



Desk Jockeys five-time, 3-on-3 City champions, page 8.

# City Connection

A City Government Newsletter



## Be Air Aware

City of Wichita officials recently announced a campaign designed to help the Wichita area meet tougher federal air pollution standards. Violating the new standards could mean residents face greater health risks and may have to pay for costly air-quality improvement programs. Following are things you can do to help:

- Limit vehicle idling. Waiting for a train? Turn off engine if stopped more than one minute. Avoid the drive-through line, go inside.
- Refuel your car after 6 p.m. Avoid spilling gas and don't "top off" the tank. Replace gas tank cap tightly.
- Keep your car tuned up and your tires properly inflated.
- Drive less. Carpool or rideshare. Combine your errands into one trip. Bike or walk when possible.
- Mow your grass after 6 p.m. Keep lawnmowers and other small engines properly tuned.
- Don't burn leaves, trash and other materials. Use charcoal grills and chimineas after 6 p.m. Do mulch and compost!
- Conserve electricity. Don't over cool your building (78 degrees in summer). Turn off lights and appliances. Use Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) and LED lights to limit electricity use and heat.
- Look for the Energy Star label when purchasing computers, TVs, DVDs, appliances, lighting, etc.
- Dispose of household paints, solvents and pesticides properly. Store such materials in airtight containers.
- Paint with a brush, not a sprayer. Buy low VOC paints for indoor and outdoor painting jobs.



The annual ozone season starts April 1. Ozone can harm lungs. Particularly vulnerable are people with asthma, other lung diseases, children and those who spend time outside during spring and summer months.

For more information, go to the City's website at [www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov).

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## Thank you, City Employees



Thank you to City of Wichita employees for supporting the No More Hungry Kids Campaign through the Jeans Day Button sales. We have raised \$8,337 toward the \$16,000 goal. The No More Hungry Kids campaign goal is to engage the Wichita community in helping hungry children by encouraging individuals and organizations to sponsor each of the schools now participating in the Kansas Food Bank's Food4Kids back pack program. The backpack program is operated in coordination with Wichita public schools. At the end of last year, more than 1,200 children were believed to be without food on the weekends. With assistance from the Kansas Food Bank, food was provided each Friday to take home in their backpacks.

If you haven't purchased your Jeans Day button, which allows employees to wear jeans the last working Friday of each month until the end of 2010, you still can. Buttons are for sale for \$20 in the City Managers office on the 13<sup>th</sup> floor.

Megan Buckmaster

## Q & A With Kay Drennan



Kay Drennan accepts her Water Conservationist of the Year Award

**K**ay Drennan is an Environmental Specialist in the Public Works Department's Office of Environmental Health. She has had "two lives" with the City – seven years with Parks and Recreation before leaving for graduate school and then returning for 19 years in the Water Conservation Program.

As the City's Water Resources Conservation Coordinator, Drennan manages the Retail Volume Conservation Contracts (the large seasonal water users in the City). She also works with those businesses required to have Water Conservation Plans as part of their application for Industrial Revenue Bonds and Economic Development Tax-exemptions. Her other "hat" is as an educator – she develops conservation-focused public service initiatives, organizes trainings for irrigation installers, and gives hundreds of youth and adult presentations each year.

This year Drennan and the Wichita Water

Conservation Program were recognized as the "Water Conservationist of the Year" by the Kansas Wildlife Federation.

Drennan has family and a cat here in Wichita. She and her husband, David, enjoy the Final Friday art crawls and consider themselves movie buffs. She enjoys practicing Tai chi chuan, a health-focused martial art, in which David is an accomplished instructor. She and her husband also enjoy visiting international locations where many of their family members are currently living and try to take at least one trip a year.

**Q** Water conservation can be a hard sell in wet years. What do you say to help folks understand?

We are a water planet but the water that we use, fresh water, is in basically short supply. We either get it when it falls from the sky, or from natural or human-made impoundments, or from underground. All of these sources are limited – some more than others. And, we have a very water intensive lifestyle. We need to rethink how we use water not just conservation.

