Invest

High School Lesson Plan

GOAL: CIVIC SKILLS

Here’s some topic ideas! How do your students participate in these local government policy areas?

CONNECT

Increase your students’ knowledge of these topic areas from a local government perspective. For example: Have your students read how a bill becomes a law. Use bills such as HB 2076 Seat Belt Fines to follow the process from the committee that debates it, to the testimony on the bill, to its next steps to become law.

DISCUSS

Q. Who are your local elected officials and what role do they play in passing policy on these topics?
Q. What are the State committees and how do they appropriate funding?
Q. If a “Budget is a statement of priorities,” pull up your city’s budget and discuss your city’s priorities.

ACTIVITY

Have your students form a committee and debate a bill, include a debate on funding and exemptions! Record the debate or take a picture of the activity and post it to the League’s Instagram. Introduce us to our up and coming policy entrepreneurs!

For more civic resources and online civic games visit: www.LKM.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES for sample example

Connect with us:
Join the Conversation:
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Political Systems
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Y outh4Global Goals
StudentVoice
Student Voice Podcast
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Student Vote
iCivics.org

Updated July 2017

Y oung People Empowered
Generation Citizen
Action Civics Collaborative

Sofia Pro Light
Minion Pro

"If I Were Mayor" Contest

The League of Kansas Municipalities invites all Kansas 7th graders to join our contest, “If I Were Mayor,” to tell others what they would do as mayor to make their city an even better place to live.

Please submit your ideas for bettering your city for a chance to win $125 and have your idea published in the Kansas Government Journal. One student will be named an overall winner for Kansas and win $250. The winners and their teacher will be invited to Topeka for a special ceremony with local leaders and state legislators on January 22, 2020.

CONTEST RULES

Open to all Kansas students enrolled in the 7th grade during the 2019 - 2020 school year. Each student may submit one memo not to exceed 250 words. Memos should be typed.

Deadline for submission is November 18, 2019. Upload Memos to www.lkm.org/MayorContest or visit Submission Options

Memos will be evaluated based on: Understanding of city services, creativity, clarity, sincerity of thought, and proper grammar.

The League reserves the right to republish the memos and pictures of each student in an effort to promote future youth engagement.

#IfIWereMayor #CivicEd #CivicYouth

Check out the League’s full CURRICULUM for youth civic education. Our program includes lesson plans, activity books, and a resource guide. All materials are interactive on the web and free to download.

Check out the League’s NEW PINTEREST! On our profile you will find boards pertaining to each local government area with your resources and infographics. We hope to inspire you to pin more information about your school!
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An exciting contest offered by the League of Kansas Municipalities Youth Civic Education Program.

232 Intergovernmental Leadership Award: Sen. Bowers
The League is excited to announce Senator Elaine Bowers has been named the 2019 Intergovernmental Award recipient.

233 Mayor of the Year: Jon Brady
The Kansas Mayors Association honored Jon Brady, City of Overbrook, as the 2019 Mayor of the Year.

234 Clerk of the Year: Celyn Hurtado
Celyn Hurtado, City Clerk for the City of Garden City, was honored with the Mildred Vance City Clerk/Finance Officer of the Year award.

235 Administrative Professional: Brenda Long
Brenda Long, Assistant City Clerk for the City of Olathe, was named the Nancy Crain Administrative Professional of the Year.

236 50 Years of PRIDE
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The League’s community awards program honors cities for their projects and services in six categories.

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The mission of the League shall be to strengthen and advocate for the member cities and research subscribers are $20 annually. Individual issues cost $5, with an additional $10 charge for the Tax Rate Book edition.

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

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

Obituaries

H. Wayne Ford, 74, Galva, passed away peacefully on Sunday, July 21, 2019. Wayne was the former Vice-President of W-R Milling Company, McPherson, where he had worked for 49 ½ years. Wayne was the City of Galva Mayor, serving the community from 1977 to 2019. Many notable projects were completed by the City of Galva under Wayne’s leadership.

Wayne was born on August 23, 1944, in El Dorado. He graduated from McPherson High School in 1962 and attended Omaha Bible College. He served in the United States Army during the Vietnam era from 1963 to 1965. Wayne was united in marriage to Naomi Arlene Anders on May 15, 1966. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in McPherson. He served on numerous boards and organizations throughout his lifetime. Some of these included being the chairman of the McPherson County Law Enforcement Center Building Committee, the treasurer and secretary for McPherson County Crime Stoppers, and serving on the board for McPherson County Solid Waste Utility. He generously gave his time and expertise to his beloved community. Survivors include his loving wife of 53 years, Naomi.

Wright W. Crummett, 89, Overland Park, died June 1, 2019. Wright was a graduate of Abilene High School, The University of Kansas, and Washburn University School of Law. He served in the Korean War in the Naval Amphibious Force. In his early legal career, he practiced law in Topeka with the firm of Smith, Rees and Crummett. Later, he was general counsel of the League of Kansas Municipalities, and then, the first full-time city attorney of Overland Park, Kansas. He retired in 1991, as a senior attorney with Bayer Corporation in Kansas City, Missouri. He was preceded in death by a son, Vance Ames Crummett, and stepson, William J. Heck, Jr. He is survived by his wife, Bernice; and son, Blake.
Conference time! All the League staff, including me, are excited knowing many of you will be joining us in Overland Park for the Annual Conference. I’ve got to say this is going to be a great conference! How do I know? Because staff is already nervous there will be some negative evaluations for the conference because there were too many good sessions occurring at the same time! That is criticism we will take all day long.

Speaking of feedback, the League is going to be needing your feedback and insights in the coming months. We are going to be tweaking our strategic plan over the next six-to-nine months, and your input is critical to us getting the “recipe” just right. While we know the services we provide, and feel we have a good handle on how you value them, we need to make sure that is the case.

Legal support and legislative advocacy are staples of our support of cities, and I suspect the opinions we will hear from you will reflect that. However, we also need to make sure the organization is not only doing those things that help you today, but that we are also looking at operations with an eye on the horizon.

