



Uptown Neighborhood News

Newsletter of the Uptown Neighborhood Association, Inc.

December 2008

Midwest Printing is not responsible for content of newsletter

www.simplyneighbors.com/usa/Kansas/Wichita/Uptown

Your UNA Officers

President

Leslie Harvey 687-2082
leslieharvey@sbcglobal.net

Vice-President

Paul Oberg 687-0949
chancyo@att.net

Treasurer

Lynn Wasinger 618-4945
dalynta@yahoo.com

Secretary

Ray Racobs 612-0754
raylynda.racobs@att.net

Director of Communications

Lori Lawrence 688-1484
lorilawrence@cox.net

Uptown boundaries

Central, Douglas, Grove and Hillside

If you live, work or own property in Uptown, you are a member!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 1, 6:30 p.m. District Advisory Board meeting at Atwater Center, 2755 E. 19th St. (at Volutsia)

Dec 4, 6:30 p.m. Uptown Holiday Dinner

Dec 6, 8 a.m. District One Coalition Breakfast at Ryan's Steakhouse

January 8, 2009 (NOTE DATE), Fire Station 5 Firefighters and their boss Fire Chief Ron Blackwell

May 7, 2009, Jim Mason, naturalist from Great Plains Nature Center will bring more Kansas Native Animals to meet us! More details later.

Annual Holiday Party

Thursday, December 6th, 6:30 p.m.

CHUM Fellowship Hall (west end of building)

Put this great feast on your calendar right now. Uptown is providing several sorts of meatballs again this year. We are counting on YOU to bring your favorite holiday dish for everyone to try. We always have a GREAT turn out and wonderful food. Anyone who would like to bring the recipe for their dish will have it printed in the newsletter in 2009.

Our special guests this year include Councilwoman Lavonta Williams, Kansas Representative-elect Gail Finney, Sedgwick County Commissioner Kelly Parks, Kansas Senator-elect Oletha Faust-Goudeau (she may arrive late since that is the last day of her orientation in Topeka) and Mayor Carl Brewer. Most of these have confirmed and will be there! Hopefully we will have more guests as well. Come and see who is here!

Don't miss it!

POSSIBLE UPTOWN SHORT TERM LOAN PROGRAM

Uptown Neighborhood Association is concerned about the number of "Pay-Day" loan and "Speedy" cash companies that have sprung up within and near our boundaries. We would like to see our residents be able to solve their short term money problems without getting involved in the debt trap that these companies are known to create. Therefore, we would like to propose a short term loan with no interest program be made available to our members at a financial institution within our boundaries.

In order to help our residents to stay out of the debt trap that these types of companies involve their clients in, the Uptown Neighborhood Association proposes a short term loan program that we would offer to our membership. These loans would be a zero (0) % interest and be for very specific needs. These loans will be used for, but not limited to; emergency needs, keeping utilities from being cut off or in some cases, work on their house to stay out of environmental court.

This loan may also be used to free Uptown residents from the Pay-Day Loan trap. Any resident that owes money to a Pay-Day Loan business can apply and be granted this interest free loan. Uptowners who receive this loan must use the money to pay off their Pay-Day Loan in full.

We propose putting \$1,000.00 of our current funds in an account at the Great Plains Federal Credit Union, 315 N. Hillside, to be used for this program. This account would be an interest bearing account so when these funds are not being used for loans it would be drawing interest to add funds to our account.

Considered Terms and Conditions can be found on page 2 following this article. Check them out for possible revisions too. These were not decided upon lightly and if you want to see something changed you need to come to the January meeting to speak to those of us who have worked on this so far. Just calling one of the board is not enough. There are reasons behind each of the terms.

(Continued on page 2)

POSSIBLE UPTOWN SHORT TERM LOAN PROGRAM

(Continued from page 1)

This new account and new loan program will be the main topic of discussion (after our presentations by Fire Chief Blackwell and Station #5). We are looking for comments or needs from our neighborhood. Please call any of the officers to give your opinions on this type of loan program. We have already had one neighbor check to see if we had started it yet so there is a need. Please do plan to attend the January 8th meeting or email or call one of our officers.

