

Vibrant communities with a positive future.

Partners in PRIDE Success Story: Wilson, KS

Wilson PRIDE received the cultural Community Capital Partners in PRIDE award to preserve and share the history of the downtown buildings and other designated sights. Volunteers designed and constructed a 4-sided information kiosk next to the Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center. The kiosk displays information to educate the community about Wilson PRIDE, as well as tourist information available twenty-four hours a day. We installed several brochure holders to display brochures for local businesses, the information for the annual Czech Festival, historical photographs, and to display the Walking Tour brochures PRIDE also designed.



Information Kiosk, Wilson, KS

The Walking Tour Brochures include a brief history of Wilson and each site located on the tour, including many historical buildings, the churches, library, parks and ball fields. Information and photographs were gathered from the Kansas State Historical Society, Ellsworth County Historical Society, and local residents. The brochures are also available to residents and visitors at City Hall, the Historic Midland Railroad Hotel, and the Simple Haven Bed and Breakfast, inviting visitors to linger in the community and support local businesses recognized on the tour.

The collected information and photographs have been added to our current website www.wilsonks.com and the Wilson Ks PRIDE Community Organization Facebook page. We have had a number of new "Likes" on Facebook since displaying the brochures during the annual Czech Festival and have heard many positive comments and feedback from the community.

PIP funds were used to pay for the desktop publishing to design the brochure, to pay for the printing of the brochures, and to purchase materials for the construction of the kiosk.

- Jennifer Beckman, Wilson PRIDE

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Funding Opportunity: Community Gardens Grant

Kansas cities and towns wishing to establish community gardens are eligible to apply for a start-up grant from the Kansas Community Gardens Project.

Start-up and other community gardens less than three years old and in the development process will be given preference in funding of up to \$5,000 per garden.

Grant applications are due by January 15, 2013 for this year's funding. Applications and information are available at:

www.kansascommunitygardens.org.

Grant made available by the Kansas Health Foundation and administered by K-State Research and Extension



Rural Program Manager Highlight: Craig Van Wey Southeast Region

In March 2012, the Kansas Department of Commerce combined the Business Development and Rural Development divisions to form the new Business and Community Development Division.

This reorganization reflects the Department's emphasis on more focused coordination between business recruitment and community development efforts. The reorganization did not result in the loss of any programs within either area. Rather, this change allows for improved, faster access to Department resources and programs. One of the ways for achieving this goal is to combine the Office of Rural Opportunities and Business Retention and Expansion field staff, cross train all field staff who are now known as Regional Project Managers.

These staff members are located across the state and provide hands-on, face-to-face assistance to both businesses and communities. Over the next few months we will be introducing the Regional Project Managers and giving an overview of some of their areas of expertise. As you proceed through your community growth projects, you are encouraged to contact the Regional Project Manager assigned to cover your area for assistance in identifying the appropriate program that will best suite your needs.

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federal agencies."*

Craig VanWey joined the Business & Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce in January of 2004. As the Southeast Regional Project Manager he serves the southeast 19 counties of Kansas. "My activities mainly involve partnering with a variety of people (economic & community development directors, chamber directors, city & county officials, resource partners, etc.) in identifying businesses and communities that are in need of assistance, from Commerce or other agencies. I act as a liaison between my "customers" and other state and federal agencies."

Prior to joining the Department of Commerce, Craig spent five years as a Small Business Consultant for the Kansas Small Business Development Center at Pittsburg State University. He covered a similar territory and provided one-on-one assistance to small business owners as well as conducted seminars on business related topics.

Craig is a native of southeast Kansas, having lived in both Fort Scott and Parsons. He is a 1987 graduate of Parsons High School, attended Labette Community College, and then graduated from Pittsburg State University in 1991 with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance. Craig resides in Pittsburg with his wife and two daughters.

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Enrollment and Awards

Enrollment forms for the 2013 PRIDE year are available on the forms page of the PRIDE website, and on their way to your communities by snail mail. You will most likely find that the forms have had a facelift, which we hope helps communities save time processing them. These changes are the work of Brandi Nelson, our part time Extension Assistant, who spent a great deal of time giving the enrollment forms and awards packet much needed attention. Thank you Brandi!

Enrollment Packets for 2013 are due back to the PRIDE office **December 15, 2012**. For basic enrollment you will need to return the official enrollment form, the Memorandum of Understanding, and the Resolution from the City Government. We ask for enrollment on an annual basis so that our records are always current. However, if you enrolled after July 1, 2012 this year we will roll over your enrollment this first year. ALL other current PRIDE communities MUST complete the forms!

On the enrollment form you will notice 3 options. Please choose the one most appropriate for you. In summary **Option 1** is for communities that are planning to do recurring projects on an annual basis, **Option 2** is for communities wanting to engage in a comprehensive planning process within the next year to prepare to apply for a 3 year designation as a Community of Excellence, **Option 3** is for communities who have applied for and received Community of Excellence designation. **Note:** If you applied for COE in 2012 mark this box and if for some reason you do not receive it we will change it to STAR so that you can apply again next year.

Please do utilize your **Award Packet** to recognize your outstanding work in 2012. Highlight your work on the state level by submitting one or more award applications by **February 1, 2013!**

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the PRIDE Office at PRIDE@ksu.edu or by phone at 785.532.5840

The Quarterly Reports Initiative for 2013

Each quarter, PRIDE communities are asked to track their impact through a quarterly report and share them with the PRIDE office. This year, we have an incentive: Any PRIDE Community that sends in quarterly reports on schedule for all four quarters in 2012 will have their community put into a drawing for a chance to win two free registrations to Day of PRIDE 2013! PRIDE Quarterly Report forms can be found at: www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu/PRIDE/prideforms

Events Calendar

December 15, 2012 – PRIDE Enrollment forms are due

January 15, 2013 - Community Garden Grants Due

April 26-27, 2013 - Rural Opportunities Conference

April 27, 2013 - SAVE THE DATE—Day of PRIDE

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