

# First Impressions

Compiled Report Form



**Community Visited:** Haysville

**Date(s) Visited:** a.) Monday 8/12/2019

b.) Wednesday 8/7/2019 c.) Thursday 8/22/2019

1. **Pre-visit web search:** How easy was it to get information on the community you were visiting? Did it accurately reflect what you saw? Did you have difficulties obtaining information on the community through a web search?

- a. The website is great, super easy to navigate, things that stood out, current upcoming events scrolling across the home page, HELLO HAYSVILLE, easy to find 2019 budget, as well as current sales tax projects, city codes, door to door license. No real searching at all. Bicycle club, baseball, swim club, football, activity center, library, Fall Festival, healthy habits coalition, commercial real-estate available for rent, lease or purchase. Just a few things I learned about from the website.
- b. Nice list of restaurants, no list of retail shopping. List of events hard to read.
- c. Website is easy to navigate, full of good information.

2. **The “Five-Minute” Impression:** After taking a five-minute drive through the community without stopping, the following reactions were noted. The following observations were noted when entering the community from major entrances (signs, streetscapes, buildings, etc.)

- a. Clean, well maintained, lots of work going on. Newer buildings, lots of activity. Town was larger than I originally thought. Really spread out, I did not see any historical (old town) section of town.
- b. Most things are nice, neat, and new. Nice sign with year est. 1951
- c. Nice signage and flags throughout town. A lot of new buildings. Great signs, buildings are nice.

3. **Downtown Business Area**

**Describe the buildings, signs, infrastructure, etc. Explain what type of businesses you observed and give a description of the variety and quality of merchandise displayed. Describe the customer service received when you entered those retail businesses. (Were you greeted? Did you have to ask for assistance?)**

- a. Everything looked newer, not historical, I did see the Historic District, Community Pride on display. Everything looked clean, the community looked like the residents have pride in what they have, and it shows. I found it to be very nice, busy, like things are happening, not sleepy at all. I went into Ace Hardware, I purchased a bird feeder and some seed, was greeted in a warm inviting manner, had a great conversation with both gentlemen, paid and left, great transaction. I went next door to HomeTown, which is home based in Ark City, where I talked to Oscar, who just finished cleaning up the outside of the windows, keeping with the theme I saw in Haysville, which was a sense of community pride, taking care of what you have. Had a hamburger at Reds. Wonderful, loved the atmosphere, this place seems like where to go to find out what's really happening. Greeted promptly, friendly and with an inviting smile. Was asked if I needed any assistance everywhere I went.
- b. Could not distinguish a "downtown area" or a shopping area. Most businesses were not shopping retail. A couple of manufacturing businesses.
- c. I didn't observe a distinct downtown business area. There was not a lot of retail nor boutiques. We stopped at a thrift store- Nifty Thrifty shop. Nifty Thrifty- owner (April) greeted us right away and introduced herself. She was very informative and pleasant. Ate at Red's. Very friendly- great service.

**What public amenities were available (drinking fountains, benches, public restrooms, etc.) Comment on appealing landscaping and streetscaping. Did you have difficulty finding parking? Could you access multiple services from where you parked?**

- a. I know some Wi-Fi was available from looking at the web site pre visit, and knew it was bike friendly, again, pre visit web site (bike club) which gave me confidence in the availability of fountains, benches, bike racks, and general things like that. I was not disappointed. For the most part, with the general layout of the town, I never really saw a specific shopping area, (where you would park and explore for 4 or 5 blocks on both sides of the road) the shopping areas seemed more spread around town. I was able to visit multiple places by parking and exploring.
- b. No Answer.
- c. Bike signs around Riggs Park, benches. Benches at Pride Park also. There were several areas with beautiful landscaping and fountains.

#### **4. Other Retail Shopping Areas**

**Describe other retail shopping areas. Were the areas attractive and easy to access?**

- a. I saw several shopping areas, they were spread out around town. All had great access, and I felt like the whole town was attractive and inviting.
- b. No Answer
- c. Other retail- Dollar General, Cash Saver- newer buildings, easy to identify.