When we are out on the road and visiting cities, many of you are candid about the immediate and future challenges facing your city. Topics many cities have in common include a lack of housing (not just “affordable,” but a variety of housing options); retaining and growing private sector companies and jobs; adequate internet/broadband access to meet the needs of businesses, residents, and students; finding and retaining employees for the city, especially in utility jobs; and planning for and funding replacing old infrastructure.

What might the League’s role be around these challenges? Education? Direct or indirect technical assistance? Developing programs that both the League and individual cities can use to educate the general public — and especially students — on the employment opportunities and needs of cities? The League is a member-driven organization; we need your input in order to build the best organization for Kansas cities in the 21st century!

Our next consideration will be the best way for the League to deliver our services and assistance. Distance learning, interactive webinars, and on-demand instructional videos may become more of the norm. I know one of the challenges expressed to us by members is how to leave their offices for any length of time for training. To my surprise (and the shocked bewilderment of our younger employees), we continue to have a fax machine in the office that gets used, so we know there is a diverse population in our membership when it comes to access to and use of technology. Getting the right mixture of information across different platforms will need to be considered as we recast the strategic plan, as well.

I invite you to join me and our deputy director, Trey Cocking, for a “rapid fire” session on Monday morning at the Annual Conference in Overland Park. We will talk a bit about the process and timeline for the strategic plan update. Most of the time, however, will be spent getting your feedback though both written and interactive elements. Please join us!

As you will see in the pages of this month’s magazine, it is evident cities are not waiting for the League and are tackling issues yourselves! Our second annual Inspire-Create-Innovate Awards showcase a number of programs and projects across the state which cities have undertaken. Additionally, winners of Kansas PRIDE’s annual awards and their projects are highlighted. Such progress does not occur without people, and some of the best municipal employees are also noted for the awards they won from their respective professional organizations.

Finally, I want to take a moment to offer best wishes to Bobby Busch, who is retiring as the City Clerk for Neodesha. Clerks across the state know Bobby as an outgoing, friendly resource to clerks everywhere. I imagine that is how pretty much anyone that knows him describes him. Thank you for your service to Neodesha, Bobby, and all your support for the League and city clerks for so many years!

Please share with me any questions, concerns or comments with me at esartorius@lkm.org or (785) 354-9565. 😊
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The 2019 “If I Were Mayor Contest” is underway! An exciting contest nested in the League of Kansas Municipalities Youth Civic Education Program, this is a great opportunity for Mayors to engage with students in their community. Mayors and educators are invited to encourage Kansas 7th graders to submit a 250-word memo detailing what they would do as Mayor to make their city an even better place to live.

This is a fantastic chance for Mayors to share their day-to-day operations, goals for the community, and perhaps ignite a civic passion in our next generation of public officials! The Memo must be uploaded at www.lkm.org/MayorContest by November 18, 2019. Memos will be evaluated based on understanding of city services, creativity, clarity, sincerity, and proper grammar.

We encourage Mayors to reach out to 7th grade educators and school leadership to coordinate a classroom visit.

Five regional winners will receive a cash prize of $125 while the sixth regional winner will receive a $250 cash prize and represent the state of Kansas. Each winning memo will be published in the Kansas Government Journal and each winner will attend a ceremony with their teacher, local leaders, and with state legislators in January 2020 in Topeka!

We encourage you to visit www.lkm.org/page/MayorContest to learn more about the contest, resources, and official contest rules.

Please consider advertising this contest in your local communities and getting directly involved!

For more information on the League’s Youth Civic Education Programs, contact Sydney Bannister, Management Intern at League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at intern@lkm.org.
The League is excited to announce Senator Elaine Bowers (R, District 36), has been named the 2019 Intergovernmental Award winner. Senator Bowers is Chair of the Ethics, Elections, and Local Government Committee and has worked with the League on several local government issues including legislation this past year that supported Home Rule and cities’ ability to make decisions at the local level. Three examples in the 2019 legislature included SB 59, the Eudora Community Library District Act; HB 2188, a bill dissolving the White Clay Watershed District and allowing the City of Atchison to assume obligations and amending the tax lid relating to the dissolution of any taxing subdivision; and SB 105, a bill regarding city elections and the date for taking office.

“Senator Bowers always has an open door and open ears to help both her district and cities across the state,” said League Deputy Director Trey Cocking. “Her efforts as Chair of the Ethics, Elections, and Local Government Committee can be seen from Eudora to Atchison, and on the timing of oaths of newly elected officials.”

Senator Bowers has served in a leadership capacity for two years as the Senate Majority Whip. She has chaired the Senate Ethics, Elections, and Local Government Committee since 2017. She also serves Kansans as a member of several committees including Judiciary, Capitol Preservation, Legislative Post Audit, Transportation, Utilities, and Interstate Cooperation.

I am honored to receive this award. I have always thought the best ideas come from the local folks who solve problems with common sense and collaboration – not from government at the state level. I am truly thrilled to chair a committee which has the ability to discuss these local ideas and craft good statewide policy and laws for Kansas.

Senator Bowers served six years in the House of Representatives and is now in her second term in the Senate. She notes that she particularly enjoys being in the legislature because of the opportunities afforded to work with legislators from across the state and solve problems as a team.

“Many times, I’ve learned we don’t need a law to fix a problem – we just need a person in the right place to review the problem and offer solutions which could lead to a new bill proposal but most often just a review of policy and personal attention to the person who needed help,” said Bowers.

Senator Bowers was raised on a farm in Ottawa County. She attended school in the Delphos and Minneapolis school district and then Cloud County Community College in Concordia, graduating with a degree in Travel/Tourism and Business Management. Elaine and her husband Charlie were married in 1982. Elaine’s first job was working with a local financial institution and she also worked for the Concordia Area Chamber of Commerce. Elaine has since worked side-by-side with her husband at their auto businesses in Concordia and Beloit.

Senator Bowers said she decided to run for the Kansas Legislature because of her responsibility to her community and the area where she was born and raised, and where she chose to raise her family and build her business.

