



# THE OUTLOOK

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE CITY OF SPRING HILL, KANSAS

SEPTEMBER 2015 ISSUE



## New curfew rules in effect

Spring Hill's curfew regulations changed with the passage of an ordinance at the Aug. 13 City Council meeting. For minors 15 and under, the curfew runs from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. except on Friday nights/Saturday mornings and Saturday night/Sunday mornings, when the curfew will be midnight to 5 a.m. For 16- and 17-year-olds, the curfew begins one hour later and ends at the same time. A complete list of new curfew rules is available on our website.

## City Council approves 2016 budget

At their August 13 meeting, the Spring Hill City Council unanimously approved a 2016 Operating Budget that will allow the City to undertake a number of key projects while holding the mill levy fairly steady. More information on the 2016 budget will be provided in the annual Review/Preview issue of The Outlook in January.

## Safe Place comes to Spring Hill

You may notice a bright yellow sign on the outside of Johnson County Fire District No. 2's Spring Hill station, which signals the arrival of a great new service offered there. Early this year, the Spring Hill Public Safety Advisory Board, which recommends new programs to City fire and police officials, brought the Safe Place program to Spring Hill. Safe Place is universally recognized and used by youth across the United States as the place to go for immediate help and safety. You can learn more about the program by visiting [www.nationalsafeplace.org](http://www.nationalsafeplace.org).



# WALK & TALKS

## top topics

Spring Hill's inaugural Neighborhood Walk & Talks program wrapped up in early July, and City staff and elected officials were very pleased with the results. Mayor Steven Ellis, City Council members, and City staff visited a different group of neighborhoods each Monday to gather feedback from residents and answer questions about ongoing projects and goals. Along the way, we discussed everything from cracks in streets to thistles to major building projects. Here, we've highlighted the topics that inspired the most discussion and questions.

## SIDEWALKS & TRAILS

Sidewalks and trails were the most common requests during the Walk & Talks. Residents especially wanted to see sidewalks:

- Along 199th Street
- Along 223rd Street
- Connecting southern subdivisions to schools and the Aquatic Center
- Connecting subdivisions to schools
- Throughout original town

While many residents initially asked about traditional sidewalks, a system of asphalt trails may be a more practical solution to fit the city's needs for recreation and pedestrian travel. A comprehensive sidewalk and trails plan will be developed in 2016 to outline a smart, fiscally responsible way to connect all corners of our city.



Weeds, thistles, trash, scrap metal, noise nuisances - code violations were a hot topic with residents. Reporting your concerns about codes issues, as well as other problems like potholes and asphalt cracks, is easy. Visit [www.springhills.gov](http://www.springhills.gov) and fill out a Fix-It Form. Our codes, streets, and police staff will promptly respond to your request. Some residents were concerned that a name and address is required. We only use this information to validate the request and contact you to discuss the problem's resolution. If you report a complaint about a specific property, the owner will not be told who filed the complaint.

## IMPROVED INTERNET ACCESS



Faster internet speeds and better choice in providers were regular requests from residents. As Spring Hill grows, our chances of attracting more internet providers will increase - but at this time, we are a small city with limited market potential and limited returns on internet infrastructure investments. Some small communities have chosen to offer internet as a utility. City staff and elected officials are looking into all possible options to provide better technological resources for our residents and businesses.

**COMING SOON!**  
The Spring Hill Civic Center will soon offer a free public Wi-Fi hotspot several nights a week. Watch our website and social media for details.

## PROGRESS ON OUR NEWEST PARK

Many residents requested an update on the West Lake Park project. The City is currently working on acquiring proper access to the park site - once this is completed, design work can begin! Staff still anticipate breaking ground on the park later this year and plan to open the park in 2016. Watch for opportunities to provide feedback on what features you'd like to see in the new park later this year.

## NEW LIFE FOR OLD FACILITIES

Redesigning and repurposing City facilities was an item of interest on the Walk & Talks. City staff are working on plans to make the Civic Center and City Hall safer, more efficient, and more customer-friendly. Funding is included in the 2016 budget to address security upgrades at the Civic Center. Staff have also been considering new uses for the former pool, which has been unused since the construction of the Spring Hill Aquatic Center.



## QUIETER TRAINS

Residents weary of hearing train horns sound every few minutes near their homes asked if the City was interested in installing railroad quiet zones. These railroad crossings feature safety improvements that negate the need to sound a horn as a train approaches. The cost? About \$250,000 each.

## IS MY POND HEALTHY?

Green scum and an odd odor coming from the ponds at Melvin Murry and Blackhawk parks were concerns for residents who live in the surrounding subdivisions. Both these issues are the natural result of algae growth. When well-controlled, algae plays an important role in the pond's ecosystem, adding oxygen to the water and providing food and nesting areas for fish. Too much algae can be harmful to the pond - but all Spring Hill bodies of water are carefully regulated by our parks crews to prevent harm to the pond wildlife.

## WILL THE WALK & TALKS CONTINUE?

We had a great response from our first-ever Walk & Talks and hope to continue the program next year. City staff plan to announce the 2016 Walk & Talk schedule early in the year to give you plenty of time to prepare for the meetings. There will also be an opportunity to tell us how we can help improve the community without leaving your home. The City has budgeted a community survey for 2016 to help gauge your input on services and projects. More information will be available in a later issue of the Outlook and on our website.

# September 2015 city calendar



**02**

large item trash day:  
Miami County

**03**

Planning Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

**07** Labor Day

City offices will be closed in observance of the holiday. This is also the last day of the 2015 Spring Hill Aquatic Center season. Thanks for a great summer!

**10**

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

**11**

holiday trash day:  
Miami County

**12**

holiday trash day:  
Johnson County

**19** Fall Festival

Spring Hill's annual autumn weekend of fun is coming back for its 61st year! City staff and boards will be there with plenty to offer residents.

10 a.m. - Be sure to watch for our City staff and elected officials during the parade down Webster Street!

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. - Stop by the Public Safety Advisory Board's table at the vendor show in City Park to pick up fun giveaways and learn more about the great work this group is doing in our community.

1 to 4 p.m. - The Green Board, our parks advisory committee, is hosting the Shred-It Truck in the parking lot behind the Civic Center. You can safely dispose of up to 2 boxes of personal papers or unneeded documents at the event. Visit our website for more information.

**21**

Green Board meeting, 7 p.m.

**23**

large item trash day:  
Johnson County

**24**

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

**26** National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day



Turn in unused or expired medication for safe disposal from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Queen's Price Chopper, 22350 S. Harrison.

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE SPRING HILL CIVIC CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund

Fundraising has now begun for the third annual Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund! All proceeds go to benefit the Spring Hill Food Pantry, Spring Hill Multi-Service Center, BackSnack program, and - new in 2015 - Miami County Circles. Visit [www.springhillks.gov](http://www.springhillks.gov) to learn more about these four deserving programs.

Name or organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate \_\_\_\_\_ to the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund.  I would like to donate anonymously.

Drop off your form and donation at Spring Hill City Hall (You can include your donation in the same envelope as your utility bill - just make sure there are two separate payments!) or mail your donation to City Hall, P.O. Box 424, Spring Hill, KS 66083. **Checks should be made payable to "Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund."**