

THE LANSING CONNECTION

Your Connection to City Government



CITY OF LANSING

www.lansing.ks.us

THIRD QUARTER 2012



BERNARD'S BY-LINE

By Mayor Kenneth W. Bernard

The Lansing city council and city staff have been working diligently to prepare a responsible budget for 2013. It looks like there will be a slight mill levy increase in spite of all our efforts to maintain the budget the same as 2012. The only new purchases made were for safety items like Police vests and the lease/purchase of two new police cars. Unfortunately, we also have postponed hiring replacements for vacant positions and released one employee. You are probably asking how funding could be so tight? To answer that

question, we looked carefully at our incoming revenues and noted that the assessed evaluation of the community dropped by \$22,000 - which affects our property tax revenues by approximately .25 mills. The other major loss in revenue was from licensing fees from the state. Licensing fees dropped about \$50,000 which was really a surprise. This drop amounted to about .66 mills so overall we lost about 1 mil in revenue from various sources. We continue to maintain and preserve our infrastructure and parks with the funding we have available. I fully expect next year to be better and some properties which were tax exempt will be placed on the tax rolls.

The summer sports programs have been completed and they were a great success. I firmly believe that all children who participated learned a lot about their respective endeavor and additionally learned about sportsmanship, which is a great thing for their future. For a program to be successful it requires the hard work of the staff, the volunteers and the parents. I would like to thank all of you for your support.

The summer program to repair streets, curbs, and sidewalks will be finished in early August. I think the staff and the contractor did a good job on this year's projects. I would like to thank all of you for your patience during construction. We also have received all the approvals for the "Safe Routes to Schools" project. Probably the most visual portion of that project will be a sidewalk from the Middle School to DeSoto Road. That project will be completed this summer.

Kenneth W. Bernard
Mayor, City of Lansing

Autumn in the Grove

Mark your calendars for the Seventh Annual Autumn in the Grove community festival on Saturday, October 13, from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. The event takes place in Kelly Grove Park, located at East Gilman Road & US-73/K-7 Highways (next to Crossroads United Methodist Church).

Come out, walk along the trails and enjoy a variety of favorites: great food, live music, a farmers market, pumpkin decorating, story-telling, children's crafts, a campfire, caramel apples, scarecrow contest, artisan demonstrations, face painting and more.

If you are interested in being a vendor, please keep in mind that we have a fall theme. You may go to the City's website at www.lansing.ks.us and download the vendor application or contact the Economic Development/Convention & Visitors Bureau Department at (913) 727-5488. There

will be no charge to the vendors (other than what would be required by the State), or the public for this event; this is not a city fundraiser, just a fun-filled day for our patrons.

This is a great opportunity for any civic or student organization to raise

money for their groups. For more information, contact Sundae Holler at holler@lansing.ks.us or call (913) 727-5488.

Sponsored by the City of Lansing's Economic Development/Convention & Visitors Bureau Department



2012 CONNECTION CALENDAR

AUGUST

- August 2.....City Council Meeting
- August 14.....School Begins for K-9 and New HS Students
- August 15.....School Begins for Returning 10th – 12th Graders
- August 16.....City Council Meeting
- August 30.....City Council Work Session

SEPTEMBER

- September 3.....Labor Day (City Offices Closed)
- September 6.....City Council Meeting
- September 20....City Council Meeting
- September 27....City Council Work Session

OCTOBER

- October 4.....City Council Meeting
- October 13.....Autumn in the Grove
- October 18.....City Council Meeting
- October 25.....City Council Work Session
- October 27.....Spooky Center

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Lan-Del Water District Update

*Phil Chiles, Chairman,
Lan-Del Water Board*

Water is essential for life, but it is often taken for granted when we turn on the tap to get a drink. Lan-Del Water District's goal is to keep it that way. Lan-Del Water District started as the Delaware Township Water Department in 1964. It became the Lan-Del Water District in 1982, operating as a municipality, independent of Delaware Township and the City of Lansing, but in cooperation with both.

Lan-Del has an all-volunteer, five member board of directors. It is a non-partisan board, voted into office for three year terms by the voters. The Water District is represented by voters from both the City and the Township. The District has six full-time employees, one part time and one seasonal. They represent 95 years of experience with Lan-Del. We serve approximately 3,000 households and businesses.

Lan-Del has added a new facility, a block north of the main office at 601 Holiday Plaza, to house parts and equipment. The District has also converted all meters to a radio read sys-

tem. This eliminates the need to estimate readings during inclement weather or when a meter is inaccessible. It also reduces the cost of meter reading.

Lan-Del does not have its own water treatment system because of the expense to do so in a community our size. Our water is purchased from the Leavenworth Water Department and the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) in Kansas City, Ks. We have a great working relationship with both suppliers. This gives Lan-Del a redundant supply of water that will keep us operable in the case of system problems with either supplier. We have the ability to reverse meter valves that supply water from Leavenworth and supply water to Leavenworth in case of an emergency with their system. This was used briefly during the flood last year.

In keeping with the State of Kansas requirements, eight water samples taken from various sources throughout the District are sent to Topeka for testing each month. Chlorine samples are tested daily. A Consumer Confidence Report is sent annually to each customer. We have

not had any issues with the quality of water in our District. There has never been a "boil order" issued in our District. It could happen, but Lan-Del has been proactive in maintaining its water distribution system. Ninety-five percent of the water lines in the District are less than 30 years old with the five percent remaining scheduled for replacement this year. One of the measures of system integrity is the percent of water loss from the system. Over the last six years Lan-Del has averaged a five percent annual loss. This includes water used by the Fire Department and the City for emergency use. The average loss for systems in the State of Kansas is between 10 and 20 percent. This positions Lan-Del with one of the most up to date and efficient systems in the State of Kansas.

