



ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING THE **CANCELLATION** OF THE KEMPTON SPRING SALE

The Kempton Community Center's board of directors currently has no plans to hold another *Kempton Spring Sale*. The event has always been a fund-raiser for KCC, but after over five decades this venerable tradition has reached a point where it no longer makes sense to continue. The board's decision is based on these reasons:

- Mid-March weather has always been a gamble. Often enough, bad weather decimates not only attendance but also the ability for sellers to get their goods to the grounds. If it snows heavily, clearing the roadways is costly, and clearing the sale items of snow can be extremely difficult or impossible for the few volunteers involved. Add to that, the extensive damage to the turf when the ground is wet, which requires additional labor and time to get it back into mowable condition.
- Getting volunteers to handle about ten days of intense on-site activity for this event has gotten exceedingly difficult. (This is true for other KCC events, as well.)
- The internet has become a more effective means of selling higher-priced items (like large farm equipment), so the sale ends up with mostly low- or even no-value items.
- Attendance at the sale has dropped in recent years due to competition from the internet and from similar auction events in the region.
- Gross sales from the event have shrunk from over a million dollars in the 1980s to a small fraction of that, even in recent "good" years.

KCC is most grateful for support we have received from faithful volunteers. While there aren't many of them, unfortunately, those who show up for the Spring Sale and other KCC events, work exceedingly hard. Similarly, our local auctioneers for this event have been faithful over many years, and we are thankful and indebted to them, as well.

The bottom line is, more money to support programs for our community and to maintain this large facility can be made in other, more efficient and less labor-intensive ways. We are sad that what was a uniquely *Kempton* kind of happening is disappearing, but we must be realistic.