

Vibrant communities with a positive future.

Day of PRIDE 2013: Highlighting Lucas, KS

Lucas has been a community that people want to see since the Garden of Eden was built in the early 1900's, they came by wagon, car, and train. People come to see all the twenty-five plus grassroots art environments that have been created and exhibited in Lucas - it is the Grassroots Art Capital of Kansas and at the north end of the Post Rock Scenic Byway. A great need in Lucas was public restrooms in the downtown area especially for the 10,000 plus visitors to Lucas. The Lucas Grassroots Art Center director, Rosslyn Schultz, along with local artists Mri Pilar and Eric Abraham, started discussing public restrooms in Lucas about four years ago. The Grassroots Art Center is home to several grassroots artists from all over Kansas who work with recycled materials in their art environments. Of course, in Lucas, public restrooms need to be unique like the rest of the grassroots art in Lucas. Images of a sunken toilet started racing around in their minds and using mosaics with recycled dishes and wine bottles. Merel and Eilleen Yarnell had said for years that a public restroom was needed. They had a Chevrolet dealership on Main Street which was sold to Eric Abraham, an artist who moved to Lucas because of the unique art in the community. The Yarnell's donated the land for the public restroom. Several grants helped with the public restrooms because it was built as a tourist attraction to look like a toilet.



Bowl Plaza, Lucas KS



Worlds Smallest Mural

Four years later, the Bowl Plaza of Lucas is now open after several hours of volunteer work along with the skills of the local artists creating wonderful mosaics. Mosaic stories are on the outside of the building and around the toilet seat. Then you walk inside the restrooms to find more mosaic stories on the walls using old wine bottles, Clorox bottles, Avon bottles, and plates and tea cups. Each time you "go" inside you find something new that you didn't see the last time. On June 2, 2012, the Lucas Area Chamber of Commerce, Lucas PRIDE, and Grassroots Art Center worked together on the Grand Opening, "First Flush" Day. Four flushes were auctioned off as a fundraiser for continued maintenance and landscaping for Bowl Plaza. One auction was done on Ebay, while the two auctions were silent auctions up till the last auction that was live at 3:21pm on June 2nd.

Article Continued on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Highlighting Lucas, KS
- Award Nomination Opportunity
- Community Capital STAR Project Awards
- Rural Program Manager Highlight
- Working Together—Osage County PRIDE
- Events Calendar

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

Business Appreciation Month

The Kansas Department of Commerce invites you to honor successful companies in your community by nominating them for a 2013 Kansas Business Appreciation Month Award. Top nominees will be recognized at the Team Kansas/Kansas Cavalry awards banquet in June, where Governor Sam Brownback will name one company the winner of the Governor's Award of Excellence.

Nominations will be accepted in four categories: manufacturing/distribution, retail, service and hospital/non-profit. Businesses can be nominated by an individual or organization, and companies can self-nominate. The nomination deadline is Wednesday, April 3 at 5 p.m. Late nominations cannot be accepted.

To submit an online nomination, visit KansasCommerce.com/BAM

For more information, contact:
 Krista Mellen
 Kansas Department of Commerce
 (785) 296-7911 • TTY: 711
kmellen@kansascommerce.com

Lucas Highlight Continued...



Men's Restroom, Bowl Plaza, Lucas KS

The winners were Marci Penner, Dorothy Johnson, Doug Hickman, and Beth Schultz, who were escorted by Rosslyn Schultz across the street from the Lucas Theater to Bowl Plaza through a tunnel of people raising their toilet plungers and brushes while blowing bubbles. The flushes were heard by all on Main Street through the Theater PA system...with much cheering and laughter.

Since then more than 3,337 visitors have come to Lucas to sign the register and experience Bowl Plaza as of January 1, 2013, even through snow storms. Of course, some did not sign in but just visited. Visitors include 24 foreign countries, and 48 states and Washington DC. The two states that have not signed yet are North Dakota and Hawaii.

