

Community Events & Festivals

List of Community Events & Festivals in Great Bend, Kansas and the Surrounding Area
(*Subject to Change/ *May Not be Comprehensive) Last Updated October 2015

JANUARY

- **Miss Barton County/Miss Golden Belt Pageant**
A qualifying event for the Miss Kansas Pageant
Contact Person: Kristy Straub, 620-786-4064 or kristy@straubint.com
- **Icy Sidewalk Sale**
A collaborative retail shopping promotion for Great Bend area residents
Contact Person: Christina Hayes, 620-793-4111 or chayes@greatbendks.net

FEBRUARY

- **CASA Chocolate Auction** (Usually the first Saturday in February)
A fundraiser for the local Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) organization
Contact Person: Angela Schepmann, 620-792-5544 or casa@cpcis.net
- **Kiwanis Sunflower Spelling Bee**
A regional spelling bee for qualifying students in the Barton County area
Contact Person: Joe Boley, joe.boleym@cox.net
- **Barton Community College Basketball Game & Homecoming Celebration**
A basketball game and a student award program
Contact Person: BCC Athletic Department, 620-792-9377
- **Annual Chamber of Commerce Meeting & Banquet**
An award program for members of the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce
Contact Person: Andrea Bauer, 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org
- **Waters True Value's Ladies Night Out**
An event for ladies with exhibiting businesses providing demo's, goodies, and products
Contact Person: Michael Mayhill, 620-792-4301 or mmayhill@waterstruevalue.com

MARCH

- **Sunflower Diversified Services Charity Gala** (Usually the first Saturday in March)
A fundraiser for Sunflower Diversified Services, a non-profit organization
Contact Person: Connie Oetken, 620-792-1325 or coetken@sunflowerdiv.com
- **Annual Jazz Festival**
A day-long jazz festival, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club
Contact Person: Joe Boley, joe.boleym@cox.net
- **Annual Barton County Young Professionals Casino Night**
An award program and fundraising event for Young Professionals members
Contact Person: Rachel Mawhirter, 620-792-2401 or rmawhirter@greatbend.org
- **Central Kansas Spring Expo**
A two-day home improvement and business trade show
Contact Person: Terry Stueder, 620-792-6044

Community Events & Festivals

APRIL

- **Wild Goose Chase 5k/1 Mile Race (every other year)**
An athletic event organized by the Kansas Wetlands Education Center
Contact Person: Curtis Wolf, 877-243-9268 or cwolf@fhsu.edu
- **Great Bend Farm & Ranch Expo** (second week of April Wednesday through Friday)
A three-day agriculture and ranch trade show
Contact Person: Darren Dale, 866-685-0989 or dales@bwtelcom.net
- **Job Fest**
A career fair organized by a volunteer committee
Contact Person: Heidi Brittain, hbrittain@kansasworks.com
- **Walk-A-Mile in Her Shoes**
A fundraiser/awareness event for the Family Crisis Center
Contact Person: Laura Patzner, laurap@familycrisiscntr.org

MAY

- **National Lucas Oil Division Race** (Kansas Speedweek Kick-Off)
A nationally sanctioned 3-day drag racing event
Contact Person: Hank Denning, 620-617-0877 or srcadragstrip@cox.net
- **Various Graduations/Commencement Ceremonies**
Great Bend High School, Ellinwood High School, Hoisington High School, Claflin High School, Barton Community College
- **Mid-America Mopar Car Show**
A car show in the park
Contact Person: Diana Hertel
- **Great Bend Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament & Patio Party** (last Friday in May)
A networking event and fundraiser for the Chamber of Commerce
Contact Person: Andrea Bauer, 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org
- **Rolling Sculpture Car Show**
A car show at the Barton County Historical Society
Contact Person: Beverly Komarek, 620-793-5125 or bchsdirector@gmail.com
- **Make a MOVEMENT Benefit Event**
A fundraiser/awareness event for the Child Advocacy Center
Contact Person: Laura Patzner, laurap@familycrisiscntr.org

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JUNE

- **June Jaunt Festival**

A 3-day arts, antiques, cuisine, and music festival - includes Business Olympics

Contact Person: Christina Hayes, 620-793-4111 or chayes@greatbendks.net

- **Annual Mud Run in Hoisington** (this may be discontinued in 2016)

A mud run derby event

Contact Person: Glen Eickleberry, 620-680-1642

- **Relay for Life**

A fundraiser for the American Cancer Society

Contact Person: Kandi Wolf, journey044@hotmail.com

- **Clara Barton Foundation Benefit Golf Tournament, Dinner & Auction**

A fundraiser for the Clara Barton Hospital Foundation in Hoisington

Contact Person: Michelle Moshier, 620-653-5012 or mmoshier@clarabarton.hpmin.com

JULY

- **Independence Day Fireworks Display**

A community fireworks display at the Great Bend Airport

Contact Person: Christina Hayes, 620-793-4111 or chayes@greatbendks.net

- **Barton County Fair**

A five-day county fair, carnival, and music concert series

Contact Person: Charles Atkinson, 620-797-1396 or info@bartoncountyfair.com

- **After Harvest Festival**

A post-harvest festival & all class reunion in Ellinwood

Contact Person: Ellinwood Chamber of Commerce, ellinwoodchamber@hotmail.com

- **Summer Sidewalk Sale**

A collaborative retail shopping promotion for Great Bend area residents

Contact Person: Christina Hayes, 620-793-4111 or chayes@greatbendks.net

AUGUST

- **Party in the Park**

A community event at Veterans Park including a fun run, mud volleyball, concert, and fireworks

