

THE BUTLER INSIDER

Butler County

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April 2026

APRIL

2026

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Spring Fling LUNCHES

April 30, 2026

11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

MONTEREY, DRINK & DESSERT - \$10.00



Available at

Civic Center & Community (4-H) Building

Eat at the fair or get lunch to go





Will's Desk

Where did spring go? It appears we skipped it this year and went straight into summer. Even though it may feel like late June here lately it still is spring and we need to keep a close eye on the sky and make sure you and your family is prepared in the event of a disaster. There are many helpful tips from Emergency Management on the County's website about storm preparation. Please make sure you have a plan and review it with your family so you can ensure everyone is safe.

Vitality walks will kick off next month and information on these walks can be obtained through Human Resources. These walks are a great opportunity to get some much-needed exercise, spend time with your family and pick up some Vitality points.

Lots of things are going on with the Legislature as it came to an end Friday night, with some typical craziness. Just like our parents told us growing up nothing good happens after 10 PM, so go home; the same holds true with trying to adopt legislation in the wee hours of the night and morning. HB 2745 was passed at midnight and is an attack on local governments to control property taxes. The problem with the bill is the language included in the bill makes it almost impossible for County Clerk's offices to comply in the event of a protest petition and limits property tax growth to 3%, including new construction. So, if you have a major project or development that occurs, or an industrial revenue bond (IRB) which comes back on the tax roll increasing the assessed valuation by over 3% you can not capture that in your budget even if the plan included additional expenses to support. There are also provisions for a protest petition which would require Clerks' Office to certify in about a week's time and, finally, the State exempted themselves from the 20 mills school assessment they collect. Which means if we have hyper inflation again and values increase by 10-15% your property taxes paid to the State will increase by a similar amount, while local budgets are capped at 3%. Altogether HB 2745 is just a bad bill and I could go into more detail but it would take about 3 more pages, so I will move on to other items.

Data Centers are the big buzz word right now around the nation, and the State of Kansas, as many developers are looking to locate in the Midwest where land prices are cheaper and there is better power and water availability. The County is going to do our due diligence to learn about these facilities and put together regulations in anticipation of someone requesting to locate a center in Butler County. There are many opinions about the pros and cons of data centers, and no matter how much information we collect the siting of one of these facilities in our County will be controversial. I plan to visit one of these facilities this week to learn more about them and will attempt to take a group to look at a different facility later this spring so we can see them first hand. They are large industrial size complexes that look more like large school campuses than industrial facilities. They measure in size by the million square feet and house multi-millions of dollars' worth of computer equipment. We will do our best to develop regulations that strike a balance for the citizens of our County and facility owners—more to come on this subject.

This is my favorite time of the year and I hope you can enjoy the spring weather. Spend some quality family time outside by taking a walk and staying healthy (Vitality plug!). I am looking forward to a beautiful April, which leads us to a wonderful May! Keep up the hard work and thank you for all you do for the citizens of Butler County. —Will

COLOR THEIR FUTURE Bright

Run with Purpose, Support with Heart,
Protect every Child

1,2,3 Mile Color Run & Festival

April 25, 2026
Color Run 9:00am
Festival 10:00am - 12:00pm
East Park
100 Woodland St, El Dorado

Choose your distance and
get covered in color!

Register to run

Or come the day of to toss
color powder at runners

Games

Crafts

Food Trucks

Live Music



Scan to Register
for Color run

Join us for colorful fun!



April 2026

4-H & Youth Development

Madeline Wallace – 4-H & Youth Development Agent

Celebrating the Heart of 4-H: National Volunteer Week

Each April, we recognize the incredible individuals who make 4-H possible during National Volunteer Week! Behind every meeting, project, and event is a dedicated volunteer giving their time, talents, and passion to help young people grow. In 4-H, volunteers are mentors, role models, and champions for youth.

Our volunteers create meaningful experiences that shape life skills and build confidence in our members. They are the reason youth feel supported as they try new things, step outside their comfort zones, and discover their potential. The impact of a caring adult showing up consistently cannot be overstated, as it's often what makes the difference in a young person's journey.

