



# Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 103-NUMBER 1

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017

2017 Legislative  
Preview

Meet the Senate and  
House Leadership

ACEC & KACM  
Awards

# Kansas Hometown Showdown 2017

Presented by the League

We are excited to announce the third 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 [showdown.lkm.org](http://showdown.lkm.org).

## Contest Rules:

Each city photo will go head-to-head to see which 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.

By Submitting a photo to this contest, you grant 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. We encourage you to get your community involved by sharing on your social media accounts.

Voting for the round of 64 will begin the week of **February 23**. We will announce the winner on the day of the Men's Basketball Championship, April 3.

If you have any questions, please contact Megan Gilliland at [mgilliland@lkm.org](mailto:mgilliland@lkm.org) or (785) 354-9565.



# Contents

Volume 103 • Number 1 • January / February 2017

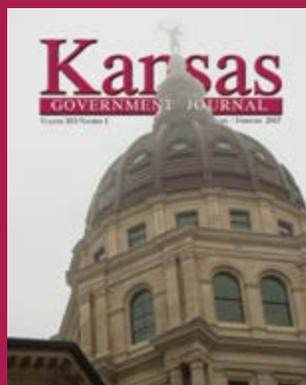
## Features



- 6 **2016 ACEC Awards**  
2016 winners of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas, City and County Public Improvement Awards.
- 8 **2017 League Calendar**  
A look at upcoming League events in 2017.
- 9 **2017 Legislative Preview**  
We preview the 2017 legislative session and some of the expected issues.
- 12 **2016 KACM Awards**  
See the 2016 Kansas Association of City/County Managers award winners.
- 14 **Conference Hotel Reservations & Feedback**  
Explaining the logistics of hotel reservations and responding to League Conference commentary.
- 16 **Honoring Veterans**  
A story of two of individuals who have worked to repair or replace over 800 Veteran and VFW Auxiliary grave markers.
- 17 **Meet the Senate and House Leadership**  
We invited Senate and House leaders to answer a few questions, to allow you an opportunity to become acquainted with them.
- 21 **Infographic - Local and State Employment**  
Helpful information about the current Legislative Session and what cities can do.

## Departments

- 5 **Director's Foreword**
- 20 **Legal Forum**  
Pet Owners and the Fourth Amendment
- 22 **Best Practices**  
Leveraging Best Practices to Avoid Workers' Compensation Claims.
- 23 **Kansas Attractions**  
The Capitol
- 24 **Kansas Government News**
- 26 **Classified Advertising**
- 28 **Professional Services**
- 30 **City Events**



*This month we start our new feature article "Kansas Attractions." The attraction this month is the Kansas Capitol Building. Take a look on page 23 for more details.*

*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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## Connect with the League on Social Media



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## 2017 League Events Calendar

### February

23 - MTI - City Clerk Fundamentals, Ellis

24 - MTI - City Clerk Fundamentals, Lindsborg

### March

2 - MTI - City Clerk Fundamentals, Altamont

3 - MTI - City Clerk Fundamentals, Shawnee

3 - Governing Body Meeting, Topeka

12 - 15 - NLC Congressional City Conf., D.C.

15 - 17 - City Clerks Spring Conference, Wichita

30 - MTI - Municipal Finance, Russell

## Obituaries

**Thomas "Tony" Soetaert** died December 16, 2016. He was 80. Mr. Soetaert was the longest-tenured mayor in Shawnee history. Soetaert, a lifelong resident of Shawnee, served more than 30 years as mayor, councilman and as a member of the board of zoning appeals. Soetaert was elected to the city council in 1974 prior to being elected mayor in 1977. He was the longest-serving mayor in city history. Current Mayor Michelle Distler said the Shawnee community benefited as a whole from Soetaert's vision and love of the city. "He was a great ambassador for our community, and he worked tirelessly on behalf of Shawnee's growth and progress," Distler said in a statement. "Without his leadership, I doubt Shawnee would be the city of more than 60,000 residents spread across 42 square miles that we see today." Soetaert is survived by his wife, Joyce, and his three children, Julie King, Tom Soetaert and Amy Rainey, and a number of grandchildren.

**Charles Wright**, "Chuck" as he was known to his friends, graduated from Topeka High School, Class of 1937, and Kansas University, 1941, with a BFA degree. One month after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the United States Navy and served as a Hospital Corpsman during World War II, graduating first in his class at Great Lakes Naval Training Center. After the end of World War II, Chuck continued to serve in the USMC Reserve, retiring as a Captain. Chuck worked as the Assistant to the Advertising Manager for Standard Oil in Chicago until 1954 when he returned to Topeka and established the Patterson-Wright Advertising Agency with his cousin, Duane Patterson. In 1961, Chuck embarked on a political career, serving two terms as Topeka's Street Commissioner from 1961 to 1965 and two terms as Mayor of Topeka from 1965 to 1969. As Street Commissioner, Chuck placed large flower pots on Kansas Avenue to create the mid-block crosswalks that are still used today. His friends and colleagues referred to him as Flower Pot Charlie. The potholes in the streets around town were renamed "chuckholes" and he was called Chuckhole Charlie. Chuck took delight in being referred to by these nicknames that were usually, but not always, used in jest. On June 8, 1966, Topeka was struck by a devastating tornado. Mayor Wright worked tirelessly to provide the leadership that allowed Washburn University, the City of Topeka, and the citizens of his beloved city to recover from this disaster. He coordinated the recovery and redevelopment efforts by enlisting the help and gaining the support of the Topeka City Commission, the Shawnee County Commission, Governor Bill Avery, the Kansas Congressional delegation and President Lyndon Johnson. He often joked that he went out the night of the tornado and arrived home two months later. He is survived by his sister, Ruth Hupe.

# Director's Foreword

by Erik Sartorius



"I sure am glad this year is over." I heard this phrase as last year wound down more than I have in most years. An exhausting campaign season, human tragedies around the globe, and personal and professional challenges all seemed to add up to people wanting to rid themselves of 2016.

For a multitude of reasons, I lean toward the impulse to slam the door on 2016. At the same time, as we celebrate Kansas Day, I cannot help but think of our state motto, "Ad Astra per Aspera" - "To the Stars Through Difficulties." The trials and tribulations you face as city leaders can narrow your focus and force a more refined course of action. The unexpected challenge, as unwanted as it may be, can serve as the catalyst to move your city in a direction it needs to go.

Now, I am not suggesting that careening from crisis to crisis is an ideal method for governing or living one's life. A stable workforce, plentiful housing and good infrastructure are not things I would turn down for my community. Such stability, however, can lead to stagnation and a default to doing things "the same way we always have done them."

For me, some of the challenges and frustrations of 2016 shook me from stagnation. To be honest, at the time these "opportunities" were arriving, "burden" or "monkey wrench" may have been how I initially saw things. Taking time to consider my situation, though, helped me see that I had been given an opportunity for a reset of direction. Understanding that there can be as much risk in standing still instead of moving forward with a change of direction eased my apprehension. Now, I get to see how everything plays out - and I have a good feeling about things.

As we get underway in 2017, I do want to offer my apologies to you for some instances where we have not quite reached the heights expected. First, we were disappointed to have a technical issue that prevented us from broadcasting our legislative preview to you live. We have been working with the company we use for our webinar platform in order to avoid such challenges in the future. For those of you that had signed up for the webinar, I hope you did listen to the recorded version we provided.

Second, the *Kansas Government Journal* has arrived at your doorstep later than we would have liked over the past few months. The responsibility for this delay rests solely with me. Due to changes in staff, I took on the role of Editor-in-Chief. The design and content of the magazine remained strong. Adding editing and

content acquisition to writing my monthly column proved to be a bit of a tall order when combined with preparing for the legislative session and conducting a job search.

The exciting news that should not be lost in the challenging schedule at the end of last year is that we had a very successful search for our open position! Megan Gilliland has joined our team as our Communications and Education Manager. Most recently, she had been serving as the Communications Manager for the City of Lawrence.

Megan comes to us with significant local government experience and lots of ideas to help significantly grow the League's communications efforts. Her skills will also complement capabilities we have sought to develop in recent years, such as our production of research on municipal issues in Kansas. Throughout 2017, expect to see broader distribution of this work across the state. Megan's work will also help us become a more frequent resource for the media, with our goal to be seen across Kansas as a thought leader on local government issues.

Providing educational opportunities in statewide organizations is also part of Megan's experience. Some of you may remember a social media session she led at our Governing Body Institute. For the past three years, she also has served as president for the Kansas Association of Public Information Officers. In that role, she has led them in growing their annual conference and providing additional trainings for members.

Writing this column caused me to think of another of Ernie Mosher's "52 Tips for Successful Public Service." Tip #13 says:

**"Don't be afraid to change. Don't be content to just follow the routine of your predecessors. Charge your appointed officers and employees with being responsible for new ideas & better ways. Listen to what they have to say."**

We are looking forward to an exciting year at the League, one that will inevitably bring change, but also opportunities to grow and improve the services we provide you. I hope you look at 2017 for your city the same way - "Ad Astra per Aspera."

Any questions? Comments? Please let me know! Contact me at [esartorius@lkm.org](mailto:esartorius@lkm.org) or (785) 354-9565.

