

• Great Bend, Kansas

# BIRDHOUSE TOUR



Artist: Sally Rychlec #2, 13, 33

**1. Location: 3007 10th St.**  
**Name: Elements of Nature**  
**Business Sponsor: Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau**  
**Artist: Whitney Collier**

Three birdhouses present warm tones that reflect the Prairie sunset and cooler tones that represent the sustaining elements of nature such as earth and water. The various textures are symbolic of the depth and diversity within our community. Our greatest treasure lies in the discovery and imagination of each individual traveling our pathway. The deeper you look, the more you discover both artistically and naturally. Enjoy your travels!

**2. Location: 2920 10th St.**  
**Name: Inhabitants of the Wetlands**  
**Business Sponsor: Best Western Angus Inn**  
**Artist: Sally Rychlec**

The Best Western Angus Inn has a grouping of three birdhouses that represent various creatures that inhabit the Wetland area; a Whooping Crane, a duck, dragonflies, butterflies, and a turtle. The Whooping Crane is an endangered species and the ability to see these birds up close speaks volumes of the value of the Wetlands. Not only does this provide our community and visitors great pleasure today, but we are saving these animals for generations to come.

Migrate all around Great Bend on this tour of artist-decorated birdhouses. Over 50 birdhouses, ranging in size from 3 to 5 feet tall perch proudly in front of businesses all over town in honor of the thousands of birds who are drawn here every year by the wetlands of Cheyenne Bottoms. This tour will guide you with colorful descriptions written by the artists themselves.

**3. Location: 620 Morton**  
**Name: Fun & Recreation**  
**Business Sponsor: McDonald Tank**  
**Artist: Lance Walters**  
Housed under real roof shingles, this birdhouse features a collage of fun outdoor recreation such as camping, boating, 4-wheeling, and fishing, that one can enjoy in our area. When enjoying one of these fun activities, be sure to watch for the wildlife and native plants along the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway.

**4. Location: 1005 Williams St.**  
**Name: Natural Healing**  
**Business Sponsor: Warren Brothers**  
**Artist: Sr. Rebecca Otter**  
Heartland Center is a place of healing and wholeness. These attributes are portrayed in a natural setting, which include birds, butterflies, and flowers to truly portray the nature and wildlife qualities that engulf the area.

**5. Location: 1125 Williams**  
**Name: Vision of the Peacock**  
**Business Sponsor: Great Bend Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development**  
**Artist: Kelsey Couture**  
The birdhouse is decorated with peacock feathers, which symbolizes the organization's role in the community. In ancient Greece, the myth of the goddess Hera says that she placed the "eyes" on the peacock feathers symbolizing the wisdom of heavens. Other myths suggest that the peacock, who can eat poisonous plants with no ill effects, symbolizes the ability to thrive in the face of suffering. The Great Bend Chamber of Commerce chose this beautiful feather to represent its long-term vision for the community, while reflecting on its ability to thrive through the ups and downs in the economy due to its strengths in the oil and agriculture industries. In addition, the beautiful nature of the feather reflects all of the natural beauty Great Bend boasts in its city parks, Cheyenne Bottoms, and the gorgeous Kansas sunsets.

**6. Location: 1204 Main St.**  
**Name: Birds on File**  
**Business Sponsor: Office Products Incorporated**  
**Artist: Kenny Vink**  
A beautiful Kansas setting-sun, a curious crane, and a cattail plant perfectly depict Office Products Incorporated's acronym, OPI, on one side of the birdhouse. On another side, a wetlands creature adorns a file cabinet. Look around the corner again and you will see birds and miscellaneous office products sitting upon a shelf.

**7. Location: 1212 Main St.**  
**Name: Heart of Cheyenne Bottoms**  
**Business Sponsor: MyTown**  
**Artwork Sponsor: Heart of KS Merchantile**  
**Artist: Char Brown**  
This birdhouse depicts a natural Kansas scene that includes a field of our state flower, the Sunflower. It also portrays the Kansas farming culture with a post rock corner post and a golden wheat field. Another scene represented on the birdhouse is the Cheyenne Bottoms area with a few water fowl lingering around the marshy waters. The top of the birdhouse is accented with an American Flag to express our patriotism and support for our country.

