

# The Andover Update

Fall 2018



## What's inside?



Mission and vision



New teachers



Hands-on learning



New Andover High



Bond progress



eCademy spotlight



Rethinking education



City updates

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The Andover Update is mailed to every home and business in the USD 385 school district three times a year. Sponsorship information available by contacting Terry Rombeck at [rombeckt@usd385.org](mailto:rombeckt@usd385.org) or 316-218-4671.

## Meet the team

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Brett White

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*The mission of Andover Public Schools is to prepare learners for a lifetime of responsible living and learning in a changing society by creating partnerships, high expectations and meaningful educational opportunities.*

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# Who do we want our students to become?



We have embarked on a year-long process of engaging our schools and community in a conversation that we haven't had for more than two decades in this district: examining our mission and vision. These discussions are reflective, thought-provoking and designed to examine the "why" of our work as educators.

A mission focuses on what we do as an organization. It talks about who we serve and how we serve them.

A mission unites an organization around a common goal and purpose. Our current mission statement has existed for more than two decades. It states:

*"The mission of Andover Schools is to prepare learners for a lifetime of responsible living and learning in a changing society by creating partnerships, high expectations and meaningful educational opportunities."*

Think about how our lives have changed in the past two decades! Does our current mission adequately reflect the 21st century world and the workplace that our students need to be prepared to enter?

Although the mission and vision are similar, they also have differences. Whereas a mission focuses on today, a vision looks at what we aspire to become in the future. It's where we as an organization are headed.

The conversations with our staff, parents, students and community about the mission and vision for USD 385 will lead us to the creation of the Portrait of an Andover Public Schools Graduate. This will depict the skills, qualities and attributes that we want our high school graduates to possess.

Building the Portrait of an Andover Public Schools Graduate will become our commitment to employers that if they hire a

USD 385 graduate, they will be getting a high-quality employee. It will be our assurance to our community that we aspire to build productive citizens and difference-makers in our world.

From the time a student enters our early childhood programs to the time that he or she graduates high school, we are molding, shaping, building skills and fostering qualities that will help students achieve success in life. Some are academic, while others involve the ability to communicate, relate with others, function as a member of a team, and contribute to society. Our goal is to equip every student to thrive in USD 385 and in life.

Thank you for being an important partner in the education of our youth.

Brett White, Superintendent  
whiteb@usd385.org

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# Q&A

Five Andover High School graduates returned to Andover Public Schools as teachers this fall.

Here are their thoughts as they pursue their careers in their hometown.



## Trey Bryan

Special education,  
Andover High

### Why are you excited to teach in Andover?

There have been so many times in my life when I needed to be pointed in the right direction. At all the important intersections in my life, Andover was there. When I came from being homeschooled, Andover welcomed me and taught me how to fit into society. It helped me find my love of sports as both a player and a coach. And when my parents divorced I almost lost myself, but Andover saved me. As a teacher in Andover, I have finally found home again and am over the moon about it.



## Haley Dotson

Keyboarding and journalism,  
Andover Middle

### What is your favorite memory from high school in Andover?

My favorite memory from high school in Andover is winning substate my junior year in volleyball.

### What do Andover Public Schools mean to you?

To me, Andover Public Schools means community. A community where the teachers, students and parents are working towards a common goal.



## James Hilts

Social studies,  
Andover High

### What do Andover Public Schools mean to you?

This is a place where many people from diverse backgrounds come together for the goal of growing as individuals and preparing for the next step in life. I feel that Andover Public Schools do a great job of preparing our future leaders for whatever goals they have for themselves, and our schools will continue to grow and improve the quality of education we provide.



## Michael Raehpour

Band,  
Andover High,  
Andover Middle,  
and Robert Martin,  
Cottonwood  
and Wheatland  
elementaries

### What is your favorite memory from high school in Andover?

There are so many great memories from my time at AHS. Most of them involved goofing around with close friends during my senior year. Of those many moments I happily remember participating (and losing) in Trojan Nite, being on the fall homecoming court with my best friends and playing a lot of music.



