

Council discusses funding for development corporation

By Nathan Fiala
nfiala@nwkansas.com

The St. Francis city council met on Monday, June 25 with visitors Helen Dobbs, director of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation, and Carol Redding. Mrs. Dobbs went over some of the upcoming events and deadlines, and handed out a proposed budget for the coming year, requesting funds from the council. Council members wondered what other local entities contributed and decided to wait on giving a specific amount until after finding out what the county commissioners gave.

In old business, a request for proposals to work on the band shell had been sent out with a deadline of July 18.

City Attorney Michael Day had talked with neighboring communities about their thoughts on the national flood plain insurance and he quickly realized we are the only town around that sits on a river, so there are little to no building concerns for near-by communities. It was suggested he talk to someone in Benkelman about it and will report back at the next meeting.

Council members also decided that when they tour city properties during a special meeting on July 9, they would meet with bidders to go over repairs needed to the Scout Hut and roadside park bathrooms.

In new business, Donna Stevens and Julie Brunk were approved to sell fireworks. It was decided at the time to allow fireworks to be set off within city limits, despite the county banning them. (This was changed two days later when Mayor Scott Schultz signed a proclamation banning the use of fireworks in

city limits.) The council discussed installing a stop sign at the west intersection of the hospital but didn't know where they could put it. Parking and medical diagnostic trucks have made the intersection harder to navigate and J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, will talk with Les Lacy, hospital administrator, for placement suggestions.

In preparation for meeting with budget auditors, Glorianne Milne, city clerk, handed out a budget that she and Mr. Landenberger had been working on, showing costs and income for two previous years and projections for this year. Variables and increases included electricity rate hikes and a full-time recycling center employee that has not been hired yet.

For the attorney report, Mr. Day addressed the on-going issue of property clean-up and said a tax foreclosure sale needs to take place. He will speak with the county commissioners about this and try to move forward on it.

Police chief Shane Guggenmos gave the police report, first saying that they will be implementing a new schedule in July and seeing how that works out. A police cruiser had been set up to be repainted and as for the 800 megahertz radios, he had not heard anything back from Ryan Murray, county emergency manager, but was under the impression everything was still moving forward as planned.

Council member Bruce Swihart gave the pool report, going over upcoming events and saying he had talked about adding a voluntary donation to city bills that people could sign up for.

There were numerous building permits; Ed Marin for a fence, Tim Schmidt for a house addition, Amanda Milne for a retaining wall, Robert Gross for a fence, Neil McCumber to pour concrete, Glenda Krien for a job trailer, Jolene Dodd for a fence, Cheyenne Bowl for an awning, Thelma Raile for sidewalk repair, Jill Bracelin for a sign and hand rail, Leo Mazon for a shed and Raedell Winston for a rock wall. All were approved.

In Mr. Landenberger's superintendent report, he stated that Miller and Associates was making a bid package to send out for repainting the water tower.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment would be installing equipment to monitor Service Oil's old gasoline tanks for contamination.

Mr. Landenberger also talked about buying new accounting software in the future that would incorporate multiple billing systems into one.

The city is putting up a new fence and bridge at the River Walk.

Rock and oil has been ordered for chip sealing streets and that is planned to start the week after the fair.

For the clerk report, Mrs. Milne brought up a utility incentive for Jill Bracelin's new business, which was approved. She said a man had stayed at the roadside park overnight and brought a donation into the city office. She had estimates for new computers, which she passed around to council members.

The next planned meeting is July 9. Council members will meet early to pay bills and address new business, and will then tour city properties during the special meeting.



SAINTY SHARK SWIMTEAM member Cassidy Busse jumps into the pool as her relay teammate finishes her lap.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Swimmers improve personal records at meet in Benkelman

The Sainty Sharks swim team traveled to Benkelman, Neb. for competition on June 23. The Sharks did well as a team and individually.

Improving times by 10 or more seconds were: Shadryon Blanka in the 25 yard butterfly, Elle Krien in the 25 yard backstroke, Lyden Lampe in the 25 yard backstroke, Adam Krien in the 25 yard backstroke, Christina Frink in the 50 yard backstroke, Conner Keller in the 50 yard backstroke and 100 yard freestyle, Bree DeWall in the 25 yard freestyle, and Lindsey Johnson in the 50 yard

breaststroke.

Improving times 5-10 seconds were: Karly Bandel in the 25 yard breaststroke, Audrey Meyer in the 25 yard breaststroke, McKayla Taylor in the 50 yard breaststroke, Lyden Lampe in the 25 yard freestyle, Lindsey Johnson in the 50 yard freestyle, Luke Lampe in the 50 yard butterfly, and Alexis Frink in the 50 yard butterfly.

Those with marked improvement in form were: Alex Queen, Kiegan Taylor, Tylor Snider, Elle Krien and Cassie Cooks.

The team was also helped out

by new assistant coach Corbin Sherlock.

The team also hosted their second meet of the season on Friday, June 29. There were relay races for all ages. There was a catered fried chicken dinner.

The team will next compete in Atwood this Saturday.

"I try to put each swimmer in a relay, hoping they will qualify for championships," Coach Margaret Poling said. "They all have to participate because I have 16 boys making nine relays. If even one drops out, we will lose two relays."

