



Wichita pools are now open through the first week of August

City Connection

A City Government Newsletter



Council Member Williams Honored by NLC

Council Member Lavonta Williams will be recognized by the National League of Cities (NLC) for reaching the Bronze level in its Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program. Sponsored by the NLC Leadership Training Institute (LTI), the award will be presented in Denver at the annual Congress of Cities in December.

To achieve the Bronze level, a local official must earn 16 credits encompassing all five core competency areas of the LTI curriculum, referred to as “Cornerstone,” “Competent Practitioner,” “Communicator,” “Collaborator” and “Catalyst.” Williams is one of the fewer than 765 NLC members to have reached the Bronze level in the Certificate of Achievement in Leadership program since its inception.

NLC is committed to strengthening and promoting the leadership capacity of our nation’s local elected officials. As part of the NLC mission to create stronger communities, the LTI provides local officials with the professional development opportunities to assist them in promoting positive change and innovation within their communities. At the same time, seminars are designed to explore the nature and practice of local governmental leadership.

Each training seminar addresses one or more of the core areas of municipal leadership, including personal leadership growth and development, effective governance, effective communications, skills in developing and promoting partnerships and managing change.



The National League of Cities is the nation’s oldest and largest organization devoted to strengthening and promoting cities as centers of opportunity, leadership and governance. NLC is a resource and advocate for 19,000 cities, towns and villages, representing more than 218 million Americans.

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Allegiant Air Enhances Vegas Service



Allegiant Air is offering daily service from Wichita Mid-Continent Airport to Las Vegas, and has moved all departures to the evening. The flights will now depart Wichita at 7:45 p.m. and arrive in Las Vegas at 8:20 p.m. The return flight leaves Las Vegas at 2:40 p.m. and arrives in Wichita at 7:05 p.m.

“Allegiant’s new schedule will be much more convenient for passengers as it arrives in the early evening, just in time for the nightlife in Vegas, and the afternoon return to Wichita will be easier than a morning flight,” Valerie Wise, Air Service and Business Development Manager.

Allegiant’s daily service will last through the month of June. In July, the service will be six days a week, excluding Tuesdays.

Valerie Wise

Q & A With Donte Martin



Donte Martin is the Interim Municipal Court Administrator. He started his career with the City in 2000 in the City Manager's Office as the Council District II Neighborhood Assistant. He moved to Municipal Court in 2005 to become the Assistant to the Court Administrator. When Kay Gales retired in Feb of 2010, Martin was appointed Interim.

Martin is a native of Wichita. He attended Wichita public schools and graduated from Southeast High School in 1990. Martin graduated from Wichita State University (WSU) in 1996 with a bachelor's of science degree in Administration of Justice and Minority Studies. He graduated from Washburn University School of Law in 1999. He also served in the U. S. Army as a military policeman.

Martin has a son Dontre who is a third year student at WSU. Martin recently completed his first half-marathon and is considering training for the full Wichita

marathon in October.

Q How did you get interested in the Municipal Court system?

I went to law school thinking I wanted to be an attorney and spend my days litigating cases on behalf of underrepresented groups. I soon realized that the actual practice of law is much different than what I grew up watching on "Perry Mason" and "L.A. Law." While working in the City Manager's Office I became interested in the process of adjudicating Municipal Court cases. Working in Municipal Court provides me an opportunity to ensure citizens access to a fair and impartial court system.

Q Describe a typical work day?

No two days are the same in Municipal Court. Each year we accept filings for approximately 75,000 moving citations and 30,000 court cases. The large number of filings requires us to put out fires daily and provide customer service to more than our fair share of disgruntled citizens. Each day is a challenge but our staff does a great job meeting the needs of our community.

Q Who has inspired or mentored you and how?

When I was hired as a Neighborhood Assistant in 2000 I was fortunate to spend four years working closely with former Council Member Dr. Joe Pisciotte. Dr. Pisciotte helped me understand the huge responsibility that comes with working for the City of Wichita. He instilled in me the belief that public service is a public trust that should not be broken and that as City

employees we should continually seek to improve our community.

Q What book are you reading or who's your favorite author in the legal thriller genre?

