

City addresses shortfall. More details on page 4.

City Connection

A City Government Newsletter



Wichita's All-America City Party

Wichita will celebrate its All-America City (AAC) victory with a block party from 6 to 9 p.m. on July 31 in Old Town Square. The party will mark the first use of a state law that allows outdoor drinking on public property at permitted events. The party will feature two local bands, food and beverages for purchase and local dignitaries. Wichita was named an AAC winner in June, claiming the national recognition for the fourth time and first time in a decade.



Members of the All America Team in Tampa for the competition

Wichita competed against 28 other finalist cities in the National Civic League (NCL) competition, which was held in Tampa, Fla. Ten cities were named AAC winners including Phoenix; Inglewood (Calif.); Fort Wayne, Indiana; Somerville, Mass; Albany, New York; Kinston, N.C.; Statesville, N.C.; Caroline County, Va. and Richmond, Indiana. Competing cities were judged on the merits of 1) three local projects that reflected outstanding collaboration, 2) a 10-minute, on-site presentation that showcased the projects and 3) a 10-minute, on-site question-and-answer segment.

"This national honor exemplifies our city's best partnership efforts," said Mayor Carl Brewer who led a contingent of 30 Wichitans who were representatives of the local projects and participated in the 10-minute presentation. "It's motivation for us to continue working together in ways that continue to improve our great city. Let's party on July 31!"

Wichita's on-site performance, titled "City or No City," was a parody of the NBC game show "Deal or No Deal." Mayor Brewer played the lead character, "Mayor How We Do It," a spoof of the game show's star host Howie Mandel. The Wichita skit highlighted collaboration efforts that produced Visioneering Wichita, Mennonite Housing Rehabilitation Services and Opportunity Drive.

Opportunity Drive is a learning and recreation campus, which includes the Boys & Girls Club of South Central Kansas, a preschool program known as The Opportunity Project (TOP) and the Gordon Parks Academy, a kindergarten through eighth grade public school. Visioneering Wichita is a multipurpose community engagement and regional planning initiative. Mennonite Housing is a nonprofit that builds affordable homes for low-income families.

Wichita previously claimed the AAC honor in 1961, 1993 and 1999. The AAC is the nation's oldest civic award. It was founded in 1949 by the NCL, which raises awareness about cities that exceed at community collaboration, community pride and economic development. AAC recognition can boost a community's sense of civic pride and generate national attention, which helps in the recruitment of industry, jobs and investment to an area.

- Van Williams

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Q & A With Kathleen Harris



Kathleen Harris is the Benefits Coordinator for the City of Wichita.

Harris is married to her high school sweetheart, whom she met during a high school debate round. She won the round to win the tournament in the same classroom in which he now teaches. She considers this his daily reminder that he can't win an argument against her.

She has a son who is 5 years old and is expecting a daughter this September. Harris has lived in Wichita since she was 7 years old. After completing her master's degree at Wichita State University, she went to work for the YWCA Women's Crisis Center as the Director of Community Outreach. She came to work for the City in 2005 as an Employment Specialist in the Career Development Office and moved into Human Resources in 2008.

Q What's going on right now with regard to the renewal of employee health coverage?

The City has put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for our employee health plan. We are in the process of collecting the responses from that RFP. I can tell you that we have had a good number of responses to the RFP. The Health Insurance Advisory Committee will examine and evaluate the responses. But because of the nature of the process, that is about all that I can talk about. If you want to talk to any of the members of the Health Insurance Advisory Committee, check with your union representatives as each bargaining unit has a member on the committee.

Q The City of Wichita self-insures, rather than relying on an insurance company. How does that work?

