



Kansas PRIDE Newsletter

Spring 2007

Keep Kansas Clean So Our PRIDE Can Be Seen

This spring, Kansas PRIDE is trying something new, a statewide cleanup for PRIDE communities. A clean, attractive community is not only a more pleasant place to live, but the value of the good impression it makes prospective employers, professionals, and other who visit your community should never be underestimated. So, let's spring into action, get outdoors and do our part to make Kansas communities clean and beautiful. Saturday, April 21 through Saturday April 28 have been designated as a time to "Keep Kansas Clean, So Our PRIDE Can Be Seen." Kansas PRIDE Communities are encouraged to plan a community clean-up during the designated time. What better way to show you care about your community and state than to pick up litter?

Everyone deserves to live in a community that is healthy, safe, and clean. We all have a role to play in achieving this goal.

Norton	Norton County 4-H Bldg East Park Street	February 20, 2007	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Wichita	Sedgwick County Extension Office 7001 W 21 st Street N.	February 22, 2007	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Burlington	Coffey County Library 410 Juniatta	February 27, 2007	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Manhattan	Pottroff Hall Cico Park	March 1, 2007	6:30-8:00 p.m.

Where's the Place for this Waste?

Plans for your community cleanup should include how household hazardous waste, or HHW, is going to be handled. HHW must be collected by someone trained and permitted to handle, haul, and store these materials. Each community must work with their local HHW collection facility to see if they can participate in the community's collection event. HHW collection facilities often serve an entire county and in some instances, may collect HHW regionally for up to 10 counties.

How can a local HHW collection facility help with a clean-up event? Each HHW facility is different, some may have limited hours open to the public, some may have remote collection locations, and some may

This *Kansas PRIDE Newsletter* is dedicated to community cleanup. It includes articles on household hazardous waste disposal, grants, code enforcement, and benefits to communities who participate in cleanups. It is our hope that each PRIDE community will schedule a community cleanup. With everyone working together, a difference will be seen by all.

Community workshops are scheduled across Kansas to be of assistance in planning and preparation of the community clean-up.

Topics that will be covered at the workshop include how to work with your local trash haulers, benefits of a clean-up, household hazard waste, and much more. Reserve a spot by calling our office at (785) 532-5840. Workshops are scheduled as listed.

even have a mobile collection trailers to bring to your community. However, there are a few guidelines HHW collection facilities must follow that you should know:

1. Household hazardous wastes (HHW) can only be collected by individuals trained and permitted to collect HHW in Kansas.
2. The HHW materials must be brought to a HHW facility *by each homeowner*. This means that communities cannot collect these wastes somewhere in the community and then haul the wastes into the collection facility at one time.
3. Most HHW facilities cannot take business wastes. (A few facilities are permitted to accept hazardous

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waste from businesses that generate small quantities of hazardous wastes.)

If a local HHW facility cannot accommodate a local clean-up event by setting up a collection facility or by opening their facility for collection on the clean-up day, let everyone in your community know how they should handle these wastes. Most importantly, everyone should know the following:

1. Will HHW be collected locally, or at the permanent HHW facility?
2. Where and when HHW waste will be collected. Local HHW facilities are listed at: www.kdheks.gov/waste/download/HHW_point_of_contact_01-04.pdf
3. What to do with "orphaned" waste. These wastes can be very dangerous! Orphaned wastes may be found in ditches or in abandoned buildings, leaking or without labels. If containers are leaking fluids or vapors or are in a lake, creek, or river, instruct citizens to leave the area immediately, and go upwind. Immediately call your local fire department, then call the local HHW facility contact person. If unsure of a container's contents or its ownership, leave the container in place and call one of the local contacts listed on the brochure found at: www.kdheks.gov/waste/download/orphan_waste_brochure.pdf. In fact, you may want to download and print several copies of this brochure to send out with each of your community clean-up teams.

You may also want to remind your community members that wastes classified as HHW cannot be disposed of with regular trash. Why? Because some of the products the public uses in and around their homes may pose a hazard to human health or the environment. What characteristics may make a product hazardous or dangerous?

- **Flammable:** they are easy to ignite, (lighter fluid and paint removers)
- **Corrosive:** eats away materials and living tissue by chemical action (oven cleaner)
- **Reactive:** may react with other products violently to create an explosion or deadly vapors (such as bleach mixed with ammonia)

- **Toxic:** capable of causing injury or death through ingestion, inhalation, or skin absorption. (rat poison or bleach)

How can your community clean-up groups spot a household hazardous waste?

