

AAA Urges Drivers to Engage in Driving, Disengage from Distractions

WICHITA, Kan. – April 1, 2025 – It takes only an instant, but the impact can be life-long. Each year, thousands lose their lives on America’s roadways because a driver is distracted from driving. Maybe it was a text, a call, their vehicle’s controls even a bite of a hamburger but the results proved deadly.

April marks National Distracted Driving Awareness Month and AAA is taking the opportunity to remind drivers to avoid distractions and stay engaged with their driving.

According to the National Highway Traffic Administration (NHTSA), more than 3,000 people lose their lives and nearly 300,000 are injured every year due to a driver becoming distracted. It may be the driver themselves, their occupants or others on the roadway — including bicyclists and pedestrians — whose lives are taken or forever changed due to a few seconds of inattention.

According to Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) 2023 crash statistics, inattention, distractions, mobile phones or other electronic devices were noted as a contributing circumstance in more than 14,500 crashes, accounting for more than 26% of total crashes. These numbers likely understate the problem, as it can be difficult to identify or prove distraction as a contributing factor to a crash.

Those distracted driving crashes have a significant impact, as well. From 2018 through 2023, according to KDOT, distracted driving crashes in Kansas resulted in nearly 5,300 injuries, more than 100 fatalities and more than 8,200 instances of property damage only.

“Multi-tasking behind the wheel continues to be far too commonplace on our roadways, with many motorists downplaying the potential impacts,” said Shawn Steward, public and government affairs manager, AAA Kansas. “But the reality is that distracted drivers recognize the dangers yet selfishly put themselves and others at risk. Behind every statistic is a real person. A few moments of inattentiveness can change lives forever.”

A report by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety found that most drivers (93%) recognize the dangers of texting, emailing, and reading while driving. Despite this, many drivers reported sending a text/email (27%), reading a text/email (37%), or holding a phone (36%) while driving in the past 30 days.

An Underreported Problem

Distracted driving is likely an even greater problem than statistics might suggest. Because of the challenges for law enforcement in determining if distracted driving was the primary factor in a traffic incident, the number of crashes, injuries and fatalities caused by distraction is believed to be significantly underreported.

NHTSA distracted driving statistics show that on average, about 9 lives are lost every day due to distracted driving. Although distracted drivers can be found in all age groups, those drivers age 15 to 44 are particularly overrepresented, making up 55% of all drivers on the road but 60% of all distracted drivers involved in fatal crashes.

In 2022, there were 3,308 people killed and an additional 289,310 people injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers. Eight percent of all fatal crashes, 12 percent of injury crashes and 11 percent of all police-reported motor vehicle traffic crashes were reported as distraction-affected.

Distracted driving puts other road users at risk as well, in addition to drivers and vehicle passengers. In 2022, there were 621 non-occupants — pedestrians, bicyclists and others — killed in distraction-affected traffic crashes nationwide, according to NHTSA data.

Types of Distractions

About 12% of distraction-related crashes every year involve confirmed use of a cellphone or other electronic device, according to NHTSA data.

“While sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for only about 5 seconds, that’s the equivalent of driving the length of an entire football field at 55 mph with your eyes closed,” AAA’s Steward pointed out.

But while use of a smartphone has resulted in more than one fatality per day on average, distracted driving can result from any

activity that diverts attention away from driving.

Distractions can be mental, physical or a combination of the two. Mental distraction can also include fatigue and physical or emotional conditions that take the driver’s attention away from the task of safe driving. The three main forms of distraction behind the wheel include the driver removing:

Their eyes from the road.

Their hands from the wheel.

Their minds from the task of driving.

In addition to texting and talking on a mobile device, other common driving distractions include eating and drinking, smoking, passenger interaction, distractions outside the vehicle, a moving object within the vehicle, adjusting in-vehicle climate or infotainment controls, applying distracted drivers can be found in all age groups, those drivers age 15 to 44 are particularly overrepresented, making up 55% of all drivers on the road but 60% of all distracted drivers involved in fatal crashes.

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Legal Notice

First published in the Elkhart Tri-State News, Thursday, April 10, 2025.

JANUARY	1	2025	THRU	MARCH	31	2025	PUBLICATION	RPT
GENERAL							424053.00	
ROAD & BRIDGE							127316.37	
NOXIOUS WEED							13264.65	
HOSPITAL							692301.07	
FAIR							55744.33	
SOIL CONSERVATION							11189.94	
AIRPORT							7387.90	
SHERIFF							47449.15	
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS							86399.44	
EXTENSION COUNCIL							72266.33	
MENTAL HEALTH							3129.02	
LIBRARY							116512.65	
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY							3144.54	
AMBULANCE							20701.07	
HEALTH							14597.62	
FIRE DISTRICT							4299.22	
COUNCIL ON AGING							50360.19	
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND							3011.68	
HISTORICAL							66148.26	
HEALTH DEPT GRANTS							20800.00	
SALES TAX-HEALTH SYSTEM							75138.59	
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT RESERVE							1549.39	
PAYROLL WITHHOLDING FUND							10279.98	
TREASURERS MOTOR VEHICLE							2510.88	
EMERG PREPAR FUNDING							2244.74	
COUNTY ATTORNEY DIVERSION							4647.00	
ECOMMUNITY LOAN FUND							20.65	
CIVIC CENTER DEPOSIT FUND							3285.00	
911							20076.49	
EQUIP RESERVE-GOLF							70670.96	
REPORT TOTAL:							2030500.11	

