



Kansas PRIDE Newsletter

Summer 2007

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Building and Sustaining Community with PRIDE

As volunteers for a community improvement program, PRIDE members are often looking for immediate, visible projects that they can implement to make their town or city a better place to live. This may be through community celebrations (July 4th, Christmas, festivals, etc.) or projects like the “Yard-of-the-Week” recognition or “More Beautiful Communities” effort (see www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu). Both are great ways to make a quick and significant improvement in community aesthetics and build community relationships.

Another aspect that PRIDE groups often tackle is a longer-range approach to community building and sustainability through emergency planning, community services, and local business support. Included with this newsletter is information on the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program through the USDA office of Rural Development. This program is geared to helping small, rural businesses cut expenses by improving energy efficiency, including lighting, cooling and heating, and/or refrigeration. Your PRIDE group can share this information with your local grocery, hardware, or other stores to make them aware of programs that can assist their business.

These programs may also open doors for farmers and ranchers in your community to improve their operations or create new renewable energy systems. When local businesses thrive, your community grows stronger!

—Dan Kahl

PRIDE Cleans-up

Twenty-seven Kansas communities reported a planned clean-up during the PRIDE cleanup week. Projects reported included old houses being demolished, perennial flowers exchanged, trees planted and bags of trash being picked up by community volunteers.



Onaga PRIDE volunteers demolish an old house.

Communities that returned the evaluations have shared many success stories. More than 1,600 volunteer hours were recorded.

“This is only a fraction of the hours PRIDE communities have spent doing spring cleaning,” said Connie Hoch. The community of Onaga had so many volunteers show up for a demolition of an old residence that many of the volunteers spent time at the park; repainting bleachers and cleaning up the area.

Stockton had the school involved and students had planned to clean windows on Main Street until Mother Nature helped with that project. It rained! Students filled more than 100 trash bags with trash.

Lincoln School PRIDE in Hutchinson collected an estimated 60 rolling trash bins of trash.

If you have any ideas of how PRIDE can make this an annual event and show the impact that volunteers have on providing communities with the best place to live, please contact Connie Hoch at choch@ksu.edu.

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 Kansas State University
 Manhattan, Kansas

You're Invited to "A Taste of Alton PRIDE"

Come to Alton for the annual Summer Jubilee on Saturday, August 25 for a fun filled day. The theme is *A Taste of Alton Pride*. A large parade at 10:30 a.m. starts the festivities. An afternoon in the park includes; music, bingo, games for the children, an auction at 5 p.m., BBQ meal at 6 p.m., and to top it all off is an evening program provided by the Bull City Opry Company. This is their 12th production and they are great, bring your lawn chairs. Also, at the ball park is an antique tractor pull beginning at 12:30. There is something for all ages.

The fellowship doesn't end on Saturday; there is a Community Church Service under the big top at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday followed with a potluck dinner. New this year will be a Jam Session following dinner under the shelter house.

Communities Share Improvement Techniques

Four PRIDE Community representatives served on a panel at the Community Development Academy: *Empowering Community Leadership* workshop in Newton in July.

Jim Irey of Melvern, Lois Loucks of Onaga, Dee Stewart of Park City, and Dean Schmidt of Potwin all spoke on behalf of their community to workshop participants. Attending the workshop were teams representing a dozen different communities in central Kansas.

The panelists told of their experiences with surveying the community, how they involved the community in prioritizing projects and goals, and the results of using this process. This was a great opportunity for PRIDE communities to share their successful experiences with other community groups.

The Community Development Academy was hosted through a collaborative effort of USDA Rural Development, Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, Kansas Department of Commerce, and K-State Research and Extension.

Argonia Daze Big Success

May 18-20 was the annual Argonia DAZE. It was a community wide celebration with all ages participating. There was a rodeo Friday and Saturday nights. Saturday was a big day beginning with garage sales, softball tournament, river walk/run and a parade with entries from people of all ages. The children that participated in the library reading were in a group, as well as other children in other parts of the parade. Older ages were represented in a variety of entries.