UPTOWN EMERGENCY SHORT TERM & PAY-DAY PAYOFF LOAN PROGRAM

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Uptown resident must join the Great Plains Federal Credit Union. They must open a share account that has a payroll direct deposit.
2. Borrower must provide verification of employment or a steady income, with no gaps in employment or benefits, for a period of no less than one (1) year.
3. Borrower must provide verification of no less than six (6) months at current address in Uptown.
4. Maximum loan amount is \$250.
5. Normal term of loan is 30 days (flexible term of 60 days for special circumstances for long term residents). Maximum of two (2) payments fall due within the 31 days following the loan date.
6. There can only be one (1) outstanding loan of this type to any Uptown member at any given time.
7. Borrower must attend Financial Counseling and budget assistance weekly until loan is paid off in order to obtain this special loan.

FREE FURNACE FOR YOUR HOME!!

If you meet the income guidelines, CALL THEM NOW! They have money to provide all the items below for you. They will come into your home and do an energy audit to find out what is needed. They will not report the condition of your home to anyone. They can get your home fixed up to save you money all year and give you a furnace that works so you will have a safe and warm winter. It will also be energy efficient and will cost you less (maybe MUCH less) to run.

Weatherization is a grant program, which means you do NOT have to pay it back, paid for 100% by United States government and State of Kansas funds. This program has staff that will do all the work. You do not have to do anything. The program works on homes to reduce energy use and to make sure households have a safe furnace to use.

These are the things that weatherization pays for:

1. Attic Insulation
2. Wall Insulation
3. Crawl space insulation
4. Repair broken windows
5. Install weather-stripping on doors
6. Install compact fluorescent lamps in place of light bulbs
7. Replace furnaces

Homeowners and renters can apply. Landlords have to sign the application to give permission. 100% of cost for new furnaces paid for by the program for homeowners. \$250 maximum towards the cost of a new furnace for a renter – landlord has to pay the rest.

Income guidelines:

1 person	\$20,258
2 persons	\$26,491
3 persons	\$32,724
4 persons	\$38,957
5 persons	\$45,190
6 persons	\$51,423

If anyone that lives in the household receives SSI the household qualifies. If anyone that lives in the household receives TANF cash payments through SRS, the household qualifies. Child Support Payments received do not count as income for the weatherization program.

How to Apply:

Fill out application, provide proof of income for the last 3 months and get landlord's signature (if necessary). Call 262-7035, Christy or Brian, to get an application.

Halloween 2008 a HUGE success!! Check Uptown Neighborhood News for a full story in the January issue.



UPTOWN TRASH

Last June the Uptown Neighborhood Association announced Trash service for only **\$45 for 3 months!** If you want to add bi-weekly recycling it is only \$6 every 3 months. An additional cart is only \$18.50 for 3 months too. If you are disabled and cannot bring your cart out to the street, house-side service is available. For \$5 per month or \$15 for 3 months you can have them carry out your cart and then return it to your house if you are not physically able to do this. Anyone that has Residential service can take advantage of these rates. That includes any businesses within our boundaries.

They require 90% of the neighborhood to participate by June 2009. This includes all properties, owner occupied and rental. If you want this rate to continue, tell all your neighbors to call **Lies Trash Service** today at **522-1699**. If you rent, tell your landlord so s/he can get the rate. If you are already a Lies customer, simply call them and ask for the Uptown rate and that will be the charge on your next bill. Call TODAY!

~Lori

Subject: Cold Weather Rule

From: WROInfo

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2008 9:44 AM

The Cold Weather Rule begins on November 1st and runs through March 31st. During this period utility companies will allow one to pay 1/12th of the overdue amount, 1/12th of the current amount plus disconnection and reconnection fees to get service restored. Agencies that assist with utilities are American Red Cross, Salvation Army and Center of Hope provided the person has not received assistance from these agencies within the past 12 months. These agencies also cooperatively assist one another to meet an unusually high amount.

