



City Connection

A City Government Newsletter



River Corridor Improvements Extend to Douglas

The next phase of River Corridor improvements will be implemented this summer and fall. The improvements will occur between Second Street and Douglas Avenue along the east bank of the Arkansas River. The \$2.2 million project features new multi-purpose concrete paths, lighting, and ADA-compliant access ramps from Waco and Douglas, along with extensive landscaping and a plaza featuring custom steel and stone column arbors and specialty paving. The project, designed by Law Kingdon Architects, will be similar in style and materials to the improvements completed upstream in recent years.



Rendering of latest River Corridor improvements designed by Law Kingdon Architects.

The project was designed in conjunction with proposed improvements to the Drury – Broadview Hotel that began in April. The owners of the Broadview have transferred ownership of a portion of riverfront property to the City for use in the public improvements.

The City's schedule calls for lowering the level of the river and closing the multi-purpose path to pedestrians immediately following Riverfest to begin construction. It is anticipated the river will remain lowered for three to four months, while the entire project is to be completed by the end of November 2010. Dondlinger & Sons, the City's contractor, and the hotel renovations contractor will both utilize a portion of the public parking lot at Second and Waco, but public parking will remain available at this location.

Gail Williams

In this issue:

Q & A Tim Martz	2
Excellence in Public Service	3
Sustainability Alliance	3
2035 Transportation Plan	4
Exhibits at Art Museum	4
Exhibits at CityArts	5
Happenings at Century II	5
Boeing Wichita's Earth Day	6
Budget Office Awarded Honor	6
For the Record	7
Lord's Diner Volunteers	8
Firefighters Receive Award	8
Firefighter Wins Good Apple	8

City's First Dog Park



Chapin Park, located off MacArthur Road between K-15 and Hydraulic, has been open since before Christmas and was officially dedicated in April.

The park consists of 190 acres including the City's first public dog park. Other amenities include walking trails, mountain bike trails and an area for people to fly radio-controlled aircraft.

The dog park area is split into two sections: a three acre space for small dogs (25 pounds and under) and a seven acre area for large dogs (over 25 pounds). Dogs must be at least five months old and must be with a handler who is 14 or older. Visitors are limited to three dogs. Dogs must be licensed, current on vaccinations and must be leashed when outside the fenced areas.

Each area consists of a double gate system and fencing to keep dogs from escaping. Plastic bags are provided so owners can pick up after their dogs.

Larry Foos

Q & A With Tim Martz



Tim and his wife Cathy reside in Wichita and have three adult children and two grandsons.

Q Explain how the Park system differs now compared to when you first started with the City in 1977.

Of course the size, in terms of acreage and service area, has steadily grown, but what stands out is the equipment to perform the job. I recall digging all tree planting holes with a shovel/pickaxe and removing large tree stumps with a shovel/ two-bit axe, sometimes taking the entire day to remove one stump. We now have great equipment to help us perform the routine tasks of grounds maintenance and tree work in a more efficient way.

Q What is the most interesting work story you can tell?

As a seasonal worker in the forestry section for two summers I had some “eye-popping” encounters with critters, (mother raccoon and babies, squirrels and birds) while high in the trees.

Sharing and hatching the vision of the greening of Wichita through a reforestation program over lunch with City Manager Chris Cherches was memorable and a career changer.

Q Give us a breakdown of your average day.

I don’t think there is an average/normal day in Parks and Recreation, or probably any City of Wichita job as we face new challenges/opportunities each and every workday and that is what keeps it interesting.

Q Tell us about your outside work activities?

Gardening, camping, hiking and exploring new trails, and biking are a few of my favorites. I think I’m addicted to personal fitness as well and need weekly “fixes” of recreation: having a great time at racquet ball, swimming and those machines that get your

heart rate up and cause profuse sweating.

Q How long have you been in trees?

My passion for trees has been a part of me for as long as I can remember, climbing to the very tiptop branches as a young boy, and then going into yard work and private tree work for summer jobs. After graduation I put a great amount of myself into tree production at my private farm and that is very satisfying work, growing sizeable trees from seed or small seedlings.

Q What characteristics does one need to be successful in the field of Park and Recreation?

Inquisitive and attentive about the details of people you work with and serve and about the plants and natural environment that surround you.

