Black Squirrel tradition builds

Ten new black squirrel statues will be unveiled at 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24, as part of Black Squirrel Fall Fest 2026. The new squirrels will add another group of original designs to a public art project that has become part of the way residents and visitors experience Marysville.

The statues have done what Marysville's 2015 tourism committee hoped they might do when the idea first surfaced more than a decade ago. People stop. They take pictures. They look for the next squirrel. And something that began as a playful way to promote Marysville has become another piece of a much older story.

Black Squirrel Fall Fest will continue that tradition Oct. 24. The 10 new squirrels will be revealed at 3 p.m. and remain on display until 7 p.m. Downtown activities throughout the afternoon and evening will include food trucks, dancers, old-fashioned games, Treats on Broadway, a costume contest, hayrack rides, roving performers and a doughnut-eating contest, with the Marysville High School band performing at 7 p.m. and the Haunted House beginning at 8 p.m.

Statues' history

What started with a conversation over coffee more than 50 years ago has become one of Marysville's most recognizable traditions.

Marysville's connection to the black squirrel dates to 1969, when local businessman Bill Strange returned from a trip through Olney, Ill., a community known as the "Home of the White Squirrel."

Strange thought Marysville could use its own unusual claim to fame and suggested the black squirrel. His idea became a topic of conversation among the Old Buzzards, a group of local businessmen who regularly gathered for coffee.

By 1972, the idea had reached city hall. Then-mayor Mert Ott credited city councilman Phil Morsch with helping turn the conversation into something official. Morsch and City Clerk Jay Funke drafted Ordinance No. 1027, which the City Council unanimously approved. The ordinance named the black squirrel Marysville's official mascot, provided protection for the squirrels and established an annual Black Squirrel Day. Marysville held its first Black Squirrel Day on Oct. 16, 1972. The celebration has changed names and formats through the years.

Decades later, Marysville found another way to put its mascot front and center.

The Black Squirrels on Parade public art project started with a joke. During a meeting of Marysville's Convention and Tourism committee, Rick Stoll suggested purchasing a giant black squirrel statue for City Park. He thought visitors would take pictures with it, share those pictures and help promote Marysville.

The project began in 2015. Organizers initially hoped to sell 10 statues. Instead, 21 were purchased and placed around Marysville in October 2016.

The design itself started at Marysville High School. April Spicer, who was the school's art teacher at the time, asked her students to develop ideas for the squirrel, and 17 students created 18-inch sculpture prototypes. Rachel Frese's design was selected. Patrick Keough of America's Fiberglass Animals in Seward, Neb., then used that sculpture to create the five-foot-tall fiberglass squirrel that became the basis for the statues around town.

Businesses, organizations and families purchased the squirrels and worked with artists to give each one its own personality. The project continued to grow. After the first group went on display, organizers again asked for sponsors and sold another 13 squirrels.

Another 17 squirrels joined the parade in 2022 as Marysville celebrated the 50th anniversary of being named Black Squirrel City.

Now the parade is growing again.

More information is available at onemarysville.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BUDGET HEARING

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

State of Kansas
Special District

The governing body of
Czech-Moravian Cemetery
Marshall County
will meet on October 19, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at 6221 Tobaren Rd, Blue Rapids, KS for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied.
Detailed budget information is avaiable at 6221 Tobaren Rd, Blue Rapids, KS and will be available at this hearing.

SUPPORTING COUNTIES
Marshall County (home county) Riley County

BUDGET SUMMARY
Proposed Budget 2027 Expenditures and Amount of Current Year Estimate for 2026 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2027 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

	Prior Year Actual 2025		Current Year Estimate for 2026		Proposed Budget Year for 2027		
FUND	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2026 Ad Valorem Tax	Proposed Estimated Tax Rate*
General	2,710	1.648	4,000	2.412	4,300	3,657	2.573
Debt Service							
Non-Budgeted Funds							
Totals	2,710	1.648	4,000	2.412	4,300	3,657	2.573
						*Revenue Neutral Rate**	2.574
Less: Transfers	164		300		300		
Net Expenditures	2,546		3,700		4,000		
Total Tax Levied	2,550		3,657		xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation:	1,547,707		1,516,230		1,421,092		

Outstanding Indebtedness, Jan 1,	2024	2025	2026
G.O. Bonds	0	0	0
Revenue Bonds	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Lease Pur. Princ.	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

*Tax rates are expressed in mills.
**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by KSA 79-2988*

Vicki Hargadine

(First published in The Marysville Advocate on Thursday, Oct 8, 2026)

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5004

A PROPOSITION to amend section 1 of article 5 of the constitution of the state of Kansas to require individuals to be citizens of the United States, at least 18 years of age and a resident of the voting area in which such person seeks to vote in order to vote in this state.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of the state of Kansas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state for their approval or rejection: Section 1 of article 5 of the constitution of the state of Kansas is hereby amended to read as follows:

"§ 1. Qualifications of electors. ~~Every~~(a) *No person shall be deemed a qualified elector unless such person:*

(1) *Is* a citizen of the United States ~~who~~;

(2) has attained the age of eighteen years; and ~~who~~

(3) *except as provided in subsection (b) or (c)*, resides in the voting area in which ~~he or she~~ *such person* seeks to vote ~~shall be deemed a qualified elector.~~

(b) Laws of this state relating to voting for presidential electors and candidates for the office of president and vice-president of the United States shall comply with the laws of the United States relating thereto. A citizen of the United States, who is otherwise qualified to vote in Kansas for presidential electors and candidates for the offices of president and vice-president of the United States may vote for such officers either in person or by absentee ballot notwithstanding the fact that such person may have become a nonresident of this state if ~~his or her~~ *such person's* removal from this state occurs during a period in accordance with federal law next preceding such election.

