

The cover features a photograph of a modern building with a glass facade on the left and a large, abstract sculpture with dark, angular forms on the right. The sky is a clear, light blue. The title 'Kansas' is in a large, teal, serif font at the top. Below it, 'GOVERNMENT JOURNAL' is written in white, uppercase letters on a teal rectangular background.

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 102-NUMBER 6

JULY 2016

Open Road Tolling

Ottawa's Pathway
to Success through
Volunteerism

Land Banking



2016 E. A. Mosher Excellence in Local Government Award

The E. A. Mosher Excellence in Local Government Award is presented annually to an elected city official who has not only demonstrated outstanding service to his or her own city, but has also shown an active commitment to strong local government and service to the League of Kansas Municipalities (League). Named in honor of E. A. Mosher, League Director from 1960 to 1991, this award is designed to honor excellence and leadership at the highest level.

Nominees for the E. A. Mosher Excellence in Local Government Award must meet the following qualifications:

- Must be an elected official from a League member city;
- Must have held elective office for a minimum of four years;
- Must have nomination in at the close of nominations on August 19, 2016;
- Must demonstrate contributions that have had a significant impact on the quality of life of the citizens of his or her city;
- Must demonstrate contributions in promoting positive intergovernmental relationships; and
- Must show involvement with the League.

Guidelines for the selection of the 2016 award winner are as follows:

- Nominations will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on August 19, 2016;
- Nominations may be made by any elected or appointed official of a League city;
- The Awards Committee of the League Governing Body will select the award recipient;
- The decision of the Awards Committee will be final; and
- The winner's name will be kept confidential until the presentation at the League Annual Conference in Topeka.

For a nomination form, go to <http://www.lkm.org/page/excellence> or, contact Anna DeBusk at (785) 354-9565 or adebusk@lkm.org.

LEAGUE GOVERNING BODY NOMINATIONS

The League encourages officials from all member cities to participate in our organization and to consider serving on the governing body. Being part of the governing body is an excellent way to shape the future development of the organization. The League welcomes officials from all cities, in all regions of Kansas, to nominate their colleagues or themselves for governing body positions.

Article 4 of the League Bylaws charges the Nominating Committee with submitting a written report at least 24 hours

before the start of the annual business meeting of the organization. This year's business meeting, including elections, will be held Monday, October 10, during the League's Annual Conference in Overland Park.

In order to facilitate the process, we ask that all nominations be received by Friday, September 9 at 5:00 p.m. to the League of Kansas Municipalities, 300 SW 8th Ave., Topeka, KS 66603.

You can also go online and submit your form electronically at lkm.org/page/GovBodyNomination.



National League of Cities

Interested in Serving on the NLC Board?

The League Awards Committee is in charge with reviewing applicants who seek the endorsement of the League with regard to a position on the National League of Cities Board of Directors. If you are interested in being considered for endorsement, please send a cover letter and resume to Anna DeBusk

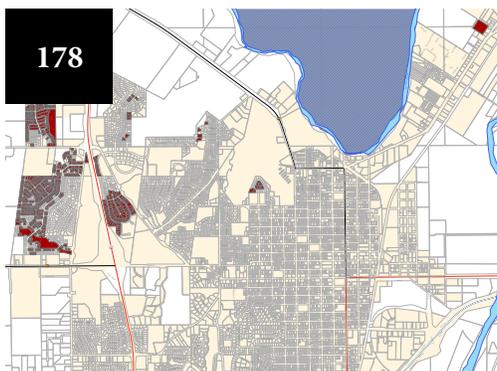
at adebusk@lkm.org or 300 SW 8th Ave., Topeka, KS 66603, (785) 354-9565 by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 19, 2016. The Awards Committee will review all requests for endorsement and make a recommendation to the League Governing Body for final action.

Contents

Volume 102 • Number 6 • July 2016

Features

- 166 **Open Road Tolling**
The Kansas Turnpike Authority is poised to modernize tolling.
- 172 **How to Find and Claim Part of \$301 Million in Unclaimed Property**
A how-to from the Kansas State Treasurer's Office on seeking unclaimed property.
- 175 **Ottawa's Pathway to Success through Volunteerism**
A look at the City of Ottawa's emphasis on community volunteerism.
- 178 **Land Banking**
Managing blighted, dilapidated, or uninhabitable properties.



Departments

- 165 **Director's Foreword**
- 181 **Legal Forum**
2016 Standard Traffic Ordinance and Uniform Public Offense Code Changes
- 182 **Best Practices**
Temporary Permits
- 183 **Kansas Sister Cities**
Abilene and Sister City Omitama, Japan
- 184 **Kansas Government News**
- 186 **Classified Advertising**
- 188 **Professional Services**
- 190 **City Events**



About the Cover:

The Overland Park Convention Center where the League 2016 Annual Conference will be held this October. More information can be found in the conference brochure.

Photo provided by Erin Kurtz.

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

The *Kansas Government Journal* is published by:

© League of Kansas Municipalities
300 S.W. 8th Ave. Suite 100 • Topeka, Kansas 66603-3951
phone: (785) 354-9565 • fax: (785) 354-4186
www.lkm.org

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

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

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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

July

4 - League Holiday: Independence Day

August

5 - MTI: KOMA/KORA; Hays

16 - Policy Committee: Utilities & Environment; Topeka

18 - Policy Committee: Public Officers & Employees; Topeka

23 - Policy Committee: Finance & Taxation; Topeka

25 - MTI: KOMA/KORA; Shawnee

26 - MTI: KOMA/KORA; El Dorado

30 - Policy Committee: Legislative Policy; Topeka

Obituaries

Norman E. Gaar died May 27, 2016. He was 87. Mr. Gaar served as municipal judge and Mayor of the City of Westwood, and as a Kansas State Senator (6th District) for twenty years, four of which he was majority leader. His work in the Senate included legislation to improve air quality in Kansas, to protect the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State, and passed enabling legislation for Johnson County Community College. A decorated Korean War Veteran, Mr. Gaar ranked among the nation's leading municipal finance attorneys. He was admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Kansas Supreme, US District, and US Bankruptcy Courts, including the US District and US Bankruptcy Courts in Missouri. He was a Fellow of the American College of Bond Counsels and a member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers. Mr. Gaar is survived by his wife of thirty years, Marilyn, and four children.

Reverend Susan A. Montgomery died June 6, 2016. She was 70. Reverend Montgomery served as city clerk for the City of Emmett. She attended what was known as the Kansas State Teachers College at Emporia State University and returned later to graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology. She later attended the Boston University School of Theology and graduated with a Master of Divinity. She was a member of the Literary Club in St. Mary's, Jolly Workers at Emmett, and the Sunflower Sue Club in Maple Hill. Reverend Montgomery is survived by her children and several siblings.

John "Max" Zimmerman died June 1, 2016. He was 85. Mr. Zimmerman served on the Liberal City Commission, and was instrumental in the development of some of Liberal's leading tourist attractions, including Dorothy's House, the Land of Oz exhibit, and the Mid-America Air Museum. He also spurred the effort to save and revitalize the Rock Island Depot and Grier House buildings. Mr. Zimmerman initiated a coalition of communities along U.S. Highway 54 in an effort to coordinate efforts for four-lane expansion from Wichita to El Paso, an effort that continues today. He was a Captain in the United States Air Force and a navigator on a B-36 Bomber during the Korean Conflict. Mr. Zimmerman is survived by his children.

Director's Foreword

by Erik Sartorius



Wow! Is there any part of the state that overnight didn't go from pleasant spring weather to feeling like being trapped in a BBQ pit? Here's hoping Mother Nature is getting the hot weather out of her system, rather than just getting warmed up!

While the June issue of the *Kansas Government Journal* noted the end of the 2016 legislative session, we really should have qualified that as the "regular session." Legislators were summoned back to Topeka for a special session to address equity in K-12 school funding, with potential school closures looming. Though the Kansas Supreme Court education ruling is the impetus for the special session, legislators could have taken up any issue. Fortunately, the legislature stuck to the task at hand, wrapping up their business in two days.

The state cannot seem to shake legislative items, but I assure you that many other things are receiving attention here at the League. First and foremost, we are launching our redesigned website this month. Look for a new layout, new color scheme, and new information. We are working on additional content, as well, some of which will be placed in a new "members only" section of the site.

To access the "members only" section—as well as member rates for conferences and publications—you will need to get registered on the website. To help you with this process, staff has put together a great pull-out "quick reference" brochure inside this month's magazine. We will also be hosting a free webinar on July 12 to assist you with getting up to speed with your individual profile and features of the site.

In concert with the website launch is our internal launch of a customer relationship management (CRM) tool. I have mentioned in the past the challenges we at the League have had with managing our data. The CRM will help with this and will, in turn, allow us to assist you more quickly and seamlessly. Additionally, having you sign up as individuals (still linked to the city you represent), will allow us to communicate with you better—and more quickly, when the situation calls for that.

As you read above, your first incentive for registering on the new League website is to access the member rate for the annual conference. The annual conference! Did you read all the information on the blow-in included in the bag that protects your

magazine from the elements? (Did you know inserts like that were called blow-ins? Me, neither.) Did you see who our keynote speaker is for this year? **Frank White, Royals Hall of Famer and County Executive for Jackson Co. (MO)**! Who better to lead the charge for our theme of "Creating a Champion City"? Registration for the conference and hotels is now open. I look forward to seeing you in Overland Park Oct. 8-10!

Primary election races have been matching the heat of the summer sun. If you are not already registered to vote, you must do so by Tuesday, July 12, in order to vote in the primary elections. Advance voting begins July 13, with in-person voting at your polling location happening on August 2. There are many important races this year, and August results will have a greater effect on cities than you might think.

As part of your voting process, I encourage you to go to the League website and on the home page you will find a link to questionnaires from candidates running for office in your districts. This is the second election cycle where we have asked candidates about their views on local government issues. We have had quite a response, with 146 candidates responding as we went to print.

