



# “Your Connection”

*A Publication about City Government*

## Communications Team Monthly Report

### PUBLIC WORKS

#### *Lucky Ducks at City Hall*

Following the April 24 hailstorm, three baby ducks were seen wandering in the City Hall parking garage. Sherry Reed, a Purchasing employee who walks the garage ramp for exercise, pointed them out to Jeff Myers, a Public Works employee. Jeff collected the ducklings, on his own time, and set out to find an adoptive family for the little brood. He didn't find a match in

Riverside Park or the Sedgwick County Park, and the Zoo does not accept abandoned animals, so Jeff headed for the Great Plains Nature Center.



There, Jeff finally found a pair of ducks with one baby. They swam to the other side of the pond as Jeff approached. When Jeff got the City ducklings out of the box, they began to peep

loudly. The mother duck flew across the pond, rounded them up, and escorted them back to the other side of the pond. Jeff watched the newly formed family for several minutes, and

the idea he had hatched seemed to be working. Just one more example of a City employee going above and beyond the call of duty.

### CITY COUNCIL

#### *Mayor to Attend Conference in Jerusalem*



Wichita Mayor Carlos Mayans is one of eight U.S. mayors traveling to Israel May 7-13 for the 24th Annual Jerusalem Conference of Mayors, which is hosted by Jerusalem Mayor Uri Lupolianski. The American Jewish Congress-Council for

World Jewry sponsors the weeklong conference, which examines the role of history and culture in economic development. The Congress-Council covers costs for the mayor and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. The conference is conducted in cooperation with Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



### **National League of Cities**

Council members Carl Brewer and Bob Martz secured Wichita as the host site for two National League of Cities Committee Meetings May 18-20. City Manager’s Office staff is working with NLC to coordinate the event. The National League of Cities is a leading municipal organization that provides numerous benefits to its network of state municipal leagues. The National League of Cities advocates for cities and towns in Washington, D.C. through full-time lobbying and grassroots campaigns; promotes cities and towns through an aggressive media and communications program that draws attention to city issues and enhances the national image of local government; provides programs and services that give local leaders the tools and knowledge to better serve their communities; and keeps leaders informed of critical issues that affect municipalities and warrant action by local officials. The NLC also has many other services.

### **PLANNING**

#### **South Area Transportation Study**

The Transportation Planning Division has entered into a \$620,000 contract with Wilbur Smith Associates to develop a south area transportation study. The purpose of the one-year study is to have Wilbur Smith provide reasonable and feasible recommendations to improve the street network system in the south planning region. For the Metropolitan Planning Organization, Wilbur Smith will study access issues in the south side of the planning region. The work will include: data analysis, validation of the regional travel demand model, engineering analysis, environmental assessment, and public involvement.

√ Current Plans Division anticipates that the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission will rehear the proposed Wal-Mart site at 53<sup>rd</sup> St. North and Meridian on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The developers have had discussions with neighbors to address their traffic and noise concerns.

√ An application has been submitted for a conditional use permit to construct a wireless communication facility on the south side of 21<sup>st</sup> St., west of Maize Road. The location for the 150 ft. tower is proposed in the southwest corner of the existing temporary storage commercial business. The case will be reviewed by DAB V on June 5 and the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission on June 18.

#### **“Plan-It”**

In recognition of Earth Day, Advanced Plans Division staff met with groups of middle and high school students at the Sedgwick County Extension Office on April 25 & 26. Staff used the “Plan-It” exercise to guide 140 students in designing a neighborhood. In small teams, the students developed a neighborhood that considered transportation, environmental, housing, parks/open space, land uses, and other related issues. This hopefully helped provide the students with a better understanding of the importance of orderly growth and development in a metropolitan area.

### **WATER & SEWER**

#### **“Sustainability of Water in Kansas”**

Staff from Water & Sewer attended the Kansas Water Environment Association Conference on “Sustainability of Water in Kansas.” Conference topics were especially relevant for managing municipal water systems and protecting surface waters by providing adequate treatment of wastewater. Keynote speaker was Kansas State Senator Carolyn McGinn, who has a master’s degree in Environmental Studies. Exams were held on the final day for attendees to maintain water and wastewater Operator Certification.



**TRANSIT**

***Trolley Service***

During River Festival (May 12-20), City of Wichita trolleys will again provide shuttle service for large events, and to the food court. The Q-Line trolleys will begin on May 22. The Q-Line is a cooperative effort involving the City of Wichita and the Wichita Downtown Development Corp. Historic trolley tours will begin on May 25.