National Volunteer Week is the perfect time to say "thank you" in both big and small ways. Clubs and members can write thank-you notes, recognize them during meetings, or do so in other ways. Even a simple expression of gratitude can go a long way in showing appreciation for the time and heart our volunteers invest.

Together, we can continue building a strong, supportive environment where all youth can thrive. To all of our 4-H volunteers, thank you for the difference you make every single day. Your dedication is truly the heart of our program.

Family Consumer Sciences

April is recognized as Financial Literacy Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of understanding money management and building strong financial habits. In today's fast-paced, increasingly complex financial world, financial literacy is more essential than ever. People of all ages are encouraged to evaluate their current financial habits. Whether it's creating a budget, starting an emergency fund, or learning about investments, even small steps can lead to significant improvements over time.

Financial literacy means having the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions about budgeting, saving, investing, and managing debt.

[The U.S. Government's Financial Education and Literacy Commission](#) promotes five principles for Americans to keep in mind as they make day-to-day financial decisions and plan their financial goals. Those principles are: Earn, Save and Invest, Protect, Spend and Borrow. While everyone manages money differently, these are designed to help you guide you and not hard and fast rules.

Agriculture

Prescribed Burning – Know the Regulations!

Charlene Miller – Agriculture Agent/Extension Director

It is the time of year when we start planning for native pasture prescribed burning. Here are a few things you can do to help prepare and reduce the risk of unintended outcomes.

- 1) Know the Butler County Burn Regulations! You can find those at: <https://www.bucoks.com/203/Controlled-Burning>. You are required to make notifications and that contact information is found in this link. I also recommend notifying your neighbors.
- 2) The Kansas Smoke Management Plan goes into effect on April 1 – know the plan! www.ksfire.org
- 3) Develop a burn plan; identify your goals, know the weather and wind forecast (www.weather.gov/ict/fire), review safety requirements, determine equipment and manpower needs and know your emergency contacts. Also be aware of roads and major highways and use caution not to lay smoke across them. Evaluate the ground to make sure it's solid enough to hold a pickup and sprayer. If the ground is not solid, think of what will happen when you put fire trucks on there if the fire should escape. Good planning is critical when planning and executing a controlled burn.

Horticulture

Houseplant Care

Calla Edwards – Horticulture Agent

Frost Free Dates Calla Edwards – Horticulture Agent

April is here, and gardening season is really hitting its stride. Between flowers blooming, planting in the garden, bees buzzing, and grass growing, things get going in April. An important milestone in our gardening calendar also falls in April: we reach our frost-free date for spring. Depending on where you live in Butler County, the frost-free dates range anywhere from April 12th in Cassoday to April 19th in Rose Hill. There is quite a bit of confusion about what frost-free dates truly mean. Many people think that once we reach that date, we will not have any frost for the rest of the season. However, that is not the case.

A frost-free date is a measure of the chances that there will be a 32-degree temperature on or after that date. In El Dorado, our frost-free date is April 14th. On that date, we have a 50/50 chance of a frost, and every day after, the chance of a frost drops to zero. If you want to be safe and avoid having to cover your vegetables to protect them from the cold weather, wait till May 1st when there is less than a 10% chance of a frost.

Frost-free dates are a great tool to use when planning when to plant your vegetable garden, but don't forget to use soil temperatures as the determining factor when you plant your warm-season vegetables to ensure they get the best start this spring. Happy Growing, everyone!!

Contact us:

Phone: (316) 321-9660

Facebook: @ksrebutlerco

Web: Butler.K-State.Edu

Twitter: @ButlerExtension

Address: 206 N Griffith St, Ste. El Dorado, KS 67042

See our full Newsletter at <https://www.butler.k-state.edu/newsletter.html>

For KSRE publications and information,
visit www.ksre.ksu.edu

Welcome to Butler County!

Jeduthun Humig—Noxious Weeds
Cody Woodruff—Emergency Medical Services



TWO LOCATIONS. ONE PURPOSE.
EMPOWERING WOMEN IN THE CATTLE INDUSTRY.

