

SOUTHEAST KANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission

News

December 2020

In This Issue

- SEKRPC's Website Launched
- SEKRPC and SBDC to host 10 workshops throughout 2021
- Chanute's Fiber Improvement
- Bourbon County Tourism
- How to Shop Small and Support Local this Holiday Season

About SEKRPC

Our Mission

At SEKRPC our goal is to improve the quality of life in Southeast Kansas by providing the tools to create and retain jobs and increase the services available in our communities.

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www.sekrpc.org

www.facebook.com/SEKRPC

Executive Board Members

Executive Director: Matt Godinez
Board Members:

John F. Brocker - Allen County
Jerry Howarter - Anderson County
Lynne Oharah - Bourbon County
Neal Anderson - Cherokee County
Tom Huginin - Coffey County
Jeremy Johnson - Crawford County
Lonie R. Addis - Labette County
Jessica Hightower - Linn County
Larry McManus - Montgomery County
Paul Westhoff - Neosho County
Kris Marple - Wilson County
John Weseloh - Woodson County
Jody Hoener - Member-At-Large

SEKRPC's New Website

SEKRPC Launched a New Website in November!

SEKRPC Community Liaison has been working on a new and improved website. The new website launched just a few weeks ago and is inclusive of information on all programs and services that the SEKRPC offers to their member communities.

The new SEKRPC website also utilizes an event calendar that includes area events as well as workshops or webinars that the SEKRPC is putting on with partner organizations. Be sure that you check the event calendar regularly and sign up for the events you would like to attend!

Be sure that you view details and pictures of past projects that the SEKRPC has been a part of, as well as our newsletters, updated each month. The new website is full of information on what the SEKRPC can do to improve our member communities.

Be sure to visit the new SEKRPC website at www.sekrpc.org to learn more about the history of the planning commission, programs and services that are offered, area events that are happening in our region, workshops and webinars to help area businesses learn and improve their skills, and to see what all the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning



Commission has done for our area communities so far!

Meet The SEKRPC Executive Board

Kris has been the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission representative for Woodson County since 2007. Under the supervision of the Board of County Commissioners, the County Coordinator is an exempt position under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The primary duties of the position are to assist the County Commissioners with the coordination and supervision of the County's compliance with various state and federal programs; to oversee the coordination and monitoring of various county level projects such as the solid waste management program, and personnel policies; to assist in the writing of grant applications and monitor the compliance of the grant requirements; attend various training seminars and informational meetings; and to supervise other matters of everyday business & affairs of the County as assigned. The County Coordinator also serves as the County Zoning Administrator, County Freedom of Information Officer & County Compliance Officer.



SEKRPC & SBDC Workshops

Ten Workshops to be in the Region in the Next Year

The SEKRPC has partnered with the Small Business Development Center at PSU to offer workshops to businesses and individuals in the area. Below is more information on the workshops that will be offered. Be sure that you check our newsletter for dates of workshops once we are free to schedule them!

On-Line Marketing (Websites and Social Media) will be offered twice throughout the year. Whether your Small business has existed for years or just recently started up, effective on-line marketing is critical. In this presentation, we will cover the fundamentals of utilizing and understanding social media for your business, Search Engine Optimization, the importance of a website, and your Google Business Listing.

Understanding Financial Statements will be offered twice throughout the year. We will discuss financial statement topics like P&L, cash flow, financial projections, and other topics that you need to know about to better run your business and/or help prepare you in getting a business loan.

HR Rules and Regulations will be offered twice throughout the year. This presentation will touch on all things HR-related, including what interview questions you can ask, how to hire your first employee, what taxes you must pay as an employer, and much more.

Start-Up Training including creating a business plan, funding, and other tools for starting a business, however the class description for this workshop has not yet been determined, but will be available at a later date.

QuickBooks Training will be an all day class

offered only once throughout the year. In this workshop you can learn some of the essentials of navigating QuickBooks desktop software. We'll cover basic accounting and multiple topics including cash vs. accrual, budgeting, financial statements, chart of accounts, sales receipts, invoices, receiving payment/making deposits, and understanding banking and credit card statements.

There will also be one bonus workshop throughout the year that will be determined at a later date.

The workshops are offered at free of charge to individuals and businesses within the region. Dates of the workshops will be available on the SEKRPC website once they are set, with dates hopefully starting in January 2021 and spreading out through November 2021.



Project Spotlight

Chanute's 2 Million Dollar Fiber Improvement

The City of Chanute was awarded a Connectivity Emergency Response Grant (CERG) on September 25, 2020 in the amount of \$1,600,000. The city will provide a match of \$400,000 for a total project cost of \$2,000,000.

The CERG grants were created to address the increased need for internet connectivity in Kansas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This project will improve connectivity to under-served areas in the City of Chanute to address the needs of telework, telehealth, distance learning and other remote business services. The specific area to be served will cover an area of approximately 400 homes south of 39 HWY, east of the railroad, and north of 8th street. The City will complete the project by December 30th.

SEKRPC News | 2

Tourism Spotlight

Bourbon County

Bourbon county has a lot to offer their visitors with special events like The Fort Scott National Historic Site's 38th Annual Candlelight Tour in Bourbon County, and attractions that you can visit year round, like their new Boiler Room Brewhaus, a local brewery!

