

First Impressions

Long Island, Kansas

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



Long Island Demographics

- Population – 131
- Median Household Income - \$44,375
- High School Education –94.4 %, College Education – 19.4%
- Median resident age is 38.4 years
- Poverty rate is 2.3%

Source: <http://factfinder2.census.gov>



Web Presence:

- <https://www.mapquest.com/us/long-island-282028442>
- [https://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Island, Kansas](https://en.Wikipedia.org/wiki/Long_Island,_Kansas) Reports schools were closed due to consolidation
- <http://Kansas.hometownlocator.com/ks/phillips/long-island.cfm>
- <https://www.facebook.com/places/Things-to-do-in0Long-Island-Kansas/103439209688313/>
- Discover Phillips County has a link for Long Island but it takes you to Wikipedia.

The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Nice “Welcome to Long Island” signs
- Water tower view from SW paints an ionic picture of a small town
- Decaying house detracts from First Impression



- Consistent welcome signs from all entrances
- Hammond Hut catches your attention
- Strong ag base is evident



- Barnyard animals in the center of town
- Abandoned cars detract from the appearance of the community
- Corner park with picnic bench is an opportunity for development

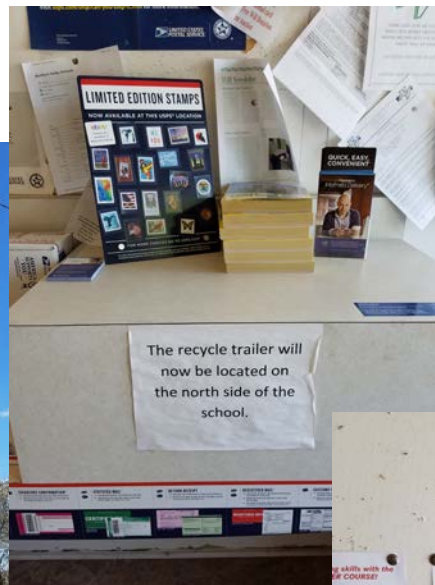


- They liked the community support of financing signs through memorial gifts
- Phillips County “4-H Reminds you to Buckle Up”
- Several First National Bank signs



Downtown Business Area

- Historic looking Post Office
- First National Bank and Trust a strong presence



- Saddlery Shop – not evident it was open to customers
- Boot Shop??



- Gas Station
- Hammond Hut – wish it was open for a longer season



Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- Ag Services on the north side of town



- Clean-up of several of these areas could greatly improve the appearance of the community



Health Care Services

- Health care services readily available in Phillipsburg (22 miles), Alma(17 miles) or Norton (22 miles). It was reported that most elders move to Alma or Norton to be closer to health care services as they age.

Housing

- Total Number of Housing Units – 81
- Median house value in \$43,644
- Occupied – 67
- Vacant - 14
- Home owned – 55.2%
- Homes rented – 44.8%
- Approximately 50% of houses were built before 1939



Housing observations

- A mix of housing
- Few houses for sale
- Has more rentals than most NW Kansas Communities



- Working on cleaning up some areas
- Others areas need improvement to make more appealing



Schools

- Northern Valley Middle School located here
- School website could use some updating



- Good to see the school playground double as the community park



Childcare

- This may be the most pressing need in the community to keep young families

Faith/Religion

- One church located in the community
- One church located south of town



Civic

- Saw a sign for a Lions club which has disbanded
- An American Legion
- Newly formed PRIDE group
- Evidence of good community support through donations and memorials



Public Infrastructure

- Streets a mix of paved and sand/gravel. Some standing water after rains
- Mixture of sidewalk conditions



- City Hall is located in the same building as the volunteer fire and EMS
- City Hall was not open the day of the visit
- County sheriff's office provides law enforcement



- Wonderful community center with library
- Nice digital signage
- Picnic tables out front for seating

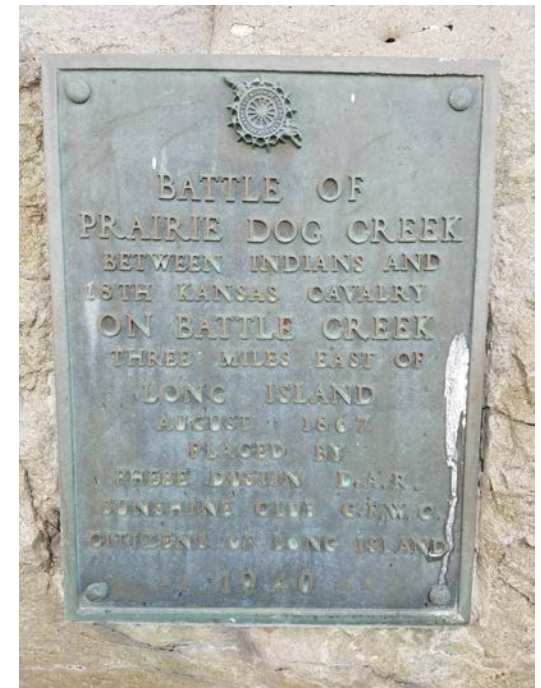


- Could the area south of the community center be turned into a small park?
- Park area to the west of the Hammond Hut needs cleanup to make inviting to use
- What are possibilities for the tennis and basketball courts and old football field?



Recreation/Tourism

- Recreation and tourism events or activities were not evident
- The historic marker has potential if the area was cleaned up and made more inviting. As it is, it's hidden and difficult to find.



Restaurants, Specialty Shops or Attractions that would bring you back

- This is a cute NW Kansas town, but there is no place for a visitor to leave any money behind except at the gas station
- Would stop at the Hammond Hut if it was open



Most Positive Observations!!

- The town is neat, friendly and well cared for
- The historic school which has cared for generations of children and is still being well-maintained
- Impressed with the community center and the fire and ems facility



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- The lack of a store or restaurant so travelers can leave money behind in the community
- The challenge of finding high quality, affordable child care
- Need for clean-up to spruce up the community
- Location



What will you remember the most in six months from now?

- How cool it would be if Long Island could have a walking trail on the abandoned rail road lines.

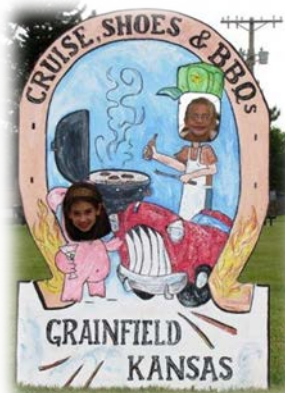


Recommendations:

- Updated information on Discover Phillips County website
- Clean-up of some properties/demolition
- Year around dining facility
- Child care facility
- Clean-up of historical marker
- Jazz up the filling station
- Livestock in community??



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/>