

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 103 - NUMBER 6

JULY-AUG. 2017

*Kansas Hometown
Showdown
2017*

And the Winner is
PLAINVILLE!



A Winning Combination

Legislative Session Review

Salina's False Alarm Ordinance





2017 E.A. Mosher Excellence in Local Government Award

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 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.

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. Named in honor of E.A. Mosher, League Executive Director from 1960 to 1991, this award is designed to honor excellence and leadership at the highest level.

Guidelines for the selection of the 2017 award winner are as follows:

- *Nominations will not be accepted after 5:00 p.m. on August 11, 2017;*
- *Nominations may be made by any elected or appointed official of a League member city;*
- *The Awards Committee of the League Governing Body will select the award recipient; and*
- *The winner's name will be kept confidential until the presentation at the League Annual Conference in Wichita.*

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

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Today!

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, September 18, during the League's Annual Conference in Wichita.

In order to facilitate the process, we ask that all nominations be received by Friday, August 25 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/GovBodyNomination.**



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 11, 2017. The Awards Committee will review all requests for endorsement and make a recommendation to the League Governing Body for final action.



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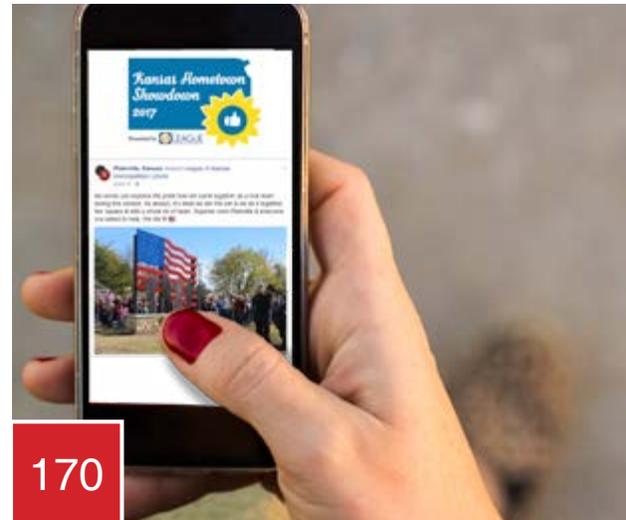
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Our cover this month features the winning photograph from the 2017 League of Kansas Municipalities Hometown Showdown Winner. Congratulations City of Plainville!

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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2017 League Events Calendar

JULY

July 17 Webinar: KPERS 2017 Update with Alan Conroy, KPERS Executive Director

AUGUST

August 11 MTI: KOMA/KORA (Core), Neodesha
 August 18 MTI: KOMA/KORA (Core), Edwardsville
 August 25 MTI: KOMA/KORA (Core), Garden City

SEPTEMBER

September 16 MTI: Municipal Finance (Core), Wichita*
 September 16 MTI: Ethics & Civility (Core), Wichita*
 September 16 MTI: Nuisance Abatement (Elective), Wichita*
September 16-18 League Annual Conference, Wichita

* MTIs are offered in conjunction with the League Annual Conference. Visit <http://www.lkm.org/events> for MTI and Webinar registration.

Are you Making the Most of Your Membership?

League Membership Offers Benefits All Year!



Training Opportunities

The League offers many options for appointed officials, elected officials, city management and staff to learn more about local government. Training opportunities include webinars, seminars, on-site classes and conferences. Education opportunities range from 'hot topics' in local government to perennial pertinent information about open government procedures (KOMA/KORA), municipal finance, personnel management, emergency planning, legal analysis, and legislative topics affecting municipalities.

Communication & Alerts



Do you receive League News, our weekly e-news digest with the latest information for Kansas municipalities? If not, you are missing out on important information for your city! Sign up today by e-mailing webmaster@lkm.org and we'll add you to the distribution list. Make sure you add webmaster@lkm.org to your contacts to ensure timely delivery of League e-mails.

Social Media & Website



Whether you prefer Facebook or Twitter, we've got you covered. Follow us and share information with your constituents or just stay informed about interesting topics in local and state government. The League's website, www.lkm.org, has an extensive collection of resources for local government officials including municipal research, sample policies and ordinances, and grant/external funding organizations for municipalities. Contact the League if you have not set up your individual user profile yet!

Director's Foreword

by Erik Sartorius

It is never a good thing to still be talking about the legislative session in a magazine labeled “July/August.” The 2017 session is tying 2015 as the longest session in Kansas history. I was also around for the 2002 session, which sits in third place on the list. Personally, I hope this list does not change for a long time!

This month's *Kansas Government Journal* has a significant portion dedicated to the 2017 legislative session. We highlight the significant legislation that was passed and that which remains alive for 2018. In addition to these lists of legislation, this portion of the magazine also has a couple sidebars that we hope illustrate some of the efforts that go into succeeding in the legislative arena.

Staff's efforts through this legislative session need to be commended. Those not involved with legislative items worked hard to keep other programming from getting off track. For those at the statehouse – Larry Baer, Cindy Green, Eric Smith and Amanda Stanley – this was a strong year for testifying (80 times!) and relationship building. Further, though the wrap-up session ran six weeks (four more than usual), and we were short a person, the League kept a presence in the capitol every day and night to be alert for any sudden efforts to harm cities' interests.

Effectiveness in the legislature is not always easy to explain. The avoidance of a crisis (bad legislation) can be difficult to prove – and I understand that without hard facts, hearing from me, “But it really happened!” might not always be compelling. Two anecdotes from this session may shed some light on why I believe the League is growing its influence in Topeka.

In an idle moment in the final week of the session, I was approached by a legislator I have known for close to 15 years. He said he wanted to compliment the League on our work this year. He said, “You know, we like to talk about how this is all about policy – and much of it is. But, if I don't know you and don't feel comfortable with you, it's difficult to see the legitimacy of your stance on an issue. You guys have me feeling that I can trust the League.” Something like that always is gratifying to hear, but probably more so from this legislator, who is not an out-and-out cheerleader for local government.

My second story highlights an experiment of ours this session that I feel was a strong success. The League participated in one of the myriad evening receptions for legislators each week. Doing so allowed everyone involved in our advocacy efforts a chance to get to know legislators (and fellow lobbyists) in a social setting. With 35% of the legislature new in 2017, there were plenty of new faces.



So, what does eating hors d'oeuvres have to do with the League making headway on city issues? Here's what: One Wednesday after the reception, one of our lobbyists was walking past a pair of legislators in the capitol. One who had visited with our lobbyist the previous evening greeted her and thanked her for testimony she had provided on behalf of the League. “Was it their usual complaining and saying ‘no?’” asked the other legislator. “No,” the first legislator replied, “It was very helpful testimony and she offered several ideas to improve our legislation.” Believe me, there is a huge difference – as I know many of you experience with your cities – in trying to claim your own legitimacy versus a trusted, third party vouching for you. I don't know that I will ever claim the League has “arrived,” but I will say we are an entity at the table and not being ignored.

There is quite a variety of other information in this month's issue. From this year's Hometown Showdown contest, we visit with the City of Plainville to discover how they made the most of social media in their engagement with residents – and how such

engagement can serve as a springboard for greater involvement from residents. The City of Salina shares with readers its success in developing a false alarm ordinance that in its first year reduced alarm calls for service by 37%! In “Best Practices,” our Municipal Business Alliance member Black & Veatch provides innovative tips for use when acquiring or expanding land mobile radio systems.

The annual conference in Wichita is coming together nicely, and we are beginning to flesh out workshops with some great speakers. Page 173 this month provides the details. Get registered, and begin thinking about requests for the dueling pianists at Sunday's social event!

I unfortunately feel like I use this portion of my column too frequently to say goodbye to someone leaving the state of Kansas. In this instance, our loss is Utah's gain. Quinn Bennion, who has done a great job serving Prairie Village as city administrator (and before that, Merriam), is headed back home to assume a similar role. I have known Quinn since 1997, when we were both working toward a Master of Public Administration at KU. He is one of the most charitable, good-natured and competent people I have met – inside or outside municipal government. Here's to safe travels and nothing but the best for him and his family in their new (old) home.

As always, I welcome any questions or comments. Please let me know at esartorius@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

Effectiveness in the legislature is not always easy to explain. The avoidance of a crisis (bad legislation) can be difficult to prove – and I understand that without hard facts, hearing from me, “But it really happened!” might not always be compelling.

