

Mayor sees Increased Development as Key to Tax Issues

By Murrel Bland

The message from Mayor David Alvey Friday, Nov. 20 was that the solution to Wyandotte County's problems is to grow the property tax base, not to increase taxes.

Mayor Alvey spoke to about 80 members of the Congressional Forum Friday, Nov. 20 via ZOOM. The Forum is a committee of the Kansas City, Kansas, Chamber of Commerce.

The tax base continues to increase. Earlier this year it was slightly more than \$1.447 billion. The plan is to expand the tax base so there is less dependence on the individual resident and small business. To borrow a phrase out of the clique closet, "A rising tide raises all boats."

Although Wyandotte County has made significant strides in attracting development, it falls short when compared with Johnson County. Johnson County's valuation is more than \$11.7 billion.

Mayor Alvey said Kansas City, Kansas, has reduced its mill levy and ranks 14th among Kansas cities. The mill rate in Kansas City, Kansas, has been cut from 44 to 38 mills.

Mayor Alvey praised the ef-

forts of Greg Kindle, the President of the Wyandotte Economic Development Council, and Katherine Carttar, the Director of Economic Development for the Unified Government, for their efforts in attracting new development. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, Wyandotte County is on target to attract \$1 billion of new and increased development this year.

Recent new attractions include the Menard's store in Village West. Another Menard's is planned at I-35 and 18th Street. The Mayor also bragged about attracting the Urban Outfitters' fulfillment center that will be on property on the southeast

corner of 118th Street and State Avenue.

The Mayor admitted that dealing with the coronavirus has been a serious challenge with furloughed employees at the Unified Government and curfew decisions that have made it difficult on certain small businesses such as restaurants and bars.

In a comment session, Joe Vaught, a commercial Realtor and a member of the Congressional Forum, said that a major drawback to development is the poor quality of schools in the Kansas City, Kansas, District.

Murrel Bland is the former editor of The Wyandotte West and the Piper Press.

Motor Vehicle Services at WyCo's Annex Location Transitioning to Appointment Only

Motor Vehicle Services at Wyandotte County's Annex (8200 State Avenue) location will transition to in-person service by appointment only for new title and vehicle registration services beginning December 7, 2020.

The transition is part of the County's ongoing efforts to

increase public safety and reduce the spread of COVID-19. The appointment system will increase public safety by preventing crowding at the Annex Office.

Customers requiring new title or vehicle registration

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

More "We," Less "Me"

By Dr. Jim Haas

Northeast Ohio was hit last week with up to two feet of wet snow, reminding me of why I'm here instead of there where I grew up and where my brother and sisters still live. We texted one sister to commiserate—really to gloat—and she replied that where she is, it "wasn't bad, only 8 inches." Her definition of "bad" isn't mine, which is any inches.



I'm forever grateful to the Air Force for sending me to Kansas back in the Sixties where I was able to take graduate courses nights and weekends at KU after taking the oath of eternal allegiance to Jayhawk basketball. When I finished my four years of service, several excellent KU history and education professors and a good teaching job kept me here. That and the relative lack of snow.

If you're still reading this, my little story has served its purpose, which was to lure you into considering a serious issue made clear by the recent election: we are a divided nation, and not just politically, but economically, socially, and culturally. Divided, it's hard to solve even our most pressing problems.

Economically, according to a CBS News study, we are divided into a few "haves" and many "have-nots." If our \$98 trillion of household wealth were a pie cut into ten pieces, nine pieces would go to the richest 20 percent (four of *those* pieces to the richest 1 percent), the one remaining piece would be shared by the 60 percent majority in the so-called Middle Class, and the poorest 20 percent, being in debt, would have nothing. It's no wonder that most of us are not happy about the economy.

Socially, we're divided by where we live. Four of five of us are in large cities and their suburbs and only one in five in small towns or rural areas—the exact opposite of 1788 when the Constitution was ratified. A government designed for an agricultural society is poorly suited for an industrial and technological one, not least because of valuing acres more than people in the Senate and Electoral College. We're also divided by whom we live near. Most neighborhoods don't look like America, neither do their schools where lifelong attitudes are formed, and neither does Congress and most state legislatures.

We're also divided into those who rely on objective facts and those who seem to believe in "alternative facts" that don't reflect reality—perhaps the most dangerous division.

How do we heal the divide and build "a more perfect union"? How do we live up to America's original motto still on our money: *e pluribus unum*, "out of many, one"? How do we focus on the common good?

