KANSAS PRIDE PACEMAKER COMMUNITIES
1977 to 1981
- Oberlin
- Belleville
- Russell
- McPherson
- Hesston
- Walton
- Wakefield
- Newton

BULK TREE ORDERS

Summerfield’s PRIDE leaders cooperated with the city of Marysville to obtain outstanding planting stock through bulk purchasing procedures for street yard trees last spring.

They were ordered in March and delivered April 2. The varieties ordered were Silver Maple, Pin Oak, Green Ash, and Sugar Maple.

Jim Geisler, Northeast Area Extension Forester, suggests this is an approach more communities may want to consider. Sometimes "wildings" or native stock is obtained from local areas that lack vigor and quality. This often results in poor survival.

Others interested in information about varieties, planting or maintaining trees or shrubs for parks, buildings, streets, downtown, or yards may contact their county extension agents. Also, suggestions are available for removing undesirable or dead trees.

Extension foresters of Kansas State University, located at five area offices across Kansas, can give assistance.

Thirty-nine communities, or more than fifty percent of those enrolled, turned in project record books this year. There were 175 in attendance at noon.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
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BULK RATE
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THOMAS KLINE, director of Community Development, Northern Natural Gas Company, was re-elected chairman of the Kansas PRIDE Committee.

The following are Tom’s remarks at the Banquet Program: “I would like to focus a few remarks toward one paramount question that occasionally arises in one form or another. That is this: Is the PRIDE Program anything more than just a contest? I would like to see this false notion laid to rest once and for all, because PRIDE is much more than a contest.

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The purposes and goals for the PRIDE Program are very simple. Its main purpose is to provide motivation and incentives for community-wide efforts to identify needs and resources; to determine realistic goals; and to accomplish projects to meet those goals. Since its beginning in 1971, PRIDE has contributed a great deal toward the successful completion of thousands of improvement activities in Kansas communities. Enthusiasm and achievement, coupled with a heightened sense of community, (which is most important in itself) are but a few of the advantages of participating in PRIDE.

"It should not be forgotten that it is on the local level, that people can still control their own destiny and exert the greatest amount of influence on what their community should be. The State PRIDE Committee knows that there are many Kansas communities who are doing good things and we want to continually recognize their accomplishments as well as facilitate opportunities for sharing experiences and approaches to community betterment.

PRIDE should definitely not be viewed as a contest, but rather as an important coordinating tool for any community. PRIDE should equate to community improvement through total involvement - backed up by community spirit."

KIRK BAKER, standing, extension specialist in Community Resource Development, Kansas State University, was in charge of the workshop on "Aids and Technical Assistance for Improving Our Communities." Eight presentations were made by representatives of state and federal offices and agencies.

Outstanding PRIDE Projects

When the judges visited the communities competing in the cash awards program, they selected outstanding projects for recognition at the Banquet.

ST. FRANCIS - Sawhill Park Restoration

The St. Francis PRIDE Committee enlisted mechanical assistance, hundreds of person hours and funds to completely restore the grounds, benches, and show the progress of Sawhill Park. This was a tremendous community effort.

ATWOOD - Airport Runway

The PRIDE Program in Atwood helped the City of Atwood and Rawlin County hard surface 3100 feet of runway, 50 feet wide. This was done entirely with local funds.

LACROSSE - Thriftshop

The PRIDE Committee created and now runs the "Second Chance" Shop in a downtown business building. The Second Chance Shopping hours are open three days a week offering donated clothing, books, and other small articles. Proceeds go toward community improvement projects.

SEMDH - Recreation Complex

"Through major support and efforts of the Sedan PRIDE Committee, a bond issue was passed for the development of a recreation complex in Sedan. With extensive assistance of local volunteer labor, all phases of the complex, which will include a swimming pool, tennis courts, and a baseball field, have been started.

SUCCESSFUL PRIDE YEAR

Below is the progress report made by Sue Kline, State PRIDE chairman, at the annual leadership luncheon.

"The 1976-77 program year has been a good one. Since the beginning of the program in 1971, 229 or 36% of the communities in the state have participated in the PRIDE Program for one or more years. We have 7 first-time communities this year.

