Mayor Carol Marinovich declared the State of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas to be strong and said the community is in a position to continue its tremendous record of accomplishment.

The speech marks the 10th and final time Mayor Marinovich has delivered the annual State of the Government Address to Wyandotte County citizens. More than 200 people attended the event at the Reardon Center in downtown KCK.

Marinovich cited a long list of positive developments in Wyandotte County, including an 18% reduction in the combined city/county property tax rate since the Unified Government was created in 1997. Wyandotte County also experienced $319-million in new industrial development in 2004, set a 40-year record for new housing permits issued, created thousands of new jobs and saw the unemployment drop for the first time since 1999.

Mayor/CEO Carol Marinovich greets well-wishers after she delivered the annual State of the Government Address earlier this month at the Jack Reardon Civic Center. Pictured at the right is Bonner Springs Civic Center. UG Photo by Mike Taylor

Marinovich also noted that violent crime declined more than 7% in 2004. There were 17 homicides in 2004, the fewest in a decade.

"From reducing crime to increasing economic development, Wyandotte County is succeeding. We are the envy of cities across Kansas who want to copy our success with the Kansas Speedway and Village West," Marinovich said, "that change in Wyandotte County's image is a dramatic success."

Mayor Marinovich, who is not seeking re-election to a third term, urged citizens to reject the old-style politics of Wyandotte County's past during the March primary and April general elections.

"We must make sure the new leaders we elect are dedicated to public service and not just slick talkers who only know how to play political games. During this election time, games are being played and deals are being cut by some candidates. They are the ones who want City Hall to revert back to the cronyism, patronage and political favors of the old days. Only you can stop them," Marinovich told the crowd.

The full text of the State of the Government Address is available on the Unified Government Website at www.wwyckck.org.

Videotaped replays of the address will be aired on the KCK Community College Channel, Channel 17 on Time Warner Cable.

UG gets positive results from STAR Bond audit

By MIKE TAYLOR Public Relations Director

A long awaited Legislative Post Audit of the Kansas Speedway and Village West development found "no problems with Unified Government oversight of the projects it managed" and confirms STAR Bond funds were spent with 99.8% accuracy.

The Legislative Post Audit was designed to find out if STAR Bond funds were spent for allowable purposes; if costs associated with issuing the bonds were reasonable; if the cost of the theater is reasonable and what, if any, perks Unified Government or BPU employees receive.

Regarding costs of the bond issue, the Post Audit found that overall, the cost of issuing the bonds for Village West cost about half as much as similar bond issues and that less than three percent was paid out in fees and commissions, which is far less than even residential real estate agents get. Post Audit also found that legal requirements for taking bids on bond brokers and other finance professionals were followed.

Out of $176-million in STAR Bonds spent, the legislative investigators found $1.5-million charged incorrectly. That amounts to 0.2% or two-tenths of one percent. The audit notes that some Nebraska Furniture Mart costs were clerical errors and have been corrected. In addition, the auditors wanted about $1-million in Village West funds moved from one bank account to different bank accounts. That also was done.

The Legislative Post Audit report states, "No one can argue that the Kansas Speedway and Village West redevelopment projects haven't been enormously successful at bringing significant development to western Wyandotte County. When the STAR Bonds used to help finance them are paid off, these projects are likely to provide significant amounts of sales tax revenues for the County and the State."

The report calls for increased financial oversight in by both the State and Local government in STAR Bond issues, it also notes that the Unified Government, through Zimmer Management, has reviewed every invoice related to Village West.

The report states that in the auditor's opinion, legislators never envisioned having STAR bonds pay for the Wild Animal Museum displays at Cabela's store. The Unified Government disagrees with that opinion. The UG worked in full cooperation with Kansas Department of Commerce and Governor's office in developing Village West. Since its opening, Cabela's has been the number one tourist destination in Kansas.

See UG receives positive grade page 2.
Memo from the Mayor: Success cannot be taken for granted

By MAYOR/CEO CAROL MARINOVICH

How does the Unified Government make decisions that benefit citizens? Much of what happens in the Unified Government is routine — including city budgets, the operating of public works, and the allocation of funds. But the decisions that truly benefit citizens are made when leaders act on behalf of the residents, not special interests. These decisions are not made based on the usual political formula of what is controversial, what will create political gain, or what will hurt political opponents. Instead, they often require the courage to do what is right for the community.

