

# Church:

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Page 6 & 7

Vol. 97, No. 33  
75 cents

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

# Sports:

Norton athletes run, jump and throw in Plainville. Jennings, Logan and Norton junior high compete.

Pages 8 & 10

Friday  
April 23, 2004

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Otis Howard

## Briefly

### Motorcycle show set for Saturday

Abate of Kansas District No. 2 will hold its fourth annual motorcycle show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the National Guard Armory.

If you like motorcycles, this is the place to be as other motorcycle lovers show off their machines.

### Scouts to hold Pinewood Derby

Norton Cub Scout Troop 181 will be hosting the District Pinewood Derby at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Norton American Legion.

The derby is being sponsored by the Norton Lions Club, who will provide the track and weights.

Scouts throughout the Coronado District have been invited. The public is welcome to attend.

### Kids Day set at Prairie Dog

The fourth annual Outdoor Kansas for Kids Day will be Saturday, May 1.

At Prairie Dog State Park, Kansas kids will get the chance to enjoy a fishing clinic and an archery clinic. There will also be a laser hunting and shooting simulator, which will duplicate many hunting situations and target shooting scenarios.

The Norton Rural Fire Department will talk about fire safety and show the kids one of their trucks.

All kids will get a gift and will be registered for prizes. They can also enter an essay contest for a chance to win \$100.

The day will begin at 1 p.m.; kids should meet at the park office. Anyone interested in sponsoring an event or helping that day can contact the park office at (785) 877-2953.

## Weather

### Forecast:

Tonight — Rain with lows in the lower 40s. Saturday — Mostly cloudy with rain likely then a chance of rain in the afternoon. Highs in the mid 50s. Saturday Night — Partly cloudy with lows in the lower 40s.

### Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 73, Low 40  
Wednesday ..... High 69, Low 49  
..... .17 of an inch of precipitation  
Thursday ..... High 55, Low 42  
..... .10 of an inch of precipitation  
Week ago ..... High 83, Low 48  
Month ago ..... High 64, Low 40  
Year ago ..... High 73, Low 50  
April precipitation ..... 1.91 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ..... 4.58 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

## Prayer

Lord God, help us daily to remember that you love us despite our sins so that we can remember to love others.  
Amen



Elmer Howell (above) helped himself to a piece of cake at his retirement reception Tuesday, honoring him for 33 years with the Norton Fire Department. Friends, fellow fire fighters and dignitaries came to honor Mr. Howell. Now he can enjoy his tractors (below). — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Fireman hangs up his helmet

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

The one recurring theme in Elmer Howell's 33-year tenure with the Norton City Fire Department was his willingness to serve in any way he could. This sentiment was echoed over and over by fellow firefighters, friends and his wife during his retirement reception Tuesday in the basement of City Hall.

Mr. Howell was born in Norton County and graduated from Densmore Rural High School. In 1951 he left Norton to attend college in Hays.

It was there that his law enforcement career began as he took a job with the Hays College traffic control unit. Summers found him on the Canadian border patrol and working the Rose Bud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. A hunting accident ended his college career and he returned to Kansas in 1955.

In 1957, he joined the Norton City Police. (Continued on Page 5)



## Northern Valley students ask board to keep game

By KRISTEN BRANDS

Several Northern Valley seniors visited the April 12 school board meeting to try to make sure that the annual senior and faculty game is held this year.

Due to a full schedule of activities, the games were originally scheduled for a Wednesday night, and then later canceled.

Board Member Glenn Brands said that he thought Wednesday should be free from school activities unless it was an event scheduled by a group like the state activities association or by special arrangement from the superintendent. The other members agreed with him.

The senior/faculty game was rescheduled for Wednesday, April 21.

Elementary teachers Robbie Griffiths and Julie Thompson made presentations on their classroom activities.

Mrs. Griffiths, fourth-grade teacher, shared a math activity which demonstrated long division. She also chal-

lenged board members to shape Tangrams, using graphics. Mrs. Griffiths introduced her student teacher Amber Bussman to the board.

Julie Thompson, second grade teacher, said that her class is studying early Kansas history in social studies.

To complement her lessons, she is hoping to use the schoolhouse at the Sunflower Pioneer Power Association grounds for a day and have the children study penmanship, play old-fashioned games and make butter.

She said the second graders are also learning about Egypt by making pop-up books and graphic organizers.