DETAILED REPORT ON FILE IN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Legal Notice

First published in the Elkhart Tri-State News, Thursday, April 3, 2025, Thursday, April 10, 2025, Thursday, April 17, 2025.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MORTON COUNTY, KANSAS
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC)
Plaintiff,)
vs.)
Leonel Nolasco, et al.)
Defendants,)

Case No.MT-2024-CV-000014
Court No.
Title to Real Estate Involved
Pursuant to K.S.A. §60

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me by the Clerk of the District Court of Morton County, Kansas, the undersigned Sheriff of Morton County, Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction and sell to the highest bidder for cash in hand at the of the Morton County, Courthouse, Kansas, on April 28, 2025 at the time of 10:00 AM, the following real estate:

LOT THREE (3), BLOCK (6), DAVOLT SECOND ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ELKHART, MORTON COUNTY, KANSAS, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF., Parcel ID No. 065-244-17-0-40-14-002.00-0-00. Commonly known as 516 Hilltop St., Elkhart, KS 67950 (“the Property”) MS220101

to satisfy the judgment in the above-entitled case. The sale is to be made without appraisal and subject to the redemption period as provided by law, and further subject to the approval of the Court.

Morton County Sheriff

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC
By:
Aaron M. Schuckman, #22251
aschuckman@msfirm.com
Dwayne A. Duncan, #27533
dduncan@msfirm.com
612 Spirit Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63005
(636) 537-0110
(636) 537-0067 (fax)

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

MILLSAP & SINGER, LLC AS ATTORNEYS FOR ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC F/K/A QUICKEN LOANS, LLC IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Legal Notice

First published in the Elkhart Tri-State News, Thursday, April 10, 2025.

City of Elkhart, KS Quarterly Financial Report Jan. 2025 to Mar. 2025

Fund Name	Previous Balance	Receipts	Expenditures	Balance
General Operating	\$735,158.07	\$1,181,373.14	\$1,012,016.05	\$904,515.16
Employee Benefits	\$2,515.14	\$127,783.38	\$76,130.76	\$54,167.76
Elkhart Animal Foundation	\$3,657.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,657.69
Water Fund	\$213,989.57	\$67,393.97	\$141,641.16	\$139,742.38
Water Equipment Reserve	\$171,811.33	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$179,311.33
Customer Deposits	\$107,307.56	\$1,348.47	\$1,750.00	\$106,906.03
Sanitation Fund	\$105,776.05	\$59,125.83	\$57,580.84	\$107,321.04
Sanitation Reserve	\$26,158.25	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$33,658.25
Sewer Fund	\$37,854.84	\$38,894.43	\$40,407.34	\$36,341.93
Sewer Reserve Fund	\$22,886.95	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$24,386.95
Special Highways	\$118,470.35	\$12,049.62	\$0.00	\$130,519.97
Special Fire	\$182,180.66	\$13,978.91	\$0.00	\$196,159.57
Special Parks	\$6,325.50	\$606.63	\$0.00	\$6,932.13
City Bond & Interest	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sales Tax Revenue Fund	\$949,153.09	\$57,908.83	\$22,700.00	\$984,361.92
Whistle Stop Park	\$9,239.34	\$205.00	\$324.08	\$9,120.26
Safe Park Equipment Fund	\$4,495.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,495.49
Municipalities Fight Addition	\$12,767.31	\$261.00	\$0.00	\$13,028.31
Court Diversion Fund	\$1,156.27	\$950.00	\$0.00	\$2,106.27
2020 Water Project	-\$5,899.24	\$0.00	\$9,880.43	-\$15,779.67
Forfeitures	\$6,063.37	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,063.37
2023 WTR Baca Project	-\$13,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$13,500.00
Fireworks	\$690.67	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$690.67
Clearing Fund		\$234,311.09	\$234,311.09	
Total	\$2,698,258.26	\$1,812,690.30	\$1,596,741.75	\$2,914,206.81

I do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God.

Vivian Whisenand
City Clerk

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of April, 2025.
My commission expires: 5/13/2028

Mellisa Johnson

Notary Seal

NOTARY PUBLIC, State of Kansas
MELLISA JOHNSON
My Appt. Exp. 05/13/2028

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