



WELCOME TO
AMERICUS

FOUNDED IN 1857

"A PLACE TO CALL HOME"

April, 2020



BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

2nd - Skyler Arb
3rd - Stan Stewart III
4th - Hailey Westcott
5th - Preston Patton
6th - Emily Elbert
8th - Kelli Elbert
Avery Patton
Justin Tarver
9th - Britney Hinrichs
11th - Brian Hultgren
12th - Kaitlin Centlivre
15th - Maylea Hamlin
16th - Darlene Worcester
17th - Alec Short
18th - Jackie Lefler
23rd - Caleb Klaus
28th - Connor Arb



CLOSINGS & CANCELATIONS

See page 4 for more closing and cancelations due to the COVID-19 Epidemic.

OPEN

The park green spaces remain open. We ask residents to enjoy the great outdoors while practicing social distancing.

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD

City Hall
1st Monday @ 7:00 p.m.
AMERICUS RECREATION

ORGANIZATION
USD 251 Cafeteria
3rd Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING

City Hall
2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.
FIRE BOARD MEETING

Library
2nd Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD

Library
4th Monday @ 5:30 p.m.
MUNICIPAL COURT

City Hall
2nd Wednesday @ 3:00 p.m.
AMERICUS TOWNSHIP

Library
Last Tuesday @ 8:00 p.m.
RWD #1 BOARD
3rd Tuesday @ 7:30
Water Board Office
2501 W. 18th, Emporia

CLOSED

By order of the Mayor, Resolution #274 and the Public Health Order issued on March 26, 2020 by the Lyon County Board of Health.

**All playground equipment is closed
until further notice.**

We are keeping the health of our residents in mind during the COVID-19 epidemic.

If you would like a copy of Resolution #274 contact City Hall. For a copy of the Public Health Order contact the Lyon County Board of Health.

2 From City Hall:

The following minutes are from the March 10th business meeting. As of print time the minutes have not been approved by the council.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Dustin Wright. Council members present were BURTON, NUESSEN, HAMLIN, BIRK and HINRICHS. Also present were City Clerk Marcia Johnson, City Attorney Steve Atherton, Police Chief Jody Meyers and maintenance Nick Gadino.

VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Landon & Kayla Delgado were present to observe.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *February 11, 2020 business meeting.* Moved by HINRICHS to approve the minutes of February 11th. Motion seconded by BIRK. 4-0-1 vote, NUESSEN abstained.

BILLS TO PAY: Moved by HINRICHS to pay the March bills in the amount of \$20,388.38. Motion seconded by NUESSEN, 5-0 vote.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES: City Clerk Marcia Johnson gave each council member a final draft of the proposed Planning & Zoning Code and Comprehensive Plan along with the zoning map for their review.

Steve Atherton reported on HB2509, the bill has passed the house 122-3. The bill was referred to the committee on ethics, elections and local government. At this time there is no word on how it is going in this committee.

Maintenance reported that several picnic tables have missing parts. A police report was made, maintenance is currently waiting for a quote for replacement parts. HAMLIN has priced having the backboards at the park powder coated. The quote came in at around \$90 per backboard. The paint is only guaranteed for 30 days by the manufacturer. Currently the boards are painted as needed, ever few years (5-6 years). The boards on the North end could be done first and switched out with the South boards, this would keep two boards up at all times to be used. Nick Gadino reported from maintenance, the department has hauled 18 loads of rock, the majority of the rock roads have been re-rocked. The department has started repairing some alleys. With the help from council member BIRK maintenance has been able to till the areas repaired and seed. Ditches along Tenth St. have also been cut. The recently purchased backhoe needed hydraulic work, Murphy Equipment took the machine back and made \$3,500.00 in repairs at no charge to the city. There has been a report of a sink hole in an alley, maintenance checked out the complaint and found where illegal burning has occurred. There was damage to a private sewer line due to the burning. Maintenance will watch the area and the main sewer line.

ADOPT THE AGENDA: Moved by HAMLIN to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by NUESSEN, 5-0 vote.

1. **VARIANCE:** *Bill & Lora Metcalf.* Bill and Lora Metcalf have applied for a variance to build an accessory building. Currently the property does not allow for an accessory building due to special circumstances of the layout of the property. The Planning & Zoning Board has held a public hearing, the Planning & Zoning Board recommend approval of the variance. There are questions if the structure is staked out with correct setbacks. Moved by BURTON to approve the variance contingent on the set back requirement being met for Bill & Lora Metcalf. Motion seconded by NUESSEN, 5-0 vote.