The 2003-'04 budget was amended as it was increased by \$32,449. This change was published 10 days prior to the meeting, and the board agreed to approve the amendment.

The resignations of Linda Malcolm, Title I/pre-school teacher, and Jami Tolle, instrumental music teacher, were accepted by the board. The (Continued on Page 5)

## City decides not to rezone after area residents object

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton City Council took the recommendation of the Planning Commission and decided not to rezone the empty lot on the southeast corner of Brown Street and U.S. 36.

David Wolf, representing the residents in the area, said the residents didn't want the area rezoned.

"We feel that we don't need to rezone that space, because we will never know what might come in," he said. "It's a nice,

neat area the way it is and we want to keep it that way."

Councilman George Jones said he didn't know if this was the thing to do, but would vote against rezoning because that's what the majority wants.

Councilman Jerry Hawks wanted to know why the commission decided against rezoning, when it filed for it in the first place.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said (Continued on Page 5)

## Council prepares for another year

Newly elected Norton City Council members were sworn in at Wednesday's meeting.

Being sworn in were incumbent councilmen Jerry Hawks, Ward II, and Jim Williams, Ward III, and newly elected Councilman Jerry Jones, Ward I.

Mr. J. Jones said he would like to see more public interest in elections and would like to see more people run for city council. Because of this, he suggested that

the mayor and city staff research how to eliminate the three wards and go to a city-wide election.

Mayor David Corns presented former Councilwoman Harriett Gill a plaque of appreciation for her service and told her she should be proud of all she has accomplished, especially the work she did to get a new animal control shelter built.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working (Continued on Page 5)

# Council ready for new year

(Continued from Page 1) with the council," said Ms. Gill. "I have really learned a lot."

Following the oath of office, Councilwoman Elaine Mann nominated Ron Briery as council president.

The appointment was approved 5-1 with Mr. Briery voting against his own appointment.

Committee appointments were:

- Finance Committee — Mr. Williams, Mr. Briery and Mr. Hawks.

- Utility Committee — Mr. Hawks, Councilman George Jones and Mr. Briery.

- Personnel Committee — Mrs. Mann, Mr. J. Jones and Mr. Williams.

- Public Safety — Mr. J. Jones, Mr. Hawks and Mr. G. Jones.

- Parks and Cemetery Committee — Mr. Briery, Mrs. Mann and Mr. J. Jones.

- Public Works Committee — Mr. G. Jones, Mr. Williams and Mrs. Mann.

Board appointments were:

- Mr. Williams as Airport Board council representative.

- Mrs. Mann as Housing Authority council representative.

- Mr. Hawks and City Administrator Rob Lawson as Kansas



Newly elected Councilman Jerry Jones took the oath of office at Wednesday night's Norton City Council meeting.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Municipal Energy Association council representatives.

- Mr. Hawks as Norton County Commission council representative.

- Mr. G. Jones as Bed Tax Committee council representative.

- Mrs. Mann as Norton Area Chamber of Commerce council representative.

- Mr. Briery, Mr. Corns and Mr. Lawson as Solid Waste Committee representatives.

- Mr. J. Jones as Mitigation 20/20 Emergency Planning Commit-

tee council representative.

Other appointments were:

- Darla Ellis as Norton city clerk.
- Patty Rowh as Norton city treasurer.

- Karen Griffiths as Norton city attorney.

Mr. Hawks said there has been a lot of speculation about whether Mrs. Griffiths would assume the county attorney position of County Attorney Doug Sebelius is elected as state representative for the 120th district.

He said he didn't think it would

be a good idea for the city attorney and county attorney to be the same person, and if it did happen, hoped she would resign as city attorney.

If not, he said he would make a motion asking for her resignation.

- Doug Sebelius as Norton city prosecutor.

- Lynn Menagh as chief of police.

- Mitch Jones as fire chief and Kirk Nuzum as assistant fire chief.

- David O. Baumgartner as municipal judge.

- Roy Hartley, M.D. as city health officer.

## Board votes to pay dues

(Continued from Page 1) ignations are effective at the end of the year.

In other business, the board:

- Reviewed the North Central Kansas Special Education Cooperation minutes.

- Heard that Superintendent Bill Lowry will apply for a grant to would help pay for the school's program for 4-year-olds.

- Approved the application for Avian M. Landis, a second grader from Phillipsburg, to attend school within the district.