What happens in the March 1st and April 5th elections will be the critical factor for what kind of successes Wyandotte County will enjoy, or what kinds of failures Wyandotte County will suffer in the coming years. Citizens will hear a lot about leadership in the coming weeks, and it is up to us to ensure that leaders will be more than just slick talkers who only know how to play political games. There are always candidates who will say anything to get elected. They will count on you to be gullible enough to buy into their empty promises and claims. Don’t let candidates get away with that kind of fraud. Make them be specific and keep your expectations low.

The citizens of Wyandotte County must demand that candidates work to do what is best for the community at large, not just what is best for some special interest group or individual. That’s the difference between politics and public service.

I believe public service and politics are two very different things. Too often, elected officials at all levels of government are focused on politics instead of what is in the best interest of their communities. As citizens and public servants we must care about each other and the spirit of the community. We need to inspire active, aggressive citizens. Informed and active citizens will challenge elected leaders to do what is best for the community. There are always candidates who will say anything to get elected. They will count on you to be gullible enough to buy into their empty promises and claims. Don’t let candidates get away with that kind of fraud. Make them be specific and keep your expectations low.

The citizens of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas are accomplishing great things. But we cannot take our accomplishments and successes for granted. We must keep working at it. We must make our accomplishments without using economic incentives, make them explain how, make them give specifics.

I believe elected officials must demonstrate they are in office because they care about the community and because they believe they can be a catalyst for improving the lives of residents. That’s the difference between politics and public service.

The citizens of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas are accomplishing great things. But we cannot take our accomplishments and successes for granted. We must keep working at it. We must make sure the new leaders we elect are dedicated to public service and not just slick talkers who only know how to play political games. There are people who want City Hall to revert back to the cronyism, patronage and political favors of the old days. Only you can stop them.

NEW FISHING RULES IN EFFECT

The Unified Government has entered into a cooperative agreement with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks that will change policies for fishing at Wyandotte County Lake, Pinson Park Lake, Wyandotte County Park, (126th Street and State Avenue) and Big Eleven Lake.

A Wyandotte County fishing permit will no longer be required to fish at the above named parks and lakes. Fishing for Rainbow Trout will require a $3 permit for Wyandotte County residents ages 16 to 64, and $10 for non-residents of any age. Any trout caught accidentally must be returned to the water in possession of a Trout permit. A Kansas State Fishing License is still required to fish at all of the above mentioned lakes and parks.

Speakers’ Bureau ready to talk

The Unified Government has a Speakers’ Bureau available. Community groups and organizations who would like a speaker for an upcoming meeting or gathering can call 913.573.5565 or send an e-mail to ddenny@wyco.kck.org.

ANNUAL REPORT: Community makes great progress in ‘04

By MIKE TAYLOR
Public Relations Director

The 2004 Annual Report of the Unified Government details how the community is continuing its incredible economic development successes which are benefiting citizens by creating hundreds of new jobs and helping all parts of our community improve through millions in newly generated revenues. The Annual Report shows:

- A 6 mill decrease in the Unified Government’s property tax mill levy (from 83.5 to 79.1 mills). The 2005 Budget includes a 2.5 mill levy decrease (from 79.1 to 76.6 mills). Since the consolidation of city and county governments in 1997, the mill levy has decreased 16.8 mills or 18%.
- Violent crime declined more than sixteen percent in 2004 thanks to the collaborative partnership between the Kansas City Kansas Police Department and the community. There were 37 homicides in 2004, the fewest in a decade. And the overall violent crime rate is also down 50 percent since 1999.
- Wyandotte County has experienced phenomenal growth in 2004. $319-million in new and expanded industrial and manufacturing operations created 658 new jobs. At the same time, the unemployment rate in Wyandotte County dropped by more than three percent in 2004. That’s the first decrease in Wyandotte County’s unemployment rate since 1999.
- The total assessed value of property in Wyandotte County climbed to more than $1-billion for the first time ever. The construction value of new building permits exceeded $100-million for the fifth consecutive year.
- Businesses in the Village West Development paid more than $5-million in property taxes in 2004. That money is being used to pay for public services used by all citizens, including police and fire protection, street repairs and public schools.
- Almost 500 new single-family housing permits were issued in 2004, setting a 40-year record. The estimated construction value of those permits exceeded $58-million. The average new home built in Wyandotte County is now valued at $122,500, while some homes ranged up to 450,000. Housing development in the west has exploded, but at the same time, successful partnerships with community development corporations and private developers are making new housing development in the urban core possible as well. Hundreds of new housing units are being built east of I-635. The stigma of building quality housing in the urban core is finally being overcome.