***Riverside Fountain Ready for Action!***

The interactive play-fountain in Central Riverside Park will be operating again early this month, prior to the start of RiverFest. With unseasonably warm spring weather, families started inquiring about 'opening day' for the fountain in March. The fountain was out of service last summer due to a change in sanitation codes that required modifications to the fountain. The modifications are below ground, so the appearance of the fountain is unchanged. The recirculating water in the fountain is treated with chlorine, the same as in a swimming pool; so everyone is reminded to use

the same consideration required in the use of a public pool: keep the water clean, keep animals out, water is not intended for drinking, etc.

***East Central, Hillside Widening Projects One Step Closer***

The last pieces of right-of-way needed for reconstructing Central from Oliver to Rock Road, and Hillside from Kellogg to Central, will be acquired soon, putting these projects on track to be bid this summer. Both projects will add a center turn lane. Construction for both projects is anticipated to begin this fall, and be completed in 2007.

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

***Earth Workshops***

At the Sedgwick County Research and Extension Office, students from 11 schools spent a half-day participating in hands-on science and environmental learning activities at the two-day long EARTH Workshops. Two Department of Environmental Services (DES) employees are on

the EARTH Steering Committee and helped to run the workshops. Five other DES employees participated by being activity presenters. Thanks to DES employees Libby Albers, Mark Bradshaw, Kay Drennen, Mark Hall, Jim Hardesty, Doris Leslie and Dan Rutledge for all your hard work.

**CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

***"Bowl for Kids Sake"***

On Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at West Acres Bowl, the City and County met for their annual Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl. This year the City and the County each had 6 teams. When the bowling started the City was told we had more pledges than the County but unfortunately after all the on-line pledges were counted the County total was \$4,395.15 and the City's was \$2,862.50. Becky

Marotta's team from Park had the most pledges with \$741.30 and the individual who collected the largest amount of pledges was Debbie Aviks from the City Manager's Office with \$350.00. There were many great prizes! All proceeds went to help the kids, making everyone feel like winners!

## ***Administrative Professionals Seminar at Botanica***

The Administrative Professional Seminar was held this year in recognition of customer service-front line City employees. This is the second year that City Manager, George Kolb, gave his Executive Assistant, De Nelson and her committee the go-head to pull together a program that would emphasize encouragement, appreciation, training, and a dose of fun. The committee consisted of: Carolyn Bowen, Beth Prentice, Diana Mefford, Deb Dirks, Tailinda Rogers, Vicky Forbes, and De Nelson. This year's theme was "Transform-Renew-Rejuvenate!" The event included a morning and afternoon session with everyone together over lunch where they enjoyed a "Know Your Top Administrators" trivia contest. City Manager George Kolb and 11 of his Directors joined in for the fun at lunch. Carole Ochs kicked off each session with a brief update on Transforming Wichita. There was a great turn out with 192 employees in attendance. Thanks to De's coordination the event was a great success.

## **POLICE & CENTRAL INSPECTION**

### ***The Community Police North Division and the Office of Central Inspection help to "Stop Blight"***

As a part of the Joint Beat 44 Tire Clean-up Project, the Community Police Patrol North Division and the Office of Central Inspection jointly participated in a clean-up project on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The objective of the clean-up was to support the "Stop Blight"

easements and used a staging area at 18<sup>th</sup> and Hydraulic to separate and store tires while the large tire truck from Environmental Services was used to take loads to the tire disposal facility. Four loads in excess of 400 tires were collected and disposed of at the Tire Disposal facility on south West Street. The officers involved were



initiative currently underway in the City of Wichita. The team effort concentrated on picking up tires that were illegally dumped on city property including easements and alleys. The team also removed tires from several private properties at the request of property owners. Participants used three small trucks from the OCI motor pool to collect tires from narrow alleys and

Courtney Pierce, Alex Recio, Gary Morris, Doug Gerdes, and Paul Kimble. The Office of Central Inspection Neighborhood inspectors were John Godwin, Jay Stalkup, Wanda Robertson and Shane Hackworth. They also used the volunteer services of Community Volunteer Derilyn Johnson.

