



## Overland Park Hosts Sister City Art Exhibition

The City of Overland Park recently displayed more than 50 pieces of art from the City's sister city, Bietigheim-Bissingen, Germany. The art work was on display as part of a cultural exchange between the two cities.

The art was housed at the Overland Park Convention Center in September and featured works by Roland Bentz, Sabine Braun, Adam Lude Döring, Karlheinz Gross, Wolfgang Häberle, and Robert Würth. The collection featured a wide-range of media including etchings, oil, acrylic, watercolor, serigraph, gouache, woodblock prints, and photography.

Overland Park established a formal sister city relationship with Bietigheim-Bissingen in 1999.

## City of Lawrence and Douglas County Receive Honors for GIS Technology

The City of Lawrence and Douglas County, Kansas, were recognized for excellence in the geographic information system (GIS) field with a 2006 Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) award at the twenty-sixth Annual ESRI International User Conference in San Diego, California.

ESRI, a world leader in GIS software, presents the award to organizations and agencies that display dedication and commitment through their use of GIS technology. The winners of the award are chosen out of more than 150,000 organizations worldwide.

"The SAG awards celebrate the achievement and vision of innovators in the GIS field," says Jack Dangermond, ESRI president. "Each winner brings benefits to their communities and influences others to do the same."

The City of Lawrence and Douglas County use GIS technology as a tool for mapping and analyzing a range of areas, from infrastructure inventory and maintenance to citizen notification and services.

The city and county departments rely on the technology for zoning identification, finding addresses, scheduling maintenance for sewers, routing traffic, and numerous other daily functions.

With an increased capability to visualize the relationship between physical locations and particular issues, the city and county are able to provide more information to communities and make more informed decisions.

To learn more about all of the 2006 SAG Award winners as well as previous years' winners, visit [www.esri.com/sag](http://www.esri.com/sag). Visit [www.esri.com](http://www.esri.com) for more information about GIS technology and its applications.

## City of Olathe Using Technology to Read Water Meters

Department is phasing in new technology to make reading water meters easier, faster, and more accurate. The radio read system operates using radio waves and enables meter readers to collect data from water meters through a portable receiver.

Currently, the City is installing radio read water meters for all new construction and working on the second year of a 10 year plan to replace existing water meters. City crews can replace approximately 1,500 meters per year and have done 1,800 to date.

The City is currently utilizing two types of radio read technology. Meters with encoder systems transmit signals to handheld receivers or laptop computers as meter readers drive through neighborhoods. Ecoder systems transmit a stronger signal and enable even quicker data collection as meter readers simply drive near neighborhoods.

Reading water meters manually is very time intensive and can be performed more quickly with radio read meters. For example, it takes an average of 3 hours to read a 182 meter route manually. Using the radio read system, those same meters can be read in 30 minutes. Using even newer technology, an ecoder, can cut that time to just eight minutes.

Olathe meter readers currently read all water meters manually each month unless prevented by extreme weather conditions such as significant snowfall or extremely

cold temperatures. Olathe's 9 meter readers read 34,000 water meters split over 405 routes every month. They also re-read meters, check for leaks, and perform water shut-offs and all other meter activities as necessary.

In the future, this technology could also be used to help detect leaks. For example, if a meter reader notices a regular pattern of high water use at night, a letter could be sent to the homeowner notifying them they may have a leak within their home such as a sink or toilet.

This can help the homeowner save money and the City reduce unnecessary water use. The City estimates the automated meter reading system will save millions of dollars over the next 10 years.

## IIMC News

**Brenda Peters, CMC**, Deputy City Clerk of the City of Winfield has recently been accepted into the First Level Membership of the Master Municipal Clerk Academy of the IIMC. To date, approximately 15% of the 10,300 IIMC members have qualified for Master Municipal Clerk Academy status.

## Passages

**Don Denney, 54**, Media Relations Specialist for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, died September 15, 2006. He served as a spokesman and lobbyist for the Unified Government since 1997, and began working for the City of Kansas City in 1994.

**Thomas LaVerne Garren, 84**, former Mayor of the City of Oskaloosa died July 17, 2006.

**Nanette Louise Kemmerly-Webber, 51**, Allen County Attorney, died July 8, 2006. She served as County Attorney for 20 years, and was a past president of the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association.

**Wilbur G. Leonard, 89**, Former Morris County Attorney, died June 14, 2006. In addition, he served as an attorney for the Alcohol Beverage Control and as Chief Attorney for the Commission of Revenue and Taxation.