**Q** What is the most interesting work story you can tell?

One of the first things Joe Pajor had me do was to help with the yard waste composting program piloted in 1992 out at the Brooks Landfill. My job was to try to give the compost away. Imagine standing out there at Brooks Landfill on a hot day talking to citizens about picking up compost. I eventually talked the guys in the Parks Department into taking a portion of it, but a lot of it ended up being used as "closure" material over the landfill's daily trash deposits. Unfortunately, the program was way ahead of its time.

Another story: I found out I was allergic to mangoes the hard way. My lips ballooned up! The next day I had to be on television with Wade Pascal from the Water Department to talk about water conservation and my lips were about

three times their original size.

Life with the City is never dull.

**Q** What CD is playing in your car right now?

I don't have a CD player in my car. My car is old!

**Q** Do you have a favorite quote and why do you like it?

*If there is magic on this planet, it is contained in water.* – Loran Easley.

It is so descriptive of what water is. Water is unusual and can capture you with its physical beauty and its amazing properties. We still don't know why water does all the things it does yet it is so basic to our lives.

**Q** If you were mentoring a new employee in this field of expertise, what is the one characteristic or talent they would need to continue this program?

Curiosity and flexibility. Curiosity makes the job fun, and flexibility because you never know what you are going to do next.

**Q** What book are you currently reading?

I am reading "What to Say to Get What You Want" by Deep and Sussman. Difficult times can bring the best and worst out in people. Any tools that can help build strong working relationships are valuable.

**Q** If you could attend an historic event, which would you attend and what would you be doing?

I would have loved to have been on the Lewis and Clark Expedition or the John Wesley Powell Expedition down the Colorado River. Even if I was just an oarsman or a cook. I would love to have seen the country at that point in time or the Colorado River before it was dammed.

## New Exhibits at CityArts

**Main Gallery:** The ever-popular Art Show at the Dog Show juried exhibition is so big that it's being split between CityArts and Century II this month. The show is the only one of its kind to focus solely on canine art, and it includes paintings, photographs and bronze sculptures, fiber and more. Artists from around the world – Belgium, United Kingdom, Canada, Mexico, United States and Norway – tried to be a part of this very competitive exhibit. In the end out of the 569 entries, 200 were selected for exhibition. Art Show at the Dog Show is a 24-year-old tradition that was started in Wichita by the Wichita Kennel Club. The Best in Show winner for this year is currently on display at Century II. It is a pastel painting of a Shetland sheepdog titled "Sunbath" by Springfield, Mo. resident Marla Rush Parnell.

Art Show at the Dog Show is being held in conjunction with the Sunflower Cluster Dog Show that will take place April 9-11 at the Kansas Coliseum Pavilion. Both events are sponsored by the Sunflower Cluster Dog Shows, which is made up of the Wichita Kennel Club, Wichita Dog Training Club, Hutchinson Kennel Club and the Salina Kennel Club. Purina is the corporate sponsor.

**Hallway Gallery:** "Restoring Balance" exhibit by Brandon Smith. Includes collages, mixed media and decorative ceramics.

**Balcony Gallery:** "Color Form & Light," a collection of oil paintings by Shirley Carrick. Features traditional Kansas scenes, such as farms, barns, countryside and landscapes.

**Boardroom Gallery:** Traditional and still life oil paintings by Marty Ferguson, a member of the Kansas Academy of Oil Painters.



A wonderful grouping of bronze canine art is on display at CityArts.

Angela Cato

## Happenings at Century II

Tickets for the following events at Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center can be purchased through WichitaTIX at 219-4TIX or online at [www.wichitaTIX.com](http://www.wichitaTIX.com) (except where noted)!

**Wichita Eagle National Career Expo**, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. on April 6 in Exhibition Hall.

**CLASSICS: Brahms' Requiem**, presented by Wichita Symphony Orchestra, at 8 p.m. on April 10 and 3 p.m. on April 11 in Concert Hall. For tickets, call 267-7658.

