

First Impressions

Arlington, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership
with

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation



- 2010 Census Population 473 (UP 3.1% since 2000)
- 2015 Estimate 524 (UP 14.2% since 2000)
(KS=7.6%)
- 11% college educated, 87% high school or GED
 - KS 31% college education, 90.2% HS or equivalency
- 72.1% family households, 27.9% non-family
- Poverty rate is 21.6% (KS=13.6%)
- Median Age is 43.6 years (36)
- Median household income is \$37,313 (\$52,205)

Web Presence:

No City Website

FaceBook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/arlingtonks/>

Web Presence:

[Arlington, KS - Arlington, Kansas Map & Directions - MapQuest](#) ✓

<https://www.mapquest.com/us/ks/arlington-282023183>

Get directions, maps, and traffic for **Arlington, KS**. Check flight prices and hotel availability for your visit.

[Arlington, Kansas - Wikipedia](#) ✓

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arlington,_Kansas

Arlington is a city in Reno County, **Kansas**, United States. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 473. Contents. [hide]. 1 History; 2 Geography ...

[View article on Wikipedia »](#)

[Love Small Town America | Arlington, Kansas | Home](#) ✓

<http://www.lovesmalltownamerica.com/arlingtonks.php>

One visit to **Arlington, Kansas** in Reno County will be forever etched into your memory.

[City of Arlington, KS - Home | Facebook](#) ✓

<https://www.facebook.com/arlingtonks/>

City of **Arlington, KS**. 80 likes · 6 talking about this · 4 were here. This is the official Facebook page for the City of **Arlington, KS**. Updates about...

[Things to do in Arlington, Kansas | Facebook](#) ✓

<https://www.facebook.com/places/Things-to-do-in-Arlington-Kansas/108125979215957/>

Discover **Arlington, Kansas** with the help of your friends. Search for restaurants, hotels, museums and more.

[Arlington Community Center - Home | Facebook](#) ✓

<https://www.facebook.com/arlingtoncommunitycenter/>

Arlington Community Center, **Arlington, KS**. 209 likes · 8 talking about this · 50 were here. A public use facility serving Arlington and western Reno County.

[Arlington, Kansas \(KS 67514\) profile: population, maps, real estate ...](#) ✓

<http://www.city-data.com/city/Arlington-Kansas.html>

of Trekell's 4-month-old son, Jayson, at their home in **Arlington** on Christmas Eve 1987. Evidence showed Bigby also was accused but not tried for killing two ...

[Arlington 2017: Best of Arlington, KS Tourism - TripAdvisor](#) ✓

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g29408-Arlington_Kansas-Vacations.html

Arlington Tourism: TripAdvisor has 11 reviews of **Arlington** Hotels, Attractions, and Restaurants making it your best **Arlington** resource.

[Carolyn's Essenhaus - Home](#) ?

<http://www.carolynsessenhaus.com/>

104 E. Main, **Arlington, KS** 67514 P.O. Box 24 • 620-538-4711. BUSINESS HOURS: Monday - Friday: 6:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., Saturday: 6:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Detour brought us past a crumbling school.
- Almost everyone was doing their part to keep their property clean.
- Because of detour, we didn't see the city sign board on entry.



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Entrances (as of January 30)
- No signage to City Hall



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Downtown was clean and the sidewalks were in great shape.
- Empty stores were tidy and maintained.
- The open businesses looked inviting.
- Nice mural on the side of saloon.



Downtown Business Area

- All the buildings were in good shape.
- Startled when a dog barked from a building we thought was a business, but is now a home.
- Two restaurants. We ate at both.
- People were friendly and the food was spectacular.



Downtown Business Area

- Good signage on active businesses.
- Those that weren't used, seemed neat and organized inside.
- 2 beauty shops, 1 not open. The other was gorgeous and the owner was inviting and gracious.
- Antique store that we would have loved to go into, but we didn't call them to ask them to open it.



Downtown Business Area

- Cabinetmaker stopped what he was doing and showed us the showroom. He does amazing work.
- Greeted with a smile at all four businesses.



Downtown Business Area (Public Amenities)

- Visitor's didn't notice any public restrooms or benches, drinking fountains or trash cans.
- Photos show benches in front of Carolyn's.



Other Retail Shopping Areas

- There was a small store in the old hotel. We were told you can get ice, bread and pop there.
- Eula's: Very attractive business front in a residential neighborhood.



