

# Kansas Wetland Education Center to offer Discovery Day Camps this summer

by FHSU University Communications

Dive into the exciting world of the Cheyenne Bottoms marsh. Grade school campers who have completed first through sixth grade and love solving problems, exploring, creating, building, and getting outside are in for a treat with KWC's themed summer discovery camps.

Each camp will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the days offered. Campers can sign up for single camps or for all camps. Campers who attend all five one-day camps can attend the last two-day camp for free. Registration is required by calling 877-243-9268 or emailing amkern2@fhsu.edu.

There is a camp fee for each day to cover materials. Campers must provide their own lunch; a morning and afternoon snack will be provided.

Tuesday, July 8 - Munching in the Marsh. This food-themed camp will help campers understand how food and nature coexist by studying the marsh ecosystem's role in the food cycle, foraging for edible plants, perfecting campfire recipes, and filleting and cooking a fish.

Thursday, July 10 - Marshland Masterpieces. This art-themed camp will have campers inspired by the nature of the wetland to write poetry, paint or sculpt marsh scenes, photograph flora and fauna, explore through music, and use natural materials to dye a bandana.

Monday, July 14 - Marsh Flora. Campers will delve deeper into the plant world of the wetland by dissecting flowers, studying photosynthesis in action, and developing an appreciation for pollinators. Campers will create seed bombs, potpourri, and plant a terrarium.

Wednesday, July 16 - Marsh Fauna. With wetlands being one of the most biodiverse ecosystems on the planet, there is a lot of marsh wildlife to explore.

Campers will identify Cheyenne Bottoms birds, use iNaturalist for a bioblitz, dissect a wetland critter, and use construction tools to build a wooden birdhouse.

Thursday, July 24 - Marsh Splash Zone. Led by the 4-H Water Ambassador team, campers should be prepared to get wet. From playing in the water to doing scientific studies in the water, campers will get a full understanding of how water is essential to a wetland habitat. Campers will travel into Cheyenne Bottoms, testing the water quality and looking for aquatic invertebrates.

Monday and Tuesday, July 28 and 29 - Marsh Track Tales. This two-day camp will allow campers to set live traps to check the next day. From mammal traps to crayfish traps, campers can monitor how animals move through the marsh at night. They will also install trail cams to witness what happens while we are asleep.

Friday, July 25, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm - Field Biology Day Camp. Designed for older youth who have completed grades 7 - 11. This is a chance to get into the field and learn from experts in science careers. Immerse yourself in the flora and fauna of Cheyenne Bottoms, a wetland of international importance. Activities will include dove banding with Tom Bidrowski, KDWP Migratory Game Bird Program Manager, participating in the citizen science Bumble Bee Atlas program, and a trip down to the Arkansas River to monitor the stream flow at the USGS monitoring station.

Kansas Wetlands Education Center, affiliated with FHSU's Werth College of Science, Technology and Mathematics, is located 10 miles northeast of Great Bend at the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area.

More information can be found at 877-243-9268 or visit wetlandscenter.fhsu.edu.

# -City of Liebenthal Council Minutes-

The Governing Body of the City of Liebenthal met in public hearing in the city building at 6:00 p.m. on May 12, 2025. Presiding was Mayor Darrell Warner, council members present were Barb Matal, Renee Legleiter, Stephanie Schmidt Koerner, Bill Stark, Kathy Herrman, Clerk Beverly Stark, Water Assistant Rhonda Matal, and Maintenance Operator Kelly Koerner. Also present was resident Jason Jordan.

Minutes from the previous meeting on April 14, 2025, were read. Bill Stark moved to approve the minutes with the correction of the last day to register for the election as a council member is June 2, 2025 at noon, not May 1 as recorded; Renee Legleiter seconded, the vote was unanimous, the motion carried.