## **5. Industrial Parks/Commercial Areas**

**Is there a defined area where manufacturing industries could easily locate/expand? If so, describe.**

- a. The industrial area coming into town off the interstate looks to room to expand.
- b. No Answer
- c. Noted an industrial park.

## **6. Health Care Services**

**Comment on the availability and apparent quality of hospitals and emergency medical services.**

- a. Did not see a hospital or emergency medical service signs, I may have been too distracted looking at everything else.
- b. No Answer
- c. I didn't notice any signage or buildings for health care.

**Comment on the availability and condition of facilities for physicians, dentists, optometrists, public health and other healthcare providers.**

- a. NA
- b. NA
- c. Saw a nice dental office- did not see any other healthcare buildings.

**What long-term care services, assisted living or nursing facilities exist in the community?**

- a. I did not notice any, they could have been located in more residential areas.
- b. Noted one nice long term care facility
- c. I didn't notice any- the Haysville website mentions the senior center.

**Did you notice any specific efforts to promote healthy choices and behaviors? (i.e. farmers markets, breastfeeding welcome here decals, designated smoking/non-smoking areas, etc.)**

- a. Saw no smoking signs, smoking area signs. Saw the farmer's market sign and area. Saw lots of people biking and walking, paths with lots of trees well-manicured, very appealing.
- b. Market area for Saturday markets.
- c. Farmer's market

## 7. Housing

**Give a brief description of the existing mix of housing stock. Does the local market have housing that would appeal to all income wages? What challenges do you see in regards to finding acceptable housing? (Neighborhoods, size, properties for sale, etc.)**

- a. It appears to have a good selection of homes for rent or sale, I did not see too many for rent signs, but did see good amounts of residential areas and apartment buildings.
- b. Older neighborhoods noted.
- c. Houses don't seem very old. Noticed newer housing and housing that looked no older than 50's-60's. Nice housing areas

**What kind of rental properties did you observe for persons interested in building or simply living in the community prior to buying housing?**

- a. I only saw a few rental signs, but like most communities the local realtors can take care of all your needs. Also saw several large apartment buildings with available space.
- b. NA
- c. There were no obvious signs of property for rent.

## 8. Schools

**Do the following schools appear to be adequate in size or do you see the use of temporary classrooms? Are the buildings and grounds well-maintained?**

- a. Saw several schools. Also saw a young man riding a unicycle, super cool, not sure why but it made me very happy.
- b. Very impressive school buildings. Noted a Catholic school- 2 large middle schools.
- c. Early learning center, 2 middle schools, high schools. Very visually appealing. Large elementary school.

**Were you able to find online information in the community that helped assess the quality of the educational system?**

- a. Yes, there was ample information on the Haysville website.
- b. NA
- c. Yes- on the USD 261 website-I would link that to Haysville website.

## **9. Childcare**

**Were you able to determine if childcare was affordable and available?**

- a. NA
- b. NA
- c. The only childcare type option I saw was the early learning center.

## **10. Faith/Religion**

**Comment on the number of denominations and the physical appearances of the faith communities represented in the community. Did you observe any evidence of faith-based community services?**

- a. Saw many churches, I felt like this was a religious community, and encompassed all faiths.
- b. NA
- c. There are a lot of churches- unsure of denominations.

## **11. Civic**

**Tell about the variety of nonprofit organizations and clubs within the community. Did you observe any evidence of civic organization activity?**

- a. NA. I did not observe any civic activity, but I was there on a Friday morning/early afternoon.
- b. No Answer (NA)
- c. I didn't notice any specific signs or buildings for non-profits. No activity was observed.

## **12. Public Infrastructure**

**Comment in general on the streets, street signage, sidewalks, parking, lighting, restrooms, landscaping, and streetscapes in areas other than downtown.**

- a. I thought the town was well maintained, bike friendly, it was daytime but I saw that there was good lighting available, and saw lots of people riding bikes, one riding a unicycle, and many walkers. Great sign of activity in my opinion.
- b. NA
- c. Overall, I felt Haysville was clean and inviting. The walkability seemed good in most places. Overall visual presentation was great.

