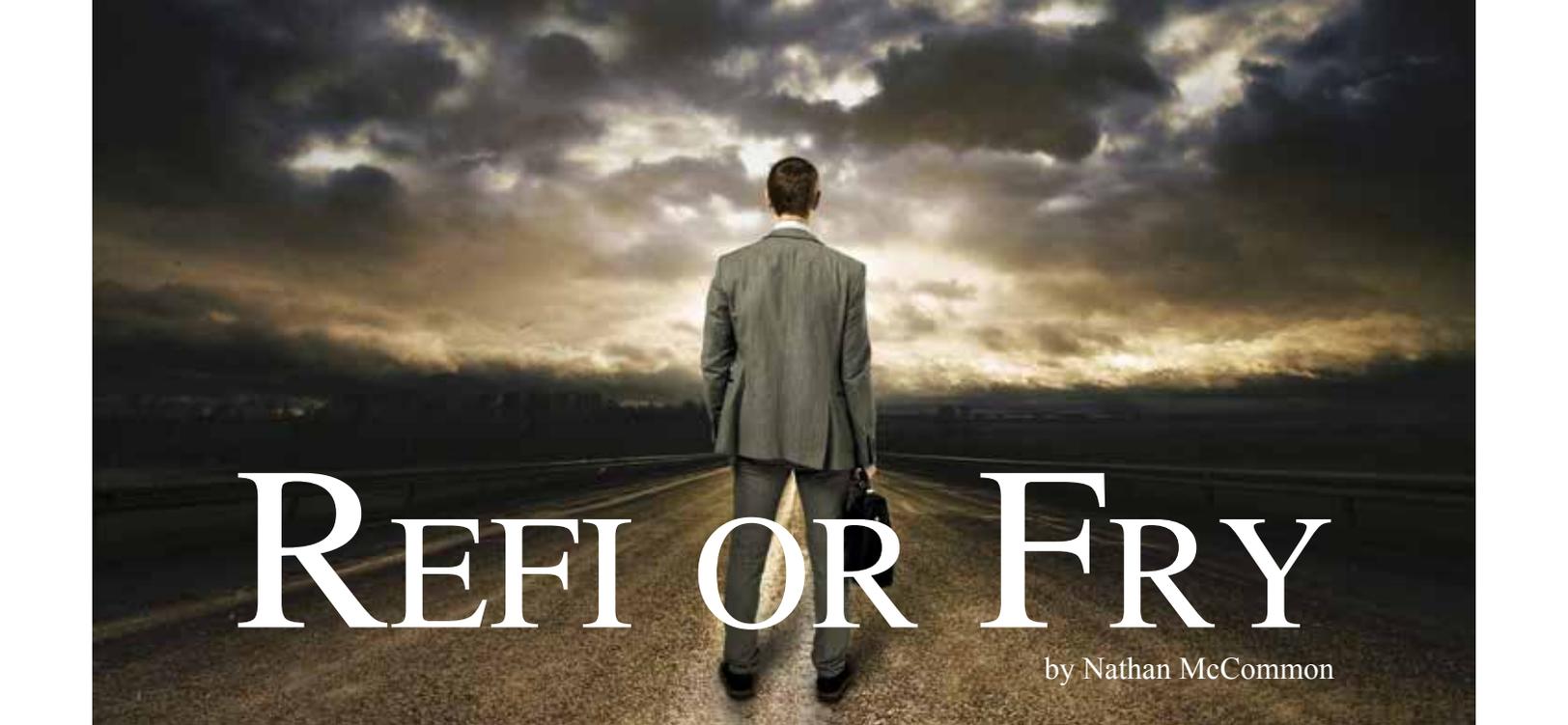
Shawnee County’s Solid Waste and Parks Departments Win National Awards

Two Shawnee County agencies and a gardening group are among those honored with national Keep America Beautiful awards for 2013.

The county’s solid waste and parks departments took first place

for waste reduction and beautification by government agencies, and Shawnee County Master Gardeners took first place for beautification in the civic category.

Several Topeka schools and businesses also claimed honors.



REFI OR FRY

by Nathan McCommon

During the preparation of the FY 2013 budget, the city council of the City of Tonganoxie faced a looming financial burden in the coming year, which was to plan for a bullet payment on bonds of an amount equal to 95% of its general operating fund. In addition, other debt service that funded a new swimming pool met with escalating amortization. No financial plan had been in place to date to prepare for the larger payments. For five years, deficit budgets diminished the fund balance of the General Fund until 2012. At the same time, the town's valuation remained flat, the halt in new housing construction vaporized development revenues, and general operations were funded below the city council's prerogative.