Q What CD is playing in your car right now?

Quite a variety in my six CD changer – Hits of 1965, “Fiddler on the Roof” and Christian artist Casting Crowns and Chris Rice.

Q What book are you currently reading?

I’m usually into a couple of books at the same time: “The Big Burn” by Timothy Egan about President Theodore Roosevelt and U.S. Forestry Service Chief Gifford Pinchot and America’s worst inferno; “Humility” by Andrew Murray.

Q If you could attend an historic event, which would you attend and what would you be doing?

I would like to be present during the time of the birth of Jesus Christ, “God with us”. I would be in awe in realizing the significance of this event.

Tim Martz Is the Superintendent of Park and Recreation. Martz has been responsible for grounds maintenance of all city parks, open spaces and city facilities. He is responsible for all public trees in parks and right-of-ways. Martz and his crews have cleaned up after severe storm events (most notably the ice storm of 2005), responded to aggressive tree growth and are responsible for the ongoing care of over 150,000 public trees.

Martz is a native Wichitan. He received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, Horticulture, and Forestry from Kansas State University. He began his career with the City of Wichita Park and Recreation Department in January 1977. His plan is to retire in September, giving him more time for his dedicated passions: the outdoors and his grandkids.

This year, the Sedgwick County Master Gardeners recognized Martz as the recipient of the 2010 Tree Pioneer Award. He belongs to the International Society of Arboriculture, Society of Municipal Arborists, the National Recreation and Park Association and is a member of the Sedgwick County Horticulture Advisory Committee as well as the John C. Pair Kansas State University Horticulture Research Center Advisory Board.

Excellence in Public Service Award Winner

Officer Justin Whyte is the winner of the 2010 City of Wichita Excellence in Public Service award.

This year marks the 22nd year for the Excellence in Public Service Awards, which recognizes City of Wichita, Sedgwick County and Wichita Public School employees who exhibit the highest standard of service.

The 2010 Excellence in Public Service Award winners were announced in separate surprise announcements at their respective jobs. The winners included Officer Whyte; David Dennis, Jr., a teacher at Wichita North High School, and Lunda Paul Asmani, Enterprise Resource Planning Analyst for Sedgwick County.

Winners were selected from thousands of eligible workers from the three public organizations. They share a strong work ethic, exceptional performance and a commitment to community.



(Left to right) Lavonta Williams, Bill Devore, Sue Schlapp, Justin Whyte, Robert Layton and Jim Skelton join Officer Whyte during his surprise at work.

Officer Whyte is a community police officer (CPO) stationed out of Patrol East. A nine-year member of the Wichita Police Department, Whyte has worked diligently to improve the quality of life for residents in his neighborhoods. He worked with residents in Hilltop to implement the Hilltop Summer Activity Camp for youth, which has helped reduce juvenile delinquency by 50 percent each year since its inception. Last year, he volunteered more than 75 hours to ensure the camp was a success. He also volunteers his time at Glenn Park Christian Church, where he teaches Sunday school for adolescents.

He is working on creating a new organization to assist first responders injured or killed in the line of duty. Whyte serves on the Step Stones Advisory Board, the Site Council for Jefferson Elementary School, the Boston Park Advisory Board and the Hilltop Revitalization Steering Committee. Last year he organized volunteers from WPD to help deliver holiday meals to more than 100 needy Wichita families.

Honorees are selected by a nine-member committee comprised of members from the public and private sector. Recipients of the award are surprised at work by their supervisors, colleagues, awards committee members and the media in coordinated visits. The awards are sponsored by the DeVore Foundation, which will present each recipient a \$2,500 check at a reception on May 20 at The Cowtown Visitors Center.

Linsey Sipult

Sustainability Alliance Kick-Off

Visioneering Wichita's Environmental Sustainability Alliance met for the first time on March 4. There were 60 attendees, representing all sectors of the community. The session was led by Council Member Janet Miller and Council Members Jeff Longwell and Lavonta Williams also participated. Wichita's Transit, Planning and Public Works departments were represented, along with Sedgwick County and the City of Newton. A professional facilitator helped to begin establishing the group's goals, plans and activities.

