

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 103 - NUMBER 9

NOVEMBER 2017



**Energy Project to Boost
Efficiency and Service Delivery**

**Legal Forum:
Industrial Hemp Legislation**

**Ideas to Leverage Your
Facility and Boost the Budget**



A Publication of The League of Kansas Municipalities



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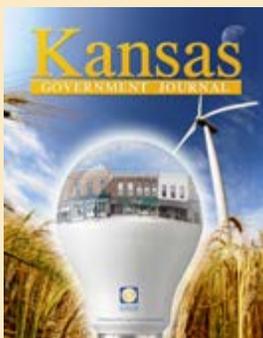
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Our cover this month showcases many ways Kansas cities and towns are adapting new, green energy saving initiatives to keep their communities thriving.



Kansas

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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

NOVEMBER

November 7 General Election
 November 10 Veterans Day (Observed)
 November 11 Veterans Day
 November 15-18 NLC City Summit, Charlotte, NC
 November 23 & 24 Thanksgiving Holiday, League Offices Closed
 November 30 MTI: Social Media for Cities (Elective), Tonganoxie

DECEMBER

December 1 MTI: Social Media for Cities (Elective), Girard
 December 12 Webinar: Council Orientation Best Practices
 December 22 League Offices Close at Noon
 December 25 League Offices Closed

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

Obituaries

Basil C. Marhofer, age 92, of Ness City, passed away on Wednesday, September 6, 2017. Basil was born on February 2, 1925 on a farm near Arnold to Olin and Mamie Keyser Marhofer. He graduated from Ness City High School and received his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas. He attended law school at the University of Colorado and was admitted to the Kansas and Colorado Bar. He married Cecilia Lewand in Ness City on September 5, 1987.

Basil was in private practice law since 1951. He was also County Attorney, City Attorney, Mayor and Past President of the County Bar Association, all in Ness City. He was a Past President of the Judicial Bar Association and a past member of Kansas Judicial Council Committee on Municipal Courts. Basil served the 61st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army in Europe during WWII and was in the U.S. Army Band from 1945-1946.

Basil was very involved in Rotary International and a Past Master of Walnut Valley Masonic Lodge #191 and Starlight Chapter #84 Order of Eastern Star, both in Ness City.

He is survived by his wife Cecilia, his sister Betty Clark, and numerous members of his extended family.

Director's Foreword

by Erik Sartorius

While at this time of the year some folks can feel like they are entering the homestretch, we haven't found that to be the case at the League. At one of our regular staff meetings, we allowed extra time to list out all projects we have planned for this year and early 2018. I think we filled four pages of easel boards, as well as our dry erase board!



From our travels across the state for our Regional Suppers, I can tell that many of you have equally ambitious schedules. We stopped at over 25 cities in our two weeks on the road. Virtually everyone had big things underway or planned. Construction projects were coming to a close, while many cities were using the unseasonably warm weather to continue tackling smaller projects they could sneak in before frost begins to appear.

Our car of intrepid travelers visited Rozel and Burdett on our way to Cimarron for dinner. We were hosted in Cimarron at their library, where we were able to learn about their innovative programming for residents. All their hard work has been recognized by the Kansas Library Association, who has named them the 2017 "Best Public Library" in Kansas. Congratulations!

Our adventures continued the next day with stops in Holcomb, Lakin, Syracuse and Leoti. (Where I got to see a sneak preview of the new paint color for my office!) We meandered all the way out to Coolidge, where I sadly must report that I could not find Cousin Eddie (from *National Lampoon's Vacation*). Our dinner that night was just outside of Colby at the H.P. Chuckwagon Cookshack. What a place and what food! The folks there put on quite a meal in the barn they built themselves. Great tales of their travels in their 19th century wagon, too. Many attendees arrived saying they were saving room for the peach cobbler made in Dutch ovens – and now I know why!

Deputy Director Trey Cocking and crew visited many sites on their way to the Hays and Derby Regional Suppers. They stopped in to visit city staffers in Manhattan, Junction City, Wamego, Ellsworth, Lyons, Goddard and Maize.

The City of Victoria may be a little worried that the League is scoping them out as a western outpost! Both of our carloads of staff stopped in to greet them in just a span of a few days. We used our visit to also stop in at the Cathedral on the Plains, truly a wonder of Kansas.

The following week, we headed to both Lawrence and Coffeyville for our events. Our trip to southeast Kansas included stops in Humboldt and Iola. Be on the lookout for articles in the coming months on some things each of those cities have going on – very

impressive!

I recently participated in an economic outlook session in Kansas City. I thought you might find interest in a few tidbits from the economist that preceded my panel: Did you know that Halloween is now second for U.S. spending? And, we now spend more money on adult costumes than children's costumes? The economist noted if there is strong spending on Halloween, then spending for Christmas should also come in strong.

Many economists are expecting a correction in the U.S. stock market. About 25% of invested funds are from foreign investors. If confidence in Europe and Japan markets increases, the prediction is for a rapid shift of foreign funds there, leading to a possible drop of 3,000-4,000 points in the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

While that might not be great for retirement funds, the economist believes there could be a silver lining for cities. A cooling of the stock market could turn attention to bonds, particularly municipal bonds. Combined with tax reform proposals in D.C., which could shrink the number of tax-advantaged investments, municipal bonds could see an increase in demand. Something for us all to keep an eye on, for sure.

Many of this month's articles focus on sustainability. Some of the expected topics, like energy efficient buildings, are discussed. At the same time, we broaden "sustainability" by highlighting the growth of food and farm councils in cities. Sustainability also applies to personnel, so we are taking a look at a stress management program based on mindful meditation that Ottawa is offering employees.

As we head toward Thanksgiving, and the rest of the holiday season, some people undertake a "thankfulness" or "gratefulness" exercise at this time of the year. They do this by citing the things they appreciate daily on Facebook or some other social media platform. Research has shown positive impacts for people when they do this.

To put a different spin on this, why not do this and focus on what you are grateful for in your city? This can be something you do personally, or something your city undertakes on social media. Your residents, staff and strangers may all grow their appreciation for the city as you expose them to some of the great aspects of your community. If nothing else, I will bet you will be more appreciative of your city, and keeping a positive outlook about it as you face myriad challenges will give you more energy to tackle them.

A very happy Thanksgiving to you and your families, and safe passage if you are traveling. As always, please share any questions, concerns or comments with me at esartorius@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

We stopped at over 25 cities in our two weeks on the road.

An aerial, isometric view of a city grid. The top half of the image is dominated by a large array of solar panels. Below the solar panels, several wind turbines are scattered across the landscape. In the lower half, there are various city buildings, including a tall skyscraper, a water tower, and residential houses. The background is a bright blue sky with light clouds.

POWER(FUL) CHOICES

Kansas cities look for ways to improve energy costs and improve service delivery.

By Megan Gilliland, League of Kansas Municipalities

Local government leaders, city staff and elected officials are continuously seeking ways to improve the efficiency of government services and ensure responsible stewardship of public funds. Kansas communities are employing dozens of tactics to improve their energy efficiency across all levels of service. In this article, we'll showcase a few of the communities and how they are working to increase their energy efficiency, reduce their dependence on energy sources and provide reliable energy systems to customers across Kansas.

Numerous cities in Kansas have begun the transition to LED lighting for street lights and facility lighting. LED lighting products produce light at significantly higher efficiency rates than incandescent bulbs and high-pressure sodium (HPS) lights. For this reason, cities are making the switch to LED lights to save on energy costs and replace infrastructure reaching the end of its useful life.

In Kiowa, population 1,026, the city has replaced 40% of their street lights with LED and are on their way to replacing all 200 lights in the coming years.

“We’ve already seen a cost savings of \$15,000 per year for our street lights,” said Lou Leone, City Administrator in Kiowa.

In Sterling, City Manager Taggart Wall noted the community of 2,300 is in the process of transitioning the entire community from HPS to LED.

“We have approximately 300 public street lights,” said Wall. “We are estimating a cost savings of \$12,492 per year with the LED lights and estimate the transition will pay for itself in just over three years.”

In 2010, the Hesston Public Library relocated to a 10,000 square-foot modernized building. In 2016, the library received a Westar Energy Photovoltaic Project grant which provided solar panels, a 25-year maintenance contract and a real-time monitoring system that library staff use to educate patrons about solar. The solar panels offset approximately 10% of the library’s monthly utility costs. The cost savings have been redirected into funding library materials and youth and community programming.

“The Hesston Public Library is committed to environmental stewardship and not only practices the ‘simple’ activities such as single-stream recycling, programmable thermostats, and CFL and LED use, but is also in the processes of installing a water-efficient, drip irrigation system,” said Hesston Public Library Director Libby Albers.

In Mission Hills, City Administrator Courtney Christensen noted that the city has been able to save in several ways by switching to LEDs.

