



Mayor Brewer delivers his State of the City Address

Your Connection

A City government newsletter that promotes Transforming Wichita, an organizational improvement initiative supporting Visioneering Wichita

Mayor Brewer's State of the City

Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer delivered his 2008 State of the City Address on Jan. 15 to a full City Council Chambers at City Hall.

In his first State of the City speech, the Mayor focused on five Core Priorities: 1) Government Accountability, 2) Economic Development, 3) Community and Regional Partnerships, 4) Strong Neighborhoods and 5) A Healthy and Compassionate Community. He stressed the importance of sustaining the City's current prosperity, preserving its bedrock aviation industry, diversifying the local economy, rebuilding distressed neighborhoods, combating street gang violence and supporting civic and charitable groups.

"We're enjoying prosperous times, thanks to a confluence of factors that include a healthy economy, strong partnerships and great potential," Mayor Brewer said. "But Wichitans know there is much work to do if we are going to fulfill our promise. I want citizens to strengthen connections between citizens and government so that they are part of the protection, preservation and promise of our community."

To see the Mayor's complete State of the City Address, please go to www.wichita.gov or tune into the City7 cable channel.

Welcome, Ed

Just call him Ed. That's the preferred moniker of Dr. H. Ed Flentje, who began serving as the interim City Manager for the City of Wichita on Jan. 2. Mayor Carl Brewer and the Wichita City Council appointed Flentje as interim on Dec. 18, following the Nov. 28 resignation of former City Manager George Kolb, who served as City Manager since July 26, 2004. Flentje's term as interim is scheduled to run through July 1.

Flentje is the director of the Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs at Wichita State University and a professor of public administration. He has been on the public administration faculty since 1979 and has been the school's director since 1999.

Born and raised in Harper County, Flentje received an undergraduate degree from Emporia State University and a doctoral degree in political science from the University of Kansas. He has extensive experience in public management and public policy development. While on leave from the University (1986-88), he served as chair of the transition team for Governor-Elect Mike Hayden and as Secretary of the Kansas Department of Administration in Governor Hayden's administration. He also served as director of the Kansas Division of State Planning and Research in the administration of Governor Robert F. Bennett (1975-79) and as legislative assistant to former U.S. Senator James B. Pearson of Kansas (1968-69). He earlier held administrative posts with the Illinois Board of Higher Education and Southern Illinois University (1969-75).

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



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Q & A With Jennifer Nordyke



Jennifer Nordyke began with the City in February of 2000 in the IT department. She is a member of the Application Development workgroup which is responsible for maintaining the intranet and City of Wichita web sites such as www.wichita.gov, Airport, Century II, Indian Center, etc. Her job title is Systems Analyst II. She creates graphics and designs Web page layouts. She also maintains all City Web sites and assists employees who have trouble updating Web sites.

Jennifer has been deaf since she was 8 months old. She has a younger sister who is deaf as well as a great-aunt and great-uncle. When she was two years old, she moved with her parents to Wichita from Pratt so that she could attend the Wichita Public Schools, which had a program for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. She attended Wichita State University and earned a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts (Graphic Design) and a master's degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Her younger sister, Jessica, is also employed by the City. Jessica, works at Westlink Library. Her brother, Greg, works at the Central Library. On occasion, each of them have assisted deaf people who come to City Hall or the library.

In her spare time, Jennifer serves as a spokeswoman for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. She is involved with the Wichita Association of the Deaf, a non-profit group that offers social networking opportunities for deaf and hard-of-hearing people in the Wichita area. Jennifer is currently the president and newsletter co-editor. She has an official web site, www.deafwichita.com, which

she and her brother developed, where they list upcoming events and information about their organization. She enjoys bowling and playing softball although she hasn't had the opportunity to do bowl lately after giving birth to her first child, Walker. He was born on Easter. She also is very interested in local history and genealogy; one of her graduate school projects involved creating a Web site of her family tree.

Q Any advice or words of wisdom for employees you work with?

I may be deaf, but I don't bite. I don't mind answering questions about myself or about anything related to deafness.

Q OK, let's get started. As a spokeswoman for the deaf, you seem comfortable with reporters and in front of cameras. Have you had media training?

