



Historic Delano News

January 2014

Promoting Delano's past, present & future

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Howdy,

Another year is gone and oh what a year it was!

You can find a review of 2013 on page 2 but right now we want to touch on a couple of high points:

- The **St. Patrick's Parade** continues to grow, and so do the expenses. We can't thank our fantastic sponsors enough. Without them, there would be no parade. Thank You!
- The proposed **drilling for oil** on the west bank threatened further development in Delano and reminded us that if you don't act on your plans, others may take them away. We are thankful that the proposal was defeated... for now.
- **Longhorn on the Chisholm Trail** finally got placed in September. We are glad to welcome him and to see him settled in his new home.
Thanks to Mary Lou and Greenway Alliance!

The next year will bring with it a lot of changes. What will be important is how we react to those changes and what we do with any opportunities which may present themselves. It's important that we have the **Delano Plan** as a guideline.

We will be meeting on Tuesday, January 14th for our annual planning meeting. We will be laying out the calendar of events including the parade, the ghost tour and Christmas in Delano. If you have an event to get on the calendar let us know.

At the meeting we will also be making a couple of big announcements. Be there!

Thanks! - Jim & Nancy

Calendar

Annual Planning Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2014
Central Plains Novelty
905 W. Douglas • 6:00 pm

We will be making our plans for 2014 and setting up our calendar.

There are a lot of exciting changes coming this year as well as a couple of big announcements.

Please attend if you can.



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A LOOK BACK AT 2013 IN HISTORIC DELANO

Another year is gone and oh what a year it was!

It started out with the **St. Patrick's Parade** which **brought 10,000 people to Delano**. The parade keeps growing... and becoming more expensive! We can't thank our fantastic sponsors enough - they are the ones who make it happen.

There were a couple of events that didn't quite get off the ground which have been rescheduled. One was **Gnome on the Range** and the other one was **Amber Waves** - a benefit for Starkey. We will keep you posted about them.

The **Visitors Guide** had to be downsized after nearly half of the advertisers either closed down or could not afford an ad. Nearly 30 businesses in Delano closed down in 2013 - a bad year.

HistoricDelano.com got **1,451,637 hits** in 2013! That is an average of almost **4,000 hits / day**. Of course a lot of those occur around our events. Highest hits in one day: **53,765** before St. Pat's and **45,882** before Christmas in Delano.

The **Delano Farmers Market** became part of the **Kansas Grown!** network and started accepting EBT/Debit cards. This provided a larger pool of vendors and attracted additional customers. This year will be the 5th year for the Delano market.

The **Delano Community Garden** had a good year and hosted several **Final Friday** events. The weather was cooperative for the most part. Another new planter and a few perennial plants were added this year.

Final Friday continues to grow. Unfortunately, the WDDC is not allowed to fund their trolley outside of downtown. In the fall we arranged for a Delano trolley. We hope the idea will continue to find support with **Final Friday** merchants.

Delano / West Douglas Bicycle Parking Plan - Phase 2 was approved and funding identified. Watch for an additional 24 Delano Bike Racks to be installed as soon as the weather permits.

In late summer we found out about a proposal to **drill for oil** along the river in downtown Delano. The proposal brought together a wide range of groups in opposition to it and we made contact with a few really good allies for Delano.

September brought some us good news with the installation of **Longhorn on the Chisholm Trail**, one of the Longhorns from the Kansas Coliseum. Many thanks to **Mary Lou Rivers** and the folks from the **Greenway Alliance**. Without their hard work the bull would not be sitting there today.

This year the **Delano Block Party** moved to the abandoned railway corridor just north of Douglas (Pearl Street on old plat maps). The Block Party was moved there to bring attention to the plans for a bike / walk trail in that area.

The proposed **Pearl Street Path** is a major part of the **Delano Neighborhood Plan** and the **Delano Neighborhood Association** has made it their priority to get it off the ground. Expect to hear a lot more about this in the coming year.

Ghost Stories of Historic Delano brought out the usual crowd of "frightseers" in early October. Then the **West High Homecoming Parade** and the **Last Harvest Party** at the Farmers Market rounded out the month.

The **Wichita Toy Run Rally** returned to Delano in November. The weather was windy and cool but it didn't keep the bikers from coming out. Donations were collected for the Salvation Army and toys for the Marine's **Toys for Tots** program.

Christmas in Delano happened to fall on one of the coldest days of the year but that didn't deter hard-core shoppers. **Lights on the River** ended the day with lighted globes, caroling & fireworks.

We ended the year with a **Holiday Mixer** where we shared home-made holiday treats, fellowship and good cheer. Here's to 2013!!!