2. **STEVE'S TRASH SERVICE:** *Annual agreement.* Other than the dates no changes to the agreement have been made. There have been several complaints on the truck loosing liquids along the route. City Hall is checking into regulations on the matter. Moved by HAMLIN to approve the annual agreement with Steve's Trash Service. Motion seconded by HINRICHS, 5-0 vote.

3. **PROPERTY REVIEW:** *507 Elm, 120-day review.* The owner was given 120 days to make improvements to the property. Progress has been made, there is still work to be completed. There are concerns if the yard can be mowed once vegetation starts growing again. Pictures of the property were given to the council. Move by HAMLIN to have Larry (City Building Inspector) do an inspection after an additional 90 days extension. Motion seconded by BURTON, 5-0 vote.

4. **PROJECT PLAYSCAPE:** *Request for fundraiser.* HINRICHS announced a cornhole and fish fry has been scheduled for April 18th as a fundraiser for the ball field. The event would take place at 608 and 620 Main. Moved by HAMLIN to approve closing off a portion of the sidewalk between 608 and 620 Main for a fundraising event with barriers on April 18th. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 4-0-1 vote, HINRICHS abstained. Moved by HAMLIN to approve the temporary liquor license for 620 Main on April 18th, pending state approval. Motion seconded by BURTON. 4-0-1 vote, HINRICHS abstained. HINRICHS reported funds raised is over \$36,000.00, she is waiting on a new invoice from the Emporia Community Foundation. HINRICHS is collecting raffle and silent auction items for the April 18th event. There are ESU baseball and softball players that are planning to attend the April 18th event to sign balls. HINRICHS has met with Evergy and has submitted to incorporate a request for donation of light poles. One grant that was applied for is requesting to meet with HINRICHS and see the site and review the plans. The city has received new engineering drawings showing two options for the waterway that runs through the property. The council is allowing room for a field to host high school games, at this time the fields would be used only for recreational league games.

5. **EASTER EGG HUNT:** *Request for donation.* Heather Wedel has submitted a request for a donation for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Moved by NUESSEN to donate \$250 to the Easter Egg Hunt. Motion seconded by BURTON, 5-0 vote.

6. **SEWER:** *Maintenance/inspection agreement.* The agreement for a 3-year cleaning of sewer system with A-1 Pump and Jet expired at the end of 2019. The council would like to put the agreement out for bid by invitation. A letter will be sent to several known companies.

BIRK reported on the condition of asphalt on the west side of the park between the apron and the road surface on Main Street. BIRK has contacted APAC to receive a proposal for the work. With APAC working in the area the first part of April a special meeting will be held once a proposal is received.

Move by HAMLIN to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Motion seconded by NUESSEN, 5-0 vote.

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA (as of print time)

Tuesday, April 14th 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

- 1. **SEWER:** *Proposals for maintenance/inspection agreement*
- 2. **MOWING RELEASE APPLICATIONS:**
- 3. **DONATION:** *1997 Dodge Pickup from USD #251*

We invite our community to join us.

Mayor Dustin Wright, Council President Lea Hamlin, Britney Hinrichs, Kayla Burton, Larry Birk and Nicky Nuessen



The City of Americus has
 received a phone call
 from non other ...
 than the Easter Bunny!!

The Easter Bunny would like to send letters to the children of North Lyon County. If your child would like to receive a letter from the Easter Bunny please send their full name along with a mailing address to NLCcommunityevents@gmail.com by April 3rd.



Americus Alumni Banquet

The Americus Alumni Banquet originally scheduled for May 23rd has been cancelled.

See you in 2021.

Americus Senior Center

The Americus Senior Center will be closed until further notice.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

City Hall

For the safety of our citizens and staff, city hall is closed to the public until further notice. City services will continue to operate as usual.

Payments may be put in the drop box. Payments may also be made at KansasLand Bank. City staff will be available regular hours by phone or email for any questions you may have.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Please be safe and careful.

Americus Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Basket drop off has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please watch the City of Americus Facebook Page; Americus, Kansas, USA, for further information on an Easter event. See page 3 for an alternative event.