This year during the Holiday season things are looking a little different for families and activities, while this is true for The Fort Scott National Historic Site's 38th Annual Candlelight Tour, they are still having it! Instead of canceling this event all together as many large events have this year, Fort Scott has made the decision to go virtual. This event will still be a really neat event, even though people will be enjoying from the warmth of their own homes. More details can be found at Fort Scott NHS's 38th Annual Candlelight Tour Goes Virtual on the Fort Scott, Kansas Tourism page, visitfortscott.com.

Bourbon County has an abundance of history throughout the county, including The National Historic Site, The National Cemetery No. 1, and The Lowell Milken Center.

The National Historic Site is open daily, with winter hours of 8:30AM - 4:30PM. The buildings are all open for self-guided tours, and they also offer daily guided tours at 10AM & 1PM. You can read more about The National Historic Site or plan your trip at visitfortscott.com.

Fort Scott is also home to the National Cemetery No. 1 which is open daily to visitors. It is one of 14 National Cemeteries that President Lincoln established. You can read more about the National Cemetery No. 1 or plan to visit the National Cemetery at visitfortscott.com.

Another piece of history who's home is in Fort Scott is the Lowell Milken Center. The Lowell Milken center is a museum in downtown Fort Scott that recognizes unsung heroes throughout history. The museum is open Monday through Friday from 10AM - 4PM. More information about the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes can also be found at visitfortscott.com.

The Gordon Parks Museum which was built in honor of the life and work of Fort Scott native, Gordon Parks, an internationally known photographer, filmmaker, writer, and musician is another attraction that Fort Scott offers to its visitors. The museum is open Monday through Friday 8AM - 5PM. Plan your visit or learn more about the Gordon Parks Museum at visitfortscott.com.

Once you have toured the attractions local to Fort Scott, Kansas, make sure that you stop in at their newest attraction to enjoy a home brew or soda! The Boiler Room Brewhaus, which is located in a historic building in downtown Fort Scott, is open Thursday through Saturday from 4PM - 10PM and Sunday from 4PM - 7PM. You can learn more about what is served up at the Brewhaus or check their hours at visitfortscott.com.

Bourbon county as a whole has 25 lakes and parks, but Gunn Park Trails is a popular attraction for mountain biking and hiking. See the map for Gunn Park Trails to the left.

Bourbon county also has numerous annual events that you can find a list of at fortscott.com/events, where all events happening are listed.

Bourbon county also has numerous restaurants to choose from! A list of dining options can be found in the Visitor and Community Guide for 2020, which can be found at <http://chambervu.com/fscott>.

The virtual Visitor and Community Guide for 2020 list information on what is happening, dining options, community information and so much more! Make sure to visit Bourbon county for guaranteed entertainment, delicious dining and sites to see!



SEKRPC News | 3

Supporting Local Shops

Ways You Can Support Local This Holiday Season

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone, and an especially challenging year for small businesses. As a lot of holiday shopping kicks off this weekend, make sure that you support your local shops.

Your local shops are an important part of your community in so many ways. The small businesses in your community give back more to your community than a big box store does. When you support a local business, you're also supporting your community through sales tax that then funds the public schools, parks, roads and sidewalks in your community.

Small businesses make a big economic impact. The Small Business Association (SBA) states that more than half of the U. S's jobs since 1995 were created by small businesses. However, according to the SBA, big businesses have eliminated more than 4 million jobs since 1990 while small businesses have added 8 million jobs.

The small businesses in your community provide greater access to product diversity. Small businesses have just as much access to vendors as big box stores do, if your local small businesses don't have something that you are looking for, just ask, they may be able to order them for you!

Small businesses also help create a sense of community.

How many big box stores do you get the chance to get to know? You're much more likely to get to know a small business owner in your

neighborhood. According to study noted in Forbes, the second most popular desire is a stronger sense of community, with number one being more local restaurants.

We know that sometimes supporting your local shops can seem like a challenge, but that is not always true! Below are a few ways that you can support local, even if you can't shop locally!

Like, comment and share their social media posts! This helps your local shops get their products out with little to no advertising cost!

Buy in advance if they'll allow it! If you have a small shop that you regularly purchase a product or service from, buy a gift card for yourself that you know you will use in the future or apply a credit to your account for future use.

Order carry out or curbside! Some local restaurants can take the stress of you for the holiday cooking! Check with your local restaurants and see if they offer a prepared dish that you could purchase for a holiday meal or side! And then, tip a little extra too!

There are so many ways that you can support your local small businesses this holiday season, so make sure you remember them this year!!



Events and Deadlines

• Tours at the Brown Mansion - December 12 - 26

• Medicare Open Enrollment - October 15-December 7

• SBDC Webinar - Is QuickBooks Right for your Business? December 1 @ 9am. Register @

<https://www.pittstatesmallbusiness.com/training>

• SBDC Webinar - Facebook Shops - Helping Small Businesses Sell Online - December 3 @ 10am. Register @

<https://www.pittstatesmallbusiness.com/training>

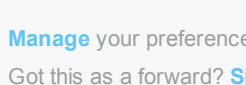
SEKRPC News | 4

Visit our new website at www.sekrpc.org to see programs and services we offer, projects we have worked on, events in the area and more!

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