Thank you Senator Bowers for your leadership and support of Kansas cities.
Don’t overlook Overbrook – a town with a great future built on a trail of past success!

In April, the Kansas Mayors Association met in Salina for the Kansas Mayors Conference. At that event, the group honored one of their members as Mayor of the Year. The City of Overbrook’s Mayor, Jon Brady, was named Mayor of the Year for 2019.

Mayor Brady was selected for the award because of his dedication to his community. Mayor Brady has served on the Overbrook Parks and Recreation Board for 12 years and has been involved in their local PRIDE Program since 2002. Jon served two terms as a city councilmember before becoming Mayor in 2018. He is active in his local Rotary Club, his church, and is a recognized business owner in Overbrook.

"My wife and I moved to Overbrook in 1991 to start a family. We found affordable housing with great small town charm and a rich history," said Mayor Brady. "Our two wonderful children were raised in Overbrook and now are both successful engineers. We contribute their success in part to the supportive Overbrook schools and community. There are many activities for young families and older citizens."

Overbrook City Clerk Jim Koger nominated Mayor Brady for the award. In the nomination, he specifically noted how beneficial the Mayor’s previous 25 years of supervisory lab experience at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) was for the city. Overbrook is challenged with a distribution issue and Mayor Brady’s experience has been uniquely helpful for determining how to address the problem and understands many of the technical details related to the project.

Mayor Brady retired from KDHE and now works as a chemist at Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant.

Mayor Brady is an asset to the community through his public service and support of the city. He and his wife are in the process of remodeling a building in downtown Overbrook to establish a bakery.

"I am honored and humbled to be selected as Mayor of the Year," said Mayor Brady. "Some things I have learned as mayor include that there are no shortages of opportunities within the community, and it is very important to listen."

Overbrook provides many great local business and recreational facilities. Overbrook is located on the historic Santa Fe Trail which is still visible just outside of town. It is favorably located only a few minutes from Topeka, Lawrence and Kansas City.
Celyn Hurtado, CMC, City Clerk, Garden City, Kansas, was selected as the recipient of the 2019 Mildred Vance City Clerk/Finance Officer of the Year award for the State of Kansas. The award was announced at the 69th annual Kansas City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association (CCMFOA) Conference in Manhattan, in March.

Celyn began her career in municipal government in 2002 holding positions in Human Resources, working in the City Manager's office and ultimately being named City Clerk in 2012.

Currently Celyn is serving as a Director of the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association Board. She also serves on the Education/Program Planning Committee. In previous years Celyn has served on various other committees including:

- Silent Auction/Promotional Sales Committee
- Membership Mentoring Committee
- Historian/Archive Committee

In addition to CCMFOA, Celyn has been involved in Administrative Assistants of Kansas. She has served as an officer and President of the association and was awarded with their highest honor, the Nancy Crain Award, in 2016.

She has also been very involved in the City's internal United Way Drive. In 2013 she was awarded the Dave Sweley Volunteer of the Year Award by Finney County United Way.

The Mildred Vance Clerk/Finance Officer of the Year award is presented each year to a City Clerk or Finance Officer who has made significant contributions to the State association, the profession and their city. The award was named in honor of Mildred Vance, former auditor and City Clerk/ Municipal Finance Officer of Parsons, Kansas, who served her community from 1948 to 1988. Mildred was instrumental in developing and promoting professional education programs for city clerks and finance officers at the state and national levels and was one of the first 100 clerks to receive the Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) designation in 1972. Mildred was later accepted into the Academy for Advanced Education (AAE) and served as a director of IIMC. She strongly believed that city clerks and finance officers should contribute to their communities and she unselfishly gave of her time and talents in church, community and civic activities.

To be eligible for the award, nominees must: 1) be a current Kansas city clerk or finance officer who has held the position for at least 3 years; 2) be a current member of CCMFOA and have been a member for at least 3 years; and 3) have attained the status of Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC); or have received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting. Nominations may be submitted by fellow city clerks, mayors, council members, city managers/administrators or fellow employees.

A five-member panel of judges reviews all nominations and rates candidates on a point system. The Selection Committee consists of two prior year recipients of the award, the Missouri Clerk/Finance Officers Association President, the Illinois Clerk Association President, and a League of Kansas Municipalities representative.
Brenda Long, Assistant City Clerk for the City of Olathe, was named the 2019 Nancy Crain Municipal Administrative Professional of the Year award winner. She was presented the award at the Administrative Assistants of Kansas Cities (AAKC) Spring Conference in Garden City on April 12.

Brenda has made Olathe her home for the past 30 years and served as the City Manager’s Administrative Assistant for the City of Olathe for the past six years and was recently promoted to Assistant City Clerk.

At the City of Olathe, Brenda facilitated the Olathe Civic Academy which teaches residents all about local government, how it works and how it affects them. She has also helped with the Summer Intern Program and the Mayor’s Christmas Tree Fund.

Brenda is a mother of eight adult children, which includes four sibling girls who were adopted through the Kansas Foster Care system. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Mid America Nazarene University in Olathe at the age of 50, while raising six teenagers and working full time. Brenda enjoys spending time with her ‘littles’ (also known as her grandchildren), along with piecing quilts for family and friends. In her community, she volunteers at the local animal shelter and is also very involved within her church.

Brenda has been a member of AAKC since 2013 and is currently serving her second two-year term as Treasurer and has also served on the Membership Committee. In 2015 she hosted the spring AAKC Conference in Olathe and also represented AAKC at two League of Kansas Municipalities Conferences, explaining to conference attendees the advantages that an AAKC membership can provide to local government assistants, as well as encouraging elected and appointed officials to provide the opportunity to all administrative assistants that work for local government.

Brenda was nominated by fellow clerk Celyn Hurtado with the City of Garden City and said, “I believe she is a valuable asset to her community and the City of Olathe.”

Congratulations to Brenda Long for her public service and dedication to the City of Olathe, along with her many contributions to AAKC.
On January 1, 2020, the Kansas PRIDE program will turn 50 years old! Half a century of assisting community improvement groups across Kansas – over 400 to be exact! Truth be told, there have been quite a few changes to the program since the beginning, but one thing has never changed — the program’s commitment to communities!

