



# THIS IS ELDORADO

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN EL DORADO

### FIND MORE EVENTS AT WWW.ELDOKS.COM

- December 7 & 21 - City Commission Meetings
- **CITY HALL CLOSED December 25 & January 1**
- January 4 & 18 City Commission Meetings

Check out one of the sites below for daily updates!

- @cityofeldorado
- @EldoCityMgr
- @whats.happening.in.eldoks
- City of El Dorado, KS

### From the Desk of the City Manager

New playgrounds in town sometimes take major overhauling and preparation before installation can begin. This is the case with the Riverview Park playground.

Riverview Park is located at 800 River Road which is situated across the bridge on East Central, northeast of East Park. It is estimated that the current playground, which was built by the Honor Camp, is about 25 years old.

Before deconstructing and installation can begin on the playground, a major project on the Walnut River will take place. Currently, the banks of the Walnut River along the low water dam and near US-54 crossing are eroding and need stabilization. The erosion of the rip rap (the rocky material placed along the shoreline) was a result of last year's flooding and heavy rainfall. The proposed rip rap replacement will protect the wing walls of the low water dam, which pools water for an emergency source of water supply, should something happen to the El Dorado Lake water supply system. The work under US-54 will protect the piers of the US-54 highway bridge and the bike path pedestrian bridge. The estimated cost for repairs is approximately \$35,000 and will commence after the first of 2021.

Soon after the completion of the repair of the rip rap, the removal and installation of the new playground will start. Similar to the new playground equipment at North Main Park, this playground was purchased with Excess Sales Tax funds that were voted on by the Excess Sales Tax Committee. During the week of November 6th, City staff posted to social media asking the citizens to help decide which new playground equipment should be chosen. With an overwhelming 97% of the voting population, a design (shown at the top right of this page) was chosen.

Removal and installation of the playground will begin following the completion of the rip rap and hopefully be open by summer. Of course, the project(s) may be delayed if there is uncooperative weather or other issues arise during replacement of the rip rap or installation of the playground.



New playground equipment to be installed at Riverview Park.

### Countdown to the 150th Celebration: The Night Watchman - Charles Schram

**By: Lt. Detective Maggie Schrieber**

Charles Schram was born in Germany on September 9, 1850. He moved with his family to Springfield, Missouri, when he was eight. Within 2 years of the move, Schram's family had all passed away. At the age of 19, Schram moved to Douglass, Kansas, where he began working for a local farmer.

Sometime around 1878, Charles Schram was married to Georgia Wilson. They had one daughter, Alma. After two years of marriage, Georgia passed away. On September 17, 1888 Schram married Cora Lindsay. This marriage brought him a step-daughter, Lucy.

Charles Schram began his 34-year law enforcement career in 1881 when he was appointed Under-Sheriff by Sheriff Walter H. Douglass. Schram moved to El Dorado where he **story continued on back...**



**Need to dispose of your REAL Christmas tree after the season? You can take it to the City compost site located at 500 East Locust. Remember, only allowed items are grass clippings, leaves and brush.**

## Countdown to the 150th Celebration:

### The Night Watchman - Charles Schram continued...

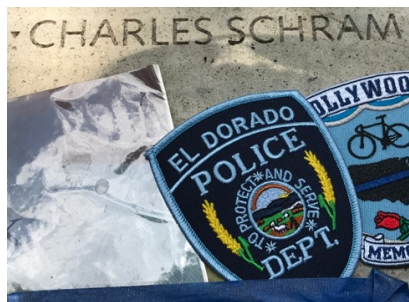
served as Under-Sheriff for Sheriff H. T. Dodson after his election in 1883 and reelection in 1885. In 1887 and again in 1889 Schram was elected Butler County Sheriff. After his term as Sheriff ended, Schram served as either a City Marshal, Night Marshal, Constable or Deputy Sheriff until his death in 1915 at the age of 64 years, 10 months and 4 days old.

