



# THE OUTLOOK

news and views from the City of Spring Hill, Kansas

## A year in City government: by the numbers

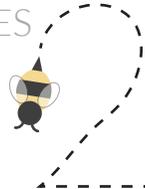
Sure, building new facilities and dreaming up big plans is exciting - and you can read more about both these topics on the next two pages. But it's the everyday actions - preparing new ordinances, making a traffic stop, patching a street, inspecting a sewer line - that keep our City running smoothly and serving you well. Here's a look at projects that helped make 2014 a great year and Spring Hill a better city.



**9 NEW FACES IN CITY DEPARTMENTS**  
Stop by and say hi some time!

**NUMBER OF BEEHIVES YOU CAN HAVE:**

A new ordinance allows beekeeping in the City limits in certain districts.



The specially designed plow is great for treating tricky cul-de-sacs.

**9 POLICE BODY CAMERAS**

Our officers are well-equipped for modern law enforcement.



**ONLINE LISTS OF SAFEST KANSAS CITIES THAT FEATURED SPRING HILL**

We're #3, #4, and #14! We were also named the #2 city for young families.



**87**

**BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED**

New home construction has steadily moved back up to prerecession levels!



**0 SPECIFIC DOG BREEDS BANNED**

An ordinance was passed that forbids only dangerous dogs. Your friendly pit bull is welcome.

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF STREET CRACKS IDENTIFIED:**

**100**

Our street crews completed repairing cracks on Webster Street and are now taking on dozens more throughout the city.

**913**

**PERMIT INSPECTIONS**  
Your remodeling projects, new sheds, and new homes have kept our building inspectors busy. Keep up the good work!

**1 TRAFFIC STUDY STARTED ON 223RD STREET**  
The study's results will help staff develop a plan to improve the intersection of 223rd Street and Webster/Harrison street.



City Newsletter: February 1, 2015

401 N. Madison  
P.O. Box 424  
Spring Hill, KS 66083  
(913) 592-3664

Connect on the web!  
[www.springhillks.gov](http://www.springhillks.gov)  
f /springhillks  
@springhillks

In this issue

2014 Review.....	2
2015 Preview.....	3
Polar Plunge.....	4
Job openings at the Aquatic Center.....	4
City calendar.....	4

# Buildings, buys, and big ideas

*A new police station and a community planning process ranked among 2014's successes.*

## POLICE DEPARTMENT SETTLES IN AT NEW HOME

Construction wrapped up on the new Spring Hill Police Station (photo at top left) in April. The former Spring Hill post office was remodeled with 1,200 square foot expansion to create a safe, spacious base for our police department for many years to come. The building was later designated as the Donald W. Stephens Building in honor of former mayor Don Stephens.



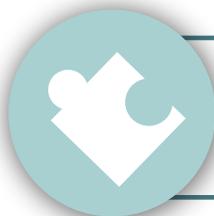
## POSTPONED PURCHASES HELP STAFF, RESIDENTS

Many necessary equipment purchases were pushed back during the recession in an effort to keep taxes as low as possible. As our economic outlook improved last year, City staff was able to purchase much-needed equipment that helps us serve you as quickly, efficiently, and reliably as possible.

# 2014 REVIEW

## PROJECT CONNECT UNITES STAFF AND RESIDENTS TO PLOT A COURSE FOR THE CITY'S FUTURE

Over the course of four meetings in early 2014, nine public officials and 37 community stakeholders came together through Project Connect to create a vision for the City's future. Five key performance areas - livability, community, infrastructure, public safety, and parks and recreation - were analyzed. The result was a document filled with 37 initiatives and 97 deliverables to help guide future City decisions.



Want to keep up with progress on Project Connect? The symbol at left will appear any time a Project Connect suggestion is addressed in the newsletter. We'll also be creating a page on our website dedicated to tracking our developments on this great community effort!

Let's get to work on high-impact projects!

*We're looking forward to improving the Civic Center, West Lake Park, water tower and more.*

#### CITY STAFF TO BEGIN MANAGING POOL

Rather than going through a third-party pool management firm, the City Council recently decided to manage the Spring Hill Aquatic Center in-house. We're now accepting applications for pool positions, as well as ideas on how to enhance your experience at the Aquatic Center!

