



UPCOMING EVENTS

March 17, Noon – St Patrick’s Day at the Trail Days Historic Site
 March 18, 2pm, “The Pawnee” program at the Kaw Mission
 March 20-23 - headlines by June Cleavers, hosting a Spring Fling at 208 W Main
 March 24 & 25, The Volland Store Spring Cellar Tours
 March 30 – Adams Lumber and Home store celebrating its 20th Anniversary
 April 8 – The Volland Store Spring Cellar Tours
 April 15, 2pm, Kaw Mission program “Quivera Re-examined”
 April 20 & 21, Sethfest at the Santa Fe Trail Cove
 April 20 & 21, Santa Fe Trail Rendezvous at Council Grove
 April 21 & 22, Fire N’ Up the Flint Hills KC Sanctioned BBQ Contest & Flavorfest
 April 21 & 22, The Volland Store Spring Cellar Tours
 April 21 Youth Aquatic Education Day at the Council Grove Marina
 April 21 Spring Crank Up at the Ag Heritage Park in Alta Vista
 May 5 & 6, The Volland Store Spring Cellar Tours



CHAMBER BREAKFAST WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 7:30 AM FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MIKI BOWMAN SPEAKING, **RSVP NOW! - \$5**

Join us on Wednesday, April 18 for the Chamber Quarterly Breakfast. We will meet at 7:30 am at the First Congregational Church. The church ladies will fix the breakfast, so we know it will be delicious! The guest speaker will be **Miki Bowman**, State Banking Commissioner. She will discuss the Banking Commissions responsibilities and how it pertains to our area. Last year the Leadership Class had a presentation from Miki and they will agree that this is not a meeting you want to miss! RSVP to the Chamber by 10:00 am on Friday, April 13. The cost of the breakfast is \$5.00.

Sethfest – April 20 & 21

Friday meet at the Santa Fe Cove for Open Mic Night, 7 – 10 pm.

Saturday enjoy listening to the music of The Skirts, The Box Turtles, Lotus Peyotus, Zero 2 Panic, Philosophy of Lions and Fish For Breakfast. There will be arts and crafts for the kids to enjoy. Men, start growing your beards for the beard contest. Sethfest provides lots of family fun!



VISIT US AT COUNCILGROVE.COM OR CONTACT US
 AT CHAMBER@COUNCILGROVE.COM
 620.767.5413

What's Happening?

2018

Happy Spring!

I certainly hope I am not jinxing the weather by thinking about Spring in early March! The Chamber had a very successful Annual Banquet. Everyone had a great time, and some were some lucky enough to take home some really great prizes. Of course the recognition of the Citizen of the Year was fantastic. We are so lucky to have Sharon Haun live in our community and do all she does! Congratulations, Sharon. Planning for all our April events is really keeping us busy! You will want to invite your friends and family to join you in Council Grove the 3rd weekend in April! The Chamber is working with the Community Arts Council to host the 2nd Annual Sethfest and the Chamber is sponsoring the Kansas City Sanctioned BBQ contest. Both events are at the Santa Fe Trail Cove. You can see the details on these events in this newsletter. We are also working with the Santa Fe Trail Association on the Rendezvous at Council Grove. This will be a fun weekend for everyone of all ages and there is no admission fee for any of the events! These events will be bringing in a lot of people from across Kansas and neighboring states.

Of course the planning for the Washunga Days is going strong. Once again Lindsey Boyer and the committee are doing a fantastic job of planning a great event.

Have a great Spring and don't forget to attend the Quarterly Breakfast and listen to Miki Bowman talk about her position as Banking Commissioner and all that their office does.

Talk to you next quarter.

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Diane Wolfe,
Executive Director



Be Prepared! Hundreds of Visitors in Council Grove

Whether you market and provide ice, gasoline, auto services, meals, rooms or gifts, be prepared for a pleasant influx of visitors for:

- ◆ The Santa Fe Trail Association's Rendezvous at Council Grove (April 19-21)
- ◆ Our community's Seth Fest, Saturday, April 21
- ◆ Fire 'n' Up the Flint Hills BBQ sampling and contest, April 21,22

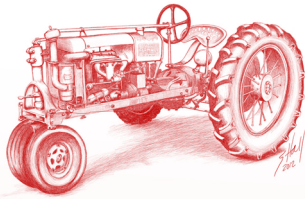
Encourage your employees to dress in period or event attire, add special sidewalk displays and coach your employees as to where events are so they can respond to tourists knowledgeably. If you have questions on period or event dress, contact us at 767.5413.