I recently finished reading *The Nine: Inside the "Secret World of the Supreme Court"* by Jeffrey Toobin and am now starting *"Execution - The Discipline of Getting Things Done"* by Larry Bossidy and Ram Charan.

Q Which CD are you listening to or what's playing in your iPod?

My iPod playlists cross a wide variety of music genres, everything from The Commodores to Dave Matthews to Kanye West. Lately I've been listening to Maxwell's neo-soul sound quite a bit.

Q Describe a weekend hobby?

Weekends are typically spent golfing, playing tennis, or some other sporting activity. I love getting outdoors and being active. This often results in me limping in to work on Mondays but it's worth it.

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

The landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* oral arguments before the Supreme Court that ultimately led to the Supreme Court ruling that separate but equal in public education was unconstitutional. I would have been amazed by eventual Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall arguing against a doctrine that had been in place for nearly 100 years.

New City University Catalog

The Summer/Fall City University (CU) catalog is now available on the portal under Human Resources. City University is listed on the left hand side of the HR page under Learning and Development.

The City University is an education and innovation opportunity. It is designed to encourage employees to continually learn about tools and techniques to improve service and produce results that residents want.

For more information regarding City University, please contact John Hale (269-4728) or Jacob Williams (268-4535).



Flood Control Project Wins Award

Public Works' Storm Water Division and Merrick & Company in April received the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) 2010 Excellence in Engineering Award for innovative mapping and analysis of the Wichita-Valley Center Flood Control Project. With 97 miles of levees and a history of significant floods, the City needed an accurate analysis of the "Big Ditch" to meet post-Katrina federal levee recertification mandates and to ensure the long-term stability of the system. Merrick & Company used light detection and ranging (LiDAR) technology and color digital aerial photography to capture high-fidelity geospatial data including topography, drainage flows and vulnerable flooding zones. The award report says "the project is a model for other levee recertification efforts nationwide."



Scott Lindebak (2nd from right) receives award from Merrick & Co. representatives at ACEC Awards ceremony.

Other award winning projects included a mountain highway built for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver, an office tower in Dubai, and "the largest publicly accessible all-glass facility in the world" (a ticket office on Times Square in New York City).

Gail Williams

Arson is No Game for "Sporty"



Sporty, a 17-month-old female black Labrador Retriever, has joined the Wichita Fire Department to assist fire investigators by locating possible ignitable liquids within fire scenes.

Captain Stuart Bevis of the Wichita Fire Department Fire Investigation Unit (WFD-FIU) returned to Wichita on May 1 with Sporty after six weeks of training in Front Royal, Va. Trained by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), Sporty is now the new Accelerant Detection Canine for the WFD-FIU.

Sporty and Bevis replaced the K-9 team of Fire Marshal Brad Crisp and Bella, who was retired by the BATF once Sporty completed her training and arrived in Wichita. The K9 team of Sporty and Captain Bevis will now respond to fire scenes to aid in the fight against arson, and they will also be in the community giving demonstrations and discussing arson and fire investigation.

Point to Point Wireless Network

The IT Department has been working with Public Works, Transit, Water Utilities, Fire and Planning Departments to deploy a new point to point wireless network for City usage. The major focus of the network will be to provide a communication system for two projects. One is the Public Works Traffic Signal Upgrade and the other is the Transit Services Intelligent Transportation System (ITS).

The network will also provide a portion of the communication system for the Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project. The network infrastructure will encompass nine locations, including three existing structures and six new tower locations.



The composition of the network will be made up of two rings which service the east and west sides of the city. Fire Station 12 provides a redundant connection for both rings back to the City Hall Data Center. Outlying facilities, including eight fire stations, are also connected to the new wireless system. Wireless technology will provide a faster connections without the cost of a monthly leased line.

IT has approached each District Advisory Board for the west locations. Prior to the installation of the west towers, IT will also need to obtain the approval of the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission. Federal funds provide 80 percent of the project costs. The remainder is a local match by IT.

Dennis McHugh

Exhibits at CityArts/MAIC

CityArts

Main Gallery: "Re: Generations 3" through June 26.

Acrylic paintings and photographs by three generations: Ed Pointer (father), Michael Pointer (son) and Sarah Roberts (granddaughter/niece).