For more information regarding the Cold Weather Rule, please call 1-800-622-0027 or access that information at: http://kcc.ks.gov/pi/cwr_english.htm.

For more information about American Red Cross, please call 219-4070 or access that information at: http://midwaykansas.redcross.org/index.php/programs_services/family_services/15.

For more information regarding Center of Hope services, please call 267-0222 or access that information at: <http://www.centerofhopeinc.org/help.htm>.

And for more information about Salvation Army services, please call 263-2769 or visit their website at:

http://www.salvationarmy-wichita.org/index_files/Page346.htm.

Uptown is very "Walkable"!

Check out walkscore.com. Type in your address and it will show you how easy it is to walk places. From my address it says I could live WITHOUT a car at all! I believe we all could. Uptown has everything we might need very close-by. Give it a try!

RECYCLE AT PROKS/MILLER CENTER IN WICHITA

www.recyclingwichita.com

269-1359 (only answered when someone is there!)

The Center takes:

PAPER: newspaper, magazines & catalogs, corrugated cardboard, office paper, mixed paper (junk mail, light-weight cardboard, phone books, etc.), all other books, grocery bags, shredded paper

GLASS: bottles & jars only

CANS: aluminum and tin (steel)

PLASTICS: #1 beverage bottles-remove caps, #2 milk bottles & similar cloudy-remove caps, MIXED all other kids except Styrofoam & PVC, plastic bags, plastic egg cartons

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS: all sizes of batteries, ink cartridges, cell phones, cds, eye-glasses.

HOURS: Saturdays from 9 to 3, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 to 4. Drive in the north side, unload into correct boxes and drive out the south side. Correct separation is important!

The Center needs more volunteers so stop in and help.

The African American Coalition

VISION: All youth and families will be healthy (mentally, physically and spiritually), educated and empowered. **MISSION:** to develop viable partnerships to address an assortment of community issues to increase the overall welfare of youth and families in Wichita's African American community.

OBJECTIVE: Assist in building the capacity levels of community-based and other organizations serving the African American Community. Become a conduit for resources that benefit African American Youth and Families in the Wichita community.

To apply for membership, call the Atwater Neighborhood City Hall at 303-8017.

Recycling in Kansas Newsletter, published by the Sedgwick County Waste Control & Recycling Coalition. I have taken quotes from this publication many times and put in the Uptown Neighborhood News. If you would like to receive it via email all you need to do is send an email to kanzania@yahoo.com and Margaret will add you to the email list. It is no longer going to be printed, only emailed.

A Tribute to the Unheralded

By Ray "Grizzly" Racobs

There are many who receive public notoriety for their good deeds or for doing a great job, but more often than not the spotlight tends to be directed towards those who are unworthy of acclaim. It's a shame that the media doesn't spend more air time and print on the positives in our community, state and nation.

With the 2008-09 school year well underway I thought I'd begin with that organization. Since I'm not writing a book, I'll say little about the duties of those in administrative positions at USD 259, but sound management decisions at the top can certainly make or break a school.

Teachers, as we know, are the core of any school. Dedicated faculty usually come in early, stay late and take a few more hours of work home with them each night. I do know that a teacher's job would be easier if a number of parents would do their job better, but that's another story.

In my substituting days, I may have eaten more school prepared lunches than many of the kids. The folks, who hire on to work in the kitchens, deserve much more credit than they receive. It's tough to please the taste buds of so many, day in and day out, but I was seldom disappointed with what I wolfed down (not enough time to savor the meal) and the cafeteria staff, anywhere I taught, was always pleasant.

