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Tanker Protest Prevails

The City of Wichita celebrated a major victory in June regarding the contract for a new Air Force aerial tanker.

The Government Accountability Office stunned the political world when it recommended re-bidding the multi-billion-dollar contract.

The Wichita City Council had passed a protest resolution in March, joining our Congressional delegation in questioning why Boeing had not been chosen for the contract. The Council resolution spurred others to similar action, including the Sedgwick County Commission, REAP, the State Legislature, the League of Kansas Municipalities and other interested parties.

On June 20, the Congressional delegation of U.S. Rep. Todd Tiahrt and Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback joined a throng of Boeing workers at the Boeing IDS facility on South Oliver to celebrate the GAO announcement.



(R to L) Vice Mayor Sue Schlapp, U.S. Rep. Todd Tiahrt and Sedgwick County Commissioner Chair Tom Winters

-Dale Goter

Salerno, Next Wichita City Manager

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Patrick Salerno is Wichita's next City Manager. The Wichita City Council approved his contract in a unanimous vote earlier in June. Salerno, who served as the City Manager of Sunrise, Fla., the past 18 years, will start his job with the City of Wichita on July 14.

Mayor Carl Brewer and other City officials provided details of Salerno's contract during a news conference at City Hall. Brewer was joined by Vice Mayor Sue Schlapp, City Council members, interim City Manager Ed Flentje, City Attorney Gary Rebenstorf and businessman Steve Martens, who headed a 17-member Citizens Committee that screened 30 candidates.

"We're pleased that Pat Salerno has accepted the City's top administrative job," Brewer said. "He has the experience, expertise and record of success to help take our city to an even higher level."

Brewer emphasized Salerno's depth of experience and accomplishments in economic development, urban planning and efforts to fight blight in aging neighborhoods in Sunrise.

Salerno served as city manager of Sunrise, Fla., from 1990 to 2008. He holds a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma.

The City Manager reports to the seven-member Council, oversees 3,100 employees, a \$500 million annual budget and a \$2.4 billion Capital Improvement Program.

- Van Williams



Transforming Wichita Together

Q & A With Joe Pajor



Joe Pajor is the Assistant Director of Public Works. He started with the City in 1977 as an Energy Resources Systems Analyst during the energy crisis of that time. Pajor

left the City for a few years and in 1979 came back to the same position. Since then, he has worked in housing rehabilitation, housing finance, industrial and economic development.

Pajor obtained his bachelor of arts in physics (with a minor in mathematics), from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, in 1975. He received his masters of science in physics from Wichita State University in 1977.

In his "spare time," Pajor is an Amateur Radio Operator (KBOKFH), and also enjoys sailing, hiking, reading, and history. He is active in his church serving as sound system operator, facility security and youth education assignments.

Pajor was born and raised on the southwest side of Chicago, came to Kansas to go to college, and has lived here ever since. Pajor is married and has two adult daughters and twin grandsons born in 2007.

Q You are involved in many public service activities. What is the reward of volunteering and working with non-profits?

Helping others is the common thread to anyone's volunteering. There are many good causes out there, but you need to find a good fit for yourself. I currently volunteer for the Red Cross. The Red Cross is the only organization that I know of that asks for your time, money and blood. But they put these resources to work helping people to prepare for and respond to disasters both personal and natural, both locally and around the world. If you have a house fire, need to learn to swim or CPR, need to contact a family member in the

armed forces, need a ride to the doctor, or are stranded by a snow storm, they will respond.

Q You have been the Assistant Director of Public Works for 13 months. Tell us a little about your job.

As Assistant Director of Public Works, I share responsibility for leadership of the largest civilian department in the City. The department's 480 members provide for the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of streets, bridges, storm water utility, public buildings, and fleets (fire, police, utilities, and maintenance). There is tremendous diversity within our mission and I thoroughly enjoy the variety.

I am most proud of our staff when they are faced with a disaster or a truly perplexing problem to solve. It is an honor to be part of a team that responded to the tornado in Greensburg and the ice storm in Hutchinson, and the electrical fire at City Hall and those are just some of the highlights of the last year.

Q Energy and the environment are two major issues facing city government. What challenges do you think lie ahead for the City?

