



Your Connection

*A City Hall newsletter that promotes Transforming Wichita,
an organizational improvement initiative
supporting Visioneering Wichita*

It's River Festival Time!
Memorial Day, May 28,
City Offices are closed.



River Corridor, Keeper Plaza Dedication May 18!

Inside this issue:

Q&A with Mike Greene	2
Stockholm Prize	3
Dress Code	3
Library Programs	4
Fire Dept	4
Thank You Cards	4
Planning	5
Career Dev.	5
Star Bond Bill	6
Health Club Options	6
Heroic Action	7
Inspector Hired	7
For the Record	8

The Keeper of the Plains, often thought of as the community symbol, and the Arkansas River Corridor renovations are completed. They will be unveiled on Friday, May 18, at 9:45 PM.

The Keeper is a key element of a \$20.6 million riverbank improvement project that includes two cable-stayed pedestrian bridges, riverbank landscaping, and renovated bike/pedestrian paths. The bridges are suspended from uprights which suggest giant arrows and have been under construction since early 2006.

Renovations to improve the Keeper included cleaning and reinforcing the statue. It returned to a modified pedestal that will elevate the statue 30 feet higher, to be seen over the treetops. The Keeper now faces due east, as the artist intended. The Keeper Plaza incorporates the history of Native Americans and embodies a "sacred hoop" and the four elements that make up life (Earth, Air, Fire and Water). The project was developed to create an experience that is entertaining, educational, and inspirational for the community and visitors.

In the above photo, the "Ring of Fire" surrounding the renovated

Keeper of the Plains was being tested. In 2005, the Keeper was removed from its original base at the confluence of the Big and Little Arkansas Rivers for repairs of corrosion and broken welds. While it was off site, five manufactured boulders were placed and a new elevated base constructed. Each boulder has a fire feature, and the grouping makes up the ring of fire. The Keeper was placed on the 30-foot base in March 2006.

Q & A With Mike Greene, Riverfest Board Chairman



Mike Greene has worked for City government for more than 32 years and has made his mark as a public servant who goes beyond the call of duty. He has a notable history of civic involvement, including supporting the nationally recognized Wichita State Bowling team and serving on the boards of the Wichita Federal Credit Union and Wichita Festivals, Inc., where he is currently chair of the board. He was Wichita River Festival's Top Volunteer recipient in 2004 and the City's Excellence in Public Service award winner in 2005.

During his day job, Mike is an Engineering Tech I in the Public Works Department. He began his career as a rod man on a survey crew. He has been an Inspector and Survey Party Chief. Mike is known for helping in other areas. He assists with technology assignments during City Council meetings and teaches PowerPoint classes to city employees.

He and his wife, Marie,

have two grown sons. Shane and his lovely wife, Ashleigh, recently purchased their first home in the Delano District and Chris, a former WSU bowler, is graduating from WUS with honors in May. Chris was the final recipient of the Coastal-Gooch Scholarship.

Mike's hobbies include reading, jogging and traveling. Mike and Marie traveled for three weeks throughout Europe to celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Q How did you get involved with the River Festival?

I began packaging Corporate Button orders 25 years ago. I took a break to raise our boys but attended regularly. In 1999, two friends with whom I shoot fireworks invited me to join the Operations Committee. I have served on that committee ever since.

Q What is the one River Festival event you're certain to attend?

Hard to name just one. The Purina Incredible Dog Challenge which will be replayed on ESPN; Bank of America River Run, the Russian American Kid's Circus; the Koch

Twilight Pops concert with Patti Austin; and, of course, the Capital Federal Fireworks.

Q What's your favorite meal at the food court?

A Philly Cheese steak sandwich, followed up with a hot apple dumpling and a drop of soft serve ice cream on top. I've been waiting all year for that!

Q That's a lot of calories! It's good that you're a runner. What's your fastest 10K or two-mile time?

I run like an 'old man', probably because I AM an old man! My best 10K time is 58:45. I like to finish under an hour, with an emphasis on the word FINISH.

Q Which performance by a River Festival performer – past or present – makes you dance like no one's watching or sing like no one's listening?

When we brought Huey Lewis and The News into town, I was a dancing and singing fool... just ask my wife! This year I am looking forward to The Guess Who!

