

Panel ponders property seizures

TOPEKA (AP) — John Todd doesn't think cities, counties and state agencies should be allowed to force someone to sell property so that it can be turned over to someone else for economic development.

Todd, a Wichita real estate broker and developer, told legislators Tuesday that they need to protect private property rights and that he favors an amendment to the Kansas Constitution to do so. He found himself pitted against lobbyists who told The Joint Committee on Economic Development that local government officials use their power to force property sales carefully and to promote the public good with large economic development projects. Some legislators have sought for two years to restrict or ban the taking of private property for economic development.

Several, including Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, are promising to

pursue the issue next year.

Todd told the committee: "The keys to the economic freedoms we enjoy in this country are individual liberty, private property rights and the free market system."

Property rights groups contend Kansas law makes it easy for government agencies to force such sales, then turn the property over to other private parties for economic development.

Sen. Karin Brownlee, R-Olathe, said restricting government power will be a key issue for legislators next year because Kansas has a reputation for being among the worst states for protecting property rights.

In 2003, the Kansas Supreme Court affirmed counties' power in a case in which owners of 3.8 acres in Shawnee County objected to the \$329,000 price for land that eventually became part of a 400-acre site for a Target Corp. distribution center.

Topeka museum offers today's history

TOPEKA (AP) — James McClinton hadn't been in office long when the Kansas Museum of History came calling.

They wanted his suit.

To be exact, they wanted the suit he wore when taking his oath of office as Topeka's first black mayor.

"It was a bit humbling," said McClinton, who left office this year, after serving for about a year. "I guess when you're in the middle of it you don't think of the history of it all."

For Kansas Museum of History curators, history happens every day. The trick is to recognize important moments and seize the opportunity to collect objects that will help tell that story decades later.

Curators can already count on having some current objects — such as toys or wedding dresses — donated in future years, said Rebecca Martin, assistant museum director. Other items take quick thinking to grab before they're gone, such as the spontaneous, homemade signs and crafts that people created as they grieved the 9-11 victims.

And, had they not made an early claim to the mayor's suit and office chair, Martin said, those items prob-

ably wouldn't have made it to the collection.

"We're in that whole carpe diem mode right now," Martin said.

The museum has more than 100,000 items in its collection — carefully catalogued and stored in a way focused on preserving them for future generations. In one storage room on the museum grounds, farm equipment and antique cars share three stories of space with dinnerware, gas masks and just about anything one can imagine.

For the past four years, an extra effort has been put on collecting items from the 1950s through present day, focusing on various themes.

Curators are developing a collections plan for that period, and they gather monthly to discuss major topics being discussed in the news and if they may deserve a place in the museum in future years.

For example, tourism is one theme, and ads for various campaigns, including the new "Kansas, As Big As You Think," are being stored away.

To help tell the story of illegal drug use, the museum staff has tucked away posters from a 2001 Kansas Department of Health and

Environment campaign to warn retailers about how people use household ingredients to manufacture methamphetamine.

Museum staff predict energy will be a big story in the future and wonder about trying to collect a wind turbine.

Knowing the role of the airline industry in Kansas, they plan to collect the clothes worn by an airline worker. And they want to tell the story of rural life, perhaps with the help of an "on your honor" pay cup that might be seen in a rural diner.

Spotted near the china and crystal glasses lining museum storage shelves, a Rusty's Last Chance Saloon cup from the Aggieville hangout of Kansas State University students might seem out of place. But it also tells a story.

"You can't have an up-to-date collection of food service without having plastic cups," Martin explained.

Sept. 11, 2001, helped change the nation's mindset and curators were able to begin collecting items from history as it unfolded.

The spontaneous outpouring of grief after the terrorist attacks helped define those initial days and

weeks. Thus, patriotic pins and a flag created with the handprints of students are now in storage.

Curators also have saved a simple plywood sign with the words "NOT TODAY FRED" painted in white. The sign came from a 19-year-old Topekan who was offended by the picketing of the Rev. Fred Phelps and his Westboro Baptist Church in the days after 9-11. It is a sign that responds not only to the terrorist attacks but also Phelps' mark on the state's history with his well-known anti-homosexual picketing.

"We love the idea of that totally spontaneous expression," Martin said.

Murl Riedel watched recently as his camouflage fatigues from serving in Iraq were preserved. Riedel, an assistant curator, returned in March after 13 months of serving with his Kansas National Guard battalion based out of Hiawatha. During his deployment, he kept a journal and collected items that he thought would show a "soldier's experience."

So, he brought T-shirts and the purple K-State pennant he took with him — "That's just because I want to have K-State stuff in the collection," he said — to the museum.

'Quick and Healthy' recipes with fewer carbohydrates

Brenda Ponichtera's focus for her cookbook, "Quick and Healthy" was health conscious people who don't want to spend a lot of time in the kitchen.

Ponichtera has three goals in mind for her book. One was weight loss and or control. Two was eating more high fiber and fewer simple carbohydrates. And finally was eating a low fat diet by using monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats while limiting saturated fats and avoiding trans fats.

The information and the following recipes are from Ponichtera's book.



Pat Schiefen
• Post Script

Add sugar to the rice vinegar
Add dressing to cabbage and mix well.
This can be served immediately or refrigerated for several hours.
Serves 6.

Rolled chicken and asparagus
1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breasts
24 to 30 asparagus spears (remove tough ends)
2 tablespoons lemon juice
6 green onions, chopped
1/2 teaspoon salt (optional)
1/2 teaspoon pepper

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Cut chicken breasts into 8 to 10 strips, each about 1 by 5 inches long.

Wrap strips in a corkscrew fashion around 2 or 3 uncooked asparagus spears. Fasten with toothpicks.
Spray with a non-stick cooking spray a covered baking dish and

place wrapped asparagus spears in it. Sprinkle with lemon juice, green onions, salt and pepper.
Cover and bake 25 to 30 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink. Remove toothpicks.
Serve hot or refrigerate until chilled and serve cold.
Serves 4.

White chocolate mousse with berries
1 small box (1 ounce) sugar-free instant white chocolate pudding
2 cups nonfat milk
2 cups nonfat whipped topping
2 cups fresh berries (or frozen,

thawed) raspberries, blueberries or huckleberries

Mix pudding with milk in a medium bowl.
With a wire whisk stir constantly for 2 minutes.
Refrigerate for 5 minutes.
Add whipped topping and mix well.
Layer mousse with berries in a serving bowl or parfait glasses. Be sure to same some berries for the top.
This can be eaten immediately or you can refrigerate and serve later.
Serves 8.

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