**8. Location: 1214 Main St.**  
**Name: Pretty in Purple**  
**Business Sponsor: Miss Pretty Pickles**  
**Artwork Sponsor: Brentwood Builders, Inc.**  
**Artist: Andy Mingenback, Greg Ensley**  
This very unique and abstract birdhouse has been designed with the whimsical and free spirited "bird" in mind. Miss Pretty Pickles wanted this birdhouse to express her personality and we feel the artist captured it well! The unique and colorful features of this purple (Go K-State) birdhouse are comprised of a metal powder coated superstructure (to withstand the Kansas wind) along with 100+ year old antique tin type ceiling tile that was salvaged from inside the Treaders building when it was remodeled by the MyTown project in 2010.





Artist: Dr. Mark Judd - #31

July and watch the fireworks exploding in the deep blue sky. For fall, the traditional Halloween holiday comes to life with a full moon and a bat, as well as the famous holiday fruit, pumpkins! And for the winter scene, elves work hard to prepare for the wondrous day that we know as Christmas!

**13. Location: 2012 Forest Ave.  
Name: The Daily HOOT!  
Business Sponsor: Great Bend Tribune  
Artist: Sally Rychlec**

The Great Bend Tribune is represented by the hand painted Great Horned Owl. Both the Owl and the Tribune oversee their territory and are known to be wise and perceptive. The enlarged articles have been done in the decoupage technique and tell the ongoing story of the birdhouse initiative to promote art and tourism in Great Bend and the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway.

**14. Location: 1401 Main  
Name: Metamorphosis, Little House on the Prairie, Migration  
Business Sponsor: Barton County Arts Council**

**Artist: Robert Joy (5 ft), Karen Neuforth**  
A. An artist's representation of "metamorphosis," shows people at the bottom of the birdhouse looking up to the sky while they begin to morph into eccentric birds near the top.  
B. That famous scene from "The Little House on the Prairie" comes to life on this birdhouse. The rough and tough settlers in the past used the available resources from around their surroundings to build their homes, and this birdhouse represents that hard work and effort that each family endured to create their homes and land to farm.  
C. Across the prairie you will get a glimpse of what life and nature was like before the industrial settlement of man. With migrating bison, free roaming cattle, and their companions, the egrets. These animals were abundant during the time of the native settlements.



Artist: Whitney Collier - #1

**9. Location: 1216 Main St.  
Name: Doodleism  
Business Sponsor: Perks Coffee Shoppe  
Artist: Michael Whelan**

The artist's bold "abstract doodleism" is a free-flowing subliminal expression of flight, movement and evolution. The piece is drawn in black and white with permanent markers, to create a visual feast of the graphic elements that all mingle together like random images from a wandering mind.

**10. Location: 1205 Lakin St.  
Name: The Show Must Go On!  
Business Sponsor: McDonald Tank  
Artwork Sponsor: Great Bend Community Theatre  
Artist: Karen Neuforth**

Both birdhouses are decorated with graphics from posters/programs of shows that have been performed at the Crest by the Great Bend Community Theatre group. Images on the birdhouses also represent the types of events that are held at the Crest Theatre.

**11. Location: 1305 Main St.  
Name: Birds of a Feather  
Business Sponsor: Brown's Shoe Fit  
Artist: Madison Roach, with help from Kelsey Hofeling**

This colorful birdhouse is detailed in an abstract mirage of bright colored birds! At first glance you may not be able to distinguish the unique bird shapes, but look close and you will discover that it's not only a "canvas" of color, but a true depiction of the nature and wildlife that surrounds this wonderful region of Kansas.

