

# First Impressions

# Galena, KS

K-State Research and Extension in Partnership with



The Dane G. Hansen Foundation







## The process

- Caney asked for First Impressions, Galena agreed to be its partner; 1.5 hour drive.
- I trained the volunteers about the visit and survey and took photos of Galena on July 26 and again on November 21 to supplement missing photos.
- Four Caney visitors came in two cars in late July/Aug.
- Results are presented tonight, November 21.
- Galena uses the results for further discussion and action plans.



## Why: First Impressions?

#### Feedback:

How does a first-time visitor view my town?

- Evaluate successes,
- Set goals and priorities for next steps.

#### If you don't agree with the observation:

- Be curious, Why does the visitor see it this way?
- Is the observation worth considering?
- What can we do to change it— or the perception?

Curiosity: A strong desire to know or learn something.

-Oxford Living Dictionary



# Ben Winchester, Senior Research Fellow, U of MN We need to change the narrative about rural.

- Rural is changing, not dying.
- Brain Gain (30-49 year olds moving to rural) is a "new trend" that has been happening since the 70's and no one is noticing or talking about it.
- Only 36% lived there previously.
- People research a number of places before they move to a rural town.
- Rural is in the middle of everywhere. You live one place, work another and play another. With transportation and internet, it's all accessible to you.



#### Ben Winchester, Senior Research Fellow, U of MN

- 46% of Kansas households moved between 1995-1999.
- In a survey of newcomers to rural areas, the reasons they come are:
  - Simpler pace of life
  - Safety and Security
  - Low housing cost
  - "A job," isn't in the top 10 reasons.
- "In small towns everyone knows each other." false
- Get to know each other, invite them to a newcomers meal.



- If you bring 7 people to a 700 citizen town every year in 10 years you'll have a 10% increase. It matters! It is a challenge with housing, but it is achievable.
- We are our own worst enemies. We have to monitor our customer service and what we say. It matters.
- Don't say, "You have to live here twenty years to be an insider." And don't act like it either.



- 75% of rural homeowners are Baby Boomers and older. 30% are over 75.
- Housing will be freed up as the baby boomers retire and move closer to medical services.
- Rural communities need retirement housing (not nursing facilities, but maintenance free) to retain seniors.- Ben Winchester, Senior Research Fellow, University of Minnesota



Ben Winchester was our guest on the March 1, 2019 First Friday Call.

See the recording at:

https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/business/entrepreneurship/

- 2010 Census Population 3,085 (down 6.1% since 2000\*) KS= +6.1%
- 2017 Estimate is 2,888 (down 12.1% since 2000 KS= +8.0%)
- 83.9% high school or GED, 16.2% college educated,
  - 90.5% HS or equivalency, KS 32.3% college education,
- Poverty rate 14.7% (KS=12.8%)
- Median Age 39.9 years (36.3)
- Median household income is \$40,139 (\$55,477)