All of these visitors have impacted the local area because after making their social call to Bowl Plaza, they have discovered the other attractions and many businesses of Lucas. Increased traffic on Main Street has increased the sales of all the businesses in Lucas because they have heard of our unique Bowl Plaza from radio, television, friends, and family. Come visit Bowl Plaza and join other visitors with comments like “no need to read a newspaper”, “a royal flush”, “most time ever spent in a bathroom”, “it looks like art from Italy”, and “first time I’ve taken pictures inside a public bathroom”. And yes there are doors on the bathrooms and stalls so that you can actually use the facility.—Lynn Schneider, Lucas PRIDE

Don't miss your chance to see Bowl Plaza during the 2013 Day of PRIDE April 27, 2013

Registration and a descriptions of the days events can be found at: www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu

2013 Kansas PRIDE Community of Excellence Designees

In 2012 the communities of Glasco, Humboldt and Larned were awarded Community of Excellence designation for 2012-2014. As of January 1, 2013 they are joined by Ashland, Alton, Iola, Lakin, Lenora, Potwin, Lucas, Spearville, Rossville and Wilson who have been awarded Community of Excellence designation for 2013-2015. These communities will be recognized at Day of PRIDE on April 27th and will be presented a recognition bar for their community PRIDE sign at an event in their community. Community of Excellence is a designation that every PRIDE community is invited to apply for if they would like to. It recognizes those PRIDE communities who are engaged in a comprehensive planning process that involves community input on setting a vision, mission, and goals; projects that will move them towards accomplishing the goals; and a measurement tool to know when they have been accomplished. All applications are reviewed by a committee from Kansas PRIDE, Inc. to insure they meet the designated criteria. For more information please go to www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu/pride/prideforms or contact Trudy Rice at trice@ksu.edu.

Rural Program Manager Highlight: James Foster—Northwest Region

James Foster serves the Northwest Region of Kansas as a Project Manager for the Kansas Department of Commerce. James started with the agency five years ago working with the Office of Rural Opportunities assisting communities in the NW region to identify and prioritize the community's barriers to growth and helping the community to access the resources that will best address those barriers.

With a Bachelor of Arts in Healthcare Administration from the University of Phoenix, James has a vast knowledge coming from his past experiences including facilitation, mediation, budgetary, marketing and community/team building.



For more information on Business and Community Development Assistance, visit <http://kansascommerce.com/>

FOLLOW US ON [FACEBOOK](#)

Why Attend Day of PRIDE?

Past participants have shared the following benefits of attending the annual Kansas Day of PRIDE:

- ◆ Opportunity to learn what is being done in other communities and how they are doing it
- ◆ Visiting the various towns I typically would not go to and seeing what they have accomplished
- ◆ Networking with participants and actually seeing projects in other communities
- ◆ Opportunity to see PRIDE programs in action
- ◆ Enthusiasm to try to acquire more grant funding for special projects
- ◆ Great ideas for walking trails and exercise stations
- ◆ Appreciate for the need to support new projects in our community which encourage young families to stay

Plan now to attend Day of PRIDE, April 27, 2013 in Wilson and Lucas Kansas. You do not want to miss this opportunity to explore the post rock region of Kansas and see how they are promoting their cultural capital! To register go to: www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu

Working Together—Osage County PRIDE



On a cold Saturday morning in January five PRIDE communities in Osage County came together to discuss “what could they accomplish together that they could not as individual communities”. Fran Richmond, K-State Research and Extension Frontiers District Director organized the meeting that was hosted by Lyndon PRIDE and attended by representatives from Quenemo, Overbrook, Melvern, Carbondale, and Lyndon. The attendees were very diverse in age, length of time in the community, and included men, women, and a baby! Everyone had an opportunity to share their PRIDE community successes, challenges, and upcoming activities. This was followed by a brainstorming session on how they could “work together for lasting solutions” in the future.

This ranged from attending events in other communities, promoting everyone’s events, collaborating as a region on grant applications, to talking about a Friday the 13th event with each community hosting food and booths. All agreed to meet again in April to continue the conversation. If other communities want to have similar discussions on working as a region contact Trudy Rice, PRIDE Coordinator, at trice@ksu.edu.

Events Calendar

April 3, 2013—Nominations Due for Business Appreciation Month

April 15, 2013—Registration Due for Day of PRIDE

April 15, 2013—1st Quarter Reports Due

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

FOLLOW US ON [FACEBOOK](#)