

First Impressions

Plainville, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership
with

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation

The logo for the Dane G. Hansen Foundation features a stylized tan arch above the text "DANE G. HANSEN" in a bold, dark blue serif font. Below this, the word "FOUNDATION" is written in a smaller, dark blue serif font, with each letter separated by a wide space. A second, larger tan arch is positioned behind the word "FOUNDATION".

DANE G. HANSEN

F O U N D A T I O N

Plainville Demographics

- Population – 1,903
- Median Household Income - \$39,233
- High School Education – 90.8%, College Education –21.2 %
- Median resident age is 38.9 years
- Poverty rate is 14.7%

Source: factfinder.census.gov



Web Presence:

- www.plainvilleks.com
- <http://rookscounty.net>
- <http://www.getruralkansas.org/Plainville/119Explore/468.shtml>



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- The town looked very clean and kept
- The city park looks new with a new swimming pool
- The houses are well kept



- There are a lot of mechanic shops (oil field industry)
- Most yards well kept with little clutter outside
- Some lots which looked like houses had been removed



- Entrance signs to the community could be updated
- Directional signage is lacking



Downtown Business Area

- Nice wide main street
- Sidewalks are clear and free of clutter
- Nice brick/tile enhancements for cross walks



- Variety of business and retail stores
- The people were friendly and customer service was good
- Nice selection of items in the grocery store



- There are several empty buildings
- Could easily walk between businesses



- Nice little mini park
- A few benches and flower pots



- Some buildings could use paint and a little maintenance and landscaping



- There was no mention of Dessin Fournir
- Many of their buildings are not signed



Other Retail Areas

- Mostly along HWY 183
- A few on K-18

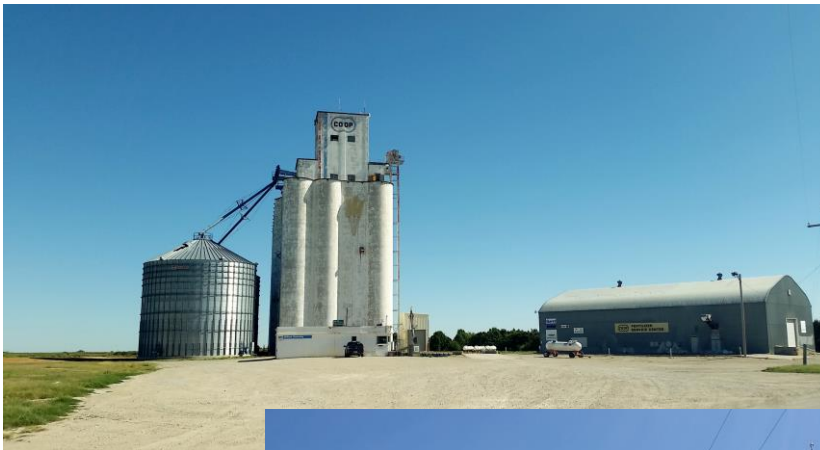


Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas

- The industrial park/commercial areas stand out
- It could use some clean-up or fences to obstruct the views



- Ag services located on the east side of town
- Nice clean area around elevator
- Well maintained and mowed around Coffeeville Resources



- Implement dealership on south end
- Many oil field services



- Newest additions – Bossellman Energy and addition to Plainville Livestock



Health Care Services

- Hospital has a well-kept and nice looking campus
- Adding a new addition to their facilities
- Medical clinic located on same campus



- Dental Office
- Optometrist Office
- Two Chiropractic Offices
- Drug Store



- Nursing Home
- Assisted Living Facility



- Questions on location of EMS
- Senior Center – needs signage



Housing

- Total Number of Housing Units – 945
- Occupied housing units – 843
- Vacant housing units – 102
- Owner occupied – 65.8%
- Renter occupied – 34.2%
- Median house value - \$76,900

Source: 2014 American Communities Survey,
Factfinder.census.gov



Housing observations

- Housing with necessary accommodations may be a challenge
- Plainville website lists a few people with rentals
- A few for sale signs in yards



- Noticed one apartment complex which appeared to be a housing authority
- Housing built in the 50's with need to update or be replaced



