First Impressions

Compiled Report Form

**Community Visited: Beloit Date(s) Visited:** a) Jun 1 (Thurs)

b) Jun 12 (Mon)

c) Jun 4 (Sun)

d) Jun 10 (Sat)

e) Jun 12 (Mon)

**Pre-visit web search: How easy was it to get information on the community you were visiting? Did it accurately reflect what you saw? Did you have difficulties obtaining information on the community through a web search?**

* 1. Fairly easy to find online. Some of the links were redundant of prior links within the site. Need photos! A little boring and not so motivating to draw me to community.
  2. I was able to conduct a pre-visit search online prior to my site visit. It was fairly accurate, I will say that I was rather disappointed in the Little Red School House though, the picture online shows a structure that looks like it has been freshly painted while in reality it looks as if it could use some up keep.
  3. Good amount of information online for services and amenities; City website is thorough. Could benefit from centralized calendar of events, e.g. calendar at www.beloitks.org is currently disused.
  4. NA
  5. Information online was readily available. We were able to find and locate a few eateries, the schools, available housing, Chamber of Commerce & upcoming events.

1. **The “Five-Minute” Impression: After taking a five-minute drive through the community without stopping, the following reactions were noted. The following observations were noted when entering the community from major entrances (signs, streetscapes, buildings, etc.)**
   1. Definitely an agricultural community, which is fine. Some businesses with no signs, or some had signs which didn’t really indicate what the business truly is. Example: OCCR- what IS it? Newer homes and older homes. Pretty Limestone. Well-marked street signs. Loved brick streets downtown. Nice west side of town. Good street signs, nice streets, some older buildings were beautiful, other old homes were shabby. Some signs didn’t tell what the business was. ie Brummer Supply. Lots of Ag equipment some randomly parked, not centralized and consolidated from south entrance. West entrance seemed nice and well kept. From Hwy 24 nice to know there’s fast food. Decent signage. Motels looked dilapidated.
   2. Beloit is a nice small community with well-marked streets and a beautiful stone Court House that rivals Clay County’s. I only saw one welcome sign while coming into town. It was a stone sign that sat off of Hwy 24. Coming into town off of Hwy 24 on Hwy 14 it’s hard to believe that you are actually entering a community, I didn’t see a sign pointing to the business district and although there were some businesses and homes it doesn’t give the build-up that I was expecting. It was very gradual.
   3. Driving north along HWY 14 through town - Great number of large established trees. Well maintained homes N. of downtown. Relatively large downtown district with diverse businesses. Nice antique street name signs throughout the city (white lettering w/ green backing).   
      **HWY 24 driving west**- 1) Beloit welcome sign is not on edge of town, located at E. Main St. 2) There is a large irregularly-painted barn painted located near the edge of Beloit. Potential to be a great landmark for advertising the town if repainted. 3) Two large signs advertising Mitchell County – very nice!  
      **HWY 24 driving east:** Absence of a welcome sign; just city limit notification.

**HWY 14 driving north** – 1) Absence of a welcome sign; just city limit notification. 2) No information directing travelers to Chautauqua Park/pool.   
**HWY 24 & HWY 14** Absence of signage indicating downtown business district.  
**HWY 24 & Walnut St.** - Would benefit from signage indicating nearby attractions/services - Jr./Sr. High, Sheriff Dept., Sports Complex, City Library & Fairgrounds.

* 1. Nice town, where’s the business district? Plenty of business on Hwy 24. Could use more and better signage for downtown, museum, etc. Hospital signs- could be 1 or 2 more. Easy to miss on highway.
  2. There was lots of road construction with very little signs to detour to the downtown area. The welcome sign coming into town from the east was seemingly a little ways into town and was not easily noticeable. The downtown area was well-kept with beautiful uniform lighting. The coffee shop stood out most and was very impressive. There were few signs directing you. The welcome sign felt like it should be located a little farther to the east and maybe needed more color or flowers because it blended in with the background.

