

## Community Development News

By Christy Hopkins

The “We love Reading, Ronna, Rabbits, & Rain” cupid’s arrow sign that appeared on the lot south of the library over the weekend is fun and speaks for so many of us here in Greeley County. Thanks to the mysterious (or not so mysterious) elves that keep the library lot fun and interesting throughout the changing seasons!

I’ve been doing some reading on the topic of civic pride recently. It’s not a complex idea, but the premise is that we must first love our communities – and be willing to give of our time, our energy, and our talents – to help create and maintain the type of places we’re proud to call home.

Civic pride looks different for everyone. For some, it’s picking up litter while out on a walk. For others, it’s serving on a board, volunteering for a local organization, driving someone to an appointment, or making a batch of cookies to give away to friends, neighbors, or to brighten someone’s day. For others,

it’s helping build a new program or starting a new activity. There are countless ways to demonstrate civic pride, and there are countless Greeley County residents who put their energy where their heart is – in Greeley County – all the time.

But there are likely others who haven’t yet found their niche, who haven’t yet decided where to devote their energy. If you’re looking for a way to get more involved in the community or would like to know more about how an organization or operation works, give me a call. I don’t promise to have all the answers, but I will do my best to put you in touch with the people that do.

Our community is a stronger, brighter, better, more enjoyable place to call home when we all contribute. And, by demonstrating our own brand of civic pride, we can help our community strive to live up to our community’s slogan of “life as it should be.”

## Update from Greeley County Health Department

The first Covid-19 vaccine clinic was held last Friday at the 4H Pavilion. We felt like things went rather smoothly for our trial run! We appreciated Greeley County Health Services working with us to provide logistical help, staff, and snacks for the waiting area. As well as taking care of those not able to come in for their vaccine. Another vaccine clinic is planned this Friday, February 5, 2021. Please do not come to the 4H Pavilion unless you have been given an appointment. We are working to be mindful of social distancing and best health practices and we appreciate your help with this.

Thank you to everyone for your patience as we continue working to get the COVID-19 vaccine out to our community. The State of Kansas is still working in Phase 2 of COVID-19 vaccination as are we here in Greeley County. Last week, we took care of any individuals from Phase 1 not yet vaccinated, critical worker groups, and people aged 65+.

GCHD and GCHS are hosting another vaccine clinic this Friday. If you have called our office or the hospital, we have put you on our list into the phases put forth by KDHE. We made great progress in getting through the majority of Phase 2. If you are unsure if you are on the list, or would like to be added, please call our office at 620-376-4200. We don’t mind checking the list twice! Our desire is to get the vaccine out to all who would like to receive it.

We continue to only give doses according to

appointment. **Please call our office at 620-376-4200 to have your name put on the list, regardless of your age or occupation.** We work with GC Health Services to place you into the correct phase, then will call you according to availability of time and vaccine. We are determined to never waste a dose so please be sure to include a phone number that you can be reached at in case we have a dose at the last minute or a schedule change. There are 10 doses per vial and a specific timeline of when they need to be administered so we do not have a lot of flexibility as far as scheduling goes. It is important to keep in mind when receiving your first dose that you will need to come back for your second dose approx. 28 days later.

The good news is that being in a small community, we will be able to work through the phases at a faster pace than others. However, we are also allotted our vaccine doses based on population. It is a bit of a give and take. We are prioritizing our county members first as we are looking for that herd immunity. For this reason, when we work through our call list of any stragglers from Phase 1 and persons aged 65+, we will continue move down through the phases. Please give us a call as this helps us determine schedules and vaccine needs.

For the state’s full vaccination plan and phases, visit <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/> and feel free to call our office with any questions or concerns. -Melissa Miller, GCHD

## Chief Engineer Approves Plan for Water Conservation in Wichita County

MANHATTAN, Kansas – The Kansas Department of Agriculture’s Division of Water Resources has announced that Earl Lewis, chief engineer, signed an order approving the Local Enhanced Management Area (LEMA) plan for all of the area in Wichita County lying within the boundaries of Western Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 1 (GMD 1). The LEMA was signed on December 30, 2020, and will be effective for a five-year period beginning January 1, 2021.

The LEMA plan was proposed by the GMD 1 board of directors in March 2020, and calls for reductions in water use in specified areas of Wichita County in GMD 1. Details in the plan were set to meet the goal of extending the usable life of the Ogallala Aquifer for the long-term benefit of the area, by addressing excessive water level declines and withdrawal rates exceeding recharge rates. The plan was approved by the chief engineer following an extended hearing process.

A LEMA is a tool that allows GMDs to set goals and control measures to aid in water conservation, at the approval of the chief

engineer. One of the guiding principles of the state’s Water Vision is that locally driven solutions have the highest opportunity for long-term success, and LEMAs were created to give local stakeholders a tool to act on their shared commitment to ensure a reliable water supply.

