



# “Your Connection”

*A Publication about City Government*

## Communications Team Monthly Report

### ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

#### *Annual Adopt-a-thon*



On May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> the Wichita Animal Shelter held its annual adopt-a-thon at the shelter. Staff and the volunteers had a great time and were extremely happy with the turnout. By the end of the second day, 16 dogs and 11 cats had been adopted. On Saturday, two young girls and their mother



came in to make a donation. Their \$26 donation was the profit earned from a lemonade sale.



**Thank You, Volunteers!!!**

The River Trash Round Up was a great success in spite of the soggy weather. Ninety-five bags of trash were collected totaling 1.72 tons! Volunteers from 15 organizations joined in the community-wide effort to remove litter and debris from along the banks of the Arkansas River.



#### **“Spotlight on Scientists!”**

Three City of Wichita employees are highlighted in one of the nation’s newest education manuals, “*Skill Building Science, Grades 5-6.*” Brian Fisher, Dana Hamilton and Vaughn Weaver are recognized in the "Spotlight on Scientists" section in this new curriculum guide. The "Spotlights" describe each employee’s unique city job to excite students and challenge them to pursue a career in geology, chemistry or biology.

#### **A Fond Farewell!**

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Child Care Licensure Supervisor Shirley O’Dell, R.N., was given a fond farewell from the Environmental Services Child Care Department. She retired after nearly 22 years with the Wichita-Sedgwick County Health Department and Environmental Services. Her excellent service, longevity and contributions were recognized.

**PARKS & RECREATION**

***Cinco De Mayo Celebration!***

On May 2, 2006 Parks & Recreation, along with Head Start (Plaza de los Ninos), had a joint Cinco de Mayo celebration at Evergreen. The festivities included lots of music, dancing, singing, skits and food!

Approximately 250 people attended the festivities.

Information about Parks and Recreation was distributed.

Everyone involved had a wonderful time and the event was a big success!



**HUMAN RESOURCES**

***“Bring Your Children to Work Day!”***

On Friday, June 16, 2006 the Third Annual City of Wichita Young People at Work Day will be celebrated. This is an opportunity for employees to bring their children (age 9-17) to work with them for the day. To register, please contact Sharon Hunt-Cotman in Human Resources at 268-4531 or at [shunt@wichita.gov](mailto:shunt@wichita.gov) with the name and age of your child. Each employee must obtain his or her supervisor's permission to participate. There will be special program and tour for children.



***Health and Wellness***

***Tip of the Month***

For employees currently enrolled in the tax-deferred 457b plan: When providing Human Resources with an address change, remember to also stop by Robert Bachman's office to change your address in the 457b plan. He's located on the 2nd floor of City Hall.

The City of Wichita Wellness Program is underway. A walking program called CITY STEPS will begin in August 2006. Several employees have volunteered to be "Walking Leads" which involves walking during varied break times and off-work time. If interested in being a lead, please contact Deb Dirks at 269-4728 or at [ddirks@wichita.edu](mailto:ddirks@wichita.edu).

PLANNING

***Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization***

Many employees have dealt with Transportation Planning in the Metropolitan Area Planning Department (MAPD) over the years, but probably didn't know about the changes this division has undergone over the last year and a half.

WAMPO was created in 2005 to succeed the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) as the policy making body for transportation planning in the Greater Wichita area. The 2000 Census showed that the continuous urbanized area around Wichita had expanded, and now included portions of Butler and Sumner Counties. Since the membership of a metropolitan planning organization must represent that continuous urbanized area, new seats were added to the existing Policy Body. Elected officials from Andover, Mulvane, Wichita Transit, the Sedgwick County Association of Cities, and the Kansas Department of Transportation joined the Policy Body. This expanded entity was renamed the **Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, or WAMPO**, to reflect its expanded scope. The result has been a greater spirit of cooperation among metropolitan communities in the area and a broader regional perspective on transportation issues.