**Registration now open
for Eastern Cow Camp**

**WESTERN KANSAS, HAYS WKREC
SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2026
EASTERN KANSAS, PARSONS SEREC
MAY 5-6, 2026**

Contact Us

Western: Dr. Emma Briggs
785-625-3425

Eastern: Dr. Jaymelynn Farney
620-820-6125



LEARN MORE AT:

https://www.wkrec.org/events/cow_camp/

Kansas State University is committed to making its services, activities and programs accessible to all participants. If you have special requirements due to a physical, vision, or hearing disability, contact Logan Simon SWREC. Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Butler County's 5K VITALITY WALKS

LET'S GET MOVING!



MAY 5-30, SEPTEMBER 1-29

All Tuesday/Thursday walks will start at 5:15 p.m. on the specified dates at East Park in El Dorado. 250 Vitality Points will be awarded for each walk you register for and complete. Preregistration is required by 5 p.m. on the day before each walk.

SPRING
(HELD IN MAY)

TUESDAYS
5, 12, 19, 26

THURSDAYS
7, 14, 21, 28

SATURDAYS
(MAP MY FITNESS)
9, 16, 23, 30

FALL
(HELD IN SEPTEMBER)

TUESDAYS
1, 8, 15, 22, 29

THURSDAYS
3, 10, 17, 24

SATURDAYS
(MAP MY FITNESS)
5, 12, 19, 26

To receive credit, you must: walk at least 3.2 miles on the specified walk date, preregister for the walk, and notify Sandy of your intent to walk before 5 p.m. the day before.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH. REWARD YOUR LIFE.

You can participate using the MapMyFitness app on your smartphone if you are unable to participate on the walk at East Park. After downloading the app, friend Sandy Zieman on your account.

Preregistration is required for all walks.

You can only receive points for 10 walks total that are completed during the spring and fall.
Contact Sandy to preregister at benefits@bucoks.com.



APRIL EMPLOYEE BIRTHDAYS

April 1

Walker Andrews—Sheriff's Office
Allen Hosler—Public Works
Aaron Lowmaster—Public Works
Chloe Mahan—Emergency Communications

April 2nd

Lindsey Collins—Attorney's Office
Mathieu Flickinger—Public Works
Michelle Milton—Treasurer's Office
Robin Thomas—Detention

April 5th

Raymond Petty—Public Works

April 8th

Kenyon McLallen—Detention

April 10th

John Foulston—Emergency Medical Services
Zion Stevens—Public Works

April 11th

Kaydran Cota—Emergency Medical Services
Dwayne Killman Sr.—Sheriff's Office

April 13th

Leann Kirkendoll—Appraiser's Office
Wyatt Rowland—Public Works

April 15th

Mark Schmidt—GIS/Mapping

April 17th

Billy Cole—Sheriff's Office
Kira Forrest—Emergency Medical Services
Emily Rea—Emergency Medical Services

April 18th

Matthew Hickman—Sheriff's Office

April 19th

Brian Culpepper—Detention

April 20th

Caitlin Smith—Appraiser's Office

April 21st

Terrence Huelskamp—Administration
Nicole Troughton—Emergency Medical Services

April 22nd

Allen Peck—Detention

April 23rd

Kelly Pratt—Emergency Medical Services

April 27th

Cody Otto—Public Works

April 29th

Tessa Bragg—Emergency Communications
Mary Partyka—Treasurer's Office





WALK KANSAS

March 22 - May 16, 2026

Walk with us toward a *healthier* tomorrow.

Registration opens March 1!



Kansas State University
Extension

walkkansas.org

K-State Extension Butler County

206 N. Griffith St. El Dorado, KS 67042

316-321-9660

cmmiller1@ksu.edu

Kansas State University is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

BUTLER COUNTY DEPARTMENT ON AGING'S

Spring Fling

SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

★ *April 30, 2026* ★

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FREE ADMISSION

Visit over 100 Booths

Door Prizes at every booth

Free Shuttle & Parking

Monterey Lunches \$10

Free Health Screenings

Free Document Shredding

Free Photo Booth

Chance to win a Grand Prize

Two Locations in El Dorado

CIVIC CENTER

201 E. Central

COMMUNITY BLDG

206 N. Griffith



Every Senior Is an MVP!