Now let's give a round of applause to the school custodians aka janitors. I can only imagine how their day unfolds with having to respond to the throng of teachers who have work requests for them. "Can you ... When you get time ... I need ..." And somewhere, on most notes, the dreaded acronym "ASAP" will be scrawled.

The regular duties would certainly be challenging enough, but when they are summoned to any bathroom the "fun" stops there. The call will most likely be for a backed up toilet and I'll leave it at that. And what about a kid who gets sick in the hall? The mess isn't left to dry up and turn to dust. The teacher's friend generally is called in to clean it up.

"When I grow up, I want to be a nurse." Have you heard any kid want to be a "school" nurse? That should say enough for that position.

I would be remiss if I left out those brave school bus drivers, who do a lot for little reward. The only time they are in the news is when one of them makes a mistake. It shouldn't be like that.

We Americans generate more trash, by far, than any other people in the world. No matter how you look at it, household garbage is a mess and those who haul it off every day, as part of their work week, deserve more respect and appreciation than they surely receive. Trash removal, like mail and parcel delivery, is carried out in every type of weather.

I've dealt with a lot of trash, as part of my past employment duties, over the years and I can't remember

an enjoyable moment spent picking up trash. And I didn't drive around all day with other people's offerings of rotten and smelly waste in the back of my truck.

The USPS's motto about how the mail must get through reflects part of the reason why letter carriers, with walking routes, should probably be placed on their customer's Christmas gift list. Who out there has failed to receive mail at their home when it rains or snows? The guys and gals who are obliged to hand carry your not-so-precious bills and circulars are special when you receive those cards with pictures of the grandchildren or loved ones, who live too far away to visit regularly.

Even when weather conditions are ideal, the position is not always great. My daughter-in-law has been harassed, chased and even attacked and bitten by dogs on her postal routes in Wichita.

There is a way to determine if an individual in any profession might be in need of a morale boosting comment. Ask yourself, "Would I like to do what he or she does?" Would you like to do all the tasks required like someone who works in the military, in law enforcement, the fire department or in the health care field? If you answered in the negative, you should know what to do.

"It's a lousy job, but someone's got to do it." This is not always a true statement, of course, but there are times when any job can have its moments of dissatisfaction.

Since I'm not writing a book on the subject, I hope you understand that many folks who deserve recognition were left out of my piece. That doesn't, however, mean that you have to take your butcher, baker and candlestick maker for granted. A "thank you" here and there (plus a gratuity of some kind would be nice) will certainly make their day a little brighter.

Buying Reminders

(How to avoid the PayDay Loan trap)

Before you buy something, ask yourself these questions:

Will this purchase help me reach my financial goals?

Do I really need this item or just want it?

Would I come back tomorrow to buy this?

Can I really afford it?

Would I buy it if I had to pay cash for it?

If I buy it on my credit card, can I pay it off this month?

~from Community Housing Services, info from Community Unity Day

MORE GREAT ANSWERS FROM STATION #5

What are some of the more exciting/harrowing/interesting/funny experiences any (or all) of you have had?

The life of a Wichita Firefighter provides a number of memorable experiences that range from quite exciting, and exhilarating to those that are fascinating or even funny others that have indeed been quite sad and tragic. There have many instances where, despite our best efforts we've been unable to save a life or prevent loss of property.

Some of the most exciting experiences of a Wichita Firefighter occur during interior structural fire-fighting efforts. Many years ago, as a rookie firefighter, I was involved in such an operation where there were portions of the building that were collapsing as we searched for trapped occupants.

Some of the most interesting experiences are related to the people we protect, serve and interact with on a daily basis. One man's funny is another man's not so funny. So, I can share with you part of our activities on September 13, 2008. As you may recall our City sustained a major rain event. Its greatest impact was felt in west Wichita. Three local residents were rescued during a harrowing swift water incident near Maple and Maize Road. The excitement did not end with that incident as later that same day eight people including three rescuers were trapped in the rain swollen waters of the Chikaskia River. Members of our department responded a call for help from the Wellington Fire Department. We successfully returned all eight to safety. On that day our department was responsible for saving eleven lives. That is a memorable experience in which we take great pride.