The answer may be in honoring the first words of the Constitution, "We the People," by making "we" more of a priority and "me" less so. The Roman statesman Cicero wrote, "When each person loves the other as much as himself, it makes one out of many." Let's do that. Let's love our neighbors as ourselves and support the common good.

We can do it. We've done it before. America in 1900 was badly divided between rich and poor, and industrialization was dramatically changing jobs and living patterns. The Progressive political movement gained influence and shaped an activist government that, through the next seventy years, expanded public education, created Social Security, built a prosperous Middle Class, created Medicare and Medicaid, and ensured voting rights for women and minorities. The Constitution calls for promoting "the general Welfare." It's all about the "We."

An example: Let's wear a mask, keep our distance, and wash our hands. That's about "me" and "we."

Sue's Sudsy Soapbox By: Sue Reich



Here we go again, another few months of our boring routine. Can't go here, can't go there, can't go see Santy, order this through the mail, can't go to church, can't go to sports events. Seems like we will be putting up with this until next year, summer or fall. Like I said before, I don't want to be first in line when those vaccine inoculations come here. My son will probably be one of the first of the group that gets those shots. Of course, he works in a nursing home so it might be a while before he is one of the ones that get it. The hospitals and people more in direct contact with patients will be the first ones. Mr. Ed and I don't go out as much as we used to because we really try to be very careful. Hope all of you are careful too.

Boy those fellas at the garden in Turner are really busy. They are down there most of the time and always doing something. What they can't do on the inside, they are working on the outside. That fence is quite attractive and now that it is decorated in Christmas decor, it really looks sharp. Good goin' guys. Jim has recuperated quite well from his surgery. He was anxious to get back and get started on their newfound project. Love seeing them all again when I can. I still go around and take pictures if there is anything going on.

This coming Friday is Santa's time to visit everyone in Turner at TRC. Gonna be different though. Everything is different this year. Man, I get so bored that I almost want to clean house or something. lol. They were showing on TV

about all the different ways that Santa has prepared to visit all the little kids this year. I am glad I got to see him up close last Christmas. He really is a "Jolly ol' Soul". Hope he is as jolly this year as he has been in the past. He sure gets around and I am glad that most of his trip around the world is "up high", so he won't catch that Covid19 stuff. But I believe he is immune to a lot of germs as long as he has been around. Right?

How do you like that picture of the Tuckertown Rascals? They were quite a trio. Bus Larson used to be quite a "hooper", (that is tap dancing). They were fortunate enough to win a contest and got on the Ted Mack show. You youngsters wouldn't know who Ted Mack was, but he had a live show in New York and the Rascals got to be on it from New York. If anyone remembers Pat Hanlon, he went too with his daughters. Pat used to work for our city government here in KCK.

Well, readers, guess I will sign off and just want to remind you all to watch your p's and q's and please don't step on any cracks. lol Take care, wear your masks, wash your hands and keep your safe distance. K?

By the way, Linda Cochran passed away. She was the manager of the Crosslines Highrise in Argentine for many many years. I haven't got any details yet, but I do know she worked at Crosslines a long time. When I find out, I will surely let you know. She was in her later 70's and really kept that place in tip top shape. Take care, lvyva all, this little ol gal from Argentine, Sue

"It is better to keep your mouth shut and thought a fool than it is to open it and prove it." "Dignity is the capacity to hold back on the tongue what never should have been in the mind in the first place." from: *Apples of Gold* Here are two thoughts we all should remember: "Don't shoot the messenger" and 'Beware of Wolves in Sheep's clothing".



Still installing the fence. As of this writing, the fence facing 55th street has been decorated with Christmas decorations.



Jim Jarsulic and Calvin Hoover have been working diligently putting a wrought iron fence around the parking lot of the newly purchased building next to the Community garden on South 55th street in Turner.



Anyone remember the Tuckertown Rascals of Argentine? They played at every event in the Metro area, the old Parish House, the parades in Argentine for many years. They ended up on TV on the Ted Mack show. Gayle made records and sang at the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas.