Self-insuring places the entire amount of risk for medical payments upon the City and its employees. Currently the City pays 80% of the health insurance premium equivalent, and the employee pays the remaining 20%. The actual dollar amount

collected is determined by actuaries who look very closely at the amount of money we have historically needed, compare that to trends and anticipated changes and then put forth a very carefully informed estimate. If done right, the amount that is paid into the self insurance pool is enough to cover the medical costs. We save money doing this because we do not have to pay an insurance company extra money to take the risk and make a profit for their investors. On the other side of the coin, if the experts are wrong and we don't put enough money into the self insurance pool, then the City has to find a way to pay the difference between what they collected and what they had to pay out. We still use insurance companies like Coventry to process all the claims and make sure that the payments are made to the health care providers. We do this because we do not have the workforce nor the expertise to make medical decisions.

Q How does the City of Wichita health care coverage compare to other government bodies and the private sector?

This is a mixed bag. Some of our benefits are better. I hear some folks outside the city tell horror stories about having to pay extra "high tech" diagnostic charges for doctor-ordered MRIs and other tests. We, on the other hand, have a zero co-pay for that type of testing. I also hear our employees complain about our plan's generic substitution, step therapy and quantity limits on certain medications. None of the plans that I have seen satisfy 100% of people's needs. Many employees are pleased with our coverage because the City has not forced employees into an HMO situation or high deductible plan which is what a lot of plans have moved toward.

Q Regarding personal health and fitness, do you practice what you preach, and how?

I would like to think that I am constantly working toward improved health, but I have also used pregnancy

as an excuse to indulge in some bad habits lately.

Q What do you see as the most significant challenge facing employee health-care coverage in the future?

One of the largest problems facing health care is related to the idea that "more is better." A lot of patients are going to their doctors right now and demanding tests and medications for issues that could be resolved without these products. This has already led to some significant problems in other areas of the country where the health-care system has expenditures that are through the roof and yet the health of the community-at-large is rapidly decreasing. It really goes along with a vision toward the future, rather than looking for the "quick fix." We need to start paying more attention to what is really going on with our bodies and stop looking for an instant cure-all.

Q What can employees do to help make health care affordable and effective?

Take ownership of their own health. Some situations and conditions are not controllable or occur without our direct involvement. Others such as Type II diabetes, hypertension and heart disease can be directly affected by the behavior. Good diet, exercise and proper medical care can reduce the numbers and severity of these conditions.

Q If you could attend a historical event, which event would you attend and what would you be doing?

I would have liked to have been there when Senator Harry Burns cast the final vote for the 19th Amendment. The 19th Amendment gave women the right to vote and participate in government and told the entire Senate audience that he cast his vote in favor of the amendment because his mom told him to. I hope that my son will still listen to me when he is an adult, and be brave enough to admit it!

Wichita Fire Featured In Textbook

Photographs of Wichita's Bravest will be featured in a soon-to-be released textbook. The third edition of "Company Officer" by Clinton Smoke is developed to assist firefighters become better fire officers. It is based on a National Fire Protection Association standard and features vital information for those seeking to master the fire officer position.

Human resource management, communication, community and government relations, administration and management, fire prevention and safety issues are addressed in a text that includes a cover photo and several other pictures of local firefighters.

The photograph to the right is the cover, featuring Gregg D. Myrtle, Fire Captain.

Billy J. Wenzel



Events at the Library



William Michael Harnett, *Mortality and Immortality* (1876). Oil on canvas, 22 1/4" x 27 1/4", The Roland P. Murdock Collection, M58.45, used courtesy of the Wichita Art Museum.

The Big Read Returns

Congressional spouse Vicki Tiaht and Director of Libraries Cynthia Berner Harris announced The Big Read is coming to Wichita again this year, thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Tiaht will serve as honorary chair of Wichita's October-November reading initiative, featuring "Great Tales and Poems of Edgar Allen Poe." Chief Curator Stephen Gleissner of the Wichita Art Museum also spoke during the June 24 media event, giving more information about *Mortality and Immortality* by William Michael Harnett, the artwork that will be used on this year's marketing materials.

Fans of Edgar Allen Poe will enjoy exhibits, talks, films, theatre and, of course, book discussions. The Big Read is a nationwide effort designed to restore reading to the center of American culture. Age-appropriate books for young readers have been identified so The Big Read can be a family event.