In conjunction with this exhibit, CityArts will accept donations of arts books that will be given to Afghani women at the Center for Contemporary Art Afghanistan (CCAA). Michael Pointer is the CCAA's English editor and communications director. He also plans to teach there in the fall.

Hallway Gallery: "Recent Shimsicalities", silver point drawings and egg tempra by Matthew Leahy. Silver point and egg tempra are very old painting techniques that are difficult to master and used by only a small number of artists today.

Balcony Gallery: Works by Susan Copas, oil paintings and mixed media.

Boardroom Gallery: Works by Jerry Osment, watercolors and oil.

Mid-America All-Indian Center through July 31.

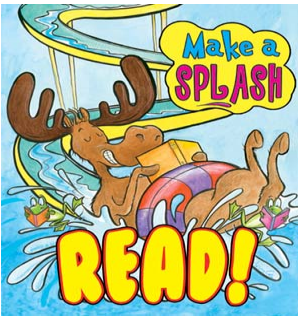
Sampling of American Indian-themed paintings from the museum's Foley Family and the Palmer Family collections. Both the Foley and Palmer families are from the Wichita area.



One of American Indian-themed paintings currently on display at Mid-America All-Indian Center.

Angela Cato

Summer Reading at Your Library



Get ready to make a splash and make waves at your library! The Wichita Public Library's annual summer reading program ("Make a Splash") is for youth up to age 17. Children set their own reading goals and can earn a bag of prizes. The Teens Read program ("Make Waves") encourages teens aged 12-17 to read by giving them chances to win prizes for every three hours of reading. Last year, over 11,500 youth participated in the two programs. The summer is also filled with free and fun events for the whole family, including visits from storytellers, musicians and magicians. Pick up a schedule at any Library location or visit www.wichita.lib.ks.us for more information.

Jennifer Heinicke

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)!

Gypsy, presented by Music Theatre of Wichita, 8 p.m. on June 9 – 11, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on June 12 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on June 13 in Concert Hall. For tickets, call 265-3107.

"Healing for My Soul" (Gospel Play), presented by A Talent Showcase Production, 7:30 p.m. on June 18 and 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on June 19 in Mary Jane Teall Theater.

Smokey Joe's Café, presented by Music Theatre of Wichita, 8 p.m. on June 23 – 25, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on June 26 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on June 27 in Concert Hall. For tickets, call 265-3107.

Common Threads 2010 Quilt Show, presented by Prairie Quilt Guild, 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. on June 25, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. on June 26, and 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. on June 27.



2010 Common Threads Quilt

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

Jacob House

Junior Achievement

Budget and Research staff from the Department of Finance, including Trinh Bui, Branden Hall, Ben Nelson, and Troy Tillotson, recently partnered with Junior Achievement of Kansas, Inc. to help educate young people about business and economic concepts. They discussed many topics with the students, including city planning, real estate, entrepreneurship, media and banking.

Junior Achievement, which uses business and finance professionals to serve as classroom volunteers, approached the Budget and Research Office earlier this spring.

Staff made more than 20 visits to local elementary school classrooms.



Troy Tillotson visits 3rd graders at Harry Street Elementary School in a partnership with Junior Achievement of Kansas.

Downtown Plan Update

The future of downtown Wichita was the focus of two community events held over the last few months. At the end of February, more than 100 community members participated in a day-long charrette, at which breakout groups identified assets, opportunities, challenges and strategies for downtown. They also developed a vision for downtown by applying notes, precedent photos, model blocks and related media to a large downtown plan. At the end of April, more than 200 community members participated in a workshop that provided feedback on draft vision principles and a proposed framework for implementing the vision. Participants voted for their top vision principles and submitted proposed strategies for implementing their top vision principles.



The Goody Clancy Team hired to develop a Downtown Revitalization Master Plan will use the community input from these two events as well as input from previous events, interviews and research to develop the first draft of the plan. The draft plan will be presented at a public workshop at 6 p.m. on June 14 at the Scottish Rite Center, 332 E. 1st Street. Following the presentation of the draft plan, over two dozen community input sessions will be held over the summer with final draft of the plan anticipated to be completed by late September. Information on the Downtown Revitalization Master Plan is available under "What's New?" on the Metropolitan Area Planning Department's webpage: www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Planning/.