Our Field Staff is on call 24/7. Water can normally be turned on within an hour of a request during working hours. The District also offers ACH (electronic funds transfer) free of charge for bill paying.

The Lan-Del Water District belongs to you. Use it with pride and confidence.

A Final Word About Lansing's 4th of July Fireworks Program

By City Administrator Mike Smith

As many of you know, the aftermath of Lansing's 12th Annual Fireworks Show this past July was marred by the tragic death of 44-year-old Lansing resident Andy Jones. Andy was a volunteer with the company that puts the show on each year. He leaves behind a wife and two daughters in Lansing. Words cannot begin to express the sorrow that so many people feel in our community today. I believe prayers are always in order for the family and friends of Andy.

I have been asked numerous times since that tragic day what Lansing intends to do about future fireworks shows. Traditionally, we have done two each year - one as part of the Brew, Blues & Bar-B-Q/Lansing DAZE weekend, and one on the 4th of July. As this tragedy is still pretty fresh in everyone's mind, I will report at this time that the City has not yet made a decision about the status of future city fireworks shows. I can say that we, as a governing body, will take a long and hard look at this issue before we make a decision for 2013.

Lansing Community Library Update



Calendar of Upcoming Events

*By Kim Turner
Director of The Lansing
Community Library*

Your Lansing Community Library continues to be the rocking place in Lansing for the months of August, September and October! From the conclusion of our summer reading program to our semi-annual LEGO Exhibition/Competition, the Library has a fun-filled line up just for you!

Our simply scientifically engineered sputastic summer will officially conclude on Fri., Aug. 3, 2012 with our **Carnival in the Parking Lot Part 2**. Make plans to join us for an exciting evening of magic, competition, and fun. Due to the extreme heat, most of the activities will take place indoors. I have lined up magician extraordinaire, **Reggie Gray** to perform his magic once again for the crowd in our duct tape sta-

dium. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. with the show beginning at 6:30.

Following the magic show, the crowd will move to the parking lot for a limbo competition, a parade of sorts, and the movie and game walks. I am pleased to announce that Miss Jean and Miss Anne will be the victims - I mean the winning librarians of our annual **"Throw Water Balloons at the Librarian"** contest! Be sure to join us as we welcome them to the Library the Lansing way! Concluding the evening, the crowd will meet in the middle of the parking lot for a group dance of the "Tooty Ta."

To kick the school year off in style, the Library will host its semi-annual **LEGO Exhibition/Competition**. Beginning Tues., Sept. 4, patrons can pick up the rules and sign up for the competition. LEGO creations will be on display at the Library from Mon., Sept. 17 through Fri., Sept. 28. The community can begin voting, with one vote per day per creation, on Mon., Sept. 17. Voting will conclude at end of business on Thurs., Sept. 27. We will announce winners and award prizes on Fri., Sept. 28 at our **LEGO Extravaganza** beginning at 3:30 p.m. Our Friends of the Lansing Community Library sponsors this semi-annual event.

Speaking of friends, the Friends of the Lansing Community Library's annual book sale runs Fri., Sept. 14 through Sun., Sept. 16. Friday evening the doors open at 5 p.m. for a special preview for Friends. Closing at 8 p.m., the sale opens to the public at 10 a.m. on Sat., Sept. 15 and runs until 5 p.m. Sun., Sept. 16 from 1 until 4 p.m. is sack day. The Friends are seeking vol-

unteers to help set up, man, and take down the sale. Look for more details to follow.

A short programming note . . . The Friends previous two book sales funded the purchase and installation of the book depository located on the east end of the building. The project's total was approximately \$5000. The Friends are working for you!

October brings our second **urban legend competition** to the Library. A couple of years ago the father of two Story Time children created a magnificent caricature of the "Old Man of the Library." Seeing an opportunity to add yet another treasure to the Library, I had the masterpiece framed. It is on display at Your Library. Gazing into the old man's eyes, do you get the feeling that he has a story waiting to be told? Will you be the one who can bring his story to life? Rules and registration for the competition will be available beginning on Sept. 28 at our LEGO Extravaganza. Return all entries to the Library by 4:36 p.m. on Fri., Oct. 19. A super secret panel of judges will review entries and

choose the winner or winners. At our second **Gals and Ghouls Costume Party** on Fri., Oct. 26, we will announce the winners and award prizes. We plan to have a ghostly - I mean ghastly, good time!

To wrap up what you can look for at the Library this fall, I want to remind you of our ongoing programs and services. Story Time at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, continues. Miss Diana will enchant us with her Bi-lingual Story Time on the second Friday of each month. The very special therapy dogs and owners will visit Story Time on the third Friday of each month for the "Read to Dogs" program. Our Coupon Corner is seeing a lot of activity! Stop in and swap, pick up or just drop off coupons for members of your community.

Fall is going to cool Lansing off some, but not the Library. We plan to be the happening place!

As always, Miss Jean, Miss Anne, and I look forward to talking books with you soon!



Lansing Daze/Brew, Blues & Bar-B-Q

The city of Lansing hosted the annual Lansing DAZE and Brew, Blues, & Bar-B-Q Festival on May 4 & 5. There were 40 barbeque contestants from several states - a record for our event! The barbeque competition began on Friday and ended with the awards ceremony on Saturday afternoon. "This Is How We Que It" won the Grand Champion award and "Munchin Hogs @ the Hilton" was the Re-

serve Champion.

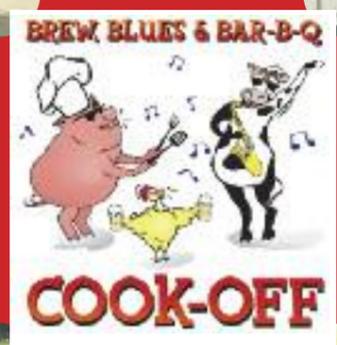
On Friday evening, Kansas City Blues Band Doghouse Daddies and national recording artist Samantha Fish entertained the crowd. On Saturday afternoon local band favorite Southern Reign performed.