**Wichita Theatre Organ Performance**, at 7 p.m. on April 17 in Exhibition Hall. For tickets, call 838-3127.

**Li'l Abner**, presented by Music Theatre for Young People, at 7:30 p.m. on April 23, 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on April 24, and 2:30 p.m. on April 25 in Mary Jane Teall Theater.

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Winefest**, presented by Guadalupe Health Foundation, at 6 p.m. on April 24 in Exhibition Hall and Convention Hall.

**Coppelia**, featuring the Moscow Festival Ballet and presented by Wichita Grand Opera, at 7 p.m. on April 27 in Concert Hall. For tickets, call 262-8054.

For more information about these and other upcoming events, visit [www.century2.org](http://www.century2.org) or call 316-264-9121.



The Wichita Wurlitzer will be played at the Wichita Theatre Organ Performance.

Jacob House

## April Brings Notable Guests to Library



Director Roger Ross Williams

April is a month of celebration at the Wichita Public Library. During National Library Week (April 11-17), several special guests, including representatives from Wichita's sports teams, KSN and the Wichita Fire Department, show children all they can learn at their library.

To kick off a year-long countdown to the 25th Annual Academy Awards® Shorts, Roger Ross Williams, the Academy Award®-winning director of "Music by Prudence," will be at the Central Library at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 18. After a special screening of his documentary short, he'll talk about his experiences and take questions.

The following day, First Lady Stacy Parkinson will join the Friends of the Wichita Public Library at Botanica to recognize the contributions of the Library's numerous volunteers. Last year, over 300 volunteers gave their time to help the Library.

Jennifer Heinicke

## Exhibits at the Wichita Art Museum

### American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell through May 30

Norman Rockwell painted the best of America, creating images of the lives, hopes and dreams of Americans in the 20th century. Thanks to the Friends of WAM, the Museum is proud to host the works of one of the country's best known artists. The exhibition showcases American culture through the eyes of Norman Rockwell with more than forty-two original paintings, drawings and other important objects from his lifelong career in art.

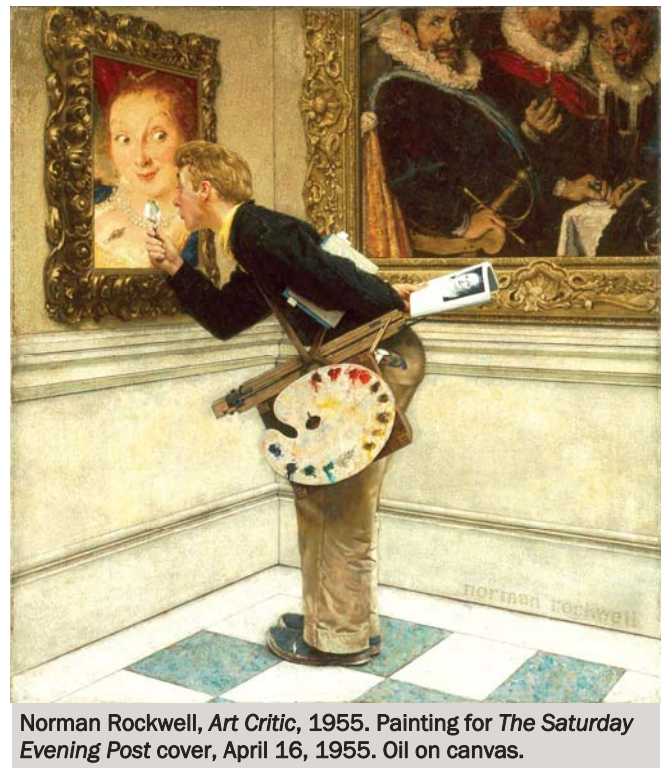
The Norman Rockwell Museum Collection exhibition is made possible with the generous support from the Fidelity Foundation; The National Endowment for the Arts, American Masterpieces Program; the Henry Luce Foundation; Curtis Publishing Company; Norman Rockwell Estate Licensing Company; and the Stockman Family Foundation. The Wichita venue is made possible by the Friends of the Wichita Art Museum and the Friends of the Wichita Art Museum Endowment. Publicity in Wichita is made possible by the Lois Kay Walls Foundation.