While wrapping up my column for this month, I received word of the impending retirement of Chris McKenzie from the League of California Cities. Most of you know Chris better for his several years of service with the League of Kansas Municipalities, initially as a research associate and lobbyist, and later as our executive director for seven years. Chris was one of the first people I met when moving back from D.C. to begin my MPA at KU. His infectious enthusiasm for municipal government left me convinced that I was headed into the right field. Since I assumed the executive director role for the League, he has been a great source of wisdom and help, contributions he has offered many other state league directors. We at the League wish him and Manuela much happiness as they begin to write a new chapter.

I am now into my third year as the League's executive director, and have never been more excited about where we are headed as an organization. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead this organization and serve you. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or comments—whether about the magazine, League services, legislation, or anything else: esartorius@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

Open Road Tolling

by Jeri Biehler

With 60 years of operations under its belt, the Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA) has embarked on a plan to change tolling in Kansas. Decisions were not made lightly. It has been a lengthy process filled with much research, analysis, and deliberate business decisions.

RESEARCH

After a leadership change in the summer of 2013, the KTA began an extensive look at organizational process and priorities, evaluating national trends in tolling and seeking input from Turnpike stakeholders.

Across the country, many tolling entities are moving to All Electronic Tolling (AET). With this model, all tolling is electronic with no cash option available to travelers. The KTA began evaluating this toll collection method as we began to collect other data.

Information was gathered from tolling entities across the country and compared to the KTA operations for traffic volume, electronic traffic usage, tolling models, business rules, and customer service. The KTA also considered culture, congestion, and customer expectations.



Rachel Bell, KTA Marketing & Communications Director

CUSTOMER EXPECTATIONS

Understanding the KTA customers was an integral part of the research and evaluation process.

In 2013, the KTA held a series of focus groups and telephone surveys to learn why people use the Turnpike and collected their likes and dislikes on a variety of toll-related topics, including the K-TAG program.

The KTA also implemented an annual customer satisfaction survey.

“Survey results help us make customer-driven changes,” said Rachel Bell, The KTA Marketing & Communications Director.



KTA's 2016 Customer Survey.

“When we understand our customer’s travel needs, we can provide a better travel experience and meet their expectations.”

From this customer-based research, the KTA learned Kansans want faster, highway-speed travel with less stopping at toll plazas, while a fair number wanted a cash option available to pay for their tolls.

Other key take-a ways from the research include improving the K-TAG program experience. The first item of business was to reduce the entry barriers to the K-TAG program, offering a free sticker K-TAG, and loosening the prepaid requirement to include a credit card option. Other improvements include simplified account structure and management, more web-based tools, and increased compatibility (interoperability) with other tolling entities, and the removal of gates at some of the high volume toll plazas.

FEDERAL MANDATE

Another factor in the KTA’s decision-making process has been the **Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)** passed by Congress in 2012. Created to address the many challenges facing the U.S. transportation system, MAP-21 includes a mandate for interoperability among the various toll facilities in the U.S.

With this requirement in mind, the KTA made strategic decisions to better position itself for increased interoperability. Some decisions required changes for the tolling system. These included programming modifications and hardware upgrades.



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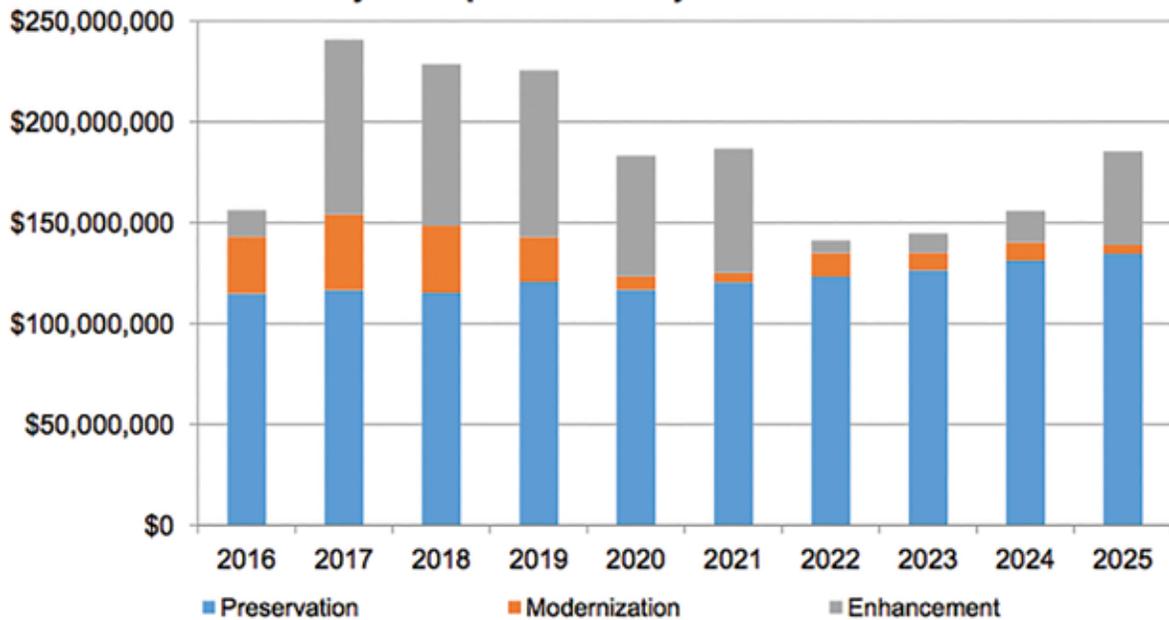
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KTA's electronic tolling system is currently compatible with the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority's 10 toll roads. In early 2017, KTA will be interoperable with all the various tolling systems in Texas.

10-year Expenditure Projections Chart



Other considerations involved the KTA's physical system and what it would take to change from a closed system with gates to one with open free-flowing traffic, similar to toll roads in other states.

The KTA is currently compatible with Oklahoma's PIKEPASS system and is working with other states on future interoperability agreements.

highlights, a summary and the complete study are available on the KTA's web site at <http://www.ksturnpike.com/about>.

The Study process included assessing and prioritizing the needs of the Turnpike system over a 10-year period using a set of pre-determined criteria. While this study will help guide the KTA through 2025, projects and timelines may vary from what is printed in the Study in an effort to accommodate customer and organizational needs as determined by leadership. Individual project schedules will be communicated separately.

"Some of the projects were selected to address aging infrastructure needs," said David Jacobson, the KTA's Director of Engineering. "Others are driven by customer expectations and changing traffic patterns."

LONG TERM NEEDS STUDY

This research and customer feedback, combined with requirements of MAP-21, armed the KTA with valuable information as leadership worked on a **Long Term Needs Study** (the Study) throughout 2015.

The Study, released earlier this year, outlines plans to preserve, modernize, and enhance the Turnpike system during the next ten years. It also serves as a resource, allowing customers a better understanding of what to expect from the KTA during this time.

OPEN ROAD (GATELESS) TOLLING

A significant aspect of the Study is the inclusion of a new tolling model for the KTA – Open Road (Gateless) Tolling.

This method of tolling allows electronic customers who have transponders like K-TAG or Oklahoma's PIKEPASS to keep moving through highway speed lanes. Customers who prefer to pay with cash can slow and pull to the right, well out of the way of highway traffic.



Steve Hewitt, KTA CEO

"The KTA leadership worked for more than a year to update its Long Term Needs Study," said Steve Hewitt, the KTA CEO. "We're confident in and excited about the projects and direction presented in the Study."

The Study identified 44 projects that will require an estimated investment of \$1.2 billion into the Turnpike system. Project



Bruce Meisch, KTA Director of Technology

The KTA will be implementing Gateless Tolling at its three mainline toll plazas: Eastern Terminal near Kansas City, East Topeka and Southern Terminal south of Wichita. A video simulation of Gateless Tolling can be viewed at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ksturnpike/sets/72157662413371144>.

Moving to Gateless Tolling will require investment in infrastructure and technology. These investments will allow for safer, more modern roadway access that will accommodate the move toward nationwide interoperability.

VIDEO ENFORCEMENT

While the KTA leadership determined this national model of tolling – open road tolling – was the best fit for Kansas, there are concerns about the potential for significant lost revenue.

With a closed toll system, the gates serve as the enforcement mechanism for toll collection allowing the KTA to realize very few unpaid tolls. What would happen when the gates were removed in existing electronic lanes? How will customer behavior change when those electronic lanes are highway speed?

Research showed that other states' toll facilities who switched to a gateless tolling model experienced high levels of unpaid tolls. This, in turn, caused many to seek legislation in their own states to allow video enforcement as a way to reduce the financial leakage.

Knowing this, the KTA leaders made two strategic decisions:

- 1) They undertook a video enforcement pilot project and installed video equipment in the dedicated K-TAG lanes at the three proposed toll plazas last November. This allowed for testing of equipment, measurement of the frequency of unpaid tolls, and refinement of procedures based upon customer behavior.

- 2) They proactively sought legislation to avoid large amounts of “leakage” other toll facilities experienced when removing gates without another method of enforcement in place.

“We needed a way to bill those customers driving through the dedicated K-TAG lanes without a K-TAG,” said Bruce Meisch, the KTA’s Director of Technology. “We want to remove the gate to avoid congestion and keep traffic moving. Video enforcement is the new gate.”

LEGISLATION

Legislation was adopted this spring to assist with the transition to gateless tolling, while giving the KTA a mechanism to remain financially responsible.

Since the Kansas Turnpike is maintained and improved with toll revenue, it is important that unpaid tolls are collected. The KTA relies on toll revenue because tax dollars are not used on the 236-mile Turnpike system. This legislation will help the KTA enforce payment, which will help maintain lower tolls for all customers.

This legislation is intended to deter habitual violators by withholding vehicle registration.

Those who meet all three of the following criteria will be subject to vehicle registration holds:

- 1) used an electronic lane without a valid K-TAG or other compatible device;
- 2) accrued more than \$100 in tolls; and
- 3) have not paid or entered into the KTA’s due process to refute the charges.