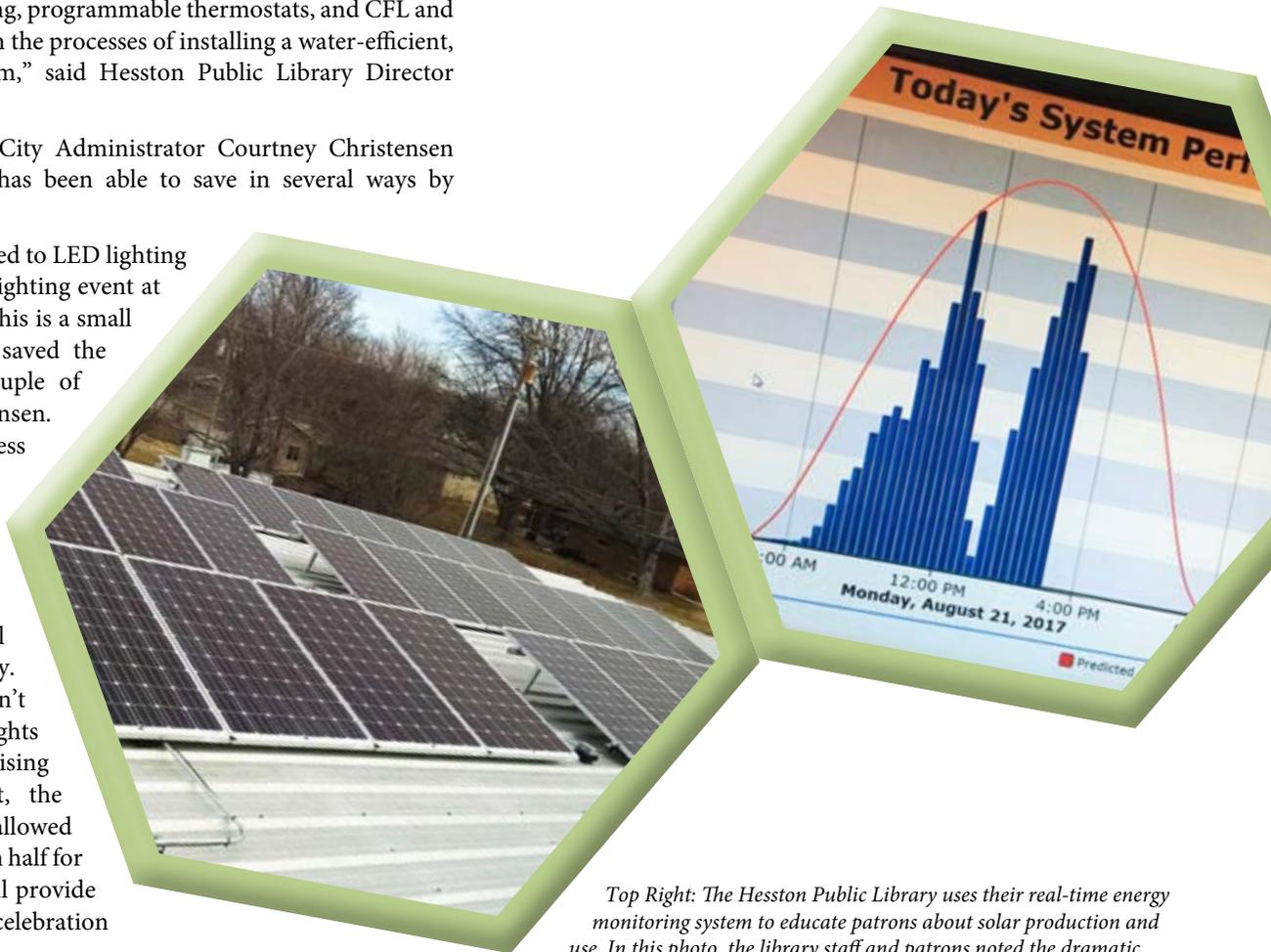
“In 2011 we switched to LED lighting for our holiday tree lighting event at City Hall. Although this is a small project, the change saved the city money in a couple of ways,” said Christensen. “First, we use less electricity with the LEDs. Second, we no longer need to increase our electric panel each year for the annual lighting ceremony. And third, we don’t need to remove the lights each year. Even with rising costs for the event, the energy savings have allowed us to cut the budget in half for the ceremony but still provide a beautiful holiday celebration for the community.”

In May of 2015, the City of Garden City entered into a Performance Contracting Agreement with Siemens Industries for energy saving retrofitting of several different city facilities. The retrofit included adding insulation, replacement of doors and windows, weather stripping and caulking where needed, controllable thermostats and energy efficient lighting replacement in the buildings.

“The largest area of energy efficiencies was the complete replacement of the nearly 3,500 street lights in Garden City,” said Mike Muirhead, Director of Public Works for Garden City. “New, energy efficient LED luminaries were installed on every city pole, replacing HPS lights and a few mercury vapor fixtures with the new energy efficient street lights. The investment made by the City of Garden City for the energy saving retrofit was \$3.2 million with a guaranteed energy savings of \$393,040 during the first year of operation. We were pleasantly surprised to learn that the actual accumulated saving for this first year was \$564,320.”

Muirhead also noted another benefit to this program included a reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (a reduction of carbon dioxide) by 1,805 metric tons during this first year.

After a devastating F5 tornado in 2004, Greensburg took deliberate actions to decrease their energy dependency throughout the community. Greensburg is home to the most LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) buildings per capita in the U.S. and was the first city in the U.S. to use all LED streetlights. Greensburg is 100% renewable, 100% of



Top Right: The Hesston Public Library uses their real-time energy monitoring system to educate patrons about solar production and use. In this photo, the library staff and patrons noted the dramatic decrease in solar production on August 21, 2017 – the date of the total solar eclipse. The monitoring system is used to educate patrons about solar energy and energy use.

Bottom Left: The Hesston Public Library received a grant from Westar Energy for a photovoltaic project which provided the funds to install solar panels, provide a maintenance contract for 25 years and a monitoring system.

the time - all the electricity used in the City of Greensburg is wind energy. Water is a precious resource and Greensburg conserves every drop with low-flow fixtures and native plantings in the landscaping. Rainwater is collected for use in irrigation and in some facilities as grey water in toilets.

Public buildings are eligible to participate in the Kansas Corporation Commission's (KCC) Facility Conservation Improvement Program (FCIP) which helps local governments, school districts, universities, hospitals and others implement energy-efficiency projects. This long-standing program with the KCC is built to be a budget-neutral way to finance energy-efficiency improvements. Project costs are paid for from savings on energy and operations/maintenance costs.

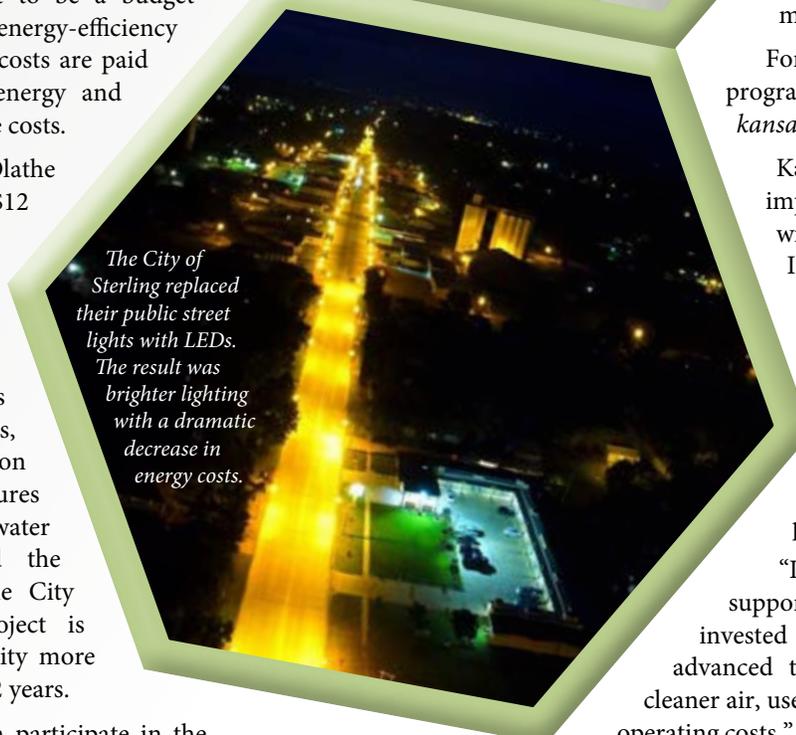
The City of Olathe completed a \$12 million-dollar advanced metering infrastructure project in 2011 which included the installation of automated utility meters to over 34,000 customers, and the implementation of energy savings measures at the water and wastewater treatment plants and the municipal campus. The City of Olathe's FCIP project is expected to save the City more than \$17 million over 12 years.

Cities of all sizes can participate in the FCIP program. Coffeyville is in the beginning phases of developing an FCIP project which would potentially include automated metering for utilities and LED street lights. The City of Lawrence is wrapping up their nearly \$11 million-dollar FCIP projects (see sidebar on page 265 for more details). The City of Eudora recently completed a FCIP project involving multiple city functions.

As part of the FCIP process, preliminary energy audits are performed by pre-qualified energy service companies (ESCOs) to get a general idea of the current energy use, improvements needed and the potential for savings. There is no charge to the customer for the preliminary audit. After the preliminary energy audit, the ESCOs present their findings to the city and FCIP staff. The city then selects one ESCO for the Investment Grade Audit (IGA), which is a comprehensive audit of the customer's facilities. Following the audit, the ESCO presents the IGA Report to the city, which outlines a proposed FCIP project.



Utility crews installed hundreds of LED lights on city poles around Sterling. (Photo credit: Sterling Bulletin)



The City of Sterling replaced their public street lights with LEDs. The result was brighter lighting with a dramatic decrease in energy costs.

Once a project is determined, an Energy Performance Contract is developed which defines the project scope, the terms of the guarantee including the terms of the measurement and verification period and the construction schedule, along with any other details necessary.

Lastly, measurement and verification occur after the project is completed to verify that the reduction in energy usage meets the terms of the guarantee.

For more information on the FCIP program, visit <http://kcc.state.ks.us/kansas-energy-office/fcip>.

Kansas cities are seeking ways to improve their consumption of fuels within their own fleet of city vehicles. In El Dorado, the city launched a multi-year program to utilize compressed natural gas (CNG) as an alternative to diesel fuel. With over 100 vehicles in the fleet, the City of El Dorado has successfully converted 30 vehicles to CNG, with more planned in the future.

"In a short period of time, with the support of the governing body, we've invested in the deployment of several advanced technology vehicles that promote cleaner air, use less fuel and help the city lower its operating costs," said Brad Meyer, Director of Public Works, for the City of El Dorado. "While some may see just another car or truck on the road, we think these vehicles represent the shared values of the communities where we live, work and play."

Currently, the cost of natural gas is significantly less, approximately \$1 per gallon. Meyer said El Dorado specifically targeted CNG conversion for vehicles that heavily utilized diesel fuel and had low MPG ratings, including fire trucks, refuse trucks and a street sweeper.

Meyer cautions cities to do their homework before converting to alternative fuels.

"Not every city has the ability to have a station to fill up vehicles," said Meyer. "We worked hand-in-hand with Kansas Gas Service to ensure our infrastructure provided what we needed for this program to be successful."

Meyer said El Dorado's CNG station and storage units were

built and constructed using in-house labor; many of the engine conversions were also completed in-house to lower costs.

Dozens of Kansas cities provide public power to their cities. As a provider and consumer of energy, many cities are looking for ways to add efficiency into their distribution systems. In Kiowa, City Administrator Leone noted several initiatives the city is undertaking for reliability and efficiency.

“We are in the process of adding a second generator to our system which can power the entire city in case of an outage,” said Leone. “Kiowa is in the process of taking steps to reduce surges and fluctuations in the distribution system. Kiowa ended the leasing of power lines, resulting in \$48,000 savings in wheeling fees, The electrical grid has been converted to a single voltage, another step toward greater reliability.”

Leone noted that a majority of the utility work has been performed in-house and without increasing utility rates.

“The outcome we’re working toward is a reliable system that can handle the needs of our community for many decades – for residents, businesses and industry,” said Leone.