As part of the annual Lansing DAZE celebration, there were a variety of children's activities and roaming entertainers. From the giant inflatables to the face

painter, the event was a success. There were also a number of craft vendors who sold a wide variety of items. On Saturday morning there was a Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. The Leavenworth Cruisers also hosted a car show at the event. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success.

The City would like to thank the following sponsors: Commerce Bank, Kansas Gas Serv-

ice, Country Club Bank, USFP Property Management Inc., Con-dotels, Holiday Inn Express, Cereal Ingredients, RE/MAX Action, Lansing Correctional Facility, LHS Advanced Drafting & Construction Technology Classes, O'Malley Beverage of Kansas Inc., Linaweaver Construction, Reilly & Sons/Coldwell Banker, and Dillons.



"CHILDREN AT PLAY" and Similar Signs

The city of Lansing frequently receives requests for signs with "Children at Play," "Slow—Children," or other similar messages. These requests come from a natural, legitimate, parental concern for the safety of children. These types of signs are, in fact, not recognized by the State or Federal Highway Administration, traffic safety organizations, or the city of Lansing as official traffic control devices because studies have shown they do not protect children or make streets safer.

A serious concern is that "Children at Play" signs encourage parents and children to have a false sense of security, as they may assume the signs will provide protection, which in reality they don't, and when placed by the city, the signs openly suggest and sanction playing in the street as an acceptable practice.

Another serious concern is mandated consistency in application of signs. Drivers already expect the presence of children in residential areas, especially at certain times, and studies show that devices attempting to warn motorists of normal conditions or conditions that are not continuously present fail to achieve the desired safety benefits. Since children live on nearly every residential block, if used, the signs

would be required for consistency to be placed on every block of every residential street in the city and would quickly become part of the background and not be noticed by most drivers. When placed on some residential blocks but not on every residential block, some drivers would interpret blocks without signs to mean that no children live there, and lead drivers to assume they will not encounter children in those areas.

Special conditions such as warnings of school zones, playgrounds, parks, and other recreational facilities, do warrant appropriate warning signing as these are not automatically anticipated or assumed by drivers. Lansing does install "deaf child area" and/or "blind child area" signs per criteria established in its Traffic Sign Policy. Please contact the Lansing Public Works Department with requests or inquiries about these special situation signs.

The city of Lansing recognizes the inherent danger of children playing in or near the street, and we want to get the message out that we strongly discourage it because we care about the safety of all children, pedestrians, and cyclists. We need the help of our citizens to get that message out because parents and neighbors

can improve child safety far more than any type of traffic control device can.

While not allowing "Children at Play" signs may seem counter-

intuitive to the public, and while it may be tempting for public officials to allow the signs, it is not in the best interest of children or the public at large to allow them.

2012 Lansing Golf Tournament A Success!

The City held its Tenth Annual Golf Tournament on June 1 at the GreatLife Golf & Fitness Club in Lansing. Everyone who attended had fun in the sun! Eighteen teams participated. The event raised money for the future Kansas Regional Prisons Museum.

The event was organized by the Economic Development/ Convention & Visitors Bureau Department.

The city would like to thank the following sponsors: Commerce Bank (Lunch Sponsor), Kansas City

Kansas Community College Leavenworth Center (Hole in One Sponsor), Golden Living Center (Team Sponsor), American Family Trent Peter Agency (Team Sponsor), DR&G Engineering (Team Sponsor), Kansas City T-Bones, Kansas City Royals, Kansas City Chiefs, DnZ Auto Repair, IHOP, Marble Slab Creamery, La Mesa, Dasher Garage, The Towne Pub, Daylight Donuts, Persnippity Hair Salon, and Varsity Sports.



Establishing Speed Limits - A Case of "Majority Rules"

Speed zoning is the establishment of reasonable and safe speed limits based on an engineering study. This summary tells what realistic speed limits will do, what they won't do, and how they are established.

WHY SPEED LIMITS?

Since most citizens can be relied upon to behave in a reasonable manner as they go about their daily activities, many of our laws reflect observations of the way reasonable people behave under most circumstances.

Generally speaking, traffic laws that reflect the behavior of the majority of motorists are found to be successful, while laws that arbitrarily restrict the majority of motorists encourage violations, lack public support, and usually fail to bring about desirable changes in driving behavior. This is especially true of speed zoning.

Speed zoning is based upon several fundamental concepts deeply rooted in our American system of government and law:

- Driving behavior is an extension of social attitude, and the majority of drivers respond in a safe and reasonable manner as demonstrated by their consistently favorable driving records.

- The normally careful and competent actions of a reasonable person should be considered legal.

- Laws are established for the protection of the public and the regulation of unreasonable behavior on the part of individuals.

- Laws cannot be effectively enforced without the consent and voluntary compliance of the public majority.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

The public normally accepts the concepts noted in the previous section. However, the same public when emotionally aroused in a specific instance will often reject these fundamentals and rely instead on more comfortable and widely held misconceptions, such as:

- Reducing the speed limit will slow the speed of traffic.

- Reducing speed limits will decrease the number of accidents and increase safety.

- Raising the posted speed limit will cause an increase in the speed of traffic.

- Any posted speed limit must be safer than an unposted speed limit, regardless of the traffic and roadway conditions prevailing

- Drivers will always go 5 M.P.H. over the posted speed limit.

Contrary to popular belief, speed in itself is not a major cause of accidents. In fact, accidents appear to depend less on absolute speed and more on the variation of speeds in the traffic stream.