25 THINGS TO DO WHILE STAYING HOME & PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING

1. Complete a puzzle: The more pieces the better! Feeling extra saucy? Take on a Rubik's Cube. More of a word person? Crossword puzzle!
2. Read that book that has just been sitting around collecting dust.
3. If it won't bother your neighbors: Dust off that old instrument and practice.
4. Watch all the really long movies you've avoided until now.
5. Download Duolingo, or a similar app, and teach yourself a foreign language.
6. Write actual letters to family and friends. After that? Write thank-you notes to service people who you remember went out of their way for you.
7. Learn calligraphy. YouTube can help.
8. Read the rules to those long and intense board games you've never played with the family. Encourage the family to play.
9. Have a space in your home where all of the tupperware goes? Organize it and actually match lids to containers.
10. Try on all your clothes and determine whether they "spark joy" or if they go in the donate pile.
11. Better yet, go through this process with your junk drawer and supply shelves.
12. Bake, the family will appreciate this. Pull out of some of those recipes you have been wanting to try.
13. Knit or crochet. If you don't know how youtube and learn.
14. Use Skype, FaceTime, Google Hangouts or Marco Polo to video chat with your long-distance friends.
15. Look at yourself in the mirror. Attempt a self portrait with pencil and paper.
16. Take a bubble bath (bonus: Add a glass of wine).
17. Coloring books: They're not just for kids.
18. Take time to reflect: What have you accomplished in the last year? What goals are you setting for yourself in the next year?
19. Actually try to reproduce something you see on Pinterest. Probably fail. Try again.
20. Clear out the family room and camp indoors with all blankets, popcorn and scary movies.
21. Fix that broken door knob and loose tile or cleaning scuffed up walls. Knock off some of those items on your to-do list.
22. Pretend you're 13 years old and fold a square piece of paper into a fortune teller you put your thumbs and pointer fingers into. Proceed to tell fortunes.
23. Interview your grandparents (over the phone, of course) and save the audio. Can you create an audio story or book with that file?
24. Go through your camera roll, pick your favorite pics from the past year and make a photo book or order framed versions online.
25. Work on your financial planning, such as exploring whether to refinance your loan or ways to save more money.

CrimeSTOPPERS

No Name Required Cash Rewards

If you have information that you think could help solve this crime or others, submit your **ANONYMOUS TIP** to Lyon County Crime Stoppers. You have options of calling a professionally staffed hotline at (620)342-2273, using the P3 smartphone tip application, or the P3 website at www.P3tips.com to submit your **ANONYMOUS TIP**. If your **ANONYMOUS TIP** leads to the successful apprehension or prosecution of the suspects or recovery of property, you could be eligible for a reward of up to \$1000!



Signs of Identity Theft ~ ~ ~ ~ Be Cyber Secure

1. Make sure you have up-to-date and active security software that includes:
FIREWALL PROTECTION
ANTI-VIRUS PROGRAMS AND OTHER ANTIMALWARE PROGRAMS OR PROTECTION.
2. Update, update, update!
3. Evaluate your browser's privacy setting, plus think about limiting or disabling cookies.
4. Explore security options for all internet-connected devices, including gaming systems.
5. Make sure mobile devices aren't set to automatically connect to nearby Wi-Fi as this can expose you to insecure networks.
6. When not in use, disable mobile device feature that connect you to other devices.
7. Set mobile phone, tablets and laptops to lock automatically after 5 minutes or less of non-use.
8. Back up your data regularly.
9. Before disposing of a computer, mobile device, or any internet-connected item, completely and permanently remove all personal information from it.
10. If you use an at-home wireless network, take steps to secure it. Otherwise, unauthorized users may be able to access your personal information, see what you're transmitting, or download malware.

Americus Police Department



01.07.20 Jessie Dains, Americus, no dog registration/cc \$83.00
02.08.20 Teresa Schrock, Emporia, stop sign \$143.00

Code Enforcement

February 11th– March 3rd
702 Third St. - dogs at large

Please welcome **Jenna Harrington**, our new Code Enforcement/Police Officer for Americus.

She will be out and about enforcing our city's code book. Some of the things she will be looking for are

Junk vehicles, trash, stagnant pools of water, fences around swimming pools, tall weeds and grass and house numbers just to name a few items.



Check KVOE website or NLCYA facebook page for schedule changes.