With the help of independent financial advisors, senior staff analyzed options to stabilize debt service obligations over the long-term and free up expenditures in order to balance the budget without an increase in the tax levy. The city previously entered state revolving loan agreements, which were used to finance significant improvements to infrastructure, including a new water supply facility, a new wastewater treatment facility, and roadway improvements. With the recent decline in interest rates in the bond market, the timing to refinance the revolving loans and the bullet payment grew more appealing, with an estimated \$41,000 in annual savings and \$550,000 in savings over the life of the debt. In the decision to adopt a budget for FY 2013, the city council took the risk to factor in interest rates staying low in order to sell bonds at the beginning of 2013. With that timing, budget adoption assumed that the first bond payment after closing would occur in 2014 and offer savings in 2013.

Refinancing also required that a charter ordinance exempt the City of Tonganoxie from a state statute that capped bonded debt for sewer infrastructure to \$300,000. Thus, to be ready for a bond sale in January 2013, staff took the charter ordinance to city council in September 2012. The city council enjoyed no protest, and the charter ordinance was adopted. In the course of two city council meetings, this action was followed by a number of resolutions and ordinances that authorized a new sale of bonds.

The reader should keep in mind that the City of Tonganoxie, population 5,100, has two financial staff: the city administrator

and the assistant city administrator. In city hall, there are also two utility clerks, which make just four people the entire staff. There is no reception or administrative support. There is no court clerk. The city administrator doubles as the city clerk for public record purposes. There is no finance director. There is no human resources department. There is no accountant. Management was planning to refinance debt that was 3.6 times the General Fund budget.

Just two weeks before the sale of bonds, and one year after a down-grading of the credit rating, Moody's conducted a rating call, which posed real uncertainty. While the FY 2013 Budget was structurally balanced, revenues to expenditures, without planned draws on general municipal fund balances, part of the balancing task hinged on refinancing debt. The interviewer pierced staff with questions about every aspect of financial practices and plans, especially noting the history of declining balances without a financial plan. This is an example when preparation pays off. Management examined the entire organization and had listed in talking notes every demand on finances, including shifting employee benefits and depreciating equipment, and itemized every change that was made to improve financial planning. In the end, Moody's rated the City of Tonganoxie A2 stable, and staff celebrated. All that remained was the sale of bonds.

Over the next two weeks, the bond market began fluctuating significantly. In fact, just three days before the planned sale, interest rates rose high enough to make the sale of bonds no improvement over the present state revolving loan debt. No one breathed. The same day of the planned sale there would also be a city council meeting. The city administrator had already prepared comments to explain the success of the sale with open blanks for dollars and percentages. But now he began to write an alternate explanation as to why the sale of bonds was not financially feasible due to market changes and despite all the substantial preparation.

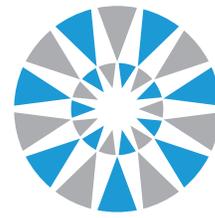
The day of sale arrived with tremendous apprehension. First thing in the morning, the independent financial advisor reported that rates appeared to decline enough to continue with the sale. Everyone took one breath. At 11:00 am all eyes were glued to the computer screen as the sale began. Background music stopped.

Bidders slowly crept onto the list. After several minutes, just before bidding ended, a few more bids suddenly posted, and staff stared speechless at a low bid of 1.87%! This rate was much lower than expected and traded better than higher rated communities that same day.

The alternate explanation found a new home in File 13, and at the city council meeting that evening, the city administrator reported that the sale achieved savings of nearly \$60,000 annually and \$697,000 over the life of the debt service. Not only was the structural balance of the FY 2013 Budget preserved, it was improved. If the city council had not been courageous enough to make the calculated risk to refinance, the impact to municipal services and likely the tax levy would have been devastating.

Successfully refinancing encouraged more political momentum for enhancements in the coming year, including one administrative support person in city hall, three firefighters, a police investigator, a building inspector, wastewater treatment repairs, an upgraded website, contracted payroll services, and the creation of an online municipal code. See www.tonganoxie.org to explore the progress!