**12. Location: 1315 Main St.  
Name: A Reason for the Season  
Business Sponsor: Jennifer's Hallmark Shop  
Artist: Megan Cates**

The holiday seasons are always alive at Jennifer's Hallmark Shop. Each side of the birdhouse represents activities for each of the four seasons. The spring side projects the celebration of the Easter holiday with bunnies and Easter eggs hanging from a beautiful blossoming tree. In the summer, children celebrate the 4th of

**15. Location: 1405 Main  
Name: Wildlife Designs  
Business Sponsor: Cornerstone Interiors  
Artist: Debbie Stark-Deutsch**

A. Designing divas, such as Starlings, Chickadees, and Wax Wings show off their design talents. Creepers, Wrens, and Warblers conduct the skills of painting, building, and sewing. Storks, Herons, and Geese show their architectural space planning master pieces. Amid all this activity; a Turkey Vulture awaits to see the results of his project management skills.  
B. Waiting for the arrival of her young, a Canadian Goose perches atop her birdhouse. Other birds featured across this birdhouse are Sandhill Cranes standing along the shoreline of a marsh, while waterfowl swim nearby. Just like out at the Bottoms, the Sunflowers depicted provide great perching posts for Black Birds, Swallows, Blue Jays, Orange Crowned Warblers, Wrens, and Sparrows.

**16. Location: 1413 Main St.  
Name: Prairie Dolphin  
Business Sponsor: Identifications Co.  
Artist: Identifications Co. Staff**

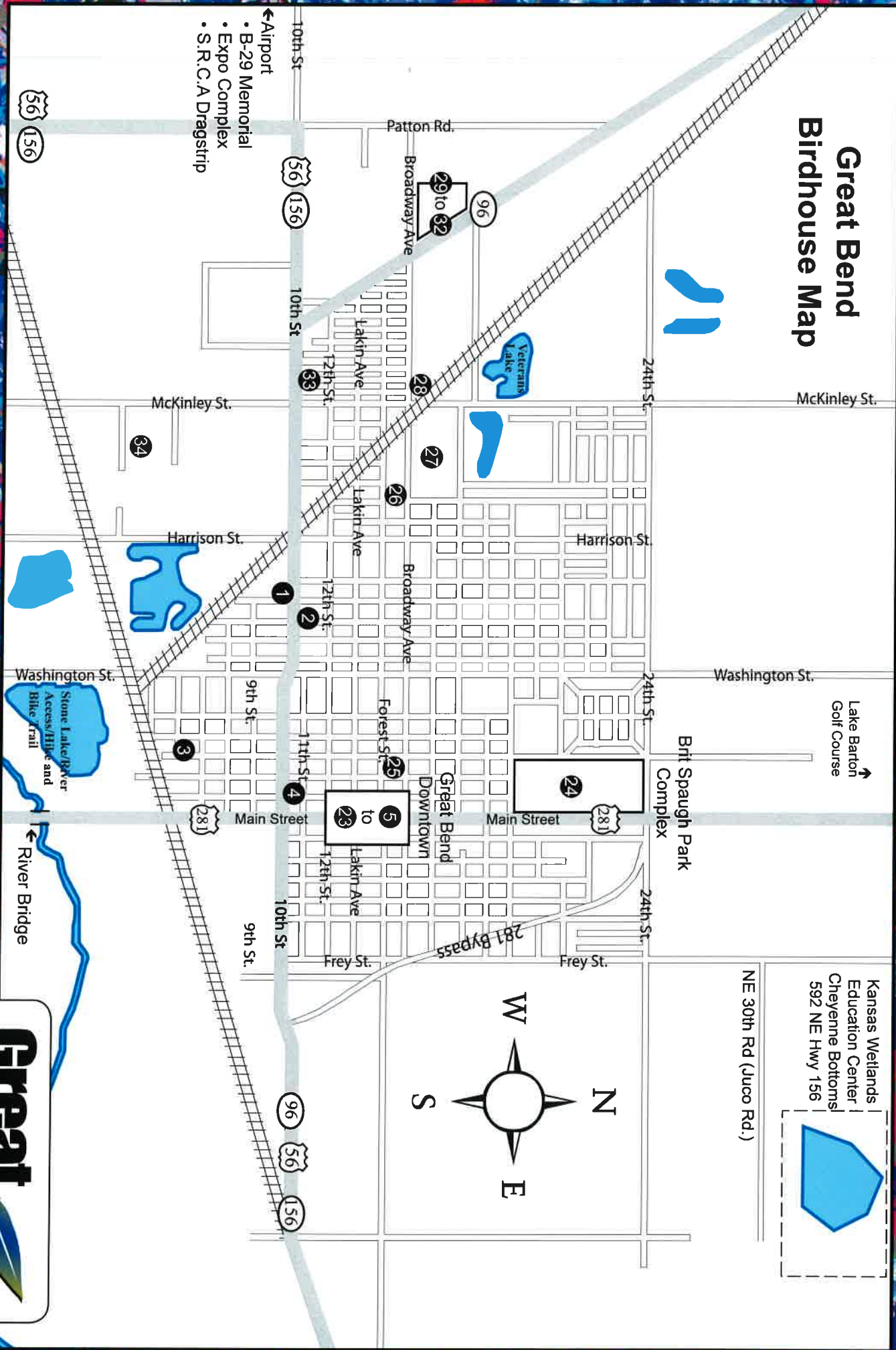
The artwork is a combination of jobs done and created by the staff at Identifications Co. Awards and Screen-printing for t-shirts, posters, and more. The birdhouse also includes the original artwork and story of the elusive "Cheyenne Bottoms Prairie Dolphin." So be sure to read the story and then go out to the Bottoms and see if you can find one.