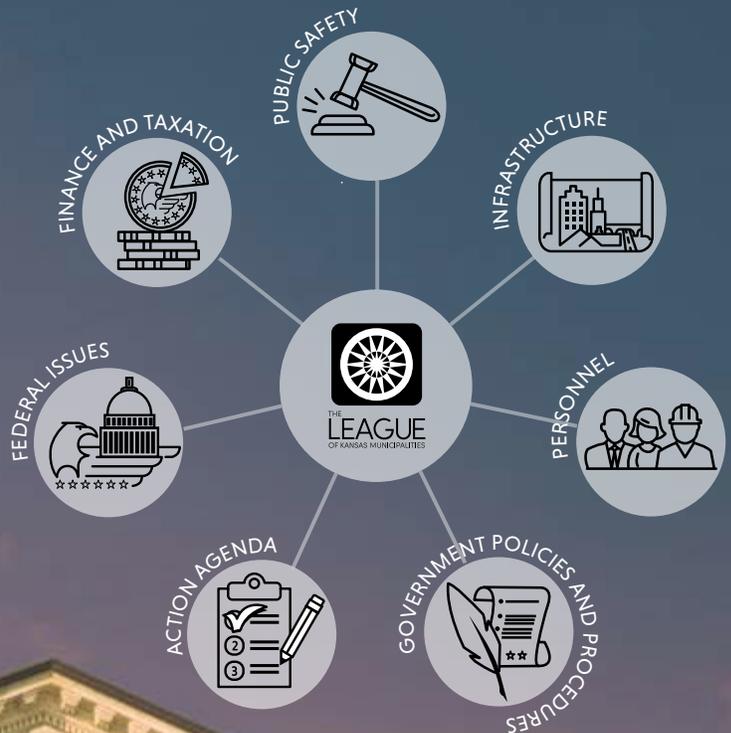
2017 Legislative Review

By League Staff

The 2017 session will go down in history for notable reasons. At the top of the list, lawmakers faced a nearly billion-dollar budget crisis with a court-appointed mandate to fund public schools. The state of healthcare in Kansas was a top priority with Medicaid expansion in question on a national and state level. Additionally, 35% of the legislature was newly elected without prior state legislative experience. The session was challenging on many fronts, but there was also much interest from legislators wanting to solve problems and learn from others to achieve collective success.

The League's legislative team provided testimony 80 times over the course of the 114-day session. The testimony was vital and helped shape the public discussion and legislators' understanding of issues. Dozens of cities and elected or appointed officials provided their own experiences or evidence on issues ranging from taxation, abandoned housing, economic development, and Medicaid expansion, to general fiscal challenges our cities face. Thank you to the cities and officials who quickly responded with information for League staff to include in our testimony or during conversations with legislators – your support of municipal interests in the legislative process is invaluable!

The League's policy efforts are organized under six main categories with an Action Agenda of key topics the League focuses on during the legislative session. The graphic below shows the policy categories and can be used as a legend in the following story to delineate where legislative issues are contained within the Statement of Municipal Policy.



Bills That Became Law



Public Employer Immunity – HB 2278 became law without the governor’s signature. The League secured an amendment to this bill that provides public employers with immunity from any wrongful or negligent act of an employee carrying a concealed handgun while performing work duties.



KPERS - Working After Retirement (WAR) – SB 21 establishes new working after retirement rules. The new basic rule goes into effect January 1, 2018. The new working after retirement rules will apply to all retirees in state, local, and licensed/non-licensed school positions who retired after January 1, 2018. The bill eliminated current WAR grandfathered status classification groups. All current retirees working in one of these positions will now fall under the new rules. The bill also expanded the exemption from working after retirement rules for local elected officials to include all state-wide elected officials and legislators. Finally, SB 21 contains the provisions of HB 2268 which provides clarification to exclude from working after retirement rules certain independent contractors and retirees working for third parties contracting with a KPERS employer. This provision is effective July 1, 2017. Look for additional information from the League in coming months exploring the new provisions.

Governing Body Members as Volunteers – HB 2137 allows any member of a city governing body or a county commissioner to serve as an emergency medical service volunteer, ambulance service volunteer, or volunteer fire fighter, and receive the usual compensation or remuneration for their volunteer service.



Abatements – SB 19, the K-12 public education plan, includes limits on cities’ abatement of property taxes. Specifically, abating the eight mills for school capital outlay funds will no longer be allowed for industrial revenue bonds (IRBs), economic development (EDX), and tax-increment financing (TIF). This prohibition also applies to Neighborhood Revitalization Districts. For TIF and Neighborhood Revitalization, the eight mills cannot be abated for any district created after July 1, 2017. The legislation initially prohibited cities from abating the statewide 20 mills for schools. The League and a coalition of economic development organizations defeated that provision.



Legislative Session Highlights

The League’s legislative staff works continuously to advocate on behalf of Kansas cities and promote Home Rule, effective public policy and the value of local control. Sometimes those efforts are very clear; other times, the effect of our work is subtle. This legislative session, we successfully participated in efforts to:

- Introduce legislation on internet purchases and sales/compensating use tax;
- Change KPERS rules for retirees who choose to work after retirement;
- Create legislation allowing for common consumption areas in Kansas cities and counties;
- Provide immunity for public employers from any wrongful or negligent acts of an employee carrying a concealed handgun while on duty;
- Provide additional funding for the State Water Plan;
- Inform and educate legislators about Kansas cities’ use of economic development incentives and abatements for economic growth;
- Create media attention and discussion about abandoned housing and blight in Kansas’ cities;
- Garner additional review of legislation on asset forfeiture practices in Kansas.



While we can’t always point to specific passage of legislation, our staff is committed to building relationships with the stakeholders involved and assuring positive, meaningful discussion of topics.

For IRBs and EDX, exemptions must have been granted by May 1, 2017. This means either a governing body must have approved a resolution of intent to issue revenue bonds and grant property tax abatement, or the required public hearing had to have been conducted before the deadline.

Common Consumption Area – Sub. for HB 2277 allows cities and counties to establish areas for the consumption of alcohol, known as “common consumption areas.” The bill will allow individuals to step out of a drinking establishment that adjoins the consumption area, with their drink in hand, without violating alcohol consumption laws.

Amusement Park Ride Regulation – H. Sub. for SB 70 and H. Sub. for SB 86 together make major changes to the Kansas Amusement Ride Act. These bills now make it a crime for an owner or operator to operate an amusement ride without a valid state permit. See this month’s Legal Forum on page 176 for additional information on this subject.

KOMA/KORA – HB 2301 makes changes to both the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) and the Kansas Open Records Act (KORA) with the primary change being the removal of jurors’ addresses from KORA and a significant modification of the procedure under KOMA for executive session. The bill requires any motion to recess for a closed or executive session to include a statement describing the subject to be discussed during the closed or executive session and the justification for closing the meeting.

Contracts with Municipalities – HB 2094 expands the definition of “municipality” as used in K.S.A. 12-2098. The expansion will allow cities and counties to enter into legal agreements with other entities, which can create efficiencies in providing services.



Concealed Carry – HB 2278 also allows specifically listed medical facilities to continue to prohibit concealed carry into a building without providing armed security with metal detectors. Some of the facilities covered by this permanent exemption are municipal-owned medical care facilities and municipal owned adult care homes.

**Sign up for League
Policy Committees at
www.lkm.org/legislative/policycommittees**

Opioid Antagonists – HB 2217 enacts new law and amends the Kansas Pharmacy Act to create standards governing the use and administration of emergency opioid antagonists to inhibit the effects of opioids and for the treatment of an opioid overdose. This will allow first responders to carry and administer opioid antagonists to aid in the treatment of an individual suffering from an overdose and will provide both civil and criminal liability protection to the first responders.

Seat Belt Fines – SB 89 increases the state fine from \$10 to \$30 for a person 18 years and older who is not wearing a seat belt in a passenger car when that car is in motion. The legislation directs \$20 of the fine be remitted to the Kansas State Treasurer for placement in the Seat Belt Safety Fund.

Care and Treatment – S. Sub. for HB 2053 contains many amendments to the law related to mental health and creates the Crisis Intervention Act which allows increased authority for law enforcement personnel to transfer offenders to a specified mental health crisis center.

Criminal Procedure – SB 112 amends the crimes of domestic battery, possession of drug paraphernalia (lowered from an A to a B nonperson misdemeanor), and cruelty to animals. It also enacts the Law Enforcement Protection Act and provisions concerning the electronic recording of certain custodial interrogations (only applies to homicide or felony sex offenses).



Strong Beer – H. Sub. for SB 13 will allow the sale of “strong” (liquor store beer) in establishments (e.g., grocery stores, c-stores, gas stations, etc.) traditionally licensed only for the sale of cereal malt beverage (CMB) (3.2 beer). These changes become effective April 1, 2019. Follow-up legislation is expected in the 2018 session to address the potential loss of revenue to cities and counties when sales transition from CMB (subject to local sales tax) to strong beer (not subject to local sales tax).



Overweight Truck Permit – HB 2095 authorizes the Secretary of Transportation to issue an annual overweight divisible load operating permit for certain truck-tractor-semitrailer combination vehicles with six or more axles. The permit is applicable to highways under the Secretary’s jurisdiction, including city connecting links. Vehicles would not be permitted to operate on any bridge or highway with a posted weight limit of less than the vehicles operating weight. See the bill for other restrictions and limitations.

Bills That Did Not Become Law

This is the first year of a two-year session; some bills that did not become law remain alive and may be the subject of further action in the 2018 session.



Tax Lid – The League worked with legislators on multiple bills regarding this issue. HB 2424 would add employee benefit costs as an additional exemption to the lid calculations. This bill was passed out of committee but has not been debated by the full House. HB 2376 would change the tax lid election process from a mandatory election if the lid is exceeded to one requiring an election only if a protest petition is filed. This bill had a hearing but was never brought out of committee. HB 2082 and SB 167 proposed a full repeal. SB 167 did receive a hearing, but was not worked by the Senate tax committee. The corresponding House bill did not receive a hearing. HB 2376 and HB 2424 were League initiated bills.