2. **Downtown Business Area**

**Describe the buildings, signs, infrastructure, etc. Explain what type of businesses you observed and give a description of the variety and quality of merchandise displayed. Describe the customer service received when you entered those retail businesses. (Were you greeted? Did you have to ask for assistance?)**

1. Older structures, loved the lampposts. Love the brick streets. Nice parking areas & signage for “free parking.” Some benches, mostly on east side. Nice flowers in pots in several spots brightened up the town. James Clothing was a variety store. Interesting mix of KSU, KU items, and nice men’s wear. Not sure could be a sustainable business from first impression. Furniture store on east was quality. Cute they have a men’s coffee crowd in mornings. Nice “Gray” pharmacy. Neat look inside, with cards and neat shelving for pharmacy over the counter needs as well. 2 photographers, lots of banks, furniture store, taxidermy, The Attic secondhand Boutique and hair salons. Quality of merchandise was okay, maybe geared a little more to older generation. Nothing reached out to grab me. “Posh” had some clothes up front, but not enough to draw me to look through them. Limited selection. Greeted every time, always friendly and asked to help us. Outstanding!! We asked about the yearbook photos in window displays & were told about Memorial Day parade, reunion of past H.School classes. Very cool idea.
2. Beloit has only one small sign pointing to the downtown area and that road is closed due to construction to thru traffic. The downtown area is in fairly good condition, again with well-marked streets. However when doing my pre-visit search I got the address for the COC, but it does not tell you that it is located in the Porter House Apartment and it was closed at 10:30 in the morning. The Attic is a small Second Hand Store that reminded me of some place that wanted to have a yard-sale and rented a store front to do it in. There were a number on Financial Institutions, Insurance businesses, and at least four restaurants among the other various businesses located in the downtown. We entered several of the local businesses and were greeted with a smile and a hello upon entering each one, we were also asked if they could help us or if we were looking for anything specific.
3. HWY 24 & E Main St. encountered construction zone on way to downtown - no directions for detour. Impressive pedestrian lighting, nice brick inlay along sidewalks and intersection crosswalks. Large downtown area several blocks in length with good occupancy. Beautiful Post Office and Courthouse show very well in prominent locations. South of Downtown train track crossing is a very rough surface. ACE Hardware - greeted and assisted right away by Brett. Staff was friendly and helpful, asking to assist several members in our party.
4. Streets and curbing are decent. Some improvements happening! Love the architecture. Restaurants, banks, pharmacy, liquor store. Did not see a lot of merchandise displayed. Greeted immediately, very friendly at The Kettle. Several empty store fronts, could not tell if they were for sale or rent.
5. Most of the downtown buildings were well-kept, however there were some noticeable vacancies. There were little to no signs pointing you to downtown. I didn’t observe any benches or anything really luring the consumer to hang around much. The Kettle Coffee shop stood out the most downtown. It was very well-kept and enticing to go in. There were very little retail clothing options. There were several appliance stores, insurance agencies, banks, a furniture store and a couple of restaurants. We received excellent customer service in all the establishments. We were greeted and asked if we could be helped.

**What public amenities were available (drinking fountains, benches, public restrooms, etc.) Comment on appealing landscaping and streetscaping. Did you have difficulty finding parking? Could you access multiple services from where you parked?**

1. Benches, saw 1 large trash receptacle outside. No drinking fountains. Needed a restroom, and finally made our way to Courthouse knowing we’d find one there. Nice lamp posts. No trouble finding parking; rainy day though. Yes, could get to several stores from one parked spot. Spotted several flower pots for attractive landscaping.
2. I didn’t see any such amenities except for a few benches outside the County Court House in the downtown. I would expect that public restrooms were available in the Court House as well, but did not check. The Court House grounds were very well kept and the streets in general were in good condition. We saw public parking lots towards the south end of Mill Street, however there appeared to be adequate street parking available and we were able to easily walk to any point in the downtown in a matter of minutes.
3. Had some difficulty locating Thierolf Park adjacent to Municipal building. Park location is not marked on Google Maps. Good number of trees outside of courthouse square. Consistent lighting in downtown area was a defining feature.
4. Did not notice any.
5. None that we could find (public amenities). Landscaping and streetscaping were lacking other than the courthouse and municipal building. There were random weeds in the middle of sidewalks or beside buildings. There was plenty of parking and we were able to access multiple services.
6. **Other Retail Shopping Areas**

**Describe other retail shopping areas. Were the areas attractive and easy to access?**

1. Saw Shopko and Ray’s. Walked through Ray’s Apple Market. Yes, attractive and easy to access.
2. There is a Dollar General Store just off of Hwy 24, a Shopko Hometown Store and Rays Apple Market grocery store coming into town on Hwy 14. Besides them and the main business area I saw no other major retail shopping areas.
3. Great access to wide variety of businesses along Hwy 24 (agricultural, automotive, food service, lodging, convenience store). Secondary shopping area on Hwy 14 (grocery, cinema, Shopko) was well-placed and convenient.
4. Ray’s Apple market, grass at street could be edged.
5. We found very little retail shopping establishments.