The initial concept is to develop a comprehensive Wichita metropolitan statistical area plan. The City of Wichita can then develop its own commitments to the regional plan. Oklahoma City, Tulsa, Johnson County (Kansas), and Kansas City, Mo., have sustainability plans already on their web sites.

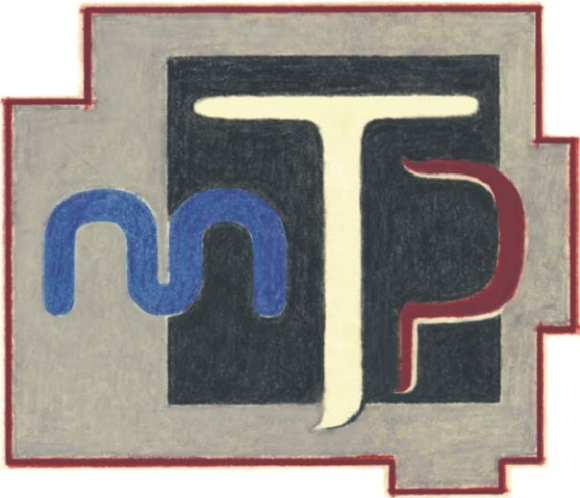
Communities typically develop plans for sustainability that address at least six primary areas: transportation, energy/air, water, buildings, food and waste. The Alliance will also encourage organizations, other agencies and businesses to develop plans and implement actions based on the regional plan. Development of a regional plan could be funded through a HUD/EPA/DOE Grant.

Gail Williams

2035 Transportation Plan Upcoming

The Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (WAMPO) is in the final development phase of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) 2035. This is an update of the current Long-Range Transportation Plan which expires in August 2010. This strategic plan outlines action steps and projects to provide a quality transportation system for the region through 2035. The region includes all of Sedgwick County, a small segment of western Butler County that includes Andover and the northern tip of Sumner County that includes Mulvane.

Do you drive, take the bus, or walk to get to where you need to go? No matter what form of transportation you use, there may be a project in the MTP 2035 to keep you moving. The MTP 2035 will enable local agencies to use federal funding for regionally significant transportation projects. Without an adopted plan, the region would lose millions of federal dollars that could be used to improve the efficiency, safety and operations of the region's transportation system.



The Metropolitan Transportation Plan logo.

A variety of transportation projects have been selected for the MTP's *Funding Eligible List*. This list includes projects for roads, bridges, transit, bicycle/pedestrian, railroad and others.

Below are a couple of opportunities for the general public to learn more about the MTP 2035 and provide input. Other public sessions are posted on WAMPO's website at www.wampoks.org.

9:30 a.m. on May 25, Wichita City Hall, 1st floor Board Room
9 a.m. on May 26, Sedgwick County Commission Meeting Room, 525 N. Main St.

Mike Hampel

Exhibits at the Wichita Art Museum

Mingled Visions: Selections from Edward S. Curtis's *The North American Indian* through June 27

The exhibition *Mingled Visions* showcases the everyday lives of Native Americans at the turn of the century. The exhibition of 40 photogravures presents a small portion of photographer Edward S. Curtis's North American Indian collection. The images include Native American warriors, tribal medicine men and Native American princesses.

American Chronicles: The Art of Norman Rockwell through May 30

American Chronicles showcases American culture through the eyes of Norman Rockwell with more than forty-two original paintings, drawings and other important objects from his lifelong career in art. Rockwell created images of the lives, hopes and dreams of Americans in the 20th century. Thanks to the Friends of WAM, the Museum is proud to host the works of one of the country's best known artists.

William Blake's Illustrations from the *Book of Job* through August 29

This set of illustrated engravings was created by artist William Blake, who was also a well known poet, painter, and engraver from the 19th century. The *Book of Job* contains twenty-one engravings illustrating the biblical story of Job. The engravings are regarded as Blake's finest work in the medium.



(Picture to the right—Edward S. Curtis, Bear Bull – Blackfoot, Plate 640, 1926. Photogravure on Dutch Van Gelder paper. Collection of Dubuque Museum of Art, Dubuque, Iowa. Gift of Dubuque Cultural Preservation Committee, an Iowa general partnership, consisting of Dr. Darryl K. Mozena, Jeffrey P Mozena, Mark Falb, Timothy J. Conlon, and Dr. Randy Lengeling. Wichita venue is made possible in part by the S. M. & Laura H. Brown Charitable Trust and the Friends of the Wichita Art Museum Endowment.)