Q Care to share your opinions about the Festival performance of Nick Lachey?

Nick who? Just kidding... we have had tremendous success with American Idol performers over the past several years! This year is no different with the appearance of Chris Daughtry. The public watches American Idol religiously and WFI staff is aware of this and attempts to bring in a performer from that show every year.

Q You're an award-winning public servant. Explain your philosophy about civic

involvement?

We live in a GREAT city!! It has provided a good life to my family and me. What better way to show that appreciation than to give back in some small way to the city I call home?

Q You're a member of the Transformation Wichita Communications Team. If you had two or three sentences to convey something about the initiative to employees, what would you say?

This is not just another top-heavy, management initiative. We're all being encouraged to get involved. By each of us doing our part, we can propel this organization to the next level and we will make this city THE premier city in the Midwest!

Q You've had a chance to work with two local leaders. Share an inspiring strength of City Manager George Kolb and Festival leader Janet Wright.

Manager Kolb has an outgoing personality. The first time I rode on the elevator with him, HE started up the conversation. Janet's vision and experience have taken Wichita Festivals to new heights!

Q Each Q&A participant also has to field a hot-seat question: Hillary, Obama or Edwards and why?

None. I'm a Republican, so my choice is former Tennessee Sen. Fred Thompson. I hope he throws his hat into the ring. If I had to choose a Democrat, it'd be Hillary or the 'Breck Girl' John Edwards. The Republican will beat either of them. Obama presents a tight race.

Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2007

Rebecca Gagnon-Lewis of the Water Utilities (Sewage Treatment Division) volunteered to be the Kansas organizer for the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP). This is the first time the SJWP has been actively promoted in the state, and we are most appreciative of Becky's efforts to advance the science of water with the students of Kansas. Becky is recruiting applicants and will help select the state winner, who will attend the National Award presentation. The national winner receives a number of scholarships and a trip to Stockholm, Sweden, to

compete in the international event. Becky states that Kansas has some excellent applicants.

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is the most prestigious international youth award for high school students conducting research projects in water science. HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden is the patron of the international prize. In the United States, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and its members organize the U.S. national, state, and local competitions, with support from ITT Industries and the Coca-Cola Co.

Qualities looked for are strength of the science, pragmatic application potential, plus novelty of ideas. The best and brightest water science research students from across the U.S. will converge June 21 in Phoenix to compete.

The Water Environment Federation will forward research papers to Becky, along with student/teacher information. Papers will then be distributed to a panel of judges from differing academic disciplines and a winner determined. WEF will announce all winners in a press release

and on their website. If Kansas is the national winner, Becky will contact the winner informing them that they will receive a package via UPS within three days for making arrangements to go to Stockholm. We are delighted that Becky is part of the Water Utilities team.



New Dress Code Gives Employees Flexible Professionalism

For a city as large and complex as Wichita, maintaining a consistent and fair dress code for all employees, and all job descriptions, is very difficult. Dress standards must present a professional appearance to the public. Employee dress standards should promote a productive work environment, be easy to follow and be dependent on the employees' good judgment. Employees should be supported, not burdened, by the dress code.

In the spirit of TW - Transforming Wichita, the new dress code launched on May 4 will empower City employees to make decisions regarding their appearance in public and at work. To reflect trust in the good judgment of City employees, the previous detailed and sometimes confusing Dress Code is replaced with a more simple and streamlined one. Key elements of the dress code are simply as follows:

Off-Duty Uniforms

Employees are prohibited from wearing City uniforms when they are off-duty, except for traveling to and from work. Violation will subject the employee to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Commissioned personnel may wear uniforms for jobs with other employers if approved by the department director.

On-Duty Dress Code

The City of Wichita dress code must accommodate the work assignments and promote a professional public image for all employees. To reflect the spirit of Transforming Wichita and trust in the good judgment of City employees, the previous Dress Code is replaced with the following:

City employees will be dressed and groomed in a manner appropriate to their work location, work assignment, and public contact.

