League Launches Strategic Plan Update

The League of Kansas Municipalities launched a survey that will help guide our Strategic Plan update. Every few years, organizations should take time to step back and evaluate the organization and review their strategic direction, objectives, and goals. Please visit our website to take our survey. Your comments are very important to us and are critical to developing a relevant and forward-focused plan. The survey closes on November 22, 2019.

As a thank you for your time, we will be entering all respondents in a giveaway for five, $75 gift cards. The city with the highest percentage of respondents (elected officials or appointed officials) will be featured in a cover story in a future Kansas Government Journal.

Regional Suppers Deadline to Register is TODAY!

The League of Kansas Municipalities invites city officials to join us for the 2019 Regional Suppers. The Regional Suppers are an opportunity for League staff, state representatives, city officials, and city staff to discuss upcoming legislative issues and review the Statement of Municipal Policy. This year, League staff is offering a free training prior to the start of the regional supper. Join us at 4:30 p.m. at the same location for a brief City Government 101 training along with tips on how to connect with your legislator. Check-in for dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the meal served at 6:00 p.m. The dates and locations of Regional Suppers are below. Register on-line.

Land Bank Webinar

Are you interested in creating a land bank for your community?

Land banks are quasi-governmental entity created by counties or municipalities to effectively manage and re-purpose an inventory of underused, abandoned, or foreclosed property.

We are offering a free webinar for cities to get a better understanding of how to create a land bank, how to use a land bank, and see successful examples of how land banks have been used in Kansas cities. Limited to 100 participants.

Register for the webinar online.
Two Kansas Local Government Pros Honored by ICMA

Last week, thousands of city and county managers gathered in Nashville, Tennessee for the ICMA Conference. Two Kansas local government managers were honored for their efforts in the profession.

Courtney W. Christensen, City Administrator, Mission Hills, was honored with the Award for Career Development as an outstanding local government administrator who has made a significant contribution to the career development of new talent in professional local government management, in honor of former ICMA President L.P. (Perry) Cookingham, who is credited with creating the local government internship. Christensen has spent the last 32 years working for just two cities, Kansas City, Missouri, and Mission Hills, Kansas, with a wide range of responsibilities in budget and finance, resource management, and emergency services coordination. In 2000, she became city administrator in Mission Hills, where one of the hallmarks of her tenure has been a focus on resident satisfaction and community engagement.

Jennifer Cunningham, Assistant City Manager, Garden City, was honored as a local government management professional who has made significant contributions toward excellence in leadership as an assistant (regardless of title) to a chief local government administrator or department head. Jennifer Cunningham came to her position as assistant city manager in Garden City, Kansas, through a nontraditional route and went on to make significant contributions to the city. Starting as the city prosecutor, she soon demonstrated an acute sense of efficiency in operations and finance that led to a series of promotions in the court system.

Read full details of the award on-line at the ICMA website. Congrats to Courtney and Jennifer for their professional achievements!

Department of Commerce Working on State Growth Strategy

The last time the state of Kansas had a comprehensive strategy for economic growth was in 1986 when the Redwood-Krider report was published. Now, under the leadership of Governor Laura Kelly, Secretary of Commerce David Toland has convened a group of stakeholders including business leaders and economic development professionals from across the state, along with members of academia and Commerce staff, to develop the Kansas Framework for Growth – a comprehensive strategy to accelerate economic growth in Kansas.

Developing a roadmap for economic prosperity for the state of Kansas is a collaborative effort, and the team would like to hear from leaders and stakeholders across the state. Please consider taking their on-line survey and follow their efforts.
KDOT Local Consult Meetings - Round 2

KDOT is following up their regional meetings that were held earlier this year with a second round of consult meetings. These Local Consult meetings will inform the state’s next Long Range Transportation Plan, the planning document that will guide investments from 2020 to 2045. That document will shape the state’s next transportation program, known as FORWARD.

Make plans to attend on of Round #2 meetings (shown below). More details are available on KDOT’s website. Also note at the KC and Wichita area meetings, Economic Lifelines will have an additional meeting immediately following the Local Consult meetings in those locations. Local government officials are welcome to attend those meetings as well.