What would you appreciate the most from Uptown residents?

I think Wichita Firefighters simply want to feel some sense of support from the community where they work. However, most fire fighters are pretty quiet and unassuming about what they do. They quietly go about their duties on a daily basis and seek no special recognition. Nothing fancy or formal – just a simple thanks when indicated.

Who is the Captain and what are the various duties/responsibilities of each station member? Can you give us a list of everyone?

In most fire stations there are five people assigned:

1. The Captain, who is in charge of the station and typically rides the engine;
2. The Lieutenant who is in charge of the Squad and other various station duties
3. The engine driver who is responsible for driving, pumping and maintaining the fire engine
4. The squad driver who is responsible for driving, pumping and maintaining the squad

5. The engine back –end person who is responsible for various station assignments and usually stretches and advances hose lines and accompanies other fire fighters in fire extinguishment activities

The contact personnel at Station 5 is

Captain John Turner “A” shift

Captain Kevin Lynch “B” Shift

Captain Terry Timmons “C”- Shift

How can UNA most effectively involve you in Uptown activities?

The Wichita Fire Department has an aggressive Community Risk Reduction Program in which the Wichita Fire Department actively seeks ways to interact with community organizations in identifying and eliminating risks to the health, safety and well-being of citizens of Wichita. Any involvement in these kinds of programs would be the most effective way to involve the Wichita Fire Department in your association. Invitations to UNA events are always welcome.

Are you fans of the 1987 film, Roxanne starring Steve Martin and Daryl Hannah?

YES! It was a great comedy! Not much on the technical aspect of firefighting or the real life of a firefighter but that's Hollywood. Nonetheless it was a great comedy. I love the nose on Steve Martin!

Thanks,

Joe Couey, Shift Commander

Wichita Fire Department

Letter Carriers and Trash Guys

This time of year we need to recognize our wonderful “Public Servants”. Now, some of these don't work for the city so aren't really PUBLIC but they do work for us in Uptown and we need to be sure to remember them at the holidays.

The 2 men that work for Lies and service Uptown each and every week are Frank and Bobby. They can accept anything you would like to give them. Because they are working for an outside company and not the government any gifts, including money, can be accepted.

We also have 2 dedicated Letter Carriers, depending on which half of the neighborhood you live in. For us on the east side, our regular carrier is Jon Davis. If you read the last newsletter you know that he is recovering from a stroke at this time. His substitute is Shawna Inkelaar. You may have met her at the picnic this last summer. The one that delivers on the west end is named Novotny. They are with us through sleet and rain and dark of night (?) to deliver our mail and never miss a day. Because they are employees of the Federal Government, they are not able to accept monetary gifts of any kind including cash and gift cards. If you try to do that they should give it back to you. You can give them baked goods or other gifts to thank them for their service to Uptown, though.

Registered Offenders

Each month we will run the most current list of offenders to be found in Uptown. This includes people who have committed a variety of crimes, not only sex offenders. This is no guarantee that someone has not moved in since the newsletter went to print or moved out. If you want to check for offenders, look at: <https://www.accesskansas.org/ssrv-registered-offender/zip.do>

We will include pictures of any new offenders that move into Uptown. Also check to see if the one who was there last month is still on the list the following month.

From the KBI website: “Any person who uses information obtained through this website to threaten, intimidate or harass another, or who otherwise misuses the information may be subject to criminal prosecution and/or civil liability.” This is true of any person, ex-offender or not.