Hazardous products are required by federal law to list "signal" words on the labels of their products if they are considered hazardous. DANGER or POISON indicate that the product is highly toxic, corrosive or extremely flammable. WARNING or CAUTION indicates that the product is moderately or slightly toxic. Thousands of consumer products are hazardous, but for ease of remembering, they can be broken into the following general categories:

Automotive products such as: gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, windshield wiper fluid, car wax and cleaners, lead-acid batteries, brake fluid, and transmission fluid.

Home improvement products such as: paint, varnish, stain, wood preservative, paint thinner, paint stripper, caulk, and adhesives.

Pesticides such as: insecticide and insect repellent, weed killer, rat and mouse poison, pet spray and dip, flea collars, mothballs, and disinfectant.

Household cleaners such as: furniture polish and wax, drain opener, oven cleaner, tub and tile cleaner, toilet bowl cleaner, spot remover, bleach, and ammonia.

Other wastes may also be considered HHW: household batteries, cosmetics, pool chemicals, shoe polish, lighter fluid, prescription medicines, and arts and crafts materials.

If your community clean-up groups find HHW materials in wastes that they are collecting, have them give the materials back to the homeowner to bring to the local HHW collection facility, or to the special collection unit set up in your community for your community clean-up event, if one exists.

Many HHW facilities plan spring and fall collection days on one or two weekends. If you start now, it may be possible for them to arrange their spring weekend collection day to coincide with our state-wide community clean-up event. If you can't find an HHW collection facility in your city or county, call Maria Morey, KDHE Bureau of Waste at 785-296-1611 or Sherry Davis with the Kansas PRIDE Program at 785-532-3039.

— Sherry Davis, PRIDE Project Coordinator



Paint is considered a hazardous household waste.

Clean-up Your Codes

In response to PRIDE's Clean-up Kansas Campaign, communities should investigate a better system for removing unwanted trash. Communities should begin enforcing a more timely abatement process of nuisance violations such as tall weeds, abandoned vehicles and all other types of debris. Adopting new ordinances is sometimes a critical step needed for promoting a cleaner community.

New ordinances on weed control should first define unmanaged brush and other weeds as having a blighting influence on the community and its residents. All weeds and indigenous grasses that exceed 12 inches in height are presumably blighting the condition of other properties located in the area. Yards that are not maintained are also a menace to health and safety. Tall weeds have a damaging affect because they can harbor insects, reptiles, and other pests. In addition to this, grasses that attain such large growth become a fire hazard to adjacent properties.

Another clean-up concern for PRIDE communities is the issue of junked motor vehicles. Dismantled and inoperative vehicles affect the health and safety of all citizens. The enforcement of this code is necessary because abandoned vehicles harm a positive

community image, while encouraging a blighting influence. There is also substance behind the notion that abandoned cars and other types of machinery impose a great danger, particularly to children, because of broken glass and sharp metal protrusions.

In the past, junker nuisance codes have been ineffective because of exceptions in the adopted ordinance. In any neighborhood or community, a vehicle should be presumed junked or inoperable when there is an absence of a current registration plate. Generally, the correct enforcement code will promote that all inoperable vehicles be stored in either an enclosed garage or a screened fence after a period of 30 consecutive days.

By taking the right precautions, these hazards can be combated by PRIDE communities. For more information on the adoption of ordinances for weed control and junked motor vehicles, please refer to the sample ordinances that can be found at the League of Kansas Municipalities Web site, www.lkm.org.

— J.R. Robl, PRIDE Program Coordinator

Interested in Recycling, Composting, HHW, or Waste Tire Grants?

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Waste Management is sponsoring a workshop on March 27-29, 2007 in Hutchinson, Kansas to teach more about grants that are available for recycling, composting, household hazardous waste and waste tires. This is an opportunity to learn about some changes to grant programs and for a special grant round this spring for pilot e-waste collection centers. For more information on grants that are available please check out their Web site at www.kdheks.gov/waste/.

Increased Community Improvement Through PRIDE

In 60 communities across Kansas, PRIDE is making a difference in the way groups are working to improve their communities by tackling projects that invest in the local social, economic, physical, cultural, environmental, human, and political health of their community. On Tuesday, March 13, 2007 in Lyons, Kansas PRIDE is hosting a retreat for members of PRIDE communities and county extension staff to share success stories, resources, and explore new strategies to expand our work with community improvement groups. Please reserve March 13 on your calendar and invite your local extension staff to join you for a day to learning and sharing. More information will be sent in February, including registration forms.