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

DECK THE HALLS WITH BOUGHS OF HOLLY!! Well not exactly a hall, but will a fence do? A wrought iron fence donated by Josh and Angela Markley has been installed in front of the building adjacent to the Turner Community Garden. You can see it as you enter from the North end of 55th St. Calvin, Jim Jarsulic, and Larry Green spent part of their Thanksgiving holiday erecting it. Janet Winkler and Beth Wyatt added Christmas spirit with red bows and holly



Calvin cut from our holly trees and Jim contributed the lights. It is a most welcoming sight that continues into Turner with the rest of the Christmas lights and displays on 55th St. I am passing along a notice I read on NextDoor. The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City at 5445 Parallel Parkway is holding a giveaway for those in need on Sunday, December 13, 2020 from 10 am- 3pm. They will distributing straw, dog and cat

food, Styrofoam cat shelters, and animal sweater/coats, You can also sign up for dog houses. It will be on a first-come first serve basis. They are also accepting donations for the above items except for the straw.

When I noticed ice forming in the birdbath, I realized it was time to refill the bird feeders. As I look out my kitchen window, I can see its over half

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Comin' and Goin' Turner Style...

From Page 3

empty already. We've been visited by cardinals, blue jays, chickadees and woodpeckers. Several times I have heard a knocking on the side of the house and more I listened, the sound was metallic. I kept peering out the window but never saw anything, I narrowed the sound to one of the down spouts on the corner of the house. I'll never get out there in time to catch whatever is doing it, but I think it might be a woodpecker. Maybe there are insects (ants off the holly trees) on the pipe.

If you run out of ideas for the kids to do over the winter months, there is a website called www.kidsgardening.org that has a lot of easy projects for kindergartners to 4th grade. Someone sent it to me and there are some great ideas to get kids involved in different and simple gardening activities each month that don't take a lot of time. I may try a few myself.

Until next time please be kind, wash your hands, practice social distancing, wear a mask and get a flu shot.



Appointment Only ...from page 1

services can set their appointment time online at wycokck.org/ugdmvappointments.

Online, drop off, and mail-only service will continue for all other Motor Vehicle services. Non-Treasury services at the Annex location are not affected and will remain open for in-person service.

All motor vehicle services can be completed online or by mail. To learn more, visit wycokck.org/Auto or reference the frequently asked questions below.

Wyandotte County Motor Vehicle Frequently Asked Questions

1. What offices are open?

The Downtown Office at 710 N. 7th St., Suite 240, Kansas City, KS 66101. This office is open to the public exclusively for Real Estate, Personal Property Tax, and Treasury services.

The Annex Office at 8200 State Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66112. This office is open by appointment only. To set an appointment, visit wycokck.org/ugdmvappointments. For all Motor Vehicle work not related to titles, the public is required to use online, dropbox, or mail-in options.

2. Where is the dropbox located?

The Treasury dropbox is in front of the Annex Office public entrance at 8200 State Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66112.

3. What can I use the dropbox for?

The dropbox can be used to submit all Treasury related business items that are not being serviced in an office. This includes, but is not limited to, annual registration renewals, title work, lien releases, handicap placards, and real estate payments.

4. How do I title or register a new vehicle?

There are two ways to register a newly acquired vehicle: Set an appointment online at wycokck.org/ugdmvappointments. Follow the instructions on the Motor Vehicle Titling Mail-In Eligibility form.

5. How do I get a 60-day temporary tag?

Send an email to ugdmv-tempstag@wycokck.org

6. How do I apply for or renew my handicap placard?

Submit your request for a handicap placard by: Using the dropbox located at the Annex Office (8200 State Ave., Kansas City, KS 66112). Sending an email to ugmotorvehicle@wycokck.org. Sending a Fax to (913) 573-2890.

7. Who can I contact for help?

Send an email to ugmotorvehicle@wycokck.org or call 3-1-1

WyCo Distributes \$825,000 in Recovery Grants to 85 Small Businesses

To support local small businesses impacted by COVID-19, the Unified Government (UG) recently distributed \$825,000 in grants to more than 85 local small businesses in Wyandotte County through the WyCo Loves Local Biz Grants program. These grants, distributed primarily in \$10,000 and \$20,000 increments, are intended to help offset unforeseen costs or losses resulting from COVID, while encouraging continued reinvestment as the community attempts to recover.

"Local and small businesses are the backbone of Wyandotte County and critical to our economic recovery and future growth efforts," said Mayor David Alvey. "As such, the WyCo Loves Local Biz Grant program provides much-needed relief to local businesses, helping them offset unforeseen hurdles caused by COVID while also allowing them to invest in their future. By helping local companies succeed and grow, the UG will simultaneously maintain and create jobs for residents throughout the entire community."