4. **Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas**

**Is there a defined area where manufacturing industries could easily locate/expand? If so, describe.**

1. Saw what we thought was this type of industrial area on the NW side of town. Expanding might be tough, hard to tell on the boundaries
2. The main industrial area is located on the NE side of the town as you’re coming into Beloit from the east with several manufacturing companies located along the Hwy giving them easy access to transportation.
3. Industrial park north of town on Hwy 24 clearly marked and several businesses located in the area.
4. Yes, on highway.
5. It seems there were several areas where the location could be used or expanded.

5. **Health Care Services**

**Comment on the availability and apparent quality of hospitals and emergency medical services.**

1. Newer, big, good variety, impressive.
2. Beloit has very nice Medical Center and County Health Services buildings located on the West side of town just off Hwy 14.
3. Mitchell Co Hospital – prominent location along Hwy 24. Good signage for emergency services. Well maintained grounds and modern building. Hospital signs located on HWY 24 at several locations.
4. County health (poor sign out front, very small print), hospital with emergency entrance.
5. The hospital looked in need of updating and more signage to find it. There were a few emergency signs but overall maybe a sign or two off the highways points to the direction could help.

**Comment on the availability and condition of facilities for physicians, dentists, optometrists, public health and other healthcare providers.**

1. Appealing. Didn’t see more than 1 dentist option, but asked later at Chamber Office and found several to be available.
2. I did notice one Dentist office and one Optometrists office located downtown, as far as doctors’ offices I did not see any. I assume that they are located in the Medical Center Area.
3. NA
4. We saw offices for all of these. All look very nice.
5. We observed optometrists, chiropractors, and dentists in the downtown area that looked in good condition.

**What long-term care services, assisted living or nursing facilities exist in the community?**

1. Sunny Living, Hilltop Lodge, good Sr. living choices. LOTS! Decent landscaping too. One (Sunny Living?) used a font on their signage & just the way the buildings & signs were situated that reminded me of army barracks. Just changing the font & type of signs would soften & still keep the “address” readable. More homey instead of government looking. That was a nagging drawback to me.
2. I saw a retirement home coming into town along Hwy 14, other than that I saw no other such facilities.
3. Hilltop Lodge – prominent location on Hwy14 near hospital. Well maintained and appealing facility. Sunny Slope Manor – tucked away in residential neighborhood on cul-de-sac. Basic and well-kept facilities. Solomon Valley Village – smaller facility catering to those with Alzheimer’s or dementia.
4. Hilltop Lodge—nice. Pretty area.
5. We observed an assisted living center.

6. **Housing**

**Give a brief description of the existing mix of housing stock. Does the local market have housing that would appeal to all income wages? What challenges do you see in regards to finding acceptable housing? (Neighborhoods, size, properties for sale, etc.)**

1. Saw several, but not lots of “for sale” signs. Saw some new housing, but there were NO sidewalks in that area unfortunately. Odd. Good variety for all income wages from what we could tell. I’m not sure I drove as far east as I should.
2. Unfortunately I did not really pay close enough attention to properties that were for sale or rent and the only housing office I saw was closed at that time.
3. Luxury homes – custom built, several under construction, lots are available and posted along roadways. Middle class homes – bulk of housing in Beloit, very impressed by the number of homes that are well cared-for and show nicely. Lower End / Abandoned homes – scattered in neighborhoods, one or two at a time, no single area has been overcome with blight. Silver Fox development – new development with many available residential lots. Extensive area consisting of paved streets, gutter, buried utility, and street lighting. Impressive investment here with an eye toward future growth!
4. Several homes for sale- but saw no for rent signs. There were homes that would appeal to all income wages.
5. I feel like there was a good mix of housing for all income wages. I would say there were very few rental homes, but new development was great.

**What kind of rental properties did you observe for persons interested in building or simply living in the community prior to buying housing?**

1. Saw several apartment buildings. Didn’t see “for rent” much, but didn’t call any of the real estate #’s either.
2. The Porter House Apartment building and a Super 8 Hotel are available.
3. Abundant apartment homes built in different areas of town. Chamber website was a great resource with extensive rental property listings.
4. None.
5. We saw very little rental properties.