# 2016 ACEC AWARDS

## CITY AND COUNTY PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT AWARDS

by Amber Hermreck

**C**ongratulations to the 2016 winners of the ACEC of Kansas, City 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 55<sup>th</sup> year ACEC of Kansas has presented the City 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 received their awards at the December 1 luncheon of the Kansas Association of City/County Managers Fall Conference in Newton.

### The winning cities and projects are:

**City of Hiawatha** (5,000 & under population)

**Project: Hiawatha School and Fitness Trail project**

**Engineering Firm: BG Consultants, Inc.**

**Contractor: Amino Brothers Construction**

The Hiawatha School and Fitness Trail east of US Highways 73 and 159 is home to several Hiawatha community assets. Hiawatha High School and Hiawatha Middle School, the community nature trails and the Community Garden are on the north end. The Maple Heights Nursing and Rehabilitative Center, the Agriculture Museum/Windmill Lane, the Fisher Center, the Aquatic Park and the community Skate Park occupy the central area. The south portion of the area is Nobel Park, Hiawatha's baseball field. These facilities, while excellent community assets, are separate and access favors the automobile.



Rod Young, ACEC President presents to Sid Arpin, BG Consultants, on behalf of the City of Hiawatha.

The impact to Hiawatha is now the walkers, joggers, baby-carriage pushers, and bicyclists

or in-line skaters can access all of these community assets without having to compete for space with motor vehicles on a major public road. Children have a safer way to get to and from school and are no longer dependent on being driven, now that a way on foot exists.

The benefit is that now Hiawatha's carbon foot print is diminished and several Hiawathans are in better health due to the construction of the trail. Children are walking to school that never did before. Hiawatha is now a better place to live and work than it was before the construction of the trail.



City of Dodge City & Ford County representatives accepting for the 20,000 - 49,999 Population category.

**City of Dodge City** (20,000-49,999 population)

**Project: Long Branch Lagoon Water Park**

**Engineering Firm: Water's Edge Aquatic Design**

**Contractor: McCownGordon**

Long Branch Lagoon is a destination water park featuring a wave pool, lazy river, commercial water park class slides, western themed play structure, rock scapes, waterfalls and more. The project is a component of the city's Heritage STAR Bond project and the architecture of the bathhouse and filter building were developed in accordance with the city's Heritage District Design Guidelines which insure all new development and renovations in the area are consistent with the historic time period being fostered in the area.

Long Branch Lagoon has provided the citizens of Dodge City with a modern aquatic facility offering all the amenities and features necessary to serve all ages and needs. Long Branch Lagoon attracted over 80,000 visitors in the first year including significant numbers of tourists and regional visitors which supports our existing tourism trade and created additional economic impact to the community.

**City of Topeka** (50,000 & above population)

**Project: Kansas Avenue: 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenues**

**Engineering Firm: Bartlett & West, Inc.**

**Contractor: Kansas Heavy Construction**

This project was initiated by a grass-roots effort to revitalize downtown and attract residents and visitors to the heart of Kansas' Capital City. The project focused on reducing the street width of Kansas Avenue to slow traffic and create additional space for

pedestrian activity and entertainment options along the thoroughfare.

A public-private partnership funded this project. The public funding provided the infrastructure improvements, which included full-depth pavement, sidewalk, storm sewer and waterline replacement. Private donations for the project were raised through the Downtown Topeka Foundation and were used to create pedestrian pocket parks, mid-block pavilions with arches spanning Kansas Avenue along with other pedestrian and aesthetic improvements to draw visitors to the area.

The public project started with a traffic study. Based on the study's analysis, the five signalized intersections on Kansas Avenue between 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue will operate at an acceptable level of service through the year 2040, even by narrowing the roadway from five-to-three lanes.

Bartlett & West and the City of Topeka met with property and business owners at the onset of design to garner input and proactively address issues that might arise as a result of the project. In response to this communication, Bartlett & West designed a sequencing plan that provided for continuous two-way traffic during construction and allowed continuous pedestrian access to the Kansas Avenue businesses during construction.

First and foremost, the community's long-term vision of a downtown that attracts people and encourages business and residential growth has come to fruition. Building sales are at an all-time high. Large downtown events and festivals are being planned

and have experienced tremendous success. Not only are the improvements a boost for the economy but the project has helped change the perception of downtown and reputation of the city as a whole.

Congratulations to our 2016 winners! On behalf of ACEC of Kansas, our thanks go to all of the cities who entered in the Public Improvement Awards competition. We hope to see a project from you again next year!



*City of Topeka representatives accepting for the Above 50,000 Population category.*

 *Amber Hermreck is the Client Services Manager for the American Council of Engineering Companies of Kansas. She can be reached at [amber@acecks.org](mailto:amber@acecks.org).*

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## Public Works Services

- Street and highway design
- Waste water collection and treatment
- Water treatment and distribution
- Right-of-way and legal descriptions
- GIS development and implementation
- Traffic analysis

 BARTLETT & WEST

# 2017 League Calendar\*\*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>January</b></p> <p>Jan 2 New Year's Day Observed, League office closed            Jan 9 Legislature begins, Topeka            Jan 16 Martin Luther King Day, League office closed            Jan 25 Local Government Day, Topeka            Jan 26 Governing Body Meeting, Topeka</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July</b></p> <p>Jul 4 Independence Day, League office closed</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>February</b></p> <p>Feb 2 KACM Winter Conference, Wichita            Feb 23 MTI - City Clerk Fundamentals, Ellis            Feb 24 MTI - City Clerk Fundamentals, Lindsborg</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>August</b></p> <p>Aug 1 Primary Elections            Aug 8, 10, 15 &amp; 17 Policy Meetings            Aug 10 MTI - KOMA/KORA Training, Neodesha            Aug 17 MTI - KOMA/KORA Training, Edwardsville            Aug 24 MTI - KOMA/KORA Training, Garden City            Aug 25 Governing Body Meeting, Hays</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>March</b></p> <p>Mar 2 MTI - City Clerk Fundamentals, Altamont            Mar 3 MTI - City Clerk Fundamentals, Shawnee            Mar 3 Governing Body Meeting, Topeka            Mar 12-15 NLC Congressional City Conf., D.C.            Mar 15-17 City Clerks Spring Conference, Wichita            Mar 30 MTI - Municipal Finance, Russell            Mar 31 MTI - Municipal Finance, Marysville</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>September</b></p> <p>Sept 4 Labor Day – League office closed            Sept 15 CAAK Meeting, Wichita            Sept 16-18 League Annual Conference, Wichita            Sept 19 League office closed</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>April</b></p> <p>Apr 21-22 Leadership Summit, Dodge City            Apr 27-28 KACM Spring Conference, Lawrence</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October</b></p> <p>Oct 4 Regional Suppers, Cimarron and Hays            Oct 5 Regional Suppers, Colby and Derby            Oct 11 Regional Supper, Lawrence            Oct 12 Regional Supper, Coffeyville            Oct 14-18 IMLA            Oct 22-25 ICMA Conference, San Antonio, TX            Oct 26 MTI - Occupational Licensing &amp; Permitting, Belle Paine            Oct 27 MTI - Occupational Licensing &amp; Permitting, Leavenworth</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May</b></p> <p>May 5 MTI - Emergency Planning, Lyons            May 12 MTI - Emergency Planning, Pratt            May 21-24 IIMC Annual Conference, Montreal, Quebec            May 29 Memorial Day – League office closed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>November</b></p> <p>Nov 7 General Election            Nov 13-17 CCMFOA Institute (Wichita)            Nov 15-17 KACM Annual Conference, Lenexa            Nov 15-18 NLC City Summit, Charlotte, NC            Nov 23 Thanksgiving, League office closed 23-24            Nov 30 MTI - Grant Compliance &amp; Administration, Tonganoxie</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June</b></p> <p>Jun 2 Governing Body Meeting, Topeka            Jun 9 CAAK Meeting, Newton            Jun 14 MTI - Personnel Management, Phillipsburg            Jun 15 MTI - Personnel Management, McPherson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December</b></p> <p>Dec 1 MTI - Grant Compliance &amp; Administration, Girard            Dec 1 Governing Body Meeting, Topeka            Dec 22 League office closed at noon            Dec 25 League office closed</p>

\*\* Please note dates and locations are subject to change.



# 2017 Legislative Preview

*by League Legislative Staff*

**T**he 2017 legislative session began on January 9 with the swearing in of all the Senators and Representatives who were elected in November. Based on conversations with legislators, the state budget and school finance formula remain top priorities this session. The League staff has worked on multiple issues we anticipate will gain attention, including those listed in the Statement of Municipal Policy (SMP) Action Agenda. Meetings were held with a variety of organizations, state agencies, lobbyists and legislators to discuss how best to address areas of concern.

**Property Tax Lid.** Numerous changes were made to the property tax lid statutes in 2016, including moving the implementation date up to January 1, 2017, and adding exemptions. Per the SMP Action Agenda, the League is drafting legislation to replace the current election process with a protest petition and finding a workable election timeline, as well as making some adjustments to notice requirements. The League received several additional exemption suggestions from cities. Primarily, these would cover expenses for which cities have little control, such as health insurance for employees. In 2016, health insurance costs were one of the exemptions we fought to include and will be looking for opportunities to attempt again in 2017.

