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In This Issue:

[Sharing Your
Success: Larned](#)

[Quarterly Report
Initiative](#)

[Board Leadership
Series](#)

[Day of PRIDE 2012](#)

[Community
Gardens
Symposium](#)

[Employee Salute](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

Helpful Links:

[PRIDE Staff](#)

[PRIDE Sponsors](#)

[PRIDE Board](#)

Sharing Your Success: Larned

Larned PRIDE will be three years old in May. After two successful years of gardening, skates, Wii's and more, PRIDE members wanted to do a larger project that would truly impact the face of the community. Members received over 400 signatures supporting the idea of a renovated playground and the addition of a frontier theme splash pad. After presenting slide shows to nearly every organization and club in Larned, the effort began to collect letters of support and time commitments for the project.



After receiving the Small Communities Improvement Program (SCIP) grant in January 2011, PRIDE began the plans for four major work dates: High School Student's Demolition Day, Extreme Makeover Weekends 1 and 2 and a Middle School Student's Finale Day. Words do not describe the feeling of "Community PRIDE" attached to this project as each phase brought an abundance of volunteers along with food provided by local churches.

A "Flip the Switch Party" was planned for June where residents came out to enjoy hot dogs and see the splash pad come to life. In putting together some fun facts of the project for the party, PRIDE members tallied the total hours that had been turned into the Kansas Department of Commerce. An amazing total of over 6,000 hours had been given to the project. One can't travel by the park without smiling as children play at the fort playground or run through the splash pad and many cars are parked at what was once a near vacant park.

Quarterly Report Initiative for 2013

Each quarter communities are asked to track their impact through quarterly reports and share them with the PRIDE office. This year, we would like to start an incentive: Any PRIDE community that sends in quarterly reports for all quarters in 2012 will have the name of their community put into a drawing for a chance to win two free registrations to Day of PRIDE 2013. [Click here](#) for the PRIDE Quarterly Report forms.

Board Leadership Series: So you are serving on a board, now what?

K-State Research and Extension's Board Leadership series is an opportunity to provide your community PRIDE Board members with the training necessary to be effective as a community improvement organization. The trainings will be held on April 2, 9, 16 and 23 from 6-8 p.m. This PRIDE workshop will be offered in locations across the state.

Participants will join from hosting Local Unit Extension Offices for interactive participation. Host sites include: Lakin, Garden City, Osborne, Oakley, Salina, Concordia, Topeka, Olathe, Wamego and Chanute.

Topics will include:

- **Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members/Holding Effective Meetings**

Make sure your board members understand not only what they should do, but what they shouldn't. We will review key responsibilities of board members as well as specific strategies to make meetings more productive and effective.

- **Understanding Fellow Board Members/Conflict Management**

Not all board members will share the same perspectives and values. Explore how personalities and generational differences impact the decision making process of boards. Learn how to properly manage conflict so that it is productive not destructive to the board.

- **Fundraising and Fund Management/Legalities/Ethics**

Raising money, managing money and understanding such things as Articles on Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies and the many 501 (c) 3,4,5, options can be very confusing. This session will explore how this all fits together, where to go for more information and how your board can decide the best option.

- **Strategic Planning**

Do all board members understand the organizations mission and vision? This session will share a process which will help your board celebrate its past and identify priorities for the future.

Cost: \$25 per person for one or all four sessions. It does not have to be the same person in each session.

To register, [Click here](#).

Day of PRIDE 2012

Please save Saturday, June 2, 2012 for the annual Day of PRIDE. We will be visiting Osage county communities this year and our annual awards luncheon will be hosted by Melvern PRIDE. More details to follow soon. Make plans now to attend this event. Many of those attending last year "voted" it their best Kansas PRIDE experience yet. Save the date plus check out information on the [website](#) coming soon.

Community Gardens Symposium at KSU

The KSU Center for Engagement and Community Development will host an engagement symposium at the Kansas State University Union from 12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on April 26. You will learn from landscape designers, engineers, educators and horticulturalists at this free event. Come learn about projects and work KSU has been involved in relating to rain gardens, vegetable gardens, learning gardens and gardens for color and enjoyment. Speakers, displays and resources will make this a day of learning at KSU.

Employee Salute

The PRIDE program staff would like to thank Sherry Davis, Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy Communities Coordinator for the PRIDE program for her hard work and accomplishments with PRIDE. For the past four years, Sherry has worked with communities to facilitate in-depth assessment and planning for natural resource planning. She was also instrumental in writing and securing several grants for community projects. Sherry has accepted another position at KSU, and is no longer working with the PRIDE program. We will miss her, and wish her continued success in her new ventures.

Events Calendar

March 26, 27 and April 23 and 24 Community Development Academy

April 26, 2012 Community Gardening Symposium

June 2, 2012 - Day of PRIDE - Osage County, KS

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