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News Release

Complete Count Committee to host Chamber coffee on Thursday

Coalition of 20+ local organizations to talk 2020 Census, ways to complete it

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (January 27, 2020) — The Arkansas City Area Complete Count Committee will be host to a Chamber of Commerce coffee this week as part of its kickoff to the 2020 Census.

The coffee event will be at **10 a.m. Thursday** at USD 470's newly renovated Avery Learning Center, located at 2500 N. 15th St. It is free and open to the public and all Chamber of Commerce members.

This event is being cosponsored by the City of Arkansas City and USD 470, both of which are members of the Complete Count Committee, as is the Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce.

For many in the community, this will be their first chance to see the changes the school district has made to the former Jehovah's Witnesses church, which will be open this spring as a 2020 Census site.

Residents with no internet access in their homes will be able to visit either the Avery Learning Center or the Arkansas City Public Library, located at 120 E. Fifth Ave., to complete the Census online.

More information about this community service will be presented at the Chamber coffee. Committee chairwoman Anita Judd-Jenkins also will speak briefly about the importance of the Census to Ark City.

"The Census is much more than just a head count," said Judd-Jenkins, who has met (and will continue to meet) with various community groups for the past few months to raise Census awareness.

"It provides a picture of our nation that helps to determine where to build new schools, hospitals, restaurants and other businesses, as well as how federal funding is distributed. It also helps us see how our community changed in the last decade. That's why an accurate count is so important to Ark City!"

Social media advertising and other outreach efforts will begin to ramp up in mid-February and continue through mid-May, she said. This coffee is a sort of kickoff event for that larger education effort.

Please contact Andrew Lawson at [\(620\) 441-4415](tel:6204414415) or arkcitycounts@gmail.com with any questions.

For immediate release

more

About the Arkansas City Area Complete Count Committee

Originally formed in May 2019, the Arkansas City Area Complete Count Committee is a collaborative partnership of more than 20 local governments, nonprofits and community organizations.

The Arkansas City Area Complete Count Committee is dedicated to making sure **everyone** counts in 2020 by explaining how easy, convenient, confidential and secure the Census is. Look for an invitation in your mailbox in March to fill out the 2020 Census online. Learn more at www.2020census.gov!

Anyone is welcome to attend the Complete Count Committee meetings, which are held at **1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday** of each month at the Water Treatment Facility, located at 400 W. Madison Ave.

The committee already has participated in both the 2019 Arkalalah Big Parade and 2019 Christmas in the City parade. Learn more at www.facebook.com/ArkCityCounts or www.twitter.com/ArkCityCounts!

Current Arkansas City Area Complete Count Committee partners include:

- Angels in the Attic, Inc.
- Arkansas City Area Chamber of Commerce
- Arkansas City Equal Opportunity and Accessibility Advisory Board
- Arkansas City Ministerial Alliance
- Arkansas City Public Library
- Arkansas City Retired Citizens Advisory Council
- City of Arkansas City
- City of Parkerfield
- City-Cowley County Health Department
- Cowley College
- Cowley County Council on Aging
- Cowley First
- Creekstone Farms
- KanPak
- Kiwanis Club of Arkansas City
- Legacy Regional Community Foundation
- Optimist Club of Arkansas City
- Shepherd's Grace Church
- South Central Kansas Clinic
- South Central Kansas Medical Center
- USD 470 (Arkansas City Public School District)
- U.S. Census Bureau (Wichita Office)

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