

WICHITAartMUSEUM



City Connection

A City Government Newsletter

75 YEARS OF AMERICAN ART

WAM sells anniversary book.
Go to wichitaartmuseum.org



Energy & Sustainability Conference

A wide range of energy-related topics from personal, business and government perspectives will be featured during the 2nd annual Regional Energy and Sustainability Conference Jan. 22-23 at the Wichita State University Hughes Metroplex, 29th and Oliver.



Keynote speakers on Jan. 22 will include Andy Karsner, former Assistant Secretary with the U.S. Department of Energy, and Tom Wright, chairman of the Kansas Corporation Commission, who will present their respective national and state viewpoints on energy issues.

Saturday's program features a discussion of state legislative issues with Sen. Carolyn McGinn, R-Sedgwick, and Rep. Jim Ward, D-Wichita. Sen. McGinn chairs the Senate Natural Resources Committee and Rep. Ward is the assistant House minority leader.

The two-day event is packed with a variety of break-out sessions covering a range of energy and sustainability topics. Friday's program is geared more toward business and industry while Saturday's agenda is targeted towards individuals and families. Admission on both days is free and open to the public.

In this issue:

Q & A with Kay Gales	2
Christmas Crusade	3
Public Works Projects	3
Microsoft E-Learning Online	3
Holiday Celebration	4
Happenings at the Library	4
New Exhibits at CityArts	4
Exhibits at Art Museum	5
Century II Events	5
Social Networking Project	6
New Air Monitors from EPA	6
For the Record	7
Deb Ary: "40 Under 40"	8
Property Tax Bills Project	8
IRISE Winners	8

Real Men, Real Heroes Receive Grant

The Wichita Community Foundation has awarded Real Men, Real Heroes (RMRH) with a grant for \$10,000 to support its mentoring and tutoring efforts based at Atwater Neighborhood City Hall, 2755 E. 19th.

In 2009, RMRH launched the Teen Hero and Saving Our Sons programs at Atwater. The programs create a learning environment for area youth and allows them to interact with male role models in the Wichita area. The **Teen Hero** program is geared towards high school seniors who have proven academic excellence, exemplified leadership skills and an ability to share their message and serve as a role model for their peers. The **Saving Our Sons**, designed for elementary- and middle-school students, uses a curriculum that helps boys develop characteristics for success.

"These programs address a need in our community," Council Member Lavonta Williams said. "It is important that we provide youth with the necessary tools to become successful men, so I applaud Real Men Real Heroes for their efforts and I thank the Wichita Community Foundation for its generous award."

Q & A With Kay Gales



Kay Gales is the Municipal Court Administrator for the largest Municipal Court in the state of Kansas. She manages a staff of 111 employees and is responsible for directing the non-judicial operations of Municipal Court. She received her Bachelor Degree in Business Administration from Friends University.

Gales has been the Court Administrator since 2001 and has been with the City for 30 years. Prior to being named Court Administrator, Kay served as the Assistant to the Director. Kay is married to Gary and they have five sons, two daughters, 12 grandkids and are expecting a great-grandchild.

Q How has Municipal Court changed during your career as a Court employee?

When I started working for the Court in 1982, we created paper case files, reports, etc., using a typewriter and punch cards. Through the use of computer applications and document imaging, we are now able to operate much more efficiently. I have seen the Court grow from three full-time judges and only three dockets to five full-time judges and over 20 dockets. Working with the Administrative Judge, we have developed specialized court dockets such as Drug Court, Environmental Court, and Mental Health Court aimed at addressing specific community needs.

Q Municipal Court attracts a unique cross-section of society. What has been one of your strangest experiences as

a court employee?

I don't know if it is the strangest experience but when I started working here, you could smoke at your desk – it was a very relaxing office environment. As an ex-smoker, I can now see that it probably wasn't enjoyable for those sitting around me. I can picture them waving their hands to fan smoke while trying to breathe fresh air.

I also remember one day going through our customer service lobby and a huge fight broke out between two female customers. Someone had to literally pull me out of the lobby. When it was all over, there were hair braids lying on the floor. When you work for the Court you never know what is going to happen. Every day is a new experience.

Q What do you like best about working for the City of Wichita and Municipal Court?

I've appreciated the opportunity to grow and develop during my career. I started as a grant employee and later became a full-time secretary. Over the years, I was promoted to the Assistant to the Director and will retire as the Court Administrator for the largest Municipal Court in the State of Kansas. I am thankful for the opportunities I've been provided. Over the years, there have been many improvements in the Court and I am proud that I had a small part in each and every one.

