

Welcome to Norton

Welcome to Norton and Norton County, an area which has grown from a stagecoach depot amidst the rolling plains in the 1800s into the home of some 5, 800 people.

The region is rich in history as legendary folks like Horace Greeley, Buffalo Bill Cody and Billy The Kid traveled through the area, not to mention the countless Indian tribes that once roamed the prairies.

While Norton has grown substantially since its formative years in the early 1870s, reminders of the past flourish throughout the area.

A detailed replica of the stagecoach stop, Station 15, can be found at Roadside Park on U.S. 36 in Norton. Complete with furniture, decor, mannequins and clothing depicting the era, Station 15 provides visitors with a quick trip through history.

At Prairie Dog State Park, about four miles west of Norton on U.S. 36, there is an adobe house. This is the only earthenwalled structure in Kansas on its original location. Now preserved as a museum, the house was constructed in the 1890s out of a mixture of mud and straw.

Also on the grounds of the state park is the Hillmon School, the sixth school district to be organized in Norton County. Constructed in 1886, this one-room school house was also

used for church services, funerals, weddings and many other community activities.

Both the Adobe House and the Hillmon School can be viewed year round.

If it's history you enjoy, visit Norton's "Gallery of Also Rans" on the mezzanine of the First State Bank. The exhibit features photographs and biographies of unsuccessful presidential candidates. The brainchild of Norton Banker W. W. Rouse in 1965, the "Gallery of Also Rans" is one of the few galleries of its kind. In 1972, the Smithsonian Institution added a similar exhibit, paying tribute to those who ran for president and lost.

Newcomers and visitors to the city and county can also enjoy several major events throughout the year. In March, Norton holds the annual Tri-State Antique Toy and Sport Card Show. June is a busy month with the Lenora Jubilee, the Almena Celebration and the Sunflower Pioneer Power Association Antique Thresher Show, which is in Almena. In July, the county offers the annual Carp Derby at the Keith Sebelius Reservoir, the Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular at Prairie Dog State Park and the county fair, which includes a home-owned and locally run carnival in Norton. A large arts and crafts fair is offered in November.

Welcome to Norton and Norton County.

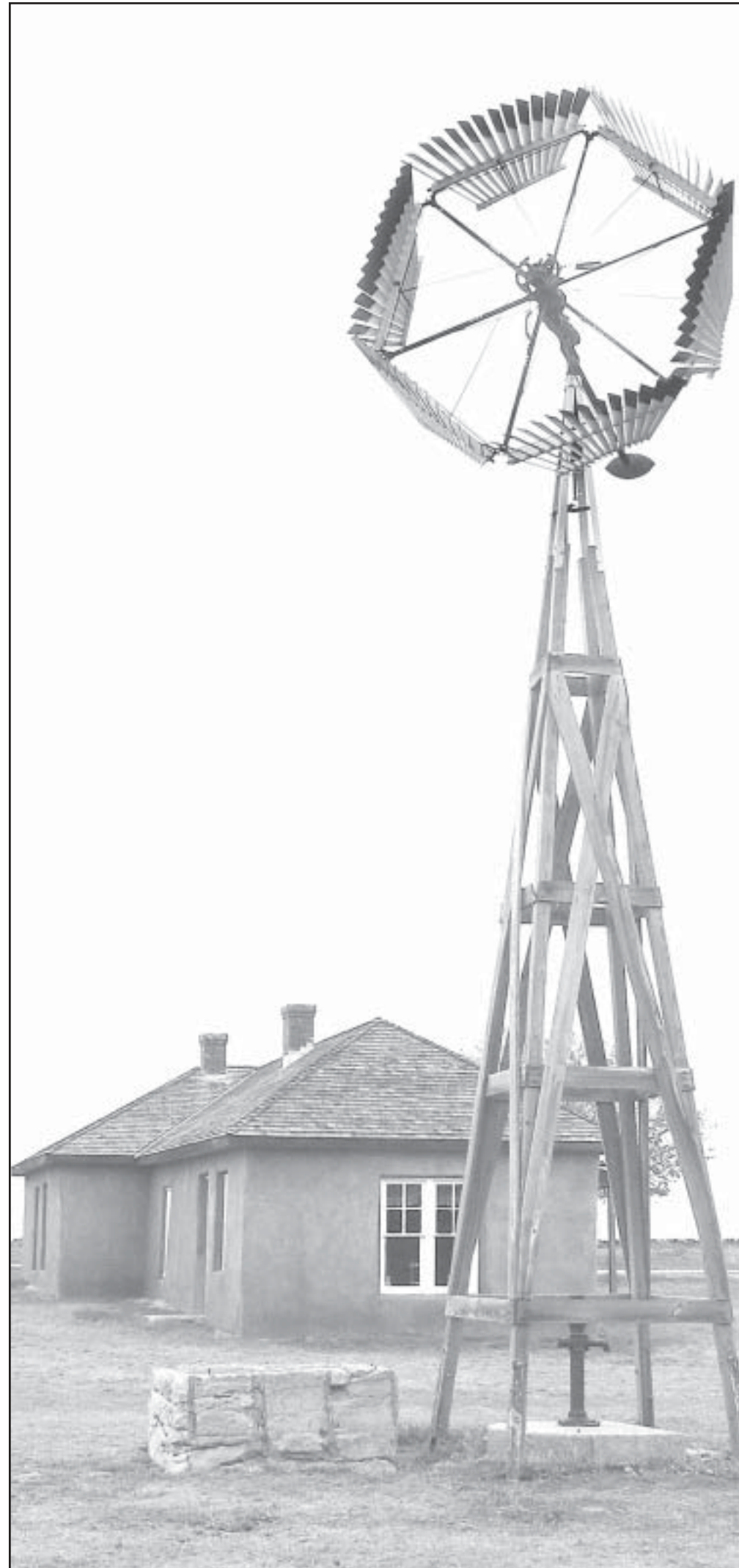
www.discovernorton.com

Are you wondering what's
happening in Norton
and Norton County?