Visit Spring Fling web page



Sponsored In Part By:

**THE ACTIVE AGE , HOMESTEAD SENIOR LIVING, ALL SAINTS HOME CARE, INSPIRED ADVISORS
LAKEPOINT OF EL DORADO & AUGUSTA, ALL STATES HOME IMPROVEMENT, MILLS INSURANCE SERVICES**

QUESTIONS/INTERESTED IN A VENDOR BOOTH OR SPONSORSHIP?
Call BCDoA at 316-775-0500 or email blouthan@bucoks.com

FOOD TRUCK

EA
PRESENTS
MONTHLY

Friday



Tater's N Toppings

**Friday April 17th
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
On Central in Front
of the Courthouse**



Burnt End



Busy B's



Wok Hei Noodle

Beyond First Aid and CPR...

Maybe you've taken a CPR class or a First Aid class... or maybe even Stop the Bleed. But now you're wondering what else is out there. What else can you learn to help you be better prepared to react in an emergency or to protect your friends and family?



Here's an option!

FEMA's 20-hour "**CERT Basic**" class teaches regular citizens basic disaster skills, such as:

- ⇒ Disaster Preparedness
- ⇒ Light Search and Rescue
- ⇒ Fire Safety and Suppression
- ⇒ Disaster Medical Operations

...and more! The program includes both classroom learning and hands-on activities.

CERT BASIC CLASS: Dates and Times

Friday, April 10th	6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 11th	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 12th	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

**Must attend all three dates to earn the certificate.*

CERT BASIC CLASS: Location

Public Safety Building — Training Room
2100 N. Ohio, Augusta KS

Butler County Emergency Management is conducting a **CERT Basic** class in April 2026 and registrations are now being accepted. If you are interested in participating, here is some additional information:

- Cost:** None! CERT Basic is free.
- Prerequisites:** No prior training is required.
- Eligibility:** Anyone and everyone! Teens under 18 (but at least 14) are welcome to attend with a parent or guardian.
- Registration:** Limited to the first 25. Sign up using the link or QR code below :

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/April2026_CERT

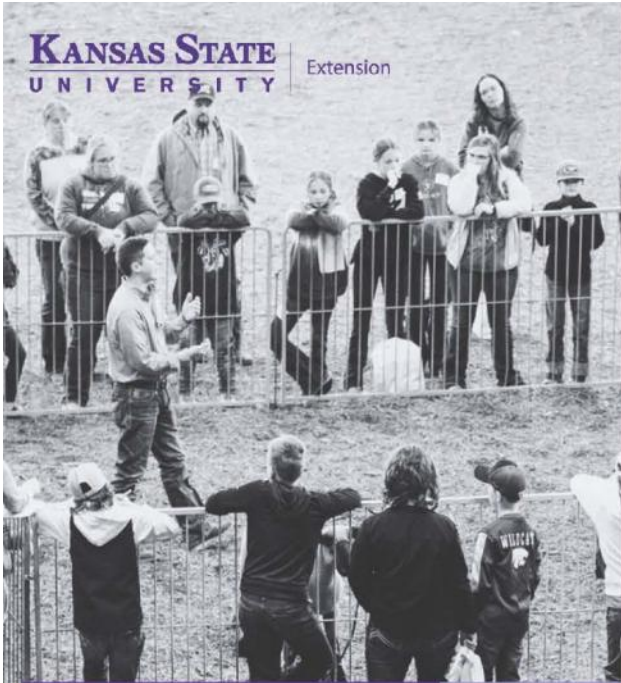
- Questions:** Call (316) 733-9796 or email kkorthals@butlerema.org