In Herington, City Manager Ed Patton noted recent electric line upgrades have been performed to enhance reliability and efficiency. Additionally, Herington is looking at wind and solar options as a power source.

“We’ve moved to a radio-controlled meter reading system,” said Patton. “These types of meters allow city staff to drive down a street with a laptop and collect data electronically. This system saves the city money in employee time and commodities. It’s a much more efficient way to collect data.”

In Junction City, several steps have been taken to lessen energy usage by employees and the public. Motion sensors have been installed to turn lights off when a room is not in use. Some interior ceiling lights are not used during the daytime if not necessary.

“We do not allow space heaters to be used in city buildings for energy efficiency and safety,” said Cheryl Beatty, Finance Director for the City of Junction City. “If a room is not heated well, we’ve installed energy efficient, wall-mounted room heaters.”

Additionally, Junction City reviews gas consumption on each building to determine if natural gas can be purchased in bulk. Employees are encouraged to ride share to save on fuel costs and individual gas purchases are managed to ensure employee accountability.

In Kansas, we have an abundance of renewable resources to consider for energy. According to the Kansas Department of Commerce¹, Kansas is second in the nation for wind energy potential and 24% of the energy generated in the state is from wind. As for solar energy, increased access to affordable solar technology is on the rise. With an abundance of sun in the Sunflower State, solar energy should be an option for consideration in a community’s renewable energy portfolio.

In 2016, the City of Ottawa bought into the Marshall Wind Farm, located in Marshall County. Monthly, the City tracks the

In 2016, the City of Lawrence initiated several projects through the Kansas Corporation Commission’s Facility Conservation Improvement Program, a state program that assists local governments in implementing energy-saving projects. The goals of the projects are to:

- Reduce energy costs;
- Upgrade facilities and equipment;
- Improve energy efficiency; and
- Support sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction goals.

The City of Lawrence hired an energy service company to do a complete energy audit of all city facilities. This audit helped identify the cost-effective energy saving measures the City should pursue.

In early 2017, the Lawrence City Commission approved \$11.3 million in energy saving upgrades to City facilities. The annual energy and maintenance savings from the projects will completely pay off the debt, making this a smart investment for the City.

The City issued the first-ever Green Bonds in the state of Kansas to finance the project. Green Bonds are a type of bond instrument; the proceeds of which will be exclusively applied to finance green projects that address key areas of concern such as: climate change, natural resource conservation, pollution reduction and loss of biodiversity. The City is following the internationally-recognized Green Bond Principles which outline how to structure and report on green bond projects.

The projects will impact facilities managed by Public Works & Parks and Recreation. In addition to the energy-saving benefits, the program enabled the City to proceed with a number of deferred maintenance projects and offered projects that would be managed by the energy service company. The management aspect saved staff time because the energy service company wrote all of the specifications, managed the contractors and coordinated the projects. The projects include:

- LED lighting retrofit in City buildings, parking garages, sports fields, and parks;
- Upgrades to the heating and cooling equipment in several buildings;
- Upgrades to thermostats and heating/cooling controls;
- Weatherization projects;
- New roofs at three buildings; and
- New windows at City Hall.

The Facilities Conservation Improvement Program for the City of Lawrence will be completed in early 2018.



Promoting Local Food

For local governments, finding your role in promoting and ensuring access to local, healthy food in your community may seem daunting. Luckily, many opportunities exist, with innovation allowing a variety of departments and agencies to take part.

To begin, consider forming a Food and Farm Council as a public advisory board. Since the establishment of the Douglas County Food Policy Council in 2010, 22 Kansas counties now have, or are creating, some form of advisory board or community coalition convened to identify challenges, opportunities, and needs relating to building a strong, healthy food system.

Ensure your community allows for healthy food production, particularly within municipalities. Opening up vacant or underutilized public land for community gardens can not only provide fresh fruits and vegetables to residents, but also support beautification and community connections. Consider reviewing your land development code and building codes to understand if barriers exist to your community's contemporary food production interests. You may find a need to reconsider uses like front-yard gardens, back-yard chickens, honey bees, on-site sales or season extension structures, like hoop houses or high tunnels.

Supporting healthy food access can take place in public spaces and at public institutions. Healthy and local food procurement guidelines align a community's spending with its desired health outcomes. This may include vending machines, concessions, and other public food service operations. Guidelines could require a portion of menu offerings meet nutritional standards, and make some allowances for slightly higher costs if food comes from an area agricultural producer. Partner through your Parks and Recreation and Public Health Departments with community organizations to ensure the success of feeding programs, such as summer food service programs, so families with children have dependable food access year-round.

Don't overlook the economic development opportunities that align with healthy, local food access. Innovative programs like Double Up Food Bucks seek to extend the purchasing power of residents benefiting from federal food assistance (now called the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, SNAP), while also directing new consumers and their dollars to area producers of healthy foods. Fall 2017 will bring to the Sunflower State a new financing mechanism, the Healthy Food Financing Initiative. With low and no-cost loans, this partnership between the Kansas Health Foundation, K-State University Center for Community Engagement & Development (Rural Grocery Initiative), and NetWork Kansas (among others) seeks to attract grocery stores and food distribution to urban and rural areas struggling to provide healthy food access.

On these topics and more, the Public Health Law Center has produced a series of helpful healthy food policy guides tailored to the Kansas context. 

Helen Schnoes is the Food Systems Coordinator for Douglas County, Kansas. She can be reached at hschnoes@douglascountyks.org.



percentage of households in Ottawa powered by renewable energy, including solar and wind energy. In April 2017, the city calculated 36.6% of households in Ottawa were powered by renewable energy sources – with over one-million kilowatts generated from the Marshall Wind Farm that month alone.

“As a city, we want to be as diversified as possible in our energy portfolio,” said Dennis Tharp, Director of Utilities for the City of Ottawa.

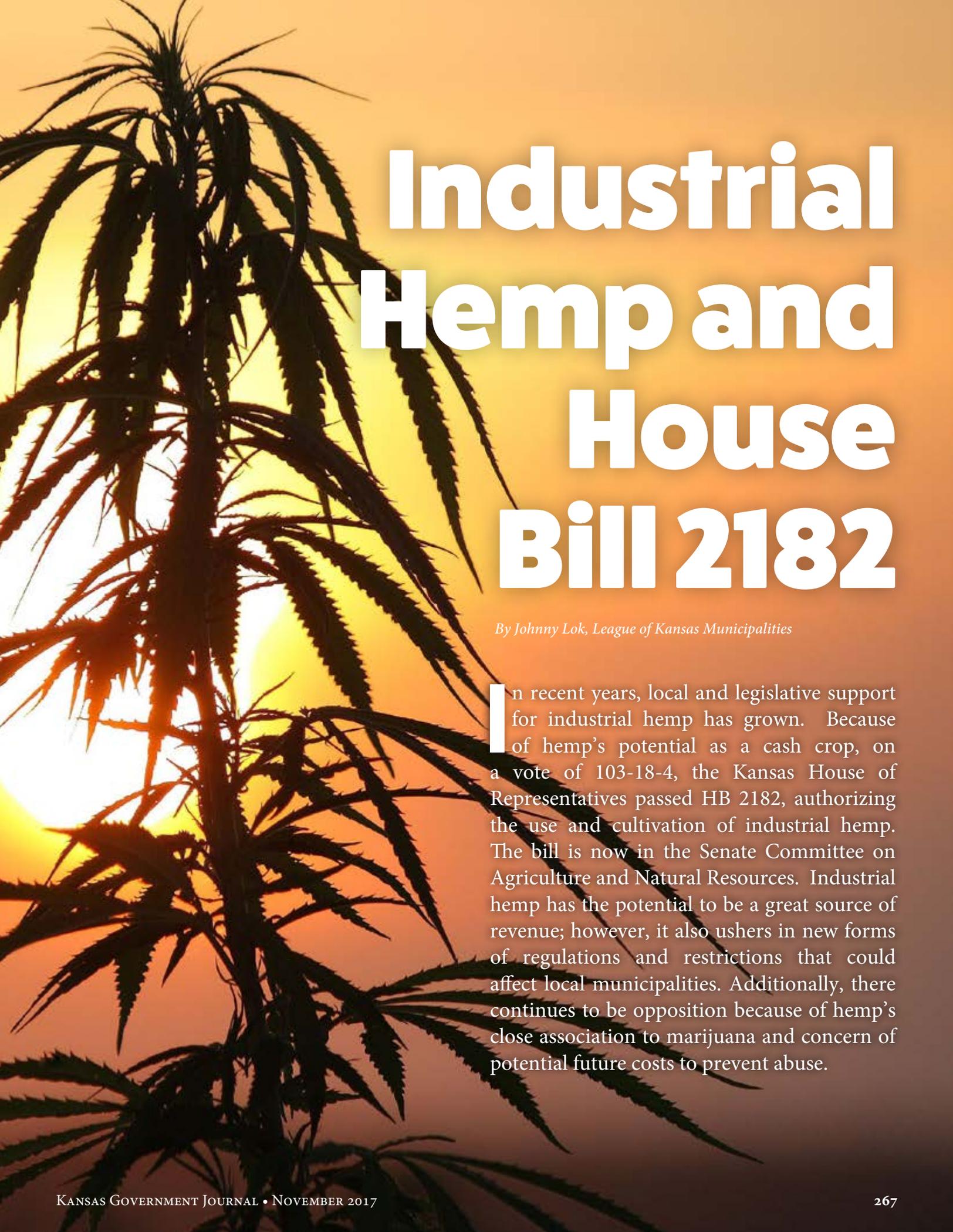
Whether your community is seeking ideas to save costs or increase efficiency of current and future systems, there are many options for local governments to consider. Many Kansas communities have taken steps – both simple and complex – to reduce their energy consumption and dependence. Whether your



The City of Mission Hills converted their holiday lighting to LED lights which saves on energy costs, electrical panel expansion, and staff time.

community chooses increased insulation efforts in city facilities, adding efficient building standards to city codes, increased recycling options for consumers, or water collection and reuse, any steps you take toward conservation and efficiency will be a good exercise in public policy and developing the community's energy goals and outlook. 