PRIDE Sponsor Spotlight — The Kansas Association of Counties

Created by statute K.S.A. 19-2690 in 1975, the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) works to advance the interests of Kansas county governments and the citizens they serve.

The Kansas Association of Counties provides legislative representation, technical assistance, leadership, and professional education, and identifies resources to address the challenges faced by county government. The association's mission is grounded in state law and shaped by the leadership of its 13-member governing board.

The KAC has eight affiliate members and five associate members. Affiliate member organizations are involved in and serve for the benefit of county government. They are represented on the KAC Governing Board and Legislative Policy Committee. The affiliates are the County Counselors Association of Kansas, County Weed Directors Association of Kansas, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, Kansas County Appraisers Association, Kansas County Commissioners Association, Kansas County Highway Association, Kansas Emergency Management Association, and Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association.

The five associate members are comprised of officials who work on behalf of counties, or are significantly financed with county funds. Associates are not represented on the governing board, but nevertheless participate in the KAC's Legislative Policy Committee and in the association's annual conference and other educational programs. The associates are Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc., Kansas Association of County Planning and Zoning Officials, Kansas County Administrators Association, Kansas County Human Resource Association, and Kansas Government Management Information Sciences Association

With more than 17,000 county employees in Kansas, county government is one of the largest employers in the state. The Kansas County Government Institute is an extensive educational program that offers leadership and professional development opportunities for the people who serve county governments in Kansas and is committed to providing quality, affordable instructional services at regional locations around the state. Programs include the Kansas Leadership Academy for County Commissioners, the Effective Supervisory Skills program, and Service Excellence in Customer Service program.

The Legislative Program serves to identify and communicate public policy priorities at the state and federal levels of government for member counties

of the Kansas Association of Counties. Through a highly participative process open to all members, the association annually develops and formally adopts an official Legislative Policy Statement that represents the common legislative goals of member counties. The Legislative Policy Statement is distributed to the executive and legislative branches of government, and serves as the foundation for the Association's legislative representation in Congress and in the Kansas Statehouse.

The Kansas Association of Counties attempts to increase understanding of public health issues among county officials and others inside and outside of the Kansas governmental system. It pursues this objective with a public health policy fellow funded by the Kansas Health Foundation, a Wichita-based philanthropy dedicated to improving the health of all Kansans.

In 2004, the Kansas Legislature approved the Wireless Enhanced 911 Act (K.S.A. 12-5321). This Act places a 50¢ tax on each wireless customer's monthly bill. The tax is remitted in two separate parts with 25¢ going to the State of Kansas to fund a grant program and 25¢ going to the Local Collection Point Administrator to be distributed back to local Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). The Kansas Association of Counties and the League of Kansas Municipalities together serve as the Local Collection Point Administrator (LCPA). Wireless companies collect the funds from their customers and then remit the funds to the LCPA along with data regarding the ZIP +4 of the wireless customer. The LCPA then distributes the funds to PSAPs based upon the ZIP +4 data.

In 2004, the Kansas Association of Counties co-founded The Kansas Collaborative. The Kansas Collaborative is an effort of the State of Kansas, the Kansas Association of Counties, and the League of Kansas Municipalities, dedicated to fostering collaboration and improving government efficiency. The collaborative has worked to bring dramatic prescription drug purchasing savings to counties as well as savings for government entities working on GIS projects. The drug purchasing project was nationally recognized at the Council on State Governments meeting with the 2006 Innovations Award.

The Kansas Association of Counties continues to explore ways to best serve its membership.

— *Judy Moler, Kansas Association of Counties
Legislative Services Director & General Counsel*

— *Sarah Meyer, Kansas Association of Counties
Conference & Meeting Planner – PRIDE Board of
Directors*

Keep Kansas Clean

Keeping our towns, communities, and our roadways clean has far reaching economic impact on our state. I will cover just three of the main reasons for putting maximum effort into keeping Kansas clean. One is the effect on the local economy, two the potential benefits to the great state of Kansas, and three the environmental impact that goes beyond the borders of our state.

Small communities in any state that doesn't have industrial or commercial job opportunities available have only quality of life to offer new residents or businesses to their towns. The first impression of your community should be one that says, "We are a town that cares, and yes we have pride in our community." If the first thing a visitor to your town sees is plastic bags, fast-food container waste, cardboard and other municipal waste along the roads leading to your town, should they stop or keep going? What would you do?