Computer-generated image of an open road tolling plaza.

This legislation will not affect the majority of the KTA customers who:

- use K-TAG or another compatible device with an account in good standing;
- pay cash in a lane where cash is accepted;
- pay a toll bill that has been mailed for use of an electronic lane without a K-TAG or other compatible device.

To learn answers to the most common questions about video enforcement, view our “Q & A Video Enforcement” video on the KTA’s YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZJLGVX1lgk>

NEXT STEPS

With in-lane testing complete and necessary legislation passed, the KTA is quickly moving to make open road tolling possible in Kansas.

Internal systems are being put in place to effectively manage video enforcement as a toll collection method. Business rules are being developed and refined based upon customer behavior and necessary staff will be secured. Vehicles without valid compatible devices (such as K-TAG or PIKEPASS) will be identified by license plates and bills will be mailed to registered owners of the vehicle.

Before open road tolling can be fully functional, the three mainline toll plazas need to be reconfigured. KTA engineers are working on pre-construction activities to include design plans, land acquisition, and permitting. Actual construction is scheduled to take place in 2017 and 2018. To view photos of what these mainline plazas will look like, visit The KTA’s Flickr photo album here: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/ksturnpike/albums/72157662413371144>.

With due diligence complete and plans for open road tolling well underway, the KTA is poised to modernize tolling in Kansas.

To take advantage of the electronic lanes on the Kansas Turnpike and save 20% on tolls for passenger vehicles, sign up for K-TAG at myktag.com. K-TAG can also be used on turnpike in Oklahoma.

 *Jeri Biehler is the Communications Manager for the Kansas Turnpike Authority. She can be reached at jbiehler@ksturnpike.com or (316) 644-3585.*



Governor Sam Brownback signs new tolling legislation June 1, 2016. Left – right: Joel Skelley, KDOT Policy Director; David Jacobson, P.E., KTA Engineering Director; Eric Becker, KTA Roadway Operations Director; Tara Mays, The Mays Group; Steve Hewitt, KTA CEO; Gov. Brownback; Senator Mike Petersen, KTA Board member; Jennifer Szambecki, KTA Innovations & Partnerships Director; Bruce Meisch, KTA Technology Director; Rachel Bell, KTA Marketing & Communications Director.



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- **Annual Contribution Discounts** — Members earn discounts based on safety records and participation in KMIT safety programs.

KMIT is a workers' compensation program endorsed by the League of Kansas Municipalities

For more information, contact:
(785) 272-2608 • dosenbaugh@cox.net

How to Find & Claim Part of \$301 Million in Unclaimed Property

by the Kansas State Treasurer's Office



Know that feeling when you find a \$20 bill in a pocket of a pair of jeans? It's a great feeling to have and one you can now recreate through a few clicks of a mouse.

Each year thousands of people lose track of bank accounts, cash, stocks, bonds, refunds, royalties, safe deposit boxes, and more. People move and forget to provide their bank or employer with a forwarding address or a check simply gets lost in the mail.

Losing sight of property can happen to anyone; including city and county government departments. The State Treasurer's Office serves as custodian of these unclaimed or abandoned assets and makes every effort to return them to rightful owners or their heirs.

"It's a constant goal of ours to return as much property as possible to respective owners, especially knowing that every dollar returned is another dollar back in the pockets of Kansans and our local communities," said Kansas State Treasurer Ron Estes.

The office currently safeguards more than \$301 million in unclaimed funds and part of it could be yours. There are approximately two million separate properties available for claim and more are received each year.

Searching for property is simple and does not cost a thing. You can search anytime on the online database at www.KansasCash.com.

When beginning your search, here are a few tips to keep in mind:

- Start by searching for your last name and first initial or business/organization name.

- If there are numerous results, narrow the search by including your full name.
- Search for any former names you have used including a maiden name or nicknames.

If you find that you have property listed, you may submit a claim through the website, or speak to the unclaimed property specialist at 785-296-4165 or visit www.kansascash.com.

An heir finder is someone who may call or write to you and request that you pay them money for the successful return of your unclaimed property. If you receive such notice, you probably have property out there somewhere. Heir finders generally do not contact individuals unless they believe they have found property belonging to them. Then they will typically charge a fee to help locate and return unclaimed property.

In worse case scenarios, scam artists have used fake unclaimed property notifications as a means to collect personal information and payments. Estes reminds Kansans that the state will never request that individuals provide personal information to a caller or charge a fee to return unclaimed property—both common indicators of scams related to unclaimed property.

To avoid paying unnecessary fees or falling victim to a scam, visit www.KansasCash.com to search for and claim property securely and free of charge. If you are uncertain of any correspondence or phone calls regarding unclaimed property, please contact the State Treasurer's Office for verification or assistance

“As state treasurer, returning unclaimed property to rightful owners is a top priority, but my office can’t do it alone,” explained Estes. “Holders of unclaimed property play an important role in the process.”

State law requires all financial institutions, except life insurance companies, to submit a report if they have unclaimed property in their possession by November 1st of each year. Life insurance companies have a May 1st deadline.

Compliance with the November 1st deadline allows the Unclaimed Property Division to provide an up-to-date database of lost property belonging to people with a last known address in Kansas

“We both rely upon and appreciate the support of state businesses and organizations in reuniting Kansans with their lost property,” said Estes. “By taking the time to submit their reports, they directly contribute to the success of our program.”

Holders who would like assistance in filing a report may contact the Unclaimed Property Division for support anytime during business hours Monday through Friday.

Since January 2011, the State Treasurer’s Office has returned a record-breaking \$100 million to rightful owners, including many businesses, organizations and government entities.

“Often times, businesses are unaware that they have missing

money to claim as well,” said Estes. “I encourage everyone, including business owners, to visit www.kansascash.com and check if any unclaimed property belongs to them.”

Other sites worth searching for additional unclaimed money include:

- www.MissingMoney.com – If you have lived or done business in another state, check for unclaimed property in each state through this site since property is generally turned over to the state of your last known address.
- www.TreasuryHunt.gov – Check for unclaimed U.S. savings bonds and payments.
- www.PBGC.gov – If you worked for a company that went out of business or ended its defined benefit pension, check to see if you are entitled to any pension money through the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation webpage.

 Ashley Murdie is the Director of Financial Literacy for the Kansas State Treasurer’s Office. She can be reached at ashley@treasurer.ks.gov or (785) 296-3538.



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League Policy Committees Are Now Forming

What is a Policy Committee?

.....

League Policy Committees help to establish the policies that guide the organization's legislative efforts. See below for a detailed description of each committee.

Who Can Join?

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Any city official is eligible to serve on policy committees.

When do Policy Committees Meet?

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Policy Committees meet three times annually; August, October in conjunction with the Annual Conference, and January as part of Local Government Day.

Need More Information?

.....

Contact Cindy Green, Deputy Director
(785) 354-9565 or cgreen@lkm.org

Utilities & Environment - meets Tuesday, August 16th

This committee reviews and recommends League positions on water supply, water quality, water planning, solid waste, air quality, other environmental quality issues, and franchise authority.

Public Officers & Employees - meets Thursday, August 18th

This committee reviews and recommends League positions dealing with a range of employment matters, including KPERS, wage and hour laws, unions, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, etc. This committee also handles League positions relating to public officials, including ethics, elections, and other requirements of holding public office.

Finance & Taxation - meets Tuesday, August 23rd

This committee reviews and recommends League positions on finance & taxation issues, including local option taxes, property tax lid, tax exemptions, motor vehicle tax, franchise fees, etc.

Legislative Policy - meets Tuesday, August 30th

This committee reviews and recommends League positions in all other policy areas and provides general oversight of the policy statement.

All August Policy Meetings are held at the League building: 10a.m. - 2p.m. lunch is provided.

Sign up Today!

<http://www.lkm.org/legislative/policycommittees/>



Ottawa's Pathway to Success Through Volunteerism

by Wynndee Lee, Richard U. Nienstedt, and Donyell Wolfe



Start With Community Engagement

Misty Copeland, dancer for the American Ballet Theater (ABT), and first African American woman to be promoted to principal dancer in ABT's history, believes "The pathway to success is not as fixed and inflexible as you think."¹

The City of Ottawa's emphasis on volunteering has brought several moving pieces together to promote an inclusive and esthetically successful community. Since the creation of the city's core values of *Tolerance/Dignity, Stewardship, Flexibility, Service, and Integrity*, Ottawa has built a solid foundation for community sufficiency. The city has seen substantial growth due to the cooperation of parks, recreation, and downtown development. Community Development Director Wynndee Lee and Public Works Director Michael Haeffele have joined forces to complete several projects. When strolling down the Prairie Spirit Trail people notice colorful play pods (small play areas for all ages). Children and parents are often seen playing hopscotch on sidewalks throughout the downtown district. In the spacious Forest Park region there is room for animals big and small to explore in the dog park. Periodically you might see children looking above to witness pilots flying into the local airport.

These projects would have been difficult to complete without dedicated volunteers contributing ideas and local businesses and leaders graciously donating funds. According to City Manager Richard U. Nienstedt, "Look for funding, get the residents involved, build, and show appreciation to your helpers." These straightforward steps can foster community engagement through volunteerism.

To stay true to the democratic process, it is important to involve community members in government related activities. Teaming with community partners can help to accomplish this goal. The East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation (ECKAN) has a volunteer center to inspire, equip, and mobilize citizens to take action and change their community for the better.² Volunteerism is an important aspect to consider when organizing how to get things done. Ten boards and commissions appointed by the city commission volunteer their time to serve the community on an ad hoc basis.

One of Ottawa's newer boards is the Bark Park Boosters, organized when a couple approached the city about developing a dog park. They did the research, fundraising, and developed support for the park. The Boosters were successful in fundraising, and when combined with city funds over \$35,000 was dedicated to the 3-acre off-leash area. Ottawa's Bark Park has become both useful and attractive to community members! Dawn Rush shared her experience as co-chair of the Bark Park Boosters, "Volunteering to help with the building of the Bark Park for Ottawa was a great learning experience and gave me new insight and understanding for how things get done on the city level. We had a great team to work with which really made the work seem easy!"

