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# In Your Neighborhood

FALL 2018

A Newsletter from the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative

## NEIGHBORHOOD ODDS & ENDS

**Neighborhood Meeting:** Hutch Rec is planning a meeting with residents of the neighborhood between Main and Monroe streets from 11th Ave south of the railroad tracks (surrounding Allen School) on Sept. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Hutchinson Public Library's Auditorium. This neighborhood was selected by the Hutchinson Housing Commission to be the next featured neighborhood. Contact Adam Stewart at [astewart@hutchrec.com](mailto:astewart@hutchrec.com) for details and to RSVP.

**Donuts on the Driveway:** The final Donuts on the Driveway event of 2018 is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 27 at 225, E. 14th Ave. Host Michele McCartney is planning a fall-themed snack. Check out the College Grove Facebook page for more info!

**Farmington Park Fall Festival:** Farmington Park residents are trying to find a date to schedule a Fall Festival, complete with hot chocolate and cider, s'mores, and perhaps a movie in the park. Follow the neighborhood Facebook page for the discussion!

**Inspiring Other Neighborhoods:** Events and developments in featured neighborhoods are starting to inspire others in our community. Residents in the Countryside West subdivision, which is not a featured neighborhood, are planning a casual social event, similar to Donuts on the Driveway, and considering options to renovate signs at the neighborhood entrances.

*Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative is provided through a partnership with the City of Hutchinson & Hutch Rec. For more information, visit Hutch Rec at [www.hutchrec.com](http://www.hutchrec.com) or the Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative Facebook page.*



## City recognizes Farmington Park, residents pick logo

Hutchinson City Council recognized Farmington Park Neighborhood with a proclamation at its July 17 meeting.

Mayor Steve Dechant read the proclamation and presented it to neighborhood resident Mel Barnett. Barnett and Warren Pebley helped craft the proclamation, which has been given to the Reno County Museum to archive and display.

Then, on Aug. 7 at National Night Out, residents voted on a logo to go on neighborhood sign-toppers. Hutch Rec created

designs based on resident input, then got additional feedback on those before presenting five options for voting at the block party.

The winning logo received 33 out of 82 votes, with the next-highest getting 21.



The neighborhood proclamation is below:

WHEREAS, almost a century ago, the Farmington subdivision was developed by R.E. Steele and Curtis H. Steele, and originally platted by renowned landscape architecture firm Hare & Hare on August 8th, 1918; and

WHEREAS, during post-World War II development, housing construction boomed in the Farmington subdivision, which the City of Hutchinson subsequently annexed in 1953; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the Hutchinson Housing Commission identified the Farmington subdivision as the newest featured neighborhood of the Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2018, residents proposed naming their neighborhood "Farmington Park Neighborhood" along with establishing neighborhood boundaries; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, 2018, residents approved naming their neighborhood "Farmington Park Neighborhood" along with establishing neighborhood boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the neighborhood was designed around the 11-acre Farmington Park, a cutting edge neighborhood design in its time; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood residents identified Farmington Park as the central feature of their neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Farmington Park serves neighborhood and Hutchinson residents as a place for social gatherings, recreation, and healthy habits;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven A. Dechant, Mayor of the City of Hutchinson, Kansas, do hereby proclaim the Farmington subdivision as the "FARMINGTON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD."

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: Block parties are a hit

College Grove, Farmington Park, and SW Bricktown neighborhoods had their first National Night Out block parties on Aug. 7, with more than 400 people playing games, listening to music, eating at cookouts, and generally enjoying the evening with family, friends, and neighbors.

College Grove capitalized on its proximity to Hutchinson Community College, congregating on the campus with activities and presentations from the Chess Club, Reno County Master Gardeners, and Cosmosphere, while CrossPoint Church provided inflatables for kids to play on.

Farmington Park celebrated the neighborhood's centennial with a picnic, inflatable slide, and organized games, while residents also voted on a logo for sign-toppers.

The highlight of SW Bricktown's block party was the new playground and picnic shelter in SW Bricktown Park. Hutchinson Police cooked hot dogs, Heartland Credit Union brought its Treat Trike, Boys & Girls Clubs provided a bounce house, and DJ T-Raz played music.

National Night Out is a nationwide campaign promoting neighborhood-level activities to build relationships between neighborhoods and emergency responders, with organized events on the first Tuesday of August. Hutchinson Police and Fire departments, Reno County Sheriff's Department, Kansas Highway Patrol, and Reno County Emergency Medical Service all joined in the festivities on Aug. 7.



Top left: Community Resource Officer Darrell Tossie grills hot dogs at SW Bricktown Park. Top right: A seated zip line proved to be the big hit of the new playground at SW Bricktown Park. Bottom left: The Hutchinson Community College Chess Club set up tables of normal-size chess boards, as well as giant chess sets, at the College Grove block party. Bottom right: Farmington Park residents chat while going through the food line in the park gazebo. Photos by Adam Stewart, Amy Limes, & QueenBee Marketing

## SW Bricktown Park gets playground, picnic shelter



Long-awaited improvements at SW Bricktown Park came to fruition at the end of July and start of August, as a playground and picnic shelter were installed just in time for National Night Out.

A \$30,000 donation from Heartland Credit Union paid for half of the purchase price of the playground, with the other half plus the cost of the picnic shelter coming from a Kansas Health Foundation grant, via United Way and Hutch Rec. Volunteers from the credit union also helped install the playground.

Earlier this summer, a new sign was installed at the northeast corner of the park, replacing a sign with the park's old moniker, "Ashmeade Park."

A swing set is still waiting to be added to the playground. The timeline for its installation is unknown.

SW Bricktown Park is located at the intersection of First Avenue and Jefferson Street.

## INTERIM CITY PLANNING DIRECTOR IS A FAMILIAR FACE

A familiar face has popped up in a new place at Hutchinson City Hall, as longtime Downtown Development Director Jim Seitnater has been tabbed as the interim planning and development director.

Seitnater grew up in Hutchinson and has worked in downtown development for about 20 years, he said in an interview. He said he volunteered with several downtown events before that, which led to his role as downtown development director.

He said his experience with downtown illustrates the value of neighborhood-focused development.

"Downtown was kind of the first neighborhood initiative in town," he said.

One of the biggest lessons he has taken from the downtown efforts is that when projects are concentrated together, they magnify their results. There have been a lot of good

projects downtown, but it's easier to see progress when they are clustered together.

Seitnater said mixed-use developments, combining commercial and residential uses, have been crucial to downtown, with apartment residents enlarging shops' customer bases because it's so convenient for them to shop downtown.

He said the inverse could be possible as well, with the right kinds of businesses brightening up residential neighborhoods. This year, the city has been taking steps toward allow more small-scale commercial uses in certain residential zones.

Seitnater was chosen as the interim planning director after his predecessor, Jana McCarron, took a job with Hutchinson Community College.



## Hutch Homeowner Opportunities

**Zero-Interest Home Repair Loan Program:** Provides interest-free loans for certain home improvement projects. There are no income restrictions and both rental and owner occupied houses qualify. **Contact Aaron Barlow at 620-259-4198 for more information.**

**Down Payment Match Incentive:** Applicants must purchase a home in the SW Bricktown, College Grove or Houston Whiteside Neighborhoods to be eligible for up to \$2,500 assistance in down payment and closing costs match. **Contact Jade Shain at 620-259-4134 for more information.**

**Brush Up Hutch!:** The City may be able to help with the cost of paint. In 2017, 12 houses were painted or approved to be painted. Look at the before/after pictures on the left on what a difference this program makes. **Contact Charlene Mosier at 620-259-4133 for more information.**