

TOPEKA — AARP applauds Congress for passing the Edward M Kennedy Serve America Act — a bill that will strengthen and expand civic engagement and volunteer opportunities for people of all ages. Designated as a “key vote” by AARP on behalf of its 40 million members, including 375,000 Kansas members, the votes of each member of Congress are posted on AARP’s Government Watch site (www.aarp.org/governmentwatch) so individuals across the nation can see how their legislators voted on this important bill.

Maren Turner, State Director for AARP Kansas, released the following statement after the vote:

“AARP members stand ready to give, and offer a lifetime of acquired skills to meet a range of community needs.

“The Serve America Act will help provide the additional service opportunities people age 50+ are looking for.

“In a survey conducted for AARP last year, millions of boomers and older Americans said that in the next five years, they want to increase their volunteer service to improve their communities and our world.”

Below is the key vote summary of how Kansas’ elected officials voted on the Serve America Act, which can also be found at www.aarp.org/governmentwatch:

Sen. Sam Brownback, No.  
Sen. Pat Roberts, No.  
Rep. Lynn Jenkins, No.  
Rep. Dennis Moore, Yes.  
Rep. Jerry Moran, No.  
Rep. Todd Tiahrt, No.  
All but Rep. Moore are Republicans.

A recent letter from AARP CEO Bill Novelli outlines the most important issues for older Americans in this legislation:

“This legislation will strengthen and expand civic engagement and volunteer opportunities to include social services, environment, health, caregiving, nurturing, mentoring, intergenerational solutions, education, and economic development.”

## City council

(Continued from Page 1)

Corns signed the Point of Diversion Changes for the water plant, which is needed because the wells will be moved.

• The city passed Ordinance #1583, allowing for the recovery of costs of collection as to delinquent accounts owed to the City of Norton.

• City sales tax receipts for February 2009 were \$24,114.74, and county sales tax receipts were \$17,627.39 for a total of \$41,742.13. City sales tax receipts for February 2008 were \$21,684.95 and county receipts were \$17,805.50. Year-to-date city sales tax receipts for 2009 are \$115,207.90, for the same time 2008, year to date was \$130,272.50.

• Mr. Lawson said he received a letter from Prairie Land Electric, that offered to donate ownership of the dedicated sewer main that runs to Prairie Land Electric to the City of Norton. Mayor Corns said the issue should go through committee to discuss if it is big enough to handle the new Emergency Medical Services needs and then brought back before the council.

• The city authorized Mr. Lawson to begin the paperwork and leg work in hiring an engineer to look

## Stacie

(Continued from Page 1)

Watershed Specialist with Kansas State University.

“I truly enjoy working with private citizens, agriculture producers, youth, government officials and agencies to partner, share and demonstrate that water quality protection is everyone’s responsibility. It’s an honor to work with these individuals and groups in a role that I know is helping the environment now and for years to come and creating change,” she said.

“I know that the Norton FFA Chapter just celebrated National FFA Week. I know that my time spent at Norton Community High School and especially the leadership and skills that I learned in the Vo-Ag classes and in the Norton FFA Chapter, under Mr. Garrett Beydler’s direction, have helped me get to where I am today,” she said.

“It was an honor to be nominated by one of my partnering agencies for the Water Conservationist of the Year Award and I am humbled to be named such by the Kansas Wildlife Federation,” she said.

For 30 years, the Federation has recognized Kansans who have devoted exceptional efforts for wildlife conservation in the state. Kansas citizens, who wish to recognize the awardees for their contributions, supplied the nominations.

Typically, about a dozen awards are given in categories such as youth, land, water, forest, education, farming and ranching. For 2008, 13 awards were given, along with a special award, the President’s, for meritorious service to the Kansas Wildlife Federation.

These are the most prestigious wildlife-related awards given in Kansas and are patterned after similar awards in most other states through respective state affiliates of the National Wildlife Federation.