The Transportation Planning Division housed in the MAPD provides staff support to this regional planning organization. The WAMPO is responsible, in cooperation with the State of Kansas, for carrying out the regional metropolitan transportation planning process. The process includes development of key documents such as the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

These activities, along with other regional programs, all combine to give our region the best transportation system for today and the future. WAMPO links policy makers, experts, and the general public, resulting in comprehensive, continued, and coordinated regional planning. The planning process is more than a listing of future highways and planned transit upgrades; it requires developing strategies for operating, managing, maintaining, and financing the area's transportation to advance the area's long-term goals.

PUBLIC WORKS



Public Works Traffic Maintenance crews worked the week before Memorial Day to install American flags on downtown light poles (Douglas, McLean, Main Street and the Lewis Street bridge). The flags will stay up through the summer months and be removed after Labor Day.

WATER & SEWER

***Big Brothers & Big Sisters***

Water & Sewer invited Big Brothers and Big Sisters to meet with all of the department divisions. Norma Bricker, on loan to BBBS from USD 259, made a brief, informative and entertaining presentation to each division about the advantages to children and of being a "Big," stating that only 40-50 minutes a week really works miracles with the kids. W&S kept her busy with six divisions scattered throughout the City and Sedgwick County. Ms. Bricker was most appreciative of the opportunity and very pleased with the results.

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE*****KTQW Programs to Air on City 7***

The City of Wichita and KTQW are pleased to announce a partnership that will bring some of the quality programs offered by KTQW TV-49 to cable viewers through the City's government channel 7. The programs will be government-related to stay within the mission of the channel. Each program is approximately 30 minutes in length. "KTQW has always had a mission of providing community service programming, so this partnership really makes sense and it gives the City of Wichita additional programming relevant to their mission for their channel," said Mary Knecht, General Manager of KTQW TV-49.

**Featured Programs**

- "G-Wiz Kansas" featuring the WATER Center: Daily at 6:30 AM, 8 PM, 10:30 PM and 11:30 PM and Monday through Friday at 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM.
- "Delano Today" featuring a ride on the Q-Line: Daily at 7:30 AM, 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 4:30 PM and 9:30 PM.
- The Spring edition of "City Improvements:" Daily at 7 AM, 5 PM, 7 PM, 9 PM, 10 PM and 11 PM. This program follows the Wichita City Council for a tour of three key downtown projects: the Central Rail Corridor Project, River Corridor Project, and the new Marriott Hotel in Old Town (a private development).

***Kellogg Dedication Ceremony***

At 11:00 am on June 7<sup>th</sup>, a dedication ceremony for East Kellogg/US 54 will be held. Kellogg is now built to 6-lane freeway standards for most of its 20 miles through Wichita. It is the result of over ten years of continual improvement, to add lanes and eliminate intersections and traffic signals. About 100,000 vehicles daily travel through or across Wichita in less time, with fewer accidents and less air pollution than before. Members of KDOT will be in attendance at the ceremony.

**LIBRARY*****Summertime Activities!***

The Summer Reading Club (for newborns up to age 17) and Teens Read (ages 12-17) summer literacy programs kicked off at all Wichita Public Library locations on Thursday, June 1. The Summer Reading Club's theme, *Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales*, will be on display at libraries with exhibits, reading lists and free events. Teens will enjoy *Creature Feature*. While rules and prizes differ in the two programs, both are designed to keep reading skills sharp over the summer and free fun for participants!

***Interlibrary Loan Changes***

If your library doesn't have the book you need, what can you do? Often, your library can borrow it from another library using interlibrary loan. To encourage the timely return of materials, the Wichita Public Library has increased certain fees, effective June 15.

- Overdue notices will go out when items are a week overdue.
- Overdue fees will increase from \$0.25 to \$1.00 per day.
- If the item's purchase price is unknown, the default lost charge will be \$75 (up from \$40).
- The processing fee will increase to \$25.