Medicaid Expansion – HB 2044 would have expanded KanCare in Kansas. The bill passed the House and the Senate. It was vetoed by the Governor on March 30. The House attempted to override the Governor veto; however, the veto was ultimately sustained.

Abandoned & Blighted Property – SB 31 would allow cities, as well as certain organizations as authorized by current law, to take temporary possession of abandoned property for purposes of rehabilitating the property. The bill would also make several other changes to laws dealing with rehabilitation of abandoned property. The bill was debated by the Senate but sent back to committee for additional review.

Internet Sales Tax/Compensating Use – SB 111, similar to an existing Colorado law, would require remote sellers to report taxable sales to a Kansas purchaser and report to the Kansas Department of Revenue if taxes have not been collected. SB 111 was amended by the Senate Tax Committee to remove the requirement for the remote vendor report to the KDOR. The bill was passed to the full Senate, but was not debated. HB 2235 is similar in scope to SB 111. It is supported by the League and passed the House; it is now in the Senate Tax Committee. HB 2400 is similar to an existing South Dakota law, and would require out-of-state sellers to collect and remit Kansas sales tax on remote sales to Kansas purchasers. HB 2400 would result in litigation because it is contrary to current federal law. The League supported HB 2400. The House Tax Committee worked HB 2400 and passed it out favorably after making several amendments regarding procedural directions for litigation; the bill has not been debated by the full House.

Continued on page 185

League Staff Working to Build Relationships

On numerous occasions, League staff worked with other municipal and government relations entities to create coalitions that helped legislators make informed decisions about the impacts of proposed legislation on Kansas' cities. Perhaps the best example of cooperation was during the veto session when a \$2.25 utility fee on electric, gas and water utilities was proposed to fund public education. This legislation posed clerical and programming challenges for municipal utilities and cities would have been required to pay the fees, as well. While the League certainly does not oppose legislation to fund public education, our members and numerous stakeholders felt strongly that a municipal utility fee was not the best method. The League joined a broad coalition in opposing the imposition of the fees and they were taken out of the education bill by the committee.



A Winning Combination

Plainville wins annual competition and offers ideas on how other communities can engage people in community projects with social media.

By Megan Gilliland, League of Kansas Municipalities



The League created the Hometown Showdown in 2014 as a way to help our member cities grow their social media presence and engage their residents, businesses, and anyone who lovingly calls a Kansas city their hometown. The Hometown Showdown is a bracket-style photo competition where the first 64 cities to submit a photo are eligible to participate in the contest. Each city photo goes head-to-head with another city. The photos with the most likes on the League's Facebook album continue forward to the next round in the competition. The popularity of the Hometown Showdown photo contest has grown each year with astounding results.

This year's photos were stunning: rodeo days in Coffeyville, a carnival in Hoxie, wild west throwbacks in Dodge City and Ellis, quintessential downtown scenes from Pittsburg and Marysville, and stunning winter wonderland scenes from Newton and Cimarron. Kansas' cities are remarkable places to call home.

The cities of Haysville (2015), Atchison (2016) and Plainville (2017) can claim the status of winners in the League's Hometown Showdown. This year's contest shattered expectations. Even before the contest began, interest in the competition was high. The League received 80 photo submissions which required a wildcard round just to get the 64 cities needed to begin the bracket-style contest. The Hometown Showdown contest has proven each year to be a great way for cities to show pride in their community – small and large cities have the same potential for success in the contest.

The 2017 Hometown Showdown winner was Plainville. Plainville is a small community of approximately 2,000 residents just north of Hays in Rooks County. The City of Plainville submitted a photo of their Veterans Memorial in Anderson Park. The memorial was dedicated in 2016 on Veterans Day after years of community fundraising. The memorial honors all five military services: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy.

"We participated in the contest last year," said Plainville Mayor Kelli Hansen. "I don't think we had a strong photo last year. This year we wanted to have a photo the overall community would support. The Veterans Memorial photo was perfect because people were already connected to the memorial."

When choosing their photo for this year, Hansen felt that the combination of patriotism and community pride could be a winning combination. The memorial dedication was a true community celebration; hundreds of people were involved in fundraising for the park and planning their lasting tribute to veterans.

"We are so proud of our tribute to our veterans," said Plainville Mayor Kelli Hansen. "This contest was a great opportunity for the community to come together for a common goal of showcasing

our memorial across the state."

The Hometown Showdown is a great opportunity for any community to use social media to engage residents and the extended business community. Throughout the contest, the League heard dozens of stories of positive engagement and excitement stemming from the contest.

Susan Stahl, a Plainville resident and avid community supporter commented on the many ways the Plainville community came together to compete in the Hometown Showdown.

"The first week, people kind of wondered what this competition was," said Stahl. "We started off slowly but as we beat other towns, especially large towns, the spirit of competition grew and people got more excited each week. We collectively felt we could win and it was incredibly positive."

Stahl said they worked hard to engage every age level and group in town they could.

"We had a high school alumni Facebook group that got really involved," said Stahl. "We even got the students at school involved. At the beginning of the day, they did an announcement and had the kids take out their phones and vote for the week."

Every group they could think of was contacted to participate. The local Boy Scout group was involved, local media and local businesses got involved. Anyone that had a connection to Plainville got tagged on Facebook – including the artist that created the sculpture. The winning combination seemed to be: vote for the photo, tag your friends and share the photo. Numerous businesses and individuals even made the competition photo their profile picture during the competition, further highlighting the memorial.

"Susan took time to walk around the downtown businesses each week and ask if they had voted in the competition," said Hansen. "She took her time to teach

them about Facebook and social media so they could participate, but it also helped the business community be more involved and engaged in the community overall. Susan really went above and beyond for this competition and her hometown pride was evident."

Stahl said that supporters used all the social media outlets



available to them to promote the competition – Twitter, Instagram and a community group on Facebook which shares all kinds of local news – were all part of the promotional plan. Plainville has a group called PAC, Plainville Ambassador Club, which took the lead on the competition.

“Small towns are competitive,” said Stahl. “We come together and support each other.”

Hansen noted that the community excitement during the Hometown Showdown was an overwhelming experience.

“Plainville really ‘rallied the troops’ to get through each round by networking with our alumni groups, schools, businesses, friends, and family,” said Hansen. “Our Veterans Memorial will forever be a source of great pride for our community because of what it stands for, but now we’ve shared that with the entire state and even across our great nation.”

Even now that the competition is over, Plainville is still excited about winning. Two local businesses created t-shirts that commemorated the Hometown Showdown win and those shirts are now being sold to pay for lighting at the park.

“The competition was exciting and fulfilled our goal of giving cities a way to broaden their social media footprint and create lasting citizen

engagement opportunities,” said Erik Sartorius, League of Kansas Municipalities Executive Director. “We watched as thousands of people commented about their memories of growing up in or living in Kansas cities. Thousands of people responded with great emotion to seeing landmarks, community events or the stunningly beautiful scenery of Kansas,” said Sartorius.

In the end, Hansen said the competition was exhausting because it took a lot of effort but it was worth it.

“If we increased awareness of veterans and ways to honor our veterans, that was prize enough,” said Hansen. “It was six weeks of talking to everyone we knew and sharing, voting and tagging someone new every day. I am glad it is over now; this was definitely an exercise in community engagement and we learned a lot.”



Two local businesses created t-shirts that commemorated the Hometown Showdown win and those shirts are now being sold to pay for lighting at the park.

Megan Gilliland is the Communication and Education Manager for the League of Kansas Municipalities. You can reach her at mgilliland@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.



Sharing the Hometown Showdown photos on social media community groups and re-posting media stories about the contest were keys to success for Plainville.



2017 League Conference Preview

The League's Annual Conference, September 16-18, in Wichita will offer educational and networking opportunities for anyone connected to local government. We recommend council members/commissioners, mayors, managers and administrators, clerks, and department heads attend our conference. Several valuable workshops, discussions, and networking opportunities await!

This year, the League has chosen the theme of "Resilience: Building a Responsive Community" because we recognize our member cities must be nimble, agile and ready to pivot quickly to address internal and external demands. Kansas cities face unprecedented challenges on many levels – financial challenges, aging infrastructure, citizen engagement, maintaining quality personnel, and the general feeling of doing more with less. Resiliency is an exceedingly important skill for today's local government leaders.

We are thrilled National League of Cities Executive Director Clarence Anthony is joining us as our keynote speaker on Sunday, September 17. Mr. Anthony served as the Mayor of South Bay, Florida for 24 years, and is known as a creative and thoughtful leader in his community, plus he is considered an expert in citizen engagement and techniques that build a "sense of community" within cities.

On Saturday, September 16, the League will offer three pre-conference Municipal Training Institute (MTI) classes with valuable information on municipal finance, ethics and civility, and nuisance abatement. Each MTI course provides three-hours worth of practical and legal advice on topics of particular interest to Kansas' cities.

The conference will also offer "Ask an Expert" Roundtables on Sunday, September 17 with League staff and Municipal Business Alliance representatives providing information on two-to-three topics in which they are considered "experts."

This year, the City of Wichita and the League are co-hosting the annual social event on Sunday, September 17 with a return of Dueling Pianos – a big hit from a previous year.

The League's Governing Body and Legislative Policy Committee will meet to solidify 2018's legislative priorities as well as accept nominations for Governing Body leadership. The annual Public Service Awards Luncheon will be held on Monday, September 18 to honor employees or elected officials with 40-plus years of service to local government.

