

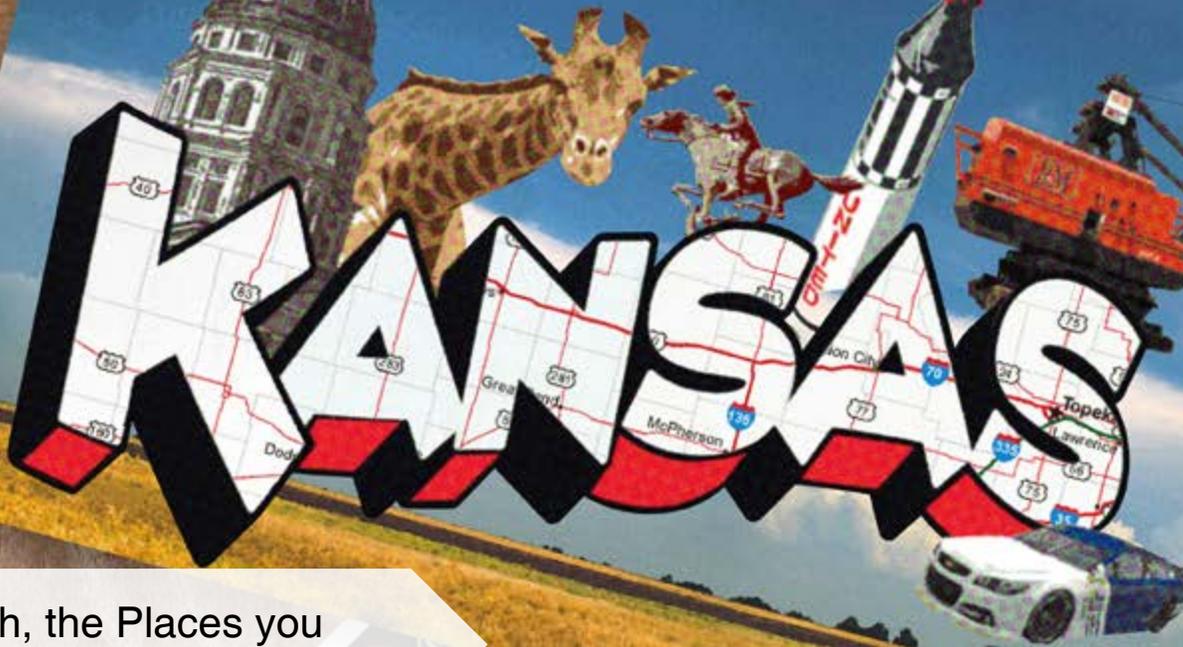
Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 103 - NUMBER 5

JUNE 2017

*Greetings
from*



Oh, the Places you
Should Go!

Economic Impact of
Tourism in Kansas

League Conference
Hotel Details

 **LEAGUE**
OF KANSAS MUNICIPALITIES
A Publication of The League of Kansas Municipalities



Sign up
Today!

League Policy Committees Are Now Forming

What is a Policy Committee?

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

Who Can Join?

Any city official is eligible to serve on policy committees.

When do Policy Committees

Meet?

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

Need More Information?

Contact League of Kansas Municipalities at (785) 354-9565 or adebusk@lkm.org.

Utilities & Environment

- Meets Thursday, August 10th

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

Public Officers & Employees

- Meets Tuesday, August 8^h

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

Finance & Taxation

-- Meets Tuesday, August 15th

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

Legislative Policy

- Meets Thursday, August 17th

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



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Our cover this month features a montage of postcards that highlight the rich and diverse attractions that Kansas offers along with a warm and nostalgic "Greetings from Kansas."

Cover Design by Stephen Falls, League of Kansas Municipalities.

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

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The mission of the League shall be to strengthen and advocate for the interests of Kansas municipalities to advance the general welfare and promote the quality of life of the people who live within our cities.

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2017 League Events Calendar



June

- June 2 Governing Body Meeting (Topeka)
- June 14 Municipal Training Institute: Personnel Management (Core) (Phillipsburg)
- June 15 Municipal Training Institute: Personnel Management (Core) (McPherson)
- June 20 Webinar: Engaging & Educating Voters About Ballot Initiatives Using Social Media

July

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

Visit www.lkm.org for MTI and Webinar registration.

Obituaries

Stephen Bauer, 75, and his wife, **Alison Bauer**, 57, passed away on May 19 in a car accident. Steve's civic contributions included serving as a Baldwin City Councilman since 2015; the Baldwin City Planning Commission; and City Councilman in Henryetta, Oklahoma. Alison was on the Baldwin City School Board for ten years, serving as President for four. Alison actively supported numerous causes dear to her heart, most recently Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense.

Steve was born December 7, 1941, in Sycamore, Illinois and Alison was born November 4, 1960, in Beaumont, Texas. Steve became an Eagle Scout and went on to receive his B.A. from Iowa State University in 1967. Alison received her B.A. from the University of Kansas in 1984.

Steve and Alison were beloved members of the Baldwin City and Lawrence communities.

Michael Wayne Slupianek, 60, Marysville, died Tuesday, March 21, 2017. Mike, who often went by the nickname "Slup," was a member of the Marysville Volunteer Fire Department and served on the Scuba team. He enjoyed helping others and was always there to lend a hand. He was a member of the Sons of the Legion for many years and a member of St. Gregory's Catholic Church.

Mike was born on June 9, 1956, to Carroll and Shirley (Whittington) Slupianek at Marysville. He attended Marysville schools and graduated high school in 1975. On June 7, 1975, he was united in marriage to Michele Coffey, and they were blessed with two sons, Jake and Adam.

Mike started working with his father on cars at a young age and loved it. He worked at Bob's Cars, Boss Motors, Firestone, Georgia Pacific and Dixon Tire Company. He opened Slup's Repair six years ago. Slup loved his job and took pride in his work. He passed that love on to his son, Adam.

They operated Bauer Inspection and Consulting Services for over twenty years. Steve and Alison were avid Jayhawk fans. They were both active volunteers supporting the Baldwin City Habitat for Humanity Project. Steve's passions included fishing, woodworking, classic cars and his family. Alison loved to read, travel abroad, host friends and family, and was a devoted wife and mother. They often opened up their home to celebrate any occasion. Steve and Alison had a generosity of spirit that will forever touch all who knew them.

The couple is survived by Alison's parents, Joseph and Catherine of Marietta, Georgia; and their children Shawn Bauer, Tim Bauer, Stephanie (Bauer) Brennan, Catherine Gerstner and Shannon Gerstner. Their extended family included many siblings and eleven grandchildren.

Slup was a member of the Crappie Club and loved fishing with Michele, his boys and his grandchildren. He was also an avid hunter and loved nature and being outdoors. He passed the love of the outdoors to Jake and Adam. Slup especially loved country cruising with his wife and taking pictures of wildlife.

Mike was a huge fan of any activity involving his sons and grandchildren. Any sport or activity they chose to be a part of, Grandpa Slup was there to offer support with loud cheers and an even louder whistle. They never doubted who their biggest fan was. Slup was Marysville's Swim Team coach for eight years and loved helping children learn how to swim.

He is survived by his mother, Shirley Evans, and his wife Michele, his sons and a large extended family including his sisters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Director's Foreword

by Erik Sartorius



The 2017 League Annual Conference is on its way! The insert with this month's magazine gives you a good picture of the sessions and activities we are building around this year's theme, "Resilience: Building a Responsive Community." As you will see from the topics listed, resiliency is more than just bouncing back after a disaster or setback.

We are excited to have Clarence Anthony, executive director of the National League of Cities, joining us in Wichita as our keynote speaker. Not only does Clarence have wisdom to share from traveling the country and meeting with cities of all sizes, he also has the experience of being a mayor for 24 years in South Bay, Florida. I have had the pleasure of knowing Clarence for all of my 3+ years at the League, and I know you will enjoy his energetic, interactive visit with us.

As you likely noticed, we did not make hotel rooms available for the League's Annual Conference as early this year. To reiterate what we shared with you earlier this year, our contracts with conference hotels set commitments both for them and for us. One of our commitments is filling a prescribed number of rooms booked at the conference hotel. We have seen an increase in cities booking more rooms than they need and then canceling at the last minute. While plans can change, we are hoping that by opening hotels reservations at the same time we release conference details, cities will have a more accurate count for the number of rooms needed. This, in turn, will mean more cities can book rooms in the host hotel when they want to, while avoiding the last-minute changes that incur penalties for the League. I very much appreciate your help in reducing these situations this year.

With your September travel itinerary set for Wichita for the annual conference, you're probably still considering where to head during the summer. In this month's magazine, travel & tourism in Kansas takes center stage. As you'll read later in the magazine, visitor spending in Kansas topped \$6.5 billion in 2015 and generated \$10.4 billion in total business sales, including indirect and induced impacts. We've included an article from the Travel Industry Association of Kansas about the collection of state and local taxes for Airbnb, an online, vacation rental service. Platforms like Airbnb facilitate short-term property rentals, which continue to increase in popularity in Kansas and the nation. In our article, "Oh, the Places You Should Go," we take a look at some of the "must see" travel and tourism attractions in Kansas – some might be familiar to you, others are certainly worth the road trip to visit. If your city's attraction isn't on the list, let us know; we're always looking for story ideas! In our Best Practices column this

month, we cover ideas and recommendations for using mobile app marketing to grow tourism in your community.

At NLC's meetings in Washington in March, we were joined (via satellite, due to the snowstorm) by J.D. Vance, the author of "Hillbilly Elegy." I have not yet read the book, but Vance gave us a pretty good picture of the circumstances from which he came. While he overcame and achieved much while "being who I'd always been," Vance also had moments where he realized being who he had "always been" was keeping him from being the person he "wanted to be." He said that one of his biggest "a-ha" moments of his life was realizing this: "What you are doesn't have to remain what you will be."

Pivoting away from what you have "always been" to something else takes courage. Communities can be apprehensive to this just like people. Having a mind that is open to change is critically important in local government. In some communities, wanting to retain the "always been" is the barrier between muddling along and thriving. In others, "want to be" is what tips the scales in favor of surviving rather than slowly disappearing.

From the local elected or appointed official standpoint, not being tied to being "the person you've always been" can make you and your city better. Experiment with letting go of those things that make you "you" if they are not helpful. If you are the council member or staff member perceived as being X, is that thing that makes you "you" something you really want to hang on to? Be aware of that characteristic, and see what happens when you downplay it. You might find that part of "you" does serve a helpful purpose for your city. If it does not, consider whether you need to retain it.

"Pivoting away from what you have "always been" to something else takes courage. Communities can be apprehensive to this just like people. Having a mind that is open to change is critically important in local government."