(c) A person who is otherwise a qualified elector may vote in the voting area of ~~his or her~~ *such person's* former residence either in person or by absentee ballot notwithstanding the fact that such person may have become a nonresident of such voting area during a period prescribed by law next preceding the election at which ~~he or she~~ *such person* seeks to vote, if ~~his~~ *such person's* new residence is in another voting area in the state of Kansas."

Sec. 2. The following statement shall be printed on the ballot with the amendment as a whole:

"Explanatory statement. This amendment would clarify that only a person who is a citizen of the United States is eligible to vote in this state.

"A vote for this proposition would clarify that only a person who is a citizen of the United States is eligible to vote in this state.

"A vote against this proposition would make no change to the constitution of the state of Kansas, and the language concerning voter qualifications would remain the same."

Sec. 3. This resolution, if approved by two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of Representatives and two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate, shall be entered on the journals, together with the yeas and nays. The secretary of state shall cause this resolution to be published as provided by law and shall cause the proposed amendment to be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in November in the year 2026, unless a special election is called at a sooner date by concurrent resolution of the legislature, in which case the proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the special election.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice for Operating and Capital (5311)

The Marshall County Agency on Aging is applying for capital and operating assistance for transportation under the U.S.C. (rural public transportation) of the Federal Transit Act. The application will be for capital funds to replace vehicle(s) in our current fleet and for operating funds to help provide transportation services in the area. Written comments and questions regarding this application are encouraged and will be accepted until November 10, 2026. should be sent to:
Director:
Ashley K. Slupianek
111 S. 8th Street
Marysville, KS 66508

The Marshall County Agency on Aging receives Federal Transit Administration (FTA)operating dollars. This funding is utilized for the purchase of fuel, insurance, and equipment, maintenance and storage. This agency is seeking Kansas Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certified companies as potential vendors for these services. Please Contact: **Ashley K. Slupianek at 785-562-2020** if you are a DBE or are interested in learning more about the DBE program.

(First published in The Marysville Advocate on Thursday, Oct 8, 2026)

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARSHALL COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of
WILLIAM E. TWIDWELL a/k/a
WILLIAM EUGENE TWIDWELL,
Deceased.
Case No. MS-2026-PR-000021
Title to Real Estate Involved

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that a petition has been filed in this Court by Kenneth W. Twidwell, duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator CTA of the Estate of William E. Twidwell a/k/a William Eugene Twidwell, deceased, requesting that Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys' fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts the Petitioner be finally discharged as the Administrator CTA of the Estate of William E. Twidwell a/k/a William Eugene Twidwell, deceased, and the Petitioner be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses to the petition on or before November 6, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the District Court, in Marysville, Marshall County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

KENNETH W. TWIDWELL
Petitioner

SUBMITTED BY:

ARTHUR-GREEN, LLP
801 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
(785) 537-1345 – Telephone
(785) 537-7874 – Fax
Attorneys for Petitioner

(First published in The Marysville Advocate on Thursday, Oct 8, 2026)

ADVOCATE
CLASSIFIEDS
785-562-2317

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARSHALL COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of

BONNIE M. RASMUSSEN, deceased,
AND
LAURETZ N. RASMUSSEN, JR.
deceased

Case No. MS-2026-PR-000038

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that a petition was filed in said court by Kevin Rasmussen, as the son and one of the heirs at law of Bonnie M. Rasmussen and Lauretz N. Rasmussen, Jr., deceased, praying for the determination of the descent of the following described real estate in Marshall County, Kansas, to-wit:

Commencing at the Southwest corner of the East Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 12, Township 4 South, Range 9 East, thence North 1584 feet, thence East 752 feet, thence South 1307 feet, thence East 108 feet, thence South 277 feet, thence West 860 feet to the place of beginning, containing 28.22 acres, more or less, in Marshall County, Kansas;
and all other property, real and personal, or interest therein, owned by the said decedents at the times of death; and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before October 30, 2026 at 10:30 p.m., in said court, in the City of Marysville, in Marshall County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Kevin Rasmussen
Petitioner

Aaron P. Westbrook #27547
Westbrook Law Office, LLC
916 Broadway, P.O. Box 386
Marysville, KS 66508-0386
(785) 562-5388
Fax No. (785) 562-2124
Attorney for Petitioner

(First published in The Marysville Advocate on Thursday, Oct 1, 2026)

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARSHALL COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of
CONNIE HEIDEBRECHT, Deceased. Case No. MS-2026-PR-000040

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on September 24, 2026, a petition was filed in this Court by Jennifer Downard, the Executrix named in the "Last Will and Testament of Connie Heidebrecht," deceased, dated September 1, 2000, requesting a copy of the Will filed with the Petition be admitted to probate and record; Petitioner be appointed as Executrix, without bond; and Petitioner be granted Letters Testamentary.

