CITY OF AMERICUS

NOVEMBER 2026



NEWSLETTER

CONTACT INFO:

Hours: Monday - Friday
9 AM - 3 PM

Email:
cityclerk@americusks.com

Phone: 620-366-5464

Fax: 620-366-5376

PO Box 526 * 604 Main
Americus, KS 66835

STAY CONNECTED!

Scan the QR code to stay informed on the latest updates and news form the city of Americus.

- City announcements
- Event Updates
- Community news

What's Happening

Annual Christmas Festivites:
Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:00pm! (see Page 6)



Important Information

City Hall is closed November 11th, 26th, and 27th.

Water Rate Increase (see Page 4)

Food Panty dates are different this month.
Wednesday the 11th and Saturday the 21st.

Trash will be running as normal on November 11th.

Basketball registration forms came home during Parent Teacher Conferences or are available at City Hall and on Facebook.

- **Open the Camera app on your phone.**
- **Hold your phone so that QR code appears in view.**
- **Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.**
- **Click link at top of the page to sign up for alerts.**

Happy Birthday

2nd - Robert Ludlum
6th - Austin Westcott
Carri Stewart
7th - Stanielle Stewart
8th - Michelle Zumbrum
9th - David Goldsmith III
11th - Shirley Vincent
14th - Dale Weber
15th - Anita Westcott
Maddie Arb
Andrew Siebert
16th - Jake Byrd
17th - Mark Krueger
18th - Tripp Darbro
21st - Justin Arb
Ryker Hinrichs
Dillon Riley
Kevin Hadley
22nd - Justin Johnson
23rd - Vicki Lieberum
Gretchen Russell
Kayla Burton
24th - Roberta Lewis
John Milner
Todd Preisner
26th - Jasmine Gerleman
27th - David Goldsmith, Jr.
Elise Succi
28th - Bill Duncan
Elizabeth Spain
29th - John Brown
30th - Linda Soetebier
Owen Morgan
Kristy Ciero

Quote of the Month

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."
— Winston Churchill
Birthday: November 30



Happy Anniversary

Bryan & Susan Finney
Ronnie & Margene Crane
November 3rd

Joe & Ulane Rhine
November 27th

Tami & Steven Romeis
November 27th

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 **Elections - Community Center**	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 **Council Meeting**	11 **Closed** **Food Pantry**	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 **Food Pantry**
22	23	24	25	26 **Closed**	27 **Closed**	28
29	30					

Call us to reserve a place for your party needs!

AMERICUS Community Center

516 Locust Street ~ Americus, KS 66835
For reservations call City Hall at 620-366-5464

For more information on renting the Americus Community Center call Americus City Hall at 620-366-5464

AMERICUS RECYCLE TRAILER

Located behind City Hall
Empty trash containers/bags into bins, do not dispose of plastic bags in the recycle bins

LYON COUNTY RECYCLE TRAILER

Located on south side of school gym.
Recycle Items only.
Please break down all boxes and rinse all containers



Lyon County RWD #1 – Notice of Water Service Rate Increase

We understand that it is never a good time to increase rates. However, to keep up with rising costs, we must now do that. After reviewing our expenses and rate structure, the board has determined that we need to allocate more of our fixed costs to the base rate, since those costs are incurred no matter how much water we sell.

Effective with the November 2026 billing, the new water rates are as follows:

Base meter rate:	27.00 per month
Water usage cost:	8.00 per 1,000 gallons
Meter reading fee:	3.00 per month (Americus area only)

While we recognize that this is a significant increase, it is important to understand that even with this increase, the monthly rate for a 5,000 gallon user ($67.00) is still below the average cost from other suppliers in rural Lyon County.

Background: RWD #1 purchases our water from the City of Emporia. Over the past 10 years Emporia has raised our cost for water 8 times, with the most recent increase earlier this year. At this time our water cost is more than double what it was in 2017. During that same time we have not increased our base rate, and only increased the water usage rate one time, and that was in 2025. In short, our cost of water has increased nearly 110%, and we have raised rates by less than 20%.