The impact of these recovery grants on local business owners and entrepreneurs has been immediate and profound, helping restaurants, barbershops, day-care facilities, bakeries, salons, and others offset the impact of the economic downturn on their individual operations, employees, and customers. The monies have been used for personal protection equipment (PPE) purchases, rental or mortgage payments, facility remediation/sanitization requirements, vendor payments, improved technology, etc. The response has been overwhelming and emotional, with heartfelt appreciation, joy, and tears from the recipients, many who said this unexpected relief was critical to helping their business survive and recover.

"This COVID-relief recovery grant has had a significant, immediate impact for our locally-owned business," said Jason Oliver, owner of J. Oliver Construction in Kansas City, KS. "It has helped offset unanticipated costs and income loss related to COVID and allowed us to sustain our employees and our small company until the economy recovers." The company installs commercial playsets for schools, neighborhoods, and others in the region, and since COVID has restricted in-person sales meetings the grant monies have allowed them to create a website and hire a marketing person to assist with new business development calls.

Regina Williamson, owner of Gina's Braiding Lounge in Kansas City, KS offered, "The WyCo Loves Small Biz Grant was an unexpected and invaluable resource for me. As an independent small business owner, it has provided a bridge to manage short-term financial stress caused by COVID, will help us continue serving our customers, and allows me to invest in the future of my business." Williamson is using the grant monies to help with business expenses and other costs since customer traffic to her salon has been impacted by COVID.

Created by the UG's Economic Development team, utilizing federal CARES Act funding, the UG Commission approved this unique program recognizing its ability to directly and immediately impact local small businesses struggling under the weight of the pandemic. Applications were due in late September, with the grants being distributed to recipients in two separate Rounds over the last several weeks.

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Guest Editorial

Covid Spread will be Controlled only with the Cooperation of Everyone

By: Tom Valverde

Anthony S. Fauci, MD, Director National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, was asked to provide his thoughts and advice on the current, multi-state surge in the number of COVID cases the weekend post-Thanksgiving. With these stats as a starting point: Since Thanksgiving, only three days ago, there are more than 13 Million confirmed infections, over 346,000 New cases, over 17,000 in ICU, and over 2,700 Americans now dead from COVID-19. The current daily death rate is now topping 2,000---the highest number since last Spring. Dr. Fauci warned, "What we expect unfortunately, as we go for the next couple of weeks, into December, is that we may see a surge, superimposed upon the surge that we are already in." Dr. Fauci urged that all people continue to follow the CDC's prevention guidelines. * "People will have to know that these truly are perilous times for the country."

*CDC COVID-19 prevention guidelines: Practice Hand Hygiene and wash hands often. Plain soap and water are best and wash for 20 seconds. When soap and water aren't available, use a hand sanitizer. (One critical place to wash, is just after pumping gasoline for the car.) Wear a mask, always. The Coronavirus is breathed in so just having it cover your mouth defeats the purpose of wearing one properly. Remain at home as much as possible. Avoid close contact with others. Always practice social distancing and stay at least 6 feet from others in both indoor and outdoor spaces. Wear a mask in parking lots. Be sure to cover coughs and sneezes, use a tissue or handkerchief, not your hands.

Dr. Fauci's message is simple, "Wearing a mask works to prevent the spread of COVID-19." At current rates, roughly 114 Americans will test positive for the Coronavirus every minute, and 65 will die every hour from the virus.

Health officials predict that more than 3,000 Americans could soon be dying, daily, from COVID-19. This is more than the number of people killed on 9/11. Dr. Fauci: "The Advisory Committee on Immunization Protocols will meet next week. They will vote on who should be the first to receive the new Coronavirus vaccine. Thoughts of health experts say that priority should be given to front-line workers. Then to those people with a pre-existing medical condition. And lastly to people over the age of 65, and especially those who are living in nursing homes. It's expected that the first people will be vaccinated before the end of the year. The vaccine represents, "the light at the end of the tunnel" which Dr. Fauci refers to.

Dr. Fauci does share concern about the capacity of the health care systems to handle any new surges. Many systems have lost staff to the Coronavirus, he said that there aren't enough health care workers around the country, "So, I am very concerned about some health care systems from around the country failing. Now, when they are most needed. And good systems in rural areas are few and far between. Dr. Fauci: "Just last night, I received calls from colleagues and associates from across the country who told me that, "We're at that point where if soon, things don't turn around quickly, we're going to have a situation with capacity, not only of hospital capacity, but of staff." They asked me, what should we do? They were almost pleading for advice!" "Everyone doing their part, actively following the COVID-19 prevention guidelines set out by the CDC. We don't need to precipitate the necessity of another lock down, if everyone does their part."

