

Bits & Pieces . . .

Wichita Votes To Continue Rebates for Water Conservation

Wichita residents who conserve water stand to gain from their efforts, as the city of Wichita has agreed to continue to offer rebates to citizens who take steps to minimize water usage. The 2016 program that will support rebates was approved on January 19 by the city council. Staff will begin reviewing applications for purchases that fall between August 1, 2015 and December 31, 2016, or until funding is no longer available. The city has budgeted \$100,000 to continue the program this year.

Those eligible for rebates include citizens who have purchased water efficient appliances, such as low-flow toilets, high efficiency dishwashers and washing machines, irrigation rain sensors, rain barrels and smart irrigation controllers. When a rebate is approved, it is to be directly applied to the customer's water bill, and each customer will be eligible for as many as five rebates per service address.

According to the city's Web site, the water rebate program began in 2013, and 199 million gallons of water have been conserved since. The city's Web site link, SaveWichitaWater.com, will be updated each week to show the remaining funds that are available for the rebate program.

Hays, Russell File Water Transfer Application

The cities of Hays and Russell have filed an application to transfer up to 7,625.5 acre-feet of water from their R9 Ranch in Edwards County for use by the municipalities.

The R9 Ranch was purchased by Hays and Russell in 1995. The ranch has 30 irrigation water rights.

The transfer will trigger the Water Transfer Act. That legislation requires that the Chief Engineer of the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources, director of the Kansas Water Office and secretary of Health and Environment to review and approve any proposal to move 2,000 acre-feet of water or more per year a distance of 35 miles or more.

City of Derby Funds Rebate Program

The city of Derby's Water Conservation Rebate Program was funded with an additional \$10,000 for rebates in 2016.

Rebates are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis and credited to the Derby water customer's account. The deadline is May 31, 2016 or when funds run out. Five rebates (maximum) are available per utility account.

The purpose of the rebate program is to encourage Derby residents to lower water usage by making improvements to aging or inefficient fixtures and equipment.

Derby's program focuses on limiting indoor and outdoor water use by retrofitting sprinkler systems with water-efficient sprinkler head nozzles, adding smart controllers to irrigation systems to limit watering frequency, promoting the use of rain barrels to collect rainwater for watering plants, installation of high efficiency (HE) toilets, dishwashers, washing machines, etc.

Derby reports that its Water Conservation Rebate Program was so successful it ended two weeks early

Derby reports that its Water Conservation Rebate Program was so successful it ended two weeks early. The program, which began Jan. 1, 2014 and was scheduled to end May 28, 2015 or whenever the money ran out, was out of funds and ended May 14, 2015. Derby awarded \$55,232 in rebates to more than 400 water customers as of May 14, 2015.

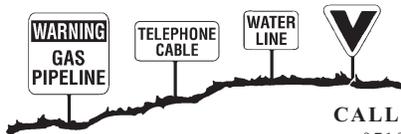
The rebate program was jointly funded by the city of Derby and the city of Wichita. Derby provided \$34,082 in funds, while Wichita supplied the other \$21,150.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The **Atwood Police Department** is taking applications for a full-time Police Officer. Applicants must be 21 have a valid driver's license and no criminal record. High school diploma or GED required. Salary is dependent on qualifications. Excellent benefits including BC/BS insurance, KPERs retirement plan, paid vacation & sick leave. KLETC certification is preferred but not required. Applicant must pass a background check, psychological exam and drug screening. Applications may be obtained from the City Office, 106 S. 3rd, Atwood, KS 67730. (785-626-9462) Position is opened until filled. The city of Atwood is an EOE.

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