While an impressive list of partners is being built, more are welcome. If your workgroup has a book club and would like to join in the fun by reading Poe in October or November, contact Jennifer Heinicke at 261-8524 or jheinicke@wichita.gov. Posters, reader's guides and bookmarks will be available. Contact Jennifer Heinicke with your requests.

The Big Read is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest. For more information, visit www.bigreadwichita.org.

Digital Bookmobile Visited Wichita



Visitors to the Digital Bookmobile, hosted by the Wichita Public Library at Towne East Square on June 26, received a hands-on demonstration of how to download books, music, movies and more to the latest electronic gadgets. The OverDrive download service is available 24/7, expanding access to library materials beyond traditional service hours and facilities. Made possible by the State Library of Kansas with partners such as the Wichita Public Library, The OverDrive download offers a wide selection of titles available. Check the Library's website for more information.

- Jerrod Ketchersid

Annual Powwow Open to Public



The Mid-America All-Indian Center is holding its first powwow since 2004. Powwows are American Indian celebrations of community and spirituality, featuring American Indian drum and dance as well as American Indian vendors, offering American Indian arts and crafts items. The event will take place July 25, from 1 to 10 p.m. The event is free and open to the public; a schedule of the day's events is listed below:

1 p.m. Gourd Dancing 6:30 p.m. Grand Entry 10 p.m. Closing Song

- Tabitha Meyer

July at the Art Museum

Las Artes de Mexico — July 12 through Sept. 6

Las Artes de Mexico is an exhibition that travels through three millennia of Mexican culture and tradition. The works on display range from ceremonial objects used by the ancient Maya and Aztec people, to more contemporary art created by some of the most well-known 20th century Mexican artists, such as Diego Rivera and Miguel Covarrubias.

Images of Women — Oct. 18 through Nov. 1

Women are often the inspiration and subject matter for some of the greatest works of art of all time. Images of Women features 39 original works from the Wichita Arm Museum (WAM) permanent collection. The exhibition highlights women in various roles and time periods. From the demure Victorian beauties, to brassy modern women, this exhibition shows how the face of the fairer sex is constantly changing.

Edgar Allen Poe: A Visual Tribute — through Nov. 15

Poe's words come to life through the works of art from the Museum's permanent collection. Each chilling work of art is accompanied by a quote from one of Edgar Allen Poe's many memorable stories. Beware! This exhibition will take you for a walk through the darker side of WAM's art, and Poe's prose

- Crystal Walter



Jaguar Head (pictured right) Maya AD 300 to 900, earthenware. Las Artes de Mexico from the collection of the Gilcrease Museum is made possible by the Maxine and Jack Zarrow Family Foundation. The Wichita venue has been supported by the Government of Sedgwick County, Emprise Bank, and the S.M. & Laura H. Brown Trust.

Manager's Proposed Budget Addresses Deficit

Wichita City Manager Robert Layton released his 2010-2011 Proposed Budget on July 10 at City Hall. He was joined by Finance Director Kelly Carpenter and Budget Officer Mark Manning. Layton used a power point presentation to focus on highlights of the \$500 million budget. Those highlights included resolving a \$13 million shortfall. Other highlights included:

- Eliminating about 100 jobs through layoffs and attrition;
- Cutting 11 of the 22 police officers who work in schools but the officers will likely be offered jobs as beat officers and still do some work in schools;
- Maintaining 10 percent of the City's general fund in a reserve account in case of an emergency, such as a tornado or flooding;
- Spending an additional \$2 million on street maintenance as a step to help maintain the overall quality of city streets;
- Charging a new solid waste licensing fee to trash haulers, which would generate about \$1 million; the city may move to a franchise system where haulers have to bid to be the exclusive hauler in a zone of the city; and
- Increasing court costs.

The cuts are driven by declining property and sales tax revenue, which slowed significantly in recent months. The proposed budget followed weeks of public and private meetings with City staff, City Council members and members of the public. More public hearings are scheduled before the budget is adopted on Aug. 11. Find more budget information at www.wichita.gov.

