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**A NOTE FROM THE CITY MANAGER**

There are three major projects that will occur on South US-73 in the next year.

The first is the South Atchison Trail, which is a very impressive project slated for completion in mid-August. The 1.55-mile trail will span from the CVS at 10<sup>th</sup> and Main to the entrance of Atchison Hospital on Raven Hill Road. Major earth and site work is involved to create a safe environment and enjoyable experience for all users.

This trail is a quality of life improvement that gives bicyclists, runners, and walkers an additional outdoor recreational and health improvement opportunity. It also provides the 9% of the Atchison adult population without a vehicle a means to access key community resources.

The best thing about this project is that \$1.17 million of the cost is coming from federal funds, another

\$55,000 is funded by the Sunflower Foundation, and \$15,000 is being contributed by Live Well Live Atchison. The estimated cost to the City is \$135,000, or the equivalent of overlaying five or six residential blocks with asphalt.

The next big US-73 project is the reconstruction of the southbound lanes from the U-Street Bridge to 274<sup>th</sup> Street, to correct the areas of the highway that are creating the most problems for drivers. Work is expected to begin in late August and will include removal of all existing pavement and base, installation of a comprehensive underdrain system (aka drainage tile) and construction of new concrete road surface, curb, and gutter.

The City just received bids on this project, which will cost about \$1.3 million. Once again, the good news is that it's primarily grant funded, by a \$1 million award from the

Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT).

The third US-73 project is an overlay of the portions of the highway that are not addressed in the reconstruction project. This project is slated to begin in late spring 2018. The reason for not moving forward directly after reconstruction is complete is simple—it will be late fall by then and asphalt works better when it is laid down with warmer conditions. The City will also work to improve the base conditions to prevent the asphalt from failing prematurely. The total project cost is estimated to be over \$800,000, with KDOT covering about half at \$400,000.

So, by this time next year US-73 should be in tip-top condition and it will be one of the best gateways to our community!

Until next time,

*- City Manager Trey Cocking*

**Like Father Like Son**

Congratulations to Sergeant Terry Kelley who recently retired from the Atchison Police Department after 22 years of service to the Atchison community.

Sgt. Terry Kelley grew up in the Winthrop, Missouri area and graduated from De Kalb High School. He began his law enforcement career with the Atchison County Sheriff's Department in 1989 as a Deputy Sheriff. He later worked as an officer at the Horton Police Department and the Kickapoo Tribal Police Department. He joined the Atchison Police Department as an officer in 1995, where he would spend the next 22 years.

Terry and his wife, Stacey, raised six children. Their son, Darren, who grew up as part of the Atchison Police Department family, has decided to follow in his father's footsteps and work as a patrol officer in the very department his dad served for more than two decades.

Darren grew up in Atchison and graduated from Atchison High School. Prior to deciding to pursue a career in law enforcement, he



Sgt. Terry Kelley, left, shakes the hand of his son, Darren Kelley, right, welcoming him to the Atchison Police Department.

worked as an inspector at GBW Railcar Services.

Police Chief Mike Wilson was notified by Sgt. Kelley of his intent to retire the same week that he received his son's application. Darren successfully completed the numerous required testing processes and began training on June 26<sup>th</sup>. There were a number of people that went through the applicant processes. Two candidates were selected for the Patrol Officer I positions, Darren Kelley and Joseph Hawk, who both began employment on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

In Sgt. Kelley's resignation letter, he compared the Atchison Police Department to a family unit, noting the strong bond that exists among its officers. Although Sgt. Kelley won't be on the force any longer, the Kelley name will, and the family environment of the Atchison Police Department will carry on.

## What are STAR Bonds?

The City Commission recently approved the creation of a Sales Tax Revenue (STAR) Bond District to support the funding of two projects, the Muriel Museum at the Amelia Earhart Airport and the construction of a large shelter at the downtown Farmers Market.

STAR Bonds are a financing mechanism in Kansas for cities to fund the development of major commercial, entertainment and tourism area. The project's bond payments are solely supported by the increase in revenue generated from the STAR Bond District.

Utilization of the STAR Bond Program provides Atchison an opportunity to capture the State's portion of sales tax generated in the district (6.5%) to create a national landmark project in the community. The additional revenue generated in the district by the City's existing 1% sales tax will also be put toward the bond payments.

