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In Your Neighborhood

SPRING 2020

A Newsletter from the Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative

#COUNTMEINHUTCH

CENSUS 2020

Ensure that YOU COUNT, Hutchinson counts, and Kansas counts by completing your 2020 Census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail.

Foster care; Low Income Home Energy Assistance; Medicaid and Medicare; and Health Center Programs.

For more information on the census or how you can help collect data, follow the Count Me In Hutch group on Facebook.

Census Data Matters.

This is a year for the full U.S. Census, and it is vitally important everyone is counted accurately. For every household not counted, Hutchinson could miss out on almost \$49,000 in federal funding over the next decade. Census data is used in determining funding allocated to essential programs like: School Lunches; Head Start and Early Head Start; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance;

Clayworks builds basketball court near intersection of neighborhoods

Almost three years ago when Disability Supports of the Great Plains was taking its first look at the building where it would open its Hutchinson Clayworks facility, at 1125 N. Main St., CEO Rick Staab saw kids playing basketball on a goal hanging precariously to the side of a garage.

Very quickly, Staab decided the Clayworks project also should include a real basketball court, and that court opened last year. Basketball players quickly discovered the court, and nicknamed it "The Cage" for the black chain link fence surrounding it. Disability Supports has made the nickname official with a sign where players enter, declaring it a gift to the community.

The Cage has already become popular with players. Jay Scott lives close enough to walk or ride a scooter, and on a warm Friday afternoon in February was found shooting around with Johnny Hinojos.

Scott said that during peak times, in good weather, there have been enough players that two 5-on-5 half-court games were played simultaneously. "We try to play at least once a

week," Scott said.

Disability Supports' plans for community amenities outside the Clayworks don't stop with the basketball court. Staab said additional ideas include a garden and an accessible park and playground.

"We want it to be a space to just pull the community together," Staab said.

The Clayworks' location certainly gives it the potential to pull several neighborhoods together. The Cage itself is within sight of the intersection of 11th Avenue and Main Street, where four featured neighborhoods (College Grove, Creekside, Grace Arbor, and the currently unnamed newest featured neighborhood) meet.

Photo: Jay Scott and Johnny Hinojos play basketball at the Cage, a basketball court built by Disability Supports near where College Grove, Creekside, and Grace Arbor neighborhoods meet.



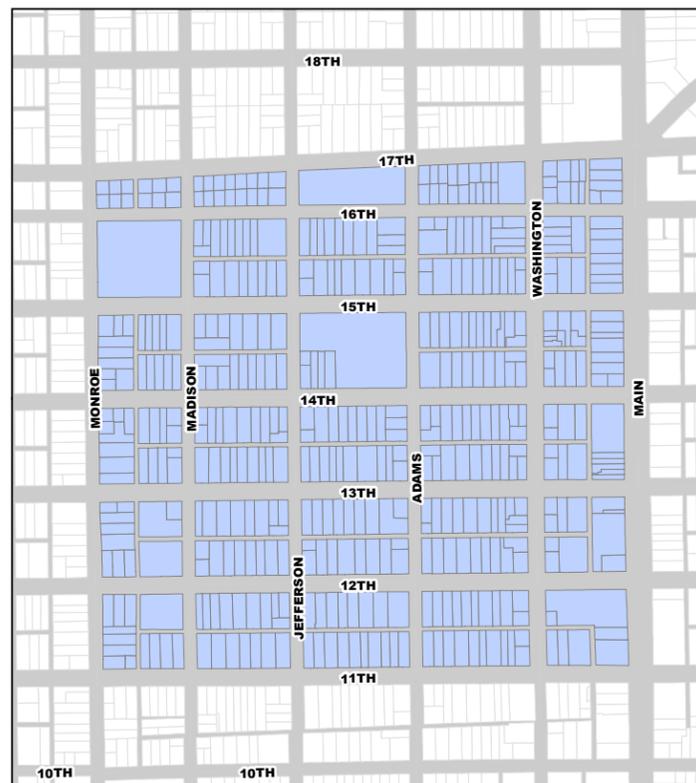
YARD OF THE MONTH AWARDS RENEWED, EXPANDED

The Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative is continuing the Yard of the Month awards for a second year, and expanding the program to include Grace Arbor neighborhood.

The awards recognize residents who make their neighborhoods more attractive places to live by putting in the extra effort on their yards and gardens. Winners receive a yard sign recognizing their award, as well as a \$50 gift card to a lawn and garden or hardware store. This year's awards will cover the months of April, June, August, and October. Nominations may be sent to astewart@hutchrec.com.

Bornholdt Plantland, Elite Real Estate, Heartland Credit Union, and Peoples Bank and Trust have renewed their sponsorships from 2019, and a prize sponsor is being finalized for Grace Arbor.

Organizing efforts begin in sixth neighborhood



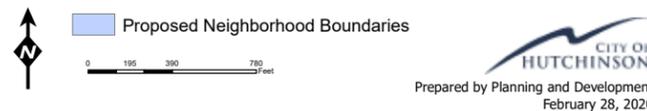
Organizing has started in the sixth featured neighborhood of the Hutchinson Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative.

