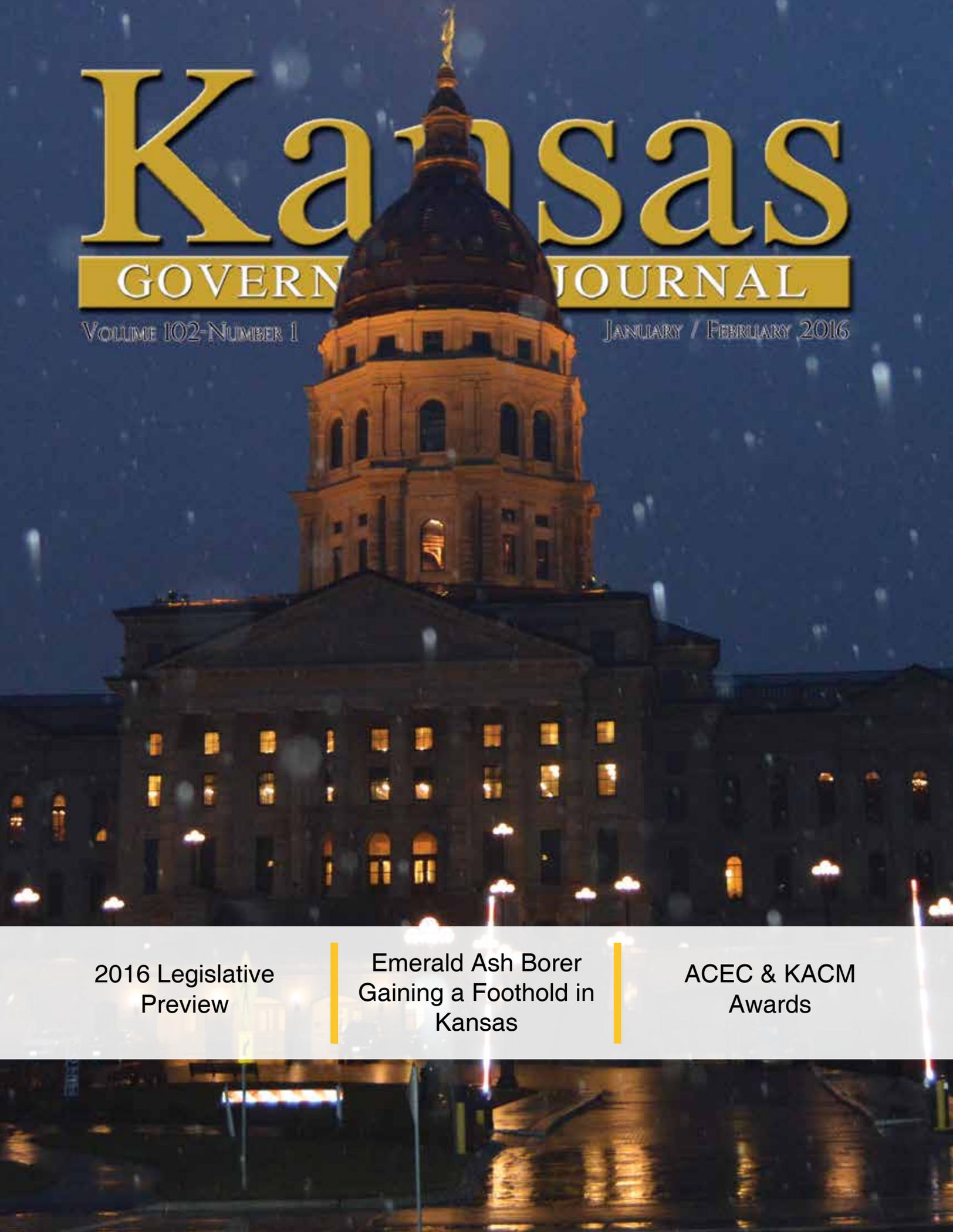


Kansas



GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 102-NUMBER 1

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2016

2016 Legislative
Preview

Emerald Ash Borer
Gaining a Foothold in
Kansas

ACEC & KACM
Awards



Presented by the League

We are excited to announce the second annual Kansas Hometown Showdown! The entry deadline for the League's Kansas Hometown Showdown is February 17, or once we have received 64 submissions, whichever comes first. Submit photos at lkm.org/showdown/.

Contest Rules:

The first 64 cities to submit a photo will be eligible to participate in the contest. Each city photo will go head-to-head to see whose photo receives the most likes! Winners from each round will be chosen based on the number of likes your city's photo receives on our Facebook page.

The contest winner will have their photo placed on the cover of a future issue of the Kansas Government Journal and, of course, also earn bragging rights.

To enter, upload a high-resolution [at least 300 dpi] photo that shows your community pride by February 17. It could be a monument, park, or a cool project, but make sure it is clear of text and logos. If you have questions about the quality/size of the photo, please contact us.

Submitting a photo to this contest grants the League full permission to use the photo in future publications, or other various opportunities. The League reserves the right to disqualify any photo or city in the case of fraudulent voting.

After we receive your photos and compile the bracket, we will send a welcome email to let you know when voting begins.

Voting for the round of the first half of 64 will begin the week of February 23. We will announce the winner on the day of the Men's Basketball Championship, April 4.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrey Ukrazhenko at andrey@lkm.org or 785.354.9565.



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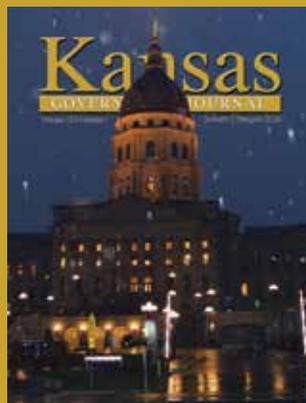
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*About the Cover:
The Capitol building on a wet morning in
January. Photo by Andrey Ukrazhenko.*

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

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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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2016 League Events Calendar

January

- 18 - League Holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 27 - Local Government Day

- 28 - Governing Body Meeting; Topeka

February

- 18 - MTI: KanCap Board/Council Training presented by KMU; Salina

March

- 11 - MTI: Municipal Finance/Budgeting (CORE); Pratt
- 24 - MTI: Municipal Finance/Budgeting (CORE); Eudora
- 25 - MTI: Municipal Finance/Budgeting (CORE); Coffeyville

Obituaries

Frank Goode, 86, died December 24, 2015. Frank was first appointed to serve the City of Shawnee as a Planning Commissioner in 1977. He served on the planning commission until elected in 1978 to the city council to represent the residents of Ward II. Councilmember Goode remained in that position until 2010, serving the city for over 30 years. Mr. Goode's length of service is unmatched by any other elected official in the history of Shawnee. In 2010, the governing body voted unanimously to name the city's public works facility in his honor.

Thomas D. Martin, 83, died December 11, 2015. Tom served two terms on the Dodge City Commission and twice as mayor. Major projects completed during his terms included a new fire station, purchase of water rights, purchase and remodel of buildings for City Hall and the Police Department as well as a new water tower for the community. Tom attended Wichita State University and returned to Dodge City to begin a banking career at Fidelity State Bank, retiring in 1982. Tom was active in the Kansas Army National Guard and retired as a major. He completed the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth and was honored to be the first battery commander in the new National Guard armory in Dodge City. He and his wife, Jean, were married for 62 years and had three children.

Dr. Willis James Wollmann, 90, died October 26, 2015. Dr. Wollmann served as mayor of Moundridge for 8 years and as a city council member for 18 years. He also developed the Wollmann Addition to Moundridge. Willis attended Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas, and then served in civilian public service during World War II. After the war, he attended Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, graduating as a Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1952. Willis opened an office in Moundridge where he practiced general dentistry from 1952 until 1985. He continued his practice by making dentures until 2013. He had a life-long love of flying, obtaining his pilot's license and owning several aircraft. Civic duty merged with flying and he was influential in developing the Moundridge Airport.

Director's Foreword

by Erik Sartorius



Happy New Year! I hope your year is off to a great start, with great plans and goals on your horizon.

I know we will be busy here at the League in 2016. Right out of the gate, there are several developments I want to share with you. First, please welcome Anna Keena to the League as our new member services

manager. Anna comes to us with years of experience as a city clerk in multiple communities. She will be managing the League's executive searches, as well as the development of personnel policies and job descriptions for member cities. The *Journal's* "Best Practices" column will now be handled by Anna, as will much of the editing of this publication. She will also be very involved in the development of content and the acquisition of speakers for conferences we produce. Finally, Anna will be a great resource for you in answering municipal operations questions!

We are also pleased to welcome Mayor Kelli Hansen to the League Governing Body. She has been the Mayor of Plainville since 2010, and was first appointed to their city council in 2004. Several projects in Plainville have been completed in that period, including funding for new playground equipment, new swimming pool construction financed by a city sales tax, and upgrades to fire protection gear and equipment. Look for a more in-depth profile of Mayor Hansen in the March issue of the magazine.

One of our big projects at the League this year will be the implementation of a customer relationship management (CRM) system. Yes, implementing this is just about as sexy as it sounds! However, knowing how and where to contact our members, and understanding their interests in and participation with the League is critical for our future service to our membership. The CRM will allow us to better interact with you and provide information more tailored to your interests. The system also will drive our website overhaul, opening up several options for us to provide content to you.

Beginning this month, League staff will no longer be producing codes for member cities. Instead, we are excited to announce that American Legal Publishing (ALP) is becoming our codification program consultant. They will assist the League in providing timely codifications with the option to regularly supplement and publish codes online. Online access to codes was something the League had not been able to provide, and we know this has become a preferred option for cities.

