

Community Development News
By Christy Hopkins

I read an article recently about a man who felt such a sense of accomplishment after tackling a long-dreaded, long-delayed project – cleaning his basement. After dragging their feet on the project for months, the man and his wife took a morning to clean, organize, and declutter the space. And while he admits it's still not the Ritz Carlton, it is now clean, organized, and the weighty project no longer hangs over their heads.

I can relate. Several years ago when the Greeley County Recreation Foundation relocated their office to the CYAT Center, I began filling their former office in our building with storage items. I just kept piling things in there, worrying only if the door would close, ensuring that no one would see my mess. It had become so unwieldy that I hated to ask Adriane to get anything out of the room, knowing that it was a disaster solely of my own creation.

To establish order in the chaos, I first had to take much of what was in the room out. With the help of

the guys on the city crew, who removed a desk from the space, and the purchase of a couple of shelves from Myers Implement, I was able to transform the room into a workable storage room, where I now don't fear what may fall on me when I open the door. Instead, I poke my head in there occasionally these days, just to remind myself of how much better it looks.

It seems like a small thing, but it is amazing how much crossing a project – large or small – off the list helps us feel accomplished.

There are more projects to be tackled, and there will always be additional work to be done. I encourage you, though, to make progress on that lingering project that has been hanging over your head, getting pushed to the side, or being displaced by larger, hotter-burning fires. Even if your project requires taking a step or two back, know that it is part of the dance. And, if your project involves a vision for the community or a business, please let us know if we can help!

Health...

(Continued from Page 1) I want to sincerely thank our community, for continuing to be progressive and cordial, even if we have differing opinions on how the pandemic has been handled. Other health departments and their staff, in communities not far from our own, have been threatened and ridiculed for doing their jobs during a pandemic. I grew up here. I have been in my position at the health department for

over 16 years. Because of that, I will continue to serve my community and do my part to help ensure that we get through the pandemic together.

If you have any questions or would like to have your name put on the COVID vaccine list, please call the health department at 620-376-4200.

— Lisa Moritz, BSN, RN, Greeley County Health Nurse

Governor Laura Kelly to Close Capitol Complex

TOPEKA - Governor Laura Kelly announced the State Office Buildings in the Capitol Complex, which includes Curtis, Landon, and Eisenhower, will be closed starting tomorrow, January 19, and Wednesday, January 20. Additional administration buildings will also be closed.

"The safety and wellbeing of our employees is my top priority," Governor Laura Kelly said. "These steps are taken out of an abundance of caution – and I thank all employees for their patience and understanding during this time."

Employees are instructed to work remotely. If an

employee's regular duties require them to be in the office – and they cannot work from home – they are instructed not to report to work Tuesday, January 19 or Wednesday, January 20.

Governor Kelly encourages agency heads with offices in the immediate surrounding area beyond the State Office Buildings to follow similar procedure.

The Statehouse will be open for individuals having business with the Legislature, Governor's or Lt. Governor's Offices. All Statehouse access will be through the Visitor Center entrance only.

Governor Laura Kelly Announces FY 2022 Kansas Budget to Protect Fiscal Foundation and Kickstart Economic Recovery

~ Governor Kelly's budget prioritizes COVID-19 response, protects core services, maintains fiscal responsibility ~

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced her third budget recommendation. The fiscally responsible budget protects and invests in core services – like education, infrastructure, and economic development – while keeping Kansas on a path for economic growth.

"All Kansans benefit from good schools, a strong infrastructure, and access to affordable healthcare," Governor Laura Kelly said. "This fiscally responsible budget protects the critical resources, services, and programs Kansans need to recover and emerge from this pandemic stronger than ever."

Governor Kelly's budget protects Kansas public schools, includes funding to expand Medicaid and behavioral health services, allocates \$37.5 million to modernize the state's unemployment system, and maintains fiscal responsibility through a \$600.9 million ending balance.

The Kelly budget accomplishes the following critical policy goals necessary to recover and rebuild from COVID-19 without any increases in individual or business income taxes:

Maintaining Fiscal Responsibility: The Governor's proposed budget for FY 2022 protects critical public services while also stabilizing the state budget during a year of significant economic uncertainty. It leverages federal stimulus dollars and avoids any increases to income taxes for Kansas families and businesses. Due to the Governor's fiscal leadership during her first term, this year's recommendation maintains a healthy State General Fund ending balance of \$600.9 million.

Continuing Record-Breaking Economic Growth: Despite the economic pressures of COVID-19, Kansas recorded more than \$2.5 billion in new investment from businesses like Urban Outfitters, Amazon, and Great Plains Manufacturing. These deals, which will bring thousands of quality jobs to Kansas communities, were spurred by the Governor's investments in rebuilding the Kansas Department of Commerce and its economic development tools. This budget protects these tools by supporting community development programs like the Kansas Main Street Program, protecting funding in the Economic Development Initiatives Fund, and allocating state dollars to hire experienced economic development staff to make Kansas an attractive place to grow a business.

Protecting Kansas K-12 Public Schools: In 2019, the Kansas Supreme Court unanimously ruled that Kansas had enacted a plan fulfilling the state's constitutional obligation to adequately and fairly fund public schools. The Governor fully funds this plan in the FY 2022 budget, putting Kansas on track to increase school funding by \$388.1 million through FY 2023. This year, despite significant state fiscal challenges brought forth by the pandemic, the Governor has continued her commitment to public education in Kansas by protecting K-12 education funding for the FY 2022 and FY 2023.

