



# Harvey County News

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2014

## UPCOMING DATES

### Courthouse Closed:

July 4

Sept. 1

### Health Dept.

#### Breastfeeding

#### Class:

1st Mon. - 4 p.m.

3rd Mon. - 11 a.m.

### Primary Election

Advance voting:

July 22 - Aug. 2

Election Day:

Aug. 5

### Campfire Chats

7 p.m.

*Amazing Animals*

July 12: East Park

July 26: West Park

*Flying Mammals*

Aug. 9: East Park

Aug. 23: West Park

*Eight Legs and Crawling*

Sept. 13: East Park

Sept. 27: West Park

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## Courthouse to upgrade building

By Anthony Swartzendruber

The Harvey County courthouse is nearing its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. Since its construction, there have been a number of improvements made, including the installation of air conditioning, carpet and window blinds. While this courthouse is still perceived by many as the “new courthouse,” core infrastructure in this building has become aged, outdated and inefficient. In turn, significant improvements are being planned for the near future.

In early 2013, the County began talking with Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) to evaluate the building and begin developing a project to update the heating, cooling and ventilation throughout the building. The county also enlisted the services of the Kansas Facility Conservation Program and in November selected 360 Energy Engineers to serve as the county’s ESCO. 360 Energy Engineers completed an investment-grade energy audit of the courthouse, Law Enforcement Center (LEC), and Detention Center with the goal of providing improvements to these buildings’ heating and cooling infrastructure while implementing energy, water and operational savings for the county. The state’s program requires at

least a 30-year payback for any improvements made to the building and the ESCO enters into a performance contract with the county which provides a financial savings guarantee.

Project plans call for major improvements to the courthouse with additional improvements to the LEC and Detention Center. The improvements in the LEC include new boilers, pumps, lighting and plumbing fixture upgrades. In the Detention Center the improvements include modifications to the heating and cooling system to utilize free cooling, lighting improvements and plumbing fixture upgrades. The work in the courthouse will be much more extensive, including installation of a hybrid ground-source heat pump system, new windows, new doors, new ceiling tile, new lighting and plumbing fixture upgrades. With the new system, the majority of the heating and cooling in the courthouse will come from a geothermal source. Approximately 50 “wells” will be drilled in the front lawn, each nearly 250 feet deep, which will provide for very efficient heating and cooling of this building. The project will also include asbestos abatement in the courthouse.

The work in the courthouse will begin in early August. Over the course of six to eight weekends, the lay-in ceiling tile in the courthouse will be removed by asbestos abatement contractors. Each weekend, certain areas of the building will be sealed off while the abatement takes place. Then, prior to the abated area being reopened to staff and the public, a third-party air testing company will ensure the air quality meets all requirements.

Once the areas are abated, the ceilings will remain open until new ceiling tile is installed toward the end of the project. After the ceiling is removed, contractors will begin working on windows and doors, heating and cooling, plumbing and lighting.

The entire project will take approximately 10 months, with an estimated completion date of March 31. During this time, there will be disruptions, dirt, noise and inconveniences. The county will do its best to keep these inconveniences to a minimum, and in the end, have buildings which provide significantly more efficient heating and cooling, have more modern controls and a better working environment for employees and the citizens we serve.

# Early Newton fire protection

Kristine Schmucker, Harvey County Historical Museum

Newton has enjoyed premium fire protection, officially, since 1884, a little over a decade after the incorporation of the city. The Newton Fire Department was established in that year with three companies: the Hope Hose Company #1 (419 Poplar); the Goodwill Hose Company #2; and the Rescue Hook & Ladder Company #1 (locations unknown). The first Fire Chief on record was B. McKee, who was elected in November of 1877 at a public meeting at which the Volunteer Fire Department was created. The first Fire Chief appointed by the City Council was James Geary in August of 1884, when the Newton Fire Department was formalized. In 1899, Fire Chief Josiah Foltz, who had served as the volunteer chief, became the first paid position in the department, receiving \$50 a year. This was a part-time position, with the first full-time chief coming in 1910 with Israel Richardson.

The original hose carts in

Newton were pulled by the fireman, and the pump was operated by hand. The Sept. 25, 1884, *Newton Kansan* says, "The Fire Companies' two Hose Carts have arrived. . . ready for service." In December of 1897, then Chief Josiah Foltz and City Marshall John Cummings purchased a team of light bay horses to pull the carts. The fire station on Poplar was remodeled, with stalls added to accommodate the horses. The Sept. 20, 1901, *Newton Kansan* explains the importance of the team: "Mack and Fred, the handsome bays which haul the Hose Wagon. . . have become very proficient in their work. . . the intelligent animals know just what to do when the bell rings, and are in their places in an incredibly short time, eager to dash out the building. Chief Thompson informs us that the hitch has been made in 2 seconds, and on several occasions the Hose Wagon has been out of the Fire House in 4 seconds." Since hitching the horses was critical

to getting to the fire in a timely manner, a system of ropes and pulleys was in place. A fireman sleeping in the back room could sound the gong and unsnap the halters on the horses at the same time, allowing the horses to move into place under the suspended harness. The team of horses retained the names Mack and Fred, even when different horses were brought in. In the fall of 1903, Mack was retired due to injury, and another horse took his place, also being called Mack. Says the Oct. 5, 1903, *Newton Kansan*, "Thus, retires one of the most admired veterans of the Newton Fire Department." Horses would serve on the department until 1914, when the current Mack and Fred team of "faithful greys" were sold to Wallace Downey for \$300 following their five years of service, according to the August 17, 1914, *Evening Kansas-Republican*.