In 2010, a Play Task Force was created in an effort to develop a Play City. Local parents, businesses and other key partners came together to enhance the community offerings in the parks. From the beginning, the enthusiasm was contagious, little did they know the tremendous impact that would be felt as a result of their time and



vision. The group is still going strong, with multiple play areas in place, as well as community pride.

Ottawa’s Play Task Force was successful in completing over 6 Play Days. These events encourage young adults and families to get outside and play together as a community. The effort is born out of the realization that young people spend far more time inside limiting their access to physical and mental vigor. During the scheduled Play Days; volunteers set up stations so young children and families can engage in all sorts of activities. “Play Day is an organized event to kick off the summer to support the fun we can have together when we leave the electronics at home,” said Fonda Rose, Play Task Force chairperson.

The Ottawa Municipal Airport is a general aviation airport facility operated and managed by a contracted airport manager according to the Airport Services Agreement. Currently, the airport manager also operates a private business on airport property subject to a Fixed-Base Operator’s (FBO) lease. The public works department assists with operations and maintenance activities at the airport which are beyond the scope of the FBO contract. The airport has undergone major improvements and repairs recently, which includes a repaved runway, new hangar, and terminal offices.

The airport board has experienced a significant amount of growth within the past several years along with several other boards. Under Haeffele’s leadership, the airport has continued to expand, achieving the suggested updates provided in the airport master plan. Haeffele has worked with the airport board and local partners to take the

airport to the next level. The board has not only dedicated their time, but they are also investing in mentorship through the Aviation Explorers. Volunteers created this community group which is open to young men and women in 6th grade through the age of 20 from Ottawa and surrounding cities who may be interested in exploring aviation. This hands-on program meets twice a month at the Ottawa Airport, combining classroom training with flying lessons, providing other opportunities for youth leadership.³

Engagement Generates Funds

Ottawa’s Community Development Office shows a great deal of commitment to researching and collecting funds from outside of the department and city budget. Several grants have been awarded to the city combined with city-wide fundraisers encouraging the community to get involved to improve the quality of local neighborhoods. In 2011 Ottawa was successful in receiving a “Let’s Play” grant from the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group and KaBOOM! for a community built play area. This was the first accessible play area which was placed in a park that did not have a playground. The park was wildly successful among community members.

In 2013, Ottawa again applied for a “Let’s Play” grant application to the Dr. Pepper Snapple Group and KaBOOM!. Ottawa was selected to receive a “Let’s Play City Construction Grant” from among 217 communities that earned “Playful City USA” status that year. Playful City USA is a national program advocating for local policies that increase opportunities for children to play. KaBOOM! created Playful City USA in 2007 to help local governments address the play deficit among children. During the Playful City certification process, the city was able to secure a total of \$150,000 due to grants, fundraising efforts, and city contributions. This playground was the first inclusive playground in the community and enables children of all abilities to play together in exciting and fun ways.

Lee and her department also promote a recycling program that is well recognized among the community. The department collects

cell phones, laptops, cameras, ink jet cartridges, and other small electronics that directly supports the playability of the city. While this program does not earn significant funds, it does involve people and promotes more play opportunity. Lee dedicates a great deal of her time and effort to advocating for funding as well as strategically working to generate funds. She also understands the need to entertain local children and families and provides education on the topic. Throughout the past decade her involvement has educated city officials and community leaders about child-directed play. Studies show that active children develop physically, socially, and cognitively at a faster pace than non-active children. Yet today's kids have less time and fewer opportunities to play than any previous generation.⁴ With this in mind, Lee works to insure that volunteers of all ages were invited to assist with branding Ottawa as a Playful City.

Results Create Next Opportunities

Volunteerism makes the community stronger, brings city staff and citizens together for a common goal while creating needed improvements at a lower cost than if they are built the traditional way. Volunteerism builds a community neighborhood. More important, people are involved and proud of what they have

contributed. Others are simply proud of the results of their peer citizens. It pays dividends to use staff time to leverage those who want to make their community better, whether painting some hopscotch's or building park benches, or building a fabulous new play area for the kids of today and the future!

 *Richard Nienstedt is the City Manager for the City of Ottawa. He can be reached at rnienstedt@ottawaks.gov or (785) 229-3639. Donyell Wolfe was the Management Intern for the City of Ottawa.*

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BARTLETT & WEST

Land Banking: A Tool to Deal with Distressed Properties

by David Yearout and Cheryl Beatty

Most individuals in the real estate industry today are keenly aware of what is involved when working with distressed properties. The general definition of a distressed property in the real estate industry is property that is under a foreclosure order, or is advertised for sale by its mortgagee. Distressed properties usually fetch a price that is much below its market value.

For local governments and taxpayers, distressed properties often include other properties with additional challenges. They might be blighted, dilapidated, or uninhabitable. They can also include properties with delinquent taxes; including general property taxes and special assessments for infrastructure which is being carried as a general obligation of the entire community. Unfortunately, properties with delinquent taxes will eventually reach a point where a tax sale must be held to address the problem. Communities having properties with outstanding special assessments may not have much success selling them at such a sale.

Junction City found itself in this situation in a very big way, with approximately 1,000 to 1,300 parcels of land headed to such a tax sale. This occurrence was considered as a response to the return of the Big Red One to Fort Riley. With strong encouragement from military and State officials, the city had aggressively pursued the creation of thousands of residential properties beginning in 2005. Most projects were constructed with full infrastructure build outs which were completed by 2008. Projects were financed through the formation of special benefit districts with 20-year general

obligation bonds to be paid for by special assessments. Plans were foiled when military families did not relocate to the area and then the 2008 recession created a housing bubble burst. The city faced over development.

The impact resulted in over 1,000 platted lots with infrastructure in place and no buyers, which meant developers faced financial collapse. With no sales or revenue, taxes went unpaid as developers went out of business. The city was left making bond payments with a 50% delinquency on special assessment collections. Finally, in 2014, the first tax sale was held, but no one bought any of the empty lots. At one point the auctioneer offered to give the lots to anyone who would take them, yet still no one stepped up.

The 'no sale' resulted in the property ownership going to the Geary County, as per Kansas statute. This left a huge void which needed to be filled. Who was going to physically maintain the properties? Who was going to get them sold and back on the tax role? Who was going to manage the properties? The State of Kansas allows cities to create land banks. City staff saw the creation of a land bank as a tool to deal with the many problems ahead; a tool which was needed to get properties back in the market..

As a result of the first tax sale the City of Junction City took the opportunity to create a Land Bank and subsequently took possession of 941 lots in a single Quit Claim Deed from the County at the end of 2014. Additional 150 to 250 lots could be added to the total after the tax sale later.

Why did the City of Junction City create the Land Bank to deal with this problem? There are many good reasons for doing this. Many cities across the State could look at creating a land bank even though they may not be faced with a large scale challenge like Junction City.

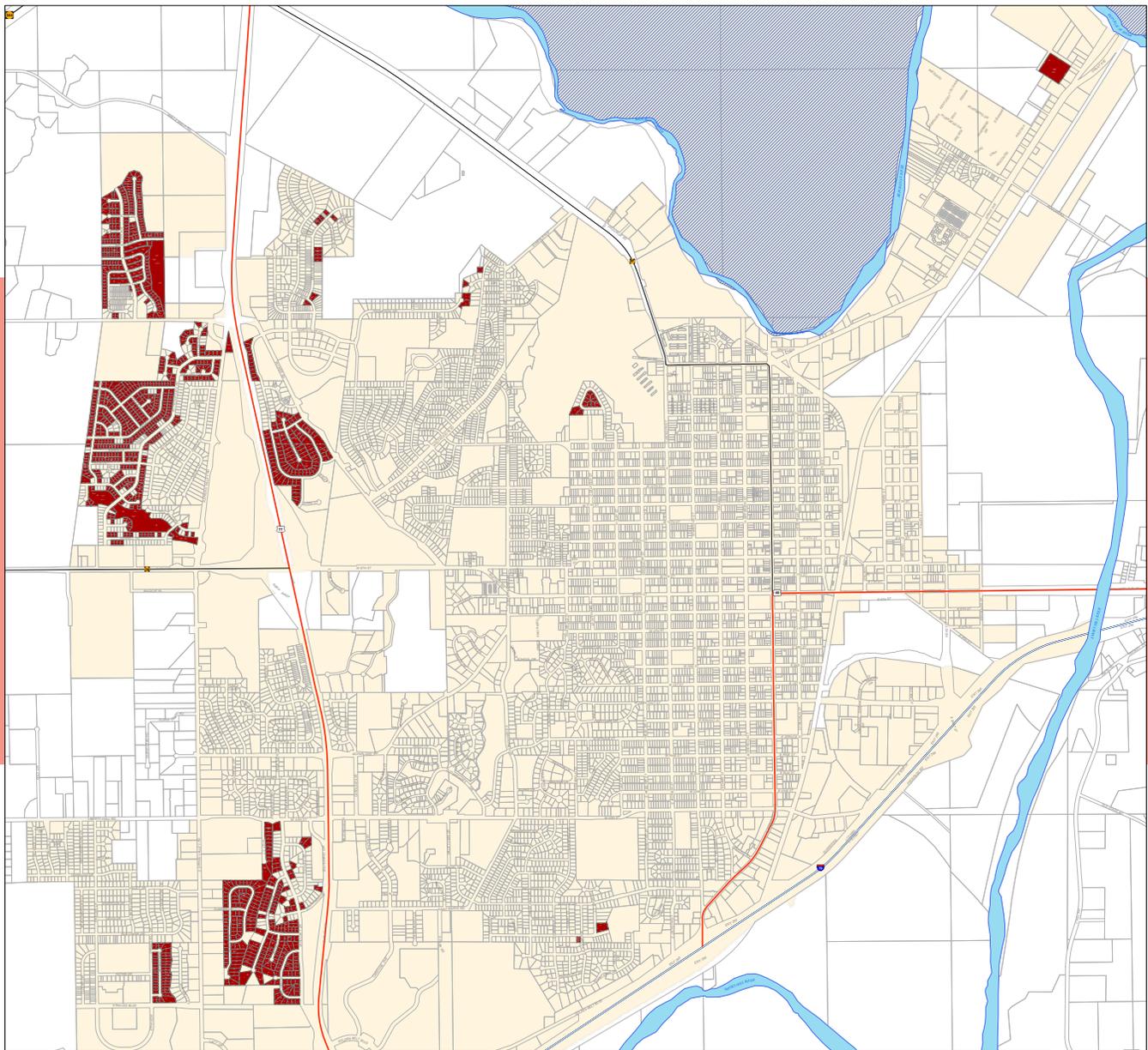
A Land Bank affords a city the best method to manage distressed properties which quickly become a blight in the community. As with many issues, local governments must deal with blight issues when no one else is left to deal with a problem. Local government either steps up to do the work out of desire or necessity, or the problem simply gets worse. Land Banking offers a viable way for a city to deal with the problematic land issues within a city; to get the parcels back to the open market as quick as possible, to clear up title issues on each parcel so the lots can be sold, to reconfigure subdivisions where there are marketability problems, to set aside land for future