Standards will vary among

and within departments. Department Directors are responsible to establish, communicate and monitor their department standards, using the following guiding principles:

- Agreements with bargaining units
- Public image of the City of Wichita
- Reasonable accommodation for special needs
- Employee and public safety
- Higher standards for public meetings, court appearances, etc.
- Accountability within the department supervisory and management structure
- No blue jeans or tennis shoes in

offices

- No Capri pants
- No uncovered tank tops or spaghetti straps
- No flip-flop sandals; dress sandals only

Please note that employees do not need to determine what is appropriate for their co-workers to wear to work. If an employee has a problem with the way a co-worker is dressed, the employee should take concerns to their immediate supervisor.



Library Summer Reading Programs Start June 1

Get a Clue: Summer Reading Club

Register June 1 - July 25 for Get a Clue, the Library's FREE Summer Reading Club, open to kids and teens up to age 17. You're never too young to join! Participants may count any book, newspaper, or magazine they read to themselves or to someone else and any book someone reads to them. Children with special needs may listen to audio books instead. Register at any Wichita Public Library location, but only register once. Participants can set their own reading goals, but readers are encouraged to make their goals realistic.

Once participants meet

their goal, they get a bag full of prizes! Children five and under get a plush fish, wild animal clacker and a train whistle. Children six and up get a secret message pen set, notepad and magnifying glass. Both prize packages will include a variety of coupons from area businesses for free items including kid's meals at Carlos O'Kelly's, Hometown Buffet and Texas Roadhouse, an ice cream cone at McDonald's, a personal pan pizza at Pizza Hut, a party invite to Pump It Up,



and a Wichita Wrangler's baseball ticket. Prize pick up runs from July 1 through August 1.

Ask for more information about the Summer Reading Club at any circulation desk.

YNK - You Never Know: Teens Read

Entering grades 6-12 in Fall 2007? You can choose YNK - You Never Know, the Teens Read program, instead of Get a Clue. Register June 1 - July 25 at any Wichita Public Library location. Teens may sign up at only one location. When registering, a teen receives a bookmark and up to ten time trackers to keep track of time spent reading. One will be red and redeemable for one of the following

prizes (reader's choice!) on the next visit: a cotton backpack, a set of three light-up kickballs or a radio flashlight. Choices available while supplies last. Each time tracker represents three hours of reading and serves as an entry in a weekly prize drawing when complete. There will be nine weekly drawings with 25 winners each week. Participants are eligible to win only one weekly prize. At the end of the summer, all entries are combined together and a grand prize drawing party is held. For details, ask for a brochure at your library!



Fire Department

50 Years of Service

The smoke has cleared and the flames are out. Fire Chief Larry Garcia is clearing the fire scene after fifty years of dedicated service to the City of Wichita and the Fire Department. The Chief announced his retirement a few weeks ago, stating it



was time to spend more time with his wife, play golf, and re-

bait the fishing pole.

Chief Garcia joined the department in 1957 and has held numerous positions in the department before becoming the Fire Chief in Oct. 1987. A nationwide search for a new chief is underway.

Fire Department Continues To Upgrade Fire Engines

Five new fire engines have been ordered to replace some of the department's older and



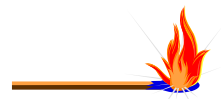
worn out engines.

"Our engines are constantly on the go and are subjected to a lot of engine idle time and pumping hours and just wear out," said Chief Mike Gonzales. Total cost for the new trucks is estimated to be \$3 million dollars.

Help Capture The Arsonist

Recently several fires have occurred in apartments lo-

cated in the Riverside Park area. The fires have been intentionally set and although there has not been severe property damage, we are probably seeing just a tip of the iceberg. The department is asking that any city employee living in the area who hears of anything regarding these fires call Fire Prevention at 268-4441.



IRISE "Thank You Card" Recipients

Listed below are the winners of the May drawing::

Seif Al-Shaer Library
Cindy Bailey Library
John Ellert Library

Collin Gallagher
Earl Gladney
Cheryl James
Loan Manisap
Joan Maxwell
Darlene Morris

Police Park
Police Finance
Police IT/IS

Bill Nichols
Teri Poynter
William Reuschel
Carol Ruby
Neil Evan Strahl
Ray Thomas

Art Museum
Art Museum
Water Police
Planning IT/IS

Toni Wenger
Stacey Jenkins
Yvonne Kirker
Chante Newberry
Jane Updegrove

Finance CMO
CMO
Police
Library

Planning

Earth Workshop

On April 24 and 25, Advance Plans staff participated in the EARTH Workshop at the Sedgwick County Extension Center. Staff utilized SimCity software to demonstrate to middle and high school students from the metropolitan area how development and urban planning decisions impact the environment. A mock city was set for the students to use in three scenarios pertaining to air quality, traffic congestion, and a landfill that had reached full capacity.