**Abandoned and Blighted Structures.** The League continues to support and work with partners to reintroduce legislation that streamlines and expedites the process for local governments to deal with abandoned or blighted structures. SB 338 passed the Senate and House in 2016 and was vetoed by the governor in 2016. Senate

Bill 31, virtually identical legislation, has been introduced for 2017

**Remote and Electronic Sales/Use Tax.** Kansas and many other states - and their local governments - continue to lose sales tax revenue due to non-collection on remote and electronic sales. Several states, including our neighbors Colorado and Oklahoma, have grown frustrated with inaction at the federal level to collect sales/use tax on internet and catalog sales. Colorado requires vendors to provide the buyer and their Department of Revenue with a list of purchases for which sales taxes were not paid. Many people are not aware they are responsible to pay unpaid sales tax when they file their income tax, resulting in lost revenue due the state and locals. The Colorado law was recently affirmed in the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court declined to hear an appeal of the decision. Similar legislation in Kansas has been introduced and would assist in the collection of sales/use tax due cities, counties and the state.

**Weapons and Firearms.** Changes in 2016 prohibit cities from instituting policies that prevent employees from carrying concealed handguns while working outside a public building. If an employee is not required to carry a weapon in the course of his/her employment and is involved in an incident resulting in a lawsuit, there is a possibility the employee's actions could create a potential liability for the city. Based on direction from the SMP Action Agenda, the League supports legislation to protect cities by clarifying civil and criminal immunity. In addition, the League supports language allowing cities to define areas that are deemed dangerous and prevent employees from carrying concealed weapons in those areas.

**Service Territory.** There is potential for legislation to be introduced by electrical cooperatives concerning the transfer of service territory. Such legislation could also impact annexation statutes. The League has met with partners to discuss and we are prepared to oppose legislation altering service territory statutes or further restricting annexation.

**EMS/Hospital Funding.** The League supports Medicare expansion, as the lack of expansion has increased pressure on local budgets. Additionally, local tax dollars are being required to cover EMS and hospital funding in many Kansas cities.

**Political Signs.** Cities have requested repeal of the 2015 Kansas law passed regarding political signs, given its conflict with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Reed v. Town of Gilbert*.

**KPERS.** Staff is working with KPERS and partners on an exemption for third-party contractors from the rules governing working after retirement for KPERS participants.

**Asset Forfeiture:** Three bills were prefiled for introduction relating to asset forfeiture. One would eliminate annual reporting, another would amend the allowable uses of forfeiture proceeds, and a third would prohibit county attorneys from representing the county in their private practice during a forfeiture case. Additional bills significantly altering asset forfeiture have also been introduced.

**Franchise Fees:** There has been talk of legislation to limit electric utility franchise fees to 6%. Due to a potential merger of two private electric utilities, there is no anticipated movement this session.

**Water Funding:** The primary component of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Water Funding Task Force proposed plan to legislators is to divert 1/10 cent of the existing state sales tax to fund water projects. With the current budget deficit, it is unlikely to move forward. Other funding proposals are expected to be considered by the legislature.

## 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
- Listservs
- News media
- [www.lkm.org](http://www.lkm.org)
- Educate your residents on legislative issues impacting them

3

### Get Social

- Follow/Like League social media accounts
- Share with your city and residents
- Follow legislators' Facebook and Twitter Accounts

**Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** Concerns from school districts over cities' use of TIF for economic development projects leads to the potential of new legislation restricting their use. The League supports the use of TIF and retaining current laws that allow maximum flexibility.

**Kansas Open Records Act (KORA):** The Kansas Press Association is considering seeking legislation allowing records requests at no cost for the media. The League is collecting information from cities on KORA requests and their current policy on media requests. The League opposes such a change to KORA.

**Summary of Publication:** Current law only provides for ordinances, not resolutions, to have summaries published in the official newspaper with the full ordinance published online. As cities deal with the property tax lid, summary publication of resolutions would allow cities to reduce costs for printing and offer an opportunity for citizens to read the information online.

**Unemployment - Volunteer Firefighters:** State and federal law does not address "volunteer" for unemployment purposes. This has potential adverse consequences on cities. The League is continuing discussions with the Kansas Department of Labor to understand and correct this issue legislatively, if possible.

The mission of the League shall be to strengthen and advocate for the interests of cities in Kansas to advance the general welfare and promote the quality of life of the people who live within our cities. The League's SMP Action Agenda, approved by member cities can be found on our website, [www.lkm.org/page/SMP](http://www.lkm.org/page/SMP).

Please remember the League's website has a new format to track legislation and is limited to members only. If you have not created your member login, you will need to do so. If you need assistance, please contact the League at (785) 354-9565. Another way to stay informed is subscribe to League News, our weekly email newsletter by emailing [info@lkm.org](mailto:info@lkm.org).

## Advocacy for Cities

- Follow legislators' communications by signing up for their e-mail newsletter
- Send your city newsletter to all your legislators
- Make yourself a resource for legislators to ask questions



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

# 2016 KACM AWARDS

## KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF CITY/COUNTY MANAGEMENT AWARDS

by Cindy Green

The Kansas Association of City/County Managers (KACM) held their annual conference in Newton, November 30 through December 2. During the conference, members look forward to attending the Annual Awards Luncheon to honor the award recipients.

**Buford M. Watson Jr., Award for Excellence in Public Management – Courtney Christensen, City Administrator, City of Mission Hills.** 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). This includes serving as a role model in dealing with constituents, valuing customer satisfaction and encouraging new members of the profession.

Courtney has served in local government for the past 29 years in just two cities, City of Mission Hills and City of Kansas City, Missouri. Highlights from her nomination include Courtney's focus on searching for better ways to manage the city. She has instituted a five-year financial forecast, five-year capital improvement plan and a resident satisfaction survey. She looks for opportunities to engage the community and for city hall staff to provide excellent customer service.



*Courtney Christensen, City Administrator, City of Mission Hills was this year's Buford M. Watson recipient.*

Not only does Courtney encourage new members in the profession, she has mentored seventeen interns during her time at the City of Mission Hills. The time and effort she places in her internship program has allowed many interns to advance in the field and are now managers and administrators across the country. In addition to the intern program, Courtney is active in KACM including serving as President. She

is active in the International City/County Manager Association. (ICMA), where she served on the Annual Conference Host Committee for their annual conference, held in Kansas City, Missouri this past fall.

The **Career Achievement Award** was established in 2000 to recognize professional local government managers and administrators who are retiring from the profession. There were three Career Achievement Awards presented:

**Career Achievement Award – Herb Llewellyn, City Manager, City of El Dorado.**



*Herb Llewellyn, City Manager, City of El Dorado, accepted one of the Career Achievement Awards presented this year.*

Herb wrapped up a long career after serving the last 10 years with the City of El Dorado. He had some real ups and downs in 2012 as he received both the Fabulous Flop Award and the Innovation Award in the same year. Herb again won the Innovation Award in 2015. Beyond his amazing list of career accomplishments, Herb also gave back to the profession through his service on the KACM Board of Directors.

**Career Achievement Award – Warren Porter, City Manager, City of Winfield.** Warren was the city manager for over 20 years in the City of Winfield and also worked in the City of Augusta and the City of Ellinwood. During his 30 years of service, he provided leadership and guidance to staff and the community. He was involved in a multitude of projects, including a new aquatics facility, Broadway Sports Complex, service center and transitioning EMS and the fire department into a joint operation. In addition, he assisted in the retention of businesses and jobs, supported the Chamber and encouraged staff to engage in the community. He has been a great mentor to many, including his own son, Jeff Porter, City Administrator in Medicine Lodge.

**Career Achievement Award – Randy Riggs, City Manager, City of Newton.** Randy was involved in city government for 29 years, which included time as city manager in three Kansas communities - City of Sterling, City of Chanute and the City of Newton. Under his leadership Randy improved the city's bond rating, expanded economic development activities and revamped policies based on best practices. He encouraged staff to participate in leadership and professional development opportunities. Even when staffers left for another city or company, he considered it a positive reflection on the organization. He was honored with the Buford Watson, Jr. Award in 2006 and served on the KACM Board of Directors.

**Early Career Achievement Award – Lou Leone, City Administrator, City of Kiowa.** The Early Career Excellence Award was established in 2013 to recognize early career local government professionals working in Kansas, who demonstrate excellence in



Lou Leone, City Administrator, City of Kiowa, Early Career Achievement Award recipient.

the profession and a 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.

Lou joined the City of Kiowa in 2015 and hit the ground running. Within the first year of his service, he created an electric lineman cooperative, initiated an aggressive

capital improvement program, achieved KDHE compliance on a long-standing deficient monitoring project, managed rebranding efforts, implemented an Emergency Operations Plan, added a social media alert process for outages, created a document retention policy and is active in volunteering in the community. Lou continues to make a difference in his city and profession.

**Innovation Award – Doug Gerber, Interim City Manager, City of Topeka. Tweet-a-Long's.** The Innovation Award is established for those members of KACM who have developed new and innovative programs or services for their local citizens. To expand their use of social media the City of Topeka created Tweet-a-Long's to educate citizens on the jobs employees do and to engage with them. Tweet-a-Along's are weekly events, where a communications

staff member accompanies a city employee in the field. The posts include videos, pictures, information on the department and an interview with staff - all with a bit of wit and humor. The innovative program has increased followers, boosted morale for city employees and educated citizens on city services.



