



The Tele-Graham Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce Newsletter



October 2015

Quarterly

Calendar of Events

- October 1st, 2015
Chamber Monthly Luncheon, Red's Family Restaurant. Speaker will be Ginny Prickett of Kansas Workforce ONE.
- October 21st, 2015
"Business After Hours" at the Hill City Times celebrating Jim Logback's 50 years at the Times.
- October 31st, 2015,
Elementary School Halloween handouts.
- November 5th, 2015
Chamber Monthly Luncheon, Red's Family Restaurant.
- November 18th, 2015
"Business After Hours" at the Millbrook Lodge. Bring a toy for the "Toys for Tots" Drive.
- November 19th, 2015, noon. Help Wanted! Decorating the Hill City Park for the Lighting in the Park Event.
- November 27th, 2015, 6:00 p.m. Lighting in the Park Event.
- November 28th, 2015 is Small Business Saturday. Support Your Local Community Shop and Buy Local.
- December 3rd, 2015
Chamber Monthly Luncheon, Red's Family Restaurant. Speaker will be Nate Brown on the Air Med Care .

Kansas Scores an "A" for Small Business Friendliness

Thumbtack, an online consumer service, has announced that Kansas received an overall grade of an "A" for small business friendliness in its annual survey of business owners. The score is an improvement upon the state's grade of a "B" in 2014, and matches the previous high grade established in 2013.

Kansas has worked hard to ensure that their business environment is one that truly promotes small business success. This ranking by Thumbtack indicates that those efforts are having a positive impact on our business climate and helping small businesses thrive in their state.

Small businesses gave Kansas an "A+" in nine out of 10 subcategories, including tax code, regulations, employment and labor, and ease of starting a business.

The survey drew upon data from nearly 18,000 small business owners. Kansas was among nine states receiving a grade of an "A." Three states received grades of "A+."

What does living in a small town mean to you?

- 1) One traffic light.
- 2) Time to visit at the grocery store, Post Office, or the hardware store.
- 3) Shared interests and help.
- 4) Potlucks.
- 5) Community events with everyone helping.
- 6) Knowing the folks that serve you.
- 7) Supporting locals & appreciating their hard work and contribution.
- 8) Time to sit and chat.
- 9) Laughter.
- 10) Relax, be safe and secure.

106 Members and Growing

As you know, we had three ribbon cutting events in one week last month. It was so exciting to see the great turnout at these events. This support told our new members and this community that this group is incredible. I overheard one of the new businesses say, "I think we should have a ribbon cutting event once a month."

We could not do this without you and I just want to tell you from the bottom of my heart, Thank You!

Diana Crouch



Recent Kansas Chamber Activity In The Statehouse

- Reduced individual income taxes from a top rate of 6.45% to 4.9% and the bottom rate, which everyone pays on the first \$30,000 of income, from 3.5% to 3%.
- Led coalition to overhaul work comp system for the first time in nearly 20 years.
- Passed expensing of capital investments. Kansas is the only state in the nation allowing this.
- Passed the Promoting Employment Across Kansas Act (PEAK). Employers moving jobs to Kansas get to keep a portion of their employee withholdings over a number of years for creating high-wage jobs.
- Phased out the franchise tax over three years.
- Repealed the business machinery & equipment property tax.
- Phased out estate tax over five years.

From the Executive Director's Corner

This is Living!



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Enjoy Your Life

The American Heart Association explains that although stress has not been proven to cause heart disease, stress may affect behaviors and factors that increase heart disease risk.

We have ALL had those days where you think it will not get any worse, we know it does. If you can imagine your worse day, then add a two hour stop and go traffic commute home or stopping at the local grocery store and waiting in a long line to checkout. If you times that by 5 days a week and then 52 weeks a year.... you get the picture? Think of the family time you are missing out on. Maximum wasted time.

If you know me at all, you know that I am always 15 minutes early for all of my appointments. Living in the city, I am used to long drives and searching for parking spots. Even after three years of living here, I still allow 20 minutes to get anywhere in town, hence that is why I am always 15 minutes early.

As a semi-retired person I can tell you it does not get any better than this. This is reason #6 why I LOVE GRAHAM COUNTY!



It has been awhile since the Kansas Department of Commerce shared any news on the oil and gas industry, in particular fracking. We just received the August 2015 IOGA Bulletin, which highlights the goings-on in the oil and gas industry nationally and internationally. This issue included an article entitled "Saudi Arabia may go broke before the US oil industry buckles". Below are just a few highlights we took away from the article:

- The contract price of US crude oil for delivery in December 2020 is currently \$62.05
- The North American rig-count has dropped to 664 from 1,608 in October (2014) but output still rose to a 43-year high of 9.6 million barrels/day in June (2015)
- (Shale) gas prices have collapsed from \$8 to \$2.78 since 2009, and the number of gas rigs has dropped 1,200 to 209. Yet output has risen by 30 percent over that period
- Saudi Arabia...relies on oil for 90 percent of its budget revenues. There is no other industry to speak of a full fifty years after the oil bonanza began.
- The "fiscal break-even price" is \$106 (per barrel in Saudi Arabia)
- Saudi Arabia's (cash) reserves peaked at \$737 billion in August 2014. They dropped to \$672 billion in May 2015. At current (oil) prices they are falling by at least \$12 billion a month
- OPEC have left matters too late (held price too high), though there is little they could have done to combat the advances of American technology. In hindsight, it was a strategic error to hold prices so high, for so long, allowing shale frackers – and the solar industry – to come of age.

Falling oil prices have been a boon for U.S. manufacturers, leading some to increase production, while allowing some to improve jobs and products from some former low-cost locations, such as China.



Remember when... gas was "cheap"? What is the cheapest you remember?



What Would Your Chamber Bumper Sticker Say?

JUST DO IT!

Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce

**“The Better Place is Here
The Better Time is Now”**

Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce

All Chambered Up!

Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce



**Be Happy
Shop Local**

Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce

I ❤️ Graham County Kansas

Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce

Make it Happen Here!

Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce

**Jim Logback for President
of the United States**

**Graham County—A Way of Life
Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce**

**Spend Local!
Eat Local!
Enjoy Local!**

**There is No Place Like
Graham County, Kansas**

**Support The Local Businesses
Who Support The Area Where You
Live, Work and Play**

**Keep Calm and
Shop Small Business**

Thanks to Leo Cai for the “Ringneck Capital” logo in the header.
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**We Are Small
Business Proud.**

Every dollar spent at a locally owned business generates two to four times the economic benefit.

Hill City Area Chamber of Commerce

Discover us at:

www.discovergrahamcountyks.com



Facebook

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