

# Bird City community to update strategic plan

On Nov. 14, the community of Bird City began the process of updating the Bird City Strategic Plan. The meeting was facilitated by Cathy Domsch, Bird City Century II Development Foundation executive director.

A group of 27 community leaders and interested community members brainstormed and set goals which developed a 2014-2019 Strategic Plan for Bird City. This is the third set of town hall meetings to create/update a strategic plan for the Bird City community in nine years.

During this meeting, those in attendance began by reviewing goals that were accomplished by the previous strategic planning group. The group of participants then brainstormed projects and programs they would like to see accomplished in Bird City within the next three to five years. The suggestions were divided into two groups, social and physical environments, and listed in order according to the number of interest. The economic environment group will be handled by a different process. During a follow-up meeting

on Nov. 19, those that were in attendance divided into either the social or physical environment group according to the items of their most interest. Prior to the meeting, members of Bird City Century II Development Foundation and Bird City City Council were asked to co-lead the physical and social environments.

Ned Smith, Dennis Wright, and Rod Young were asked to co-lead the physical environment group. Sherry Carmichael, Rod Klepper, Gary Brubaker, Frank Serrano and Shannon Ambrosier were asked to co-lead the social environment.

Each group was then asked to decide the number of goals they would like to include in their portion of the strategic plan to move forward. They were then categorized according to the items of most importance to be accomplished in the three to five year time span. These goals are:

**Social Environment Group**  
Goal one: Raise funds for Cheylin Schools.

During the previous strategic planning program, the group's

goal was to raise \$50,000, of which \$23,000 was raised through a fundraiser for Cheylin Schools.

Jan Busse, Lori Janicke, Kelly Leach, Shelly Angelos, and Brian Miller agreed to having an alumni basketball game to raise funds for technology improvements at Cheylin School. During the Jan. 9, meeting they reported raising \$2,200.

Next in line for Cheylin was to update the McDonald gym floor/lighting and sound system. The gym floor was previously resurfaced, and not done properly, and is very slick and in dire need of being redone. Kale Shields, Nick Ketzner, Shelly Angelos and Lori Janicke combined this project with improving the lighting and sound system which is of poor quality. They are presently acquiring the board of education's approval and looking into funding thru a mill levy with Cheylin Recreation Commission for these projects.

**Goal two- Clinic expansion.**  
An expansion of the Bird City Clinic was next in line of goals, with an expansion of the clinic hours and space for the Bird City clinic to possibly add a dentist and optometrist.

The goal of the previous strategic planning program was to increase health care services,

and a chiropractor was acquired. The consensus of the group is the community could now support a dentist and optometrist by expanding the present facilities.

During the January meeting, Cindy Burr said she had visited with Judy Rockford, Cheyenne County Hospital administrator, to determine the feasibility of expanding the clinic services/hours and addition of square footage to include dental/optometry services. The administrator was excited about the possibilities. Mrs. Burr, Mike McCarty, Sherry Carmichael and Cathy Domsch will meet to start brainstorming details, map out space options, and meet with the administrator for regulations and options.

**Goal three - Outdoor theater.**  
A small group of people in the past brought up discussion on the possibility of Bird City having a portable outdoor theater system. At that time, Big Ed's donated \$1,000 to the foundation for this project. A group was formed to check into this. During the

January meeting, Kelly Leach and Darci Schields said they are researching portable screen options and Jan Busse is to research projector options. Kelly Leach, Darci Schields and Jan Busse are also looking into determining ownership of a theater system, receiving approval of an entity, and seeking out the possible means of acquiring funding through individual donations and a grant.

**Physical environment**  
Goal one - Brownfield's theater demolition.

The top item on the list for the physical environment committee is the demolition of the old theater building downtown. A suggestion was that they could possibly receive assistance through the Brownfield's program.

The city acknowledges it needs to be taken care of as soon as possible, and would like to see this done by July of 2014. Once the demolition is complete, the property will return to ground level as an empty lot. Ideas for future use of the space are a greenhouse, storm shelter, green space activity area, or farmers market.

**Goal two - Improving housing opportunities in Bird City.**

The Physical Environment group felt the second priority for Bird City's future development and growth is to provide more housing, including rentals.

In order to do this, an assessment needs to be done to determine what the current market is for housing in Bird City, by means of conducting a Housing Assessment Tool. Rod Young, Martin Burton, and Troy Burr are the lead individuals working on this. Cathy Domsch is working with this group to help them get started, and is arranging a group meeting with James Foster, with the Kansas Development Of Commerce to obtain his assistance.

Mr. Young, Mr. Burton, and Mr. Burr are creating a comprehensive list of empty homes that could be for sale/rent, and are researching opportunities of obtaining investor grants for demolishing homes/buildings.

Cathy Domsch has checked with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission

on the eligibility of Bird City applying for a Community Development Block Grant. She found they would be eligible for a housing Rehab/Demo, but these grants are very competitive. She said they could also apply for a Commercial/Housing Demolition grant, but this type of grant is very rare to obtain funding.

**Goal three - Storm shelters.**  
The next items of concern members would like to see are storm shelters strategically placed throughout Bird City for the protection of its residents in the event of a tornado or other disaster.

Velda Wright researched present locations that can be used as shelters, and gave a report on these results. Deb Smith is concerned about a shelter for Lebow Manor residents, and has been researching options as well. Troy Burr is contacting Greg Waters for sources on obtaining funds for building storm shelters.

**Goal four - 'Round-About'**  
A 'Round-about', with a landscaping option, was a goal set by the previous planning committee. Participants are reworking this plan to see this accomplished, and feel it would help to beautify the main intersection of downtown Bird City.