- Many nice homes with nice yards



- Some homes with clean-up needs



Schools

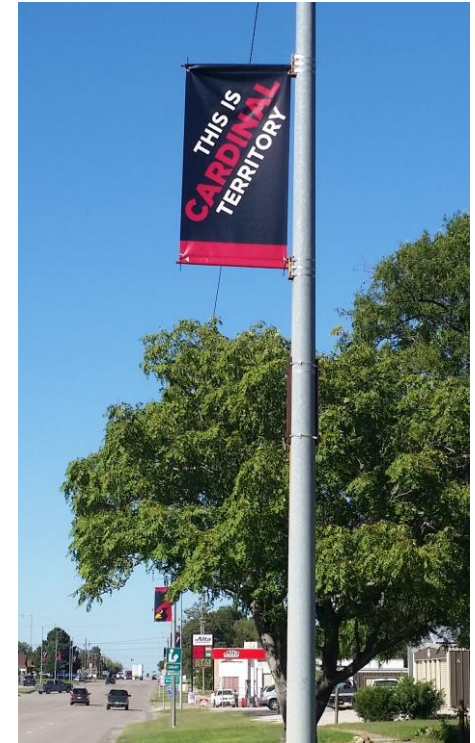
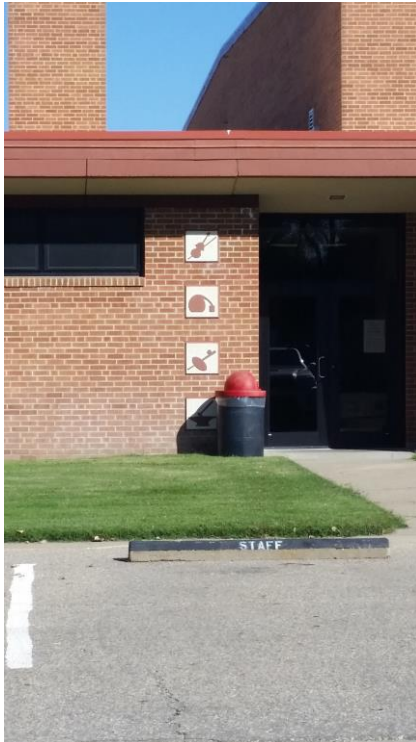
- Sacred Heart Parochial School located on the north end of town
- Nice playground equipment in memory of Father Al Brungardt



- Public grade school and high school located just off of HWY 183
- Campuses clean and well maintained



- Nice use of artwork to depict different areas of interest
- Liked the safety message in this sign
- Good community support through shown through banners



- Nice athletic facilities



- Entrepreneurship program at the school
- Education Center???



Childcare

- Noticed a house which might be a daycare because of the toys lined up outside
- Did not see anything that was a public day care center



Faith/Religion

- They noticed 3 churches – Catholic, Methodist and Baptist
- Website lists 7 churches



