



THIS IS EL DORADO



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN EL DORADO

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- Thursdays in July - Municipal Band Concerts at Forest Park
- July 6 - City Commission Meeting
- July 18 - Crossmen Drum Corp Performance at BG Stadium
- July 19 - City Commission Meeting
- August 2 - City Commission Meeting
- August 21 - Disc Golf Tourney and Movie Night at BG Stadium
- September 11 - 150 Fest, Downtown El Dorado



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El Dorado, KS CVB



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From the Desk of the City Manager

In July of 2019, the City Commission directed staff to hire a company to create a new brand for the City of El Dorado. The intention of this process was to update the brand for the City and provide marketing tools for recruitment of employees, visitors and residents to the city. The City hired Bajillion Agency to create the brand, and they have provided the work included for the City's brand and a badge for the 150th Celebration. The company provided a marketing plan, as well as mock ups for the replacement of signs and other information in the City of El Dorado.

The intention for the new El Dorado logo is to create character and something that is unique. The line underneath the 'L' represents the generosity of the community, it is shown lifting up another, the same way the members of the community lift each other up and rise to meet the needs of their fellow citizens. The two 'Os' are designed with a slight lean, which reflects the laid-back nature of El Dorado. The supporting elements include wheat, geometric water waves and a pattern to represent the oil derricks. The color palette reflects the American roots and historic pride in the community. The colors, red, white and blue are darkened to create an elegant, mature tone. Included in the palette is a gold accent to acknowledge the folklore surrounding the name El Dorado and the city of gold.



Some examples of the new branding

The last piece to the re-branding are the following mottos. "We Wave" - It may be a simple act to wave at neighbors and passer-byers, but we all do it! We enjoy the waves of El Dorado Lake and all proudly wave our American, Kansas, and city flags.

El Dorado's "well-refined living" offers a place where you can enjoy life, get to know your neighbors, raise a family and continue your career. Life in El Dorado is made great by the people who create the wonderful sense of community and pride that makes El Dorado home to so many.

The citizens of El Dorado freely give of themselves to the community as the community has given back to each of them. "The generous people of El Dorado don't focus on 'O', they only think of 'us' together."

Bajillion Agency also created a 150th anniversary badge that honors our history in the oil industry. The design features an oil derrick with a radiating light on its top to symbolize El Dorado's position as a "beacon of light in the entry point to the Flint Hills." The gold, blue and red colors are from the new branding. The badge also includes the subtle detail of waves as a background pattern. This also gives a compliment to our beautiful lake.



City staff is excited about the updated branding and hope it will bring new energy to our city!



There are four miles of bike/walking paths in and around El Dorado. Get out today to explore and enjoy all of the local paths.



Countdown to the 150th Celebration: Kafir Corn Carnival

As we continue to prepare for the 150th celebration and festival, we go back almost 110 years to reminisce about a festival that took place for nine years in El Dorado. The city was transformed into “Kafirville” in a series of harvest festivals held in 1911, 1912, 1914, 1915, 1924-1927, and 1929. Kafir, a hybrid of sorghum and milo, was imported from Africa into the United States by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1876 at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition by Natal. Its name was derived from the Kafir tribe. In 1889, the KS Experiment Station declared that kafir was able to tolerate heat and drought and that it would be great for feed grain for livestock and poultry. W. H. Ruckle is credited with being the first person in Butler County to plant kafir in 1892. He ordered the seeds from an ad in a magazine. Popularity soon grew with the plant as even bankers gave away seed packets to encourage its planting in an attempt to keep farms viable during drought years.

By 1911, Butler County farmers had harvested 78,000 acres of the grain, valued at about \$600,000. Kafir was being shipped from Butler County to such places as Washington and Oregon, the New England states and the Gulf of Mexico area to be used as breakfast food and to make alcohol. Many felt that kafir would surely bring prosperity and progress to Butler County.

Ralph B. Ralston is credited for the idea for the Kafir Corn Carnival and with assistance from Joseph C. Powell and fellow citizens, it became reality.

There were several committees that were made to help create and boost the Carnival’s activities, sponsorships and publicity. All of the local townships were invited and encouraged to participate in the parade. One of the highlights was the Kafirville triumphal arch which included electrical lights and went from one sidewalk to the other on the 100 block of East Central. The first queen contest’s winner was Geneva Houser of Cassoday. Other contests included: best essay, best decorated auto, carriage or buggy, best farm productions and largest percentage of school children in the parade. It was reported in a local newspaper that there were approximately 125-140 entries in the two-hour parade. Attendance on opening day was estimated at 20,000.

The Carnival was promoted as “Butler’s Biggest Blowout” and it combined two local interests in the 1925 event. One day was designated as Oil Day, the next Farm Day, and the last was School Day. Oil Day consisted of skill exhibits spotlighting oil workers. Contests included: rig building, boiler loading, wire rope splicing, and standard bandaging for broken legs. Farm Day contests consisted of hog and chicken calling, turtle races, boxing, a circus,



Intersection of Central & Main.

a carnival and other entertainment. Children’s artwork was displayed on School Day. The 1927 Carnival was reported as “the most pretentious and expensive feature ever brought to a Kafir Corn Carnival - a U.S. Cavalry exhibition of spectacular cavalry maneuvers, a sham battle, and concerts by the U.S. Military Band.”



Lincoln Township parade float.

Sadly, with the changing of crops, changing farming practices, changing interests, and a new passion for the rodeo, Butler County’s and El Dorado’s claim to fame, the Kafir Corn Carnival was over after the 1929 carnival.

There was one last revival of the Kafir Corn Carnival with a week-long event held October 9-16 in 1976. Events included a craft show, parade, queen contest, circus, tractor pull, parent and teacher sponsored fun-night, and other small town sponsored events.

Kafir corn, once known as the “queen of the prairie,” should always be remembered as vital part of our agriculture community and heritage.

Purpose of a Compliance Officer

The Code Enforcement Department is responsible for addressing nuisance and property maintenance concerns to provide a safe and healthy environment for the community. The main goal of this division is to resolve violations to reduce neighborhood deterioration, sustain property values and create a healthy safe community. Through the efforts of our Code Enforcement Officer, the City of El Dorado hopes to gain willing compliance, encourage citizen participation and stimulate cooperation towards maintaining their property.

It is unlawful for any person to maintain or permit any nuisance within the city. A nuisance is defined as any act, omission, or condition which endangers life, health, or property, or is offensive to the senses, or interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property. This includes but not be limited to the following:

- Accumulation of garbage, rubbish, junk or other materials which create an unsightly appearance.
- Any place or structure or substance which emits or causes any offensive, disagreeable or nauseous odors.
- Noxious weeds and rank growth.
- All articles or things caused, kept, maintained or permitted by any person to the injury, annoyance or inconvenience of the public or of any neighborhood.
- Inoperable vehicles

To make a report, please call 316-321-9120