Crystal Walter

Exhibits at CityArts



Unique ceramic piece created by CityArts student Angie Hutchinson

On display in CityArts' second floor **Boardroom Gallery** are pieces by CityArts' own ceramics students, created under the direction of qualified instructors and coordinator Buzz Johnson. You'll be amazed at the students' ability to take plates, bowls and vases and turn them into masterpieces worthy of display. Ceramics is just one of the classes offered by CityArts year-round. Remember, you don't have to be a professional artist to take one of CityArts' adult or youth classes. To find out more about class schedules, call 462-2787. CityArts is located at 334 N. Mead, right next to the Old Town Warren Theater.

Main Gallery: "Cinque Terre – The Five Lands of Italy," watercolors by Rita Zaudke

Hallway Gallery: "Around the Colors Turn," paintings by Zac Caswell

Balcony Gallery: "Ode to Jim McNiece," black and white photographs by Dale Strattman

Summer Youth Art Classes

Registration is going on now for youth art classes that begin the week of June 7 and extend through August. Kids will have fun being creative with paints, cameras and so much more. Youth classes can be taken in all-day or half-day blocks. To find out more, call 462-2787 or go to wichita.gov, click on "Arts & Culture" and then "WichitaArts."

Angela Cato

Happenings at Century II

Tickets for the following events at Century II Performing Arts & Convention Center can be purchased through WichitaTIX at 219-4TIX (4849) or online at www.wichitaTIX.com (except where noted)!

"Showcase Extravaganza", presented by Raeann's Fancy Footwork Dance & Gymnastics, at 1 p.m. on May 1 in Concert Hall.

Miss Teen Kansas-World, Junior Miss Kansas-World, Miss Kansas US, and Mrs. Kansas US Pageants, presented by Aspire LLC, at 7 p.m. on May 1 in Mary Jane Teall Theater.

POPS: A Tribute to Benny Goodman with the Dave Bennett Sextet, presented by Wichita Symphony Orchestra, at 8 p.m. on May 1 in Convention Hall. For tickets, call 267-7658.

2010 National Day of Prayer, hosted by Lifepoint Church, at 7 p.m. on May 6 in Convention Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

51st Annual Art, Book & Craft Fair, presented by Friends of the Wichita Art Museum, from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on May 8 and 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on May 9 in Exhibition Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

YouNique Women's Expo & Gift Market, presented by Montage Festivals, from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on May 8 and 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. on May 9 in Convention Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

Society of Decorative Painter's Expo from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on May 20 and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on May 21 in Expo Hall.

Wichita Theatre Organ Performance, at 7 p.m. on May 22 in Exhibition Hall. For tickets, call 838-3127.

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

Jacob House



The Dave Bennett Sextet

Boeing Wichita's Earth Day

4,000 Students Expected to Plant Flowers in Re-Use Demonstration

In April, 30 Water Utilities staff members participated in the 14th Annual Boeing Wichita's Earth Day Kansas event at the Sedgwick County Zoo. The annual event brought an estimated 10,000 grade school students from around the Wichita area to the zoo to raise awareness of environmental issues, encourage life-long environmentally sound habits, and promote the event's "Re-Use, Reduce, Recycle" slogan. Water Utilities staff each volunteer a half day to the event, and many have taken part in the event for more than 10 years.

The Water Utilities booth has become a very popular stop at the Earth Day event. Visitors to the demonstration were helped by volunteer staff members to plant small flowers or vegetables in bio-solids material to demonstrate some of the re-use and recycling practices used in sewage treatment. Water Utilities staff described the process to the students, eliciting more than a few surprised looks and shrieks of laughter from students astonished to find that the "dirt" they were using to plant their flowers was taken from the sewer. The bio-solids material is a byproduct of the sewage treatment process. It is extracted from the sanitary sewage flow, dewatered and air-dried, then stored for use as a biologically safe organic fertilizer. Water Utilities contracts with several area farmers who use the material on their fields.