The Gardener



By Kay Melia

At this ripe old age, I don't go outside very much when the thermometer registers 100 degrees or better. It shot up to 110 the other day as I ventured out to retrieve my mail. It's only about 130 steps out and back from my mailbox out in the driveway, but I swear I was sorry I didn't have my affairs in order when that shot of super-charged heat hit me in the face! Today, I will wait until the mercury settles down to about 95 before I venture out there to rescue my bills and other junk mail.

Most of us have never witnessed such an onslaught of heat! In most of the communities where these words are printed, we have had 7 or 8 consecutive days when the temperature has exceeded 100 degrees, and there doesn't seem to be a whole lot of relief in sight, as they say down at the coffee shop. It's not a pretty sight, but we'll probably survive, just as they did last summer in Southwest Kansas when residents there witnessed over 30 days of at least 100 degrees.

So I'm sitting here in air conditioned comfort, trying to assess the damage in my approximately 3,500 square foot garden after I went out there very early this morning to apply the daily dose of precipitation to

just about everything. You know what? I couldn't see any serious deterioration. Sure, the cabbage wasn't in very good shape due to the cabbage worms. A large cucumber vine had mysteriously died almost overnight, and the sweet corn was hurting, which is a problem that haunts me almost every year, heat or not. But the tomatoes look great, despite the lack of fruit set when daytime temperatures are over 90 degrees and it never gets below 70 at night. The plants are doing well as they reach for the tops of their cages. The green beans are setting on nicely, as are the cucumbers, cantaloupes, and watermelon. The potato vines are beginning to show some brown-ness, right on schedule, and the beets and carrots look good. The earliest of the big slicing onions are flopping, just as they are supposed to, and the zucchini, unfortunately, is extremely fruitful.

I'm amazed at the steady growth of nearly everything, despite the searing heat. It just goes to show you what happens, even under adverse conditions, when you tend, on a timely basis, the necessities of a vegetable garden. Those requirements include constant water application, a careful and complete mulching program, instant awareness of

those troublesome little (or big) insects, and a forced desire to keep the garden as weed free as possible.

I remember the the indescribable summers of 1935, 1936, and 1937. Everyday, nearly all summer, saw temperatures over a hundred. There were scarcely any crops because there was no irrigation and very little rain. There was no air conditioning, and no money to buy some even if it had been available. There were few cattle on the farm, because pastures were incapable of producing forage and there wasn't any grain to feed them.

But EVERY family had a garden, usually a large well-tended garden that produced most of the year-around family food supply. It may be too hot this summer, but if you have a productive vegetable garden, life seems just a little cooler.

Low temperatures and humidity help define meaning of heat wave

When does hot weather become a heat wave?

Some experts believe daily low temperatures should set the threshold.

"They point to several studies that found an increase in heat-related illnesses and deaths when daily low temperatures remained above 75 degrees. That finding held true, regardless of how extreme the high temperatures were," said Mary Knapp, State of Kansas climatologist, based with K-State Research and Extension.

In comparison, the National Weather Service definition for "heat wave" is vague: "A period of abnormally and uncomfortably hot and unusually

humid weather."

"The National Weather Service can't be more specific," Ms. Knapp said. "The actual threshold varies from region to region. A heat wave in Boston could be nice weather for Miami."

What's not vague, however, is that hot weather can be deadly. It often leads the annual statistics for U.S. weather-related deaths, placing above hurricanes, tornadoes and floods, she said.

Besides, humidity worsens heat's effects on the human body - a fact reported nationwide as Heat Index ("feels like") temperatures.

Ms. Knapp said other dependable measures are the

outlooks, watches and warnings the National Weather Service issues for excessive heat, just as it does for other extreme weather. Those bulletins immediately become top news.

When the National Weather Service has issued a heat advisory or warning, for example, those classifications can specifically mean:

- Consecutive days with a Heat Index of at least 105 F for three or more hours per day.
- Consecutive days with nighttime lows above 80 degrees.
- Any period of time with a Heat Index above 115 F.

BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY

To list your business drop us a card!
Call 785-332-3162 today.



THE CLASSIC ROSE
FLORIST

116 W. Washington Street
Saint Francis, Kansas 67756
Phone: 785-332-2200
Toll Free: 855-700-ROSE (7673)

We are here to help with all your Floral needs!

www.TheClassicRose.com
RoseMary@TheClassicRose.com

Homesteader Motel & RV Park
410 W. Business US Highway 36
P.O. Box 238
St. Francis, KS 67756

Cable T.V. & Wireless Internet
Clean Rooms
Individual Climate Control
Kathy & Johnie Woodcox
Office- (785) 332-2168
Cell- (785) 332-8607

Howards Tri State Construction

>Drywall >Painting >Carpentry
>Roofing >Tile Work >Insulation
>Garages >Additions >Basements
New or remodel- We do it all!

Free estimates!

Jason 1-970-630-9051
Travis 1-970-630-5122



St. Francis Redi-Mix

Sand • Gravel • Rock
All Your Concrete Needs

New Phone Number

785-332-2014

Angle Road

PO Box 768 • St. Francis



Pre-Trip Vehicle Checks for Safer, Gas-Saving Summer Road Trips

Check the brake system and make sure the battery connection is clean, tight and corrosion-free



To find out more about your car, stop by today!

St. Francis Equity



Station 785-332-2421
Feed Store 785-332-2129
Office 785-332-2113