When all the Emporia rate increases were adding up, the board reviewed our financial status and agreed that we had sufficient reserves to allow us to delay further rate increases. However, to maintain sufficient emergency funds, we must now increase rates to cover our costs.

As a reminder, over the past 25 years RWD #1 has undertaken multiple projects to update and improve our system to ensure reliable and safe water for you, our members. These have included new water storage in Americus and Bushong (which serve all of our customers), new main loops in Americus (which provide redundant flow to the north system and support more fire hydrants in Americus), a new pump station in Emporia, new pumps in the north pump station, new larger mains from the Emporia pump station to the north pump station, replacing all of the original mains that were installed when the district was formed in the mid-1960s, and adding a new distribution main to the northwest of Americus.

During that time, we have only increased our base rate once in 2009, and our water use rate four times.

In closing, while we would like to say we are done raising rates for a while, we cannot predict what Emporia will do in the future, and we will need to ensure that our rates reflect our costs to provide the service.

ARO

Americus Recreation Organization

YOUTH SPORTS - COMMUNITY - OPPORTUNITY

Calling our local businesses and Wildcat supporters!!

Americus Rec Organization is looking for basketball sponsors for the upcoming season!
We're offering three ways to support our young Wildcats:

♥ Team Sponsor – $125 ♥
Sponsor one of our kindergarten - 2nd grade basketball teams for the season!

♡ Warm-Up Shirt Sponsor – $80 ♡
Have your business name or logo featured on the back of our 3rd - 6th grade players' long-sleeve performance warm-up shirts, alongside other community sponsors!

Family & Fan Name Spot – $25
Add your name to the back of our 3rd - 6th grade players' warm-up shirts! Perfect for grandparents, family members, and fans who want to cheer on their favorite Wildcats.
Names only for this option - such as "Grandma & Grandpa Smith" or "The Smith Family".
THIS WILL ONLY BE FOR THE 3RD - 6TH GRADE TEAMS.

Businesses, families and community sponsors are all welcome to sponsor! Your support helps outfit our kids and gives them a chance to represent the people who cheer them on!

Thank you for helping our kids hit the court with Wildcat pride!

For details or to claim a sponsorship:

Message us on Facebook - OR-
EMAIL US AT: americusrec@gmail.com

Basketball registration forms came home during Parent Teacher Conferences or are available at City Hall and on Facebook.

YOUTH SPORTS. STRONGER TOGETHER.
STRONG KIDS. STRONG COMMUNITY.



Mark your calendars! Wednesday, December 2, 2026, is the date of the Annual Americus Christmas Parade!

📣 Please Note: Our parade is traditionally held on the first Saturday of December. However, this year, we have rescheduled our parade because the Emporia Christmas Parade was moved to the same date. Since many of our participants enjoy taking part in both parades, we've made this adjustment to give everyone the opportunity to participate in both community celebrations!

This Year's Parade Theme: Stars, Stripes, and Christmas Lights 🇺🇸

Lineup Begins: 6:15 PM
Parade Starts: 7:00 PM
Location: Corner of Main & Walnut

We look forward to celebrating the Christmas season with our wonderful community! Gather your family and friends, enjoy the festive floats and holiday spirit, and help us make this year's parade one to remember! Following is the Annual Cookies with Santa Event at the Americus Fire Department! We can't wait to see you there!

For questions, contact Project Playscape: projectplayscape4community@gmail.com

Entry Information:

Point of Contact _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone Number _____

Type of Entry:

- ☆ Truck and Trailer
- ☆ ATV or Motorcycle
- ☆ Car/Truck
- ☆ Tractor
- ☆ Horse
- ☆ Walking
- ☆ Other _____

Additional Line Up Information:

_____

_____

Details about your Float/Entry

_____

 I have read the below Guidelines and will abide by the below guidelines

Parade Entry Guidelines

All parade participants are asked to observe the following guidelines, and supply information as requested to assist the parade organizers in planning of the event. Participants are reminded to become knowledgeable about the below guidelines for the safety and concerns of all involved.

