

Director of Administrative Services Retires After 22 Years

After 22 years of service with the City of Wyoming, Jim Kohmescher, director of administrative services, is retiring.

Kohmescher came to Wyoming in 1990 as the human resources director. The City of Wyoming was a very different place in the early 90s, with few women or minorities in decision making or leadership positions. Kohmescher said that one of the things he is most proud of was his work in helping to change that. He helped to implement a new selection process for hiring that resulted in the hiring of higher caliber employees and indirectly removed barriers for women and minorities in the hiring process.

Kohmescher credits Don Mason, previous city manager, and Curtis Holt, city manager, with fostering an environment that kept him in local government for all these years. "I doubt I would have stayed if not for their strong leadership," he said.

During his tenure, Kohmescher negotiated with six unions on more than 40 employee contracts on behalf of the

City.

He helped the City and its staff face several changes in employee benefits, including changes to employee retirement systems, contributions to health care premiums and increases in deductibles.

As the city faced a significant reduction in staff, Kohmescher was promoted to director of administrative services, increasing his management responsibilities to include the Finance Department, Information Technology Department, Treasurers Office and Risk Management Department.

"Jim stepped in, took on these additional responsibilities, and performed flawlessly for the residents of Wyoming," Holt said.

Kohmescher was elected to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority in 2003, eventually serving as the board chair for 6 years.

Kohmescher said that one of the toughest challenges was the reduction in staff that the City had to make in the last decade. "It was not a particularly pleasant

time," he said. "But, we have excellent employees who always maintained a positive environment despite these challenges, and our good labor relations helped us get through that difficult time."

Kohmescher says good-bye to a much different City of Wyoming than when he joined it. "Now, more than half of our department heads are women, as well as many women in mid-management positions," he said. "Our selection process changes brought more voices to the table and helped ensure that we were hiring the right people for the positions."

Kohmescher plans to spend his retirement watching Michigan State sports, golfing and spending time with his family, which includes his wife Kathy, three sons and three daughter-in-laws and seven grandkids.

Presidential Primary Election Feb. 28

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012, voters will flock to the polls to cast their ballots for the Presidential Primary election. There are a few things that voters should be aware of this year that will be different from previous years.

First, the primary is "closed," which means that voters will need to request either a Democratic Party ballot or a Republican Party ballot. This applies whether a person is voting at the polls or by absentee ballot.

Second, the information about political party ballot selection will be considered public information for 22 months; it will then be destroyed.

All 29 precincts will be using the Electronic Poll Book on Feb. 28.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day.

MAYOR'S

Message



2012 is off to a great start in Wyoming, with many activities for our residents to take part in.

Our library kicked off a wonderful reading program in January, Wyoming Reads, which will run through March. I encourage you to read the selected book, *The Night Train* by Clyde Edgerton. The book explores the theme "bridging barriers through friendship," and is a great choice for Wyoming as we are a wonderfully diverse community. The library has also selected a book for each age level so all of our kids can participate as well. A program like

Wyoming Reads is a great opportunity to demonstrate to our kids the educational and entertainment value found between the covers of a book.

I also participated in a weigh-in event hosted by the Grand Valley Health Plan to kick off their community health initiative. I have committed to losing 12 lbs. in 2012 and will do that in part by continuing to walk every street in Wyoming. I look forward to meeting many of you during these walks.

Mayor Jack Poll

LIBRARY NEWS ADULT BOOK CLUB - We have a friendly, informal discussion on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. February's selection is Arc of Justice by Kevin Boyle followed by Night Train by Clyde Edgerton in March. PROGRAMS FOR TODDLERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN – A variety of stories, rhymes, music and movement activities are available for children and their caretakers. The programs run to the end of February. WYOMING READS 2012 BOOK DISCUSSION – You have three opportunities to join a discussion of Clyde Edgerton's The Night Train. The first discussion will be Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. at the Wyoming Senior Center, 2380 DeHoop Ave. SW. The second will be held at Marge's Donut Den Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. Your third chance will be on March 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wyoming Library. GREAT MICHIGAN READ – Statewide reading initiative of Kevin Boyle's Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights and Murder in the Jazz Age. Copies of the book and discussion guides are available at KDL branches. Wyoming will host a program Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. For further details on these and all of our programs, stop in the library to pick up a program guide, check out our web page at www.kdl.org or call us at (616) 784-2007! Plus, KDL is now on Twitter! Follow us at <http://twitter.com/KDLnews> for all the latest updates on programs, events and resources at your library.

RELAY FOR LIFE OF WYOMING-GRANDVILLE SNOW SCULPTURE CONTEST - An all ages snow sculpting contest will be held on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 10-noon at Pinery Park, 2301 DeHoop Ave S.W. Admission is free, but attendees are asked to pre-register.

State of the City 2012

City of Wyoming Mayor Jack Poll delivered his "State of the City" address during the Jan. 16, 2012, Wyoming City Council meeting.

Key topics that the mayor discussed were:

- A new vision for the City of Wyoming that will focus on environmental quality, economic strength and social equity.
- The need for a new public safety service model that will help the City deliver fire and police services more efficiently.
- The changing face of municipal services and how Wyoming is on the leading edge of that change.
- Recent census data, which shows that Wyoming is growing and is becoming an even more diverse community and the importance of celebrating diversity.
- New industrial investment was at nearly \$71 million in 2011, accompanied by the retention of more than 2,000 jobs and the creation of nearly 800 new positions. 2012 is on target to continue this positive growth.
- Expectations for the former GM site, which will be fully demolished by this summer.
- Sustainability, collaboration and community building will be pillars for 2012.

Annual Daddy Daughter Dance

Young ladies in Wyoming are invited to participate in the Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department's "Daddy Daughter Dance" on Friday, Feb. 17 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Girls may bring their favorite father figure: dad, uncle, grandfathers or special friend.

This year, the annual "Daddy Daughter Dance" will be held at La Hacienda Banquet Hall, located near the corner of 28th Street and Burlingame. The new location promises an even more enchanting evening of dancing, refreshments and many special memories!

Registration will be accepted at the City of Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department's City Hall office, 1155 28th ST SW, or by phone at (616) 530-3164.



Telephone Numbers

Mayor's Office	530-7227
City Manager.....	530-3173
City Clerk	530-7296
Police Department.....	530-7300
Fire Department	530-7250
Public Works.....	530-7260
Utilities	261-3550
Planning & Community Development.....	530-7258
Parks & Recreation.....	530-3164
Building Inspections.....	530-7285
Assessor	530-7231
District Court.....	257-9814
Treasurer	530-7280
Utility Billing.....	530-7389
Wyoming Senior Center.....	530-3190
Wyoming Public Library.....	647-3980

Meetings

City Council Meeting | on the first and third Mondays of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

City Council Work Sessions | on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

Planning Commissions Meetings | on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

Zoning Board Of Appeals | on the first and third Monday afternoons of the month at 1:30 p.m. at City Hall in the Council Chambers.

Parks & Recreation Commission | on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall in the West Conf. room.

Wyoming City Council

Jack Poll, Mayor

Sam Bolt, Mayor Pro tem,
Councilmember-at-Large

Dan Burrill, Councilmember-at-Large

Kent Vanderwood, Councilmember-at-Large

Bill VerHulst, 1st Ward Councilmember

Richard K. Pastoor, 2nd Ward Councilmember

Joanne Voorhees, 3rd Ward Councilmember