

NOV/DEC 2009



Lights on the Lake

Heartspring's signature fundraiser and Wichita's premiere lighting event, Lights on the Lake, is back for the sixth year in 2009.

This annual event delights holiday light enthusiasts and raises money for children with special needs served by Heartspring. Lights on the Lake 2009 includes the following:

Preview Party

The Lights on the Lake Preview Party will be held on Nov. 21 with doors opening at 6:30. Enjoy food, spirits, entertainment, live and silent auctions and lighting ceremony that will bring the Heartspring campus to light.

Drive Thru Dates:

See the lights Nov. 26-Dec. 5, Mon-Thurs 6-9 pm and Fri-Sun, 6-10 pm; Dec. 6 - 23, 6-9 pm; Dec. 24 & 25, 6-10 pm.

Hosp. Ctr & Photos w/ Santa:

Every Fri -Sun, Nov. 27- Dec. 20, 6-9 pm: Located in the Heartspring Conference Center, come in from the cold and enjoy hot drinks and holiday treats. Photos with Santa available for a \$5 donation.

All Lights on the Lake events are on the Heartspring campus, 8700 East 29th Street North. For additional information, call 316-634-8761 or visit www.lightsonthelake.org.

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I-70 traffic moves onto new bridge

On a cool morning in late October, Kansas Turnpike engineers watched with anticipation as I-70 traffic moved onto the new bridge across the Kansas River in Lawrence.

"This is a big step for the project," said KTA Design & Construction Engineer Rex Fleming, who is the project manager. "We still have a long way to go, but this is important and it's a very visible step toward completion."

Traffic was moved over to the new bridge in a multi-step, calculated scenario: narrowing traffic, moving westbound traffic first, narrowing traffic again, and then moving eastbound traffic. The new bridge carries two lanes of traffic in both directions.

The area between MP 201 and 205 on I-70 are part of an active construction zone. This means that travelers should:

- Be prepared for lane changes
- Obey all posted speed limit signs or face a doubled fine
- Expect to see construction workers in the area
- Not stop on the shoulder unless it is unavoidable

The next visible step in the project has already begun. Crews immediately went to work dismantling the concrete deck of the old bridges. The steel structure will be removed by using explosives to drop the steel and then using cranes to remove it from the river.

The project, which began in June 2008, is scheduled to be completed in late 2011. It consists of replacing both the East and Westbound bridges over the Kansas River, replacing the East Lawrence Interchange at Milepost 204 which serves North Third Street, widening the roadway to six lanes within the Lawrence area, and new ramp alignment for the West Lawrence interchange which was completed in the fall of 2008.

Mounting your K-TAG keeps everyone moving

One of the most important tasks associated with your K-TAG account is quick, easy and often overlooked.

You need to mount your K-TAG to your windshield!

Some customers have reportedly not mounted their tags because their older-style, soapbar-sized K-TAGs (also known as first-generation tags) can sometimes be read without being mounted.

However, those unmounted tags experience slower read-times and not mounting the tag can prematurely wear out the battery and other electronic parts.

Unlike the older-style tags that do sometimes work without mounting, the new sticker tags do not work at all unless they are mounted to a glass windshield. The upside to these new tags are that they are much more reliable once they are mounted and they are much smaller than the older-style tags!

Be prepared for winter driving

The effects of El Nino on Kansas' winter weather still remain to be seen. However, predictions released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in mid-October indicate Kansas could see an average amount of precipitation with above average temperatures.

These predictions are for averages only so while we may think we're in for a warmer winter, Kansas will probably still see its share of winter snowstorms.

For roadway and weather information in the state of Kansas, dial 511 or visit <http://511.ksdot.org>. Kansas Turnpike roadway information is available on the site.

To help prepare for your Turnpike trips and to "know before you go", consider following KTA on Twitter at twitter.com/KansasTurnpike or signing up for KTA text

alerts at ksturnpike.com. These communication tools are offered free of charge by the KTA. Check with your cell phone provider for your plan's texting charges.

Information about emergency situations is also available on the Highway Advisory Radio found at 1610 AM while traveling on the Turnpike.

To help you stay safe while traveling in the winter months, prepare your vehicle and yourself prior to hitting the road.

Remember these tips during inclement winter weather:

- Pack an emergency kit in case you get stranded. Include an ice scraper, small shovel, gravel for traction, a blanket, first aid kit, and a flashlight.
- Clear snow and ice from all windows and lights—even the hood and roof—before driving.

- Give snow plows and other maintenance vehicles plenty of clearance.
- Drive at a speed that will allow you to safely stop should you need to apply the brakes quickly.
- Turn off your cruise control.
- Turn your headlights on to allow other drivers to see you easily. According to Kansas law, if your windshield wipers are in use, you must also have your headlights on!
- If driving with four-wheel drive, remember that it helps you go, but won't help you stop.
- Be aware of your surroundings. If you are in an accident and need assistance, knowing what road you are on, what milepost you are closest to or some type of easily identifiable landmark can help emergency responders locate you.
- Keep your gas tank full.

Watch www.ksturnpike.com for information on the Tonganoxie/Eudora interchange at MP 212!

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