city purposes such as parks, fire stations or schools, to control the quantity of land for sale so the market is not flooded and, thereby depressed further. The next important step is to use Kansas land bank statutes to freeze special assessments so the financial loss won't continue and upon resale of the property the special assessment may be re-assessed and, if beneficial, re-amortized or forgiven (in whole or in part) to enhance marketability of the lots.

The first step is to create the Land Bank. Land banks may be formed by an ordinance adopted by the governing body as authorized by K.S.A. 12-5901, et. seq. The ordinance identifies who is to be named as Land Bank Board of Trustees; which may be the city council or commission or a separate board which is appointed by the city council or commission. In addition, the ordinance

must establish the purpose of the board, describe the powers and duties of the board, and list the organizational requirements of the board. The Land Bank Board of Trustees will then adopt the board organizational by-laws and policy directives (mission statement, goals and policies). Establishing a Land Bank is simple to do. It gives a city more flexibility for land management and control over abandoned properties, blighted properties, or properties which go to tax sale and don't sell. Additionally, once a property is in the name of the Land Bank, all back taxes (including interest and penalties) are removed from the records and the properties are automatically tax exempt as per statute. As previously noted, a council or commission is given the authority to freeze any special assessments attached to the property with added options to either re-amortize special assessments and/or forgive special assessments.



Land Bank Lots
Junction City, Kansas

- Fort Riley Military Installation
- Land Bank Lots
- Junction City Municipal Boundary

Forming the Land Bank is, however, just step one. There are still other obstacles to overcome in order to get the lots back in the hands of private individuals. As Junction City has discovered it may be a long journey. The city has faced its own financial crisis; in addition, to dealing with what to do with the hundreds of lots which were thought to be undevelopable for various reasons, which left a negative impression within and outside the community. Pressures have risen to do things quickly and “let the market” solve the problems. Junction City has found it takes time to resolve title issues or other ongoing issues and if no one is working on resolving the problems the developers will not be buying the lots, therefore, the market would remain dormant.

In Junction City’s case, title issues had to be resolved, mostly because of mandated redemption times allowed by Kansas tax sale statutes and other legal issues regarding adequate notifications of a tax sale to third parties. The underwriters for the title insurance must be comfortable with the procedures which were done leading up to the tax sale otherwise; additional redemption time is required by the title companies to certify a clear title.

Then came concerns on the configuration of lots in some of the subdivisions now owned by the Land Bank. This meant reevaluating the process which allowed the lots to be created in the first place. It was easy to blame others for perceived mistakes, but this did not resolve the problems. Staff is working with developers to learn what is needed to prepare the lots as ‘market ready’ and working to dispel the negative image of the lots.

The Land Bank, the city, and the Economic Development Commission are exploring how some of the properties might be rezoned and reconfigured to accommodate green space, commercial development, and industrial development in response to opportunities which are manifesting themselves in the area due to the growth of the region.

Lots are now beginning to sell, resulting in new homes being constructed. True speculation “spec” homes are being constructed by builders who see the potential within the Junction City market, which includes Fort Riley and the Manhattan area. One group of lots recently sold included a re-plat which changed lot widths and addressed other restrictions on the original plat. The Land Bank and the city are currently exploring the re-plat of a large area to improve the desirability of the properties as presently platted the lots are too small and have other issues.

Most of the procedural challenges have been resolved. The Land Bank Board and city staff are now exploring all avenues to further market the lots. Junction City is now blessed with hundreds of ready to build lots and in a position to sell the lots and issue building permits. Construction is now occurring in existing neighborhoods at a reduced cost per lot. The special assessments per lot still exist, however, the infrastructure improvements installed several years ago were done at a lower cost than what it would take to install infrastructure today. Build ready lots, combined with the high quality

of life available within and near the community, positions Junction City for growth opportunities and a positive future.

Much of this can be attributed to the decisions made by the city to use the Land Bank as a recovery tool to take hold of the problem by owning the distressed lots within the city and not letting the distressed properties become a larger blight issue for the community. Long journeys, big or small accomplishments, and projects of any size must begin with one first step. The formation of a Land Bank is Junction City’s first step to resolve issues with the hundreds of distressed properties. Too often the public and taxpayers want immediate gratification or satisfaction and are not willing to get in there and start working, slowly and methodically toward a goal. Community members are now recognizing some journeys are slow, step by step processes. Using the right tools, making good plans, and sticking to the plan is being done in Junction City and it is working.

 *David Yearout is the Director of Planning & Zoning for the City of Junction City. He can be reached at david.yearout@jcks.com or (785) 238-3103 x113. Cheryl Beatty is the Assistant Manager/ Finance Director for the City of Junction City. She can be reached at cheryl.beatty@jcks.com or (785) 238-3103*

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Legal Forum

by Amanda Stanley

2016 Standard Traffic Ordinance and Uniform Public Offense Code Changes

The 2016 editions of the *Standard Traffic Ordinance* (STO) and the *Uniform Public Offense Code* (UPOC) are now available for cities to order. (See the order form in this month's KGJ or find it online at www.lkm.org) This article describes the legislative changes to both publications and some changes made by the editor.

STO

The major changes to the STO this year are a result of *State v. Ryce*, 303 Kan. 899, 368 P.3d 342, 345 (2016) in which the Kansas Supreme Court found K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 8-1025 to be unconstitutional. K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 8-1025 criminalizes the refusal to submit to, or complete, a test or tests deemed consented to under K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 8-1001 to determine the presence of alcohol or drugs. The court held that regardless of implied consent laws, an individual has an expectation of privacy in his or her bodily substances and thus breath, blood and urine tests remain a search under the Fourth Amendment. As a general rule, warrantless searches are per se unreasonable. One exception to the general rule is when an individual gives his or her free and voluntary consent. Under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments, an individual's consent may not be coerced. When an individual faces criminal charges if he or she withdraws his or her consent to a search, the individual's consent is no longer freely and voluntarily given. While the court found the State does have compelling interests it seeks to protect through K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 8-1025, the statute is not narrowly tailored to serve the State's interests and thus is facially unconstitutional. In response to the holding in *Ryce*, the STO has been amended as follows to remove the following unconstitutional sections.

- Section 30(h)(2)(A) has been removed (Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicating Liquor or Drugs; Penalties)
- Section 30.1(m)(2)(B) has been removed (Driving Commercial Motor Vehicle Under the Influence of Intoxicating Liquor or Drugs; Penalties)
- Section 30.2(c)(2) has been removed (Preliminary Breath Test)
- Section 30.2.1. has been removed in its entirety (Refusal to Submit to Alcohol or Drug Testing)

Finally, Section 175.1 (Compression Release Engine Braking System) has been amended to include the definition of compression release engine braking system within the section.

UPOC

In the UPOC definitions section 1.1 the following changes have been made:

- Under the Smoking Definition, the definition for a Medical Facility has been amended to remove "and any psychiatric hospital licensed under K.S.A. 75-3307b and amendments thereto" due to the fact that K.S.A. 75-3307b was repealed by S.B. 449.
- The definition for Juvenile Correctional Facility Officer or Employee has been removed.

In section 3.2(b)(2), (Battery Against a Law Enforcement Officer), the definition of Attorney has been amended to include City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney, City Prosecutor, and Assistant City Prosecutor. These positions are not listed in K.S.A. 21-5413 however, the editor found them to be appropriate under the general intent of the statute.

The passage of four bills- HB 2501, SB 133, HB 2462, and HB 2436- have resulted in the need to amend the UPOC this year.

- HB 2501 amends section 3.12(c) (Breach of Privacy) to include the following parties as exempt from prosecution for violations of an individual's privacy: a provider of an interactive computer service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 230, for content provided by another person; a radio common carrier, as defined in K.S.A. 66-1,143, and amendments thereto; and a local exchange carrier or telecommunications carrier as defined in K.S. A. 66-1,187, and amendments thereto.
- SB 133 amends section 5.8 (Purchase, Consumption or Possession of Alcoholic Liquor or Cereal Malt Beverage by a Minor) to provide immunity from prosecution for one or two persons under 21 if they are providing support to another person needing emergency medical services and law enforcement assistance. Immunity is provided if the one or two persons requests medical assistance on another person's behalf if they reasonably believe that person is in need of assistance and they are cooperative with emergency medical services personnel and law enforcement officers in providing that medical assistance.
- HB 2462 amends section 6.1 (Theft) by amending the definition of felony theft of property or services from a value of \$1,000 to a value of \$1,500. It is important to note that there are other crimes for which \$1,000 remains the value at which the crime becomes a felony. HB 2462 only amended the definition for theft and made no changes to other crimes.
- HB 2436 amends section 10.14 (Operation of a Motorboat or Sailboat) by excluding any person operating a sailboat that does not have a motor and has an overall length of 16 feet, seven inches or less, while such person is enrolled in an instructor-led class from the requirements in 10.14.