Firefighters Praise Quick Action of Lifeguards

Firefighters are praising the actions of lifeguards assigned to the Evergreen Park Pool. In May, the Fire Department was dispatched to the report of a drowning. Initial reports indicated lifeguards had pulled a victim from the water and had begun medical treatment.



When firefighters arrived, they found a 33-year-old male in serious medical condition who was unresponsive with diminished breathing. Firefighters assisted four lifeguards who had been working to treat and stabilize the patient. Aggressive ventilation (breathing) efforts were applied in an attempt to revive the victim. As treatment continued, it was determined the patient had suffered a seizure after stepping out of the pool. The victim was transported to Saint Francis Regional Medical Center where he was later released.

(L to R) Lifeguards Thomas Blaine, Kaitlynn Howell, Torie Wynn. Not pictured Katie Stearns.

CityArts/Cowtown July Events

Following are a list of upcoming cultural arts and historical events.

CityArts

In The Main Gallery

Exhibit: "Testament and Transgression" works by Daniel Coburn, Lacey Lewis and Marc Berghaus
Exhibit Dates: June 26-July 25

First Floor Hall Gallery

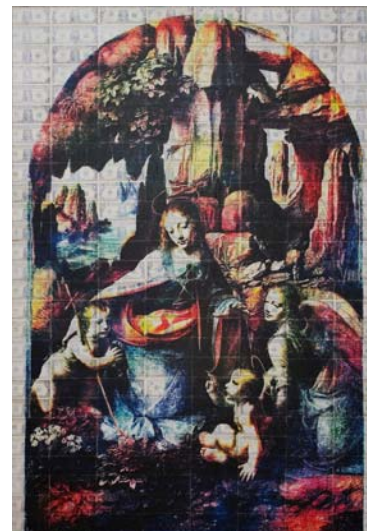
Exhibit: "New Works on Cardboard" by Matthew Hilyard
Exhibit Dates: June 26-July 25

Second Floor Conference Room

Exhibit: "Sleep/Static" photography and mixed media works by Jason Roepka
Exhibit Dates: June 26-July 25

Balcony Gallery

Exhibit: "As of Late" paintings by Jaki McElroy
Exhibit Dates: June 26-July 25



Inkjet on genuine U.S. currency by Daniel Coburn.

Cowtown Events

Women of the West

The role of women in the west is often overlooked; join Old Cowtown on Aug. 8 and 9, as we celebrate the role of the fairer sex in the taming of the Wild West!

Tabitha Meyer

Wichita Flight Festival

The City of Wichita is proud to continue its sponsorship of the Wichita Flight Festival. This year's event will take place Aug.29 - 30 at Colonel James Jabara Airport.

In an effort to recognize the importance of the aviation industry and to give back to the community, this year's event will be free to the public. The festival will include traditional elements such as the air show, musical entertainment, children's activities, but will also include career services, with employment specialists on hand to answer questions on interviewing techniques, résumés and the availability of educational and training services.

Gates will open to the public both Saturday and Sunday at 10 a.m. with an aerial parade to follow both days at 11:30 a.m.

On Saturday evening there will be a ticketed event including a twilight air show and concert. The twilight air show will feature breathtaking aerobatics feats in an aerial display of pyrotechnics. After the air show, Wichita will experience a British Invasion with *Liverpool*, a Beatles tribute band out of Kansas City. Gates for the evening event will open at 6:30 p.m. with the twilight air show beginning at 7 p.m. and concert at 8:45 p.m. Tickets for the event are \$5 through www.WichitaTIX.com or at the gate.

Century II Events



Miss Saigon, presented by Music Theatre of Wichita, 8 p.m., July 22 – 24; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., July 25, and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., July 26 in Concert Hall. For tickets, call 265-3107.

Summer Bridal & Holiday Expo, presented by Alpha Promotions, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., July 25 and 12 p.m. – 4 p.m., July 26 in Exhibition Hall. Tickets are \$6.50 and will be available at the door.

