

First Impressions

Jewell, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership
with

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation



Demographics:

- Population: 432
- Graduation rates: High School- 91.6%
College – 16.9%
- Median age: 50.4 years
- Poverty rate: 12.0%
- Median household income: \$37,500 (KS \$50,972)

(Source: factfinder.census.gov)



Web Presence:

- Not much information online
- No city website
- Several Facebook pages related to Jewell



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Beautiful welcome sign!
- Small town with a lot of pride in keeping it clean and up to date.



- Great park/town square!
- Lack directional signage
- Old lumberyard and equipment was distracting



- None of the teams mentioned the east entrance. It's a beautiful drive in.
- Could one of the old Jewell signs be placed on the east entrance?



Downtown Business Area

- Nicely kept downtown
- Newly constructed building on one block – community center, library, 4 hotel rooms, preschool



- Good service at the grocery store with a daily lunch special
- The Scoop – hours are irregular however
- Car Wash



- The Guaranty Bank
- The Hair Den??
- Other retail opportunities very limited



- Very attractive streetscaping with planters, benches, covered trash cans, and street banners



- A few empty building
- A few with clean-up needs



Other Retail Shopping Areas

- Doesn't appear to be any retail other than downtown
- Curiosity – what are these buildings or services?



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- Jewell Implement Case IH



- Bohnert Welding, LLC



- Other ag services
- Gas Station



- Electronics recycling at old high school
- Bourbon Trailers??



- Several old commercial areas could use some clean-up to improve appearance of community from the highway



Housing

- Total housing units – 267
- Owner occupied housing units – 73.1%
- Renter occupied housing units – 26.9%
- Vacant housing units – 17.1%
- Median home value - \$\$35,000
- (Source – factfinder.census.gov)



- Only noticed one house for sale
- Only noticed one house for rent
- Wide variety of housing types



- Noted two apartment complexes
- One appeared to be income based



- As in all communities, a few homes and yards which could use some TLC.



Schools

- High School has been repurposed
- What about the grade school?
- Sign on highway?



- Love the sign on the highway



Childcare

- Wish the preschool/childcare could have been successful
- Sign advertising in home childcare at the grocery store



Faith/Religion

- Active churches are well maintained. The following churches were noted – Christian, Calvary Bible Evangelical Free, Assembly of God and Trinity United Methodist



- Sign was noted for the Calvary Bible Evangelical Free Church from the highway but the building was hard to see



- Wonderful old church building that is crumbling . . . It is always hard to see because we love old buildings



Civic

- FB page for Jewell Community Youth Group
- American Legion
- Chamber of Commerce
- Garden Club and Lions Club



- Sunflower Foundation
- Maag Memorial
- NCK WI-FI



Public Infrastructure

- Streets well maintained
- New curb and guttering
- Overall very clean!



- City Office well marked and staff was very helpful
- Nice fire station
- No evidence of police



- Very nice library
- Provide community programming
- Friendly staff



- Town Square/Park- a dream most every community would like to have
- Well planned and very inviting



- Camper hook-ups
- Signage for Emerson Lake and Walking Trail



Recreation/Tourism

- Annual Jewell Corn Show
- Slogan – What Happens in Jewell Stays in Jewell
- Fort Jewell Memorial in the park



- Emerson Lake and Walking Trail
- Directional signage greatly needed



- Jewell Inn
- The Loft Apartments



- Country Corner RV Park – advertised from all entries but still difficult to find



- What is the status of the museum?



Most Positive Observations!!

- Very clean community with friendly people!
- Town square/park
- Emerson Lake and Jewell Trails
- Community Building



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Lack of medical and emergency services
- Being rural and no school with an elderly population
- Business attraction
- Broaden the economic base
- Pulling folks to the downtown area
- Website and community promotion
- Signage

What will you remember most in six months?

- Friendly people with warm personalities
- The wonderful town square with foresight to have hot water and showers.
- Emerson Lake and Jewell Trails
- A very clean and prideful community!
- The Community Building
- Kevin's chili!



Recommendations:

- Community website
- Directional signage
- Moving one of the old Jewell signs to the east side of town
- Clean-up of several buildings around the square
- Promoting The Loft Apartments and the Jewell Inn
- Tree trimming and planting to go along with Tree City USA

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/>