The Hutchinson Housing Commission endorsed the area between 11th and 17th avenues, from Main Street to Monroe Street, as the next featured neighborhood in December. Those boundaries are tentative; the final decision on boundaries will be up to neighborhood residents.

The currently unnamed neighborhood includes Cub Square and Hutchinson Middle School 8, as well as a number of businesses, especially along Main Street.

Neighborhood Development Coordinator Adam Stewart is having one-on-one conversations with residents about the things that are important to them in the neighborhood. If you know someone who lives in the neighborhood, they are invited to contact Stewart at astewart@hutchrec.com or 620-662-3367.

The next organizing steps will begin in late spring or early summer, depending on public health measures, with neighborhood meetings.



Grace Arbor unveils new neighborhood logo



Grace Arbor unveiled its neighborhood logo on Feb. 18. The logo depicts the old entrance to Grace Hospital, as well as a sunrise behind a canopy of trees, in shades of red, orange, and yellow. Neighborhood residents gave input on the design, which was created by graphic designer Will Gates.

Grace Arbor's name is a tribute to Grace Hospital, which was in the neighborhood, and the streets named for trees, so the logo continues those

themes. The logo will be used on street signs, like those already in College Grove, Farmington Park, and SW Bricktown. No timeline is set for sign installation.

Neighborhoods planning National Night Out party



Three neighborhoods are planning to have a combined National Night Out block party on Main Street.

Organizers in College Grove, Creekside, and Grace Arbor have agreed to partner on the shared party on Tuesday,

Aug. 4. The exact location isn't set yet, but the party will be on Main Street near the intersection with 11th Avenue, where the neighborhoods meet.

Specifics will be worked out this spring and summer, but expect the party to include food vendors, inflatables for kids, games and activities for all ages, and guests from local emergency response agencies.

The combined party is part of the city's "Phase Zero Hutch" program to test and demonstrate different ideas for things the city and residents can do with public space. Phase Zero Hutch is supported by a grant from the Hutchinson Community Foundation's Fund for Hutchinson.

Farmington Park and SW Bricktown are planning their own National Night Out block parties, to be held in their respective neighborhood parks. Details on National Night Out parties will be posted on the neighborhood Facebook pages as they become available.

Creekside plans project in park

Organizers in Creekside neighborhood are preparing for a volunteer project this summer in Bernard White Park. Partnering with the City Parks Department, residents identified removing an existing wire fence between the park and Cow Creek as a contribution they could make to broader improvements to the park.

Volunteers will cut away the old wire fence and pull the posts during the project. They also plan to pick up trash along the shore of the creek. The fence replacement project was scheduled for March 28, but has been postponed.

Additional steps neighborhood organizers want to take include improving the connection between Bernard White Park and the nearby trailhead for the Jim P. Martinez Sunflower Trail. The park, located at the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Brookside Street, is named for Lt. John Bernard White, a hero in World War I killed during the Battle of Chateau-Thierry in France.

Follow the Creekside Neighborhood page on Facebook to stay up-to-date on plans for the project.



When to plant annual flowers is based on soil temperature and not the calendar. Some cultivars tolerate cool soil, while others require warm soil. An easy way to gauge the soil temperature is to simply stick a thermometer about four inches into the ground. You can take a measurement in the early morning and late afternoon to get a high and low for the day, then average them. K-State also has a good weather data library that shows soil temperatures at weather stations throughout the state.

When the soil temp is around 65 degrees, petunias, begonias, alyssum, and snapdragons can go in the ground. More sensitive crops like vinca, celosia, lantana, melampodium, zinnias, and pentas need soil temperatures of 68-70 degrees. These are the flowers that thrive in the heat of the summer and need those high temperatures. Most everything else falls in between.

This is the time to have patience. Wait until soil temperatures are up for a couple of days before rushing out to plant. Our most heat tolerant plants tolerate the heat because they love and thrive in warm soils. Cool, damp soils will comprise their root systems and then when the real heat of the summer does finally arrive, they will have few roots to support the plants growth.

Happy planting! And while you're planting, don't fall for these common mulch myths:

Myth: Mulch will attract termites to my house.

Fact: Termites are not attracted to mulch. They may feed on mulch if and only if they are already present. Termites prefer better quality wood such as construction debris buried in the backfill. Pine bark and cypress are the least attractive to termites.

Myth: Freshly chipped wood will suck the nitrogen out of the soil.

Fact: Nitrogen does not move up into the mulch, and mulch sitting on the soil surface will not take large amounts of nitrogen from the soil. However, organic matter such as sawdust incorporated into the soil can tie up significant amounts of nitrogen. Over time compost and mulch will release nitrogen and other mineral elements for plant use.

Myth: If some mulch is good, more is better.

Fact: Three inches of mulch is all that you need on the soil surface and only two inches if you are using a finely ground mulch. More mulch than this keeps oxygen and water from getting to the plant roots and causes roots to grow up into the mulch.