The Drowsy Chaperone, presented by Music Theatre of Wichita, 8 p.m., Aug. 5 – 7; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., August 8; and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on August 9 in Concert Hall. For tickets, call 265-3107.

Summer Bridal & Holiday Expo.

For more information about these and other upcoming events, visit www.century2.org or call 316-264-9121.

- Jacob House

Teleconference Information

Teleconferences reduce travel costs and save time. IT/IS has taken the benefit a step farther by reducing the cost of teleconferencing.

DIY (Do It Yourself) Conferencing

PBX users may dial their own conference calls with up to 8 participants. Contact the Help Desk at 4357 if you'd like instructions.

Reduced Cost Conference Bridge

Rather than provide all participants a toll-free number to dial at the City's expense, a conference bridge is available for the price of a long distance call. All participants, including the City of Wichita's conference organizer, pay only normal long distance rates to participate in the conference. Contact Ray Thomas at 303-8110 for more information.



Downtown Revitalization Master Plan



The City has issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ), seeking design teams interested in developing a 20-year Downtown Revitalization Master Plan. A multidisciplinary design team will be charged with developing a bold vision that celebrates the city's rich history and reflects the community's progressive spirit.

The Master Plan will move downtown forward in a cohesive way that connects existing assets such as Old Town, INTRUST Bank Arena and River Corridor Improvements. The plan will create a pedestrian-friendly environment that makes downtown Wichita a unique and memorable experience, a place for people of all ages, ethnicities and cultures. A revitalized core area will feature park and open spaces as well as additional retailers, residences, restaurants, office buildings and multiple venues for arts and entertainment. This will also help retain young people, families and jobs. The tax base will grow and make Wichita more competitive with neighboring and competing cities.

To help fund the Master Plan, the Wichita City Council authorized funding from the Stabilization Reserve Fund in the amount of \$175,000 and \$50,000 from the Federal Transit Administration. The Wichita Downtown Development Corporation committed \$175,000 to the Master Plan and has a goal of raising another \$100,000 from private sector businesses for the Master Plan.

The RFQ will be used to narrow the field of prospective design teams to those most qualified, and the most qualified design teams will be invited to submit a proposal for a detailed scope of work. The selection process will be overseen by the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee that was recently appointed by the City Council.

- Van Williams

Long Term Care Benefits

The City of Wichita Benefits Administration is pleased to reintroduce the LTC (Long Term Care) benefit plan to help workers and their families understand the complexities of long-term care and the elder care challenge that may confront their families. These are times in which many employees are becoming caregivers for their aging parents, while trying to juggle a full-time job and raise children.

UNUM, the City Of Wichita's group LTC insurance benefit carrier, has agreed to provide another guarantee issue open enrollment period for active employees. This means no medical questions, up to certain limits, for all eligible City employees.

In addition, AGIS (Assist Guide Information Services), will educate employees about eldercare and LTC with a customized website and a communication campaign designed to increase awareness, understanding and resources for the betterment of the City, employees and their families.

This program will make a major difference in the lives of City of Wichita employees and their families, now and for years to come. Stay tuned for more information on the exciting new Caregiving & Eldercare Resource along with a new enrollment period for our Long Term Care benefit in 2009.