*"Mack and Fred, the handsome bays which haul the Hose Wagon . . . have become very proficient in their work."*



NEWTON'S FIRE DEPARTMENT, No. 1.

# Come enjoy our parks!

By Kass Miller

The first thing I think of when someone mentions Harvey County Parks is camping and fishing. But the water level is so low and we've had blue-green algae problems, so many think there is nothing else to do, right? Wrong! Harvey County East Park covers more than 1,300 acres. There are so many things to do besides be on the water. Did you know we have more than seven miles of walking, mountain biking and horseback riding trails? The trails are a great way to get back out into nature.

The trails are all groomed for easy access and feature wildlife natural habitat. I wouldn't be surprised if you saw a deer or even some wild turkey.

If you're a bird watcher this is a great area for you as well. We even have a few local artists that like to come out and get inspiration for their paintings.

Many of the wild berries that bloom on the nature trail are sweet and delicious. Be sure you know exactly what you have before eating anything, though. We are all aware some berries can be poisonous. My family and I have spent hours picking sand hill sugar plums. They make the best jelly in the world.

East Lake is the perfect place to spend the day with the family. We have two separate playgrounds. Each one is located conveniently close to restrooms and picnic areas. We have two sand volleyball courts and a baseball diamond backstop, perfect for a quick game during a family reunion.

How about starting an "all ages" kickball league? You can even bring the little league team out for practice and a picnic.

Speaking of picnics, we've recently added a picnic area next to the swim beach on Camper's Row. Each of the picnic tables here has a grill next to it as well.

How about just coming out and enjoying an evening under the stars?



In the last year we have made and installed an additional 90 fire pits. Almost all of these have a picnic table located near them.

Who doesn't love camping? We have nearly 70 camping pads. Most camping pads have been resurfaced and are getting new, updated electrical hook-ups. Just come out and choose your favorite spot. You don't have to have a camper to enjoy camping.

One side of the lake is dedicated to "roughin' it." Bring your tent or even just a sleeping bag and check out the Blue Stem side of the park. This side features Catfish Point. I think the name of this hot spot speaks for itself.

We are even adding a swim beach



area to this part of the park. This will make the third beach for the park. We have three separate restroom facilities.

Boating is a big attraction at East

Park. We have three boat ramps, a dedicated ski route, fishing areas and lots of room for your kayak or canoe.

This all sounds like a great place to have a family reunion, doesn't it? We can help out with that as well. Volunteer Hall is an air-conditioned (and heated) building that seats about 100-120 people. It is available for rent all year. It features a full kitchen with refrigerator/freezer, oven, microwave and double sink. It even has separate men's and women's restrooms and we provide some tables and chairs and all your cleaning and paper supplies. It's conveniently located close to one of three boat ramps, a fish cleaning station, swim beach and a playground. It's not just great for family reunions though; we have a lot of weddings, receptions, graduation parties, retirement celebrations, etc.

Maybe you might like something closer to town for your gathering? Camp Hawk shelter has the same features with a more rustic, secluded feel and a wood-burning fireplace. Camp Hawk boasts a 24-hole disc golf course.

We have a basketball court with lights for night play, a playground, baseball backstop and a stocked fishing pond. Although we don't have camping pads with electrical hook-ups, people are welcome to camp anywhere that is groomed. We even have two covered picnic areas. One features a grill and the second features a fire pit. Picnic tables and fire pits are located throughout the park. There is always plenty of room for your scout troop campout or other group activities.

At the Harvey County Parks department, we are dedicated to providing a safe, clean, family-oriented environment for everyone to enjoy the outdoors. If you ever have any questions, suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact us at any time.

***"Many of the wild berries that bloom on the nature trail are sweet and delicious."***

## July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4 County offices closed	5
6	7 Commission Meeting Breastfeeding class: 4 p.m.	8	9	10	11	12 Fireside Chat 7 p.m. East Park
13	14 Commission Meeting	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Commission Meeting Breastfeeding class: 11 a.m.	22 Advance voting begins	23	24	25	26 Fireside Chat 7 p.m. West Park
27	28 Commission Meeting	29	30	31		

## August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Commission Meeting Breastfeeding class: 4 p.m.	5 Primary Election Day	6	7	8	9 Fireside Chat 7 p.m. East Park
10	11 Commission Meeting	12	13	14	15	16
17	18 Commission Meeting Breastfeeding class: 11 a.m.	19	20	21	22	23 Fireside Chat 7 p.m. West Park
24/31	25 Commission Meeting	26	27	28	29	30

## September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 County offices closed	2 Commission Meeting	3	4	5	6
7	8 Commission Meeting	9	10	11	12	13 Fireside Chat 7 p.m. East Park
14	15 Commission Meeting Breastfeeding class: 11 a.m.	16	17	18	19	20
21	22 Commission Meeting	23	24	25	26	27 Fireside Chat 7 p.m. West Park
28	29 Commission Meeting	30				