INTENT OF SPEED ZONING

The basic intent of speed zoning is to identify a safe and reasonable limit for a given road section. The most widely accepted method is to set the limit at the speed which 85 percent of the traffic is moving at or

below. This reflects the safe speed as determined by a large majority of the drivers.

Research has shown that the 85th percentile speed is the speed where accident involvement is the lowest. Reducing the speed limit below that which is warranted can actually be detrimental to safety.

HOW SPEED LIMITS ARE ESTABLISHED:

Kansas Statutes, Section 8-1559 allows the establishment of speed limits on the State Highway System "upon the basis of an engineering and traffic investigation."

Speed zoning in Kansas is based on the widely accepted principle of setting speed limits as near as practicable to the speed at or below which 85 percent of the drivers are traveling. According to a Federal Highway Administration study, all states and most local agencies use the 85th percentile speed of free flowing traffic as the basic factor in establishing speed limits.

This speed is subject to revision based upon such factors as: crash experience, roadway geometries, parking, pedestrians, curves, adjacent development, and engineering judgment. This practice is in accordance with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices which has been adopted by the State of Kansas.

HOW SPEED DATA IS COLLECTED

Radar is used to collect speed data from random vehicles on a given roadway. Off peak hours are normally used in conducting a spot speed study with the speed of approximately 50 free flowing vehicles in each direction obtained. On low volume roads where it would be difficult to obtain a sample of 100 vehicles, the study may be terminated after a study period of one hour. Vehicles are selected at random from the free flow of the traffic stream to avoid bias in the results.

ENGINEERING JUDGMENT:

Probably one of the most important factors in a speed study, but the one most difficult to define, is engineering judgment. No matter how complete policies and guidelines are, there will always be speed studies with peculiarities requiring engineering judgment.

Sometimes, the decision to raise or lower a speed limit in a certain area may have to be based on the traffic investigator's own personal judgment. In some remote areas, where there is insufficient traffic for a valid speed sample, traffic engineers may have to base their deci-

sion on the impression obtained from driving the speed study area. In the final analysis, it is the judgment of the traffic engineer that determines which, if any, of the factors in the speed study warrant a downward adjustment of the 85th percentile speeds.

After all variables are considered and a speed limit is established, traffic should flow at a safe and efficient level.

WHAT REALISTIC SPEED LIMITS DO:

Realistic speed limits are of public importance for a variety of reasons:

1. They invite public compliance by conforming to the behavior of the majority.
2. They give a clear reminder of reasonable and prudent speeds to non-conforming violators.
3. They offer an effective enforcement tool to the police.
4. They tend to minimize the public antagonism toward police enforcement which results from obviously unreasonable regulations.
5. They encourage drivers to travel at the speed where the risk of accident involvement is the lowest.

WHAT UNREALISTIC SPEED LIMITS DO:

Unrealistic speed limits are also of public importance for the following reasons:

1. They do not invite voluntary compliance, since they do not reflect the behavior of the majority.
 2. They make the behavior of the majority unlawful.
 3. They maximize public antagonism toward the police, since the police are enforcing a "speed trap".
 4. They create a bad image for a community in the eyes of tourists.
 5. They increase the potential for accidents along a roadway
- Courtesy of the Kansas Department of Transportation



CHIEF'S CORNER

By Chief Steve Wayman

Dogs are required to be licensed if residence is made in the city of Lansing. If you have relocated or acquired a dog you need to come to the police department and get the dog registered. If you have any questions as to whether or not to register an animal please contact the police department. The animal

control officer will normally make an effort to return the dog to the owner the first time the animal is caught running at large, but to do this the police department has to know who the animal belongs to. Dogs that are caught running at large without city tags are taken to the animal shelter and owners will receive citations.

The cost of getting a city license for your dog is \$7.50 if the dog is spayed or neutered and \$15 if the dog is not. You will need to bring proof of rabies vaccination at the time you get your dog's license.

If you have any questions concerning animal issues please contact AC Officer Jim Magee at 727-3000.

The Lansing Police Department also has several members who are certified car seat installers. If you have questions about your car seat or need assistance in installing a car seat in your vehicle, please contact the Police Department at 727 3000 to make an appointment to have one of our installers assist you.



Lansing Continues Citizens' Academy

The city of Lansing will host its next **Citizens' Academy** beginning in September. In May 2012, the city of Lansing honored its second class of graduates. The successful program will continue into its third year.

The Citizens' Academy provides an interactive way to learn about the workings of Lansing city government and gives participants insight into how various City Departments work. Participants are able to tour various facilities, meet with City staff and elected officials, and gain valuable insight into local government. **Classes will be held once a month from September 2012 through May 2013, usually on the fourth Wednesday of the**

month from 6-8 p.m. The first class will be Wednesday, September 26.

There is no cost to participate in the Citizens' Academy, but it does require a substantial time commitment. The program is open to Lansing residents 18 years of age and older. Applications are available at City Hall, 800 First Terrace. Residents can also download the application from the City's website, www.lansing.ks.us. Class size is limited to 15 participants. Applications must be received by Sept. 14, 2012. Applicants will be notified about participation by Sept. 18, 2012.

For more information, call 913-727-5488.



Lansing Parks and Recreation

will be conducting registration for youth in grades 1 thru 6 for the winter basketball program. Registrations will be taken October 1 thru October 31, Mon-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Lansing Activity Center, 108 S. 2nd Street.

Participation fees are \$40 per registrant, due at the time of registration. Registrations made after October 31st may not be accepted. Assistance is available for qualifying individuals. Please visit our website to download the information flyer along with the application for the Scholarship Program or call our office for more information. All Scholarship requests must be received no later than Wednesday, October 17.