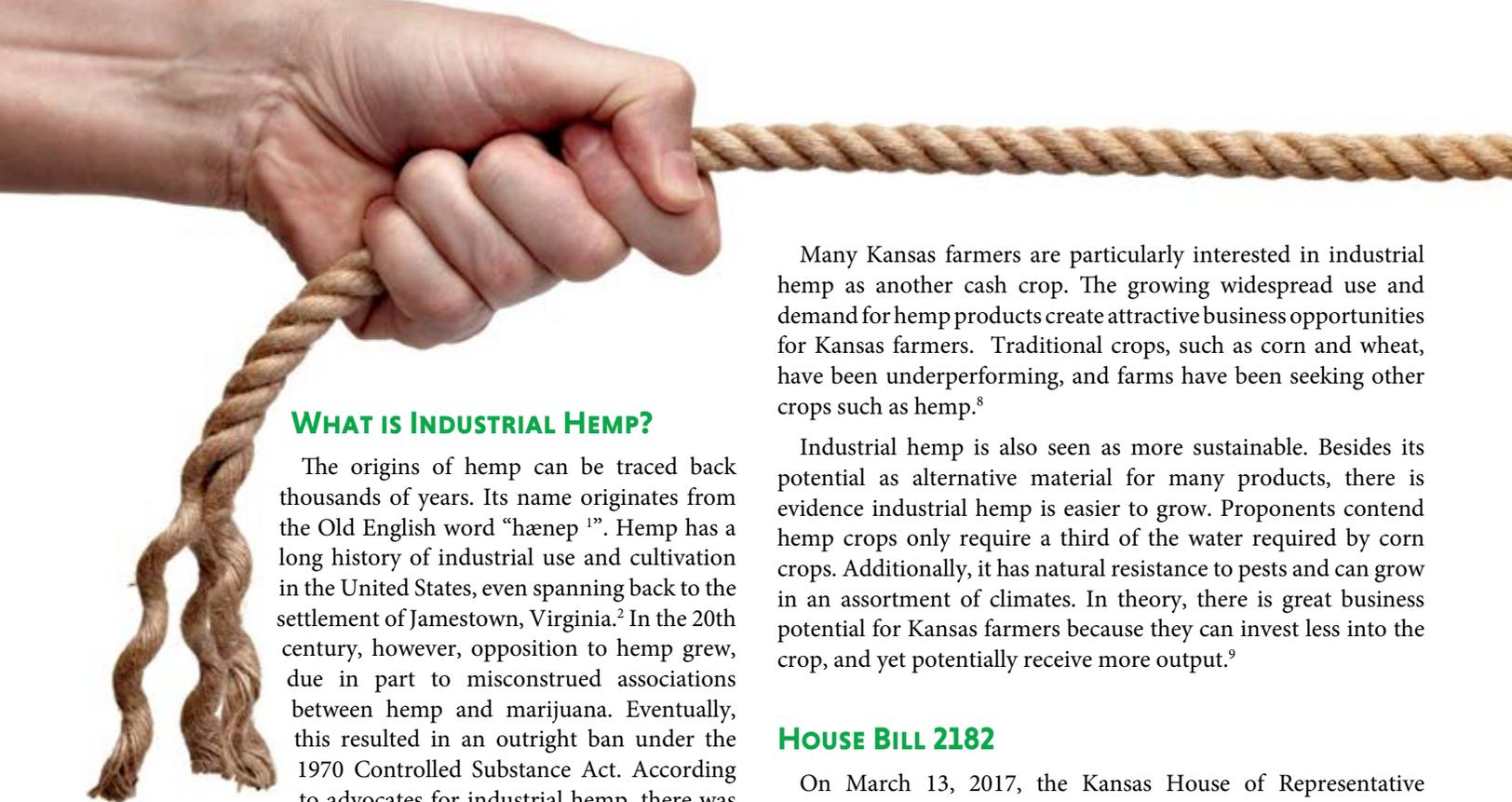
 **Megan Gilliland** is the Communication and Education Manager for the League of Kansas Municipalities. You can reach her at mgilliland@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565.

A large, dark silhouette of a hemp plant with serrated leaves dominates the left side of the page. The background is a warm, golden-orange gradient, suggesting a sunset or sunrise, with the sun's glow visible behind the plant's branches.

Industrial Hemp and House Bill 2182

By Johnny Lok, League of Kansas Municipalities

In recent years, local and legislative support for industrial hemp has grown. Because of hemp's potential as a cash crop, on a vote of 103-18-4, the Kansas House of Representatives passed HB 2182, authorizing the use and cultivation of industrial hemp. The bill is now in the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Industrial hemp has the potential to be a great source of revenue; however, it also ushers in new forms of regulations and restrictions that could affect local municipalities. Additionally, there continues to be opposition because of hemp's close association to marijuana and concern of potential future costs to prevent abuse.



WHAT IS INDUSTRIAL HEMP?

The origins of hemp can be traced back thousands of years. Its name originates from the Old English word “hænep”¹. Hemp has a long history of industrial use and cultivation in the United States, even spanning back to the settlement of Jamestown, Virginia.² In the 20th century, however, opposition to hemp grew, due in part to misconstrued associations between hemp and marijuana. Eventually, this resulted in an outright ban under the 1970 Controlled Substance Act. According to advocates for industrial hemp, there was

a lack of understanding on the differences between hemp and marijuana.³

Although industrial hemp is classified as cannabis, its biological chemistry differs dramatically from its infamous cousin. The most notable difference is the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabidiol (CBD) levels. Hemp has lower concentration levels of THC and higher levels of CBD as compared to marijuana. This results in little to no psychotic effects from hemp. In many other countries and states that have legalized industrial hemp, policies typically limit the concentration levels of THC to around 0.2% or 0.3%. In comparison, marijuana has a THC concentration of 3% to 20%.⁴ Therefore, the key difference between industrial hemp and marijuana is that it is unlikely to cause psychotic effects.

RENEWED SUPPORT FOR HEMP

Kansas is hardly the first state to consider legalizing industrial hemp. Through the Agricultural Act of 2014, the United States Congress allowed for cultivation and research within states that have legalized hemp.⁵ Since then, more than a dozen states have created hemp pilot and research programs. Many more states have recognized the distinctions between industrial hemp and marijuana.⁶ Thus, barriers have been slowly reduced nationwide.

WHAT ARE THE USES OF INDUSTRIAL HEMP?

One benefit of industrial hemp is its wide range of uses. As a fiber, industrial hemp has a long history as a source for ropes, fabrics, paper and clothing materials. Newer technology has transformed industrial hemp for plastic materials and even for fuel. Hemp seeds and leaves can be an alternative for food because of the low THC levels. Hemp products can likewise be used for body care goods.⁷

Many Kansas farmers are particularly interested in industrial hemp as another cash crop. The growing widespread use and demand for hemp products create attractive business opportunities for Kansas farmers. Traditional crops, such as corn and wheat, have been underperforming, and farms have been seeking other crops such as hemp.⁸

Industrial hemp is also seen as more sustainable. Besides its potential as alternative material for many products, there is evidence industrial hemp is easier to grow. Proponents contend hemp crops only require a third of the water required by corn crops. Additionally, it has natural resistance to pests and can grow in an assortment of climates. In theory, there is great business potential for Kansas farmers because they can invest less into the crop, and yet potentially receive more output.⁹

HOUSE BILL 2182

On March 13, 2017, the Kansas House of Representative passed HB 2182, sending it to the Senate where it is in the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources. The bill holds many items of interest. First, HB 2182 recognizes the value of industrial hemp for Kansas to produce food, beauty products, fiber and cellulose for automotive parts, building products and fuel. The House position acknowledges the potential of the crop and supports research in hemp.

Second, HB 2182 provides that the Secretary of Agriculture supervise and certify industrial hemp growers. HB 2182 requires growers obtain a 1-year license from the Secretary each year. Additionally, it sets the THC concentration to 0.3% or lower, in an attempt to ensure the hemp produced has little ability to cause psychotic effects.

Third, HB 2182 requires the Secretary to notify and inform the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) and city and county law enforcement agencies about anyone that has obtained a license to grow industrial hemp. This is a safety net designed to further limit potential abuse.

CONCERNS WITH INDUSTRIAL HEMP

As noted in HB 2182, expanding the hemp market into Kansas comes with the opportunity for abuse. One concern raised is that growers could grow marijuana hidden in the midst of regular industrial hemp crops, or growers could even grow crops with much higher THC concentration levels. Although HB 2182 provides policing efforts, the KBI has expressed concerns over the costs to police the new market. The KBI estimated that the state’s cost to test samples of each crop for regulation enforcement purposes could be more than \$1.5 million over two years.¹⁰ Furthermore, the agency does not currently have a validated method to measure and test THC crops. Research to develop and supply these methods could add an additional \$300,000 to the cost of legalizing industrial hemp over the next two years.¹¹

Additionally, there is skepticism among the opponents about the general information on hemp. Some believe industrial hemp is unreliable due to lack of proof. Additionally, opponents question whether the advantages of hemp are exaggerated. The opposition to HB 2182 believes there is not enough evidence to state definitively that hemp requires a third of the water required by corn. As a result, they are hesitant to support the bill.

For now, HB 2182 is certainly a bill to keep an eye on for the 2018 legislative session because of its social and financial implications for cities in Kansas. 🌞

🌞 **Johnny Lok** is a former extern for the League of Kansas Municipalities. He is a law student at The University of Kansas.

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New League Staff

Stephen Falls

What is your position and what do you do?

I am the Design and Print Specialist. My responsibilities include producing The Kansas Government Journal, and other collateral produced by the League.

What is your favorite thing about Kansas?

The people. Through my travels, hobbies and the associations I have belonged to over the years, there is an open and genuine honesty among Kansans' that I always find refreshing.

A little bit of information about you.

I attended Kansas State University and received a degree in graphic design. After graduation, I moved to Topeka and started my career at The Topeka Capital-Journal.

Have you always lived in Kansas?

Yes, I am a life-long resident of Kansas originally from Ottawa.

What is your favorite scenic part of Kansas?

All of it! Having lived here all my life, I have seen quite bit of the state and every time I see something new I am amazed that I saw it in Kansas. From the Mined Land Lakes to Monument Rocks, to the Missouri River Bluffs and the Flint Hills, there is so much to enjoy about Kansas.



Chardae Caine

What is your position and what do you do?

I am the League's Research Associate. I am responsible for producing policy briefs, collaborating to create infographics and collecting data for legislative sessions.

What is your favorite thing about Kansas?

I love attending festivals and community events throughout Kansas. So far, my favorite festival has been the Jazz and Food Truck Festival in Topeka.

A little bit of information about you.

I was born and raised in a small town just outside of Detroit, Michigan. After attending Auburn University for both my Bachelor and Master degrees, I decided to establish a new life in Kansas. War Eagle forever!

Have you always lived in Kansas?