Award sponsors included Westar, Inc., Kansas Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, Kansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, Kansas Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, and the Jim Ruder family of Wa-Keeney.

Dave Hilley of rural Kingman County won the overall award, *Conservationist of the Year*.

into buying a drum thickener and building a small building around it at the sewer plant, refurbish the lift station at the sewer plant, and replace man holes. Mr. Lawson said with the federal stimulus package being passed, there is a loan program that will require the city to only pay back half the cost of those projects.

• Mr. Lawson said the city has looked at nine places to replace or repair streets, curbs and gutters and make drainage improvements: Manor Drive; the bricks on the road between Jamboree and Engel’s; the bricks in front of CarQuest; the storm drainage at the city pool; drainage south of Norton Ice; streets near the Ande Home Apartments and the VFW; Armory Road to Nixon to behind Holly’s Clubhouse; Johnson Road drainage; and on West Street around Woods and Valley Vista. Mr. Lawson said they would be looking into getting money from the stimulus package to pay for those repairs.

• The city authorized a 5-foot section curb replacement at the Norton County Museum for a cost of \$53.

• Mr. Burton reported on the Parks Committee meeting that was held on March 23. He said John Carlin had asked about having a barbecue contest in August, though nothing is concrete yet. The city asked Mrs. Griffiths to prepare an ordinance banning unpermitted disinterments at the Norton Cemetery; and because of increased usage, Tweed Park needs some minor repairs, such as painting over graffiti and swings replaced. The committee held an open discussion with Paula Bolt regarding the Elmwood Park Speedway. Mr. Burton said the committee agreed that if Mrs. Bolt or anyone else would like to be involved in the speedway, they would have to bring more information on their ideas.

• The city approved the Cub Scouts Day Camp at Elmwood Park on the weekend of June 6.

• Council member Jeff Otter reminded the council of the Personnel Committee meeting on Thursday, April 2 to discuss the

new regulations for the Family Medical Leave Act.

• Council member Donna Foley set a Public Works Committee meeting for April 13 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss options for the trash truck that needs repaired.

• Council member Toby Kuhn reported on the Public Safety Committee meeting. He said Norton Animal Control Officer Sherry Hickman gave the committee her statistics for 2008, and that the animal control duties take up a tremendous amount of her time. According to the report, Mrs. Hickman takes about 800 calls per year as the animal control officer. Mr. Kuhn said the city’s animal shelter passed its inspection with no issues; the committee asked Norton City Fire Chief Mitch Jones to start delivering statistic sheets on calls they take; and Police Chief Pat Morel requested adding a lieutenant’s position to the police department, to fall between Officer II and Assistant Chief. Chief Morel said he has received about 9 applications for the open officer position, and will be testing the applicants on April 22.

• Councilwoman Elaine Mann reminded everyone that their pets need to be kept under control. She said her neighborhood is overrun with cats, and it’s become quite a problem as they are hard to catch. She said Mrs. Hickman does a wonderful job as the animal control officer.

Mr. Kuhn commented that owners need to be responsible for their pets. Mayor Corns noted that the city has a limit on the number of dogs a household can have, but there is no limit for the number of cats.

• Mrs. Griffiths said she would take care of training the newly-elected members of city council, and asked the rest of the council members to attend as well as a refresher course.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned. The next city council meeting is April 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the city building. The council meeting and all committee meetings are open to the public.

## Scam

(Continued from Page 1) my other two daughters, Jennifer Auxier and Becky Yancey in San Antonio, but haven’t been able to yet.”

At last count, she had received five phone calls about the e-mail.

Mrs. Plotts said the e-mail address — a hotmail address — is relatively new, and she accesses it from various computers.

She said a hacker probably got ahold of her account and sent out the e-mails.

However, she assures everyone she did not send out an e-mail saying she’s stuck in London and requesting money.

“But,” she said with a laugh, “feel free to send money, anyway!”