## Chandler Wellner

Kindergarten,  
Wheatland Elementary

### Why are you excited to teach in Andover?

Andover has a fantastic reputation. As an Andover graduate myself, I can attest to how great of an educational experience Andover teachers deliver to students. After working for a great school district on the west side of town, I wanted to find a similar experience closer to home and family. I knew Andover was the place to help me grow as an educator, have community involvement in my classroom, and work with families who take pride in their children's education.

# New class provides hands-on application for geometry

Vanessa Onentia has watched many YouTube videos explaining how to build small structures such as sheds.

“I really like architecture,” the Andover High School freshman says. “I never really thought that I’d ever be able to build something like that, especially right now.”

But that’s the year-end goal for Geometry in Construction, a new class offered at AHS this year. Students split the two-hour course between the geometry classroom and wood shop, applying mathematical concepts to real-life projects. Mark Cross and Chad Wilmott are teaching the class.

Cross says the class is energizing students who might not have otherwise enjoyed a math class.

“It’s not just sitting in a regular classroom learning geometry, and then students saying, ‘Why do I need to learn this? When am I ever going to use it?’” Cross says. “Now they’re seeing it: ‘Oh, we actually do use it in everyday life.’”

One early project involved learning about angles by building trusses for a miniature house made of balsa wood. Teachers appointed a foreman to lead a team of students, who had to “purchase” lumber and build the houses, all the while attempting to minimize leftover lumber at the end of the project.

Another project involved learning the concepts of rise and run by building sets of stairs. The teachers’ goal is to build a shed by the end of the year.

When sophomore Justin Stanyer learned of the class, he immediately knew he wanted to enroll. Justin, who plans to pursue a career in welding, says he’s loved the experience so far.

“I kind of like math, but I’m more of a hands-on, visual learner,” he says. “So I figured, if I can do this, I can get really good grades in geometry and have fun at the same time. Understanding it visually will help.”

The class aligns with Andover Public Schools’ efforts to expose



**Andover High School students construct a balsa wood house to understand geometry principles used in building.**

students to a variety of career options for life after high school. The Kansas State Department of Education estimates that by 2020, 65 percent of Kansas jobs will require postsecondary education or training, though many of those will require two-year degrees or certificates.

“Not every kid needs to go to college and get a four-year degree,” Cross says. “I’m a big advocate of technical schools. I’m hoping a lot of these kids will get interested in these types of careers. I’m hoping some of them realize, ‘Oh, wow. I really have a passion for this.’”

Vanessa, who is considering a career in architecture, is a fan of the hands-on approach.

“When we got done with our balsa house, Mr. Wilmott said, ‘Do you feel a sense of accomplishment?’ And I was like, ‘Yes! It’s really nice to see that you built something.’”

## Andover CAPS program to focus on career exploration

Andover Public Schools will take project-based learning to new heights starting in the 2019-20 school year.

The district’s new Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) will launch pilot projects during that school year.

Andover CAPS will allow high school juniors and seniors to collaborate with area businesses on real-world projects, while being

mentored by industry professionals.

The Andover CAPS building, at 13th and 159th streets, is scheduled to open in fall 2020 with programs in aviation, business and entrepreneurship, engineering, teacher education, law, marketing, medical professions and information technology.

Andover CAPS is a member of the CAPS Network, a collection of 40 CAPS programs nationally.

“I have been overwhelmed with the positive response I have had from every group I’ve met with,” says Brian Gregoire, director of Andover CAPS. “Students, parents, teachers, administrators and business leaders have been so supportive and are asking good questions, which shows their high level of interest. We are excited to move forward with this new option for our students.”

For more information, contact Gregoire at 316-218-4666.