The League chose ALP over its competitors because of its 80-year history of excellent customer service, and ability to work with cities large and small. They have worked with a dozen other state municipal leagues, and the feedback we received from our colleagues was very positive, too. We look forward to working with ALP and are excited for the changes it will bring to our codification program. To receive a code quote, please contact Ray Bollhauer at 800.445.5588 or RBollhauer@amlegal.com or contact Nicole Proulx Aiken 785.354.9565 with any questions.

Another noticeable change in 2016 is the rebirth of the Municipal Leadership Academy as the **Municipal Training Institute**. This change reflects a greater focus on technical knowledge, with course content frequently being drawn from subject matter experts. As a pilot project, the League will begin using "flipped classrooms" for a few of the trainings. Flipped classrooms are training models where the typical lecture and homework portions of a course are reversed. Short, substantive video lectures will be made available to participants before the class session, which they will be able to watch at work or from home. In-class time will then be devoted to case studies and in-depth topic discussions.

Graduates of the Institute will be designated as Certified Municipal Officials. This designation will indicate the individual's status as an expert on Kansas municipal issues. One benefit of completion of all three levels of the Institute will be access to a \$500 scholarship for additional training, either through the University of Kansas's Certified Public Manager Program or Wichita State University's Mini-MPA program.

Oh, we also have that little, annual adventure known as the legislative session beginning! I hope you were able to join our legislative preview webinar, and that you are signed up for receive "League News" to receive timely information about legislative developments. Don't forget to follow us on twitter (@LeagueKSMunis), as we will frequently tweet from committee meetings of interest to cities. Most importantly, go get registered for Local Government Day! This year, we're joining forces with the Kansas Association of Counties to talk local government with legislators. Registration for the Wednesday, January 27, free event can be found here: <http://www.lkm.org/legislative/localgovernmentday/>

Whew! Like you, we have a lot of irons in the fire, and are looking forward to an exciting year. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or comments – I'd love to hear from you: esartorius@lkm.org or 785.354.9565.

2015 ACEC AWARDS

CITY AND COUNTY PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

by Amy Dubach

Congratulations to the 2015 winners of the ACEC of Kansas, City and County Public Improvement Awards! The American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas (ACEC of Kansas) is a professional association of private-practice consulting and engineering firms in the State of Kansas. Sponsored by ACEC of Kansas, the Public Improvement Awards competition is unique in that it recognizes engineering projects for their benefit to the citizens of a community and not for engineering design. This is the 54th year ACEC of Kansas has presented both the City and County Public Improvement Awards.

City Public Improvement award winners are selected from four different population categories (Under 5,000; 5,000-19,999; 20,000-49,999; and Above 50,000). City representatives as well as engineering firm representatives were presented with awards at the December 3rd Luncheon of the Kansas Association of City/County Managers Conference in McPherson.

The winning cities and projects are:

The City of Colony in the Under 5,000 population category, for the Sanitary Sewer System Improvements project. The engineering firm on the project was BG Consultants, Inc. and the contractors were Greeley Excavating and KC Construction.

The project addresses a basic Colony community need both now and in the future. It allows the present generation of Colony's leadership to not only consider its own needs, but also the needs of succeeding generations. Colony's leadership is assuring a future economic viability for Colony. This project is an expression of generosity of the current community

leadership on future generations of Colony citizens yet to come on the Colony scene.

In the big picture, Colony cannot have much meaningful impact in the things that relentlessly impact the community. It can have a meaningful impact on those things it can control like its wastewater collection and wastewater treatment. How the Colony leadership reacts and adapts has a great deal to do with its future sustainability.

The bottom line benefit of this project is that it is part of the puzzle that must be in place for the Colony to have a future. For any community that is as good a benefit as there is.

The City of Merriam is the winner of the 5,000 – 19,999 population category, for the Johnson Drive Bridge over Turkey Creek project. The engineering firm on the project was GBA Architects + Engineers and the contractor was Pyramid.

The Johnson Drive Bridge over the Turkey Creek, between Merriam Lane/Campbell Street and Merriam Drive is an important link in the City of Merriam. The bridge is located adjacent to downtown Merriam as well as providing access to I-35 and other commercial areas of the city. The bridge also serves as a vital connection between the cities of Shawnee and Merriam, Kansas. After inspections found several load carrying capacity problems with the bridge girders and the inadequate width for the amount of traffic, the bridge needed to be rehabilitated.

The 150-foot long, three-span bridge was only in need of a superstructure replacement. The old pre-stressed double tee beams were in poor condition and continuing to deteriorate. A new bridge in this location would have cost the city twice what the rehabilitation cost and take twice as long to build.

After a feasibility study, the rehabilitation design included weathered steel girders, a new bridge deck and aesthetic



Brian Kingsley, BG consultants, accepts on behalf of the City of Colony. Photos by Kate Cooley.



Assistant City Administrator Chris Engel(L) and City Administrator Phil Lammers(R), City of Merriam.

improvements including brick and stone on the bridge columns, decorative lamp posts with hanging planters and new fencing. The project also added barriers and handrails between the sidewalk and driving lanes for added pedestrian safety.

The bridge was built in phases to accommodate utility conduits on the bridge and maintain pedestrian access during construction. The metro green trail connects and passes under the bridge. The bridge was closed to vehicular traffic in an effort to meet the city's primary goal, which was opening the bridge before the grand opening of the IKEA store near the site.

In the 20,000-49,999 population category, **the City of Leavenworth** won for its Ottawa Street Improvements project. The engineering firm was Wilson & Company, Inc., Engineers and Architects and the contractor was Linaweaver Construction, Inc.

Ottawa Street in Leavenworth from 13th Street Terrace to 17th Street consisted of chip-and-seal pavement with open ditches and little or no sidewalk.

The community was concerned with the safety of children walking to David Brewer Elementary School, located on the west end of the project off of 17th Street. Additionally, the Leavenworth School District's bus barn is located on the east side of the project. This concern with the safe route to school became the goal of

the project; to improve safety through the corridor for vehicles and pedestrians by upgrading Ottawa Street to the city's collector roadway standards.

The City of Olathe is the winner of the Above 50,000 population category, for the 127th Street Reconstruction: Black Bob to Pflumm project. The engineering firm on the project was GBA Architects + Engineers and the contractor was Pyramid.

For almost two decades, the Olathe corridor of 127th Street Black Bob to Pflumm acted as an arterial roadway with the capacity of neighborhood collector. More than 11,000 cars per day squeezed onto the roadway – residents trying to get home or sneak into one of the many businesses lining the street, churchgoers headed to functions, and the high school kids just trying to make it to class on time.

A widening of the road was needed, but the sticky points – utilities, maintenance of access, steep terrain necessitating walls, bridge and culvert modifications, and the predicted \$14 million price tag - kept the project off the table for years.

Innovative engineering design, intricate construction and MOT phasing, and extensive preplanning was employed to allow the improvements to go forward at a cost and time savings. The winning bid for the project came in at \$100, about \$4 million below the programming estimate.

Once completed, these improvements to 127th Street provided drivers with a full arterial experience from Overland Park through Olathe to I-35, closing a mile-long pinch point that was a headache to drivers, residents and business owners.

County Public Improvement award winners are selected from two different population categories (Under 10,000, and Over 10,000). County representatives as well as engineering firm representatives were presented with awards at the November 4 Kansas Association of Counties Annual Luncheon in Wichita. While there was a winner in the Under 10,000 population category, there were no entries in the Over 10,000 population category.

The winner of the Under 10,000 population category was Hodgeman County for the Hodgeman County, FAS Bridge #7. The engineering firm on the project was Kirkham Michael & Associates, Inc. and the general contractor was L & M Contractors, Inc.

The Hodgeman County, FAS Bridge #7 sits on the south side of Hanston on a roadway vital to the transport of cash crops and cattle. The old bridge was somewhat narrow for today's agricultural equipment and was posted for a 12 ton weight restriction, significantly inhibiting its ability to carry the loads needing to get to market. The new bridge is four feet wider than the old bridge, greatly improving the ability for agricultural loads to get across. It will carry legal loads for many years to come.

Congratulations to our 2015 winners! On behalf of ACEC of Kansas, our thanks go to all of the cities and counties who entered the Public Improvement Awards competitions.

 Amy Dubach is the Membership Manager for the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas. She can be reached at amy@acecks.org.



Susan Sherman, Assistant City Administrator accepts for the City of Olathe.



A representative from Wilson & Company accepts on behalf of the City of Leavenworth.

Best Practices

by Anna Keena

Oh the weather outside is frightful!

...and those salt piles are so expensive! Most cities plan for winter weather well before the first leaves fall. Cities work hard to ready themselves to maintain safety for motorists and pedestrians in order to ensure community satisfaction and also so fire, medical and police responders are able to reach individuals in emergencies. Snow removal priorities are set as well as winter weather plans are discussed. But have you worked on a communication plan? Is your front-line staff prepared? Does your city have a specific message to share?

Communicating your winter weather plan takes almost as much thought and execution. First, you should consider who your customers are. It's easy to consider your key customers as your citizens – but don't forget your staff. Your front-line staff has direct contact with your citizens. Is your front-line staff ready to coordinate accurate communication? Will your street crews be able to effectively communicate with your public safety staff and they in turn with city hall during winter events? Does everyone know your city's message? These are the employees who have the ability to share your message with everyone they meet. Taking time to implement a communication plan may build greater employee confidence, which could reflect well within your community.

At first flake, citizen contact is often made at any published city telephone number or with any visible public employee. Regardless of if you have a winter weather plan, operations can cause some inconveniences to residents and they will make contact to express their dissatisfaction. Be sure to keep your front-line staff up-to-date with current and appropriate information during every event to address these potential concerns. Having your front-line staff trained to effectively communicate your message can provide comfort and confidence to your external customers. This is where it is also very important that everyone is communicating the same message. If a street crew is communicating one message, while public safety staff is providing another, you may wind up with a confused and disappointed citizen – and unhappy employees.