Expanding Access to Affordable Healthcare and Behavioral Health Services: The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the importance of access to affordable, quality healthcare in protecting the health of Kansans and keeping the state on the path

of economic growth. The Governor's recommendation includes \$19 million to expand KanCare, the state's Medicaid program. The budget also allocates \$5 million in additional funding to the Mobile Response and Stabilization Services Program and \$3 million for Family Crisis Response and Support services. These programs will expand behavioral health crisis response and triage services to Kansans across the state, including for justice-involved youth and children in foster care.

Closing the "Bank of KDOT": When Governor Kelly entered office, she promised to close the "Bank of KDOT" by the end of her first term. This budget keeps that promise, reducing transfers from the State Highway Fund to \$133.7 million in FY 2021 and \$66.9 million in FY 2022. In a difficult budget year, Governor Kelly's budget recommendation to phase out the reliance on the State Highway Fund for general fund purposes will provide the resources necessary to continue critical investments in the comprehensive Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Plan approved during the 2020 Legislative Session.

Investing in the State's Digital Infrastructure: Updating our digital infrastructure is critical to both economic growth and increasing the transparency and accessibility of Kansas' public services. The Governor's budget makes substantial investments to improve the state's IT systems, including leveraging \$37.5 million in federal funds to begin to modernize and improve the state's unemployment insurance systems. It also makes a number of other critical IT investments, including \$2 million for Electronic Health Records support to the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, \$3.1 million for replacing the state's Juvenile and Offender Management Information Systems, and \$4.1 million in funding for the Office of Informational Technology Services to make capital improvements in IT security and underlying systems.

Protecting State Retirees by Stabilizing KPERS: The Governor's Budget Recommendation also proposes the reamortization of the legacy unfunded actuarial liability of KPERS for 25 years. This is an inevitable, fiscally responsible step that will both stabilize the state's KPERS system and create \$158.7 million in savings to the State General Fund. Reamortization is a frequently used tool to manage pension systems in other states and better positions Kansas to make full, timely KPERS payments now and into the future. Stabilizing the KPERS system through reamortization is especially critical in FY 2022 to continue the important investments in economic development, infrastructure, and healthcare that will help the state recover.

Kansas 4-H adapts Citizenship in Action to online format Teens will discuss political system, policing during Feb. 14-15 event

MANHATTAN, Kan. – Youth from across Kansas will be encouraged to share their views about the country's political system and policing issues during the annual Citizenship in Action event hosted by Kansas 4-H.

The event is normally held at the Kansas Capitol in Topeka each year, with several hundred teenagers attending, but with ongoing restrictions for mass gatherings, Citizenship in Action will be held online only this year. The event is scheduled for Feb. 14-15.

"Youth do not need to be a member of a 4-H club to participate in Citizenship in Action," said Beth Hinshaw, one of the event's organizers and a youth development specialist in southeast Kansas.

Citizenship in Action is for youth ages 13-18 as of Jan. 1. Online registration is required by Feb. 1, and the cost to participate is \$35, which includes a Citizenship in Action t-shirt. Adult volunteers can register for free, unless they want a t-shirt.

"Last year, we shifted from a debate format – which is a win or lose centered model – to one of dialogue and deliberation in which we support different truths and claims, and take into consideration everyone's point of view," said Aliah Mestrovich Seay, a Kansas 4-H youth development specialist for community vitality.

The Kansas 4-H Youth Council selected the topics for Citizenship in Action based on a list of items on the [National Issues Forum](#).

"Our youth voted and

decided that they want to talk more about what we as a society would have to give up to get the political system that would benefit all of us," Mestrovich Seay said. "This is always discussed on a spectrum, understanding that there are many options available. They deliberate and weigh those options."

"On the second topic, policing, the discussion will be around what we should do to ensure justice and fair treatment in our communities."

Mestrovich Seay is one of the leaders in the Kansas 4-H program series, [Community Conversations](#), in which youth are trained to facilitate discussions in their communities around hard-to-address topics. Some of those youth will help to lead the discussions during Citizenship in Action.

"As we're talking and deliberating on societal issues that matter, we actually agree to disagree and find a way to come to a consensus for the common good," Mestrovich Seay said.

Those discussions will highlight the Feb. 14 portion of Citizenship in Action. On Feb. 15, Hinshaw said youth will hear from several speakers – including state legislators and 4-H alumni who are making a positive impact in their community.

"Part of our charge when we leave on Monday is to have everybody thinking how they, too, can make a positive difference in their community," Hinshaw said.

"We know that leadership happens at all levels and this is a good opportunity to focus on that," she added.

NEW UCV PERMITS AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL



2021

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If you own or operate one of the special purpose vehicles listed above within the city limits, you must:

- 1) Register your vehicle at City Hall (\$10.00)
- 2) Provide proof of liability insurance
- 3) Obtain a decal to be placed on the vehicle
- 4) Possess a valid driver's license
- 5) Operate under regulations specified in Ordinance No. 780

Registration must be renewed **ANNUALLY** and a new sticker must be obtained. Violations may result in fines up to \$1,000.00. Copies of related ordinance may be picked up at City Hall.

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2021 Dog Tags Are Here!!

All dogs within the city limits must have a current City Dog Tag. 2020 dog tags have expired. New tags are available at City Hall.

Spayed or Neutered: \$5.00
Not Spayed or Neutered: \$25.00



It is **ILLEGAL** to allow your dogs to run at-large, even if they are properly licensed. Citations may be issued or the animals impounded in these situations.

No licenses will be issued without CURRENT proof of rabies vaccination!