Water Utilities also provided both of the agency's Water Wagons in support of the Earth Day event. The Water Wagons are specially constructed trailers that supply chilled water for outdoor events. The wagons are especially popular this time of year for the many school field day events taking place.

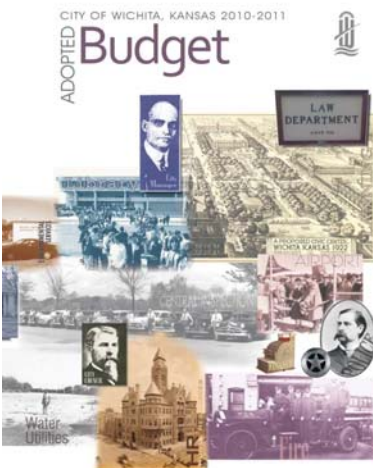
Boeing Wichita has partnered with the Sedgwick County Zoo to promote and organize the Earth Day Kansas event since 1996. This year's event featured more than 40 exhibitors demonstrating the latest techniques and technology in conservation, recycling, and environmental awareness. The plants used in the Water Utilities booth are donated by Neosho Gardens greenhouse, the cups are provided by McDonald's and the students take them home as a souvenir of their Earth Day experience.

Kurtis Jacobs



Water Utilities volunteers assist students plant flowers in the bio-solids recycling demonstration.

Budget Office Awarded Top Honor



The Governmental Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has recognized the City of Wichita's Budget Office with the Distinguished Budget Award. This marks the 22nd consecutive year that the City of Wichita has received this award. There are more than 35,000 cities in the US. Wichita is one of only around 800 cities recognized by GFOA.

This award is important because it signifies that the City budget document is created based on the highest professional standards. As the Council annually discusses the budget, and as citizens actively engage in the budget process, they can be assured that the budget is proficient as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide and as a communication device.

The annual budget process is a team effort involving many staff throughout the City. Preparing the actual document is the responsibility of six staff in the Budget and Research Office under the supervision of Director of Finance Kelly Carpenter: Mark L. Manning, Trinh Bui, Ben Nelson, Elizabeth Goltry, Branden Hall and Troy Tillotson.

Mark Manning

<u>Retirees</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Yrs. Of Service</u>
Michael L. Rudd	Fire	40 yrs. 06 mo.
Thomas B. Smith	Finance	35 yrs. 00 mo.
Janice K. Briggs	Finance	31 yrs. 06 mo.
Mona Webb	Fire	30 yrs. 03 mo.
Daniel F. Boone	Police	28 yrs. 08 mo.
Joe S. Lotson	Housing	18 yrs. 00 mo.

<u>Retiree Deaths</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Boyd Decker	Comm. Facilities	02/11/2010
Betty M. Gardner	Water	03/12/2010
Ralph M. Roths	Public Works	03/19/2010
Stephen R. Sharpe	Human Resources	03/19/2010
Ruby M. Eubanks	Planning	03.30.2010

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

<u>April</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Christopher Cousins	10 years	Env. Services
Jaime M. Prothro	10 years	Library
Kien M. Chan	10 years	IT
Corey A. Krier	10 years	Park
John V. Krell	10 years	Park
Clifford Thomas, Jr.	10 years	IT
Gregory D. Allen	10 years	Park
Jimmy W. Scogin	10 years	Water Utilities

<u>April</u>	<u>25 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
David A. McGuire	25 years	Park
Michael E. Cook	25 years	Airport
David L. Hollis, Jr.	25 years	Public Works

<u>April</u>	<u>30 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Kimberly A. Dockery	30 years	Water
Michael D. Corns	30 years	Fire
Michael J. Grider	30 years	Water
Gregory R. Shearer	30 years	Public Works

Employee Recognition

Dellen Fletcher, a Secretary in the Prosecutor's Office, has been recognized by Human Resources for streamlining and simplifying the Certified Driving Records (CDR) process. A project that once took two to three days now takes 45 minutes or less.



Gary Rebenstorf and Dellen Fletcher

Originally, the CDRs were physically stored in a back file room for each Prosecutor to pull for their trial dockets. This was cumbersome, unorganized and took time away from the Prosecutors preparing for trial. In the past, Fletcher would lay the CDR's out by date, open each docket separately though Crystal Reports (there are four) and make a list of all defendants who were missing. She would then look them up through E-Justice, input the information in the database she created, print them out and mail the documents to Topeka to be ordered on the first Friday of the month when no court was held. If the CDR had not been ordered or could not be located, the case would be continued causing a backlog in the system.