During winter weather events, your front-line staff might also field potential calls for service that typically arise during such occurrences. Water issues are often a huge concern as often those customers become concerned due to distressed pipes that have frozen and may burst. Customers may not understand why their



Unified Government of KCK/Wyandotte County 3-1-1 call center. Photo submitted by the the Unified Government of Kansas City, Kansas.

street has not been cleared while other streets have been attended to. Does your city publish a priority snow route that your staff can share to hopefully appease these callers? Street snow plowing will normally leave a windrow of snow across driveways. Customers are often frustrated due to this snow that is tossed into their newly shoveled driveways and will call to express that as well. Does your staff know what to say?

Public safety is especially busy during winter weather events. Most accidents occur during freezing weather and snow, requiring frequent dispatch of your emergency personnel in less-than-favorable conditions. It is especially important to communicate and update your winter weather plans to your emergency teams as-well-as share appropriate contact information within the organization, should the need to dispatch police, fire or rescue arise.

Just like ordering salt - by preparing and sharing your communication plan prior to an event, you could give your front-line staff the feeling that they are being served. As the rest of the song goes...

Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!

I'm happy to provide you with the January/February Best Practices. If you have a "best practice" you want to see presented, please contact me at 785.354.9565.

 *Anna Keena is the Member Services Manager for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at akeena@lkm.org or 785.354.9565.*

2016 League Annual Conference

Hotel Accommodations & Reservation Procedures

October 8-10: Sheraton Hotel & Overland Park Convention Center

Sheraton Overland Park Hotel**

6100 College Blvd
Overland Park, KS 66211
866.837.4214

Rate: \$140 + tax per night
Cut-off date: September 16, 2016

Weblink for reservations:

<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1601063360&key=2CD833D1>

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

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Chase Suite Hotel
6300 W 110th Street
Overland Park, KS 66211
913.491.3333
\$89 + tax per night; Studio Queen
\$129 + tax per night; 2-Bedroom Suite
Cut-off date: 9/8/2016

Courtyard by Marriott
11001 Woodson Ave
Overland Park, KS 66211
913.317.8500
\$89 + tax per night; King
\$109 + tax per night; Double Queen
Cut-off date: 9/16/2016

RESERVATION PROCEDURES:

- The League 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 2/1/16.
- Remember to ask for the special League 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.



Legal Forum

by Eric Smith

When Does Residency Change?

Residency is an important requirement for serving as an elected official in Kansas. In some cities, the individual must reside in a specific district or ward of the city.¹ As a requirement to serve as a mayor or council member Kansas statutes actually use the term qualified elector.²

Qualified elector is defined in the Kansas Constitution as any “citizen of the United States who has attained the age of eighteen years and who resides in the voting area in which he or she seeks to vote...”.³ Based on this definition we know that to serve as a city council member or as mayor an individual must be a US citizen, at least eighteen years old and reside in the city.⁴

So, what does it mean to reside in the city? The term residence is defined in K.S.A. 77-201 as “the place which is adopted by a person as the person’s place of habitation and to which, whenever the person is absent, the person has the intention of returning. When a person eats at one place and sleeps at another, the place where the person sleeps shall be considered the person’s residence.”⁵

So based on the above definitions it would seem that determining residency would be a simple task of determining “where the person sleeps” but, as explained in Attorney General Opinion 2001-16, there is no “bright line test” for determining residency. We may be able to look at fact patterns and draw some assumptions, but assigning a residency relies on the intention of the individual. If the person says he intends to return, then he has not abandoned the current residence.

What about the council members who spends several months a year in Texas? If she maintains her home in the city and indicates she intends to return she is probably still a qualified elector. What if she has registered all her cars in Texas, has a Texas driver’s license and has rented out her house in the city where she is a council member? If she still indicates an intent to return she may still be a qualified elector because of her stated intent to return.

What about the council member whose home is damaged by fire and so he moves out of town while the home is repaired? We can probably all agree this council member is still a resident, but what if the council member and his spouse are separated and the council member moves out of the marital home and now lives outside of the city limits or out of the ward he represents? Now it may become more difficult to determine.

Kansas courts have addressed the issue of residency in many different types of cases. In reviewing those cases, we can determine some standards that will be applied when trying to determine if a person is a resident of a city. One thing to keep in mind when reviewing any of these cases is that the term “residence” and “domicile” are treated as equivalents.⁶ To establish a residence

there are two factors to consider. One is the physical location of the person, and the second is the intent to remain there. “There must be bodily presence at a location coupled with intent to remain there, either permanently or for an indefinite period, before residence can be said to have been acquired.”⁷

So what is required to change a residency? In *Teter v. Corley*, 2 Kan.App.2d 540, 584 P.2d 651 (1978) the court found that “[T]o effect a change of residence, there must be transfer of bodily presence to another place coupled with an intent to abide in the new location either permanently or indefinitely.”

So, back to our council member who spends the winter in Texas and has tagged her vehicles in Texas but still says she intends for the city to be her residence. She meets the first requirement of changing residence because she is physically located for a period of time outside of the city limits. The second factor of intent to “abide in the new location” is not met so she is still a resident of the city.

From time to time we have calls asking what can be done about a council member who appears to have moved out of the city. My first question is always, “Have you talked to the council member about this?” If the answer is yes and the council member says he still lives at a house in the city, my response is there is not much you can do. As the court cases have established, there has to be an intent to remain in the new location and not return to the current domicile for residency to change.

If the council member indicates that she has moved out of the city or the ward in which she was elected, then a vacancy occurs.⁸ Always ask the council member for a resignation, if possible. If she does not provide a resignation, I recommend that a motion be made asking the remaining council members declare that the position is vacant and provide the facts establishing that the council member is no longer a resident of the city or ward. In this way the minutes establish the basis for the vacancy and the position can be filled as provided by statute.

 Eric Smith is Legal Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He can be reached at esmith@lkm.org or 785.354.9565.

Sources

1. K.S.A. 14-109 and K.S.A. 15-209
2. *Id.*
3. Kan. Const., Art. 5, § 1
4. Or live in the proper ward/district in some cities.
5. K.S.A. 77-201, *Twenty-third* and K.S.A. 25-407
6. In re. *Phillips*, 4 Kan.App.2d 256, 260, (1980)
7. *Id.*
8. K.S.A. 14-204 and K.S.A. 15-209

2016 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

The 2016 legislative session began on January 11 with legislators returning to Topeka. Attention on the state budget will continue from last year's longest session in history. The State's Consensus Revenue Estimating Group estimated in November 2015 a decrease in tax revenues of \$159.1 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 and \$194.5 million in FY 2017 from previous estimates. After the announcement, Governor Sam Brownback made spending cuts and swept another \$48 million from highway funds. The estimates will necessitate the Legislature's focus on the fiscal economy of the State. In addition, the Legislature is awaiting the court's decision on school funding which, may increase the deficit.

While uncertainties over the budget and school funding will continue capturing the headlines, the League will be engaged in multiple issues potentially impacting municipalities this session. Here is a summary of the issues the League anticipates this session.

Property Tax Cap. The Property Tax Cap for cities and counties passed during last year’s veto session without any hearings or input from municipalities. The House Taxation Committee plans to schedule hearings to review the legislation. The League plans on introducing legislation to repeal the cap. It is anticipated the Kansas Association of REALTORS will introduce legislation moving the implementation date to July 1, 2016, from January 1, 2018, and remove several of the exemptions.

Abandoned/Blighted Housing. The League continues to support legislation which streamlines and expedites the process for local governments to deal with the blight of abandoned, nuisance or foreclosed housing. Legislation has passed the House several times and stalled in the Senate. We are working with a coalition, fine-tuning the bill’s language in hopes of attaining passage this session.

Payment of Proceeds of Fire Insurance Policies. With the increase of seismic activity in Kansas, several communities requested adding seismic to K.S.A. 40-3901 et seq. This statute allows cities by ordinance, a procedure for the payment of not to exceed 15% of the proceeds of any insurance policy based upon a covered claim payment made for damage or loss to a building to guarantee the removal or repair of the building. The League will be introducing legislation to delete the language “fire, explosion or windstorm,” rather than add to the list of causes. “Covered claim

payments” in the statute then allows municipalities to request funds without regard to the specific cause as long as the loss is a covered claim. The League is working with the insurance industry and Kansas Department of Insurance on the changes and passage of the bill.

Tax Policy (exemptions). During the interim, the Special Committee on Taxation met and recommended the House and Senate tax committees review all current tax exemptions and consider sun-setting the exemptions, but believe that should not happen before 2017. The League anticipates little will be done during the 2016 legislative session on tax exemptions, but will follow the committees closely.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Conversations between school district superintendents and cities regarding the impact of TIF districts on school funding has attracted the attention of the Legislature. The League anticipates hearings and possibly legislation concerning the issue. The League’s policy supports the continued use of TIF to promote economic development. TIF laws should allow maximum flexibility and allow for efficient use by cities regardless of size.

Occupational Licensing. Currently, many cities charge business or occupational licensing fees to businesses with locations within their city. Efforts have been seen nationally to curtail occupational licensing, both at the state and local level. The League expects to

Effective Advoc



- Know your legislators on a first-name basis
- Know what committees they serve on
- Always be respectful and avoid personal attacks
- Ask your legislator how he or she prefers to be contacted
- Share your contact information with your legislators

1

Make Contact Prior to Legislative Session

- Attend Eggs & Issues, Town Halls, Coffees
- Communicate the city’s and League’s legislative agenda and priorities
- Ask for direct commitments to help with your issues

2

Follow the Legislative Session

- League News
- List serves
- News media
- www.lkm.org
- Educate your residents on legislative issues impacting them

3

Participate in Local Government Day January 27, 2016

- Sign up to attend
- Make appointments to visit your legislators
- Personally invite them to the evening reception

see a proposal amending K.S.A. 12-194 to prohibit a city from charging these fees. Cities are important partners in delivering vital services and any discussions about restructuring the Kansas tax system and any changes should fully assess the resulting financial burden on local taxpayers.