Well, I hope I have not scared everyone to death about serving your city, because I wanted to wish "good luck" to everyone who has signed up to run for a position on a city's governing body. This election cycle will be the first fall election for municipal positions; we will be watching with interest for any unexpected challenges or hiccups. If you have concerns that you would like us to share with the legislature and Secretary of State's office, please let me know.

From League News and other sources, you may have seen that we are seeking a new deputy director, as Cindy Green has taken a position with Johnson County. Cindy made a huge difference in her two years with the League of Kansas Municipalities. Our members could not have asked for a better ambassador. On behalf of them and our staff, thank you Cindy for being a great friend and champion of local government!

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

Why Does Tourism Matter?

By Megan Gilliland, The League of Kansas Municipalities

We have dedicated this issue of the *Kansas Government Journal* to travel and tourism in Kansas. Why? Data shows tourism has a large impact on the economic vitality of our state. Tourism is an industry that has both direct and indirect impacts. Directly, jobs, wages, taxes and local businesses are supported by visitor spending. The investments made in capital projects including roads, utilities, parks and recreation and arts and cultural amenities indirectly benefit the tourism industry which contributes to a healthy balance in our local economies. Local governments should understand the impact of tourism on their communities because it is one of the many factors to consider when making policy and budgetary decisions.

For Kansas, tourism is the eighth-largest industry in the state. Tourism ranks higher than educational services, wholesale trades and construction. Thirty-five million visitors came to Kansas in 2015; that's like everyone from Texas, Nebraska and Missouri visiting Kansas once a year. Also in 2015, the state collected \$588 million in state and local revenues from visitor activity. If this revenue stream were removed, every household in Kansas would need to provide an additional \$525 per year to make up for lost revenue. Of the \$588 million collected in state and local tax receipts, the state received \$272 million – 68% of this revenue was state sales tax. Local governments received \$316 million in tax receipts from travel-generated activity – 60% of which was property taxes, 18% was local sales taxes and 13% was bed tax (TGT).

The data also details why overnight travelers are especially important in the evaluation of travel and tourism. According to The Economic Impact of Travel in Kansas Report for 2015, only 40% of all trips in Kansas were overnight stays, but those trips accounted for 75% of all traveler spending generating \$4.9 billion. On average, overnight travelers spent \$347 in Kansas during their trip. The majority of Kansas travelers (60%) were day travelers. Day travelers spent, on average, \$76 per day for a total of \$1.6 billion.

Tourism plays a part in the overall economic health of our state. The indirect and direct benefits of the tourism industry help keep communities vital and vibrant. 🏡

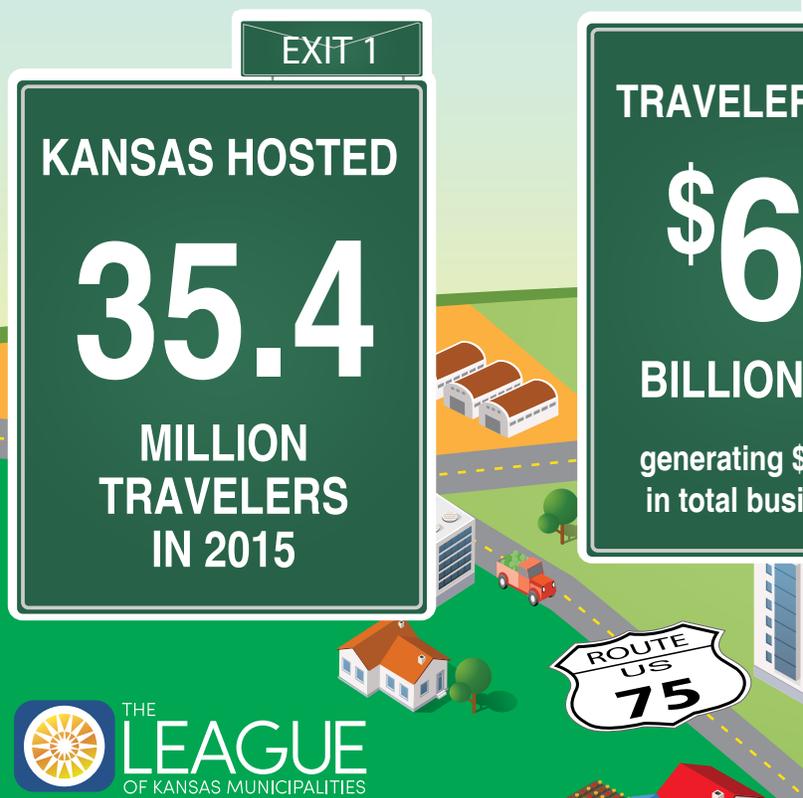
Editor's Note: The data contained in this infographic comes from the Economic Impact of Travel in Kansas Report for 2015. View the full report, as well as county-specific breakdown of visitor spending, online at www.travelks.com/industry/research-and-reports/economic-impact/.

ECONOMIC in Kan

KANSAS TRAVELER SPENDING BREAKDOWN



Sources: DK Shifflet, NTOO, Tourism Economics



IMPACT OF TOURISM

so

BY SECTOR

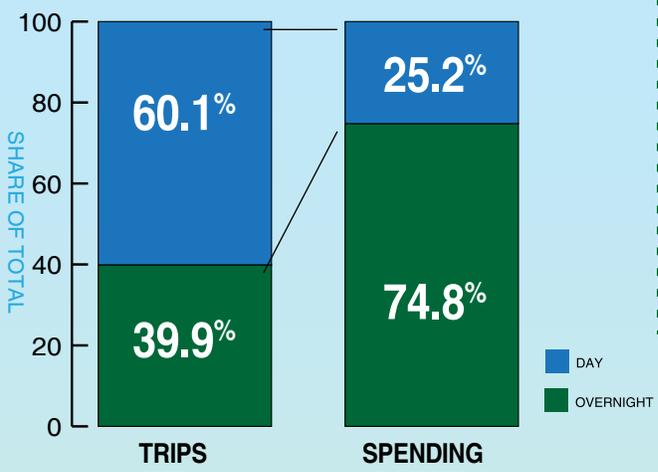


100%

TRIPS AND SPENDING

2015, in millions	
TOTAL TRAVELERS	35.4 million
OVERNIGHT	14.1
DAY	21.3
TOTAL SPENDING	\$6,494 million
OVERNIGHT	\$4,874
DAY	\$1,620
PER TRAVELER SPENDING	\$184 million
OVERNIGHT	\$347
DAY	\$76

TRAVELER SPENDING BREAKOUT



2015 TOURISM-SUPPORTED TAX REVENUE SURPASSED

\$1 BILLION



EXIT 2
RS SPENT
.5
IN 2015
\$10.4 billion
business sales

EXIT 3
TOURISM IS THE
8th
LARGEST
EMPLOYMENT
INDUSTRY

EXIT 4
KANSAS JOBS
IN TOURISM
94,126
This number is based on the direct, indirect and induced impact of the tourism economy.
WITH INCOME OF
\$2.9 BILLION



Oh, The Places You Should Go!

Rich in culture, history and people these are the hallmarks of Kansas.

By Megan Gilliland, League of Kansas Municipalities



For those of us who are native to Kansas, or have become native over time, we know our relatively rectangular state contains an abundance of opportunities for exploration, education and old-fashioned family fun! Short-term vacations and weekend getaways are easily planned to relax and refresh in a new environment without long travel times and too much luggage to pack. The League of Kansas Municipalities encourages you to take some time this summer to explore Kansas' backroads and local treasures. Kansas is the 15th largest state with 82,278 square-miles of area to discover. Kansans are always willing to share stories, and an occasional tall-tale, of our history and culture. If you're looking for food that will fill you up or finish off the perfect hike on a spring day, Kansas has it! From microbreweries, soda shops, wineries and craft distilleries, we've got everything needed to whet your whistle during a hot summer day. Take a drive or plan a vacation in your home state.... we guarantee you won't be disappointed!

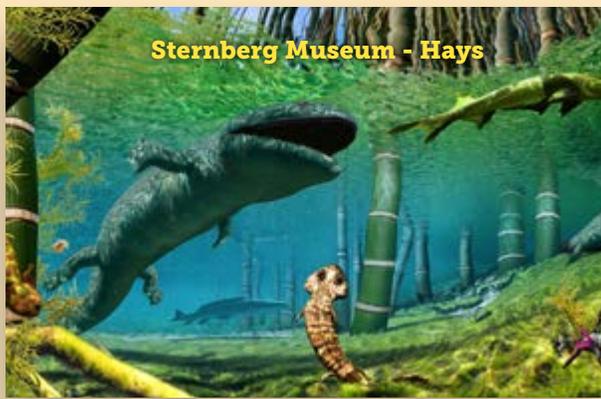
Explorers & Pioneers

It is no stretch of the imagination to say Kansans have a knack for charting their own course and finding their way in unfamiliar territory. Kansas is named after the Kansa Native American tribe, one of many Native American tribes that once called Kansas home. Native tribes had inhabited Kansas for thousands of years prior to settlement by European pioneers in the early 1800s. Expeditions led by Lewis and Clark, Zebulon Pike and Stephen H. Long catalogued the impressive topography and abundant wildlife, flora and fauna. At Maxwell Wildlife Refuge in Canton, tours are available year-round by reservation to experience the wildlife including elk and bison. During the annual Mountain Man Rendezvous, the refuge offers demonstrations from flintrappers, traders and blacksmiths. In Republic, the Pawnee Indian Museum and State Historical Site, offers an authentic glimpse into the lives of one of the most-dominant Native American tribes of the central plains.

Railroads brought development to Kansas and had a dramatic impact on growth. The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway was founded in 1860 and carried passenger, baggage, mail and manufactured goods to settlers on the plains. The railroads also carried agricultural products from Kansas to eastern markets. Railroads became a primary lifeline for economic prosperity for Kansas communities. There are numerous opportunities to learn about the history of railroads in Kansas including exhibits at the Great Overland Station and Kansas State Historical Society, both located in Topeka.

The Nicodemus National Historic Site is the oldest preserved black settlement west of the Mississippi. When formerly enslaved African Americans left Kentucky in organized colonies at the end of the of post-Civil War Reconstruction period, they sought freedom in the “promised land” of Kansas. Tours of the historic buildings showcase the five pillars of the African-American community: church, self-government, education, home and business.