I have been in front of the camera several times in the past. My first appearance was on a show named "Romper Room" which aired on KAKE TV, Channel 10. My entire kindergarten class - eight deaf students in all - was a guest on the show. We showed the host and the other hearing children how to sign the words for various farm animals - duck, sheep, etc. Unfortunately two of my classmates decided to start a fight over a musical instrument they wanted to use for a farm animal song we were going to sign. The fight was caught on camera. That was my first lesson of what NOT to do in front of the camera! When I was a senior in high school, I had an internship at the USD 259 Media Center and observed how shows were produced for TV. Also, I have taken several college classes related to media. My parents both have backgrounds in public speaking - my dad is a debate/forensics coach at Campus High and my mom is a lecturer at the Elliott School of Communication at WSU.

Q What's most challenging about your IT job?

I would have to say communicating with other people. Some people assume that they just need to speak louder and I will be able to hear them. That doesn't work for me at all because I'm pro-

foundly deaf which means that even if I wore a hearing aid, the sounds would not be distinguishable, just amplified. A lot of people think that I can just lip-read, but my eyes tend to glaze over after a few minutes. Lip-reading is not as easy as it looks - try watching TV with the sound off all night and practice your lip-reading skills. I have found that the best way to communicate is through e-mail. In fact, many of the employees, whom I speak with via e-mail, I've never met in person! It's a bit challenging when I am invited to a group meeting because we have to schedule an interpreter and it's not always possible to get one at the last minute because there are many other deaf clients needing interpreting services elsewhere in Wichita.

Q What's most enjoyable about your job in IT?

I love to play in Photoshop and create graphics for the web. Unfortunately, I don't do that 100% of the time. But I do enjoy assisting other employees when they encounter a problem trying to edit their Web sites.

Q What would you change about your job if you were IT queen for a day?

I would wear jeans and have everyone use sign language.

Q You've got a great sense of humor. On a more serious note, if you could attend a historical event, which event would you attend and what would you be doing?

I only get to pick one? Since I'm a genealogy freak, I would want to visit New York when the Palatine Emigration of 1709-1710 took place. My ancestors were part of a large group of Germans who left their homeland and emigrated to New York to start a new life, but they ended up being treated as slave labor to produce naval stores (supplies used to build wooden sailing ships) for the US Navy. They later staged a revolt against their living and working conditions and were able to break free to start new lives.

What's Happening At The Library

Hungry Planet: What the World Eats



Twelve-year-old Fourou glances up from a breakfast of thin rice porridge cooked with sour milk. Typical of most others, the Natomo family eats outdoors on low stools around a community pot. Courtesy Peter Menzel

Author Faith D'Aluisio and photographer Peter Menzel investigated food and eating habits around the world, documenting a fascinating exploration of comparative world nutrition in *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*. For their study, Menzel and D'Aluisio spent time with typical families in 12 countries, discussing their eating habits, calculating a week's worth of food purchases and accompanying families to the marketplace to document local customs and traditions. Enhanced by an overview of each country's environmental conditions and socio-economic status, *Hungry Planet* uniquely grasps cross-cultural realities, united by one commonality—all humans must eat, but what and how we eat varies widely. Visit the Central Library through Saturday, Jan. 19, to see the photo exhibit based on the book.

Read Books. Win Prizes

Turn off the TV and tune into The Reading Channel, The Wichita Public Library's 5th Annual Adult Winter Reading Program. Read six books from the special channels (categories) and earn a finisher's prize package plus an entry for the Grand Prize, an overnight stay for two at Castle Inn Riverside. Enter to win other fabulous gifts each month with every book you read on your way to completing the program! The Winter Reading Program runs through Mar. 31, 2008. For more information, including reading ideas and entry forms, visit any Library location or the Library's website, www.wichita.lib.ks.us.



Planning Department

Planning for Parks

The 'Dream in Green' Charrette held at Edgemoor Recreation Center was a huge success, as approximately 60 citizens got involved with planning for Wichita parks, recreation and open spaces.

The event attracted Wichita City Council Members, Wichita's Park Board members, business people, architects, citizens, students, planners and community activists. The participants were divided into seven small groups/teams, providing everyone with a hands-on planning experience.