- Kathleen Harris

<u>Retirees</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Yrs. Of Service</u>
Michael R. Steele	Fire	39 yrs. 07 mo.
Donald R. Marling	Park	33 yrs. 11 mo.
Patrick B. Pruitt	Public Works	33 yrs. 05 mo.
Cheri L. Hill	Health	32 yrs. 03 mo.
David B. Cross	Health	31 yrs. 00 mo.
Randall S. Wittsell	Park	31 yrs. 00 mo.
Steven E. Bunton	Water	30 yrs. 00 mo.
Donald P. Rowe	Fire	28 yrs. 03 mo.
Forrest L. Nagley	Transit	25 yrs. 03 mo.
Thomas K. Bridges	Police	24 yrs. 09 mo.
Richard A. Shull	Municipal Court	21 yrs. 03 mo.
Calvin M. Wright	Public Works	19 yrs. 05 mo.
Donald H. Porter	Public Works	16 yrs. 01 mo.
<u>Retiree Deaths</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Harriett E. Hundley	Police	03/26/2009
James R. Zeorlin	Fire	03/30/2009
Gregory L. Black	Fire	05/18/2009
Joseph W. Maslen	Park	05/21/2009
Kathleen Pogue	Library	06/07/2009
Charles W. Hancock	Fire	06/12/2009
Ronald A. West	Police	06/22/2009

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

<u>June</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Kirk A. Eck	10 years	Art Museum
Kathleen T. Couch	10 years	Park
Timothy J. Noone	10 years	Police
Karie E. Zimmer	10 years	Police
Charles E. Simon	10 years	Police
Gregory M. Murray	10 years	Police
Judith M. Jones	10 years	Police
Alinda L. Piner	10 years	Police
Troy D. Bussard	10 years	Police
Ryan E. Doshier	10 years	Police
Vanessa L. Rusco	10 years	Police
Colin P. Gallagher	10 years	Police
Danny L. Brown	10 years	Police
Katherine S. Goebel	10 years	Police
<u>June</u>	<u>25 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Joyce A. Stockham	25 years	HR
Frank T. Nava	25 years	Water Utilities
Tommy C. Crain	25 years	Park
<u>June</u>	<u>30 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Anthony L. Chesser	30 years	Water Utilities
Vonnie J. Forgie	30 years	Police
Paul D. Hays	30 years	OCI
Rickey Sears	30 years	Police
Jennifer K. Bowen	30 years	Municipal Court
<u>July</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Charles M. Andrews	10 years	Public Works
Daniel P. Mohr	10 years	Public Works
Daniel L. Walker	10 years	Police
David E. Schuster	10 years	Public Works
Sharon A. Williams	10 years	Park
Lisa M. Klaassen	10 years	Park
Jose H. Atkinson	10 years	Env. Services
<u>July</u>	<u>25 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Clint R. Snyder	25 years	Police
Patrick E. Dixon	25 years	Police
James V. Bohannon	25 years	Police
Terrence T. Unruh	25 years	Public Works
Anthony Hardrick	25 years	Housing
Harland Bascombe, Jr.	25 years	OCI

Fire Heroes



Firehouse Magazine, one of the world's largest publications devoted exclusively to the fire service, recently announced its Heroism and Community Service Awards winners in the April 2009 edition of its fire service publication.

The Wichita Fire Department's selfless bravery and the continuous performance of duty in the highest standards earned it recognition in the following categories: Top Unit Citation Award, Community Service Award and the Heroism Award. Complete information and photos about the department's actions are available at the following link:

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/Heroism100.pdf>

Kansas Government Engineer of the Year

Michael Jacobs, Special Projects Engineer for Public Works/Engineering, has been named Kansas Government Engineer of the Year by the Kansas Society of Professional Engineers.



The award is in recognition of his many accomplishments as a professional engineer for the City of Wichita, exceptional contributions to the engineering profession, and integrity to protect the welfare of the public. "Our society has given me many opportunities; I consider it my responsibility to give back, Jacobs said. "It's an honor to be recognized by the other professional engineers in the state for making a difference in our community."

Michael Jacobs received a Civil Engineering degree from Kansas State University, and he is a licensed professional engineer in Kansas and Texas. Professional Engineer licenses are regulated by the states in order to safeguard the public by setting defined standards of professional performance.

Jacobs joined the City of Wichita in 2005. He is currently managing the \$105 million Central Corridor Railroad and \$155 million Kellogg/Rock Freeway projects. He is also leading design efforts on East and West Kellogg as well as other improvements to the transportation system in the region. Another notable project he was involved with was the reconstruction of Central Street under I-235. That project, completed in mid-2008, has reduced commute times and improved air quality on the west side of Wichita.

