

Bobwhite Vines supports wineries, tourism

One evening in 2014, Allen Robertson was sitting under the stars with his wife, Cindy, and her parents, and an idea was proposed to start a vineyard and maybe even make wine. Allen and Cindy knew nothing about wine, other than how to consume it, and they knew even less about growing grapes. So, they went to the classroom to learn a little about both growing and making wine. They surveyed the land, took soil samples, said lots of prayers and settled on growing wine instead of making it. Today, they have over 4,000 vines on just over eight acres of vineyard. Each year they sell their entire harvest exclusively to Kansas Farm Wineries to be crafted into some of the fine wines in the Midwest.

"We've had a wonderful year so far," Robertson said. "And the vines are full of fruit that is in various stages of ripening (verasion). We began harvesting our Itasca last weekend, Aug. 8. Our next harvest will be Marquette, Aug. 15-18. Our September harvests will be Sept. 12-15 and 19-22. We are looking to harvest approximately 8-10 tons of grapes this year from about 2,000 vines. This will be our third and largest harvest since breaking ground in 2015 and first planting vines in 2016. Next year, Lord willing, we will harvest from approximately 3,000 vines and hope to yield about 16-18 tons of

fruit. All of our 2020 fruit is going to Grace Hill Winery in White-water, Kansas, and will be used to make some delicious Kansas wine that should be available in early 2022."

Supporting Kansas Farm Wineries in the area helps everyone. It provides a market for products and provides a stable employment and source of Kansas Tourism dollars. With buyers' consumption, vineyards' production and the quality wine making of farm wineries, the Kansas wine industry will remain strong for generations.

You can arrange for a tour of the facility, during normal business hours. Group visits from schools, youth groups and senior and assisted living centers are welcomed. Bobwhite Vines is a registered Kansas Tourism location at 181 11th



Photo submitted

This aerial view shows the more than eight acres of land south of Hartford where Allen and Cindy Robertson, owners of Bobwhite Vines, are growing thousands of grapevines of multiple varieties, including some that produce white grapes, below left, and some that produce purple grapes, below right.



Rd, Hartford. You can contact the company by phone at (913) 945-0068 or email at bobwhitevines@gmail.com or visit their website at bobwhitevines.com.

Businesses can apply for CRF funds

Coffey County has received Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) funds through the federal CARES Act. A task force of local stakeholders has been convened to distribute these funds throughout the county. Small businesses play a huge role in the local economy and have been under huge amounts of economic stress due to the coronavirus. CRF funds can be used to offset certain costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, such as emergency expenses, expenses not budgeted as of March

27, 2020, and expenses incurred from March 1 to Dec. 20, 2020. Another purpose of these funds is to ensure businesses and non-profits can reopen safely and rebound from COVID-19. This could and will look different for each business. Do you need an online presence now to smoothly operate your business remotely? To allow your employees to work remotely? Have you made or do you need to make modifications to your physical building to accommodate safe operation due to COVID-19? Do you need additional personnel or personal protective equipment related to COVID-19? These are just a few ideas small businesses should be considering.

Coffey County is accepting itemized expenses incurred by local government entities and schools, as

well as businesses. To submit future project expenses, enter them on a spreadsheet. Receipts of expenses already incurred should also be provided. Submissions must include a completed application form. The preferred method of submittal of the documents will be electronically to the email caresact@coffeycountyks.org.

The Kansas state COVID-19 website regarding the CRF also has a lot of information. It can be found at <https://covid.ks.gov/spark-county-resources/>.

Chamber Board Member Denise McNabb is on the county task force and is available to answer questions. Email questions directly to Chamber Director JoAnn Harritos, and McNabb will get into contact with you to assist.