REMINDER: It is possible to contract COVID and the seasonal flu at the same time. Be sure to get a flu shot, it's the best way to stop from being infected.

Kansans Urged To Prepare For Winter Storm

It is too soon to tell if we will have a white Christmas, but snow is definitely in the forecast for Kansas. A severe winter storm will enter the northwest region of the state tonight, there is a potential for up to six inches in south central Kansas. The Kansas Division of Emergency Management is urging all Kansans to take precautions, especially when traveling.

A Winter Storm Watch has been issued for South Central Kansas beginning Wednesday afternoon with increasing confidence for accumulating snow into Thursday. Light snow could begin in Southwest Kansas with blowing and drifting possible and intensify by afternoon and evening in parts of Central and Southwest and Central Kansas. Snow accumulations could be up to four inches in parts of the South Central region with one to two inches in the western and northern parts of the state.

"Please make sure you and your family stay safe by having an emergency kit at home and in your car and stay tuned to your local weather stations," Gov. Laura Kelly said. "If you must travel, take steps to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Don't travel if you are not feeling well, wear your mask, stay six feet away from individuals outside your household and wash your hands often."

"Now is the time to make sure your home and car emergency kits are stocked," said Angee Morgan, KDEM deputy director. "Review your home emergency plan and update any phone numbers, addresses, and other information so you can keep in contact with family and friends."

A home emergency kit should include food, water, medications, extra clothing, flashlights and batteries, battery-operated NOAA weather radio and other necessities. Make sure your kit includes supplies for your pet.

Vehicle emergency kits should include blankets, flashlights, batteries, a cell phone charger, hand-warmers, high-energy food snacks, bottled water, necessary medications, a snow shovel, flares and other emergency supplies. Make sure your cell phone is charged and someone is aware of your itinerary, including expected time of arrival.

On the road, remember the following:

- Allow extra time for delays and slower traffic speeds.
- Buckle up and properly secure children in safety seats.
- Increase the distance between your vehicle and the vehicle ahead of you. Ice and snow significantly increase your stopping distance.
- Accelerate and brake gently. A light foot on the gas is less likely to make wheels spin on ice and snow. Braking is best accomplished by pumping the pedal. If your vehicle has an anti-lock braking system, it is very important that you understand how to use it. Read the owner's manual or check with a dealership for more information, and practice using it correctly.
- Make turns slowly and gradually, especially in heavily traveled areas (e.g. inter-sections that may be icy from snow that melted and refroze).
- Visibility is very important. You must be able to see out, and other drivers must be able to see your vehicle. Clean frost and snow off all windows, mirrors, and lights. Use headlights as necessary.
- If your car loses traction and begins to slide, steer into the swerve, or in the direction you want to go. Anticipate a second skid in the opposite direction as the car straightens out.

If you are stranded in a winter storm, do not panic. Stay in the vehicle, keep fresh air circulating through a downwind window, run the motor sparingly, turn on the dome light, and make sure the vehicle's tailpipe is clear of snow. Stimulate circulation and stay awake by moving arms and legs.

If you leave the car, work slowly in the snow to avoid over-exertion and the risk of a heart attack. If you have a cell phone, call a Kansas Highway Patrol by dialing •HP (47), or •KTA (582) while on the Kansas Turnpike.

State road and travel conditions are available at the Kansas Department of Transportation's website - www.kandrive.org. Impacts to traffic are updated 24/7, including maintenance and construction activities, winter highway conditions, flooded roadways, incidents and crashes affecting traffic and closed highways. You may also call 5-1-1 for Kansas road conditions, outside Kansas call 1-866-511-5368 (KDOT).

Avoid travel if you can, but if you must travel, make sure someone knows your travel plans, fill your car's tank with fuel, ensure your mobile phone is charged, and make sure your car's emergency kit is up-to-date. Whether at home or on the road, listen to your local radio and television stations for the latest weather information.

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Passings...

By: Sue Reich

Rudolph A. Shelby Sr., age 81 passed away November 27, 2020. He was raised in Rosedale area and was a paratrooper in the U.S. Army.

J. C. Dame, age 95, passed away November 23, 2020. USMC, Grand Master of Masonic Lodge, WWII organizations and many others.

Linda Cochran, age 78, passed away November 29, 2020. Linda was the manager of the Crosslines Highrise in Argentine for many years.



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