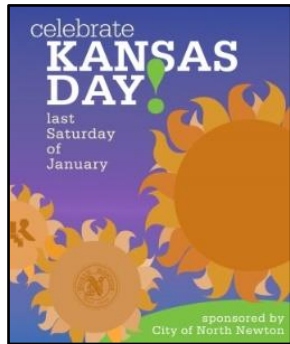


NEWLY ELECTED TO TAKE OATH OF OFFICE



At the January 8, 2024 city council meeting newly elected Mayor Ron Ratzlaff, new council member Marissa Murphy, and re-elected council member Kurt Friesen will take the oath of office.



Kauffman Museum at Bethel College invites you to attend **Celebrate Kansas Day!** Saturday, January 27, 2024, 12:00 - 4:00 P.M.

The theme will be **"Kansan Critters"** with speakers throughout the afternoon, food trucks in the parking lot, activities

and crafts for kids, demonstrators, and outdoor activities. For information email John Fast at jfast@bethelks.edu or Andi Andres at asa@bethelks.edu or call 316-283-1612. In early January, specific information will be available at <https://kauffmanmuseum.org>.



City Clerk Pat Redding has achieved Master Municipal Clerk status and was presented a certificate at the November 13 city council meeting.



"January brings the snow, makes our feet and fingers glow." – Sara Coleridge

2024 PET TAGS

Dogs and cats are required by ordinance to have a City tag each calendar year. 2024 tags are available through March 1 for just \$3.00 (spayed/neutered pets) or \$5.00 (unaltered pets). Bring proof of an unexpired rabies vaccination. **After March 1, a \$15.00 penalty per tag is applied.** Citizens adopting new pets throughout the year may get tags at any time without any penalty.



Unable to get to City Hall during business hours? Mail us your fee, valid Rabies Certificate(s), and pet information or drop them in the night box and we will send your tags.

Lost pets are occasionally brought to City Hall and we attempt to track down an owner through the pet tag records. If there is no pet tag the animal will most likely be taken to Caring Hands Humane Society. Not only will you have to pay to retrieve your pet there, you will be required to get a City tag and pay the penalty.



The City is happy to post a picture of a lost pet on our Facebook page to assist you in locating it.



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS



in 2012. Colt is an experienced K9 handler and patrols North Newton with his K9 partner Odie.

The department is also pleased to welcome Patrol Officer Mason Hinz to the team. Mason completed his



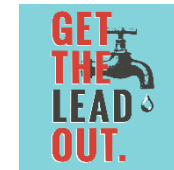
The North Newton Police Department is happy to announce the promotion of Officer Colt Pfautz to the rank of Master Patrol Officer. Colt started his law enforcement career

certification in 2019 and served as a detention deputy prior to that.



GOOD TO KNOW.....

► New water and sewer minimum rates take effect this billing: water minimum went up \$2.00 to \$27.00; sewer minimum went up \$1.00 to \$37.00.



► The City appreciates the 200+ billed customers who turned in their **Plumbing Survey** that came in the November bill. Since this is a federally mandated survey we will be reaching out to those who did not turn in a survey. The survey is available through a link on our website or you may pick up a copy at City Hall.

► The **2024 Nisly Recycle Schedule** (for those who get a City bill) is available as a printable link on our website or you may pick up a copy at City Hall.

If there is an issue with your trash or recycle collection on collection day, please try to notify City Hall before 2:00 P.M. Once the Nisly truck driver leaves town on collection day, it is difficult to rectify a problem that same day.



► The Bethel College Mennonite Church continues their **plastic bag collection drive** and the collection box in the City Hall lobby is often full! See our website homepage for a list of the types of bags/wraps/film you can drop off. Remember, it must be clean and dry; no paper labels and no trash. ► Residential customers are now in the **sewer reaveraging period**. Water usage from 11/15/23-2/14/24 will be averaged and applied on your April 2024 bill as your **new sewer consumption**. High water usage during the reaverage period could drive up your sewer consumption/charge for a whole year beginning on the April bill. **Find and fix leaks and plumbing issues now.**

► **Building Permit applications** are available at City Hall, at <https://www.northnewton.org>, or by calling the office for an emailed version. Coordinate with our office regarding payment and any inspections required. Permits and fees must be processed before work commences.

