

Kansas Profile – Now That’s Rural: Johnathan Sublet, SENT

By Ron Wilson, director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University

“Change happens when we walk beside our neighbors.”

That’s a key part of the message of an organization that is benefitting neighborhoods and communities in Topeka and beyond.

Johnathan Sublet is founder and executive director of a non-profit organization called Strengthening & Equipping Neighborhoods Together, or SENT. He grew up with a single mom in an under-resourced neighborhood in Dallas.

Sublet earned an engineering degree at the University of Tulsa and began a business career, but his heart went out to the young African-American boys that he saw who were growing up in circumstances like himself. He went to seminary and moved into a low-income neighborhood where he could mentor those young boys.

Sublet met and married a young woman from Kansas who had gone to Manhattan Christian College and then earned a masters from the University of Kansas. She had grown up in rural Kansas communities such as Goodland and Utica, population 99 people. Now, that’s rural.

They were living on the Gulf coast of Texas when a hurricane hit.

“I was filling sandbags when I got a call about a position in Kansas,” Sublet said. “I thought, ‘Why should I leave the beach?,’ but my wife said, ‘I think you should listen.’”

Sublet came to Topeka for an interview. “I met some kids during my interview that reminded me of those first kids that I mentored, and I knew I should come here,” Sublet said.

Sublet moved to Topeka where he founded SENT in 2018. He also serves as the Lead Servant Pastor of Fellowship Hi-Crest Church in Topeka.

The SENT organization is based on three pillars: Loving relationships, life-

giving resources, and life-changing experiences. Its mission is to “intentionally walk with neighbors through loving relationships and strategic development to see a holistic transformation of neighborhoods in Shawnee County.”

Specifically, the organization focuses on community health and wellness, education and workforce development, and housing. SENT launched a host of initiatives in each area.

The goal is to address the root causes of community challenges, ranging from housing and education to mental health and holistic wellness, food security and economic opportunity.

The programs began with home rehabilitation and summer programs for students. They expanded to

include mental health, early childhood and workforce education, substance use treatment and prevention, food pantry, creation of the Southside Wellness Clinic and a Family Resource Hub, plus much more. Some services are offered statewide.

Sublet said he uses his engineering training to build solutions.

“We’re taking a Six Sigma approach to the non-profit world,” Sublet said. “Our work is person-centered and data-driven with dynamic programming on a short feedback loop.”

What are the results? “Our pantry now serves 600 families from 38 zip codes,” Sublet said. “Our mental health services have reached 35 different Kansas cities in the last five years.”

“We built the first net-zero house in Topeka, with help from K-State’s Michael Gibson,” he said. K-State Extension assisted with a community garden.

“In the Hi-Crest neighborhood, we’ve seen a 28% reduction in crime and a 21% reduction in violent crime,” Sublet said. “Our goal at SENT is not to remove hurdles, but to lower them so our people can take the next step.”

Sublet emphasizes walking beside those in the community, not dominating or dictating to them.

“We want to be Greek and not Roman,” Sublet said.

He explains: “In the Gospel, the Roman Empire required everyone to be a Roman citizen. On the other hand, the Greeks wanted

people to think and use the arts to develop themselves.”

Sublet wants this model to be a transformative approach for other communities in Kansas. “We want to see the blessing that’s been walking with the community, all across the state,” he said.

For more information, go to www.sentopeka.com.

Strengthening and Equipping Neighborhoods Together is the fitting name for this organization. We commend Johnathan Sublet and all those involved with SENT for truly making a difference in the lives that are touched.

As the African proverb says, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

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Representing the citizens of Kansas since 1977

Public Notice

(First published in The Yates Center News on Thursday, July 9, 2026.)