Tom Bailey and Velda Wright are creating a beautification plan, with 'round about', planters and signage for the intersection of Bird Avenue and 4th Street, and will present it to the City Council for their approval.

Tom Bailey presented a Google map, with measurements of the main intersection, showing how a 10 foot diameter round-about would fit in the intersection. Velda Wright and Tom Bailey will seek funds to complete this beautification plan if approved by City Council.

**Goal five - Cabins, Lodging, Bed and Breakfast**

It was established that the city has a need for cabins and lodging for visitors who come to Bird City for special events, such as hunting, bicyclists, and family or community events. It would be a benefit to Bird City if more facilities were available for short term visitors to stay in.

Devin Conley and Tom Bailey are researching new construction vs. rehabilitation of existing properties. They are looking into outside investors, and physical/financial assistance for property owners as an incentive.

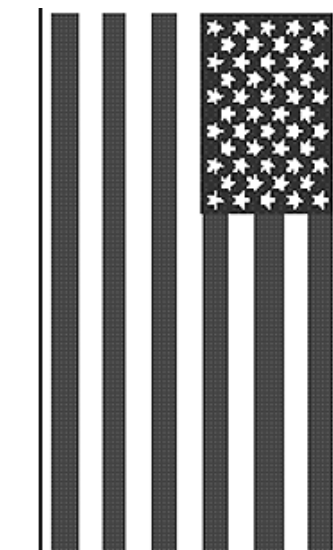
Cathy Domsch talked to Kansas Department of Commerce, who has a Downtown Commercial Rehabilitation program that can be applied for, if the owner is willing to commit at least 25 percent towards the project.

The next meeting of the Strategic Planning groups is scheduled for April 17, at 7 p.m. at the Century II Foundation offices. Bird City residents are encouraged to attend, even if they have not previously attended a planning meeting.

## Senior potluck held

Due to a conflict, Monday's monthly potluck was down in attendance, but a dozen seniors enjoyed a good meal and time of dominoes and Pitch afterwards. Mila Bandel, county health nurse, was on hand to take blood pressure and blood sugar checks. The business meeting was very short and brief.

Next potluck will be held on Feb. 24.



## Public Notices

### Petition filed in court requesting release

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursday, January 23, January 30 and February 6, 2014. (04, 05, 06)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS  
FILED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59 OF THE  
KANSAS STATUTES ANNOTATED

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
ROBERT J. BURR, Deceased Case No. 13 PR 04

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED

You are hereby notified that on the 22nd day of January, 2014, a Petition has been filed in this court by JR Landenberger, duly appointed, qualified, and acting Executor of the Estate of Robert J. Burr, deceased, requesting that petitioner's acts be approved, account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the will be construed and the estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the court find the balances requested for executor and attorney fees and expenses are reasonable and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the estate be closed; and upon the filing of receipts the petitioner be finally discharged as the Executor of the Estate of Robert J. Burr, deceased and the petitioner be released from further liability.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses to the Petition on or before the 20th day of February, 2014, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., on the day, in said Court, in the City of St. Francis, in Cheyenne County, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail herein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course and upon said petition.

JR Landenberger, Executor

WIGNERY & MASON L.L.C.  
214 E. 10th, P.O. Box 767  
Goodland, Kansas 67735  
Telephone: 785-890-6588  
Attorneys for Petitioner

## Annual conservation meeting set on Feb. 19

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, and Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursdays, January 30 and February 6, 2014. (05, 06)

### Notice of Annual Meeting Of The Cheyenne County Conservation District

To all qualified electors residing within the boundaries of the Cheyenne County Conservation District, notice is hereby given that pursuant to K.S.A. 2-1907, as amended on the 10th day of February, 2014 at 6 p.m., an annual meeting of the Cheyenne County Conservation District will be held at the Bird City American Legion Hall, Bird City, Kansas.

The meeting agenda shall include the following business items:  
**ONE:**

The supervisors of the Cheyenne County Conservation District shall make full and due report of their activities and financial affairs since the last annual meeting.

**TWO:**  
The supervisors shall conduct an election by secret ballot of qualified electors there present, of two supervisor to serve for a term of three years from date of said meeting.

The terms of Spencer Schlepp and Clint Bursch are expiring.

All in the county of Cheyenne in the State of Kansas.

By Roger Orth  
Chairperson  
Cheyenne County Conservation District

Attest  
Danielle Holzwarth  
District Secretary/Manager

## Your hometown. Their future.



Imagine the possibilities for your community if everyone designated **just 5%** of their estates to hometown needs.

With the help of community foundations, we can create permanent sources of funding for local charities, schools, churches, parks, and so much more!



A little planning. A big impact.

Learn more at [keepfiveinkansas.com](http://keepfiveinkansas.com)



# Grand Opening Celebration

## Saturday, Feb. 1

### BOGO - Buy one 6" or Foot Long and one Subway fountain drink – get a sandwich of equal size FREE!

**Check your Subway menu inserted in The Herald and Times newspapers! If it says "WINNER" marked inside –bring it in to redeem your prize!**

*Promotion good Saturday Only*

**Hold on to those menus for convenient call-in orders or party needs!**

*Call in early for your Big Game party goodies! Subway Caters!!! Jumbo party subs, sandwich platters, meat & cheese trays, cookie platters, and more!*



Don't forget to check your menu located in this week's newspaper!



**Majestic Service**  
510 West Highway 36  
St. Francis, Ks.  
785.332.2905