

# Several groups of visitors attend council meeting

By Doug Sloper  
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The St. Francis City Council meeting had discussions with four groups of visitors to start the meeting.

The council began the meeting hearing from Kerry and Debbie Miller, who were rescinding their purchase of 426 and 430 Emerson St. properties. In February 2011 the Clapper estate, which owned the properties had the wrong legal description of the properties on the deed of trust. This was discovered in March 2012 when the city went to get clear title of the properties.

The family members responsible for the Clapper estate, who reside in Texas, were sent a new deed with the correct legal description of the property, but have yet to sign and return the paper. The Millers had moved to St. Francis to take possession of the properties with the understanding that the deed issues would be cleared up. The Millers stated that they were advised by attorney Mike Day that they could start to clean up the properties, but at their own risk, due to the fact that the Clappers still had legal title to the properties. While waiting for the city to get clear title, the Millers proceeded to clean the interior of the properties and put in many man hours doing so.

After numerous phone calls to the Clappers from Attorney Day and the Millers the Clappers still have not returned the corrected signed deed. Having run out of patience, time and money the Millers asked that their purchase of the properties be rescinded and that they get the money that they paid for the properties returned. The council returned the payment in full. The Millers were also asking for partial reimbursements for their moving costs to St. Francis in good faith of purchasing the property and costs for what cleaning that they did on the properties. Attorney Day informed them that since they were told that they were doing cleanup on the properties at their own risk that he did not feel that the city owed them any money. He asked for an executive session to discuss the matter further.

## Fourth of July celebration

Rodney Neitzel addressed the council on the Fourth of July celebration plans and activities. He stated that the agenda is similar to the 2012 plans which were canceled due to a burn ban. Conditions permitting, they plan to have all day activities. They will also be using the fireworks purchased for last year's celebration and have added a few new spectacular fireworks to the display. They are still asking for donations to help with the cost of the fireworks display as they did not have enough donations to pay for all the 2012 purchases.

"We hope that those that come out to enjoy the fireworks will

donate a few dollars each to help cover our expenses, he said.

## Options service

A representative from Options, who help victims of sexual assault and domestic violence talked to the council about their needs and gave a brief description of what they have been doing in the Northwest Kansas area. After the talk council agreed to give \$1,000, the same amount to the organization as last year.

## Community garden

Jason Padgett, representing the Community Garden, talked about what the nonprofit organization is trying to achieve for St. Francis community. The organization was also requesting that they be allowed to put up a sign on a city owned lot just east of the city hall through the end of the year. The request was approved

## Digital sign

The new digital sign has been installed and is operating well. The council was very pleased with how well it was working and with the mostly positive response from the community. Council member Carla Lampe, pointed out that only community and civic events will be displayed on the sign. No commercial, political or religious advertising will be allowed.

The sign is currently operational from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., and there was a discussion about extending those hours to midnight. To get a message considered on the sign, citizens are asked to send an email to sflsign1@gmail.com.

"The city still owes \$18,550 on the sign and donations are still welcomed," said Mrs. Lampe.

Glorianne Milne, city clerk, reported that there has been some progress on the band shell bids. Bids are open until June 18 and will be presented at the next meeting. She said that she will be filing an extension for the grant improvements as the deadline is July 31.

## Pool report

Council member Bruce Swihart, reported that the pool vacuum was being repaired.

Swimming lessons were beginning between 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Monday-Friday for the next two weeks.

The pool is short handed on life guards and office help. They may look into borrowing life guards and staff from Bird City to help cover if needed.

"Never had we had so few applicants," said Bruce. "In the past we've never had an issue staffing the pool." There is an issue of slick walkways, which will be addressed, he said. A couple of people have already fallen. The new manager and all the new guards are addressing pool policies.

"This year has been a challenging season so far and a learning process for everyone," he said.

## Building permits

Building permits were re-

viewed and approved for the following: Mary Bier, deck and porch; Amanda Milne, fence; Douglas Sloper, fence; Ron Wilson, remove and replace concrete.

## Superintendent's report

Brock McAtee has agreed to split the cost with the city, who extended power to his property line just outside city limits. The cost will be \$990 for each side. The council agreed that this will be used as a precedent for anyone requesting city services that are near, but not quite in city limits.

J.R. Landenberger, superintendent, reported that the River Walk trail has been checked and cleared on the west side on the Republican River. This was done due to expected increase in activity with alumni visits and 125th celebration.

Internet access for the Cheyenne Theater was discussed. AT&T was contacted and would not give a price unless a phone line was also established. It was also brought up that the AT&T trunk was at capacity, so no lines can be added at this time.