#### WATER TOWER UPGRADE

The City water tower has long been in need of some improvements and a fresh coat of paint. Upgrades are coming this year that will increase the longevity of this critical piece of infrastructure and improve the appearance of a towering city sight.

#### BETTER COMMUNITY INTERACTION

Our 2013 survey revealed that residents feel much more could be done to keep them informed and involved. We have plenty of plans like online crime mapping and neighborhood City Council sessions to keep you in the loop.

#### WORK TO START ON THE WEST LAKE PARK

The City plans to break ground on the West Lake Park, the second project promised on the City's 2008 general sales tax, in 2015. The new park will bring diverse recreational opportunities for all ages. Program uses suggested (and pictured on the conceptual drawing at left) include walking trails, fishing piers, a dog park, rock climbing walls, and picnic areas.



# 2015 PREVIEW

## SIGHTS ARE SET ON CIVIC CENTER IMPROVEMENTS



With only 38% of our 2013 survey participants satisfied with the maintenance of City buildings and most of the Project Connect focus groups requesting a new City Hall or community center, our residents have been clear: the Spring Hill Civic Center is no longer meeting our community's needs.

In late 2014, the City hired Hoefler Wysocki Architecture to conduct a feasibility study on the Civic Center to help discover the possibilities of expanding and repurposing our current space. HWA has been studying our building for the last several months, and recommendations are expected soon.

The final report will include preliminary options for a multi-phased approach to improvements to keep costs down and any renovation-related inconveniences minimal.

Once the study is finished, we'll be looking for input from you, our residents! Watch for opportunities to make suggestions on the Civic Center redesign - we want to hear your opinions to make this project fit the needs of the community.

Ideas already discussed at community meetings included better rental rooms for events and meetings, energy-efficient design, and multiuse spaces.

# news to note from City Hall



Police officers are known for the courage they display on the job each day. Spring Hill officers will soon brave icy waters for a great cause, and they're asking the community to help support them!

A Spring Hill team will participate again this year in the Special Olympics Kansas Polar Plunge and Strut at Shawnee Mission Park Lake on February 7.

The Kansas City Plunge and Strut begins with a 5K "strut" at 9 a.m. At 10 a.m. the "plunge" kicks off and brave participants will begin leaping into chilly Shawnee Mission Lake. The Spring Hill team will take the plunge at 11 a.m.

The Polar Plunge raises money annually for Special Olympics Kansas through plunge/strut events throughout the state. This year, the Spring Hill plungers will be giving half its proceeds to support our city's own Special Olympics team, The Sharks!

Anyone interested in signing up to run or plunge can register at [www.firstgiving.com/team/281250](http://www.firstgiving.com/team/281250). A minimum donation is required to participate in both events.

Fun prizes are available for different levels of fundraising, but the best incentive is being able to help local athletes build confidence and have fun through Special Olympics programs. You can learn more about our local team, the Sharks, at [www.springhill-rec.org/172/Special-Olympics](http://www.springhill-rec.org/172/Special-Olympics).

Are you eager to help but not enthused about swimming or jogging on a crisp February morning? You can support the team by donating at the address listed above. All donations will go to help Kansas Special Olympics teams with half your gift going directly to the Sharks.

For more information on the event, visit [www.plungeks.org](http://www.plungeks.org) or contact Officer Kate Davidson at [davidsonk@springhillks.gov](mailto:davidsonk@springhillks.gov).

## Summer job openings!

If you'd like to dedicate your summer to creating fun for others, then working at the Spring Hill Aquatic Center is for you.

The Aquatic Center is known for its considerate, enthusiastic, dependable staff members who work together to create a positive experience for guests. By joining this winning team, you can earn money, meet friends, have fun, and gain valuable work experience.

The City is now accepting applications for the following positions:

- Pool manager
- Assistant pool manager
- Lifeguards
- Front desk and concession workers
- Deck attendants

All team members are hired on a seasonal basis for each operating season (late May through late August). Applicants must be available for the entire season. Applications will be accepted through February 27, 2015.

For more information or to download an application, visit our website, [www.springhillks.gov](http://www.springhillks.gov), or call 592-3664.

Watch our website and social media pages for Aquatic Center updates!



## February events

02

Public Safety Advisory Board meeting, 7 p.m.

04

Planning Commission meeting, 7:30

12

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

16

Green Board meeting, 7 p.m.

24

Arts Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.

26

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.