



Wilsey Installs First Public Water System

The Northeast Kansas city of Wilsey, located in Morris County, has installed their first public water system. Water previously came mostly from private wells. But in recent years residents have noticed water quality issues, and many of the wells have tested high in nitrates.

This forced many city residents to travel to nearby cities to purchase drinking water, while continuing to use well water for things like washing clothes and outdoor watering.

This will largely change in October when a new water system will be installed. The City's residents got together to solve this problem by applying for several grants to help fund the installation of water lines, and to employ modern techniques for water distribution.

Shawnee Purchases Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles

The City of Shawnee Public Works Department has recently purchased two compressed natural gas (CNG) fueled vehicles. Funding for the vehicles was provided in part through a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) grant from the federal government. CMAQ funds pay for transportation projects to improve air quality in regions like the Greater Kansas City Metro Area, where air quality standards have not been met in the past as determined by the EPA.

The City wanted to take steps to improve air quality and reduce harmful emissions that are produced by gasoline engines and decided to test alternative fuel vehicles through this federally funded pilot project. Shawnee's pilot project includes a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station and three alternative fuel vehicles. This project allows the City to compare the efficiency, dependability, and cost of fuel and vehicle maintenance of CNG vehicles to gasoline fueled vehicles. The average metro cost for CNG per gallon (gasoline gallon equivalent) is \$1.23 and compared

to current gasoline prices well over \$2.00 a gallon; the project is off to a great start for reducing fuel costs!

Topeka Utilizes Plant System to Improve Water Quality

Topeka is leading the way in innovative stormwater management in Kansas and the Midwest. The City seeks to improve surface and ground water quality by filtering stormwater runoff through native plant systems.

As rainwater and snow melt travels over lawns, sidewalks, and streets it picks up pollutants. Some of those pollutants are removed from this runoff as the water travels through the soil and by plants filtering pollutants with their root systems.

The use of these living systems to help decrease runoff and remove pollutants is called green infrastructure. This green infrastructure also provides additional green spaces in the Topeka community.

The city provides residents with the latest information on Topeka's green infrastructure at the website www.greentopeka.org. The website includes online tools and resources to instruct residents on how to apply these principles in their own backyard.

Bonner Springs Employees Raise Funds to Assist Katrina Victims

City of Bonner Springs employees are using the idea of donating a days worth of wages to the American Red Cross or Salvation Army to assist with recovery from Hurricane Katrina. The program is called "Donate-A-Day."

While most people cannot pick up and go to the affected area to actually help clean up, an idea was forwarded to allow employees to donate their salary for a days worth of work to support the relief effort. "Donate-A-Day" is an easy and painless way to help our fellow citizens in their time of need," said City Manager Jack Helin.

Employees are given the option of donating a days worth of pay or donate a

vacation time to the effort. The only extra work involved is with payroll making the deduction and cutting a check to the appropriate agency.

Lawrence Bus Drivers Aid in Katrina's Aftermath

Lawrence Transit System bus drivers Roger Lee and Jerome Younger left Saturday, September 3, 2005 to assist in transport efforts in the emergency zone of Hurricane Katrina.

MV Transportation, the city's transportation provider, was contacted by authorities in the areas affected with a request to deploy resources. MV Transportation responded by sending 50 vehicles and approximately 75 personnel from across the nation.

"The destruction of Hurricane Katrina is devastating," states Cliff Galante, Public Transit Administrator for the Lawrence Transit System. Galante explains "Having recently moved up from the New Orleans area my family and I are counting our blessings, I'm glad our drivers were able to help when called."

Roger Lee and Jerome Younger, both Lawrence residents, are drivers for the "T" fixed route bus system. Lee and Younger will be in the emergency zone for approximately three weeks running safe shuttles from medical facilities to the outer lying areas.

"There are many of us that would like to have gone, but I can't think of a better team than Roger and Jerome" stated Mike Sweeten, general manager for MV Transportation in Lawrence, Kansas. "They stepped forward without hesitation, were well prepared, and ready to go with very short notice. We are all very, very proud of them."

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