Food was available in the Salter Park — free hotdogs and free homemade ice cream as well as other food items to purchase. For the children there were moonwalks and face painting. There was also a dunk tank. For the men there was a horseshoe tournament at River Park. The high school students had an ugliest pickup contest.

Sunday morning was a community worship service in Salter Park followed by a covered dish dinner. High School graduation was that afternoon.

Monday on the 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. newscasts on KSN was coverage of highlights of Argonia as a result of their visit here in April. Featured were the River Park, the housing project, Mrs. Salter's house, Argonia Mart and the schools. We considered this as one day added to our Argonia DAZE celebration.

10 Inexpensive or No-Cost Ways to Recognize Volunteers

1. Write a news article to be published in the volunteer's newspaper.
2. A telephone call wishing the volunteer a happy birthday.
3. Send cards for personal achievements.
4. Sponsor a potluck picnic for volunteers
5. Deliver a bag of peanuts to each volunteer with a label: "We would be NUTS without you!"
6. Send a thank-you note.
7. Roll of lifesaver with note attached stating: "You are a lifesaver."
8. Spotlight a volunteer in your newsletter.
9. Praise in public, during a planned meeting, or by chance.
10. Have an "at-home tea party." (Send volunteers a tea bag in a card and ask them to enjoy a cup of tea in the quiet of their home.)

Natural Resources Become Community Assets

The Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities (HEHC) project held a bus tour for community groups from Melvern, Rossville, and Greeley to see and hear how other small communities are using their natural resources to do big things! These communities have been working hard on the HEHC project – they've each conducted two public forums, numerous smaller meetings, and have worked hard on their natural resource assessments. These communities have invested more than 1,000 hours exploring, enhancing, and protecting the future of their communities and their local environment.

The HEHC program is a community-wide program to involve citizens in planning and other activities that will benefit the quality of the water and the environment they live in. In order to plan for the future, these communities are “assessing” the resources they have – wildlife, water, plants, historic and cultural assets, local land uses, and the infrastructure or “built” resources in their communities. The bus tour was an opportunity for these volunteers to see what other communities have done and are planning to do to invest in and enhance their community.

The tour began with a stop in Wamego to visit with Bob Cole, Director of the Pottawatomie County Economic Development Corporation to talk about

their Kansas River canoe access project, an 8-mile bike and hike trail to St. George and how the Yellow Brick Road Ride for bicyclists raises funds for the trail and enthusiasm for eco-tourism. The next stop was at K-State for a visit with Lee Skabelund to see a rain-garden built to retain rain water and improve storm water quality at the International Student Union on campus.

The last stop was in Council Grove. Kay Hutchinson, Director of the Council Grove/Morris County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism talked about how they have used their historic and cultural resources to boost tourism and Charlene McCray, former mayor of Council Grove, discussed the Neosho Riverwalk Trail project and how their community worked to make it a successful and beautiful community resource.

The tour wrapped up with a visit to Council Grove Lake and a hiking trail maintained by local volunteers. Everyone agreed it was a great day and that the information would be beneficial to their Healthy Ecosystems-Healthy Communities project work. Great work Rossville, Melvern, and Greeley!

Sherry Davis

Project Coordinator

Healthy Ecosystems Healthy Communities



PRIDE Partner Award

The Kansas PRIDE program is seeking your nomination of a county or district K-State Research and Extension Agent for the 2007 PRIDE Partner Award. The PRIDE Partner Award recognizes an agent that has provided exceptional support to the PRIDE Program through their work with communities, or in support of the work of the PRIDE program at the state level (other than PRIDE staff.)

If you have an agent that has shown exceptional leadership or service to your PRIDE community work, please take a moment and complete a nomination form that indicates why you would like to nominate the K-State Research and Extension repre-

sentative for the 2007 PRIDE Partner Award. Please describe how the candidate has provided leadership or assistance to your community. Include how long they have been engaged and provide specific examples of their involvement.