Perhaps it is Kansas’ flat landscape and wide-open prairie that sparked the imagination of aviation pioneers. Famously, Atchison’s Amelia Earhart’s adventurous spirit and love of



Fort Hays State University's Sternberg Museum of Natural History located just off I-70 in Hays will be featuring a summer blockbuster exhibit, "Permian Monsters: Life Before the Dinosaurs." Beginning Saturday, May 27, get a glimpse at what life was like before the greatest mass extinction of all time. You will have the opportunity to travel back in time to the super continent, Pangea, when bizarre reptiles and amphibians ruled the Earth, 50 million years before dinosaurs first graced the planet. Interact with animatronic Permian creatures and set your sights on skeletons of these magnificent beasts for yourself. This unique exhibition closes Labor Day weekend.

In Wichita, commercial aircraft and aviation is a hallmark of the city which has been aptly named the “Air Capital of the World.” In 1911, Clyde Cessna built his first plane near Rago, Kansas. Cessna moved his manufacturing business from Kingman County to Wichita in 1916 and in 1920 the E.M. Laird Airplane company was formed in Wichita – the staff included Walter Beech, Clyde Cessna and Lloyd Stearman. Aviation booms during World War II with more than 25,000 aircraft workers employed in Kansas plants. Today, Wichita remains home to five major aircraft manufacturers. The Sedgwick County Science and Discovery Center, Exploration Place, offers guests the ability to test flight skills in a flight simulator and will unveil a new, interactive exhibit at the end of 2017 which will take visitors entirely through the design and launch of an airplane.

For those explorers wanting to go WAY out...check out the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson. The Cosmosphere is home to the largest combined collection of U.S. and Russian space artifacts in the world and tells the comprehensive story of mankind’s race to space unlike anywhere else on Earth.

Food & Drink

You might need to loosen up your belt after you’ve done a foodie tour through Kansas. The Kansas Sampler Foundation mapped out 21 places to get your chicken fried steak fix across the Sunflower State. Don’t worry; there are many more options



The Evel Knievel Museum in Topeka showcases an incredible collection of authentic artifacts that belonged to the most legendary, death-defying daredevil of all time. You can experience Evel's life and journey to record-setting stardom through an incredible collection of artifacts including his motorcycles, genuine leathers and helmets, even "Big Red," Knievels fully-restored Mack Truck. Experience for yourself the thrill of a virtual reality 4-D jump experience.



out there if you're looking for something with a little less gravy. Fried chicken is legendary in southeast Kansas but you can also stop in at the Brookville Hotel in Abilene or Al's Chickenette in Hays if you find yourself on I-70 and need a chicken fix.

No article on food in Kansas would be complete without the mention of barbecue. Kansas City and Wichita offer a multitude of options for carnivores seeking their 'que. If you're looking to fill up on ribs, look just east of Emporia for Guy and Mae's Tavern in Willamsburg. It's been said the smoked meats taste so good because of the fantastic flavor you get when eating off last week's newspaper in a hole-in-the-wall joint.

If you're looking for a little nostalgia with your meal, plan a visit to a soda shop in Kansas. The Kansas Sampler Foundation has again done the leg work for you with a map of soda shops in Kansas. If you take Highway 54 west to Bucklin, you'll find the Main Street Market. They make a mean limeade using their own syrup and hand-squeezed limes. In Bennington, visit the Linger Longer which dates back to 1912 and features five stools for seating and a marble countertop.

How about a drink? Breweries and wineries are flourishing in Kansas with piqued interest in viticulture and craft brewing. Several Kansas wineries offer wines made with Kansas grapes and locally



grown fruit or use processes that pre-date prohibition. Wineries, including Wheat State Wine Co. in Winfield, often offer summer concerts and events throughout the year. If craft beer is what you savor, there are many great options in Kansas. Gella's Diner and Lb. Brewing Co. in Hays is known for its German-inspired dishes and house brewed ales, Hefeweizen, Radlers and IPAs. Across the state you'll find new breweries like the Kansas Territory Brewing Co. in Washington, Hank is Wiser Brewery in Cheney, and the perennial favorites including Radius Brewing in Emporia, Norsemen Brewing Company in Topeka and

Tallgrass Tap House in Manhattan. Distilleries, like Wheat State Distilling in Wichita, Union Horse Distilling Co. in Lenexa and the Boot Hill Distillery in Dodge City, are using artisan processes to create premium spirits.

Arts, History & Culture

Only in Kansas can you find a symphonic tribute to the Flint Hills, a weekend of world-class pickin' and fiddlin' in Winfield, and a festival featuring Swedish music and food at the biennial Svensk Hyllningsfest in Lindsborg. Art galleries and museums dot Kansas' landscape which showcase the breadth of our cultural heritage

including the Eisenhower presidential archives in Abilene, carousel horses in Leavenworth, and 80-million-year-old fossils at the Sternberg Museum of Natural History in Hays.

Dozens of downtowns offer locally owned boutiques known for offering hand-crafted and specialty products. Lawrence's entire downtown has been named a Great Place in America by the American Planning Association for its vibrancy and eclectic mix of boutiques, restaurants and live

music venues. The Emma Chase Friday Night Music series in Cottonwood Falls showcases vintage country, rock, bluegrass and gospel.

Rugged depictions of life on the plains and cataclysmic political strife are two themes readily found in the artistic collective of Kansas artists. Famous artists including John Steuart Curry, Gordon Parks and Nina Evans Allender used art to express the challenging environment facing people every day. Over 100 arts centers, art galleries or cultural centers are available to visit in Kansas – each with a different story or exhibits built to challenge perspectives or draw out creative thought. In Lucas, the Grassroots Art Capital of Kansas, an entire weekend (or more) could be spent just exploring or driving the Post Rock Scenic Byway through the Smoky Hills of Kansas.

Ah, Kansas...

Perhaps Kansas' greatest secret is the natural beauty of our landscape. Outsiders see our state as flat and unassuming but they clearly have not taken a detour off the interstate to see the beauty of our natural landscape. The natural environment is the most common theme on the Kansas Bucket List, a set of 70 fan-suggested things to do in Kansas including Alcove Springs in Blue Rapids, Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine, Arikaree Breaks in St. Francis, Cheyenne Bottoms in Great Bend, Castle Rock (south of



Oh, The Thrills You Will Have!

Midsummer Festival - Lindsborg

Oakley) and Monument Rocks (close to Collyer and Quinter), Coronado Heights in Lindsborg, Cimarron National Grassland near Elkhart, the Flint Hills of central Kansas, Konza Prairie around Manhattan, Gypsum Hills Byway between Coldwater and Medicine Lodge, Mushroom Rock

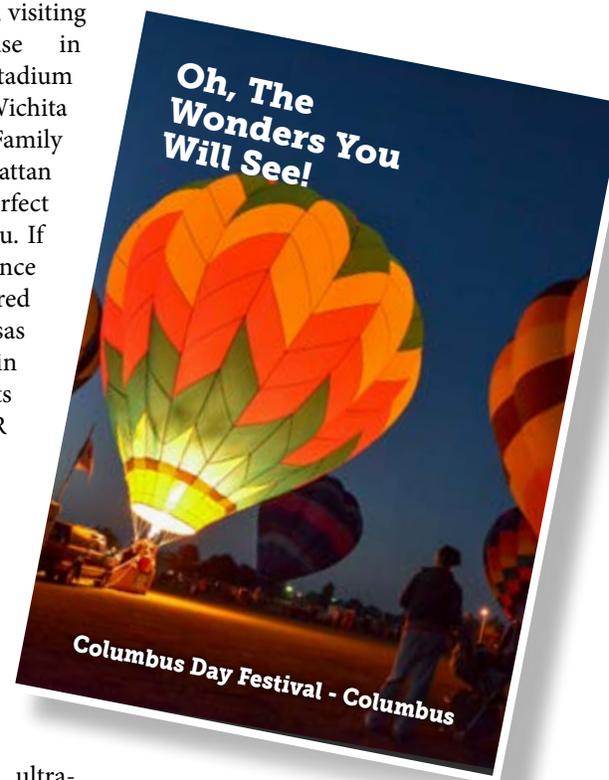
State Park in Marquette,

Switchgrass Trail at Wilson Lake, Scott State

Park near Scott City and Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve near Strong City.

Kansas is known for outdoor fun and sport including deer hunting, fishing, camping at a state park or kayaking on the Kansas River. There are endless trails and treks to take in Kansas just waiting for exploration.

For sports fans, visiting Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Eck Stadium at Tyler Field in Wichita or Bill Snyder Family Stadium in Manhattan might be the perfect pilgrimage for you. If speed and endurance is your preferred pastime, the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City hosts two NASCAR Cup Series races each year. There are many opportunities for cycling at state parks or in Kansas cities. The Dirty Kanza Race in Emporia is an ultra-endurance bicycling challenge held on the gravel and dirt roads through the Flint Hills region of east-central Kansas. In Mapleton, you can find Kansas Rocks, a park offering trails for slow speed, motorized, four-wheel-drive vehicles and non-motorized bicycles.



Oh, The Wonders You Will See!

Columbus Day Festival - Columbus

Just Go...and Get Quirky

Whether you're looking for the Barbed Wire Capital of Kansas (LaCrosse), the Black Squirrel Capital of Kansas (Marysville), Halloween Capital of Kansas (Hiawatha), the Cowboy Capitol of Kansas (Dodge City) or the Pancake Capital of Kansas (Liberal) there are hidden gems out there – you just have look!



Oh, The Tastes You Will Enjoy!

Kansas Master BBQ Contest - Wichita

Now that you have your road map out and are planning your next getaway, we hope you'll take time to explore off-the-beaten path and look further into travelling within the borders of Kansas. These attractions are connected to our communities and create visitor spending opportunities in both direct and indirect ways. As elected and appointed officials, look for ways to showcase the unique aspects of your city and find ways to promote these Kansas treasures to travelers near and far. 🍷

Resources:

Kansas Tourism Office: With all the resources you need to plan your trip across Kansas, www.travelks.com is a one-stop shop for finding your next adventure. Print or download your own copy of the "Kansas Bucket List," which offers 70 fan-suggested things to do in Kansas.

Kansas Sampler Foundation: Dedicated to preserving, sustaining and growing rural culture by educating Kansans about Kansas and by networking and supporting rural communities. Visit kansassampler.org for lists of unique things to do and see in Kansas. The Foundation's book, *Kansas Guidebook 2 for Explorers* is now available for trip ideas in all Kansas cities.

Kansapedia: A service of the Kansas State Historical Society, the digital encyclopedia offers an abundance of historical information about Kansas, its people, places and stories. Visit kshs.org for photo collections, public records, exhibits and more.



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Driving community and industry forward, together.