- **All entries must have lighting.**
- **All entries must have a Christmas theme or greeting.**
- **Bicyclists must wear helmets.**
- Only one Santa Claus is allowed in the Parade. The City of Americus arranges for Santa's appearance. ***No artificial Santas or false representatives of any kind are allowed.***
- All Parade participants must comply with current traffic laws and regulations. For everyone's safety, we ask all motorized vehicles to refrain from excessive acceleration, wheelies, burnouts, etc. The Parade is for the community's enjoyment – please be considerate.
- For identification purposes, all Parade entrants shall display the sign given by parade organizers bearing their title and number in black marker (crucial for judging and line order).
- Absolutely no alcoholic beverages or consumption of alcohol is permitted during the Parade. Any participant judged to be in possession of, or under the influence of, alcohol or any other substance, shall be asked to leave and subject to removal if not done.
- Parade Organizers, Volunteers, Project Playscape & City of Americus are not responsible for accidents.
- **Inclement weather WILL NOT cancel.**

AGENDA

AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL
BUSINNESS MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026 – 7 PM

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:
VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:
CONSENT AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 8, 2026, Business Meeting, October 13, 2026, Business Meeting
BILLS TO PAY:

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

PARKS & REC :
MAINTENANCE:
CLERK:
CODE ENFORCEMENT:

ADOPT THE AGENDA

1. PARKING COMPLAINT: Semi parking on Main St.
2. EASEMENT REVIEW: Coraneo Great Plains, Inc.
3. CHRISTMAS PARADE:
4. SEWER BID: Community Center line replacement
5. RECORDS REQUESTS REVIEW:
6. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Non-elected personnel matters



PLANNING & ZONING BOARD
City Hall
1st Monday @ 6:30 pm

CITY COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING
City Hall
2nd Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

MUNICIPAL COURT
City Hall
2nd Wednesday @ 3:00 p. m.

AMERICUS RECREATION
City Hall
October 7TH @ 5:30 p.m.

TOWNSHIP LIBRARY BOARD
Library
4th Monday @ 5:30 p.m.

FIRE BOARD MEETING
Library
2nd Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

AMERICUS TOWNSHIP
Library
Last Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

RWD #1 BOARD
3rd Tuesday @ 7:30
Water Board Office
2501 W. 18th, Emporia

FROM CITY HALL

MINUTES
AMERICUS CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026 – 7 PM