The Wichita County LEMA will be the third LEMA in Kansas, and was motivated by local users’ desire to conserve water and ensure continued economic viability of the region. This LEMA follows the notable successes achieved by the LEMA plans in northwest Kansas. Results from the state’s other two LEMAs show that the reduction in water use slowed the rate of groundwater level decline and extended the life of the aquifer with little to no economic harm caused by the reduction during the same period.

For more information about the Wichita County LEMA approval process, go to the KDA-DWR web page at [agriculture.ks.gov/WHCL](http://agriculture.ks.gov/WHCL). For specific questions about the Wichita County LEMA, call the GMD 1 office at 620-872-5563.

## Kansas Common Sense

February 1, 2021  
By Senator Jerry Moran  
**Announcing a Targeted Federal Relief Proposal to Rein in President Biden’s \$1.9 Trillion Plan**

This weekend, I joined nine of my Republican colleagues to unveil a targeted COVID-19 federal relief proposal, built on a foundation of bipartisan ideas, to rein in Biden’s \$1.9 trillion plan. I met with President Biden today at the White House to discuss the Republican proposal and encourage the President to support a targeted, less expensive plan, and to get it done quickly to benefit Americans.

Last year, Congress spent \$4 trillion on bipartisan COVID-19 relief packages to support Americans as our country faced the challenges of this pandemic. While more can be done to accelerate vaccine distribution and protect small businesses, the Democrats’ \$1.9 trillion plan filled with unrelated, partisan wish list items is not the right path forward.

We must focus on vaccines – it’s the most important thing we can do. More shots in more arms is the best thing that can happen for our country’s well-being, both from a health perspective and for our economy. I also want to make certain we get kids back in the classroom, that small businesses get assistance, and that Americans who need the most help get relief.

President Biden has pledged a spirit of unity, and I hope he will rise to that promise by working with both sides of the aisle in Congress to pass a bipartisan relief package to meet the ongoing challenges of this crisis.

Before the meeting with President Biden, I joined Fox News from the White House to discuss the meeting and the Republican COVID-19 relief proposal.

**Happy 160th Birthday, Kansas!**

Friday was Kansas’s 160th birthday. On January 29, 1861, Kansas became the 34th state admitted to the Union. As we enter our 160th year, I want to wish a happy Kansas Day to our great state. The people and natural beauty of Kansas make it a place I’m proud and grateful to call home. Ad astra per aspera!

**Securing Workforce Certainty for Kansas**

## Governor Laura Kelly Re-Issues, Signs Executive Orders to Promote COVID-19 Recovery

TOPEKA – Governor Laura Kelly today announced she has signed Executive Orders #21-01 and #21-02 as part of her administration’s commitment to protect Kansans and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic and facilitate effective virus recovery efforts.

E.O. #21-01 allows Kansas employers to continue to withhold income taxes based on the state of the employee’s primary work location, and not based on the state in which the employee is temporarily teleworking as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has altered many aspects of our lives – including how and where we do our jobs,” Governor Kelly said. “This order helps ensure that tax season can go on without a hitch for Kansas businesses that have adjusted working schedules and employee work sites to keep people safe during the pandemic by allowing them to proceed with income tax withholdings as usual.”

Several executive orders related to the COVID-19 pandemic were set to expire on Jan. 26 in conjunction with the expiration of the state of disaster emergency. Because the Legislature enacted Senate Bill 14 to extend the state of disaster emergency until March 31, 2021, certain previous executive orders must also be extended. Under E.O. #21-02, the following executive orders already in place will be extended until rescinded or until the statewide state of disaster emergency expires, whichever is earlier:

20-37 – Allowing certain deferred tax deadlines and payments during state of disaster emergency

20-39 – Extending professional and occupational licenses during state of disaster emergency

20-40 – Temporarily

allowing notaries and witnesses to act via audio-video communication technology during state of disaster emergency

20-43 – Temporary relief from certain restrictions concerning shared work programs during state of disaster emergency

20-56 – Amended Licensure, Certification, and Registration for persons and Licensure of “Adult Care Homes” during state of disaster emergency

20-61 – Temporarily prohibiting certain foreclosures and evictions

20-66 – Amended provisions related to drivers’ license and vehicle registration and regulation during state of disaster emergency

20-70 – Provisions related to drivers’ license and identification cards during the state of disaster emergency

“These Executive Orders allow Kansas to continue responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and assist our efforts to keep Kansans healthy, keep businesses open, and get our kids back to school as quickly as possible,” Governor Kelly said.

Today’s actions also affect rules regarding unemployment benefits for Kansans. Executive Order 20-50, which had been in place since June 30, 2020, had suspended the requirement to continue searching for work in order to receive unemployment insurance benefits. That order expired yesterday and will not be extended. Executive Order 20-71, issued previously, waives the requirement that new unemployment claimants wait a week before receiving benefits and will continue in effect because the Legislature did not include a waiting week waiver in the pandemic legislation passed last week.

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