For more information about this program, please contact us at 913-727-2960 or by email at:

parks@lansing.ks.us

Registration for boys and girls in the 7th and 8th grade will be taken at a date to be determined later.



Spooky Center October 27, 2012

Join Lansing Parks & Recreation and the Lansing Community Library at the Activity Center, 108 S. 2nd Street for a fun-filled evening of Halloween activities! Admission is free. All games and refreshments are also provided free of charge.

Doors will open at 4 p.m. and close at 6 p.m. for ages up to and including third graders. Children older than third grade will not be admitted during this time. A costume is encouraged but not required. Adult supervision for all participants in this age group is required - no exceptions. There will be carnival games, a trick-or-treat village and refreshments!

From 7 to 9 p.m. we will be hosting the Seriously Spooky Center for youth in fourth through eighth grades. Children younger than fourth grade will not be admitted for this event - no exceptions. Adult supervision is encouraged for this age group. There will be age appropriate carnival games, refreshments, a photo booth and a haunted house.

****NO STROLLERS****

STROBE LIGHTS WILL BE USED AT THIS EVENT

If you would like more information, please contact:
Lansing Parks & Recreation at 727-2960 or by email at:
parks@lansing.ks.us OR
Lansing Community Library at 727-2929 or by email at:
library@lansing.ks.us

Three Lansing Businesses RECOGNIZED BY THE Kansas Dept. of Commerce

The Kansas Department of Commerce has recognized three Lansing businesses as part of Business Appreciation Month – its annual celebration of Kansas businesses and their contributions to the local and state economies: Merit Awards –

Smith Chiropractic
(service category)

and **Econo Lodge**
(retail category) and

James Taylor
Lansing Memorial
VFW Post 12003
(hospital/non-profit category).



FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL SPEED ZONES

What is the purpose of a School Speed Zone?

A school speed zone can be used to reduce the speed limit on a street during times when schoolchildren cross the roadway. The purpose of a school speed zone is to reduce the speeds of vehicular traffic so that:

- A driver has more time to recognize and react to a schoolchild within the travel way, allowing enough distance to slow, evade, and/or stop prior to an incident.
- Schoolchildren, especially young schoolchildren, can more accurately anticipate vehicular movements to safely cross the roadway.

How is it decided where School Speed Zones are installed?

The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), published by the Federal Highway Administration, is the nationally recognized standard for traffic control adopted as State Law and followed by the city of Lansing. When considering a school speed zone, the MUTCD requires that an engineering study define appropriate locations (Section 7B.11) and further recommends uniform application by way of policy to achieve reasonably safe and effective traffic control (Section 7A.01). Public Works has adopted policies consistent with the requirements and guidance of the MUTCD for evaluating school speed zones.

School speed zones are only to be installed after a careful traffic engineering study of pedestrian routes, crossing activity, traffic volumes, vehicle speeds, and crash history indicates that the installation is appropriate. School walking routes and crosswalk locations are considered in the traffic study. School speed zones are encouraged where all of the following conditions exist:

- There is a school crosswalk with probable schoolchild pedestrian crossing activity that is not protected by a traffic signal or stop sign.
- The adjacent school is elementary level instruction, and the posted speed limit is less than 40 mph.

School areas that do not meet these conditions should not have a school speed zone. For instance, in the following cases, a school speed zone is discouraged:

- Street with slow travel speeds, where crosswalks are controlled by a stop sign or traffic signal.
- When the school has no students who walk or ride bicycles to school (lack of pedestrian/bicycle accommodations or school policy prohibits students from walking or biking to school).
- If no children cross the roadway.
- The posted speed limit is 40 mph or greater.

Unnecessary school speed zones are often disrespected by drivers, thereby increasing crash frequency from greater speed differentials and creating a false sense of security for pedestrians. Furthermore, unnecessary school speed zones compromise the effectiveness and safety of appropriate school speed zones.

Why not install a School Speed Zone at every school?

Older schoolchildren have better cognitive skills, which allows them to appropriately judge travel speeds and assess dangerous conditions. Young schoolchildren need the additional protection of a school speed zone since their judgment and awareness is less developed. In accordance with policy and generally accepted traffic engi-

neering practice, school speed zones are only considered adjacent to elementary level institutions.

Why not use a School Speed Zone for children that walk along the street?

A school speed zone should only be established where a child will likely enter the roadway, i.e. crosswalk. Furthermore, the limits of a school speed zone are posted 100 feet from the school property or 200 feet from the crosswalk, whichever is encountered first (MUTCD Section 7B.11). The limits of a school speed zone cannot extend the length of the street where pedestrians walk. Without these limits, in the interest of consistency (MUTCD 7A.01), all streets where there might be pedestrian traffic would require a school speed zone.

Why not use a School Speed Zone for vehicular traffic safety?

A school speed zone should not be used for the sole purpose of reducing the speed of traffic. Moreover, a school speed zone cannot prevent vehicles from crashing into one another and inappropriate use will often increase the number of vehicle to vehicle crashes that occur. School speed zones are established for the safety of schoolchildren, not the motoring public. Streets that surround a school are not unique and often carry less traffic at slower speeds than other streets within the city that vehicles, including school buses, travel to serve students. Safety of vehicular traffic can best be improved by consistent school speed zone application and the elimination of unnecessary school speed zones.

Why not install a School Speed Zone where the speed limit is 40 mph (or more)?

Speed reductions of 20 mph or more are not recommended because studies have shown that driver compliance is slight. These variations of speed between compliant and noncompliant drivers tend to result in more frequent and severe crashes. In the interest of public safety, vehicular crashes should be minimized and alternate accommodations should be provided for schoolchildren that must cross the roadway.

In Summary...