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mayor WRIGHT. Council members present were NUESSEN, HARMON and HINRICHS. GERLEMAN and BURTON were absent. Also present, Attorney Steve Atherton, Clerk Dodie Doudna, Code Enforcement Justin Arb and Deputy Clerk Denisha Seiter.
VISITORS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Courtney Welch, Brenda Gehring, Wynnette Dudley, Nathan Dudley, Becky Baumgardner, Joel Young, Merry Barber, Jeremiah Weatherhead, Connie Freeman, John Freeman. Candace Fields present at 7:28 pm. Becky Baumgardner stated that the Dudley's would like to purchase property from the Gehring's and stay in an RV on the property. Seeing if council would allow that occur. Nathan Dudley expressed intent on staying in said RV temporarily, for 6 months or so. Council could not meet the accommodation as others have not been permitted to live in an RV/Camper. Brenda Gehring presented pictures to Steve Atherton of a camper that was being lived in at one time in city limits. The current city ordinance was enforced by Code Enforcement on the camper in question and they were forced to vacate. Council gave suggestions of where they could hook the RV up.
CONSENT AGENDA:
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 8, 2026, Business Meeting -Minutes could not be approved, majority council members not in attendance.
BILLS TO PAY: Moved by HARMON to approve the October bills in the amount of 16,211.71. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 3-0 Vote. Moved by HINRICHS to pay BCBS October billing for November premium when billing statement is available not to exceed $3000.00. Motion seconded by NUESSEN. 3-0 Vote.
DEPARTMENT REPORTS:
PARKS & REC : Deputy clerk reported that ARO was asking when they would be able to start storing items next to city hall. Clerk will reach out to Jody Meyers about clearing out evidence locker. Council advised that ARO should bring big purchase needs to council for approval.
MAINTENANCE: Getting close to mowing season being done. HINRICHS will reach out to contact about splashpad to see if we can set up a training to winterize again.
CLERK: Clerk reported that she has jury summons for Monday the 19th. Carpets at community center and city hall will be cleaned on the 21st. WRIGHT approved the purchase of Halloween candy not to exceed $200.00
CODE ENFORCEMENT: Weed notices are slowing down, in a good position with the established process from this year going into next year. 410 Cherry followed through on all tasks given by code enforcement.
ADOPT THE AGENDA: Moved by HINRICHS to adopt the agenda. Motion seconded by HARMON. 3-0 Vote.

1. JOEL YOUNG: Joel would like to long term rent the community center for 2 Sundays a month to hold a church service. Starting no earlier than 4 pm. Council agreed to Oct. 18th and Nov 1st, with future dates approved, just not set on the calendar.
2. ROLLING HILLS LIQUOR LICENSE: Moved by NUESSEN to approve the liquor license renewal for Rolling Hills. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 3-0 Vote.
3. PROJECT PLAYSCAPE:
   1. Cookies with Santa: Due to Emporia changing the date of their Christmas Parade, we had to change ours. The parade will be held on Wednesday, December 2nd. Parade line up to start at 6:15, with parade at 7 pm. Cookies with Santa to follow. $325 approved for Santa and $500 for goodie bags and treats.
   2. Court equipment: HINRICHS gave some illustrations of what the basketball/pickleball courts could look like. Asked council to bring back recommendations on how we should do the courts.
4. COMMUNITY SURVEY: The community survey was reviewed. Would have liked more submissions, will continue to promote the survey for people to take. HINRICHS asked council to think about projects they want to see happen in the next year and bring that back to discuss.
5. SEWER BID: Community Center line replacement: Tabled until November council meeting, needing to collect more bids.
6. CHAIRS:Will reach out to Navrats to see what they have. Will also watch purplewave to see if anything becomes available. No purchase at this time.
7. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Non-elected personnel matters. Moved by NUESSEN to go into executive session at 8:31 pm for 20 minutes for non-elected personnel matters, inviting council, mayor, legal, clerk and deputy clerk. Motion seconded by HARMON. 3-0 Vote. Out of executive session at 8:51 pm, no action taken.

Moved by NUESSEN to adjourn at 8:52 pm. Motion seconded by HINRICHS. 3-0 Vote.



MATCH DAY

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Email _____

Thank you for your donation. Your receipt will be emailed to you. If you don't have an email address, a receipt will be mailed to you.

Select ONE or a COMBINATION of organization(s) by writing a dollar amount next to the name of the organization(s). Gifts of any size are welcome, however the maximum amount that can be matched is a $1,000 gift per donor per organization.