We will collect the nominations at the K-State PRIDE office until August 31, 2007. Nominations can be mailed to the office, or returned via e-mail to jmenon@ksu.edu. The selected candidate will be recognized at the Annual K-State Research and Extension meeting and PRIDE Day in October. Questions? Please call or e-mail the PRIDE office.

PRIDE Sponsor Spotlight — Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline

Kansas PRIDE is happy to announce Southern Star Central Gas Pipeline as a new sponsor.

Headquartered in Owensboro, Kentucky, Southern Star transports natural gas in the Midwest and Mid-Continental Region of the United States. Southern Star employs more than 400 people and is based in eight states, with the majority of the employees located in Kansas and Kentucky.

The colors associated with the Southern Star logo stand for the company's valued principles: silver for innovation, and blue for integrity.

The company originated in the Indian Territory of what would later be known as Oklahoma. The corporate heritage can be traced back to 1904, although its original inception was in 1896 when the Osage Tribal Council signed a historic 10 year lease agreement that allowed the company to drill on 1.5 million acres of Osage controlled land.

Instead of letting the natural gas that was discovered in association with oil disperse into the

air, companies began trapping and transporting the clean burning fuel across the country. New York businessmen began to realize that the rapidly growing companies in Oklahoma were sound investments, and began combining the smaller companies into larger concerns.

Southern Star has gone through many significant changes over the last century, but its commitment to its customers and safe and reliable service have not changed in the least.

The company has also continued to appreciate the diversity of its workforce as well as the cultures reflected by it. The Southern Star proudly displays the state flower and tree of every state in which it operates at its corporate headquarters. The cultural touches, along with the colors of the corporate logo are purposefully used to remind the company where they had started, who they are, what they do, and how they strive to do it.



Grant Opportunity

For those who have big dreams for your community, The Case Foundation is launching a pilot grants program that could turn those dreams into reality.

The Case Foundation has just announced a grant award program recognizing good ideas for improving communities. The *Make It Your Own Awards*, a new initiative from the Case Foundation, is about giving grants, tools, and recognition to people who are coming together to discuss what matters, form solutions, and take action.

Twenty semi-finalists will each receive \$10,000 grants to start bringing their ideas to life. Four final grant recipients will each be awarded an additional \$25,000 grant.

To see the full grant announcement and explanation go to: www.casefoundation.org/make-it-your-own/awards.

The deadline is August 8, 2007. The Center for Engagement and Community Development at K-State would happy to provide a consulting role for any who wish to get involved. If you need counseling concerning this grant, please contact David Procter of the CECD at dprocter@ksu.edu, ccd@ksu.edu or by phone at 785-532-6868.

PRIDE Day Conference

Make plans now to attend the upcoming PRIDE Day Conference and recognition luncheon.

The conference will be held at the Junction City Marriott in Junction City, Kansas on September 29, 2007. The theme for the day will be *Ownership of Leadership*. It will be a day filled with learning, sharing and celebration. So mark your calendar and plan on being at the conference on September 29, 2007. Registration information will be in the mail and on the Web site by the end of July.

This is your opportunity to hear motivational speakers, share the PRIDE story with other communities, and learn more about upcoming grant opportunities.

Load the car and head to Junction City on September 29.

PRIDE Day Youth Program

One great way to help youth to get organized and engaged in community service is to bring them to PRIDE Day in Junction City on September 29, 2007. Youth attending PRIDE Day will find that they will have their own sessions designed especially for them.

Staff from Kansas State University Leadership Studies Program will be leading a workshop of fun activities. Youth will learn team building and leadership skills.

4th Quarter Report Due

Don't forget to send in your 4th quarter report. It is important to hear from each community as we begin to compile all the numbers to emphasize the accomplishments of PRIDE communities for our annual review. Please send them to the PRIDE office by July 15 or e-mail them to jmenon@ksu.edu.

