



# Kansas PRIDE Newsletter

April 2004

## April is Community Development Month

In a proclamation by Governor Kathleen Sebelius, April 2004 was declared Community Development Month. The proclamation recognizes the importance and value of the work to preserve and enhance the livability of Kansas communities. The formal statement honors the work of the communities and the programs of the state of Kansas for their work to increase the capacity of communities to meet their needs. Pictured with the Governor is the Kansas Department of Commerce Community Development staff.



*Left to right: Bill Acree, Ken Morgan, Laura Heflin, Dan Kahl, Terry Marlin, Beverly Wilhelm, Governor Kathleen Sebelius, Jeanne Stinson, Marilyn Graham, Jean Warta, Debbie Beck.*

## Community of Excellence Evaluation Reminder

Community on-site evaluation visits are encouraged for PRIDE communities so local PRIDE members may learn from a team of community development professionals, as well as gain new ideas and insights on how to strengthen their program. In addition, the visit provides the community an opportunity to showcase achievements to others in the community. To participate in the Community of Excellence evaluation process, a letter of request

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## Atmos Energy Corporation is New PRIDE Sponsor

Kansas PRIDE Inc. introduces Atmos Energy Corporation as a new sponsor organization. Atmos Energy Corporation is a company with strong values. Its goal is to be one of the largest providers of gas distribution and related services in the United States. Atmos is known for providing excellent customer service, being an employer of choice, and achieving superior financial results.



With headquarters in Dallas and regional headquarters in Denver, the company serves 1.7 million utility customers in approximately 1,000 communities in 12 states. In Kansas, Atmos Energy has 115,000 customers in 40 counties. The company also has approximately 150 employees in Kansas who work in 10 operating centers, which include Olathe, Coffeyville, Herington, and Johnson City.

"We are focused on both our employees and our customers," said James Bartling, Public Affairs Manager. "Our customers are the reason we're in business, and we are accountable for, and take ownership of, their issues."

"Our employees are very active in the communities in which they work. They are proud of the company they work for, and they're proud of their communities," Bartling continued.

"In my role, I get to see many of the communities and meet many of the citizens that Atmos Energy serves. We value our relationships with our customers, and continuously work toward making them better," Bartling concluded. He has worked in the utility industry for 26 years, the last 12 in Kansas. We welcome Atmos Energy Corporation as a Kansas PRIDE Sponsor!

**Don't forget to check out our Web page  
at [www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu](http://www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu)**

## News from PRIDE Communities

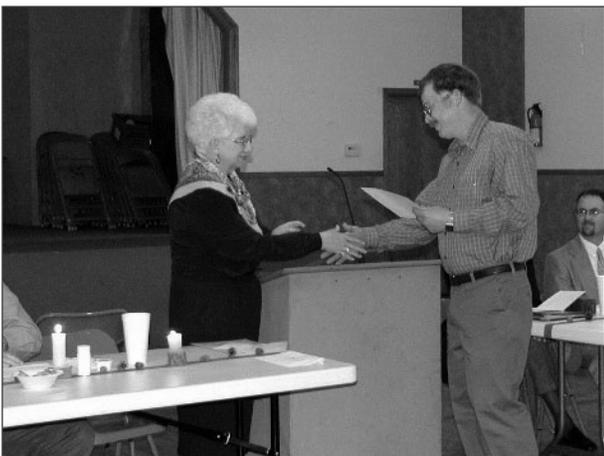
*The following are edited news stories shared by PRIDE Communities*

**Glasco** — Last fall Kody Pounds was recognized with a PRIDE Youth Community Service Award. As a seventh grade student, he coordinated the development of a community garden project that united school children with residents of the senior center. Springboarding from his success and recognition in Kansas, Kody was selected and recognized as a top youth volunteer by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards for 2004. He will represent Kansas middle school students at a recognition ceremony in Washington DC in May, at which time he will meet other youth volunteers from across the nation. In the meantime, Kody is making plans for an enlarged garden for the coming summer.

**Highland** — Highland PRIDE understands the importance of volunteers. Highland PRIDE recently held an appreciation dinner for the area volunteer EMT workers and firemen. The community really responded to this year's event as they had the largest crowd that they have ever had. The appreciation banquet boasted an outstanding musical program with personal pictures to accompany it. Twenty-four firemen certificates of appreciation and 14 EMT workers certificates of appreciation were awarded.

Highland PRIDE also is working on building a new community center. PRIDE will be taking survey papers to all Highland residents to assess the community center use needs, identify possible volunteer workers, and establish eligibility for a grant.

**Argonia** — The new Argonia Mart opened in December 2003. It is a grocery/convenience store with Simple Simon pizza and fuels and is located along US 160. Local residents and alumni helped fund the project. The LLC that built the new mart was formed from the Argonia PRIDE organization.