April Employee Anniversaries

- ◇ Rachel Barker—8 years, Emergency Medical Services
- ◇ Derek Best—3 years, Emergency Communications
- ◇ Christina Burton—11 years, Emergency Medical Services
 - ◇ James Byers—6 years, Facilities Management
 - ◇ Ted Dykstra II—5 years, Noxious Weeds
- ◇ Eli Flower—2 years, Community Development
 - ◇ Muhammad Ijaz—1 year, Detention
- ◇ William Johnson Jr—24 years, Administration
 - ◇ Austin Merz—2 years, Sheriff's Office
- ◇ Timothy Moore—2 years, Community Development
- ◇ Kelly Pratt—13 years, Emergency Medical Services
 - ◇ Carmen Sperry—22 years, Sheriff's Office
- ◇ Arielle Steinle—8 years, Emergency Medical Services
 - ◇ Misty Tharp—6 years, Treasurer's Office
 - ◇ Katelynn Ware—2 years, Detention
 - ◇ Thad White—19 years, Sheriff's Office





KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

2022 K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day



Date

4.11.2026

Manhattan, KS



Scan Me!



Registration

Due: 3.20.2026

Cost: \$20/person

<https://bit.ly/SheepJrProducer>

- *All adults & youth must register to attend.
- **Only those registered by 3/20/26 will receive a t-shirt.
- ***Late registration is \$30/person.



Questions

Lexie Hayes



785.532.1264



adhayes@ksu.edu

Program

Join us for the biennial K-State Junior Sheep Producer Day on Saturday, April 11, 2026. Presentations will be provided by featured guests, as well as K-State faculty, staff, and students. This event will be an educational day of activities in which youth, parents, extension agents, ag teachers, and sheep project leaders can increase their knowledge of youth sheep project selection and management. A variety of topics will be shared, including an optional YQCA certification at the end of the day. All ages and skill levels are invited! Lunch and a t-shirt are included. The registration fee is \$20/person for those who sign up by March 20 or \$30/person for those who register after that date. Only those who register by the deadline will receive a t-shirt. This is a family event! Anyone attending, including both youth and adults, must register. There will be an optional tour of the sheep and meat goat center offered on Friday evening and Saturday after jr. day.

Tentative Schedule

- Friday, April 10**
- 5:00-7:00PM Optional Tour of Sheep & Goat Center
- Saturday, April 11**
- 8:00AM Check-in
- 9:00AM Welcome
- 9:15AM Selection
- 10:00AM Nutrition
- 10:45AM Morning Breakout Sessions
 - facilities & equipment, reproduction, project management purchase to show
- NOON Lunch
- 1:00PM Health
- 1:45PM Afternoon Breakout Sessions
 - wool, showmanship, clipping & grooming
- 3:45PM Dismissal
- 4:00PM Optional YQCA Class
- 4:00-6:00PM Optional Sheep & Goat Center Tour



K-State, County Extension Councils, Extension Districts, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, or disability.



13th Judicial District News

Important Notice

Starting January 1, 2026, the Butler County District Court Clerk will only accept the following types of payment:

- Debit/Credit Card,
 - Check,
- Money Order, and
- Cash – EXACT FUNDS ONLY



Kansas Legal Services **Legal Aid**

Kansas Legal Services (KLS) will be available to the public to provide legal aid one day a month at the Butler County Judicial Center. KLS attorneys will be on-site in the Butler County Judicial Center, Jury Assembly room from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM on the third Tuesday of each month.

The legal aid services are open to the public at no cost if there is not a conflict. While there is no appointment required, KLS will be limited to 20 individuals per legal aid day. If someone is unable to participate in legal aid day, KLS has made available an advice line. The number for the advice line is 1-800-726-6933.

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn Rouse or Kim Ellison at 316-322-4358.

ANNUAL BUTLER COUNTY
Lawn & Garden Show

**GROW & BLOOM
IN BUTLER**



Master Gardeners of Butler Co., KS

FREE
Admission

- Children's activities
- Concessions
- Exhibits & vendors
- Plants for sale!
- Professional presentations
- Seed swap
- Soil test service available!
- & More!

Event Details

**DOOR
PRIZES!**



Saturday, April 11th, 9 AM - 5 PM
Sunday, April 12th, 11 AM - 4 PM

Butler County Community/4-H Building
200 N. Griffith, El Dorado

This institution is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services, and activities. Program information may be available in languages other than English. Language access requests and reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, including alternative means of communication (e.g., Braille, large print, and American Sign Language), may be requested by contacting the event contact, Butler County Ext. Office four weeks prior to the start of the event, March 13th, at 316-321-9660. Requests received after this date will be honored when it is feasible to do so. Language access services, such as interpretation or translation of vital information, will be provided free of charge to limited English proficient individuals upon request.