STAR bond funding is applied for through the Kansas Department of Commerce. Ideal projects, 1.) establish that the public benefits exceed the public costs 2.) are considered a major commercial, entertainment, and tourism area 3.) are capable of being characterized as a statewide and regional destination 4.)

include a quality, innovative attraction with unique features.

Other projects financed through STAR bonds include: The Legends, Kansas Speedway, Sporting KC, Hutchinson Underground Salt Museum, and Manhattan Flint Hills Discovery Center.

Although Atchison's project is the smallest in the STAR bond program's history, STAR bonds were created to benefit communities like Atchison. When the legislation was written, it was with the intent of providing smaller communities with a means to improve their regional tourism draw.

The Amelia Earhart Airport Museum project and the Farmers Market shelter project will both benefit the community and are expected to increase tourism to Atchison. The Amelia Earhart Airport Museum will be a world-class aviation museum that will showcase the last remaining 1935 Lockheed Electra-10E aircraft, Muriel, in the world.

The Farmers Market project will include a shelter that will allow the Market's season to last more than nine months. The venue will host a variety of events and increase agritourism, which is a growing segment of Atchison's visitors. The many events the

market hosts each year will be more attractive to visitors with the shelter providing protection from rain and sunlight.

There are several steps in the STAR Bond process, but the first two major steps have already occurred. A study was completed in May, to determine the feasibility of the project, and the district was created in early June. A public hearing was held at the June 5<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting and the district was established by ordinance.

The district includes part of downtown Atchison and the Amelia Earhart Airport. The downtown district is a contiguous area that includes the Farmers Market, Holiday Inn Express, and the corner of 10<sup>th</sup> and Main where the KC Bell project is underway.

The Secretary of Commerce has approved the district and the rest of the process will be completed over the next few months. A project plan will be created, which will be reviewed by the Planning Commission to ensure conformance with the City's Comprehensive Plan. Then a second public hearing will be held to adopt the plan, which will then be sent to the Secretary of Commerce for final approval. Once approved, STAR bonds can be issued and the project can begin.

## EVENT CALENDAR

**July 3**  
Atchison City Commission Meeting  
4:30 pm  
(City Hall)

**July 5**  
Atchison Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals  
4:30 pm  
(City Hall)

**July 7**  
First Friday  
6:00-9:00 pm  
(Downtown)

**July 14**  
LakeFest  
7 pm  
(Warnock Lake)

**July 15**  
Amelia Earhart Festival  
8:00 pm – 12:00 am  
(Riverfront Park)

**July 17**  
Atchison City Commission Meeting  
4:30 pm  
(City Hall)

## What Is The Purpose of a Grant?

Recently, the City of Atchison has announced some major projects that will be taking place in the near future. These projects would not be feasible without the financial aid from the funds provided by grant programs.

A grant is one of the government's tools for funding ideas and projects to provide public services, stimulate the economy, and benefit the public. Grants can be awarded for a wide-variety of projects, such as innovative research, recovery initiatives, and infrastructure building.

The City of Atchison actively pursues federal, state, and private grant opportunities provided that the grant fits within the City's central mission, "to deliver courteous, timely, efficient services to our citizens; to preserve Atchison's rich history and to undertake the development and implementation of strategies that will provide Atchison a strong future." If a grant's objective fits the City's mission, City

staff works to complete and submit grant applications for the projects that meet the grant's criteria.

The City has been awarded several block grants in the past. Block grants provide federal financial assistance for a broadly defined function. One block grant program in particular, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), is a federal aid program that helps local governments pursue projects that would not otherwise be financially feasible. For over 25 years, the CDBG program has provided communities with resources to address a wide variety of unique community development needs. In the last decade, the program has provided more than \$450,000,000 in awards to Kansas communities.

The most recent grants that have been awarded to the City of Atchison include: the Riverfront Trail Extension project, additional funding for the City's E-Community Program, and the Atchison Middle School West Sidewalks project.

In April of this year, the City was awarded a \$250,000 grant to fund an extension of the existing Riverfront Trail. In addition to the grant, which is from the federal Recreational Trails Program, the project will also receive funding through the Atchison Riverfront Foundation and the City of Atchison will provide matching funds as well. The project will extend the length of the current trail of about 2/5 of a mile to just under 1 mile. The extension will consist of an 8-foot-wide concrete path that will run on the west side of River Road from the south boat ramp to just north of the City's Raw Water Intake Pump Station. Construction and completion of the project are expected in 2018.