<sup>\* 2000</sup> Census was 3,287

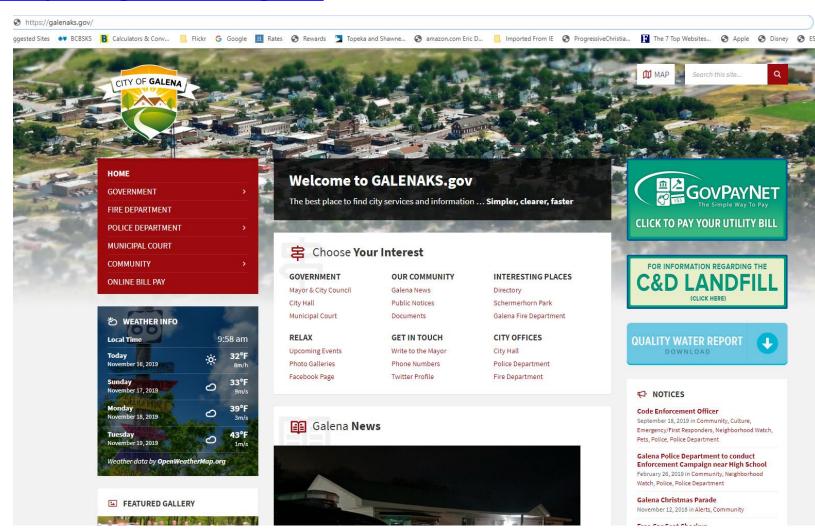


- The website is very informative but there are things I'd like to see here: medical care, library.
- The website and Facebook of the City and schools were very good but the LoveSmallTownAmerica.com/galenaks was the best place to get good information.
- I found interesting information readily online. Especially interesting to read the history of Galena. The pictures don't do Galena justice; the downtown is much nicer in person than the online photos.
- My first glance at the website was very favorable. The format was pleasing to the eye and easy to move through.



#### Website

– https://galenaks.gov/







#### Website

• I don't know how visitors found this, it didn't appear on the first page of results from a Google search.



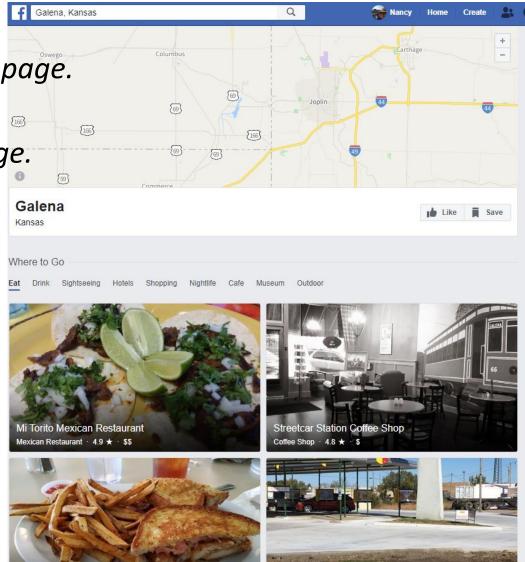




#### FaceBook

A Facebook generated page.

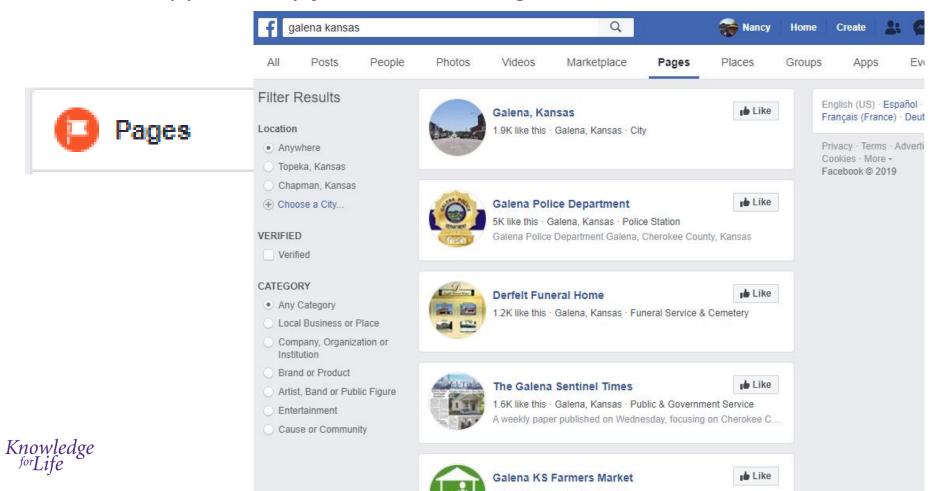
Your city can take
"ownership" of this page.





#### FaceBook

- ~75 pages are linked to Galena, KS
- An opportunity for co-marketing.





 The layout makes it appear to be a larger community than it is. Blown away by the medical facilities.