**VISIT COUNCILGROVE.COM AND
CLICK ON EVENTS FOR WEEKEND DETAILS.**

April 21 - Spring "Crank UP" in Alta Vista

Visit the Ag Heritage Museum to enjoy the displays and hear the "pop, pop" of the old tractors! The downtown parade is at 9:30 am. Then it is back to the Museum for browsing the displays, barn quilts and more. Take a step back in time and enjoy Spring at the Ag Heritage Museum. Check out their Facebook page for details.



Fire 'N Up Flint Hills April 21, 22

Fire 'N' Up the Flint Hills, a Kansas City Sanctioned BBQ contest, is Sunday, April 22. BBQ professionals from across the state will compete for \$4500 in prize money!

On Saturday, the Flavorfest will be held 5 – 7 pm at the Santa Fe Trail Cove. You will have the opportunity to sample food from local cooks and BBQ teams. You can purchase "firebucks" for \$1.00 each to sample the different BBQ's. The teams with the most firebucks collected will be recognized as the People Choice Winner. Join us for this irresistible event, support your favorite cooking team and taste some great BBQ! Call the chamber for details.



Council Grove Economic Development Committee



This committee is working really hard! In the next year you should see some of their work come to fruition! We have been working with Onega and Clay Center on the Minnesota Housing Partnership. We have had several 2 day meetings in Manhattan working on our projects. These workshops are planned and coordinated by the Flint Hills Regional Council. Our project is revitalizing the first three blocks of Main Street. We have received a grant from the Minnesota Housing Partnership and the City of Council Grove to work with our businesses to help pay for the costs of roofs or structural work. More information will be coming in the next few weeks. If you have questions about the committee's activities, please contact Diane.



Tell Us What Else Is Going On

Help the community by letting us know the dates of your events so that we can help others avoid scheduling conflicts. Help us to avoid booking major town and county events on the same day! Working together, we can offer a calendar to check scheduling conflicts before an event is booked.



BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

TCT—Celebrating 55 Years of Communications

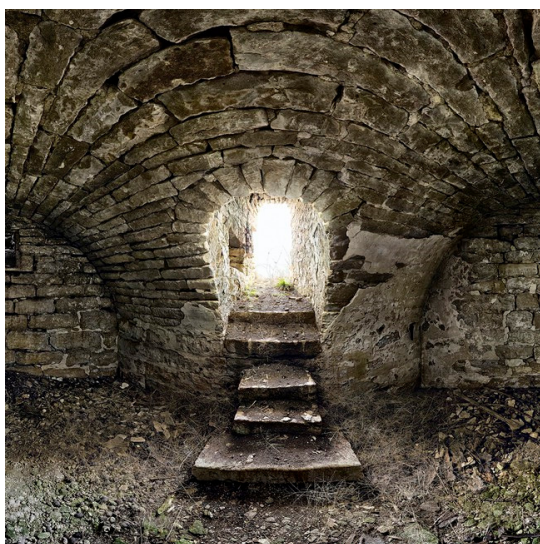
TCT (Tri-County Telephone) is like many rural telephone companies that began with a group of farmers and rural residents who banded together to bring in telephone service because larger carriers did not want to serve them. Dickinson, Morris, and Marion were the original three counties served by TCT. TCT purchased the Council Grove exchange in 2003 and today they serve over 4,500 customers in 14 communities, throughout 7 counties, covering 1421 square miles. TCT also employs 57 people in the area, and have retail stores in Council Grove, Abilene and Hillsboro, with plans to open a Nex-Tech Wireless store in Emporia soon.

TCT started with basic land line telephone service, but by 2007 TCT had expanded their service offering to include internet, wireless and IPTV (internet protocol television). In 2008 they opened their first retail store in Council Grove and in 2013 TCT had completed their \$54 million "Fiber to the Premise" network construction, making their network 100% buried fiber. In 2014 TCT continued to grow the business by becoming an owner/agent of Nex-Tech Wireless, which is a Kansas based cellular and wireless company.