## Foundation rebrands, pledges \$65,000 to Andover Public Schools

The Foundation for Andover Schools has pledged \$65,000 to support Andover Public Schools during the 2018-19 school year.

The pledges were announced during a Community Breakfast Sept. 29, which kicked off Greater Andover Days.

The first pledge, for \$35,000, will go toward teacher grants. Those grant recipients will be announced in March.

The second, for \$30,000, will go toward improvements at Andover Central Middle School's media center/library. ACMS will be the first media center in the district to be redesigned with new technology and seating options. Plans call for media centers at all schools to receive upgrades in the coming years.

The foundation, previously the Andover Advantage Foundation, recently rebranded with a new logo and mission focused on enhancing learning throughout the district. It also unveiled a new



## The Foundation for Andover Schools

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website, [FundAndoverSchools.org](http://FundAndoverSchools.org), which features multiple ways to give.



Tiffany Chan, a sophomore at Andover High School, captured the 5A girls golf state individual championship in October. Chan shot a 5-over 76 at Hesston Golf Park. As a team, the Trojans were state runners-up. Congratulations!

## 1:1 Chromebook Initiative



Students at Andover High School and Andover Central High School each received Chromebooks in October. The distribution was part of the district's 1:1 Chromebook Initiative, which will provide each student access to technology that will enhance learning. As part of the distribution, the District worked with its Internet provider to upgrade wireless Internet access at all schools to provide faster connections for everyone in our schools. Pictured, from left, are Amaya Harris, Lauren Savolt and Katelyn Forred of ACHS.



## Andover Board of Education welcomes new member

Andrew Chaney has joined the Andover Board of Education.

Chaney is vice president for commercial lending for Equity Bank. He and his wife, Chris, have three children who attend Andover schools. He is a board member for the Foundation for Andover Schools and was co-chair for the Vote Yes committee, which championed the 2017 bond issue.

Chaney was appointed to the board in September, taking the place of Marci Fugarino, who resigned.

## Andover seniors named National Merit semifinalists

Two Andover seniors have been honored as semifinalists in the National Merit scholarship program.

Ben Lonc of Andover High School and Jacqueline Jessop of Andover Central High School learned of the distinction in September. Only about 16,000 high school students from across the country are named semifinalists.

They now will await word on whether they are named finalists or recipients for National Merit scholarships.

In addition, Devin Gerber of ACHS, and Alex Jones and Sarah McDavitt of AHS were named commended students by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



Ben Lonc and Jaqueline Jessop

## YMCA offers SPLASH program for second-graders at two elementary schools

Second-graders at two Andover elementary schools have begun receiving water safety and swimming lessons thanks to the Andover YMCA.

SPLASH is a six-week program that is offered free of charge — including towels, transportation and swimsuits (if needed) — to students at Cottonwood and

Prairie Creek elementaries. It is provided to area schools with students who have the greatest economic need.

The program is designed to teach water safety, survival and confidence training. The Greater Wichita YMCA offered SPLASH to 2,200 second-graders in Wichita and Augusta last year.

Anyone interested in sponsoring SPLASH can text YIMAGINE to 41444 and designate the Andover YMCA branch when prompted. For more information, contact Shane Loy at [shane.loy@ymcawichita.org](mailto:shane.loy@ymcawichita.org) or 316-733-9622.



# New Andover High School will inspire generations of Trojans

In the fall of 2020, Andover High School students will walk into a new high school designed for 21st-century learning. The new school is the largest project among the \$188 million in bond-funded facility improvements approved by voters in May 2017.

Construction started in late October on the new school, which will be located just east, or behind, the current AHS. The existing gymnasiums, weight room, locker rooms and shops will remain, with the new building connected to that portion of the current facility.

After months of collaboration among staff, administrators and architects, the team is confident the new learning environment will provide new opportunities for students and staff alike.



## At a glance

**Opening:** Fall 2020.

**Size:** 298,000 square feet, including 240,000 square feet of new construction. Includes new district swimming facility (15,500 square feet.).

**Cost:** \$61.9 million, paid with bond funds approved by voters in May 2017.

**Construction team:** SJCF Architecture, Hutton Construction, Icon Structures.



**Overview:** The new building will replace a deteriorating current AHS facility. It will include flexible, 21st-century learning environments, and improve safety and security. Existing low, dark corridors and classrooms will be replaced by multi-level, open spaces with plenty of daylight.



## Safety enhancements

- FEMA-rated storm shelters to accommodate all building occupants.
- Controlled access main entry with security camera monitoring and buzzer entry.

## Design highlights

- Classrooms organized by subject into two-story pods that radiate from a central area, which contains multi-use collaboration spaces along its length.
- North end of the main corridor terminates in an open lecture hall space called the “Learning Stair,” an area with tiered seating. This space can be utilized for staff meetings, student groups and guest lectures, as well as a large teaching space.
- 970-seat auditorium with an orchestra pit.
- Eight-lane district swimming facility that can accommodate competitions, with seating for 250.



# Building for our future

Voters approved \$188 million in construction improvements across the district in May 2017. Here's a look at our progress.



## Completed:

- Classroom additions, safety upgrades and new playgrounds at elementary schools, at far left.
- New artificial turf baseball and softball fields at both high schools, at left.
- New roofs on many of the schools.
- New pick-up/drop-off road at Cottonwood Elementary.



## Under way:

- New Andover High School, groundbreaking at right and exterior below. Opens: Fall 2020.
- Expansion and renovation at Andover Central High School, at left. Completed: Summer 2019.



## Next steps:

- Expansions and renovations at Andover Middle School and Andover Central Middle School. Start: Spring 2019. Completed: Summer 2020.
- New Meadowlark Elementary, at 13th and 159th streets. Start: Spring 2019. Opens: Summer 2020.
- Andover Center for Advanced Professional Studies. Start: Summer 2019. Opens: Summer 2020.



# BORN TO RIDE

## Professional Jet-Skier finds home at Andover eCademy

A.J. Luinstra has a simple answer for why he travels the country to ride a Jet Ski.

“The thrill,” he says. “The speed.”

A.J., 18, has competed professionally since 2011 with the

International Jet Sports Boating Association and ProWatercross. The competition schedule has him on the road for several months of the year, securing sponsors, competing for prize money and sometimes racing on national TV.

That’s why, during the second semester of his freshman year at Andover High School, A.J. decided to transition to Andover eCademy, a hybrid school that mixes online instruction with in-person support.



“It was a great fit from the beginning,” says A.J., now a senior.

The flexible, online curriculum means A.J. can complete his assignments on his schedule, sometimes working well into the night to get work done. That also means, when he’s not traveling, he can help at his parents’ business, 3...2...1... Kawasaki in El Dorado.

“It’s been a good fit for his personality,” says his mom, Bette. “He’s a go-getter. Because he’s very disciplined, it’s worked really well.”

When A.J. is in town, he spends two or three days a week at the eCademy’s eCafe, a coffee-shop-like space at the school where students can interact and receive personalized support from teachers.

He’s been part of an effort this year to create a mentoring program among students to help new students transition to eCademy. He’s also a member of the Superintendent’s Student Advisory Team, is an Eagle Scout and is close to receiving his private pilot’s license.

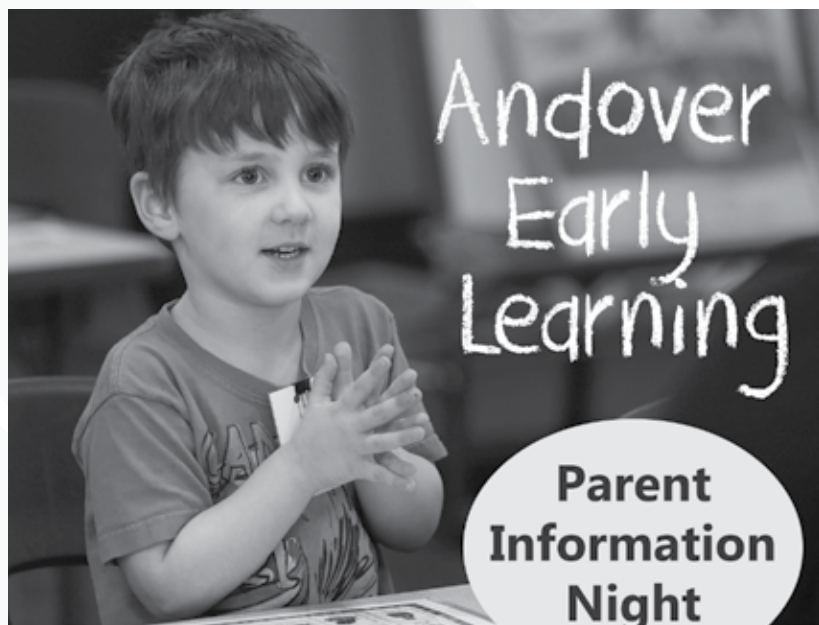
After graduation, A.J. plans to attend Kansas State University at Salina and pursue a career either as a commercial pilot or test pilot.

His mom says the family is glad they chose eCademy three years ago.

“You can see a sense of pride in the teachers and staff — they really care,” she says. “This is a challenge, and A.J. stepped up to the challenge.”



A.J. Luinstra competes aboard his Jet Ski. (Credit: Zach Petersen Photography)



Andover  
Early  
Learning

Parent  
Information  
Night

• Learn about our programs for children ages 3, 4 and 5

• Meet teachers

• Learn how to secure your child's spot using our new application process

Wednesday, Dec. 12  
6 p.m.

Prairie Creek  
Elementary,  
654 YMCA Dr.

• Applications accepted starting Jan. 21, 2019, for fall 2019.

Learn more at [andoverecademy.org](http://andoverecademy.org).

# Scenes from Andover Public Schools



**ABOVE:** Andover Middle School student Andrea Weyrauch and Logan Gunderson, a kindergartner at Cottonwood Elementary, pose with a 3D monster Andrea made for Logan. Kindergarten students drew designs for the monsters, and students in Jan Arterburn's Family and Consumer Sciences class constructed 3D versions.



**ABOVE:** Andover Central Middle School students in Cindy Ehrstein's Design and Modeling class created a train Halloween costume for Caden Smith, a student at Cottonwood Elementary, seated at center left. The costume allowed Caden to trick-or-treat while using his wheelchair.



**ABOVE:** Brooke Delashmit, a member of the color guard at Andover High School, helps to lead the marching band down Andover Road for the Greater Andover Days Parade.



**AT LEFT:** Xavier Bell, a junior at Andover Central High School, serves freshman Blake Gravatt during Youth Entrepreneurs' Market Day at ACHS. (Credit: Cailan Steward)



**AT LEFT:** Students in Kiley Wackerly's fifth-grade class at Sunflower Elementary use Breakout EDU, a breakout-room-style educational tool, to determine how far the sun is from the earth.

# Why redesign education?



Parents of Meadowlark Elementary students discuss their ideas for education during a listening session in October. Input from parents and the community is an important component of school redesign.

## Educators, parents ‘dream big’ for students

Leslie Wessel doesn't know what career her first-grade son will someday pursue, but she's confident of one thing.

“I know my son is going to do a job that doesn't exist yet,” the Andover mother says. “And it's going to take a lot of creativity to help him figure out how to do it.”

Wessel, a Realtor and member of the Wichita-area Business and Education Alliance, is convinced that the current model of education in our state — which was developed around the farm and factory work days of 100 years ago — isn't going to teach her son the creativity and other “soft skills” necessary to succeed in today's workforce.