Doug Gerber, Interim City Manager, City of Topeka, accepted the Innovation Award.

Cindy Green is the Deputy Director for the League of Kansas Municipalities. You can reach her at [cgreen@lkm.org](mailto:cgreen@lkm.org) or (785) 354-9565.

*Photos by Kate Cooley. Also pictured is Nick Hernandez, City Manager, City of Arkansas City and Emily Clouse, City Manager, City of Kingman*



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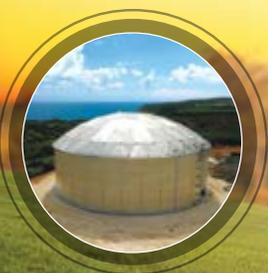
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## Conference Hotel Reservations & Feedback

by Kate Cooley

**T**his year, the League and its Governing Body have made the decision to postpone the opening of the hotel room block until June 1, 2017. Why the later date, you ask? In part, we plan to make it standard practice moving forward to open the hotel block to coincide with conference registration, in the hopes that by then cities will have decided who will represent their city at conference, thereby reducing instances of cities from booking more hotel rooms than necessary.

Following the 2016 conference, the League was penalized by last minute hotel cancellations that occurred a mere 24-36 hours before the conference began. Quite often, we will see municipalities book five, or sometimes even as many as 10 rooms when the block opens for the full conference weekend, yet find themselves cancelling rooms or trying to “sell” them on listservs at the last minute. So, why does this matter? Well, did you know when the League contracts with any hotel for a room block, that contract usually includes a minimum reservation guarantee of 80-85%, depending on the time of year and location? That means if we contract for 240 rooms for two nights, (or 480 total room nights), and our contract guarantees 85%, that means the League needs to maintain at least

408 room reservations. When rooms are cancelled by cities at the last possible minute, causing the League to drop below that magic number, typically no one can buy them that late in the game and the League is held accountable for lost revenue to the hotel and must pay attrition penalties.

This can have a huge impact on the overall conference budget, not to mention the inconvenience to conference attendees or vendors looking for a hotel room in the final weeks leading up to the conference. When they can’t find a room at the headquarter hotel, they are forced to book elsewhere.

Please help us avoid this situation in the future. First, find out who definitely plans on attending any given conference before booking several rooms “just in case.” More importantly, if you end up with too many rooms, please don’t wait until the last minute to cancel – even cancelling three weeks in advance would be a tremendous help. We want to make sure we are staying within the conference budget, and we certainly don’t want to be forced to increase conference fees or come up with other ways to make up for the shortfall.

Another note about conference: League staff listens to comments and feedback on post-conference evaluations and we sit down as a staff to discuss what went well, and what needs adjusting for the coming year. We thought it might be helpful to address some of the more frequent comments and questions so that you are better informed. We want to make sure we are providing you with the best conferences and events we possibly can.

***Q: Why does the conference have to be held on a weekend?***

The League contracts for our conferences for a given location three to five years in advance, and has historically chosen Columbus Day weekend as the optimal time to hold the conference to appease both appointed and elected officials (2017 is the exception to this, but that's a story for another day). We try to hold conference on this particular weekend in the hopes that Monday is a holiday for most, especially for those elected officials that may have a full time job outside of their position at the city. We have tried to condense the schedule and make Saturday as much of a "pre-conference" day as possible and then have the bulk of our education sessions on Sunday and Monday. One-day conference rates are always available if you cannot find time in your schedule to attend the entire conference, but we hope you make it a priority to join us every year!

***Q: Why isn't there soda at the breaks, or why don't you have more food at breaks?***

We try to provide our members with a great conference experience at an affordable rate. The prices that hotels charge for food are actually quite shocking. Sodas at the breaks generally cost on average \$3.50 *per can* (yes, you read that right). Cookies and brownies are upwards of \$35 per dozen, and we have been charged as much as \$96 for a gallon of coffee. All of those prices are before service charges, which hover around 20% or more. So, when a few folks grab more than one can of soda to take back to their room for later, or multiple cookies...these costs add up very quickly. Despite these high costs, we think most of our members are happy with the breaks and appreciate the variety of meals and menu choices that we have available.

***Comment: The roundtables are too noisy and crowded so I don't attend them, vs. I love the roundtables; I can pick up a lot of info within a short time period!***

Frequently, we have comments on the evaluation at odds with the next; one conference attendee loves the roundtable format, while another person is frustrated by the congestion and noise. We are working to improve upon the roundtable format and continue to produce quality educational sessions. In 2017, we will be eliminating the roundtables in one large room, and instead, experimenting with what will be called "Rapid Fire Workshops." They will still have the same time-frame as the roundtables (three separate sessions, 25-minutes each), but they will be held in separate rooms to eliminate noise and accommodate more attendees. Let us know if you like this new format after this year!

***Comment: The conference had too much downtime vs there was not enough time for networking vs there was too much time with vendors in trade show hall.***

Ok, these were literally three separate comments from attendees – see what we mean when we say comments are sometimes at odds with each other?

We had 90 vendors with us this year, representing businesses, state agencies and affiliate organizations. Although many return year after year to network with prospective clients and longtime customers alike, we had 15 companies with us for the first time. Think of the trade show hall as another chance to network, not just with the vendors, but also your fellow conference attendees. The trade show hall can also be seen as another opportunity to learn. Take advantage of engaging the vendors and asking them questions about issues you face at home; yes, they're ultimately there to sell you something, but they are also experts in their fields and can offer a wealth of knowledge!

Use downtimes or breaks to network with colleagues from other cities – you'll find a lot of communities likely face similar challenges, and you can use these opportunities to learn from each other.

Several of our vendors were thrilled with the schedule allowing them to move back to being on-site with us Sunday and Monday of conference. We'll continue to work on that schedule to maximize the time they spend with us and also improve on the vendor-led solution session concept. We want to thank all of our vendors and sponsors who support the League conference and help offset expenses.

Thank you for attending past conferences and trainings produced by the League, and we hope to see you in Wichita later this year, September 16-18. A future League News will have a survey to begin collecting topic ideas for this next conference. We want you to know we are listening to your feedback and appreciate your input in making our conferences a success.

 *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](mailto:kcooley@lkm.org).*



# Honoring Veterans

by Kayla Schneider



Larry Elsasser (left) and Frank Peirano (right)

Recently, Frank Peirano and Larry Elsasser have worked to repair or replace over 800 veteran and VFW Auxiliary grave markers within the Russell City and Lutheran Cemeteries.

Frank Peirano, a member of the Lutheran Cemetery Committee and Russell City Council, noticed many veteran markers were in poor condition and the placement of the markers was causing increased maintenance time for cemetery workers. Peirano contacted Larry Elsasser, a veteran and machinist, in hopes of repairing some of the markers and finding a better way to display them to honor deceased veterans. Peirano and Elsasser have been working together since last fall to create an amazing tribute to so many.

Elsasser served in the U.S. Army, spending three years in Germany from 1963-1966, and is a lifetime member of the VFW. Elsasser noted the old markers used steel rods, which had become rusted and were in very poor condition. He recommended using aluminum as an alternative. With the help of his wife Bonita, he machined each individual rod to fit the repairable markers. For rods in too poor of condition, he crafted replacements. Once rods are attached to the markers, they are then ready to be placed graveside. For graves with concrete bases, holes were drilled and the markers were then glued permanently into place next to the headstone. For the graves without concrete bases, the markers were placed as closely as possible to the stone, to ensure easy maneuvering for those doing maintenance at the cemetery.

Through the process of this project, Peirano and Elsasser identified many graves that were not properly marked, and have added Veteran markers to honor them. They also replaced 30 grave markers of soldiers who fought for the Grand Army of the Republic in the Civil War and 8 grave markers of the Spanish-American War. In an effort to honor those that support Veterans, nearly 100 grave markers for the Women of the VFW Auxiliary have also been repaired or replaced.

The grave markers have been placed uniformly throughout the cemetery, so that they are now easily visible and may most honorably represent the service of those that have passed.

Peirano and Elsasser are requesting that they be notified if a Veteran was not identified through the completion of this project. Please contact Larry Elsasser at [elsasser@media-net.net](mailto:elsasser@media-net.net) for more information.



Replacement of poorly visible and damaged markers.



The finished result. Photos provided by Kayla Schneider.

 Kayla Schneider is the HR Coordinator for the City of Russell. She can be reached at (785) 483-9565 or [hr@russellcity.org](mailto:hr@russellcity.org).



# Meet the Senate and House Leadership

With the legislative session well underway, we wanted to provide more information about your legislators in Topeka and provide you with insight into their service and priorities as lawmakers.







# Legal Forum

by Valerie Desroches

## Pet Owners and the Fourth Amendment

The Fourth Amendment protects “[t]he right of people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable search and seizures” *U.S. Const. amend. IV*. The Supreme Court has long equated the term effects with personal property<sup>1</sup> which includes pets<sup>2</sup>. The ban against unreasonable search and seizure requires all warrants be signed by a judge and supported by a probable cause affidavit. The warrant must clearly describe the place to be searched and the person or things to be seized. A search must be limited as to the time, place and scope to comply with the Fourth Amendment. The goal of this provision is to protect people’s right to privacy and freedom from arbitrary governmental intrusions. Pursuant to K.S.A. 12-4104(b), a municipal court judge has no authority to issue a search warrant therefore, law enforcement officers must obtain search warrants through the District Court.