School speed zones are used to reduce vehicle speeds in school areas where there is a high probability of young schoolchild pedestrians crossing a street at an uncontrolled location. Nationally recognized standards require an engineering study and established policy determine where school speed zones are appropriate. Unnecessary school speed zones are viewed by drivers as unreasonable and frequently results in flagrant violations, an attitude of contempt or disrespect in motorists, and a false sense of security for pedestrians. School speed zones can be a valuable tool in providing safe routes to school; however, inappropriate use will be more harmful than helpful.

Questions?

For more information about school speed zones, please call the Public Works Department at 727-2400.

Information collected from: the Federal Highway Administration, the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE), the city of Lee's Summit, and the Missouri Congress of Parents and Teachers.

2012 Kansas Voting Law Changes

by Amber McCullough, City Clerk

Beginning this year, every voter must show photo ID when voting. On April 18, 2011, Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback signed the Kansas Secure and Fair Elections (S.A.F.E.) Act into law. Sponsored by the Office of the Kansas Secretary of State, www.gotvoterid.com contains information every voter should know about changes impacting elections under the S.A.F.E. law. A voter requesting a ballot by mail must either write his or her driver's license number on the application or send a copy of a photo ID to get a ballot. A voter age 65 or older may use an expired document.

Starting January 1, 2012:

1. Kansas voters must show photographic identification when casting a vote in person; and
2. Kansas voters must have their signature verified and include a copy of an acceptable form of photographic identification or provide a full Kansas driver's license or non-driver ID number when voting by mail.

If you're a registered voter, bring one of these to the polls:

State Driver's License, State Non-driver ID Card, State Concealed Carry Handgun License, U.S. Passport, Government Employee ID, U.S. Military ID, Kansas College ID, Government Public Assistance ID or Indian Tribe ID.

Certain individuals are exempt from the ID requirements:

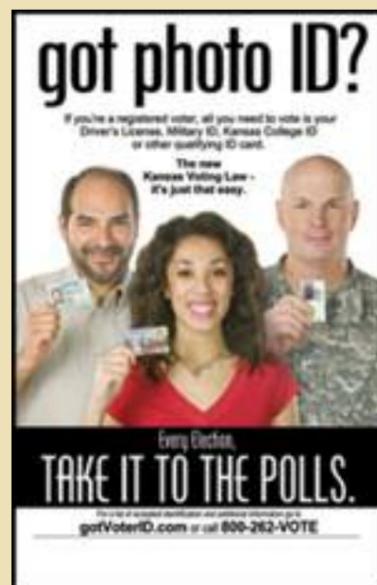
- Permanent advance voters (voters with illnesses or disabilities)
- Overseas military voters and their spouses and dependents
- Voters with religious objections who sign declarations.

Starting January 1, 2013:

Persons registering to vote for the first time in Kansas must prove U.S. citizenship when registering to vote.

The following is a list of voting locations for each Ward in Lansing:

- WARD 1 – Leavenworth County Fire District #1 (111 E Kansas)
- WARD 2 – Lansing Community Center (800 First Terrace)
- WARD 3 – St. Francis DeSales Church (900 Ida St)
- WARD 4 – St. Francis DeSales Church (900 Ida St)





WARD 2 NEWS

Councilmember
Andi Pawlowski

I know we are all looking forward to fall and some cooler temperatures! This has been a tough year for our yards and our pocketbooks. What we managed to save on the price of gasoline going down, we spent on water for our parched lawns or on electricity for the air conditioners!

As I write this, we are in the middle of setting our priorities for 2013 and establishing the budget/mil levy. The city isn't that much different than a family with one huge difference. A family can't decide to raise its income on its own! A city can raise the mil levy within statutory limits.

Our issues are as follows: We have had a small decrease in our assessed valuation this year. Our new homes construction, which kept our valuation rising over the past several decades, has slowed to 13 new homes in 2010, 19 new homes in 2011 and 1 home so far this year. In 2005 we had over 100 new homes built. This has made a huge difference in the budget in many areas.

We have had some new construction in commercial over the last few years, but incentives are in place which do not allow us to reap any of those

benefits in tax revenue for several years.

Just as with our families, the governing body must set priorities and stay within a budget. We also need to save for "a rainy day" or unforeseen crisis. Keeping control of our debt is so critical to our future as a community.

It is my hope that we make good decisions that are supported by the community. Our city council meetings are online a day after the meeting. I hope you have the time to go to the website www.lansing.ks.us and keep up to date on the issues in our city. If you have an issue or comment, please send any or all of us an email; or call me on my phone 913-683-0662.

Thanks for your time!
Andi Pawlowski



WARD 3 NEWS

Councilmember
Billy Blackwell

Well folks, we just worked through another tough budget cycle. Although it is necessary to go through the budget cycle, I can tell you it was not very pleasant this go round. As our economy continues to be sluggish, it becomes harder and harder to find the funds to cover all the needs of the City. We are slowly falling behind in many important areas in the city, and unable to move forward on several projects due to funding. Year after year department heads (Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Police Department, etc.) ask for needed items that we just cannot afford to fund. Funds were so tight this time around, we were forced to make the tough decision of cutting an employee position in



order to fund basic city services and hold the mill levy to a bare minimum. This is in addition to the annual budget cuts and departmental positions left open or cut over the

last several years.

While many cities are raising taxes, our community has been exceptional at keeping taxes at a bare minimum. This in large part is due to the fiscally conservative policy your city government has stuck to in the past. Had it not been for this past fiscal conservancy, I am afraid we would find ourselves in the same economic condition as many towns across the country. Each day we are hearing about cities filing for bankruptcy across the country. While Lansing is in no danger of financial collapse, who would have believed that a city would every have to claim bankruptcy? After all, cities are required to submit a balanced budget each year. Balancing a city's budget is becoming more and more difficult given the sluggish economy and the fact that the cost of providing city service continues to grow.

