

Entrepreneurial Services Spotlight

Wellsville, located in the northeast corner of Franklin County, Kansas. Scattered settlement of the Wellsville Area began in the 1850's. The city itself dates to the first known survey of the area by Mr. Wells in September 1870, who was surveying for the Santa Fe Railroad. The name "Wellsville" was derived from the last name of Mr. Wells. The completion of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1870 encouraged growth and development of the community. The first plat of the city was submitted by P.O. Elder on May 1, 1872, and has been accepted as the official map. The city was incorporated on July 8, 1884. Wellsville's motto is "Proud Past. Growing Future."

The Chamber sat down with the City Clerk, Tammy Jones, to learn more about the City of Wellsville government. When asked, Tammy told us, "The City of Wellsville employs 16 full-time and seasonal employees." Our city offers services for our water, sewer, trash, enforces building permits and city codes, our police force, cemetery services, city pool services and dog tags.

We asked Tammy what problems the City of Wellsville solves for its customers, which are the city residents. She responded, "By helping citizens with their day-to-day needs." Tammy and all the other employees of our city work together to make a better community for us all. She went on to explain to us, "Currently, building permits are the most successful service we offer with all the new homes coming to Wellsville. The City Pool is our most popular program." When it comes to challenges, "Mowing, trash and cemetery services, water leaks and keeping up with street repairs can be some of the most requested services," Tammy told us.

As for marketing and advertising, the City of Wellsville uses their website, Facebook, and their electronic sign out in front of their building to communicate their events and programs. We then asked what new products or services does the city have on the horizon to communicate? Tammy described new playground equipment coming to the city park next to the pool. She told us, "The new structure will include numerous slides and climbing options, 13 elevated play features, seven ground level play features and many respite areas underneath the structure to appeal to all ages and abilities of kids. It's amazing that this new playground is adequate for 55-60 children at once!"

We then turned our attention to how the services provided by the City of Wellsville to our residents improve their lives. "These are services we all take for granted," states Tammy. She continued, "The city provides clean drinking water, weekly trash removal, police services for a safe community, and our inspectors ensure that contractors and builders perform their services to the codes of our city."

It's interesting to learn about the inner workings of our city. We learned that the employees that work in the office receive multiple questions from our citizens daily. We asked Tammy, "What are the most commonly asked questions the city receives?" She said, "We honestly receive many different types of calls depending on the season and what is going on in our town. For instance, during the spring and summer, we will get lots of calls about when the City-wide Garage Sales are scheduled, when the City-wide Clean-up will be held, what are the cost of pool passes and dog tags. We get lots of calls about the

prices for the services the city offers.” We then asked her about how the city measures success. From Tammy’s perspective she told us, “My goal is to solve most problems in house, so they don’t escalate to a point where citizens have to go to the City Council to voice their concerns.”

Finally, we wanted to learn how the Wellsville community could best serve the City of Wellsville. Tammy said that citizens can always check the city website for answers to their questions. She told us, “We try hard to keep the website updated with the newest policy and program changes. So always check there for a quick answer to your questions.” Then we ask how the Wellsville Chamber can best serve the City of Wellsville. Tammy mentioned, “Continue to help promote our events and provide information to the citizens. That is very helpful for us.”

The City of Wellsville office is open Monday through Friday from 8AM-5PM. The office is closed each day for lunch from 12-1PM. The website can be found at <https://www.cityofwellsvilleks.org/>. You can contact them through email at cityclerk@cityofwellsvilleks.com or call 785-883-2296.