Here's a bit of the history to bring you up to speed. In 1970, Governor Docking decided that Kansas needed a state-wide community improvement initiative, or some PRIDE. The acronym PRIDE stands for Programming Resources with Initiative for Development Effectiveness.

Since the program’s inception in 1970, over 400 Kansas communities have participated, with approximately 70 communities being enrolled per year. To enroll, a group of interested volunteers collaborate with city government (or county if the community is unincorporated) to organize a local PRIDE committee. Then, with technical support from the state level, they assess their current situation, set goals for the future, implement appropriate community improvement projects, evaluate their impact, and celebrate. Participation in the program is free, and communities have access to a network of other PRIDE groups across the state, a searchable record keeping database, educational workshops, in-person and online visits and presentations, and funding opportunities – just to name a few of the benefits.

During the 2018-2019 program year, 74 community PRIDE groups participated in 943 projects. 137 of those projects were new, and 213 engaged youth. 68,836 volunteer labor hours were recorded, which equates to more than $1,552,940, based on independent sector calculations. Communities reported receiving over $400,000 in public and private dollars for their projects and programs.

For our 50th year we invite current communities, and former communities, to share your experiences with PRIDE! We plan to feature stories from the past and present in our upcoming Annual Review, on our website, Facebook, you name it! If you have a story to share, don't hesitate - contact us at PRIDE@ksu.edu, we are excited to add it to our growing collection! You can also use the same e-mail address to reach out if your community is interested in participating in the program – as a brand-new community or returning one. Thank you for all that you do for Kansas! – Jaime Menon and Jan Steen, PRIDE Program Staff

2019 Kansas PRIDE Awards

It's been yet another great year in the Kansas PRIDE program! Jaime Menon and I are excited to continue as co-coordinators of the program as it gives us the opportunity to connect communities to resources, help them identify needs and organize to address those needs, and network locally to foster beneficial partnerships. We're working hard to make sure the program is as relevant and useful today as it has been in the almost 50 years of its existence.

Week of PRIDE

The Kansas PRIDE program and 48 Hours of 4-H invited 4-H clubs to partner with PRIDE organizations for volunteer opportunities during our Week of PRIDE. Since its inception 944 adults and 774 youth in 63 communities have spent 7,718 hours planning and implementing their projects and have raised more than $70,000 to invest into their communities. 102 youth from 19 4-H clubs have assisted in 14 communities.

Awards and Recognition

Project Excellence Awards

Kansas PRIDE Project Excellence Awards are given in recognition of a special project. The 2019 awardees of this honor are:

Perry PRIDE: In the Social Capital category, Perry was selected as a tour stop for the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Tour as the tree made its way from Willamette National Forest in Oregon to Washington, D.C. Perry PRIDE was asked to coordinate this project, which involved planning, coordinating with other groups, and promotion.

Alton PRIDE: In the Built Capital category, Alton PRIDE’s original vision of applying for a grant to repair and repaint the Community Room walls quickly grew into a full-blown “Community Room Fixer-Upper” project. Luckily the contractor wasn’t fazed when PRIDE asked if he would take on the additional job of removing walls to expand and remodel the outdated bathroom into a new, ADA-compliant one. Alton PRIDE also received an award in the Natural Capital category for their tire recycling.
How to go about recycling tires was a little out of Alton PRIDE’s realm of expertise to say the least. In the end, Champlin Tire Recycling hauled 23.45 tons of unsightly tires from Alton to Concordia. There, they were recycled into useful products like the five picnic tables Alton PRIDE purchased from Champlin in 2017.

**OLSBURG PRIDE:** Olsburg PRIDE also received two Project Excellence Awards this year. In the Social Capital category, the We Care project was formed to fill the unmet needs of children in Unified School District 384. Once a need is submitted, the five-member We Care committee discusses the need and determines if it meets the requirements. Once the committee has reviewed the request and made a decision, the liaison is notified. In the Financial Capital category, the Olsburg Land Utfard ATV Poker Run crossed over 60 miles of backroads around Olsburg going through pastures, creeks, and down the dusty roads. Organizers and 20 volunteers did a tremendous job getting everything ready for the day, and their hard work paid off with $15,000 raised.

**RISING STAR AWARDS:** Ten Kansas PRIDE communities honored volunteers or partners with the Rising Star Award this year. The Rising Star Award recognizes an individual, business, organization, elected official, major benefactor, or youth for making an outstanding contribution to a local PRIDE program. Communities selecting and bestowing this honor to local recipients this year are:

- Alton
- Caney
- Delia
- Humboldt
- Iola
- Linn Valley
- Luray
- Olsburg
- Randolph
- Perry

**Kansas PRIDE, Inc. Provides Grants for Eligible Local PRIDE Organizations for Growth, Action, and Excellence.**

Community of Growth Grants provide up to $200 for start-up or smaller projects. This year’s recipients are:

- Admire – signage
- Blue Rapids – project materials
- Caney – survey postage
- Clifton – beautification/materials
- Luray – reimbursement
- Humboldt – signage
- Vermillion – Kansas PRIDE signage and materials
- Wakefield – a Veterans memorial
- Wilson – brochures

The Community of Action Grant is a 1:1 match funding opportunity where communities provide up to $2,000 per projects that qualify. Grants were awarded in two rounds for the following projects:

- Columbus – Garden ($500)
- Delia – community building step repair ($600)
- Grainfield – Awnings for medical building ($1,491.88)
- Grinnell – Pocket park ($2,000)
- Humboldt – Park wheel ($500)
- La Harpe – Lighting project ($2,000)
- Lecompton – Roof repairs ($2,000); Gazebo ($2,000)
- Lenora – Gym equipment ($1,500)
- Vermillion – Sesquicentennial celebration ($350)

Community Promotion Grants are made possible through PRIDE’s partnership with the Kansas Masons, to assist communities with marketing and promotion. This year’s grant recipients are:

- Glasco – Newspaper project ($950)
- Larned – Pole banners ($1,000)

Volunteers Impact PRIDE (VIP) Communities of Excellence Grants are provided through the generosity of the Kansas Masons and our partnership. The VIP grant program was developed by Kansas PRIDE, Inc. to provide incentives to communities for projects that will enhance the quality of life and help communities help themselves through sweat equity and volunteerism at the local level. This is a single activity grant considering the measurable impact of the project on the community. The most recent VIP recipients are:

- Columbus – City park ($15,000)
- Elk City – Veterans memorial ($6,743)
- Randolph – Basketball/tennis court repair ($11,600)

Total VIP funding for this period is $33,343.