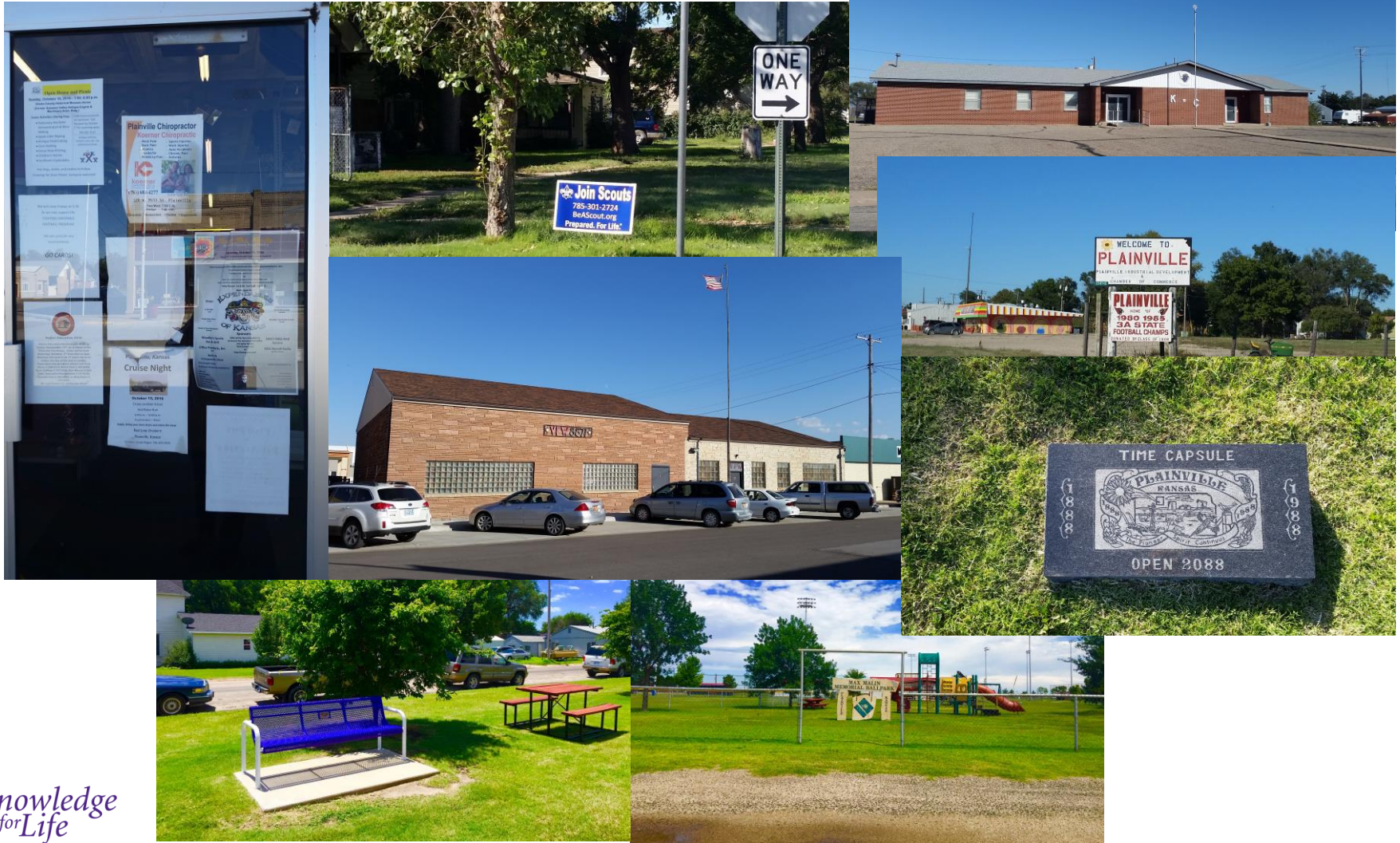


Civic

- The Lions Club is visible in the community
- Civic organizations are listed under Plainville on Rooks County website

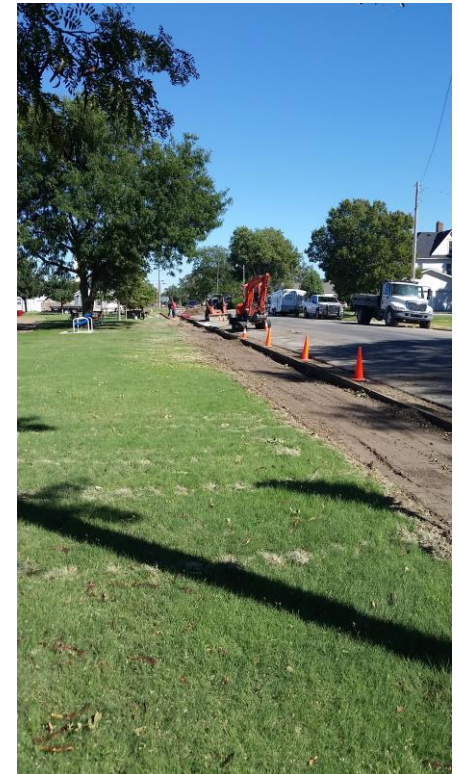


- There is a lot of civic activity in Plainville... It's just not noted or mentioned

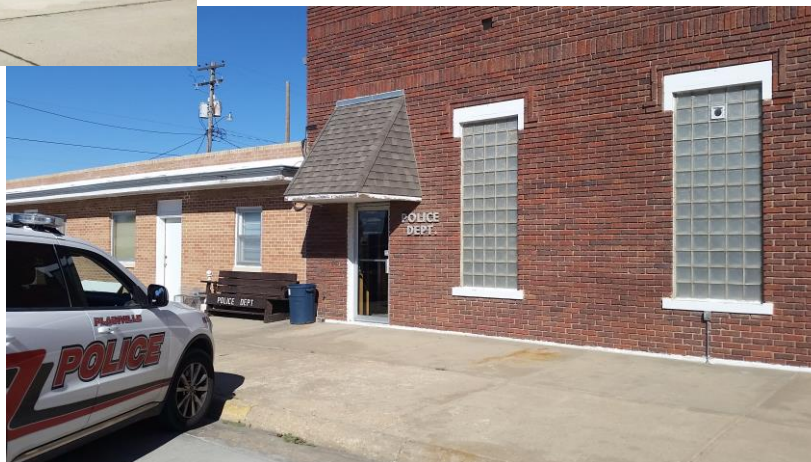


Public Infrastructure

- The streets were well kept
- Sidewalks appeared to be in good shape
- Street signage was adequate
- Directional signage was lacking