- Approved a shelter agreement with the Phillips County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

- Voted to pay Kansas Association of School Board membership dues as well as Kansas Association of School Boards Legal Assistance Fund dues for next year.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Lenora City Ordinance

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, April 23, 2004. (1T)

**ORDINANCE NO. 322**  
**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MEETING TIMES OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LENORA, KANSAS, AND REPEALING CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LENORA, KANSAS:

SECTION ONE: Section 1-203 of the Code of the City of Lenora, Kansas, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SAME; MEETINGS. (a) Regular meetings of the Governing Body shall be held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. In the event the regular meeting day shall fall on any legal holiday or any day observed as a holiday by the City Offices, the Governing Body shall fix the succeeding day not observed as a holiday as a meeting day.

(b) Special meetings may be called by the Mayor or acting mayor, on the written request of any three members of the City Council specifying the object and purpose of such meeting, which request shall be read at a meeting and entered at length on the journal.

(c) Regular or special meeting of the Governing Body may be adjourned for the completion of its business at such subsequent time and place as the Governing Body shall determine in its motion to adjourn."

SECTION TWO: Ordinance No. 257 and Ordinance No. 270, and the provisions of any conflicting ordinance, are hereby repealed.

SECTION THREE: This ordinance shall be published in the official city newspaper and shall take effect upon publication.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 19th day of April, 2004.

CITY OF LENORA, KANSAS  
 Raymond Heikes, Mayor

Attest:  
 Gayle James, City Clerk

# Residents worry about rezoning

(Continued from Page 1) the majority of residents were against the rezoning and also because no plan was presented, so the residents could see what would be happening.

Mayor David Corns said a lot goes into something like this and with no plans, people just didn't feel comfortable.

Mr. Hawks said he hoped the Planning Commission would give a little bit more information regarding its decisions in the future.

In other business, the council:

- Waived the formal first reading of Ordinance No. 1529, restricting vehicular parking for certain times on the north side of Woods Drive from Brown Street to Valley Vista.

Councilman Jerry Jones said the city had some violations of the no parking ordinance which was already in effect and shouldn't extend it until it got that worked out.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said the issue had been discussed and the police have been writing tickets. The reading was waived with a 5-1 vote, with Mr. Jones voting no.

- Heard from Mr. Corns that the fourth annual Abate of Kansas motorcycle show will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. this Saturday at the National Guard Armory. He said there are a lot of nice motorcycles at the show and that the event brings a lot of people into the community.

- Mrs. Mann said the Travel and Tourism Committee has been working to promote the show.

- Noted that two bids were received for the airport apron project and the low bid, from Werner Construction, was below the engineer's estimate. Mr. Lawson said the engineer is reviewing the bids.

- Found out that the city website, www.cityofnorton.com is up and running, but still under construction.

- Heard that the skate park was

vandalized and the incident is under investigation. Several of the youngsters, who use the park, were there Wednesday afternoon cleaning it up.

- Learned from Mr. Hawks that the county sales tax and the franchise fees are generating more money than anticipated for the city budget. He said it would be wise for the committees to look at ways to use the extra money, and also thought some of it should be used as a cash carry-over for next year's budget.

- Were told that interviews for a pool manager were held and Kelly Leiker was hired. An assistant manager has not been hired yet.

- Heard that the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development was hired to prepare a first impressions report of Norton. Mr. Lawson said a team will come to town and evaluate the community and prepared a report and slide show of their findings. He said this will help with the clean-up of properties in the future.

- Donated two single season pool passes, \$30 each, to the American Youth Soccer Organization to be used as prizes for fundraising efforts. There are 186 children in the Norton soccer program this year.

- Learned that City Attorney Karen Griffith has prepared a draft of a revised city/county airport agreement, which she has given to Mr. Hawks and to County Attorney Doug Sebelius.

- Heard from Mrs. Mann that the cemetery improvement group is putting together a plan of the proposed improvements and the cost of each. She said the city's crew has done an incredible job of keeping the cemetery up with the dry conditions of the past few years.

- Were told by Councilman Ron Briery that Mr. G. Jones had offered to buy two trees to put in the park. Mr. Jones said that the trees were planted in the cemetery, rather than at the park.



Elmer Howell demonstrated some of the gear Norton fire fighters wore when he joined the department 33 years ago.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

# Long-time city fireman retires

(Continued from Page 1) Police Department as a night patrolman.