From reducing crime to increasing economic development, Wyandotte County is successful. We are the envy of cities across Kansas that want to copy our success with the Kansas Speedway and Village West. The 2004 Annual Report of the Unified Government is available on the Internet at www.wycokck.org. Copies are also available for viewing at Wyandotte County Public Libraries.

UG receives positive grade from auditors

The Post Audit says the Legends Theater will cost more to build than a “typical theater.” True, but the Legends is not a typical theater, therefore, comparisons to the cost of constructing a typical theater are inappropriate. The auditors argue the lease agreement and details of financing the theater appear to circumvent state law. Gilmore and Bell, the bond counsel for the project, say the auditors statement, “misappplies the law and misstates the undisputed facts.”

The state audit noted that police officers and firefighters receive discounts on food at Village West restaurants and that Unified Government officials who are working to promote economic development get access to a suite at the Kansas Speedway. The suites at the Kansas Speedway and Community America Ballpark were specifically negotiated for use as economic development tools at no cost to local taxpayers.

The Legislative Post Audit report states, “No, the audit can argue that the Kansas Speedway and Village West redevelopment projects haven’t been enormously successful at bringing significant development to western Wyandotte County. But the STAR Bonds used to help finance them are paid off, these projects are likely to provide significant amounts of sales tax revenues for the County and the State.”

In 2004, the Village West Development generated $5,422,883 in property taxes for the State, School Districts and Wyandotte County. In addition, the Kansas Speedway and Village West businesses have created an estimated 1,281 new jobs with an estimated annual payroll of $51.1 million to date.
UG introduces bill to aid collection of delinquent tax

By MIKE TAYLOR
Public Relations Director

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County is pushing for legislation in Topeka on behalf of the hard-working, law-abiding citizens in our community who pay their taxes. Senate Bill 45 will give Wyandotte County the tools to collect delinquent taxes from people who cheat and abuse the system. Senate Bill 45 is about fairness and equity. It is about reducing the property tax mill levy in Wyandotte County and Kansas City for all residents by collecting more delinquent taxes.

The Mayor and Board of Commissioners realize in order to lower taxes, they must do everything possible to ensure the Unified Government is collecting the money it is already owed. There are millions of dollars in unpaid real estate taxes in Wyandotte County. The Unified Government is making strong advancements in collecting delinquent taxes with the tools they have under current law, but we need to do even more. Senate Bill 45 will give officials an additional tool to collect delinquent taxes. We need the Legislature’s help.

It’s often said government should run more like a business. Senate Bill 45 would give the Unified Government the same tool businesses regularly use to collect delinquent tax as opposed to the current law (KSA 79-2930) which only allows us to foreclose on the property and sell it at a tax sale after the delinquency is three years old. There are 10,713 parcels of land which owe a total of $23.9-million in delinquent taxes. Since 1998, the Unified Government has aggressively worked to collect delinquent taxes and get the involved properties back on the tax rolls. More than 4,500 parcels have been placed in tax sales since 2000, returning millions of dollars to the Unified Government and citizen taxpayers.

UG employee provided assistance to hurricane victims in Alabama

Cindy Gibson loves to help other people. For the past six years she has served as an Administrative Support Specialist for the Unified Government’s Emergency Management Department. During her tenure, Gibson has assisted local residents who have been victims of flash floods, ice storms and one major tornado. Last fall, Gibson saw an opportunity to assist victims of Hurricane Ivan by that wreaked terrible havoc to the southeast portion of the United States.

After seeing an ad that was looking for experienced people to assist victims of the hurricane, Gibson asked for and was granted a leave of absence from the UG last September to work with federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Hurricane Ivan recovery. For seven weeks, she

Ruth Jones has passion for helping Wyandotte County seniors

Ruth Jones has a passion for working with senior citizens. As the Executive Director of the Area Agency on Aging in Kansas City, a position she has held since March 2004, Jones is in a perfect position to carry out her passion. Jones began her career working in the nursing home industry in Wyandotte County.