I have been involved with energy and environmental issues for the last thirty years. My first energy project was as a graduate student where I studied innovative ways to manufacture superconductor cable and, during the summer, I worked on a team that designed and built an electric car. Now three decades later, these issues are still being addressed. Today, climate change and carbon footprint are the buzz words, but in the end we must all work to conserve resources and further develop alternatives. We have already purchased flex-fuel vans for our trip car fleet and will take delivery of our first eight hybrid sedans later this summer. We are also investigating the purchase of hybrid heavy trucks.

Q You are known for your dry sense of humor. How important is humor in the workplace?

Every day we all face challenges and problems large and small. Addressing

almost all of them is easier with a good sense of humor. For me, it is almost always the first step in looking at a problem differently and that often leads to finding innovative solutions.

Q You are the moderator for The Great Brain Drain. How important are activities like this for employees?

We all need "human time." We come together to accomplish important missions, but we do it as individuals interacting with each other. When we take a little time to build these relationships we enhance our ability to work together more effectively. The Brain Drain is an opportunity to prove what Will Rogers said, "We are all dumb, just in different areas."

Q Some people confuse you with Chief Deputy City Attorney Joe Lang. Have you ever used that to your advantage?

On the advice of Counsel, "No comment." Actually, Joe Lang is older than me, so he enjoys it best if people make the mistake. It is handy that when we work together on projects, as we often do, people just refer to us as "the Joes" and they let us sort out the who is who.

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

I would choose to be on the deck of the USS Missouri on the morning of Sept. 2, 1945. That is, of course, the day that the imperial forces of the empire of Japan surrendered unconditionally to the Allied Forces represented by Supreme Allied Commander, General Douglas A. MacArthur ending World War II. In the early 1960s, my family took a vacation from our home in Chicago to Seattle where the Mighty Mo was in mothballs. When I saw the plaque marking the spot on the deck, I realized (for the first time that I can recall) that many important events of history form the way the world is today. It would have been an honor to be there with those members of the Greatest Generation.

Fireworks Safety Tips

The July 4th Independence Day holiday is fast approaching. As in years past, the Wichita Fire Department is preparing for the worst and hoping for the best. In 2007, fire loss was down 100%, fireworks related injuries down by 68% and fireworks complaints up 68%. Even though fire loss and fireworks related injuries have taken a downward turn, residents should still regard safety as an important part of holiday celebrations.

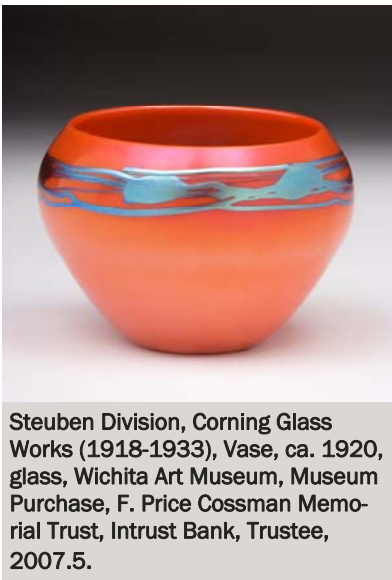
"Fireworks related injuries have fallen," Fire Chief Ronald D. Blackwell said, "but parental involvement and mature behavior are important when using fireworks."

Fireworks purchased in Wichita are legal to use in Wichita. Independence Day is a time for celebration. The Wichita Fire Department wishes you a safe and fun filled holiday. Following are safety tips: read and follow label instructions; have a source of water handy in case of a fire; light only one firework at a time; never give fireworks to small children; do not build your own fireworks; never point a firework at another person; place fireworks on solid, level ground; do not mount Bottle Rockets and skyrockets on a stick or wire; do not shoot a firework on or under a vehicle or on any public roadway and keep your pets away from fireworks.



Illegal fireworks

Art Museum Featured on Antiques Roadshow



Steuben Division, Corning Glass Works (1918-1933), Vase, ca. 1920, glass, Wichita Art Museum, Museum Purchase, F. Price Cossman Memorial Trust, Intrust Bank, Trustee, 2007.5.

The hit PBS series, *Antiques Roadshow*, will pay a special visit to the Wichita Art Museum (WAM) on Saturday, July 12. During its stop in Wichita, the series will visit WAM to discuss the museum's recently acquired Carder-era colored Steuben glass.