Franchise Fees. The League has been approached by a utility company interested in capping municipal franchise fees at 6%. There is currently no cap on electric and gas franchise fees, which most cities have had at 5% or less. Approximately a dozen cities have increased to 6%. Utilities have voiced concerns that increases in the franchise fees on their bills are seen by consumers simply as increased utility costs.

Special City County Highway Funds. In 2012, the Legislature passed a bill changing the way companies tag commercial vehicles. The legislation directed fees from out-of-state companies' commercial vehicle tags to go into the Special City County Highway Fund starting in the 2014. The Legislature, however, has diverted the funds from the Special City County Fund to the State General Fund, which means cities have lost this revenue source. The League is working to get these funds redirected to Specials City County Highway Fund.

Public Funds for Lobbying. Last session, legislators passed a bill requiring lobbyist who provide services for a government entity or an association of governmental entities to report the public funds

he/she receives. The League anticipates legislators will continue to require onerous reporting requirements on municipalities.

Other Issues to Watch

Annexation. We expect renewed efforts to further curtail cities' annexation capabilities.

Mandatory Police Body Cameras. The Legislature will likely discuss this issue again. However, a report from the Judicial Council recommended classifying all police body worn camera recordings, both video and audio, as criminal investigation records. In addition, they recommended adding these recordings to the definition of criminal investigation records and exclude them from any records request.

Guns. Potential legislation concerning concealed hand guns in public buildings. Additionally, continued efforts on SB 65 regarding carrying of concealed handguns by public employees while engaged in employment.

The League's Statement of Municipal Policy can be found on our website – lkm.org/smp. The League will be advocating on behalf of cities during the 2016 session. To receive our weekly updates, subscribe to our League News by emailing info@lkm.org. You can also “like” our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter - @leagueksmunis

Advocacy for Cities

- Follow legislators' communications by signing up for their email newsletter
- Follow legislators' Twitter Accounts
- Send your city newsletter to all your legislators
- Make yourself a resource



4

Make Contact During Legislative Session

- Follow key bills (watch for League alerts)
- Follow the issue, not the bill number
- Be specific; tell your city's story and impact to residents
- Don't waste time and political capital on meaningless bills that have no chance of becoming law

5

Make Contact Following the Legislative Session

- Thank your legislator for their service and hard work
- Be honest and express concerns when bills negatively affect your city

2015 ANNUAL AWARDS

by Kate Cooley

The Kansas Association of City/County Managers (KACM) annual conference took place in McPherson December 2-4, 2015. One of the highlights at the conference is the annual Awards Luncheon, where several recipients were honored.

Buford M. Watson, Jr. Award – J. Michael Wilkes, City Manager for Olathe, was honored with the Buford M. Watson, Jr. Award. This Award is given each year to a local government manager who has displayed the attributes of the late Buford M. Watson, Jr. (former City Manager of Lawrence, KS) which includes serving as a role model in dealing with constituents, valuing customer satisfaction, and encouraging new members of the profession. Since

January 1999, Michael has served as the City Manager of Olathe, Kansas.

Customer service is at the forefront of Wilkes' commitment to the city. For fifteen years, the City of Olathe has used key results indicators to track the community's perception of the City's performance. By surveying residents quarterly on a variety of metrics such as satisfaction with city services and facilities, value received for tax dollar, and quality of life, Olathe continually evaluates its service delivery and adjusts its approach when necessary.

He also serves as a model public manager by encouraging new members in the profession. Through the City of Olathe's ICMA Local Government Management Fellowship, Wilkes



2015 Award Recipients: Left to Right: City Manager of El Dorado, Herb Llewellyn; City Manager of Olathe, J. Michael Wilkes; City Manager of Kingman, Emily Graf; City Administrator of Merriam, Phil Lammers. Photo by Kate Cooley.

has welcomed public administration graduate students into his office and has mentored, developed, and supported them to move on to positions of leadership in communities across the country.

Career Achievement Award – Phil Lammers was this year’s winner of the Career Achievement Award. This Award was established in 2000 and is intended to recognize professional local government managers and administrators who are retiring from the profession.

Lammers has been the City Administrator for the City of Merriam since 2008. Over the years, Lammers has exemplified a belief in open and transparent government, built enduring relationships with governing body and community members, and made thoughtful and calm decisions that resulted in good public policy. Phil has also spent time focusing on young people in the profession. He encourages career development both within his organization and in the wider metro area by serving as a mentor to several young managers as part of the Managers Coaching Program with the Mid-America Regional Council.

Early Career Excellence Award – Emily Graf, City Manager of Kingman, was honored for the Early Career Excellence Award, established in 2013 to recognize early

career local government professionals working in Kansas who demonstrate excellence in the profession and strong promise to positively impact the profession. The award is intended for early career professionals ranging from intern stage through the first five years of one’s career.

Graf began her career with the City of Kingman in May, 2014, having previously worked as the Assistant to the County Manager at Sedgwick County. She earned an undergraduate degree from Fort Hays State University and a graduate degree from Wichita State University.

Innovation Award – The City of El Dorado and City Manager Herb Llewellyn was the recipient of the Innovation Award for the concrete project and repaving of Atchison St. from Locust Avenue to Cave Springs. Llewellyn used city staff for the street construction, and collaborated with multiple departments such as public works and engineering to complete the project. It was determined it was more cost effective to use crushed concrete rather than traditional asphalt.

 *Kate Cooley is the Conference/Marketing Coordinator for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at 785.354.9565 or kcooley@lkm.org.*



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Two-Wheelin' Officers Policerolloutbicyclepatrolprogram

by Becky Reeves

While a squad car may be more customary, the Burlington Police Department is rolling out a new form of transportation. The department has recently begun bicycle patrolling as a supplemental way of protecting Burlington. Officers are patrolling in tandem – one on a bicycle and the other in a traditional patrol car.

“There has been a shared interest between members of the community and a couple of officers to resume the bike patrol program that was initially started in 1996, so we took a look at what it would take to restart the program,” said Interim Police Chief Riley Morgan. “The police department had received support from local businesses when the program was initially implemented. Through donations, the department was able to purchase and outfit two bikes.”

As with any specialized program, the police department not only needed the right equipment, but also the right personnel to make it successful. “We are fortunate to have officers Jay Szambecki and Quillan Houser step up,” Morgan said. “They not only have the interest in participating in the bike patrol program, but also the skills necessary to make it effective.”

When Houser was asked to be a part of the bike patrol, he was immediately on board. “I told my supervisor I’d be interested in bicycle patrol, mostly to get back into shape,” Houser said. “It was during my week-long training that I realized how effective and fun bicycle patrol can be.”

According to Houser, the program is attracting a lot of attention from the public. “Several citizens have pulled over to ask general questions about the bicycle patrol, and I’ve received several positive comments,” he said. “While riding the bicycle at the Coffey County Fair, a citizen told me he was appreciative of me patrolling in the dark by parked vehicles and animal trailers, protecting their property and animals.”

After a few days of patrolling, Houser estimates he rides an average of 10 miles during a four-hour bicycle patrol. The distance varies if he makes an arrest, responds to a call or has several calls for service. During routine patrol, his route, at times, can be completely random, riding through parks, neighborhoods, downtown sidewalks and making stationary observations.

“Other times, we utilize a law enforcement operation system to patrol hot spots for crime, traffic violations and traffic crashes,” he said. “Bicycle units can be used to respond to reoccurring crimes and successfully apprehend or deter suspects.”

Burlington police officer Quillan Houser maneuvers over an off-road obstacle course during bike training held July 20-23 at Emporia. Photos Submitted by Becky Reeves.



“Bike patrol is a great tool for community activities,” Morgan said. “In the last few weeks, Jay patrolled the Wild Blue BBQ, and Quillan patrolled at the demolition derby on a bike. It provides a unique ability to be more mobile in areas where a patrol car or being on foot would be less effective. If the bike patrol officer wants to interact with the public at a certain location, a patrol car can be staged at that location in the community to make it easier to do bike patrol from there.”

While patrolling on a bicycle, versus a patrol car, Houser said he also has noticed that he has more contact with citizens, whether they’re on foot, in a vehicle, on their property or in a business he is stopping to check on.

“Those citizens tell others about their interactions with me and where they were during our conversation,” Houser said. “By making multiple contacts throughout the town, word has spread quickly, which deters crime and provides a sense of security to Burlington citizens.”

Along with the advantage of being more directly involved with the community, the cost of the program is beneficial as well. According to Morgan, there were some initial costs of training Houser, and there will be ongoing maintenance that comes with any piece of equipment. Since the bike was donated several years ago, the tires, tubes and brakes were replaced.

Even though the bicycles may not have all the amenities of a police vehicle, that doesn’t stop bicycle patrol officers from doing their duty and continuing to serve their community members.

“On bicycle patrol, I wear the same duty belt as normal patrol and switch my vest from the outside carrier to a concealed carrier to wear under a light breathable shirt,” Officer Houser said. “I wear an approved helmet, shatter-resistant eye protection, bicycle gloves, tennis shoes, my radio and shorts. In my patrol bag on the bicycle, I carry a citation book, a spare tube and tire, extra water, tire patches and basic bicycle tools.” Along with these, the bikes are also equipped with emergency lights.

Normal arrests, citations and other forms of policing will be done while patrolling on the bikes, although the transport of any person being taken in is performed by the squad car officer.

