

NCRPC NEWS

A publication of the North Central Regional Planning Commission

March 2018
www.ncrpc.org

Rural Voices Contest Winners Named

Two high school seniors in North Central Kansas are being recognized with the John R. Cyr Rural Voices Award for submitting the top entries in the 2017-2018 Rural Voices Youth Contest sponsored by the NCRPC.

Sydney Johnson, a senior at Beloit Jr-Sr High School, won the video category and David Lutgen, a senior at St. John's Catholic High School, Beloit, won the written category. Each will receive a cash award of \$850.



Sydney Johnson

Courtesy Photo



David Lutgen

Courtesy Photo

According to McKinney, this year's theme brought out several good ideas from contestants about how they might go about making improvements in their rural Kansas communities if they were in charge.

"Solidly engaging others and working in a concerted effort with peers and across generations was especially noted by judges and board members," McKinney says.

Johnson plans to attend the University of Missouri and major in biochemistry. Lutgen plans to attend Kansas State University and major in engineering. According to the winners, the contest topic resonated with them.

"I have a personal drive to help maintain the awesome community that did so much for me while growing up in North Central Kansas," Johnson says.

"Rural Kansas is a great place to call home," Lutgen says. "I believe rural communities in Kansas should continually strive to improve themselves."

To view the top entries or learn more about the contest, visit www.ncrpc.org/ruralvoices. Details for the 2018-2019 contest will be announced in the fall. ■

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair:

Tom Claussen, Mitchell County

Vice Chair:

Scott Moore, City of Ellsworth

Secretary/Treasurer:

Brian Eilert, First National Bank of Beloit

Executive Board Members:

Ellen Barber, Marshall County

Partnership for Growth

Karen Brumbaugh, Ottawa County

Craig Chamberlin, Dickinson County

Terry Finch, Lincoln County

Mark Fleming, Jewell County

Bill Garrison, Cloud County

Heather Hartman, Mitchell County

Community Development

Melissa Rose Hodges, City of Salina

Luke Mahin, Republic County

Economic Development

Gary Ouellette, Washington County

Kermit Rush, Ellsworth County

Hannah Stambaugh, Saline County

David Thurlow, Clay County

ABOUT US

Our Mission

Advancing rural Kansas through comprehensive planning and development services.

Our Vision

By 2024, communities in rural Kansas will favor choices that embrace innovation, increase prosperity and demonstrate resilience.

Contact Us

109 N. Mill, PO Box 565

Beloit, KS 67420

785-738-2218

Email: ncrpc@nckcn.com

www.ncrpc.org

facebook.com/ncrpcbeloit

Pilot Home Ownership Program Launched in Marysville

Financial incentives are now available to current and future Marysville residents that will make home buying more affordable through down payment and closing cost assistance.



The Marysville Home Ownership Program officially launched February 21 with a luncheon at Landoll Lanes sponsored by the City of Marysville. Program eligibility includes the purchase of an existing home in the Marysville (66508) zip code and financing through one of the three Marysville banks. Funds are available on a first come first served basis.

“This program is going to make home ownership a viable option for people looking to buy long-term in order to work and live here,” Ellen Barber, Marshall County Partnership for Growth Economic Development Director, says. “This is great news for both employees and our employers.”

The program offers up to \$12,500 in incentives for eligible applicants through a combination of a down payment loan of up to 10% of the purchase price (\$10,000 limit) and closing cost grant of up to 2.5% of the purchase price (\$2,500 limit).

The NCRPC is providing program administration. NCRPC Program Administrator Debra Peters credits local involvement with making the program possible.



Pictured at the February 21 luncheon are (left to right) Nick Wolfe, United Bank & Trust; Debra Peters, NCRPC; Lynn Mayer, Citizens State Bank of Marysville, shown presenting the bank's donation to the new program; Don Landoll, representing R.L. & Elisa Helvering Trust and Guise-Weber Foundation; Jeff Crist, representing Marysville Community Foundation; and Max Searcey, First Commerce Bank. (Photo courtesy of Sarah Kessinger, Marysville Advocate).

“This initiative would not have been possible without generous assistance from the Marysville Community Foundation, the Guise-Weber Foundation, and the R.L. and Elsa Helvering Trust as well as the three local banks including Citizens State Bank of Marysville, First Commerce Bank, and United Bank & Trust. The City of Marysville also generously sponsored the kickoff luncheon,” Peters says.

Contributions from the local charitable foundations and banks are being used for the grant portion of the program. Loan funds were

provided by North Central Kansas Community Network, Co. (NCKCN)-Four Rivers Loan Pool. NCKCN is an affiliate of the NCRPC.

The Marysville program is a pilot project. The goal is to create home ownership programs throughout the NCRPC service area. Results from this pilot project will help determine the design of a potential regional program.

“The fact that this program is designed to be self-sustaining and grow across our region

in the near future brings even more potential for affordable housing, which can help stabilize our workforce and bring the hope of home ownership to even more of our residents,” Barber says. “This program is going to be a great opportunity for our area.”

Marysville residents may contact a participating local bank to learn more. For more information about the program, contact NCRPC Program Administrator Debra Peters at 785-738-2218 or visit the website at www.ncrpc.org/services/housing/marysvillehomeownershipprogram. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

Tuesday, April 17, 2018
Wednesday, April 18, 2018
FY 2019 CDBG Annual Application Workshops in Newton and Topeka Workshop is free, but advance registration is required. Deadline to register is Monday, April 9, 2018.
www.kansascommerce.com/cdbg

Thursday, March 29, 2018
NCRPC Executive Board Meeting
Beloit Office, 2 p.m.