NLCYA Breakfast

NLC COMMUNITY CENTER
ALLEN, KS



Cindy's Leather Repair

2348 Rd F4 across the road from the Baptist Church

All types of leather repairing:

- *Belts * Purses
- *Saddles * Boots/Shoes
- *Zipper Repair
- *Replace Shoe Heel
- *Prescription Shoe Lifts



Call Cindy Edmiston
443-5993 Leave a Message

APRIL 4, 2020 21ST ANNUAL FISH FRY & SILENT AUCTION

PROCEEDS BENEFIT NLC YOUTH ASSOCIATION.

Saturday, April 4th NOON - 8 P.M. | free will donations | silent auction bidding ends at 7:30 P.M.

Menu: catfish, chicken strips, french fries, baked beans, coleslaw, homemade desserts, coffee, tea and water

Thank you for supporting youth and education in our community!

- HOMEMADE DESSERTS ARE A MUST!
- SILENT AUCTION FEATURES DONATIONS FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES, HAND CRAFTED ITEMS BY LOCAL ARTISTS, TRIPS & MORE!

NLC COMMUNITY CENTER
108 EAST 7TH STREET
ALLEN, KS 66833

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

 @NLCYOUTHASSOCIATION



NLC Youth Association

*Postponed
to a later date.*

Automatic Payment Authorization

PAYING YOUR CITY BILL FOR SEWER AND/OR TRASH IS SIMPLIFIED.

By completing an automatic payment authorization form these bills will be paid automatically from your bank account on the last working day of each month. You will still receive a billing indicating the amount that will be deducted from your account. "Do Not Pay" will be shown on the billing when your Direct Payment has begun. It will take approximately two weeks to set up your account. Come by City Hall to pick up an automatic payment authorization form today.

WE WILL HELP YOU GET STARTED TO WORRY FREE BILL PAYMENT.



Country Side Baptist Church

6 First Street, P.O. Box 524
Americus, KS 66835

SUNDAY

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Morning Worship (nursery available)
- 6:30 p.m. Evening Service with praise music

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group for grades K thru 12
- 6:30 p.m. Christian programs for adults

For more information:

- For Worship, call Pastor Rick Smith at (620) 273-8407
- For Sunday School, call Brenda at (620)366-1965
- For Youth Group, call Carla at (620) 794-1361
- For a Bus Ride to Church, call (620)443-5177



United Presbyterian Church of Americus, Kansas 563 Broadway Street



Morning Worship - every Sunday at 9 am
fellowship following worship

Wherever you are on your life's journey, we invite you to join us every Sunday for worship and fellowship

For more information please visit our website
www.AmericusUnitedPresbyterian.org

 facebook.com/americuspresbyterian



Americus United Methodist Church

413 Walnut, Americus, KS
620-443-5371

- Adult Sunday School
Sundays at 9:15 am
- Worship Service
Sundays at 10:30 am
- Children's Sunday School
During services

Americus Community Food Pantry
Tuesday **Saturday**

April 7th *April 18th*
6:30 pm. - 8 pm. 10:00 am. - 11:30 am.

Open to anyone in need. No Restrictions.
Doors open 30 minutes before start time.

During services a nursery is available. We invite all to join us.
DURING INCLEMENT WEATHER CONDITIONS, LISTEN TO **KVOE** RADIO FOR SCHEDULE CHANGES.

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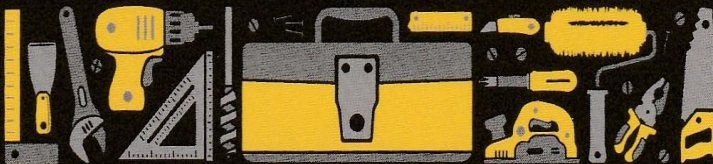
Monday - Saturday
 Open

FREE ESTIMATES

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Affordable Home Improvement and Handyman Services LLC

Eric Smith | Owner
 General Contractor | eric.smith0911@gmail.com



LICENSED - INSURED - BONDED

Census data matters to your community.

An under count in **Americus** means our community could miss out on approximately **\$46,636.80** in federal funding (over 10 years) for each household that is missed in the 2020 Census.

