



Wichita Mayor Addresses U.S. Conference of Mayors

Wichita Mayor Carlos Mayans spoke at the 74th Winter Meeting of the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) on Thursday, January 26 in Washington, DC.

Mayor Mayans was one of six mayors who presented during a luncheon session entitled "What Works: New Best Practices from America's Mayors." His PowerPoint presentation focused on the City of Wichita's Gilbert and Mosley Project, an award-winning, public-private collaboration that has helped address groundwater contamination in downtown Wichita.

The USCM is a national organization that in recent years has focused more attention on the need to help mayors facilitate the sharing of local innovations and best practices.

Mayor Mayans is a member of the advisory board of the USCM, which promotes effective national urban and suburban policy, strengthens federal-city relationships, and provides mayors with leadership and management tools.

City of Lyons Approves Innovative Source Water Protection Plan

The City of Lyons approved a unique source water protection plan at a recently held city council meeting. The plan's creation was facilitated by the Kansas Rural Water Association and is one of only 100 such plans nationwide.

"This important plan provides our city with enhanced abilities to protect the quality of drinking water by identifying and managing the potential sources of contamination and threatening activities that occur within our defined source water protection area," said John Sweet, City Administrator, City of Lyons.

Funding for the Kansas Source Water Protection Program is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency. City officials and various technical organizations worked on the

plan from August through December of 2005.

The working group held monthly meetings in order to delineate land to be protected, identify possible pollution sources on plan property, and identify vulnerability of wellhead protection areas to those possible pollution sources.

900 New Trees to be Planted Throughout Lawrence

Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department continues its work with planting a variety of trees throughout the community. Parks and Recreation staff will be planting trees in public spaces and parks, in right-of-way areas, and in the frontage area of new homes in newly developed subdivisions.

Trees being planted in parks and public open spaces are being funded through the City's budget. Many of these plantings are planned for some of the most traveled streets in Lawrence. The planting will further develop the parkway concept by planting trees in the center islands and adjoining right-of-way spaces.

The trees being planted in the frontage area of new homes are part of the City's Master Street Tree Program, which was adopted as an ordinance by the Lawrence City Commission in January of 2002.

The ordinance requires the City to contract out the planting of one tree for every 40 ft. of new street frontage in new residential neighborhoods. There is a wide diversity of species being planted, which helps prevent uniform spread of disease within the tree population. Funding for the Master Street Tree Program is financed through building permits that homebuilders pay prior to the construction of new homes.

Lawrence Parks and Recreation has received recognition for its ecological work in the past and has received the status of a "Tree City USA" city for 27 consecutive years. It has also been awarded the "Tree City USA Growth Award" for 13 straight years for demonstrating progress in its community forestry program in the areas of education, planning and management, park and open spaces, partnerships, and other

areas related to developing a higher level of tree care.

Kansas Communities Receive Housing Rehabilitation Funds

Six Kansas communities will share a total of approximately \$1.7 million in federal housing rehabilitation grants.

The funding comes from the national Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and will be matched by \$334,877 in local funds. The six communities slated to receive CDBG grants are the cities of Belleville, Clay Center, Clyde, Junction City, and Miltonvale, as well as Graham County. The CDBG program is administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce (Commerce).

"We are pleased to announce the awarding of these funds to some very deserving Kansas communities," said Commerce Secretary Howard Fricke. "These grants allow Commerce to assist the small and rural communities that are so important to the livelihood of our state."

The CDBG program provides federal funds to local governments for the development of viable communities by addressing their housing, public facilities, and economic development needs. To be awarded funds, government units must meet at least one of three program objectives: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slums and blight, or resolve an urgent need where local resources are not available to do so.

CDBG funds are one of the primary tools in supporting the state's small, predominantly rural communities. Commerce has distributed more than \$151 million in federal CDBG funds since 1998, with revolving funds bringing the total to more than \$181 million.

IIMC News

Gary D. Mahon, Deputy City Clerk of the City of La Cygne has recently been awarded the prestigious designation of Certified Municipal Clerk from the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC).