

## *Vibrant communities with a positive future*

### Celebrating Alton's Heritage



This past month I had the opportunity to attend the Alton Jubilee in Alton, Kansas and serve as an official judge for the parade and best decorated cake contest! While attending and participating in the day's festivities several questions came to mind. Why Alton, Kansas is called "Bull City"? How can a community of less than 100 people play host to a festival that draws over 500 visitors to town? Finally, why is this celebration so important to the fabric of the community?

Despite the fact that upon approaching Alton, Kansas I was surrounded by grass-land, post rock fences, and cattle grazing in the pasture that is not the reason Alton is called "Bull City"! It came by that name back in 1870 when General Hiram Bull staked out the town site and built a 12-24 foot general store. By 1873 there were several buildings in town and a school was started. In 1879 tragedy struck and General Bull was killed by a pet elk! After his death the name of the town was changed to Alton, as many townsmen believed that no one would consider coming to a town having such a vulgar name.

What a great way to explain the importance of cultural capital, one of the seven community capitals, within the community capital framework— developed by Cornelia Flora, Jan Flora and Susan Fey —which was introduced through this blog in March. Cultural capital includes values, heritage, recognition, and celebration. One of the indicators is cultural consciousness and a measure of success is community celebrations. The other capitals include: natural (outdoor environment); human (services); social (networks); political (citizen involvement); built (infrastructure); and financial (fundraising).

Today, the local PRIDE organization keeps the city of Alton moving into the future while helping it maintain a sense of pride in its background. Through the volunteer efforts of several community members they are able to host an annual weekend long event called the Alton Jubilee. This includes a parade, which many times has more entries in it then the population of Alton, children's games, cake contests, pie contests, a dog style show, elk carving, and an annual opry in the park which this year is titled "Elkhorns of Wildcat Canyon" and is the 19<sup>th</sup> annual performance...For the rest of the story, visit the KSRE Difference Maker's Blog at: <https://blogs.ksre.ksu.edu/differencemakers/>



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Want others to be informed? Contact [PRIDE@ksu.edu](mailto:PRIDE@ksu.edu) and supply their email, and we will add them to our newsletter list!

#### Honoring Parental Concern: Photo Releases

Recently there have been some inquiries that have addressed parental concern for their children in community photos used for promotion in media. Concerning pictures and parental concern we at the Kansas PRIDE Office would offer the following solution:

If you would like to use individual photos in the future there is a photo consent release form that can be used, an example is on our website:

[Photo Release Form](#)

Our office uses this form on the state level and feel it is a proactive approach to honoring parental rights. We do not use recognizable photos, in any way, of youth without a signed form on record as most examples depict the name of the community in which the youth may reside. This would also be our recommendation to local PRIDE communities! If you prefer, your community could use pictures of the set-up or unrecognizable photos of participants to convey the same message.

## New Funding for The Sunflower Trails Program

The Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans announces a new Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for the Sunflower Trails program, as well as a change in the submission process that should enhance the experience for all applicants. The trail funding initiative is designed to support the concept of the “built environment” as a strategy to increase opportunities for outdoor physical activity and therefore reduce the prevalence of obesity. The foundation invites Kansas communities and schools to submit proposals for the development or improvement of trails.

“Since 2005, the foundation has funded more than 100 trail projects across the state. As the trails program continues to grow, we continue to grow as well,” Billie Hall, President and CEO of the Sunflower Foundation, said. “To better assist communities and schools develop a strong proposal, we have changed our RFP process to provide more guidance.”

Under the new submission process, all applicants are asked to contact Elizabeth Stewart, Ph.D., Sunflower Foundation Trails Program Officer to arrange a time for a brief discussion. Applicants will have the opportunity to go through a checklist of necessary grant tasks and receive guidance on preparing a smooth, well-developed final application. Following the discussion, applicants that appear ready to start the process will be given a link to the appropriate online application. The links will not be publicly available on the Sunflower Foundation website. Contact information for Dr. Stewart is by phone at (785) 232-3000 or (866) 232-3020 or email at [estewart@sunflowerfoundation.org](mailto:estewart@sunflowerfoundation.org) .