KANSAS COUNTS CENSUS2020

FACTS ABOUT AMERICUS *(based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau)*

COMMUNITY:

Total Population (as of 2017): **851**

Population Change Since 2010: **-43**

Median Age: **43.4**



ECONOMY:

Median Household Income: **\$57,143**

Number of Residents (age 16+) Employed: **669**

Number Employed in Health Care, Social Assistance, and Educational Services: **110**

Population Working Outside of City: **89.6%**

Average Commute Time to Work: **22.3 minutes**



HEALTH:

Number of Population with Health Insurance: **745**

Number with Private Insurance (i.e. Employer, Direct-Purchase): **646**

Number with Public Health Insurance (i.e., Medicare, Medicaid, Tricare/military): **201**

Number with No Insurance: **106**



*Residents can have multiple forms of insurance

HOUSING & LIVING:

Median Household Size: **2.24**

Median Household Value: **\$82,900**

Total Number of Structures: **419**

Single Unit: **314**

Multi-Unit: **30**

Mobile Home: **75**

Boat, RV, van, etc.: **N/A**

Households with Broadband Internet Access: **301**



EDUCATION:

Number of School-age Children: **179**

Total Population Over 25 Years of Age: **605**

*Graduated High School (incl. GED): **283**

*Attained Some College, No Degree: **141**

*Attained Associates Degree: **58**

*Attained Bachelor's Degree: **55**

*Attained Graduate or Professional Degree: **23**



*Data points indicate highest education level achieved

Ensure that **you count, Americus counts, and Kansas counts** by completing your 2020 Census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail.

All data derived from the ACS 2013-2017 estimates.

www.kansascounts.org

EK REAL ESTATE, INC
1201 W. 6TH - EMPORIA, KS



208 Orange St., \$199,900 Fantastic one owner ranch style home, 1500 sq. foot of living space. 2 bedrooms, an office, large kitchen, family room and main floor laun-



303 Maple St., \$103,900 One owner, sits on corner lot with one car attached garage and a detached oversized 2 garage. Eat in Kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath.

Financing! Americus is eligible for 100% Rural Development financing. Ask us about first time home buyers grants available for qualified buyers. .



Lacie Hamlin - Cell: (620) 481-0213 :

Email: laciehamlin@gmail.com

Jan Utech - Cell: (620) 343-5100 :

Email: utechjan@gmail.com

Call **Hammeke ELECTRIC Inc.**

for all your residential or commercial electrical needs.
 620-487-5663



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FRESH EGGS Laid Daily
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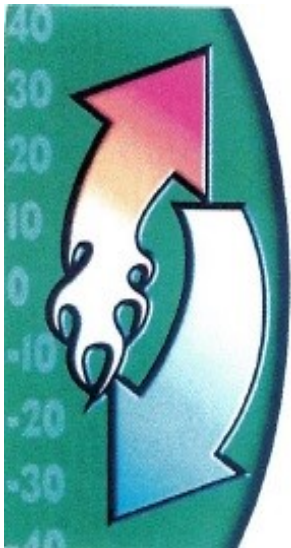


Linda & Robert Clark

620-443-5257

Please leave a message if no answer.

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- ~ Cooling
- ~ Refrigeration
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Casey Crist **620.343.0889**



Beginning May 1st

5 - 6:30 p.m. Americus City Park

If your interested in becoming a vendor contact Jessica Hopkins

www.emporiafarmersmarket.org
 620-343-6555



**TAKE OFF POUNDS
SENSIBLY**

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Your first visit to any chapter is Free. As an organization we offer:

- ⇒ Full access to online resources
- ⇒ Guide & magazine subscription
- ⇒ Annual Fees \$32 + tax
- ⇒ Private weekly weigh-in
- ⇒ Weight-loss support

Americus United Methodist Church
6 to 6:30 Monday Evenings

Amish Woodwork

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620-208-7433

amishwoodwork.com

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443-5993 or 794-4501

Leave a message



Keep up to date on Americus Recreation Organization Facebook page or Americusrec.com

for more information contact :

Jesse McKee 620-757-1979

E-mail the ARO board at:

americusrec@gmail.com

Visit our web page at:

www.americusrec.com

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620-443-5386 or 620-794-1417



ARE YOU HOUNDING FOR **FASTER INTERNET SPEEDS?**

S&A Communications, Inc., (S&A), based in Allen, Kansas, is considering expanding its services to Americus, Kansas. Internet speeds up to 200 Mbps over our FiberStream Fiber to the Home (FTTH) Network would be available with a one-time installation fee of \$500.

INTERESTED? LET US KNOW!