Q Which music CD's are your favorites?

My CD library is quite varied from Willie Nelson and George Jones to Roberta Flack, Gladys Knight and the Pips. I love Otis Redding, the Righteous Brothers, anything from the '70s and the '80s. I could never get into the hard rock, but I do occasionally listen to classical music. I also enjoy the Celtic Women.

Q Rumor has it that you like to go on Jeep excursions. What's that all about?

My husband and I enjoy the off-road Jeep trail rides in the Colorado mountains. It is so wonderful when starting in the valleys, seeing the flowers in bloom, smelling the earthy smells of pines and the sweet scent of fresh flowers. As you ascend the curvy mountain trails, not knowing what is ahead of you, there is a growing excitement and invigoration. When you finally reach the peak of the mountain and look out – you see the wonders of the world – the mountain tops, the sky and clouds, the varied colors of the earth and marvel in how our Higher Power has made such majesties.

Q What are you looking forward to most when you retire?

Spending time with my grandchildren and traveling. My husband and I also plan to visit my son in Texas to help him renovate his new horse ranch.

Q What will you miss most when you retire from the City of Wichita on Feb. 11?

My extended family and friends. I have developed relationships that helped shaped me. There have been so many people who have touched my life. Working with the City's management team and the Municipal Court Judges has been an experience I will never forget. I will also miss my staff. They are the reason why this department runs as smoothly as it does.

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

As a person who has witnessed firsthand the effects of polio, I would like to have been present when the polio vaccine was first developed and tested. I'm amazed by researchers and doctors who dedicate their lives to improving the lives of others. Most people aren't aware, but as recent as 1988 an estimated 350,000 cases of polio were diagnosed. Medical science has reduced the number to an estimated 1,652 diagnosed cases of polio in 2007.

A Successful 2009 Christmas Crusade

The Wichita Police Department's 2009 Christmas Crusade proved to be another big success. More than 100 families were helped, thanks to donations from residents and businesses in the community who made Christmas brighter for children whose families couldn't afford to give them gifts.

The 2009 Christmas Crusade marked the 35th year that WPD officers have worked to identify families whose children need help from the community to celebrate the holiday. Thanks to WPD's Community Affairs Section and media partner Journal Broadcast Group, this year's crusade went off flawlessly as the officers and on-air personalities from KFDI and other Journal stations raised public awareness about the project.

A big thanks to everyone for another successful year.

Gordon Bassham



Officer Dwain Diehl plays Santa for a family.

Public Works Projects Receive Awards



Kellogg/Rock interchange project

The \$105 million Central Rail Corridor and \$155 million Kellogg/Rock interchange project both received awards from Kansas Ready-mix Concrete Association. The awards will be accepted by Mike Jacobs, Special Project Engineer in charge of both projects, in Kansas City on Jan. 15. The awards recognize the outstanding quality in concrete construction.

"Both projects have made a big improvement in the quality of life for Wichitans, and that's very gratifying," says Jacobs. "But it's nice to get recognition from constructions groups, too."

The Central Rail Corridor has also won the American Council of Engineering Companies, Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award for Kansas, and has been nominated for the national award.

Gail Williams

Microsoft E-Learning Available Online

As part of the City's Microsoft Office Enterprise Agreement, City employees are eligible to access Office E-Learning courses online at Microsoft.com free of charge. These courses are meant to help you gain skills using the Microsoft Office 2007 products. You will be able to access the courses via the internet at your own pace.

To gain initial access to the Microsoft E-Learning courses, you will go to the Microsoft learning web site and enroll using the City's access code. As a part of the enrollment process you will be required to create a Windows Live ID (the username will be your City email address & a unique password of your own choosing). You will receive an email confirming your registration. Once that process is complete, you can access the e-learning site to select your courses.

For detailed instructions on how to activate your E-Learning benefits, please see the IT/IS portal home page: <http://portal/IT/Computer/Pages/E-Learning.aspx>

The IT department will not be able to offer support for the E-Learning signup process or course content. We trust you will enjoy this benefit and look forward to your participation. Please note that the access code we have received from Microsoft can accommodate a limited number of users from our organization. Do not share the code with unauthorized users. That would violates our license agreement with Microsoft.



Kathy Westphal

Holiday Celebration at Evergreen Rec. Center



Children and parents participate in the holiday gathering at Evergreen Recreational Center.