 Drove north on Main Street and later found out that we had entered Empire, an unincorporated town.
 Appropriate signage from all directions. Two lovely murals. Fantastic streetlights. Most areas are neat

and well-maintained.







 Schermerhorn Park and the Medical Centers were the two biggest attractions for me. The school's performing art center was very nice as well as the murals.





 The light posts are beautiful and extended all the way through town... communicates your long-term vision. Potted plants really added color.

 Some buildings on the west side need cleaned up, they don't match the rest of town. The trailer homes

could be spruced up.







 Streetlights with live hanging plants and PA system was fantastic! Most buildings were well maintained and some showed signs of being rehabbed. Others, mainly on the north end, need refurbished.













 There were more empty buildings than there appeared at first. Some buildings had nice signs but when you approached, the business was no longer open.

BUILDING

Sheryll Vogel





 The streets and sidewalks were very nice. A lot of downtown featured the Route 66 concept.







 We ate at Main Street Deli, a former bank, attached to four other buildings with new clothes and new articles as well as slightly used items.







 All five buildings are full of merchandise. A nice hardware store with a little of everything in the hardware line.







- The buildings are in fair shape, some broken windows, with much growth potential. A lot of work has gone into making downtown appealing.
- The downtown experience is very enjoyable.































#### **Downtown Amenities**

- The Pappy Litch park was a delight.
- Public restrooms were clean and well-maintained.
- One of the benches was broken, but when I contacted the city clerk, she said, "We'll get it fixed right away."







#### **Downtown Amenities**

- Benches, public restrooms, trash receptacles and gazebo in the pocket park.
- Streets are wide and in good shape. The landscaping is very nice.
- Parking was great; nice to see it full from 11 1 pm



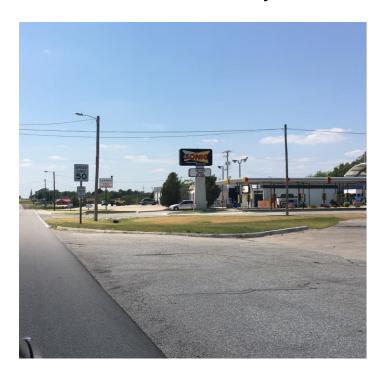






# **Other Retail Shopping Areas**

 Along Route 66 there is Dollar General, Sonic, car wash and laundromat, numerous unique eating establishments, farmers market area, flea/antique markets, Caseys, etc, etc.





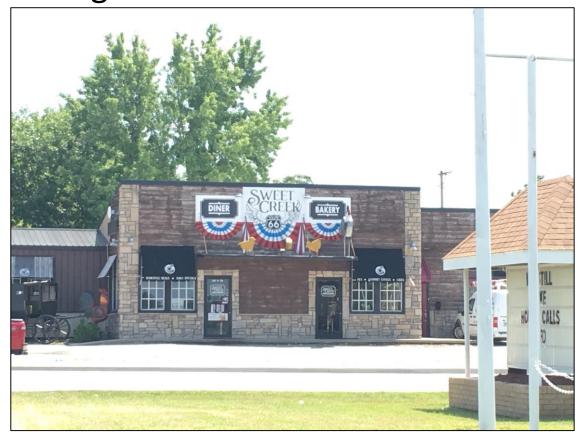


# **Other Retail Shopping Areas**

Retail stretched from one end of town to the other.
 This may be difficult for those without a car, but made the city seem bigger than it is.

Damage to a building on the east side detracts from

the area.





# Industrial Parks/Commercial

 The industrial area looks very prosperous and appears to have room for growth. Do you have manpower for expansion?









# Industrial Parks/Commercial

 A drive-by is not how industry will find you, check with your local Eco Devo director to make sure your site is listed on LocationOne @ Kansas Department of Commerce.

#### **Observation:**

- "Entrepreneurs who choose to start their small businesses are responsible for 63 percent of net new jobs created in the United States every year."
- Global marketing makes your town accessible to purchases all over the world.