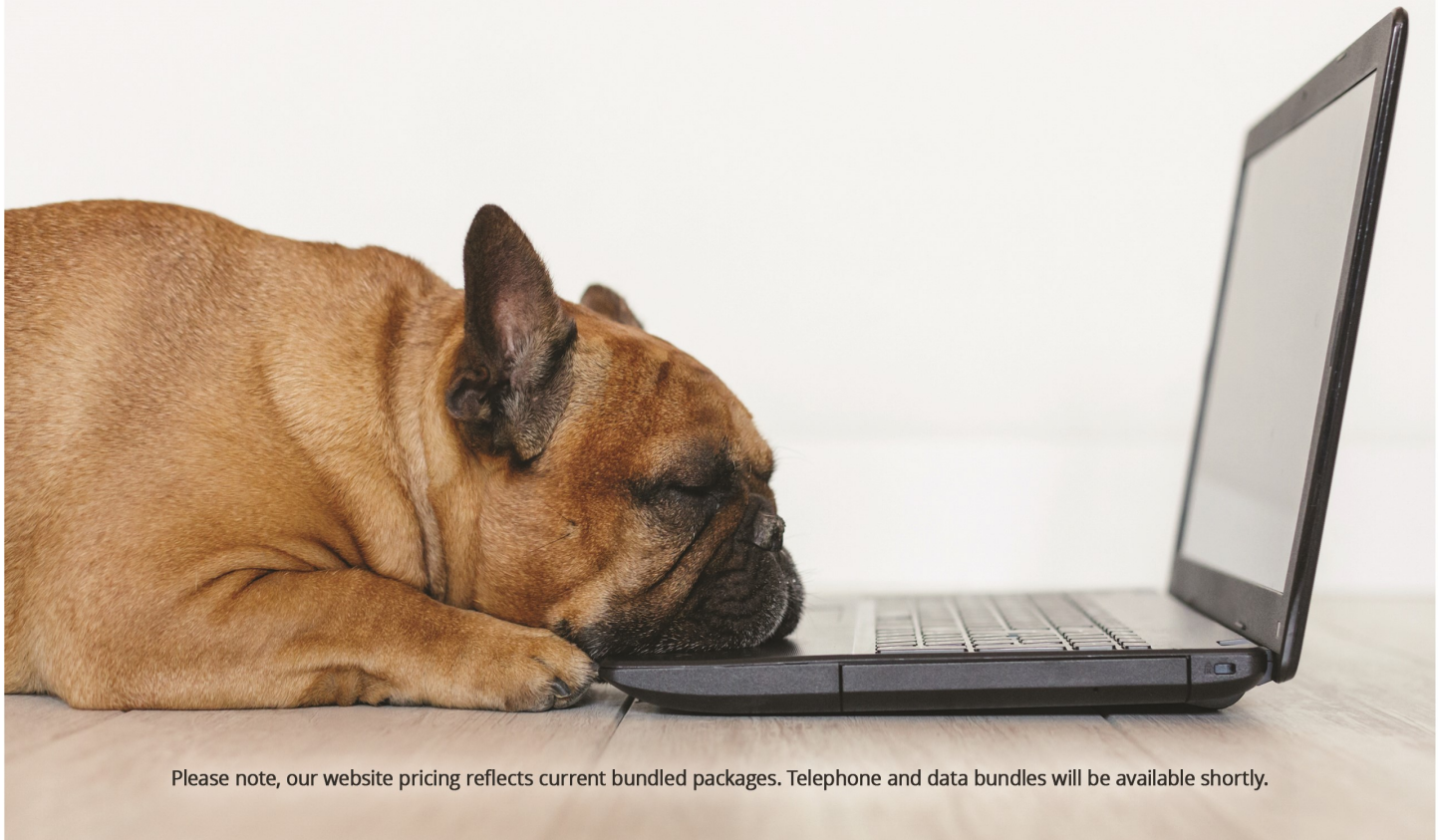
To help us understand the demand for FTTH in your area, please contact us to express your interest in bringing leading edge Fiber Internet to Americus!

Visit our website at satelephone.com/fiber-internet-to-amicus, or call our office at **(800) 626-8859** to learn more.



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Please note, our website pricing reflects current bundled packages. Telephone and data bundles will be available shortly.