7. **Schools**

**Do the following schools appear to be adequate in size or do you see the use of temporary classrooms? Are the buildings and grounds well-maintained?**

1. Saw a portable building not too far southeast from reg. Elem. school structure. Signage from road didn’t indicate, but guess it was a Head Start or preschool type facility. We saw the Elementary and the Catholic private school (& football field) and also the nice High School. Sharp looking, well maintained.
2. There is a Preschool, a K-5 Elementary and a Jr/Sr High School as well as NCK Technical Collage located in Beloit. All the facilities appeared to be well kept and of adequate size for the community.
3. Jr.Sr. High – large building and grounds, appears well maintained. Concrete form and block construction. Exterior lacking windows for natural light. This is not an example of architecture that emotes education. NCK – This is an impressive campus, located prominently on Hwy 24. The buildings are well marked. The large grounds are maintained well.
4. Only saw elementary school- neat mural.
5. Preschool, K-8, Jr high and high school and technical college. They appeared adequate in size and well-maintained.

**Were you able to find online information in the community that helped assess the quality of the educational system?**

1. Not so much the quality, but just listed. Could brag more if won any academic awards. Did note that the “KIDSS Program” looked like a spelling error at first. Then I realized it wasn’t but nowhere does it explain to a stranger what the acronym stands for.
2. Yes!
3. Found info on the 1:1 Chromebook initiative buried online. This is a great feature of the USD, promote it!
4. Sorry, did not look.
5. Yes.
6. **Childcare**

**Were you able to determine if childcare was affordable and available?**

1. Went to Chamber Office to ask this. They gave a handout of the 5 options but said it was outdated and probably not correct. Didn’t call any to ask pricing as didn’t want to mislead anyone.
2. No information about Childcare.
3. Various options were available throughout town. Seem to be well kept properties.
4. Could not tell.
5. There appeared to be a few affordable child care options.
6. **Faith/Religion**

**Comment on the number of denominations and the physical appearances of the churches represented in the community. Did you observe any evidence of church-sponsored community services?**

1. Saw Catholic, Presbyterian, Lutheran, and Methodist. All looked sharp and welcoming. Got a brochure at Chamber Office that actually listed 10 churches/denominations. Didn’t see any OBVIOUS evidence of church-sponsored community services.
2. We saw at least four separate Churches through-out town and there may have been more. All were in good state of repair and looked appealing to sight. We saw what is called a Blessing Box by the Library that contain numerous personal hygiene products and items that were free for the taking if you were in need. It also contained a donation box for monetary donations to be made if able.
3. Good variety of churches in town. Lutheran church recently renovated an adjacent park, new equipment and facilities are very nicely done. The historic Catholic Church is very prominent and impressive. First Christian Church facility includes great outdoor gathering and meal space.
4. Several churches. No signs telling of activities that I noticed.
5. We observed a Catholic, Lutheran, First Christian and United Methodist Church. Most had signs with information for services.
6. **Civic**

**Tell about the variety of nonprofit organizations and clubs within the community. Did you observe any evidence of civic organization activity?**

1. Relay for Life upcoming event schedule. Poster promoting summer library program for kids, saw lots of Smoky Valley River Festival. Free dancing on June 3 from Dance Company. Saw the 4H fairgrounds. If they have any, it would be helpful to list under “Living Here” on their website. Didn’t see any activities.
2. No Information
3. Leadership Mitchell County – amazing program! Great to see the local development of leaders from within these communities.  
   Heart Choices - pregnancy and parenting resource center, very good to see these services available to residents.  
   Senior Citizen Center – located in historic building (church?) on Hersey St. near downtown.  
   Lions Club - sponsorship of ballfields at sports complex.
4. Lions, VFW. Did not see any evidence of civic activity.
5. We observed signs for Lions Club and Rotary.
6. **Public Infrastructure**

**Comment in general on the streets, street signage, sidewalks, parking, lighting, restrooms, landscaping, and streetscapes in areas other than downtown.**

1. Streets clean, overall good signage. Sidewalks mostly fine. Empty Sperry furniture store had lots of dog poop in front. The store to its south had a ratty curtain in front door, but maybe it was a secondary entrance. Some homes were landscaped lovely, others needed some love. The colorful ice shaving (snow cones?) trailer in someone’s yard is sure to get everyone’s attention going down one of the main streets. But, a little tacky looking in the residential area perhaps?? Didn’t see any public restrooms. Pretty brick streets.
2. The streets and sidewalks were in good condition. All the streets that we saw were clearly marked. There appeared to be Street lights at every intersection in town.
3. Mitchell Co. tourism signage along Hwy 24. Two large billboards, look beautiful and serve to promote the communities. The street surfaces overall within town are very good quality. Really enjoyed the streetscape and trees along Hersey north of downtown. Nice antique street name signs throughout the city (white lettering w/ green backing).
4. Decent streets. I saw signs of improvement as well, curbing, and some new streets being built and reconstructed.
5. There were several streets with construction so I’m not sure I can give a fair assessment. I didn’t see any public restrooms.

