

E-waste collection topic of meeting

E-waste collection was at the top of the agenda when the Bird City Council met on Monday evening.

Roger Jensen, chairman of Northwest Kansas Regional Recycling, had previously asked mayor, Troy Burr, if the council was interested in sponsoring another E-waste collection in Bird City. Previous collections were free for residents because of a grant. However, grant funds have now expired and residents will be charged 25 cents per pound. Mr. Jensen wondered if Bird City would be interested in participating in a cost-share agreement with St. Francis for a portion of the charges rather than charging the residents.

"We've got a budget crunch," said councilman, Hal Sager. "We'd like to do stuff like that, but we just don't have the funds."

The approximate cost to the county could be as much as \$1,000.

After brief discussion, the council decided they would not share in the cost of the e-waste disposal.

However, E-Waste Collection will still be available in Bird City on June 24 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for a cost.

Dumping

Russell Jackson, city maintenance, reported that someone has been dumping tree limbs and grass clippings on the city's asphalt pile on 1st and Ketchum. He said it is going to take a lot of time to remove the debris in order to access the asphalt.

Council members discussed the current ordinance pertaining to dumping in the city limits which clearly states it is illegal to dispose of rubbish or trash (which includes yard waste) in an unapproved site. The council decided to place a sign at the site reminding residents that dumping is against the law.

Tornado siren

The city is exploring the option of moving the Bird City tornado siren from its present location atop the Eggers Emergency

Building to a higher location on the new Viaero Communications Tower located behind the emergency building. Councilman Sager has been checking into the process of moving it but doesn't have all the specifications yet. The city would need to find an electrical contractor to install the wiring and a crane would be needed to lift the siren into place.

Viaero will allow the siren to be moved to the tower in exchange of the city maintaining the lot.

Bird City business incentive plan

In 2009, the City of Bird City adopted a Business Development Plan. At that time, the Bird City Century II Development Foundation initially agreed to fund this program with \$20,000. The plan, which offers financial incentives to existing or prospective businesses within Bird City, has never been advertised or marketed.

Cathy Domsch, executive director of Century II, was present at the meeting to remind the council of the option and to introduce a pamphlet which summarizes the program and could be marketed on their website, birdcity.com. She asked if the council would like Century II to begin marketing the program.

Councilman Wade Carmichael said he would like to see it promoted.

"We agreed to it," said Mayor Burr. "We just haven't done anything with it."

Council members asked Ms. Domsch to proceed with marketing the program.

Highway ditch maintenance

Mr. Jackson asked the council about the city's role in maintaining the ditches along U.S. 36. Mayor Burr explained that the ditches along the highway are the responsibility of the Kansas Department of Transportation and should not be maintained by city employees. He stated that any complaints and/or comments regarding the ditches need to be directed to the Department

of Transportation.

Swimming pool

Councilman Carmichael reported that the pool project was complete and the pool was open. While several workers had volunteered their time to the project, the council approved to pay the invoices submitted by those hired by Brad Schneider, maintenance supervisor.

Mr. Sager commented that the pool could not have opened when it did if not for all the extra help.

Other business

Russell Jackson's employee probationary period expired June 3. Council members voted in favor of hiring Mr. Jackson as a permanent, full-time employee eligible for all employee benefits.

Daniel Blake of Options Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (previously North West Kansas Sexual and Domestic Violence), was present at the meeting to remind the council of the growing need for domestic violence services in the Northwest Kansas area and requested continued funding in the city's 2012 budget.

Chuck Kribs, Cheyenne County Development Corporation, spoke to the council about the need for all local representatives to work together in order to exchange ideas and move forward with development opportunities. He said the corporation would appreciate a Bird City representative on their board. He requested that Mayor Burr consider appointing a person from the council to offer input and present the needs of Bird City.

July council meeting

The first Monday of July 2011 is the Independence Day holiday; therefore the council approved a brief regular city council meeting to be held at 7 a.m., Tuesday, July 5.

A special meeting/work session will be held at 7 p.m. July 18 in order to discuss the 2012 budget.



PLAYING ON THE ROPES — Mason Schmid and Kenneth Glasco enjoy playing on the playground during the picnic.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Monthly picnic held at park

Sunday evening the shelter house was full and several children were having fun playing on the playground Sunday evening when Living Water Fellowship held their monthly Park Ministry picnic.

These picnics are on the first Sunday evening of the month and are open to the public for fellowship. Living Waters furnishes the hot dogs, chips and plates, other members furnish the salads and desserts.

After they finish eating, they planned fun-type games to participate in.

On July 3, they are planning a big fireworks display at dark. Make plans to come and join them for a blessing.



