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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIREWORKS PUBLIC MEETING

(Sedgwick County, Kan.) – This week, citizens who reside in the unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County will receive in their mail boxes a letter inviting them to a public meeting concerning fireworks laws in unincorporated Sedgwick County.

Laws regarding fireworks have changed over the years and have come up for discussion and public input again. Sedgwick County commissioners have discussed the possibility of revising the current law and will seek public input from the citizens who will be affected by the change.

The public meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m., December 1, 2009, at the Sedgwick County Zoo Cargill Learning Center auditorium (seating capacity 350). At the meeting, Sedgwick County Fire District #1 Fire Marshal Tim Millsbaugh will outline three options under consideration and those in attendance will have the opportunity to speak and/or submit their preference via survey.

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The three options under consideration are as follows:

1. Do not implement a change. The current law states that "it is unlawful for any person to possess, store, sell, use or explode any fireworks within the unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County and the area included in Sedgwick County Fire District #1."
2. Legalize for private property owners certain types of consumer fireworks, similar to the City of Wichita laws - "fireworks comply with federal standard and state law for consumer fireworks, shall be classified as Class C and/or 1/4G, shall emit a shower of sparks no more than six feet in any direction and shall not be labeled as emitting flaming balls."
3. Make all consumer fireworks legal for private property owners as allowed by the State of Kansas - to include all consumer grade (Class C or 1.4G) fireworks except for bottle rockets, sky rockets and moon rockets.

Residents also may submit their own recommendations for consideration by the Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners.

Residents who are not able to attend the meeting will have the opportunity to submit an online survey; directions to access this survey are included in the letter. Only residents who reside in the unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County should attend the meeting or complete the online survey.

Media note: a media briefing will take place at 2 p.m., November 30 at the Sedgwick County Fire District #1 administration building, 7750 N. Wild West Dr. in Park City, where more information about consumer fireworks and the relationship of various boundaries will be discussed.

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