



# Derby News Update

The Place to Be

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## Free Smoke Detectors Available

Derby Fire & Rescue provides free smoke detectors to Derby residents.

To request a free smoke detector (including installation), Derby residents should call Fire Station #82 at 788-5819 to schedule an appointment. Fire personnel will visit your home to determine the number of smoke detectors needed. A working smoke detector can increase the chance of survival from a fire by 40-50 percent.

Derby Fire & Rescue can also provide a free home fire safety check at the same time smoke detectors are being installed. Firefighters will survey the residence and alert the homeowner of any fire safety issues to address.

To schedule your safety check, call Lt. Chuck Stansfield or Firefighter Kelly Payne at 788-5819 or email [chuckstansfield@derbyweb.com](mailto:chuckstansfield@derbyweb.com) or [kellypayne@derbyweb.com](mailto:kellypayne@derbyweb.com).



## Winter Weather Prep

Winter weather will be here soon. Last winter, we saw record snowfalls, and the City is preparing for another winter weather season.



City crews work around the clock to treat streets during snowy and icy weather. While it's not possible to clear all of Derby's 317 lane miles, city crews focus on primary (main streets) and secondary streets (arterial streets), schools zones, emergency routes and city facilities.

In order to clear streets, the city uses plows attached to dump trucks, backhoes, a grader and a front loader.

In addition, three trucks are equipped to treat streets with saltwater brine, which helps slow the bonding of snow and ice to the pavement. Brine is rock salt that has been dissolved in water. The advantage of brine is that it stays in place and can be used in advance of a storm. Dry sand/salt mixtures have a tendency to blow off the streets or get carried away by vehicles.

If you have questions about winter weather street treatment, call Public Works at 788-0301 (M-F 7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.).

## Spring Creek Watershed Study

Sedgwick County is conducting a study of the Spring Creek watershed, which is 32 square miles of land between Derby and Wichita that drains to Spring Creek. This creek flows along High Park and through Derby to the Arkansas River. Most of the city of Derby (east of Buckner) is included in the study area. Three public meetings have been held. Recommendations are in draft form and will soon be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

Derby and Wichita are participating with the County in this study. The goal is to provide information for the county and cities to make informed decisions about infrastructure needs and future development.

Flooding is a concern in the Spring Creek watershed. The study concludes that efforts should be made to increase the storage capacity of existing ponds, add storage capacity under parking lots when feasible, and create new ponds in Derby parks.

Erosion and unstable creek banks present another problem throughout the watershed. The study recommends constructing bank stabilization projects using both rocks and

plant materials and installing rock riffles to armor the creek bed and slow the incising of the creek.

The study also found that the water in Spring Creek is polluted with sediment, fertilizers, pesticides, and bacteria from septic systems, lagoons, and livestock. Each year, the equivalent of more than 1,700 dump trucks of sediment erodes and flows downstream. The study recommends grassed waterways, detention basins, wetlands, and even creating a new lake in the county northeast of Derby for regional detention of stormwater.

The study provides useful advice to guide future engineering and budgeting decisions both at the county and city levels for decades to come. These problems were created over many years and will not be solved quickly. Implementation of the study's recommendations will require significant planning and communications with property owners.

Questions about this study may be directed to Daniel Schrant, Sedgwick County Stormwater Engineer, at 660-1778 or [dschrant@sedgwick.gov](mailto:dschrant@sedgwick.gov).



## Derby Business Center Opens

The new Derby Business Center at the Derby Public Library officially opened on Nov. 19. The business center was created to provide access to the electronic business resources and services available to Kansas residents.

The center includes access to popular business databases to research competitors, business planning software for new or growing businesses, legal documents, and business forms.

Services available at the library include free Wi-Fi, meeting space, computer workstations, notary public, and the ability to copy, print, and scan.

The Business Center is available to the public and is open during the Library's regular operating hours. Learn more at [www.derbylibrary.com](http://www.derbylibrary.com).



## New Apartments Are Needed

Over the past decade, Derby has been fortunate to have apartments develop with the golf course. Known as The Greens and The Fairways, these apartments provide quality housing for McConnell airmen, young people who grew up in Derby and wish to return, as well as families and seniors. Both apartment complexes have occupancy rates of 99 percent and waiting lists.

The apartments provide affordable housing for people who are not in the home-buying market yet, have downsized, or are between homes. Quality apartments are important to Derby's future because of recent changes in rules governing qualification for a home loan. For example, student loan debt is now considered by lending institutions, which means many college graduates will delay buying homes for several more years until after their debts are paid down.

Lindsey Management Company, based in Arkansas, built and manages The Greens and The Fairways as well as the golf course. Lindsey owns 42 golf course/apartment developments in eight states and has proposed to build a new development called The Trails north of Meadowlark at Rawhide Street (just west of Rock Road). This apart-

ment complex would have its own clubhouse, pool, fitness center, 24-hour on-site management, and golf course privileges just like the two existing apartment complexes.

Lindsey's proposal was presented to the Derby Planning Commission on Nov. 7 and tabled until January 16 to give more time for Lindsey to adjust the proposal to better address concerns presented by City staff and neighbors.

Understanding the housing market following the bursting of the housing bubble that occurred over the past few years is a challenge. Home mortgages are more difficult to get now. Household incomes have not been increasing. Many people seem more interested in downsizing than in moving up to a bigger house.

The types of new single-family homes constructed in Derby will likely continue to change to smaller yards and less square footage. Demand is strong for other housing options including duplexes, apartments, and patio homes. Derby has many very nice homes and needs to provide a range of housing options to meet the diverse needs of families and people at all stages of their lives.

## Save the Date!

### 2014 Annual Gala Uncorked

Saturday, Feb. 22

7-10 p.m.

Cocktail attire

Derby Public Library, 1600 E. Walnut Grove

What to expect: wine and beer tasting, fine foods from area caterers/restaurants, fine chocolates, live auction and prize drawings.

Proceeds benefit the Derby Community Foundation. Tickets are \$45 each and go on sale Jan. 1. Learn more at [www.derbycf.org/uncorked](http://www.derbycf.org/uncorked).

## Chip Site Winter Hours

Chip Site at High Park, 2801 E. James  
Winter Hours (Nov. - March)

Mon., Wed. & Fri, 7:15 a.m.-3:45 p.m.

First Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon

*Closed on Saturdays of holiday weekends*

The Chip Site is a service offered to Derby residents only. Free mulch is available for use by residents and may be picked up during regular operating hours.

Items allowed include tree trunks/limbs up to 10 inches in diameter. Grass clippings, leaves, and thorny brush are not accepted.

## Tree Recycle

During the holiday season, the city offers Christmas tree recycling at High Park. Drop off your undecorated tree at the Chip Site from Dec. 20 to Jan. 13 during park hours (6 a.m. to 11 p.m. every day). There is a special area for Christmas tree drop-off.

## Holiday Closings

City offices will be closed:

December 24 & 25

January 1 for New Year's Day

January 20 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 17 for President's Day



The Trails Apartments Rendering  
(View From Meadowlark)

Hey kids - get out of the house  
over winter break!

## Ride the Derby Dash

Mon.-Thurs. 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Friday 7:30-1 p.m.

\$2/one-way ride in Derby