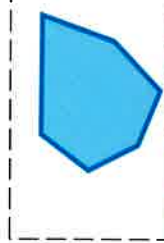
Artist: Madison Roach (right), with help from Kelsey Hofeling (left) - #11



# Great Bend Birdhouse Map



Kansas Wetlands  
Education Center  
Cheyenne Bottoms  
592 NE Hwy 156  
NE 30th Rd (Juco Rd.)



**Great Bend**  
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

3007 10th Street • Great Bend, Kansas 67530 • PH. 620-792-2750  
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## GREAT BEND BIRDHOUSE MAP - POINTS ON THE MAP

1. 3007 10th Street - Great Bend Convention & Visitors Bureau –  
“*Elements of Nature*”
2. 2920 10th Street - Best Western Angus Inn –  
“*Inhabitants of the Wetlands*”
3. 620 Morton - McDonald Tank –  
“*Fun & Recreation*”
4. 1005 Williams - Heartland Center for Wholistic Health –  
“*Natural Healing*”
5. 1125 Williams - Chamber of Commerce –  
“*Vision on the Peacock*”
6. 1204 Main Street - Office Products Incorporated –  
“*Birds on File*”
7. 1212 Main Street - Heart of Kansas Mercantile –  
“*Heart of Cheyenne Bottoms*”
8. 1214 Main Street - Miss Pretty Pickles –  
“*Pretty in Purple*”
9. 1216 Main Street - Perks Coffee Shoppe –  
“*Doodleism*”
10. 1905 Lakin Avenue - Crest Theatre –  
“*The Show Must Go On*”
11. 1305 Main Street - Brown’s Shoe Fit –  
“*Birds of a Feather*”
12. 1315 Main Street - Jennifer’s Hallmark –  
“*A Reason for the Season*”
13. 2012 Forest - Great Bend Tribune –  
“*The Daily HOOOT*”
14. 1401 Main Street - Barton County Arts Council –  
“*Metamorphosis, Little House on the Prairie, Migration*”
15. 1405 Main Street - Cornerstone Interiors –  
“*Wildlife Designs*”
16. 1413 Main Street - Identifications Company –  
“*Prairie Dolphin*”
17. 1419 Main Street - Renue Salon & Day Spa –  
“*The Wild Thing*”
18. 2006 Broadway - Innovative Livestock –  
“*Wildlife Teamwork*”
19. 1924 Broadway - Family Crisis Center –  
“*Survivor Through the Pane*”
20. 1515 Main Street - Kustom Floor Designs –  
“*Imaginative Designs*”
21. 1523 Main Street - Beautiful Beginnings –  
“*Goin’ to the Chapel*”
22. 1607 Main Street - Rosewood Gallery –  
“*Horsin’ Round the Birdhouse*”
23. 1612 Main Street - Farmer’s Bank & Trust –  
“*Our Roots Run Deep*”
24. 2123 Main Street - The Raptor Center –  
“*It’s in Our Nature to be Wild*”
25. 1409 Williams - Great Bend Public Library –  
“*Painted Lady*”
26. 3515 Broadway - St. Rose Surgical & Ambulatory Center –  
“*Stewards of Christ*”
27. 3600 Broadway - Dominican Sisters of Peace –  
“*Be Peace. Build Peace. Preach Peace.*”
28. 4200 Broadway - Holy Family Elementary School –  
“*The School House*”
29. 1649 K-96 HWY - Waters True Value –  
“*Birds at Home*”
30. 1657 K-96 HWY - EZ Tan –  
“*Glow of the Sun*”
31. 1701 K-96 HWY - 20/20 Optix –  
“*The Folk-Art Birdhouse*”
32. 1705 K-96 HWY - P&S Security –  
“*The Safe House*”
33. 4200 10th Street - Travelers Budget Inn –  
“*Tree of Life*”
34. 204 Cleveland - Heartland Cancer Center –  
“*Faith in Healing*”