 *Nathan McCommon is the City Administrator for the City of Tonganoxie. He can be reached at nmcccommon@tonganoxie.org or (913) 845-2620. Bryan Kidney of Springsted Incorporated also contributed this article.*



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Nudging Citizens Toward Better Decisions

In 2008, professors Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein made national headlines for their book *Nudge*, and its innovative take on how decision-makers should approach public policy.¹ The authors proposed that, rather than making ideological choices between nanny-state coercion and laissez-faire non-intervention, policymakers should create incentives that “nudge” citizens toward intelligent decisions. *Nudge* mostly focused on how these “libertarian paternalist” policies could be used by the federal government to address an array of national issues. For this article, I am going to cover policies that local governments can use to nudge their residents toward better decision-making.

In *Nudge*, Thaler and Sunstein wrote about several ways that cities encourage motorists to reduce their speed. The authors cite an initiative in Philadelphia where planners painted onto roads 3-D triangles that looked like speed bumps. These faux speed bumps cost ¼ of the real ones and did not damage to the axels of emergency vehicles that sped over them. Although the bumps were mere illusions, they reduced average driver speeds from 38 mph to 23 mph. A similar strategy was used in Chicago, where the city painted lines on a particularly dangerous corner of a major road. As drivers approach the corner, the painted lines get closer together. This causes drivers to slow down because they feel like they are speeding up. With a little paint and understanding of human psychology, both local governments were able to improve safety for their motorists.

Governments are also using nudges to increase revenue. In the U.K., the national government included with resident’s tax bills statements such as “nine out of 10 people in Britain pay their tax on time.” The letters emphasizing these “norms” produced a 15% higher response rate than the standard tax letter. The country’s revenue department predicted that if the letters were sent out nationwide, these simple messages could help collect £160m in extra revenue each year. For local governments, a similar approach could be used to increase collection of license fees, utility payments, court costs, and even encourage nuisance abatement.

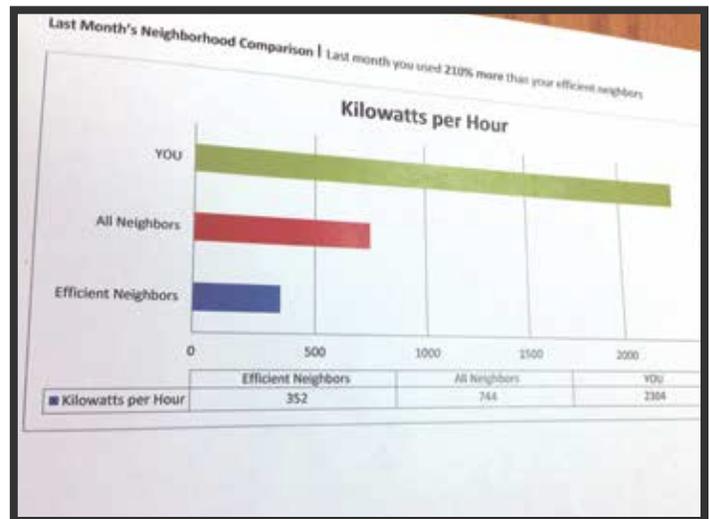
For Kansas cities, nudges may be especially useful for water conservation. In Sacramento, California, the municipal water district sends its customers reports on how efficient they are compared to their neighbors. The reports show usage rates for “efficient neighbors” and “all neighbors,” and rank the residence with percentages, bar charts, and smiley faces. Utility customers are also told how much extra they pay each year as a result of their own inefficiency (“Your inefficiency costs you about \$400 per year.”) The cost of providing this information is minimal, and some campaigns have reduced consumption by more than two percent. However, it might be best to just send the messages to above average users – customers that see that they use less than average tend to increase their consumption.²

Some Kansas municipalities have already created policies that nudge their citizens to conserve water. Many charge higher rates for excessive usage, and some offer incentives for water

conservation measures. For example, the City of Wichita offers rebates to residents who install irrigation sensors or rain barrels, or purchase water efficient clothes washers, dishwashers, or toilets.³ As Governor Brownback continues developing his 50-year Water Vision, ideas like these may be helpful in Kansas’s effort to conserve its water resources.

Cities are also using a type of nudge to increase attendance at governing body meetings. Many cities that pay their council members or commissioners are moving from fixed yearly salaries to per meeting wages. This isn’t a widespread issue, because almost all governing body members attend meetings unless they have a serious conflict. However, for those that need a little extra push to come to meetings, tying compensation to meeting attendance can be an effective way to encourage their presence.