## Business notes

EMC Insurance Companies has named Boxler Insurance Agency, Inc., Norton, as a 2009 “Leading Partner.” It recognized Boxler Insurance Agency as one of the highest performing EMC agencies in the country, placing them in the top 15 percent of all EMC agencies nationally.

The annual award is based on key indicators, including retention, profitability and growth, which are reviewed over a three-year period.

EMC developed its signature “Agency Performance Value” tool in 2005 to measure an agency’s performance against all other EMC agencies across the nation. Agencies are evaluated on loss ratio, premium volume, policy and premium retention and the position of EMC within the agency.

Boxler Insurance Agency is a full service independent insurance agency, offering quality Home, Auto, Life, Business, Farm and Crop Insurance. Visit the agency at www.boxlerinsurance.com.

EMC Insurance Companies is a property/casualty insurance carrier headquartered in Des Moines. With assets of nearly \$3 billion, it is among the top 60 insurance

entities countrywide.

Mark Saintz, owner and operator of Affordable Classic Limousines, wants to dispel the rumor that he is going out of business.

“It’s not a remote possibility,” said Mr. Saintz. “It’s not even close to true. We have weddings booked into July and commitments for the Lenora Jubilee and Norton’s Veterans’ Day Parade.”

Affordable Classic Limousines started in October of 2005, and has expanded their fleet to a super-stretch limousine that seats 10 to 12 people, a Lincoln taxi, a minivan taxi, and the Party Smart Bus, which can hold 14 passengers.

“I will go anywhere the customer wants to go,” said Mr. Saintz. “I’ve taken customers as far as Lordsburg, New Mexico [152 miles west of Tucson, Ariz.], and I’ve taken the same customer to Silverton, Colorado three times, I’ve taken customers to Denver, Kansas City and Wichita. I will

go anywhere in the United States that the customer wants to go. I never know what my day is going to entail until the phone rings.”

Mr. Saintz also works with the City of Norton for the Safe Ride Home program, which gives party-goers a free ride home within the City of Norton on popular drinking holidays.

“Our rates are affordable, we have courteous staff, our limousines are detailed before every booking and our drivers are in full chauffeur uniform and ready for inclement weather,” said Mr. Saintz.

“Call us at 202-0952 for a limousine or a taxi.”

(Information for this column can be sent to tom.d@nwkansas.com, or nortontelegram@nwkansas.com. You may also fax your item to 877-3732, send it by mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave, 67654 or drop it off at the office.)

## Candidate hosting public here today

Norton City Council Ward 3 candidate Joe Leroux will have a meet-and-greet in the Community Room of the Norton Public Library this evening from 5 to 8 p.m. “I am doing the meet and greet to give the residents of Ward 3 an opportunity to meet me in person and get to know me a little better so they may make an informed decision when they go vote on April 7,” he said. Mr. Leroux said he will have light refreshments available.




**The Cardinal Bar and Grill**  
IS HAVING AN  
**Easter Buffet on Sunday, April 12**  
Serving from 11-2  
Featuring: Ham, Chicken and Turkey  
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# PUBLIC NOTICE

*If it's not in the newspaper, how will you know?*



Zoning changes in your neighborhood. A proposal to increase your property taxes. Information on how public officials are spending your tax dollars. These are just a few of the topics — topics that affect your family and your community — local government officials are required to publish in the local newspaper.

Your local newspaper fulfills an essential role in serving your right to know. After all, it shouldn’t be your responsibility to know how to look ... where to look ... when to look ... and even what to look for in order to be informed about public information. It is the government’s responsibility to notify you of public information, and your local newspaper is the most accessible place to find it.

**PUBLIC NOTICES IN NEWSPAPERS.**  
Where public information is accessible to the public.

## Easter Basket of Savings

April 3 thru April 10

Pick an Egg from Our Basket to Receive one of the following savings!!

- Free Activation on Any New Line Activation
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