



Aerial shot of the greenhouse purchased by the St. Francis Community Garden.

## Sainty community garden purchases greenhouse

Imagine fresh, local, natural and sustainably healthy food being available for Cheyenne County and beyond from food grown right here in St. Francis. Imagine losing our United Department of Agriculture (USDA) status as a "food desert" and becoming instead a "food oasis."

Now imagine that it can happen! This is the vision of the St. Francis Community Garden and Farmer's Market that recently formed as a not-for-profit Kansas corporation for the purpose of providing the community with such food year round.

Their vision is to create a self-sufficient, not-for-profit community based, four-season Community Garden and Farmer's Market to grow produce locally and feed the community.

And, said Sue Griffin, one of the

coordinators, we were on track to do just that with the construction of our first hoop house, when Shirley and Mike Marino approached us with an offer to purchase Goodell's Greenhouse.

The offer is exclusive to the Community Garden as the Marinos want to see the property preserved and used for the community in this fashion. The alternative is a tear-down for the metal that can be recycled from the greenhouses. The leadership team quickly went into action creating an info sheet to go out to the St. Francis high school alumni in their annual mailing and arranging a small fundraising dinner.

At the dinner last Sunday held at Ruth Milliken's home, enough funds were raised for the Community Garden to enter into a contract with Shirley and Mike Marino to

purchase Goodell's.

For those who are unfamiliar with the size of the property, it contains four greenhouses, a central large building, a house, two large sheds and six lots. In addition to producing food for the community, we will be preserving a local landmark, providing jobs, teaching our young about the importance of growing food, mentoring the community in learning to grow their own gardens, bringing business into town and revitalizing a community farmer's market.

Beyond the money needed to secure the property, more is needed for start-up funds.

We are very grateful for the support and generous donations we have already received from those attending the dinner, Mrs. Griffin said. Now it is your turn! Be a part of making our area a "food oasis".

Any size donation is welcome and all are tax deductible through the auspices of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation (CCDC) who is acting as a 501(c)3 umbrella for the Community Garden organization. Checks can be made out to "CCDC" with the notation "Community Garden" in the memo space and mailed to P. O. Box 984, St. Francis, KS 67756. Credit card donations can also be made at the website [www.stfranciscommunitygarden.org](http://www.stfranciscommunitygarden.org).

This is a community project open to all who wish to participate. Join us!

## Coffee shop expands by offering catering service

Cuppa Joe Espresso is expanding by offering a catering service

"We knew Teri Walters was in culinary school at The Art Institute of Colorado and wanted to return to St. Francis," said Kim Zwegardt, co-owner with her husband, Kary. "We'd known Teri since our daughter started school here. We knew she was a talented girl and a hard worker."

"She had an interest in being here and we saw an opportunity to expand our business and answer the need for a full service on and off site catering business in St. Francis.

"It was a win-win!" They sought out equipment and supplies and the business is growing by word of mouth. They've catered everything from banquets to weddings. Kim and Teri enjoy working together as the "home" cook and the professional chef bounce ideas off each other.

When Cuppa Joe Espresso opened October 2011, the Zwegardts wanted to create a community place that was welcoming and featured quality food and coffee. They sought out local and regional food and the 2009 coffee roaster of the year, PT's Coffee, based in Topeka. PT's vision matched their own - supporting small family farms by providing coffee farmers with a fair price.

"Business has been great," Kim said. "We couldn't ask for better customers. The community has just been so supportive of what we are trying to do, but we kept getting calls asking if we would cater."

They began by hosting small gatherings at Cuppa Joe such as the dinner during the Shakespeare presentation sponsored by the Cheyenne Center for Creativity. Sandwich trays for takeout became a popular item for business meetings. People called wanting off-site catering but the Zwegardts had to turn them down.

"We are busy people," Kary said. "We both have other jobs and there are only so many hours in the day."

Recently Vicki Killingsworth joined the team.

Vicki is a wonderful cook in her own right, Kim said. She has done catering as well. Everyone who works at Cuppa Joe loves good food and great coffee!