### **Health Care Services**

- Unbelievable! Galena doesn't have a traditional hospital/emergency room; patients can be stabilized locally prior to transport to out of town.
- There is an Ortho 4 States/Stateline surgery Center complex that is huge and well done on the east.

Surgical hospital, doctor's clinics, Pharmacy and several other

medical clinics.







## **Health Care Services**

- Physicians, pharmacies, physical therapy, durable medical equipment, MRI and imaging lab.
- There is an optometrist, at least one dentist, but I didn't find information for a chiropractor.
- Clinics between the hospital and downtown could use better signage.





<sup>Jor</sup>L1†e



## **Health Care Services**

Two skilled nursing homes that do rehab work:
 Emerald Point and Galena Nursing and Rehab.





## Housing

 Found 35 properties on realtor.com and occasional "for Sale By Owner" signs. Homes ranged from \$10,000-\$140,000 per listing with most having 2-3 BR. Realtor.com homes appeared older with most in disrepair or needing refurbishing.







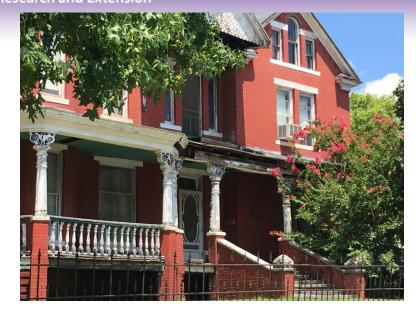


- City Council has just approved two new housing development areas within city limits.
- There are HUD rental homes by the city park and a sizeable rental complex called Galena Estates which is income-based.
- The combination of new housing and existing income-eligible housing should cover all incomes.





## K-STATE Research and Extension































## **Housing data**

	N	ΛC
NA	IN	43

- Total Housing Units 1,417
- Total Occupied Houses 1,066 (75.2%) (89.1%)
- Vacant Houses 351 (24.8%) (10.7%)

- Owner Occupied 699 (65.6%) (66.4%)
- Renter Occupied 367 (34.4%) (33.6%)
- Family Households 68.2% (65.4%)
- Non-family Households 31.8% (34.6%)



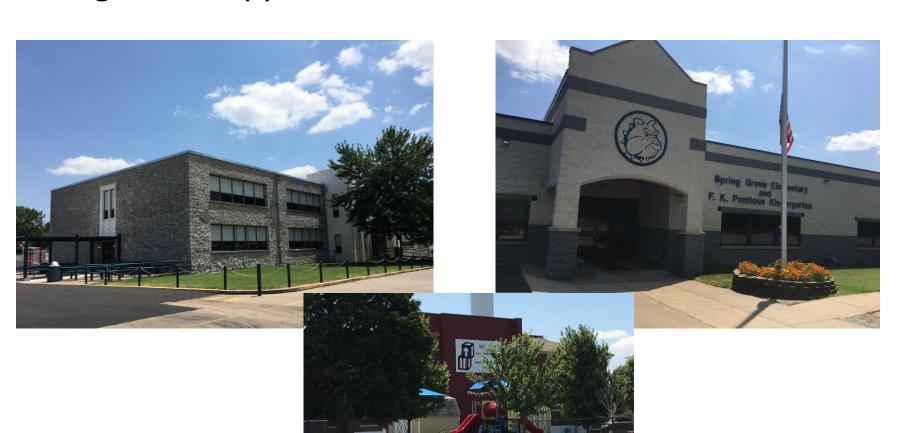
Need for clean-up/demolition of older properties





## **Schools**

 Galena has a Head Start program, two elementary schools, middle and high school. The buildings and grounds appear well-maintained.





# **Schools**





## **Schools**

 "Have been to the high school several times over the years for sports programs and am always impressed by the facilities." This visitor finds the fan experience consistently negative, especially in football.







## **School Information**

The school website is nicely done and user friendly.
 It was nice to see some upcoming activities listed and school supply lists there.

