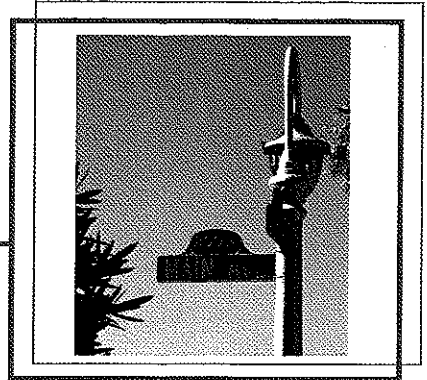


MAINSTREET NEWS

Mainstreet News



Lawrence Receives High Walkability Rankings

Lawrence has been recognized by *Prevention Magazine* and the American Podiatric Medical Association as not only the best walking city in Kansas but also one of the top 100 Walking Cities in America. Lawrence ranked # 38 in a survey of more than 500 cities.

Cities were evaluated on 14 walking criteria, including the percentage of adults who walk to work, number of parks per square mile, use of mass transit, and percentage of adults who walk for fitness. The 10 largest cities in each state were also ranked. The rankings for Kansas: No. 1 Lawrence; No. 2 Manhattan; No. 3 Overland Park; No. 4 Shawnee; No. 5 Lenexa; No. 6 Olathe; No. 7 Topeka; No. 8 Kansas City; No. 9 Wichita, and No. 10 Salina. To see the full list of 500+ city rankings go to <http://www.prevention.com/bestcities>.

Kiowa County Receives \$100,000 Grant to Rebuild Recycling Center Damaged by Greensburg Tornado

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Waste Management (BWM) has announced that Kiowa County will receive a \$100,000 grant to replace a building and some equipment used for processing recyclable materials. The county's recycling facility was destroyed by the May 4, 2007, Greensburg tornado.

"The re-establishment of the county recycling center is an integral part of local efforts to rebuild our community with a 'green' emphasis," said Kiowa County Commissioner Gene West.

Kiowa County will also receive a recognition award from KDHE for efforts to recycle much of the debris left behind by the tornado. Nearly 600 tons of scrap metal, dozens of pallets of bricks, and 65,000 cubic yards of concrete were recovered and recycled from the rubble. In addition, cars, electrical transformers, propane cylinders, Freon refrigerant, and some miscellaneous hazardous materials were recycled rather than disposed of.

"Despite extraordinary circumstances, the people of Kiowa County demonstrated an unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship by building partnerships to ensure the tornado debris was recycled," said Bill Bider, Director of the KDHE Bureau of Waste Management.

Five Cities Receive Community Capacity Building Grants

Coffeyville, Emporia, Garden City, Hoisington, and Independence have each been awarded a total of \$100,000 in Community Capacity Building grants from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Community Capacity Building grants are awarded to support collaborative community development planning activities in cities or counties with fewer than 50,000 residents. Funds may be used to develop a plan, market analysis, or feasibility study to aid in long-term community goals such as growth, diversification, or redevelopment.

"We're excited to award these Community Capacity Building grants to five deserving communities," said Secretary of Commerce David

Kerr. "I'm confident this year's recipients will put the funding to good use and lay the foundation for their targeted community-development goals."

The term "collaborative community development planning" means that the community has formed an active partnership among key community-based organizations to develop a shared vision for the future and a plan of action to achieve that vision. This includes agreed-upon priorities with a written document with timelines and assigned responsibilities. The maximum grant a community can receive is \$25,000. Recipients must provide at least \$5,000 in matching funds.

The following is a list of the recipients and a summary of their respective proposals: The City of Coffeyville has been granted \$25,000 to develop a comprehensive plan, which includes a post-flood recovery element. The City of Emporia has been awarded \$15,000 to develop a plan targeting downtown and the area around Emporia State University. The City of Garden City has been awarded \$20,000 to update its comprehensive plan and add a market analysis for downtown. Hoisington Main Street has been awarded \$25,000 to develop a plan to take advantage of an anticipated increase in tourist traffic along the US-281 and K-4 Corridors due to the 2009 opening of the Kansas Wetland Education Center. Independence Main Street has been awarded \$15,000 for a market analysis for its downtown district.

Lenexa Uses New Technology to Make Pool Passes More Convenient

Lenexa residents won't have to worry about forgetting to bring their season passes to the pool this summer. All they'll need are their thumbs. Beginning this pool season, Lenexa Parks and Recreation will trade the old, photo ID pool passes for something much handier -- fingerprint identification. Among other benefits, the new procedure is a permanent ID system, which eliminates the need, and subsequent cost, for replacement cards.

Recreation Superintendent Jim Finlen sees the fingerprint scans as a welcome change for pool-goers, especially busy moms. "We anticipate our members will appreciate the convenience of not having to bring an actual card to the pool," says Finlen. "Each pool will be outfitted with a fingerprint scanner for effortless access to pool facilities. They'll just 'show and go' -- it's that simple."

Finlen also adds that members can be assured the new program is safe and private; any fingerprinting information obtained will be used for entry into pool facilities only and will not be shared with any other agencies.

Passages

Michael "Mike" Roth, 87, former Mayor of the City of Emmett, died March 6, 2008. He worked for the Kansas Department of Transportation until he retired in 1986.