The seven small groups focused on one of five community focus areas: Community Health and Lifetime Recreation, Environmental Sustainability, Youth and Family, Culture and Diversity, Attracting and Retaining Workforce and Business. As they worked, many teams developed ideas that ranged from very imaginative to small specific ideas that can easily be accomplished. One idea was for a winter events area at the former Brooks landfill; another called for city street tree lawn to absorb stormwater. The ideas were illustrated on maps, lists and other materials to project the ideal parks system.

The Charette ideas will be combined with other public input from the Wichita Park Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan process to help develop a draft Wichita PROS Plan Community Needs and Resources Assessment. The community needs and resources assessment will be used by the PROS Plan Citizen Advisory Committee to guide the development of the draft Wichita PROS Plan. Be sure to check out the website at www.wichitaprosplan.org for the latest information and to view the ideas from the charrette event.



Parks Charrette at Edgemoor Recreation Center

Fire Department

Electrical Space Heaters

City employees are being reminded that the use of space heaters as an alternative heating device at City Hall should be used with extreme caution. Please make sure that space heaters are plugged directly into an electrical outlet and not used with an extension cord. Heaters must also have a safety tip switch so that if the heater is tipped over it will shut off automatically.

Heaters also need to have a thermostat switch to control the heat and be placed at least 18" from combustibles. Also any form of a portable propane heater is not allowed in any City-owned property. Employees may contact the Fire Prevention Division at 268-4441 in regards to safety concerns.



Fire Department Activates Ice Storm Action Plan

When the National Weather Service predicted icing conditions for the City of Wichita on Dec. 10, the Wichita Fire Department was ready for action with its three-portion response plan.

With the plan in place, the department was able to reduce the number of emergency responses by the use of call prioritizations. On the scene use of barricades at downed power lines and the help of the Wichita Police Department and Public Works helped reduce the amount of time crews spent at the scene.

The plan also allowed for Fire Department staff to alter response profiles to determine if a single unit response was more appropriate for more of the minor incidents. Fire Department personnel were also assigned to the Sedgwick County Emergency Operation Center to handle other logistical assignments.

TW: A Job Well Done

A routine request for service led to a glowing letter of appreciation being printed in the Wichita Eagle – so thousands of readers got the message that City government is responsive and efficient. The letter reinforces the teamwork and customer service principles of Transforming Wichita. It also reminds us that a routine job for City workers is a ‘big deal’ to citizens who make requests and assess our work.

The letter, as printed in the Dec. 3 Wichita Eagle, read:

“On November 12, we sent an email to Jim Armour, City Engineer, requesting inspection of a relatively minor curb problem in front of our house. Within a week, Jim had a small crew on location. The crew quickly diagnosed the problem and effected a permanent repair within two weeks of our email. As critical as we often may be of government inefficiency, we also need to recognize the bright spots like this. Without exception, Jim's crew was friendly, courteous, and efficient. Thanks for the excellent service.”



As in most things we do, this was not a one-person job. Jim Armour actually passed the request to the Public Works Maintenance Division, and a Street Maintenance crew made the repair. The ‘friendly, courteous and efficient’ crew members were (from left to right): Robert Metcalf, Sam Menut, Stephen Buchanan, Jessie Ross, Mike Gray, Dawnita Reinhardt and Jacques Dubose.

Frontier Airlines Now Flies to Costa Rica

Frontier Airlines launched its new service to San Jose, Costa Rica on Nov. 30. With one connection in Denver, travelers from Wichita will board one of Frontier's new fleet of Airbus A319 aircraft and arrive in Costa Rica. The airline will operate the flight five times per week, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Passengers now will have a comfortable way to enjoy Costa Rica's culture, visit the country's amazing beaches, resorts and rain forests, and experience some of the best outdoor tourism opportunities in the world. For more information, visit www.frontierairlines.com.