The Evergreen Neighborhood City Hall and the Park Department co-hosted an afterschool holiday gathering for neighborhood youth on Dec. 15 at the Evergreen Recreation Center.

The youth selected gifts donated by Dollar General Store for a family member and wrapped and decorated them. They were also able to make Christmas tree ornaments. Another popular activity was sending greeting cards to American troops overseas.

More than 40 youth and 20 parents enjoyed the holiday event by watching a movie and eating cookies provided by neighborhood residents.

Teri Dozal

Happenings at the Library

Library Breaks Records in 2009

The Wichita Public Library finished 2009 just shy of 2.3 million items circulated, breaking the previous record of 2.25 million set in 2008. The Library boasted a 21.1% growth in circulation over 2008 in a year that saw many other records shattered. Over 11,500 youth participated in summer reading programs and seven branch libraries broke all-time monthly circulation records in June. Throughout the year, staff shared stories of customers revealing that they were dropping magazine and movie rental subscriptions, internet service and changing book buying and recreation habits as they made the Library part of their plans. A study of library computer users in spring found that nearly half were conducting job searches, working on résumés, applying for unemployment benefits or developing their small business. The trend is expected to continue in 2010. One Library customer posted her New Year's resolution on Twitter: to "stop buying books and to start visiting the library with the kids once a week!"

Standing Tall: The 22nd Annual African-American History Month Celebration

Storyteller Diane Ferlatte (pictured right) headlines the Wichita Public Library's 22nd annual African-American History Month Celebration. Ferlatte has received numerous accolades, including a Grammy nomination, Parent's Choice honors and Storytelling World awards. Ferlatte will perform several all-ages shows Feb. 4-6, including a special session at 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 5, at the Kansas African American Museum, 601 N. Water. For those interested in the art of storytelling, Ferlatte offers a workshop at 1 p.m. on Feb. 6. Other events include two book discussions and a Senior Wednesday on the Tuskegee Airmen. For a complete list of events, visit www.wichita.lib.ks.us.



Jennifer Heinicke

New Exhibits at CityArts



Acrylic on canvas abstract paintings by David Harmon.

Main Gallery and Hallway Gallery: Mixed media abstract works by David and Susan Harmon. The Harmons live in Sterling, and David is a visual arts professor at Sterling College. Both David and Susan make great use of color, lines and other shapes in their pieces that leave their interpretation up to the imagination.

Balcony Gallery: "Autumn Leaves" by Kathleen McCrea, one of CityArts' students. The images are of actual leaves that have been digitally manipulated to become pieces of art.

Boardroom Gallery: Mixed media pieces by Will Fathi. In this exhibit, gallery goers won't find traditional paint on canvas. Rather, these colorful and dramatic creations are on Plexiglas, and the effect is dazzling.

Angela Cato

Exhibits at the Wichita Art Museum

Try Some Color, Please! - through April 18

The newest exhibition at the Wichita Art Museum will add a little color to your life. These lithographs and etchings from the Museum's permanent collection challenge the old notion that black and white is best. The artists featured in *Try Some Color, Please*, experimented by making color graphics in a medium traditionally reserved for the monochromatic.

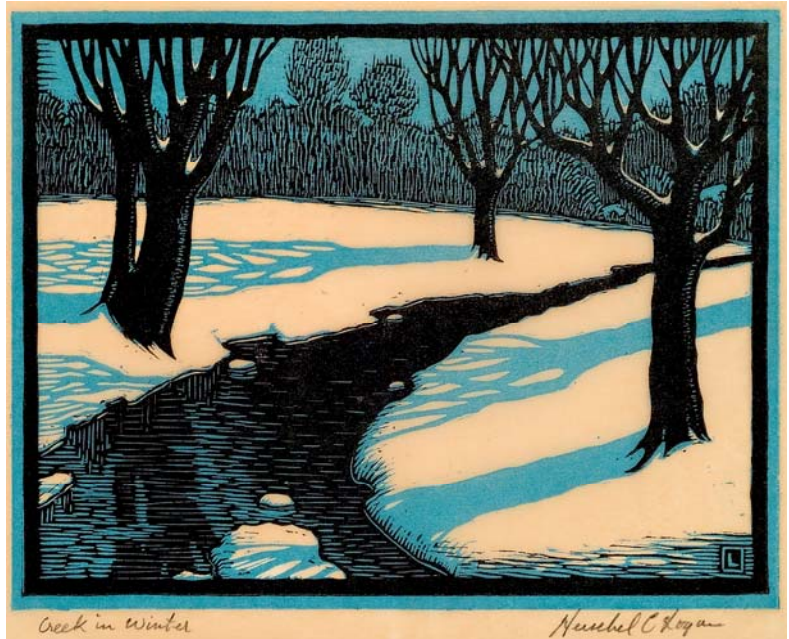
Sensitive and Relevant Images - through March 28

The mid-20th century was a time of reflection. This selection of works on paper features the changing interests of artists in an ever changing society. In this exhibition, works of art from the permanent collection encourage a thoughtful approach to society. This collection, entirely comprised of water colors, will take you on a reflective journey of man's impact on his fellow man.