“This is where I learned to love and value senior citizens,” said Jones, who spent 12 years in the nursing home industry. “Many people dread the thought of a nursing home and would not think of working or even worse having to live there. The stigma that society has attached to nursing homes causes much distress to a person who because of current conditions may require this level of care.”

Jones, who started working with the Area Agency on Aging in 1991, said she was particularly attached a stigma on nursing homes, alleging this was the last stop, a place people had come there to die. She says she has long advocated a philosophy that people come to a nursing home to “live, and not only live but have a quality of life, no matter what health condition they were in. The nursing home is and will continue to be a very important and required institution that is needed in the life cycle.”

Working with seniors on the community based service side has been tremendously rewarding, said Jones, who continues to be a licensed Adult Care Home Administrator. “Seniors are most happy and productive when they can age in place, when they can live in their own homes and communities,” she said. “Realizing that there may come a time and place when a nursing home is the only option; too often that option is premature because of poor community based service availability.”

This is where the Area Agency on Aging can step in, Jones said. “Our services are designed to keep people in their own homes as long as possible,” she said. “Our agency is federally mandated to be the leaders as it regards all senior issues and concerns, at the local level, 1, as well as my staff, take this charge seriously. We have implemented strategies that will give us the opportunity to become more visible in the community, with the ultimate goal of getting more information out about our services.”

Ruth Jones
A guide for finding the right telephone number
t
Map courtesy of Livable Neighborhoods (Community Development Block Grant)

To call to get a neighborhood problem resolved:
PUBLIC WORKS REPORT: Road construction season will be busy throughout community

By FRED BACKUS
Chief Engineer

The 2005 construction season will soon be here and with it, the start up of numerous road and bridge projects throughout the city. Please be patient and drive safely through the construction zones in 2005 as your tax dollars work for you.

Projects on-going from 2004

- Parallel Parkway, 9th Street to 17th Street will widen and realign one mile of Parallel into a Parkway-type roadway similar to existing Parallel Parkway west of 18th Street. Construction is well underway and will continue until this fall. Parallel will remain closed to through traffic for the project duration.

- 77th Street, Parallel Parkway to Leavenworth Road will widen and significantly improve this road. The section from Parallel to Longwood Avenue is essentially complete, and construction is on-going north to Leavenworth Road. Completion is expected by late summer. 77th Street will be available for local traffic only.

- Parallel Parkway Rehabilitation Phase IX is essentially complete between 83rd Street and 98th Street, but the section between 98th Street and I-435 interchange will still be resurfaced and selected curbs replaced. Work should be complete this spring.

- 53rd Lane Improvements got underway late last fall and involves reconstruction and widening this road between Oak Grove Road and Gibbs Road. A series of sharp, awkward curves will become one long sweeping curve which will provide a much smoother and safer alignment. 53rd Lane will be closed to through traffic until this fall.

- Mission Road Bridge and Viaduct will rehabilitate two bridges and adjacent pavements on Mission Road between I-35 and Southwest Blvd. This project is immediately adjacent to the I-35 reconstruction project and is expected to be completed this fall.

- Shawnee Road Bridge over 7th Street. The re-decking of this historic steel arch bridge began last fall and involves reconstruction with widening this road between Oak Grove Road and Gibbs Road. A series of sharp, awkward curves will become one long sweeping curve which will provide a much smoother and safer alignment. 53rd Lane will be closed to through traffic until this fall.

- Mission Road Bridge and Viaduct will rehabilitate two bridges and adjacent pavements on Mission Road between I-35 and Southwest Blvd. This project is immediately adjacent to the I-35 reconstruction project and is expected to be completed this fall.

New Projects for 2005

- Parallel Parkway Rehabilitation Phase X. This rehabilitation project will extend from 110th Street to K-7 and will involve curb replacement, pavement repairs, and resurfacing in various areas depending on the needs. Construction should begin in the spring, and completed in the early fall. Parallel will remain open to through traffic.

- Minnesota Avenue Rehabilitation – 11th to 18th Street. This downtown project involves reconstruction of curbs and sidewalks, resurfacing the street and marking of parking stalls. Construction will begin in the spring and extend through fall. Although traffic will be carried through construction, parking will be restricted in individual blocks.