Public Works Helps Those in Need

Every year Public Works employees participate in helping those in need over the holidays. A committee of volunteers consisting of Pat Arnett, Renee Batchman, Aaron Henning, Michele Isbell, Julianne Kallman, Betty Morgan, Pam Plank, Lanecia Robinson and Shirley Rogers selected a family of three adults and 11 children. As donations started were gathered from Public Works employees, it became obvious that they far exceeded what the adopted family had asked for. Calls were made to the Salvation Army to secure more names and trips were made to the Salvation Army trees (located at the malls, the YMCA and Wal-Mart). When the money was counted and the gifts purchased, over \$2,100 was raised. This provided for 13 adults and 31 children to have a great Christmas.



Career Development Success Story



From the beginning, Ketura Smith was blunt about her goal. She wanted to get a job quickly.

In April 2007, Ketura was referred by SRS to the City's Career Development Office (CDO). She was frustrated at not being hired after several months of job searching on her own.

After orientation and assessment sessions with Sharene Thompson, her Employment Specialist, Ketura began attending weekly Success Through Achievement and Responsibility (STAR) workshops. The serious questions she asked in class demonstrated to her teachers and classmates that she meant business.

Putting her experience and job search into perspective helped Ketura realize she'd brought more to the table than she initially believed. Utilizing the new information, ideas and techniques presented at CDO, she updated her resume and sharpened her computer skills.

She attended weekly job search meetings and brainstormed with her peers. At job search, she found encouragement, job leads and tips that helped her strategic job search.

Her diligence finally paid off. Ketura believes the skills gained at CDO's two-day Customer Service Training enabled her to land a job at Kmart. During her first few weeks at Kmart she received several phone calls requesting job interviews.

After discussing her long-range job strategy with Sharene, Ketura resigned from Kmart and started work at Linens 'N Things. Ketura's new position offered more money, better hours and the potential for advancement.

Ketura works as a cashier and is being trained in several other areas of the store. She is thrilled at the growth opportunities she finds daily in her job.

She credits CDO with teaching her how to find her job, keep it and make the most of each workday. Being able to provide for her two children is the reward that keeps her smiling.

Neighborhood Cleanups

The City of Wichita offered 88 neighborhood cleanups in 2007, working the Neighborhood Associations to create a cleaner, safer community.

The cleanup program has been coordinated through the Office of Central Inspection for the past 15 years, growing from about 30 neighborhood cleanups a year to last year's record total.

Staff from several departments, including OCI, Public Works, Housing and Community Services, and Career Development, as well as Community Police, work together to provide the resources and equipment. Neighborhood volunteers organize their own events, and provide the "sweat equity" for the program.

More than 1000 neighborhood volunteers were involved, collecting 1,376 tons of trash and 6,330 tires at a cost of \$188,000.



Transit Achieves Perfect Checker Status

Ten bus operators with Wichita Transit achieved the prestigious Perfect Checker Status for 2007.

Part of a pool of 63 WT bus operators, the 10 drivers distinguished themselves as the best of the best. To achieve perfect checker status, drivers not only do their job, but they also carry out their duties with integrity, respect, and excellence.

The range of service among the 10 includes Debra Smith, who began in October of 2007, and Pam Davis, who has served WT since 1989. Davis received two Perfect Checker reports during this evaluation period.



Left to Right: Jim Sprayberry, Debra Smith, Ben Brooks, Evie Burke, Cheryl Lamkin, Jackie Mills, Ana Rodriguez, Pam Davis, David Reed and John Coleman

Wichita Transit bus and van operators provide public transportation to 2.3 million passengers annually. On-board evaluations of operators are conducted at least two to three times annually. Inspectors who conduct these evaluations are an independent group of individuals who come from other cities. They board the buses unannounced and ride for the duration of the trip. During the ride, operators are scored on factors such as appearance, schedule adherence, fare collection procedures, safety, passenger relations and ADA compliance.

The evaluation is completed without the operators' knowledge. Prior to 2002, no WT operator had received a Perfect Checker score. However, in the first check of 2002, Wichita Transit had one operator achieve that goal. Since then, 29 operators have earned the Perfect Check.