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Scott Knebel

The Q-Line is Busy

After years of declining ridership, the Q-Line has changed its focus from a lunch time shuttle. Beginning last October, the Q became a shuttle service offering free rides evenings and weekends six days a week throughout downtown. With a new schedule and revised route that coincides with downtown parking lots and venues, the Q is an added benefit for people seeking downtown entertainment. Almost 16,000 arena goers enjoyed riding the Q with an overall total in excess of 21,000 rides the first quarter of 2010. Major arena event rides included the following:

Open House - 2,120;
Brad Paisley - 3,120;
Thunder Hockey first home game - 2,026;
Reba McEntire and George Strait - 3,349;
Elton John and Billy Joel - 3,137 and Bon Jovi - 2,095.



When your plans include spending time downtown, remember the Q. It's free and convenient. For more information, visit www.parkdowntown.org.

Valley Fields

<u>Retirees</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Yrs. Of Service</u>
Robert L. Hughes	Fire	41 yrs. 00 mo.
James R. Robillard	Fire	38 yrs. 00 mo.
Warren Dalrymple	Police	35 yrs. 00 mo.
Douglas E. Pickard	Fire	33 yrs. 03 mo.
Daniel R. McClure	Fire	31 yrs. 04 mo.
Rebecca L. Baker	Health	30 yrs. 00 mo.
Bradley S. Agnew	Police	28 yrs. 01 mo.
William E. Clarkin	Fire	25 yrs. 05 mo.
Steven W. Keesling	Park	21 yrs. 08 mo.
Daisy L. Shira	Police	11 yrs. 02 mo.

<u>Retiree Deaths</u>	<u>Dept.</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>
Alyce P. Swinger	City Clerk	03/28/2010
Marshall W. Williams	Police	04/05/2010
David W. Fletcher	Public Works	04/09/2010
Doris M. Ramirez	Finance	04/13/2010
John G. Garrison	Police	04/19/2010
Ross B. May	Park	04/19/2010
Kenneth D. Conway	Housing	04/28/2010
Robert V. Shaffer	Fire	04/30/2010

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

<u>May</u>	<u>10 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Bradlee Brown	10 years	Env. Services
Dameon Gilbert	10 years	Park
Lance L. Bailey	10 years	Water Utilities
Lynn Stewart	10 years	Water Utilities
Claudia Reyes-Zamorano	10 years	Police
Cherry McCord	10 years	Police
Joyce Kirk	10 years	OCI
Kimmy King	10 years	Finance
Paula Halstead	10 years	Police
Amanda Aaron	10 years	Municipal Court
<u>May</u>	<u>25 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Stephen Griner	25 years	Police
Michelle Blunck	25 years	Police
Gary McPherson	25 years	Housing
Rob Raine	25 years	Finance
<u>May</u>	<u>30 Years</u>	<u>Dept.</u>
Mark Reynolds	30 years	Fire
Warren Shephard	30 years	Public Works
Benette Jandrakovic	30 years	Water

New Education Coordinator at MAAIC

Crystal Flannery-Bachicha has joined the Mid-America All-Indian Center (MAAIC) staff as an Education Coordinator. She will create and develop classes and workshops that support MAAIC's mission to serve as a cultural center and museum dedicated to educating and preserving the heritage of the American Indian.



Flannery-Bachicha is a member of the Tohono O'odham Nation of Arizona tribe. She is also the proud mother of two sons. Her husband is an active duty member of the U.S. Air Force stationed at McConnell.

Lang Wins Benson-Batt Award

Joe Lang, Chief Deputy City Attorney for the Law Department, recently received the Wichita Bar Association's (WBA) Benson-Batt Award.



The winner of the award is selected by a committee of the WBA. The award is in honor of Judge Fred Benson and Beverly Batt and recognizes volunteers, lawyers or non-lawyers, who have contributed to law-related education.