The students were asked to reduce air pollution by constructing environmentally friendly energy plants, by implementing carpooling programs, and/or by

passing regulations to encourage industrial businesses to reduce pollution. Students were also asked to determine how best to reduce traffic congestion by either widening the road or implementing additional bus/mass transit services. Another scenario included figuring out whether the city should expand its landfill, construct an incinerator, or implement recycling programs. Implications of each option were discussed, including short-term and long-term financial and environmental implications, as well as overall long-term effectiveness of each option. SimCity proved to be an innovative educational tool to demonstrate complex issues, outline potential options, and observe the outcomes of the students' decisions. Advance Plan's exercise also helped

students understand the type of issues that urban planners, city officials, and developers face in order to create a community where citizens want to live, work, and play.

Transportation Enhancement Workshop

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) will be issuing a 'call for projects' for their Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program. In 2006, KDOT awarded \$9.7 million for TE projects in the categories of Historic, Scenic and Environmental, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities.

Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) staff will be hosting a TE Program Application Process Workshop on May 23 at 2:00p.m. in the HR training room. WAMPO staff will be

available to provide an overview of the TE Program and explain the application process, eligibility requirements, and timeline.

Kansas Preservation Conference

The Kansas Preservation Conference was held on May 10-12 in Dodge City. Kathy Morgan, Senior Planner in Historic Preservation, was the speaker for the Realtors Workshop session. Her presentation provided information to attendees about how to identify an historic property; why it is important for historic properties to be included on the local, state, or national listings; how to access information about historic properties on the Internet; and guidelines related to the State's historic tax credit program.

Career Development Success Story

Vicky Smith came to the Career Development Office in January 2007. She has fully participated in every aspect of this program and is excellent at communicating. She is highly motivated and excited to start on a new path in life.

When Employment Specialist Sara Walker first started working with Vicky, she heard, "I am only a waitress, that's all I've ever done." Sara told Vicky, "That was okay, we could work with that." After some thought, she was able to recall other jobs she had done, besides being a waitress. Those jobs, along with her waitress experience were used to format a résumé that

has gotten numerous hits on a popular internet job search site and she has even had interviews from those!

Her SRS worker, Katerina McKenna, has also been very helpful in Vicky's journey. She has gone above and beyond what is expected and allowed Vicky to purchase clothing that is appropriate for work after hearing about her work-study placement.

Once Vicky completed Customer Service Training, we began to talk about what City of Wichita work site would be appropriate for her. One other thing, Vicky has very good computer skills. She can navigate around the computer and has a good typing speed. With these things in

mind, Vicky and Sara decided that she would be a good candidate for the IT/IS Department. Vicky started her work-study on March 21st covering the front desk and acts as the receptionist for 5 hours a day, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of every week. She answers the phone and directs visitors to the appropriate person so the staff receptionist can complete other projects.

Vicky is gaining more self-confidence and valuable skills everyday that she attends her work-study site. Witnessing the change that has taken place within Vicky Smith since January truly

is inspiring and rewarding.



STAR Bond Bill Passes

The passage of a new STAR bond bill was one of the most significant victories for the City of Wichita during the recently-adjourned 2007 session of the Kansas Legislature.

“STAR” is an acronym for Sales Tax Revenue, a program begun by the Legislature several years ago as a means of encouraging major economic development projects around the state. Eligible STAR bond districts are allowed to use the state sales tax collected from retail enterprises within the district and use the money to repay the bonds that were issued to finance the district.

In other words, it shifts the financial burden from the

local government to the state budget, a tremendous inducement for projects such as the Wichita WaterWalk development.

The previous version of the STAR bonds legislation will “sunset” on June 30 of this year, and the City of Wichita required a special provision in the renewal legislation to preserve the WaterWalk eligibility for STAR bond financing.

