

First Impressions

LaCygne, Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership
with

The Dane G. Hansen Foundation



- 2010 Census Population 1,149 (UP 3% since 2000)
- 2015 Estimate 1,284 (UP 15.2% since 2000)
(KS=7.6%)
- 11.0% college educated, 85.8% high school or GED
– KS 31% college education, 90.2% HS or equivalency
- 68.8% family households, 31.2% non-family
- Poverty rate is 11.6% (KS=13.6%)
- Median Age 31.9 years (36)
- Median household income is \$46,667 (\$52,205)

Web Presence:

<http://www.cityoflacygne.org/>

- Attractive and easy to navigate.
- Liked that it outlined the water system improvements so we knew what to expect.
- Photos, when present, add interest.



Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.lacygnechamber.org/>

Facebook

- City's page doesn't show up if you don't put the space: i.e. LaCygne vs. La Cygne.

Page Name: La Cygne City Hall

<https://www.facebook.com/CityofLaCygne/>

The First Entry for LaCygne, KS was:

<https://www.facebook.com/places/Things-to-do-in-La-Cygne-Kansas/109356072417263/>

Other FaceBook Entries

- La Cygne Police Department
- LaCygne Swanfest
- LaCygne Softball Association
- Youthfront Camp LaCygne
- LaCygne Baseball Organization
- LaCygne Chiropractic Clinic
- LaCygne United Methodist Church
- New Life Baptist Church, LaCygne, KS
- Peoples Telecommunications LLC, LaCygne
- Prairie View High LaCygne
- LaCygne Masonic Lodge #61
- LaCygne Farmers Market
- 8 Mile LaCygne
- David & Darah Vanlerberg Ranch, lacygne
- LaCygne Hair Co.
- LaCygne Chiropractic Clinic
- KCP&L LaCygne Power Plant
- La Belle Vie (LaCygne, Kansas)
- LaCygne Lake
- Lacygne Elementary School
- La Cygne State Fishing Lake
- Library District #2 of Linn County—LaCygne, KS
- People's Telecommunications LLC, LaCygne
- La Cygne City of – Gas & Water
- Lacygne Hair Company
- La Cygne Fire Department
- La Cygne City of – Street Dept
- La Cygne Pharmacy
- New Life Baptist Church, LaCygne, KS
- La Cygne Power Stop
- La Cygne Elementary PTO
- AND OTHERS

The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Beautiful walking trail filled with residents walking dogs.
- Water Line Construction was evident; however the web page warned us to be patient, so I knew what to expect.
- Beautiful Library.
- Several empty store fronts.
- Lovely Pocket park.



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- Children crossing at crosswalk, a friendly police officer.
- Children walking in ditches because there were no sidewalks from school to downtown.



The “Five-Minute” Impression

- I’ve been past LaCygne hundreds of times and always thought it was east of US 69 where the power plant is.
- Beautiful entrance sign from the east
- Anxious to revisit this summer with new sidewalks and waterline finished.



Downtown Business Area

Many terrific aspects:

- Library
- Historical Society
- City Offices
- “Definitely made us feel welcome.”
- Police Station



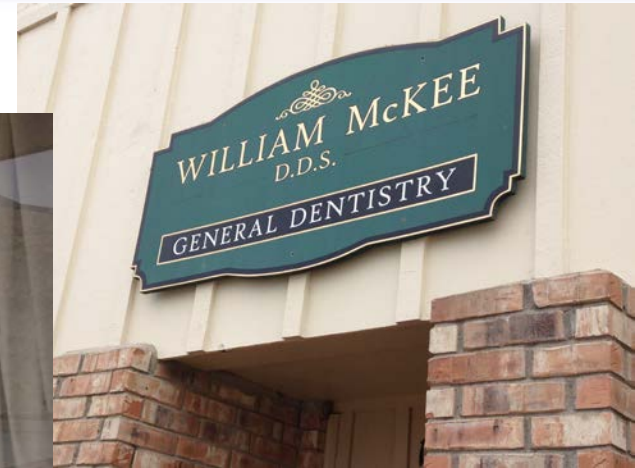
Downtown Business Area

- Rooster's Antique Shop
- Salons
- Chiropractors
- Dentist



Downtown Business Area

- Services are also located downtown.



- Several vacant, dilapidated buildings.
- For a town this size, the variety of businesses were good and surprising



Public Amenities (downtown)

- Benches.
- Pocket Park.
- Easy to Park.
- Accessible sidewalks- for strollers & handicaps.



Other Retail Shopping Areas (Hwy 152)

Many relatively new, attractive businesses:

- Dollar General.
- A new Casey's.
- Automotive shop.
- Blues Bar and Grill



Other Retail Shopping Areas (Hwy 152)

All easily accessible from the highway.

- Grocery Store
- Stainbrook's Farm Supply
- 2 new banks



Other Retail Shopping Areas (Hwy 152)

- Beachner Grain.
- Liquor Store.
- Mixture of new and old structures.



Other Retail Shopping Areas (Hwy 152)

- Car Wash
- Strip Mall with Laundromat



Industrial Parks

- Defined area
- Signage was in need of repair



Health Care Services

- Family health center appeared new/ attractive and very accessible.
- Chiropractor
- Pharmacy
- Good variety & availability is a big plus!