Jason Jordan requested the city put up a sign along Birch Street and 2nd Street to prevent people from driving up his driveway. Bill Stark suggested he put up a "Private Drive" sign. Mr. Jordan said that he had put up these signs, but had trouble keeping them in place due to the wind. He also said he'd bought the best signs he could find but they just weren't sturdy enough. Kelly Koerner said he thought there were some signs already in the city's supplies that he could use for this. Jason Jordan left the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Clerk's Announcements: The building permit submitted by Jason Jordan needed to be signed by Bill Stark, and he signed it. Beverly has met with Reuben Smith from Midwestern Assistance Program. They discussed a grant application for renovation of the water tower, but to include rehab of a water well, also replacement of water meters. The deadline to submit the pre-application is May 15, 2025. Bev has scheduled another call for May 13, 2025 to finalize details for this grant application to improve the city water system. Bev also attended a meeting with the engineering team from Cadmus to finalize details for the grant application for the State Revolving Fund that will address solutions for upgrading the water system with special consideration for the RO unit replacement. Beth Warren from KS Municipal Utilities is willing to meet the council to discuss this project. A required public hearing will be held with the full council and the public to discuss this project with the engineering team. This is scheduled for July 14 at 6 p.m. during the regular city council meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend to understand the project more completely, and to clarify any questions. Bev received a flyer from the KS Attorney General regarding the KS Scrap Metal Theft Reduction Act. Bev will post this information to the city website (find this by googling City of Liebenthal KS), and also has some flyers in the city office. City council members need to register by June 2, 2025 at noon for the upcoming election in November. This must be done at the County Clerk's office in La Crosse KS. The paperwork for the water violation with KDHE has been sent to all residents, and the corresponding paperwork for KDHE has also been sent. Bev is still trying to find a city attorney to finalize the paperwork for the 1.5% sales tax for Liebenthal. The city will be glad to speak with any resident about the proposed 1.5% sales tax, and can be reached by text or call to 785-259-8778, or email at cityofliebenthalks@gmail.com. This proposed sales tax will not be on any city services, and will only be added to items purchased from the bar (excluding beer), or any business within the city limits. The city hopes to keep city rates down with this tax, and can garner funds from all the people that buy goods from businesses but perhaps don't live in Liebenthal.

Old Business: Darrell Warner asked the council to discuss the water tower repair bids submitted by several local companies. After a discussion, the council selected Viking Industrial Painting as the preferred company citing the exactness of the bid from products to pricing, and the 5-year maintenance plan, as well having very detailed and specific diagrams, a reputation of reliability, and a maintenance plan that is commendable. Bill Stark moved to approve the Viking bid, Renee Legleiter seconded, the vote was unanimous (Bill Stark voted yes, Barb Matal voted yes, Renee Legleiter voted yes, Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner votes yes, Kathy Herrman voted yes). Darrell Warner signed the bid and Bev Stark will send the paperwork to the Viking representative on May 13, 2025.

City Utilities and Maintenance Updates: Rhonda Matal relayed Darrell Matal's notes for the water and wastewater systems. All water samples are on track for KDHE requirements, and water quality of the RO units is started for this year. All tests have been acceptable to KDHE to date. Rhonda suggested that Great Plains Institute may hold a water and wastewater class for interested parties. Rhonda will investigate further. The chlorine testing results are at acceptable levels, but she suggested the chlorine delivery system could be lowered again. Kelly Koerner has worked on the mower, and also been mowing all city property. The city roads were bladed two weeks ago after the heavy rain, but the tractor is unable to scrape deeply enough to level streets. Kelly had received some complaints from citizens regarding the road maintenance. Rhonda Matal volunteered the use of weights that can be secured to the blade. Kelly said the residence at 201 Main is needing mowing again. Bev will contact the owners again.

Calendar / City Events: City wide cleanup will be June 2 through June 16. The dumpsters will be placed in the same location as last year, next to Boese's Fireworks Stand on East 3rd Street.

Approval and Payment of Bills: Bill Stark moved to approve payment of the bills as presented, Renee Legleiter seconded, vote unanimous, motion carried. The next meeting is June 9, 2025, at 6 p.m. in the city building. Stephanie Schmidt-Koerner moved to adjourn the meeting, Kathy Herrman seconded, vote unanimous, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Mayor Darrell Warner

City Clerk Beverly Stark

# -Otis City Council Minutes-

Council members Lisa Moeder, Tabbie McVey, Mike Sharkey, Jody Beckham, and Mayor Jenny Landers were present at the City of Otis Council Meeting held May 14, 2025. Employees present were Myron Wagner, John Landers, Shelly DeWald, and Lori Firebaugh. Absent was Luke Pechanec.

Mayor Jenny Landers called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. There was a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Forum: Linda Kenyon and Linda Bahr with the Otis Library

Linda K. and Linda B. met with the council to discuss the current state of the library's finances, highlighting the challenges they faced in maintaining services and acquiring new materials. She emphasized the library's importance to the community, noting its role in education, literacy, and public engagement. During the meeting, she respectfully requested that the library be considered for any future donations or financial support that might be available from the City of Otis.

Linda Kenyon and Linda Bahr left at 7:22 p.m.

Lisa made a motion to approve the 4-9-2025 minutes as printed. Mike seconded the motion. 3-0-1. Motion carried.