"We're very excited that appraisers from the *Roadshow* will be taking the time to feature our collection," says Executive Director Charles K. Steiner. "We're very proud of our works and now the entire country will be exposed to what we have to offer, right here in Wichita, Kansas."

The appraiser will discuss the collection in the "featured works" portion of the show. Chief Curator Stephen Gleissner says he's honored the new acquisition will be publicized in the program.

"Being featured on *Antiques Roadshow* is a sign of the national attention that our Steuben collection is receiving," says Gleissner.

The Wichita Art Museum has the second largest museum collection of Steuben glass in the country. The collection boasts close to 100 works, ranking second only behind the Corning Museum in Corning, NY.

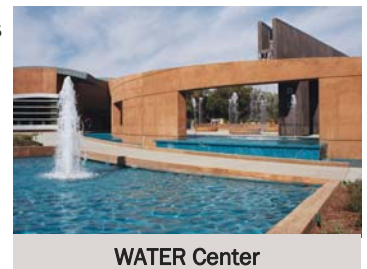
- Crystal Walter

City Clerks Meet at the WATER Center

The WATER Center was the site for the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association (CCMFOA) Region 5 Quarterly Meeting, hosted by City Clerk Karen Sublett and her staff, Janis Edwards and Deborah Tadlock. Attending were Region 5 Clerks from Derby, Arkansas City, Colwich, Hutchinson and Nickerson. Mayor Carl Brewer opened the event with an official welcome. The morning session featured Drew Bessey, Animal Shelter Supervisor. He and the clerks discussed common issues such as licensing, spaying and neutering, officer training, pit bulls and Wichita's "dangerous dog" ordinance. After lunch, Environmental Services Director Kay Johnson explained the purpose of the WATER Center and gave a guided tour of the facility and the groundwater treatment center. Also included in the tour was the huge aquarium and a walk down meandering paths to the river. Accompanying the group were some of the Center's resident ducks and geese, a few of whom were indignant about the tour and others who tagged along hoping for a handout.

Clerks who attended will receive continuing education points (CEU's) towards their clerk's certification (CMC) or their master accreditation (MMC). Karen Sublett and staff are proud to have hosted Region 5's second quarterly meeting.

-Deborah Tadlock



WATER Center

Water Rates Receive National Recognition

The City of Wichita may rank 50th on the U.S. Census Bureau's list of most populated cities, but its low water utilities rates continue to put it in the top 10 in the nation. According to a recent survey released by Black & Veatch, Wichita's water/sewer customers consistently pay less than their counterparts in most areas of the country.

"Wichita's favorable rankings are directly tied to the city's understanding that a competitive price of water utilities plays a very important role in attracting residents and businesses," said Director of Utilities, David Warren. "The Wichita City Council combines an emphasis on quality with sound business principles to guide the Water Utilities operation."

Black & Veatch, a global engineering, consulting and construction company, contacted each of the top 50 populated cities to compile the survey, which is broken down into four monthly water usage levels: 7,500 gallons, 15,000 gallons, 100,000 gallons and 10 million gallons. In the 7,500-gallon category, Wichita ranked sixth in the country, ahead of such municipalities as Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Nashville and Colorado Springs. In fact, the difference between Wichita's rates and those of the No. 1 finisher, Memphis, was less than \$13. On the other end of the scale, Wichita's rates were nearly \$80 less than No. 50 Seattle.

In the next category, 15,000 gallons, Wichita ranked 10th least expensive. According to the Wichita Water Utilities department, the average citizen uses 7,500 gallons of water per month if he/she lives in a home with a family of four in the winter months when lawn irrigation isn't a factor. The larger amount of 15,000 gallons applies to the same family during summer months when usage is higher due to lawn irrigation and swimming pools.

The Black & Veatch 2007 Water/Wastewater Rate Survey is posted in its entirety online at www.wichita.gov.

-Angela Cato

Park Department Events

"OK Kids Day"

Youth can receive free instruction regarding fishing, archery and water safety, as well as enjoy miniature golf, volleyball, soccer kick, moon walks and train rides from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 28, during "O.K. Kids Day" at Watson Park, 3022 S. McLean Boulevard.