In addition to an individual’s privacy, the requirement of a warrant also provides homeowners with sufficient notice that they may be in violation of a city ordinance or code. The Fourth Amendment; however, is not a guarantee against all searches and seizures, but only those that are deemed unreasonable under the law. A search or seizure is generally unreasonable and illegal without a warrant, subject to only a few exceptions. Exigent circumstances are an exception to the warrant requirement, and occur when a law enforcement officer or agency has probable cause for the need to search or seize property but not sufficient time to secure a warrant. For instance, if a dog is on their owner’s premises and they are attacking or have just recently harmed another animal or person, then law enforcement may enter to defuse the situation and seize the dog. In order to rely on this exception, there must be an emergency requiring swift action to prevent imminent danger to life or serious damage to property.

When there is some meaningful interference with an individual’s possessory interest in their property, a seizure has taken place<sup>3</sup>. Thus, it is unlawful to seize a dog absent a warrant or circumstances justifying an exception to the warrant requirement<sup>4</sup>. Reasonableness is the ultimate measure of the constitutionality of a search and seizure. Courts look at the degree of intrusion by the search and seizure and the manner of how the search and seizure is conducted. Courts consider the totality of the circumstances by applying a balancing test weighing the individual’s rights against the legitimate government interest such as public safety.

The extent to which an individual is protected by the Fourth Amendment depends in part on the location of the search or seizure<sup>5</sup>. An individual cannot have a reasonable expectation of privacy in public areas, outside of their possession and control. If your dog should wander off your property, you will not be able to assert any Fourth Amendment protection rights. In *Hester v. United States*, the Court held that the Fourth Amendment did not protect “open fields” and, police searches in such areas as pastures, wooded areas, open water and vacant lots need not comply with the requirements of warrants and probable cause<sup>6</sup>. An individual’s expectation of privacy in an open field is not considered reasonable, the courts have not

extended the provisions of the Fourth Amendment outside of one’s home and curtilage area. (i.e. garage, or shed)<sup>7</sup>. If a homeowner does not exercise proper care of their dog, and law enforcement officials or agency workers encounter the dog outside of their dwelling area, they are permitted to seize the dog without a warrant.

In *Mayfield v. Bethards*, law enforcement officers entered onto the Mayfield’s property and shot at the homeowners’ two dogs, who were on the front porch of the home. One dog died on the porch and the other dog escaped. The homeowners brought suit arguing this was a violation of their Fourth Amendment rights. The law enforcement officers argued exigent circumstance existed and they sought to rely on K.S.A. 47-646 which allows “any person at any time to kill any dog which may be found injuring or attempting to injure any livestock.” This statute pertains to the time aspect of an exigent circumstance; the dog must be found in the act or reasonably after the act was committed<sup>8</sup>. In this case, the dogs were on the owners’ property at the time of the seizure, and had been accused of harming livestock a year earlier. The court found that the statute could not be extended to provide the officers immunity under these facts. The court concluded that pet dogs are subject to the protection of the Fourth Amendment from seizure without a warrant or exigent circumstances and that the case could proceed forward to trial to determine if the owner’s Fourth Amendment rights had been violated under the allegations of the complaint.<sup>9</sup>

It is estimated that 70-80 million dogs are owned in the United States. Approximately 37-47% of all households in the United States have a dog.<sup>10</sup> K.S.A. § 79-1301 states: A dog shall be considered as personal property and have all the rights and privileges and be subject to like lawful restraints as any other livestock. Dog owners therefore, can rely on the Fourth Amendment protection from unreasonable search and seizure absent a warrant or circumstances that would justify an exception to requiring a warrant, so long as their dog is on their property. The moment the dog is outside the parameters of their owner’s dwelling or is on the owner’s property committing a vicious act, the protections of the law dissipate.

 Valerie Desroches worked as a Legal Extern with the League of Kansas Municipalities. If you have any questions about this article contact the League at (785) 354-9565.

### Sources

1. *United States v. Place*, 462 U.S. 696, 700-01, 103 S. Ct. 2637 (1983).
2. *Villo v. Eyre*, 547 F.3d 707, 710 (7th Cir. 2008)
3. *United States v. Jacobsen*, 466 U.S. 109, 113, 104 S. Ct. 1652, 80 L. Ed. 25 (1984).
4. *G.M. Leasing Corp v. United States*, 429 U.S. 338,358 (1977).
5. *Minnesota v. Carter*, 525 U.S. 83 (1998).
6. *Hester v. United States*, 256 U.S. 57, 44 S. Ct. 445 (1924).
7. *Id.*
8. *McDonald v. Bauman*, 199 Kan. 628, 433 P.2d 437 (1967).
9. *Mayfield v. Bethards*, 826 F.3d 1252 (2016)
10. American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), *Shelter Intake and Surrender*, (last visited on 12/7/16), <http://www.aspc.org/animal-homelessness/shelter-intake-and-surrender/pet-statistics>

# Local and State Employment

As local and state governments close the books on 2016, estimates on employment and wage figures are beginning to take shape. Looking to the future, the employment forecast for government sector jobs will look to remain relatively stagnant in 2017 at a net increase of .03% from 2016. Comparatively, total non-farm employment growth in Kansas is expected to increase at a rate of 0.9%.<sup>1</sup>

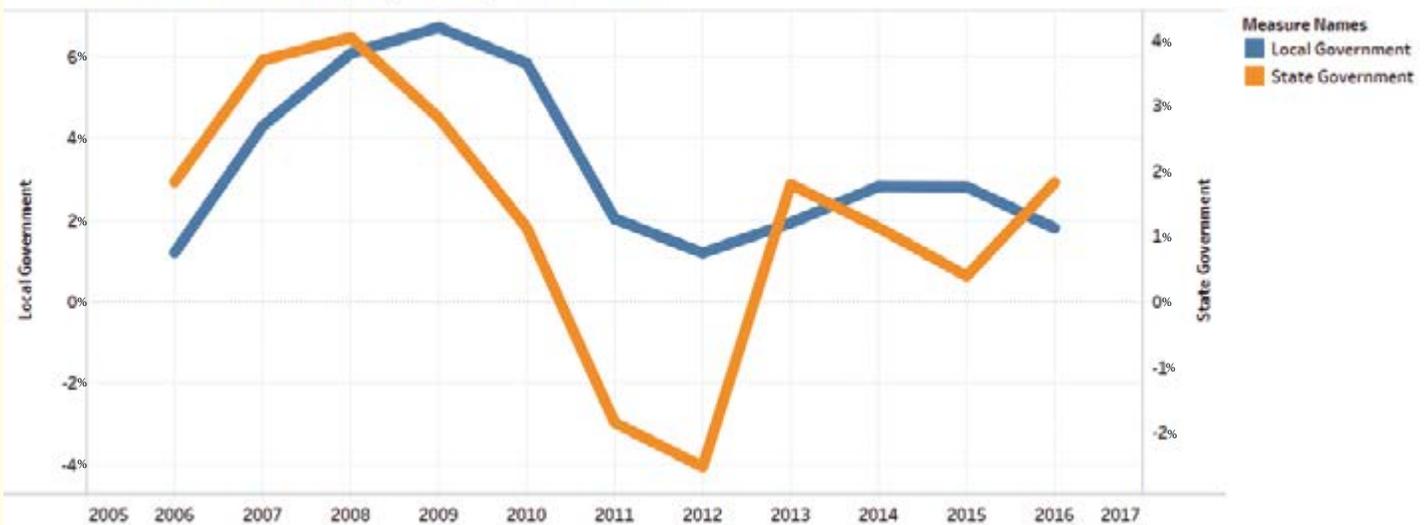
This estimated growth falls below both the annual average for both state and local government since 2006. Over the past eleven years, local government employment has seen a net increase of employment of 1.80% compared to the state government's net increase of 1.82%.<sup>2</sup>

While preparing for limited growth in employment, it's worth noting that they face a multitude of personnel challenges in the immediate future, including:

- increasing healthcare costs of 7% to 9% annually;<sup>3</sup>
- state-mandated increases in employer contributions to KPERS;<sup>4</sup> and
- limited revenue streams as a result of the property tax lid to provide competitive compensation and cost-of-living adjustments.



State v. Local Net Employment, 2006 - 2016



Throughout the 2017 legislative session, we look forward to engaging with the Legislature to ensure that cities have the resources and financial flexibility to hire needed personnel for the services they provide.

Sources

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- 2 Employment and Wages. (2016). *Bureau of Labor Statistics*. Retrieved from the Wichita State University – CEDBR data sets.
- 3 Salary, Benefits and Personnel Practices Survey. (2016, November). *League of Kansas Municipalities*.
- 4 KPERS Decreasing Investment Return Assumption to 7.75%. (2016, December). *Kansas Public Employee Retirement System*. Retrieved from <https://www.kpers.org/pdf/AssumptionChanges.pdf>

# Best Practices

## Leveraging Best Practices To Avoid Workers' Compensation Claims

There are six steps companies can take to reduce both the severity and frequency of workers' compensation claims.

