

# LIGHTNING ROUND

March / April 2019

## In this issue:

- KPP Cyber Academy Concludes
- How to Spot and Avoid Common Scams
- Let Me Talk to the Mayor
- Plans for more EV Charging Stations in Rural Kansas
- Ellinwood Implements Parallel Generation Ordinance

## KPP Cyber Academy Concludes

### Planning for September Academy Underway

KPP's first ever comprehensive Cyber Academy concluded on March 20<sup>th</sup> with attendees expressing both appreciation and confidence in the training. Fifteen Member Cities participated. Plans are now underway for a second Academy to be conducted in September. KPP Members will have opportunities to

reach further into their staff organizations for training and development of expertise. In addition, a Quarterly Cyber Work Group is currently being established for participants to gather and remain current on developments and the implementation of current Cyber Security projects.



Members from Kingman received their plaque for completing Cyber Academy

Attendees expressed surprise at the lengths that perpetrators go to in exploiting data. "I knew threats existed, but had no idea about the real situation", commented Tom Archer of Kingman following the Academy's conclusion. "The material was presented on a level that a non-IT guy like me can understand, yet the gravity of the situation hits home."

An assessment of cyber security readiness was the first engagement explored. System weaknesses or areas of concern came to light as the result. This was done as part of KPP's commitment to the Scorecard initiative of the American Public Power Association (APPA). Five separate training modules then followed with focus on correction, remediation, and improvement. This session's Scorecard results went from a start-of-class-average of 83.4 to an end-of-class-average of 178.88, an increase of 114%!



"The class revealed to me an important network of resources... to help me 24/7 with cybersecurity challenges we might face", commented Leslie Atherton of Haven.

Leslie went on to speak of the range of concern "whether it's a suspicious email or a full-on attack from someone holding one of our important systems for ransom."



Leslie Atherton, Haven, receiving her plaque from KPP's Brooke Carroll

The second Cyber Academy will be held at the KMU Training Center in McPherson on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Once again, we encourage our cities to participate. This is a course free of charge to members with mileage reimbursement and lunch provided.

If anyone is interested in attending the upcoming Quarterly Cyber Work Group or the second Cyber Academy, please contact

Brooke Carroll, Director of Administrative Services at 316-425-5178 or 620-205-6838.

In the meantime, KPP Director of Engineering Services, James Ging, has provided in this newsletter phishing and scam avoidance tips. Check it out.

# How to Spot and Avoid Common Scams

*From the KPP Cyber Working Group*

Have you ever gotten an email from someone claiming to be royalty? In their email they tell you that they will inherit millions of dollars, but need your money and bank details to get access to that inheritance. You know this email isn't legitimate, so you delete it, yet there are many more scams being perpetrated by criminals that sound more believable and aren't as easy to spot. Learning to identify and avoid these scams is the first step in protecting yourself from these schemes. Senior Citizens are often particularly vulnerable to some of these fraud campaigns. The world today is full of cybercriminals launching both phishing emails, and the tried and true phone scams that never fell out of fashion. Protecting not only your finances, but also your data from these scams is more important now than ever.

## Phone Scams

Scammers who operate by phone can seem legitimate and are typically very persuasive! To draw you in to their scam, they might:

- Sound friendly, call you by your first name, and make small talk to get to know you
- Claim to work for a company or organization you trust such as: a bank, a software or other vendor you use, the police department, or a government agency
- Threaten you with fines or charges that must be paid immediately
- Mention exaggerated or fake prizes, products, or services such as credit and loans, extended car warranties, charitable causes, or computer support
- Ask for login credentials or personal sensitive information
- Request payments to be made using odd methods, like gift cards
- Use prerecorded messages, or robocalls

If you receive a suspicious phone call or robocall, the easiest solution is to hang up. You can then block the caller's phone number and register your phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry: <https://www.ftc.gov/donotcall>



## Email Scams

Phishing emails are convincing and trick many people into providing personal data. These emails tend to be written versions of the scam phone calls described above. Some signs of phishing emails are:

- Implying you to act immediately, offering something that sounds too good to be true, or asking for personal or financial information
- Emails appearing to be from executive leadership you work with requesting information about you or colleagues that they usually do not request (for example, W2s)
- Unexpected emails appearing to be from people, organizations, or companies you trust that will ask you to click on a link and then disclose personal information. Always hover your mouse over the link to see if it will direct you to a legitimate website
- Typos, vague and general wording, and nonspecific greetings like "Dear customer"

Beware that many scam and phishing emails look legitimate! An email pretending to be a company might contain pictures or text mimicking the company's real emails. If you're unsure about an email you received, there are some steps you can take to protect yourself:

- Do not click links or open attachments in emails you were not expecting
- Do not enter any personal, login, or financial information when prompted by an unsolicited email
- Do not respond to or forward emails you suspect to be a scam
- If in doubt, contact the person or organization the email claims to have been sent by using contact information you find for yourself on their official website

If you get scam phone calls or phishing emails at home, hang up or delete the emails. If you get scam phone calls or phishing emails at work, let your organization's security or Information Technology team know so they can help protect others from these scams! Additionally, please educate your parents and grandparents on these scams, as they are becoming only more and more common.