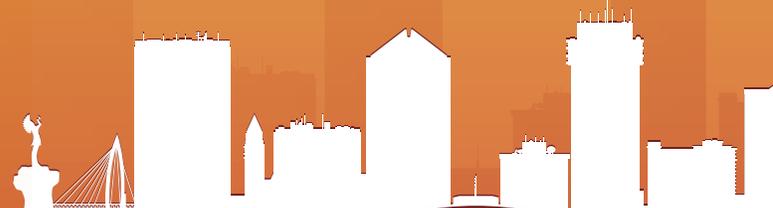
Make sure to join us in Wichita, September 16-18, to find out how your city can take steps to improve adaptability and create viable, sustainable communities that survive and thrive in today's challenging local government environment. 

RESILIENCE: BUILDING A RESPONSIVE COMMUNITY



Conference information, pricing and online registration are available online at www.lkm.org/AnnualConference.

- Using Planning, Data & Community Engagement to Measure Progress
- Coordinated Messaging Through City Communication Tools
- Developing Budgetary Policies to Address Community Needs & Fiscal Challenges
- Building a Plan for Capital & Infrastructure Needs
- Strategies for Public-Private Partnerships
- Housing Trends
- Blight & Nuisance Strategies for Cities
- Planning for Communities of All Ages
- Creating Healthy, Active Cities
- Applying the STAR Sustainability Framework in Your Community
- Best Practices in Records Management
- Creating City Places & Spaces of Interest
- Succession Planning for Cities
- Resource Development for Infrastructure Projects
- 2017 Legislative Update
- Advancing Your Career Through the Kansas Public Management Program
- Cultivating Entrepreneurship in Your City
- Community Collaboration & Civic Boards
- The Benefits of PRIDE
- 2020 Census: Count Everyone Once, in the Right Place
- Tour of Wichita State University's Innovation Campus



Innovative Land Mobile Radio System Contracts

Learn Why Engaging a Site Development Expert Directly is a Deployment Game-changer and Can Slash Site Development Costs By 30%.

Article Submitted by Black & Veatch, a League of Kansas Municipalities Business Alliance Member

Divide And Conquer: The Big Benefits of Separate Site Development Bids

Agencies are updating and expanding their land mobile radio (LMR) systems to keep pace with population changes and to ensure their communications coverage fully supports emergency and first responder services.

Procurement of LMR systems traditionally follows a standard process whereby agencies, like municipalities and state and federal entities, prepare a single request for proposal (RFP) to solicit bids from radio technology manufacturers. Commonly, the contract would cover all phases of the project, including site development. While this approach may seem efficient, it can lead to longer deployment times, higher implementation costs, more change orders, and reduced signal quality. For this reason, forward-thinking agencies are separating the site development phase from the RFP, choosing instead to contract directly with site development specialists.

Innovative RFP Contracting Yields Substantial Benefit

On the surface, updating an existing system or installing a completely new system appears to be a single project. The project consists of several different phases, each requiring specific expert skill and insight. Traditional RFPs request proposals from radio frequency (RF) manufacturers like Motorola or Harris. The RF manufacturer bundles ancillary components, including backhaul or microwave connectivity, towers, antennae and site construction, and ongoing maintenance services into their proposal.

Agencies have adopted this bundled RFP process widely because of its procurement simplicity, but this apparent efficiency comes with a price. The RF manufacturer does not specialize in

the ancillary components, so they will generally outsource those functions to experts and increase the per-phase cost by as much as 30% to ensure profitability. By contracting directly with a site development company, agencies can avoid inflated markups and reduce taxpayer expense.

Inherently, separate contracts produce additional procurement-related tasks when compared to the bundled contract process. Most often, consultants that specialize in a particular contract phase assume the bulk of the increased tasks, and the savings realized by the agency more than offset their added time administering separate contracts.

Safeguard Against Costly Change Orders

Low bids do not always equate to lowest overall costs. Under a bundled contract, a generalized management approach could cause a winning bid to quickly balloon beyond the original budget if execution errors require backtracking to correct mistakes.

Site development is intricate, and there is no substitute for insight and experience.

“Many factors affect moves and changes,” says Paul Scutieri, Sales Director for Public Safety Infrastructure at Black & Veatch.

He explains a situation under a bundled contract where an RF manufacturer authorized a change order on behalf of the customer without consulting a site development expert. A tower needed to be relocated to the opposite side of a road, which seemed simple enough. However, there was nothing simple about that change.





“The soil conditions were very different at the new location, and they encountered corrosion, which in turn impacted signal quality,” Scutieri says.

That seemingly simple change order resulted in an unplanned increase in project cost and schedule overruns. If the agency had contracted directly with site development experts, then the specialized team would have evaluated the proposed tower locations thoroughly before the final bid submission. Site development experts deploy thousands of towers every year. They develop sites with reference to site conditions and other important factors, which mitigates costly changes down the road. In the tower relocation example, site development experts would have anticipated the adverse consequences related to the soils and advised against the change of location.

Advance Bids, Accelerate Deployments

While LMR system deployments can be lengthy, there are ways to shorten the time between RFP and going live.

“A traditional system installation takes a minimum of six months, and a medium-size system can take a full year. Statewide deployment can take multiple years,” says Preethi Pillaipakkam, Business Director for Public Safety Infrastructure at Black & Veatch.

She explains that the procurement and implementation timeframe for different system elements vary. The procurement cycle for the technology portion is highly contentious and tedious; however, once the agency selects the vendor, the implementation cycle is short. On the other hand, the procurement cycle for the commoditized site development work is shorter; however, the implementation cycle is much longer.

“The reason for this difference,” says Pillaipakkam, “is that contract negotiations with the radio vendor can be contentious.

The field is very competitive and vendors often protest over the award, which lengthens the process and adds delays.”

Agencies can award separate site development bids quickly because civil engineering tasks, like site development, are largely a commodity with few competitive points of differentiation.

With a separate contract, site development can begin even before the agency awards the LMR contract, whereas the site development cannot begin under a bundled RFP until the agency awards the entire bid. Site construction takes longer than LMR implementation, which means the project timelines associated with a bundled contract can be much longer than those associated with a separate site development contract.

Timely, Economical Mission-Critical Communications

LMR systems are complex and require insightful deployment to support mission critical communications fully.

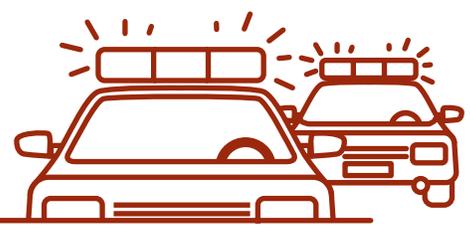
To keep pace with their community’s needs, agencies seek to upgrade their LMR system, but in a manner that safeguards against site development oversights and costly backtracking. To this end, innovative contracting that separates the RFP bids by phase enables agencies to expedite site development and deploy advanced technologies in a timely, cost-effective manner, guided by specialized leadership. Through this approach, agencies will realize a shorter overall deployment time, lower deployment costs, fewer or no change orders, and better overall radio coverage through insightful site development. 🗺️

Preethi Pillaipakkam is the Business Director for Black & Veatch. You can reach Preethi at PillaipakkamP@bv.com or (540) 230-9780.

Paul Scutieri is the Sales Director for Black & Veatch. You can reach Paul at ScutieriPA@bv.com or (518) 577-8929.

Legal Forum

By Eric Smith, Deputy General Counsel



2017 Standard Traffic Ordinance and Uniform Public Offense Code Changes

The 2017 editions of the *Standard Traffic Ordinance* (STO) and the *Uniform Public Offense Code* (UPOC) are now available for cities to order. Find them online at www.lkm.org. This article describes the legislative changes to both publications and changes made by the editor.

UPOC

The legislature passed five bills – H. Sub. for SB 40, H. Sub. for SB 70, H. Sub. for SB 86, H. Sub. for SB 101 and SB 112 – affecting the UPOC this year.

H. Sub. for SB 40 relates to human trafficking and there are two changes to the UPOC because of this bill. Section 4.5 (Buying Sexual Relations) is amended to address the change in the fine amount for this crime as well as how the fine is to be distributed. The bill also creates the new crime of Unlawful Use of a Communication Facility, which is new section 4.5.1 in the 2017 edition of the UPOC. The definition of a “communication facility” is drafted into the new section for easy reference.

H. Sub. for SB 70 and H. Sub. for SB 86 together make major changes to the Kansas Amusement Ride Act. These bills now make it a crime for an owner or operator to operate an amusement ride without a valid state permit. This new crime of Illegal Operation of an Amusement Ride is a new section (10.27) in the 2017 edition of the UPOC and will be a Class B violation. H. Sub for SB 86 prohibits any criminal liability until on and after January 1, 2018. Section 10.27 has been drafted to reflect this delayed criminal enforcement.

H. Sub. for SB 101 amends the Protection from Abuse Act and the Protection from Stalking Act by establishing the protection from stalking and sexual assault act. Section 3.8.1 (Violation of a Protective Order) has been amended to include a protection from sexual assault order violation.