Regardless of the industry, any employer can leverage the following best practices to create a safe environment that promotes accountability among employees and employers alike.

**Screen employees before hire.** Take extra steps to make sure only qualified employees are hired for the demands of their job. A healthy and fit employee is less likely to get injured on the job and will recover faster should they sustain an injury. Have a third party perform physicals and functional capacity evaluations to assess prospective employee's ability to meet the physical requirements of each job.

**Maintain the physical workplace.** Make sure worksites are well maintained and regularly evaluated for hazards, including performing preventive maintenance where applicable.

**Promote the physical and emotional health of employees.** Without the right balance of physical and emotional health, stress and anxiety can surface and with it comes an increase in injuries and illnesses. Make sure supervisors aren't emphasizing production goals at the expense of safety. When possible, utilize performance management strategies that engage workers in shared decision-making. Consider a corporate health and performance program that promotes healthy living and rewards healthy lifestyle choices.

**Provide the necessary tools for the job.** Sometimes it's the nature of the work itself that poses the greatest risk. Assess the required work, establish on-the-job rules accordingly, train employees to do their jobs safely and provide the necessary tools and protective equipment they need.

**Institute a twice-daily check-in.** For physically demanding jobs like construction, that are especially injury prone, establish a meeting at the beginning as well as the end of the day that requires everyone to pass in front of the foreman's eyes. The morning meeting might include five minutes of stretching or warm-ups, while the evening meeting could require everyone to sign something that says "I left the job healthy today," to prevent an injured claim tomorrow.

**Establish a return-to-work program.** Known to curb long-term WC costs by bringing employees back to the office/project more quickly, return-to-work programs can include part-time, telecommuting and modified work duties and schedules. Such programs can improve productivity and morale across an organization, saving time and money, while protecting companies from loss of talent.

When companies apply both general best practices and those specific to their corporate culture and employee base, they will see real results. Pre-screening new hires, creating optimal conditions in the workplace and instituting post-injury support for employees can create a culture of health and safety that is felt across the entire organization.

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# KANSAS ATTRACTIONS

## The Capitol



**Editor's Note:** For 2017 we will be looking at some of the many wonderful attractions and their history in Kansas. If you have an attraction to submit for consideration, please send it to [andrey@lkm.org](mailto:andrey@lkm.org).

**L**ocated on 20 acres in downtown Topeka, the Kansas State Capitol is the state's most important architectural treasure. The site was donated through the efforts of Cyrus K. Holliday, president of the early Topeka Town Company and one of the founders of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway.

Construction began after the east wing cornerstone was laid October 17, 1866. The brown stone selected for construction did not harden sufficiently. Following a harsh winter in 1867, the cornerstone and foundation of the wing crumbled. Harder limestone from Geary County was used to replace the foundation and continue construction on the wing. The west wing limestone from Cottonwood Falls was selected for use elsewhere in the construction. Construction on the north and south wings began in 1883.

Construction on the Capitol took 37 years; the building was officially completed March 24, 1903. The total cost was \$3,200,588.92.

The Kansas State Capitol is considered the state's greatest architectural treasure. The founders undertook what many thought an impossible task: to create a grand classical structure on the frontier that would symbolize their pride in Kansas' tumultuous path to statehood and their grand hopes for its future. The undertaking was immense and impressive. Under construction for more than 37 years from 1866 to 1903, the statehouse was planned to be the place for the daily business of state government. A major renovation was completed in 2014, which returned the Capitol to its original glory.

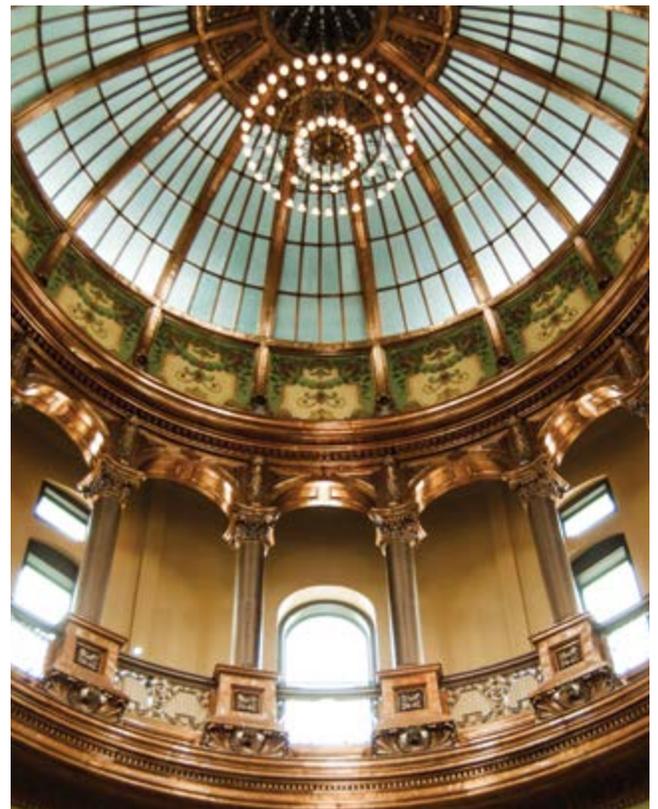
The building's architecture, murals, statues, and other artwork can be considered exhibits as well. An online tour (<http://tinyurl.com/zqcof8>) provides an overview and highlights on each floor.

For more information about the Capitol and upcoming events, visit <http://tinyurl.com/z8emy2m>.

 Information provided by the Kansas Historical Society. You can contact them at (785) 272-868.



*One of four allegorical murals in the dome on the fifth level. This one depicts Plenty (north panel), surrounded by Labor on her left and Agriculture on her right. Photos by Andrey Ukrazhenko.*



*Kansas Statehouse Capitol Dome, as seen from interior.*

# KANSAS GOVERNMENT

## Abilene

### Abilene Honored as Top Ten True Western Town

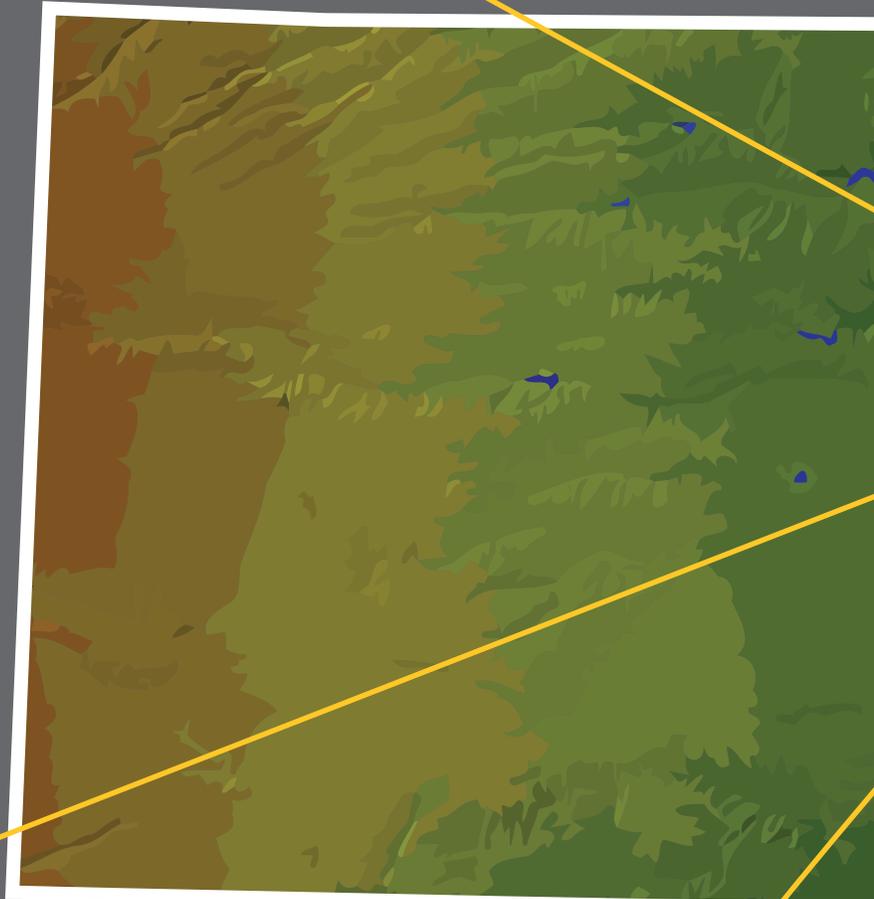
In the early 1870s, Abilene was the top cattle town in America. Cowboys drove thousands of cattle up Texas to the stockyards, from where they'd be shipped by train back east. It's a heritage that Abilene celebrates today in a number of ways — attracting visitors, not cows.

That's one reason Abilene is #3 among *True West* magazine's 2017 Top Western Towns.

"Abilene is a wonderful community with a rich history, quality attractions, unique businesses and wonderful people," Julie Roller, Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau director said. "We are excited to add this recognition to Abilene's list of accolades."

