

Manager's Minutes

AMY L. LANGE, CITY MANAGER, CONCORDIA, KANSAS

January / February 2026

FUNDamentally Local Government: Back to the Basics

The start of a new year is a time to reset priorities and focus our energy where it matters most. Recently, the City Commission set priorities for 2026 and directed staff to focus on the City's core services and improve how policies and ordinances are carried out. With that in mind, this year's Manager's Minute theme is "FUNDamentally Local Government."

The City Commission's top three priorities remain unchanged: maintaining infrastructure, supporting the health and vitality of our community, and addressing housing needs. These priorities reflect the wide range of responsibilities local government holds and help guide budget and policy decisions. Because every decision we make impacts our residents, it's critical that City staff and elected officials stay aligned around shared goals and values.

Maintaining Infrastructure

Residents expect certain needs to be met when they choose to live or do business in Concordia. Streets should be open and in good condition. Stormwater should flow properly to prevent flooding. Clean water should come out of the tap and flow safely through the sewer system. Police, Fire, and EMS should respond quickly when 911 is called. Buildings should be safe to occupy, and parks should be clean, safe, and welcoming.

Meeting these expectations requires responsible financial management and a strong, dedicated workforce. Local government has a duty to be good stewards of public funds. That means understanding where our money comes from, how it's spent, and how to make the most of grants and other funding opportunities to stretch limited resources as far as possible.

Supporting Community Health and Vitality

A healthy community is a vibrant one, and the City plays an important supporting role. We encourage property owners to maintain their properties in ways that reflect pride in Concordia and respect for neighbors and visitors. When voluntary compliance doesn't happen, residents rely on the City to address blight, nuisances, and unsafe conditions fairly, effectively, and in a timely manner.

We also recognize that many social challenges require specialized services. The City depends on partnerships with other organizations to help meet these needs and support the quality of life our residents expect. Strengthening those partnerships is essential to a thriving community.

Housing

The 2022 Concordia Housing Study identified an immediate shortage of more than 200 homes—a number expected to grow due to the age and condition of existing housing and the lack of new construction for a decade. In response, the City partnered with CloudCorp and local businesses to encourage new home construction and private investment. The results are visible with development underway in the St. Joseph Subdivision and additional projects in progress.

Preserving existing housing is just as important. Through property maintenance standards and code enforcement, the City works with property owners to keep homes safe, functional, and attractive.

What will feel different in 2026? You may notice the City saying "not now" to new projects while we focus on finishing current ones. You may see fewer grant applications for new initiatives and more attention on maintaining public facilities, code enforcement, and policy education. Above all, you'll continue to see the commitment of City staff and the City Commission to a strong, thriving Concordia—today and for generations to come. Because in Concordia, We Build Community!

Looking Back

75 YEARS AGO Feb. 19, 1951

Concordia and Belleville chapters of Future Farmers held a joint meeting in the Concordia High School cafeteria Saturday evening, and 48 members were present. As part of the program, Robert Kimmel gave a reading and Jerome Johnson gave two musical numbers. The boys then went to the gym and played basketball. Refreshments were served in the agriculture room. . . Mr. and Mrs. August Larson celebrated their forty-eighth wedding anniversary on Sunday. A surprise dinner party was given for them in the evening at their home. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Larson, Gean and George, of Miltonvale; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Holbert; Mrs. Wilbur Larson and Janet; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Larson; Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Campbell, Franklin and Robert; Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Goodwin, Mike and John; Mr. and Mrs. L. B. McGinnis and Phyllis; Mrs. W. J. Bramwell; Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Bray, Leland, Kenneth and Gerald; Mr. and Mrs. John Larson, Stephen and Paul. . .

50 YEARS AGO Feb. 19, 1976

Lynette Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Anderson of Jamestown; LuAnn Cook, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alving Cook; and Janie Melton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Melton of Concordia, have received recognition for outstanding achievement in career education at Brown-Mackie College awards assembly. . . SasNak Study Club met Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Doug Schuyler. The program taken from Erma Bombeck's book "At Wit's End" was given by Mrs. James Pettygrove. Mrs. Gordon Becker of New Canaan, Conn., was a guest at the meeting. . . The city commission yesterday passed an ordinance increasing the penalties assessed owners of dogs violating the provisions of the animal control ordinance. . . In other business, the commission approved an ordinance of \$13,387.35 worth of no fund warrants to pay for library construction costs... The commission also approved a resolution reclassifying two segments of US 81 from two-lane designation to four-lane designation. The re-classification has been approved by the Kansas Department of Transportation and will qualify for state maintenance allocations as a four-lane designation. . . Kreighbaum reported to the commission that the Environmental Protection Agency approved the city's request for the inclusion of a \$5,100 sewer monitoring program in the EA grant to develop a facility plan for a new treatment plant and improvement to the collection system.