"The kitchen just buzzes with creativity and laughter as we're all talking ideas for beautiful, tasty, fresh food," she said.

Samantha Beeson, Jordan Zwegardt, Tina Elliott and Megan Gilliland finish out the Cuppa Joe team.

"We couldn't do it without great employees," Kary said. "Everyone works well together and we work hard but we also have fun. It really is just an expansion of what we do every day. We want to use fresh, quality ingredients, support our local food producers, present beautiful food that tastes great, to serve people and meet a need in our community." "We want to be 'full-service,'" Kim said. "If you want to order hors d'oeuvres, a tray of baked goods, or a full meal for pick up here, we can do it. But we also

will come and set up and serve your guests so you can relax and enjoy the party."

"We have menus in all price ranges and to suit any appetite - from sea food to prime rib, from sandwiches to a holiday dinner."

New is a giant "submarine" sandwich. They can be made up to 36-inches long to feed a crowd.

"With a professional chef on staff, the sky is the limit," Kim said.

The tag line on their business card sums it up: "Special events especially for you." For more information about catering, call 785-332-3800.

## Club Clip

### St. Francis Lions

The St. Francis Lions Club met at the Church of Christ for their March meeting. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by president Milton Lampe and followed by Lion Marvin Zimbelman leading the group in prayer.

The attendance drawing was won by Lion Marvin. The minutes were approved as printed and distributed by Lion Dorothy Kellner, secretary pro-tem. Lion Elmer Kellner, treasurer, presented the monthly report.

The AARP Defensive Driving Course presented by Don Kiehl of Goodland has been scheduled for Saturday, April 13, at the Senior Citizens Center. Lion Elmer reported that he is still recruiting more participants for the class. Lion Deb Patton and Lion Dorothy will prepare a free-will offering lunch.

Elections for 2013-2014 were held and the following were elected: President, Warren Cico; first vice president, Jerry White; second vice president, \_\_\_; third vice president, Mary Morrow; secretary, Joyce Russ; treasurer, Elmer Kellner; Tail Twister, Dale Patton; Lion Tamer, Marvin Zimbelman.

Lion White volunteered to deliver the used bicycles and parts to the correctional facility in

Norton sometime in the future.

Members voted to give \$100 to the St. Francis Recreation Commission for the volleyball court project and \$50 to the Hannah Zimbal family for travel expenses to Topeka to attend the state competition for 4-H Shooting Sports.

Guest Kary Meyer, co-chairman of the 125th Anniversary Celebration for St. Francis, shared information about all the activities being planned for the week of June 14-16.

The club received a thank you note and picture from Alice Isernhagen and family for the birthday balloon she received in January.

Marian Ochsner, head start director, has invited the club members to read books to the students on Wednesday, May 1, from 10 - 10:45 a.m.

The group sang "Happy Birthday" to Jerry White and signed a birthday card for Carl Jenkins' 60th birthday.

It was voted to begin meeting at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month beginning with the May 13 meeting.

Note: The above report was taken from the unapproved minutes of the monthly Lions Club Meeting. Dorothy Kellner, reporter

## Organic farmers are urged to use program

To all organic farm producers (certified and not certified), Bernadette Luncsford, district conservationist, at the Natural Resource Conservation Service office welcomes you to take advantage of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Organic Initiative to help address resource concerns you may have on your farm.

Eligible practices include: composting facility, residue and tillage management, cover crop, wind-

break establishment, prescribed grazing, terraces, wells, seasonal high tunnels and many more. Deadline for applications is April 19.

The service would also like to announce the Environmental Quality Incentives Program Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative for non-organic farmers wanting to install a high tunnel this year. Deadline for applications is April 19.

Susie Q

40 looks good on You!

Love,  
Your family

It's a Party  
for Phyllis Crandall

Come Join Our Family

As we celebrate Mother's 80th Birthday

On Saturday, April, 20,  
2 - 4 p.m. CDT

At The First United Methodist Church  
(Your presence is your gift)

You're Not "sneaky"

You are almost 60!

Send birthday wishes to our middle sissy: Monica Stramel

1590 RS 115

St. Francis, KS 67756

on April 21st.

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