Mr. Schram, night watchman, was found by E.E. McConnell, proprietor of the Delmonico Hotel and restaurant, and Mr. E.O. Chambers of Wichita, a traveling salesman, who was rooming there. Mr. McConnell was just getting ready to close up for the night, when he heard groaning sounds. At first Mr. McConnell thought it was a "happy drunk down the way". After awhile, the sounds stated to sound more like calls for help. Charles Schram was found in front of the Wiley Eat Shop by Mr. McConnell. He was able to communicate that he was hit on the back of the head before being taken to Dr. Eyman's office to adhere to his wounds. Shortly after, he was taken to his home on South Star. It was found that Mr. Schram was investigating a noise complaint on the upper floor of the Republican building where someone slugged him in the head. He suffered a severe skull fracture and his left shoulder was also fractured. The wounds were inflicted with a sand bag or jack black, according to Drs. J.L. Eyman and F.E. Dillenbeck, who were attending him. Neither doctor entertained hope of his recovery.

Unfortunately, Mr. Schram was never able to recover from this brutal attack. He died of his injuries on July 13, 1915. The funeral was widely attended and by request of the citizens, all businesses were closed during the service. Articles from the time of his death say, "In the line of duty he was fearless and efficient." He was also described as, "One of the best known men in Butler County." Despite a lengthy investigation, which included assistance from the Kansas Attorney General, a special investigator from Kansas City and a reward of over \$300.00, no arrests were ever made. The Butler County Coroner ruled Charles Schram was deliberately murdered in a premeditated attack.

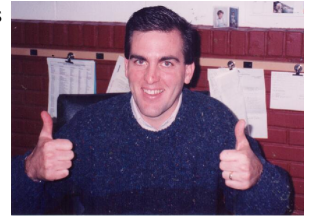
On 05/13/2017 Night Marshal Charles Schram's name was formally dedicated and added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. Night Marshal Schram is the only law enforcement officer from the City of El Dorado to be killed in the line of duty.

*Excerpts From the El Dorado Republican, El Dorado, Kansas, June - July 1915.*



## Thank you for Service, Kurt Bookout!

Kurt grew up on a farm about 20 miles southwest of El Dorado, where he fell in love with the outdoors and managing natural resources. He attended Butler Community College on a Livestock Judging and Journalism scholarship. After two years at BCC,



*Bookout, mid 1990's.*

he transferred to Kansas State University and graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Biology. After working for the Kansas Fish & Game, he found his career in El Dorado when he was hired as the Water Treatment Superintendent in 1992. In 1995, he became superintendent of wastewater, and in 2000, when director Richard Porter retired, he became director of Public Utilities.

Kurt has been married to his wife, Kacy, for 35 years. Kacy has taught and coached in the Andover School District for 31 years and will also be retiring at the end of this school year. They have two children and four grandchildren in the surrounding area.

In 1997, Kurt toured Texaco refinery's constructed wetlands. The wetlands were built in an attempt to get the refinery in compliance with bio-monitoring/toxicity testing. The wetlands were successful, so Kurt began wondering if wetlands had a place in the treatment of municipal wastewater. KDHE and EPA had already fired some warning shots that El Dorado needed to begin plans to build a new treatment facility. The pilot wetlands was built in 1998 and after a three-year study, it was found that wetlands were very effective at storing and treating our excess flows from big rain events. El Dorado's biggest challenge was high flow events, and the requirement from EPA was the new facility must be built for peak flows of 16+ MGD. Fast forward to the new Advanced Activated Sludge treatment plant design. Using the wetlands study, we received approval to downsize the plant to 6 MGD, with constructed wetlands to handle flows up to 20 MGD. In 2008, El Dorado won the State and then National American Public Works (APWA) Environmental Project of the Year. The facility continues to receive awards, winning the best wastewater facility in Kansas award every year since 2009. The department has also won the best biosolids management award twice, best laboratory award, national safety award and employees have won numerous individual awards.

Our Water Treatment Plant is also deserving of recognition. The facility will be celebrating its 84th birthday next year and is in better condition today than it has ever been. El Dorado has now won the Best Tasting Water in Kansas award twice, and we are recognized around the state as having great water quality. We have also won the best Consumer Confidence Report in Kansas.

The Water Distribution and Sewer Maintenance division has made great strides over the last ten years to reinvest in infrastructure and couldn't have done it all without the leadership of Kurt Bookout.

The City of El Dorado thanks you for your 28 years of professionalism, dedication and service, Kurt. Enjoy retirement!