In 2015 TCT and the communities they serve received the "Smart Rural Community" award from NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association. NTCA is a national association representing nearly 900 independent, community-based telecommunications companies. The Smart Rural Community award is part of the NTCA's initiative to highlight efforts being made at the local level to provide access to and adoption of Broadband so that rural communities are vibrant places to live and do business. TCT was one of only 12 companies to receive this designation that year. In 2017 TCT received NTCA's "GIG Certification" award, putting several of TCT's service communities in league with Google Fiber and other GIG services offered in many large towns.

In today's global economy, access to and utilization of broadband can level the playing field for rural communities allowing them to compete with their urban neighbors. That is why it is TCT's goal to make sure their customers have access to a network that offers the same quality, speed and consistency of networks in urban areas of the country. TCT considers it a privilege to be able to bring service to our rural communities!

Visit the TCT Solutions Center, located at 923 W Main, Council Grove. Hours are 8:30 am-6:30 pm, Mon-Fri. Its website is tctelco.net and its phone number is 800.362.2576.



Spring Cellar Tours at the Volland Store

Weekend dates are selling quickly! Reserve your space today!

The Cellar Tours start at 1:00pm from The Volland Store and last about 4 hours. You will be returned to your vehicle by approximately 5 pm. Reservations are required. This is a weekend afternoon event through May 6. Reserve your space at thevollandstore.com.

St. Patrick's Day
Harvey House Program at Trail Days Historic Site

Celebrate St Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17 at noon, with the magical story of the Harvey House era by Pierre Sutphin at the Trail Days Historic Site. They will also be featuring authentic Harvey House recipes: Appetizers-Cheese straws and onion dip; Main Course - Minute Steak, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Corn bread; Dessert- Strawberry Shortcake. Cost is \$20 per person. Reservations required. 620.767.7986.



Free Mahaffie Stagecoach Rides

April 20, 21 - Don't Miss This!

**Council Oak Park, Trail Days Historic Site
and Madonna of the Trail**

Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System on the Santa Fe Trail. **FREE family activities too numerous to list here.** Free stagecoach rides, old west reenactments, programs, music and more!

Visit CouncilGrove.com/events for a schedule!

White Memorial Camp can host your special event. It's a perfect local place for a special meal, meeting, retreat, wedding or just a fun gathering. Custom Camps for your Church (any denomination) or Organization

- Bed & Breakfast Weekends
- Weddings
- Family Reunions
- Corporate Retreats
- Group Retreats & Workshops
- Dining Hall for up to 250
- Challenge Course Programs for Personal Development or Team Building
- Cabin Rental for Hunters or a "Lovely Get-Away from it All"
- "Single Day" Activities for a family

Summer Camps

Arrowhead Camp - June 11— June 15 Cottonwood Camp - July 9—July 1
Prairie Run Cross Country Camp - Runners Grades 7-12 - June 17 – June 23
Family Camp - All Families - July 27— July 29





THANK YOU for renewing your membership for 2018!



Premium Members

Farmers & Drovers Bank

Deluxe Members

Atmos Energy
Bachura Family Automotive
Diversicare
Ray's Market
TCT/TCT Solution Center

Classic Members

Adams Lumber & Homestore
Aldrich Apothecary
Alexander ArtWorks
Bryant Law Office
Citizens State Bank
Council Grove Marina
Council Grove Realty
Council Grove Republican
Dairy Queen
Emprise Bank
Family Health Center of Morris County
Flint Hills Rural Electric
Hays House Restaurant
headlines by June Cleavers
Hodgdon Powder Co., Inc
Lakeside Properties
Lexinet Corporation
Morris County Hospital
Prairie Lodge Motel
Rerun Consignments
Rex Materials Group
Saddlerock Café
Services Unlimited Heating & Cooling
Short Stop
Sorell Chiropractic Clinic, P.A.
State Farm Insurance
Superior Systems
Trail Days Café & Museum
Tyner Insurance Group
White Memorial Camp

Standard Members

A/C Enterprises, Inc.
Aldrich & Company, LLC
All Around Vet
Bowman Interiors
Butler Community College
Cosgrove Farm Co
El Rancho Viejo
Fastop
Grove Gardens
Heilman Law Office
Jernigan Veterinary Clinics, PS
Quality Profile Services Inc
Redbud Design
Schwerdtfeger Auto
Storage Plus
t3 Wireless
The Parts Place/NAPA
The Tire Shop
Valerie's Gift's and Such