*Paul Conklin, fire chief, accepts the award for the fire fighters and EMTs from PRIDE president, Elizabeth Hemberger.*

The Argonia PRIDE Volunteer Appreciation Banquet was held in February. Volunteer firefighters, EMT's, and those in the community that showed outstanding volunteerism were recognized.

Kim Qualls, tourism marketing director for the Kansas Department of Commerce, spoke at a meeting in the Argonia city building in January. Qualls explained how partnering with other communities could be one way for PRIDE outreach to expand their present tourism program to other areas. Around ten communities with tourist attractions were represented. Meetings are being held to develop this partnership program further.

**Haven** — In an effort to bolster activities for young people, members of Haven PRIDE initiated the installation of a portable ice rink in the city's downtown area last January. With funding provided by the Haven Chamber of Commerce and the local city council, the project was completed just in time to reap the full benefits of freezing temperatures. A Grand Opening was celebrated on February 8th with a good group of skaters ready to participate in a variety of well-organized games. Free refreshments were served as well as hot dogs with condiments and hot chocolate. Haven PRIDE plans to include the rink as part of the community's winter schedule for years to come and is very happy to have achieved a worthwhile goal.

**Clearwater** — The Clearwater PRIDE/Economic Development Committee under the direction of the Clearwater Area Chamber of Commerce formed the "Clearwater Sign Committee" in January of 2003. The purpose of this Committee was to establish a "project plan" to gain four types of signs for the town. The first sign "Welcome To Clearwater" sign would be placed at the north entrance to Clearwater. Signs to follow will be an electronic community events sign, organization signs, and directional signs. Chamber member, David Fitzgerald, volunteered to chair the Sign Committee. David formed the committee and started working immediately to seek volunteer help and donations. Individuals and businesses raised a total of \$5,803.15 in less than one year. The sign, now in place, is a great asset to our proud and wonderful town of Clearwater, Kansas.

**Osawatomie** — Osawatomie has chosen to focus on local John Brown Memorial Park and restore it to its natural beauty. As a group, it was decided that the park was very under utilized. A community brainstorming session was held in January and was

## News from PRIDE Communities (continued)

facilitated by Dan Kahl and Beverly Wilhelm. Over 30 community members were present and helped to brainstorm several ideas. They focused on things in the park that they wanted to keep, things in the park that needed improvement, and then new ideas for the park. Osawatomie is now in the process of finding a Landscape Architect to provide a master plan with all of their ideas. Osawatomie is celebrating its 150th anniversary in October 2004 and would like to get some things done to the park before this event because much of the celebration will take place there.

**Lucas {Lucas Chamber/PRIDE}** — Spring is in the air and Lucas is booming with new and re-newed businesses! In the summer of 2003, Daris Meitler bought an old farm South of Lucas and started a hunting establishment called Wolf Creek Outfitters last fall. His specialty is trophy deer hunts, archery, muzzleloader, and rifle hunts. Michael and Stephanie Svaty bought the lumberyard, now known as Lucas Lumber Company, LLC in November 2003. They have expanded and now have all building materials available. Their specialty is Insulated Concrete Forms for basement and exterior walls. They have also added a gift corner, and interior design supplies. In January 2004 Amanda Maupin bought K-18 Café on Hwy. K-18. The Lucas elevator, which had been closed since October 2003, was purchased by Gorham Elevator in February 2004 and will soon re-open. Lois Cooper moved her real estate company, North Star Realty, from Sylvan Grove to Lucas in February 2004. Dustin & Lisa Sypher, Lawrence, are putting in a blacksmith's shop the old Quality Oil Station. He will create iron yard art such as, sculptures, fencing, and gates. They plan to open April 2004. Eric Abraham from Wamego has bought the Yarnell Chevrolet building and is putting in a ceramics shop. Eric plans to open his shop in April 2004. Land Pride (Great Plains), Beverly Health Care, and Heartland Hay are all hiring help. The Lucas Area Community Theater is going strong thanks to support from Lucas and the surrounding area. They have applied for a KAN-STEP Grant to build on a meeting room, dressing rooms and storage. Miller's Liquor Mart and Linda's Cafe are both for sale. Several people have been looking for housing, which we are short on. Lucas is working with another business that wants to relocate to Lucas as well.

If your PRIDE group would like to share a paragraph on the PRIDE events in your community, please send your news stories and photos to the Kansas PRIDE office by June 1, 2004 for the next newsletter.