Docents Select - through May 2

The Museum's most dedicated volunteers were invited to select objects from the collection that have a special significance to them. They were asked to "curate" this exhibition not only because of their vast knowledge of the art at WAM, but also because of their experience in discovering what the public enjoys seeing on exhibition.

Crystal Walter



Herschel C. Logan, 1901-1987. *Creek in Winter* (1928). Woodcut on paper. Gift of Samuel H. and Martha F. Logan 2005.13.14

Century II Events

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 (except where noted)!

Jesus Christ Superstar, presented by Theater League, at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 3 in Concert Hall.

2010 Home Show, presented by Wichita Area Builders Assn., from 1 p.m. – 9 p.m. on Feb. 4, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. on Feb. 5 & 6, and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Feb. 7 throughout Century II. Tickets will be sold at the door.

The Wedding Singer, presented by Theater League, at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 9 & 10 in Concert Hall.

Tap Kids, presented by Wichita State University, at 8 p.m. on Feb. 12 in Concert Hall.

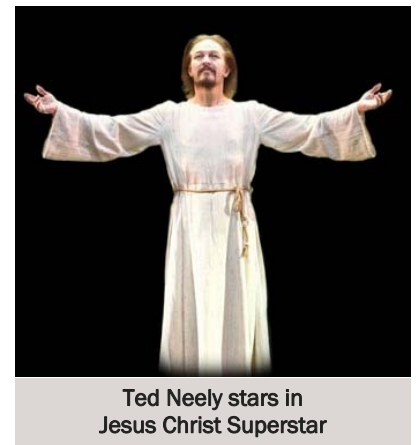
2010 Women's Fair, presented by Invision Productions, from 12 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Feb. 12, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Feb. 13, and 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Feb. 14 in Expo Hall.

Elixir of Love, presented by Wichita Grand Opera, at 7 p.m. on Feb. 13 and 3 p.m. on Feb. 14 in Mary Jane Teall Theater. For tickets, call 262-8054.

CLASSICS: New World Symphony, presented by Wichita Symphony Orchestra, at 8 p.m. on Feb. 20 and 3 p.m. on Feb. 21 in Concert Hall. For tickets, call 267-7658.

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

Jacob House



Ted Neely stars in
Jesus Christ Superstar

WPD's Social Networking Project a Success

In April, 2009, the Wichita Police Department (WPD) launched the Citizen Alert Network, a project designed to enhance the department's ability to communicate with the public.

Like weather alerts sent by email and text message from local news organizations to their subscribers, Citizen Alert messages are public safety alerts from the Police Department to those who subscribe to the free service.

"The purpose of the Citizen Alert Network is not to bypass local media," said Lt. Troy Livingston, the coordinator of the project. "Rather, they're meant to augment the department's ability to spread the word quickly when an event or incident involving public safety occurs within the community."

For example, Livingston said, Citizen Alert messages have been sent out shortly after bank robberies asking for the public's help in locating the suspect.

"The network also allows citizens to provide tips on crimes, either by responding to the alert or anonymously through Crime Stoppers," said Livingston.

Livingston said alerts can either be sent out citywide or targeted to reach specific neighborhoods or types of businesses. "Whenever we see a crime trend in a neighborhood, we can narrow the focus of the alert by sending it only to subscribers who live in that neighborhood or area of the city."

"In only eight months, more than 6,000 citizens have subscribed to the WPD Citizen Alert Network. That is a remarkable accomplishment in a very short time."

Each time an alert is sent out, it automatically is relayed to the department's Twitter account. WPD also has created a Facebook page and a YouTube channel.

Besides being an excellent way to proactively promote public safety issues and showcase videos that might lead to the apprehension of criminal suspects, the channel soon will become the newest recruiting tool. "Fighting crime in the future will increasingly require officers be skilled in the use of technology," Livingston said. "In order for WPD to attract those new officers, the department must itself be on the cutting edge of technology and social networking."

