



# Bird City Times

Thursday, April 10, 2008  
Volume 83, Number 15  
Bird City, Kansas 67731

6 Pages



**YOUNG MOVIE GOERS** line up for refreshments in the United Methodist Fellowship Hall during the movie intermission Sunday evening. Nearly 30 people, youngsters and oldsters, attended the opening night. *Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*

## Community club seeks to donate to park

By Linda Schneider  
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The Bird City City Council meeting on Monday began with Jana Diers, city clerk, bringing the council up-to-date concerning the employee taxes for 2008. The discrepancies were due to hiring Craig White in 2007.

### Public agenda

Stan Dorsch on the behalf of the Community Club wanted to know if the club needed the council's approval to start a project to replace new tables, chairs and benches at the park. Mayor Troy Burr said that he was agreeable with the project and Wade Carmichael, council member, said that, contingent on furniture approval, they could precede. Motion carried to start the project.

In Cathy Domsch's absence, Mr. Carmichael presented an opportunity for members to attend a conference called "Reclaiming Our Community." A workshop will be held in Hays this month and deals with issues of properties in town that need cleaning up and how to proceed.

Kari Gilliland, city attorney, expressed desire. Wade also said he would be going. Mayor Burr asked if there was funding available. Deb Smith, council member, made a motion to reimburse any council members who wanted to go. Motion carried.

### Sheriff report

Sheriff Craig Van Allen reported that deputy John Lanz had graduated from the academy and Cody Beeson has one more month before graduation. However, Deputy Mike Blehm quit and the department is looking for another deputy. Sheriff Van Allen said that any referrals from Bird City would be appreciated.

Mayor Burr asked if there has been any increase in incidents around Bird City. Sheriff Van Allen replied that calls and incidents have dropped from last year.

Then the discussion went to how well is the 911 dispatch doing. Sheriff Van Allen said the law enforcement is not having any problems. It is just getting used to the new equipment. In addition, once the mapping of the county is completed and in place, it will run more smoothly. He complimented the council on the input they have done in getting the addresses into place. He invited the council to stop by the dispatch center and check out the progress.

### Building permits

Tina Clemans was approved to remove a curb to put in a driveway and put up a chain-link fence.

### Old business

The chain-link fence around the current water waste treatment facility was brought to the table from last month's meeting. Discussion was about whether to find a use or open bids to purchase it. Ray Magnani, council member, suggested use for securing the lagoon construction site. No action was taken.

Council discussed whether to keep the electrical lines already out to the new construction of the lagoon or not. Possibility of future use prompted the council to approve a motion to keep the electricity and get a meter installed.

Again, the council talked about building a dog pound for loose dogs in the city limits. Mrs. Diers did some research with the Atwood dog pound and Mayor Burr asked if loose dogs were that big of issue.

"It was, but not recently," she said.

## Wheelbearing starts grass fire by church

On Sunday, the Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at the Wesleyan Church on Highway 36. A grass fire started by a heated wheel bearing that had shot out from a passing semi-truck.

The fire started on the north and west side of the church and most of the congregation had left.

"The timing of the fire was that

Sheriff Van Allen said that the problem arises when dogs are picked up without tags, what to do with them. The issue was tabled.

### New business

An application to lease property for the use of oil/gas wells was briefly discussed and rejected because the request included the land where the new lagoon is being built.

Employee insurance now has a cap of \$500. The council voted to approve to give employees a health insurance policy provided by Blue Shield. The employee has the choice of single or family, but the most the city will pay on the monthly premium is \$500.

### From the suggestion box

Mayor Burr read a request to paint the city sign. No action was taken.

### Council Committees

Loren White, equipment, reported that he is looking into buying a lawn mower. He reported on a bid for a used 60-inch Grasshopper mower from Yost at \$7,900, or a new grasshopper at \$13,325. Discussion continued on the different mowers. Mr. Carmichael commented that the city has not had good luck with used equipment in the past. Motion carried for Mr. White to get bids on a new mower. He also discussed that he had looked at a used half-ton pickup truck, but expressed that a three-quarter ton truck would be best for what the city needs.

Mr. White reported that mosquito spraying was coming up and there is an issue with the spray pump. Frank Serrano, council member, asked if certification was needed to spray. Mr. White said only with label restrictions. Mr. Serrano said there may be some confusion to what was needed and asked him to clarify the certification.

Mr. Carmichael, parks and recreation, reported that preparations for Memorial Day are being taken and park needs are being discussed with Craig White and Brad Schneider, city maintenance.

Mr. Serrano, utilities, reported several basements were flooded and was it an issue. Ray Magnani, council member, said that both had been taken care of and were not major problems.

Mr. Magnani, personnel, reported that Mr. White and Mr. Schneider were working well together with no complaints.

Deb Smith, streets, reported potholes needed to be filled and streets graveled.

### City clerk items

The new phone with two lines was up and running smoothly. The clerk reported a 45 percent water loss for the month, up from 15 percent three months ago. There was concern over where the water maybe going; maybe in a basement that has not been discovered or bulk water being taken and not recorded. Mrs. Diers will keep watch.

### Last minute items

A bill from the railroad for \$500 for the city sign on its property is up from \$25. It was tabled until there was further research on the bill.

They agreed to apply for an grant to build an Emergency Medical Service training room from the Bacon Foundation and Century II for \$15,000.

Executive session was called to discuss employees. After executive session was ended, motion carried to place an ad for the position of city clerk.

The next meeting is May 5.

## Families enjoy night at the movies

On Sunday evening, the United Methodist Church of Bird City started a community outreach program, a family movie night.

The congregation of the church wants to provide the opportunity for families to spend quality time together watching movies that support wholesome values.

Sunday's movie was the "But-

tercream Gang," about a group of youths in a small town who help the community and when one of the boys goes off to Chicago and joins a city gang, what they do when he comes back to live in their town.

There is no admission and refreshments are also free and provided during an old-fashioned in-

termission, just like the movies of days gone by.

Pastor Becky said, "We want to give back to the community for the support they have shown the church."

This is a trial program and if the community shows interest in having these family movies, they will be every two or three

months.

"It is a time families can reconnect and make some memories that will last a lifetime," said Pastor Davison.

To make a comment or find out more information, contact Jane Brubaker, church secretary, at the United Methodist Church of Bird City.

## Students lift for health

By Linda Schneider  
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After this past football season, Nick Ketzner, junior high football coach, challenged the Cheylin junior high boys and their parents to get involved in a weight lifting program at the school weight room.

Wanting to start with the middle school boys, Mr. Ketzner's goal is to develop a great high school athletic team by getting them started early. He wants to give them every opportunity to grow into dedicated team players and learn what it means to have a healthy lifestyle.

Every morning 7 a.m. Monday through Thursday, Nick is in the weight room, located in the basement at the elementary building, ready to assist with weight spotting and to answer any questions concerning health and nutrition.

At the beginning, all that was required of those who wanted to participate in the weight room was one hour a week, but for many, it has been nearly every-day of the week. In addition, it has not just been the junior high boys; high school girls and boys are also weight lifting to achieve greater athletic abilities and even younger students are participating. No one is turned away.

Nick and the junior high football team had a great winning



**TY CARMICHAEL LIFTS** while Nick Ketzner, junior high football coach, spots for him.

season last year, and they are looking to have another one in

the 2007-2008 season. More- over, to do it takes commitment

from each individual. "It all starts here!" said Nick.