SB 112 amends the crime of Domestic Battery by expanding to include coverage for harm caused to an individual with which the offender has a dating relationship. Section 3.1.1 (Domestic Battery) is amended to add this factor and define the term “dating relationship.” This bill also resulted in the need to amend section 11.11 (Cruelty to Animals) and the addition to section 1.1 (Definitions) of the term “Animal Shelter.” The amendments are technical in nature and remove any references to an incorporated humane society, which are replaced with animal shelter as defined by K.S.A. 47-1701.

STO

There were only two bills passed by the legislature – HB 2170 and SB 89 – affecting the STO this year.

HB 2170 amends the statute governing required bicycle safety equipment. Section 133 (Lamps and Other Equipment on Bicycles) has been amended to address these changes. The changes are generally technical in nature.

SB 89 amends the fine for a seat belt violations from \$10 to \$30. Section 182.1 has been amended to show this increase in fine amount. The bill requires municipal courts to remit \$20 of the fine to the state treasurer and not the full amount of the fine.

Editor’s Changes

In addition to the changes described above, a decision was made to delete the crime of Drawing a Weapon Upon Another which was Section 10.2. The decision to remove this section was based on the concern there was no similar state statute and the elements fit the crime of assault and can be charged using section 3.3 of the UPOC. As always, both publications will have a list of all changes made in the back of each book.

All members of the League who purchase STO or UPOC publication may request a red-line copy of the 2017 editions of the STO and/or UPOC by sending an email to Anna DeBusk at adebusk@lkm.org.

Kansas Amusement Ride Act

As stated above, this session has resulted in major changes to the Kansas Amusement Ride Act (Act) and may impact many cities. H. Sub. for SB 86 delays the enforcement of the inspection and permit requirements of H. Sub. for SB 70¹ until the Kansas Department of Labor has published rules and regulations related to the enforcement of the Act. It will be important for all cities to take this time to examine the new law and prepare for the future. Part of the preparation will be reviewing the definition of what is now considered an amusement ride for the purposes of the Act. There have been several devices added to the definition including water slides that are at least 15-feet high and use water to propel the rider, inflatable devices, trampoline courts and go-karts to name a few. If a city has any equipment fitting the definition of an amusement ride it may be necessary to prepare for the added costs associated with the purchase of annual permits as well as inspections.

During the approval process of the rules and regulations that will be developed by the Department of Labor, there will be time for public comment. The League will monitor the progress of the rules and regulations and let our members know when they are available for review and comment. 

 *Eric Smith is the Deputy General Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. You can reach him at esmith@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.*

¹ Both bills can be found at http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2017_18/measures/bills/senate/.

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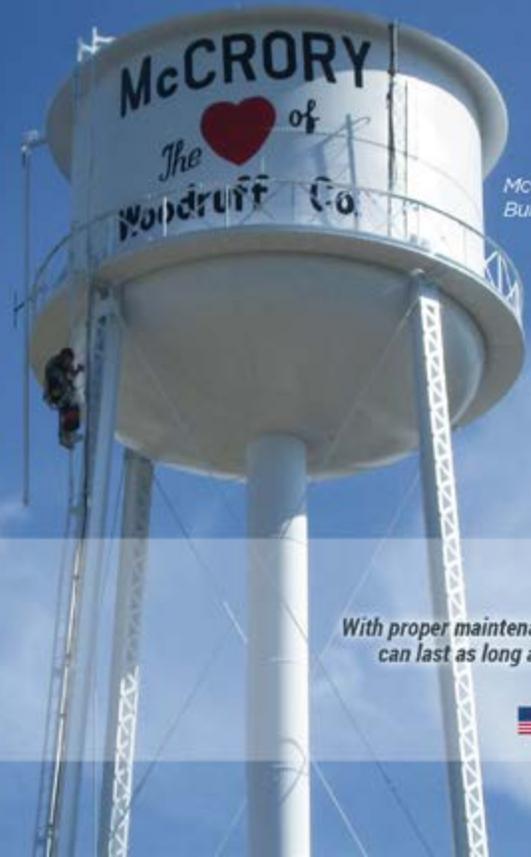
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Salina's False Alarm Ordinance

A Successful Program to Reduce False Alarms

By Brad L. Nelson, Salina Chief of Police

In January of 2014, the Salina Police Department reviewed five years of data regarding alarm calls for service received by the Communications Center. This review showed that on average, Salina officers responded to over 2,200 alarm calls per year. These alarms requiring a police response were burglary alarms, panic alarms and robbery alarms.

An average of seven alarm calls were received each day requiring a two-officer response. The national average time spent on one alarm call requiring a police response from the point the call is received in the communications center to when the officers clear the call is 40 minutes.

The majority of these calls were received by outside alarm monitoring companies, but there were approximately 200 residential and business alarms systems that were maintained and monitored in the Salina Police Department Communications Center.

The department determined over 99% of the 11,000-plus alarm calls received over the past five years were false in nature. Alarm calls have been the second most frequent call for service for many years. False alarm calls result in displaced resources and create an unnecessary cost to taxpayers. Additionally, false alarms impact the agency's goals and create safety concerns for officers.

The primary causes for these false alarms are user errors, faulty equipment, or poor installation of alarm systems. Without any negative consequences for these false alarms, owners had little reason to address these issues.

With the data in hand, it was clear an effort needed to be taken to significantly reduce these needless calls for service. Research indicated that a well-structured false alarm ordinance had been successful in reducing alarm calls for service nationwide. The U.S. Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the International Association of Police (IACP) provided invaluable information in this endeavor to reduce false alarms.

After the available statistics confirmed there was a problem involving false alarms, Salina's Police Department began considering other Kansas cities which had implemented alarm ordinances. Many Kansas communities, of varying sizes, had existing alarm ordinances in place to reduce these false alarms including Wichita, Overland Park, Kansas City, Olathe and Leawood. The primary difference in these ordinances when compared city-by-city was the fines or fees assessed and the number of false alarms responded to prior to a fine being assessed.

After a year-long study, the Salina Police Department decided the "best practice" was to recommend the implementation of an Alarm Management Program and the drafting of an alarm ordinance.

The best practices, as found in their "IACP Position Paper on Alarm Management,"¹ are as follows:

- **Enhanced or Two Call Verification** – Ordinance would require alarm monitoring centers to make a minimum of two calls to two different responsible parties who previously have agreed to respond prior to dispatching officers (with the exception of holdup, duress, and panic alarms). The "verified response" method requires an independent, eyewitness verification that a criminal act is either occurring or has occurred prior to requesting law enforcement dispatch.
- **Utilizing alarm control panels** built to American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Security Industry Association (SIA), Control Panel (CP) 01 standards or ANSI SIA (CP) 01.
- **Requiring Alarm Permits** or Registrations with Fees.
- **False Alarm Fines** – Setting reasonable fines for alarm dispatches has proven to be a significant deterrent to offenders. These fines increase as the false alarms increase.
- **Ceasing Response** – This is a drastic measure and should only be utilized for extreme situations. This option should also be available to address intentional abuse of the alarm program and those who continually pay the fines and "write checks" to cover the police response.





ALARM PROGRAM NOTICE

In 2014, the Salina Police Department received 2,056 alarm calls; 2,052 of those calls were false alarms.

Two officers are required to respond to each alarm call. Last year, the Salina Police Department spent 1,670 hours responding to false alarms.

Since 2009, 99 percent of triggered alarms have been false.

When properly installed and maintained, alarms are an asset for residents and business owners; they protect lives and property. When they are not, alarms become a liability by endangering the safety and welfare of the public, responsible parties and responding agencies.

Visit www.salinaks.gov to view the ordinance, FAQ's, fees, & tips on how to reduce false alarms.



City of
Salina, KS

In an effort to maximize the resources of the Salina Police Department, the City of Salina has enacted an ordinance (No.15-10778, Article III) to reduce false alarms.

HOW THIS ORDINANCE BENEFITS OUR COMMUNITY
Today, police officers must first respond to an alarm to determine whether it is false or if a crime has occurred. This ordinance will allow police officers to concentrate on crime prevention, and respond to true emergencies without distraction and potential delay.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALARM USERS

- Everyone with a burglar, panic and robbery alarm system, designed to signal the police department when unauthorized entry into a building occurs, will need to register their alarm system in order to obtain an alarm permit.
- The annual alarm fee is \$25.
- Alarm system permits must be renewed annually.
- Alarm companies must verify with the Salina Police Department the validity of a triggered alarm prior to dispatching officers to a location.
- A third-party service provider will maintain a database of users and companies, track alarm dispatches, issue false alarm notifications, and collect false alarm service fees for the Salina Police Department. Alarm users may access this information after they register their alarm.
- The ordinance includes penalties for not registering alarm systems, and for false alarms (\$25-\$200 for permit holders and \$100-\$350 for non-permit holders.)
- An alarm permit may be placed on suspension if the location has four or more false alarms in one year, or the invoice has not been paid within 60 days of the invoice date.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR ALARM USERS TO REMEMBER

- **November 1, 2015**-Alarm registration is available online at www.salina-ks.gov or in person at the Salina Police Department.
- **December 31, 2015**-Register by this deadline to obtain a waiver of the \$25 annual registration fee and to avoid a late registration penalty.