Member Spotlight



City of LeRoy
713 Main Street, LeRoy
(620) 964-2245
www.LeroyKansas.com
cityofleroyks@mchsi.com
Population: 540
Mayor: Christine Williams
City Clerk: Nikki Houston
City Maintenance: Aaron Copeland
Police Department: Davin West

Upcoming Events

LeRoy Homecoming
Sept. 18 - Sept. 20

COFFEY COUNTY TRANSPORTATION VANS



Photo submitted

Coffey County Transportation's fleet of vans is a great way to promote the county while out and about the great state of Kansas and beyond. This is the second transit van completed; phase one of three phases is now complete. Thank you to Coffey County Chamber Member IM Design Group, out of Emporia, for a job well done...they look great. The Coffey County Lake photo, on the back of the vans, was a 2017 photo contest winner taken by James Campbell. The vinyl wraps were paid for by Coffey County Economic Development and the Coffey County Chamber of Commerce. The design was created by the Coffey County Chamber of Commerce and IM Design Group.

Coffey County Chamber of Commerce members

(List is current as of August 1, 2020)

- 4 Rivers Electric Co-op
- 11th Lane Roastery
- Advantage Realty Group, LLC
- Alpha Roofing
- Apollo Medical Services
- Arrowhead Hills Travel Service
- Atmos Energy
- AuBurn Pharmacy
- Bahr Tire, Inc. and Bahr Storage
- Barnhouse Cafe
- Bobwhite Vines
- Burlington Building Materials
- Burlington Construction
- Burlington Dental Center
- Burlington Lions Club
- Burlington RV Park, LLC
- Burlington Tax Center
- Burlington United Methodist Church
- C. Allen For Your Doors, LLC
- Casey's General Stores, Inc.
- Central National Bank
- Christian Church of Burlington
- Citizens State Bank
- City of Burlington
- City of Gridley
- City of Lebo
- City of LeRoy
- City of New Strawn
- City of Waverly
- COF Training Services, Inc.
- Coffey County Airport
- Coffey County Cancer Support Group
- Coffey County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Center
- Coffey County Council for the Arts
- Coffey County Economic Development
- Coffey County Fire District #1
- Coffey County Historical Society and Museum
- Coffey County Housing Authority
- Coffey County Land Title Co., Inc.
- Coffey County Library
- Coffey County Transportation
- Coffey Health System
- Country Haven Inn
- Coursen Fitness & Performance
- Crow-Moddie Chevrolet
- Crow-Moddie Ford
- Curb Side Flowers
- Dairy Queen
- Diners' Cafe
- Dr. Dale Herder, OD
- ECKAN
- EMP Shield
- Emporia Quality Inn and Suites
- Faimon Publications
- Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Farmer's Tan
- First National Bank of Kansas
- Floyd Lewis Foundation
- Grand Central Station
- Great Plains Design Center
- H&H Roofing & Restoration
- Hometown Pie Company
- Hope & Health: Juice Plus - Janelle Stukey
- Hoover's Thriftway
- IM Design Group
- Integrity Insurance Agency
- Jared's Custom Vinyl
- Jones Funeral Home
- Kansas Power Pool
- Kan-Seal
- Kirchner Chiropractic
- Kitchen and Bath Trends of Kansas
- KSX Performance LLC
- La Quinta Inn of Emporia
- Legacy Financial, Richard Croll
- LeRoy Co-Op
- Lewis Oil Company
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- LuLaRoe Independent Fashion Consultant, Stacy Haines
- M & M Pest Control and Lawn Service
- Mary Kay Independent Consultant, Heather Bolen
- Mediacom
- Merry Investments
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- MT Networks
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- NAPA Auto Parts
- Navrat's Office Products
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- Pizza Hut
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- Quantum Credit Union
- Rock Creek Dental
- Ryan's Pest Control
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Support these businesses who support the Chamber Page!

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Coffey County Economic Development
Contact us for business assistance!
* Business expansion or relocation needs
* Local, regional, state resources and funding
* Workforce resources
Rhonda Truelove
Interim Director
110 S. 6th, Rm. #5 Burlington
Office: (620) 364-8780
Email: rtruelove@coffeycountyks.org

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