She's an advocate for the Kansans Can School Redesign Project, a statewide effort to re-think what education should look like in the 21st century. Four Andover schools — Cottonwood, Robert Martin and Meadowlark elementaries, and Andover Central Middle School — are participating in the redesign process this year. Eventually, every school in Kansas will undergo a redesign.

But before educators decide what they need to change in the education system, they have been examining why the system needs to change in the first place.

The Kansas State Department of Education identifies several factors in explaining why schools need to adapt to our changing times:

- A statewide listening tour organized by KSDE showed that Kansans — and especially business leaders — thought schools should do a better job teaching employability skills

such as communication, adaptability and problem-solving.

- Kansas has an 87 percent graduation rate, but that still means schools are failing 13 percent of their students.
- By 2020, 65 percent of Kansas jobs require some sort of postsecondary degree or certificate, but only 44 percent of high school graduates are earning those credentials today.

For parents and educators, the “why” of school redesign is often more personal.

Alicia Moss, a fifth-grade teacher at Meadowlark Elementary, says for her, redesign is about ensuring school is as valuable as possible to each individual child.

“We need to meet the needs of every single student,” she says. “I want to make sure our children are beyond successful — they are passionate about something.”

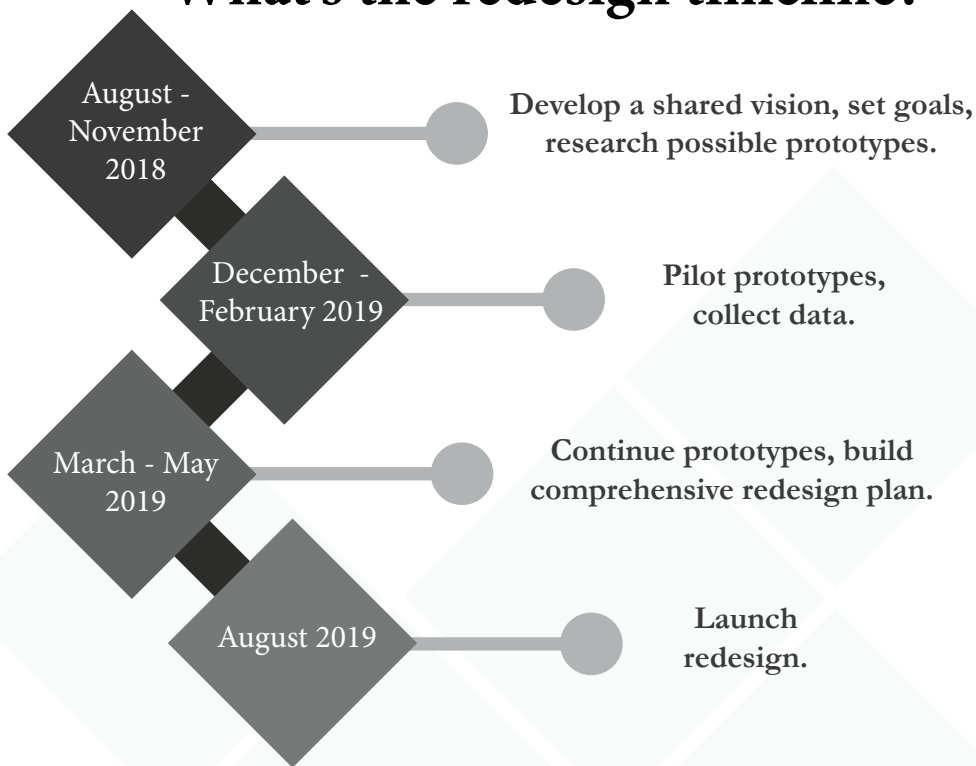
Sarah Rogers, who teaches at Robert Martin Elementary, says her third-graders are naturally creative. But school doesn't always encourage that creativity.

“We want to make school as personalized as possible,” she says. “We want to let kids explore their passions and figure out what they love.”