### Mingled Visions: Selections from Edward S. Curtis's The North American Indian through June 27

The images of Native American warriors, tribal medicine men and princesses are forever captured in an exhibition by photographer Edward S. Curtis, in the exhibition Mingled Visions: Selections from Edward S. Curtis's "The North American Indian." The exhibition showcases the everyday lives of Native Americans at the turn of the century. The exhibition of 40 photogravures presents a small portion of Curtis's North American Indian collection.

### Try Some Color, Please! through April 18

These colorful lithographs and etchings from the Museum's permanent collection challenge the old notion that black and white is best. The artists in this exhibition take a walk on the colorful side by experimenting with color in an art form traditionally reserved simply for black and white.



Norman Rockwell, *Art Critic*, 1955. Painting for *The Saturday Evening Post* cover, April 16, 1955. Oil on canvas.

Crystal Walter

## Civil War Battles at Cowtown

Old Cowtown Museum is presenting its 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Civil War Sampler on April 17-18. Regular museum admission is being charged for this event, but City employees are being given a special 2-for-1 discount when they show their badges. The weekend activities will include soldiers from the North and South battling it out on Cowtown's streets, military drills, thousands of gunshots from Gatling guns and canons, soldier campsites, workshops and vendor booths selling an array of souvenirs. The military re-enactors will be from the 8<sup>th</sup> Kansas Volunteer Infantry, 9<sup>th</sup> Texas, McClain's Independent Battery Colorado Volunteers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Kansas Artillery and Elliott's Scouts.

The authenticity of the Civil War Sampler Weekend is made possible by Civil War re-enactment groups that include the 8th Kansas Volunteer Infantry; 9th Texas Infantry; McClain's Independent Battery Colorado Volunteers; 3rd Kansas Artillery; and Elliott's Scouts. To find out more, call Cowtown at 219-1871 or go online to oldcowtown.org.

Angela Cato

## Take an Art Class at CityArts

Registration for CityArts' spring 2010 art classes is going on now. Brochures were distributed in the Wichita Eagle, and they are also available online at wichitaarts.com or at CityArts, 334 N. Mead. Adult and youth classes are offered in fiber, digital photography, computer arts, glass arts, drawing, painting, pottery and silversmithing. Prior art experience is not a requirement.

Call CityArts at 462-2787 for more information.



Angela Cato

## Downing Children's Garden



In June of 2008, Botanica, The Wichita Gardens announced the beginning of a major, multi-phased expansion that will eventually cover an additional 27 acres to the west of the current Gardens. At the same time, Botanica officially launched Phase One of a capital campaign to raise funds for the 1.5 acre Downing Children's Garden, thanks to a generous lead challenge gift of \$1.5 million dollars from Barry and Paula Downing.

In August of 2009, after 14 months of fundraising efforts, Botanica officials announced that through of the generosity of friends, corporations and foundations, they had met the \$1.5 million dollar match for the Downing gift. Now, with the \$3 million dollars successfully raised, they are eligible to partner with the City of Wichita, which will provide funding in the amount of \$1,560,000 from the 2009/2018 Capital Improvement Plan for development of the required infrastructure.

At the same time, Botanica officials also announced the beginning of Phase Two of the capital campaign, with a goal of an additional \$1.5 million dollars to fund the remainder of the named areas in the Downing Children's Garden, as well as raising additional funds to design and construct the Educational Activity Center.

The Downing Children's Garden will be an amazing opportunity for the entire community to interact with and discover nature in the garden setting. It will provide future generations of our community with the opportunity to play, explore and to establish a connection with the natural world. Botanica has partnered with Wichita-based, Simpson & Associates Construction Services to provide services as the Construction Manager/Designer/Builder who will work with EDAW/AECOM, Botanica's design architect to construct the Downing Children's Garden. A groundbreaking for the Downing Children's Garden is tentatively scheduled for late spring, with an anticipated opening date in 2011.