No! I have only lived in Kansas for about five months.

What is your favorite scenic part of Kansas?

The first time I drove through the Flint Hills, I was amazed. It was one of the most breathtaking views I have ever seen in person.



Jason Jones Councilmember Hesston

What do you think is the primary role of municipal government? The city council should work closely with city staff to make well-informed decisions in an effort to strategically manage the many important city resources for the benefit of our community. We should always remember we have been elected to be the voice of our constituents.

What is your professional position and what are your typical duties? I am the director of the Hesston Wellness Center where I oversee the staff, membership, programs and overall operation of the wellness center. I also lead our Bluestem Wellness Team that coordinates our Employee Wellness Program for approximately 500 employees with Bluestem Communities with locations in Hesston, North Newton, and McPherson.

What is your favorite thing about Kansas? Kansas has always been home to me. I have lived in a number of other states, but nowhere else has ever felt like home as much as Kansas. One of my favorite things is to take my family to our cabin at a private lake called “99 Springs” close to Medicine Lodge. It is a beautiful place for our family to spend quality time together away from all the distractions of the world.

Please share a little personal information about yourself. I was born and raised in Bucklin. I am a graduate of Kansas State University and have spent the majority of my career in YMCA Management. I sing contemporary Christian music semi-professionally travelling to various churches and other venues to do concerts.

What is your favorite thing about your community? I love the fact that Hesston is a small and safe community to raise my six-year-old son, Jace. We



are a very progressive community with excellent city staff and a highly regarded School District. Hesston is the friendliest community we have ever lived in and everyone helps each other in times of need.

What made you want to join city government? I have been involved in community leadership for many years including the Hesston Area Chamber of Commerce Board, Hesston Area Economic Development Board, Harvey County Economic Development Board, and Hesston Lion’s Club Board. I have participated in two formal leadership programs including Leadership Hutchinson and the Excel Leadership Program.

Is this your first time on a statewide board? No. When I was the Executive Director of the Reno County Chapter of the American Red Cross, I was a member of the Central Plains Region Blood Services Board serving Kansas and Oklahoma. I look forward to using my previous leadership experience to bring new ideas to the League of Kansas Municipalities Governing Body. I’m looking forward to serving the cities of Kansas in this role.



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HONORING HEROES

Kansas cities embrace banner program honoring veterans

By Megan Gilliland,
League of Kansas Municipalities

This November, communities across Kansas will take time to honor veterans from all branches of the Armed Services. In the past few years, Kansas communities have found a unique way to honor their hometown heroes with special banners in downtown locations. Emporia was the first city in Kansas to undertake this type of program; theirs may also be the first program in the U.S., too. The Emporia program began in 2014 with 104 banners, more than double the response initially needed for the project to move forward.

The program varies from city to city but generally involves a fundraising campaign by local organizations, Main Street programs or passionate citizens. Funds are needed to design, print and hang the banners. In some cities, commemorative books have been published as part of the banner program to provide biographical information on the banners and the veterans showcased on the banners.

The banners can be used to honor military veterans, living or deceased, and most banner programs make a point to note the branch of military and dates of service. Each community can choose how they want to develop their program.

In Burlington, the Floyd Lewis Foundation was instrumental in developing the local banner effort to honor veterans in the town of 2,600.

“When my father passed away, I wanted to honor him,” said Steve Lewis, son of Floyd Lewis. “Our foundation supports events and programs with an emphasis

on patriotism, compassion and furthering education. The veteran banner program in Burlington was a good fit for us.”

Other Kansas communities have joined in celebrating and honoring their local veterans. The communities of Leavenworth, Iola, Sterling, Garnett, Lyons, Kingman, Junction City, and Topeka all have developed banner programs.



“The Leavenworth community is home to many veterans of all ranks and the Banner of Honor Project is just one small way to say “thank you” to our veterans,” said Leavenworth Mayor Nancy Bauder. “The City of Leavenworth is proud to support this Leavenworth Main Street project to recognize their service.”

In Emporia, the Main Street Program added another component to the program in 2016, a Banner Walk. The Banner Walk takes place on Veterans Day and gives veterans and their families an opportunity to talk about their service and share stories with the community.

The banners can elicit a profound effect on community members, young and old.

“Young people start to realize that war isn’t a video game when they see pictures of 18- and 19-year-olds on these banners, then they hear about what these people did in the military and it changes how they think about war,” said Casey Woods, Director of the Emporia Main Street program.

The veteran banner program is another way Kansas communities can show hometown pride with a patriotic twist on a traditional downtown banner program.

Note: If we missed a community with a veteran banner program, please let us know. We’ll be happy to share this information on our social media accounts. 🌞

Top: Emporia’s veteran banner program has always been about more than banners. The program is a way to collect, preserve and share personal stories of the local military servicemen and servicewomen. The Emporia program lines dozens of blocks with banners around the community each year.

Center: In Leavenworth, the Main Street program spearheaded a veteran banner campaign in 2016 called “Banner of Honor.” In the first year, 51 banners were added in downtown to honor hometown military heroes. A commemorative book was also produced with biographies on each veteran’s service.

Left: In Burlington, the Floyd Lewis Foundation funded a banner program to honor local military veterans.

Strategies to Leverage Your Facility and Boost the Budget



By Madeline Emsick, BCS Strategic Partnerships

Do you dread checking your facility's utility bills month after month? You aren't alone. According to the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), building owners spend approximately 22% of their total operating costs on utilities, or about \$2.25 per square foot of space each year. Spending $\frac{1}{4}$ of your budget on operating expenses can be devastating to your ability to complete crucial city projects. You can't turn off your monthly facility expenses, but you can leverage your facility and its equipment to creatively lower your expenses and put money back in your pocket. Here's how to make your facility work for you:

1. ANALYZE UTILITY BILLS

Utilities are metered. You don't know exactly how much your building's power and water cost until you receive a bill the following month. By looking at historical utility bills, you can anticipate your building's upcoming utility costs and plan more effectively for spikes and dips.

If you don't have old utility bills, request copies from your providers or look back over bank statements. It's best practice to analyze between 12-24 months of past utility bills, as this reveals seasonal changes and fluctuations in utility usage. Using this

information, you can be better equipped to predict upcoming utility expenses for your building.

By analyzing your bills, not only can you get an idea of how much you spend in a typical month, you can spot anomalies like heat waves or cold fronts. Note the trends in your utility bills for insight into which months have the biggest on your utility budget. Being prepared can help you fine tune the monthly budget based on typical utility costs.

Keep tabs on rate increases. Local rate increases are always published in multiple public locations, such as the utility company's website, local newspaper, etc. The utility company has the responsibility to publish this information publicly months before the rate increases. Actual utility charges constantly fluctuate due to factors such as fuel costs, weather, inflation and legal reform, to name a few. Even if you've paid the same "rate" for your building's power over the last 12 months, your actual costs may vary at any time.

To help budget for these changes, record your units of energy used in addition to total dollar amount in your monthly bill. Your usage may stay the same from November of the previous year to the currently year but a rate increase will skew these numbers. Compare the units of energy, gallons of water, kWh of electricity and therms of gas every month.

2. INVEST IN A LOW-COST UTILITY BILL MANAGEMENT SERVICE

If you have multiple buildings and several utility bills/meters, consider investing in a utility bill management service. There are several on the market today that provide solutions for utility invoice collection and auditing; accounts payable exporting; aggregated energy usage analysis.

These solutions are hosted on either a server or through cloud based systems and are fully customizable to provide a hierarchy of data. Your utility expenditures and consumption will be viewable, trackable and could help you improve utility management. Essentially, anything with an invoice can be tracked. The solutions are capable of tracking limitless facilities and accounts and provide weather normalization and benchmarking capabilities, saving you time and money.



3. UPGRADE TO ENERGY EFFICIENT EQUIPMENT

By investing in your building's equipment, you will ease the burden of costly utility bills, maintenance and usage. Here are a few upgrades you could make now or later:

- **LED Lighting:** Replace incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient alternatives such as compact fluorescent lighting (CFL) or light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. Based on energy consumption alone, LED bulbs can help you realize substantial savings. Incandescent lights use approximately six times as much energy as an equivalent LED light. LED bulbs last at least ten times longer than traditional bulbs. The lifetime cost of an LED light is less expensive than its counterparts. Additionally, your facility's lighting has a significant impact on your air-conditioning system. The heat emanating from the LED lights is less than incandescent lights, saving you money on your cooling bill.

- **High Efficiency Toilets:** Consider installing high-efficiency toilets, also known as low-flow toilets. They use 4.8 liters of water, or less, per flush. Traditional toilets use six liters per flush or more.

- **Insulation:** Install insulation around water heaters and hot water pipes to reduce heat loss. By helping to maintain tank temperature, insulation may allow you to lower your water temperature setting. This reduces wait time on hot water from a faucet or showerhead, conserving water.

- **Choose energy-efficient appliances and equipment:** – If you have equipment needing replacement, look at the cost difference between going with a “green” energy efficient appliance.



Depending on your usage and the life cycle of the equipment you want, to make sure the payback is accurate. You must ask yourself - will the energy savings make-up for the higher cost of the equipment? You could invest that money into other energy saving methods. Energy Star products, such as computers, monitors and printers, help eliminate waste through special energy-efficient designs. They use less energy to

perform regular tasks. When not in use, they automatically enter a low-power mode.

- **Watch your thermostat settings:** Work with your maintenance team to see where thermostats are being overridden, a lot of money can be saved by reprogramming them to start heating or cooling a space an hour or two before occupants arrive. Rather than someone overriding it and spiking energy use for the entire day, and days to follow.

4. ROUTINELY SERVICE YOUR HVAC EQUIPMENT

Hire a heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) company to routinely inspect your building's central air conditioning and heating. It's imperative to schedule regular maintenance. If you schedule preventive maintenance twice a year, you'll save money in the short and long term. Avoid system outages, decrease your monthly energy cost and avoid expensive repairs and replacements. When properly maintained, your systems will last longer and remain at the peak of efficiency.

Don't wait until November to check your systems before winter. Seasonal equipment inspections should occur at least one full season before the next.

5. PREVENT FACILITY WATER LOSS

According to the American Water Works Association's annual State of the Water Industry Study, the five biggest issues facing facility water management for city governments are: renewal and replacement of outdated water/wastewater systems; financing capital improvement projects; long-term availability of water supply; public understanding of the value of water systems/services; and public understanding of the value of water resources.