Bartlett & West partners with businesses and communities to build smarter, stronger, more connected infrastructure. With industry knowledge and creative approaches, we engineer better tomorrows. 🏠 🌐 🌍

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2017 League Annual Conference Hotel Accommodations & Reservation Procedures

September 16-18: Hyatt Regency Wichita &
Century II Convention Center

HEADQUARTER HOTEL:
Hyatt Regency Wichita**

6100 College Blvd
Overland Park, KS 66211
888.421.1442

Rate: \$131 + tax per night
Cut-off date: August 24, 2017

Online Reservations:
<https://aws.passkey.com/go/leagueksmunicipip2017>

**Hyatt Regency Wichita requires a non-refundable deposit equal to one night's stay in order to secure reservations. Make sure to mention the League when making your reservation.

RESERVATION PROCEDURES:

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

SPECIAL NOTE:

If you are making hotel reservations for someone else, please confirm with each person that they actually need hotel accommodations before making the reservation. See an article in the Jan/Feb 2017 KGJ for an explanation of why this is important.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Additional properties may be released if both the Hyatt & Drury sell out in advance of conference.

Drury Plaza Hotel Broadview Wichita
400 West Douglas Ave
Wichita, KS 67202
800.325.0720

Online: www.druryhotels.com, then enter group number 2255516
Rate: \$125 + tax per night; King or Double Queen
Cut-off date: September 1, 2017



Conference Registration is Now Open:
lkm.org/event/2017annualconference

Best Practices

Best Practices in Mobile Marketing for Destinations

By Megan Gilliland, League of Kansas Municipalities

Research shows 67% of digital media is consumed using a mobile application. The use of smartphones, tablets and mobile applications has revolutionized how Americans receive their information as well as the content received. Smartphone apps have become the primary access vehicle to the internet, representing half of the total digital media time spent. On average, millennials spend 93 hours per month on their smartphone apps whereas, across the generations, Americans spend 73 hours per month using smartphone apps. So, what does this mean for your city's destination or attraction? Make sure you're heavily using digital media in your marketing program and figuring out ways to use applications like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, YouTube, Pinterest and emerging apps to reach your future (and current) customers. No matter what social media platforms you choose to use, make sure to monitor and engage with followers to create a digital relationship.

A traveler's decision-making process generally follows these six steps: Inspiration, Planning, Comparing, Transaction, Travel, and Post Travel. According to a study commissioned by Google in 2014, 65% of leisure travelers reported they turn to the web early in the travel process. Talking to friends, family and colleagues plays a large part in suggesting travel ideas as the inspiration for a trip. The internet, television and magazines/newspapers still play a role but to a lesser degree than online sources. Using YouTube and search engines to research travel sites were listed as top online sources of inspiration. Google's study also notes that leisure travelers increasingly turn to search engines when booking car rentals, air travel and overnight accommodations. The graphic to the right provides tips to garner attention from leisure travelers using mobile apps.

Once a traveler has completed their trip, hopefully you've created a travel ambassador versus detractor. Make sure you've collected electronic data from your customer to communicate and encourage repeat trips or positive word-of-mouth referrals. Collect data through satisfaction surveys and encourage customers to follow you on your social media profiles. Through your new digital relationship, encourage satisfied travelers to share their positive experiences on various social media. 

The Six Steps in Travel Decision Making



 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.

Sources:

- 1 comScore 2016 U.S. Mobile App Report .
- 2 <http://fredericgonzalo.com/en/2015/05/27/social-media-best-practices-in-travel-marketing-new-book/>
- 3 https://think.storage.googleapis.com/docs/2014-travelers-road-to-decision_research_studies.pdf

Facebook: Facebook can provide direct access to your potential customers both organically and through paid advertising. With Facebook's expansion into video through Facebook Live, attractions can grow their reach within the app using video. Facebook posts are easily shareable which increases engagement of posts. When using Facebook, always use photos or videos to increase viewership of posts. Investing a small amount of your marketing budget into advertising on Facebook can pay off in the long run if you're using targeted ads to reach customers who have already identified a pre-disposition to favoring certain types of interests. Facebook also allows easy cross-sharing of information by similar organizations and collaborators. Tagging sponsors, attractions, similar organizations, etc. can increase engagement and reach of your posts. Facebook also offers free analytics to analyze how your posts are performing.

Instagram: Similar to the benefits of Pinterest, Instagram is a visually-rich social media platform. Visitors can easily share their travel adventures and tips via Instagram. Since Instagram is a visual platform, quality photos of your attractions are essential. Embrace user-generated content to share your story through another's eyes – this creates engagement and builds your relationship with the Instagrammer.

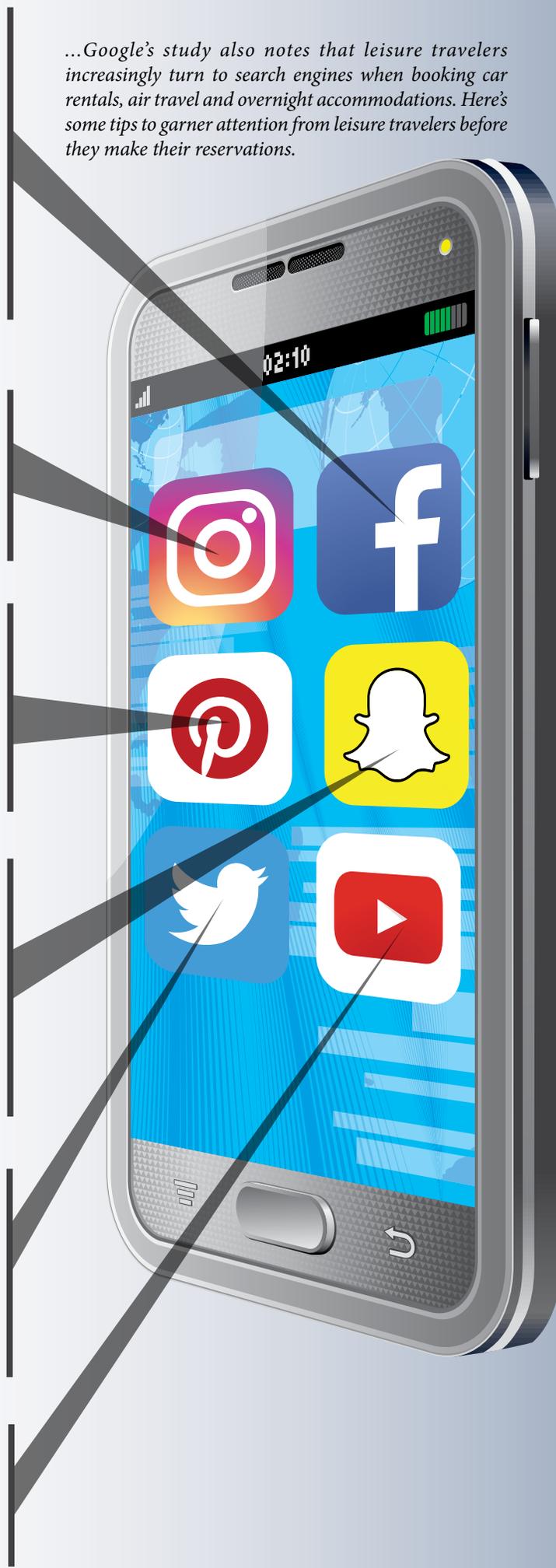
Pinterest: Think of Pinterest as a digital corkboard. Users can upload, save, sort and manage images, video and other media content (known as pins) using this application. Organizations can add a "pin it" button on their website which allows visitors to add pins to their boards for leisure travel in the future. Also consider creating a Pinterest profile for your city where you post pin-able items for visitors to share and follow. In your Pinterest profile, make sure to post images of local attractions, parks, festivals, restaurants, special events and information about your community.

SnapChat: Snapchat is a photo messaging application, where users can take photos and videos (called snaps) and send them to a controlled audience. SnapChat's main defining difference in the social media world is that it offers complete privacy. The user can send a snap to their close friends – like a text – but the snap will disappear forever after the recipient opens it or the user can upload snaps to their Snap Story, which can be viewed by a larger audience. SnapChat offers users the ability to create geofilters (like an overlay to put over your photo) – what a great way to get your brand identity shared on social media! SnapChat is also beneficial for providing coupons to visitors or followers and for hashtag campaigns.

Twitter: Twitter is a fast-moving, 140-character maximum messenger that works especially well with hashtags, photos and links. Twitter posts have a much shorter lifespan than other social media posts. No, that doesn't mean messages disappear after time, but close monitoring and quick response are needed to be active on Twitter. Create hashtags for your destination or attraction and encourage your local businesses or tourism sponsors to use hashtags to boost their searchability. Twitter is a great place to create a digital personality by re-tweeting and responding to potential visitors.

YouTube: Every day, one billion hours of video content is watched on YouTube. YouTube reaches more 18-49 year-olds than any cable network in the U.S. Create a YouTube channel for your destination or attraction to capture a tiny fraction of those billion-a-day hours. Post customer testimonials from special events, preview new attractions and offer video tours of the community.

...Google's study also notes that leisure travelers increasingly turn to search engines when booking car rentals, air travel and overnight accommodations. Here's some tips to garner attention from leisure travelers before they make their reservations.



A recent ruling by the Kansas S affects cities. Use this chart below



Legal Forum

Excise Tax or Fee?

START HERE



Does it pay for benefit the g regardless of person pa

NO

NO

Is it Voluntary?

YES



Is it only assessed against those who gain exclusive benefit of the service or against the subject of the regulation?