A clean town will encourage potential new residents to further investigate the benefits of your community. Without a dedicated effort to attract new businesses and new home construction in your community, property values decline and the tax burden, to maintain basic services, increases to the remaining citizens. By choosing strong leadership for your community clean-up endeavor and involving all willing volunteers, you can make a difference in your community's economic future.

The first impression we make on all travelers through the great state of Kansas will determine if they would return to spend their vacation dollars. The rise and fall of the economic impact of tourism in our state is determined by what a traveler sees as compared to other states or countries. We are no longer competing for tourist dollars in our own community or state. Affordable air travel

has changed tourism to a global competition. By following the guidelines in the *Clean-up Fix-up Campaign* booklet, we can make improvements

in the first impression we make on travelers in Kansas. Industrial investors also look at cleanliness as an indicator of the overall pride people of our state would take as employees in their business.

There are several environmental issues created by trash along our roadways, in our yards, and in our waterways. The unsightly aspect takes second place compared to the health risk created by trapped water that provides a breeding habitat for mosquitoes and the threat of West Nile virus and other related health risks to humans and small animals. Piles of municipal solid waste encourage the propagation of undesirable rodents and insects, close to

and sometimes in the very places we live, increasing health problems for all people and animals in the vicinity. Trash in and along our waterways not only creates an unsightly mess but also contributes to the destruction of water quality needed for all aquatic life to survive. Trash pollution in our waterways contributes to poor storm water drainage in some cases, and may impact the cost and quality of drinking water, in the state of Kansas and beyond our borders. Household products, yard chemicals, and petroleum products that could impact our environment can also be collected during a community clean-up program for proper disposal through your local household hazardous waste collection facility.

As you can see we have many challenges in our Clean-Up Kansas Program, but I am confident that the people of Kansas are up to the task and will get the job done. "Keep Kansas Clean"

— Dean Schmidt, Potwin PRIDE and PRIDE Clean-up Committee Member

Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world.

— Joel Barker

Ten New Year's Resolutions for PRIDE Community Improvement

As the PRIDE program moves into 2007, I hope that your PRIDE group will consider these "New Year's resolutions":

- 1) Base your work on the needs or dreams of your community.
 - If you need to update your community survey or strategic plan, call the PRIDE staff for resources and assistance.
- 2) Use resources available through PRIDE
 - Visit the new Web site at www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu
 - Investigate the resources available through the Kansas Department of Commerce Community Development Programs and other links on the Web site.
- 3) Consider your project goals in relation to the long-term goals for the community.

Are your projects helping enhance the community in the following areas? (If not, how might they?)

 - Human health
 - Environmental health
 - Social networks or collaborative activities
 - Youth and leadership development
 - Economic retention and expansion
 - Cultural or historical preservation or enhancement
 - The built community (streets /buildings, etc.)

- 4) Take advantage of education and training events through PRIDE this year.
- 5) Make certain that youth are participating on your central PRIDE committee.
- 6) Look into the Prairie Star Plants for your community improvement this spring (<http://www.prairiestarflowers.com/>)
- 7) Participate in the PRIDE statewide clean-up program this spring.
- 8) Invite a new member to serve on your PRIDE committee.
 - Consider someone new to the community, or that hasn't been asked before.
- 9) Think of new and creative ways to have fun and recognize your volunteers.
 - While you all deserve recognition, highlighting the work of others will help everyone in the organization!
- 10) Sleep well, knowing that the hard work you do is setting an example to others, is leaving a legacy, and is an investment in your community and everyone that lives there!

And finally, don't forget to share all your success with the PRIDE staff through your quarterly reports! Looking forward to working with you all in 2007!

— Dan Kahl

New Addition to PRIDE Staff

Jaime Menon is the newest member of the PRIDE staff. Jamie, a senior administrative assistant, joined the PRIDE staff in the Manhattan office in November 2006.

Jaime grew up on a farm on the Iowa Tribe Reservation near Tryon, Okla., a small town about 25 miles south of Stillwater. She attended college at Oklahoma State University where she met her husband, Sailesh.

After graduating with a B.A. in Sociology and Art History, Jaime moved from Stillwater to Greenwood, S.C. in 2004 as Sailesh was working at a molecular/cellular lab based there.

At the end of October 2006, her husband accepted a job with the Biology Department at Kansas State University.

After 2 weeks in Manhattan, Jaime accepted a job with the Kansas PRIDE Program. She works for Dan Kahl, Connie Hoch, and Sherry Davis and says they are excellent bosses.