Your school's website is your opportunity to tell your

story to prospective students, not just current patrons.







## **School Information**

 Photos help us picture whether our child will be happy here.

#### King Nick and Queen Lexi **Crowned at Homecoming**

Congratulations to Senior Nick Sarwinski and Junior Lexi Price for being voted as the 2019 Fall Homecoming King and Queen. Coronation took place prior to the Galena-Caney Valley football game. The Bulldogs edged the Bullpups out in double overtime to come out with a 38-30 Homecoming win. The Galena High School Student Council would like to thank the following businesses for donating prizes to be given away . . .

read more



#### District Email Addresses

#### Calendar Highlights

Fri November 29, 2019 No School Thanksgiving Break

Tue	December 3, 2019
7:00pm to 9:00pm	GHS Band/Choir Christmas Concert
	James C. Christman Performing Arts Center

#### **GHS Students Earn KU Honor Scholar Recognition**

Seven Galena High School seniors were recently selected as KU Honor Scholars. The KU Honor Scholars Program has been in existence since 1971 and honors seniors across the state who rank in the top 10 percent of their class. According to the KU Alumni Association website, the program "is designed to promote academic excellence in secondary education, to reward high school seniors for their hard work and dedication, and . . .

read more



#### Thu December 5, 2019

6:00pm to

8:00pm

Spring Grove Primary Center Christmas Programs James C. Christman Performing Arts Center

View Entire Month



#### Sage Colvard Named a **Commended Student in National** Merit Scholarship Program

Congratulations to Senior Sage Colvard for being named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program. The goal of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation is to "recognize and honor the academically talented students of the United States." In order to qualify for this honor. Sage took the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying test (PSAT/NMSQT) during his junior year. Over 1.6 . . .



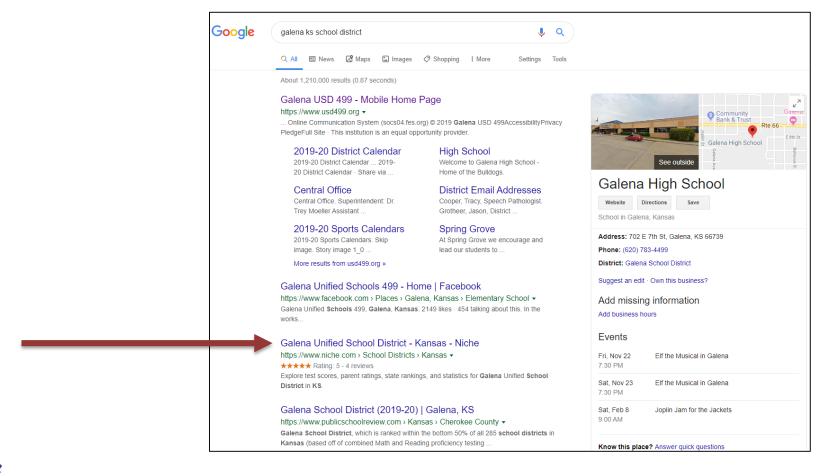






## **School Information**

 Galena USD has a C+ ranking on niche.com which is consistent with what I found on datacentral.KSDE.org







## Childcare

 We saw four child care providers and Head Start. It appears they can handle about 64 children.

#### **Cherokee County Data:**

•	Number of Children Under Age 6:	1,671
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Children with all parents in the workforce: 61%

Desired Capacity of Child Care Centers

Extent that desired capacity meets potential need 56%

Creating a Child Care Action Plan
 https://ks.childcareaware.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Draft-Child-Care-Supply-Demand-Action-Plan.pdf

Contact ks.childcareaware.org to get access to local child care specialists. 785-823-3343





# Faith/Religion

 Saw several churches, including a relatively new and extremely large one for a small community.