From Joseph McCoy to James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok, Old Abilene Town and the Dickinson County Heritage Center, Abilene's cowboy roots run strong. The 2016 Trails, Rails and Tales celebration reconnected visitors and residents alike with the days of the cowboy by herding longhorn cattle through town and onto rail cars.

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



## Lindsborg

### Lindsborg Named Top Vacation Spot

Women planning a vacation, retreat or getaway with friends may want to consider visiting Lindsborg.

*Cosmopolitan* magazine recently published an article titled "Where to Vacation with Your BFFs in Every State," a list that included sunny Honolulu, jazzy New Orleans and lit-up Las Vegas. Among these ritzy locations, Lindsborg was also named as the go-to destination in Kansas for women.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/hwnl4vn>.

## Hillsboro

### City to Recycle Concrete for Roads

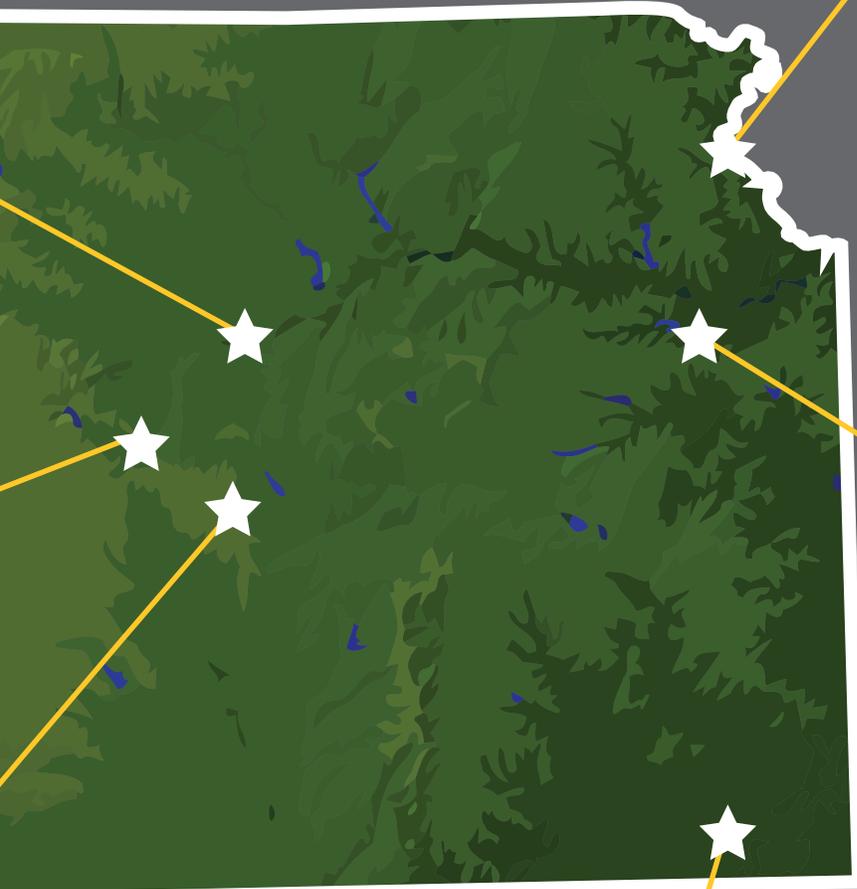
The Hillsboro City Council approved a proposal during a meeting with street supervisor Dale Dalke to have Vogts Crushing of Newton provide concrete crushing services at \$7 per ton.

Dalke and City Administrator Larry Paine have been looking for uses for a big pile of concrete that has been growing in the street department yard, where contractors and the city have been storing concrete from various demolitions.

By crushing the existing concrete, Hillsboro could avoid purchasing rock for future projects, as well as truck expenses of bringing product to the yard.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/j8azzex>.

# GOVERNMENT NEWS



## Atchison

### City Wins \$250,000 for Residential Sidewalks

The city of Atchison received \$250,000 worth of good news from the state. The city was awarded a \$250,000 Community Development Block Grant to replace all east-west sidewalks in a central Atchison neighborhood.

Notification of the award came by mail on January 13 in the form of a letter signed by Governor Sam Brownback, who wrote, "Congratulations on developing a fine project that will help your community prosper!"

The project includes a "comprehensive repair or replacement" of all east-west sidewalks in a centrally located, residential part of Atchison bounded irregularly from Sixth to 12<sup>th</sup> streets between Santa Fe and Laramie streets.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/zrct39l>.

## Lawrence

### Lawrence City Commission to Consider Naming Rights for Parks, other Facilities

Getting the name of a private citizen or business on City of Lawrence property could soon be done with the signing of a check.

The city's Parks and Recreation Department has a lot of assets to maintain — recreation centers, swimming pools and even a golf course — and a proposed sponsorship policy that would usher in some new ways of paying the bills.

City Manager Tom Markus said sponsorships can help support operating and maintenance costs, such as replacing playground equipment, exercise machines or gym floors, that cities don't always keep in mind when they decide to build facilities.

The City Commission will be the one to decide the extent of those sponsorships.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/h5cue54>.

## Oswego

### City of Oswego Creates Downtown Facade Program to Assist Business Owners.

The City of Oswego and Oswego Chamber of Commerce have partnered to establish a program to assist business owners with improvements to their storefronts. Under new leadership, the chamber is striving to support and invest in Oswego businesses. In August of 2017 Oswego will be celebrating its 150th birthday! The Oswego Chamber and City of Oswego felt this would be the perfect opportunity to implement a program that would enhance and improve the historical downtown and business district.

Applications will be received January 1 through March 1.

For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/gmhn82v>.

# Classified Advertising

## **Assistant Director of Public Works, Chapman, Kansas**

Organization: City of Chapman  
Date Posted: 1/18/2017  
City: Chapman  
Location: Kansas  
Country: United States  
Primary Category: Public Works  
Type of Position: Full-Time  
Education Requirement: High School / GED

### Description & Details

Assistant Director of Public Works

The City of Chapman, Kansas is seeking applications for an Assistant Director of Public Works. This is a full time position working at the direction of the Director of Public Works. An employee in this position will be responsible for ensuring compliance with state and federal water and wastewater regulations, supervision of personnel, and day-to-day operation and maintenance of city water and wastewater utilities. Other duties may be assigned in the absence of the Director of Public Works.

**Minimum Qualifications:** Must be certified in water and wastewater. High school diploma or GED equivalent. Valid driver's license (CDL preferred). Physically capable of lifting 75 pounds, bending, kneeling and climbing

**Salary and Benefits:** Excellent depending on education and experience.

EOE/ADA/Drug Screen

How to Apply / Contact

Applicants may apply at City Hall, 446 N. Marshall, Chapman, Kansas or submit resumes online at [clerk@chapmanks.com](mailto:clerk@chapmanks.com). FAX 785-922-7000

## **City Administrator, Chapman, Kansas**

Organization: City of Chapman  
Date Posted: 1/19/2017  
City: Chapman  
Location: Kansas  
Country: United States  
Primary Category: City/County  
Administrator/Manager  
Salary: \$72,000.00 yearly  
Type of Position: Full-Time  
Education Requirement: Bachelor's  
Experience Requirement: 3-5 years

### Description & Details

Chapman, Kansas (population 1,500; \$3.6 million budget; municipal utilities including electric; 12 FTE, 20PT) a growing community located on I-70

between Junction City and Abilene, Kansas. The ideal applicant will have a Bachelor's degree in public or business administration, a minimum of three years of experience in state and local government, and record of excellent inclusive relationships with employers, employees and the public.

Chapman is an EOE. Competitive benefits.

How to Apply / Contact

To review the Recruitment Profile for additional information and the application process go to [www.chapmanks.com](http://www.chapmanks.com).

## **City Engineer, Emporia, Kansas**

Organization: City of Emporia  
Date Posted: 1/12/2017  
City: Emporia  
Location: Kansas  
Country: United States  
Primary Category: Engineering  
Type of Position: Full-Time  
Education Requirement: Bachelor's  
Experience Requirement: 5-10 years

### Description & Details

The City of Emporia, located in East-Central Kansas on I-35, is seeking a City Engineer. Emporia, home to Emporia State University, is the founding city of Veterans Day, the "Front Porch of the Flint Hills," and home to exciting events such as the Dirty Kanza 200 cycling race and the Glass Blown Open disc golf tournament. Emporia has a population of 25,000, employs 250, and has an annual operating budget of \$45M.

Under general policy direction, the City Engineer plans, implements, and directs a comprehensive public infrastructure program that will insure sound development, maintenance, and service to the public consistent with city commission policy and with the federal and state regulation. This position serves as chief engineer in the design and construction of streets, sanitary sewers, water lines, storm sewers, structures, and other facilities and is a technical advisor to the City Manager. Individual judgment and difficult decision making is required. First review of applications will be February 24, 2017.

Interested parties can review the full job posting and an apply online at: [www.emporia-kansas.gov](http://www.emporia-kansas.gov).