Gordon Bassham

Air Quality Receives Air Monitors from EPA

The Air Quality Program of the Environmental Services Department received five new monitors from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for air quality monitoring. Three of the monitors are being used for EPA's national School Air Toxics project. The School Air Toxics project is a special program that was designed to address concerns that were raised by an air quality article in USA Today. Monitoring sites were chosen in 63 schools in 22 states. Colvin Elementary School was selected because the school is located near several major industrial complexes in the southeast part of the City. Monitoring for hexavalent chromium and volatile organic compounds has been conducted since August and results will be published soon.

Two new monitors also were placed at the Environmental Services building for monitoring of particulate concentrations. One monitor will look at total carbon in the air and the other will determine the makeup of the pollutants collected at the elemental level. Outside laboratories will process the filters that are sent in every six days. The two monitors will replace one older model that the EPA was phasing out. The air monitoring network upgrades will enhance the ability to measure the amount and types of particles in Wichita's urban air.



Wichita air quality has been monitored since 1972. All of the data is sent to the EPA where it is put in a national database. The air quality can then be compared to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards as well as other regions and cities in the USA.

Charles Anderson

<u>Retirees</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Yrs. Of Service</u>
Margo Parks	CMO	39 yrs. 09 mo.
Dana D. Hamilton	Water Utilities	33 yrs. 03 mo.
Kenneth R. Schofield	Fire	31 yrs. 06 mo.

<u>Retiree Deaths</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Thomas Harvey, Jr.	Art Museum	12/07/2009
Lorenzo L. Wilson	Fire	12/10/2009
Gloria P. Horton	Health	12/13/2009
John H. Piland	Airport	12/13/2009

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

<u>January</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Ruth A. Spriggs	10 years	CityArts
Kim B. Lister	10 years	CityArts
Elmer F. Huerta	10 years	Water Utilities
Doug Kupper	10 years	Park

<u>January</u>	<u>25 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Michael G. Griffith	25 years	Public Works
David B. Duncan	25 years	Water Utilities
Wesley P. Read	25 years	Transit
Lois S. Anderson	25 years	Police
Vickey B. Corns	25 years	Transit
Patsy A. Terrill	25 years	Police

<u>January</u>	<u>30 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Ramona Webb	30 years	Fire
Richard G. Suniga	30 years	Water Utilities

<u>January</u>	<u>40 years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Ralph W. Bonnesen	40 years	Water Utilities

Housing Holiday Generosity

In mid-December Housing and Community Services Department staff were invited to share in the holiday spirit by providing hats, scarves, socks and gloves for the formerly-homeless people living in apartments as a part of the City/County-funded Housing First program. Staff responded and gift packages were put together with the donated items and a Christmas card from the department. The packages were delivered to the clients by their case managers. It was just a small gesture but made a huge difference with at least one of the recipients. The following email was sent to City staff from a case manager who delivered one such package:

“Our client could not wait to open his package and go through his bag of goodies. If you remember him, he is a big rough, tough, gruff, long haired motorcycle type of guy. He oohed and awed over each item, but the thing that got him the most was the card with his name on the envelope. He kept saying over and over, “This is my very first Christmas card, my very first Christmas card – EVER!!” I thought he was going to hug me!! He asked that I tell all “Thanks, thanks so much!” I wish you could have been there and experienced the look on his face and the joy that it brought him.”

Mary K. Vaughn

2009 Wichita Leadership Class

The Wichita Fire Department is proud to announce the graduation of Vicki Forbes from the 2009 Leadership Wichita Class. Forbes, assistant to the Fire Chief, is one of 24 local business leaders who completed the course.



The eight-week course focused on local issues facing Wichita, such as economic development and the future needs for education. Leadership skills such as collaborations, team building and visioning were explored through real life situations and group exercises.

Fire Wins Battle of the Badges



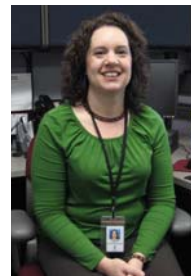
Fire versus Police for title.

The 15th Annual Battle of the Badges ended Jan. 2, and the Fire Department has been declared the winner. The goal for the 2009 campaign was 1,050 units of blood products and the American Red Cross reports collecting 1,190 units of blood products.

The Fire Department edged out Law Enforcement by only 89 units of blood products. Congratulations to the Fire Department and a thank you to all who contributed to this worthwhile life saving cause.

