

## City adopts slogan; will announce Dec. 18

By Casey McCormick

Bird City has a new slogan, but people will have to wait until Santa Day, Dec. 18, for the official announcement.

Monday evening at the Bird City Council meeting, Cathy Domsch of the Century II Foundation, presented the committee's choice of slogan for the council to approve. The council was unanimous with their approval but it will remain a secret until Santa Day.

The winner of the slogan contest will receive \$200 in Bird City bucks. The slogan will be used to promote Bird City and plans are in the works to place signs with the slogan.

There were 21 people who sent in entries with the 45 ideas. Century II had an anonymous committee of four go over the different slogans. After four votes they decided on the slogan that will represent Bird City.

Listed below are the 45 entries — which one do you think won?

Bird City...It feels like home  
Get your 'Bird City Fix' on Route 36

Bird City, more than birds  
The town that loves all ages  
Even our alleys are nice  
Small village — Large advantages  
U.S.A. all around us

America all around us

Bird City-The Heart of the Heartland

Bird City, KS where a kernel of wheat is the heartbeat of a community  
Celebrating the past...creating our future...

Celebrating the past while developing our future

Celebrating the past...creating our future

Come home to the simple life: Bird City, Kansas

Bird City: The best kept secret in Kansas

There is only one-The one and only Bird City, Kansas

Bird City-478 friendly people live here

Bird City-Hometown with a Big Heart

Bird City-Our Town is Your Town

Bird City-Simply the Best

Bird City-The Good Life

Bird City-A Community of Pride

Get Away from the City-Come to Bird City

Bird City-Living the American Dream

Bird City-A Community of Strength

Bird City-A Slice of the Good Life

Come one, Come all, Come to Bird City

Best little town in Kansas

Come fly high in Bird City

Flyin' high with the best in Bird City

Bird City, a Community of Excellence

Bigger is not better, Bird City is a Go-Getter

A great place to call home

The Simple Life...Simply Wonderful

The Community That Cares

Preserving history, embracing the present, securing our future

Fly in and nest in Bird City

Fly in and nest in the one and only Bird City

Migrate to the one and only Bird City, We will fluff your feathers and feed your beak

Have you heard the word? Come to Bird! Bird City, KS the only one in the world

Come nest with us in Bird City

Take flight in Bird City and see your life soar

Stop your search. Come and perch in the one and only Bird City

Spread your wings and come to the one and only Bird City

Spread your wings and come to Bird City



CATHY DOMSCH of Century II, presents the winning entry for the Bird City Slogan Contest. The slogan will be announced at the Bird City Santa Day. Time staff photo by Casey McCormick

## City council hears concerns

By Casey McCormick

The Bird City Council met on Monday to hear from Carol Redding, Cathy Domsch, Tina Sager and discuss the city's law enforcement agreement.

Carol Redding of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation, had several concerns for the city council.

Mrs. Redding asked what her organization could expect for financial support for the 2005 fiscal year. The council assured her that the standard amount of \$2,000 would be available.

She also asked if the council knew of anyone from Bird City who might be interested in joining the Cheyenne County Development Corporation. At this time only two members are from Bird City: Wendy Richmeier and Joy Anderegg.

Mrs. Redding also wondered why she was not getting any input from Bird City residents and the council, especially with her "This is the Place" articles printed in the Bird City Times.

"I really want citizen comments on countywide programs," Mrs. Redding said.

Mayor Dave Hickert agreed that there is a need for citizen input but he complained about a group of people who are unhappy with about anything the city does.

"Maybe we could generate interest from the C.A.V.E." Mayor Hickert said, "I mean the Citizens Against Virtually Everything."

Next, Cathy Domsch of the Century II Foundation, presented a suggestion for a Bird City slogan. The council agreed on the slogan (see related story.)

Tina Sager of the Recreation Commission was at the meeting to ask if any funds were available for pool repairs. There is \$2,300 left in the 2004 budget for repairs.

Of that amount, \$500 will be used to buy a kit to rebuild the secondary pool pump. Also the Recreation Commis-

sion will be contacting Don Wright for a bid on replacing lights at the pool.

Discussion was heard about upgrading the skimmers system at the pool. City manager Sam Beeson told the council about a possible change where a new liner could be sprayed on the pool. A skimmers system would be added and the pool would have to remain full year round. The upgrade is estimated to cost \$44,000.

"But that's not really the problem," Mr. Beeson said. "We could cut all the way around the pool and put in new pipes for skimmers."

Mr. Beeson will be looking into bids and the council is hopeful the project can be completed before the next pool season.