"My husband and I are absolutely entranced by Manhattan, as it is such a beautiful place," says Jaime.

"The people of Kansas are incredibly genuine and kind, and we hope to be here for many years to come."



Jaime Menon on the job at the PRIDE office.

Community Notes — from Quarterly Reports

Argonia PRIDE celebrated the Fourth of July with a volleyball tournament and evening meal. They worked on a project of PRIDE for Friendship Meals, new fencing and flag pole for River Park, recycling that takes place twice a month, flags on Main Street replacing old flags with new, and a tourism meeting is scheduled to gain ideas on how to use Argonia for tourism.

Assaria PRIDE held an Assaria Fall Festival with an Old West Theme celebrating Assaria's 120th anniversary, which had a very favorable response from the community.

Florence PRIDE volunteers installed flower boxes along Main Street. A "Thank You" Garden Party was held for those volunteers at the city park shelter. They served meals at the 69th annual Labor Day celebration. A float themed "Florence is FIRED UP!" was built for the Labor Day Parade (received 3rd Place Honors and many compliments). A monthly PRIDE newsletter called *The Crossroads* is sent out to keep the community informed of town happenings.

Goff PRIDE started to receive products for Second Harvest as "Let's Help" in Topeka for their Food Pantry project, the After-School Tutoring has started for the year, and progress is being made for the Heartland Share.

Herndon PRIDE had a big hit with the Yard of the Month Contest. They added a new teeter-totter to the park and a new welcome flag was erected.

Kinsley PRIDE's Appreciation Dinner was a great hit! The Fairground Clean-up was a success, and two community trees were replaced. The Miss Midway Pageant got many in the community into great spirits.

Leroy PRIDE's flower bed was introduced to the park. The "Appreciation Meal" was a success. The new signs for the corner flower beds are admired by everyone.

Onaga PRIDE organized a successful citywide Fall Cleanup. The float for the county fair parade turned many heads. The community garage sale for fund raising for the playground went off well. The community is beginning to believe the city will really grow, and not perish, because of the new accomplishments that are being made as groups pull together.

Park City PRIDE organized a food pantry and is busy serving about 20 families each month. The biannual Park City Phone Directory has been printed and distributed. City council meetings are being televised on the local city channel. The Park City 4th of July was again, a complete success. Operational Homefront had been busy with a city-wide collection of supplies and money. Boxes to Park City servicemen and women were shipped during October.

Stafford PRIDE uses the local paper to spotlight local youth and adults, businesses, Yard of the Month winners and more. Flower beds are in the works. A PRIDE scrapbook is kept and is available for view at local functions to show program progress. 4-H volunteers renovated the picnic table tops at the fairgrounds. The VFW building makeover has many residents pitching in. A Halloween parade was sponsored for the local rest home with costume contest and more.

Youth Leadership and Community Development, Summer Leadership Coordinator Positions

Retaining youth is one of the central themes often discussed when identifying ways to sustain rural communities. Too often, youth leave a community because they feel that there are too few opportunities for employment, or that there is a lack of opportunity for involvement in the community.

K-State Research and Extension PRIDE and the AmeriCorps Program of Kansas Campus Compact, may have just the solution you are looking for. If your community has a college student interested in

living at home and providing youth leadership in your community, the AmeriCorps program can offer training, an education award, and matched financial support for that position.

If your community is interested in a summer coordinator for your youth program, visit the AmeriCorps Summer Leadership Coordinator Position information posted on the Kansas PRIDE Web site at www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu right away. Funding is limited, so don't delay!

Kansas PRIDE Program
101 Umberger Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas 66506

PRIDE Calendar

January 26 PRIDE Inc Board Meeting, Olathe
February 20 PRIDE Clean-up Workshop, Norton
February 22 PRIDE Clean-up Workshop, Wichita
February 27 PRIDE Clean-up Workshop, Burlington
March 1 PRIDE Clean-up Workshop, Manhattan
March 13 PRIDE Community Development Workshop, Lyons
March 27 - 29 Kansas Department of Health & Environment Bureau of Waste Management Grant Workshop, Hutchinson

April 11-12 KCCED Community Economic Develop Conference, Lindsborg

April 13 PRIDE Inc Board Meeting, Lenora
April 21-28 PRIDE Clean-up Week



All educational programs and materials are available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, or disability.

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: Jeanne Stinson at (785) 296-3485; Dan Kahl or Connie Hoch at (785) 532-5840