

City of Goodland

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Newsletter for January 2018



Kansas Begins Here!

CORRECTION

Free Tag Day will be on

****TUESDAY, JANUARY 16th,****

instead of January 15th, as our offices will be closed.

Hours are 7am - 4pm

Proof of rabies vaccination required.



The Goodland Police Department is happy to announce the retirement of Sergeant Gregory J. Kroskey from the City of Goodland Police Department after 19 years of service. We wish him well and in all of his future endeavors. Please take a moment if you see Sergeant Kroskey out and about to offer him congratulations on his retirement.

"It is polished and shiny and looks so fine. Once you earn it, you have to tow the line. The minute you wear it upon your chest, it becomes a symbol that you are part of something greater than yourself. It means honesty, integrity, and fairness to all. Your life is never your own, but he public's call. Night or day, any hour, it makes you a mark. It doesn't protect you from a shot in the dark. Over the years the shine starts to fade, but brighter still is the man it has made. It is often what separates you from the crowd. It is a second family of which you are proud."

CONGRATULATIONS SERGEANT GREGORY J. KROSKEY...

FROM YOUR LAW ENFORCEMENT FAMILY

AND THE CITY OF GOODLAND!!

Important Notice

- City Offices will be closed on January 15th during Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Note that City Commission meetings will be held January 2nd and January 16th because of holidays.



Nex-Tech Wireless will be helping local animal shelters throughout the entire month of January with a pet supply drive.

Nex-Tech Wireless in Goodland will be accepting donations for the NWKS Animal Shelter during January. The shelter is in need of 1 gallon heated water dishes, food bowls and monetary donations.

For each item donated during the month of January, Nex-Tech Wireless will also be donating \$1 to the local animal shelter to assist in medical expenses for the pets.

"We take great pride in giving back to the communities that we serve. We're grateful for the generous donors that help us with supporting the local animal shelters," stated Jon Lightle, President and CEO for Nex-Tech Wireless.



Message from the Manager...



From all of us at the City of Goodland, I would like to wish the Goodland community a Happy New Year. As we enter into 2018, I see it as important to reflect upon the successes of 2017 and to convey how we have been responsible stewards of your tax dollars.

Infrastructure improvements were a significant piece of 2017. In September, the City was able to complete the second phase of a waterline project that initially began in 2016. This project was undertaken to replace aged lines and to decrease water loss, which at some points in past years was as high as 25%. All told, the City spent just under \$3 million for this endeavor. I am happy to report that initial findings show our water loss has been reduced to 10% in 2017, and we expect to see greater reductions in 2018.

Utilizing a grant from the Kansas Department of Transportation, the City was able to replace another section of Main Street with new brick streets, water lines and storm drains. The grant saved taxpayers over \$300,000 on a project reaching nearly \$600,000.

Perhaps the most unique project accomplished in 2017 was the relocation of the City Firehouse at the Airport. The Firehouse was originally built too close to the runway, and we knew the Federal Aviation Administration would eventually require its removal. We used this problem to cancel out another problem – a lack of developable lots at the airport – by moving the Firehouse to a new location and allowing a new business to develop the lot, with proper setbacks of course.

The City Fire Department responded to over 100 calls this year and the Rural Fire Department responded to a similar volume. We should all be thankful for the dedication and hard work of our firefighters!

It should not be a surprise to anyone that the Dane G. Hansen Foundation is an asset to our community. The City was able to utilize their funding in 2017 for a number of improvements. We were awarded a new Cleanup Grant that allowed us to repaint park equipment at Rosewood, Phillips and Chambers Park and do some tree trimming. We also applied on behalf of the City of Kanorado, helping them remove over 500 waste tires and accomplish tree trimming in their community. The City also received funding for our Main Street flower pots and a pool cover for Steever Water Park.

The High Plains Museum saw 4,200 visitors in 2017. A series of travelling exhibits and stellar programming at the museum ensured that attendees always left with a unique experience. If you have not been to the museum in a while, there is no time like the present!

The City Police Department spent its first full year at its new location in the former Armory Building. At time of writing, your Police Department has responded to over 10,000 requests for service this year. When factoring in community policing and general enforcement, that number jumps to nearly 17,000, or approximately 46 interactions per day.

The Electric Department has begun work on replacing street lights on Highway 24 with new LED lights, which will be a core project in 2018 as well. Our crew deserves commendation for the work they did on April 30, when a massive snowstorm left much of western Kansas without power for days on end. However, Goodland electric customers were down for only a total of 30 minutes, and our Power Plant generated for 21 hours straight.

For purposes of brevity, I will stop there. However, this highlight reel does not encapsulate the dozens of minor victories we work towards every day. It is a privilege to work for this community, and we strive always to be an organization that the people of Goodland can be proud of.

-Andrew Finzen, City Manager