Lansing Installs New Welcome Sign

Lansing PRIDE sponsored an effort to replace the welcome sign on highway at the entrance to town. The sign has 10 organizations listed, the remaining logo to be added is of the Community Club the oldest organization in Lansing. It started close to 100 years ago and has been going ever since. As could be surmised, it is composed mostly of ladies that are retired, or well beyond retirement! They had never



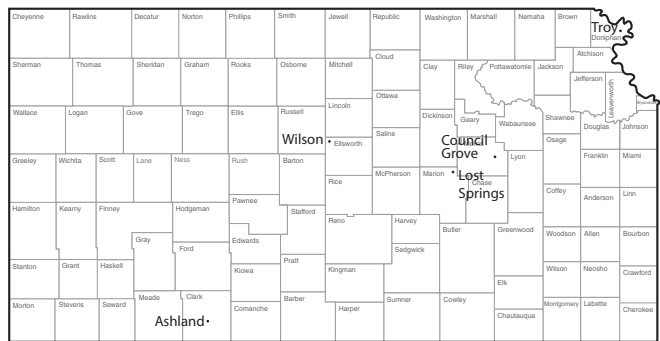
Gene Young and Forrest Holdeman putting up the logos.

Welcome To PRIDE

The Kansas PRIDE program year kicked off on July 1. Five new communities joined the ranks of Kansas PRIDE this year. We would like to welcome the following communities to the PRIDE program.

- Ashland
- Council Grove
- Lost Springs
- Troy
- Wilson

These communities are starting strong as they dive into community improvement. Each will be following the community improvement process that includes: assessment, project identification, public engagement, implementation, and celebration. We welcome Ashland, Council Grove, Lost Springs, Troy, and Wilson to the program!



had a logo, so Gene Young, Lansing PRIDE member, has designed one for them.

Most organizations donated \$100 apiece toward the cost of the sign, with PRIDE and the city kicking in the rest. A lot of the work and materials were donated by Young Sign Company and Lansing Lumber.

— John/Helen Bennett



This is the result of Lansing's latest project; a Welcome to Lansing, The City with a Future sign.

Towanda Kansas — Early Native American History

The word Towanda comes from an Osage Indian word for water, which according to history had reference to the spring that the Flowed at the west edge of what is now the city. Towanda Kansas was first settled in the spring of 1859. In 1863 J R Meade opened a Trading Post. At this time there were camps of Kickapoo, Shawnee and Delaware Indians as well as other tribes camped there along the Whitewater and Walnut River. The big spring which flowed from the mouth of a small cave under the hill on the west edge of Towanda was more than likely the reason for establishing the trading post and later the founding of Towanda in 1870. This spring was widely known about by the Indians who let hunters and plainsmen know of it long before the settlement.

In 1863 James R Meade came to Towanda from Iowa and established a trading post and actively traded with Native Americans and Pioneers such as Jesse Chisholm and William Buffalo Bill. The Trading Post in Towanda was established due to the plentiful supply of antelope, buffalo and deer. Mr. Meade traded with Native American Chiefs such as Santana of the Kiowa, and Heap of Bears of the Arapahoe and many others.

In spring of 1864 The Wichita and allied Bands of Indian refugees from their homes in Indian

Territory settled along the Whitewater, Walnut and Little Arkansas Rivers.

In fall of 1864 the Government established an

Indian Agency at Meads Trading Post. Indians came by the 100's to exchange furs for food, blankets and trinkets and to receive government rations and clothing issued by the government. Sometimes as many as 20 different tribes were camped near the Trading Post. Colonel Leavenworth made his headquarters here temporarily and carried on his negotiations with the Indians which resulted in the Treaty of Medicine Lodge. There were



camps of Kiowa, Comanche and Arapahoe's and others who camped near Meads Trading Post.

