



THIS IS EL DORADO



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN EL DORADO

FIND MORE EVENTS AT WWW.ELDOKS.COM

- March 15 - City Commission Meeting
- March 16 - Library Book Club Meeting at 6:30 pm
- April 5 - City Commission Meeting
- April 1 - Thankful Thursdays at 6 pm
- April 19 - City Commission Meeting



@eldokscvb



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El Dorado, KS CVB



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From the Desk of the City Manager

The City of El Dorado actively seeks out grants to help fund projects that will enhance the community. In 2020, we were very fortunate and received nearly \$1.5 million in grant funds. These grants included:

- Training for the Police Department
- Equipment for the Police Department
- A development grant to improve property downtown
- FAA funds for a lighting project at the Airport
- Funds to extend the bike path
- Funds to assist businesses and food pantries affected by COVID
- Reimbursement for funds spent responding to the pandemic
- Funds to help some of the non-profit agencies in town such as the Family Life Center, MIDCAP and the Butler Homeless Initiative

Some of these funds are annual grants, such as those for the non-profit agencies. The City serves primarily as a pass through for these grants. Other funds such as those for the bike path or the police department grants are one-time awards that the City must apply for annually.

The City does not have a professional grant writer on staff, but several staff members from various departments have been successful with the process and the City has benefitted from it. For more difficult grant projects, the City contracts with a grant administrator. We hope that the City is able to continue its history of successful grant applications as they are integral to both operations and development.

Countdown to the 150th Celebration:

B. Frank Gordy

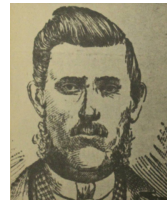
Almost everyone in El Dorado has visited Gordy Park, but are you aware of the history behind its namesake?

B. Frank Gordy arrived in El Dorado from Des Moines in 1868. He was best known around the state for his unusual dance lessons and as a talented violinist, among other accomplishments. He quickly bought up land south of what is now Central Avenue, plotted it and began selling off the lots.

Shortly after, he was one of the richest men in town. He was recognized as “gentlemanly, genial and kindhearted” along with being highly intelligent and extremely handsome.

There are several stories regarding Mr. Gordy and his antics. He regularly rode his horse into Wachery's Grocery Store to request an opened can of oysters soured with vinegar. Gordy's favorite hobby was hassling and pranking the well-dressed men that came to town. He would linger in front of Mr. Sheets' Wholesale Liquor House, where he enjoyed pointing his six shooter at “fancy young galoots” to see if they could dance the jig. One of his last such acts was when he tried to teach a man to dance. Gordy ended up being knocked through a store front and his nose was cut off.

Gordy moved to Oklahoma but left a considerable amount of land to the city for a park. His only stipulation was that the city could keep it as long as it was maintained as a park for the citizens. In 1968, his park would be used to film several scenes for the movie “Gypsy Moths”.



It is rumored that if you are sitting at the park and the wind is blowing just right, you can hear the sound of dancing by instructor F. Frank Gordy.

Dance Master with a Six-Shooter by Peggy Smith



It is not recommended to pass a trash truck when it is driving or picking up trash. Please be aware of the workers as they sometimes manually load trash. You can pass it once you are waved on.



Parks & Recreation Department

A YEAR IN REVIEW

Public Works Department

With the reduced activities and shortened or cancelled sports seasons, property maintenance was a priority for the Parks and Recreation Department in 2020. As long as the weather allowed, each park and cemetery was mowed once a week last summer. The sports fields, cemeteries, parks and other properties total 370.55 acres. Parks and Rec also held one special event before things were shut down in 2020, their Diva Night, which was a fun and successful event!



2020 Data:



	2019	2020
Pool Attendance	11,071	2,701
Baseball/Softball	540	356
Basketball	160	150
Volleyball	192	86
Soccer	359	300
Flag Football	112	56
Total Youth Participants	1,326	948
Park Rentals	132	71
Cemetery - Burials	108	106
Cemetery - Sold Lots	48	66



Central Park Batting Cage



North Main Park Playground

2020 Finished Projects



McDonald Stadium Irrigation

See full report at:
www.eldoks.com

Projected Projects for 2021

- Riverview Playground Equipment
- Central/East Bleachers
- East Park Batting Cage
- Park Shop Painting
- Senior Center Painting
- Civic Center Parking Lot
- Graham Park Playground Equipment - North
- Spray Park Pump Replacement
- McDonald Stadium Electrical Project

The Public Works Department did an outstanding job of continuing to provide services to the community even though many times it was on a shoe string. They worked through the loss of loved ones, welcomed in new life and then there was COVID 19.

The IT department worked tirelessly to make working remotely a possibility. When the Animal Shelter was not able to operate due to staff quarantine, an employee from elsewhere in Public Works took the lead to manage the shelter. Employees from the department were pulled out of their comfort zones to do jobs that they were not used to doing. The Public Works Department is the definition of a "team".



2020 Stats:



Public Works:

- 500 tons of asphalt for street cuts and street repairs
- Tree trimming for Emergency Services and Refuse Collection
- New concrete for Central Park batting cage and North Main Spray Park sidewalks
- House Demo's
- Reclimite completed in October
- Repairing holes in alleys



Refuse:

New commercial trash containers
Holiday trash schedule communication extended to robo calling and text alerts

Approximate Tonnage Totals from January - November

Residential = 3250.23 Tons

Commercial = 2851.05 Tons

Roll Off = 3546.99 Tons

Commercial Cardboard = 277.28 Tons

Animal Shelter:

- Animal License Sold
 - 2020 - 1081 2019 - 1210
- Pit Bull Applications
 - 2020 - 74 2019 - 65



Airport:

- Fuel Sales 2019 vs 2020
 - 2019 - 37,189 gallons 2020 - 26,717 gallons
- 2019 cash/credit sales - \$106,486.74
- 2020 cash/credit sales - \$95,153.14

See full report at www.eldoks.com