# ‘Let Me Talk to the Mayor!’

**Editor’s Note:** Last month KPP introduced this new segment to the [Lightning Round](#). Each month, our intention is to report on a Q&A between CEO/General Manager Mark Chesney and the mayor of a KPP Member City. This edition features Mayor Stan Luke of Burlington.

**Q: You are wrapping up a term soon. What is different for you this year versus your first year as Mayor?**

A: I may have an advantage over some mayors as I served on the governing body for 8 years prior to being elected as mayor. During this period, I was able to help identify community issues, establish infrastructure projects and observe the performance of the city staff. I must say that a quality staff makes the life of a mayor much easier than I expected. (Not saying it’s a cake walk, just easier!).

We have completed short term projects, advanced 5 and 7-year projects and evaluated and implemented numerous cost saving initiatives. Pressure from external forces has increased exponentially over the last few years as the state and federal governments, along with special interest groups continually, attack our statutory right for “home rule”. We cannot ignore these attempts by others to invade our rights and, considerable pushback is required just to retain the rights we fought hard to obtain.



Mayor Stan Luke—Burlington

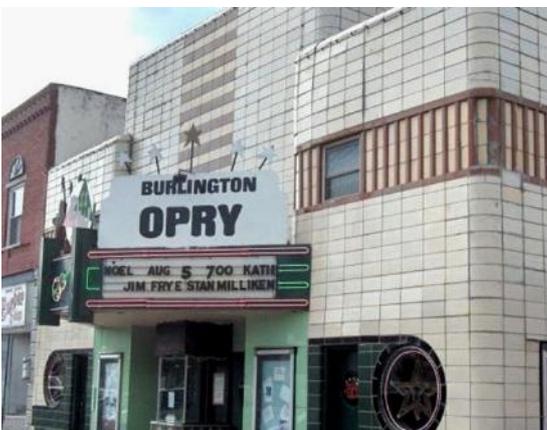
Probably the most difficult newer issue facing small communities is how to enhance “public safety”, especially with the rapid influx of opioid’s and the damage it does to the family unit and subsequently the overall community. We have experienced a large increase in domestic and juvenile cases, mostly related to some form of drugs and this is troubling to our governing body and law enforcement.

**Q: Wow, that’s a lot to think about and manage! People in top positions are often asked, “What keeps you up at night”? Even if you are sleeping well, what are your largest concerns you feel at liberty to talk about?**

A: Quality of life for all residents. This is not the same for everyone, so each decision will affect some in a positive way while others consider it a negative. Our governing body and department heads address issues head-on and strive for reliable and cost-effective ways to accomplish the task before them. I realize that “perfect” is unattainable, but a high percentage is critical if you want to retain residents, attract commercial and industrial customers, have a safe environment to live, work and play in, and keep the cost of living at a reasonable level. If you attempt to please everyone all the time you will have embarked on a long and unattainable task. The “quality of life” is changing as fast as technology upgrades hit the market – what was acceptable yesterday is not acceptable today and we must be flexible enough to change along with it.

**Q: Yes, change seems to be occurring at a dizzying pace. Do you have a prediction of what Burlington will look like 10 years from now, such as school’s population, demographics, commercial and industry, etc.?**

A: My crystal ball is a little cloudy, but I see most small towns in a battle to survive. We will be luckier than most as we have Wolf Creek nuclear plant and a 200- Mw wind farm just outside of town. These should still be in operation for another twenty years. However, if we do not remain aggressive in our community development, cost saving initiatives and support of our local economy, we will be in line with everyone else. I prefer optimism over pessimism and believe we will survive.



We have established a quality staff, long term contracts for electric energy through KPP, have minimal debt for a city our size, have reputable equipment suppliers and reliable consultants to assist us when needed.

Our school system will probably be consolidated with other communities in the county within this period. Many of our residents could easily have at least one and maybe two electric vehicles. I do not see a major down shift in population if we continue to provide

the essentials necessary to support all ages with, health care, hospitals, grocery store, recreational opportunities, all the necessary service businesses, quality water, reliable electricity, solid education opportunities for K thru 12, enhance infrastructure and maintain a concern for public welfare.

We do not have a large commercial or industrial base, but we are surrounded by good farm ground and active farmers and in general a good town to retire to. In the future it will be critical to establish technology avenues for the next generations to expand our workforce and attract businesses that can thrive in a small-town atmosphere.

**Q: As you know Mayor, I have been to Burlington many times. I have been impressed with its beauty and the attention that City Hall gives to your citizens. Would you like to comment on the range of support the City gives to other organizations promoting or serving your community?**

A: Good question, and I do not know where to start. We have parks, meeting rooms, recreation facilities for all ages and provide these at no cost to charities and community organizations. The county fair board uses Kelley park for the county fair, 4H competition, demolition derby and carnival. We supply the space for the Cancer Support Group and other special organizations supporting those in need of assistance.