Harry & Lloyds

Sports Bar *608 Main Street
Phone 443-5066*



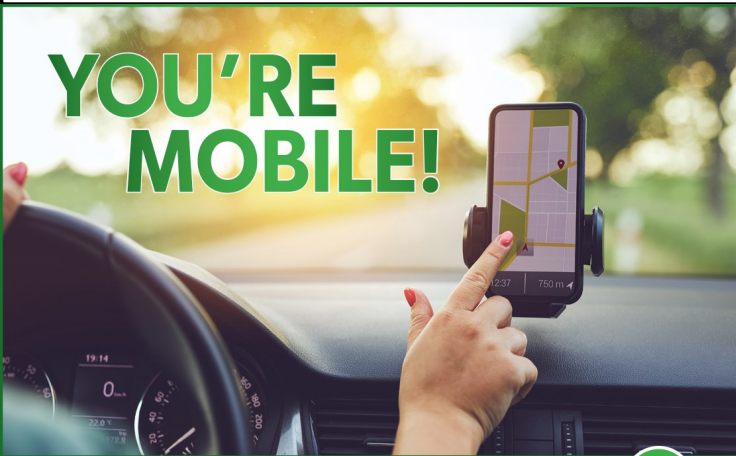
Out of love and respect for our customers safety, we have decided to close our dining and bar area until further notice.

You may order carry out/curb side service by calling 620-443-5066.

Delivery service will be available once the proper supplies come in!

Pick up a to-go pizza on your way home!

Call 620-443-5066 for your carry out convenience.



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www.nex-techwireless.com

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Customers are subject to taxes and must meet credit requirements. Nex-Tech Wireless is eligible to receive support from the Federal Universal Service Fund in designated areas. As a result, Nex-Tech Wireless must meet reasonable requests for service in these areas. Questions or complaints concerning service issues may be directed to the Kansas Corporation Commission Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection by calling 1-800-662-0027.

Help a Child Blossom



BECOME A COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE (CASA)

CLASSES ARE FORMING NOW

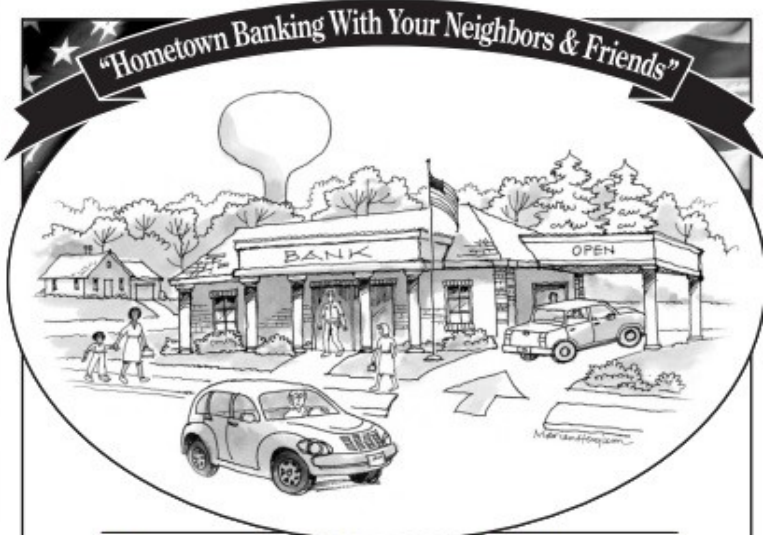
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April



There's Always A Smart Place For Your Money

With all the ups and downs in today's investment world, the smart place for your money is your hometown bank.

When you save and invest with us, your deposits are FDIC Insured to \$250,000. Individual Retirement Accounts are separately insured by the FDIC to \$250,000.

Don't take chances with your hard-earned money, bank with us. Keeping your money safe is our highest priority.



KansasLand Bank

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(620) 794-4387
Free Estimates
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**Lyon County
Recycle Trailer**

The recycle trailer is located on the south side of the grade school gym.

April Schedule
8th & 22nd

May Schedule
8th & 20th

CITY HALL

Hours:
Monday - Friday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

PO Box 526
Americus, KS 66835
Phone: 620-443-5655
Fax: 620-443-5644

www.cityofamericus.municipalimpact.com

Americus Police Department invites you to visit their Facebook page

All newsletter submissions need to be into City Hall or emailed to amcitykelly@yahoo.com on the 23rd of each month.

Americus Recycling Center

Located behind City Hall

Recycle items only.
Please break down all boxes and rinse all containers.

Empty trash containers/bags into bins, do not dispose of plastic bags in the recycle bins.