YES

FEE

Amanda Stanley, League of Kansas Municipalities

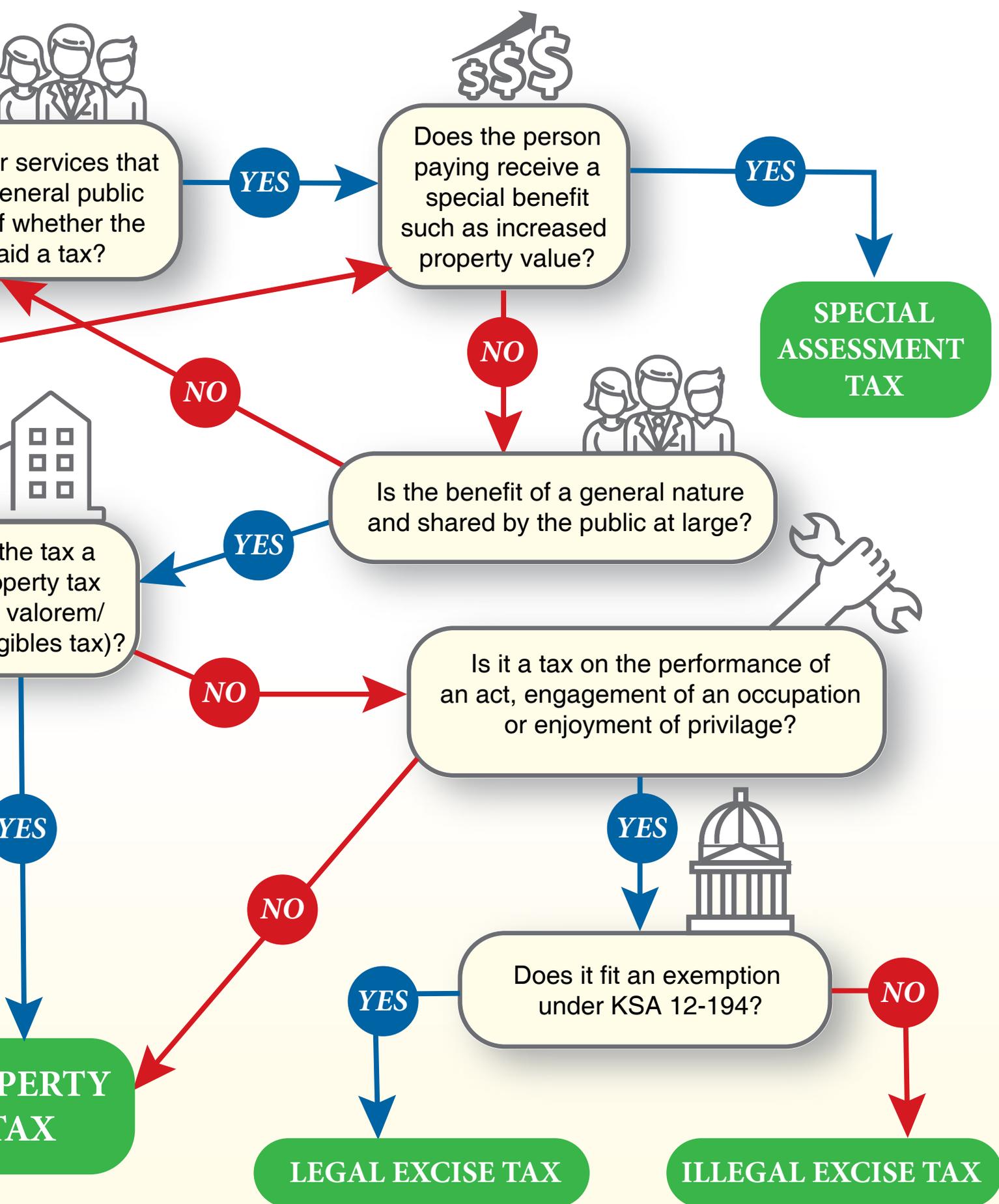
The Kansas Supreme Court recently issued its opinion in *Heartland Apartment Association, Inc. et al, v. City of Mission*, commonly known as the "driveway tax" case. While the full opinion can be found at *Heartland Apartment Ass'n, Inc. v. City of Mission*, 392 P.3d 98 (2017), what is important for cities is that the Kansas Supreme Court has given a definitive roadmap for determining whether a charge is a permissible fee, special assessment, property tax, legal or illegal excise tax. The following flowchart is designed to help you work through individualized fact patterns to determine what is allowed under a city's home rule authority. It is always a best practice to contact your City Attorney early in the process whenever your City is considering instituting a new fee or tax.

Amanda Stanley serves as Legal Counsel for the League of Kansas Municipalities. You can reach her at astanley@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

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Supreme Court on the so-called "driveway tax" to understand the definition of the excise tax.



Airbnb Starts Paying State and Local Taxes in Kansas



Article submitted by the Travel Industry Association of Kansas

In December 2016, Airbnb signed an agreement with the Kansas Department of Revenue (KDOR) to begin collecting and remitting state and local taxes on behalf of their hosts in Kansas effective February 1, 2017. Kansas became the 15th state in which Airbnb has statewide tax deals that essentially treats home-sharing bookings like hotels in terms of short-term occupancy taxes.

Formed in 2008, Airbnb is an online, short-term rental service which allows homeowners to rent out a room, or their entire property, to travelers. Today, Airbnb is the world's leading community-driven hospitality company, with over 3 million listings in 50,000 cities and more than 190 countries.

In a strategy toward legalization, and to avoid being forcefully regulated through legislation, last year Airbnb proactively created a Voluntary Collection Agreement (VCA) with states and municipalities to pay its fair share of taxes, like hotels and bed & breakfasts. The VCA states that Airbnb will list sales and transient guest tax (TGT) rates on their website during the booking process and submit the collected revenue to the appropriate jurisdiction monthly. This takes the burden off hosts to comply with complicated tax filings.

The following Kansas taxes are now being charged on Airbnb reservations:

- Kansas Retailers' Sales Tax: 6.5% of the listing price on all reservations.
- Local Sales Tax: 1 to 5% of the listing price on all reservations. Rates vary by city and county.
- Transient Guest Tax: 2 to 9% of the listing price on reservations fewer than 28 nights. Rates vary by city and county that levy a transient guest tax.

Both the KDOR and Airbnb have said there is no estimate for the revenue that will accrue to the state from the tax deal because of the different locations of hosts' homes.

While the KDOR views the agreement as a good start at leveling the tax playing field with hotels and a way of bringing in additional

state tax revenue previously not collected, attorneys have outlined some concerns and recommendations for local municipalities going forward.

According to state law, there is a 2% TGT on the rental of a hotel or motel sleeping room; however, some cities or counties, by charter ordinance or resolution, opted out of the state statute. Some of those local ordinances/resolutions have different definitions of a hotel, bed & breakfast or an accommodation broker.

Airbnb believes it is not an accommodations broker under Kansas law but has agreed, pursuant to the VCA, to collect the sales taxes and TGT for a host that has two or more sleeping rooms subject to rent. The KDOR recommends municipalities/counties review their TGT charter ordinance/resolution, if they have one, and make any needed changes to encompass Airbnb in their definitions.

The City of Leavenworth is currently the only municipality that has a VCA with Airbnb because it administers and enforces the TGT locally and not through the state. The Leavenworth/Airbnb VCA guarantees an 8% TGT on reservations effective May 1, 2017.

Airbnb currently has statewide tax agreements with Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Vermont and Washington.

With a total of 275 VCAs in cities, states and countries across the world, Airbnb has collected and remitted more than \$110 million in tax revenue to date. More than half of Airbnb's U.S. listings are in communities where they collect and remit taxes.

Airbnb has said they plan to use the Kansas model to expand throughout the Midwest. For detailed information, visit the Kansas Department of Revenue Business Taxes Publication, <http://ksrevenue.org/pdf/pub1540.pdf>.

Home Sharing Pros and Cons for Municipalities

While short-term rentals have been around for decades, the popularity of sharing platforms has dramatically increased due to

technology and mobile applications. Similar to Uber, Airbnb allows people to share services directly with others without a middle man.

Proponents argue several benefits to home sharing for both hosts and cities that go beyond just the new tax revenue being collected through the VCA. One owner in Kansas reports that before listing her home on Airbnb, her long-term rental rate was \$800 per month. She can now charge \$95 per night via short-term rentals.

In 2016, Kansas had approximately 600 Airbnb hosts, making more than \$2.1million.

According to Airbnb, hosts keep 97% of the price they charge for listing their homes. Airbnb also found that 47% of hosts use Airbnb income to help pay their rent or mortgage, property taxes, insurance and home improvements – thus reducing blight within neighborhoods.

Another benefit to modern home sharing platforms is the increased information available to consumers looking for a short-term rental. Like most online service providers, feedback and reviews are provided, which can help weed out problematic hosts or guests.

On the other hand, concerns with home sharing range from safety to impacts on the hotel industry. Some fear residential neighborhoods may become commercialized or unsafe. Some view home sharing as having a competitive advantage over hotels or bed

properties listed and 4,600 total bookings in 2016.

Currently, Lawrence's zoning regulations categorize short-term rental properties with all transient accommodations, including hotels, bed & breakfasts and campgrounds. Residential zoning districts require special permits with a 30-day lease minimum. Rental time periods less than 30 days are considered a transient accommodation. According to the city report, the most common elements of short-term rental regulations in other communities include zoning, permit/registration process, residency requirements, inspections, occupant limits, notifications and insurance requirements.

State Legislation

A growing conflict between the hotel industry and Airbnb has been brewing in state and local governments over the past year. Hotels, concerned with short-term rentals not having to play by the same rules thus receiving a competitive advantage, are aggressively lobbying for tighter restrictions on Airbnb and similar home sharing platforms.

There are currently 23 states that have passed legislation regarding Airbnb, including limiting localities from being able to enter into a VCA, imposing fines on hosts that break local housing rules, and forcing payment of local and state taxes. Last October, New York passed a law which called for fines up to \$7,500 for illegally listing a property on a rental platform such as Airbnb. Airbnb filed a lawsuit in response, but it was dropped months later.

On the other hand, many states like Texas, Tennessee and Virginia are showing strong support for "pre-emption" legislation that would allow short-term rentals regardless of local ordinances.

Arizona passed a law last year that provides a framework for short-term rentals, ensuring residents have the right to rent out their homes while giving municipalities the control to address the needs of their communities.

Nebraska is currently considering a bill which would prevent cities and counties from passing any regulations – that don't relate to public safety and building codes – that prohibit short-term rentals. Indiana passed a similar bill earlier this year.

While Kansas is not currently considering any legislative action at this time, staff at the KDOR are monitoring the issue to see how the VCA plays out for both state revenue and for local units of government. 🗳️

For more information on the Travel Industry Association of Kansas, visit www.tiak.org. To view local taxing rates visit <http://www.ksrevenue.org/pdf/pub17000717.pdf>

Kansas taxes are now being charged on Airbnb reservations:

Kansas Retailers' Sales Tax:

6.5% of the listing price on all reservations.

Local Sales Tax:

1-5% of the listing price on all reservations. Rates vary by city and county.

Transient Guest Tax:

2-9% of the listing price on reservations fewer than 28 nights.

Rates vary by city and county that levy a transient guest tax.

& breakfasts due to not having to comply with the same building codes and regulations. Some argue short-term rentals will take affordable housing off the market.

Local Regulatory Policies

The recent growth in home sharing has forced some municipalities to study its impact and consider regulatory policies for their individual community. Lawrence is one of those cities in Kansas currently considering their own policies for short-term rentals.

Lawrence staff provided a report to the City Commission at a meeting in February on current home sharing trends in Lawrence and provided several options for regulation. Lawrence is the most popular Airbnb destination in Kansas with more than 100



By League Staff

On April 21 and 22, the League of Kansas Municipalities gathered with the Kansas Mayors Association to host the 2017 Leadership Summit and Kansas Mayors Conference in Dodge City. Nearly 80 elected and appointed individuals attended.