By Jamie Menon and Jan Steen, Kansas PRIDE Program Staff
November 6 • WaKeeney
Western Cooperative Electric
$16 per person
RSVP by Oct. 30

November 6 • Augusta
Frisco Train Depot
$18 per person
RSVP by Oct. 30

November 7 • Lakin
Veterans Memorial Building
$16 per person
RSVP by Oct. 30

November 7 • Lindsborg
Swedish Crown Restaurant
$16 per person
RSVP by Oct. 30

November 13 • Leavenworth
Riverfront Community Center
$18 per person
RSVP by Nov. 6

November 14 • Burlington
Kelley Hall Building - Kelley Park
$16 per person
RSVP by Nov. 6

For more information go to: https://www.lkm.org/RegionalSuppers

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The League launched an awards program in 2018. These awards, the Inspire • Create • Innovate Community Awards showcase recent innovations, programs, community projects, and acknowledge overall excellence in local government. Beyond honoring cities, we aim for these awards to spotlight innovations that other communities might replicate.

Recipients of our Community Awards will be recognized at the League’s Annual Conference in October. The categories for the award program are listed in the center of this page. We received 24 award submissions from cities across the state. Cities of all sizes participated with both large-and-small-scale projects that impacted their communities.

“This is our second year of the Community Awards program,” said Trey Cocking, Deputy Director of the League. “It was really interesting to see how cities approach, analyze, and solve problems for their community. We look forward to growing this program in the future and we hope that our members are able to learn from peer cities on how to tackle similar situations.”

On behalf of the League, we thank everyone who participated and took the time to explain their projects so that other cities may replicate or create something that addresses an issue in their city.
The City of Pittsburg’s Weir City Zinc Works & North Walnut Street Project won in the “infrastructure” category of the awards.

The City of Pittsburg’s efforts to remediate and clean up the former industrial site into developable land was an ambitious and necessary project that other cities can use as an example of how public-private partnerships can benefit the overall community. The Weir City Zinc Works Company was a former smelting plant operated on North Broadway Street in Pittsburg from about 1880 until 1920. The long-abandoned property was identified by KDHE as an orphan site, meaning entities responsible for the pollution are unknown, unwilling or unable to pay for its remediation. This situation proved challenging for the current landowners and City officials. Concentrations of lead, arsenic, cadmium, and zinc on the property made the site an environmental safety hazard and unsuitable for new development. Property owners approached City staff five years ago and expressed their frustration after obtaining numerous environmental studies on their properties. The results of those studies made it almost impossible for landowners to take advantage of what should have been valuable commercial property.

After considering a number of methods, the City decided to clean up the properties and neutralize the contamination of the former smelting site by consolidating the hazardous material and burying it under a new road. This approach allowed the City to realize a number of benefits. This alternative method ensures the contamination will not move from the current site, and the property could now be effectively cleaned and available for redevelopment. By applying this process, the hazardous soil did not have to be transported off-site to a landfill or other area – a potentially hazardous process. The City used this opportunity to extend a portion of North Walnut Street, providing transportation access to companies in our north business district.

The funding source of this project was also innovative. As is true with any publicly-funded project, resources are limited. The City sold bonds to build the road. By working with local landowners and conducting special assessments on their properties, we were able to finance a portion of the project using private funds, making the process more affordable for property owners by allowing them to pay us back over a period of 15 years. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment used its funds to hire consultants to conduct the cleanup, and also contributed in-kind labor to the project, which allowed us to maximize our dollars and accomplish more than we could on our own. City staff bid and inspected the road project.

Governor Kelly attended the ribbon-cutting event for the City of Pittsburg Weir City Zinc Works & North Walnut Street Project in May 2019.
The Civic Engagement Academy focuses on underrepresented population groups and teaches participants how to effectively interact with local government, including their elected officials and City departments. It is vitally important that underrepresented population groups who are suffering from significantly reduced health outcomes, become more engaged in their local government processes. In doing so, they will be better positioned to utilize collective resources and to reverse negative health trends associated with socioeconomic status. The most probable impact that the Civic Engagement Academy will have on the future of the community would be an increased level of public activity in the local government sphere. This activity will likely include increased public participation at local City Council and District Advisory Board meetings, as well as an increase in local election participation.

There are several examples of “City 101” programs throughout the country that are designed to educate the public about the operations of local government. Although those programs serve the purpose of informing citizens about local government structure and function, they do very little to develop citizens to be better equipped to take what they have learned and go on to practice active leadership in their community. Wichita’s program worked with staff from the Kansas Leadership Center to develop a curriculum that would both inform citizens about the composition and operations of local government departments, while also developing skills to help them engage in work with local government officials and their fellow citizens to make progress on challenging issues about which they are passionate.

The City of Wichita hopes to develop and refine the Civic Engagement Academy over the next two years to allow regional and national duplication of the program. Wichita wants to see many major metropolitan areas and small cities to adopt.
Like many other communities across Kansas and the country, Topeka has challenges with blight, vacant and abandoned properties, and declining neighborhoods. In order to understand these issues, the City of Topeka’s Planning Department categorizes neighborhoods into categories according to their “health.” These categories include healthy, outpatient, at-risk, and intensive care. Neighborhoods classified as intensive care are those struggling the most with the number of boarded and vacant houses, higher crime rates, poverty, and property values. Many residents are unable to fix code issues or comply with requests due to a lack of resources or elderly and disabled residents may be unable to take care of issues as they would like to. City staff recognized these challenges and developed a program to address needs in two intensive care neighborhoods in 2018.

