

# CARBONDALE

**Gabe Faimon  
& Jeremy Gaston**  
Herald-Chronicle

The initial town site, slightly east and south of the present town, was called Carbonhill. The town site was moved after the current location, adjacent to the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, was platted in 1856.

Carbondale was founded in Aug. 1869, after L.R. Adams, C.P. Dodd, J.F. Dodd and Thomas J. Peter established Town Company. Peter was a general superintendent of the railroad, which first opened on June 28, 1869, one month before the town was founded. The city was incorporated in 1872.

The initial growth of Carbondale was quick, but slowed as mines spread around the county. The first structure was built by the Carbon Coal Company, later the Osage Mining Company, who owned all of the city's mines. Mining spread south along the rails to Osage City, where coal was more easily accessed. Carbondale, which had a population of 847 in 1880, lost almost half of its residents over the next 40 years.

Population varied over the years, dropping below 500 residents in the 1940s, but slowly rebuilt itself

over the past 60 years as the city re-established itself as a bedroom community for jobseekers in Topeka.

The resurgence of Carbondale coincided with the growth of Topeka's Forbes Field and surrounding businesses

of Carbondale continued to grow to more than 1,000 people in 1980 and around 1,500 today.

force is employed elsewhere, the city does offer a variety of service and retail oriented businesses. Carbondale is home to a grocery store, general store, bank, two salons/barbers, a medical clinic, a chiropractor, a veterinary clinic, a bait shop, two gas stations, two auto repair shops and a post office.

The town is also home to Carbondale Attendance Center and newly consolidated Santa Fe Trail Junior High. The schools teach the combined students from Overbrook, Scranton and Carbondale, with the fifth and sixth grades attending CAC and seventh and eighth grades at SFTJH, all located within the same building north of downtown.

The district is also Carbondale's largest employer with a staff of more than 60. Other major employers include Skips Thriftway, the newly-built Dollar General and the City of Carbondale.

The city is run by Mayor Ruth Towne and council members Mike Fulton, Lee Curtis, Daryl Makowski, Clinton Vawter and

George Reed. The council meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at Carbondale City Hall.

The city has been working to expand its leisure and recreation options, which currently include a library, fishing lake and two parks. The City Park has a shelter, playground equipment and a small field. Jones Park has two baseball fields and is home to

the city pool. The city also recently implemented a 1 percent sales tax for pool improvements.

Carbondale also has a new water treatment plant.

The city's police force is run by Chief Adam Marion, and includes of three full time and two part time officers. The department has three vehicles. Carbondale is served by Osage County Fire District No. 1 under Fire Chief Ray Moore.



Carbondale Attendance Center



Carbondale Mudathons



Carbondale City Pool



Carbondale Fall Festival



Carbondale Fall Festival

in the 1970s and 1980s.

"That's when a lot of the newer buildings around here were built," said Sandy Schiffelbein, Carbondale city clerk.

Business around Forbes Field fell off, but the city

"It's a small town atmosphere close to a big city," Schiffelbein.

Though most of its work-

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