**Comment on city/town hall (How were you received? Was there information about the town available?)**

1. No answer (NA)
2. Never found City Hall and the Chamber Office was closed.
3. NA
4. It was Saturday.
5. We were well received and yes there was information available.

**Police/fire protection:**

1. Saw both. No sidewalk to police station. Very mysterious to us how the Library, police station and a garden were all in one spot. Then later this was explained from the Chamber gals how the facility changed over from the troubled girls’ home.
2. We found the Law Enforcement Center by accident and saw no signage directing you to where it was. We never did see the Fire Station.
3. Lack of signage on Hwy 24 directing travelers to Mitchell Co Sherriff office. Locating the public entry to police station can be unclear when driving along Walnut St.
4. NA
5. We observed the fire department as a metal building.

**Library:**

1. Very small. Parking limited. Was surprised it wasn’t centrally located. “Port Library” didn’t mean anything to me. I figured it must go with the Police station. Not until talking to the Chamber gals did I realize it really was the town’s library and not just a specialized library for a certain group or for a research company.
2. Same as above with Police/Fire.
3. Lack of signage on Hwy 24 informing travelers of library location. Current location is not walkable from residential neighborhoods.
4. NA
5. There was a lot of information about program and events on their website. The building itself could be more “prettified.”

**City parks (walking tracks, ballparks, playgrounds, sportsplex)**

1. Saw no walking tracks, lots of ball fields, minimal playground variety. Nice Chautauqua Park and swimming/aqua park. Opening time was delayed a few hours due to rain the day we were there. Had a sign posted to explain this fact. Cemetery was attractive and well kept.
2. Chautauqua Park was very nice, it was clean and well maintained with plenty of picnic areas and a very nice swimming pool and playground. The sports complex was very nice as well with at least 5 ball fields and was very well maintained.
3. **Community Garden** – large plot of land dedicated to this initiative, and very actively utilized.   
   **Chautauqua Park / Pool** – beautiful park that offers a lot for residents. New and expanded pool facility is a great draw. Cannot be seen from Hwy 14, would benefit from signage promoting this great feature!   
   **Roadside Park** – nice shaded park area along highway with neat historical schoolhouse. Structure could use a new coat of paint. Was expecting to encounter more facilities at the roadside park (restrooms) given the billboard advertising. Billboards along Hwy 24 advertising the historic schoolhouse and park have become worn over time.   
   **Westside Park** – area not reported as green space on Google maps. Very large green space located in residential neighborhood consisting of an entire block. Some older and worn equipment could possibly be upgraded – merry go round, slides, swings.   
   Would recommend looking at options for park spaces within walking distance of residential neighborhoods. Currently only Westside park offers playground/sports facilities within walking distance for families.
4. Park has pool, camping area, Frisbee disk, exercise path. But the signage to park and pool were non-existent. Very frustrating to me.
5. We saw a couple of playgrounds and a sports complex. Very impressive. I did not see many walking trails.
6. **Recreation/Tourism**

**Is the community well-known for any particular attraction or event? Do they have a community slogan that capitalizes on that asset?**

1. Didn’t see a slogan, but am aware and saw signage regarding the NCK vo-technical school.
2. No answer (NA)
3. Attraction of Waconda Lake nearby. Little Red schoolhouse, addressed earlier under parks section.
4. Not sure
5. There is a waterpark, but there wasn’t much, if any, signage for it. We just stumbled upon it.

**Did you see any indication of significant events taking place in the community that would be of interest to both visitors and residents?**

1. June 3 dance night, Relay for Life
2. We saw advertising for the upcoming county fair.
3. Mitchell Co Tourism Website - June 2,3,4 Annual Hwy 24 Garage Sales. Noticed only a few garage sales around town on this day.
4. No.
5. None that we saw.

**Elaborate on any significant natural or manmade features that have the potential of drawing people to the community.**

1. Water park would draw quite a group from a fairly sizeable radius I’d think.
2. The Solomon River runs around Chautauqua Park and there was at least one boat ramp for access to fishermen or rafters.
3. Solomon River – great use of the local river with amenities at Chautauqua Park. Waconda Lake – several hotel options along HWY 24 in Beloit.
4. Walking tour of downtown?
5. There was a park where you could camp located next to the waterpark.

