

First Impressions

Clifton & Vining, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership with
The Dane G. Hansen Foundation



Population: Clifton – 554

Education: HS – 92.8 BS – 14.1

Median age: 46.4 years

Poverty rate: 6.2%

Median income: \$52,708

(Source: factfinder.census.gov)

Vining - 45

HS – 100% BS – 9.4%

41.0 years

0.0%

\$50,208



Web Presence

- Web search was not helpful
- There is a Facebook page however it is not updated
- School webpage
- Tailgaters Steakhouse Facebook page



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Quiet small town
- Main Street well kept but many vacant buildings
- Wide variety of homes



- Noticed the Clifton sign coming in from the north
- Nice highway improvements
- Side streets could use some improvements



Downtown Business Area

- Occupied buildings looked in good shape
- The city building and bank stood out
- Sidewalks were nice in some areas and broken up in others



- In Clifton there was a grocery store, funeral home, gas station, storage facility, bank and diner



- In Vining there was a CVA building, restaurant and automotive shop



- Another visitor also noted the bakery, a 2nd gas station and an insurance agency.



- Several vacant buildings in downtown Clifton
- They were greeted and people were friendly and open to questions.
- They liked the newly painted light poles



- Grocery store was nice with staple items plus balloons, cards and wrapping paper
- The café advertised their hours and was inviting
- The bar & grill did not have hours posted. The sign said they were open but did not appear to be.



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- The co-operative seems to be the major business in town



- Seed dealer on the east side of Main Street
- Building Supply on West Main
- Fertilizer plant on the east entrance



Health Care

- No medical services available
- They have an ambulance
- Senior Citizens Center
- One visitor thought there might be assisted living units by the church on the HWY.



Housing

- Total housing units: Clifton – 220; Vining - 30
- Owner occupied housing units: Clifton – 86.4%; Vining – 73.9%
- Renter occupied housing units: Clifton – 13.6%; Vining – 26.1%
- Vacant housing units: Clifton – 21; Vining - 7
- Median home value: Clifton - \$61,100; Vining - \$61,700
- (Source – factfinder.census.gov)



- Over 54% of Clifton homes built before 1939
- All but 2 homes in Vining were built prior to 1949
- Homes available for a variety of income levels



- Housing difficult to find – have to know someone
- One set of income based apartments.



- Nice homes next to run down ones
- Several properties in need to some TLC



Schools

- Clifton/Clyde Elementary & Middle School located in Clifton
- Nice size facilities
- Good signage



- There are several school Facebook pages
- School website has limited information
- Community support for the Eagles



- What is the use of this house next to the school?



Childcare

- Preschool next to the school
- Conflicting information on daycares



Faith/Religion

- Two churches in the community
- Catholic and Presbyterian



- Church welcome signs at both the North and East entrances
- Signage is inviting



Civic

- They noted the Art Club, Beautification Committee and the KVSB Heritage Club
- Mentioned they were not sure they had Pride or a Lion's Club



- The Legion was not noted
- Great community support in developing the ball fields



Public Infrastructure

- Streets in need of repair
- Street signs were not readable
- Many lots don't have sidewalks



- City Hall and Library nicely signed
- Nice public announcement bulletin board
- Community Newsletter put together by the bank



- Police protection is limited as stations are 30 miles away
- Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance



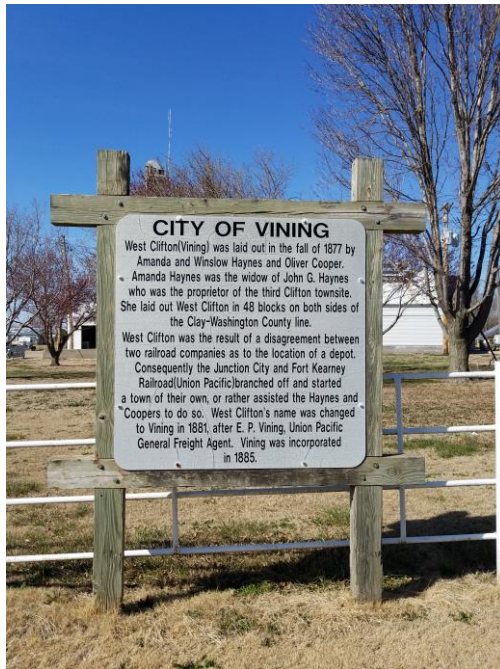
- Small swimming pool with bath house
- Clifton city park attached



- Signage for Berner Memorial Park
- Very nice ball complex behind the park



- Vining park is a nice gathering place
- Provides a bit of community history



- Nice to have recycling but appearance is a concern
- Several areas could use some clean-up



Recreation/Tourism

- The Buffalo Ranch and Museum north of town was mentioned



Attractions not mentioned by visitors

- Toy Museum
- Clifton Historical Site – Railroad Museum
- Vining Post Office site



- Veterans Memorials
- What could be done with the old city hall?



- What is the use of this building?



Are there any restaurants, specialty shops or attractions that would bring you back?

- Tailgaters has a great reputation
- The Bakery



Most Positive Observations!!

- Very friendly people and a bank and other businesses that are really into community support!
- Small town, grocery store, bank and good school system
- Clean downtown



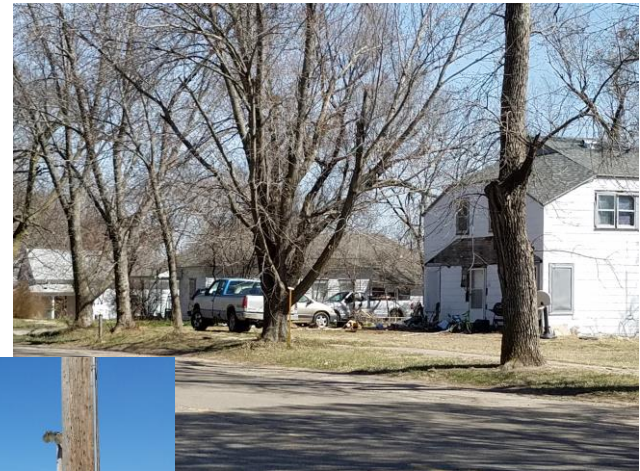
Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Infrastructure repairs – streets, street signs, sidewalks
- Lack of jobs and housing
- Repair/clean-up of vacant commercial and personal properties



What will you remember most in six months?

- The friendly people and their community newsletter
- Nice place to live but very little to do or bring me to town
- A good restaurant, ball field and youth support. Some houses could use a lot of trash clean-up



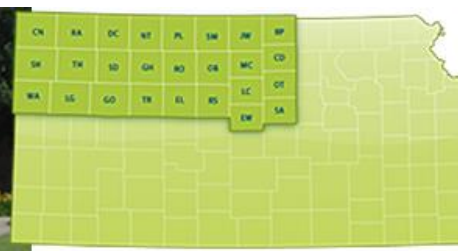
Recommendations

- Development of a city website
- Strengthen the school website
- Regularly update or post to Facebook pages
- Promote historical attractions
- Clean-up of properties
- Street sign improvement
- Residential street repair
- Posting housing opportunities

Kansas PRIDE is helping communities create the type of place they want to call “Home”



- The Dane G. Hansen Foundation wants to help communities in Northwest Kansas become the best they can be and take great PRIDE in who they are and what they can be.



- <http://danehansenfoundation.org/>