“When an officer is working bike patrol, there is another officer in a patrol car as well,” Morgan said. “This ensures the



Burlington police officer Quillan Houser, right, attended International Police Mountain Bike Association training with other area officers to train for bike patrol.

department is able to provide all of the resources the community expects, as well as the added benefits that come from having an officer patrolling on the bike. Officers are normally scheduled to work 12-hour shifts. Of that, an officer may spend up to half of it on the bike.”

On the evening of June 30, Officer Houser, while patrolling on his bicycle, stopped a large Dodge truck. “The driver failed to yield the right of way to a bicyclist, nearly causing an injury accident,” he said. “After checking the driver’s license, the driver was placed into custody for driving while his license was suspended. Officer Randy Stuart arrived in a patrol vehicle during the traffic stop and transported the man to the Coffey County Jail.”

According to Houser, when a bicycle officer attempts to stop a motorist, they must stop as if they are being pulled over by a patrol car. “Drivers who drive away from an officer on a bicycle attempting to make a traffic stop on them will be charged with fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer, a class B misdemeanor, which has a fine amount of \$750,” he said. “Drivers who attempt to flee will be arrested and transported to the Coffey County Jail.”

Bike patrol officers aren’t as sheltered during a rain shower, like officers in a squad car, but Officer Houser said he is up for the challenge. “Due to bicycle patrol recently starting again, we don’t have the proper clothing yet to ride the bicycle during inclement weather. But, once we are able to purchase the equipment, I would ride the bicycle while it was raining, if needed.”

Morgan said the bike patrol program will be utilized throughout the year, barring inclement weather. “Since one of the main advantages of bike patrol is interacting with the public, it is most effective when people are enjoying outside activities, making the winter months a less effective time to be on the bikes,” he said.

Training

Although the bike patrol method seems simplistic, the training to become a part of it is much more difficult than one would think. Houser certified in the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) basic police course, a four-day certification and training, from July 20-23 at Emporia. Lyon County Undersheriff John Koelsch conducted the course. The training combined emergency vehicle operations for bike officers with patrol procedures, tactics, night operations, scenarios and basic

bike maintenance and on-the-road repairs. They also performed off-road riding and bike-specific live-fire exercises. There were several practical tests and a written test at the end of the course.

“This was a great opportunity for our agency to provide officers, who have an interest in the bike patrol program, with some of the best training there is at a minimal cost,” Morgan said.

History of Bike Patrol

(excerpts taken from the Burlington City Council minutes)

Burlington Police Chief Steve Timmons approached the Burlington City Council on March 20, 1996, requesting a bicycle to initiate a bike patrol program. He also requested a change to Ordinance No. 597 to allow police officers to ride bicycles on the sidewalks in the central business district. On April 3, 1996, the council passed an ordinance allowing officers to ride bicycles on downtown sidewalks. The general public is not allowed to ride bicycles on the sidewalks, and on July 3, 1996, the council voted to purchase signs prohibiting bicycles on the sidewalks in the business district.

In the fall of 1996, two bicycle patrol officers participated in the LeRoy Homecoming Parade and won “Best Decorated Bicycle.”

During the Coffey County Fair parade in July 1998, Acting Police Chief Brian Jones led the parade in a patrol car, with two bicycle patrol officers alongside his vehicle.

At the council meeting June 3, 2015, Interim Police Chief Riley Morgan reported to the council that he was reinitiating the bike patrol program.

Houser said he may spend time with students, teaching them about the proper fit of a helmet, basic bicycle repair and bicycle traffic laws. Outside the classroom, he plans to enforce seat belts laws better, due to the high visibility he gains while patrolling on a bicycle.

The program fits right in with community policing. While the bicycles won’t replace the police vehicles, they are a way for the officers to increase visibility and allow residents to actually see their police department maintaining security and safety in partnership with their community.

 *Becky Reeves is a Police Records Clerk for the Burlington Police Department. She can be reached at 785.532.3315 or 386Reeves@burlingtonpd.onmicrosoft.com.*

Emerald Ash Borer Gaining a Foothold in Kansas

by Kim Bomberger

Catastrophic forest health problems are not new to Kansas communities. Since the 1950s, Dutch elm disease has killed millions upon millions of American elm trees throughout the United States. Then along came pine wilt to Kansas in the late 1970s, and voids have been made in community landscapes where Scotch and Austrian pines once stood. Now a small green insect has found its way to Kansas that has already killed hundreds of millions of ash trees in many states – the emerald ash borer.

The emerald ash borer is an invasive insect that is native to Asia. The beetle was first discovered in North America in the Detroit, Michigan area in 2002. Since that time, the insect has spread to 25 states and two provinces in Canada and isn't showing any signs of stopping. In Kansas, the insect has now been detected in five counties, causing cities to address a pest that causes 100% tree mortality unless those trees are chemically treated for an indefinite period of time.

Emerald Ash Borer Management

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Determine the potential for loss

- Conduct an inventory of publicly-owned ash trees to identify their condition and location.
- Determine interest of neighborhoods or homeowners associations to assess ash tree populations on private property.

Enact an ash reduction strategy

- Remove ash trees in poor condition
- Remove the youngest ash.
- Remove ash in poor locations.

Create an ash management plan

Inventory and inspect ash populations regularly.

Institute a branch sampling procedure for when ash trees are removed.

Require contract arborists to branch sample when ash trees are removed.

Establish Now! Plant a diverse array of trees to replace what is removed and in advance of future loss. Correlate the planting program with a maintenance program.

Identify vacant planting locations and areas that will lose canopy due to removals.

Prepare or review specifications for tree planting contracts.

UTILIZATION-DISPOSAL

Identify where wood debris will be collected and stored.

Create a process that will extract logs and branches that can be utilized from tree parts that can only be chipped or cut into firewood.

Develop a staging area for urban logs that are to be utilized.

Identify business and partnership opportunities within and outside your community.

Review use of wood disposal sites and alter practices that could allow regulated items to leave the quarantine zone.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Develop partnerships with green industry and businesses, such as:

- Utility providers
- Nurseries/growers
- Commercial arborists
- Wood disposal sites in county or those commercially-owned.
- Wood utilization companies or sole proprietor business owners who utilize wood.
- Landscape architects
- Architects
- Building contractors of residential or commercial properties.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT - AUTHORITIES

Develop a community response and communications plan. See the Kansas plan at <http://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/pp-emerald-ash-borer/ks-emerald-ash-borer-response-plan-revision-2-12-10.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

Review the Kansas Tree and Shrubbery Law at <http://agriculture.ks.gov/docs/pp-plant-protection-page/kansas-tree-and-shrubbery-law.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

Create a community tree ordinance if your city does not have one.

Review or revise existing tree ordinances as necessary.

Review risk management plans, priorities, and policies. Dead and dying trees = potential hazards.

BUDGET PREPARATION

After completion of the ash inventory:

- Determine trees that are a priority to retain in the landscape, those that should be removed, and those that will remain until removal is necessary.
- Calculate current and future costs to manage, such as tree removal, stump grinding, chemical treatment, and planting of new trees.



Kansas was the 18th state to have emerald ash borer detected within its boundaries. A detection of the insect in nearby Parkville, Missouri, put the Kansas Department of Agriculture Plant Protection (KDAPP) and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Plant Protection and Quarantine (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) staff on high alert and triggered an intensive survey

Several larvae and galleries were found in this small diameter tree. Photo by Kim Bomberger.

Management Strategies

STAFF AND TREE BOARD TRAINING

Share results of the tree inventory with the Mayor and City Commission, all city departments, and advisory boards. For example, the results of Mission Hill's inventory were presented to the City Council, Park Board, Planning Commission, Architectural Review Board, and Board of Zoning Appeals.

Encourage all or some staff to hold the credentials of a Kansas Certified Arborist or ISA Certified Arborist.

Support and encourage training of all staff and tree board members. This could include:

- How to identify all trees, but especially ash.
- How to identify emerald ash borer, how it damages, and how it spreads.
- Learning the branch sampling method.

Form a tree board and establish a forestry program if your city does not have.

Communicate within the city, including the city commission, emergency management, and staff of all departments to:

- Relay knowledge of current risk.
- Understand the environmental, social, and economic impacts to the community.
- For example, if ash trees comprise 15% of the street tree resource and those trees are lost, stormwater discharge to nearby streams and rivers will increase substantially and affect your city's ability to maintain compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Or if the population of ash trees is high in shopping districts, losing ash trees and not replacing them will make those areas less attractive to shoppers and drive down the costs that merchants could be charging for their goods.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Communities well outside of the quarantine zone

Encourage your residents to:

- Purchase locally-sourced firewood to slow the spread of EAB and help keep it out of your city. Even providing a list of local vendors could mean the difference of the emerald ash borer being transported into your community or not.
- Plant a wide array of trees now to protect and enhance the environmental, social, and economic benefits of your community forest. Check out this article at the Kansas Forest Service website (<http://www.kansasforests.org/events/diversity.html>) and find public properties where numerous types of trees can be seen!
- Replace trees that have already been lost to drought, storms, and other factors.

Offer tree seminars on how to select trees and properly place, plant and establish them.

Communities near the quarantine zone

All of the above, plus prepare your community by:

Writing articles for the city newsletter, posting articles on the city website, developing a city EAB webpage, posting to social media, providing print materials, and utilizing all outlets available to inform your residents of the problem close at hand and how they can help combat it and prepare for it.

Communities in the quarantine zone

All of the above, plus:

Inform residents of the problem at hand and provide instruction on how to identify ash trees, the emerald ash borer, and how to report it.

Share research-based treatment options.

Inform residents about the city's preparedness and response plan and how it will affect them. Use all available media outlets and hold public meetings.

of nearby Wyandotte County. It was during that intensive survey that one tree at Wyandotte County Lake displayed symptoms, prompting closer inspection. A portion of that tree was sent to a USDA lab in Michigan for further analysis where several larvae were removed from the sample, confirming the presence of emerald ash borer in Kansas.