**Is there an obvious visitor’s center, chamber of commerce office, main street office, or other facility that serves the needs of visitors? Comment on the staff, facilities, signage, visibility, etc.**

1. The gals at Chamber office were EXCELLENT. Only trouble was, there was no signage to tell us the Porter House IS part Chamber Office. Looked for address online and walked in there to see if they could help us and saw sign on inside entrance from main front door. They said they’d moved 6 months ago. Very knowledgeable and helpful. We talked and asked questions about 30 minutes and they never did ask what we were up to if we were moving to town, or what. That could be good or bad. We were able to stay “under cover” but yet they missed an opportunity to really welcome us if we HAD BEEN considering Beloit as a new home. The chamber office gals directed us to the nearby Courthouse and Municipal buildings.
2. Found the Chamber of Commerce office only after searching for it and it was closed.
3. Was unable to locate Chamber office on this trip. Website gave address and building with that address was Porter House apartments. There was no exterior signage indicating Chamber of Commerce in this area. No Google pin for local Chamber office. Roadside Park – featured small information sign about Beloit and HWY 24 association.
4. No, but we saw a place called Porter House that we were told was the chamber. They recently moved in? No signage.
5. No.

**Are there any restaurants, specialty shops or attractions that would bring you back to this community in the near future?**

1. The Kettle restaurant. Would go again. Unique and tasty grilled cheese of the week.
2. We ate at a small hole-in-the-wall Coffee Shop/Bistro called KETTLE that not only has outstanding fresh made coffee but also makes and serves fantastic food as well. Gary Drug and Fountain is a throwback Soda/Ice Cream Fountain and Apothecary that reminded me of the olden day from by gone years.
3. NA
4. The Kettle.
5. The Kettle coffee shop was fantastic. Plum Creek restaurant was also exceptional.
6. **Wrap-up**

**What are the most positive things you observed about the community?**

1. Friendly people, quaint look of the streets and lampposts, health care services look to be modern and current.
2. Overall Beloit is a very quiet little community, it was clean with many brightly painted homes and a wonderful park and sports complex.
3. Was very impressed with the residential housing in Beloit. An impressive number of single family homes are well maintained, including the landscape and structures. Nice downtown area with newer street surfaces and wide variety of businesses. Good number of restaurant options. Nice to see several locally owned family style restaurants operating.
4. Good lawns, big grocery store, nice park and pool.
5. There was new development for housing! Loved the streetlights in downtown! The water park looked fantastic! The Kettle stood out the most in downtown and made you feel like you were in a little bistro in a friendly town. A functioning movie theater!!!

**What are the biggest obstacles/challenges facing this community?**

1. Nothing really reaches out to say, HEY! We are known for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! It’s the best around. Don’t miss out! Need more restaurants (not just coffee shops) where people can gather to chat when friends come to town.
2. NA
3. Locating different attractions in town was a challenge without the use of a smartphone. e.g. - Didn’t realize Mitchell Co. Fairground was located in Beloit until after we had left town. Green space – the town could look at new green space opportunities located near residential neighborhoods. Westside Park was the only recreational park that is walkable for families.
4. Many places could use paint. Awnings, some were really in need of repair. Many places un-occupied.
5. There didn’t seem to be many consumers in the downtown area, especially in the retail shops. Down town streetscaping and “beautifying.” Add benches? Make the sidewalks more appealing by removing weeds- adding flowers?

**What will you remember most about this community six month from now (positive or negative)?**

1. Brick streets, Kettle coffee shop/ restaurant, friendly Chamber staff. Also genius of the Sonic and DQ franchises to build near the NCKS housing & HWY 24 at same time. Good business I’d suspect.
2. The Kettle Coffee Shop & Bistro and Gary Drug and Fountain.
3. NA
4. The Kettle!
5. The Kettle! Everything from the paint on the outside of the building, the flags hanging in the upstairs to the cute set up with the chalkboard menu on the inside! The staff was friendly and there were many options for food and drink! It was definitely more than just a coffee shop!



First Impressions was developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension and adapted for use by K-State Research and Extension. Restructuring made possible through a partnership with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension Service

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Works, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914 as amended. Kansas State University, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and the United State Department of Agriculture Cooperating, John D. Floros, Director.