

**July 2017**

## **Report of Economic Development Director**

**Business Recruitment:** The Chamber is presently interacting with seven companies who are considering a physical location in Manhattan or the immediate region. Each interaction is in a different phase of due diligence but we are hopeful two to three of the companies will ultimately choose to expand into Manhattan. We are also pleased to report the Manhattan Business Park is being considered by several of the companies.

**Market Street Services:** The Greater Manhattan community visioning project has proposed five target sectors and market segments to pursue. They are:

- Agriculture and Animal Health
- Small to Medium Enterprise Manufacturing
- Professional and Technical Services
- Bio Defense and Security
- Travel & Tourism

The consultants feel these five areas play to Manhattan's strengths as a university research town and regional center for services and entertainment.

**Workforce:** The Business – Education Task Force has three programs it is working on for the Manhattan area:

- A USD 383 teacher meet-and-greet at MATC, to celebrate the new year and introduce district teachers to what MATC offers (August. 16)
- A high school “Classroom-to-Career” program on four days off of school, to introduce high school students to unusual careers and local employers, as well as provide some soft-skill training (first meets Sept. 22, with employer tours to be scheduled in October, February, and April)
- An elementary “Classroom-to-Career Partnership” that will match sponsoring businesses with fourth-grade classes for a year-long collaboration to introduce kids to local employers/careers and establish new relationships in the community.

**Accolades:** Riley County was ranked “# 2 Mid-Sized (pop. 50,000 – 150,000) Community in the U.S.” by Fourth Economy Consulting based on investment, talent, sustainability, place and diversity. Fourth Economy had studied Manhattan in 2014 on behalf of the state of Indiana to analyze communities with successful economic development programs. From their 2017 analysis:

### **Riley County, Kansas**

Riley County, Kansas, ranked #2 among mid-sized counties...Its score revealed strengths in Talent as well as Place. In the past five years, Riley County has experienced a 9% increase in population.

The mix of older and younger people due to a military base and college help ensure a sustainable workforce and contribute to a healthy balance of educational attainment. Riley Kansas also boasts a short commute time, a high level of employment, and lots of arts and cultural activity. The relatively recent development of the National Bio and Agro Defense Facility has helped promote more development and investment into the area.

**Sales Activity:** July 2017 sales were \$86.3 million; a decrease of 6.4% from year-ago levels. We do expect to gains in the second half with increased activity at Fort Riley and growth in the region. January – July sales since 2013:

2017 -- \$618.6 million  
2016 -- \$638.2 million  
2015 -- \$628.2 million  
2014 -- \$612.8 million  
2013 -- \$608.4 million

**Kansas Labor Report:** The Kansas Department of Labor (KDOL) for June 2017 showed the following unemployment rates:

Manhattan:	3.2% (2 <sup>nd</sup> lowest of cities listed; Leawood at 3.0%)
Riley County:	3.4%
Manhattan MSA:	3.4%

The Manhattan Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is Riley and Pottawatomie Counties. Geary County was removed from the Manhattan MSA as of 2015. The MSA has a civilian workforce of 49,337 and employment of 47,658. Also from the report:

- In January 2002 Manhattan had **22,325** people employed
- As of June 2017 Manhattan has **29,903** employed
- The net increase of **7,578** jobs places us fourth among the 17 cities included in the report
- The percentage increase of **34%** places us second among the 17 cities

The 17 cities tracked in the KDOL report based on populations over 25,000 are: Dodge City, Emporia, Garden City, Hutchinson, Junction City, Kansas City KS, Lawrence, Leavenworth, Leawood, Lenexa, Manhattan, Olathe, Overland Park, Salina, Shawnee, Topeka and Wichita. We keep track from January 2002, when the first Advantage Manhattan campaign began. *Junction City was included starting in 2012 so historical data is not available.*

**Fort Riley:** By mid-July the 11D Division Headquarters had redeployed from Iraq after a successful tour liberating Mosul from ISIS with the Iraqi Army. Now, all 1st Infantry Division soldiers are in Garrison through the fall when Second Brigade deploys to Europe. An ecstatic WELCOME HOME to all 11D soldiers who deployed in the past year, Manhattan is glad to have you back!

Summer is moving season and July 2017 has been a busy month!

- On July 7th, the Combat Aviation Command changed Brigade Commanders: COL John Cyrulik has moved on to be the Army ROTC Professor of Military Science at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. The new Commander is COL Chris Black.
- Also on July 7th, the Air Force unit on Fort Riley, the 10th Air Support Operations Squadron (ASOS), changed Commanders from Lt. Col. Jason Grumbaugh to Lt. Col. Daniel Heely.
- The 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team Changed Commanders on July 12th. COL Timothy Haden is off to Washington DC. Welcome to incoming Commander, COL Charles Armstrong and family!
- The Division has a new Chaplain, the third ever Division Level Chaplain of the Jewish faith, welcome to Chaplain (LTC-P) Shmuel Felzenberg and family.
- On July 17th, there was a Victory with Honors Ceremony for outgoing Brigadier General – Maneuver, Scott Efflant. BG Efflant will be the Deputy Commandant of the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth.
- On July 21st, the 1ID Sustainment Brigade Changed Command. COL Allen Cassell handed the Brigade guidon to COL Jay McGuire at a ceremony on Cavalry Parade Field. Welcome!

July means Rodeo here in Manhattan and this year's Military Family Appreciation Night at the Kaw Valley Rodeo did not disappoint. The stars certainly aligned for this year's event, the weather was perfect, maybe 90 degrees, the Division was back from deployment, and Garrison Command, MWR and the USO coordinated to make sure Rodeo tickets were distributed. At the 5:30pm start time there was a 50-person line to get into the picnic tent – a first for the Pre-Rodeo Picnic. The tent stayed at capacity for almost the entirety of the hour and a half event. Blue Ribbon Sponsors BriggsAuto and Chick-fil-A kicked off Military Family Night with an awesome picnic for 250 with a delicious meal of chicken tenders and chicken sandwiches and soda and water from Pepsi of Manhattan. The rockin' music of the First ID Brass Band, BRO Brass, kept the soldiers and families entertained and our corps of volunteers from the Flint Hills Volunteer Center, First Command, Navy Federal, Prime Lending and the community kept the evening running smoothly.

Our wonderful ticket sponsors BriggsAuto, Cox Communications, Navy Federal Credit Union, Hi-Tech Interiors, Manhattan Regional Airport, AUSA, the Riley County Fair Board and the Kaw Valley Rodeo Association helped the Military Relations Committee distribute 1000 rodeo tickets to Fort Riley Soldiers and their families for a great family friendly, affordable evening out.

The MRC Also participated in the Regional Partnership Meeting, the JLUS Update, and Operation Homefront's Backpack Brigade, distributing backpacks containing school supplies to 600 military connected USD 383 students. Manhattan welcomed 491 soldiers to the area this July at the Weekly BRO Welcome. Of the 10 soldiers retiring out of Fort Riley 6 stayed in Kansas: 1 in

Manhattan, 1 in Junction City, 1 in Leavenworth, 1 in Enterprise, 1 in Wakefield, 1 in Randolph, plus 1 in Kansas City, MO.

The Military Relations Committee's next Luncheon will be cohosted with Junction City Military Affairs on Wednesday August 23rd at Riley's Conference Center during Fort Riley's VICTORY WEEK. Our Guest Speaker will be 1st Infantry Division Commanding General, MG Joseph Martin.