"This year, a more equitable system was utilized for dividing those communities enrolled in the cash awards competition into population categories. This held true even after the project books were submitted on September 1st. There was an equitable distribution.

"The project book guidelines were simplified and cleaned up considerably.

In addition to the field resource assistance that is available to you through the KSU Cooperative Extension Service, as represented by Les Frazier and the six area specialists (Lance Hoffman, C.J. Sklik, Ken Alright, Ralph Utermohlen, Steve Bittel, Frank Meister) and others, Stan McNree of KED has been able to devote considerable time to the PRIDE Program.

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"We noted a 37% increase in the number of blue ribbon approvals this year over last. 229 categories or sub-categories were approved between September 1, 1976 and September 1, 1977. There was also a 28% increase in the number of communities participating in blue ribbons.

"An energy conservation special award was written and brought into the program. Beginning next year, this will be given as a special award for the next three years, after which it will be rolled into all of the blue ribbon categories.

"A policy was adopted which added credibility to the sweepstakes award by requiring that a community, in addition to being a first-place population category winner, have at least a minimum of 3 blue ribbons to be considered.

"To expand community input on the state steering committee, the two most recent sweepstakes winning community chairmen are full voting members of that committee. This has been a real plus.

"A Pacemaker re-certification program was put together with the excellent cooperation of and support from the eight existing Pacemaker communities. These communities were beginning to tell us that they needed something which would continue to challenge them. We consider this a fine addition to the program. PRIDE should represent an ongoing effort, and this addition will serve as a reminder to all communities that with or without population growth the ideas, needs, and desires of their community are constantly changing. This affects various elements of the community in one way or another. PRIDE can be the means or the vehicle by which to respond. PRIDE is not a contest, but a concept or process approach for community improvement.

"Briefly, after a community attains Pacemaker status, they must, if they wish to continue to be recognized as a Pacemaker community, resubmit and receive approval of the eight blue ribbon categories within any consecutive four (4) year period. Recertification will be for a period of four years, and the community will be designated as Pacemaker II, III, IV, etc., as applicable. Recognition will include the presentation of a plaque, and publicity in a number of various PRIDE and other statewide publications. Blue ribbons will be awarded via certificates instead of as now ribbon decals for your PRIDE signs."

KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT DUANE ACKER presents Pacemaker plaques to three members of Newton PRIDE Youth committee. Left to right are: John Butten, Patty Bernhard, Sheldon Holstine, and President Acker. There are eight youth on the people's PRIDE group. Two adults from Newton PRIDE steering committee serve as advisors, and the youth also are members of other PRIDE committees.

The youth committee meets once a month and more often when necessary. Linda Panekratz is chairperson of the Newton PRIDE Committee.

COUNCIL GROVE - "Council Grove exemplifies the true PRIDE philosophy of local citizens working together to solve local problems. After a community attained this level, the citizens of Council Grove went to work on programs and projects that were not on the horizon. A few of the major efforts included the establishment of a physical recreation committee, the beginning of historic tours, the planning of a community center, the formation of a recreation commission, new programs in community arts, and the expanded course offerings at the Flint Hills Free School."

MCPHERSON - "MCPHERSON, one of only eight Kansas PRIDE 'Pacemaker Cities' was acclaimed by the Judges this year as being at the pinnacle and setting the horizons for PRIDE in Kansas. Approximately one thousand individuals, representing eighteen sponsoring organizations, worked this past year on community improvement projects through the McPherson PRIDE Program. This progressive and innovative community accomplished twenty-one of its twenty-two established goals. A few of McPherson's major projects included substantially reducing the local water usage through the printing and distribution of 10,000 water conservation brochures, compilation of an accurate city census, holding downtown redevelopment workshops, and the continued development of the South Park area."

FIRST PLACE WINNERS

When Governor Bennett made the first place presentations in cash awards, the following information about Courtland, St. Francis, Council Grove and McPherson was given:

COURTLAND - "Courtland is one of the cleanest, if not the cleanest, communities in Kansas. Through a total community effort and commitment, Courtland was able to maintain a city-wide clean-up campaign throughout the entire year. The citizens of Courtland have the ability to marshall forces and to successfully complete very difficult projects. Courtland's success in acquiring and utilizing outside resources has assisted greatly in supplementing local resources and efforts. A few of Courtland's major accomplishments this past year include conducting a community attitude, providing low cost housing for the elderly, clearing blighted structures, instilling curbs and gutters and organizing a free monthly health clinic."