**CORDER, KENNETH LESLIE,
SEX OFFENDER,
317 N ESTELLE,
White Male, Date of Birth: 10/23/1972 .
Registered Since: 9/4/2001,
Offense: AGG IND SOLICITATION OF CHILD;
<14 TO COMMIT/SUBMIT TO SEX ACT**

**JOHNSON, CHRIS, SEX OFFENDER, 327 N
ESTELLE,
Indian Male, Date of Birth: 9/7/1966.
Registered Since: 4/15/2008,
Offense: RAPE; VICTIM OVERCOME BY FORCE
OR FEAR and AGGRAVATED CRIMINAL
SODOMY; SODOMY W/PERSON WHO CAN'T
OR DOESN'T CONSENT**

**MYERS, MATTHEW COREY,
SEX OFFENDER,
433 N CHATAUQUA.
White Male, Date of Birth: 8/28/1985.
Registered Since: 6/15/2005.
Offense: AGGRAVATED INDECENT LIBERTIES
W/CHILD**

**PICKETT, RICHARD EUGENE,
SEX OFFENDER, 151 N POPLAR,
White Male, Date of Birth: 11/16/1953.
Registered Since: 9/4/2003.
Offense: SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A CHILD**

**POST, MITCHELL NEAL,
SEX OFFENDER,
428 N CHATAUQUA,
White Male, Date of Birth: 3/31/1958.
Registered Since: 9/12/2001.
Offense: AGGRAVATED INDECENT SOLICITA-
TION OF A CHILD**

**VASQUEZ, JOHN MICHAEL,
SEX OFFENDER,
433 N CHATAUQUA
White Male, Date of Birth: 4/10/1978,
Registered Since: 7/13/2007.
Offense: AGGRAVATED INDECENT
SOLICITATION OF A CHILD and AGGRAVAT-
ED INDECENT LIBERTIES W/CHILD**

**YOKOM, ANDREW RONALD,
SEX OFFENDER,
110 N ESTELLE ST NO 105,
White Male, Date of Birth: 12/6/1970.
Registered Since: 10/13/2006
Offense: AGGRAVATED INDECENT LIBERTIES
W/CHILD; >14<16; FONDLING/TOUCHING**

**ZAPIEN-GUZMAN, ADRIAN GABRIEL,
SEX OFFENDER,
2523 E 2ND.
White Male, Date of Birth: 7/21/1988
Registered Since: 5/9/2008.
Offense: AGGRAVATED INDECENT LIBERTIES
W/CHILD; >14<16; INTERCOURSE**

Help BEFORE Foreclosure **888-995-HOPE**

Community Housing Services runs this program in Wichita. They can also help you if you've gotten behind on your house payments. They can give you a grant to help you get caught up and back on your feet. Call the toll-free number above to get help. For more information go to:
<http://www.foreclosurehelpandhope.org/basics.html>.
(I was told they can grant you enough money to catch up on your mortgage so that you can then keep the payments made on time each month.)

- To any homeowner in America having trouble paying their mortgage
- 24 hours a day/7 days a week
- Absolutely free foreclosure prevention counseling by expert counselors at HUD-approved agencies
- Service begins immediately—the counselors themselves answer the phone
- Homeowners can get budgeting help, a written financial plan, assistance contacting their lender
- If they'd like face-to-face counseling or need local resources, homeowners are referred to their local NeighborWorks® organization or other counseling organizations

Author extols the virtues of kids playing outdoors

BY FRED MANN
The Wichita Eagle
Tuesday, Oct 7, 2008

Many adults still have a sense of wonder about nature inspired by a special place outdoors they used to hang out when they were children. Kids today are missing out on that feeling, to the detriment of their physical, mental and emotional health, Richard Louv, an author and journalist from San Diego, said Monday in a talk at Century II.

"Nature is in us, it's who we are," Louv said. But these days, nature to kids has become something separate, something "out there," he said.

Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder," spoke as part of the two-day Kansas Health Summit sponsored by the Kansas Health Foundation and a host of state and local health, environment and recreation organizations. He recalled the woods near his home in Raytown, Mo., where he grew up. "I owned those woods. Those woods are in my heart still," he said.