Downtown: #5-23 Westgate: #29-32



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Artist: Michael Whelan - #9



Artist: Robert Joy - #14, 24

**17. Location: 1419 Main**  
**Name: The Wild Thing**  
**Business Sponsor: Renue Salon & Spa**  
**Artist: Denise Haddan, Addison Westhoff, Marcia Westhoff**

We named our birdhouse "THE WILD THING" and it features a different wild animal design and color on each side of the house. You will see as you move around the birdhouse the design of a tiger, giraffe, leopard, and zebra. We would like to mention to the observer that these wild animals have a feathered friend that hangs around them for various reasons. Perhaps this is a different bird than the ones found at our own Cheyenne Bottom. The roof of our birdhouse is adorned with many jewels and bling to draw not only your eyes but maybe the eyes of a curious featured friend as well.

**18. Location: 2006 Broadway**  
**Name: Wildlife Teamwork**  
**Business Sponsor: Innovative Livestock**  
**Artist: Christina Lamoureux**

This setting depicts the waters of Cheyenne Bottoms with elegantly young reeds placed in rows, layering the Kansas sky. Within the landscape are three curious cows and white egrets representing nature's delicate balance of symbiotic relationships, their existence being a lesson for the human heart. The cows become a pedestal for the egrets within nature. The traditional weather vane graces the bird house- a directional reminder of the migratory bird pathway.

**19. Location: 1924 Broadway**  
**Name: Survivor through the Pane**  
**Business Sponsor: Marmie Motors**  
**Artist: Renee Miller**

A. Look into the windows of our birdhouse and become captivated by ceramic masks that have been derived directly from the faces of Barton County domestic and sexual violence survivors. This birdhouse combines both cast iron and ceramic elements sure to make this a must see!

B. The Family Crisis Center's Child Survivors of Domestic and Sexual Violence support group collaborated with artist Renee Miller to complete this colorful birdhouse.

**20. Location: 1515 Main**  
**Name: Imaginative Designs**  
**Business Sponsor: Kustom Floor Designs**

**Artist: Mary Stude & Katie Lies**  
 This birdhouse displays actual materials used in real life interior and exterior settings in and around the home. The birdhouse creates a visual of the available design possibilities for the viewer's imagination to awaken and become inspired.

**21. Location: 1523 Main St.**  
**Name: Go in to the chapel...!**  
**Business Sponsor: Beautiful Beginnings**  
**Artist: Gwendolyn Beouy**

A traditional white chapel with stained glass windows, steeple, and a bell provide the perfect setting for a fairytale wedding. The viewer will also enjoy a few interactive surprises as well.

**22. Location: 1607 Main St.**  
**Name: Horsin' Round the Birdhouse**  
**Business Sponsor: Rosewood Services**  
**Artwork Sponsor: Kustom Floor Designs**  
**Artist: Rosewood Clients**

This birdhouse was inspired by the therapeutic riding program at the Rosewood Ranch and custom horsehair pottery created by Rosewood artists with developmental disabilities. They carefully select the hair from a trusted therapy horse and by creatively placing this hair on the pottery as it leaves the hot kiln; it creates the amazing carbon designs. Mosaic pieces of this pottery, combined with other western design pieces, captures the heart and soul of life at the Ranch. Rosewood believes that all people with disabilities have the same opportunities as everyone else. These opportunities range from becoming skilled equestrians to talented ceramic artists.