**Comment on city/town hall (How were you received? Was there information about the town available?)**

- a. I walked through the building and was greeted friendly at every turn, I was only in the building for about 5 minutes but had positive interaction. Very welcoming and helpful.
- b. Chamber of Commerce was closed for 3 days.
- c. Well received.

**Police/fire protection:**

- a. NA
- b. NA
- c. New fire station

**Library:**

- a. NA
- b. NA
- c. The library is well placed and looks very nice.

**City parks (walking tracks, ballparks, playgrounds, sportsplex)**

- a. Loved the ballfields. Parks and playgrounds looked great. Not on accident community pride was on display.
- b. All very nice and inviting as we drove by.
- c. Loved Riggs Park. I could envision bringing my family here.

**13. Recreation/Tourism**

**Is the community well-known for any particular attraction or event? Do they have a community slogan that capitalizes on that asset?**

- a. I saw signs and the ball field for the Aviators which lead me to the ball fields. Great things are happening in Haysville.
- b. I found online that Haysville is the Peach Capitol of Kansas but saw nothing about that on visit.
- c. Website- great things are happening in Haysville. Summer Happening in Haysville Flags.

**Did you see any indication of significant events taking place in the community that would be of interest to both visitors and residents?**

- a. The Market, Gathering at the Gazebo, Gobble Wobble.
- b. Vintage market days, community garage sales, breakfast and dinners at one of the lodges.
- c. No

**Elaborate on any significant natural or manmade features that have the potential of drawing people to the community.** (Public art, museums, lakes, campgrounds, regional heritage locations).

- a. The historic area and Market were very neat, loved the chamber building also.
- b. Proximity to Wichita.
- c. The historic buildings in historic district were neat. Pride Park and Riggs Park.

**Is there an obvious visitor's center, chamber of commerce office, main street office, or other facility that serves the needs of visitors? Comment on the staff, facilities, signage, visibility, etc.**

- a. Loved the chamber building. The Director was out, I was told by a nice gentleman that he was helping unload a truck of some sort, again community pride, doing whatever it takes.
- b. Very cool Vickers Gas Station. Was closed on Wed. 8/7/9
- c. The Chamber of Commerce building is awesome- no on there. Very visible. Didn't see a main street.

**Are there any restaurants, specialty shops or attractions that would bring you back to this community in the near future?**

- a. I ate at Reds and loved it. I will bring my wife back for that experience, and the Gathering at the Gazebo, sounds fun.
- b. NA
- c. I will definitely go back to visit the Nifty Thrifty store. If they have any outdoor festivals, I'd like to check it /them out.

## **14. Wrap-up**

### **What are the most positive things you observed about the community?**

- a. Clean, well groomed, seems like lots happening. Great movement in the town, people getting things done, city crews beautifying that place up. People riding bikes, walking, and enjoying the things the town offers. Loved the trees.
- b. NA
- c. The people we encountered were friendly- it was clean.

### **What are the biggest obstacles/challenges facing this community?**

- a. The community seemed inviting, and looked like a great place to raise a family. They seem to have a plan for the community and are executing it to the best of their ability. There is a historic area, I personally like old buildings and the historical aspect of them. That is something only time will bring.
- b. NA
- c. I would think being a suburb of Derby and Wichita would make owning a small business here a challenge.

### **What will you remember most about this community six month from now (positive or negative)?**

- a. Reds, the Chamber building. Honestly the guy riding the unicycle, and that Haysville is larger and was nicer than I previously thought. My only Haysville interaction prior was working with a man from there. After visiting, I have and will continue to recommend a visit to Haysville. I enjoyed my time there, and felt 100% safe walking around the community. Thank you for this opportunity.
- b. NA
- c. I'll remember how unusually pleasing things were around town, and the great customer service we received.

PowerPoint Presentation is posted at:

<http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/civic-engagement/first-impressions/index.html>

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