All members who purchase a publication may request a red-line copy of the 2016 editions of the STO and/or UPOC, by sending an e-mail to Anna DeBusk at adebusk@lkm.org.

As always, it is important for city officials and staff to review every section that has changed in the STO and UPOC. Please feel free to contact me or another League attorney with any questions. We are happy to help.

 Amanda Stanley is Legal Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She may be contacted at (785) 354-9565 or astanley@lkm.org.

Best Practices

by Anna Keena

Temporary Permits

It's Time to Celebrate!

Summer = community celebration in most cities. It is clear at the League that cities put great effort into organizing and hosting unique events to showcase their community heritage while providing a means to celebrate all that makes their city special. These events are painstakingly structured to provide citizens, local businesses, and guests an opportunity to come together. If you flip to the “City Events” page found in this (or any recent) issue of the Kansas Government Journal, you can find a plethora of activities scheduled across Kansas. (Why not pick one and set the course for your next road trip?)

Often these events bring requests to sell and/or serve alcohol on public (city) property. What follows are best practices for licensing and permitting temporary permits for certain events.

Temporary Permits

According to the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDR), the most requested temporary permits require completion of the Temporary Permit Application and Agreement (Form ABC-830).¹ This form can be downloaded or auto populated on the KDR website.

According to Alice Bailey, Licensing Representative with the Kansas Alcohol Beverage Control, the most requested events to require a temporary permit are: on premise, charitable auction, and special events.

An “On Premise” permit allows for the sale and consumption of alcoholic liquor on an unlicensed premise, which is open to the public, such as a chamber of commerce event. This permit may not exceed three consecutive days and only four temporary permits can be issued to any such organization or person in a calendar year.

The “Charitable Auction” permit allows for the auction of alcoholic liquor in the original container by a charitable organization, such as a 501(c) that wishes to raise money for their specific organization. Such permits may be issued to one or more charitable organizations for the auction of alcoholic liquor. These permits may not exceed three consecutive days and no more than one may be issued per year.

With a “Special Event” permit, alcoholic liquor may be consumed at a special event (defined as a picnic, bazaar, festival or other similar community gathering, which has been approved by the local governing body) held on public streets, alleys, roads, sidewalks or highways when a temporary permit has been issued.²

State Requirements

Those applying for a temporary permit must complete the Temporary Permit Application and Agreement and provide an application fee of \$25.00 per day made payable to the state. This must be received by KDR fourteen days prior to the event. Applications received less than 14 days prior to the event may be rejected. If an application is rejected, the organization or individual will not be permitted to sell or serve alcohol at their event.

Certain fundraising activities by charitable organizations and political committees may be exempt from the temporary permit requirements. If you are unsure if an event qualifies for an ex-

emption, you should contact Alcoholic Beverage Control at www.ksrevenue.org/abccontact.html for guidance.

Anyone issued a temporary permit by the state may only purchase alcoholic liquor from a licensed Kansas retailer, or they may make their purchase from a Kansas farm winery.³

Cities

Kansas law requires that a city’s governing body must approve a special event either by ordinance or resolution. As a best practice for the process leading up to approval of the event, cities should also require certain information be provided from those organizations or individuals requesting a temporary permit.

If a temporary permit event is to be held on city property, the city should require the organization or individual to acquire a Certificate of Insurance naming the city as an “Additional Insured” and provide that to the city. Check with your insurance carrier to see what type of coverage is best suited for your organization.

Cities should carefully review any site and/or course map for events to be held on public property. If an incomplete site map is submitted as part of the state’s packet, request clarification from the organization or individual. Be sure to retain a copy for your records. This practice will provide public safety necessary access information and may allow the city to plan for traffic control.

Upon acceptance of an application and agreement for governing body approval, the city should notify the applicant of any potential schedule challenges. Such a challenge may be the submittal of the application coming too late for the governing body to act on it and meet KDR’s 14-day application submission requirement, or another local event may already be scheduled on the date requested.

When preparing the ordinance or resolution, certain data should be included in the document for approval. Examples are the event’s contact information, as well as the date, time and location of the event. The city should also state that the city may deny or cancel the event regardless of advance advertisements, reservations or registrations.

Your goal is to have a fun-filled, and safe, celebration that everyone can enjoy. This article discussed temporary permits. For questions about licensing for an extension of premises or a retail establishment, please contact your assigned ABC Enforcement Agent by visiting www.ksrevenue.org/abccontact.html.

I’m happy to provide you with the July Best Practices. If you have a topic for which you would like to see “best practice” presented, please contact me at (785) 354-9565.

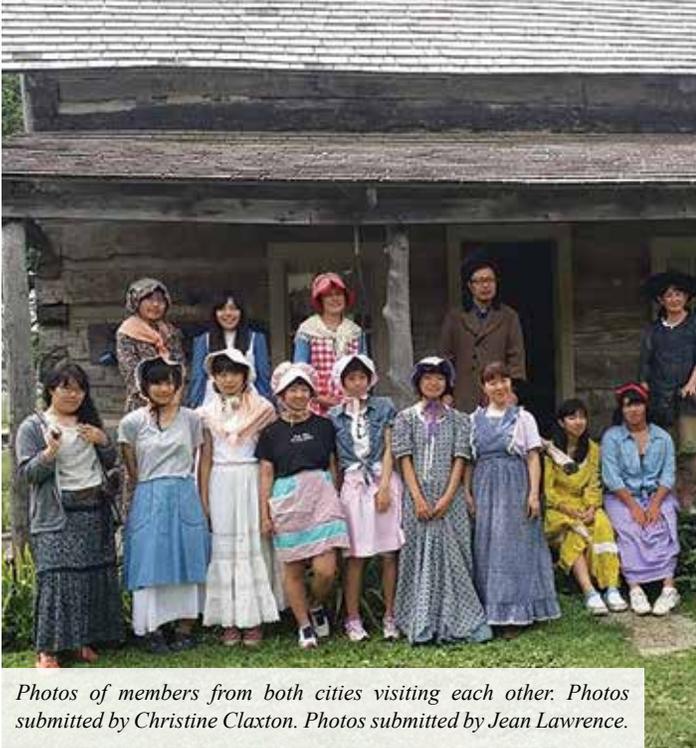
 Anna Keena is the Member Services Manager for the League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at akeena@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

Sources

1. Retrieved from: <http://www.ksrevenue.org/abctemppermitapply.html>
2. K.S.A. 41-719, *et. seq.*
3. K.A.R. 14-23-8, *et. seq.*

Kansas Sister Cities

Abilene and Sister City Omitama, Japan



Photos of members from both cities visiting each other. Photos submitted by Christine Claxton. Photos submitted by Jean Lawrence.



The Abilene and Omitama, Japan Sister City relationship grew out of a meeting between two dairy farmers; Mitsuo Tonouchi of Minori, Japan, and Harold Scanlan of Abilene at Scanlan's dairy farm. In 1984 an agreement was signed to form a Sister City relationship between Abilene and Minori, Japan. Since that time adult and student delegations have made annual visits to the others towns.

In 2005, Minori joined with two nearby municipalities, Ogawa and Tamari, and formed a new city called Omitama. In 2006; the mayor of Omitama, Joichi Shimada, who had also served as mayor of Minori, traveled to Abilene where a new Sister City Agreement was signed.

The Abilene-Omitama Sister City Board identifies student exchanges/youth friendships, daily life experience, and cultural experience as the principal emphasis of the program. The annual exchange of student residents between Omitama and Abilene began in 1987, provide an opportunity for Omitama and Abilene students to experience a slice of life in a different culture. Using "homestay", delegates live with a family for the period of the stay, usually 10 to 12 days, experiencing family life. In addition to the homestay, day trips and other activities are planned which give the

delegates an experience of attractions, such as museums, malls, and natural features, which give each city its unique flavor.

The Abilene-Omitama Sister City Board sponsors two Japan Clubs. One meets two Tuesdays a month as part of the Garfield School's After School program and is geared for 4th and 5th graders. The second club meets one Sunday a month at the Abilene Community Center and is for students in grades 6-8. Each of these clubs offers the participants an introduction to Japanese culture, such as food and language.

By invitation of the Omitama city government and Board of Education, Abilene sends an undergraduate student to live and work in Omitama for at least one year. The primary work takes place as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) in a number of elementary and middle schools. The Friendship Ambassador/ ALT lives in an apartment in Omitama and received a salary for his or her work as an employee of Omitama. Extensions beyond the initial one year period are possible.

 Jean Lawrence is the Town Assistant for the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau. She can be reached at tourism@abilenecityhall.com or (785) 263-2231.

KANSAS GOVERNMENT

Kansas City

Small Garden Hits 40,000 Pounds of Eats for Free in KCK

The garden sits across from the Cross-Lines offices and food pantry at Shawnee Avenue and Pyle Street. Nearby, in a building that used to be a Wendy's restaurant, the organization serves about 300 people a day breakfast and lunch.