Kids have lost that sense of ownership of nature in the past 30 years, he said. They have been disconnected from the outdoors for many reasons, not all of them having to do with video games. Urban design that limits contact with nature, a fear among parents of kids interacting with strangers, and school policies that restrict play are among the factors to blame, Louv said.

"It's gotten to the point where it's not certain... that our culture will remember a time that it was considered not only normal but expected for kids to go out in play in the fields or the woods -- that kind of independent play, that kind of hands-dirty, feet-wet play," Louv said. Studies show kids score higher on tests and are more creative and healthier with even a little contact with nature, he said.

Research also suggests that problems such as childhood obesity, attention deficit disorder and depression could be alleviated to some extent by such contact. A frenetic schedule of sports events isn't the answer, he said. The kind of independent play where you ran home, threw your books on the couch and raced outside to play is what's missing, Louv said.

There are signs of hope, he said. Cities and states are initiating campaigns to get kids outdoors. Congress has passed legislation with the same goal. More and more parents are becoming aware of the issue and making sure their kids have contact with nature. "Adults who take children outside into nature receive all the same benefits," Louv said.

Reach Fred Mann at 316-268-6310 or
fmann@wichitaeagle.com

"It used to be that an unseasonably warm day in the middle of winter felt like a gift. But now it feels like we're paying for it." ~Heidi Cullen, Climate Expert for the Weather Channel. From the book Hot, Flat and Crowded by Thomas L. Friedman.

Interesting Facts from Harper's Index, Funny Times, October 2008

Percentage of Americans who say that they or someone in their family has married in order to get health insurance: **7**

Chance that a U.S. home is currently vacant: **1 in 35**

Rank of this among the highest recorded vacancy rates in U.S. history: **1**

Percentage change between 1989 and 2007 in the median price of an American single-family home: **+130**

Percentage change in the median down payment: **+3.7**

Percentage of homeowners who reported last year that they had bought a car using a home-equity loan: **27**

Estimated amount by which per-gallon gas prices would change if the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge were drilled: **-4¢**

Percentage change since 2006 in the price of used cooking oil, which can be recycled to make biodiesel fuel: **+240**

Percentage of all worldwide carbon emissions attributable to tourism: **5**

Number of American cities where all regularly scheduled airplane service has been eliminated during the past year: **38**

Number of new U.S. airports built since 1993: **1**

Additional cost to U.S. airlines this year due to increases in the price of fuel: **\$20,000,000,000**

Total earning for the U.S. airline industry in 1999, its most profitable year to date: **\$5,300,000,000**

Years that the E.U. kept a secret list of items banned from air travel, before it agreed to publish the list this year: **5**

College Hill United Methodist Church

College Hill UMC, 2930 E. 1st, is hosting another free snack supper for our neighbors from 5:30p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 10. Enter the church from the parking lot, through the doors marked Office. Walk straight ahead, turn right, and go down the hall to Fellowship Hall.

What's the catch? There is none. Honest. What will we do? We'll greet you at the door, maybe ask your name. There's nothing to fill out, we won't try and convert you. We might invite you to church. If you want to attend, fine. If not, that's fine too.

The Agape Sunday School class is providing the meal as a service project.

The supper will include BBQ beef sandwiches, relishes, drinks and dessert.

Cell Phone Holdouts Are Right:

Buy a Phone, Become a Baby

Whoopee for the iPhone, the latest version of the device that has made us a nation of blabbing babies: the cell.

Not that I could live without mine.

Still, I found a surprising number of cell phone holdouts who somehow manage to get by without the dropped calls, post-work work and daily conversation that goes: "Hang on just a sec. Can you make that coffee light, no sugar? I AM listening to you. You say you're getting a div — No sugar! Wait. What were we talking about? Oh yeah, so she walked out and — Can you break a 10?"

Holdouts will have none of this. In contemplating their righteous purity, we see the truth about our cell-addicted selves:

"If I were to get one, pretty soon I wouldn't be able to live without one," said holdout Henry Stimpson, neatly nailing the biggest problem with cell phones: the way they turn previously independent individuals into the great unweaned.