FOR ASSISTANCE CONTACT

City of Salina Police Department 255 N. 10th St. Salina, KS 67401 (785) 826-7210	PMAM Corporation (third-party service provider) P.O. Box 141567 Irving, TX 75014 (888) 535-5786
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After over one year of research and review, Salina's false alarm ordinance proposal was presented to the City Commission in May of 2015. This proposal was approved unanimously by the commissioners. Initially the plan was for the ordinance to take effect on November 1, 2015 but that was deemed to be too ambitious because the city and department wanted to ensure the public had ample time and education to understand and comply with the ordinance.

The public education portion of this project was of utmost importance. The purpose was primarily to educate the public regarding the ordinance, but also to allow ample time for the alarms to be registered prior to the ordinance taking effect. Requiring the registration of alarm systems allows police departments

to determine where these alarms are located, and to identify both the alarm holders and the alarm monitoring companies.

Salina's Police Department used various notification methods to introduce the new alarm ordinance including an informational flyer inserted in 20,000 utility bills, ordinance placement on the city and the police department website, social media placement, a press release and local radio news broadcasts.

Citizens were allowed a two-month grace period from November 1 to December 31, 2015 to register their alarms for the first time at no cost. This was a one-time offer as all future alarm registrations/renewals required a nominal cost. The alarm ordinance awareness program resulted in 443 commercial and business alarm owners registering their alarms by December 31, 2015. There were an additional 237 alarms registered in 2016 that were either newly installed or failed to register during the grace period in 2015.

In its first year, Salina's new alarm ordinance resulted in 735 fewer alarm calls for service which represents a 37% reduction. Alarm calls were reduced from 1,996 alarm calls in 2015 to 1,261 calls in 2016. In addition, the department saw a 20% reduction from 2014 to 2015, prior to the actual implementation of the ordinance, with the only variable changing in the alarm response was extensive media coverage regarding the pending alarm ordinance.

These 735 fewer alarm calls for service in 2016 represented 490 hours that two officers could spend conducting proactive police work and creating positive contacts with the community.

Of the many lessons learned, the most important is that if a program is to be done properly, it will take some time. Cities must have buy-in from all stakeholders and create an ordinance that is defensible in terms of the fines and fees that are assessed. There is no such thing as over promotion when dealing with an alarm ordinance. Communication is key - utilize every medium available to advise your residents of the pending change in procedure. A six-month grace period for individuals to register their alarm should be considered. The grace period is beneficial for those that fail to register and claim ignorance of the ordinance - especially if you have exhausted all avenues to get the word out.

Additional Lessons Learned:

- Fines/Fees are not intended to be punitive in nature;
- Fines/Fees collected should be distributed to the General Fund so there is no appearance of the program benefitting the police department directly;
- Allow citizens to register online;
- Consider a longer grace period to register alarm systems; and
- Have a clearly understood appeals process included in False Alarm Ordinance for fees/fines assessed.

The decision will need to be made prior to the presentation stage to your City Commission or Council as to whether your

alarm program will be managed in-house or outsourced. Salina decided to align with a nationwide false alarm management company early in the process. Instead of trying to recreate the wheel, we utilized existing technology and operational resources to oversee the alarm program at no cost to the city. This company received their fee from a negotiated percentage of all fees and fines collected. The alarm company was extremely knowledgeable in the implementation of the program. Their customer service, for the police department and to the alarm owners in Salina, has been nothing short of superb.

At the time of this publication, an additional 11% reduction in calls in 2017 (from 2016) has been realized. To date, 781 Salina citizens and business owners have registered their alarm systems. This ordinance has proven to be extremely successful in reducing the needless alarm calls for service in our city and certainly worth the time and effort that was required to draft the ordinance. 

Brad L. Nelson has served as the Salina's Chief of Police since 2013. He can be reached at brad.nelson@salina.org.

¹ International Association of Chiefs of Police, "Alarm Management: Determining the Best Approach for Your Community," 5 November 2013, http://www.iacpnet.com/iacpnet/members/databases/core/doc_display.asp?page=47611371&g=130092&cmd=ViewGroup

² International Association of Chiefs of Police, "IACP Position Paper on Alarm Management," 2 May 2011, http://www.iacpnet.com/iacpnet/members/databases/core/doc_display.asp?page=47611371&g=116834&cmd=ViewGroup

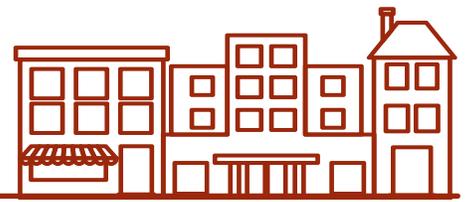
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Community Profile



By Megan Gilliland, League of Kansas Municipalities

Newton

Searching for a slower pace with abundant access services and employment opportunities? Newton's geographic location and focus on a high quality of life make it a perfect community for all ages. This south-central Kansas city of 20,000 has renewed their focus on creating amenities for residents with a particular interest in community health.

"We take the topic of health and wellness seriously," said Mayor Barth Hague. "Healthy communities and overall wellness are significant components to building a strong quality of life."

The evidence of their commitment is apparent — a recently completed county-wide health assessment, new bicycle master plan, newly opened YMCA facility, and a local group of passionate community members focused on healthy eating and locally sourced foods — are all examples of their passion for cultivating a healthier population.

For communities across Kansas, growing the tax base and creating jobs is always a top priority.

"Every community would like to land major employers," said Hague. "In Newton, we want to show potential businesses and residents that our community is the greatest incentive we can provide."

Hague said that Newton actively works to recruit new businesses, but also balances their efforts with retaining and growing existing businesses.

"We have many successful events which showcase our local businesses and attractions," said Hague.

The annual Taste of Newton, a new Food Truck Rally, and public

and private investments in their historic downtown and adjoining residential areas have been successful in creating a burgeoning entrepreneurial downtown with new restaurants, boutiques and businesses opening.

Newton is an attractive community to young families seeking quality schools.

"A true advantage for us is the quality of our school system," said Hague. "I like to believe there are a lot of reasons people choose their community. The school system is an entry point into a community and we recognize our schools are a tremendous asset and a significant base for building the quality life that we care so much about."

Newton is investing in their parks and recreation amenities, too.

"We've made major improvements to our ball fields, which makes sense because we are a baseball and softball community," said Hague. "We are currently discussing replacing our public pool with a splash park and we're exploring how we can use our existing public-private relationships to expand our options."

Newton continues to see dramatic growth southward toward the Wichita metropolitan area.

"We've found our proximity to Wichita is an asset," said Hague. "We are unique in the fact that there are many things Newton has you can't find in a major metropolitan area. We want to highlight the uniqueness of our city along with the many benefits available in the greater Wichita area." 



The Newton community is actively working to create fun, interesting events for community members to enjoy.



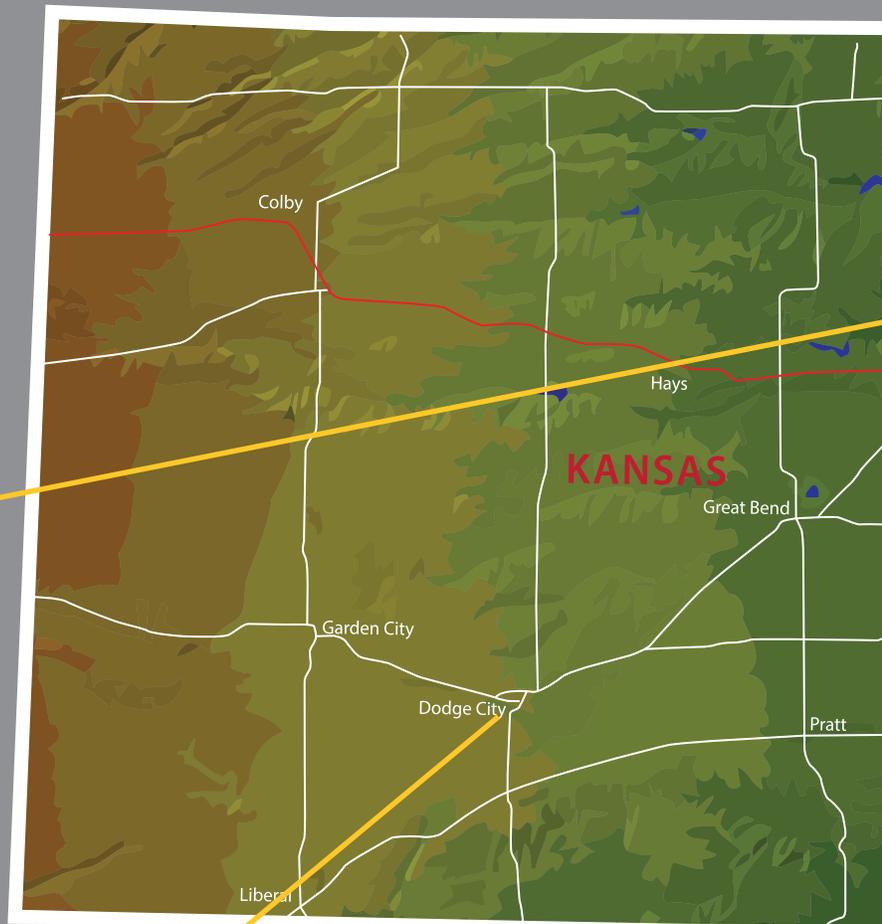
"Wonderland" was taken at Sand Creek on Easter morning 2016 by local photographer Kelly Nachtigal. The photo was the City of Newton's official entry in the Hometown Showdown contest for 2017.

