

Vibrant communities with a positive future

Day of PRIDE 2013: Highlighting Wilson, KS

“EGG-CITEMENT”

Wilson has been famous as the Czech Capital of Kansas since 1974, with the After-Harvest Czech Festival each July including the best small town parade in Kansas. In keeping with this identity, Wilson is soon to be home to the World’s Largest

Czech Egg. The giant egg, measuring 20 by 15 feet and weighing 7,000 lbs, was built by Hess Services, Inc., of Hays and laid in Wilson on August 17, 2012. A traditional Czech-egg design will be painted onto the egg during Spring/Summer 2013.



Largest Czech Egg, Wilson, KS

Other positive developments in Wilson are:

- ◆ soon to be completed water splash pad in Pride Park
- ◆ new “Welcome To Wilson” sign at the south entrance to town
- ◆ new information kiosk downtown
- ◆ new brochure titled “Wilson, Kansas: A Walk to Remember” highlighting Wilson’s many historic buildings
- ◆ new downtown paint-your-own pottery studio – Creativity In Bloom
- ◆ new downtown soda shop – Grandma’s Soda Shop – with a vintage 1950’s soda fountain, kolaches, bierocks, pizza and other delicious treats

Wilson is on the move with improvements that are making our town an even more enjoyable place to live, work and play. One of our trademarks is the vitality and hospitality passed down from our hearty ancestors.

We are very “egg-cited” to be hosting, along with Lucas, the 2013 Day of Pride. As we like to say in Czech – “Vitame Vas” meaning **“We Welcome You!”** - David Criswell, Wilson PRIDE—To register for Day of PRIDE 2013, [CLICK HERE](#).

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Highlighting Wilson, KS
- More Colorful Communities
- National Volunteer Week
- Rural Program Manager Highlight
- Why Attend Day of PRIDE?
- Community Capitals Framework Tool
- Events Calendar

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

It’s Springtime Again!

It’s springtime, and time to head outside to liven things up after the long, harsh winter. Personal property or community space, flowers convey such a sense of warmth and make things seem so much more inviting. There are many things a community can do to improve its appeal, but few compare to the impact of colorful flowers. Dr. Alan Stevens, director of the K-State Research and Extension Center at Olathe, has developed a list of plants that fare well in the Kansas climate. This group of plants are known as the [Prairie Star Collection](#). Alan knows the experiences of other communities who have made a decision to provide more color in their public spaces. For some tips on dressing up public space or for more information on how to contact Dr. Stevens visit our website and click on our link for [Our Community...A more Colorful Place!](#)

The Kansas PRIDE Program also provides thank you door hangers for Kansas PRIDE Communities that want to thank individuals or businesses that help make their community brighter. For more information contact the Kansas PRIDE office at PRIDE@ksu.edu.

Thank a Volunteer: April 21-27 is National Volunteer Week

If you are reading this you most likely are a local volunteer involved in the community improvement initiatives of your local Kansas PRIDE community. We THANK YOU for your time and expertise!

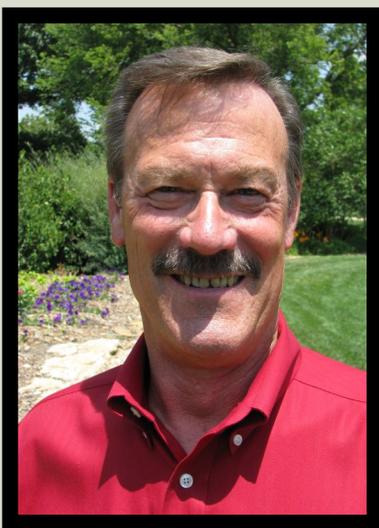
Did you know that during the calendar year 2012 Kansas PRIDE communities reported a total of 94,833 hours of volunteerism within their respective communities? That equates to a conservative estimated dollar value of \$2,066,411.00! Just as importantly, the volunteers were able to enhance their skills and abilities related to people, leadership, knowledge and the ability to access outside resources.

The Kansas PRIDE program is a volunteer led grass roots community improvement program dedicated to building “vibrant communities with a positive future”. During National Volunteer Week, April 21-27, you might want to consider planning a celebration event to recognize all of the volunteer time dedicated to your local PRIDE initiatives honoring the people who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities. Simultaneously, you can leverage this window of opportunity to advance your improvement projects and promote new volunteer commitment in your community.

For more information, go to <http://www.pointsoflight.org/signature-events/national-volunteer-week>. For the National Volunteer Week Resource Guide go to http://www.handsonnetwork.org/files/resources/nvw_resourceguide_2013.pdf.

2012 Community Capital STAR Project Awards

Congratulations to the communities of Alton, Bushton, Iola, and Lucas, who will be recognized at Day of PRIDE for their project accomplishments. The actual award will be presented to them in their community at a community event of their choosing. Plan to come to day of PRIDE to learn more about these award winning projects. And, plan now for your community to apply for these awards to recognize your new projects in 2013. For more information visit our website at <http://www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu/>



Rural Program Manager Highlight: Lyle Peterson—Northeast Region

Lyle grew up on a farm in central Iowa and attended Iowa State University graduating with a BS in Agronomy. After working various sales positions in the Agricultural Chemical and Fertilizer business in Iowa and Illinois he moved to Kansas in 1989 to do the same. Lyle joined the Kansas Department of Commerce in 2006, first working with the Agricultural Marketing Division as a Bio Products Specialist. Lyle currently serves as the North East Region Project Manager for the Business and Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce and is located in the Manhattan Office. His economic development responsibilities include working with business and industry in retaining and expanding both employment and capital expenditure along with assisting communities in meeting the needs of their residents. Lyle and his wife Libby reside in the Flint Hills of rural Pottawatomie County.

For more information on Rural Opportunity Zones, visit: 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

Community Capitals Framework- A Community Assessment Tool

The community capitals framework, developed by Cornelia and Jan Flora along with Susan Fey, provides a tool for analyzing how communities work. These researchers found that the communities that were most successful in supporting healthy, sustainable community and economic development were considering seven types of capital: financial; cultural; social; built; human; natural; and political.

The Kansas PRIDE Program adopted the community capitals framework three years ago. We are currently using the community capitals framework in our community improvement work with the 70 Kansas PRIDE communities as a tool for community assessment, goal setting, and recognition. You will notice that our STAR Capital awards and our Partners in PRIDE mini grants are framed using the community capital model.

If you are enrolled as a STAR community for 2013 and would like to consider using the community capital model as an assessment tool for community planning we would welcome the opportunity to work with your community. Once you have identified the capitals in your community, you can use them as a tool for planning for the future. You find where your strengths are. You can identify where you need assistance and where to develop partnership if community capitals are lacking. Also, it is a great tool to use as a recruitment tool for volunteers to serve on your PRIDE community. It is important to have community volunteers representing ALL of the capitals involved in community improvement initiatives. For more information contact Trudy Rice at trice@ksu.edu

Events Calendar

April 3, 2013—Nominations Due for Business Appreciation Month

April 15, 2013—Registration Deadline for Day of PRIDE

April 15, 2013—1st Quarter Reports Due

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