28-3tc
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WOODSON COUNTY, KANSAS

RICHARD L. MENTZER and TAMMY S. MENTZER *Plaintiffs*, v. BEVERLEY A. MENTZER, KATHRYN D. MENTZER, JANET R. FILLMORE, BEVERLEY A. MENTZER as Trustee of the BEVERLEY A. MENTZER REVOCABLE TRUST, KANSAS-NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS, and the unknown heirs, devisees, executors, administrators trustees, creditors and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown, guardians conservators, and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased, **Defendants**

Case No. WO-2026-CV-000008
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60
NOTICE OF SUIT THE STATE OF KANSAS TO:

The unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any deceased Defendants; the unknown spouses of any Defendants; the unknown guardians, conservators, and trustees of any Defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased and

all other persons who are or may be concerned or who may claim an interest:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Woodson County, Kansas by Plaintiffs Richard L. Mentzer and Tammy S. Mentzer praying for a judgment and decree quieting title in their names in and to the following described real property located in Woodson County, Kansas, to-wit:

The Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Thirty-six (36), Township Twenty-four (24) South, Range Fourteen (14) East of the Sixth P.M., LESS AND EXCEPT a tract of land in the Southeast Quarter (SE/4) of Section Thirty-six (36), Township Twenty-four (24) South, Range Fourteen (14) East of the 6th P.M., Woodson County, Kansas, described as follows: Beginning at the Southwest corner of the Southeast Quarter (SE/4), thence East 483 feet to a point of beginning, thence North 318 feet, thence East 274 feet, thence South 318 feet, thence West to the point of beginning.

You are hereby required to plead to said Petition on or before the August 19, 2026, in the Woodson County District Court, 105 W. Rutledge, Yates Center, KS 66783. Should you fail therein judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said Petition.

Richard L. Mentzer and Tammy S. Mentzer, Plaintiffs
KNIGHT LAW, LLC
Jacob T. Knight, KS #28070
6 E. Jackson Ave.
Iola, KS 66749
(P): (620) 305-2598
(F): (620) 305-2597
E-mail: jake@jakeknight-law.com
Attorney for Plaintiffs

(Continued from Page 6)

For Township Clerk Neosho Falls/Piqua:
No Candidates

For Township Clerk Perry:
No Candidates

For Township Clerk Toronto:
No Candidates

Precinct Committeeman and Committeewoman Candidates

Yates Center Ward 1:
No candidate for Committeeman
No candidate for Committeewoman

Yates Center Ward 2:
No candidate for Committeeman
Tammy R. Porter 511 S. Main Yates Center, KS 66783-Republican

For Center Township:
Scott A. Windland 888 100th Rd Yates Center, KS 66783-Republican
Judith C. Laws 1158 Nighthawk Rd. Yates Center, KS 66783-Republican

For Liberty Township
No candidate for Committeeman
No candidate for Committeewoman

For North Township:
No Candidates for Committeeman
No candidate for Committeewoman

For Neosho Falls Township:
No candidate for Committeeman
No candidate for Committeewoman

For Neosho Falls/Piqua Township:
No candidate for Committeeman
No candidate for Committeewoman

For Perry Township:
No candidate for Committeeman
No candidate for Committeewoman

For Toronto Township:
Steve Adams 616 105 HWY. Toronto, KS 66777- Republican
Nancy Fife-Eagle 1322 Apache Rd. Toronto, KS 66777-Republican

Pursuant to the following, I hereby give notice that a primary election will be held on the 4th day of August, 2026, at which time candidates from the above list will be nominated by the various political parties of this state on their several ballots, and that said primary will be held at the following polling places to wit:

Liberty/Central/North Townships-4-H Community Building
Neosho Falls/Piqua/Perry Precincts-4-H Community Building
713 S Fry, Yates Center

Toronto Township-Toronto Community Building
200 S Broad, Toronto

Yates Center Ward 1 and Ward 2- Ambulance Building
114 N Main, Yates Center

The polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. on Election Day August 4th, 2026.

Early voting will begin Wednesday, July 15th, 2026 in the Woodson County Clerk’s office, 105 W Rutledge St, Yates Center. Polls will be open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 4:45 p.m. Early voting will close at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, August 3rd, 2026.

The Election Officer conducting the election will be the County Clerk of Woodson County, Kansas, whose address is Woodson County Courthouse, 105 W Rutledge St, Yates Center, KS 66783

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this 15th day of June 2026.


Amanda A DeWitt
County Clerk and Election Officer
Woodson County, Kansas