INTERN PHARMACIST Donnie Keeney gives pharmacist Kody Krien his shingles vaccine shot.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Intern working at local pharmacy

By Karen Krien

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For the past month, Donnie Keeney has been the intern pharmacist at Krien Pharmacy.

He reported that he has thoroughly enjoyed his time at the pharmacy, especially compared to a large city pharmacy. He worked in a Hyvee pharmacy for two years. They are corporate pharmacies, he said, and they don't have the freedom that Kody Krien, owner, has.

Besides, in St. Francis, he said the people are a lot nicer, he said.

Having been raised in Overland Park, he misses the city and the activities but, he said, he could get

used to this kind of life.

Mckenzie Grace also attends KU so the Grace family has taken him under their wing and he has been a dinner guest at their home numerous times.

Donnie first attended K-State University in Manhattan where he studied engineering and music. He realized that he didn't like engineering, even though he enjoyed math and numbers.

His father is a pharmacist. When Donnie came home and said he was changing his major to pharmacy, his dad said, "Haven't you been listening?" He would rather have had Donnie continue in engineering.

"I wanted to go into health

care," he said. "Pharmacy seemed to be the most accessible."

He has three more years of schooling at KU School of Pharmacy which will include 11 more rotations. In that time, he will be looking at all the options which include hospital pharmacy, research, counseling, compounding and nuclear pharmacy.

I have been fortunate to have some cream-of-the-crop interns coming to work with me, said Dr. Krien. Donnie is one of them.

Donnie loves music and plays guitar, bass and banjo, and plays in a band when he has time. He finished his internship with Krien Pharmacy this week.

County to have one of the biggest celebrations around

By Karen Krien

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Cheyenne County will have one of the biggest Fourth of July celebrations around. A committee has been working for the past four months making plans and, as of Monday, there will be 50 minutes of fireworks accompanied by patriotic music to end a full day of activities. Most fireworks displays last only 25 to 30 minutes.

To start the day, there will be a triathlon starting at the St. Francis swimming pool. Those wanting to participate need to start training. See article elsewhere for the details of the race.

At 10 a.m., the red, white and blue kids' parade around Sawhill Park. The parade will be for children sixth grade and under include decorated trikes, bikes, wagons and individuals. However, it should be noted that no motorized vehicles will be allowed.

From 10:15 to noon, there will be games for kids in the park. Prizes will be awarded.

Starting at 11 a.m., the All American Hog Dog meal will be served at Sawhill Park. This is sponsored by the St. Francis high school junior class as one of their money-making projects.

The activities do not end there. From 2 to 4 at the museum, there will be a "Happy 150th Kansas Birthday" celebration and cake, ice cream, lemonade and iced tea will be served.

Also in the afternoon, from 1:30 to 5:30, there will be a volleyball tournament at the St.

Funding still needed for firework display

The Fourth of July celebration, is being funded entirely by donations.

Rodney Neitzel, one of the coordinators, reported that it will take \$4,000 to operate in the black. As of Monday, \$3,000 had been collected.

Besides the cost of a 50-minute firework display, there is the cost of port-a-potties and the large sound system, as well as advertising, just to name a few.

"If everyone would just donate \$5, we would have no trouble raising the amount needed," Mr. Neitzel said.

Donations can be left at Hilltop General Store, Majestic Service, Uptown Market and Parkhill Restaurant or can be mailed to Joyce Russ, treasurer, Box 673, St. Francis, Kansas 67756. For more information, call Mr. Neitzel at 785-332-2277.

Francis swimming pool. People are urged to get their teams lined up.

Rodney Neitzel, one of the coordinators, of the July Fourth celebration, said many people are taking opportunity of the supper hour to hold barbecues in their yards. There will also be food vendors at the Parkhill Restaurant and Roger Neitzel Heating and Air Conditioning parking lot north of Parkhill. Besides the Girl Scouts cookies and cupcakes, and the Shriner's Candy Wagon, the St. Francis Community Church will be selling slices of watermelon.

To add to the entertainment and excitement, Randy Smestad will start the music. At 8:30, in the Neitzel parking lot, Amy Reiger has organized a Karoke contest. There will be two mi-

crophones for individuals and groups to perform with. People can also bring their favorite song on a CD, I-Pod or I-Phone.

Then the fireworks will begin! People can bring their chairs or blankets to the area north of the Good Samaritan Village to watch the fireworks. (Don't forget the bug spray.) For the first 650 people, Brenda Johnson, Hometown Market, will be passing out favors.

Parking can be found on College and Francis streets as well as at the sale barn and other commercial lots.

The July Fourth celebration is being funded with donations. Money can be left at the Hilltop General Store, Parkhill, and Majestic Service and Upton Market.

For more information contact Mr. Neitzel at 785-332-2277.