The City of Wichita's Park & Recreation Department is hosting the event for children 5 to 12 years old. The fishing clinics will be a highlight. Fishing poles and bait are provided for those interested in the clinics, so participants should arrive early to register. A limited number of free T-shirts and hot dogs are also available.



Archery at Watson Park

Competitive Swim Team

Enrollment for swim teams at all 11 city pools is available for ages 5-17. The fee is \$50 for the entire summer! The program is geared towards the beginner swimmer and is recreational in nature. Practices will be held Monday-Friday for eight weeks from noon to 1 p.m. Three swim meets will be held throughout the summer at different city pools. The meet dates are July 2 at Orchard, July 16 at Linwood and July 30 at McAdams (Championship Meet).

-Larry Foos



Neighborhood Pride Campaign

A Neighborhood Pride Campaign has been launched by the City of Wichita's Stop Blight Action Response Team (START), another example of the collaboration encouraged through the Transforming Wichita Initiative (TW).

Two residences in the START boundaries of 13th to 17th and Grove to Poplar will be selected each month and recognized for their demonstration of neighborhood pride. The residents will be acknowledged by District I Council Member Lavonta Williams at the monthly District Advisory Board (DAB) meeting. The DAB meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month at the Atwater Neighborhood City Hall, 2755 E. 19th. A City of Wichita sign congratulating the selected residences will be posted on their property during the month following their selection.



June Neighborhood Pride Winner

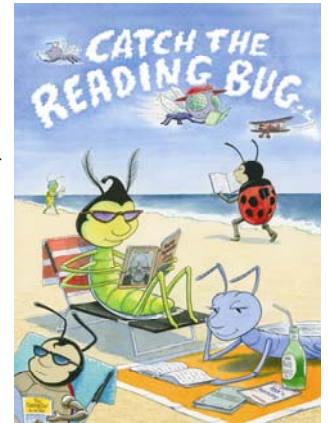
Properties selected for the award must: 1) Maintain the curb appeal and aesthetic appearance of their property; 2) Home is in good condition (paint, siding, guttering etc.); 3) Yard is well kept and maintained; 4) Ground and structure steps are safe; 5) No trash or debris on premises, and 6) City neighborhood codes are met.

- LaShonda Porter

What's Happening at the Library

Summer Reading Club in Full Swing

The Library registered 5,238 youth in its free summer reading programs in its first week, and there's still time to register kids and teens in what's on track to be another record-breaking summer. Register now through July 24 at any Wichita Public Library location for the Summer Reading Club (Catch the Reading Bug), open to kids and teens up to age 17. Participants set their own reading goals and may count any book, newspaper or magazine they read themselves or to someone else, and any book someone reads to them. Prizes for reaching participants' goals will be handed out from July 1 to July 31. Teens aged 12-17 or students entering grades 6-12 may join the Teens Read program (Metamorphosis) instead. The more teens read, the more chances they have to win. For complete details on these programs and summer events, see www.wichita.lib.ks.us.



Library Master Plan Update

The City has agreed to purchase land for the future site of the new Central Library. The site is located at Second Street and McLean and is the former location of the Watkins Steel plant. The site was preferred by the Library Board because of the visible location, convenience to all areas of downtown, easy to access and close to the museum corridor. The \$30 million Library plan adopted by the Board was approved by the City Council two years ago. "We're happy we're moving forward with it," said Board President Rodger Woods. "Now that the site has been approved," Woods continued, "the process for us will be to start to develop community input of exactly what we want as a city in our downtown library." The master plan calls for a 130,000 square-foot central library with extra space for parking. The library is expected to open in 2012.

-Jessica Farrow

Rockwell Survives Drive-In Customer

Library customers and staff were surprised to have a customer drive through one of the windows of the Rockwell branch on June 12. With quick thinking from the staff, emergency personnel were promptly dispatched. A building inspector was required to ensure the structural integrity of the building. Luckily, the customer hit the window and not the building itself. Unluckily, although the building structure is fine, the media collection and shelving received damage and the carpet will need to be replaced because of the considerable amount of glass that fell into it. The Public Works Department was called in to board the window (which they ended up doing during a tornado warning!). Special thanks to Jaime Prothro, Rex Cornelius, Nhat Nguyen, Amy Ramsey and Julie Nash for their "get 'r done" attitudes to remove the debris and restore some order to the inside of the library when there were no other crews to do it. Thanks to all of the other members of the Rockwell staff on duty Thursday afternoon and evening and who helped to keep the branch operating for customers with as little disruption as the chaos allowed.

