

Notes of Value

News Briefs

Office fundraisers: The Johnson County Appraiser's Office recently raised nearly \$400 through a Walking Taco fundraiser in the Johnson County Administration Building. All proceeds went to Feed the Need.

Sunset Building: The new Johnson County facility, being called the Sunset Building, is beginning to come to light and is on target for being ready after the first of the year.

The Appraiser's Office is set to move into the new building on June 9-10, as part of a two-phase process. The personal property division will make the move June 23-24 after their revaluation process is complete.



Notes of Value

Notes of Value is published quarterly by the Johnson County Office of the Appraiser by Jeremy Smoot. Please call 913.715.0009 to be added to the mailing list, or sign up at our Web site.

- Paul Welcome.....County Appraiser
- Susan Avazpour.....Administrative Services Manager
- Ron Bain.....Commercial Real Estate Manager
- Beth Brandel.....Personal Property Manager
- Larry Clark.....Valuation System Analyst
- Dennis Gering.....Support Services Manager
- Darla Frank.....Residential Valuation Manager
- Jeremy Smoot.....Public Information Officer
- Larry Wilson.....Manager Quality Improvement & Training

Johnson County Office of the Appraiser is located in the County Administration Building, Suite 2100, 111 S. Cherry, Olathe, Kansas 66061.

Customer Service: 913.715.9000

Fax: 913.715.0010

Web site: <http://appraiser.jocogov.org>

Message from the Appraiser

Dear Reader;

A cool breeze is in the air and the leaves are beginning to change into a beautiful array of colors, which means fall is arriving. County real estate and personal property appraisers are in the field putting the finishing touches on property inspections, as they collect data on new homes and businesses to be used in the 2006 revaluation cycle.

The Commercial Personal Property Division is currently conducting a canvass of Johnson County for new, relocated and/or closed businesses. In addition, the personal property appraisers hand out brochures and rendition forms to non-filers and inform them of the process of listing their personal property. Listing



Paul Welcome

personal property is mandated by state statute.

Real estate appraisers are in the field reviewing sales information, identifying new construction and documenting other relevant information. Appraisers are also finalizing the 17-percent review, as required by state statute that requires counties to physically inspect a property once every six years.

In other news, I am happy to announce the Johnson County Appraiser's Office has received the Certificate of Excellence in Assessment Administration from the International Association of Assessing Officers for 2005. Please see the article below for more information on this achievement.

Office recognized for excellence

The Johnson County Appraiser's Office was recently awarded the Certificate of Excellence in Assessment Administration by the International

Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO). This certificate has been given to only three counties in the world since its implementation in 2003. On Sept. 20, 2005, County Appraiser Paul Welcome was formally presented the third award in Anchorage, Alaska, at the 2005 IAAO Annual Conference.

The award recognizes governments and individuals involved in the appraisal practice who integrate *best practices* in the workplace. It places an emphasis on teamwork, accomplishments and the level of satisfaction among peers and citizens for excellent practices.



Office continued from page 1

Welcome said he was honored to receive the international award and directed all credit to his management team and to his staff.

"Receiving the Excellence in Assessment Administration award on behalf of the office and my staff was a great privilege and I must give the credit to my dedicated management team and staff members who continually strive for excellence. They are incredible and talented people," Welcome said.

In applying for the award program, which is a challenging and rigorous process, applicants must, according to IAAO, conduct an "evaluation of specific, accepted, assessment administration and appraisal practices," which are defined in their publication *Assessment Practices: Self-Evaluation Guide*.

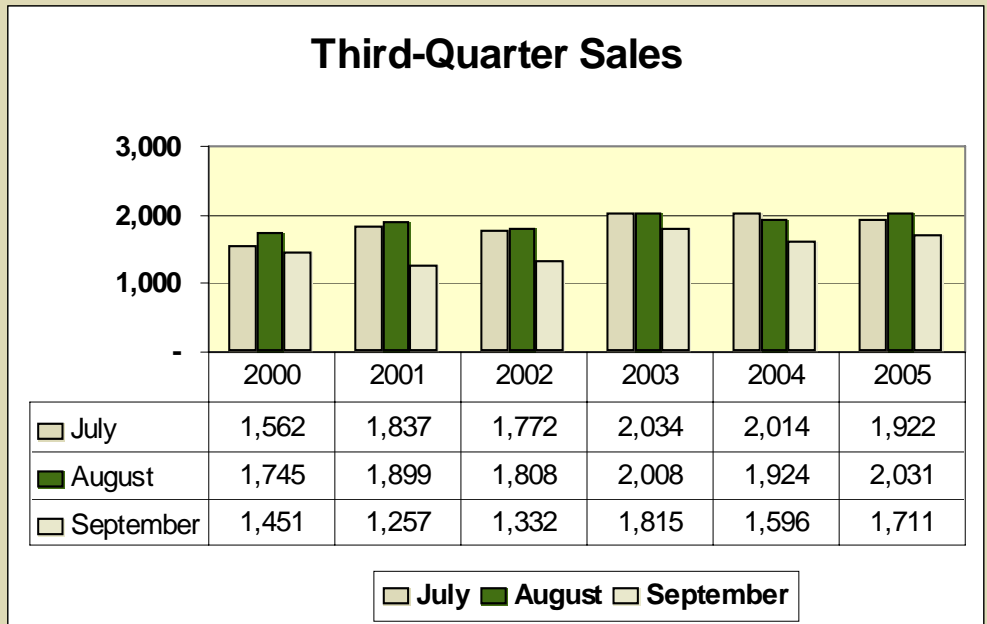
Dennis Gering, Manager of Support Services of the Johnson County Appraiser's Office, conducted the evaluation on behalf of the office and documented his research in an approximated 800-page report, consisting of two volumes.

Third-quarter sales stay strong

Real estate sales remained strong in the third quarter, dropping slightly from last year but surpassing other previous years for the same quarter.

A strong market for housing continues to boost sales in Johnson County for new and existing homes, vacant lots and commercial properties.

The monthly average of sales in 2005 currently stands strong at 1,689 but it will slowly level out as the winter season approaches and the real estate market sees less activity. To date, 15,203 sales have occurred this year, as tracked by the statistical division of the Johnson County Appraiser's Office.



County initiating new VoIP telephone system

The Johnson County Appraiser's Office is receiving the new telephone system called Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and will be announcing a new phone number. The current county voice platform, which is run by Fujitsu, will no longer be available in the United States

as Fujitsu phases out their operations in the states.

The Johnson County Information Technology Services department adopted a vision that called for a unified voice platform, which led them to VoIP. According to their Web site, the "system will provide a single message store for voice, fax and email messages, an efficient dialing plan, a unified support and administration of telecommunication networks, and a platform that will usher the county to new technologies such as intelligent assistant that includes links into speech recognition and other voice applications."

The Appraiser's Office will be going live with the VoIP voice platform on Monday, Oct. 17, and

will have 913.715.9000 as their new phone number, which will replace the old number 829.9500 that will slowly be phased out.

The VoIP system is a technology that uses the existing network to transport voice packets along with data, thus it will integrate with the Fujitsu architecture and reduce any additional costs. VoIP also is more cost efficient and comes with several enhanced features.

The county has also initiated an Internet Protocol Call Center (IPCC), which will deliver intelligent call routing, network-to-desktop Computer Telephony Integration (CTI), and multimedia contact management to contact center agents over the IP network. The Appraiser's Office will be the first worldwide to use Cisco's latest version 7.0 for this feature.