New Development Specialist

Child Care welcomes Jennifer Manual to the department to serve as a Child Development Specialist in Child Care. Manuel is a mother of four children and wife to current Wichita police officer Jerry Manual.



Prior to joining Child Care, Manuel was a licensed child care provider. Jennifer will be responsible for regulating homes, centers and educating providers on the health and safety of children.

Coventry’s Wellness Activities



Marlys Duchinsky, a Property Manager with Housing, won an iPod Nano from Coventry Health Care for participating in Coventry’s online wellness activities. Duchinsky said that she logs her activities on the site every week and receives gift certificates to stores and restaurants every month. After winning the iPod, Duchinsky said she will continue to report her activity on the website so she will continue to receive great prizes.

Deb Ary Selected for "40 Under 40" Award



Congratulations are in order for Deb Ary, Water Utilities' Manager of Production & Pumping, for being selected as one of Wichita's "40 Under 40" by the Wichita Business Journal. Each year 40 professionals under the age of 40 are selected for this honor. Deb segued into engineering from the music field. She first graduated with a Bachelors Degree in music education from Wichita State University with emphasis in flute and taught music, afterwards completing a Bachelors of Science in mechanical engineering. Ary is quite an accomplished flutist and also sings with the Sweet Adelines. Connection between music and engineering? Math.

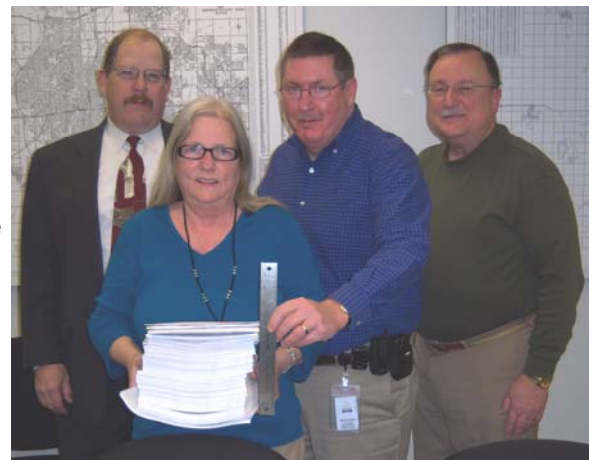
As Manager of Production & Pumping, Ary has an enormous responsibility. In addition to day-to-day operations, she is the engineer in charge of the cutting edge Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project which, when completed, will supply Wichita with water through the year 2050. Ary credits the grace of God, her amazing supportive husband, Patrick, and her daughter, Evie, for making it possible for all that she does. If that isn't enough, Ary also "attempts" a garden every year.

Property Tax Bills Project

Each November, the City receives approximately 1,300 property tax bills. Most bills arrive in a stack delivered to the Property Management Office. In the past, the bills were logged at Property Management and then distributed to the appropriate department with the bulk of the bills paid by Property Management staff. All in all, many documents were created to generate the payments to Sedgwick County.

This year is different. Sean Seamster of IT/IS, Steve Coberley of Finance and Property Management staff put their heads together and reduced the workload dramatically. Debbie Farrington in Finance logged each bill into Property Management's spreadsheet which was pre-coded with account numbers. The spreadsheet was loaded directly into the accounting system to create the payment document.

All the property tax bills were scanned into LaserFiche with the high speed scanner located in Human Resources, utilizing the optical character recognition (OCR) feature. The OCR feature allows the database to be searched quickly by key number, address or any other characters on the tax bill.



(L to R) John Philbrick, Deb Farrington, Sean Seamster and Steve Coberley measure the stack of paperwork.

Sedgwick County requires a bar coded remittance advice be returned with payment. The Print Shop detached the bar coded remittance advices from each bill with one swift cut of their paper cutting machine. The cooperative effort of these individuals with the use of available technology will save an estimated 80 hours this November. We can hardly wait to try this again in May when the next, though smaller, stack of tax bills arrives.

Carol McMillan

IRISE January Winners

Danny Oliver	Park	John Cleary	Library	Carrie Johnson	Library
Kathleen Harris	HR	Pamela Masters	Water	Tracie Partridge	Library
Carol Kotsch	Library	Carol Samsel	Police	Jennifer Allen	Library
Sara Whitlock	Police	Kevin Cope	Public Works	Stephanie Beach	CMO
Glenn Long	Public Works	William Bush	Public Works	Michelle Blunck	Police
Gary Capps	Public Works	Timothy Stewart	Public Works	Patricia Ford	Police
Joe Loggins	Water	Nathan Eastman	Public Works		

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