What was first a toehold of the emerald ash borer in Kansas is now a foothold. Johnson County was next to have a confirmed find on July 5, 2013. On July 16, 2014, adults were captured in Leavenworth County, and this past fall, larvae were found in girdled trap trees in both Douglas and Jefferson counties. A detection of emerald ash borer immediately triggers a temporary quarantine that allows KDAPP staff to take action to stop the flow of regulated items out of the infested county. After 90 days, the temporary order becomes permanent after a public hearing and signature by the Kansas Secretary of Agriculture. A quarantine order applies to any corporation, company, society, association, partnership, governmental agency, and any individual or combination of individuals, as stated at the Kansas Department of Agriculture emerald ash borer website - <http://agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/plant-protect-weed-control/emerald-ash-borer>.

The spread of the emerald ash borer is exacerbated by human movement of hardwood firewood and raw ash products that have intact bark. The insect can be in an area for five to seven years

before trees show symptoms of infestation, making the detection and management of this pest extremely difficult.

The Kansas Forest Service and our partners have spent several years offering workshops and outreach to help communities prepare for an infestation within their city boundaries. This flow of information has helped cities develop and implement emerald ash borer preparedness and management plans that dictate how their municipality or governmental entity will manage this pest. There are more than 100 communities in Kansas with tree boards or city departments responsible for managing their public tree resource and these folks are also resources to citizens within their communities. These local forestry programs will be an important resource to their city's leadership as the emerald ash borer continues to spread and be detected in other cities and counties in Kansas. If you are a municipality outside of the quarantine zone, now is the time to assess your city's capabilities of responding to a detection of emerald ash borer with your city. The good news is that there are many proactive measures that a city can do to prepare and respond to an infestation. The chart on page 18 and 19 outlines several management strategies that a city could undertake in advance of and during an infestation.

In his 2012 webinar titled "Topic Memo to City Managers", Chad Tinkel, Superintendent of Urban Forestry and City Arborist with the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana, provides a candid description

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of his city's experience of dealing with a 25% population of ash that increasingly became infested with the emerald ash borer. Any community not familiar with the emerald ash borer and its impact to cities should view the webinar at <http://tinyurl.com/z69cmek>. For a condensed version, Chad's Take-Home Message is:

- You will spend money on this problem.
- Exponential death will happen!
- You must avoid the exponential phase - don't delay.
- Removing trees as they die is not sustainable.
- Viable options are:
- Preemptive removal
- Treatment – Economically viable
- Do Not Wait – EAB threatens public safety.
- Do Not Wait – EAB is a budget buster if not careful.
- Do Not Wait – EAB degrades the environment.

Several Kansas cities within the quarantine zone have developed and began implementation of emerald ash borer management plans. One city that began executing their plan in 2014 spent approximately \$175,000 to remove 164 of their poorest condition ash trees on city right-of-ways and to replant twice the number of trees that were removed. Another city has reported that they'll spend nearly \$90,000 to remove their first tier of ash trees. Cities

in the metro area have collectively spent hundreds of thousands of dollars since 2014 to manage the ash resource in their cities and that cost will increase as populations of the insect increases.

This forest health threat will only continue to spread in Kansas but it should not happen without a fight. The Kansas Forest Service and our Community Forestry Program are here to provide technical assistance, education, and training to those cities and public entities that need help to actively manage their public tree resource. In addition to the above Kansas Department of Agriculture website and the national emerald ash borer information center, <http://emeraldashborer.info>, the Kansas Forest Service provides numerous emerald ash borer and community forestry resources at <http://www.kansasforests.org>. Our partnerships with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, USDA-APHIS-PPQ, K-State Research and Extension, professional organizations, and local Tree City USA communities offer a strong structure of knowledge and service to the State of Kansas. Let's keep the foothold of the emerald ash borer as small as possible here in the state of Kansas. I hope you'll join us in this fight.

 *Kim Bomberger is a District Community Forester for North Central and Northeast Kansas with the Kansas Forest Service. She can be reached at 785.532.3315 or kbomberg@ksu.edu.*



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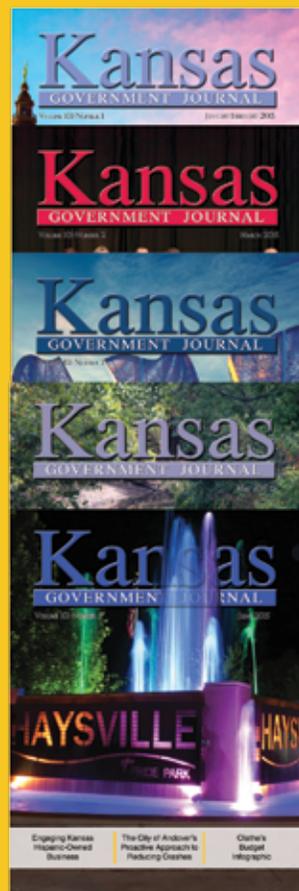
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Kansas Sister Cities

Overland Park & Bietigheim-Bissingen

Editors Note: This year the League is taking look at some of the partnerships Kansas cities have with cities abroad. If you are interested in submitting an article about your Sister City please contact Andrey Ukrazhenko at andrey@lkm.org.

It began with the kids.

Students become lifelong friends, community leaders share ideas, and two communities, an ocean apart and speaking different languages, benefit from the sharing of cultures.

A partnership that began in 1979 between the Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany, and Shawnee Mission South High School, Overland Park, music and orchestra programs prompted officials from the two cities to begin discussion of a sister city relationship. Overland Park established its formal sister city relationship with Bietigheim-Bissingen in 1999, signing a proclamation at a public ceremony and celebration.

The ongoing school exchange program is independent of the Sister City Program. Well over 1,000 students have been involved in the exchange. Students from the two music programs alternate years for visits, stay in homes of local students and program supporters, attend classes and put on free public performances.

Students from the Blue Valley School District have also participated in the exchange with Bietigheim-Bissingen in recent years.

Overland Park's formal Sister City declaration has opened the door to the sharing of cultural amenities including art and musical performances by professional artists. Last year, two jazz musicians from Overland Park performed in Bietigheim-Bissingen, a town

over 500 years old, in an open public venue. In 2009, Overland Park hosted an art show for German artists.

Overland Park Mayor Carl Gerlach, while hosting a delegation from Germany this fall, invited Bietigheim-Bissingen Oberbürgermeister (Mayor) Jürgen Kessing to consider contributing sculptures to Overland Park's International Sculpture Garden at the Overland Park Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, which also has more than 10 pieces from China.

This year's activities included a Sunday brunch at the home of Overland Park Councilmember Dave Janson. Our German visitors were thrilled to see a home in Overland Park firsthand, gaining a greater understanding and knowledge of how residences in the two countries can be vastly different, beginning with the amount of living space and size of a residential lot. Homes of our German visitors are much smaller due to strict development restrictions, which set standards for density, and the cost of land.

Overland Park's Sister City program also involves the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce and the Convention and Visitors Bureau, working together to establish economic development opportunities for the two communities in addition to furthering cultural and educational ties.

 Sean Reilly is the Manager of Communications for the City of Overland Park. He can be reached at sean.reilly@opkansas.org.



Overland Park Arboretum. Photos submitted by the City of Overland Park.



Photo of Bietigheim-Bissingen.

KANSAS GOVERNMENT

Hays / Russell

Cities of Hays, Russell, File Application to Transfer Water

After decades of study, research, and planning, Hays and Russell, Kansas, are a huge step closer to finally obtaining an adequate and dependable water supply. On Thursday, January 7, 2016, Hays and Russell filed an application to transfer up to 7,625.5 acre-feet of water from their R9 Ranch in Edwards County for their municipal use.

The cities purchased the R9 Ranch, including its 30 irrigation water rights, in 1995 in order to transfer water to Hays and Russell. As the only feasible long-term water source available to the cities, approval of the transfer will provide the cities, and potentially other water suppliers in the region, with a drought-proof water supply.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/zqakqt4>

Baldwin City

Baldwin City to Move Forward with Rewrite of Animal Control Ordinance

The Baldwin City Council directed the City Attorney to move forward with proposed revisions to the city's animal control ordinances.

Baldwin City Police Chief Greg Neis presented the council with a draft of a proposed revision, which he said was the result of more than two years of effort on the part of Lawrence attorney and animal rights advocate Katie Barrett, former City Administrator Chris Lowe, City Attorney Matt Hoy and himself, Neis said.