-Cynthia Berner Harris



Damage at Rockwell Library

City employees recently completed 15 hours of conflict mediation training provided by Naomi Peterson of the Mediation Center of Wichita. Other employees who attended the same training last spring received six hours of continuing education and had an opportunity to refresh their skills.

All 26 of these individuals were specifically selected by their department directors to learn skills to enable them to perform conflict resolution through peer mediation in a program developed and coordinated by Human Resources (HR). In exchange for the training, the participants agreed to be available to assist in resolving a variety of employee concerns.

HR created the Employee Relationship Improvement Program (ERIP) last year. It responds to employee conflicts in an effective manner by bringing the parties together with two neutral mediators to facilitate the resolution of the conflict.

"HR hopes to be able to respond to employee complaints and concerns in a more efficient manner by getting to the core issues that impact the workplace, which usually involve communication," Susan Leiker, program coordinator said. In addition, the individuals will use this training in many aspects of their lives, both personal and professional.

Employees who wish to utilize the program should contact HR for more information. Both parties must volunteer to participate in the program. The mediation sessions are confidential.

-Susan Leiker



Brad Crisp and Jodi, first canine mediator in Wichita.

Environmental Services Says, “Thank You”

On June 18, Kay Johnson, Director of Environmental Services, presented certificates of appreciation to citizens of the community and city employees for assisting Environmental Services. The citizens and employees gave their time, money and skills to assist Environmental Services.

“We wanted to say thanks to these hard-working individuals,” Johnson said. This is the first certificate of appreciation ceremony conducted by Environmental Services this year. More ceremonies are scheduled for the future.

Pictured from left to right; Ellen Querner, Rebecca Fields, Sharon Dickgrafe, Jennifer Nordyke, Kay Johnson, Toni Fairbanks, Linda Constable, Debbie Aviks, Susan Hale, Bob Wine and Matthew Olsen. Not pictured: James Roseboro and Bob Medina.



- Lisa Hilyard

Red, White and You Blood Drive



The Fourth of July holiday is traditionally one of the most difficult times of year for the Red Cross blood centers. In an effort to combat the predicted decrease in donations, the Red Cross is hosting the Red, White and You blood drive at the Sedgwick County Zoo over the Fourth of July weekend.

Blood donation is an easy way to help Americans, and everyone who comes in to donate will have a chance to be part of the patriotic festivities by visiting with men and women serving in our Armed Forces. They also will receive a \$2 entry to the Sedgwick County Zoo and watch movies in the zoo theater. Other incentives include Kids Korner – Buddy Blood Drop mascot appearances and drawings for an American flag, a flat screen television and various other prizes.

Visit www.givelife.org or call 1-800-GIVE LIFE or 268-0835 to make an appointment to donate blood. This blood drive will be held at the Sedgwick County Zoo Education Building and will operate: noon–5 p.m. on Thursday, July 3; 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday, July 4; and 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday, July 5.

-Joe Pajor

July at CityArts

July Exhibits: 6/27/08-7/23/08

Main Gallery

“Outsider Artists” Pieces from artists who work outside the mainstream art scene and are mostly self taught.

Hallway Gallery

Ginger Tarrer, a Wichita artist who works with mixed media and discarded items.

Balcony Gallery

“Revenge of Sons of Bits”, a wall of small works of art, 5x7 before framed. All of the work is for sale.

Second Floor Conference Room

Paul Wingo, a CityArts instructor featuring works in watercolor, oil, acrylic and charcoal drawings.

CityArts Annual Art Garage Sale

9 a.m. -2 p.m. Saturday, July 12. Artists and collectors set up booths to sell art works, supplies, books, etc. Booths are available for \$10. Preregistration is required by contacting Tabitha Bean at CityArts; tbean@wichita.gov or 462-2787 ext. 719.