The council spent time on its law enforcement agreement with the county. With the change of sheriff, some concerns were voiced. The current agreement is with the county to provide a deputy whose primary duty is in Bird City. The council has a say in who will fill this position. In addition Bird City pays \$25,000 a year through the law enforcement agreement.

The council decided to make an addendum to the agreement to renew law enforcement with the county. The addendum will go next to the county commissioners for approval and then on to the new sheriff, Troy Gardner, for his approval as well.

Out going Sheriff Eddie Dankenbring was also present at the meeting. He told the council that as of Jan. 10, he would not be working for Cheyenne County and would be willing to become a police officer in Bird City if the city was interested.

Mayor Hickert stated that the city could not afford a police department and that is why they contracted with the county. Also, with the law enforcement agreement, all of the police equipment had gone to the county and could not be

replaced.

Council member, Wendy Richmeier voiced her disappointment in the council not being made aware of the loss of Deputy Jeff Moser, who is leaving to take a law enforcement position in WaKeeney.

"We had to find out about Jeff leaving through the grapevine," Mrs. Richmeier said.

Another council member, Loren White, also complained about the situation.

"We're paying \$2,000 a month for nothing," Mr. White said.

Sheriff Dankenbring defended his position by saying he had lost his under sheriff and deputy.

"Instead of three guys we're down to one to cover the whole county," Sheriff Dankenbring said.

### In Other Business

In other business:

• A cereal malt beverage license was approved for the Hometown Market.

• Frank Serrano was given an extension until Dec. 31, 2005, on a previous building permit.

• The council asked Sheriff Dankenbring if he had any plans for the items in the evidence room at the city hall. He said he would leave it for the new sheriff to deal with it as he sees fit.

• The new signs have arrived for the park. No alcohol and surveillance signs will be posted soon.

• The Fire Department Ordinance, which outlines normal operating procedures, was approved.

• Marcia Hickert was approved as the Resource Conservation and Development representative from Bird City.

• The grinder for the sewer lift station is in and waiting to be installed.

The Cheyline elementary students will vote on two proposals for playground equipment for the city park. The most popular choice will be purchased with grant money.



LINEMAN MARSHALL HESPE removes three lines from a pole that will be replaced. Winter months do not offer a break for a lineman. Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

## Prairie Land Electric to build substation near McDonald

By Casey McCormick

The Prairie Land Electric crew is busy with work on a new substation which will upgrade service for customers in northwest Kansas.

"The new station will be a good benefit," Prairie Land line supervisor Earl Hansen said. "Outage time should go down and the quality of service will be better."

The new station will be located on the Cheyenne County and Rawlins county lines, a mile north of U.S. 36.

"There is a big transmission line going through there and the new station will replace three older substations," Mr. Hansen said.

The three stations being replaced are 1950 vintage types which are in need of upgrading. As well as the new substation, many miles of new line will be needed to connect service stations to the substation.

"The job should take about 12 to 15 months to complete," Mr. Hansen said. "There will be a lot of line built out of it."

Two of the line men working along U.S. 36 this week are Marshall Hesper of the Bird City area and

## Electric company pays members \$1.1 million

The board of trustees of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative recently approved a capital credit retirement totaling \$611,000. Checks were mailed to members on Dec. 1 for patronage they had with Prairie Land Electric since 1985. In the past five years, the company has paid more than \$2.6 million in capital credit refunds.

In addition to the capital credit pay-out, Prairie Land Electric issues monthly billing credits of 1/2-per kilowatt hour that will total over \$500,000 in 2004. Since 1999, Prairie Land members have received over \$5.4 million in capital credit refunds and direct

billing credits.

Prairie Land's strong financial strength over the past few years has made monthly credits and year-end pay-outs possible. Gilbert Berland, president of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, said that "...as a member-owned electric cooperative, our mission is to provide our members with good quality service and, at the same time, keep rates as low as possible consistent with sound business practices. We are happy to return dividends to our member-owners at a time when prices for natural gas, propane and fuel oil are on the rise."

Ryan Culwell of St. Francis. They are working a 3-mile stretch of line which will get new poles as well as a new neutral line.

## Holiday show this Sunday

By Casey McCormick

The Cheyline Christmas Concert has been rescheduled and will be performed on Sunday, December 12 at 3:30 in the high school gymnasium.

The schedule change was made to accommodate music director Rose Hengen. Her son Max underwent a surgery in Denver and this allowed Mrs. Hengen to be with him.

But nothing else should change with the show, the Sunday presentation is sure to be very entertaining.

Students involved with the production need to be in the music room by 3:10.



**Christmas**  
**In**  
**McDonald**  
**&**  
**Santa Day**  
**in**  
**Bird City**  
**Dec., 18**