- Hollingsworth Road – Hutton Road to 115th Street. This road will be reconstructed as a wide two-lane road with a much improved vertical alignment, curbs, sidewalks, and storm sewer system. Construction is expected to begin this fall, and will involve the closure of Hollingsworth to all traffic except local residents.

- Gibb Road – 51st Street to I-435. This road will be reconstructed as a wider, two-lane street with curbs, sidewalks and storm sewers. Construction will begin in spring and be complete by late fall. Through traffic will be detoured during the construction period.

Kansas Dept. of Transportation Projects

Construction on the local roads won’t be the only activities going on this year. KDOT has completed the massive I-635/670 project but has several other major projects scheduled.

- I-35 Reconstruction, Southwest Boulevard to State Line. This project saw the reconstruction of the northbound lanes in 2004, including the reconstruction of the 7th Street interchange, and part of the Cambridge interchange. The southbound lanes will be rebuilt together with the Mission Road interchange and the remainder of the Cambridge interchange. Expect delays and slow going throughout the construction season.

- I-435 from Riverview Avenue to Missouri River Bridge, Pavement repairs and rehabilitation during 2004 left this section of highway in good condition, but very rough. This year, KDOT will diamond grind the pavement to provide a much smoother driving surface. Construction should be complete this summer.

- I-70 from I-435 to State Line. Rehabilitation and repairs for selected areas of I-70 are in store this year in order to extend the service life of this pavement. Reduced lanes will be required in many areas through fall.

- I-635 from Victory Drive to the Missouri River. This is another major two-year project that will completely rebuild the remainder of I-635 that has not already been improved. During 2005, the section from Victory Drive to Georgia Avenue will be rebuilt including the interchange at Parallel Parkway. Both Parallel Parkway and the interchange ramps will be closed to all traffic from March through November. Also, the Georgia Avenue Bridge and the 27th Street Bridge will be repaired and resurfaced, requiring 60-day closures. Although I-635 traffic will be carried on two lanes in each direction through construction, there will also be a 60-day period when all I-635 traffic is detoured along K-5 through the Fairlawn District. Soon, once again, we will have a very disruptive interstate project that eventually will provide a much improved highway. In 2006, the section north of Georgia Avenue will be reconstructed.
Lowdown on "Low-Carb" Labeling

Whether it's carb-smart, carb-wise, carb-fit, or just plain low-carb, no federal regulation defines these terms. A product or label terms that call out to carb-conscious consumers.

Refrigerator storage at 40 degrees F. or below:
- cooked meat or poultry, 3 to 4 days
- pizza, 3 to 4 days
- luncheon meats, 3 to 5 days
- eggs, tuna and macaroni salad, 3 to 5 days
- chicken, ham, turkey, 2 to 4 days
- cooked or fresh meat, 1 to 2 months
- luncheon meats, 1 to 2 months
- Salads made with mayonnaise do not freeze well.

Freezer storage at 0 degrees F. or below:
- fruits and vegetables, 3 to 6 months
- meat, poultry, fish, 6 to 12 months
- pizza, 1 to 2 months
- frozen vegetables, 1 to 2 months
- mashed potatoes, 3 to 6 months


to confused matters further, some food labels refer to "net carbs" or "effective carbs." Again, no government or generally agreed-upon definition exists for this terminology but the terminology is used as the result when fiber and certain sweeteners, such as sugar alcohols and glycerin, are subtracted from the total carbohydrate content.

Help Your Child Develop Healthy Food Attitudes

We know that some children grow up viewing food as a comfort or companion. It’s not a habit that just happens—families make a real difference in how a child thinks about food. Where do we start? Try not to use food as a reward or punishment. Giving sweets as a reward or comfort can easily confuse a child’s view of food and love, and may encourage them to seek out food when unhappy, bored, stressed or lonely. A better idea might be to try offering a listening ear, a hug or healthy attention. Sometimes an active diversion like a walk together, a game of catch or even a shared chore can send a positive message without sending a conflicting one. After that important step, there’s another healthy move that parents can make. Encourage your child’s school or child care program to motivate students with nonfood rewards. By focusing on nonfood rewards, you are helping your child develop healthy food attitudes.