$_____ **Arvonia Historic Preservation Society**
$_____ **Baby Closet of Emporia, KS**
$_____ **Camp Alexander**
$_____ **Camp Hope**
$_____ **Chase County Care & Compassion (C4 Food Pantry)**
$_____ **Chase County Historical Society Inc.**
$_____ **Chase County Old School Development District**
$_____ **Choose How You Respond (in memory of Dr. Bryan Douglas)**
$_____ **Emporia Area Habitat for Humanity**
$_____ **Emporia First Friday Art Walk**
$_____ **Emporia Municipal Band**
$_____ **Food for Students**
$_____ **Friends of the Emporia Public Library**
$_____ **Friends of the Lyon County History Center**
$_____ **FUMC School Supply Project**
$_____ **Good Way Gardens**
$_____ **Hispanics of Today and Tomorrow**
$_____ **House of Morrow**
$_____ **Kansas Spanish Speakers**

$_____ **Emporia Community Foundation Fund for the Future**
(Donations do not receive matching funds)

$_____ **Latimer Lutheran Church Preservation Society**
$_____ **Lebo All Veterans Memorial**
$_____ **Lyon County Crime Stoppers**
$_____ **Lyon County Honor Flight**
$_____ **Main Street Mommas**
$_____ **Matfield Green Works**
$_____ **Newman Regional Health Volunteers**
$_____ **NLC Youth Association**
$_____ **Pink Gravel Fund**
$_____ **Pioneer Bluffs**
$_____ **Project Playscape**
$_____ **Red Rocks - WAW Community Partnership, Inc**
$_____ **Southwick House**
$_____ **Street Cats Club**
$_____ **Strong City Preservation Alliance**
$_____ **Vernon H. Buck VFW Post 7957**
$_____ **Veterans Legacy Fund**
$_____ **Wade Barrett Memorial Fund**

Total Donation $_____
□ CASH
□ CHECK payable to ECF ck #_____
□ CREDIT CARD last 4 digits _____
□ Current ECF Fund Name for Fund Transfer:
_____

Signature:_____

□ I would like my gift to be anonymous.

Lyon • Chase • Greenwood • Coffey • Osage • Wabaunsee • Morris
ECF
EMPORIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
For the whole community.

527 Commercial Street, Suite B, Emporia, KS 66801

Donations are matched on a prorated basis. The $175,000 matching pool is provided by the following: Clint Bowyer's 79 Fund; Curtis McCreary Legacy Fund; ECF Fund for the Future; Emporia Lodge No.12, A.F. & A.M.; Gilpin Family Fund; Jane & Bernard Reeble Endowed Fund; Patterson Family Foundation; Preston Family Trust; Merry & Charles Rayl; Kent & Natalie Schnakenberg; Kathryn & Elvin Perkins Fund; Trusler Foundation; The Waddell Family Charitable Fund; and WS & EC Jones Testamentary Trust, Bank of America, N.A. Trustee.

For Office Use Only:
Donation Time: _____ Website: _____ akoyaGO: _____

DONATE TO THESE CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

Arvonia Historic Preservation Society
Baby Closet of Emporia
Camp Alexander
Camp Hope
Chase County Care & Compassion, Inc. (C4 Food Pantry)
Chase County Historical Society & Museum
Chase County Old School Development District
Choose How You Respond (in memory of Dr. Bryan Douglas)
Emporia Area Habitat for Humanity
Emporia First Friday Art Walk
Emporia Municipal Band
Food for Students
Friends of the Emporia Public Library
Friends of the Lyon County History Center
FUMC School Supply Project
Good Way Gardens
Hispanics of Today and Tomorrow (HOTT)
House of Morrow
Kansas Spanish Speakers
Latimer Lutheran Church Preservation Society
Lebo All Veterans Memorial
Lyon County Crime Stoppers
Lyon County Honor Flight
Main Street Mommas
Matfield Green Works
Newman Regional Health Volunteers
NLC Youth Association
Pink Gravel Fund
Pioneer Bluffs
Project Playscape
Red Rocks - WAW Community Partnership
Southwick House
Street Cats Club
Strong City Preservation Alliance
Vernon H. Buck VFW Post 7957
Veterans Legacy Fund
Wade Barrett Memorial Fund

Lyon • Chase • Greenwood • Coffey • Osage • Wabaunsee • Morris
ECF
Emporia Community Foundation
For the whole community.