"This major accomplishment is a testament to the faith that our community has in Botanica and the importance of this project to Wichita children and their families and to Botanica's growth," said Marty Miller, Executive Director. "Even during these difficult economic times, our donors and our City realize that investing in Botanica is a sound and worthwhile cause, ensuring that for generations to come, Botanica will continue to connect people to nature."

Botanica, The Wichita Gardens will be a significant horticulture display garden for enjoyment and education of the community and region that sets the standard of excellence for botanical gardens in the Midwest.

Mia Jenkins

## East Douglas Streetscape Project

The Douglas Design District is a pro-active, not-for-profit organization with a voluntary membership representing approximately 50 of the over 300 businesses located along the East Douglas Avenue corridor between Washington and Glendale Avenues. The mission of the Douglas Design District is to revitalize, promote, beautify and market this corridor.

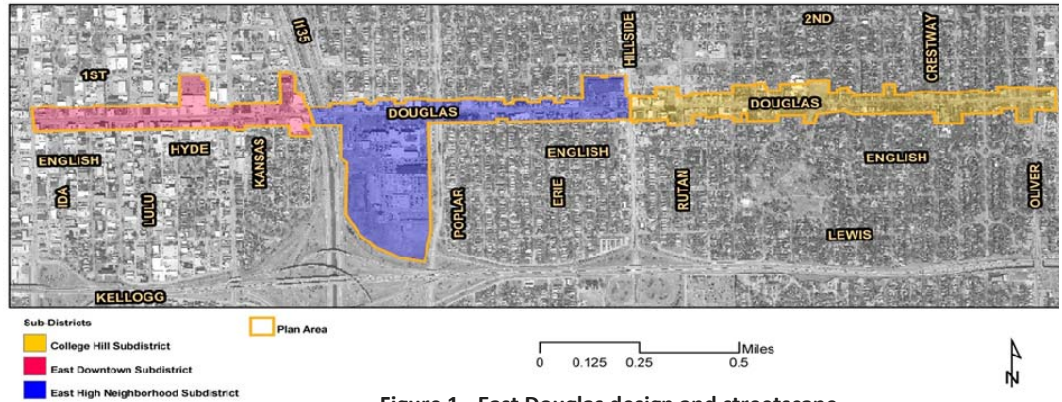


Figure 1 - East Douglas design and streetscape

Representatives from the Douglas Design District and City staff started meeting in 2008 to develop a conceptual streetscape improvement plan for East Douglas Avenue. Two community open house meetings were held to receive comment and feedback on the draft plan. District Advisory Boards I and II endorsed the recommended design concepts contained in the draft plan.

The City Council has adopted a resolution to endorse the plan that contains a vision statement and goal of what a transformed, revitalized, vibrant and attractive East Douglas Avenue should look like in 2020. This approval did not commit any funds to implement the recommended design concepts and streetscape improvements that are estimated to cost \$9.7 million. Funding sources are expected to come from approximately 60% City general obligation bond funds and 40% non-city funds. Key elements in the plan are as follows:

### East Downtown Design Concept (Washington to I-135)

- Install raised landscape medians between Washington and Hydraulic
- Install comprehensive street landscaping from Washington to I-135
- Install upgraded pedestrian crosswalks at Douglas and Hydraulic

### East High School Design Concept (I-135 to Hillside)

- Convert 4 lanes to 3 lanes of traffic
- Install upgraded pedestrian crosswalks at Douglas and Grove
- Install street landscaping in selected locations between I-135 and Hillside

### College Hill Design Concept (Hillside to Oliver)

- Convert 4 lanes to 3 lanes of traffic
- Install street landscaping in selected locations between Hillside and Rutan

Mike Hampel

## Fire Recruit Class Graduates

The Wichita Fire Department recently held a graduation ceremony in the Wichita City Council chambers for 17 new fire recruits. The winter class completed 13-weeks of training involving firefighting techniques, fire prevention and medical care.