**23. Location: 1612 Main St.**  
**Name: Our Roots Run Deep**  
**Business Sponsor: Farmer's Bank & Trust**  
**Artist: Kelsey Couture**

Inspired by native Cheyenne Wetlands, one of the features of this birdhouse is the cottonwood tree with its deep root system. "Our Roots Run Deep" signifies the bank's commitment to the central Kansas communities it serves with local ownership and the deep investment in the families in this area.

Cattails, reed grasses, and marsh foliage thrive abundantly in this central prairie area, represented in metal composition and hand painted designs. Silhouettes of sandhill cranes and whooping cranes are featured as they stop for refuge in this wetland area on their journey along the Central Flyway. Sandhill cranes generally stop over during the spring & fall migrations. Whooping cranes, an endangered species, migrate through Cheyenne Bottoms, the largest marsh in the interior of the United States. As the sun sets, the migrating birds stop to prepare for their continued journey.



**24. Location: 2123 Main St.**  
**Name: It's in our Nature to be Wild!**  
**Business Sponsor: Nex-Tech Wireless & Zoo Society Members**  
**Artwork Sponsor: Bob Joy**  
**Artist: Bob Joy**

A. This colorful birdhouse gives the viewer a preview of what they will see when they enter into the Raptor Center. The Raptor Center was created to further preserve and save the wildlife that visits the two inland marshes that anchor the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway. Inside you will find magnificent educational displays to learn the importance that raptors and migratory birds hold in our area.

B. As you view this birdhouse listen closely to the sound of the animals from inside the Great Bend Brit Spaugh Zoo. You may even get lost in the artwork and start to imagine that you are in a jungle miles away from here in the Amazon Rainforest or the African Tundra.

**25. Location: 1409 Williams**  
**Name: Painted Lady**  
**Business Sponsor: Dee Holman**  
**Artist: Jill Fitzsimmons**

Characters from a favorite children's book, "The Napping House" comes to life as a multi-generation family that indulges in home life activities in a "Painted Lady" Victorian house. A loving grandmother keeps a watchful eye on the front porch as a young boy plays with his furry friends. Just like the library in which the birdhouse is located, this birdhouse has something for everyone!

**26. Location: 3515 Broadway**  
**Name: Stewards of Christ**  
**Business Sponsor: The Mingenback Family**  
**Artist: Leslie Mingenback**

The St. Rose Birdhouse features key points that remind us of our name sake, St. Rose of Lima, noted for helping the sick & hungry. The heritage the Dominican Sisters of Peace and the core values of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), reverence, integrity, compassion & excellence are prominently featured to help us remember how we can deliver the best possible healthcare to our patients. The pinnacle of the birdhouse features a metallic cross that reminds us to be outstanding stewards of Christ's healing ministry to all people. Wonderful Kansas sunflowers, blue Kansas sky and billowy clouds give this birdhouse a welcome and refreshing feeling of helping our patients get well to resume their exciting and fulfilling lives.

**27. Location: 3600 Broadway**  
**Name: Be Peace! Build Peace! Preach Peace!**  
**Business Sponsor: Straub International**  
**Artist: Sister Rebecca Otter OP**

A. The theme of the Dominican Sisters in Great Bend within the history of the worldwide Dominican Family is projected through this birdhouse. It is in the traditional black and white colors of the Dominican Family. Symbols of the Dominican Family during the 13th century include the burning torch (the preaching mission of the Dominicans) and the black dog with a torch in his mouth (Saint Dominic and Dominicans taking the message of Jesus all around the world.) More

current symbols are the dove, olive branch, and logo of the newly-formed Dominican Sisters of Peace in Kansas is one of the seven founding members. "Be Peace! Build Peace! Preach Peace!"

