



Moundridge Constructs New Water Storage Tank

The city of Moundridge is located in McPherson County along I-35 between McPherson and Newton. The town was originally settled one mile south of the present location where the nursing home is now located. Mennonite families that came from Illinois and Iowa in 1875 and 1876 established the original town of Christian. The town was later relocated one mile north to a ridge located in Mound Township between two creeks. The town was renamed Moundridge in 1887. Historic records show that at that time a quarter section of land in the area could be purchased for \$1.25 to as much as \$7.50/acre. Some of the original names in Moundridge included Krebiel, Hirschler, Rupp, Galle, and Schowalter.

Like most small towns in Kansas, the railroads played a vital role in the early development, bringing goods and supplies from back east. The original public water supply system like so many others in early Kansas history was installed near the turn of the century, complete with a 50,000-gallon riveted teapot style water storage tank and cast iron mains.

In a continuing effort to maintain and improve the water system for its residents and local industry the city recently completed some water system upgrades, primarily a 400,000-gallon pedesphere style storage tank to meet all current and foreseeable future needs. The upgrades also included eight new mainline valves, three new fire hydrants, 760 feet of 12-inch, 1,365 feet of 8-inch, and 700 feet of 6-inch HDPE pipe, line looping and provisions for new future water main lines.

The project came in at a price of \$1.1 million. Financing for the project was provided with a loan from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The city also contributed funds from its capital improvement fund.

What is a pedesphere water storage tank?

Water storage tanks come in a variety of designs. The tank chosen by the city of Moundridge is a Pedesphere or PED design. The tank has a single support column which does not contact water. The support column encloses the access ladders and connecting piping. Larger-sized PEDs may provide for lockable storage for pumps, or other controls or even equipment. The tank in Moundridge is 400,000 gallons. The sphere of that sized tank measures approximately 50 feet in diameter.

The water source for Moundridge is from five wells located to the west and southwest of town. The wells provide an annual average of 125,000,000 gallons of water to the town and to Marion RWD 4 which is also served by the city of Moundridge. The original 50,000-gallon riveted tank on Main Street and a later-added 75,000-gallon tank located in northeast part of town provided the storage. Both of the old tanks are scheduled to be dismantled later this summer.



Moundridge, Kansas – as many jobs as residents

Moundridge can boast of its quite small town atmosphere while having the modern conveniences of a larger town with Wichita being just a short drive south down I-35. Job opportunities? Yes, Moundridge has jobs, and boasts that it has as many jobs as residents with more than 1,700 jobs in town provided by such industries as the Bradbury Corporation, Grasshopper, Tortilla King, and South Wind Aviation.

The Bradbury Corporation manufactures metal forming machines for all types of metal products such as metal building and roofing material, guardrail safety barrier equipment and others.

Grasshopper is a family-owned business that has been manufacturing mowing equipment since 1969. The firm manufactures a variety of zero-turning mowing machines.

Tortilla King is one of the largest Midwestern tortilla producers and uses the latest technology for the production of flour tortillas, corn tortillas and tortilla chips under such popular brand names as Mama Lupe's and La Comida.

Southwind Global Aviation is a privately-owned aircraft dealer, rental and aircraft service company that includes aircraft delivery, containerization, modifications, pilot services, training, mentoring, and aircraft management.

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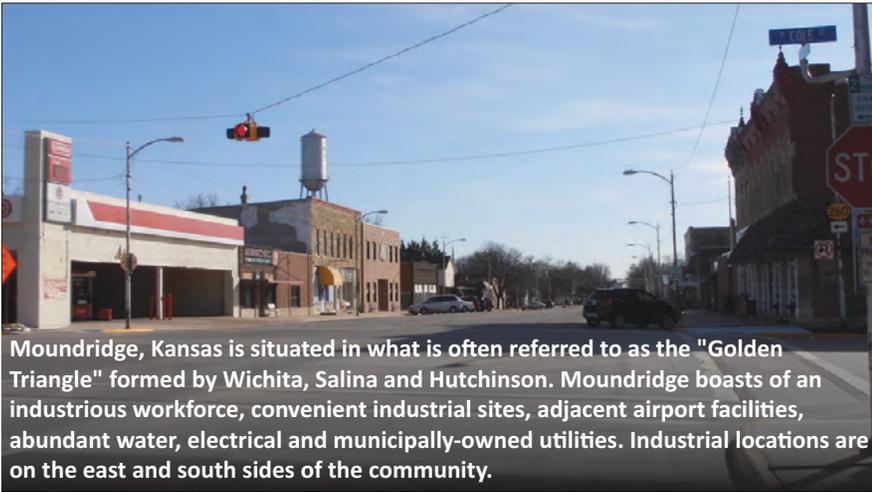
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Moundridge, Kansas is situated in what is often referred to as the "Golden Triangle" formed by Wichita, Salina and Hutchinson. Moundridge boasts of an industrious workforce, convenient industrial sites, adjacent airport facilities, abundant water, electrical and municipally-owned utilities. Industrial locations are on the east and south sides of the community.