## ***Neighborhood Cleanups***

The neighborhood cleanups started on March 18<sup>th</sup> this year. They are a cooperative undertaking between the Neighborhoods, OCI, Public Works, Environmental Services and Community Police. There are 68 cleanups scheduled so far, representing 61 different Neighborhood Associations/neighborhoods across the City. Fifteen cleanups have all ready been completed. Neighborhoods are responsible for supplying the volunteers and organizing them. The City provides the equipment and staff to help. Every March, Central Inspection and Environmental Services hold a cleanup training session for all neighborhood cleanup participants. The training session is aimed at new neighborhood groups, or those who are new to the cleanup program, but all are welcome. Funding comes from Public Works, Community Service Block Grants and Community Development Block Grants.

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### ***Benefits***

Contact Robert Bachman at 268-4551, if interested in investing in the tax-deferred 457b plan, a part of the Compensation Plan. A Learning Quest representative presented information on April 26<sup>th</sup> regarding saving for college tuition. If you are interested in learning more about this please contact Deb Dirks at 268-4728.

### ***New Hire in Human Resources***

Welcome Chris Altee. He accepted the Training Manager position. He came on board April 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **HUMAN RESOURCES**

### ***New Recruitment Team***

A team has been formed to recruit for government positions. This group, Career Opportunities in Government (COG's), consists of recruiters from city, county, state and federal government agencies. The group has attended several career fairs in the surrounding area including Langston University in Oklahoma and Southwestern College in Winfield. Future job fairs include City Arts of Wichita and McConnell Air Force Base. All Kansas military base personnel will be invited to the McConnell job fair.

## ***Managing for Results Budget Process is Underway***

The process of completing the City budget for 2007 is well underway. Strategy teams of City staff have been reviewing department budgets and enhancement proposals. Under this process, focus is shifted to evaluating funding requests based on the five goals adopted by the City Council on March 7, 2006. The process will focus on determining what strategies are appropriate based on the five goals, and measuring the progress of City services towards those goals. After determining the available level of funding, the budget will be finalized based on the results that are desired. In the first week of May, the process will be presented to the District Advisory Boards. Later in May, a budget overview will be provided to the City Council, and the strategy teams will present their recommendations to the City Council. Based on feedback provided by the Council, the 2007 budget will be submitted to the City Council early in July.

## **FINANCE**

### ***New Staff Changes***

Congratulations on the promotions of Mark Manning to Budget Officer and Cathy Gilley to Debt Coordinator. Becky Johnston has joined the City of Wichita as Express Manager and Shawn Henning as Treasurer, replacing recently retired Treasurer Carla Palmer.



## ***Managing for Results Logo Design***

The new logo for Managing for Results has been approved. Thanks to Ashley Jones for all his hard work on this new design, he created it with input and feedback from the Transforming Wichita Communications Team. The logo symbolizes what we are trying to obtain from this process. We will accomplish this by transforming City government into a high performance organization that delivers outstanding results that matter to our customers and is a trustworthy steward of the funds with which citizens have entrusted us.

### ***Comprehensive Annual Financial Report***

The City's 2005 report will be presented to the City Council and available to the public on May 23, 2006. An audit has been completed on the financial statements and a clean audit opinion was earned. The report will be posted to the Finance page on the City's website upon the City Council's receipt of the document.

### ***Quarterly Financial Report***

The City's report for the quarter ended March 31, 2006 was presented to the City Council on May 2, 2006. The unaudited financial statements are prepared to monitor and review the financial operations of the City and to report to the City Council, City Management and to the Citizens of Wichita on the condition of the various funds. The interim financial statements are intended to assist the City Council and City Management with making informed decisions.

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### ***Master Plan for Wichita's Libraries***

The Library Board of Directors is hearing a presentation on preliminary recommendations for the master plan on May 10. This planning process began in 2006 and has involved citizen focus groups and telephone surveys as well as research on projected demographics and library service changes. The goal of the process is to update the current plan for branch facilities that was adopted by the Library Board in 1999.

### ***Record Year for Tax Form Distribution***

At the Central Library, the Business and Technology Section distributed 36,250 federal

## **LIBRARY**

and state tax forms in the 2006 tax season, up 54% from last year. Branches also noted similar increases as customers turned to their libraries. (These figures do not include forms printed from public computer workstations.)

### ***Download Media***

You can now download audio books and music from your library, thanks to the State Library of Kansas and partners like the Friends of the Wichita Public Library. Browse and search hundreds of great titles, download them to your computer, transfer them to a portable device, or burn to a CD. Get more information at the Wichita Public Library's website, <http://www.wichita.lib.ks.us>.