B. The theme of this Dominican Sisters of Peace birdhouse depicts the praise of God arising from all of creation with its theme from Psalm 66:1 "Sing with joy to God all the Earth!" Music and inspirational quotes weave through the ways creation praises God: bird song, the beautiful color and diversity of flora and fauna, and the dominant blue and green of our home planet Earth. The Western Meadowlark, sunflowers, and wheat focus the Kansas experience of creation in Mid-America, one of the regional homes of the Dominican Sisters of Peace.

**28. Location: 4200 Broadway**  
**Name: The School House**  
**Business Sponsor: Straub International**  
**Artist: Hillary King & Holy Family Students**

Our school's birdhouse will be a colorful representation of our school house, present day, and of school houses in the past. Our theme revolves around Catholic Schools and all that is part of that history. Painting of the birdhouse provided an educational opportunity for the students under the direction of a parent volunteer to learn more about "school" history.

**29. Location: 1649 Hwy K-96**  
**Name: Birds At Home**  
**Business Sponsor: Waters True Value**  
**Artist: Scott Beahm**

This birdhouse depicts birds of Kansas engaged in home-improvement tasks throughout the four seasons. Different departments of the store (paint, hardware, lawn and garden, rental equipment, etc.) are depicted with birds of the Barton County Area using the tools to accomplish their building goals. In the design, the birds offer an interesting perspective on the ways humans create their homes.

List of Birds in Artwork: Fall- Killdeer, Green Heron, Black-necked Stilt; Winter- Ring-necked Pheasant, Cardinal, Waxwings; Spring- Greater Prairie Chicken; Summer-Meadowlark, Great Blue Heron, Ruddy Turnstone.

**30. Location: 1657 Hwy K-96**  
**Name: Glow of the Sun**  
**Business Sponsor: EZ Tan**  
**Artist: Gwendolyn Beouy**

A tall, slender Crane basks in the sunshine of a beautiful pink glowing sunset. There are 2 types of cranes common to our area, the Sandhill and the Whooping. Whooping Cranes are a rare sight to see and the wetlands in our area are one of the few locations where one can get an up close glimpse of the endangered bird.

**31. Location: 1701 K-96 Highway**  
**Name: The Folk-Art Birdhouse**  
**Business Sponsor: 20/20 Optix**  
**Artist: Dr. Mark Judd**

Located among the Westgate Shopping Center, this birdhouse features birds painted in the folk-art style scattered among the leaves of majestic trees that can be found around the area. Atop the trees sits a country style home "for the birds."

**32. Location: 1705 W K-96**  
**Name: The "Safe" House**  
**Business Sponsor: P & S Security**  
**Artist: P & S Security Staff**

At first glance you may believe this birdhouse is an actual gun safe. Covered in a beautiful black cherry color, it is a fine example of the various types of safes that you can purchase in the store. A magnificent Sycamore Tree with detailed branches and leaves has been stenciled in to tie in the Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway. To finish off this fine masterpiece, the artist added metal spindles for the handles crafted in scrolling detail.

**33. Location: 4200 10th St**  
**Name: Tree of Life**  
**Business Sponsor: Traveler's Budget Inn**  
**Artist: Sally Rychlec**

The Traveler's Budget Inn has a grouping of three birdhouses that represent a tree of life providing safe haven and a place of rest and renewal for a Great Horned Owl. He is overlooking a flowing valley of vivid wildflowers as one does at our local Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway. The tree of life is reflected by the Inn which was long been an inspiration to the community. "It's in our nature to inspire!"

**34. Location: 204 Cleveland St.**  
**Name: Faith in Healing**  
**Business Sponsor: Doonan GMC**  
**Artist: Leslie Mingenback**

When one sees this birdhouse, our hope is that we will be reminded of God's healing power when we just have the faith in Him to know that with his blessing, we can overcome against all odds. Fighting cancer is hard work, but with God's will, the patient's belief, strong family & friends support and excellent care team, we can win over cancer! The wonderful Kansas sunflowers, blue Kansas sky and billowy clouds give this birdhouse a welcome and refreshing feeling of helping our patients get well to resume exciting and fulfilling lives. Balloons are refreshing and uplifting to our human spirit and what makes them special here at Heartland Cancer Center is that in the autumn of each year, our cancer support group does a balloon launch that recognizes all of our cancer patients and their important group of caregivers.



**Great Bend**