Nudges are ideal for local governments because they are results-focused, rather than ideological. By looking at human psychology, rather than viewing problems through a liberal or conservative lens, cities are discovering new ways to fix old problems. If these policies continue to be effective, local officials will have a new set of tools to address community problems.



Sample report on utility customer's efficiency.

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

1 Thaler, R., & Sunstein, C. (2008). *Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth, and Happiness*. Penguin Books.

2 LaGessee, D. (2010, July 15). Putting a (Smiley) Face on Energy Savings. *National Geographic.com*. Retrieved from <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/07/100715-energy-smart-meter-competition/>.

3 Wichita Rebate Program. (n.d.). *Wichita.gov*. Retrieved from <http://www.wichita.gov/Government/Departments/PWU/Pages/RebateProgram.aspx>.



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City Administrator

Mankato, Kansas (pop. 859; \$2.5 million budget; 9 FTE's), the county seat of Jewell County, is seeking a community-oriented City Administrator to guide the city's continued growth. Local attractions include nearby Lovewell State Park, a historic downtown district, Ute Theatre, and Jewell County Historical Museum. Mankato also possesses a superb school system, including one of the top-rated high schools in north central Kansas. The City operates electric, water, and wastewater utilities, and has an active economic development program. The City Administrator reports to the mayor and a five-member council, and oversees all departments. For more information about the community, visit <http://www.mankatoks.com/home.html>.

Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in public administration or a related field and at least two years of local government experience. The successful candidate will have budgetary skills and a history financial accountability. Candidates must also display the communication skills necessary to work with the council in shaping Mankato's future.

Competitive benefits. Salary \$48,500-\$57,500 DOQ. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three work-related references to LEAPS-Mankato@lkm.org or LEAPS-Mankato, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66603. If confidentiality is requested, please note in application materials. Position will remain open until filled. Application review will begin April 14. EOE.

City Administrator

City Administrator, North Kansas City, MO (Pop.4,208) Salary DOQ/E; Residency preferred. Reports to Mayor and 8 member City Council. (\$26.7M operating budget; \$14.7M capital; 231 FTEs); Located adjacent to Downtown Kansas City across the Missouri River w/easy access to the region's airports and highways; vibrant & dynamic downtown, award winning schools, outstanding recreation center &

parcs, and a municipally owned & operated fiber network. This significant commercial center is home to over 1,000 businesses including Harrah's Hotel & Casino, Cerner Corporation, Helzberg Diamonds and NKC Hospital. City seeks energetic leader with outstanding communication skills, economic development & municipal finance experience to optimize significant redevelopment opportunities. MPA+5 yrs. minimum experience as city administrator or assistant desired. (EOE) Questions to Art Davis (816) 898-1962. Confidential resume, cover letter, salary history + 6 work related references by email to ArtDavis@ArtDavisGroupLLC.com by 3/19/14.

City Attorney

Blue Springs, MO (Pop. 52,000+) City Attorney, salary DOQ/E; excellent benefits; seeking knowledgeable, experienced professional to oversee Legal Department. Appointed by/reports to Mayor/Council as City's chief legal adviser; works closely with City Administrator as part of leadership team. A progressive, growing community with outstanding schools and quality of life, Blue Springs is located 20 miles east of KC. Ideal candidate is team player w/strong interpersonal skills. Selected candidate must be licensed member of Missouri Bar, or become licensed within 6-months to be named City Attorney. Minimum five years municipal law experience required. If selected, private practice prohibited. (EOE) Questions to Art Davis 816.898.1962. Confidential resume, cover letter, salary history + 6 work related references by email to ArtDavis@ArtDavisGroupLLC.com by 3/17/14.

City Manager

City Manager, Marceline, MO (Pop.2,300) Salary range \$65-75K DOQ/E; Residency required; 3rd Class City w/Mayor+4 member Council. On Hwy 36 in north central Missouri, Marceline is 90 min. northwest of Columbia and childhood home of Walt Disney. Known for historic Downtown, outstanding schools with \$7M budget, 30 FTEs, electric, water, sewer, and jointly

owned regional municipal airport. City seeks leader w/excellent communication skills, background in economic development and municipal finance. MPA+ 3 yrs. municipal experience preferred. (EOE) Questions to Art Davis (816) 898-1962. Confidential resume, cover letter, salary history + 6 work related references by email to ArtDavis@ArtDavisGroupLLC.com by 3/17/14.