So what is the solution, the way ahead? The bottom line is we have to continue to look at innovative and creative ways to do business as we move forward. As we weather the sluggish economy, we have to ask ourselves what is essential, and what are our priorities? We will need to work together (Elected Officials, City Staff, and Lansing residents) to provide for good city services, proper upkeep of our infrastructure, excellent city parks, an effective economic growth plan, and an updated comprehensive plan. As we move forward, we must have a comprehensive plan that lays out a holistic

The City Budget and Forging Ahead

vision of what the community wants Lansing to look like 10-15 years from now. The ability to provide for quality city services should rank high on our priorities. How do we ensure quality city services? The answer is through our skilled and talented city staff and employees. We do this by taking care of our staff and employees. There are two components to taking care of employees. First, we must provide them a healthy work environment, by providing them good leadership and ensuring they have the right tools to do their job. Second, we must ensure compensation commensurate with the job(s) we ask them to perform. We cannot afford to or aspire to be an employee training ground for other cities. Sitting in a recent meeting with leaders from several other of our sister cities, I heard a city administrator say he lost eight employees over the past several months to Johnson County. We simply cannot afford to have our talent walk out the door because they feel we can't or won't take care of them. Make no mistake, we have a tremendous amount of talented and dedicated employees. Their expertise and effort keep us competitive with much larger cities and those talents equate to substantial mill levy savings. It is all about finding the right balance of what the city can afford financially, both now and into the future, and what is fair to our employees. The final way we ensure good city services is by fostering a good volunteerism program. We currently have a great volunteerism program. As we build upon and continue to utilize this program, we must continue to make every effort to recognize our volunteers and find ways to encourage our citizens to support the community through these programs. The bottom line is in light of the budget cuts we have made over the last several years we simply cannot provide the same level of city services without our volunteers.

City infrastructure should be another priority and an area that we ensure has the proper funding. If we want to attract new businesses and new residents, it is important to keep our infrastructure in the best shape possible. Our infrastructure is the face of Lansing and is the very essence of how we produce growth and attract new opportunities. To make certain we can attract new opportunities and be competitive with other communities, we need to work hard to ensure our critical facilities such as roads, sidewalks, city buildings, parks, waste water treatment, curbs and gutters, and other facilities are maintained in the highest state of repair possible.

Our city parks and Citywide Trail System are some of the most used amenities in the city. To have good city parks, near constant maintenance is needed. Sometimes maintenance is difficult to complete due to the success of our Parks and Recreation programs, primarily because these facilities are utilized almost daily and aren't absent of activity long enough to perform larger maintenance pro-

grams. Much like our infrastructure, our parks also have much to do with attracting new businesses and new residents. As we look to the future, we need to find ways to continue to improve all our parks and add amenities as funds are available.

A strategic economic growth plan is essential to any city. Without it, a city is "flapping in the wind" allowing growth to happen without any structured plan to control the mix or volume of growth. One thing is for sure - we must manage and control growth. There is no stopping it; it is a simple matter of whether we control it, or it controls us. We must stay ahead of development trends so we can react to them in a controlled and reasonable fashion.

The most essential thing we need to accomplish in the near future is the updating of our Comprehensive Plan. While no one can predict when the economy will turn around, Lansing has to be well positioned in terms of our growth potential. The city's comprehensive plan is essential to our economic growth, and will go a long way toward getting us into position to take advantage of economic opportunities once the economy recovers. There will be an opportunity for residents to get involved in the updating of our comprehensive plan in the upcoming months. I strongly encourage residents to consider participating in the updating of this plan. This is your chance to have a voice in what Lansing will look like in the future.

When resources are tight, we have to make some tough choices; we cannot fund everything without putting a tax burden on our citizen. Raising taxes is always the last option for me, and that is only after an exhaustive and thorough scrubbing of all our programs, resources, and revenues have had a detailed analysis. I am not adverse to risk, but risk must be calculated and minimized in every possible way.

As I have been out in the community the past several months, I heard from many of you on various issues. Thank you for your thoughts and ideas. Your input is both welcomed and needed. If we want to continue to make our city a place we all can be proud of and enjoy, we all must do our part.

Let's work together to keep Lansing a great place to live. Keep those emails and phone calls coming!

*As always,
thanks for the
opportunity to serve you.*

Billy Blackwell
Councilmember, Ward 3
913-240-1991
bblackwell@lansing.ks.us



Lansing Historical Museum

By Laura Phillippi

I had a couple in the Museum last month and the wife said, "We've lived here 25 years but have never been to the Museum." They were glad they came and enjoyed looking at our new exhibit "School Days." Admission to the Museum is free and we are open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and Sunday 1-4 p.m. There is something for everyone at the Museum. We handle local history research requests, questions on how to care for family heirlooms, host free educational programs, and have a craft table for kids. We also have a gift shop with local history books, train whistles, and designer limestone rocks. The smaller rocks are perfect for an office and the larger rocks are a great addition to a yard or garden. Plus they require no watering and will not wilt in this summer heat. We can also special order a rock with a surname and or logo.

Thomas Gilewicz is interning at the Museum this summer. He is majoring in history with a minor in English at the University of Kansas. Thomas is learning about collections management and exhibit creation.

On June 2 we had a Safety Day at the Museum. The police department performed child car seat checks and promoted bicycle safety. Dr. Smith of Associates in Family Health Care promoted summer safety. Chris McMartin of the Kansas City Herpetological Society had five live snakes on hand to promote snake safety. Linda Lockwood of the Lansing Historical Society grilled hot dogs with fruit and veggie kabobs. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible.