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- We did not see an area dedicated for Industrial parks

Observation:

- “Entrepreneurs who choose to start their small businesses are responsible for 63 percent of net new jobs created in the United States every year.” *It would be better to think about how to help them in your downtown spaces than to worry about industrial.*
- *The same UPS truck who competed with your downtown can help your entrepreneur serve the world.*

Health Care Services

- No health care in Arlington, except EMT
- A Counseling Office on Main Street
- Health Care Services are readily available in Hutchinson, Sterling, Kingman and Wichita hospitals.
- There is no long-term care in Arlington. Senior services are in-home or foot care at the Senior Center.



Housing

- There are 264 housing units (2015)
- 241 are occupied (91.3%) (KS= 89.5%)
- 23 are vacant (8.7%) (KS= 10.5%)
- Owner Occupied: 180 (75%) (KS=66.7%)
- Renter Occupied: 61 (25%) (KS= 33.3%)



(Source: www.Factfinder.census.gov)

Housing

- We were impressed by the nice houses for sale.
- Clearly a sense of pride in their homes and property.



Housing

- I saw one rental house and the income-qualified housing.
- None of the visitors spoke about asking at the City office for a list of rentals– Would they have found a list there?



Housing observations



- **Need for clean-up/demolition of older properties**
- Only a few blighted areas.



Schools

- Children go to school in Fairfield.
- Elementary School is well-utilized as the City Office, Community Gym, Library.
- Second school is falling in and an eyesore.
- Information about the schools is readily found online.



Childcare

- There are no licensed child care providers, but there are some providers.
- An afterschool program operates at the Fairfield Elementary School.

Faith/Religion

- There are two churches: United Methodist and Presbyterian



Civic

- The visitors didn't think there were any civic groups in town.
- Photos caught Lions Club activity.
- Leadership team told us of 4-H and Daisy Girl Scouts.



Civic

- We saw a Senior Center on Main Street.



Public Infrastructure

- Side streets unpaved, but well maintained.
- Not many sidewalks on side streets.
- Not the time of the year for landscaping or streetscapes, so no comment.
- Sidewalk and curbing on Main Street looked new & nice!
- Even accessible for strollers & wheelchairs.



City Hall, Fire, EMS and Police Services

- Very friendly City Clerk.
- EMT only. Visitors saw the EMT go out while they were there.
- EMT is professionally staffed by Hutchinson hospital.



Library

- Has 5 computers, very friendly librarian
- Liked the display of the former class.
- Library has limited hours.
- Another “tiny library” in the park across from church.



City Parks

- Visitors commented on 2 parks— at the city building and off the highway.



City Parks

- An additional park is across from the United Methodist Church.



Recreation/Tourism

- The baseball fields and tennis court/basketball court are not publicly maintained, but used.
- Your team told me there is a walking trail by the Coop, but visitors didn't notice it.



Recreation/Tourism

- We saw your golf course. You are lucky to have one!



Events:

- Visitors said they asked about events and were told that there are none. The FB Page shows events and there is a flyer outside the Library .
- **Your Leadership team named:**
 - Craft Show in March
 - Hwy 61 Garage Sale/Flea Market
 - Gingerbread House
 - Faith Weavers: Two church cooperative
 - 4th of July
 - Farmer's Market
- Community sign shows upcoming events.



Other

- The Coop had a pay at the pump.



Visitor's Center/City Hall

- City Hall is the obvious visitor's center, but it wasn't obvious to a visitor. We needed way-finding signs.
- All the local businesses made us feel welcome and answered our questions.



What would bring you back?

- The Village Place hair salon.
- The food at both restaurants.
- I'd like to see what's inside the antique store.
- If I need cabinets, I'll check with Bontrager's first.



Most Positive Observations

- Sense of community pride.
 - We saw it in the way they kept their homes, businesses, sidewalks, streets and parks.
- Friendly People.
- Nice to have a Post Office still in town.



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Need a bit more signage:
 - City Hall, the motel with the little sundry shop & Parks
- The old school house needs to come down and the junkie wholesalers need to clean up their mess.

What will you remember 6 months from now?

- Welcoming community with great restaurant.
- 3 Dome houses and Eula Henderson.
- Friendly people.



“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

- Margaret J. Wheatley

Thank you to our leadership team:

- *Dedria Ashworth*
- *Kelsi Depew*
- *Jan Steen*
- *Betsy Trembley*

- **Set next steps!**

- Which group will lead the discussion?

- **Contact me if you need resources or help:**

- Nancy Daniels
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