The draft left much of the city's existing ordinance in place but did address provisions regarding dangerous and vicious animals, which primarily applied to dogs.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/z6dgvnq>

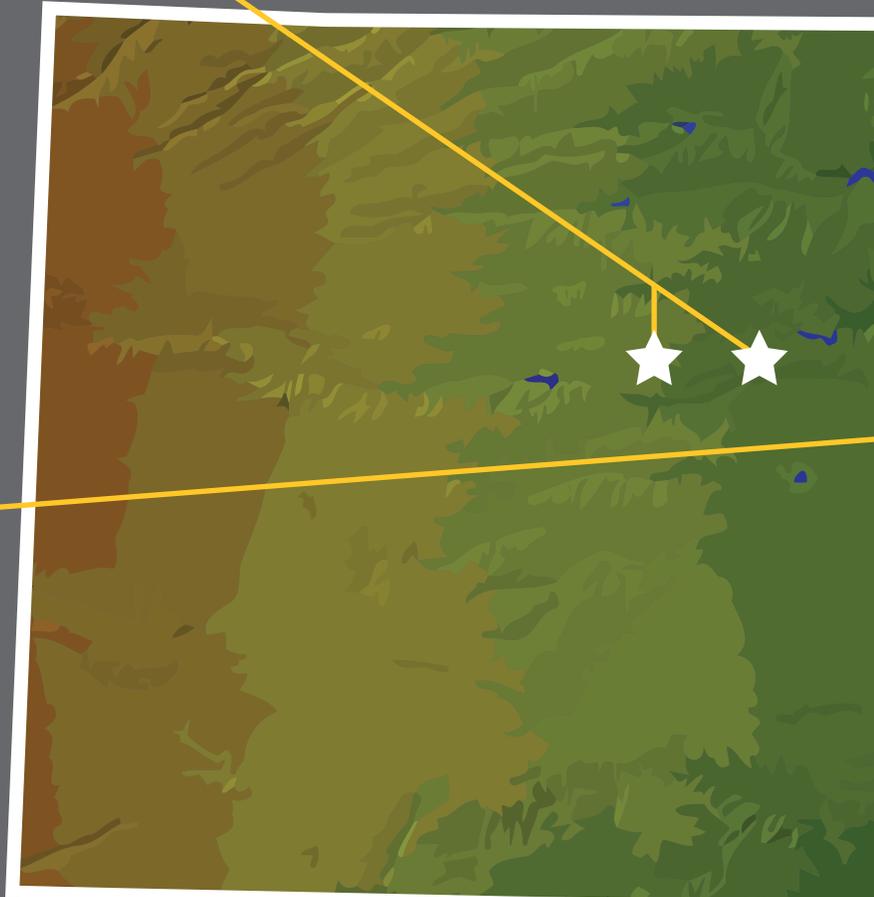
Derby

Derby Approves Turf Conversion Program to Conserve Water

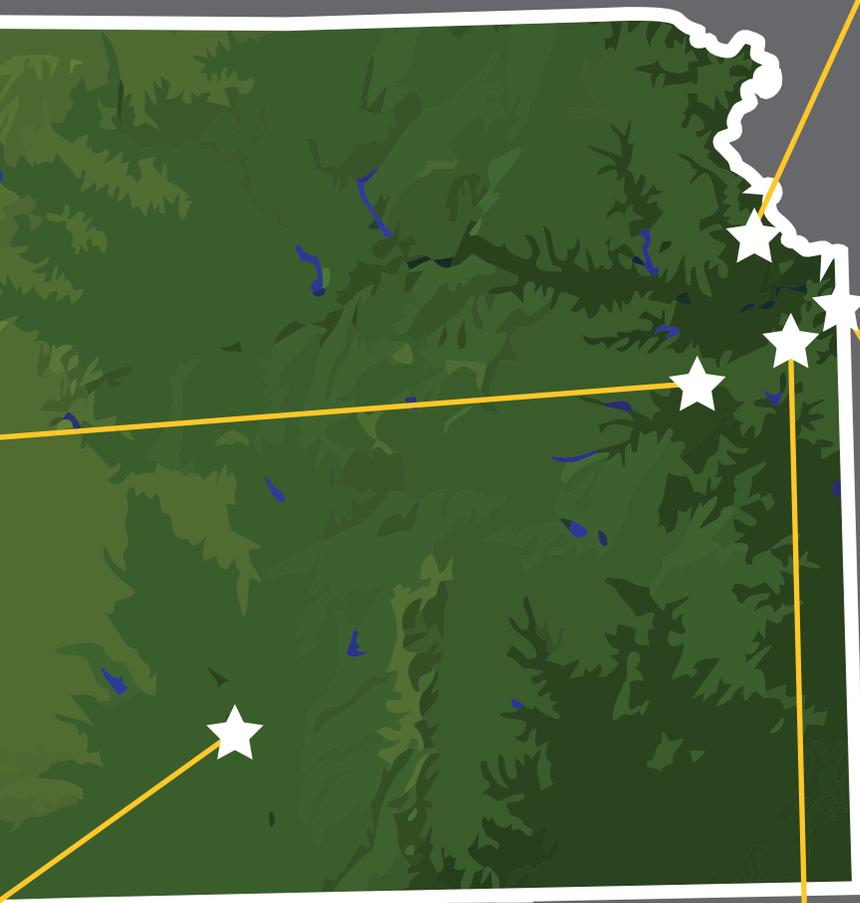
Following the success of a water conservation rebate program used by the City of Derby for the past two years, Council approved an extension of the program along with \$40,000 dedicated to rebates for turf or landscape bed conversions.

A total of \$50,000 will go toward the program with \$10,000 dedicated to the old rebate program, which encourages residents to purchase more efficient toilets or even rain barrels. The remainder of the money would go toward the new program, which began Jan. 1.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/z4e6dwe>



GOVERNMENT NEWS



Leavenworth

Commissioner Proposes Raising Age for Cigarettes

A member of the Leavenworth City Commission wants his fellow commissioners to consider raising the minimum age for purchasing tobacco products in the city.

Currently, people can purchase cigarettes and other tobacco products at the age of 18. Commissioner Mark Preisinger suggested during a meeting last week that the commission consider raising the minimum age in Leavenworth to 21.

Preisinger's fellow commissioners agreed to discuss the issue during a future study session.

The issue is tentatively scheduled to appear on the agenda for a February 16 study session, according to City Clerk Carla Williamson.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/hxx7gaj>

Roeland Park

Roeland Park City Council Splits on Short-term Rentals but Passes Ordinance; Airbnb Rentals Allowed

The city council passed an ordinance that cleans up many of the prohibitions that would have made the rentals illegal and sets new restrictions. City staff had previously advised the council that current code, and restrictions on "boarding houses" in the city, would not allow for Airbnb rentals. However, a handful of Airbnb rentals already operate in Roeland Park.

The division on the council often came down to Councilors Ryan Kellerman, Michael Rhoades and Tim Janssen on one side of the vote and the rest of the council on the other side. That was, in fact, how the vote lined up on the final approval.

A lot of "worst-case scenarios" and lots of fear have come out of the (council) chamber, Councilor Michael Poppa said before the final vote was taken. "We need to stop doing that and start moving forward."

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/gmyn8t2>

Shawnee

Shawnee Wants to Tackle Startup Challenges

The city plans to launch the "Startup Workforce Relocation and Expansion Program," which is an expansion of its already successful Shawnee Entrepreneurial Economic Development (SEED) program.

"We have a very solid program in place with SEED in terms of attracting and retaining established businesses, but we didn't have anything specific that met the need for startups and for entrepreneurial ventures," Shawnee City Councilman Brandon Kenig said, who proposed expanding the program. "This has the potential to have an enormous impact."

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/zasgrfj>

Classified Advertising

Business Liaison (Transit and Wastewater)

Johnson County Government is seeking applicants for a Business Liaison. As a member of the County Manager's Office, this position will collaborate on strategies to address operational transit and wastewater issues. They will be a point of contact for services related to transit and wastewater operations to address issues from internal and external audiences. This position will serve as the contract administrator and regional transit liaison between Johnson County and the Kansas City Area Transit Authority (KCATA). Additionally, they will facilitate and coordinate development activities between the development community and Johnson County Wastewater stakeholders.

A bachelor's degree in planning, public administration, business administration, engineering, or related field of study is required. Five years of experience and program leadership within the areas of public administration, public transportation, or infrastructure related field, including work with a variety of strategic functions or projects, coordination, relationship building, and presentation of information to a variety of audiences and stakeholders, and program development and/or administration is required. Three years of experience in the preparation and development of a variety of statistical analyses, metrics and reports, preferably related to public transportation or infrastructure/development projects is required. Three years of experience in the presentation of report findings and conclusions to a wide variety of audiences including government administrators, elected officials, and the public, using persuasion and logic to present data and facts in a clear and understandable way is also required. Experience and education may substitute for one another.

Apply online at <http://www.jocogov.org/dept/human-resources/career-opportunities/jobs-open-public>

City of Eudora Journeyman Electric Lineman

Starting Salary: \$26.13/hr. The Journeyman Electric Lineman performs skilled work of journeyman level in the construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground 12.5KV electric distribution power lines, protection

equipment, metering, and other electrical equipment. Minimum qualifications include graduation from high school or a GED, with completion of a four year apprentice or merchant program and hold a journeyman lineman certificate issued by the Department of Labor.

This position is responsible for the maintenance of the City's secondary system, including buildings, water wells, sewer pumps, and other electrical needs. Possess a strong technical and mechanical aptitude. Requires a valid Kansas Commercial Driver's License (CDL) and a good driving record. Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Application and job description available at City Hall, 4 E. 7th Street, Eudora, KS or online at www.cityofeudoraks.gov. Submit application/resume on the website or by email at pschmeck@cityofeudoraks.gov. All offers of employment are conditional upon the successful completion of a post offer drug screen and background check including driving record. Position open until filled. EOE

City Administrator

Marysville, Kansas (pop. 3,295; \$10.9 million budget; 37 FTE's), located an hour north of Manhattan, is a beautiful, family-oriented community with great local amenities, strong industry, and an engaged citizenry. The City, known as "Black Squirrel City," is seeking a City Administrator to manage its employees and finances, and foster a culture of professionalism and open communication. The current City Administrator is retiring after 17 years with the City.

The City operates under a nine-member Mayor-Council form of government, and provides water and wastewater service to its citizens. It also possesses a library, police department, fire department, and aquatic center. The City Administrator supervises the day-to-day activities of all employees, updates the council regarding City finances, and communicates directives from the governing body to the City staff.

The governing body is looking for candidates with strong interpersonal skills who can communicate well with citizens, the council, and City staff. Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in public administration or a related field, and at least five years of local government experience preferred. The successful candidate must also be able to competently create and

manage budgets, oversee and develop personnel, and provide leadership to staff and the community.

Competitive benefits. Salary \$65,000 - \$75,000 DOQ. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three work-related references to LEAPS-Marysville@lkm.org or LEAPS-Marysville, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66603. If confidentiality is requested, please note in application materials. Application review will begin March 14. EOE.

