

LYNDON



Gabe Faimon & Jeremy Gaston
Herald-Chronicle

Four people, Samuel C. Gilliland, B.G. Hall, William Hass and Madison Snow, donated 27.5 acres of their farms, respectively, for the initial town site, named Osage Centre. The town site was expanded to 640 acres, including the original 110 acres, when Judge Lawrence D. Bailey, President of Town Company, purchased the original 110 acres. Judge Bailey was a Kansas Supreme Court justice.

Following a survey, the town of Lyndon was laid out and founded by Judge Bailey on March 27, 1870. Records reflect speculation that the

town was named after Lyndon, Vermont, where Judge Bailey had family ties.

Records also reflect that with its start as Osage Centre, the town experienced rapid initial growth, with over 100 homes, 20 businesses and two hotels in the town before the end of 1870.

After many years of contested and legal battles with the City of Burlingame, in 1878, Lyndon became the county seat of Osage County. More than a century later, most of the county offices remain in Lyndon, within the city's historic courthouse. The courthouse was dedicated April 27, 1923, permanently closing the de-

bate over the county seat, almost 50 years after a Kansas Supreme Court ruling that should have settled it.

Community support, along with prime location along the county's busiest highway, has allowed economic, academic and recreational development for the city.

The city is home to an antique store, two car lots, two automotive repair shops, two banks, two gas stations, several construction companies and contractors, a clothing consignment store, a filter factory, a funeral home, a furniture and carpet store, a grocery store, a hardware store, a meat market, an optometrist, a veteri-

nary office, several eateries, two salons, six churches a veterinary office, a post office and the county health clinic.

The city's schools instruct around 350 students. The Lyndon Elementary/Middle School sits across the street from the Class 2A High School.

The schools' recreational areas tie in directly with Jones Park on the southeast corner of the city. The park includes a recreational complex with three ball diamonds, a playground, tennis courts, the track and field, and the Aldie Christesen Trail, a walkway between the park and downtown Lyndon.

North of downtown lies City Park, which is home to the 140-year-old Bailey House, along with playground equipment, a shelter and tables. Recreation can also be found outside the city limits at the Lyndon Saddle Club Arena, which hosts several events along with the 4-H horse shows for all three county fairs.

The city is patrolled by Chief Darrel Manning and the Lyndon police force, which includes two full-time and five part-time officers, providing 24-hour coverage in the city's three police vehicles. The city is also serviced by Osage County Fire District No. 5, Lyndon/Vassar, which is run by Fire

Chief Bob Knoernschild and Assistant Fire Chief Bryce Romine. The fire department includes 30 volunteers and 13 response vehicles, with eight vehicles at the Lyndon station and five at Vassar.

The city council is led by Mayor Jeff Bronson, and includes council members Vince Miller, Bill Patterson, Brandon Smith, Janet Stout and Doug Watson. They meet at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of the month at the city hall.

The city works to remain up-to-date, repaving several roads in 2008, and is in the final stages of a project to replace much of the sewer system.



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