Here is a partial list of what requires permits:

- Remodels, additions, detached garages/sheds
- Re-roofing, re-siding, adding a deck or deck cover, such as a pergola
- Replacing/installing air conditioners, furnaces, water heaters, water softeners
- New plumbing, service line replacements, pools, irrigation systems on city water
- Electrical re-wiring, adding circuits

▶ North Newton continues to levy an **Intangibles Tax**. This is a tax on interest and dividend earnings. Persons who have such income are required to file with your Kansas income tax (Form 200) each spring and this gets posted to your property tax statement. Your accountant should be aware of this requirement. Take note if you have recently moved to town and/or if you prepare your own state income tax forms.

▶ Please remove cars from the street during moderate to heavy snowfalls to allow for more efficient **snow removal**.

▶ Curbside **Christmas tree pick up** dates will be January 2 and January 8.

▶ The first three **City Council meetings** of 2024 are January 8, February 12, and March 11 at 7:00 P.M.



ADMINISTRATION

- Paid off KPERS unfunded actuarial liability 12 years early.
- Updated building permit fees, including raising the minimum permit fees.
- Approved a travel and business expense policy.
- Approved a disposal of property policy.
- Worked with Newton to dissolve the Joint Planning and Historic Preservation Commissions.
- Formed North Newton Planning Commission.
- Issued Request for Proposals for trash and recycling services. Began service with NISLY in June.

- Updated water, sewer and trash utility fees.
- Approved an ordinance for work in the City right of way.
- Awarded a bid to Vogts-Parga Construction for sidewalk extensions. The project will be completed in 2024.
- Completed repairs to City Hall, including a retrofitted foundation.
- Received a Hazard Mitigation Grant of \$29,402 to install a second tornado siren along 36th Street.
- Received a Local Safety and Security Grant of \$30,044 to purchase police radios and mobile computers.
- Held a holiday lighting competition with 20 homes participating.
- For the second year in a row the mill levy has had a slight reduction. For the 2024 budget the mill was reduced from 51.881 to 51.809.
- Building permits issued for a total of \$1,614,715 in new valuation.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Purchased new tasers for the police department.
- Chief Randy Jordan retired at the end of September. Deputy Chief Jim Bethards hired as the new Chief of Police.
- Restructured the police department; removed the Deputy Chief position and added a Patrol Sergeant and Master Patrol rank.
- For 2023: 644 calls for service; 170 police reports taken; 601 traffic stops with 140 citations issued

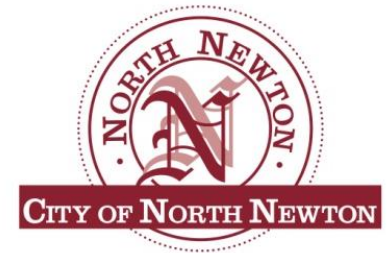
PUBLIC WORKS

- Hired Matthew Newfield to the department
- Repaired 13 water leaks
- Entered into a 3-year sewer cleaning contract with Mayer Specialty Services.
- Repaired one sanitary sewer main
- Applied 300 gallons brine and 16 tons salt/sand mix to streets during the winter months
- Produced 59,500,000 gallons of potable water
- Pumped 33,000,000 gallons of waste water to Hesston treatment plant
- Repaired 2,850 square feet of asphalt.
- Installed permanent No Parking signs on Ivy Dr.
- Purchased new Hustler mower
- Purchased new back-up sewer pump
- Installed new shade structures and picnic tables at Goldenrod Court Tot Lot and Campus Woods Park



Cover photo is the walking path between Campus Court and Old Colony Court taken after the November 25 snowfall. - Max Voran.

January 2024



2601 North Main; P.O. Box 87
North Newton, KS 67117

Office Hours

8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Mon. – Thurs.
8:00 A.M. to Noon, Friday

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<https://www.northnewton.org>
nncity@northnewton.org
facebook.com/northnewton

Police Department: (316) 283-3191
nnpd@northnewton.org

A quarterly newsletter for
the people of North Newton