Greater Emporia Area
See how your gift can grow.
Match Day

Monday
November 16, 2026

$175,000 in matching funds Donated by:

PattersonFamily Foundation
Kent & Natalie Schnakenberg
Waddell Family Charitable Fund
Jane & Bernard Reeble Endowed Fund
Trusler Foundation
Clint Bowyer's 79 Fund
W.S. & E.C. Jones Testamentary Trust
Preston Family Trust
Emporia Masonic Lodge No. 12, A.F. & A.M.
ECF Fund for the Future
Merry & Charles Rayl
Gilpin Family Fund
Curtis McCreary Legacy Fund
Kathryn & Elvin Perkins Fund





$3.00 / Dozen

Robert and Linda Clark

620-794-6145 or 785-709-0101.

Please leave a message if no answer.

Americus Community Food Pantry

Pre-Boxed
Pick Up Only



Wednesday	Saturday
November 11th	November 21st
6:00pm- 7:30 pm	9:30 am- 11:00am

We welcome any nonperishable donations. drop off on the parsonage porch or contact the church at 620.366.5074

Thank You to the community for all donations.

Americus United Methodist Church

413 Walnut, Americus, KS

620-366-5074

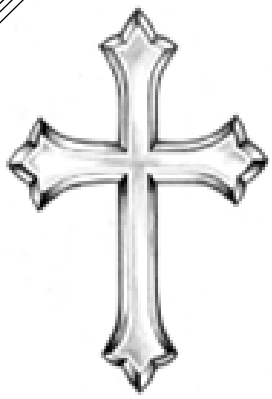
Email: pastor.americus@gmail.com

Worship Service
Sunday at 8:00 am

During services a nursery is available.
We invite all to join us.

SCAN ME

Facebook: Americus UMC



Countryside 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)

Pastor Rich Arnold

Call 620-343-1546
For more information.