Lang has faithfully served the WBA's Law in Education Committee for almost his entire legal career, serving as past chair, as speaker when needed, at Career Days, coordinating the 8th grade Mock Trials with Bev Batt, judging moot courts, providing curriculum guidance and presenting programs to the Law Magnet High School. He has also helped the school district with grant applications for law-related education. He has served on a number of committees and task forces for the Maize School District. He is retiring as Chief Deputy City Attorney for Wichita this summer after 30 years with the City.

Lang has advised the Metropolitan Area Planning Committee, the Airport Authority, Environmental Health and the Wichita Water Utility, and served as the president of the City Attorneys' Association of Kansas. In a prior career, he was a teacher in Russell and Reno Counties, teaching biology, physics, history and government.

Retirement Systems Earn Awards

For the 10th consecutive year, the Wichita Retirement Systems' Comprehensive Annual Financial Report has earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.



(L to R) Barbara Davis, Ryan Adkison and Rick Firner

The Wichita Retirement Systems also received the Public Pension Standards Award in recognition of meeting the professional standards for plan design and administration as set forth in the Public Pension Standards. This was the seventh consecutive year that the Wichita Retirement Systems have achieved this important award from the Public Pension Coordinating Council.

The awards were for the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2008.

Record 833 Day Safety Streak



Members of the Water Distribution main line work group

The main line crews from Water Utilities' Distribution division recently closed out an amazing record safety streak, working 833 consecutive days without a lost day incident. Beginning Jan. 11, 2008, the crews worked through April 22, 2010, before an unfortunate on-the-job injury ended their

remarkable achievement. This is the longest period in recent history for a Water Utilities work group to go without an incident and the crews were recognized at a luncheon in June 2009, after completing 500 days of work without a lost day incident, according to Division Manager Elizabeth Owens. She attributes the exemplary safety performance to a renewed training emphasis on working deliberately and efficiently. Crews are urged to give consideration to safety concerns in each step of the job or task. Crew chiefs take a personal interest in safety, and better equipment is also a contributing factor.

The main line crews share their successful safety record with the services crews work group, also from Water Utilities Distribution. Services crews completed 18 months of consecutive work without a lost day incident in January of this year and received a luncheon to acknowledge their tremendous accomplishment. That milestone marked the second time the services crews were recognized for their safety record in the last four years, with a previous safety record of 693 days that ended in July 2008. The City's policy now requires a work group to reach 18 months before receiving this recognition.



Water Distribution services crew

Main line crews are responsible for making repairs to water mains throughout the City's water distribution network. Services crews are tasked with connecting residential, business, and industrial customers to the water distribution network, tapping into water mains and installing lines to connect the main to the water meter. Both work assignments are physically demanding, often under dangerous conditions working in excavations in or near traffic, and under the effects of inclement weather. The hazards inherent to the job make the main line work group's and services work group's safety accomplishments even more notable.

Kurtis Jacobs

Clean Sweep of the Arkansas River

A record 600 volunteers on Saturday participated in the annual River Trash Round Up and removed 5,260 pounds of debris from the water and banks of the Arkansas River.

Students, families, workers, canoeists, kayakers, scuba divers and others volunteered to beautify the Arkansas River. Several civic and private groups as well as government organizations participated including the City of Wichita, Cargill, Arkansas River Coalition, South Central Neighborhood Association, Sierra Club, Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, Bank of America, River City WRAPS, and Johnson Controls. Cargill provided volunteers with an event T-shirt and hosted a post-cleanup cookout.

The clean-up, now in its ninth year, is registered with American Rivers as part of the "National River Cleanup" initiative. The event is sponsored by Cargill, the City of Wichita, Ducks Unlimited, and Waste Management.

Libby Albers

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; Samantha Franklin-M.C.; Dale Goter-CMO; Elaine Hammons-OCI; Mike Hampel-Planning; Jennifer Heinicke-Library; Lisa Hilyard, Env. Services; Kay Hurdle-Law; Denise Klug-IT/IS; Deb Legge-OCI; Lauragail Locke-CMO; Donte Martin-M.C.; Michelle Rucker-Housing; Bob Thompson-Fire; Crystal Walter-Art Museum; Gail Williams-P.W.; Van Williams-CMO; Valerie Wise-Airport