The new firefighters will now be assigned to one of the fire department's 21 fire stations where they will continue to refine their fire fighting skills and respond to emergency calls throughout the city.



Mayor Carl Brewer, Assistant City Manager Cathy Holdeman and Council Members assisted Wichita Fire Chief Ronald D. Blackwell with the graduation.

<u>Retirees</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Yrs. Of Service</u>
Kay Gales	Municipal Court	32 yrs. 02 mo.
Anthony S. Freeman	Park	30 yrs. 04 mo.
Lisa A. Branine	Water	30 yrs. 00 mo.
Richard R. Widener	Public Works	23 yrs. 09 mo.
Dottie L. Templeton	Water	20 yrs. 11 mo.
Dennis E. Jantz	Park	20 yrs. 01 mo.
Sandra D. Greeno	Finance	19 yrs. 09 mo.
Betty J. Morgan	Public Works	18 yrs. 03 mo.
John L. Gibbs	Park	14 yrs. 07 mo.

<u>Retiree Deaths</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Pauline M. Ulses	Library	02/17/2010

**Congratulations to these employees who have reached 10, 25 and 30 year career milestones with the City.**

<u>March</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Nancy J. Bara	10 years	Police
Randall J. Harrison	10 years	IT
<u>March</u>	<u>25 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Gregg D. Myrtle	25 years	Fire
Melinda A. Walker	25 years	Finance
William E. Clarkin	25 years	Fire
Frank. A. Heagler	25 years	Airport
Robert A. Craddock	25 years	Public Works
Joseph P. Kelly	25 years	Municipal Court
<u>March</u>	<u>30 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Barbara J. Relf	30 years	Water
Michael L. Wisley	30 years	Park
Larry D. Marzett	30 years	Public Works
<u>Sept. 2009</u>	<u>30 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Michelle Patton	30 years	Finance

**Deputy Fire Chief Retires**

Michael L. Rudd, Deputy Fire Chief of the Fire Department's Emergency Operations Command is turning his siren off after 40 plus years of dedicated service to the City of Wichita.



Chief Rudd known for his outstanding work ethic joined the fire department in 1969 and rose through the ranks serving as a Firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain, Fire Battalion Chief, Division Chief and Deputy Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Ronald D. Blackwell said Chief Rudd "always brought boundless energy to work every day and will be missed." Congratulation Chief Rudd on a job well done and your dedicated service to the citizens of Wichita.

**IT/IS Recognition**

Employees David Racchini, Kevin Coons, Ben Adams, Mark Dawson, Dana White and Ray Thomas received a recognition for customer service from Human Resources.



(L to R) David Racchini, Dana White, Ben Adams, Mark Dawson, Ray Thomas and Kevin Coons.

This group was integral to Water Utilities' ability to achieve a major cost savings business process change in a limited time frame. Water Utilities undertook the effort to change how utility locate requests are handled in order to take advantage of a cost savings opportunity. A major part of the project was to develop telephone operations and a website to handle the incoming utility local requests. The willingness of Thomas to step in, listen to the operations and goals while making suggestions as well as implementation of the telephone setup was extremely helpful.

The web development group with others from IT then used some applications that were still in development, completed their testing and then developed them to be web based forms that would handle the requests that are inputted by excavators from across the area. The group then completed the process of moving all of this work to the outside web servers and making the necessary adjustments for everything to be in place before the end of the year when the transition had to be complete.

**Team Keeps Century II On the Line**

The story started with the news that Century II's telephone system would no longer be supported by the manufacturer. The Central Library's telephone system could be expanded to accommodate Century II, but a cable would have to be installed to connect the two buildings, saving the expense of an entirely new telephone system for Century II.

