

Since 1985, the first full week of May has been celebrated as Public Service Recognition Week. It is an opportunity for citizens across the nation to offer a simple thank you to the men and women whose work maintains and improves our communities every day. This year Public Service Recognition Week is May 6-12.

Across the state, today's newspaper headlines reflect the breadth of triumphs and tragedies our Kansas communities confront on a daily basis. A fire at a small business, a drop in the homeless population, more vigor introduced in a school program, improvements to a roadway—the stories are so typical that we scarcely take notice unless they affect us personally. But they point to the thoughtful daily efforts of the thousands of public servants across the state whose work quietly enhances our lives.

Every story about a fire highlights the risks our fire fighters make daily, not only to save lives but also to limit damage to allow life to return to normal as quickly as possible. Those affected by the fire will be able to continue to work, to contribute economically to society, and ultimately take care of their families because of the work of the fire fighters, fire department management, city/county managers, and elected leaders who ensured resources were available and trained staff members were ready to respond.

To track the homeless population, public servants

Thousands of public service employees in Kansas work hard each day to keep us safe and healthy, to teach the next generation, to protect our property, and to make Kansas a great place to live. To all of them, thank you.

Marilu Goodyear, Director