***Reading Rocks to Benefit Wichita Kids***

*Reading Rocks: Literacy for Lifelong Learning*, a one-year partnership between the Wichita Public Library, the Wichita Public Schools and the Junior League of Wichita, teams up selected schools that fail to qualify for significant amounts of Title I federal funding. Kensler Elementary will be matched with the Westlink Branch Library, McLean with Evergreen, and College Hill with Rockwell. Not only will schools will receive additional funds for books, but Library staff and volunteers will also help promote literacy to the entire family through special programs throughout the school year.

**CITY COUNCIL**

***U.S. Conference of Mayors  
International Affairs Committee***

Mayor Mayans has been asked to be the Acting Chair of the U.S. Conference of Mayors International Affairs Committee. The Committee meets in early June, during the USCM Annual conference.

Mayor Mayans is chairing the committee due to the absence of Mayor Meyera E. Oberndorf of Virginia Beach.

**EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION  
*WE WANT YOU!***

Employee Appreciation Week (EAW) begins Friday, September 8 with the Golf Tournament and ends Saturday, September 16 with the Ice Skating Party. Events will include: Great Brain Drain, a tailgate party, a bowling tournament and the trademark event, a pancake breakfast. Several volunteers make this event possible. All of the members do lots of hard work but have lots of fun doing it. The first planning meeting has already happened and the committee realized that more help is needed! If you are interested in sitting on the EAW Committee to bring your ideas to the table or simply help set up a table, then call Diana Mefford, Chairman of the EAW Committee at 268-4524 and she will get you involved!

***Transforming Wichita Update: Managing for Results***

The Transforming Wichita (TW) process has gained momentum with the implementation of Managing for Results (MFR) philosophy. MFR is a budget process that allocates funds based on outcomes that citizens and City Council members want accomplished.

The City Council adopted five goals for 2006-2007: 1) Provide a Safe & Secure Community, 2) Promote Economic Vitality & Affordable Living, 3) Ensure Efficient Infrastructure, 4) Enhance Quality of Life, and 5) Support a Dynamic Core Area & Vibrant Neighborhoods. MFR will transform the budget from that of a line item, department-based format, to an outcomes structure based on the adopted goals.

Early this year, five strategy teams of City employees from all departments were created to focus on the budgetary aspects of the goals. This spring, teams learned about City services related to their goal area and assessed current services, suggested process improvements, and evaluated requests for additional funding. Teams then prioritized requests for additional funding (based on anticipated outcomes) and formed recommendations based on the best value for taxpayer's money. The final steps in the process are individual team meetings with the City Manager to review the team's recommendations and formal presentations to the City Council.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

***Excellent Service!***

A citizen wrote the letter below in regards to a problem with flooding. He was pleasantly surprised with the quality service and quick response Public Works exhibited. Thanks to Alan Johnson, Storm Water, Debra Ary, Maintenance and all involved for resolving this citizen's tough issues of flooding.

May 3, 2006

Dear Mayor Mayans,

I know when citizens contact your office it usually concerns a complaint. I am writing to thank you for having city workers who respond to the needs of the people. My wife and I returned to Wichita about five years ago when I retired and we purchased a home at 2754 Meadow Oaks in Northeast Wichita. During these five years we have experience flooding in our backyard, five times, that was severe enough the water was within an inch of flooding our finished basement. I did a little research and obtained a telephone number of the Wichita Storm Water Management Department and talked to one of your supervisors named Pat Pruitt. Pat told me that he would check it out and have one of his supervisors look at the problem. Within a short period of time a Crew Manager, Allen, contacted me in person and looked at the problem. Allen sent a nice lady from his department to also check out the problem. Allen and his supervisor formulated a plan to solve the problem and started work installing an additional culvert to handle the extra heavy rains we receive from time to time. A second culvert is now installed and I no longer need to worry about my finished basement being flooded. Thank you and your fine city workers for their outstanding response to the people of Wichita. Everyone involved was courteous, professional, hard working, had a sense of urgency, made as little mess as possible and got the problem solved. You just don't get any better than that. Would you please pass this letter along to all who helped me solve my problem?