For a Bus Ride to Church: (620)443-5177

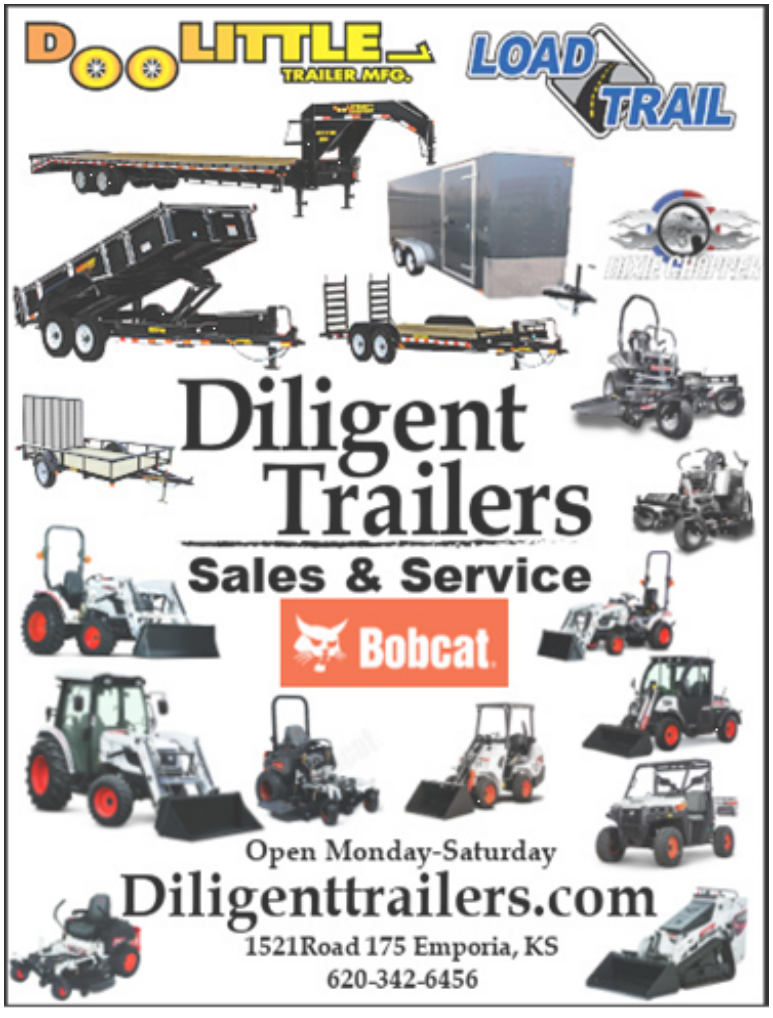


Amish Woodwork

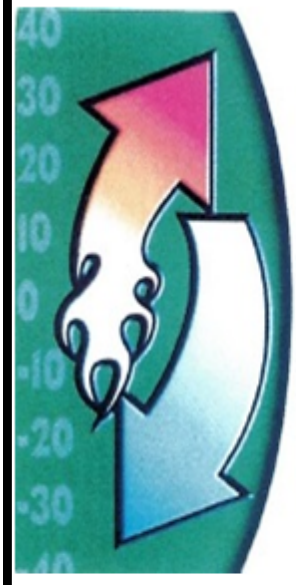
HARDWOOD	Amish Food
Furniture	Puzzles
Bedroom Sets	Pictures
Dining Tables	Bird Houses
Chairs	Soaps & Lotions
Rockers	Candles
Gliders	Rocking Horses
Ottomans	Wind Chimes
Jewelry Cheval	Sheds
Storage Benches	Portable Garages
TV Stands	Livestock
End Tables	Shelters
Hall Trees	Green Houses

Amish Built To Last

1521 Road 175 Emporia, KS
620-208-7433
www.amishwoodwork.com



Air Conditioning Specialists



~ Heating

~ Cooling

~ Refrigeration

~ Free Estimates

Casey Crist **620.343.0889**

Your Trusted Hometown Real Estate Experts

Legacy Group, Results that move you!



Lacie Hamlin (620)481-0213

Abbie Sull (620)803-2424

LIG RE/MAX EK REAL ESTATE Legacy Group

206 Hickory Street, Americus,KS, 66835



Experience the Advantage of New Construction



Lacie Hamlin
Legacy Group
(620) 481-0213
laciehamlin@gmail.com

LIG RE/MAX EK REAL ESTATE Legacy Group

Your bank, your way.

It's your money.

Equity Bank offers Americus full-service personal and commercial banking, all under one local roof. Visit us today and discover why Americus trusts Equity Bank.

Checking Accounts

Saving Accounts

Lending

Treasury Management

702 Main St. | Americus
620.366.5086
equitybank.com

EQUITY BANK
IT'S YOUR MONEY

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER NMLS# 438264 MEMBER FDIC

Postal customer
Americus, Kansas 66835

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Americus Township Library

710 Main Street
Phone: 443-5503 Fax: 443-5218
Email: americuslibrary@gmail.com

Library Hours:
Mon, Wed, Fri: 12:30-5:00pm
Tues, Thurs: 9a - 12p and 1p - 5:00pm
Sat: 9a—12p

Preschool Story Time
Every Thursday
10:00-10:30 am
Starts Sept. 3rd

The Crayon Initiative
Ask for details!

Watch our Facebook page and signs on the front door for information on closure and times



In an effort to improve the appearance of our cemeteries especially with mowing and weed-eating the Americus Township Board has adopted a policy banning the planting of trees, shrubs, plants or flowers in the cemetery. Signs have been ordered and will be put in place in the near future. We also ask that when placing other items that they be placed in such a manner as to not interfere with maintenance. We appreciate your cooperation.



M.A.D.

Plumbing & General
Licensed and Bonded
Maintenance
Free Estimates

Mark Dixon
406 Hackberry
Americus, Ks
620-325-4232 or
620-794-1417