ST. FRANCIS - "St. Francis excelled this year in getting people involved in community projects. The restoration of Shawl Park proves what can be accomplished when many enthusiastic people volunteer their time and energy for a common cause. Early in the project year, local officials were not too receptive to a planned restoration of this park. However, due to the superb voluntary efforts of young and old alike, the elected officials had their eyes opened and are now very supportive of the project. Well in excess of 2000 hours have been donated to this worthwhile project."

PRIDE WORKSHOPS A SUCCESS

Two hundred and fifty people participated in the second annual workshops at Topeka PRIDE Day on October 22. Vicki Schmidt, McPherson, and Harriet McCue, Eureka, were on the committee that planned the noon program and workshops.

Comments from evaluation sheets of those in attendance included "Excellent presentations. I learned a lot, real good, very helpful, thanks so much, extremely informative." Those making suggestions said they wanted most of the same subjects presented at the sessions next year.

GENE GREY, standing, extension forester, Kansas State University, presents information, "Making our communities more attractive" at a PRIDE Day workshop. Ken Albright, extension specialist, Community Resource Development, was moderator for the session.

ERRIE MOTHER, standing, director, League of Municipalities, moderated a panel "Improving Community Housing." At left front is Fred Sellers, director, division of the housing department, Kansas Department of Economic Development. Fred and Newton extension housing specialist, Kansas State University, presented information.
and other dedicated townspeople resurfaced four blocks of streets and completely removed and rebuilt the curb and guttering for a several block area. This proved to be a laborious task, but was well worth the effort.

HOISINGTON - Pilot Project in Community Participation in the Community Development Process.

"Carrying through on a pilot project to test a comprehensive community development process, the Hoisington PRIDE Committee successfully completed much of the five step process. The process includes: organization, research, goal formulation, work programming, and implementation."

LINDSBORO - Youth Involvement.

"Lindsborg chose for their 1977 slogan 'Progress Results if Determination Endures' --- To assist in gaining the desired progress, Lindsborg enlisted the help of College youth for a housing survey and the FTA members for a variety of work projects."

HISAWA - Youth Involvement.

"Youth in Hisawo are active members of the PRIDE Committee and the Recreation Commission. Besides setting on these policy making bodies, the youth are also actively involved in the implementation of most all of Hisawo's PRIDE accomplishments."

NEWTON - Youth Involvement.

Because the Newton PRIDE Committee is interested in what concerns youth in Newton, they made as one of their major goals, the activation of Junior High Youth into the Newton PRIDE Program. They accomplished this goal, and the newly formed Youth Action Council has been very active.

WESTMORELAND - Street Improvements.

"Through a totally voluntary effort, members of the Westmoreland PRIDE Committee..."

ARTS CONFERENCE

A Governor's conference on "Business and the Arts" will be held at Century II in Wichita May 4, 5, and 6 for representatives of local PRIDE committees, business communities, arts councils, and others.

CASH AWARDS ENTRY DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15

All communities interested in entering the 1977 cash award program must make entry to K.O.E.D., 6th Floor, 903 Kansas, Topeka, Kansas by February 15, 1977.

Anyone interested in more information about the PRIDE Program or assistance in organizing community surveys, setting up projects, getting citizens involved, how to get action, or the blue ribbon program may contact one of the persons below, or your county extension agent located in each county seat town in Kansas.

SPEARVILLE - received second place in the cash award program. Youth from the town discussed their youth PRIDE Program at a workshop in the afternoon. Gary Windfield, front row left, 1977-78 PRIDE Chairperson. Kathy Fiest, center, back row, is Ford County Extension 4-H agent. Kathy Fiest, center, back row, is Spearville PRIDE youth chairperson.

BEVERLY STAGG, McPherson county extension director, talks on the PRIDE Blue Ribbon Approach at a workshop at Topeka.

E.L. Sisk, left front, moderated a panel. Dr. Vic Hurtig, right front, former chairperson of Courtland PRIDE, discussed blue ribbon procedures.

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