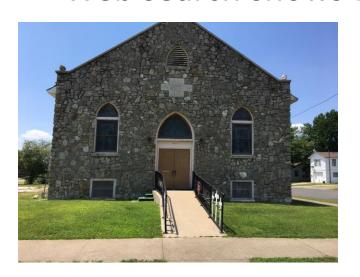




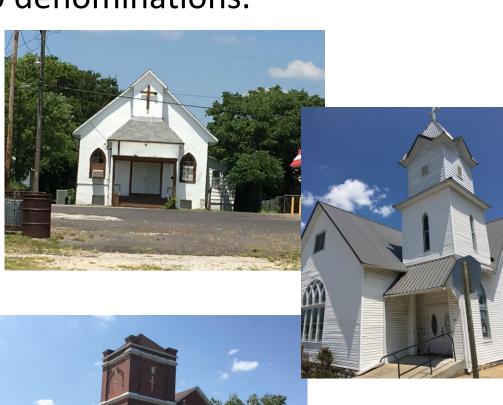


# Faith/Religion

Web search shows 10 denominations.











# Faith/Religion

 City clerk told us that Galena Assembly of God and others are active in clothing distribution and free meals.







 Looked online for Civic groups and found 11. If all of them do only a little bit, a lot is being accomplished.

 Saw a Masons sign and a Chamber of Commerce sign on the large Galena sign on the west side. Did not see the buildings.







## **Public Infrastructure**

Streets, street signs, sidewalks, parking and lighting









## Public Infrastructure

- Streets, street signs, sidewalks, parking and lighting were satisfactory on the four main roads.
- Not as much landscaping and streetscapes on roads into town - compared with downtown.
- Need more signage for the hospital.
- Sidewalks appeared adequate.





## City Hall

 City hall appeared to be an older but well-maintained building. We entered through the east doors and saw donors to city pool and a stand with lots of

brochures.





## City Hall

- Very spacious building with large chamber meeting room, large enough for community meetings.
- City Clerk is a blessing to your community; an excellent representative of your city.





## Fire, EMS and Police Services

- Fire station is attached to city hall and are nice and spacious.
- Police Department is hard to find. The only way we knew it was the police station was the numerous cars.







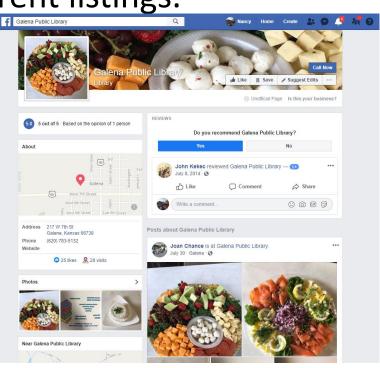


## Library

 The exterior library door listed hours of operation, but it was closed when we were there.

 I couldn't find any information online about the library or its services. The Facebook page is an unofficial page with no current listings.

 The library's value to the community is not a given-programming must be visible to and valued by the community





# **City Parks**

I was amazed and pleased to see so many parks.
 They are well maintained and being used.













## **City Parks**

- Galena Park south of downtown.
- Pappy Litch Park downtown.
- Schermerhorn park just outside of Galena on KS 26
  has long stretches of places to park, picnic and swim.
   SEK Nature Center is located here.

Miners Park- we didn't see!





#### Well-Known for an attraction or event?

The community capitalizes on

- Oldest mining town in Kansas
- Route 66
- Disney/Pixar movie "Cars."













#### Well-Known for an attraction or event?

- Only one visitor was aware of two annual events, but saw no online information:
  - Galena Days- first weekend of June.
  - Galena Day Car Show





## Natural or manmade features that can draw people?

- Schermerhorn Park
- Shoal Creek
- SEK Nature Center.
- Galena Mining and Historical museum.

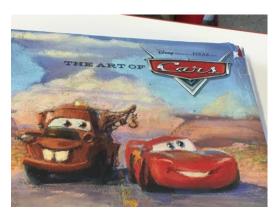




## Visitor's Center

There is a welcome center being established on N.
 Main Street but not yet open. City Hall appears to be the best spot.