The City of Emporia is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

How to Apply / Contact

Submit and application/resume through:  
City of Emporia  
Human Resource Department  
515 Market, PO box 928  
Emporia KS 66801  
or apply on-line at: [www.emporia-kansas.gov](http://www.emporia-kansas.gov)

If you need accommodations due to a disability please contact, City of Emporia ADA

## **City Manager, Garnett, Kansas**

Organization: City of Garnett  
Date Posted: 1/11/2017  
Date Needed: 1/12/2017  
City: Garnett  
Country: United States  
Primary Category: City/County  
Administrator/Manager  
Type of Position: Full-Time

### Description & Details

Garnett, Kansas (pop. 3,258; \$15.4 million budget; municipal utilities; 53 employees), a growing family-oriented community located about an hour southwest of Kansas City, is seeking a city manager. Garnett is an independent, full service community with electric, gas, water, sewer, and solid waste utilities. For additional community information visit <http://www.simplygarnett.com/>.

The ideal applicant will have a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration or a related field and at least five years of municipal-government experience. The background of a successful candidate should include strong leadership, municipal utilities and finance experience, open communication and a proven track record that demonstrates outstanding public relations skills. This community-oriented leader will promote economic development initiatives, transparency in government, and positive intergovernmental relations.

How to Apply / Contact

Garnett is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Competitive benefits, Salary \$70,000 - \$85,000 depending on qualifications. Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three work-related references to LEAPS-Garnett, email to [LEAPS-Garnett@lkm.org](mailto:LEAPS-Garnett@lkm.org) or mail to LEAPS-Garnett 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66603. If confidentiality is requested, please note in application materials. Position will remain open until filled. Application review will begin February 17.

**Police Officer, Carbondale, Kansas**

Organization: City of Carbondale  
Date Posted: 1/24/2017  
City: Carbondale  
Location: Kansas  
Country:United States  
Primary Category: Police  
Department  
Salary: \$13.00 hourly  
Type of Position: Full-Time  
Education Requirement: High School / GED

**Description & Details**

KLETIC Certification is preferred, however experience in this field will be considered. Work hours are night time, weekends and as required. Must be able to pass physiological exam, strong background check and have clear driving record. Must be willing to relocate to the City of Carbondale or live within 10 minute response time of Carbondale, Kansas. Applications must be returned to Carbondale City Hall, 234 Main or mailed to City of Carbondale, PO Box 70, Carbondale, KS 66414

**How to Apply / Contact**

Application may be obtained at Carbondale City Hall, 234 Main, Carbondale KS, 785.836.7108 or at www.carbondaleks.com

**Police Officer Part-time, Carbondale, Kansas**

Organization: City of Carbondale  
Date Posted: 1/24/2017  
City: Carbondale  
Location: Kansas  
Country:United States  
Primary Category: Police  
Department  
Salary: \$10.75 hourly  
Type of Position: Part-Time  
Education Requirement: High School / GED

**Description & Details**

Part-time Police officer. Certification preferred, law enforcement experience preferred, will consider other training. Must live within 20 minutes of the City of Carbondale.

**How to Apply / Contact**

Applications may be obtain at Carbondale City Hall, 234 Main, Carbondale KS, 785.836.7108 or at www.carbondaleks.com

**Public Works Director, Valley Center, Kansas**

Organization: City of Valley Center  
Date Posted: 1/24/2017  
Posted By: City of Valley Center  
Date Needed: 1/24/2017  
City: Valley Center  
Location: Kansas  
Country:United States  
Primary Category: Public Works  
Type of Position: Full-Time  
Education Requirement: Bachelor's  
Experience Requirement: 3-5 years

**Description & Details**

CITY OF VALLEY CENTER  
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR  
The City of Valley Center, KS is seeking a dynamic, highly organized and articulate communicator with exceptional management and leadership skills to lead the Public Works Department for a thriving community.

The Director will provide technical and administrative support to the City Administrator. Four (4) years of increasingly responsible managerial experience is preferred. A Bachelor's degree in a closely related field is required. A Master's degree is preferred.

Valley Center is an equal opportunity employer and offers a competitive salary and benefits package. The expected starting salary range is \$66,000 - \$72,500. Applicants are encouraged to apply on-line at www.hrepartners.com or send resume and three work related references to: City of Valley Center, Attn: Scott Hildebrand, City Administrator, P.O. Box 188, Valley Center, KS 67147.

**How to Apply / Contact**

Applicants are encouraged to apply on-line at www.hrepartners.com or send resume and three work related references to: City of Valley Center, Attn: Scott Hildebrand, City Administrator, P.O. Box 188, Valley Center, KS 67147.

**Public Works Superintendent, Blue Rapids, Kansas**

Date Posted: 1/17/2017  
City: City of Blue Rapids  
Location: Kansas  
Country:United States  
Primary Category: Public Works  
Type of Position: Full-Time  
Education Requirement: High School /

GED

**Description & Details**

The City of Blue Rapids is accepting applications for a Public Works Superintendent.

This employee manages, supervises personnel and performs all aspects of public works related to the management/maintenance of streets, alleys, curbs, gutters; street sweeping, ice and snow control; management of vehicles and equipment; pool, building and grounds facility maintainance; water/wastewater/stormwater infratstructure maintainace, (etc). Applicant should possess or be willing to obtain Water/Wastewater Operator Certifications and a valid Kansas CDL. High school diploma or GED required. Competative salary based on experience & qualifications. Competative benefits include family health, dental and life insurance, retirement, sick and vacation leave. For information contact City Clerk, 04 Public Square, Blue Rapids, KS 66411, 785-363-7736 or www.bluerapids.org. Applications and resumes will be accepted until February 28, 2017. EOE

**How to Apply / Contact**

For information contact City Clerk, 04 Public Square, Blue Rapids, KS 66411, 785-363-7736 or www.bluerapids.org.

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**Topeka: Bleeding Kansas  
Program Series  
February 12**

Constitution Hall State Historic Site's 21<sup>st</sup> annual Bleeding Kansas program series is held at 2 p.m. Sundays in January, February, and the first week in March. Suggested donation is \$3 adults. A series of talks and dramatic interpretations on the violent territorial and civil war history of Kansas, 1854-1865 The third program is "The Road to Appomattox" reenactment by historic performers Randy Durbin as General Grant and Lane Smith as General Lee.  
(785) 887-6520 | <http://tinyurl.com/z7u299c>

**Hutchinson: Third Thursday-  
Chocolate Crawl  
February 16**

Third Thursday, originally centered in the downtown area of B and Main, has grown to include many locations throughout the downtown area. The event features local artists and musicians as well as great shopping and dining. Come on downtown and join the fun.  
(620) 899-4060 | <http://www.thirdthursdayhutch.com/>

**Hutchinson: Coffee At The Cosmo  
Now - November 17**

Offered every Third Thursday from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. this enriching continuing education program for life-long learners features entertaining, insightful presentations by Cosmosphere staff and visiting professionals who are experts in a variety of topics related to science and space. Free to the public, coffee and pastries are provided. Watch [cosmo.org](http://cosmo.org) for topics. Enjoy this free presentation by Cosmosphere staff, on "John Glenn, An

American Original." \*Coffee at the Cosmo topics and speakers are subject to change.  
(800) 397-0330 | <http://cosmo.org/>

**Lindsborg: 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest  
Art Exhibition  
February 17**

Four new exhibits encompassing the 119<sup>th</sup> annual Midwest Art Exhibition open at the Birger Sandzén Memorial Gallery on Sunday, January 29, 2017. On display, through April 23, 2017, are works by four incredibly talented artists with nationally recognized reputations. The exhibition features paintings by Joel T. Dugan of Hays, Kansas; figurative ceramic sculpture by Michaela Groeblacher of Lindsborg; watercolors by Warren Taylor of San Angelo, Texas; and pastels by Elaine Lierly Jones of Gardner. The Midwest Art Exhibition is the oldest annual art exhibition in the state of Kansas. It was founded in 1899 by three Lindsborg artists, Birger Sandzén, Carl G. Lotave, and Gustav Nathaniel Malm, as a complement to the annual Messiah Festival at Bethany College. Throughout the years, art by regional and nationally known artists have been a part of the exhibition. The location for the exhibition has changed throughout the years on the Bethany campus, finally coming to the Sandzén Gallery when it opened in 1957.

(785) 227-2220 | <http://sandzen.org>

**Lawrence: Final Fridays  
Now - November 24, 2017**

On the last Friday of every month, from 5 to 9 p.m., the streets of downtown Lawrence and East Lawrence Cultural District come alive with what has become one of Lawrence's most popular events. Storefronts convert into pop-up galleries and performance space, live performers station themselves on street corners,

and exhibits spill out of galleries with exhibitions designed to engage art lovers of all ages. Make it an evening out with dinner drinks at one of our renowned downtown restaurants.  
(785) 832-3000 | <http://tinyurl.com/zs48y6m>

**Liberal:  
International Pancake Day  
February 28**

The International Pancake Race between women in Liberal, KS and Olney, England starts promptly at 11:55 a.m. in both communities on Fat or Shrove Tuesday every year. The celebration in Liberal also includes an all you can eat pancake breakfast, kids' races, a Shrivng Service and web chat between the two communities.  
(620) 624-6423 | <http://www.pancakeday.net/>

**Yoder: Parade of Quilts  
February 28**

Browse among scores of hand-quilted creations at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Parade of Quilts. You'll find quilts of every pattern, color & size, displayed at participating merchants throughout this horse-drawn community, each a one of its kind work of art.  
(620) 465-2220 | <http://tinyurl.com/jt4cpux>

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