Rogers stresses that schools will still be teaching to the state's education standards. But the delivery will look different and may include more projects, more interdisciplinary learning and more fluid class schedules.

“We're doing a lot of things well,” she says. “We want to make it better. This is our chance to dream big.”

## What's the redesign timeline?



## 4 principles of school redesign

**1**  
Student success skills

Integrated approach to developing student social-emotional growth.

**2**  
Personalized learning

Teachers support students to have choice over their time, place, pace and path.

**3**  
Community partnerships

Based on mutually beneficial relationships and collaboration.

**4**  
Real-world applications

Project-based learning, internships and civic engagement.

## How will we measure success?

The Kansas State Department of Education has set five key outcome areas to determine success of school redesign.

1



Kindergarten readiness

2



Personalized learning plans

3



High school graduation rates

4



Civic engagement

5



Postsecondary success

# Update from Mayor Ben Lawrence: Busy times in Andover

'Tis the season for hustling and bustling! However, if you haven't noticed, it seems that's what we've been doing this year here in Andover!

We held our first Summer Concert Series at the brand new Capitol Federal Amphitheater®, hosted the National Fireworks Association demonstrations in September and opened up another section of the Redbud Trail during Greater Andover Days.

The Capitol Federal Amphitheater® has brought more than 15,000 visitors to Andover since it officially opened in late April. From hosting our Summer Concert Series and the National Fireworks Association convention to events that were organized by others, such as Ballet and Shakespeare in the Park, and Grub and Groove, the amphitheater has been instrumental in bringing a more diverse group of events and people to our community.

The Redbud Trail, our "linear park" in Andover, continues to expand. With the work of the amazing volunteers of the



Andover-Augusta RailTrail Initiative (AARTI), the Andover portion of the trail now goes from 159th Street all the way to U.S. Highway 54. We've also added a shade structure in the trailhead park to allow a place for people to take a break or relax while using the trail.

As I started out saying, 'tis the season. We want to encourage everyone to shop local and support the wonderful businesses who have chosen to call Andover home. The Andover Area Chamber of Commerce will be holding its weeklong Festival of Trees celebration Nov. 26-Dec. 1, when donated holiday decorations from area businesses will be on display in the Andover State Bank Lobby and the public can vote on their favorites. City staff will begin "decking the halls" as the holiday banners will be going up on Andover Road shortly and before we know it, Central Park will be lit up and turned into a winter wonderland just in time for our annual Hometown Christmas celebration on Dec. 13.

I hope you all enjoy the holidays with friends and family, and don't get so tied up in the hustle and bustle to take time to remember everything we have to be grateful for in 2018.

Ben Lawrence  
Mayor of Andover



## Andover was 'Mad About GAD'

Greater Andover Days, the annual four-day festival, once again provided entertainment for thousands of people.

The theme, "Mad About GAD" was interpreted in various ways during the parade on Sept. 29. While the majority of the participants incorporated the "mad scientist" theme that the committee chose to depict on the festival button and posters, a few entrants put their own spin on it.

Parade winners were: Andover State Bank, Best Business Entry; Wheatland Elementary, Best Non-Business Entry; Cottonwood Elementary, Best Overall Entry (pictured above).

The organizing committee was pleased with the number of people who came out to Andover Central Park over the course of the festival. As done in the past, a \$3 button was required for entry into the festival, with a portion of the proceeds going to the Andover-Augusta RailTrail Initiative (AARTI).



## New stretch of Redbud Trail, trailhead park now open

The Andover Augusta RailTrail Initiative (AARTI) and the City of Andover officially opened the Redbud trailhead park and newest extension of Redbud Trail Sept. 29.

The trailhead park will be a marker for those who use the trail, with a historical sign and shade structure with low limestone walls which will give trail users a place to sit and relax.