Grand Reopening of Mid-America All-Indian Center Museum

The Board of Trustees and the City of Wichita are pleased to announce the reopening of the Mid-America All-Indian Center Museum on Friday, June 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. The museum has been closed for renovations since January of this year. The \$700,000 worth of renovations includes environmental heating and air conditioning systems and improved security as well as the remodeling. These renovations will allow MAAIC to pursue accreditation by the American Association of Museums. The Grand Reopening event is taking place on Final Friday and will incorporate artwork included in the original dedication as well as artifacts from the existing collection. The event is free and open to the public.



“Untitled” by Blackbear Bosin from the collection of the Mid-America All-Indian Center Museum

-Tabitha Meyer

Retirees	Dept.	Yrs. Of Service
Gary M. Fisher	Fire	37 yrs. 05 mo.
Scott W. Hayes	Police	30 yrs. 00 mo.
Kenneth A. Richey	Public Works	30 yrs. 00 mo.
Willard Lee, Jr.	Water Utilities	27 yrs. 11 mo.
Susan Circle	Finance	13 yrs. 03 mo.
Richard E. Sorell	Park	11 yrs. 09 mo.

Retiree Deaths	Dept.	Date of Death
Jo E. Huxtable, widow of Lew Huxtable	Fire	05/05/2008
Teddy G. Leake	Fire	05/05/2008
Edward J. Rogers, Jr.	Water	05/09/2008
Robert B. Feldner	OCI	05/10/2008
Annetta R. Brodbeck, widow of John Brodbeck	Fire	05/13/2008
Ann K. Davis	Human Services	06/01/2008

Congratulations to these employees who have reached 10 or 25 year career milestones with the City. Contact Carolyn Bowen in Human Relations if you have questions regarding the Career Award Program.

JUNE			
10 Years			
Carol McMillan	Finance	Anthony Koch	Env. Services
Heather Frazier	Police	Rhonda Wash	Police
Jarrold Menges	Fire	Erik Landon	Police
Anthony Klumpp	Police	Joshua Lewis	Police
Gary Hardesty	Police	Elsie Neumann	Park
Grayson Hooper	Police	Travis Easter	Police
Eric Poe	Police	Kenneth Davis	Police
Kenton Connor	Police	Shelia Alford	Police
David Goupil	Water		
25 Years			
Arden Busby	Water	Shirley Bush	Public Works

Familiar Faces/Different Places

Terry Feaster is the new Water Utilities Senior Management Analyst. Terry has been a member of the Finance team as Cash Manager since she began her career with the City in June 1997. Before coming to the City, Feaster was an assistant controller and a controller at several local businesses. She is an accounting graduate of Wichita State University.



Terry Feaster



Becky Johnston

Becky Johnston has been promoted to Cash Manager in the Treasurer's Office, effective June 16. Becky has served as the Manager of the Express Office since April 2006, making several positive contributions to improve operations, including the implementation of on-line approval processing for business licenses in 2007. Becky also has over 25 years of experience in the banking industry in

various capacities of administration, including Assistant Vice-President positions in Deposit Operations, Technology and Operations, and Consumer Real Estate Loans.

Police Department Promotions

For the first time since 2005, the Wichita Police Department in May promoted two lieutenants to captain.



Captain Easter

Captain Jeff Easter joined the Wichita Police Department in August 1989. Since joining the department, Capt. Easter has advanced within the organization, attaining the ranks of Detective, Sergeant and Lieutenant. His new assignment is as the commander of the Patrol North Bureau.



Captain Ramzah

Captain Hassan Ramzah's law enforcement career with the Wichita Police Department began in 1990 after serving six years in the United States Army. Since graduating from the Police Academy, Capt. Ramzah has advanced within the organization, attaining the ranks of Detective, Sergeant and Lieutenant. Captain Ramzah has been assigned as the commander of the Patrol East Bureau.

In addition, WPD promoted seven officers to the ranks of lieutenant, sergeant and detective. Sergeants James Espinoza and Don Phelps were promoted to lieutenant; Detectives James Bratt and Kelly Mar to sergeants; and Officers Kevin Brown, Brian Hightower and Faustino Naldoza were promoted to detective.



Visit www.wichita.gov and City7 for WFD graduate video

Airport Employees Recognized



(L) Susan Leiker and (R) Victor White, present Reina Garcia de Rivas with a customer service recognition award.