Long Term Care

- No Senior Assisted Living, but many seniors live at LaHarper Heights.
- The Tri-County Home for Special Needs Adults is here



Housing

- There are 602 housing units
- 506 are occupied (96.0%) (KS= 89.5%)
- 96 are vacant (4.0%) (KS= 10.5%)
- Owner Occupied: 271 (54%) (KS=66.7%)
- Renter Occupied: 235 (46%) (KS= 33.3%)



Housing

- Quite a mixture of housing, often side by side.
- All three visitors commented on the mix of trailers interspersed with homes.



Housing



Rental Housing

- Rentals were not listed online.
- A list was available at City Office
- Did not see “For Rent” signs
- Income-eligible Apartments at Lindentree and LaHarper Heights



Housing observations



Schools

- Preschool through sixth grade
- Middle School and High School at Prairie View
 - 5 miles west on Highway 152
- Our survey asks about the presence of print materials about the school, but most people who are looking for information about schools will look online.



Childcare

- 4 Child care providers were listed online.
- Your team told us that there is in-home care and at the school district.

Faith/Religion

- Churches are listed on City website under “New Here?”



Church activities

- “Celebrate Recovery” was seen on the Christian Church.
- A brochure in the City offices spoke of a Spaghetti Supper.
- Food Pantry at United Methodist Church.



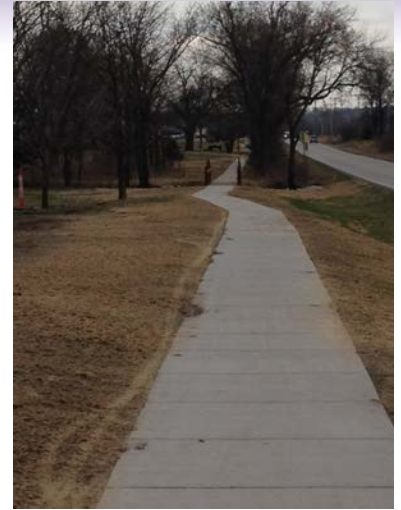
Civic

- A Volunteer Chamber of Commerce.
- Visitors didn't see any evidence of other civic groups.
- Senior Center was observed.
- 4-H, Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts here.
- Library Board.



Public Infrastructure

- Sidewalk along Hwy 152 was a fantastic way to be welcomed to town.
- Construction of the new water system was prominent everywhere.
- This sidewalk was noted along Hwy 152 just west of this building.



- **City Hall, Fire, EMS and Police Services**



- City hall and Police Station downtown
- Receptionist was friendly, open and helpful– gave a list of landlords, civic activities were in plain sight with brochures for nearby attractions.
- Volunteer Fire Department



Library

- A fantastic new library with a meeting room.
- Beautiful library.



Parks

- Nice playground at the school.
- Great playground in town too.



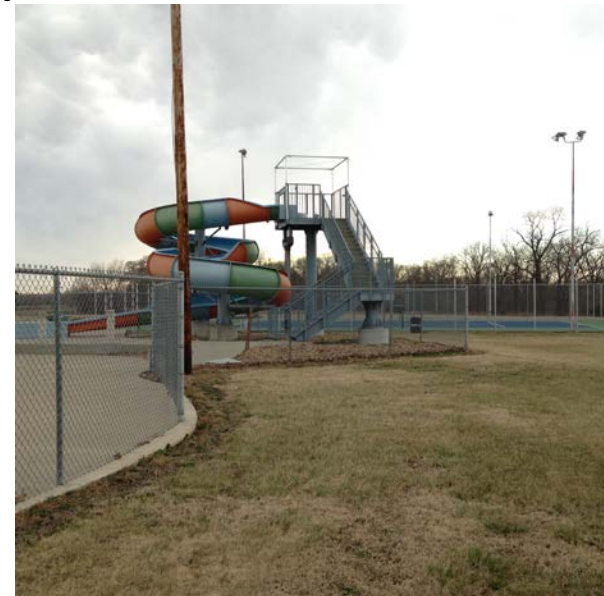
Recreation/Tourism

- Swans *everywhere!*
- Beautiful city park; small sign on 152.
- Public Restrooms.
- Camping, Picnic Shelters.
- Skate Park.



Parks

- Up-to-date Swimming pool complex.
- New Tennis Court.
- Walking Track is a nice addition.
- Disc Golf.
- Lighted Ball Diamonds, Soccer fields.



Other

- The street approaching the park seemed messy and cluttered on this dreary February day.



Significant Events and Drawing people to town

- SwanFest.
- Jealous of proximity to Kansas City and Paola– the opportunity to promote day-trippers or agritourism events.
- Presence of Marais de Cygne River and lake for camping, hunting and fishing. Are Float Trips done?
- Opportunity to capitalize on the beautiful location and outdoor recreation.

Most Positive Observations

- Proximity to urban areas is a big plus.
- Grocery store (rare in this size town!)
- New Library.
- Park/Walking trail.
- Medical Clinic.
- Loved the Veterans Memorial on main street.



Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Lack of sidewalks connecting the entire town.
- Housing.
- Older signage can make town seem dated.
- High percentage of rental housing.



What will you remember 6 months from now?

- Walking trail
- Friendly people
- Impressive setting
- Impressive City Parks
- Like going back in time, but with improvements going on.



“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

- Margaret J. Wheatley

Thank our leadership team:

Diane Burnett

Robert Burnett

Dian Dotts

Linda Elder

Chelsie Stainbrook

- **Set next steps!**

- Which group will lead the discussion?

- **Contact me if you need resources or help:**

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