These are not new concerns. In fact, the top five concerns remain the same as 2016. The problem is that public money is often shifted from water management projects to very visible above ground

jobs. However, faulty water infrastructure can disrupt above ground facilities in a big way, causing property damage and often requiring after-hour maintenance. The repairs to mend this kind of damage can be much more expensive than planned and detrimental to your budget. It's much easier in the long-term to invest in these water projects rather than risk a pipe bursting.



benefits of AMI; pressure monitoring and management; and leak detection.

Understanding how to maximize the efficiency of your existing building, or installing the right systems if you're due for an upgrade, will make a world of a difference. Budgeting for your facility is essential to this process. Avoid sticker shock from utility bills or replacing equipment by actively monitoring usage and pursuing facility upgrades

before a problem arises. You will probably find extra dollars in your budget in the process which will allow you to steward government spending where the people in your city need it most.



Studies have shown that municipalities are dealing with significant water and revenue losses due to their aging infrastructures. By utilizing tools such as Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), pressure monitoring, leak detection and other techniques, you can improve your water loss profile. Lowering operational costs would allow you to reallocate resources and recover real and apparent costs of distribution to be used to offset all or part of the costs of the upgrade.



Here's what you should be assessing in the water management of your facility: accuracy of existing meters and cost of apparent losses; estimating quantity and cost real water losses; meter sizing and typing; current approach to meter reads and operational

Madeline Emsick is the Marketing Coordinator for Performance Solutions, a division of BCS. You can reach her at memsick@bldgcontrols.com or (816) 282-2000.

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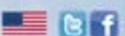


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Ottawa Mindfulness

By Jenalea Myers, Freelance Writer

City of Ottawa Fire Chief Tim Matthias wasn't sure what to think when he first heard about a stress management program being offered in Ottawa.

"Truthfully, I was hesitant to commit to the class because I did not know what to expect," he said. "The first two classes that I attended, I still had that mindset of, 'What does this have to do with me or for me?' It wasn't until the third class that I started to realize the true meaning of mindfulness and the benefits that can come from having this in your everyday routine."

Earlier this year, Matthias, along with other City of Ottawa department directors, participated in "A Stress Management Program Based on Mindfulness Meditation." The eight-week program was a collaboration between the City of Ottawa and Ransom Memorial Hospital and was facilitated by William Hale, M.D., of Lawrence.



OUR ATTENTION

Hale defines mindfulness as consisting of two parts: bringing awareness to present moment experience and allowing that experience to be as it is in this moment.

“In other words, cultivating the skill of flowing with life experience, rather than resisting or generating friction against things that we may not be able to change,” he said. “Our stress reactions are forms of friction to life.”

Hale has 28 years of clinical experience in mental health and mind-body medicine and has been teaching mindfulness and stress reduction methods since 1998.

“We go through our lives very much on autopilot. Our attention is a little bit here in the present moment, but 95% of the time our thoughts are caught up in something in the future or past — something we’re looking forward to or something we’re trying to get away from,” he said. “Because we’re not present, we miss out on a lot of pleasurable experiences. Pleasurable stimuli are around us all the time, and we’re just oblivious to them. We are also mostly oblivious to the ways we react with stress in our bodies, emotions and thoughts. Bringing awareness to the subtle ways in which we generate stress reactions within ourselves is a first step toward letting go of such reactions.”

The course Hale teaches is based on the Stress Reduction and Relaxation Program, founded by Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn at the University of Massachusetts School of Medicine. Hale was part of the program’s first internship taught in 1994.

“It was recognized that modern medicine is good at treating acute conditions, but a lot of problems people are suffering with are chronic conditions,” he said.

Mindfulness meditation, gentle yoga, mindful communication and methods of non-reactivity are among the practices presented in the program.

“These awareness practices result in a greater appreciation of the pleasurable experiences in one’s life, as well as a greater ability to flow with what is unpleasant,” Hale said.

VALUABLE TOOL

Matt Heyn, Chief Executive Officer of Ransom Memorial Hospital, knew Hale’s program would be beneficial to his employees and community partners. As two of the largest employers in Franklin County, Heyn said the hospital and city seemed like a good combination to introduce mindfulness and stress management to the community.

“We tend to focus a lot on physical health and less on mental health,” Heyn said. “This program is a really valuable tool to be

able to gain perspective of different situations.”

Ottawa City Manager Richard U. Nienstedt jumped at the opportunity to offer Hale’s course to city employees.

“Stress management is an issue for all employees,” he said. “I felt it was important to have myself and members of the senior management team attend this training so they had a better understanding of how stress affects us, stress mitigation techniques and how we can use this knowledge to help our employees, family and community to have better conversations.”

Nienstedt said the program is a great reminder about techniques



IT Technician Jon Oelke and Ottawa City Manager Richard Nienstedt participate in the mindfulness meditation stress management program.

for improving stress and pain mitigation.

“I believe if the organization, family or friends can be helped to recognize stress and the techniques for mitigation, that it makes for a far better atmosphere for conducting communications, solving issues and being more relaxed on a daily basis,” he said. “Not only do we do this several times a week in the office, but my wife and I do meditation, body scans and yoga at home during the week. I believe this is an important leadership responsibility to help the organization deal directly with and mitigate stress.”

A-HA MOMENT

Wynndee Lee, community development director for the City of Ottawa, said she was impressed with the course’s exercises and readings and the impact mindfulness can have in everyday life.

“I realized that some of my ‘busyness’ had taken over even my mealtimes,” she said. “I rarely did just one thing at a time — even eating — and it was an ‘a-ha’ moment to step back. It is clear that mindfulness can help me not be urgent and reactive but

slow down, sometimes even just a breath, to be responsive and deliberate instead. I also found that it strengthened my faith life, and that 'sitting and being still' is absolutely a priority."

Helping people learn how to let go of reactivity to stressors is one of the main goals of the program, Hale said.

"Typically, when any of us experience something unpleasant like a stressor, we will react to it — physically, mentally or emotionally," he said. "So, how do we coexist with stress that in many cases we can't get to go away: jobs, families, just everyday life? It's about people learning how to not suffer in reaction to stressors. Our reactivity is our suffering."

Lee said she now pauses and breathes more in daily work activities before reacting.

"It has been fantastic to share this experience with my co-workers, making the commitment better for all of us," she said. "We encourage one another, laugh about various parts and have learned to enjoy the time."

LIVE IN THE MOMENT

Both Heyn and Nienstedt said the program is something they'd like to offer again in Ottawa.

"I still ask those who took the class if they're still practicing, and they say yes," Heyn said. "For those who did participate,

they've seen improved mental and emotional health and state of mindfulness."

And, even though he was unsure about the program at first, Matthias said he's practicing what he learned.

"Trying to focus on one item was hard for me because I am routinely thinking of multiple thoughts at one time," he said. "At the end of the course, I was very happy that I attended. The mindfulness way of thinking has taught me to think and live in the moment to some extent, which is very rewarding for me."

The program is helping Matthias handle stress, both professionally and personally.

"I focus on that certain stressor for a moment, acknowledging that it is there and move on," he said. "The mindfulness technique is another tool in the toolbox to help handle the stressors of life."



 **Jenalea Myers**, is a Freelance Writer. You can reach her at jenalea.myers@gmail.com.

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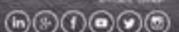
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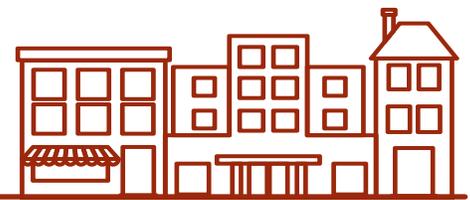


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Community Profile



By Megan Gilliland, League of Kansas Municipalities



Marysville

In November 2016, Marysville was named one of the top small-town destinations by readers of KANSAS! Magazine. With a quintessential downtown and friendly atmosphere, it's not hard to tell why this community of 3,200 was chosen as a top spot in Kansas.

Marysville began as a settlement along the Big Blue River in northern Kansas. Marysville was the first home station on the Pony Express route west of St. Joseph, Missouri. The community prides itself on the abundance of small-town charm and family-friendly atmosphere. The Marysville Public School system was named a District of Innovation in 2015 due to their focus on promoting college-and-career-readiness while students are still in high school.

Landoll Corporation, a worldwide metal fabrication company, is headquartered in Marysville and employs hundreds of residents locally.

"Our business and industry partners are always seeking qualified employees," said Austin St. John, City Administrator of Marysville.

"We are unique because we have a strong business community and low unemployment," said Carla Grund, Mayor of Marysville. "We have residents who love Marysville and volunteer to make this a better community for all of us to enjoy. We have many young people moving back to our community to raise families, starting new businesses and managing family-owned businesses to maintain viability."

The City continues to keep street maintenance and public improvements as high priority projects for the community. Through partnerships with the state and national agencies, the City was able to fund projects for maintenance on Highway 36 and apron rehabilitation at the municipal airport.

"As a community, we are working to define our long-term priorities," said Grund. "We've emphasized recreational opportunities for our residents including creating a connection with the Blue River Trail."

Grund noted the City, school district, Marshall County and other community partners need to work together to solve problems and share responsibilities for projects.

"We strive to work together to develop improvements which benefit all of our tax payers," said Grund. "We've had some success with a shared street program with Marshall County and we're in the process to complete safety improvements in the crosswalks between City Park and the adjacent high school."

With several cultural and historical amenities to choose from, Marysville is a great place for people of all ages. There are numerous museums and interactive exhibits in Marysville which help create a sense of community and provide historical value. There are three Lifetiles murals in the Pony Express Plaza; the tiles are unlike any artwork in Kansas with glass tiles that appear to depict motion as the viewer moves across the panels.

Marysville is a colorful community and are very proud of the fact they are considered the "Black Squirrel City." The profusion of black squirrels is a mystery but many believe the phenomenon is attributable to a travelling carnival which passed through the town in the 1920's. Among the carnival exhibits was a cage of black squirrels. Legend says that a child opened the cage and the squirrels escaped. The black squirrel is now plentiful in City Park. Local businesses and artists collaborated in 2016 to create large replicas of the black squirrels - with special artistic flare. 