CityArts

In The Main Gallery

Exhibit: "Driven to Abstraction," work by local abstract artists—Exhibit

Dates: Dec. 28–Jan. 23

Balcony Gallery

Exhibit: Corey Janssens, Newton artist—Exhibit Dates: Dec. 28–Jan. 23

Second Floor Conference Room

Exhibit: Small Works, work by local artists—Exhibit Dates: Dec. 28 – Jan. 23

First Floor Hall Gallery

Exhibit: Bea Edginton, local watercolor artist—Exhibit dates: Dec. 28– Jan. 23

CityArts Classes

CityArts class registration has begun. Classes began the week of Jan. 7, 2008. CityArts offers creative classes in pottery, painting, drawing, video, photography, glassblowing, sculpture and silversmithing. For a complete list of classes, visit our website at www.wichitaarts.com. Registration for classes can be done in person, by mail or by phone with a VISA or MasterCard payment. For more information, call (316) 462-2787.

Special Events

The City of Wichita is pleased to announce the 2009 City of Wichita Operational Grant Cultural Funding applications are now available on-line for interested 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations in Wichita. This is the fourth year that the City Council has set aside funds to be made available to arts and cultural organizations in Wichita. Organizations may fill out and download their applications by going to www.wichitaarts.com. Workshops to review application procedures will be held for interested organizations at CityArts. For further information call the Division of Arts & Cultural Services at 462-2787.



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

December

Thomas D. Byler
 Brian L. Bachman
 Larry D. Hoetmer
 Jennifer R. Martin
 Barry E. Latham

10 Years

Housing & Community Services
 Police
 Park
 Library
 Water Utilities

25 Years

Clark W. Bolzn
 Steve R. Underwood

Police
 Public Works

Retirees for Dec. & Jan.

	Dept.	Yrs. Of Service
Ronald R. Setchell	Park	34 yrs. 01 mo.
Constance S. Kelly	Municipal Court	26 yrs. 06 mo.
Charles F. Carr	Water Utilities	18 yrs. 03 mo.
Terry D. Rupert	Water Utilities	13 yrs. 01 mo.
Denise L. Dahlgren	Airport	10 yrs. 06 mo.
Brian K. Ritchie	Public Works	30 yrs. 02 mo.

Retiree Deaths

	Dept.	Date of Death
Sam L. Mobley	OCI	11/18/2007
Joseph J. Legleiter	Public Works	12/01/2007
Patricia A. Sullivan, widow of Daniel J. Sullivan	Fire	12/18/2007
William O. Hamilton	Fire	12/21/2007
Ardeen B. Casado, widow of Tony Casado	City Council	12/29/2007
Elsie I. Jonker, widow of Walbert Jonker	Fire	01/01/2008

New Fleet Services Manager

Jay Newton has been named Fleet Services Manager for the Department of Public Works, effective Dec. 17.

Jay started with the City in 1996 as a management intern in the Budget office. Since then, he has served as Special Assessment Coordinator, Budget Analyst, Senior Budget Analyst, and since 2005, as the Capital Improvement Coordinator.



As a budget analyst, Jay was assigned to the City Manager's Office, General Government, Human Resources, Park, Central Inspection, IT, Water Utilities and Public Works. This experience included budget development and administration responsibilities for \$243 million in annual operating budgets; performing rate analyses for Water Utilities and IT; developing funding alternatives for storm drainage capital projects; and developing a financial/operational model for a construction and demolition landfill, saving the City's General Fund up to \$2.5 million per year and funding \$250,000 annually in neighborhood cleanup programs.

As the Capital Improvement Coordinator, Jay coordinated development of the 2000 – 2016 CIPs, with 10-year programs totaling \$1.3 billion to almost \$2.4 billion.

Jay holds a bachelors degree in political science and business administration, and a masters degree in public administration from Wichita State University.

New Assistant Director of Airports



The Department of Airports is pleased to announce that Brad Christopher has joined the Airport Department as the Assistant Director of Airports. Brad is not new to the Airport, having worked here as the Director of Operations and Maintenance from 1993-2000. The past

seven years he has been serving as a production test pilot for Cessna and as a corporate flight captain. Prior to Wichita, Brad was the Director of Aviation for Aspen, Colorado, and worked for the Colorado Department of Transportation Aeronautics Division, among other aviation positions. He has a bachelors in business administration and a masters in public administration, and has taught both undergraduate and graduate classes in airport administration at the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University campus at McConnell AFB for 5 years. He is also an Accredited Airport Executive and holds an FAA Air Transport Pilot's license.

