

SPOTLIGHT ON THE CITY

City of Great Bend Departmental Newsletter

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AIRPORT NEWS

The used oil containment facility was designed and custom-formed by Richard Bodine. With help from James Tillery, Richard poured and finished the concrete. This resulted in a substantial savings in capital outlay funds for the Airport.



9/11 Remembrance Activities

The Great Bend Fire and EMS is planning a short remembrance ceremony for all the public safety and military personnel who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. Members of public safety and law enforcement departments from Claflin, Ellinwood, Hoisington, and other Barton County organizations have been invited to attend on Sunday, September 11, 2011, at Fire Station #1.

The ceremony is being conducted in conjunction with many cities in the United States and is based on the time of the actual attack. Personnel will be assembled and lined up outside the Great Bend Fire Department near the flag pole and bell. At 8:59 a.m. the station bell will be rung, then at 9:00 a.m. a moment of silence will ensue.

A second activity will occur at 12:00 noon, as requested through Senate Resolution #237. Individual police, fire, and ambulance units will sound their sirens; this activity will also be coordinated with other communities throughout the county and nation.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Battalion Chief John Stettinger at 793-4144.



Firefighter, Travis Parmley cleans the flagpole before the remembrance activities begin.

CITY DEPARTMENTS:

Administration - 793-4111

Mayor & Council

Administrators

Human Resources

Engineering

Finance / Utilities

Fire Department - 793-4140

EMS

Inspections - 793-4106

Legal - 793-4114

Municipal Court - 793-4149

Police Department - 793-4120

Public Lands

Municipal Airport - 793-4168

Parks - 793-4160

Zoo & Raptor Center 793-4226

Cemetery - 793-4167

Public Works - 793-4150

Streets

Sanitarian

Water

Sewer Plant - 793-4170



WHY DO WE NEED A SEWER SYSTEM?

(Charlie Suchy, Utilities superintendent, 793-4150)

Each time you flush the toilet or you wash something down the sink's drain, you create sewage (also known as wastewater). One question that many people might ask is, "Why not simply dump this wastewater onto the ground outside the house, or into a nearby stream?" There are three main things about wastewater that make it something you don't want to release into the environment:

1. **It stinks.** If you release wastewater directly into the environment, things get very smelly very fast.
2. **It contains harmful bacteria.** Human waste naturally contains coliform bacteria (for example, E. coli) and other bacteria that can cause disease. Once water becomes infected with these bacteria, it becomes a health hazard.
3. **It contains suspended solids and chemicals that affect the environment.** For example:
 - Wastewater contains nitrogen and phosphates that, being fertilizers, encourage the growth of algae. Excessive algae growth can block sunlight and foul the water.
 - Wastewater contains organic material that bacteria in the environment will start decomposing. When they do, these bacteria consume oxygen in the water. The resulting lack of oxygen kills fish.
 - The suspended solids in wastewater make the water look murky and can affect the ability of many fish to breathe and see.

The increased algae, reduced oxygen and murkiness destroy the ability of a stream or lake to support wildlife, and all of the fish, frogs and other life forms quickly die. No one wants to live in a place that stinks, is full of deadly bacteria and cannot support aquatic life. That's why communities build wastewater treatment plants and enforce laws against the release of raw sewage into the environment.

The Great Bend sanitary sewer system (Collections) is made up of 21 sewage pump stations with roughly 1,500 manholes and approximately 400,000 feet of sanitary sewer line range in size from 8 inch to 36 inch that convey wastewater to a 3.64 (MGD) Million Gallon Day Activated Sludge Treatment Plant for treatment prior to dumping into the Arkansas River. Prior 1950 all raw sewage was discharged directly into the Arkansas River without treatment. All stormwater runoff is separate from the sanitary sewer system that discharges directly into ponds, creeks and the Arkansas River.



STREET RE-CONSTRUCTION

(Mike Crawford, Street Supervisor, 793-4150)

A major project for the City Street Dept. involved complete re-construction of Odell St. from 19th. to 21st. and 20th Street from Washington to Odell. 20th Street was total re-constuction of the street, curb and gutter on both sides and re-constructing 10 driveway approaches, 5 on each side. The streets were an asphalt overlay from several years ago and now consist of over 700 yards of concrete.

The project began for the Street Dept. the week of July 18th and was completed and opened to traffic Sept. 2nd. During this time the employees endured excessive heat every afternoon. As you know this was one hot summer for the record books. They also experienced a few rain delays, setting them back a couple of days each time. The rain, although delaying completion, was welcome. Considering the excessive heat, rain delays and the total full depth re-construction the project came together. In the end we can look back and say this is our finest job, so far. I am fortunate to work with this talented and hard working group.

Street Dept. employees are Mike Crawford, James Giles (aka Chewy), Dave Keeler, Danny Reynolds, Doug Disque, Tony Bronson, Dale Henning, Tom Welcher, Jeff Riegel, Tom Turley, Frances Simmons, Vivian Bahr and Terry Zorn.



CITY BIKERS

(Capt. Bob Robinson, PD, 793-4120)

Employees who have been riding together are Bob and Barbara Robinson, Mike and Nancy Crawford, son Alex Crawford, David Keeler and Sheryl Turner, Richard Bodine, Kelly Hapes and husband Jim, Marty Brin, Carl Otter, Brad Maddox.

We started doing this a few weeks ago and have since put together two evening rides after work. We try to do a 50 mile trip, stopping for supper somewhere in the county. We want to be home long before dark. With fall coming and the evening day light getting shorter we may have to do some rides on weekends.

Any city employee and/or spouse etc. who wants to participate can e-mail me brobinson@greatbendks.net, 793-2331 or Mike Crawford mcrawford@greatbendks.net, 786-0253 and give us your e-mail and phone number so we can notify you of a pending ride. If you don't have a motorcycle, "cages" are welcome. That's something with 4 wheels.