City Website: <http://www.cityofmarysvilleks.com/>

Budget Document: http://media.wix.com/ugd/485548_cd7d8037e9b2499281df79b48b28c21e.pdf

FT Development Services/Assistant Human Resources Director

City of Anthony, seeks FT Development Services/Assistant Human Resources Director. HS/GED Diploma required. 3-5 years of experience is required, or equivalent combination of education and experience. Salary: \$35,000-\$45,000/yr., DOQ. Non-FLSA Exempt. Must possess strong organizational, communication, and public relationship skills. Excellent benefits. More information: www.anthonykansas.org. 620-842-5434. Open until filled. EOE.

Payroll/Claims Specialist

PAYROLL/CLAIMS SPECIALIST
(Regular Full-Time Non Exempt) Range: \$20.53 - \$22.58/hr.

Position Description: Primary responsibility for all phases of payroll processing, including preparation of remittance documents for federal/state income taxes owed to IRS and State of Kansas, and Social Security and Medicare payments. Reconciles with payroll and KPERS for contributions paid by employees and the City, and processes payments to KPERS each pay period. Initiates Personnel Action Forms for all employment and benefit related data including new hires, employee salary changes, status changes, etc. and enters data into the AS/400, ensuring that fund accounts have been verified to maintain accuracy of the City's financial reporting system.

The Payroll/Claims Specialist coordinates and completes the payroll

process within strict designated daily and weekly deadlines through good organization and task management skills; communicates payroll policy, procedures, and deadlines to departmental staff in a tactful and professional manner; oversees, monitors, and communicates benefit enrollment/termination dates in coordination with the Human Resources Generalist; monitors medical leave and vacation balances and communicates that information to various City staff and personnel; makes necessary adjustments to deductions and benefits so as to ensure accurate record keeping; ability to accurately and proficiently input payroll information using high end software programs including information about hours worked, personnel changes, wages, and deductions; must also be sufficiently adept and aware to detect and correct data entry errors, anomalies, and procedural irregularities; ability to understand and apply accounting principles relating to payroll including audit, payroll reconciliation, tax calculations, and internal control; applies mathematical principles to calculate appropriate taxes, prepares monthly reports, and reconciles quarterly and annual payroll tax with wages paid.

Extensive use of personal computer software applications including word processing, spreadsheet programs, and database. Prefer experience in ExecuTime timekeeping system and SunGard financial software operating on an AS/400 mainframe platform; considerable knowledge of methods and practices of payroll record keeping and knowledge of tax withholding, voluntary deductions, garnishments and withholding orders, fringe benefits, year-end processes, and technical aspects of payroll as a specialty; knowledge of internal control administration for payroll and risk management; knowledge of basic Wage and Hour compliance.

Education and Experience:

Associate of Arts degree in accounting or finance related program, plus five (5) years payroll work experience utilizing high end computerized software applications; articulated experience and extensive years of payroll work experience may be substituted for education requirements.

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Date: Open Until Filled

Application Review Begins Immediately

Senior Management Analyst-Finance Manager

The City of Wichita is seeking highly qualified candidates for the position of Senior Management Analyst-Finance Manager, in the Public Works & Utilities Department.

This is administrative work assisting the Strategic Services Manager by providing a broad scope of administrative and financial services that support and facilitate coordination of all fiscal issues. The position is responsible for budget preparation and monitoring, internal financial reporting, CIP financial modeling, and rate development. This position will develop and implement processes or plans to carry out special assignments and projects designed to achieve objectives set forth by the Utility Business Manager.

Graduation from a four-year college with a degree in business or public administration, or a related field, plus four years of increasingly responsible administrative experience which includes budgetary accountability. Administrative experience in a municipal environment or directly related to the specific operations of the hiring department preferred. Experience with utility finance, regulations, and reporting requirements is preferred. Any equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. Offers of employment are contingent upon passing a pre-employment physical, which includes drug screening, and upon satisfactory evaluation of the results of a criminal record check.

Typical work hours: 8 am to 5 pm, Monday-Friday. Additional time may be required.

Starting annual salary: \$51,114 to \$72,564 DOQ

To apply, please visit <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/wichita/default.cfm>

Posting may close at any time without prior notification.

Water/Wastewater Supervisor

Appointed by the City Administrator, the Water/Wastewater Supervisor is a non-exempt employee and is responsible for the planning, directing, and coordinating operations for the City's water distribution and wastewater treatment and collection systems. Requires at least two years of experience in utilities related job; the ability to operate heavy machinery; KDHE

water & wastewater operator certifications; a high school diploma or GED; and a valid driver's license with a good motor vehicle record. Experience in a supervisory role with excellent organizational, administrative, and communication skills preferred. Salary range is \$32,000 to \$43,000 DOQ plus benefits. Job offers contingent on passing a physical and drug test. Submit your application online at www.fredoniaks.org, hrpartners.com, or drop your applications off at City Hall, 100 N 15th Fredonia, Ks. Open until filled. Complete job description is available at City Hall (620) 378-2231. Open until filled.

Water\Waste Water Plant Operator

Eudora, Kansas, population 6,300, seeks responsible applicants with knowledge of the operation and maintenance of a city owned water treatment and waste water treatment plants. Certification preferred but not required. Salary range is \$31K to \$44K. Position reports to the Public Works Director and will be responsible for running the water plant and producing quality water as well as treating wastewater to meet KDHE requirements. Valid Kansas Drivers License is required. Submit applications/resumes at www.cityofeudoraks.gov or pschmeck@cityofeudoraks.gov. Position open until filled. EOE

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The League maintains a model-job-descriptions database that is available to all member cities. The League also offers individualized descriptions as part of a fee-based service.

Compensation Analysis
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Salary Survey
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(785) 354-9565 www.lkm.org/services/personnel

Advertise in the *Kansas Government Journal*. Contact Kate Cooley at kcooley@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

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Memorial display in Chetopa. Photo submitted by the City of Chetopa.

Potwin: Bike Run

2nd Sunday March - October

Vendors, Breakfast, Shade, Friendly Faces
620.752.3422

Osage City: Smoke in the Spring

April 8

Smoke in the Spring is a special community event at Jones Park in Osage City, where barbecue teams from across the Midwest attend to compete and cook food for the public. The Taste of Osage City starts at 5pm on Friday and continues “Until the Food Runs Out”. Patrons can purchase BBQ Bucks (1 BBQ Buck = \$1) on-site starting at 2pm. Vending teams only accept BBQ Bucks. Stick around for Live Music that goes until 12pm. Walk around, meet, and talk with some of the top BBQ Pitmasters from around the country.
785.528.4610 | www.smokeinthespring.com

Lansing: Daze / Brew, Blues & Bar-B-Q

May 6 - 7

The Lansing Daze/ Brew, Blues & Bar-B-Q Festival begins on Friday May 6 and runs through Saturday May 7. This year’s event will feature live music, food and beverage vendors, children’s inflatables and rides, and a fireworks show on Friday night. Saturday the event will feature more live music, craft vendors, food and beverage vendors, a People’s Choice event, a car show, children’s inflatables and rides, and much more! This event will take place at Kenneth W. Bernard Park located at 15650 Gilman Rd. If you have any questions please contact the CVB Department at 913.727.5488 or cvb@lansing.ks.us.
913.727.5488 | <http://www.lansing.ks.us/Index.aspx?NID=417>

Caldwell: Chisholm Trail Festival

May 6-7

Annual celebration of the Border Queen City’s Chisholm Trail heritage. Kids games, downtown vendors, beer garden and more.

Marion: Chingawassa Days

June 3, 4 & 5

Annual Family Festival featuring nation acts, contests, games, tournaments, and much more.
620.382.3425 | www.chingawassadays.com

Altamont: Free Kids

Fishing Derby

June 4

Idle Hour Lake, 3 1/2 miles south of Altamont on Ness Rd, Registration: 9:00 a.m. noon, Weigh in by 2:00 p.m. no exceptions, Age Groups: 3-5 yrs. Old 6-8 yrs. Old 9-12 yrs. Old, Fish at your favorite fishing hole or Idle Hour Lake, Hot dogs served from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Medals awarded for the largest in weight, and smallest in length in each age group and category. Sunfish, Bass, Crappie and Catfish, *Grand Prize 2 man scamp given away after the derby, Only registered anglers qualify for the drawing, All registered anglers will receive a prize Must be present to win, Kansas Fish & Game’s free fishing weekend No fishing license required June 6th - 7th, No dead fish will be counted no exceptions, Rain or Shine Severe weather cancels derby and will be rescheduled, Sponsored by: Altamont Police Department & Masonic Lodge #69
620.784.5582 | <http://altamontks.com/kids-fishing-derby/>

Marion: 9th Annual Bluegrass at the Lake

June 18

Concert at the Beach Area of Marion County Park & Lake. 4 to 6 p.m. Open Stage; 6 to 10 p.m. Main Performances
620.382.3240

Caldwell: 4th of July Fireworks Celebration

July 4

When night falls on July 4th, a spectacular fireworks display begins in Caldwell to celebrate Independence Day!

Erie: 143rd Old Soldiers and Sailors Reunion

July 11 - 16

rodeo, kids games, food vendors, craft fair, car show, baby contest, parade, entertainment, free bean feed.
620.244.3461 | www.erieks.com

Dwight: Summerfest 2016

August 5

10 AM Parade, food, food vendors, DJ/ Live Music, Dance at City Park, 5K Run, Kids Games, Activities in park (Events are still pending)
785.482.3455 | www.facebook.com/cityofd Dwight

Potwin: Watermelon Festival

August 27

Free Watermelon, Parade, Car Show, Softball Tournament, Bean Bag Tournament, Horseshoe Tournament, Kids Games, Quarter Toss, Vendors, Variety Show, Dance
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