The newest extension of the Redbud Trail begins at Prairie Creek Road and goes to U.S. Highway 54. It is covered with crushed limestone, similar to other parts of the trail. Completion of this extension has increased the length of the Redbud Trail to 6 miles, from 159th to U.S. Highway 54.

Most of the work has been done by AARTI members and volunteers, who meet once a month to do tasks such as clearing brush from the path. More information can be found at the Andover Augusta RailTrail Initiative Facebook page.

# Hometown Christmas returns Dec. 13

Andover Central Park will be filled with holiday cheer as Hometown Christmas returns Dec. 13. The park, City Hall, The Lodge, Andover Public Library and – weather permitting – Capitol Federal Amphitheater® will be transformed into a winter wonderland with luminaries, illuminated trees and activities for the whole family.

The evening kicks off at 5:30 p.m. with a tree lighting ceremony and the arrival of Santa Claus. The opening activities are followed by a chili cook-off at The Lodge, s'mores around a fire pit with Andover first responders, hot beverages, children's activities at the library and more!

Hometown Christmas is not only fun for families, but also benefits the entire community. Attendees are encouraged to donate toys, canned goods and cash to benefit the local Caring and Sharing program and the Andover Food Bank.

Hometown Christmas is made possible by generous sponsors. For more information on becoming a sponsor or volunteering for the event please contact Katie Cork at 316-733-1303 ext. 439. Look for more information in the coming weeks at [www.andoverks.com/htc](http://www.andoverks.com/htc). Also, you'll want to make sure to like us on Facebook (@HometownChristmasAndover).

## Holiday closures for city departments

All non-emergency city departments will be closed the following dates so that employees can spend the holidays with their families.

- Thanksgiving: Thursday, Nov. 22, and Friday, Nov. 23
- Christmas: Monday, Dec. 24, and Tuesday, Dec. 25
- New Year's: Monday, Dec. 31 and Tuesday, Jan. 1

Emergency personnel will be available and ready to assist should they be needed.

# Capitol Federal Amphitheater® wraps up successful first season

The inaugural Summer Concert Series at the newly completed Capitol Federal Amphitheater® powered by Westar Energy is in the books.

The 2018 Summer Concert Series kicked off on the “unofficial” start to summer, during Memorial Day weekend with country music star Clay Walker, with special guest John Anderson. An estimated total of 2,500 people attended.

The second concert in the series was a free event held in June. Blues musicians the Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band and opener Quinn Sullivan entertained more than 3,000 people.

In July, another ticketed concert featuring country music star Terri Clark, with special guest Little Texas, brought in more than 3,000.

The 2018 Summer Concert Series wrapped up in August with a final free concert featuring The Plain White T's, with Vertical Horizon opening. It was the biggest concert of the season, with an estimated 5,000 in attendance.

“We have our first-year jitters out of the way and are hoping to work out some of the few kinks we had,” says Katie Cork, the city's event director. “Overall, we had positive feedback by those who attended our concerts this year, with many people commenting how nice the venue is.”

An estimated 6,000 people came to see the Grand Public Firework Display put on by the National Fireworks Association as the organization wrapped up a week-long convention in Wichita and Andover.

The Capitol Federal Amphitheater® is also being utilized by outside production companies that are looking for a place for their events. Over the summer, it brought arts and culture to the park with Ballet in the Park and Shakespeare in the Park. It was



**Kenny Wayne Shepherd performs at the Capitol Federal Amphitheater®.**

the venue of choice for a well-known R&B music event, Grub & Groove festival in August, bringing an estimated 3,000 people to Andover. In June of 2019, the Capitol Federal Amphitheater® will be the venue for the Air Capital Praisefest, a Christian music festival.

As 2018 winds down, the city is beginning to rev up its planning for 2019. This includes lining up the acts as well as sponsors. If you are interested in being a sponsor for the 2019 Summer Concert Series, please contact Cork at 316-977-9439.



**Andover Public Schools**  
 1432 N. Andover Road  
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