The Leadership Summit is a way to celebrate and improve local government leadership throughout Kansas. The Summit helps guide local decision-makers on how to create communities that are great places to live, work and play. This year's Summit highlighted the connection between communication and leadership and emphasized that leadership takes time, effort, practice, and most importantly, cannot be done alone and without others. The keynote presentation and workshops focused on collaborative communication, including working with your constituents, peers and the media.

Based on survey responses and attendee remarks, the event was very well received with many respondents commenting that the opportunity to discuss similar issues across the state was valuable. The keynote speaker, Shelley Row, discussed effective decision making that saves time, improves productivity, enhances teamwork and reduces stress. Her keynote received many positive comments from respondents including that her session was a good reminder that real leadership is both providing direction and listening.

The Leadership Summit is a chance to partner with one of the League's affiliate organizations, the Kansas Mayors Association.

The two-day conference provides a venue for Kansas' mayors to learn from experts, and one another, as well as become informed on key issues affecting government.

The Kansas Mayors Association named its 2017 leadership at the Summit. Mayor Burt Ussery of Clearwater was named president. David McDaniel (Ellis), Michael Smith (Lansing), Rick Sowers (Dodge City), Gary Adrian (Colby), Kelli Hansen (Plainville), Nancy Curry (Winchester), Melvin Dale (Garden City) and Tom Brown (McPherson) complete the 2017 Board of Directors. Past-president is Jim Toews from Inman.

The annual Mayor of the Year Award was presented at the Friday evening reception. Altamont Mayor Herb Bath was honored with the award. Mayor Bath previously served on the League of Kansas Municipalities Governing Body and has served Altamont on several state and local boards in addition to becoming mayor in 2005.

Next spring, the League will host the Governing Body Institute on April 20-21 in Topeka. Mark your calendars now to attend!

The League of Kansas Municipalities recognized several city officials who have completed the necessary course work requirements to graduate levels of the Municipal Training Institute

Keynote speaker Shelley Row discusses the four types of communication styles and how the various styles impacts our ability to make decisions effectively with others.



(formerly Municipal Leadership Academy). The Municipal Training Institute is a continuing education program designed for and open to both elected and appointed city officials in the State of Kansas. The program offers courses in cities across the state. The purpose



Mayor Jim Toews from Inman (right) hands the KMA gavel to Burt Ussery, Mayor of Clearwater.

of the Institute is to provide an interactive curriculum of specialized instruction that develops knowledge and enhances the leadership abilities of those who serve the cities of Kansas.

There are three levels of achievement in the

Institute. Level 1 is the “Education” level and focuses on attendance at various training events offered by the League and others. Level 2 is the “Achievement” level and focuses on continuing education as well as participation in various government-related activities. Level 3 is the “Leadership” level and is devoted to leadership activities and leadership positions held in various organizations. Graduates from Levels 1 and 2 were recognized this year. This year’s graduates are as follows:

Level 1:

- Jami Downing, City Clerk, City of Stafford
- Diana Garten, Finance Director, City of Pratt
- Jim Koger, City Clerk, City of Overbrook
- Jolene Niernberger, Councilmember, City of Ellis
- Suzann Norris, City Clerk, City of Attica
- Michael Ort, City Administrator, City of Jetmore
- Glenn Rodden, City Administrator, City of Baldwin City
- Jim Sands, Commissioner, City of Junction City

Level 2:

- Joanne Allen, Councilmember, City of Overbrook
- Carol Baughman, Councilmember, City of Overbrook
- Darrell Dupree, Councilmember, City of Cimarron
- Kendal Francis, City Manager, City of Coffeyville

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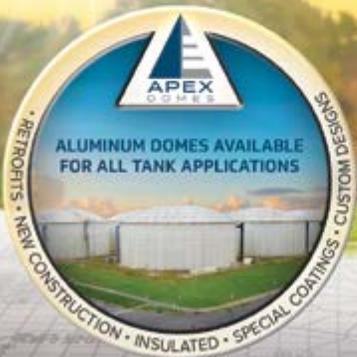
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Kansas Communities Receive Grants to Support Afterschool and Summer Meals

By Megan Gilliland, League of Kansas Municipalities

The National League of Cities announced five Kansas communities received grants to encourage and promote programs which provide children with afterschool and summer meals. The grants are provided through a partnership with the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) and have supported more than 60 cities over the past five years. Those cities have served more than 10 million meals to 100,000 children through the federal afterschool and summer meal programs. The grant program is part of NLC’s Cities Combating Hunger through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs (CHAMPS) initiative, which receives support from the Walmart Foundation.

This year, the CHAMPS initiative invited cities in Alabama, California and Kansas — states where meal program participation has a great opportunity to grow — to apply for technical assistance and grants of up to \$40,000. The five Kansas communities receiving grants for 2017 include Olathe, Topeka, Emporia, Arkansas City and Ottawa. 🍎

Topeka will use the funding to increase participation in the City’s afterschool and summer meal sites by about 20 percent through launching a marketing campaign – Refuel Topeka – to promote and address the stigma associated with the programs. The City also will promote the Topeka Metro’s “Kids Ride Free” in the summer program and provide volunteers and equipment to support meal-site capacity.

2017 Awardees:

City	Amount Awarded
Olathe	\$19,150
Topeka	\$35,000
Emporia	\$35,000
Ottawa	\$15,000
Arkansas City	\$30,000



Great Bend: Horsepower on the Plains June 9-10

Enjoy the street racing on the track out at the Great Bend Expo Complex and Historic SRCA Dragstrip! For more information go to www.greatbendks.net or call Christina Hayes at (620) 793-4111. E-mails can be sent to chayes@greatbendks.net.

Leawood: Camp Out With Dad June 17

Camp Out with Dad is a great way to spend the Father's Day weekend with your family. Enjoy a night under the stars at Ironwoods Park. Bring your tent and sleeping bags and come ready to enjoy an evening of fun activities including games, stargazing, stories around the campfire, and making gifts for dad. Although this is scheduled during the Father's Day holiday all families are welcome to join us. Most of the equipment and supplies for the activities will be provided. Dinner and a light breakfast will be served. Activities may include fishing, night-time hike, games like capture the flag, star and constellation tours, making s'mores, creating gifts for parents and craft projects. Go to our website at www.leawood.org or call Scott Gamerl at (913) 696-7771 or e-mail at scottg@leawood.org.

Linwood: Pioneer Festival June 24

The City of Linwood is hosting the Linwood Pioneer Festival Celebration on June 24, 2017 in honor of the city's 150th birthday. The city is hosting the festival which will include a parade, a 5K fun run/walk, Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast, live music, craft and food vendors, children's

games and rides, car show, Bingo, raffles, a history and wildlife exhibit; as well as a street dance and fireworks. www.cityoflinwood.org or call (913) 301-3024.

Hays: Wild West Fest June 28

A week-long celebration featuring live music performances and fair rides ending with a firework show on July 4. For more information go to www.wildwestfestival.com or call Sandy Myer at (785) 623-4476. E-mails can be sent to info@wildwestfestival.com.

Junction City: Sundown Salute June 30-July 4

The largest free multi-day Independence Day celebration in Kansas! There will be vendors, crafters, animals, carnival, car show, food vendors, bands playing nightly and a fireworks extravaganza! The main activities take place in Heritage Park in historic downtown Junction City, though many other activities take place in the surrounding area. All band concerts are free, with no admission fee! Don't miss the parade on July 4th at 10:00 a.m. Visit www.sundownsalute.org for a complete schedule of daily activities & times. Quiet Riot will be the headline performer and will perform on Saturday, July 1 in Heritage Park. Go to: <http://www.sundownsalute.org> for full schedule of events and details.

Atchison: Amelia Earhart Festival July 14

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

El Dorado: Dam Music Festival July 14

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.

Submit an Event For Publication

Email us at: mgilliland@lkm.org

KANSAS ATTRactions

MARTIN & OSA JOHNSON SAFARI MUSEUM: CHANUTE

Adventure, exotic location, and romance are all part of the Johnsons' lives that inspired generations of fans. Martin and Osa's expeditions across Africa, Borneo



and the South Seas were documented in their popular films and books during the last century. These Kansans captured the public's imagination through many movies, such as "Simba" and "Baboona", and best-selling books including the classic zebra-striped "*I Married Adventure*."

Martin and Osa popularized camera safaris and an interest in wildlife conservation for Americans and people worldwide. Their legacy is a record of the animals and cultures in remote areas of the world which have undergone profound changes.

The Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum is in Osa's hometown of Chanute, Kansas. Opened in 1961 to preserve the Johnsons' achievements and encourage research into their fields of study, the Safari Museum® has grown and flourished. The museum started with the Johnsons' films, photographs, articles, books, and personal belongings donated by Osa's mother.

Over the years, other collections developed to broaden the museum's ability to achieve its mission. This includes significant

African ethnographic and art collections and a research library, along with related collections from Elizabeth Main Le Blond and other prominent explorers. Additional display space offers regular traveling exhibits and special exhibits.

In 1993 the museum relocated to Chanute's beautifully renovated Santa Fe train depot as part of a \$2 million project. Visitors will find carefully planned exhibits, a range of education programs for children and adults, and a helpful staff of professional employees and volunteers.

The exhibit areas and Osa's Ark Museum Store are open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.,



Sunday from 1 to 5 P.M., and additional times by appointment.

The Martin and Osa Johnson Safari Museum is a private, non-profit organization funded by memberships, contributions, admissions, and store sales. For information about memberships and ways to support the museum's education programs please write to 111 N. Lincoln Ave., Chanute, KS 66720, call (620) 431-2730, or log onto SafariMuseum.com.

FORT WALLACE: WALLACE

In 1867, Fort Wallace, Kansas, served to protect the Smoky Hill Trail and Butterfield's Overland Despatch Stagecoach line from the attacks of Cheyenne, Araphaho and Sioux warriors who were protecting their prized buffalo hunting grounds from settlement encroachment. The stories about Custer's



Seventh Cavalry, William Comstock, Black Kettle, Wild Bill Hickok, Buffalo Bill Cody and Bull Bear still echo across this area of Western Kansas.

In 2017, an extensive commemoration will be held bringing the most excitement since June 26, 1867 when the 7th U.S. Cavalry battled 300 Cheyenne braves on the prairie north and west of Fort Wallace.

The events of 150 years ago will be commemorated during "The Great Fort Wallace and Western Kansas 1867 Exposition," a Western Kansas multi-day event with tours, lectures, a major artwork unveiling, living historians, food, ceremonies and a concert featuring singer/songwriter Michael Martin Murphey. The Exposition dates are Monday, July 3 (Sherman County); Thursday, July 6 (Logan and Scott Counties); and Friday- Sunday July 7-9 (Wallace County.) The purpose of these events is to highlight the people and events that made 1867 a pivotal year in Kansas and America.