The City of Atchison's E-Community Program, which began offering loans for small business startups, expansions, and acquisitions earlier this year, has been awarded an additional \$100,000 by NetWork Kansas to keep the loan funds flowing to small businesses in the Atchison community. The City applied for additional funding for its

E-Community Program, which is created through the sale of entrepreneurship tax credits that are allocated to NetWork Kansas by the Kansas Legislature.

The Atchison Middle School West Sidewalks project was awarded to the City in January of 2017. The project will construct and/or replace the east and west sidewalk corridors in the neighborhood immediately west of Atchison Middle School. The project is bounded by 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Santa Fe and 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Laramie, and is primarily funded by a \$250,000 grant through the CDBG program. All remaining costs over the grant award will be funded by the City of Atchison. The project is currently in the engineering design phase. Construction is slated for fall of this year, and the project is expected to be completed in Spring 2018.

Many other projects are on the City's horizon. City staff continues to apply for funding for grant eligible projects that increase the quality of life in Atchison.

### Candidates for City Commission

Seven candidates are running to fill three seats on the City Commission.

Listed in alphabetical order by candidate name, they are, Michael Hein, David Hausmann, Larry Purcell, Allen Reavis, Shawn Rizza, Floyd “Jay” Robinson, and George Ross, Jr.

David Hausmann, Larry Purcell, and Allen Reavis are the three commissioners whose terms are up in January 2018.

Every two years, three City Commission terms end and they are filled based on the results of the local election. All commissioners run at large for the entire city. In the election, the top two vote getters receive 4-year terms and the third-place vote getter has a 2-year term. This process

repeats every two years when there is a local election.

Prior to a 2015 change in state law that moved city elections to November, Atchison’s city commissioners were elected in April of odd years. This is the first year Atchison’s election cycle is affected by the law, and the election will take place on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Primary elections are held in August now, but there won’t be any city candidates on the August 1<sup>st</sup> primary ballot and all 7 candidates are slated for the November ballot. Atchison city elections do not trigger a primary until there are at least 10 candidates (more than 3 times the number of available seats), so this year’s 7 candidates are 3 short of the number needed for a primary.

### Theatre Atchison Takes on Royal Theatre

Coming soon to Atchison: a movie theatre. Theatre Atchison’s board of directors recently announced that it will undertake the restoration of the Royal Theatre in downtown Atchison. The main goal of the board is to remodel the facility to include one theatre on the main floor and a second theatre on the second floor, which would essentially eliminate the existing twin-theatre design. A multi-use space will also be created and will be used for additional programming.

Theatre Atchison was approached with the opportunity after it became evident that this scope of work was not feasible for a for-profit company. Since then, Theatre Atchison has executed a six-month real estate option on the building in which the approved architectural-services contract will specify the

necessary scope of work that will need to take place during this time.

There are many benefits that a non-profit organization has in taking on this project that aren’t available to a for-profit company. One advantage, in particular, is that Theatre Atchison will be allowed to fundraise for the renovation project. In order to get the movie theatre up and running, they will need to raise an estimated \$800,000.

The City commission adopted a resolution at the June 19<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting in support of the project. The Board hopes this helps the quality of life in Atchison by keeping movie theatre business in town. If everything goes as planned, the Royal will be open and showing movies by June 2018.



### 2017 Juneteenth Celebration

Atchison’s annual Juneteenth celebration took place at LFM Park on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. The event was free and open to the public, and was filled with entertainment and food for the whole Atchison community.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration that commemorates the day freedom was proclaimed to all slaves in the south by Union General Granger, on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas. This marked the end of slavery in the United States.

Since 2006, Atchison’s Juneteenth celebration has been promoting “Unity in the Community” in which area churches and Atchison residents gather with the hopes of bringing the community together. Festivities include games, inflatable rides, live music, BBQ, fashion show, talent show, art and history displays, and an African-American History Trolley Tour.



### Pedestrian Safety

Police Chief Mike Wilson reminds drivers that failing to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks is a violation of Atchison law. Section 64 of Ordinance No. 6453 requires vehicles to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians entering or crossing the roadway within a crosswalk.

Drivers who fail to stop for pedestrians in crosswalks will be cited for traffic violations.

