

THREE Questions for Johnson County Government employees



**Jim Hoge, Noxious Weed Director
Johnson County Public Works**

*Jim Hoge is the **noxious weed director** for the Johnson County Department of Public Works and Infrastructure. Hoge's main responsibilities: control, manage, and eradicate the County's noxious weeds.*

What makes a weed “noxious” as opposed to just pesky?

A noxious weed is a plant that the Kansas Legislature has determined to have a negative impact on agriculture, public health, the environment or the economy. Weeds, including those declared noxious, impacted the U.S. economy by an estimated \$55 billion in 2012.

What do you like best about your job?

The people. Many customers or callers have become good friends. They call with questions about fruit and vegetable gardening, farm ponds, lawns, trees and shrubs etc. Everything but noxious weeds!

What is one thing you wish people knew about your job?

The Noxious Weed Department offers many free services and information. I distribute free weed guides, calendars and rain gauges. Some folks come in and ask “is this where I get the free rain gauge like my neighbor’s?”



**Teresa Smith, Property Officer
Department of Corrections
Adult Residential Center**

*Teresa Smith **processes personal items** brought to the Adult Residential Center, a 398-bed community-based program for adult offenders. She also participates in random and requested searches of resident rooms and lockers.*

How do clients feel about putting their property in your hands?

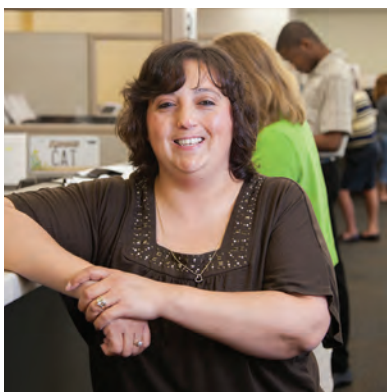
After reviewing guidelines with the clients, the property officers work closely with them and their families to ensure their needs are met (for example, having appropriate clothing for job seeking and employment) while adhering to property rules. Our clients appreciate this option.

What are some of the more interesting items you’ve seen on client arrivals?

Multiple cell phones, excessive amounts of jewelry, makeup and money, inappropriate pictures or writings, gang paraphernalia, knives, ammunition, medication bottles containing everything except what the bottle states is inside, and even bugs...dead and still alive.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

Without a doubt, it is working with such dedicated and professional people.



**Dawn Friess,
Motor Vehicle Specialist
Treasury and Financial
Management**

*For 18 years, Dawn Friess has worked as a Johnson County **motor vehicle specialist**, processing vehicle registration tags and titles for residential and commercial customers.*

What are the biggest misconceptions people have about Johnson County Motor Vehicles?

People think we are the Driver’s License Bureau and not the Department of Motor Vehicles responsible for vehicle tags and titling. These services are not available in the same office. The State handles driver’s licenses and the County handles vehicle tags and titling as an agent of the State.

What is the most interesting/memorable thing you’ve seen happen in the waiting area?

A resident fell unconscious and my customer and I performed CPR on her. I’m thankful she survived and that Johnson County had provided me with the appropriate training.

Has anyone ever thanked you for the job you do?

I have been thanked many times in my 18 years with Johnson County Motor Vehicles. I really appreciate every one of those “thank yous.”