April 24-25, 2018
Rural Opportunities Conference
Newton, KS
www.kansascommerce.gov/895/Rural-Opportunities-Conference

Thursday, April 26, 2018
NCRPC Executive Board Field Trip
Lincoln County

Find more on the web »
Events: www.ncrpc.org/news/events
Funding sources and deadlines:
www.ncrpc.org/funding

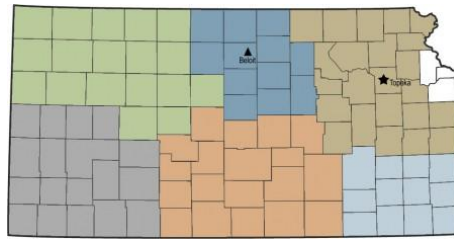
Homeland Security Council Project Supplies First Aid Kits for Law Enforcement Officers

Supplying law enforcement officers with tools to help save lives in critical situations where medical professionals have not arrived yet or the situation is too hostile to bring in civilians is the goal behind one recent Homeland Security Initiative.

Each of the seven regional homeland security councils in the state have at least one project to supply Individual First Aid Kits to officers who go through the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center (KLETC). These kits contain tourniquets among other items.

The KLETC, located just south of Hutchinson, provides basic training, specialized training and online training courses to officers from law enforcement agencies across Kansas.

According to Sherry Angell, NCRPC Homeland Security Program Coordinator, having the proper training and equipment can potentially save lives. Funding for this project to supply Individual First Aid Kits is from the Homeland Security Program.



Highlighted are the Homeland Security Councils for which NCRPC acts as fiscal agent.

“The North Central, Southeast, Southwest and KC Metro Regional Homeland Security Councils have already purchased 514 kits. The KLETC has 340 students per year and there are some items in the kit that have a two-year expiration date so we don’t want to purchase more than can be used in that time period,” Angell says. “The North Central, Northeast, Northwest, and South Central Regional Homeland Security Councils will be purchasing additional kits out of FY17 funds when we get the go ahead from the Training Center.”

The NCRPC acts as the Fiscal Agent for six designated Homeland Security Regions in Kansas. ■

New Board Member Welcomed

Melissa Rose Hodges, Salina City Commissioner, joined the NCRPC Executive Board in January. She also currently represents the Salina City Commission as a board member of the Salina-Saline County Building Authority.



Melissa Rose Hodges

Courtesy Photo

Downtown, Inc. and Director of Marketing and Accounting for Salina Women’s Clinic. She also has volunteered with a number of local boards and organizations.

A native of Salina, Hodges received an undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas and a Master’s in Business Administration from Kansas Wesleyan University in 2014.

Melissa and her husband, Dr. Boo Hodges, have two grown sons whom they enjoy visiting in Kansas City and Chicago.

NEWS BRIEFS

Kansas Forest Service Helps Fire Departments

The Kansas Forest Service, Fire Management Program has resources available to assist local fire departments. The Federal Excess Personal Property Program (FEPP), Fire Fighter Property (FFP) and the Equipment Donation Program (EDP) are some of the resources.

Through the FEPP, KFS is able to loan excess federal property—generally military vehicles such as all-wheel drive 5 Ton trucks, and fire equipment—to fire departments. The property remains under federal ownership. The FFP is similar; however it allows departments to eventually own the equipment. KFS also hosts a Kansas Equipment Donation Program (EDP).

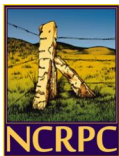
In addition, a Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) cost share program is available to rural departments or city departments that provide fire protection to rural areas with populations of less than 10,000 people.

For more information about these programs, visit www.kansasforests.org/fire_management. ■

Light Table Available

The North Central Regional Planning Commission has a light table available to give away.

Once used in a map room at the NCRPC, the table has many potential uses including artwork, overlaying blueprints and maps, and sorting photo slides. For more information, contact Doug McKinney at 785-738-2218. Must be able to pick up by April 9. ■



North Central
Regional Planning Commission

109 N. Mill ■ PO Box 565
Beloit, KS 67420 ■ www.ncrpc.org

Long-time Salina Car Wash Business Under New Ownership

Salina residents and business owners Craig and Melissa Piercy have purchased two Salina car washes previously owned by StuJo, LLC.

StuJo's Car Washes are located at 120 N. Broadway, at the intersection of State and Broadway streets, and at 2200 Planet Avenue, just west of Central Mall. The Broadway location has a larger bay that can handle some larger pickups and commercial vehicles. It has six self serve bays, seven vacuum stations and turbo dry and under carriage wash. The Planet Avenue location has one automatic and five self serve bays with eight vacuum stations, two with turbo dry.

Customers can purchase wash cards at the Planet Avenue location or online that provide extra value.

Craig is a custom home builder and Melissa is a realtor. They also own several rental properties. Both plan to be involved in the day-to-day management of the new business.

This project was made possible with funding from First Bank Kansas, the NCRPC Revolving Loan Fund, and investment by the owners.

For more information about the financing programs used, contact NCRPC Business Finance Director [Debra Peters](mailto:dpeters@nckcn.com) at 785-738-2218 or email dpeters@nckcn.com. For more information about the business, visit www.stujos.com. ■



Salinans Craig and Melissa Piercy have owned and operated StuJo's Car Wash since last Fall. Pictured at top is the 120 N. Broadway location and pictured below is the 2200 Planet Avenue location.