## Recording Volunteer Hours

Ever wonder why the PRIDE quarterly report asks for volunteer hours? The measure of volunteer time invested in community is one important way to gauge the effect of the PRIDE program in your community. It reflects the dedication, commitment, and involvement of the citizens of your community to work for self-improvement. The planning, organizing, and project implementation time invested are necessary to making your community a better place. In completing the quarterly report, make certain that you are including all the time spent focused on community improvement through PRIDE (even planning, celebrating and recognizing volunteers).

For more ideas, information and resources on volunteerism, visit the Independent Sector Web site at: [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org). Independent Sector's *Giving and Volunteering in the United States Signature Series* provides a comprehensive picture of the giving and volunteering habits of Americans. Based on a national survey of more than 4,000 adults, this series of reports explores the why, how, and who behind the extraordinary everyday generosity—both in time and money—of American households. The Signature Series is sponsored by the MetLife Foundation.

### National statistics on Volunteerism and Giving

#### Giving (households)

- 89 percent of households give.
- The average annual contribution for contributors is \$1,620.

#### Volunteering (individuals)

- 44 percent of adults volunteer.
- 83.9 million American adults volunteer, representing the equivalent of over 9 million full-time employees at a value of \$239 billion.

Source: Independent Sector. [www.independentsector.org](http://www.independentsector.org)

## Tree City USA Accomplishments

Congratulations PRIDE Communities! The Kansas Forest Service and National Arbor Day Foundation recently recognized 12 PRIDE Communities as Certified Tree City USA Communities. Tree City USA provides focused direction, technical assistance, public attention and national recognition to community forestry programs in more than 100 Kansas communities across the state. Program benefits include: Framework for Action, Education Opportunities, Financial Assistance and Publicity. PRIDE Communities recognized were:

<b>Anthony</b>	<b>*Atwood</b>	<b>*Clearwater</b>
<b>Cunningham</b>	<b>Formoso</b>	<b>Haven</b>
<b>Haysville</b>	<b>Lansing</b>	<b>Lyndon</b>
<b>Osage City</b>	<b>*Park City</b>	<b>*Spring Hill</b>

\*Growth Award Recipients

For more information on the Tree City USA Program, contact Kansas Forest Service, Urban and Community Forestry Program, 2610 Claflin Road, Manhattan, KS 66502.

# Secrets of Success in Growing Communities

In an effort to determine why some communities seem to prosper and others seem to fail, a former Kansas State University professor, Dr. Cornelis Flora has done extensive research trying to see if there are some “common” traits among “winners and losers.”

Research revealed that in growing communities, controversy was considered normal. It was not treated as bad, wrong or abnormal, nor were the people who presented it. Instead, it was regarded as a necessity.

Just the opposite was revealed in dying towns. People avoided controversy, refused to address issues and the public was antagonistic toward rules and regulations and the people who made them.

People in growing towns held an objective view of politics. They did not side with someone out of friendship alone, nor oppose someone simply because that person was an educator, a businessperson or a farmer.

Dying communities, however, had a “my side of the street vs your side” mentality. They couldn’t separate the person from the job, gave loyalty to people rather than issues, and the “good old boy” clique prevailed right up to the end.

In prosperous towns, the emphasis in schools was on academics rather than sports. In dying towns, schools tried to hold people’s interest by promoting loyalty to sports. However, when academic programs deteriorated, people moved their children to better schools.

In growing towns, there was a willingness to risk for the good of the town. The attitude in growing towns was, “If we don’t risk, we will stagnate.” They also had enough success to want to risk—and they had success because they did risk. Dying towns had neither.

## Community of Excellence Evaluation Reminder

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must be completed and returned to the Kansas PRIDE Office by April 15, 2004. Evaluation for communities participating in Community of Excellence designation process will be visited during the week of June 7-10, 2004. The evaluation team assesses the community improvement process as reflected by the community atmosphere, community development processes followed, and the accomplishments/impact of the community PRIDE group. Communities that desire assistance with the presentation and those hosting evaluators for the first time are encouraged to contact PRIDE staff. Please notify Dan Kahl at the PRIDE office (785-532-5840) or Beverly Wilhelm, Community Development Division, Kansas Department of Commerce (785-296-3485) to arrange a meeting date as soon as possible to prepare for the evaluation visit.

Similar to the risk factor, growing towns had a willingness to tax themselves. They moved beyond want and desire to action.

Dying towns accurately identified needs, but that’s where everything stopped. They thought someone else should pay the bill for their gain, and weren’t willing to tax themselves.

Growing towns had the ability to expand. They made a place for more people — including those who were new to the community.

This was not true in dying towns. The townspeople would not share their power and authority with newcomers. A small group held all the leadership.

Growing towns also had the ability to network horizontally as well as vertically. They could therefore learn from anyone.