The Topeka Team Up to Clean Up initiative was developed by the Department of Neighborhood Relations (code enforcement) in collaboration with multiple City departments and community volunteers. In order to be selected, a neighborhood must have active participation from the Neighborhood Improvement Association (NIA). The activities occurring in the neighborhoods undergoing this work require a massive team effort, including the collaborative participation from NIAs, residents, volunteers from partnering agencies, and city departments. Donated services, tools, and resources also come from a variety of other area organizations. Some outcomes from Team Up to Clean Up efforts in Historic Old Town and Central Park neighborhoods included locating and eradicating a human trafficking operation, installing smoke detectors, fixing a failing porch with the help of Habitat for Humanity, numerous positive conversations with residents about how to address code issues, repaired sidewalks and curbs, and assessing and removing trees and other debris from neighborhoods. This program has helped to assess and remediate issues in neighborhoods block by block through hard work and initiative by residents, volunteers, and City Departments who practice code encouragement.

Team Up to Clean Up started as a pilot project in May of 2018 and resulted in multiple positive outcomes including reduced crime, better relations with NIAs, and continued commitments to fix ongoing issues. The program has real impacts on City departments, reducing the need to check on blighted properties or those that are potential fire hazards. These are lasting improvements that will contribute to the quality of life for Topekans and for those who visit our community to take part in activities. These efforts will also help in changing the perception for those that seek to make Topeka their home in the future.

This project required City departments to collaborate like they have never done before. Staff had to let go of previous approaches and tackle something in a new and different way. Rather than placing blame on residents or relying solely on code enforcement, departments were proactive and allocated resources based on their expertise to address multiple issues at once. Residents were also able to communicate needs and challenges to City staff directly, which helped to improve relationships and the perception of the City as a whole.
The City of Merriam, population 11,200, started three city-funded grant programs in 2018: The Exterior Home Improvement Grant, the Neighborhood Island Grant, and the Block Party Grant.

For the Home Improvement Grant, residents had to invest a minimum of $4,000 into the property and the City provides up to 20% reimbursement ($2,500 maximum) for approved exterior improvements to residents’ homes. In 2018, the City allocated $30,000 for home improvements. In 2019, the City increased its investment to $50,000. Residential home improvements included new driveways, sidewalks, roofs, decks, fences, painting, gutters, solar panels, landscaping, and more.

The Neighborhood Island Grant is a 100% reimbursement grant, up to $500, for residents to purchase and install preapproved plants and provide upkeep for one of 20 residential islands identified by City staff.

The Block Party Grant reimburses eligible expenses, up to $200 per neighborhood block party. Neighborhoods can host two block parties per year.

All three of these grants build up our community through economic development in 2018. The programs were necessary because Merriam City Council wanted to explore city-funded grant opportunities to target specific areas of need within our community. For the Exterior Home Improvement Grant and the Neighborhood Island Grant, the City partnered with neighbors to improve their properties and maintenance of common areas. The City wanted residents to be invested in their community, and so the Block Party Grant was used to build relationships within their specific neighborhoods.

The Merriam City Council documented several goals and objectives in 2018 that addressed property maintenance, maintenance of common areas, and the reenergizing of older neighborhoods where homeowners associations (HOAs) were starting to lose steam. Councilmembers wanted to develop pilot programs to explore new ways to deliver services and spur investment. However, the City Council also wanted to make sure its investment was used wisely. City staff monitored each initiatives’ results to include a customer survey, so each program could be adjusted to maximize efficiency and ease of use. Once the goals were identified, staff worked with the City Council to develop rules and restrictions for each program. Once the programs were approved and funding was secured through the annual budget process, the City’s communications team used its city magazine (mailed out to all residents and businesses), city website, and social media platforms to let the residents know about the three grant opportunities and how to apply for the programs. The programs are maintained and monitored by the Community Development and Public Works departments.
The City launched its largest-ever infrastructure project called Nieman Now! in 2017. The project encompasses four stormwater projects, a Nieman Road overhaul, and improvements to several adjacent streets. The Governing Body and City staff knew the ongoing construction would be a concern to our local businesses, so staff came up with our “Shawbucks” program in an attempt to alleviate some of the construction frustration. Neighborhood Planner Lauren Grashoff, Business Liaison Dave Holtwick and Communications Manager Julie Breithaupt worked together to reach out to local businesses to inform them about the idea and gauge their interest. We ended up with 29 participating businesses. We delivered a box and Shawbucks slips to each business. To enter, customers only had to fill out a slip with basic information so we could contact them if they won. Digital Media Specialist Bridget Moser designed our “Shawbucks” gift certificates that were given to the winners. We did Facebook Live drawings every two weeks from a different participating business in an effort to get even more coverage for them. The videos had more than 14,300 views and more than 130 likes. Each time, four winners received $25 in Shawbucks that they could then spend back downtown at the businesses. The Shawbucks social media campaign stretched from November 2018 to May 2019 and ended up handing out $1,325 in Shawbucks that were eligible to be spent back at the downtown participating businesses. In total, there were 1,063 entries and 54 winners from 14 different businesses. The Shawbucks program helped strengthen the relationship between the City and our impacted businesses. The hope is that it would show customers they could navigate the construction and still visit their favorite restaurants, shops and businesses, and even give them the chance to win some free money that could be used to continue to show support for our downtown.

The Shawbucks program not only provided incentives for customers to continue visiting businesses during construction, but it also helped keep the lines of communication open between the businesses and the City in a positive way. The City may roll out Shawbucks again if they have a similar opportunity or use it as a launching pad to brainstorm more programs that can strengthen that bond.
With an emphasis on protecting our planet, the Topeka Zoo started a summer camp program in 2015 for teenagers with the goal of connecting students to nature. Since its inception, this program has grown significantly. At first, there was one week of teen camp for 12 students. In 2019, there are now six weeks of teen camp for 135 students. The demand was so high for these camps that the 2019 spots sold out months before the camps were scheduled to begin and with dozens of students on the wait list. For many students, this is their third or fourth year attending. This year, the Topeka Zoo received a grant which allows the zoo to partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Topeka to offer 15 camp spots to teenagers from economically disadvantaged homes. Due to the dramatic growth and demand for these camps and the repeat attendance, it is evident that the program is having a positive effect on these teenagers. The teen camp students are future business people, politicians, teachers, parents, and more. They are the future of our community and give our environment hope. Bold solutions need bold leaders, and that is what the Topeka Zoo teen camp program is doing.