• Route 66 visitors center is open every day but Monday and Tuesday.







## What would bring you back?

- I might come when the museums or open. I would also like to get to see Liberty Hall and the Grace House Event Center. A historic/old home tour would be a draw for me.
- El Torito must be good based on the crowd.
   Schermerhorn Park was beautiful. I'd be curious about the Route 66 Visitors Center since it wasn't open on Tuesday.
- Sweet Creek Bakery and the flea markets.





## **Most Positive Observations**

- Thriving downtown and relatively new development on the east side. People are positive about their community and provided lots of info. Great access to medical. Proximity to Kansas/Missouri State Line and Joplin appears to be a plus in many ways.
- Huge Medical assets, Schermerhorn Park with Shoal Creek. Wide variety of housing for various incomes. There are downtown buildings that could offer opportunity and a pleasant downtown visitor experience.



## **Most Positive Observations**

 The pride and obvious hard work evident in downtown. Murals are eye-popping. The electronic billboard is great!

Positive attitude.
 Great medical community.
 Successful downtown and highway business areas.

 The flowers and music downtown are great positives.





# Biggest Obstacles/Challenges

- Proximity to KS/MO line and Joplin can negatively impact efforts to grow the community. Finding its niche next to a larger metro community is a must.
- Filling unopen business buildings downtown with viable businesses.
- So much work and care has gone into downtown, it really should be utilized to a greater potential.
- Proximity to Joplin makes it difficult for small businesses to compete.





## 6 Months from Now

## What will you remember?

- Downtown, Pappy Litch Park, beautiful streetlights with live hanging flower baskets, outdoor music and the Main St. Deli/Lucky Miner Sales.
- Nice downtown murals and Route 66 concept, very nice medical complex, Schermerhorn Park and Shoal Creek, large Galena Estates Apartment Complex.
- Beautiful downtown and the wonderful hospital, to include my favorite restaurant, Red Onion.
- Positive attitudes. Very friendly and willing to share.



## Thanks to our leadership team volunteers!

## **Set Next Steps:**

— Which group will lead the discussion?

#### Contact me if you need resources or have questions:

Nancy Daniels
Community Vitality Specialist, K-State Research and Extension
785.410.6352

nkdaniels@ksu.edu





## K-State Research and Extension

PRIDE: <a href="http://kansasprideprogram.k-state.edu/">http://kansasprideprogram.k-state.edu/</a>

 Local communities identify what they would like to preserve, create, or improve for their future and volunteers pull together to create their ideal community future.









## K-State Research and Extension

# Contact Nancy Daniels nkdaniels@ksu.edu to participate.

#### **Grant Writing Workshops**

Grants are a vital piece in your community's funding puzzle...and you can do it.

K-State Research and Extension's Community Vitality Team offers grant writing workshops for local communities.

#### Objectives

- · Conquer your grant writing fears and start writing.
- Learn new sources of data to document community needs.
- · Learn new sources of grant funding.
- Practice developing the Grant Elements: Problem, Outcomes, Activities, Evaluation, and Budget.

#### Short Term Outcomes

- 93% have increased confidence to write a successful grant.
- 94% learned new sources of data to document community needs.
- 80% learned new sources for finding grants.
- 91% have increased confidence to develop the elements of a successful grant.