KANSAS GOVERNMENT

Manhattan

Manhattan Launches Free Mobile App for Code Violations

The City of Manhattan launched a free mobile app that will allow residents to report non-emergency issues called Report It! The app allows residents to report issues, review other issues reported in nearby areas and allows tracking of the issues through completion. The city developed the app using CitySourced; the app can be downloaded for free on Android and Apple devices. The app also has a website component for residents without smartphones. The app allows for integration with GIS systems and includes interactive mapping features.

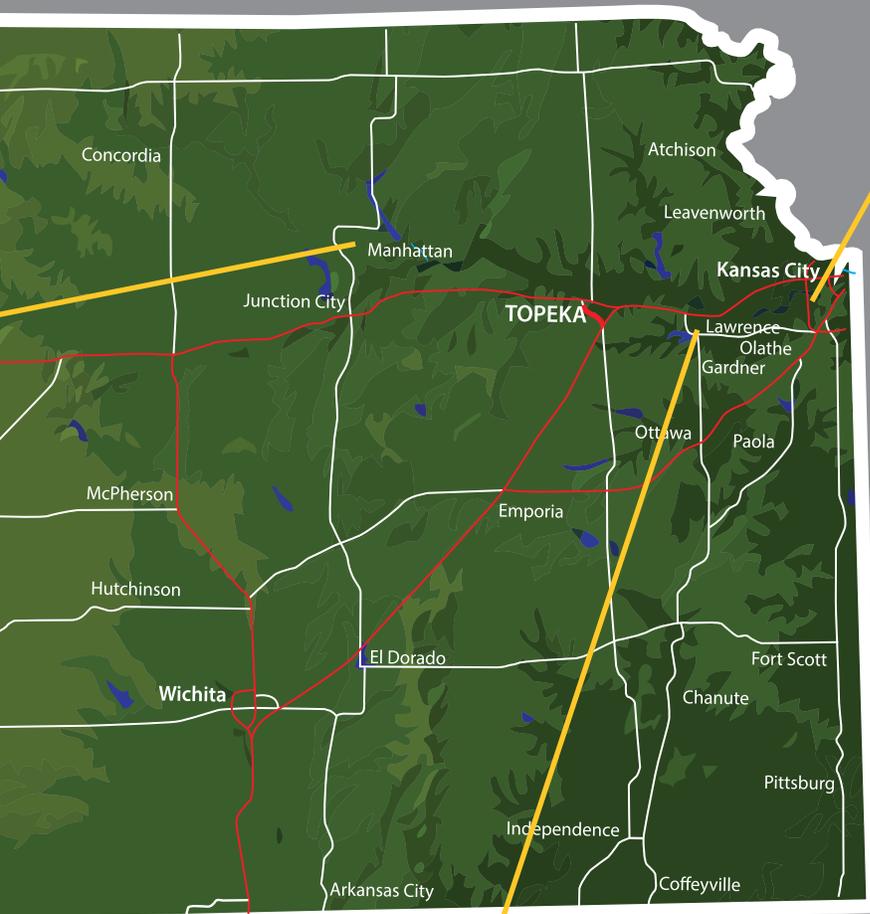


Ford County & Dodge City

Ford County Launches New Emergency Alert System

Residents of Ford County can now receive emergency alerts via text, email, a mobile app, or a voice phone call to a landline or cell phone. Ford County launched the system in June 2017. CodeRED is part of a national emergency alert system that is used to send alerts for evacuations, AMBER alerts, and anything else the public should know about. The system provided notifications based on a registered location or where the cell phone is located at the time of the alert. The county is urging residents to sign up for alerts in whatever way is easiest, whether that's entering an address and phone number online or downloading the mobile app to get push alerts. The new alert system cost Ford County \$10,500, which officials say is less than the previous system and has a bigger reach.

GOVERNMENT NEWS



Leawood

Leawood Opens New Inclusive Park

The City of Leawood opened a new inclusive playground at Leawood City Park, 10601 Lee Blvd., on June 20. Inclusive playgrounds incorporate elements for people of all ages and abilities. Inclusive playgrounds use designs that enforce fairness, accessibility for all, inclusion in activities, independent participation and are comfortable for individuals with diverse abilities. The Leawood park joins other inclusive parks in the Kansas City Metro area including Olathe's College Boulevard Activity Center Playground, 11031 S. Valley Pkwy. Olathe's inclusive park is adjacent to accessible ball fields with ramps, smooth surfaces and equipment that can be enjoyed by children in wheelchairs.

Lawrence

Lawrence Awarded National Walkability Ranking

The City of Lawrence has been nationally recognized as a silver level, pedestrian-friendly community by Walk Friendly Communities, a national recognition program that evaluates city's walking environments.

We are always seeking content ideas for stories and briefs. Please send your ideas and thoughts for content or story ideas to Megan Gilliland at mgilliland@lkm.org.



De Soto's Public Official Named to International Organization Board of Directors

By League Staff

One of Kansas' own local government professionals now serves as the Vice President of the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). In May 2017, Lana McPherson, City Clerk and Human Resources Director for the City of De Soto, was sworn into office after campaigning to win the four-year term on the IIMC Executive Committee. IIMC is a professional, nonprofit association that promotes continuing education and certification through university and college-based institutes and provides networking solutions, services and benefits to its members worldwide.



Lana McPherson

Lana has several awards and accomplishments to her credit including the professional certification as a Master Municipal Clerk. She was awarded the IIMC Quill Award in 2016 and the Mildred Vance Clerk of the Year award in 2010 by the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association of Kansas (CCMFOA). She has served as a regional director for IIMC and

has provided training and committee leadership for IIMC and CCMFOA.

Lana was appointed as City Clerk for De Soto in 1998. Congratulations Lana on your accomplishment! 🎉



De Soto's City Clerk and Human Resources Director, Lana McPherson, was sworn as the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Vice President in May 2017. She is shown being sworn in by Mary Lynne Stratta, MMC, City Secretary in Bryan, TX.

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Yard Signs – HB 2210 would repeal the changes made in 2015 limiting city regulation of political signs. These conflict with U.S. Supreme Court rulings. The bill passed the House but did not receive a hearing in the Senate.



Asset Forfeiture – There were bills concerning this topic offered by both the House and Senate. Both the House and Senate sent their respective bills to the Judicial Council for further study. The League will participate in the interim hearings this summer.



Sales Tax on Community Centers – Several bills were introduced to remove existing sales tax exemptions on certain transactions or services. HB 2384 and HB 2428 would remove the sales tax exemption from membership fees paid to belong to publicly owned and operated recreation or community centers. The sales tax exemptions would continue to apply to participation fees. These bills remain in committee.

Utility Fees – A Senate committee included in its K-12 financing plan, SB 251, a \$2.25 per month fee on electric, gas, and water utilities. This would have posed not only clerical and programming challenges for municipal utilities, cities would have been required to pay the fees, as well. The League joined a broad coalition in opposing the imposition of the fees, and they were taken out of the bill by the committee.



Sanctuary Cities – SB 158 prohibits municipalities from adopting “sanctuary” policies, as defined in the bill, concerning the immigration status of individuals. The bill was passed out to the full Senate but was never debated. 🇺🇸



Erik Sartorius, The League Executive Director testifies at the Ethics, Elections and Local Government committee.



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The Honorable State Representative Patsy Ann Terrell

The Honorable State Representative Patsy Ann Terrell, 55, of Hutchinson, died June 7, 2017, at her apartment in Topeka. She was a resident of Hutchinson for 33 years. She was born Dec. 23, 1961, in Paducah, Ky. She lived most of her life on the family farm in rural Ballard County, Ky. and in Hutchinson. She was a graduate of Ballard Memorial High School and attended Murray State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky. After graduation, Patsy took a job at what was then KHCC FM - now Radio Kansas - the public radio station at Hutchinson Community College. She also served as the director of the Mental Health Association of Reno County, Kansas, and as a public relations director for the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. After her time at the Cosmosphere, she started her own business offering social media, public relations, writing and other services to clients across the state of Kansas and the nation.

In 2016, she was elected the state representative for the 102nd District of the Kansas House of Representatives in Hutchinson. It was during her service to her fellow citizens that she passed on. During the 2017 legislative session, Rep. Terrell served on the House's committees on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development; Government, Technology and Security; Higher Education Budget; and Water and Environment.

Patsy was involved in numerous community organizations throughout Hutchinson. She was a member of CHICKS, a community group; Creative

Sisterhood, Leadership Kansas; Leadership Reno County; and was a convener for Kansas Dialogue.

In addition, she was among the committee that organized the bond issue to expand and improve Hutchinson High School; she served on the board of the Hutchinson Public Library; on the board of Horizons Mental Health Center in Hutchinson; and was involved in bringing the internationally recognized social media event the 140 Conference to Hutchinson.

Patsy helped organize the Social Media Club in Hutchinson; was involved in the Talk 20 event in Hutchinson; she taught social media and computer classes at the Hutchinson Public Library; and taught creativity classes in Hutchinson.

Patsy touched countless individual lives in her community and state. She was involved in artistic projects, music projects, supporting all types of creative activities.