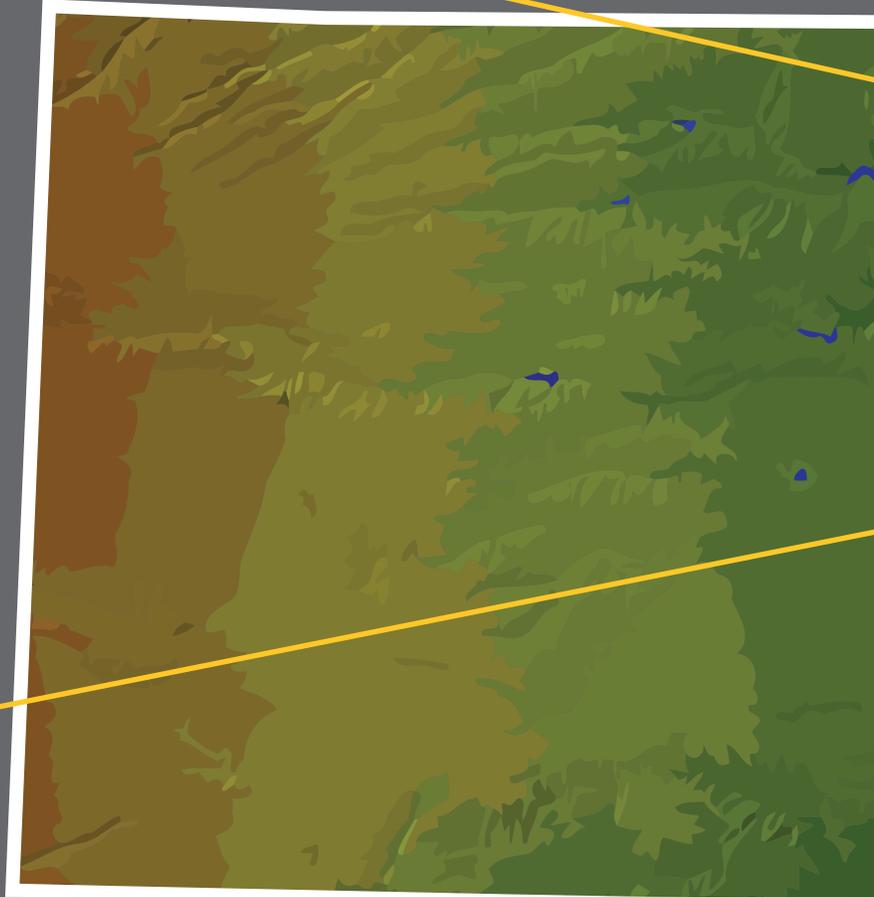
"I don't know any of the people who will get this food," volunteer Glenn Hodges said Tuesday as he prepared to pick turnips. "I never see them. But I'm doing my piece."

He is 74, a retired doctor. He was on the Cross-Lines board a decade ago and often walked from the main building to the soup kitchen. The path carried him over a vacant lot.

It dawned on him they ought to do something with that land.

"Our first planting was spring of 2007," Hodges said.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/go6nncr>



Potwin

Potwin Receives \$2,500 BlueCHIP Award

Six Kansas communities ranging from amongst the smallest in the state to the largest have the common bond of building healthier communities where residents can live, work and play. One of those communities, Potwin, was honored recently for their health-focused efforts by receiving a BlueCHIP Award from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBS) and the Kansas Recreation and Park Association.

Potwin's PRIDE program not only established a community garden, but also enlisted the help of youth and other community members to help maintain the garden and distribute produce to the needy in the community.

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

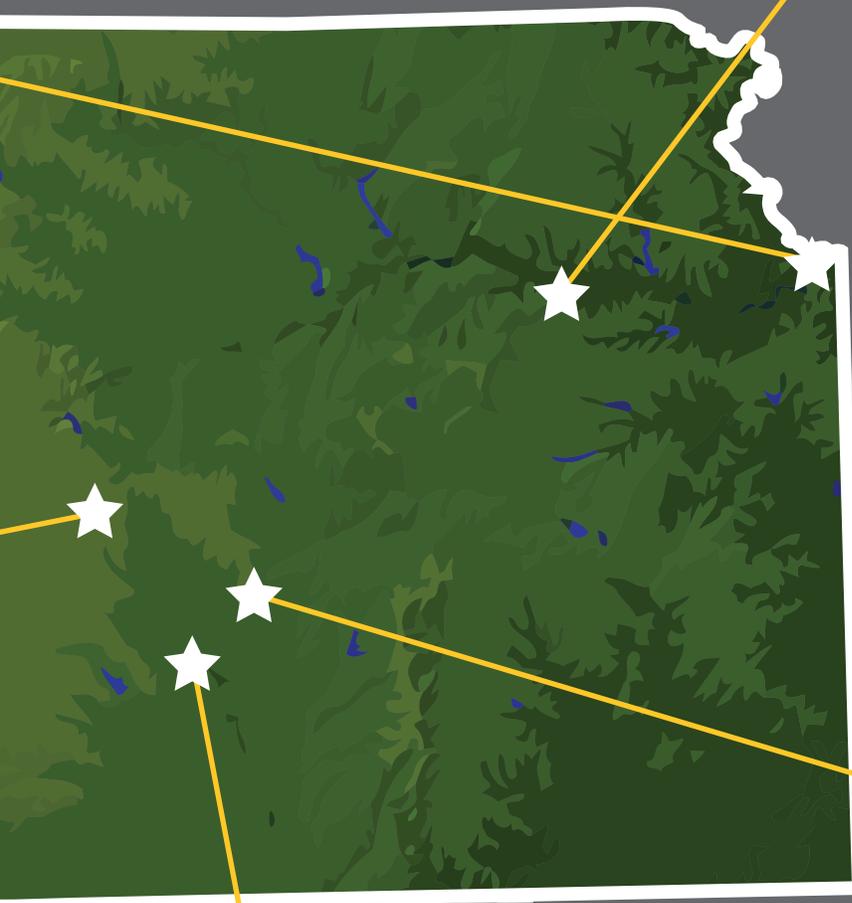
Kansas

Cities and Counties Need to Prepare for New Overtime Rules

Public and private sector workers will get additional overtime pay protections, thanks to revisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), announced in mid-May. The US Department of Labor (DOL) recently issued a final rule updating federal overtime regulations.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/jgq8ffw>

VERNMENT NEWS



Topeka

City of Topeka selected by What Works Cities Initiative for Open Data

The City of Topeka has been selected to join a national initiative that will enhance its distribution and use of data.

Operated by Bloomberg Philanthropies, the What Works Cities initiative has helped 39 cities in 25 states analyze their data and make it more readily available for citizens' consumption.

The initiative comes at no cost to taxpayers or the city. It will be handled using existing city staff working alongside Bloomberg Philanthropies employees.

"They're going to be here for a very intense period of a few months and we really think they can help us improve, for example, an asset management process or a street planning process," said Doug Gerber, deputy city manager.

"It's not that we get a sum of money," said Mayor Larry Wolgast. "We get people who come in and spend time here."

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

Inman

Highway Sign a Community Effort

Inman has a new advertisement just south of town. Travelers heading north on Kansas Highway 61 can't miss the large, metallic letters spelling out "INMAN" on the side of the road.

It is one of two signs planned to advertise the town to K-61 travelers, who may then pull in to grab a bite to eat or to see the sights.

The signs have been a community effort, with \$28,000 raised locally for the two signs and several community businesses donating materials and labor. Inman also received \$14,000 from McPherson County to cover costs

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/hceyl9p>

Wichita

City of Wichita Holds Social Media Town Hall; Residents Give Input Online

Instead of residents having to go to a public meeting to get their questions answered or their concerns heard, city officials went directly to them on Facebook and Twitter.

Wichita Police Chief Gordon Ramsay took questions from the public for about 20 minutes on Facebook live. He touched on several topics including community policing, gangs and Old Town security.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/j5vv3n3>

Classified Advertising

Assistant Director – Operations in Municipal Services Department – Lenexa, Kansas

The City of Lenexa, Kansas, has an opportunity for an Assistant Director—Operations in Municipal Services Department. Responsibilities include maintenance of public works infrastructure relating to Streets, Stormwater, Traffic, Facilities Maintenance and Fleet Management for city owned equipment and vehicles, and department annual operating and capital budget process, directly supervising operational divisions, performance management, strategic planning, public information, citizen service request responsibilities, capital project management—including capital improvement projects and work process improvement.

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree, minimum five to seven years of public works management experience in government or equivalent field. Master's degree preferred. Excellent oral and written communication skills, ability to work in a team environment. Minimum starting salary is \$73,251 annually. We offer a highly competitive compensation package including health, dental, life, short-term disability; pension plans, educational reimbursement, access to a free on-site health clinic and more.

To apply complete an on-line application at <https://home.eease.adp.com/recruit/?id=15308051>, or <http://www.lenexa.com/hr/career.html>.

Assistant Superintendent of Electric Distribution – Ottawa, Kansas

The City of Ottawa, Kansas is seeking an Assistant Superintendent of Electric Distribution. This position assists in the supervision and skilled work of the construction and maintenance of the electric distribution system.

The candidate will have a minimum of five years as journeyman along with supervisory experience. A valid Kansas Commercial Driver's License, Class B with airbrake endorsement is required.

The City of Ottawa offers a competitive benefits package. Compensation Range: \$25.48-\$38.22 per hour depending on qualifications. Qualified candidates should complete On-Line Application at www.HRePartners.com. Position closes July 31, 2016. EOE

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer – Beloit, Kansas

The City of Beloit, Kansas is seeking an employee to perform routine and complex technical work as Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer to enforce the International Building Code, Mechanical Code, Plumbing Code, National Electrical Code and other local city codes. The employee in this position also serves as staff to the Beloit City Planning Commission.

Minimum requirements include two to three years' experience in the construction/inspection field along with an associate's degree or equivalent from a college or technical school. Salary range is \$34,000 to \$48,600 plus excellent fringe benefits. View complete position description at www.beloitks.org. Submit resume and references to City Administrator, 119 N. Hersey, Beloit, Ks. 67420 or on-line to jrosebaugh@beloitks.org. EOE Preference to resumes received before August 1, 2016.

Chief of Police – Ellsworth, Kansas

The City of Ellsworth (population 3,120), is accepting applications for the position of Police Chief. The previous Police Chief accepted another law enforcement position in another state. All applicants must possess a valid driver's license, no criminal history or traffic record, and must be a KLETC graduate or able to obtain certification within twelve months. A college degree in Criminal Justice is preferred, but 5-7 years of experience in law enforcement is required. Primary responsibilities of the position include supervising department staff, assist in the annual department budget preparation, recordkeeping, financial management, active participation in local and regional law enforcement functions, public relations, and general law enforcement duties dealing with citizens and business community. Salary DOQ. Benefits include health insurance, life insurance, sick leave, vacation time, and retirement plan (KPERs). Resumes with five work related references can be emailed to smoore@ellsworthks.net or mailed to City of Ellsworth, c/o Scott Moore, P.O. Box 163, Ellsworth, Kansas 67439. Resumes will be accepted until August 1st.