After a year hiatus, the Lansing Historical Society's "On the Run" 5K race was held June 10. We had 72 registered participants. Joel Jorgensen won first place in the men's section and Cassie Blankenship won first place in the women's section. We would like to thank our sponsors and volunteers for making this event a success. We would also like to thank the Lansing Police Department and the Lansing Correctional Facility for their assistance in making our event safe.

We are looking forward to Autumn in the Grove on October 13. The Museum will host the Scarecrow Contest and the Lansing Historical Society will also have a booth. There are three scarecrow categories: school class, business, and family. Prizes will be awarded for 1st-3rd place in each category and one People's Choice prize.

Also in October, the exhibit "Americans By Choice: The Story of Immigration and Citizenship in Kansas" will open at the DePaul Library at the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth. The exhibit features dozens of personal stories of people who have become U.S. citizens in Kansas. The exhibit was funded privately by the District of Kansas Bench-Bar Committee in honor of the 150th anniversary of Kansas. We are working with USM to plan events and a history hunt to go with the exhibit. Stay tuned to local media and the Museum's Facebook page for details.



We are continuing to add obituaries and news articles to our database in order to better serve researchers. If you have any suggestions or questions about the Museum, please call me at 913-250-0203 or email lphillippi@sbcglobal.net.

City Website Features

- CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE
- More Modules so Residents Can Interact with their City Government
- Use the Web Calendar to Check on Dates for City Events and Meetings
- View the Latest City Council Meetings and Newsmaker Interview Shows
- Pay Your City Bills Online
- Report a Pothole or Other Maintenance Issue
- View the Latest City Council Meetings and Newsmaker Interview Shows

LGTV - Channel 2 Update

- High School Programming – Spring Sports, News and Variety Shows
- Time and Temperature Instantly!
- City Council Meetings Rebroadcast 6 Times per Week
- LV Co Fire District #1 Board Meetings Rebroadcast 3 Times per Week
- Historical Documentaries about Lansing and Leavenworth County
- Get Your Local Weather Forecast
- Complete Program Guide on www.lansing.ks.us

City's Facebook Page Update

- Lansing's Facebook Page Now Boasts More than 950 Friends!
- See City Videos
- Check out photos from city staff and the community
- City Job Opportunities Announced
- "Like" Our Library and Museum Facebook Pages, too!

And coming soon... a **City of Lansing Mobile App!**

NEW EMPLOYEES

JEAN IHRKE (L) was raised in Pennsylvania, but traveled extensively with her military husband, Ted, for 27 years. Their family was stationed twice at Ft. Leavenworth and retired in Lansing, so they consider themselves "Kansans in training."



She filled various volunteer jobs in different communities and within the army family support system. Professionally, Jean worked as an occupational therapist, primarily in the school setting.

Jean loves children, books, and dogs and is very excited that being the children's librarian allows her to interact with all three. Jean and Ted are now excitedly awaiting the birth of their first grandchild!

ANNE DESHAZO (R) has lived in the Lansing area since the 1970's, arriving when her father was stationed at Fort Leavenworth. As a military kid, Anne lived in many places, but proudly claims Lansing as her hometown. She has three terrific children who grew up in Lansing. She's immensely proud of them and says the time spent with family and in nature inspires her the most.

Throughout her career, she's had the opportunity to build many innovative, model public programs locally and throughout Kansas and has served with many state and local initiatives and boards.

Anne joins the Lansing Community Library Team with diverse professional experience including: legal advocacy, museum and tourism, youth and family services, grant administration and program management, taxes and accounting, customer service and community support. One of her first jobs was in a public library where she gained valuable experience in all aspects of library operations, from cataloging to children's programs and she's been a recent volunteer with the Lansing Community Library.

Anne strives to be a source of encouragement to others and feels fortunate to be a part of the Lansing City Team. She is looking forward to getting to know you at the Library!

LGTV-Channel Two Program Schedule

Day	Time	Program
Monday	10:00 a.m.	News and 11:00 a.m. (30-minute program with local officials and personalities)
Monday	12:00 p.m.	The Kansas State Anniversary: An Institution and a Neighbor
Monday	12:12 p.m.	"Their Stories" - local history of the area
Monday	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	10:00 a.m.	City Council Meeting
Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Lansing USD 463 Board Meeting
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Wednesday	12:00 p.m.	The Kansas State Anniversary: An Institution and a Neighbor
Wednesday	12:12 p.m.	"Their Stories" - local history of the area
Wednesday	2:00 p.m.	Lansing Police Dept. Town Hall Meeting
Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	News and 11:00 p.m.
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Lansing Police Department events discussion with City Administrator
Thursday	8:00 p.m.	Kansas Legislative Forum
Thursday	10:00 a.m.	Lansing USD 463 Board Meeting
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	News and 11:00 p.m.
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Lansing USD 463 Board Meeting
Friday	10:00 a.m.	City Council Meeting
Friday	7:00 p.m.	Lansing Police
Friday	8:00 p.m.	Kansas Legislative Forum
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	News and 11:00 a.m.
Saturday	12:00 p.m.	The Kansas State Anniversary: An Institution and a Neighbor
Saturday	12:12 p.m.	"Their Stories" - local history of the area
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Saturday	2:00 p.m.	Lansing Police Dept. Town Hall Meeting
Saturday	6:00 p.m.	Lansing USD 463 Board Meeting
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Lansing Scholastic Events Sports (JUG games featured during school year)
Sunday	12:00 p.m.	The Kansas State Anniversary: An Institution and a Neighbor
Sunday	12:12 p.m.	"Their Stories" - local history of the area
Sunday	2:00 p.m.	Lansing Police Dept. Town Hall Meeting
Sunday	7:00 p.m.	City Council Meeting
Sunday	8:00 p.m.	Kansas Legislative Forum