Contact Person: Christina Hayes, 620-793-4111 or chayes@greatbendks.net

- **United Way Annual Campaign Kick-Off Event**

A fundraiser and celebration organized by the United Way of Central Kansas

Contact Person: Julie Smith, 620-792-2403 or unitedwaycentralks@hotmail.com

- **Barton Community College Foundation Benefit Dinner & Auction**

A fundraiser for the Barton Community College Foundation

Contact Person: Colleen Cape, 620-786-1136 or capec@bartonccc.edu

Community Events & Festivals

SEPTEMBER

- **Hoisington Labor Day Celebration**

A 3-day labor day festival, which includes a parade and numerous other community activities

Contact Person: Stacey Bressler, hoisingtoncofc@embarqmail.com

- **Get Your Kicks on K-96 Business After Hours**

A collaborative Chamber After Hours event hosted by over a dozen K-96 businesses

Contact Person: Connie Oetken, 620-792-1325 or coetken@sunflowerdiv.com

- **Sunflower Chris Cakes Pancake Dinner**

A fundraiser for Sunflower Diversified Services

Contact Person: Connie Oetken, 620-792-1325 or coetken@sunflowerdiv.com

- **KWEC Monarch Butterfly Festival** (name changes from year to year)

A butterfly tagging event for Kansas residents

Contact Person: Curtis Wolf, 877-243-9268 or cwolf@fhsu.edu

- **Great Bend High School Homecoming Parade**

A parade celebrating the homecoming of GBHS' Varsity Football Team

Contact Person: David Meter, 620-793-1521

- **Great Bend Tribune's Annual Women's Expo**

Expo event for businesses to display products and services to women

Contact Person: Mary Hoisington, 620-792-1211 or mhoisington@gbtribune.com

- **Hahn Brothers Supercross Shootout**

A motocross racing event

Contact Person: Trent Mermis, 620-793-9390 or tmermis@shelterins.com

- **Great Bend Renaissance Festival**

A renaissance themed festival of cuisine, music, and art

Contact Person: David LeRoy

OCTOBER

- **Craft Beer Festival**

A community beer festival in Ellinwood that benefits the American Legion

Contact Person: Richard Kimple, rkimple@hbcomm.net

- **4 Corners Oktoberfest Business After Hours**

A collaborative Business After Hours hosted at 16th & Main by four businesses

Contact Person: Andrea Bauer, 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org

- **Rosewood Rodeo**

A rodeo and festival atmosphere benefiting the Rosewood Roots & Wings Foundation

Contact Person: Michael Dawes, dawesm@rosewoodservices.com

- **Fall Fest**

A family networking event for Barton County Young Professionals

Contact Person: Andrea Bauer, 620-792-2401 or abauer@greatbend.org

- **Zoo Boo**

A community Halloween celebration (the Saturday before Halloween)

Contact Person: Christina Hayes, 620-793-4111 or chayes@greatbendks.net

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NOVEMBER

- **Explore Great Bend Events** (Every Saturday in November + Black Friday)
A collaborative shopping and events promotion throughout the month of November
Contact Person: Christina Hayes, 620-793-4111 or chayes@greatbendks.net
- **Panther Paw Craft Festival** (2nd Saturday in November)
A crafts and hobby show featuring homemade goods and business vendors
Contact Person: Cody Lee, 620-793-1521 or cody.lee@usd428.net
- **Home for the Holidays Parade & Christmas Festival** (Saturday after Thanksgiving)
A Christmas-themed parade and downtown festival for families
Contact Person: Sarah Krom, 620-792-1321 or skrom@sunflowerdiv.com

DECEMBER

- **LOTS of various Christmas Activities**
The list is too long to mention everything, but it includes a Holiday Trail of Lights, Christmas Craft Mall, Free Ice Skating in the square, Santas Around the World exhibit, toy drives, business events, and lots of concerts and other activities
Posted annually at www.greatbend.org on the Calendar of Events

ONGOING EVENTS

- **Art Gallery Receptions**
Several entities in town, including the BCC Shafer Art Gallery and Petr's Frame House, host art receptions several times per year.
- **Summer Street Stroll**
Certified Farmers Market every Thursday evening from 5-8 p.m. between June and August
- **Sports Complex Tournaments & Activities**
Great Bend Sports Complex is busy with tournaments and games all spring and summer
- **Community Concert Series**
Series of 5-7 concerts per year that take place at varying times each month during the concert season
- **Barton County Young Professionals Events**
At least one per month, rotating between networking mixers, volunteer projects, and leadership events
- **Community Theatre Productions**
Three plays each season, hosted at the Crest Theatre in downtown. www.gbct.net