The deadline for all trail RFPs is Friday, November 1st at 4:00pm CST. The mission of the Sunflower Foundation is to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans, which it supports through a program of grants and related activities. Further details about the foundation’s programs and grants are available at [www.sunflowerfoundation.org](http://www.sunflowerfoundation.org)

## Highlighting Extension: Fran Richmond, Frontier Extension

Fran Richmond, K-State Research and Extension Frontier District Director, has been involved with the Osage County PRIDE communities since she began employment with K-State Research and Extension. During the past few years Fran has become increasingly more involved in PRIDE work in Osage County as part of her professional responsibilities related to community development programming. Growing Tomorrow’s Leaders and Community Vitality as two of the grand challenges that K-State Research and Extension is working to address. The PRIDE program is an excellent framework to address these challenges.



Most recently Osage County had six PRIDE communities including, Carbondale, Quenemo, Lyndon, Osage City, Overbrook, and Melvern. This gives them the distinction of the county with the MOST PRIDE communities in the state! As Extension District Director, Fran has supported the involvement of the local unit agents during the community assessment process.

Fran has worked with the leadership from the Lyndon PRIDE organizations to host district wide PRIDE council meetings, similar to county 4-H councils. This PRIDE council has been meeting on a quarterly basis since January, 2013. The purpose of the Osage County PRIDE Council is to join forces to explore ways of working together on common goals in addition to supporting the individual events in each community. Many ideas have been shared and they are now in the finalizing stage of some of them. What a great way to look at ways to work together to accomplish what one community could not do alone.

## Notice Anything Interesting About Our Website?

You might recognize some recent changes to our website! Out with the old and in with the new they say! The new site is credited to K-State Research and Extension, which has provided the Kansas PRIDE Program a module site under their umbrella that has allowed the Kansas PRIDE staff to rebuild the site. This module has been given to the program as a vehicle to streamline the information contained on the older site and make the site more efficient, effective, and user friendly.

With this transition there have been updates to how communities will now enroll and report. A series of webinars will follow on how enrollment and reporting will proceed in the future. The Kansas PRIDE staff will update you through email, Facebook and newsletter if applicable to make you aware of these trainings. The enrollment and reporting modules are maintained by the K-State Research and Extension IET/Department of Communications and were graciously provided to the program by K-State Research and Extension Administration. Our program is extremely grateful for all of the effort that has come together to make the site and reporting tools a reality!

In times of transition things can seem out of control or confusing, but rest assured that these changes were set into motion with our communities in mind, and how we can better serve you. Our goal is to help communities keep their enrollment information up to date and provide more accurate reporting. We are all in this together, which means that the staff at Kansas PRIDE are here for any concerns or inquiries, so do not hesitate to contact us!

And so, as we move forward, a quote from Alan Watts: *“The only way to make sense of change is to plunge into it, move with it, and join the dance.”*

## Community of Excellence

If your local PRIDE Community is enrolled as a STAR Community you may wish to consider completing an essay of application to be recognized as a Community of Excellence (COE) in 2014-2016 by October 15, 2013. [CLICK HERE](#) to read over our enrollment options (Tier 2).

The Community of Excellence (COE) designation is a noteworthy accomplishment for a community PRIDE group. The application consists of an essay which is used to determine a community's readiness to be designated as a COE. A community designated with this award should be able to demonstrate that they have created a shared vision and mission and are working in an inclusive, collaborative manner on projects of high importance to the community. Essays for Community of Excellence should detail how the PRIDE group has engaged the people of the community, include the plans that have been created and share stories of how the community knows it has been successful in community engagement activities. COE communities are eligible for Partners in PRIDE Grants.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Trudy Rice at [trice@ksu.edu](mailto:trice@ksu.edu) or (785) 766-3996.

## Events Calendar

**October 15, 2013—Quarterly Reports Due**

**October 15, 2013—Community of Excellence Applications Due**

**October 15, 2013—Community Resource Grant Deadline**

**November 1, 2013—Sunflower Foundation Grants Due**

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