The cover of the Kansas Government Journal features a scenic photograph of a pond in a park-like setting. The pond is bordered by large, grey rocks and is surrounded by lush green grass and various trees, including some with vibrant purple blossoms. The sky is bright, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural. The title 'Kansas' is written in a large, green, serif font at the top, with 'GOVERNMENT JOURNAL' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font on a green background below it. The volume and issue information, 'VOLUME 95 - NUMBER 4', is on the left, and the date, 'APRIL 2009', is on the right. A list of featured articles is in the bottom right corner.

Kansas

GOVERNMENT JOURNAL

VOLUME 95 - NUMBER 4

APRIL 2009

Inside:

- Telehealth Promise & Kansas Case Study
- The Garrity Warning and Public Employees
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program



Photos provided by the City of Eastborough.

THE CITY OF EASTBOROUGH'S *Green Movement*

By: Thom F. Rosenberg, M.D.

Since 1937, Eastborough has developed into a small town covering two square miles with 21 streets. This city of the third class, once a full five miles away from Wichita, is now completely surrounded by the larger, first-class city. The sale of “Eastborough Village” started in April 1929, when developers set up a tent at the site and offered local churches 50¢ for each referred buyer. They even supplied free lunches. As homes were sold, first in the Woodlawn Addition and then in the Eastborough Addition, and the population grew to 200 people living in 48 homes, Eastborough became incorporated on June 1, 1937, and Mr. Frank Dunn was elected as the city’s first mayor.

That was then. This is now, and the City of Eastborough continues to flourish as an English Village neighbor to the City of Wichita. There are approximately 290 homes in the city, with a population of nearly 900. There are no commercial entities in the city, which creates a community wholly committed to its residents.

Nature Preservation

Eastborough’s quaint park has always been a highlight, but recent changes have improved the community’s feature. In recent years, Wichita undertook a major expansion to Kellogg Avenue, which led to the removal of 18 Eastborough homes. Eastborough turned that project into an opportunity to grow the city park into a community centerpiece with two waterfalls, a gazebo, and expanded grassy areas with a children’s playground. The geese and ducks seem to like our park as well, but, sorry, you’re not allowed to feed them.

Waste Removal Franchise

Our city has also become a bit greener with our use of franchise agreements. We were one of the first cities in our area to franchise our waste collections. Instead of having six or seven different waste trucks driving through the city weekly, we now have only one. Eastborough is also promoting recycling with our waste

collection provider with a program called “re-cycle bank.” These special containers are automatically weighed, and the home owners receive rewards for their efforts. The rewards consist of coupons for partnership businesses including Kraft, Target, Bed, Bath, & Beyond, and other companies.

Cutting Carbon Emissions

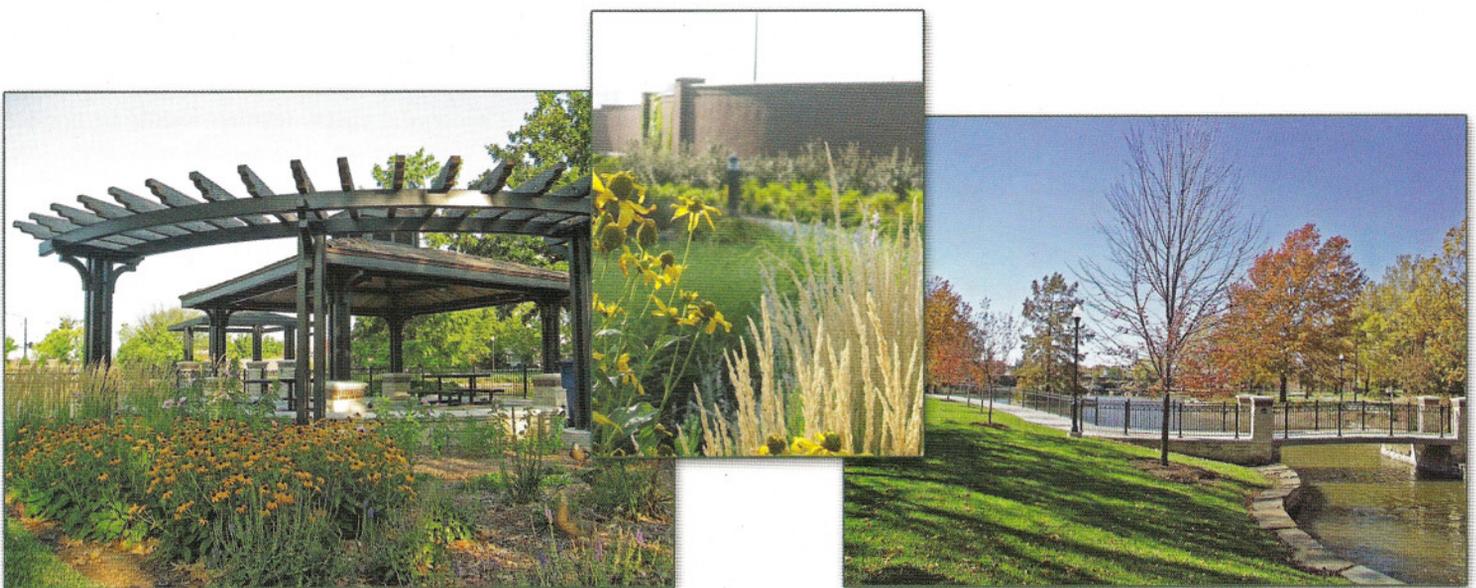
And if you want to be a bit more green, our police department, under the direction of Chief Bridgewater, has instituted bike patrols. One benefit of having a community of two square miles is the flexibility it provides in providing basic city services. Eastborough now has officers certified to be bicycle patrol police during good-weather days. This will reduce the city’s police car usage, lower fuel costs, and decrease Eastborough’s carbon footprint. And, yes, despite our small size we have a police force of officers who monitor the city 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They also provide our residents with extra security if they happen to be on vacation. The resident’s mail may even be picked up by the officer and kept at our city hall until the resident returns.

Lean & Green

The City of Eastborough has seen many changes since 1937. Once a village near a town, we are now a town within a city making efforts to serve our citizens and provide an environmentally-friendly place to live. Our citizens take pride in their community; so, if you get a chance, drive by—or better yet walk by— and take a look.

About the Author

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Photos provided by the City of Eastborough.