On Saturday, July 8 the grand opening of the Milford Becker Addition of the Fort Wallace Museum will be held as well as the unveiling of a life-sized bronze statue of scout William Comstock by Kansas artist Jerry Thomas. The grounds will be bustling with 60 re-enactors, demonstrations and presentations. That night, singer-songwriter Michael Martin Murphey will perform in concert. Find out more information at www.ftwallace.com.

SHAWNEE TOWN 1929: SHAWNEE

In 1966, the post-war building boom was eliminating much of the early architecture across the nation. In Shawnee, a formerly-sleepy town just west of Kansas City, new



housing developments and businesses were exploding westward, swallowing the once-historic landscape. Hundreds of small truck farms, and their way of life, were disappearing. A grassroots group of volunteers saw the early buildings of Shawnee fall to the bulldozer, and decided to preserve their heritage before it was too late.

The Shawnee Historical Society saved a small stone building standing in the way of a pots and pans factory, and moved it to a local park stone-by-stone. Naming the new



park "Old Shawnee Town," the building was to serve as a catalyst for the reconstruction of a "pioneer town." Over the years the re-created town was built up with a combination of relocated original buildings and modern replications. By the 1990s it consisted of a smattering of buildings representing 1855-1930.

Because the volunteer board could no longer adequately care for the aging collection of buildings, in 1997 the museum was given to the City of Shawnee and the first professional staff was hired. With the help of key stakeholders: teachers, local government, city staff, historical society members and other interested parties, the first strategic plan was put together and

approved by the City Council. This effort highlighted a new mission and a desire to reach new audiences. The 1920s was selected as the focal time period because that was the height of the truck-farm era, when most of Shawnee was either a farm dedicated to trucking its produce to the Kansas City Market, or a business which supported truck farming.

Rebranded "Shawnee Town 1929," the museum started on a course of drastic physical and program changes. Dilapidated buildings were taken down and new ones put in their place, one at a time, with reams of historical research done prior to construction — on each structure's relevance to the program and strategic plan. Building construction will be ongoing until at least 2025, but to-date seven buildings in town and a nine-building farmstead have been completed. The town buildings include a grocery store, ice house, undertaker establishment, typewriter repair shop, barbershop, school, and city jail. Farm buildings consist of a farmhouse, market barn, livestock barn, root cellar, smokehouse, garage, tool shed, outhouse, and chicken house. Great attention to

historical accuracy and detail is apparent throughout the site.

The interpretive program was deconstructed and born anew, with curriculum-driven educational programs in the spring and fall, and a viable participation-driven living history program in the summer. Other programs include classes, speakeasies, lectures, concerts, and a wide variety of community-based events. In addition to the historical mission-based programs, the museum also serves as a safe gathering place for community events throughout the year. The events are many and include Old Shawnee Days in early June, Historical Hauntings in October, and Christmas Around Town in December. Annual visitation in 2015 was 145,000. Find out more online at www.shawneetown.org.

DID YOU KNOW....

Oldest Continuously Used Courthouse: The Chase County Courthouse in Cottonwood Falls is the oldest (1873) continuously used courthouse.

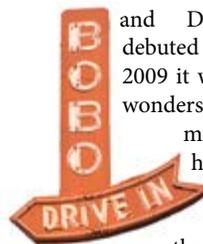
Oldest Continuous Operating Entertainment Venue: The Majestic Community Theater is the longest continuous operating entertainment venue in Kansas. It started out as the Winship Opera House in 1905. In 1925 it was renovated into a theatre and has operated as one since.
724 4th Street, Phillipsburg, KS 67661

Largest Municipal Concrete Swimming Pool: Garden City's 1922 pool is 330-feet x 220-feet & is larger than a football field with a surface area of 72,600 square feet. It holds 2.6 million gallons of water.
403 S. 4th, Garden City, KS

Largest Electric Coal Shovel: Big Brutus is the world's largest electric coal shovel. A larger one was recently disassembled moving Big Brutus to the top of the class.
6509 NW 60th, West Mineral, Kansas

Largest Stained-Glass Flag: This 960-piece, one-ton flag soars 40-feet above the floor of the Dole Institute of Politics in Lawrence.
2350 Petefish Drive, Lawrence, KS 66045

Featured on Diners, Drive-ins and Dives, Bobo's drive-in debuted in Topeka in 1953. In 2009 it was voted as one of the 8 wonders of Kansas cuisine with its menu selection including homemade onion rings and apple pie, it's no wonder why it has stood the test of time spanning 65 years. Located at 2300 S.W. 10th Ave. in Topeka. Contact Bobos at (785) 234-4511.



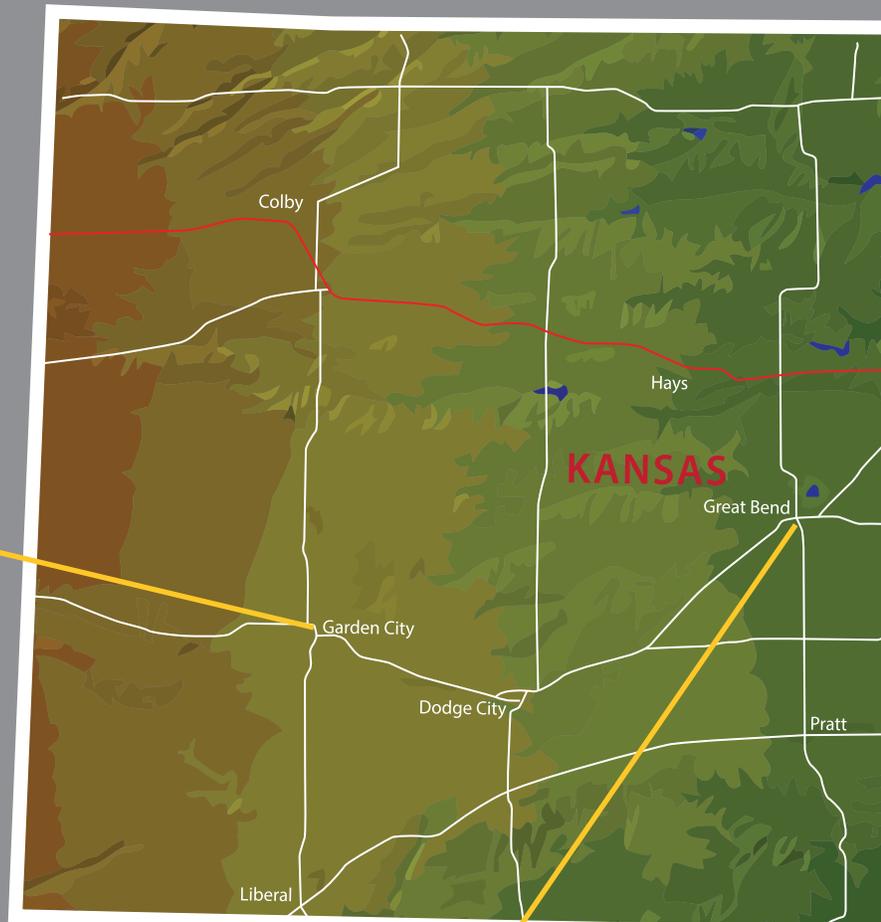
Opened in 1922 at 108 North 7th St. in Salina, Cozy Inn has been nationally featured on the Travel Channel's 2009 "101 Tastiest Places to Chow Down" and on "America's Top Ten Hamburgers" by USA Today in 2010. Contact Cozy Inn at (785) 825-2699.

KANSAS GOVERNMENT

Garden City

Garden City Outlaws Tobacco & E-Cigarette Products to 21 & Younger

Starting July 1, it will be illegal in Garden City for anyone younger than 21 to buy or possess tobacco or electronic cigarette products. An ordinance was approved increasing the minimum legal age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21, a decision that grew from a request made by a group of Garden City High School students earlier this year. The ordinance makes it unlawful for anyone younger than 21 to possess or attempt to purchase any type of tobacco product, as well as electronic cigarettes. Violators would be subject to a \$25 fine. It also will be unlawful to sell, furnish or distribute tobacco products or electronic cigarettes to anyone younger than 21, with violators subject to a Class B violation and a minimum \$200 fine. Garden City was the 15th municipality in Kansas to adopt Tobacco 21 regulations.

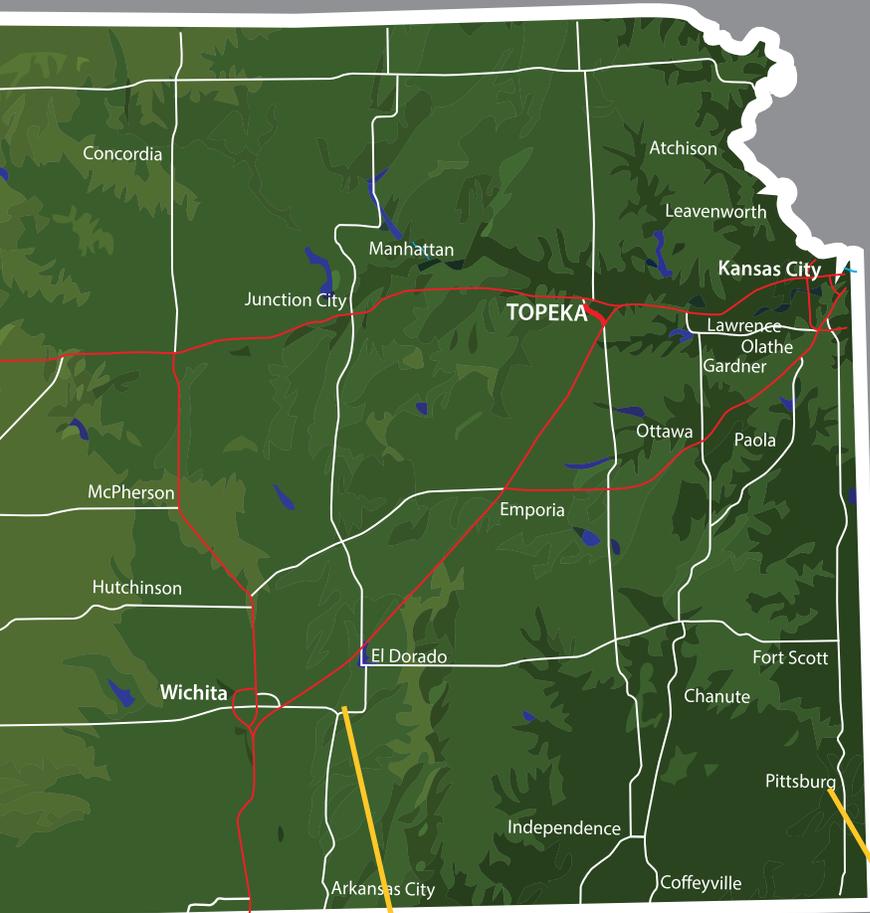


Hoisington

Hoisington Community Uses Painting Program

The City of Hoisington offers a needs-based grant program for property owners to use to spruce up the exterior of homes suffering from deferred maintenance. The City Council agreed recently to change the requirements for the program from income only to qualification based on home valuation. City officials contacted homeowners with exterior code violations and informed them of the grant program; several property owners responded positively and a few have already used the grant program for repairs.

