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NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF PARSONS

January 2009

News Briefs

The City of Parsons is soliciting requests for a proposal on an Economic Development Strategic Plan. The bid packet is available by calling (620) 421-7030.

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In an effort to take advantage of lower gas prices, the City of Parsons has locked in fuel rates for 2009. By locking rates, the city is expected to save money and make necessary improvements to the fueling stations. In addition, the city will begin using off-road diesel in eligible equipment while gaining fuel tax rebates.

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Here's an interesting fact from the Main Street Matters January Newsletter, "A study we did found that for every \$100 spent in a chain store, \$14 went back into the local economy. For a locally owned business it was \$45," says Stacy Mitchell, author of Big-Box Swindle and researcher with the Institute for Local Self-Reliance.

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Commission meetings are held the first and third Mondays each month at 6 p.m., and work sessions are held on Thursday's before the commission meetings at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 20 because of Martin Luther King Day.

This newsletter is published monthly by the City of Parsons. If you have story ideas, questions or comments, send to:

City of Parsons/Kari West
 112 S. 17th St. • P.O. Box 1037
 Parsons, KS 67357
 kwest@parsonsk.com
 (620) 421-7030 • fax (620) 421-7089

City moves ahead with plans in 2009

At each of the next three City Commission Work Sessions, staff will be presenting plans for improvements to the City of Parsons. Details were not available at the time of press, but the following topics will be addressed with action plans slated for the following regular City Commission Meeting.

Raw Water Presentation to be main topic of January 15 City Commission Work Session

Staff from the City of Parsons will be making a presentation to the City Commissioners during the next work session regarding raw water improvements



to the dam and intake systems at Lake Parsons. The Power Point presentation will include current photos and detailed information about the condition of equipment and the dam itself. Lake Parsons is the main raw water source for the City of Parsons.

These raw water improvements are expected to be discussed at the work session on Thursday, January 15 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Commission Room, First Floor, Municipal Building.

New Housing Strategic Plan to be discussed at upcoming City Commission Work Session

Staff from the City of Parsons met with stakeholders earlier this summer to help address growing concerns of available, quality housing stock in the city. The housing committee made recommendations, asked lots of questions, and gave valuable input on what they would like to see in the next strategic plan.



Topics that have been discussed throughout this process include the addition of funding for housing rehabilitation programs, establishment and enforcement of minimum housing standards, creation of workforce housing, and development of a new subdivision.

The strategic plan is tentatively expected to be unveiled at the work session on Thursday, January 29 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Commission Room, First Floor, Municipal Building.

2009 Streets resurfacing plan to be main topic at February 12 City Commission Work Session

Staff from the City of Parsons will be presenting options for the upcoming street resurfacing program. The 2008 program was put on hold because of high cost and inavailability of materials.



Discussion of the new plan is tentatively set for Thursday, February 12 at 4:30 p.m. in the City Commission Room, First Floor, Municipal Building during the regular bi-monthly work session. For questions, please call (620) 421-7030.

Dayton-Superior receives city incentive for expansion project

The Parsons City Commissioners approved an incentive package for Dayton-Superior on Monday, January 5 during their regular commission meeting.

The incentive package includes one year's free rent in the city-owned building at 821 S. 21st Street, paid utilities up to six months, minor improvements such as doors and a gate, and upgraded electrical service to the facility.

City of Parsons Economic Development Director, Carolyn Kennett, explained that this type of expansion program which is a pilot project for Dayton-Superior will help to reduce the number of lay-offs that are traditional this time of year.

Being an industry that creates materials highway construction, this time of year is typically slow and Dayton-Superior usually



This is a portion of the warehouse at the 21st Street Building that will become part of Dayton-Superior production area.

experiences employee layoffs.

Commissioners were excited by the prospect of new job creation to retain those employees and unanimously supported the incentive package.

Dayton-Superior representative, Terry Weidert said that they hope to begin production in the facility as soon as possible.

Fire Department receives grant for Regional Rescue Vehicle

In late December, the Parsons Fire Department received a large gift in the form of a new rescue response vehicle. The vehicle, which was funded through the Southeast Kansas Regional Homeland Security Council, is valued at nearly \$83,000.

The Ford F550 is an All Hazards Response Vehicle and will contain various types of rescue equipment that can be used in the 11 county Homeland Security Region. According to Chief Larry Steeby, the vehicle is minimally equipped right now.

"The Southeast Region will have 72 trained personnel to offer support in times of disaster," said Parsons Fire Chief, Larry Steeby.

The All Hazards Response Unit is still being outfitted with equipment and should be ready for use in early 2009.



LCC Business Course to begin in February

The City of Parsons, Downtown Parsons, Inc., area banks and Labette Community College, Parsons will host a course called Foundations of Small Business beginning on February 5.

The class will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., through the month of April. It is a two-credit hour class.

The class will include topics such as the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur, developing a business plan, legal issues, financing, accounting and cash flow, marketing and addressing expansion and handling issues. Basically this course is an everything you wanted to know about starting your own business.

"During the class we will bring in local business owners and field experts to host discussions relevant to business in the real world setting," says MiChielle Cooper, LCC Workforce Development Coordinator.

Upon completion of the 10 sessions, course participants will then be invited to participate in the Parsons Business Plan Competition, where judges will review the plans including financial feasibility and sustainability and select one winner. The winner will receive a year's free rent in historic Downtown Parsons.

Interested entrepreneurs can visit www.parsonsk.com for rules or call (620) 820-1278 to enroll for the course.

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Find out what's going on...

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Cable One's Community Access Channel 5 & on the web at www.parsonsk.com