By 1869 Meade sold the Trading Post and moved to what is now known as Wichita and helped with the founding of that city. Tense relationships between the Indians and Whites had escalated and most Indians were moved to Indian Territory. The city of Towanda was established in 1870.

In celebrate this early history of Towanda, this year at the Rushing Water Festival held the first Saturday of October, there will be a Native American Powwow held in the evening. This Powwow is a Traditional Social Powwow to honor Towanda's early history. For more information on this check out www.rushingwaterfestival.com or www.rushingwaterfestival.org. Excerpts from "The Mooney Memorial Christian Church" by Dorothy Starr 1978 Mennonite Press Kansas.

— Milton Hamilton

Kansas PRIDE and K-State Extension

Join in Partnerships for Healthier Kansas

Community PRIDE organizations, along with local K-State Extension and youth partners will be invited to apply for grants early this fall to plan, implement and celebrate local health promotion projects. Through the “Partnerships for Healthier Kansas” project PRIDE committees can apply for mini-grants of up to \$3,000 to participate in a statewide initiative to encourage implementation of health promotion projects. Those projects could include trail development, physical activity promotion, establishing walking clubs or TV/screen-time reduction campaigns.

The call for grant proposals will be released late August with proposals due November 26, 2007. Applicants will have three opportunities to learn more about the grant project:

- August 30; 1-3pm K-State Alumni Center, Manhattan, KS
- September (TBA); 3-5pm Polycom

- September 29; 11am-12pm; Kansas PRIDE Day, Junction City

Not only will grantees receive funds to implement projects, but there will be three trainings provided help communities in their work. Those trainings will include information and techniques for effective community health promotion through youth and adult partnerships.

“Partnerships for Healthier Kansas” is a unique opportunity for PRIDE committees to inspire effective health improvements with the next generation of Kansas leaders.

For more information contact:

Elaine Johannes: 785-532-7720; ejohanne@ksu.edu

Carol Fink: 785-532-5800; cfink@ksu.edu

Connie Hoch: 785-532-5840; choch@ksu.edu

Professionals Volunteer to Assist PRIDE

Nine community development professionals donated their time this spring to help the Kansas PRIDE program with the Community of Excellence evaluation process. The evaluators traveled to Manhattan on Sunday, June 10 for a pre-evaluation orientation, at which time they became familiar with the evaluation process. On Monday, June 11, the teams left Manhattan to visit PRIDE communities that had requested a visit.

Community of Excellence evaluators looked for evidence of effective, sustainable community improvement efforts. Indicators of sustainable programs include: broad involvement in goal identification; broad involvement in project execution; intentional recognition of volunteers; on-going efforts to collaborate with other community organizations, and; on-going work to cultivate and share leadership opportunities. These are activities that ensure strong PRIDE organizations, that, in turn, can address the many aspects of community improvement.

Thank you to these Community of Excellence evaluators:

Name	Organization
Katie Calgren	Wabaunsee County Economic Development
Bob Fettke	Kansas Department of Commerce
Jeanette Siemens	Think Out-Strategic Solutions
Mark Stadtlander	K-State Research and Extension
Pam Stone	Kansas Gas Service
Lindsay Papenhausen	Nebraska Community Improvement Program
Janet Siebert	Arkansas City Chamber of Commerce
Craig Van Wey	Kansas Department of Commerce
Betty Wapp	League of Kansas Municipalities

Kansas PRIDE Program
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Kansas State University
Manhattan, Kansas 66506

PRIDE Calendar

- July 15 4th Quarter Reports Due
- July 27 Kansas PRIDE Inc. Board Meeting – Rossville
- August 31 PRIDE Partner Nominations Due
- September 28 Kansas PRIDE Inc, Board Meeting, Junction City
- September 29 PRIDE Day, Junction City



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 or J. R. Robl at (785) 296-3485;
Dan Kahl or Connie Hoch at (785) 532-5840