An unused conduit between the two buildings was discovered, reducing the cost of the project further, but when a contractor began to install the cable, the conduit was discovered to be crushed and unusable. Joaquin Espinoza of Public Works assisted the contractor to determine where the conduit was broken. Liz Owens of Water Distribution allocated a Water Distribution crew to excavate down to the broken conduit so the contractor could repair it. Espinoza again assisted with the "locates" for the digging. Elizabeth Keener and Mark Ligons of Engineering expedited permits and bids for replacing the sidewalk after the conduit repairs were complete.

In all, six different groups: Library, Building Services, Engineering; Water Distribution; Century II and IT/IS contributed their skills in a cooperative effort to save significant expense and to save a project.

## New ADA Coordinator



Brian Coon is the new ADA Coordinator for the City of Wichita..

Brian Coon is the new Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator for the City of Wichita. He has worked for the City since August of 2008. Coon holds a doctorate degree in engineering and a law degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is licensed to practice civil and mechanical engineering in Kansas and Nebraska and law in Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska. Coon is also a certified Professional Traffic Operations Engineer and an accredited traffic accident reconstructionist.

Prior to coming to the City, he worked with the Midwest Roadside Safety Facility, he was an associate professor at Kansas State University, and was an elected Representative in the Iowa House of Representatives. Coon also worked as a Fulbright Scholar with the Swedish Road and Transport Institute in Linköping, Sweden. Coon serves on several national committees, including the Mechanical Engineering Exam Development Committee of the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. He also teaches "Energy and the Environment" at Friends University and is a reserve police officer with the City of Maize.

## Wichita Fire Dept. Regional Training Facility

The Wichita Fire Department broke ground in March on the Regional Training Facility at 4780 E. 31st South. The 25,000 square foot training facility will be built on the existing Training Facility property that currently includes a "state of the art" training tower. It will feature classrooms that can be configured into large meeting spaces. One of the enhancements to this property will be the increased ability to use digital media including video conferencing with the Fire Stations.



"The Regional Training Center will allow the Fire Department to take training to a whole new level," Wichita Fire Chief Ronald D. Blackwell said. "It's a tremendous asset which will be used by Wichita firefighters and other firefighters from across the nation."

"Our increased training capability from the advanced technology will benefit the citizens we serve." Wichita Deputy Fire Chief Ron Aaron said. "Responding with properly trained and equipped firefighters is essential to keep pace with public expectations for emergency incident management."

"Wichita firefighters are well known across the country as well trained firefighters. Safety Training Chief Billy Wenzel said. "Many Wichita Firefighters teach firefighting skills regionally and nationally. The new training facility will give us a platform to bring that training here to the benefit of the entire region."

The \$4 million dollar facility is being built by Conco Construction and scheduled to be completed by December of this year.

## Five-Time Basketball Champions

The Desk Jockeys claimed a fifth straight 3-on-3 title in the City of Wichita's 3-on-3 tournament on March 27 at the Lynette Woodard Center.

The Desk Jockeys (L to R top row) are made up of staffers Donte Martin, Mitch Coffman, Ryan Adkison, Antione Sherfield, (L to R bottom row) Van Williams and Rob Raine.

In the title game, the Desk Jockeys played against the Kansas Kings, made up of staffers from Water Utilities. The tournament also included teams from Sedgwick County.



**CITY CONNECTION TEAM**-Debbie Aviks-CMO; Gordon Bassham-Police; Megan Buckmaster-CMO; LeeAnn Casey-HR; Angela Cato-CityArts; Heidi Cleveland,-CDO; Vallery Fields-Transit; Larry Foos-Park; Dale Goter-CMO; Elaine Hammons-OCI; Mike Hampel-Planning; Jennifer Heinicke-Library; Lisa Hilyard, Env. Services; Kay Hurdle-Law; Denise Klug-IT/IS; Deb Legge-OCI; Lauragail Locke-CMO; Donte Martin-M.C.; Michelle Rucker-Housing; Marge Seger-Finance; Bob Thompson-Fire; Denise Tipton- Water; Crystal Walter-Art Museum; Gail Williams-P.W.; Van Williams-CMO; Valerie Wise-Airport