In late May, the Employee Recognition Team went to the Airport to recognize two Airport staff, Reina Garcia de Rivas and Todd Oakes.

At the same time, the airline community presented Susan Leiker from Human Resources with a "Petition." The petition contained unanimous support and appreciation of all airport staff for making the Wichita Mid-Continent Airport a great place to work. Leiker gave the petition to Airport Director Victor White, who graciously received the news.

SRS Visits Planeview

SRS Leadership visited Planeview on May 29 to learn about the housing and environmental conditions that face many of its clients. Neighborhood Assistant, Janet Johnson provided the group with an historical account of the Planeview neighborhood, going back to its origins in 1943. Following that, members of the Colvin Team shared their experiences and challenges in working in the neighborhood. The staff who participated were Michele Schell, OCl; Officer Husam Shourbaji, WPD; and Frances Negron-George, an SRS case worker who is out-stationed at Colvin.

Following the educational piece, the group did a walking tour in the area near Cessna and Roosevelt Streets. The following is an excerpt from an e-mail that one of the participants sent following the SRS Leadership visit in Planeview:

“I was one of the participants in the tour last week as a member of the SRS Leadership Wichita program,” said Lisa Vorak, an SRS employee. “I just wanted to thank you for your time and sharing with us the noble work you do in the Planeview community.



SRS Leadership Group met in May

I can't really express to the feelings that I had after walking through the Planeview neighborhood. I feel so naive that I have lived in Wichita for 10 years and did not understand the level of poverty within our city.

I have not stopped thinking about our experience there and in fact have been talking about it to everyone who will listen. If there is anything I can be a part of to become involved in the community of Planeview, please let me know. I believe it is our duty and responsibility to try our hardest to help, educate and stand by people of poverty. Again, thank you for our tour last week. It was the most powerful thing that has happened to me in a very long time.”

-Janet Johnson

June is Homeownership Month

The City of Wichita celebrates Homeownership Month during June, led by a Wichita City Council proclamation. Homeownership Month was established in 2002 when President George W. Bush encouraged Americans to become homeowners.



The City supports homeownership initiatives with federal funding that helps provide decent, affordable housing opportunities for lower-income households. It also assists nonprofit housing providers and encourages the private sector to provide affordable housing initiatives.

During the previous program year, 49 low-to-moderate income families were assisted in becoming homeowners. In addition, six families were assisted with home rehabilitation loans. Subsidy loan programs resulted in the construction of 33 single-family homes.

Other programs available to assist potential homebuyers include the Sedgwick County Mortgage Revenue Bond Program and the Mortgage Credit Certificate Program. Information is available from local lenders and real estate agents.

For additional information, contact the HOME Program at 462-3766.

- Michelle Rucker

IRISE Winners for June

Darren Allison	Water Utilities	Tonia Fairbanks	IT/IS	Judy Moore	Transit
Judith Crim	Police	Vallery Fields	Transit	Tessa Morris	Police
Mark Dawson	IT/IS	Patricia Ford	Police	Kevin Robertson	Police
Sharon Dickgrafe	Law	Sharon Hamric	H.R.	John Shearer	Park
Curtis Dixon	Public Works	Thomas Herbst	Park	Tiffani Ulrich	Police
Michael Dozier	Public Works	Paul Kimble	Police	Dana White	IT/IS
Susan Eshom	Public Works	Guy McCormick	H.R.		

CITY CONNECTION TEAM-Debbie Aviks-CMO; Gordon Bassham-Police; Megan Buckmaster-CMO; LeeAnn Casey-H.R.; Vallery Fields-Transit; Larry Foos-Park; Dale Goter-CMO; Elaine Hammons-OCl; Mike Hampel-Planning; Sharon Hamric-CDO; Jennifer Heinicke-Library; Lisa Hilyard, Env. Services; Kay Hurdle-Law; Angela Cato-Water; Denise Klug-IT/IS; Deb Legge-OCl; Lauragail Locke-CMO; Donte Martin-M.C.; Kristi McMinnville-Water; Tabitha Meyer-CityArts; Michelle Rucker-Housing; Marge Seger-Finance; Bob Thompson-Fire; Denise Tipton- Water; Gail Williams-P.W.; Van Williams-CMO; Valerie Wise-Airport