Rather than attempting to tackle the ever-changing and declining environmental conditions in our community, country and world at large, we recognized that it would take more than the current staff and leadership to help move the needle. To that end, we turned to education and hands on learning experiences available to youth in our community in hopes that they would take on the responsibility of helping improve the world in which we live. In our teen camps, students spend 2.5 days each week at the zoo participating in live animal education programs and behind-the-scenes tours, meeting experts in differing wildlife careers, conducting research as scientists in the field do, and learning about conservation problems along with age-appropriate solutions. The other 2.5 days each week are spent off-grounds throughout the region to connect students to their local plants, animals, and ecosystems, as well as other wildlife organizations. Students also participate in hands-on conservation efforts, like planting over 600 milkweed plants and other flowering native plants for pollinators, and catching and tagging monarch butterflies as part of an international migration study. They are not only learning about these issues, they are contributing to problem solving and are able to see that they can make an impact through this important work.
Legal Forum

New Arrangements for Reporting Asset Forfeiture in Kansas

By Deborah Barnes, Staff Attorney, League of Kansas Municipalities

Why does your city clerk need to be aware that House Bill 2459 became K.S.A. 60-4127 in the 2018 session? Bear with me, we’ll get to that...

Every year the Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit responds to legislators’ concerns by researching and carrying out performance audits. In 2016, legislators wanted to know how Kansas was doing on complying with requirements related to seized and forfeited property. In line with other states and the federal government, Kansas, under the Kansas Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Act (KASFA), allows seizure of real or personal property including cash, guns, vehicles, land and contraband where conduct or offenses defined under KASFA take place. State law in Kansas gives broad discretion over how forfeiture proceeds can be used by the seizing agency.

The audit showed, as had a similar one in 2000, that Kansas law enforcement agencies were generally performing reasonably in terms of securing seized assets, but that they were in many cases failing to submit an annual report to their oversight authority accounting for the forfeiture proceeds. Legislative post audit 2016 report “Seized and Forfeited Property” (available at www.kslpa.org) highlighted the risk that agencies, in the absence of more tightly drawn accounting requirements, could begin to depend on money realized from disposing of forfeited property as operating funds. One of the post audit recommendations was that the House and Senate Judiciary Committees should consider introducing legislation to require and enforce a more centralized reporting requirement.

House Bill 2459 became law in April 2018. This bill created a new section in the KASFA. This section required the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) to set up the Kansas Asset Seizure and Forfeiture Repository and a website to allow public access to information about forfeitures.

Does that mean we have to physically send seized assets up to KBI?

No, this is an information gathering exercise. It is a virtual repository which collects information about the assets seized by those in your city with the power to do so – your Law Enforcement Officers. The web-based repository went live on July 1, 2019. Relevant agencies now send reports electronically to the KBI portal created for the purpose. KBI will use the information to provide the legislature with a report each year, starting on or before April 15, 2020, to confirm agencies’ compliance with the legislation.
What information does the seizing agency have to send in to the KBI Repository?

There are two sets of reporting requirements; the ongoing seizure for forfeiture reports (SFR) and the annual forfeiture fund report (FFR).

This is where your city clerk comes in...

SFR is an incident based report. Each prosecuting attorney is required to submit forfeiture case information to the seizing agency (e.g. your city law enforcement) within 30 days after the final disposition of the forfeiture, (i.e. the court has said how the property should be disposed of). The city must set up a process to make sure these reports are being timely submitted by the prosecutor.

After receiving the report from the prosecutor, the law enforcement agency is required to submit an incident report to the KBI for each seizure/forfeiture the agency conducts. THIS REPORT MUST BE SUBMITTED within 60 total days after a disposition has been made. This includes the time it took to receive the report from the prosecutor. The first reporting period began July 1, 2019. Any property seized as part of the KSFA that receives a disposition or completed forfeiture action on or after July 1 is required to be submitted to the KBI.

The FFR is done once a year. Beginning next year, in 2020, each law enforcement agency must annually compile and submit a forfeiture fund report to the Repository. The first one is due on or before February 1, 2020. The report must account for deposits and expenditures from proceeds from forfeiture credited to the agency under KSFA – both for actions that have been through the courts, and for amounts held by the agency pending legal proceedings. The agency must also account for proceeds from forfeiture actions made under federal law.

KBI estimates there are 427 agencies throughout the state that should be preparing reports. If your city has a law enforcement capability, then that unit should be involved in compiling both annual and ongoing reports.

Some of those agencies will not have made any forfeitures during 2019 for a variety of reasons. Those agencies with a zero return still need to send the FFR report in. In smaller cities where you are between police chiefs, or had an LEO presence at the start of the year but have since contracted out to the county, your city clerk needs to reach out to the police department to make sure that reports are being filed or to be in touch with KBI to let them know that you no longer have a law enforcement agency on the books.

KBI’s Asset Forfeiture Group aims to make the process user friendly. They are happy to answer queries, to give training and to help those with reporting responsibilities to familiarize themselves with what is required. On the website you will find a handbook which takes reporting officers step by step through the reporting process.

Make sure to check out the KBI’s Kansas asset forfeiture reporting website at https://kasfr.kbi.ks.gov/.

Deborah Barnes is a Staff Attorney at League of Kansas Municipalities. She can be reached at dbarnes@lkm.org.

Ensure Your Community Counts

If 1% of the Kansas population is under counted in the 2020 Census, the state of Kansas could miss receiving approximately $603,990,400 in federal funding over a 10-year period. Ensure you count, ensure your community counts, ensure Kansas Counts by participating in the 2020 Census!