Fletcher planned a new method of gathering and ordering CDRs using existing technology. Her new Crystal Report allowed her to pull up all the information in one report. She then took the information and placed it in a database she created and the information is ready to be printed, mailed and sent to Topeka. This new process takes minutes and allows the Prosecutors easy access to pull the information they need.

Master Municipal Clerk



City Clerk Karen Sublett has received the designation of Master Municipal Clerk.

The Master Municipal Clerk is a continuing education program through the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). It prepares participants for complex municipal duties. The program has a rigorous educational component,

a professional and social contribution component and a commitment to lifelong learning. Members must demonstrate that they have actively pursued educational and professional activities. Few municipal clerks reach this level of continued education and professional growth. Out of more than 10,000 IIMC members, only 929 are qualified as Master Municipal Clerks worldwide and only 28 in the state of Kansas.

Stress Management Dog on Duty in HR



A new "employee" in Human Resources (HR) is Jodie, the retired arson dog, who continues to report to duty serving as a stress reducer for employees. Whenever people come into HR and see Jodie, they can't help but smile.

"We may be the only HR Department in the Nation with a Stress Management Dog for our employees," said Susan Leiker, Senior HR Specialist.

"Jodie is used to working and she missed that routine. Coming to work one day a week seems to fill a void and provides her an opportunity to continue to serve", said Crisp.

Employees are welcome to stop by the 2nd floor HR office and say hello (woof woof) to Jodie.

Lord's Diner Appreciates City Volunteers



City employees volunteering at the Lord's Diner in April.

City of Wichita employees have been volunteering at the Lord's Diner on a monthly basis since the Diner opened in February 2002, doing everything from serving food to washing dishes and mopping floors. In 2009, City staff donated 562 hours of personal time, valued by the Diner at \$5,700. Volunteers have to maintain a current food handler's license, and must be available to work at the Diner on the second Wednesday of the month. The following City employees volunteered in 2009:

Amy Belcher; Gary Blessant, Loretta Buckner, Margaret Daniels, Marlys Duchinsky, Janis Edwards, Mark Elder, Cliff Fanning, Vicky Forbes, Kelli Glassman, Steve King, Lesa Lank, Mike Mayta, Ben Nelson, Beth Prentice, Wayne Riddle, Shirley Rogers, Sean Seamster, Kurt Schroeder, Michelle Stroot, Gail Williams, Kathy Wilson, Ken Witzell and Danny Yoger

New volunteers are always welcome. Contact Shirley Rogers (Public Works Engineering) at 268-4601.

Gail Williams

Firefighters Receive Award

Firefighters from Stations 11, 15 and 20 recently were awarded the Fire Department's Unit Citation Award for their meritorious actions performed at a reported apartment fire with a person trapped.



Chief Blackwell (left) and City Manager Layton (right) with honored firefighters.

Fire crews used forcible entry to gain access to the burning apartment and began search and rescue efforts. An adult male was found in a rear bedroom. The unconscious occupant was removed from the apartment fire so firefighters could initiate Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). As a result of the CPR efforts while en-route to the hospital emergency room the occupant regained a detectable pulse. Fire Chief Ron Blackwell and City Manager Robert Layton made the award presentations.

Bob Thompson

Firefighter Receives Good Apple Award



The Wichita School District awarded Lt. Tim Deneen with the Good Apple Award. The award recognizes employees, volunteers and school partners who go the extra step in helping the school district and students succeed.

Lt. Deneen was recognized for his work at Heights High School, where he has served as president of the booster club, the prom committee and the school's site council. Congratulations, Lt. Deneen for being a positive role model in the lives of young adults.

Bob Thompson

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; Kurtis Jacobs-Water; Denise Klug-IT/IS; Deb Legge-OCI; Lauragail Locke-CMO; Donte Martin-M.C.; Michelle Rucker-Housing; Marge Seger-Finance; Bob Thompson-Fire; Crystal Walter-Art Museum; Gail Williams-P.W.; Van Williams-CMO; Valerie Wise-Airport