Basic Members

Ag Heritage Park
BG's Bar & Grill
Big Brothers and Sister of the Flint Hills
Bradford Guest House
CASA; of the 8th Judicial Dist
Community Arts Council
Community Christian Church
Community Thrift Store
Council Grove Assisted Living
Council Grove City Lake Association
Council Grove Public Library
CG/Dunlap United Methodist Church
CrossWinds Counseling & Wellness
ECKAN
First Congregational Church
Greater Morris County Development
Handyman Services LLC
Hartman Masonry LLC
Midwest Hearing
Morris County Title Co

Welcome to Our NEW Members!

- ♦ Bank of the Flint Hills
- ♦ Core Score, LLC
- ♦ Qvines, LLC
- ♦ Rock Fish Gallery
- ♦ Amy and Nick Allen
- ♦ Bracie and Annie Lerner
- ♦ Kelly and Sandi McDiffett
- ♦ Craig McNeal
- ♦ Angela and Mike Muncy
- ♦ Terry and Deann Powell
- ♦ Shirley Smith
- ♦ Margaret White

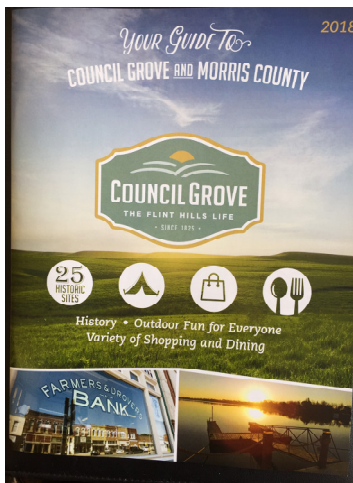
Basic Members (cont.)

Morris County Youth Rodeo Assn
Neosho Gardens
SOS, Inc.
Stonehorse Bed and Breakfast
The Volland Store
United Way of the Flint Hills
USD 417

Individual Members

Chris Adams
Dave and Cheerie Baker
Janis Bosch
Wes and Miki Bowman
Gene and Peggy Colby
Connie Essington
Daniel and Donna Frese
Vern Hay
Robert Herbig
Larry Heyka
Shirley Hickman
John and Julie Hower
Kay and Liz Hutchinson
Andy and Joyce Hutter
Kelley Judd

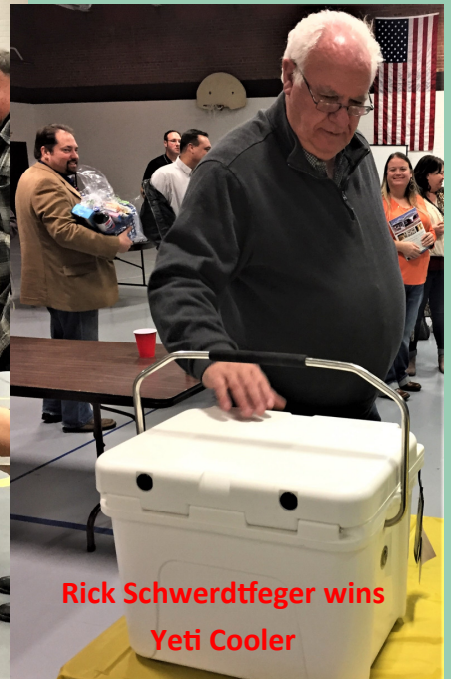
Larry and Karen Landgren
Karen and Steve Lee
Mark Leydig
Tom Moxley
Jim Reagan
Jim Steclart
Bill and Linda Wessell
Hank and Jan White
Marty White
Steve and Laura White
Earl and Deanne White



Our 2018
Member, Relocation & Tourism
Guides are now available
for you and your clients!
Pick up your copies today!


COUNCIL GROVE/MORRIS COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TOURISM

2018 Denim and Diamonds Annual Banquet Casino Night



Citizen of the Year - 2017, Sharon Haun



Reverend Adam Reichart, is awarded the technology basket



Fun at the Tables!



More fun!



Jane Shehi
And
Jim Reagan



Katie Haun, Sharon Haun, Christy Alexander and Monica Simecka