For Kansas-specific census materials and ideas on how to ensure your community is accurately counted, visit www.KansasCounts.org for materials and resources. Make sure #KansasCounts next year!
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Contact: Don Osenbaugh, KMIT Pool Administrator
dosenbaugh@cox.net or 316-259-3847
St. John

New Business Incubator Opens

St. John opened a new co-working space in Stafford County. The business incubator space is equipped with broadband connections; varying meeting, conference, and co-working spaces; and training programs that help entrepreneurs find remote work opportunities. The new facility is called Work Space 311 and is set up on a membership basis and each business pays a fee to use the building spaces. The space is designed for those that don’t want to work at home or their work environment is too noisy or maybe they want to start a new work chapter in their life but don’t know about remote jobs. Though private offices are available, shared workspace members receive five free hours each month and office members receive 10 free hours per month in the conference room.

Source: Dodge City Daily Globe
Land Bank Discussion in Leavenworth

The Leavenworth City Commissioners reviewed a proposal for establishing a land bank that could manage and sell tax-foreclosed and abandoned properties in the city. Leavenworth Director of Planning and Community Development Julie Hurley and Community Development Coordinator Mary Dwyer discussed the idea with commissioners at a recent meeting. Dwyer said a land bank may help eliminate vacant lots by reducing the number of properties commissioners order demolished because they are deemed unsafe.

NOTE: The League of Kansas Municipalities is offering a webinar on land banks on November 19 at 10 a.m. To register for the webinar, visit www.lkm.org/events.

Source: The Ottawa Herald
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Prosecutor
Garden City

The City Prosecutor is responsible for professional legal work of limited scope requiring use of professional and legal knowledge to prosecute cases in the City of Garden City Municipal Court.

Candidate must have working knowledge of the principles of criminal law is required, particularly as they relate to the prosecution of municipal ordinance violators; knowledge of Kansas municipal laws and ordinances; knowledge of municipal court methods and procedures and skill in the prosecution of cases heard in court is required; ability to apply legal principles to determinations on individual cases and problems; ability to perform self-directed research and analysis as required for effective prosecution; ability to communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing; ability to develop and maintain effective working relationships with associates, employees of other departments, representatives of other organizations, and the public.

Graduation from an accredited school of law is required. A valid Kansas driver's license or ability to obtain one upon hire.

How to Apply / Contact:
Apply online at https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/gardencityks

Fire Chief
Parsons

The City of Parsons, KS (pop. 10,000) is seeking a highly qualified, self-motivated professional to lead the City's Fire Department. The Fire Chief is responsible for the management of two fire stations and approximately 18 line firefighters; the department operates three shifts on a 24/48 basis. Under the direct supervision of the City Manager, the Fire Chief will be charged with the operation and maintenance of the fire station. Knowledge of modern fire-fighting practices, high quality training programs, hazardous materials and structural collapse incidents that are part of the fire departments normal operations. The Fire Chief will be responsible for the preparation and maintenance of the Community Emergency Operations Plan. The Fire Chief will have management oversight for preparation and control of an annual budget of $1,400,000 in cooperation with the City Manager. Salary range $59,800 - $68,100 based on qualifications and experience. EOE.

Successful candidate will possess a Bachelor's degree in Fire Science, Public Management or closely related field, or ten years of experience in fire service with demonstrated rank advancement, at least five years of responsible administrative experience in firefighting activities supplemented by in-service training courses; or an equivalent combination of experience and education. Must have a demonstrated ability to develop and administer a budget and take a proactive leadership role in meeting budget goals. Strong interpersonal and communication skills. Valid Kansas driver's license

How to Apply / Contact
Send resume to Human Resources Administrator, City of Parsons, KS, PO Box 1037, Parsons, KS 67357; email: kwheat@parsonsks.com. Review of applications will begin October 15, 2019; however, the position will remain open until filled.

Finance Director
Fort Scott

Under the general supervision of the City Manager, the Director of Finance is responsible for financial reporting, payroll, and tax filings; is responsible for the preparation of the city budget; monitors city revenues and expenditures and maintains all related records; supervises personnel in performing related accounting, utility billing systems and clerical work; follows and maintains all city safety policies and procedures.

• Responsible for the compilation and preparation of a variety of financial reports concerning receipts and disbursements of city funds and monitors the budgets of individual departments.
• Responsible for the overall preparation of the city budget; gathers necessary historical information; estimates revenues, reviews expenses, and assists each department head in preparing their portion of the budget; alerts the City Manager of problem areas pertaining to the budget; meets with City Manager and Commission to review budget.
• Maintains accounts receivable/payable ledgers; issuance of payment of all authorized debts incurred by the City; keeps register of purchase requisitions and orders and may work with vendors resolving payment problems.
• Prepares a monthly cash flow report projected 12 months into the future advising the status of the cash on hand, investments and projected revenue for each fund. Is responsible for keeping the greatest amount of funds possible invested at the highest rates available with planned maturity dates to meet the operating requirements of the City. Manages all funds in the City treasury.
• Performs other miscellaneous duties such as tax filings, preparing required public notices, preparing visual aids for commission meetings, assisting staff, assisting the public and other employees, etc.
• Arranges for audits of the city's accounts and prepares reports required by regulatory agencies.
• Establishes relations with banks and other financial institutions.

Education and/or Experience:
Bachelor's degree in finance, or three to five years related public sector financial experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Language Skills:
Ability to effectively present information in one-on-one and small group situations to customers, citizens, commissioners, and employees of the organization. Ability to read and analyze financial documents and grants. Ability to communicate complex financial issues in layman terms.

Customer Service:
Looking for an individual who has a heart for public service and is willing to serve the community alongside other staff in a small vibrant community.

Certificates, Licenses, Registrations:
Requires valid drivers license and must meet City driving history guidelines.

How to Apply / Contact:
Apply online at www.fscity.org. Questions can be directed to Deb Needleman, HR Director (620) 223-0550.
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