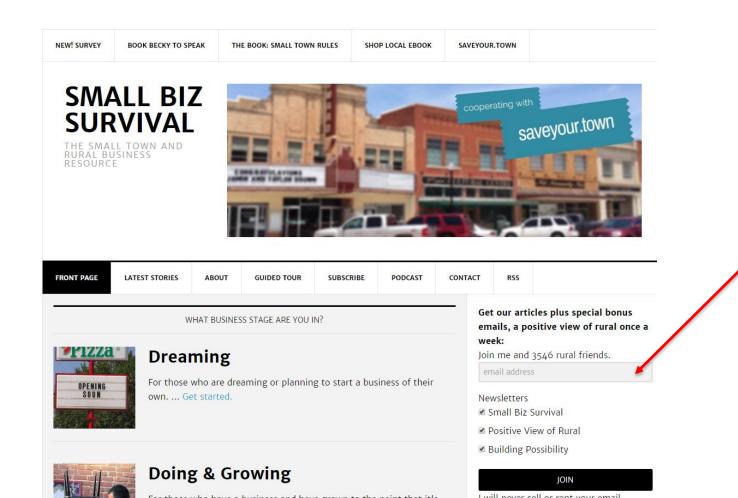
## K-State Research and Extension

- First Friday e-Calls 9:30-10:30 am (CT)
  - Connecting small businesses and communities with the resources to make them successful.
  - Contact Nancy Daniels <a href="mailto:nkdaniels@ksu.edu">nkdaniels@ksu.edu</a> to participate.
  - Previous calls are recorded at
     <a href="http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/business/entrepreneurship/">http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/business/entrepreneurship/</a>
  - Community Vitality Calendar of events: <a href="http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/">http://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/</a>



## Resources I like

- http://smallbizsurvival.com/
  - THE SMALL TOWN AND RURAL BUSINESS RESOURCE

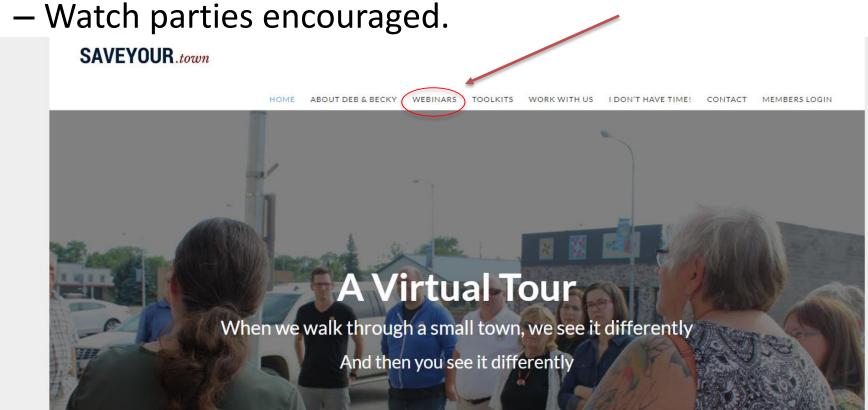






## Resources I like:

- http://saveyour.town/
  - Monthly live webinars; available on recording.
  - Pay once and show as many times as you want.





## Resources I like

https://www.facebook.com/groups/brownbagmx/
 Brown Bag Marketing Exchange
 (Atchison, KS Co-Marketing group)





## Resources

Kansas Department of Agriculture in partnership other state organizations, will work with your community to find the best opportunities for

growth using the assets of your region.

## **GROW IN KANSAS**



#### STRATEGIC GROWTH INITIATIVE

A pilot program for the proactive recruitment of food, agriculture and UAS/small aircraft business to Kansas.

For more information on the Strategic Growth Initiative, please contact Russell Plaschka, Ag Business Development Program Manager 785-564-7466 • Russell.Plaschka@ks.gov

agriculture.ks.gov/GrowAg

Knowledge for Life

Grow Smarter. Grow Stronger. Grow Kansas.



## **Kansas Healthy Food Initiative**

- Goal: Increase access to affordable fresh food and to improve the health and economic development of Kansans and their communities.
- Technical assistance and financing to develop new or renovate fresh food retail in underserved communities throughout Kansas.

http://kansashealthyfood.org/

Isabelle Busenitz, ibusenitz@ksu.edu,

KHFI Technical Assistance Coordinator, 785-532-6868





## Contact Info



## **Nancy Daniels**

Community Vitality Specialist, K-State Research and Extension 785.410.6352

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