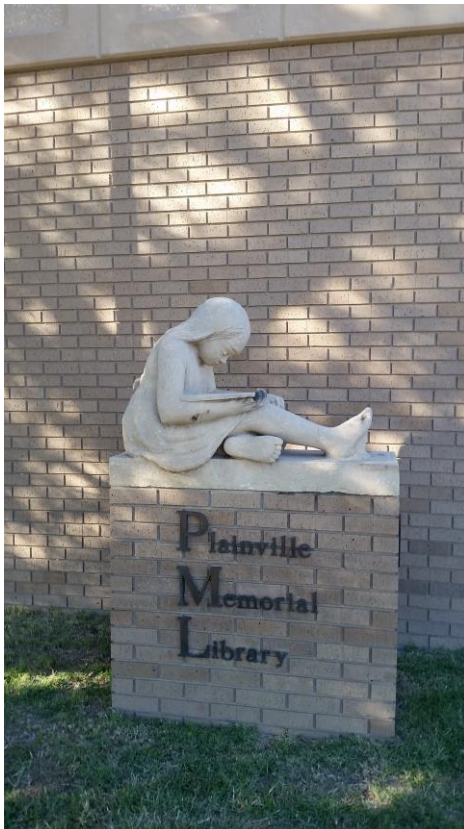
- City Hall located downtown
- Police Department around the corner
- Large volunteer fire department



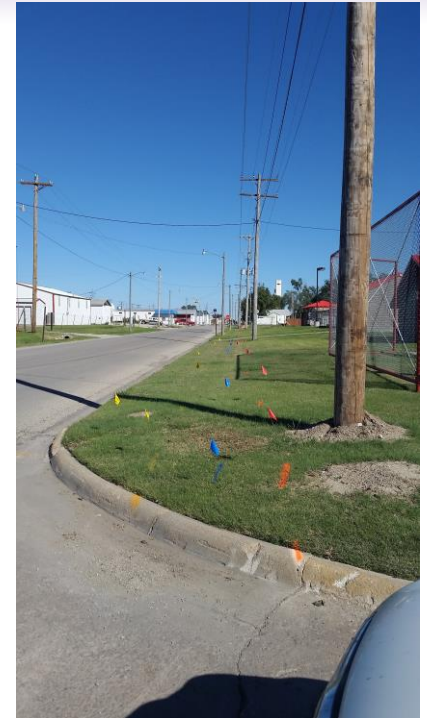
- Clean city shop
- Grass recycling spot
- Regional airport
- Plainville St. Shop



- Well-kept Library
- Nice memorial statue
- Exhibits great school pride



- Very nice looking park
- New playground equipment in recent years
- Unique benches for sitting
- Sidewalk improvements



- Basketball Courts
- Attractive Shelters



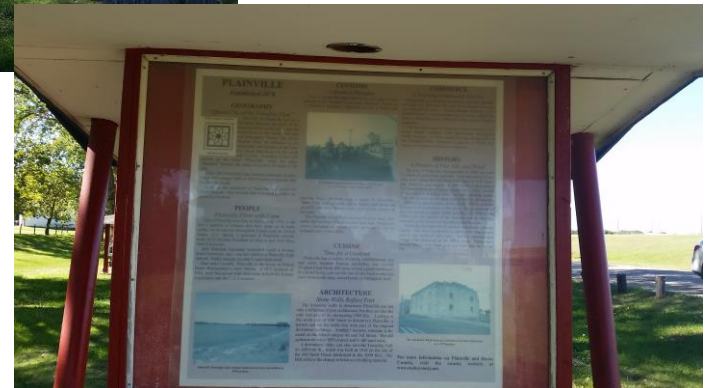
- Pool adjacent to the park
- Nice landscaping in front of the pool
- Safe drop off with circular drive



- Gazebo park on the east side of HWY183



- Roadside Adventure Park
- Historic Kiosk – what other info could be placed here?



- Very nice memorial ball park
- Could use directional signage



Recreation/Tourism

- Team did not note any attraction or event held in Plainville
- Website mentions Paradise Creek Festival



- Plainville Township Lake
- Rooks County Golf Course



- Team did not find the Chamber of Commerce however they are listed on entrance signs
- Chamber is listed with civic organizations on the Rooks County website



Attractions that would bring you back:

- The local bar and grill was well priced and had good service
- The pool and park



Most Positive Observations!

- People were friendly
- The shops were clean and welcoming
- A community that I could seriously consider moving to



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Affordable and adequate housing
- Proximity to Hays



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

- School campus was well kept
- Sidewalks are good and not broken up
- A good burger can be found at the bar and grill
- Essential oils can be purchased at the drug store
- There is a local Lions club



Recommendations:

- Directional or way finder signage
- Business signage in the downtown area
- New entrance signage – consider limestone to tie into other community signs
- Improvements in appearance of industrial/commercial areas
- Boost the getruralkansas.org website for tourist attraction

- 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/>