Impact on rates

The city has done a great job of maintaining a high level of customer service while also keeping rates at a minimum. Although still very reasonable the water rates were adjusted to service the new debt. The old rates were a minimum charge of \$5.85 with 3,000 gallons included and \$1.20 per thousand gallons to 10,000 gallons then \$1.80 per thousand gallons thereafter. The new adjusted rates are a minimum charge of \$9.90 with 3,000 gallons included, then \$2.03 per thousand to 10,000 gallons and \$3.05 per thousand gallons thereafter. The city uses the increasing bloc method to encourage

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conservation as they are close to their allocation on water rights.

The engineer for the project was Chris Cox with Schwab Eaton, P.A., Manhattan, Kansas. The contractor that constructed the tank was Caldwell Tank of Louisville, Kentucky. Nowak Construction, Goddard, Kansas, installed the pipeline.

Attend the conference!

I want to encourage water and wastewater system operators, managers, bookkeepers and most important, board and council members to attend the 2016 Annual Conference & Exhibition at Century II Convention Center in Wichita, March 29 - 31. The conference has something for everyone and you won't find a friendlier, down-home crowd. Join your neighbors and friends and have a great conference.

Jon Steele has been employed by KRWA as a Circuit Rider since 1995. Jon is certified as a water and wastewater operator. He has more than twenty-five years experience in public works, construction and industrial arts.



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2009—27.9%	2010—31.7%	2011—26.4%	2012—22.7%	2013—21.8%
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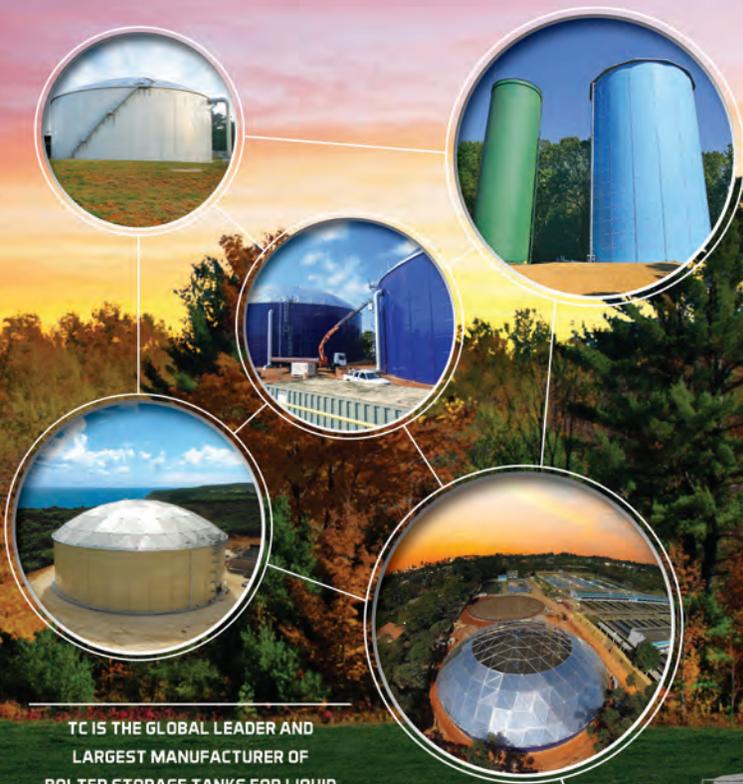
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