City Manager

The City of Kingman, Kansas is seeking a new City Manager. Population is 3250 and is located 45 miles west of Wichita and is the County seat of Kingman County. Bachelor's degree and or 5 more years of progressively responsible experience in public administration, at least 3 of which involved city management or general government administration required. Please send resumes to City of Kingman, 324 North Main, Kingman, Kansas 67068 or you may contact (620)532-3111.

Director of Human Resources

Sedgwick County is the sixteenth largest county in the state in area and reportedly has the second highest per capita wealth among Kansas counties. The County is seeking a Director of Human Resources to support and advise the County Manager, Board of Commissioners, County departments, Constitutional Officers, and others as needed. The Director reports to the County Manager, supervises 17 full-time departmental staff, and manages a departmental budget of approximately \$1.27 million. As a senior management position, the Director is responsible for all departmental operations including classification/compensation; diversity/employee relations; employment services; training and career development; policy and performance management; and enterprise resource planning. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Human Resources Management, Public or Business Administration, or a closely related field is required, an advanced degree and professional designation

preferred. Candidates should have at least ten (10) years of progressively responsible Human Resources experience including experience in a managerial/supervisory capacity, or any equivalent combination of training and experience. Salary range is \$90,602 - \$132,303. Starting salary will be commensurate with experience; the County offers an excellent benefits package. First review of applications: April 4, 2014; position is open until filled. To apply, visit our website at www.bobmurrayassoc.com and follow the prompt to apply online by creating an applicant profile. A detailed brochure is available. Questions: Ms. Renee Narloch, Senior Vice President, at info@bobmurrayassoc.com or call 850-391-0000. Sedgwick County Government is committed to providing equal opportunity in employment and services to all individuals.

Director of Parks & Facilities City of Hutchinson

This department head position reports directly to the City Manager and is a key member of the leadership team charged with developing policy and solving complex problems related to City operations.

Parks and Facilities has 45 regular employees, a 5.78M operating budget and 1.8M CIP Budget. Major facilities/functional areas of operation include: Park Operations, Horticulture & Forestry, Carey Park Golf Course, Municipal Airport, Zoo, Fun Valley, Sports Arena and Eastside Cemetery. This position assumes overall leadership in establishing general direction, goals, priorities and promoting excellent customer service. Other duties include:

- Managing the short and long range planning efforts for parks, facilities and infrastructure including land acquisition, and concept plans for development;
- Establishing appropriate service and staffing levels, monitoring/ evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery methods and procedures, and allocating resources accordingly; and
- Serving as a liaison to other department heads, City advisory boards, elected officials, outside agencies/ organizations, and business/ community representatives regarding parks and recreation related issues

Minimum educational and experience include: Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in public administration, parks and recreation administration, business administration or a related field. Qualified applicants should possess a minimum

of seven (7) years work in management/ leadership experience in a large public park, recreation and facilities program.

Pay Range: \$71,762 to \$108,076 DOQ. Must establish residency within Reno County within 12 months of appointment.

Apply on-line at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/hutchinsonks/default.cfm>.

EEO/ AA Employer

Pavement/Asset Management Technician

The City of Lenexa, Kansas is accepting applications for a Pavement/Asset Management Technician. This position oversees and directs pavement construction projects for the pavement management program, ensuring that the projects are designed and constructed within budget and schedule.

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in Engineering Technology, Geography, Construction Science or related field and/or any equivalent training and experience which provides the minimum qualifications. Minimum of 3 years field inspection for civil infrastructure projects, prior experience as State or local government Construction Inspector preferred. Salary range is \$40,870-\$51,540 DOQ, plus a full benefits package.

TO APPLY complete an application on-line at: <https://home.eease.adp.com/recruit/?id=8274831>.

Police Chief

POLICE CHIEF - The City of Lee's Summit, Missouri (population 93,000), a progressive municipal government with an accredited Police Department, is seeking a highly qualified law enforcement/police executive to be its next Police Chief. A dynamic community located in the southeastern portion of the Kansas City Metropolitan area, Lee's Summit enjoys a strong retail, commercial, and residential base with award winning schools. The Police Department operates with 211 employees (143 sworn) and a budget of \$19 million. The Police Chief is appointed by and reports to the City Manager. Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Public Administration, or related field is required - Master's degree strongly preferred. Minimum of ten (10) years of increasingly responsible experience as a sworn police officer, including a minimum of five (5) years of command experience is required. Proven administrative, financial, operational and organizational skills are important, along

with public relations and community policing exposure. Superior leadership, interpersonal communication and social sensitivity skills are essential. Anticipated salary \$108,000 +/- DOQ with excellent benefits. A complete position profile can be obtained at www.cityofls.net. Letter of interest and resumes can be e-mailed to hrjobs@cityofls.net. Resumes will be accepted until closing of April 14, 2014.