Fought during the closing days of the session in late April, the Wichita provision survived only through the passionate intervention by members of the South-Central Kansas legislation delegation, as well as key staff members such as City Manager George Kolb and

Economic Development Administrator Allen Bell.

Facing considerable opposition elsewhere in the legislative body, our advocates successfully argued on the city’s behalf. The legislation was amended at the last minute to preserve the City of Wich-

ita’s opportunity to secure STAR bond funding for this important municipal improvement project.

Or in simpler terms, they caught a falling STAR and restored to a potential economic supernova for the City of Wichita.



New Telephones on First Floor

Some people have noticed the new telephones in the first floor lobby. These replace the pay phones that have been around for years. A new telephone company policy results in a fairly high monthly charge

to provide pay phones, so IT/IS has replaced them with free telephones for public use. These telephones are restricted to local and toll free calls, and they cannot be called. They can also be used

to call any internal City number by dialing the 4 digit extension.

The shelf units surrounding them match the other woodwork used throughout the

first floor remodeling project.



Health Club Options

Many employees have been inquiring about discounts to local health clubs. Staff has spent many hours in discussion with the local health clubs and found that although many clubs are willing to offer Corporate Memberships (where the employer pays a portion of the health club cost and the club matches a portion of that contribution), most clubs do not have an economic incentive to offer a discount., however, the following rates do apply for City of Wichita em-

ployees:

Greater Wichita YMCA

No enrollment fee. Family membership, \$49.90; Single membership, \$37.70; Financial aid available; 858-9622 (the Y will also host a free week every quarter for City employees who wish to have a free trial).

Health Strategies

No enrollment fee. Family membership, \$60.00; Single

membership, \$40.00; Payments must be annual or Electronic Fund Transfer; 962-8012.

Fitness 2000

No enrollment fee; Family Membership, \$42.95; Single membership, \$29.95. Discount valid only for annual membership; 316-683-1916

In The Neighborhood Family Fitness

\$20.00 enrollment fee. Family

Membership, \$46.00; Dual Membership, \$36.00; Single Membership, \$23.25. Discount valid for annual membership, Electronic fund transfer required. 260-2816.



Bowl for Kid's Sake City Winners

Municipal Court usually helps Big Brothers/Big Sisters on background checks of volunteers. However, on Apr. 14, court staff was able to do more by participating in Bowl for Kid's Sake 2007. They were the largest fundraiser for the City of Wichita and raised \$750.00.

Kay Gales, Court Administra-

tor, beamed upon receiving the good news from team captain Christina Thomas. "Every year, Municipal Court participates and loves being able to help this very deserving organization. Municipal Court works in teams and our bowling team is an extension of that can-do spirit," said Ms. Gales.

All these caring city employees have earned from City Manager George Kolb a generous reward of an additional day of vacation for being the first place City team.



Left to right – Justin Best, Christina Thomas, Latisha Draper, Jennifer Bailey, Samantha Franklin

Heroic Action by Police Officers Save Life

At approximately 5:25 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8, officers were dispatched to the John Mack Bridge on South Broadway on a call of a suicidal person. Shortly after their arrival, they witnessed a 23-year-old man jump from the bridge into the river below. Officers Jason Kimminau, Alinda Piner and Christopher Welsh rushed to the bank of the river to save the man.

When the officers saw the

man bobbing up and down in the rain-swollen river, Officer Kimminau immediately jumped into the fast-moving flood waters to save the man.

Officer Kimminau was able to swim to the man, and with the assistance of Officers Piner and Welsh, pull him to safety. The man was then taken by EMS to Via Christi St. Francis for medical evaluation. He was later taken to Via Christi St. Joseph



Jason Kimminau



Alinda Piner



Christopher Welsh

for psychiatric evaluation.

Because of their courageous actions, Officers Kimminau,

Welsh and Piner are credited with saving this citizen's life.

CDBG Funded Summer Jobs for Youth

The city's Summer Youth Employment Program gets underway in June. The program is designed to provide part-time employment for youth be-

tween the ages of fourteen and eighteen whose families meet the low to moderate-income guidelines established by HUD. These youth are

placed in safe work environments during the months of June, July and August. If you would like more information about the program, please

contact: Family Services Institute at 269-0488 or the Wichita Indochinese Center at 689-8729.