Lori L. Wueellner is County Extension Agent, Family and Consumer Sciences, K-State Research & Extension, Wyandotte County. For more information on this topic and others related to nutrition, food preparation and food safety contact K-State Research and Extension at (913) 299-9100.

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Making of a Legend... the walls of the Legends 14 Theatre are starting to take shape near the Parallel Parkway entrance to Village West near 106th Street. The 14-theatre complex will include a main 600-seat auditorium that will feature a four-story tall, 80-foot screen — the largest of its kind in the metropolitan area. Construction of Legends 14 Theatre will be completed later this year.

FAST FACTS: About KCK & Wyandotte County

✔ When snow and ice hit the city, Unified Government crews are responsible for maintaining 1,185 center line miles of streets. It costs an average of $2,000 per hour to treat the roads, and $4,000 per hour to treat and plow the roads.

✔ The average wage per employee working in Wyandotte County is $37,261 — which is the second highest in the State of Kansas. Johnson County has the top average wage per employee in the state at $39,563. The overall average wage per employee in the state at $31,485. (Source: Kansas Department of Labor Market Information Service, 2003.)

✔ The per capita income for residents of Wyandotte County is $21,332 — this ranks 91st out of 105 counties in Kansas. The per capita income for all residents in the State of Kansas is $22,183. (Source: Kansas Department of Human Resources, 2003.)

✔ In 2004, the county's unemployment rate decreased 4.7 percent to an estimated 8.8%. This is the first decrease in the county's unemployment rate since 1997.

✔ For the fifth consecutive year, construction value of building permits in KCK exceeded $100 million.

✔ Over 6,600 firms were licensed to do business in KCK in 2004.

✔ In 2004, the KCK Police Department responded to 19,561 fire service related calls in 2004 with an average response time of well under four minutes.

✔ In 2004, the KCK Police Department responded to 501,117 calls — an average of 1,572 calls per day.

✔ The Wyandotte County Health Department served 20,016 people in 2004.

✔ The Unified Government's Real Estate Tax Collection Initiative netted nearly $4 million in paid delinquent taxes last year.

✔ In 2004, more than 116 lane miles in KCK received either a major road and bridge rehabilitation or major street resurfacing at a combined cost of $26.2 million.

✔ Ridership for all UG transit programs in 2004 was 1,211,065.

✔ The Service Request Center handled 4,750 calls from citizens last year.

For general information and numbers not listed, please call (913) 573-5000

Animal Control .... 321-1445
Appraiser, Personal Property 287-2641
Appraiser, Vehicle Property 573-2889
Area Agency on Aging .... 328-4531
Auto Licensing .... 573-2821
Base Mapping .... 573-2942
Building Inspection .... 573-8620
Business License .... 573-8780
Code Enforcement .... 573-8600
Commissioners Office .... 573-5040
Community Development .... 573-5100
Community Policing .... 573-8720
County Administrator .... 573-6210
County Clerk's Office .... 573-5260
Delinquent Tax .... 573-2817
Dispute Resolutions .... 573-5225
District Court Clerk .... 573-2900
District Attorney .... 573-2851
Election Commissioner .... 314-1414
Fire Department .... 573-5550
Health Department .... 321-4803
Human Resources .... 573-5660
Legal Department .... 573-5080
Livable Neighborhoods .... 573-8737
Mayor's Office .... 573-5010
Municipal Court .... 573-5200
Operation Brightside .... 573-8714
Parks Department .... 596-7077
Planning and Zoning .... 573-3750
Police Chief's Office .... 573-6010
Police (non-emergency) .... 596-3000
Purchasing .... 573-5440
Register of Deeds .... 573-2841
Renting/Licensing .... 573-8649
Service Requests, Info .... 573-8790
Sheriff .... 573-2861
Solid Waste Coordinator .... 573-5400
Street Department .... 573-4324
Treasurer .... 573-2821
Water Pollution Control .... 573-5400
Wyandotte County Museum .... 721-1078

Email address: info@wycokck.org
Website: www.wycokck.org

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

For the first time in history, total assessed value of property in Wyandotte County exceeded $1 billion. Total valuation increased by 4.7 percent in 2004.

For the fifth consecutive year, construction value of building permits in KCK exceeded $100 million.