Her interests included travel, as well as collecting vintage brooches, hand-embroidered linens, lace doilies, and other beautiful objects, as well as thousands of Kansas cookbooks, which will be preserved as a collection at her alma mater. Patsy's blog, various web sites and social media pages were all dedicated to her passions, such as her cookbooks, her brooches or even the preservation of handwriting as an art and part of life. Of all of her interests, perhaps her greatest mission in life was to try to help people be happy.

Rep. Terrell's replacement in the legislature is Jason Probst, a former editor of the *Hutchinson News*.



Photo Courtesy of Greg Holmes, thelope.com

Classified Advertising

Engineer - Stormwater, Topeka

The City of Topeka is seeking a Stormwater Engineer. Position responsibilities include Stormwater and Levee Strategic Capital Improvement planning and project administration, Stormwater Management Plan updates and implementation, and engineering support service. Duties include directing, coordinating, and exercising functional authority for planning, organization, control, integration, and completion of Stormwater and related assigned engineering projects.

Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering or a related field and at least three years related experience and/or training, with project management experience after professional registration. Must be registered as a Professional Engineer either in the State of KS or with the ability to obtain KS reciprocity within six months of hire date. Must possess and maintain a valid driver's license and city insurable driving record, KS license required within six months of hire date.

Annual entry salary up to \$72,800 DOQ.

How to Apply / Contact:

Full position description and the required electronic employment application are available at www.topeka.org/careers.

The City of Topeka is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE)

City Clerk, Gardner

The City Clerk works under the direction of the City Administrator. This position performs the duties of City Clerk in accordance with State statutes, City ordinances, and City policies. This position is also the custodian of municipal documents and records.

- Participates in the formulation and implementation of goals, objectives, policies, and priorities regarding city clerk functions and records management.
- Serves as Freedom of Information Officer; responds to open records requests and other requests for official documents.
- Ensures records retention and requests for information are handled in accordance with

Kansas Open Record Act (KORA).

- Responsible for the coordination and proper retention of all City records and information systems.
- Develops and maintains records retention policy and training of employees on procedures.
- Maintains custody of ordinances, resolutions and other official documents.
- Responsible for electronic records filing using Laser Fiche.
- Ensures city council meetings and other commission meetings are run in accordance with Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA).
- Attends city council and other meetings as required, prepares and maintains accurate and timely minutes of the meeting.

How to Apply / Contact:

Application and job description available at City Hall or on-line at www.gardnerkansas.gov Submit completed application to City of Gardner, HR Department, 120 E. Main, Gardner, KS, 66030. All offers of employment are conditional upon the successful completion of a post offer physical exam, drug screen, and background check including driving record. EOE.

You may send resume directly to:

Alan Abramovitz, 120 E. Main St., Gardner, Kansas 66030 aabramovitz@gardnerkansas.gov.

Public Safety Director, Mulvane

The City of Mulvane is seeking to hire a Public Safety Director to replace the current Director who is retiring in March, 2018 after 22 years' service to the City.

The Public Safety Director reports to the City Administrator and is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Police, Fire, and Ambulance and Dispatch departments. Total FTE's is 40 and with annual budget of \$4 million.

The Director of Public Safety is responsible for planning and directing the activities of police, fire, and ems divisions for the effective delivery of law enforcement, crime prevention, and protection of life and property. This is an administrative position involving responsibility for the development of department policies.

This employee supervises the police, fire, and ems division employees and evaluates work performance of the same. The Public Safety Director has internal control over police, fire, and ems activities and personnel and exercises discretion in the administration of the department. An employee in this position is responsible for all duties imposed by statute, law, or ordinance upon the Police Chief or Fire Chief as those terms are used.

Candidates should possess a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university and at least ten years of active law enforcement experience at progressive levels of responsibility, including supervisory.

The selected candidate must be able to obtain a valid Kansas driver's license and possess KLETTC certification or the ability to obtain certification shortly following appointment. The selected candidate must also be able to pass a psychological exam, extensive background checks and have a clear driving record. The salary range is \$80,000 - \$95,000 depending on the candidate's qualifications and experience. Residency is preferred.

How to Apply / Contact:

Job Advertisement

PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

(Open until filled; priority screening deadline Sept. 1st, 2017)

Please submit cover letter and resume via USPS or email to: khixson@mulvanekansas.com. The position is opened until filled. The first review deadline is September 1, 2017.

A Job Description is available on the City's website (www.mulvanekansas.com) For more information, contact the City Administrator (316) 777-1143.

Mulvane is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

View the League's current
job postings online



lkm.com/networking

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Atchison: Amelia Earhart Festival July 14

An annual celebration of Atchison's famous aviatrix daughter. Visit our website at www.visitatchison.com or call Jacque Pregnot at (913) 367-2427. E-mails can be sent to aefestival@atchisonkansas.net.

Topeka: West Fest July 22

Gallop over to the Kansas Museum of History with your young cowboys and cowgirls for our annual fun-filled day in the Wild West! Take a real stagecoach ride, play cowboy bingo, pet real horses, play historic games, and climb inside our full-sized covered wagon! From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. free hot dogs and chips will be available while supplies last. Round up your family for wild west adventure you won't soon forget!

Visit kshs.org/18502 for more information
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. rain or shine.

E-mail Joy Brennan, joy.brennan@ks.gov.

Location: Kansas Museum of History 6425 SW 6th Avenue Topeka, KS

Price: Regular Museum admission fees (\$10 for adults, \$5 for children) / Members of the Kansas Historical Society get in free!

Lawrence: Dinner and a Movie - Jurassic World July 26

Bring a blanket* and your family and friends and join us at Abe & Jake's Landing, 8 East 6th Street, for Dinner and a Movie! The July 26 FREE event features action packed "Jurassic World" thanks to our sponsor, Kansas Jayhawks! Local food and

drink vendors will be onsite for your dining and drinking needs, or grab dinner at your favorite downtown spot beforehand and then head over for the movie. Bring a picnic if you like! Family friendly and lots of fun but please leave your pets at home!

* No outside chairs permitted. No smoking & no outside alcoholic beverages are permitted by law.

6:00 p.m. Doors Open

6:30 p.m. Dinner & drinks available via direct sales from local Downtown food vendors and live entertainment starts!

7:30 p.m. Movie starts!

Free popcorn and door prizes from Downtown Lawrence, Inc.! Contact Sally Zogry at (785) 842.3883 or admin@downtownlawrence.com.

El Dorado: Dam Music Festival July 28

Oasis Productions' inaugural Dam Music Festival offers two days of music, sand and sun at El Dorado Lake on July 28 and 29, 2017 near El Dorado, Kansas. Enjoy the lake and all its amenities during the day, and then prepare for national artists performing under the stars in the evening. There's something for everyone — two nights of music while during the daytime a DJ will keep the good times rolling by the water. Dam Music Festival is teaming up with local charities to make a difference while having a great time. Go to our website at <http://dammusicfest.com/#> or call Jen Cook at (316) 321-9100. E-mails can be sent to jcook@eldoks.com.

Great Bend: Party in the Park August 12-13

The last Big Party before school starts! Come to Vets Park and share it with your family and friends! Events include Obstacle Mud Run, Parade, Inflatable Fun Zone, Car Show, Dog Park Fun, Concert, Fireworks over the lake and so much more!!

Located at Veteran's Memorial Park in Great Bend. Go to our website at www.greatbendks.net or call Christina Hayes at (620)-793-4111 or email at chayes@greatbendks.net.

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KANSAS ATTRactions

FLINT HILLS DISCOVERY CENTER: MANHATTAN

Surrounded by the rolling, emerald Flint Hills, a lively college town and an army base, sits the Flint Hills Discovery Center. Often referred to as the “Gateway to the Flint Hills,” the Flint Hills Discovery Center (FHDC) invites guests to discover the unique history and ecology of this special region, and then inspires them to interpret, preserve and explore it themselves.

In 2002, Manhattan city leadership began to envision a revitalized and vibrant downtown area that would provide more activities for community members, stimulate local business and attract visitors. An Attractions Committee was formed and worked to define the tourism components of the development, resulting in the birth of a plan for a Discovery Center that would serve as a regional centerpiece and tourism locus for locals and tourists, alike.

With this vision, the City applied



for State funding for its Downtown Manhattan Redevelopment District and was awarded \$50 million in Sales and Tax Revenue (STAR) Bonds by the State of Kansas and the Department of Commerce. Of that award, \$41 million was designated for the construction in the South End area including the FHDC, the development of public infrastructure, streetscape and landscaping improvements and a public park. The FHDC concept was a critical



factor in securing the award, as the Center provided the required educational and tourism space that would attract out-of-town visitors.

Recently celebrating its 5 Year



Anniversary, the FHDC has seen well over 325,000 visitors in its lifetime. It not only serves as a tourist destination for a city with a quick turn-around rate for temporary residents, it has also become a staple as a center which offers valuable educational programming to the community. Rotating, ever-changing exhibits keep locals coming back, while permanent, engaging displays will continue to attract tourists from around the region for years to come.

As a place that inspires people to interpret, explore and preserve the Flint Hills, the FHDC is part of a broader vision for preserving the very landscape that makes the Flint Hills unique. Perhaps most important, the Flint Hills Discovery Center can help the region to come together to create a sense of regional identity that is grounded in the ecology, history and culture of the Flint Hills.



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