- Gail Williams

Building Services Changes

In order to reduce operating costs, Public Works Building Services is adjusting daily operations. Changes that went into effect in recent weeks include:

- Reducing the number of times The Keeper of the Plains 'ring of fire' is turned on each evening. It will burn at 9 p.m. for 15 minutes nightly. This saves the cost of gas and the potential for overtime. The burners are turned on manually by Building Services employees.
- Adjusting the thermostat for all City buildings. It will be 2-3 degrees warmer in the summer and 2-3 degrees cooler in the winter. If the consensus of your workgroup is that your area is habitually uncomfortable, notify Building Services (ext. 4397) to evaluate possible equipment problems.
- Changing custodial staff from 2nd shift to 1st shift. Working hours are staggered so that custodial services will be provided between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. This allows the building temperatures after 6 p.m. to be 'set back' and eliminates burning lights at night on many floors.
- Prohibiting the use of personal electric heaters in all City buildings to reduce excessive energy use and potential fire hazards. If your work space tends to be too cool for your taste, please dress accordingly (long sleeves, layers, enclosed shoes, etc.) or bring a sweater.

Work operations or employees who have special circumstances may request a modification of the adjustments to deal with the problem. Requests for special consideration should be directed to Ed Martin at emartin@wichita.gov.

In the future, IT will be shutting down all PCs that are not in use overnight and on weekends for additional energy savings.

Transit Van Maintenance Facility

As part of the federal stimulus package, Kansas received \$30 million for public transit projects with \$16 million being distributed directly by the Federal Transit Authority. The money was earmarked for cities with populations greater than 50,000 with Wichita Transit receiving \$6.6 million.



Recently, the Wichita City Council approved Wichita Transit's plans to spend the \$6.6 million in funds with \$2.1 million being dedicated for the construction of a 22,000 square-foot van maintenance facility. Wichita Transit has already secured \$1.99 million in federal transit grant funds making the total project a little over \$4 million. This facility will be built to provide routine maintenance and storage of transit's 24 vehicle van fleet.

The project is in the design phase and Transit Director Mike Vinson hopes to begin construction later this year. The facility will be built adjacent to the Transit Administration Center at 777 E. Waterman. As soon as the facility is completed, transit should experience less down-time for the ADA fleet, reduced costs for routine maintenance and cleaner vehicles.

"This is a project that we have been building towards for quite a while," Vinson said. "The availability of the funds allows us to move forward with the project immediately. We also plan to include as many energy conservation components to the facility as possible. The ultimate vision is to have a campus style maintenance and administrative area with the new facility connecting to our existing administrative and bus maintenance facility on secured grounds."

- Vallery Fields

IRISE Winners for June

Melvin Tuhro	CMO	Karen Fry	IT	Emily Snodgrass	Police
Jamie Wasmer	CMO	Melinda Stenholm	Library	Marc Kemp	Public Works
Kristi Jones	CMO	Barton Young	Park	Jason Waters	Public Works
Georgene Jabara	Finance	Christopher Dietrich	Park	Susan Eshom	Public Works
Carmen Johnson	Finance	Shauna Dickman	Police	Wayne Kasperak	Public Works
Yolanda Chavez	HR	Debra Laws	Police	Lisa El Rhouaoui	Transit
Sharon Washington	HR	Sonia Leyva	Police		

CITY CONNECTION TEAM-Debbie Aviks-CMO; Gordon Bassham-Police; Megan Buckmaster-CMO; LeeAnn Casey-HR; 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; Angela Cato-Water; Denise Klug-IT/IS; Deb Legge-OCI; Lauragail Locke-CMO; Donte Martin-M.C.; Tabitha Meyer-CityArts; Michelle Rucker-Housing; Marge Seger-Finance; Michelle Stroot-CMO; Bob Thompson-Fire; Denise Tipton- Water; Gail Williams-P.W.; Van Williams-CMO; Valerie Wise-Airport