

SOUTHEAST KANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER



Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission

News

April 2021

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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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Executive Board Members

Executive Director: Matt Godinez

Board Members:

John F. Brocker - Allen County
Anthony Mersman - Anderson County
Lynne Oharah - Bourbon County
Lorie Johnson - Cherokee County
Tom Hugunin - 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 Business Development and Funding Opportunity Upcoming Luncheons

Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission has partnered with the Small Business Development Center to host Business Development Workshops to all businesses within the region. The workshops will be free of charge and lunch will be served. The first workshop will be held on April 7th, you can register or view more information via the link on our website. The next business development workshop will be held on May 5th, a registration link will be sent out at a later date for this workshop. SEKRPC has also partnered with Kansas Rural Water Association to discuss potential funding opportunities available for water, wastewater and sewer infrastructure projects throughout region. Trainings are currently scheduled in Cherryvale on April 28th, Burlington on May 19th, and Independence on May 20th, with more to follow. Contact Taylor at taylor@sekrpc.org with any questions about training opportunities in the region.



Meet The Executive Board

Laurie was born and raised in Columbus, she graduated from CUHS in 1998, and received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from PSU in 2002. Her heart, however, belonged in the seat of an old backhoe, so after college, Laurie returned to her family business, B3 Construction, to follow her dream of being a demolition contractor. Laurie and her husband, Jason, were married in 2000. They have been blessed with three beautiful kids- Bryden, Brylie and Briggs. They keep them hopping with softball, baseball, wrestling, basketball, soccer and 4-H! Jason and Laurie also own Columbus Tire, Inc., and love to be involved in their community. Laurie is thankful for the opportunity to have served on the Cherokee County Fair Board, Cherokee County Extension Council, Columbus Wrestling Club Board of Directors, and as Chairman of the Cherokee County Republican Party for 8 years. As she embarks on this new journey as Cherokee County Commissioner and representative on the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission, she looks forward to meeting new people and exchanging ideas with others who are also driven to serve their communities!



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Restaurant Revitalization Fund

The new Restaurant Revitalization Fund, part of the recently passed American Rescue Plan Act, will provide \$28.6 billion in grants to restaurants and bars in need.

One of the hardest-hit industries during the COVID-19 pandemic has been restaurants, with shut-downs and restrictions cutting off revenue opportunities. The newly passed American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) aims to help restaurants, bars and related businesses with a new grant program called the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF).

"By our estimates, we've lost \$250 billion in revenue from the beginning of the pandemic," National Restaurant Association Executive Vice President Sean

Kennedy said at CO—'s recent Small Business Update event. "From March until January of this year, 110,000 restaurants have been closed. ... Our goal has always been an industry-specific solution, and the announcement of the passage of the Restaurant Revitalization Fund is a big step towards that."

The RRF will offer \$28.6 billion in grants to hard-hit restaurants and bars, with restaurants able to apply for grants based on lost revenue. Additionally, \$5 billion of that total will be set aside expressly for businesses with 2019 gross receipts of less than \$500,000.

Sourced from <https://www.uschamber.com/co/run/business-financing/restaurant-revitalization-fund-grants-guide>

Project Spotlight

Coffeyville Sidewalk Reconstruction

The Coffeyville Sidewalk Project is a CDBG Community Facilities grant won in 2020.

The project is for ADA compliant sidewalk improvements on both sides of 10th Street from Gilliam St. to Camden St. ADA compliant curb ramps have been previously installed in this area as part of a separate project and the proposed sidewalk will connect to these ramps.

The projects scope of work includes removing and replacing approximately 4,500 linear feet of existing dilapidated and non-ADA compliant sidewalk, constructing new ADA compliant sidewalk, and connecting the new sidewalk to existing driveways and curb ramps.

All new sidewalk will be constructed at a 5-foot width. Sidewalk will be 4 inches thick cast in place concrete constructed over

compacted crushed stone. The cross slope of the proposed sidewalk will be 2% maximum, with the running slope paralleling the slope of the existing roadway. An estimated quantity of 2,800 square yards of new concrete will be placed. Construction occurred in the Summer and Fall of 2020 and is currently being completed.

The total project cost is estimated at \$537,000 with a CDBG grant awarded in the amount of \$268,500.



Top: Looking east from the intersection of 10th and Read to the south side of 10th street.

Bottom: Looking east from the intersection of 10th and Read to the north side of 10th street.