On Thanksgiving Day in 1958, Elmer and Joyce Clark, a Norton girl, were married.

But she is serious when she said, "When Elmer put on that uniform, he was a policeman. And if Elmer said 'No', people listened."

Over the next few years, Mr. Howell would drop in at the fire station after the unit would return from a call. Ed Johnson was fire chief.

One such night the Chief said, "We sure coulda' used you at that fire the other night, Elmer."

That comment sparked his interest. He told Chief Johnson that if it would be okay for a person to have two titles within city government and if the council would approve, he would do it.

The proposal gained approval and Mr. Howell joined the Norton City Fire Department in January 1970.

There have been a lot of changes over his 33 years.

When he started there wasn't much in the way of equipment. There was one large fire truck (circa 1964); a Chevy pickup; and an old Army surplus jeep.

In those days the maximum pumping capacity was 750 gallons of water per minute. With newer and better pumper trucks the capacity has leaped to 3,000 gallons per minute.

Their protective coats, called "bunkers", were made of leather.

They were hot and heavy; not like the coats firemen have today.

Today Norton fire fighters wear bunkers and pants are made of light-weight, thermal lined, fire resistant material. Helmets are fire and shock resistant with a protective cap inside to absorb any blows to the head.

One of the biggest improvements Mr. Howell noted was the introduction of self-contained oxygen tanks for the fire fighters.

He praised the Norton Eagles Lodge for its fund-raising efforts on behalf of the fire department. The Eagles raised the \$25,000 needed to purchase a thermal imaging unit that would allow fire fighters to see through smoke and darkness. A unit, still used today.

When he started with the fire department, training was limited. But, there was a lot of "on-the-job training". Mr. Howell said that he liked to be on the hose.

A big man, he was known for his strength and as one fire fighter friend put it, "When Elmer hoisted that hose over his shoulder, he was gonna move. And if you were hangin' on to the hose, you were gonna move, too."

Mr. Howell has been in some big fires, but the one that stands out in his memory was when Mizell Motors burned.

He was on the roof spraying thousands of gallons of water when he realized the weight that must have been accumulating. A quick decision to pierce the roof with his ax allowed the water to

go inside the building. That decision also earned him the tongue-in-cheek, "Ventilation Award" at that year's Fireman's Banquet.

In all his years on the department, he said there had only been one fatality. A woman died on New Year's eve during a fire at The Commons apartment complex.

Over the last several years, Mr. Howell has mostly handled traffic control at fires. An important job, necessary to keep both the public and firefighters safe.

On the lighter side, he loved directing traffic during the annual Halloween Parade sponsored by the fire department. His post was always the corner by the Post Office. In fact, it's now just known as "Elmer's Corner".

Elmer's bride of 45 years says he always gave 110 per cent.

She said their son was in high school before his father ever got a Friday night off to see his son play football. She said that he never wanted any credit for what he did and that he never did anything half-way. She wants everyone to know how very proud she is of her husband.

Mr. Howell said "After 40 years in law enforcement and 33 years with the fire department; I guess I paid my dues."

The big man has plans for retirement, though. He collects Ford tractors; he likes photography and target practice and stays proficient with a hand gun.

And, he plans to go fishing.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### County Primary Election Notice

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, April 23, 30 and May 7, 2003. (3T)

**NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION**  
 A Primary Election will be held August 3, 2004. Candidates for the following offices will be nominated by each political party which has qualified to participate in the Primary Election:

- One candidate for United States Senate
- One candidate for United States Representative 1st District
- One candidate for State Senate 40th District
- One candidate for State Representative 120th District
- One candidate for District Court Judge, 17th District
- One candidate for County Commissioner 2nd & 3rd District.
- One candidate for County Clerk
- One candidate for County Treasurer
- One candidate for County Register of Deeds
- One candidate for County Attorney
- One candidate for County Sheriff
- One candidate for Township Trustee, Almena-Harrison-Center-Highland-Solomon Townships
- One candidate for Township Treasurer, Almena-Harrison-Center-Highland-Solomon Townships

The following officers will be elected in each political party which has qualified to participate in the Primary Election:

- One Precinct Committeeman in each Precinct
- One Precinct Committeewoman in each Precinct

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed my official seal. Done at the City of Norton this 21st day of April, A.D. 2004.  
 Robert D. Wyatt, Norton County Election Officer

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