Inspector Hired for Roofing Inspections

Due to the hail storm of April 24, 2006, the number of roofing permits issued by Central Inspection at the end of 2006 numbered over 18,000. The building inspection staff struggled to keep up with the onslaught of roofing inspections and roofing complaints while continuing to perform the regularly scheduled inspections for construction jobs. Staff even made roofing inspections on

weekends in an effort to catch up with the backlog of roofing inspection requests. Periods of inclement weather and increasing volumes of permits made it impossible for the inspection staff to get the growing numbers of re-roofing jobs processed in a timely manner.

On April 16, 2007, Central Inspection hired Kevin Lane as a temporary roofing/siding

inspector to assist in meeting the heavy demand for roofing inspections. Kevin has been in the construction industry for over thirty years. When he isn't inspecting for Central Inspection, Kevin works for Lifestyles by Lane, his father's construction business. As of the moment, Kevin's tenure with Central Inspection is undecided; he is expected to work at least until the roofing inspections have been

"caught up." That is, of course, providing we don't have another Kansas hail storm with which to contend in the meantime.



Joe Pajor Named Assistant Director of Public Works

Joe Pajor has been Natural Resources Director/Coordinator in Public Works since 1989. Prior to that, he was Housing Development and Energy Resources Director, Industrial Analyst, and Energy Resource Systems Analyst in the Department of Economic Development. He began his career with the City in 1977.



Jay Hinkel Named Deputy City Attorney

Jay Hinkel has been with the city for 8 years as Assistant City Attorney. Previously, he was elected and served as Finney County Attorney and also as Anderson County Attorney. Jay was also in private practice in Topeka before joining the Wichita City Attorney's Office.



Congratulations to these employees who reached 10 or 25 year career milestones with the City this month. Contact Carolyn Bowen in Human Resources if you have questions regarding the Career Awards Program.

<u>MAY</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	
Daniel L. Feil, Jr.	Fire	.
Michael E. Thom	Public Works	
John D. Browning	Public Works	
Tavane Gerber	Human Resources	
Christy R. Kolpin	Transit	
Donald Martin	Public Works	
Jay P. Newton III	Finance	
	<u>25 Years</u>	
Bradley S. Agnew	Police	
<u>Retirees</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Yrs. Of Service</u>
Gary W. Cortner	OCI	35 yrs. 1 mo.
Shawn M. Gleeson	P. W.	30 yrs.
Douglas Moshier	Law	28 yrs. 10 mo.
A. J. Jones, Sr.	Park	25 yrs. 8 mo.
Betty Arney	Law	15 yrs. 3 mo.
Dana Brown	CMO	13 yrs. 10 mo.
<u>Retiree Deaths</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
William N. Hood	P.W	03/27/2007
Robert G. Carter	Police	04/11/2007
Bill D. Earnest	OCI	04/11/2007
Irene M. Dargel	M. C.	04/18/2007
Charles Hicks	Police	04/25/2007
Pauline Robinson, widow		
of C. Leon Robinson	Park	04/28/2007
Donald E. Wingert	Health	05/01/2007

City Connection Team

Debbie Aviks	CMO (Designer/Editor)
Gordon Bassham	Police
LeeAnn Casey	Human Resources
Terri Dozal	CMO
Vallery Fields	Transit
Larry Foos	Park & Recreation
Dale Goter	CMO
Elaine Hammons	OCI
Mike Hampel	Planning
Jennifer Heinicke	Library (Proofreader)
Kay Hurdle	Law
Stacy Jenkins	City Arts
Jessica Johnson	CMO (Designer/Editor)
Pamaline King-Burns	Water Utilities
Denise Klug	IT/IS
Deb Legge	OCI
Donte Martin	Municipal Court
Kristine McMinville	Water Utilities
Michelle Rucker	Housing & Comm. Services
Marge Seger	Finance (Proofreader)
Mo Terrebonne	Environmental Services
Bob Thompson	Fire
Denise Tipton	Water Utilities
Gail Williams	Public Works
Van Williams	CMO (Reporter/Editor)
Valerie Wise	Airport