



Former Macksville Police Officer Robert Timothy Buckman Recognized at Kansas Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony

Police Officer Robert Timothy Buckman of Macksville was recognized as part of the Kansas Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony held on Friday, May 9, and also at the National Peace Officer's Memorial Day held on Thursday, May 15. For each of those events, Governor Kathleen Sebelius ordered flags on state buildings flown at half-staff.

"Law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every time they go to work, protecting the people of Kansas," Governor Sebelius said. "This year, we will honor Police Officer Robert Timothy Buckman, Macksville, who lost his life as he was warning citizens of the tornado that devastated Greensburg on May 4, 2007. I urge all Kansans to remember the brave men and women we've lost in the line of duty and pray for their families and friends."

Governor Sebelius said, "This memorial is extremely important to the law enforcement community and to the families of law enforcement officers who have died. It symbolizes their courage and sacrifice, and I'm honored to join law enforcement officers from around the state as we rededicate this memorial."

Olathe Celebrates National Drinking Water Week

The City of Olathe joined the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and water utilities across North America in recognizing National Drinking Water Week, which took place May 5-9, 2008. Celebrated for more than 30 years, Drinking Water Week provides a unique opportunity for water professionals and communities they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

A safe, reliable water supply is critical to the success of any community. It creates jobs, attracts industry and investment, and provides for health and welfare of citizens in ways ranging from disease prevention to fire suppression. The water supply is often taken for granted until it is threatened by drought, water main breaks, or some other events.

Olathe has a number of projects in place that were highlighted during National Drinking Water Week:

- The City is revising its Water Conservation Plan in accordance with new guidelines issued by the Kansas Water Office.
- Recently, the City became a utility partner to the EPA WaterSense Program. This program is designed to help consumers conserve water through high-efficiency plumbing fixtures and efficient irrigation practices.
- The City is proceeding with plans to construct a 42-inch transmission main to enhance the water-distribution infrastructure to meet the community's long-term needs.

Nine Kansas Communities Awarded \$2.8 Million in Federal Grants

The Kansas Department of Commerce (Commerce) will distribute more than \$2.8 million in federal grants through the Community Development Block Grant program, officials announced.

Communities receiving funding include the cities of El Dorado, Eskridge, Frontenac, Nortonville, Ogden, Severy, and Udall, as well as Lincoln and Linn counties.

The announcement follows January's awarding of more than \$9.3 million in federal CDBG funds to Kansas communities, bringing this year's total to nearly \$12.1 million.

"We are pleased to announce the awarding of these funds to some great Kansas communities," said Commerce Secretary David Kerr. "These grants allow the Department to assist the small and rural communities that are so crucial to our state."

The CDBG program provides federal funds to local governments for the development of viable communities by addressing their housing, public-facilities, and economic-development needs. To be awarded funds, local governments must meet at least one of three program objectives: benefit to low- and moderate-income persons; prevent or eliminate slums and blight; or resolve an urgent need where local resources are not available to do so.

CDBG funds are one of Commerce's primary tools in supporting the state's small, predominately rural communities. Commerce has distributed more than \$235 million in CDBG funding since 1998.

Five-County Region of Northeast Kansas Developing Integrated Approach to Transportation Planning

Phase 1 of the two-phase study will include identifying the significant developments in the five-county area and determining how those developments are impacting the regional transportation system.

The five counties include Douglas, Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami, and Wyandotte. Study partners include the counties and key cities in the area, Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), Kansas Turnpike Authority (KTA), Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), and Lawrence-Douglas County Metro Planning Commission.

"This study will help KDOT and our partners identify the significant developments in the study area, such as the proposed regional warehouse facility at Gardner, redevelopment of the De Soto Army ammunition plant, and the Kansas Speedway and adjacent development," said State Transportation Planner Thomas Dow of KDOT.

Phase 1 of the study also will include an examination of the state and local road systems, traffic projections, and the capacity of the existing system to carry the projected traffic. Phase 2 of the study will identify corridors for future improvement, new corridors, and right-of-way needs. It also will provide a cost projection of possible improvements.

Passages

Nola Graham, 89, retired Bourbon County Clerk, died Sunday, May 4, 2008. Nola began working at the courthouse in 1951 and was elected County Clerk in 1956. She retired in 1981.