25 YEARS AGO Feb. 19, 2001

George and Helen Kocher, Glasco, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a 2-4 p.m. reception Sunday, March 4, at the First United Methodist Church fellowship hall. Hosts will be their children, Kurt and Cindy Kocher and Jill and Tony Blochlinger. George and Helen Baltraup were married March 4, 1951, in the old Concordia Methodist Church. The couple farmed south of Concordia until retiring. They still live on the farm south of Concordia. . . Michael Peterson has signed a letter of intent with the Kansas State University rowing team. Peterson, a 1998 graduate of Concordia High School, is a junior at Kansas State University, majoring in wildlife biology. He is the son of Clayton and Jayme Peterson. . . Amanda Moon, Concordia senior in theater at Kansas State University, will direct the play, "A Life in the Theater," at the upcoming Lunchbag Theatre series presented by KSU's Purple Masque Theatre in East Stadium. The play will be presented March 15, at 11 a.m. . . The City of Clyde will benefit from a charitable trust set up several years ago by Leola B. Wood. The Harold L. and Leola B. Wood Charitable Trust's sole purpose is to benefit the City of Clyde. It is to be operated exclusively for public charitable scientific, literary and educational purposes. The trust was recently funded from the provisions of the will of Mrs. Wood. . . The United States Air Force Heartland of America Band is to present a concert at the Bryant Gymnasium at Cloud Community College for free by the sponsorship of the Blade-Empire and Print 5.

Thank You for Reading the Blade-Empire!

NOTICE TO CERTIFIED ARBORISTS

The City of Concordia (Sponsor) is hereby soliciting Statements of Proposals from licensed certified arborists who are bonded and is a part of the Kansas Arborist Association and/or International Society of Arboriculture credentialed arborist to plant and prune trees. Subject to the receipt of the Community IRA Grant the project will include the following:

1. The planting of 24 downtown trees.
2. The pruning of 6 trees located at the (3) Broadway Plaza and (3) 5th Street downtown parking lot.
3. The planting of 24 trees designated by the City at other various locations around Concordia.

The full language of the RFP can be found at www.concordiaok.org. Interested arborists may contact Amy Lange, City Manager, City of Concordia, at citymanager@concordiaok.org or (785) 243-2670 to request consideration for this project. All statements must be received by 4:00 p.m. on March 26, 2026.

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

5	7			3	2			8
1		9			6			
	4	2						
		8						7
	9		5					
2			6		9			
4			1				8	3
					3	4		
			2	5				7

Level: Intermediate

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16		
17			18								19	
20				21							22	
23				24		25			26			
		27		28	29	30						
31	32	33		34			35				36	37
38			39				40			41		
42		43		44				45				
	46			47				48				
49	50						51			52	53	54
55				56	57	58	59	60				
61				62				63				
64				65						66		
67				68						69		

CLUES ACROSS

1. Cut quickly
5. A way to state clearly
11. River in NE Scotland
14. Expansive
15. Lacking social polish
16. Amount of time
17. Frame
19. Automobile
20. Toadstools
21. High school dances
22. Utilize
23. Experimented with
25. One-sided
27. Acquisitive
31. Potted plants
34. Everyone has one
35. Kalahari Desert lake
38. Unidentified flying object
39. People 65 and over
41. Small amount
42. Daughter of Acrisius
44. Ornamental box
45. Government agents
46. Uncertain
49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
51. Treeless plains
55. One's sense of self-importance
56. Consumer advocate
60. Type of lounger
61. Body part
62. Can be persuaded
64. Woman (French)
65. Ready and willing to be taught
66. Arab ruler title
67. Unhappy
68. Gradually went away
69. Able to think clearly

CLUES DOWN

1. Brushed
2. Small water spirit (Germ.)
3. Heroes
4. Monetary units
5. Some don't want to share theirs
6. Free-swimming invertebrate
7. Litigates
8. Outer
9. Parallelograms
10. Uneasy feelings
11. Cross
12. A way to remove
13. Pages can be dog-__
18. Ukrainian city
24. A citizen of Denmark
26. Month
28. Hindu queens
29. Group of chemicals
30. Rider of Rohan
31. Wet dirt
32. Southwestern Russia city
33. Observed
36. Angry
37. Drivers' licenses
39. Musical composition
40. Auction
43. They __
45. Women
47. Be filled with love for
48. Thick-soled sock
49. Appears
50. Old World lizard
52. The leading performer
53. Protein
54. "Gunga Din" script writer
57. Art __, around 1920
58. __ Blyton, children's author
59. Abnormal breathing
63. A place to rest

Puzzle Answers on Page 11

LIONS CLUB SOUP SUPPER & RAFFLE

Monday, Feb. 23, 2026, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Miltonvale Community Center

Soup, Relish, Beverage, Homemade Pie Available

Meal by donation to support Lions Club community projects.

\$300 Cash! Raffle Drawing to be held at the soup supper. Donation - \$1 per ticket - You need not be present to win. Buy tickets from any Miltonvale Lions Club member.

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