

First Impressions

Courtland, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership
with

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation



- Courtland – Population 285
- 27.7% college educated, 92.2% high school
- Median age of 37.4 years
- Poverty rate is 2.4%
- Median household income is \$42,813

(Source: factfinder.census.gov)



Web Presence

- RepublicCountyKansas.com
- Some outdated information and links not active
- Nice Courtland Fun Day Facebook page



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- A farming community
- The great feel of a small town environment
- No grocery store



- Large sign on HWY 36 that points toward the town
- From the south entrance not much as far as signs
- Kept up store fronts
- Elevator needs painting



Downtown Business Area

- Clean and well kept, rustic feel
- Love how the community is trying to make the most of the downtown area
- Most businesses downtown were service oriented
- Cars downtown!



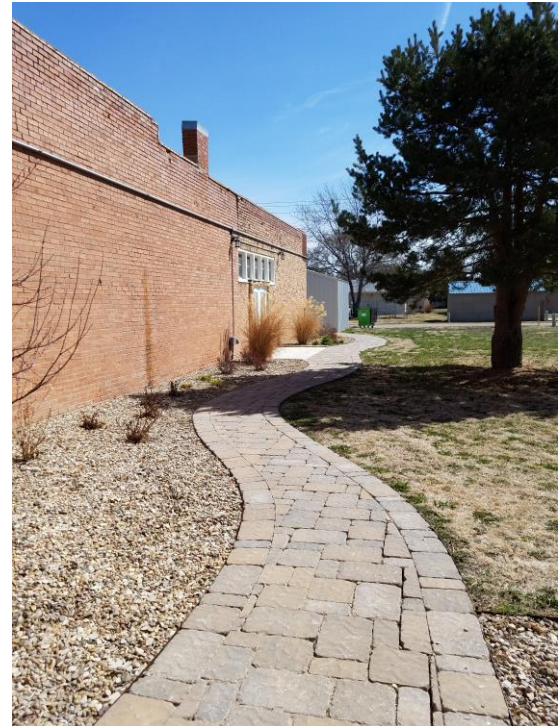
- Antiques, 2 salons, Nex-Tech, Newspaper, bank



- Pinky's – rustic looking, lot next door had a large log just hanging out
- Tebow Plumbing – need to know what they do



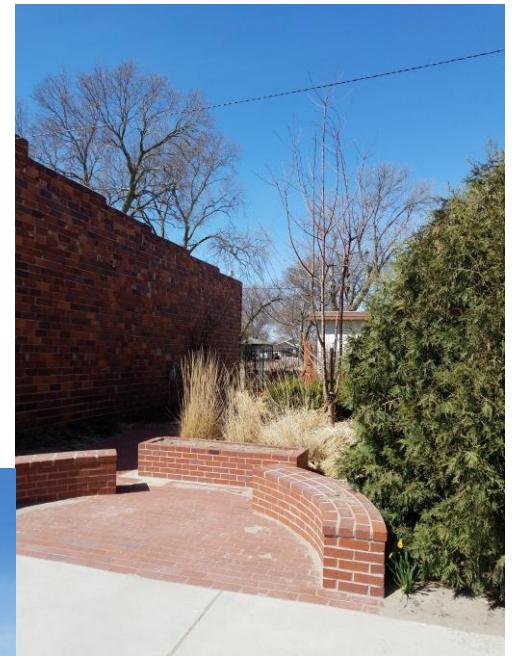
- Art Center – lucky to have this!
- Wonderful resource that works in many ways for the community – love the old arch – this could be a wonderful garden/outdoor meeting area.



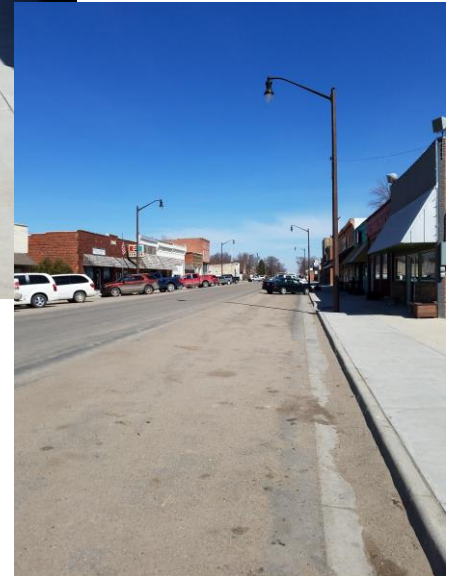
- A few vacant buildings
- Back of a couple of lots could use clean up
- Tire disposal would improve appearance at the Firestone Station



- Love the farm mural
- Pocket park on west side nicely done
- Sand on sitting/walkway detracted from appearance



- Benches everywhere
- Pots on corners of streets –these will be attractive during the warmer months
- Attractive street lights



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- Mostly ag services located in the southern part of town



- Two unusual ag or entrepreneurial services
- NS could use better signage



- Several commercial businesses or areas could use some clean-up



Health Care

- Courtland Family Clinic
- Senior Center
- No dentist or optometry but this is available with 20 minutes



Housing

- Total housing units – 75
- Owner occupied housing units – 70.3%
- Renter occupied housing units – 29.7%
- Vacant housing units – 18
- Median home value - \$53,800
- (Source – factfinder.census.gov)



- Majority of homes built before 1939
- Homes available for a variety of income levels



- Only a few houses for sale
- One set of income based apartments.



- A few homes could use some TLC



Schools

- Pike Valley Elementary and Junior High located in Courtland
- Nice size facilities



- Website link for elementary school not active
- Good Facebook



Childcare

- They were told there are two child care providers available in the community
- Head Start is also available



Faith/Religion

- Three churches were found (possible 4th?)





Civic

- 4-H, Head Start, Schools, City of Courtland, Typical small town groups
- Did not note any signs of nonprofit organizations



Public Infrastructure

- Streets in need of repair
- Some exceptional sidewalks
- Could use some directional signage



- City office easy to find and staff very helpful
- Fire station noted
- Library only open one day a week



- City park and pool very nice
- Good playground equipment
- Nice tennis courts



- Area behind pool and park not welcoming
- Signage needs replaces



- Ball field and park not signed
- Sand volleyball court
- Public bathrooms
- Playground equipment
- Nice picnic area



- Nice ball field with batting cage
- Concession stand
- Where is the spectator seating?



- Park area needs some clean-up
- Is there a way to tie the brick entrance into the rest of the complex?



Recreation/Tourism

- Courtland Fun Days
- Pawnee Indian Village
- Lovewell Lake



Are there other things to be capitalized on??



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

- Pinky's – not very clean but the food was good
- The restaurant on east Main Street was unmarked as a restaurant. Smelled good! Nice people working there.



Most Positive Observations!!

- The people were very friendly and most houses were well cared for.
- Well kept, lots of attractions for a small town. Few minor things would make for a great small town.



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Dirt on/and the condition of the streets.
- Some downtown businesses need exterior updating
- Need better signage



What will you remember most in six months?

- The welcoming people and small town vibe
- Welcome sign – very nice (modern)
- Antique shopping
- Not easy to find things – needs better signage



Recommendations

- Directional signage for park and ball field
- Clean-up of a couple of commercial lots and area behind the city park and pool
- Cross promoting between area attractions
- Making sure all links are active or work on website
- Where do adults go for physical activity?
- Market yourselves more – this is a hidden gem of a small town

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/>