Vandalism Damage

Property damage from a recent vandalism incident at City Hall is estimated to cost \$200,000, City of Wichita officials stated.

The estimate includes \$60,000 in damaged or destroyed security equipment such as X-ray machines and metal detectors. Other items included power doors, marble wall tiles, lobby signage, atrium glass panels, tables, chairs and ceiling tiles.

Two temporary X-ray machines and a metal detector have been installed. Other damaged items will be repaired or replaced over the next few months.

The incident which occurred on Monday, Jan 7, involved a motorist who



drove a vehicle from the first-floor, east-side glass doors through the west-side main entrance of City Hall, 455 N. Main. No one was injured.

Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting



Council Member Jeff Longwell, Mayor Carl Brewer, Council Members Sharon Fearey and Lavonta Williams at the Christmas Tree Lighting

Mayor Carl Brewer and the Wichita City Council want to thank City employees and the 4,000 residents who braved the cold weather for "A Night With Santa" and "The Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting" which was held on Dec. 5 at Century II.

The event included a visit from Santa Claus on a fire truck, Christmas carols performed by the Newman University Troubadours and a fireworks show. Radio personality Brett Harris of B98 FM helped the Mayor host the tree-lighting event, which attracted 500 people to Kennedy Plaza.

"Your time and your generosity are gifts tonight and I want you to know how much we appreciate your presence," said Mayor Brewer, who read *'Twas The Night Before Christmas* to children in attendance. "I know that schedules are always busy during the holiday season, so sometimes just getting to an event is an accomplishment."

"A Night With Santa" attracted about 3,500 people inside Century II's Exhibition Hall. Other activities included photos with Santa, carnival games, Christmas cake walks, temporary tattoos, prize giveaways, letters to Santa and inflatable events.

Attendees donated about 1,000 canned food items to United Way of the Plains.

Lynx Aviation Now Flying in Wichita

Frontier Airlines' new subsidiary, Lynx Aviation, has received its long-awaited approval by the FAA to begin service. Lynx Aviation will operate the Bombardier Q400 aircraft between Wichita and Denver. The Q400 is a 74-seat roomy, comfortable, fast and quiet turboprop. This aircraft is becoming quite popular with airlines due to its fuel efficiency.



ExpressJet Airlines has been operating the service for Frontier while waiting for the FAA approval with regional jets. With the additional 24 seats on the Q400, there are seats available for your travel plans. For more information visit www.frontierairlines.com.

IRISE Winners for December

James Cooper	Park	Carol Kotsch	Library	Michelle Patton	Finance
Maryann Crockett	Planning	Marshall Manahan	IT/IS	Silvia Ramirez	Police
Jeff Davis	Police	Steve Martin	Police	Mary Santiago	Env. Services
Mark Dawson	IT/IS	Mike Mayta	IT/IS	Mickey Thull	Public Works
Lisa Estrada	Planning	Paula McVey	Police	Ernie Trotter	Public Works
Nancy Harvieux	Planning	Mike Moriarty	Planning	Detra Wilson	Police
Joy Kaiser	Police	Chris Nordick	OCI		

CITY CONNECTION TEAM-Debbie Aviks-CMO; Gordon Bassham-Police; Megan Buckmaster-CMO; LeeAnn Casey-H.R.; Greg Clay-CMO; Vallery Fields-Transit; Larry Foos-Park; Dale Goter-CMO; Elaine Hammons-OCI; Mike Hampel-Planning; Sharon Hamric-CDO; Jennifer Heinicke-Library; Kay Hurdle-Law; Bernadette Bradshaw-City Arts; Pamaline King-Burns-Water; Denise Klug-IT/IS; Deb Legge-OCI; Donte Martin-M.C.; Kristi McMinnville-Water; Michelle Rucker-Housing; Marge Seger-Finance; Mo Terrbonne-Env. Services; Bob Thompson-Fire; Denise Tipton- Water; Gail Williams-P.W.; Van Williams-CMO; Valerie Wise-Airport