



## JULY HIGHLIGHTS

Online Registration Available:  
TopekaChamber.org

## Heartland Visioning Releases Report to the Community

A new arts district, continued population growth and progress on the plans for downtown redevelopment are among the many community accomplishments Heartland Visioning celebrates with our community.

The 2012 Report to the Community showcases Topeka and Shawnee County's successes and strides toward a better community.

Heartland Visioning's success is measured against Key Benchmarks, which are indicators used to show how effective the collaborative efforts have been. The report highlights a variety of accomplishments under each of the six foundations: Education, Quality of Life, Infrastructure, Government, Economic Development and Private Sector Leadership.

"Positive changes are happening in our community," said Harry Craig, co-chair Heartland Visioning. "This report is a tool that allows us to reflect on how far we have come through the work of amazing volunteers and to build upon these accomplishments to bring us closer to the community we are striving for."

Heartland Visioning, alongside countless partners, works collectively to move closer to these goals. In the past three years, there have been many improvements that move Topeka and Shawnee County in the direction of the community-wide vision; many successes are a direct result of the strategic plan, while others are a result of efforts started before Heartland Visioning.

The "Report to the Community" is available online at [www.heartlandvisioning.com/community-report](http://www.heartlandvisioning.com/community-report) or by contacting the Heartland Visioning staff at 785.231.6006 or emailing [info@heartlandvisioning.com](mailto:info@heartlandvisioning.com).



### Fast Forward Insiders Series

Thursday, July 12, 2012  
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Topeka Zoological Park  
635 SW Gage Boulevard  
\*RSVP online

### Business After Hours

Tuesday, July 17, 2012  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Heartland Park Topeka  
7530 S Topeka Boulevard  
No cost to attend  
\*RSVP online

### Fast Forward Inspire Series - Dinner Service

Wednesday, July 25, 2012  
Topeka Rescue Mission  
600 N Kansas Avenue  
Call Lana Berges to volunteer,  
785.438.3515

### Fast Forward Networking Social

Thursday, July 26, 2012  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Visit Topeka Inc.  
618 S Kansas Avenue  
\*RSVP online

\*You are encouraged to make reservations and pay for these events on the Chamber's Website at [www.TopekaChamber.org](http://www.TopekaChamber.org). (See "Register Now" in the center of the home page.)



*Kymm Hughes, owner of Prairie Glass Art, accepted her first dollar of profit from Ambassador Maggie Kelley during ribbon cutting ceremonies for the businesses' new location at 110 SE Eighth Avenue, Garden Level. The business is open for retail sales and Kymm has her own studio and a teaching studio.*



**SMALL BUSINESS  
RESOURCE  
DIRECTORY  
AVAILABLE**

The Chamber, in cooperation with the Washburn Small Business Development Center, offers a Small Business Resource Directory that is available free of charge to individuals interested in starting a new business in our community. If you or someone you know is considering starting a small business, stop by the Chamber office and pick up a directory.

**THINKING OF ADDING  
EMPLOYEES OR  
EXPANDING YOUR  
FACILITY?**

There may be \$\$\$ available to you in the form of tax incentives and small business or employee on-the-job training programs! Call GO Topeka at YOUR Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce for more details—785.234.2644.

Dawn Wright  
*Vice President  
Economic Development*

Jo Feldmann  
*Vice President  
Existing Business*

Cyndi Hermocillo-Legg  
*Vice President  
Entrepreneurial and Minority  
Business Development*

Cindee Williams  
*Asst. Vice President  
Marketing & Business Attraction*

What qualifies for Business Notations? Tell your Chamber colleagues about your expansions, new locations, awards and honors, or new products and services. Sorry, personnel changes or announcements are not included. Notation information should be e-mailed to Marsha Sheahan at [msheahan@TopekaChamber.org](mailto:msheahan@TopekaChamber.org).

Topeka Chamber member firms **Stormont Vail HealthCare** and **Express Employment Professionals** were recognized in May by the Kansas Department of Commerce as part of Business Appreciation Month, the Department’s annual celebration of Kansas businesses and their contributions to their communities and the state economy. Stormont was named a Regional Business Excellence Award winner and Express was named a Merit Award winner.

A **kickoff breakfast** for the 2012 “**Making Strides Against Breast Cancer,**” a non-competitive pledge based fundraising 5K walk sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 8** at the Ramada Convention Center, 420 SE Sixth Avenue, from 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. The breakfast is an opportunity for anyone to come learn more about Strides and possibly put together a team of walkers for the event in October. The main event will be Sunday, October 7, beginning at 1:00 p.m. from the south lawn of the Capitol Building.

Kansas has been ranked as the #11 friendliest state nationwide toward small business and the ninth easiest state to start a new business. The rankings come from Sander Daniels, co-founder of Thumbtack.com, based on a survey of small business owners like wedding photographers, auto mechanics and yoga instructors. Thumbtack.com partnered with the Kauffman Foundation for this two-month survey of over 6,000 small business owners nationwide.

**The Kansas Drug Card**, a FREE statewide discount prescription assistance program for anyone, was launched to help uninsured and underinsured residents afford their prescriptions. Kansas residents can print a card by visiting the program’s website [www.KansasDrugCard.com](http://www.KansasDrugCard.com). There are no enrollment forms, restrictions for participation, waiting periods, age restrictions and no claim forms to file. This free drug card is available to everyone and is accepted at over 55,000 pharmacies nationwide giving cardholders immediate access to discounts of up to 75% off all brand name and generic medications. In addition to the website, you may also call Angela Garvey, program director, at 913.638.8415.

**Kansas Van & Storage—Criqui Corporation** has expanded into a larger building at 1650 SW 41st Street according to owner Doc Criqui. Criqui also owns the building next door at 1600 SW 41st Street and one on 42nd Street. Kansas Van & Storage is an agent for Atlas Van Lines, a world class mover. They have 35 full time employees and 15 part time employees.



The eight members of the eighth class of the **Goodyear Maintenance Co-Op Technician**

program at **Washburn Tech** graduated last month. Goodyear Tire and Rubber established their co-op relationship with Washburn Tech (at that time Kaw Area Technical School) to offer a Maintenance Co-Op Technician Program to improve the skills of current as well as prospective maintenance technicians at its Topeka plant. The first class graduated in January 2004. “Through our partnership with Washburn Tech, Goodyear has been able to train and develop dozens of highly-skilled workers, each of whom are integral to the success of our organization,” said Goodyear-Topeka Plant Manager Steve Otradovec. The program has two phases, the first addresses common craft skills; the second phase teaches craft specific skills (electrician, mechanic, pipe fitter) based on the trainee’s craft designation. For more information about educational programs and opportunities call 785.273.7140.

The **Kansas City Diamond Wheelchair Softball Team** invites physically-challenged individuals interested in playing a nationally recognized competitive team sport to come out to practice and give wheelchair softball a try. Games and practices are in Kansas City at Swope Park and Topeka at Gage Park. Sport wheelchairs are used and there are extra chairs available for willing players; anyone, male or female, with lower-limb mobility impairment is welcome. Public spectators are welcome; you may know someone who needs to know about this opportunity. Share the information, and contact Ray Petty at 785.841.8558 or [raypetty@aol.com](mailto:raypetty@aol.com) for more information.