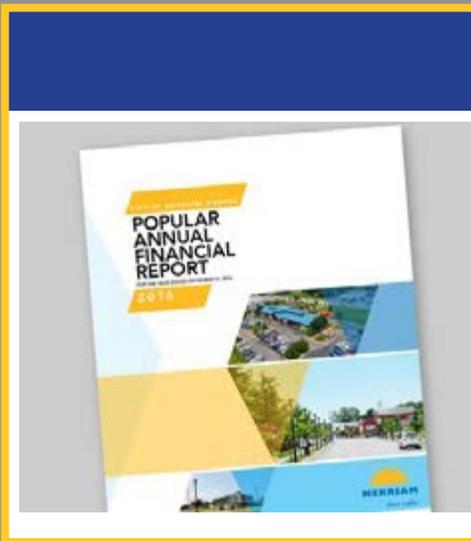
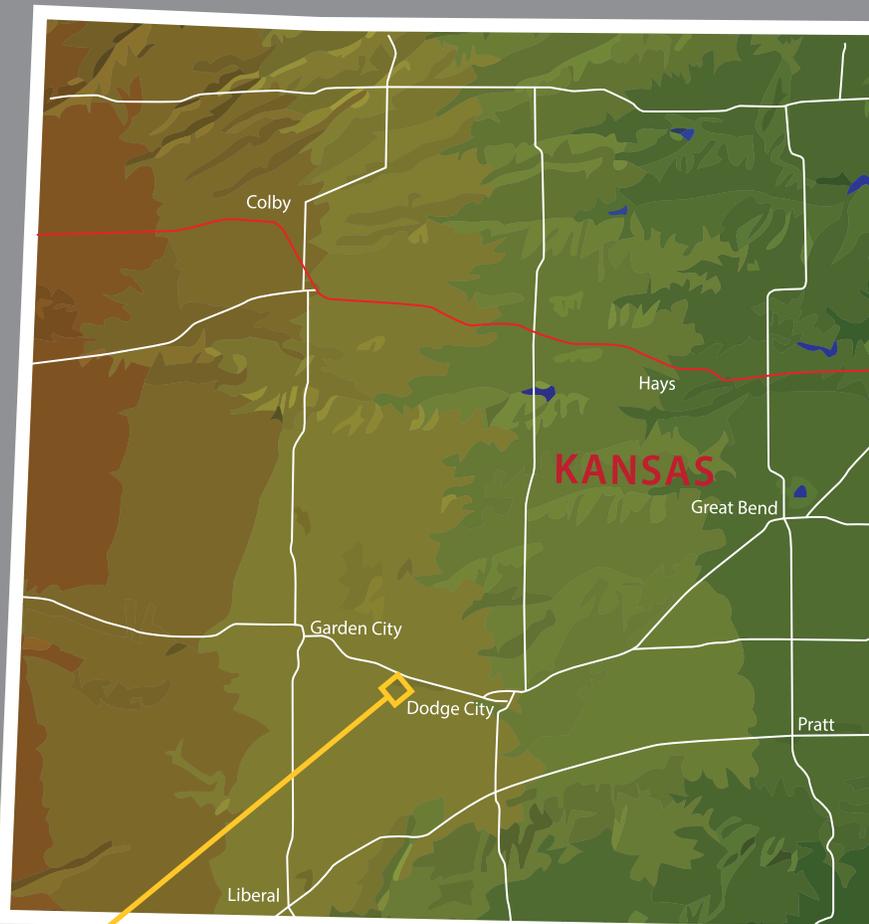


KANSAS GOVERNMENT

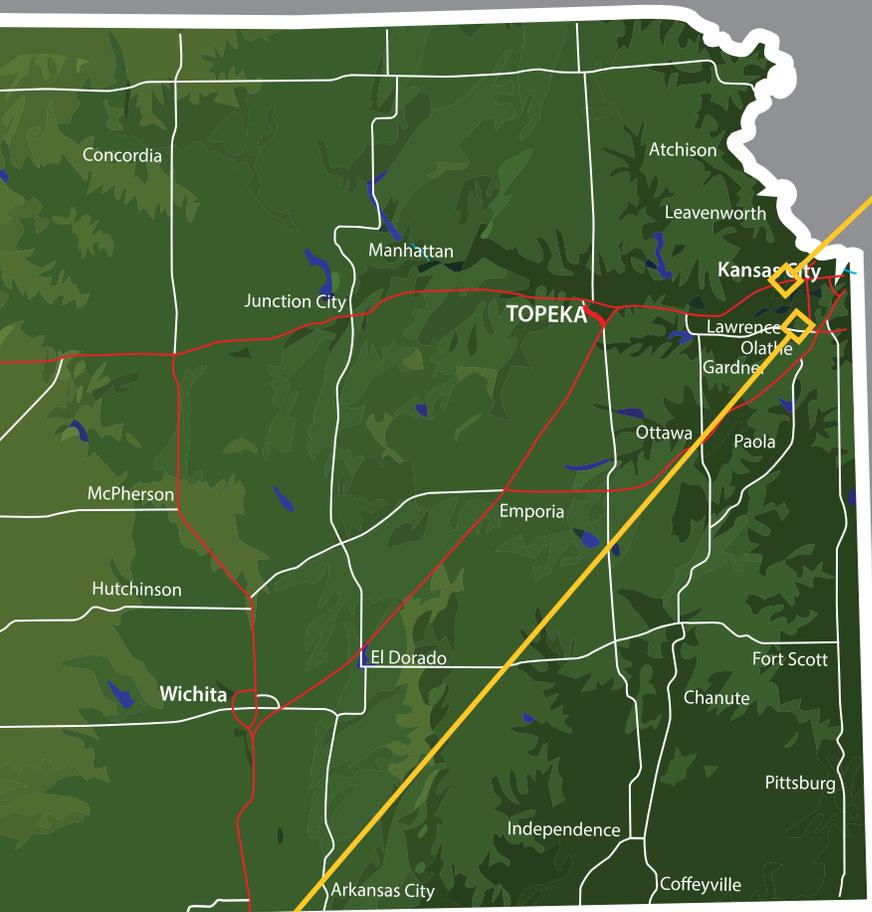
Cimarron

Best Small Public Library in Kansas for 2017

The Kansas Library Association recently announced the Cimarron City Library won top honors for small public libraries in Kansas. The Cimarron City Library was selected for providing innovative programming to their community. Using social media, flyers and newspaper columns, the library promoted services and programs and, as a result, increased attendance and library traffic. Children's Story Hours have doubled in attendance, innovative math programs for 3-to-5-year-olds teach early math skills and other programs are designed to boost youth involvement in the library. Offerings are rounded out by an extensive series of literacy courses and classes in such topics as consumer health, auto repair, genealogy and computer skills.



GOVERNMENT NEWS



Bonner Springs

City Awarded Funds for new K-9 Unit

City officials announced in October they received a grant from Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's foundation to purchase training equipment to better their K-9's skills in both narcotics detection and patrol. The Ben Roethlisberger Foundation seeks to support police and fire departments throughout the U.S. with a particular emphasis on support for K-9 units and service dogs.



Merriam

Merriam recently won a national award for its annual finance report's transparency and easy-to-read format.

The City received the Government Finance Officers Association's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR). The PAFR informs citizens about the City's financial activity in a short-form design.

This was Merriam's third submission and third time winning. Nationwide, fewer than 400 organizations have earned the award. The award is granted for reports that conform to standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal. Visit www.merriam.org for the report.

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

Chief of Police, WaKeeney

The City of WaKeeney is taking applications for the position of Chief of Police. The ideal candidate will be energetic and team-oriented possessing excellent leadership and communications skills. The City is seeking candidates with demonstrated community involvement and the ability to establish strong relationships. The City desires, and the position requires, a candidate willing to be a working chief in the field. The City is seeking candidates with a track record of community involvement and the ability to establish strong relationships with neighborhoods, the business community, law enforcement agencies and other governmental organizations, City staff and the City's Governing Body.

The City of WaKeeney is located in northwestern Kansas along I-70, the half-way point between Kansas City and Denver, and is 32 miles west of Hays. The WaKeeney Police Department strives to maintain a safe environment for the residents of the City of WaKeeney and all who visit the community. Enforcement includes federal, state and municipal laws and ordinances. The Department investigates all crimes and traffic accidents that occur in WaKeeney. Other obligations include assistance to the citizen's needs, responding to emergencies and medical needs, assist outside agencies and help make WaKeeney a better place to live.

Minimum requirements include the possession of a high school diploma/GED, a valid Kansas driver's license, and possession of KLETTC certification or the equivalent. At least 10 years of active law enforcement experience at various levels of responsibility, including supervisory. The selected candidate must also be able to pass a psychological exam, extensive background checks and have clear driving record, no felony convictions or domestic battery convictions. The candidate must live in the city limits of WaKeeney.

How to Apply:

Submit an application, resume, and three work-related references to The City of WaKeeney, 408 Russell Ave, P.O. Box 157 WaKeeney, Kansas 67672. (785) 743-5791 Resume review will begin December 1, 2017

Public Works Director/City Engineer, Hesston

The City of Hesston is seeking an exceptional Director of Public Works/City Engineer. As part of the executive team, this newly created position reports directly to the City Administrator. The Public Works Director/City Engineer manages and directs the overall operation of a newly organized Public Works Department comprised of Public Utilities, Streets and Parks and Recreation that work together to provide high quality services to the citizens. Other services the department provides include management of the GIS, engineering and Planning and Zoning. The Public Works operating budget is approximately \$2.2M, and the department has a total of 10 FTEs with potentially three direct reports. This position will work with initiatives established by the City Council and administrated by the City Administrator. The successful candidate must have a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering; a professional engineering license (or ability to obtain Kansas registration within one year from date of hire). Requires three years municipal engineering and public works experience and a minimum of three years in a supervisory role. The position requires sound management, supervision and communication skills. Salary and benefits are highly competitive and commensurate with experience. Qualified candidate must pass pre-employment background check, reference check and drug screen.

How to Apply:

Qualified applicants must submit a completed City of Hesston employment application, resume and letter of interest to Gary Emry, City Administrator. Application packets are available at Hesston City Hall, 115 E. Smith, Hesston, KS 67062 gary@hesstonks.org; or online at www.hesstonks.org. or by calling (620) 327-4412. EEO

City Administrator, Fredonia

The City of Fredonia (pop. 2,482, budget \$8.3M, 33 FTE) is seeking a progressive, collaborative professional with strong financial management skills and a dedication to quality service as the next City Administrator.

The City operates under a three-member

Commission form of government with the City Administrator responsible for the day-to-day operations including the management of electrical and water distribution systems, wastewater utilities, solid waste disposal and recycling services, police, fire, airport, and public works. The City also operates a library and hospital through separate government appointed boards.

The Commission is looking for candidates who have a history of professionalism and willingness to become actively engaged within the community. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in related field, although an MPA is preferred. Candidates should also have at least four years of local government experience, grant writing skills and an ability to create a budget that reflects the values of the governing body.