You are required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before 10:00 a.m. on October 30, 2026**,** in the District Court, Marysville, Marshall County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail to file your written defenses, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

/s/ Jennifer Downard
Jennifer Downard
Petitioner

/s/ Meghan K. Voracek
MEGHAN K. VORACEK, #22548
Voracek Law Office
314 Main Street
Seneca, Kansas 66538
Ph. 785-294-2570
Fax 785-748-4806
Attorney for Petitioner

(First published in The Marysville Advocate on Thursday, Oct 1, 2026)

PROPERTY TAX

Below is the list of Unpaid 2025 Personal Property taxes, including interest and fees figured until October 1, 2026. These taxes have been returned by the Marshall County Sheriff as uncollected and filed with the Clerk of the District Court in compliance with K.S.A. 79-2101

30406 KAYLA & LEE BIGHAM 2498 13TH TER FRANKFORT KS 66427
42.50
20267 LEE BIGHAM 2498 13TH TER FRANKFORT KS 66427
311.82
30463 LEE BIGHAM 2498 13TH TER FRANKFORT KS 66427
82.84
30462 LEE BIGHAM & JANELLE MCCULLY 2498 13TH TER FRANKFORT, KS 66427
27.38
30741 TOBIAS BROXTERMAN 510 N WALNUT ST FRANKFORT, KS 66427
42.50
20482 JUSTIN ESTES 3001 17TH RD FRANKFORT, KS 66427
2428.92
30400 JUSTIN ESTES 3001 17TH RD FRANKFORT, KS 66427
420.18
30403 JUSTIN & JESSICA ESTES 3001 17TH RD FRANKFORT, KS 66427
490.42
20530 STEVE FRITZON 905 LINCOLN ST BLUE RAPIDS, KS 66411
51.04
30257 GARY & ANNA PREBYL 2100 PRICE RD BYERS, CO 80103
29.38
21434 ELEUTERIO SARABIA 1505 BROADWAY MARYSVILLE, KS 66508
123.78
30780 WILLIAM SCHOOLER 1750 20TH RD FRANKFORT, KS 66427
42.50
20795 RYAN SMITH 202 LINCOLN ST BLUE RAPIDS, KS 66411
82.32
20000 LIVIA WILHELM & DYLAN WAGNER 807 DOGWOOD LN BLUE RAPIDS, KS 66411
1424.96
20509 DYLAN WAGNER 807 DOGWOOD LN BLUE RAPIDS KS 66411
4270.68

Grand Total 9871.22
ANGELA PRICE
Marshall County Treasurer

(First published in The Marysville Advocate on Thursday, Oct 8, 2026)

NOTICE OF SUIT

DISTRICT COURT, MARSHALL COUNTY, KANSAS
(Pursuant to Chapter 60 of K.S.A.)

DOLORES HELEN LASKY,
Plaintiff,
v.
ROSIE MURPHY,
PATRICIA BURNETT,
THE STATE OF KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES,
and
THE STATE OF KANSAS
KANSAS HIGHWAY PATROL,
ALL UNKNOWN OWNERS OR HEIRS,
Defendants.

CASE NO. MS-2026-CV-000027

NOTICE OF SUIT

To Defendants Named Above and All Unknown Owners and Heirs: You are notified that a Petition to Quiet Title has been filed in District Court, Marshall County, Kansas, by Delores Helen Lasky, praying for the court to quiet the title of a 2006 Honda Ridgeline UT, VIN 2HJYK16206H565764, and you are hereby required to plead to the Petition on or before November 17, 2026, at 2:00 p.m., in the District Court of Marshall County, Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment will be entered upon the Petition.

Respectfully submitted:
/s/Rebecca R. Rookstool
Rebecca R. Rookstool #24199
PO Box 216
Westmoreland, KS 66549
785-457-0110
rookstoollaw@gmail.com
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

(First published in The Marysville Advocate on Thursday, Oct 8, 2026)

Onaga Heritage Day

Annual Heritage Day on Oct. 10 at the Onaga Historical Museum will feature presentations, music and food.

The event will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the museum, 310 E. Second.

Special guest presenters are Frank Stillman with "Civil War Arms"; Tom Smitt, "Save Our Flags"; Steve Suther, "Wine Making and Tasting"; Brian Palmeter, floor loom; and Rebecca Snavely, spinning and weaving.

The Bonjour Connection will entertain with their bluegrass music about 11 a.m.

Other displays include rope making, model farm set-up, walnut and corn shelling, picking out sunflower seeds for their heads, making a corncob doll, quilting, crocheting, butter churning and more.