K-STATE
Research and Extension
Master Gardener
Butler County



Run with Purpose, Support with Heart,
Protect every Child

April 25, 2026 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

East Park, El Dorado, KS

Seeking Exhibitor's

Promote your business or organization by having a booth in the park or

Hosting a special promotion in connection with the event.

Sign up through the QR code/url below.



<https://forms.gle/KRQMhB6u15wchu5t8>

- Exhibitor's in the park will be ask to provide a children's craft or carnival game at their booth.
- This event sponsored by the El Dorado Community Coalition for National Drug Endangered Children Awareness Day

Ag Tech Day

April 4, 2026
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Flickner Innovation Farm
Moundridge, Kansas



Visit stations around the farm and learn about technologies to make a farm management plan.



Free and open to the public; activities are tailored for middle and high school students.



Come and go as you please; snacks provided!

Register by April 1 at <https://bit.ly/AgTechDay>

K-STATE
Research and Extension



KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY Institute for Digital Agriculture and Advanced Analytics





What's up with the Butler County Employee Association?

Aren't a member yet? No problem! We have lots of benefits to enjoy throughout the whole year. Contact Sandy at benefits@bucoks.com or call her at 322-4301.

We would love to have you join!

Upcoming Events

The first 2026 Food Truck Friday is April 17th!

Adopt-A-Charity 2026 Schedule

The General Board heard presentations from Kansas Honor Flights, Monkey in My Chair & Refuge in the Storm El Dorado (RISE) during the March 5th General Board Meeting. The Board voted to award 2026 Adopt-A-Charity assistance to Monkey in My Chair, keep Kansas Honor Flight as the 3rd quarter Jean Day and hold a fund-raiser or supply drive for RISE.

2026 Jean Day Schedule

- 1st Quarter—Birthline of El Dorado
- 2nd Quarter—Substance Abuse Center of Kansas (SACK)
- 3rd Quarter—Kansas Honor Flights
- 4th Quarter—Dept. on Aging Senior Christmas Bags

Jean Day Highlight

The Substance Abuse Center of Kansas (SACK) is the recipient of the 2026 2nd Quarter Jean Day Donations. SACK helps with the prevention, treatment & case management of individuals affected by substance abuse. They have locations in Wichita, El Dorado, Hutchinson & Roeland Park. Check out their website for more information on how they help our community! www.sackansas.org

Merchant Highlights

*Two Brother's BBQ
10% discount at El Dorado location

*Shaw's Pest Control
20% off pest control service,
10% off termite treatment

*O'Reilly's Auto Parts
Government rate plus tax.
Discount amount varies by item.
Augusta & El Dorado locations.

Jeans Days

2026 2nd Quarter Jean Days go to the Substance Abuse Center of Kansas (SACK.)

April Jeans Days are the 2nd, 16th and 30th.



Butler County

205 W. Central
El Dorado, KS 67042
Phone: (316)322-4300



www.bucoks.com

Bonus Round:

- ⇒ A and C were going to prank their friendbut they just letter B.
- ⇒ My local library put out an “invisible books” display for April Fools’ Day but I saw right through it.



Moments in Time

April 1st is “April Fool’s Day.” Need ideas to pull a verbal prank? See below for some epic “Dad Jokes” worthy of the mission.

- * Q: What is a gas pump’s favorite holiday?
A: April Fuel’s Day
 - * Q: What monster plays the most April Fools’ jokes?
A: Prankenstein
 - * Q: Why was everyone so tired on April 1st?
A: Because they just finished a 31-day March.
 - * Q: What do you call a bear caught in an April shower?
A: A drizzly bear.
 - * Q: What is a prankster’s favorite toy?
A: Silly String
- Q: How do April flowers kiss?
A: With their tu-lips.



MISSION STATEMENT

Provide the public with quality service
And efficient use of resources through
Responsive, interactive, and proactive management
While respecting individual rights and dignity.