Public Safety Officer

The City of Osawatomie is accepting applications for a Full-time Public Safety Officer. Prefer applicants to be Kansas Certified. Must be 21, have no criminal history and be in good physical condition. Excellent starting salary and fringe benefits. Applications accepted until position is filled. Please see www.osawatomieks.org for full job description. Send resumes/applications to: Human Resources; P.O. Box 37; Osawatomie, KS 66064. The City of Osawatomie is an EOE.

Water/Wastewater Superintendent/ Maintenance position

City of Quenemo is seeking to fill Water/Wastewater Superintendent/Maintenance position. Valid D.L. required; High school diploma required; Heavy equipment experience and water/wastewater certifications preferred; will train the right applicant. Salary DOQ; Resumes can be submitted to City Hall at 109 E. Maple Quenemo, KS 66528 or quenemocity@earthlink.net. Deadline April 7, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. For more info or job description email or call 785-759-3315. EOE. Water/

Wastewater Operator

The City of Anthony, Kansas (pop. 2,300), is seeking a Water/Wastewater Operator to serve the growing water and wastewater needs of the community. A high school diploma or GED is required. Must possess the ability to obtain Water and Wastewater Operator Certifications within two years of employment. Must possess a valid Kansas Class C driver's license. Strong mechanical aptitude is preferred. Excellent benefits. Send completed City application to: City of Anthony, P.O. Box 504, Anthony, KS 67003. Call (620)842-5434 for application, job description, and additional information. Position is open until filled. City of Anthony is an EOE.



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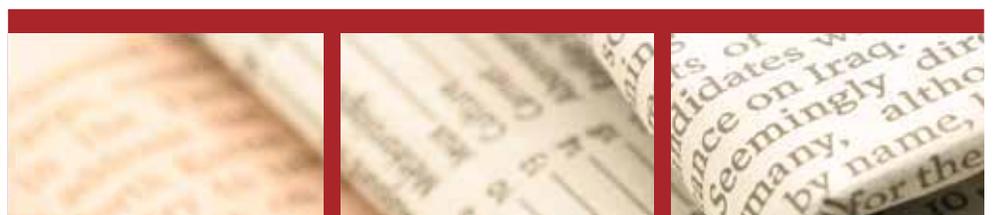


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KGJ: A Look Back

KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES

Official Organ of the League of Kansas Municipalities

VOL. IV.

JANUARY, 1918

No. 1

Municipal War Service Resolutions

Adopted by the Unanimous Vote of the Executive Committee, League of Kansas Municipalities, January 17, 1918.

WHEREAS, The supreme need of the time is the concentration of the energies of all individuals, organizations and units of government upon work necessary for the winning of the war; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire and determination of the municipal authorities and citizens of the cities and towns of Kansas to aid in every possible manner in the conduct and success of this struggle for the honor and safety of our Nation and our allies, and for humanity and democracy; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable that a statement of proper war-time policy for the municipalities of Kansas be formulated and submitted on behalf of the organized cities and towns of the state, therefore

Be it Resolved by the Executive Committee of the League of Kansas Municipalities:

Recommendation 1. That it is recommended that during the period of the war each and every city government in the state shall undertake only such paving and other improvement work as may be actually necessary to be undertaken at this time; thereby releasing men and money for the service of the National government.

It is understood that adequate local public utility service must be maintained, and that to that end the municipal operation and ownership of any privately owned public utility may be or become a matter of vital public need and necessity.

Recommendation 2. Municipalities should make themselves efficient agencies of publicity and education in matters related to the war and war problems; and should set a good example to their citizens, as for example in the purchase of Liberty bonds for sinking funds.

 **Editor's Note:** This is only an excerpt from a larger model resolution. The full resolution contains nine recommendations.



Kansas soldiers from Company I, 3rd Battalion, 137th Infantry, 35th Division, walking across a battlefield during World War I. Photo from the Kansas Historical Society.

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