Our recreation department uses a portion of our parks for baseball, softball and soccer leagues. Burlington Promotions have a fall festival in the park. Wolf Creek has a party in the park for the county. We have music, food and fireworks on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The city works with the Floyd Lewis Foundation by hanging veterans' banners along the highway and the main streets in town.

We support the Christmas, homecoming and county fair parades and block off a section of main street for trunk or treat at Halloween. Most of these activities are minimal or no cost to the city but promote a positive image to the citizens and participants. However, most of what a city does to support community activities is repetitive and lacks glitz and glamor. There are normally no heroes, just everyday people doing their job with pride. As we continue down this same path in years to come, Burlington will always be here to support our community. It is an honor and privilege to be a small part of this ever-changing positive environment.

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## MEMBER APPRECIATION DINNER

**Register on our website: [www.kpp.agency](http://www.kpp.agency), for this year's dinner to be held Wednesday evening, May 8 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. Reception begins at 6:30 p.m., with a buffet dinner at 7:00 p.m. Click on the "Register Here" box in the upper right hand corner of the home page on the website. Registration deadline is Wednesday, May 1st.**



**MEMBER APPRECIATION DINNER**

WED., MAY 8, 2019  
6:30 PM - HYATT  
REGENCY - WICHITA

*Register Here*

# Plans for More EV Charging Stations in Rural Kansas

## Kansas to receive more than \$15 million through Volkswagen settlement

Using Volkswagen settlement funds on initiatives to reduce air emissions was a discussion recently involving KPP Staff. KPP Director of Administrative Services, Brooke Carroll, and Director of Engineering Services, James Ging, met with Tami Alexander of the Metropolitan Energy Center. KPP Members will remember Alexander's electric vehicle presentation at last year's Fall Planning Retreat.

Discussions on in the KPP offices on March 26<sup>th</sup> centered on current projects and initiatives regarding the Volkswagen lawsuit settlement funding. The State of Kansas will receive nearly \$15.6 million over the next ten years for the projects that reduce NOx emissions. The Kansas Department Health and Environment (KDHE) will be the lead agency to act on behalf of the trust for the State of Kansas.



Brooke reported on the discussions with optimism as pertaining to KPP Member Cities. "The time-line and



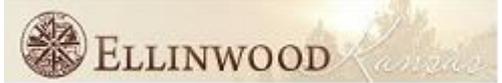
project list are currently in question, but we have heard that approximately \$2 million will be allocated to increasing charging station infrastructure across Kansas, specifically along major highway corridors," she said. "It is possible the funding will become available as early as Summer 2019."

KPP has been asked to be part of the project planning committee to address these major corridors and also to submit planning and mapping of cities in need. Current plans include continued Staff support by KPP to promote and advance the electric car initiative across Kansas. In the near future, KPP member cities may be asked to sign-on to a letter of support for a charging station in their city.

More information regarding the Volkswagen Settlement can be found at <http://www.kdheks.gov/bar/air-monitor/dieselgrant/dieselvw.html>

# Ellinwood Implements Parallel Generation Ordinance

## City is the first to apply KPP-developed customer charge model



A new rooftop solar installation is now in place in Ellinwood. With installation costs coming down, and efforts to limit carbon emissions becoming a social priority, a few property owners in Kansas are opting to install rooftop arrays.

The penetration rate for rooftop installations is still quite low in Kansas. Nevertheless, KPP recently stepped ahead to alert Member Cities of the potential for electric energy cost shifting within a utility's customer base. The City of Ellinwood appears to be the first KPP Member to apply the customer charge model intended to protect the bulk of the City's retail customers.

At the KPP Fall Planning Retreat last September, Assistant General Manager Larry Holloway led a breakout session defining a utility's statutory obligation to accommodate parallel generation. Warning that a clear shifting of cost among customers is likely, he stepped Members through a carefully developed preemptive customer charge model. It appears Ellinwood is the first KPP Member to train a customer and apply the charge.



A new 3.8 kW rooftop system installed in Ellinwood utilizing the City's interconnection ordinance.

Ellinwood's Electric Distribution Superintendent, Jon Perron, spoke of the process. "Trying to get everything figured out for the first time from the grid access charge to inspections to the paperwork was... interesting but with the help from Larry we got it done and (it) is on line", he commented. "We were very excited to have this small rooftop array install here in Ellinwood and it sounds like we will have another one go up in less than a year."

Kansas imposes no net metering obligation on utilities. However, all utilities are required to accommodate parallel generation. At avoided cost, utilities are required to purchase the excess energy generated. Last summer, Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) launched and distributed a "toolkit" intended to equip municipal utilities in setting a protective interconnection standard and ordinance. This was followed up by KPP's introduction of an appropriate customer charge model.