City Superintendent – Johnson City, Kansas

The City of Johnson City is accepting resumes for a City Superintendent. The city with a population of

1475 is part of a thriving rural agricultural community in southwest Kansas with excellent internet

service available. The City Superintendent answers to a five person council and mayor. Duties of the

City Superintendent include oversight of all utilities and public works functions with a direct line to the

public. Utilities provided by the city are electric with a new Tier 4 generating system, water through five

wells, trash collection and sewer. Water and Sewer licensing desirable. Experience with code

enforcement a plus, but not required. Successful candidate will be required to move into city limits of

Johnson City. The City offers an excellent benefit package. Salary commensurate with experience.

Contact Alan Schweitzer at 620 492-5999 for more information. Resumes may be sent to Johnson City

Hall, PO Box 500, Johnson, KS 67855, or e-mail jnsncity@pld.com. Applications review will begin August

1 and will be taken until position is filled.

City Administrator – Beloit, Kansas

City seeks Administrator to manage its full range of municipal services, including electric utility, and contribute leadership for continuing City investments in community. Beloit boasts a historic small-town charm and optimism, alongside status as hub of a modern regional economy. More than 150 businesses with predominance of jobs in manufacturing, agriculture, health care, and education. Stable City government with eight Administrators since 1978. Position has responsibility for 60 FTEs, \$12.4 million budget, management of all services, including three utilities, policy research, and recommendations to governing body. Low range of salary: \$90,000. Send resume, salary history, and cover letter highlighting governing body's preferred qualifications in single e-file, in confidence to recruitment advisor: mflentje@austinpeters.com. Preference to resumes received before July 15. Finalists subject to disclosure. See qualifications in

City Administrator Recruitment Profile on www.beloitks.org

Fire Chief – Topeka, Kansas

The City of Topeka, population 128,000, is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Fire Chief, responsible for a \$26.4M budget. The Fire Department is a 12 station, 245 personnel department. Required qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in Fire Science, Public Administration, Business Administration or a closely related field plus at least 15 years of progressively responsible administrative and supervisory experience in fire suppression, life safety and emergency response. Leading by example, holding staff accountable, setting high expectations for the department, championing exceptional performance and quality outcomes are highly desired characteristics the next Fire Chief should possess.

Primary responsibilities include:

Fire Department management

Short- and long-range strategic planning

Budget preparation and monitoring

Objectives and ideals of fire safety services and operations, including facilities, equipment and personnel needs.

Methods, equipment and materials used to provide fire and life safety services

Progressive approach to all of the above.

Salary range: Up to \$150,000, DOQ.

View full position details here.

Apply on line at www.topeka.org/jobs.shtml. Application, cover letter and resume required. Application accepted through Friday, June 24, 2016.

Fire Chief – Coffeyville, Kansas

The City of Coffeyville, Kansas is seeking a qualified, experienced individual to fill Fire Chief position. The department is authorized to maintain 18 full-time firefighters and serves approximately 10,000 residents. The department serves as the regional hazardous material response team. Candidate must have knowledge of modern fire department management/administration principles; budget development and implementation; grant writing; working knowledge of labor union relations; certifications specific to role (i.e. Executive Fire Officer, Incident Command, Fire Instructor). Fire Chief also has responsibility for nuisance/environmental Code Enforcement department.

Requirements include a Bachelor's Degree with major course work in fire prevention technology, public administration, business administration or a related field; ten years experience in fire service with demonstrated rank advancement with at least five years in upper level management capacity. Candidate should have IFSAC Fire Officer I certification and Hazardous Material Technician certification.

The City offers an excellent benefit package and a pay rate of \$75151.00 to \$95552.00 dependent on qualifications. Benefit package includes: health insurance, retirement plan, vacation, holidays, sick pay and continuing education reimbursement. Applicants must be willing to meet the City of Coffeyville residency requirement within six months.

Interested applicants should submit cover letter and resume demonstrating your qualifications to: Human Resources Department, P. O. Box 1629, Coffeyville, Kansas 67337. Phone 620-252-6121. Applications accepted until July 13, 2016.

WILL BE REQUIRED TO PASS PRE-EMPLOYMENT PHYSICAL INCLUDING DRUG SCREEN AND BACKGROUND CHECK

Maintenance Supervisor – Carbondale, Kansas

The City of Carbondale, KS is accepting resumes for a Maintenance Supervisor.

The duties include but are not limited to overall operations of the Public Works Department including:

Supervision of all Maintenance Department employees and delegation of duties

Water Treatment Plant and Distribution System, upkeep of City reservoir, quality of potable water

All aspects of the Wastewater Treatment and Collection System

Maintenance of City Streets, ditches, culverts, snow removal and maintenance of street and traffic signs

Maintenance of City owned equipment

Assist other Maintenance Department employees in the performance of their duties

Certification by the State of Kansas as a "Class 2" water operator and "Class 1" Wastewater operator, preferred. Certifications must be obtained within a reasonable length of time after the first year

of service

Provide administrative support to the Mayor and City Council and participate and lead in implementing goals and objectives developed for the department and the City as a whole.

Performs other duties as assigned by Mayor and/or City Council

Starting Salary is \$19.00 per hour and is negotiable, depending on qualifications and experience

Application is available on the website www.carbondaleks.com or in the City Hall Office @ 234 Main, Carbondale, KS.

Manager of Member Services - Overland Park, Kansas

The Kansas Municipal Energy Agency is accepting applications for the position of Manager of Member Services. This position is responsible for managing the member service programs and communications aspects of the business, one of the most important elements of our Agency. Job description and application can be found through HR-Haven at: <http://hrhaven.theresumator.com/apply/UcjLcy/Manager-Of-Member-Services>

Police Officer – Wathena, Kansas

The City of Wathena, Kansas (pop. 1352) is currently seeking applications for a full-time officer. Applicant must have a high school diploma or GED, be at least 21 years of age, have a valid driver's license, and able to pass a background investigation. Applicants are preferred to have certification in law enforcement. Benefits include uniforms, vacation, sick leave, KPERS, medical and dental. Send resume or applications are available at the City Hall in Wathena, 206 St. Joseph Street, P.O. Box 27, Wathena, Kansas 66090 and at www.wathenakansas.com. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. 785-989-4711. EOE.

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Employment Descriptions
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Compensation Analysis
Fair and competitive compensation attracts and retains top talent, while helping you assess your organization's financial commitments.

Salary Survey
The League's salary survey is a tool that may be used to determine a variety of statistical data including median and average compensation paid to city employees.

(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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CITY EVENTS

Erie
143rd Old Soldiers and Sailors
Reunion
July 11-16

Come enjoy the rodeo, kid's games, food vendors, craft fair, car show, baby contest, parade, entertainment, and free bean feed. (620) 244-3461 | www.erieks.com

Atchison
20th Annual Amelia Earhart
Festival
July 15-16

The annual festival honoring the birthday of the famous aviatrix born in Atchison includes a three-day carnival, Friday night outdoor concert at Warnock Lake, Saturday downtown and riverfront events and activities, and Saturday evening riverfront live music, aerial stunts, and fireworks over the Missouri River. (800) 234-1854 | <http://visitatchison.com/event/amelia-earhart-festival/>

Humboldt
National Day of the Cowboy
Celebration
July 22-23

Humboldt and Best of America by Horseback will host a celebration for the National Day of the Cowboy. On Friday, July 22nd, there will be a filmed trail ride by Best of America by Horseback for RFD-TV. Activities on Saturday, July 23rd, will include a western themed parade at 1pm, children's activities, round pen horse training clinics, cowboy music and poetry all day, BBQ cook-off competition (non-sanctioned), apple pie baking contest, amateur art contest, and kid's cowboy poetry competition. Food and western ware vendors will be available. The activities

will culminate with a cowboy concert. Parade entries including horse and riders are encouraged. Like them on Facebook at Celebration of the National Day of the Cowboy!

(620) 433-1819 | <http://www.bestofamericabyhorseback.com/humboldt-day-of-cowboy.html>

Wilson
After Harvest Czech Festival
July 28-30

A great event with music, a parade, the Czech Queen pageant, run/walk, Czech dancers, carnival games, water inflatables, 3-on-3 basketball, and much more.

(785) 658-2272 | wilsonczechfest.com

El Dorado
Frontier Western Celebration
August 4-6

Frontier Western Celebration now in its 10th year is host to great bull riding action, numerous other events with great musicians from the region and straight from Nashville. This multi-state event is sure to please everyone.

(316) 321-3088 | <http://frontierwesterncelebration.com/>

Victoria
Herzogfest
August 5-6

Herzogfest is Victoria's German Festival. German food is available for purchase and there are usually a free concert both Friday and Saturday night.

(785) 735-2352 | herzogfest.colejengel.com

Great Bend
Party in the Park
August 13

The 4th Annual Great Bend Party in the Park at Veterans Memorial Park, Tuff Enuff Race, mud volleyball, dog park fun, car show, kids zone, bubble soccer, Twinkie eating contest, concert, fireworks and FUN!

(620) 793-4111 | www.greatbendks.net

Potwin
Potwin Watermelon Festival
August 8

The Potwin Watermelon Festival hosts free watermelon, parade, car show, softball tournament, bean bag tournament, horseshoe tournament, kids' games, quarter toss, vendors, variety show, and dance.

(620) 752-3422

Altamont
Back to School Dance
August 27

Kick off the school year with all your friends and favorite music at the Altamont Back to School Dance with DJ: Two Dudes with a Radio.

(620) 784-5612 | <https://www.facebook.com/events/1744957309068810/>

Chapman Annual Labor Day
Celebration
September 3-5

Enjoy a Street Dance, 5K, vendors, car show, toy show, food, and parade.

(785) 922-6582 | <https://www.facebook.com/Chapman.EDC/>

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