Check out our website for the most up-to-date
information or call Karla Reed, Chamber Director

Norton Area Chamber of Commerce

109 S. State, Norton, Kansas — Phone 785-877-2501



The Adobe House, which can be found at the Prairie Dog State Park, is one of three historical sites in Norton County. The other two are Station 15 on U.S. Highway 36 and the Hillmon School, which is also in the park.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier



The Norton County Health Department is just one of the many services offered by Norton County to its residents. Frankie Holeman gets her annual flu shot from registered nurse, Leslie Pfannenstiel.

—Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Many services available at county courthouse

Many services are available to Norton County residents. Most can be found at the county courthouse at the corner of Main Street and Kansas Avenue.

COUNTY CLERK

For voter registration, go to the clerk's office on the second floor. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

COUNTY TREASURER

To pay for vehicle registration and tags, pay property taxes or renew an in-state driver's license, go to the county treasurer's office on the second floor.

The office is open for driver's license renewal from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, for vehicle business from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, and for everything else from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The closest place to get a new Kansas driver's license is Phillipsburg.

The Kansas Department of Motor Vehicles is at 425 F Street in the Community Building in Phillipsburg and is open from 7-11 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. For information call (785) 543-5594.

EXTENSION OFFICE

The Kansas State University Cooperative Extension Office is on the first floor. Visit the office for information on 4-H and youth membership activities, agricultural production, health and wellness, food safety, and community development. For information call (785) 877-5755. Office hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The county Health Department, 801 N. Norton, offers child immunization, family planning and wellness services while the Home Health Center offers help and support to homebound patients. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday. For information call (785) 877-5745.

POST OFFICE

To mail a letter or package, or pick up a change of address form, go to the Norton Post Office, 302 E. Washington. Window hours are 9-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9-11 a.m. on Saturday.

To register for selective service, a form can be picked up at the post office or you can go online at www.sss.gov.

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Norton offers shopping, services in county-seat town

Norton is the largest city in Norton County and is the county seat. If you're setting up shop or relocating your family, here are some basics for getting started.

Nex-Tech offers both high-speed and dial-up connections. To order call 877-4135 or (877) 550-7872 or stop by the office.

Prairie Land Electric offers high-speed Internet access via satellite. To order call 877-3323 or stop by the office at 1101 West U.S. 36.

Cebridge Connections offers high-speed connection with a choice of either 128K or 512K. For service call (800) 999-8876.

PETS

Norton has a leash law and dogs are required to have tags, which can be obtained at the city offices. Licenses are \$5 with proof of rabies vaccination.

Norton County has two veterinary clinics — Countryside Veterinary Clinic and All Creatures Vet Clinic.

Countryside is in Norton at the corner of U.S. 36 and West Ave. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. To make an appointment call 877-2411.

All Creatures Vet Clinic is on Road E-12 two miles east of Alma. Office hours are 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. Monday-Friday plus 6-7 p.m. on Tuesday, and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

For after-hours emergencies, both clinics have messages on how to contact the veterinarians.

POLICE AND FIRE

The police station is on the east side of the City Building, 301 E. Washington. It is staffed by five officers, with one on duty or on call 24 hours a day.

The fire station is on Norton Avenue and is connected to the north side of the City Building. The volunteer force responds quickly to any emergency including fires, accidents and air ambulance transport.

Firemen and police officers are dispatched from the Norton County Sheriff's Office command post on the first floor of the county Courthouse on the corner of Kansas Ave. and Main St.

The dispatch office has 24-hour staffing and can be reached by dialing 911 or 877-5010 for non-emergency calls. The county jail is also there.

UTILITIES

For natural gas service, call Midwest Energy, (800) 222-3121.

For electricity in rural areas, contact Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, 877-3323, or stop by the office at 1101 West U.S. 36.

For electricity, water, sewer and trash services, call the Norton City office, 877-5000. The City building is at 301 E. Washington.

The city requires a deposit of \$150 for electricity and \$50 for water for both residential and commercial customers. A \$10 fee is also charged to all new customers and those who move. The deposit plus interest is refundable after two years with good credit history.

Trash pickup for residences is \$9.36 a month plus a landfill disposal charge of \$2.42/month for a single person or \$4.84/month for a family. Pick-up is once a week. During the summer, yard waste is collected at no additional charge. Trash pick-up for businesses is available by private contractors.

Payment for city services are due by the 17th of each month.

CABLE TELEVISION

Cable is offered by Nex-Tech (Rural Telephone) and Cebridge Connections (formerly Classic Cable).

To get a cable subscription from Nex-Tech call 877-4135 or (877) 550-7872 or stop by the office at 117 N. Norton from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

For a Cebridge Connections call (800) 999-8876.

TELEPHONE

Local and long distance service is provided by both Nex-Tech and SBC (Southwestern Bell). Call Nex-Tech at 877-4135 or (877) 550-7872 or stop by the office. Call SBC at (800) 464-7928. New business customers should call (800) 499-7928.

INTERNET ACCESS

Internet service in Norton County is provided by Nex-Tech, Prairie Land Electric and Cebridge Connections.

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Baseball diamonds, a swimming pool, bowling alley, community theater, a modern public library and many shops are just some of the things available to residents and visitors of Norton.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts and Carol Erlenbusch