Learning in dying towns was all lateral—the citizens didn’t want to learn from anyone who wasn’t exactly like them.

Growing towns were flexible. They disbursed community leadership. Many people were involved in work and mission of the community in leadership roles, and as a result, when someone dropped out, another took his or her place.

In dying towns, leadership was often in the hands of one person. Everything went to and through that person. When that person died, the community stopped—and died with him or her.

*Reprinted Source: The Ellsworth, Kansas, Reporter*

## Tips for Community of Excellence Evaluation

- Make your best impression by choosing the meeting site carefully, and “dressing up” your community. This is your opportunity to showcase your community!
- Make certain meeting locations and arrangements are confirmed and shared with PRIDE staff by May 15th.
- Make this a public event! Demonstrate the support and commitment of your community by inviting partner organizations and volunteers! Don’t forget your Mayor, Council representatives; state and federal legislators and any others you feel need to be there.
- Organize the documentation for easy review for the evaluators including photos, news clippings or scrapbooks to review.

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# Kansas Department of Commerce

## Community Development Grant Application Workshops

### **CDBG Application Workshops Annual Competition (Housing, Community Facilities, and Water and Sewer)**

The Kansas Department of Commerce Community Development Grant Application Workshops will be this June. The annual competition categories are Housing/ Neighborhood Development, Community Facilities, and water and sewer. All workshops will be from 1:30 p.m. to approximately 4:30 p.m. in each community. Applications and guidelines for 2005 will be available at these meetings. Preregistration is not required.

Topeka, June 21, 2004  
Curtis Building, Suite 530  
1000 S.W. Jackson Street

Chanute, June 22, 2004  
SRS Building, Kansas Room  
1500 W. 7th Street

Burns, June 23, 2004  
Community Center  
302 N. Washington Avenue

Hays, June 25, 2004  
Sternburg Museum  
3000 Sternburg Drive

### **Economic Development, Micro-loan, Downtown Revitalization, Urgent Need, and KAN STEP Application Workshops**

Application workshops for the 2005 Economic Development, Micro-loan, Downtown Revitalization, Urgent Need, and KAN STEP programs beginning January 1, 2005, will be conducted from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the following locations:

November 2, 2004  
Hays  
Hays Medical Center, Hadley Conference Rooms 1 & 2  
2220 Canterbury Drive

November 3, 2004  
El Dorado  
Civic Center, Rooms 2 & 3  
101 East Central Avenue

November 4, 2004  
Topeka  
SRS Learning Center, Rooms A & B  
2600 S.W. East Circle Drive South

For assistance, please call:  
Kansas Department of Commerce  
Community Development Division  
CDBG Program  
1000 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 100  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1354  
Phone: (785) 296-3004  
TTY (Hearing Impaired): (785) 296-3487  
Fax: (785) 296-0186  
e-mail: [comdev@kansascommerce.com](mailto:comdev@kansascommerce.com)  
[www.kansascommerce.com](http://www.kansascommerce.com)

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## **Tips for Community of Excellence Evaluation**

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- Designate a “greeter” to meet the evaluators when they arrive, make introductions, and provide agenda and meeting details. Have elected official or city staff provide a welcome early in the Agenda. Have one person serve as Master of Ceremonies to keep the presentation on track.
- Recruit several community representatives, as well as team leaders to describe projects. This a good way to show diverse participation and involvement.
- To tell your story you may wish to use visual aids such as a PowerPoint, photographs or slides.
- If a tour is planned, visit the specific PRIDE project sites only. Determine the route in advance and determine who will be the spokesperson(s) to explain the project(s). This must be done efficiently to stay within the designated evaluation time.
- Plan to have someone close the meeting by expressing appreciation to the evaluation team for being in the community.

# Important PRIDE Dates 2004

April 15	Deadline for 2004-2005 Kansas PRIDE Program Official Entry Form and Government Resolution	May 19	PRIDE "STAR" Evaluations
	Deadline for requesting a year-end, on-site evaluation for the "Community of Excellence" award designation	June 6-11	Year-end, on-site community evaluations
May 3	"STAR" Award materials due in PRIDE office	July 1	Kickoff for the new PRIDE program year
	Youth Leadership/Youth Community Service Award nominations due in PRIDE office	August 27	Board of Directors meeting (Cottonwood Falls)
		November 5	Board of Directors meeting (Abilene)
May 18	Youth Community Service & Youth Leadership Evaluations	November 6	PRIDE Day (Salina)

The Kansas Department of Commerce, K-State Research and Extension, and private-sector companies and associations partner together to make the PRIDE program successful. For assistance contact the PRIDE staff: Beverly Wilhelm at (785) 296-3485; Dan Kahl at (785) 532-5840