Competitive salary DOQ and an excellent benefit package is offered.

How to Apply:

submit cover letter, resume, salary history, and list of six references to City Administrator Search Committee, 100 North 15th Street, Fredonia, KS 66736. Electronic submittals are strongly encouraged via e-mail to canderson@fredoniaks.org. All applications are due by November 15, 2017.

Assistant City Administrator, North Kansas City, MO

The City of North Kansas City, Missouri, is recruiting for an Assistant City Administrator. The Assistant City Administrator (ACA) provides professional, strategic assistance to the City Administrator, Mayor, City Council, City departments, and City boards and committees, on a wide variety of administrative and community development related tasks. The ACA oversees the City Clerk and Court Administrator functions, economic development initiatives and serves as the Acting City Administrator in the Administrator's absence. The ACA serves on the City's Executive Management Team. The starting salary range for this position is \$85,953 - \$107,436 DOQ.

How to Apply:

All applications (resume and cover letter, including salary requirements) must be submitted electronically to: HR Manager, hr@nkc.org. Open until filled; review of applications

Classified Advertising

will begin November 13, 2017. Please visit our website for complete job posting www.nkc.org.

Director of Economic Development, Pratt

The City and County of Pratt, Kansas are seeking a qualified individual to be the Economic Development Director in Pratt, Kansas. This position requires residency in Pratt County. Bachelor's Degree required (Master's Degree preferred) with concentration in economic development. Salary depending on qualifications and includes comprehensive benefit package.

How to Apply:

For complete job description and qualifications, contact the City Manager or City Clerk at (620) 672-5571.

Water Operator II, Lindsborg

The City of Lindsborg is now accepting applications for the position of Water Operator II. The person in this position will be responsible for operation, installation and maintenance of the City's wells and distribution system, including telemetry. The position requires a working knowledge of water distribution

systems, the repair of water lines and knowledge of wells, pumps and electronic controls. A class A Kansas CDL is required. The position requires a Class II Water Certification within 2 years of hire. A pre-employment drug screen and Level 3 fitness testing will be required. Applications and complete job description are available at Lindsborg City Hall, P. O. Box 70, Lindsborg, KS 67456, (785) 227-3355. This position will remain open until a qualified applicant is found. EOE. and includes comprehensive benefit package.

How to Apply:

Applications and complete job description are available at Lindsborg City Hall, P. O. Box 70, Lindsborg, KS 67456, (785) 227-3355. This position will remain open until a qualified applicant is found. EOE.

City Manager, Lyons

Lyons, Kansas (pop. 3,725; \$12.1 million budget; 33 FTE's), known as "an unexpected pleasure" is the county seat of Rice County. A dynamic, community located in the heart of Kansas, with a prosperous business climate and first-rate public schools plus access to higher education. The city operates gas, water and wastewater utilities, along with a growing municipal airport. The City Administrator reports to a

progressive nine-member council and oversees all departments. For more information about the community, visit www.lyonsks.org.

Applicants should have a Master's degree in public administration or a related field and at least five years of management experience. The successful candidate will have a history of sound decision-making ability, excellent administrative and organizational skills and experience facilitating economic development. Candidates must also display the communication skills and openness needed to collaborate with the city council and staff.

Salary \$60,000 – 70,000 DOQ.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three work-related references to LEAPS-Lyons@lkm.org or LEAPS-Lyons, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66603. If confidentiality is requested, please note in application materials. Position will remain open until filled. Application review will begin November 20. EOE

View current job
postings online.



lkm.com/networking



Pittsburg: Nashville Songwriters' Night at PSU November 11

Nashville Songwriters' Night At PSU For Ronald McDonald House Of The Four States is hosting A One Night Show featuring special acoustic performances by hit songwriters **Lori McKenna, Luke Laird, Jennifer Schott and Barry Dean.** A "Bluebird" style show of songs and the stories behind them. Performed by the people who wrote them. Lori McKenna has back to back Grammy and CMA awards for "Humble and Kind" and "Girl Crush". Luke Laird has written 23 No. 1 Hits. Winner of Grammy for producing Kacey Musgraves album and ACM and BMI Songwriter of the Year. Jennifer Schott penned the title track of Tim McGraw's Grammy nominated album, "Two Lanes of Freedom". Her songs have been recorded by many artist including the Eli Young Band, Billy Ray Cyrus, Pam Tillis, and Jamie Lynn Spears. Barry Dean is a Grammy nominated and CMA Songwriter. Located at The Bicknell Family Center for the Arts, 1711 South Homer from 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Call (620) 231-7000 for information and pricing. visit our website www.bicknellcenter.com.

Dodge City: Rooster Roundup Hunting Contest Starts November 11

Southwest Kansas is *the place* to hunt this pheasant season! Take part in Rooster Roundup with "Bounty Birds" in Dodge City where 250 Banded Pheasants will be released throughout Ford County (Dodge City), Finney County (Garden City), Seward County (Liberal), Stevens County (Hugoton), Grant County (Ulysses), and in Hodgeman County (Jetmore). If you are lucky enough to bag one of the Banded Pheasants, bring your band to one of the approved locations to claim your prize and register for the \$500 given away at the end of the promotion (January 31)! The Rooster Roundup contest runs from November 11, 2017 to January 31, 2018. For more information go to www.visitdodgecity.org or call (620) 225-8186 Hunt the Wild West!

Strong City: Spring Hill Ranch Candlelight Tour December 2

Step back in time to 1880's and witness the Spring Hill Ranch on a typical December evening. Ghosted scenes and vignettes tell the story of ranch life as visitors are transported back in time. See living history characters performing ranch chores, women cooking and everyday family life through first person presentations. Kerosene lanterns light the path beginning at the visitor center and lead visitors through the ranch buildings. Tours leave every 15 minutes with 10-15 people per tour. Reservations are required for this program. Program is

free of charge. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is located two miles north of Strong City on Kansas State Highway 177 (the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway) and is a unique public/private partnership between the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. For additional information on Tallgrass Prairie National preserve, please visit www.nps.gov/tapr, email tapr_interpretation@nps.gov, call the preserve at (620) 273-8494, or visit the preserve's facebook page at www.facebook.com/NPS.TallgrassPrairie. To learn more about The Nature Conservancy in Kansas, visit the Conservancy's website at www.nature.org/Kansas or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TNCKansas.

Manhattan: Duty First: 100 Years Of The Big Red One Through January 14

Explore the epic one-hundred-year history of the 1st Infantry Division through the eyes of five soldiers from the founding of the Big Red One in 1917 to present day in our new exhibit, Duty First: 100 Years of the Big Red One.

Immerse yourself in the exceptional history of the 1st Infantry Division in our Tallgrass Gallery and get to know five heroic soldiers and their personal chronicles through the last century of major conflicts. Collaborative exhibit produced by Flint Hills Discovery Center staff and Fort Riley Museum Complex.

Located at the Flint Hills Discovery Center, 315 S 3rd, Manhattan. Call (785) 587-2726 or visit us online at www.flinthillsdiscovery.org.

SHOP SMALL Small Business Saturday November 25
Small Business Saturday is a day dedicated to supporting small businesses across the country. It's our local stores' answer to the big box stores Black Friday events. This day is celebrated each year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

KANSAS ATTRACTIONS

OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARADE: LAWRENCE

Marking the 25th year of tradition, this is a Christmas Parade you and your family don't want to miss. The Lawrence Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade is the only exclusively horse drawn parade in the Midwest. You won't find any motorized vehicles in this parade...just horse power! Horse-drawn buggies, carriages, wagons and riders process along Massachusetts Street in Historic Downtown Lawrence. Participants in period costume and festive dress bring their horses, mules and donkeys while thousands of spectators line the street. Cozy up with hot cocoa and blankets, and feel the true holiday spirit while watching dozens of beautiful horses and wagons adorned in garland and bells. The parade begins at 11:00 AM.

The Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade is the highlight of Winter Wonder Weekend (December 1-3) in Downtown Lawrence. The weekend is packed with shopping, dining and entertainment. View amazing gingerbread houses and shop the handiwork of local



craftspeople at Abe & Jake's Landing during the Gingerbread Festival & Craft Collective. Savor an Old-Fashioned Christmas Buffet at the Eldridge Hotel. Enjoy live music, family photos and children's activities during "Tails & Traditions" at Watkins Museum of History (bonus: free hot cocoa and cookies!). Shop local at more than 100 retailers specializing in unique gifts, fashions, local art and more. Keep an eye (and an ear) out for live carolers and Santa – he'll be making stops at various shops and events through the weekend.

CANDLELIGHT VINTAGE HOMES TOUR : LEAVENWORTH

The Leavenworth County Historical Society is pleased to announce the 26th annual Leavenworth Candlelight Vintage Homes Tour which will be held December 10 from 1:00-7:00 p.m. Seven vintage properties will be on tour and include a loft residence located in a former school, an historic church and a variety of charming homes. The proceeds of this event will benefit the historical society and will take place regardless of weather.

Tickets are available for a donation of \$15 in advance or \$20 the day of the tour. Tickets



may be purchased by calling (913) 682-7759 or visiting www.leavenworthhistory.org where pictures of all properties can be found.

Upcoming Holiday Headlines

WINFIELD ISLE OF LIGHTS NOVEMBER 19

Extraordinary Christmas-light display throughout Island Park. New displays added yearly. Open nightly from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. starting Sunday, November 20 through December 30, 2017. Horse and carriage rides available on Fridays and Saturdays. Call (620) 221-2420 for information.

BELOIT CHAUTAUQUA ISLE OF LIGHTS NOVEMBER 22

The must-see Christmas display fills Chautauqua park with thousands of lights each year. and draws thousands of families and visitors from outside the area during the holiday season. Isle of Lights is open from the day before Thanksgiving until New Year's Eve and attracts over 10,000 visitors! Sun.-Thurs. 6 p.m to 9 p.m. & Fri./Sat. 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Closed for inclement weather. Located At 301 Chautauqua Drive, Beloit.

JUNCTION CITY THE NUTCRACKER (BALLET WICHITA) DECEMBER 10

This Christmas Classic is presented by Ballet Wichita. It's Christmas Eve and at the stroke of midnight young Clara finds herself in the midst of a battle between gingerbread soldiers and mice led by the Mouse King. Travel with Clara and her Nutcracker Prince through The Land of Sweets while enjoying Tchaikovsky's compelling score. Presented by C.L. Hoover Opera House, 135 W. 7th St., Junction City. Call (785) 238-3906.

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