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## **HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### ***PUBLIC HOUSING***

Public Housing has depleted the waiting lists for five and six bedroom homes, which are located around the City. The application process is open for families who have four or more household members and have low to moderate income. For example, a family of four whose income is less than \$48,950 can move in to Public Housing.

Public Housing is also offering occupancy within 60 days for seniors, age 62 and over, at Greenway Manor and McLean Manor. This is the result of housing all applicants on the current waiting list for one-bedroom apartments in the senior apartment complexes. Both Greenway and McLean Manor have an electronic security door system, low energy bills, live-in building attendant, and resident service coordination. Also included is a program that offers senior companions, housekeeping, and transportation services at little or no cost.

Public Housing is currently taking applications for persons age 50 and over, disabled heads of households and families with four or more household members. Applications can be completed in the Housing and Community Services Building located at 332 N. Riverview (one block west of the downtown Post Office).

## AIRPORT

### ***Courtesy Crew Needs Fun Customer-Oriented People!***

Do you have a college student that needs a flexible job? Maybe a retired mother-in-law looking for something to occupy her time, and interact with fun people? Then tell them about this opportunity! Something new is happening at Mid-Continent Airport and they can be a part of it. Syndeo Staffing is working on behalf of the Airport to hire enthusiastic members for the NEW Mid-Continent Airport Courtesy Crew. The Crew will be made up of 20 new employees that will be responsible for providing passenger information about airport facilities and operations. If you know someone that likes helping people and thrives in a fast-paced job environment, which requires a lot of energy, tell them about this job. Positions are part-time with 4-5 hour shifts with flexible scheduling available. On Monday, May 8, 2006 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. and Tuesday, May 9, 2006 from 2:00-4:00 p.m., Syndeo will be providing more information and accepting applications. Please apply in person at Syndeo Staffing, 7309 E 21<sup>st</sup> N, Ste 140 Wichita, KS 67206.

## FIRE

### ***Grass Fires***

During the extreme dry conditions the Wichita Fire Department was called upon to assist the Hutchinson Fire Department with the large grass fires east of the city. The department sent 3-Engine Companies, 3-Squads and 3 Battalion Chief's for a total of 18 staff members to help fight the fiery blaze.

### ***Church Inspections***

The department continues with the inspection of all Wichita Churches. There are over 500 churches in the city. Over the last 3 months the department has struggled to get them completed because a lot of the churches do not have full time staff on board. It's important to inspect churches because of the high occupancy rate according to Fire Marshal Ed Bricknell.

√ The department has completed Mass Causality Incident Training. This comprehensive training will continue to allow the department to respond and perform skillfully in the event of a major incident in the city.

√ The department will provide Fire and Medical Response standby at major Wichita River Festival events this year. Medical Crews will be patrolling high-density areas in All Terrain Vehicles better known as "Gators".

√ Wichita Fire Department recently completed its 2006 Promotional Testing Process. Approximately 100 firefighters went through a series of testing and assessments to make the eligibility list for promotions. Thirty firefighters made the Captains List and 40 Firefighters made the Lieutenants List. The new promotional list will remain in effect for 2 years.

**Communications Team**

The Communications Team meets monthly to streamline and improve overall departmental communication and compile information for citywide emails, Channel 7 content, employee newsletter, media releases, the monthly report and more. If you want to contribute to future issues, please contact your department representative on the Communications Team.

Airport-Valerie Wise  
City Arts-Charla Sanderson  
CMO-Debbie Aviks  
CMO-Courtney Fleetwood  
CMO-Jessica Johnson  
CMO-Van Williams  
Environmental Health-Roger Smith  
Environmental Services-Mo Terrebonne

Finance-Marge Seger  
Fire-Robert Thompson  
Housing & Community Services-Michelle Rucker  
Human Resources-Deb Dirks  
IT/IS-Mike Mayta  
Law-Kay Hurdle  
Library-Jennifer Heinicke  
Municipal Court-Donte Martin  
OCI-Elaine Hammons

OCI-Deb Legge  
Park & Recreation-Larry Foos  
Planning-Mike Hampel  
Police Department-Janet Johnson  
Public Works-Gail Williams  
Transit-Vallery Fields  
Water & Sewer-Kristi McMinnville  
Water & Sewer-Denise Tipton