"Typical incident," Stimpson said: "I went to a ballgame with a bunch of my friends and afterwards all the other guys in the car were whipping out their phones and calling their wives. I don't need to call my wife! She knows I'm coming home."

Cell phones turn adults into babies, constantly needing contact with their spouses, friends and children. In fact, it's possible that children in a cell-connected world make out worst of all. This morning, not five minutes after I'd left for work, my 11-year-old called from the kitchen to ask if he could have banana bread for breakfast.

Kid — I'm not there. Eat ice cream and marshmallows. Make a vodka smoothie! Go wild or be a good boy, just pretend it's 1990 and I'm unreachable.

With all of us connected all the time — "Mom, I'm on the bus," "Mom, I'm two blocks from home" — independence never gets a foothold.

Young adults fare no better. I have a friend whose daughter went shopping for her first college formal and sent her mom — 1,000 miles away — a photo of each dress as she tried it on.

Grow up! Buy a dress by yourself! And while we're at it, learn to make plans, too.

"I go to concerts all the time and my network of friends, they just don't know what to do when they confront somebody without a cell," said a 27-year-old holdout, Brie (cq) Della Rocca. "They say, 'Call me when you get to the parking lot and we'll meet up somewhere.' I say, 'I don't have a cell phone. Let's plan in advance' — and the record stops. It's almost like they don't even consider that this is a potential option — to plan ahead."

Cell phones also allow their users to be late ("Almost there!") and opportunistic.

"Just this weekend, I'd met a woman at a party and I was just starting to talk when she got a phone call from a friend," said comic Ian Coburn. "The friend said, 'Oh, those guys that Patty wanted us to meet are at that bar right

now!'" And off she went to the other bar.

Rudeness and cell phones go together like blue-tooth and terminal hipness, which is just another reason many holdouts refuse to buy in. They don't want to be the one shouting "I said I'M IN A RESTAURANT" in a restaurant.

Neither do I, but ... that might have been me. Or you. And though the holdouts don't realize it, eventually it might be them, too. Because it's not 1990 anymore.

And that iPhone looks pretty cool.

Lenore Skenazy is a contributing editor at the New York Sun. To find out more about Lenore Skenazy (lenore@lenoretown.com), and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2007 CREATORS SYNDICATE INC.

Commonly Requested Numbers

Officer John Ryan	688-9545
	jtryan@wichita.gov
City Council Member Lavonta Williams	268-4331
	lkwilliams@wichita.gov
Karen Hamlin, OCI Representative	312-5998
Lies Trash Service	522-1699
Dillons Grocery	681-6830

Neighborhood Action Line

For any neighborhood problem 529-9999

Accident Reports

Within 48 hours	268-4131
Over 48 hours	268-4261
Animal Control	268-8378
Auto Tags/Title	660-9110
Birth Certificates	(913) 296-1414
Bus Information	265-7221
City Council/Mayor's Office	268-4331
County Information	660-9000
Driver's License	821-9920
Election Commissioner	660-7100
Employment Hotline	268-4537
Garage Sales (license)	268-4553
Graffiti on private property	268-4481
Graffiti on public property	268-4035
Office of Central Inspection/Health Dept./	
Weed mowing-Private Property	268-4481
Potholes	268-4060
Property Taxes	660-9110
Real Estate Ownership	660-9200
Small Claims	660-5790
Street Lights Out of Order	383-8600
Street Maintenance (24 hours)	268-4071
Traffic Fines	268-4611
Voter Registration	660-7100
Zoo	660-9453

Weed Mowing:

Public property	337-9225
Weed Mowing (additional number)	268-4463

Commonly Requested Websites:

City of Wichita	www.wichita.gov
Sedgwick County	www.sedgwickcounty.org
Chamber of Commerce	www.wichitakansas.org
Convention & Visitors Bureau	www.wichita-cvb.org