Lori went over the bills. Tabbie made a motion to approve the bills. Jody seconded the motion. 4-0. Motion carried.

Myron went over the water reports, levels are down some.

The treasurer's report was gone over, there will be 3 12-month CDs renewing.

City Clerk Report: A reminder about current water restrictions will be included in the water bills being mailed out this month. This notice is intended to inform residents of the ongoing conservation measures and encourage responsible water usage during the dry season. By including the reminder with the monthly bills, the city hopes to reach all households and ensure compliance with the restrictions to help preserve the community's water supply.

Mayor Report: The mayor addressed the council her concerns about individuals rummaging through dumpsters late at night to retrieve items. Members expressed worry about the safety risks involved, particularly the possibility of someone getting injured. They emphasized the need to ensure the safety of all community members.

Correspondence: none.

Old Business: Old camera security system parts - The council discussed posting the sealed bids on Otis Happenings and Nex-Tech Classifieds. Shelly left at 8:00 p.m.

Dog ordinance - After reviewing dog ordinances #134 and #174, the Council decided to table the discussion until the next meeting. Tabbie made a motion to table the ordinances, and Jody seconded. The motion passed 4-0. Motion carried.

Raising of court costs - The council reviewed Ordinance 189A regarding the raising of court costs. Jody made a motion to approve the updated ordinance, and Mike seconded the motion. The council voted 4-0 in favor, and the motion carried.

New Business: Applications - Lisa made a motion to enter executive session for 30 minutes at 8:15 p.m. to discuss non-elected personnel. Mike seconded the motion. The council voted 4-0 in favor, and the motion carried. The council returned to regular session at 8:45 p.m. with no action taken. Lisa then made a motion to return to executive session for an additional 15 minutes at 8:52 p.m. Mike seconded. The motion carried with a 4-0 vote. The council reconvened in regular session at 9:04 p.m., and again, no action was taken. Jody made a motion to schedule the first round of interviews to begin on May 22nd and May 27th. Mike seconded the motion. The council voted 4-0 in favor, and the motion carried.

Porta pots - The council decided to check prices around for the June meeting.

Library lights - Some of the lights in the library are burnt out and in need of replacement. Jaguar has already completed work in the office and senior room. Mike made a motion to contact both Jaguar and Grumbein to determine availability and bids for updating and replacing the lights. Lisa seconded the motion. The council voted 4-0 in favor, and the motion carried.

The next meeting will be on June 11, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Senior Room.

Jody moved to adjourn. Mike seconded. 4-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 9:52 p.m.

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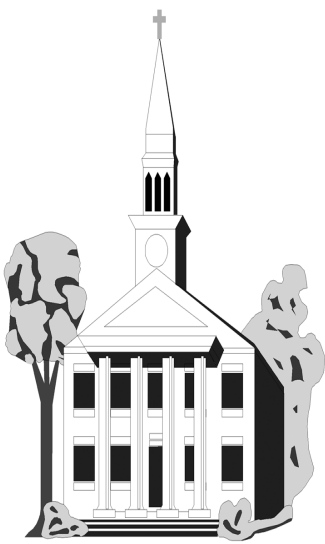
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Worship Service 11:00 a.m.  
www.lacrosseadventistchurch.org

ST. MICHAEL CHURCH  
918 Lincoln Street  
FATHER STEPHEN DABANKA  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.  
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**LA CROSSE**  
INDEPENDENT BAPTIST  
820 Locust Street  
PASTOR DANIEL LINEBERRY  
Sunday Service 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Bible School 11:00 p.m.  
Sunday Evening Service 6:00 p.m.  
www.lacrosseibc.com

UNITED METHODIST  
220 Washington Street  
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www.lacrosseumc.org

**LIEBENTHAL**  
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH  
FATHER STEPHEN DABANKA  
202 Main Street  
Sunday 8:00 a.m.  
rushcountycatholicchurches.com

**McCRACKEN**  
METHODIST CHURCH  
PASTOR NORMA McNAIR  
307 1st Street  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH  
3rd & Ash

**OLMITZ**  
ST. ANN'S CHURCH  
FATHER WARREN STECKLEIN  
115 Cleveland Ave.  
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.

**OTIS**  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PASTOR STAN EWY  
200 West Ellen Street  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

**RUSH CENTER**  
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PASTOR WAYNE BALDYGA  
308 South Walnut Street  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

**TIMKEN**  
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FATHER STEPHEN DABANKA  
103 S Main Street  
Saturday 6:30 p.m.  
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