GOVERNMENT NEWS



Pittsburg

Pittsburg Voters Set to Consider Sales Tax for Roads

In July, Pittsburg voters will have the opportunity to vote on a new sales tax which will lower sales tax overall. In 2013 Pittsburg voters passed a half-cent sales tax which was used to pay for the construction of a law enforcement center and fire station. The half-cent sales tax sunsets this year since both buildings will have been paid off a year ahead of time. Pittsburg City Commissioners approved a special election for July 2017 to consider a quarter-cent sales tax to be used for roads.

Currently the city sales tax is 1.75 percent; if the quarter-cent sales tax passes the city sales tax would drop to 1.5 percent. The city is asking for the quarter percent tax to supplement road funds the city no longer expects to see from the Kansas Department of Transportation. The city has had access to a KDOT matching fund program which supplemented the road budget. Those funds are unlikely to be available in the future, but there remain urgent needs for road repair. Additionally, up to \$50,000 annually would be set aside to assist property owners with sidewalk repair.

Winfield

Winfield Approves Nuisance Fees

In an attempt to shift some costs of code enforcement and abatement off taxpayers, the City of Winfield has adopted new administrative fees for nuisance abatement. The fees are \$100 for each nuisance abatement action and \$100 for each condemnation. Fees for weed and rank vegetation removal are \$50 for the first occurrence, \$75 for the second and third and \$100 for each additional occurrence. The fees are an attempt to recover some of the city's administrative costs associated with nuisance properties, including inspections and certified letters.

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.



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Classified Advertising

Director of Public Works, Hays

The City of Hays, is looking for its next innovated Director of Public Works. The Director of Public Works reports directly to the City Manager. This position is responsible for the planning, directing & coordination of operations of five divisions: Streets, Planning, Inspection, & Enforcement, Airport, Stormwater, & Solid Waste. The Director of Public Works is responsible for the long-range planning & development of the department. This position's job duties include working closely with engineering firms, preparing & administering annual budget for all divisions, preparing Capital Improvement Program & Airport Improvement Projects, & serving as the Stormwater Superintendent for the City of Hays.

Three to five years of similar experience is required. College degree in a related field preferred. Excellent supervisory, organizational, & problem solving skills are necessary. Candidates must be able to demonstrate strong written & oral communications, & have the ability to work with the general public. Being able to build relationships is key. Must be willing to relocate into the city limits within six months.

Full pay range: \$62,00—\$97,000 with current hiring range: \$65,000—\$85,000 DOE plus excellent benefits including family health insurance, paid time off, Kansas Public Employee Retirement System (KPERS) & longevity bonus. Full list of benefits can be found at www.haysusa.com.

How to Apply / Contact:

Resumes can be emailed: egiebler@haysusa.com or mailed to Human Resources, P.O. Box 490, Hays, KS 67601. Resumes must include a minimum of 3 references, 5-year salary history & cover letter. Position open until filled. Resume review will begin June 23, 2017.

Facilities Maintenance Worker I, Merriam

The City of Merriam Parks & Recreation Department is seeking a fulltime Facilities Maintenance Worker I. The qualified applicant will be responsible for performing a variety of routine tasks in the custodial care, repair work, and maintenance of the city's recreational facilities. Essential duties and responsibilities

include, but are not limited to: Changing light bulbs and fluorescent tubes; sweeping, vacuuming, mopping, dusting, shampooing, steam cleaning, stripping, waxing, polishing and buffing floors, carpets and furniture; collecting garbage and relining cans with liners; cleaning and sanitizing restrooms and replenishing supplies; cleaning drinking fountains, mirrors, tables, walls, fixtures, blinds and light fixtures; washing windows, walls, metal and woodwork, cleaning rain gutters, sweeping roofs and sidewalks; removing snow from sidewalks and steps, picking up litter, leaf removal from around the buildings and grounds, operating small equipment such as leaf blowers and power washers. Shift is from 2:00 pm – 10:30 pm, Tuesday – Saturday. Will perform other related duties as necessary and assigned.

How to Apply / Contact:

Qualified applicants may apply at Merriam City Hall (9001 W. 62nd Street, Merriam, KS 66202) Applications can be downloaded online at www.merriam.org or by calling (913) 322-5500. Applications may be submitted in person or mail to: City of Merriam; Attn: Human Resources; 9001 W. 62nd Street, Merriam, KS 66202, or by fax (913) 322-5505. EOE/ADA/Drug Screen.

Finance Director, Salina

A self-reliant and entrepreneurial community of nearly 50,000, Salina is seeking an experienced Finance Director with an ability to establish strong relationships and communicate effectively with employees, elected officials, and various civic and community leaders. Salina is strategically located amid Topeka, Wichita, and Kansas City. It is also recognized as a headquarters for manufacturing and is recognized as "The Best Place in Kansas to Raise Kids."

The City Commission annually selects one of its five members to serve as Mayor who is then responsible for appointing all employees, including the Finance Director. As a member of the City Manager's executive staff team, the Finance Director will interact daily with a group of experienced department directors and will be responsible for overseeing all financial matters for the entire organization. The Director is also responsible for assisting the City Manager in preparing the annual budget of \$105M.

A Bachelor's Degree in Public or Business Administration, Accounting, or a related field and a minimum of 5 years in a senior finance position in local government (or equivalent), with at least 3 years of supervisory experience is required. Hands on experience with preparing an annual budget, a CAFR, an annual audit process, key financial reports such as cost/benefit analyses, assessing operational business plans, and planning for and transitioning a new financial software system is strongly desired.

How to Apply / Contact:

For more information about the community and job requirements, visit <https://waters-company.recruitmenthome.com/postings/1363>.

The position will remain open until filled; however, interested candidates are encouraged to apply by Wednesday, June 7, 2017. For more information, contact Art Davis at adavis@springsted.com / (816) 868-7042 The City of Salina is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE) and values diversity at all levels of its workforce!

Utility Superintendent, McLouth

The City of McLouth is seeking highly motivated and ethical applicants for full-time employment. The City of McLouth owns and operates the water, wastewater and gas utilities. This position includes but not limited to utility maintenance and reporting, street maintenance, yard maintenance and city improvements, as necessary. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, a valid driver's license, Natural Gas Pipeline Qualifications, KDHE Class II Water Certification, KDHE Class I Wastewater Certification and a Commercial Class B CDL. Wage is dependent on experience and qualifications. City benefits include BC & BS health insurance, paid vacation and sick leave and KPERS retirement plan.

How to Apply / Contact:

To obtain an application form: print from the City of McLouth website - cityofmclouth.org - or from the McLouth City Hall - 110 North Union Street, McLouth, Kansas 66054; (913) 796-6411. Completed applications with resumes will be accepted by the City Administrator/Clerk until the position is filled. The City of McLouth is an E.O.E.

Community Service Officer, Edwardsville

The job duties of the Community Services Officer include but are not limited to interpreting and enforcing the zoning, health, nuisance, vehicle, environmental and animal control codes as incorporated within the Code of Ordinances of the City of Edwardsville, Kansas. The Community Services Officer shall receive, dispense, document and resolve citizen inquiries and complaints.

The job duties of this position also include inspection of public infrastructure projects for compliance with City standards and specifications; inspection of private commercial and residential projects to ensure stormwater Best Management Practices are being followed; and inspection and management of City right-of-way.

Essential Functions:

Reviews, interprets and enforces the planning, zoning, vehicular, health and environmental codes. Work is performed with some latitude for the interpretation and application of policies and standards under supervision.

Investigates and reviews complaints; documents the condition of the property inspected; maintains files on each active case which includes digital photographs; performs timely follow-up inspections; prepares reports; and brings complaints to a proper conclusion.

Resolves code enforcement violations by requesting information and evaluating data to determine the extent of the violation; prepares notices of violations and ensures proper and lawful service of notices through mailing or personal service.

Verifies complaints regarding abandoned and hazardous buildings; abandoned and inoperable vehicles and all other code violations.

Effectively communicates findings and enforcement actions verbally and in writing; providing community outreach in a positive manner.

Utilizes self-discipline, diplomacy and tact; makes sound reasonable decisions as set forth by city codes; and fosters a friendly environment between the city and its citizens.

Prepares presentations and presents effectively to the governing body.

When necessary, consults with the City Prosecutor, in preparing violation cases for the court and provides testimony when needed in both municipal and district court cases requiring litigation.

Performs animal control duties and works with other departments when needed.

Inspects and/or investigates public improvement projects as needed, to ensure compliance with City standards and specifications.

Inspects commercial and residential building sites to ensure stormwater Best Management Practices are being followed.

Inspects the work of contractors and/or utilities performing work within the right-of-way.

Public Works duties include performing snow removal operations during inclement weather; right-of-way and facility mowing as needed; and other duties as directed by the Public Works Director.

How to Apply / Contact:

To apply for the position contact Tammy Snyder at tsnyder@edwardsvilleks.org or Zach Daniel at zdaniel@edwardsvilleks.org.

Codes Administrator, Baldwin City

Under the supervision of the Community Development Director, the Codes Administrator is a non-exempt position under FLSA. This position performs administrative duties, is responsible for the enforcement of codes and ordinances for building occupancy, zoning and subdivision regulations. Promoting public safety in the City's built environment, and in general, is required. This employee should possess excellent organizational, public relations and communication skills.

Benefits include health, dental, vision. KPERS retirement, 401(a)/457 plan. Other benefits available.

Education: HS diploma, preferable some college education

Minimum experience: 5 years related experience and/or training

Applicant must have plumbing, electrical and building certifications. Within one year of employment must obtain mechanical and plan review certification.

How to Apply / Contact:

Contact Ed Courton for more information ecourton@baldwincity.org or call (785) 594-6427

Application deadline: June 9, 2017 - 4:00 p.m.

Interested applicants please apply <http://www.baldwincity.org/employment/>.

View the League's current job postings online

lkm.site-ym.com/networking



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