Left: 10th and Read Street Looking West

Tourism Spotlight

Allen County

Allen County has numerous activities, events and restaurants for its citizens and visitors to enjoy! Allen County is the "King of Trails" with four trails throughout that total seventy miles of trail. The Leigh Portland Trails consist of 100+ acres of rugged woodlands, rolling prairie, and scenic views of the lovely spring-fed quarry lake. This trail features over 12 miles of rail-trail-style-gravel-surfaced trails and natural surface single track trails. The Prairie Spirit Trail is a 52-mile-long path cutting through small towns, shaded woodland canopy, and scenic prairies. The trail runs north and south between Ottawa and Iola, connecting to the Flint Hills Nature Trail in the north and the Southwind Rail train in the south. The Southwind Rail Trail is 6.5 miles that follow the former Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railway line in connecting the Iola and Humboldt communities. The last trail in Allen County is the Mo-Pac Trail, which is the Missouri Pacific Recreational Trail. The trail is built on the former Missouri Pacific Railway Corridor in Iola. The trail is approximately 1/2 mile in length and connects the Prairie Spirit Trail with the Iola Middle and High School, as well as the downtown Square.

In 1971, a group of Allen County Farm Bureau members had an idea. They reasoned that if they brought tourists to the farm, they would better understand the problems and concerns with which Farmers dealt with daily. At the start, it was just and effort to bring people from town out to the farm and show what they did and explain the problems they faced. Later, the Chamber of Commerce and the Jaycees got involved and Farm City Days developed into much more than just a farm tour and parade with the addition of an industrial tour. This event is held in the October each year and consists many events and activities for families to enjoy,

community that we call home.

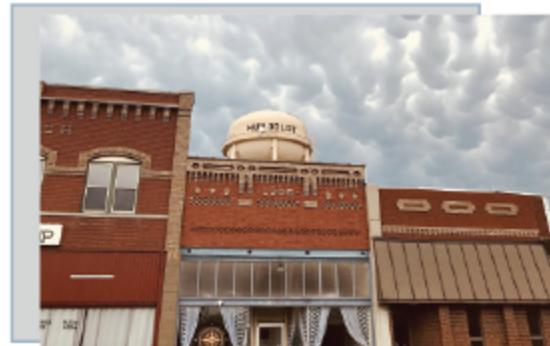
Other annual events consist of the Allen County Fair and Smokin' Hot Cars BBQ located at Iola's Riverside park and Biblesta, held in the Humboldt Square each year.

Also located in Allen County is Elsmore, which is home to the Bourbon State Fishing Lake and the 30 foot breathtaking Bourbon Lake Falls, well known as Elsmore Lake.

In the small town of Moran, located at the junction of U.S Highway 54 and U.S Highway 59, you can grab a bite to eat at Chancy's Grill and Shake, a staple to the community that opened in 1992.

Humboldt, one of Kansas' oldest towns, was founded in 1857. Humboldt is full of history and has the Civil War Tour, Humboldt Historical Museum, Orcutt Backyard Living History Museum, the Walter Johnson Memorial and George Sweat Memorial Park, and Civil War Days which consists of Civil War reenactments depicting actual events that occurred in or near Humboldt, including the Sacking and Burning of Humboldt.

In all, Allen County has so much to see and do, to learn more about events, activities, dining, and visiting Allen County, visit the Iola Area Chamber of Commerce Website at www.iolachamber.org.



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BECOMING A FEARLESS FEMALE
Virtual | April 22 | 1-5 PM

Could Your Business and Personal Mindset Use Empowerment?

Becoming a Fearless Female is a virtual event featuring presentations from strong women leaders of all industries nationwide. Consider it a 1-day boot camp to boost your brand!



KEYNOTE WITH
Dr. Lois Frankel



COOK ALONG FINALE WITH
Chef Natasha Gandhi-Rue



EMCEE
Lilly Wu

Plus 2 Breakout Sessions with 13 Workshops

Take Advantage of These Benefits and Register Soon Before Tickets are Gone!

- **Early Bird Special** - Register by April 7 with code EARLYBIRD and save \$10. Pricing will go up to \$47 per person on April 8.
- **Freebies!** The first 100 registrations will receive a FREE book from The NY Times best-selling author and keynote speaker, Dr. Lois Frankel. (while supplies last)
- **Become a Sponsor** - Various levels of benefits include exposure for your business by an email audience of 14,000+ recipients, website, social media, and logo/branding added to conference materials.



Register Now!
To register, visit womenscorehigher.com or for more info contact Ann at info@womenscorehigher.com.

DONT FORGET TO REGISTER FOR OUR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS ON

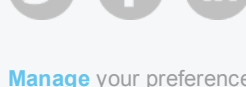
APRIL 7TH!!

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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