## In other business

In other business:

- Attorney Day reported that the Kansas state legislature in their last session passed bill 2052, which allows for citizens with a conceal carry permit to bring their firearms into public buildings. The law will take effect on July 1. Schools and some city buildings would be exempt. The rationale behind this law is to allow citizens with a conceal carry permit the ability to defend themselves. The law will also recognize any concealed carry permits from other states. The local jurisdictions may contact the Kansas Attorney General to ask for an extension, which will give them until Jan 1 to come up with security plans for municipal buildings, such as manned metal detectors, etc. After some discussion the council will not be asking for an extension.
- Council member Paula Keller stated that the theater has saved 20 percent in wages so far this year to date by monitoring when staff is needed or not needed. The theater will have Sunday matinees for the next four weekends.
- Council member Roger Jensen was contacted by the county museum staff regarding a semi being parked at the roadside park for an extended time. The council discussed the matter further and decided rather than just two hour parking as agreed previously, they would add signs for "No Truck Parking" at the roadside park.

"The asphalt cannot handle the weight of the trucks going through the area," said Mr. Landenberger. "We also want to make sure patrons of the museum have an access to the park near the entrance."

- The council approved a fireworks license for Anita Amack.
- An application to use the band shell was discussed. Council members had learned that the planners of a Fourth of July concert intended on charging admission for the event. There was an agreement by the council that donations could be accepted, but no group could use public property for proprietary purposes. Supervisor Landenberger will reach out to the applicant regarding the use of the band shell.

## Next meeting

The next meeting of the city council is set for 7:30 p.m. on Monday, June 24, in city hall on main street.



CANCER SURVIVORS take a lap around Sawhill Park to kick off the Relay for Life event held a couple of weeks ago.  
Herald staff photo by Doug Sloper

# Cancer relay held in park

On June 8, the Cheyenne County Relay for Life began its all-night festivities at Sawhill Park to honor the survivors and remember those who lost their fight with cancer.

It was a beautiful evening, said Betty Loudon, one of the coordinators. The park was decorated with many banners proclaiming "Remember, Celebrate and Fight Back." The large banner over the starting line for the walkers read, "Hope Starts Here!"

The evening was a culmination of caring volunteers, all working together to help find a cure for the dreaded cancer. Several teams were in the park to be sure that at least one team member was on the track every hour from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. They walked through the night into the darkness, and then after midnight, they walked toward the dawn and toward the cure of cancer.

A free-will barbecue was held with the survivors as guests. Pam Bolin, Hobo Snack Shack, served the meal. The Cheyenne Shrine Club had their Candy Wagon in place and served pop, water, snow cones, popcorn and cotton candy. All proceeds from both vendors were donated back to Relay.

After a welcome by Pat Rose, chairman, Chad Miller gave a thrilling rendition of the national anthem. The survivor's lap started at 7 p.m.

"We celebrate each of their sur-

vivals and show those in the grip of cancer that there is hope and that they can walk with us next Relay," Mrs. Loudon said.

The second lap was for the survivors and their caregivers. Purple carnations, donated by RoseMary Bierig, owner of Classic Rose, were given to each survivor.

The committee including Ms. Rose, Vicki Coates, Mrs. Loudon, John Finley, Christy Wurm, Tammy Grice, Allison Grice, Crystal Schultz, Bridgette Antholt, Cara Hunt, Bailey Merklin, Nikki Rose, Dale Rose, Ginger and Dusti Chadwick and Brandee Sasse, were introduced.

The survivor talk was given by Brandee Sasse, who has gone through three different bouts with cancer, told that she made it because she had such a great support group and her desire to overcome it. Two songs were sung by Christina Stafford and Taylor Kinzer.

The annual auction was lively and conducted by Skip and Betty Petersen and their daughter, Robin. Many interesting theme baskets, homemade articles and flower baskets were sold to the crowd in the band shell.

Music in the park was provided by Randy Smestad. Each year he donates his time and talent to the Relay.

Tammy and Allison Grice and many volunteers had placed and

lit hundreds of luminaria all over the block-square park.

"It is always a thrill to stroll through the area and look for the names of the loved ones in whose honor and memory the luminaria was purchased for. Mrs. Loudon and Mrs. Grice read the list of those honored people. Pat Rose, with the assistance of her son, Dale, gave a very meaningful end to the service by depicting a table with an empty chair and place setting, so that we will never forget those who lost their struggle, but through events like the Relay, can give home to those who still struggle with cancer.

As the dawn rose and the campsites were cleared, a closing prayer was offered by Hoagie Carmichael and a breakfast was provided to the teams and staff who had stayed all night.

The event would not be possible if it were not for the many corporate sponsors, the volunteers, the teams, the city crew that helps get the park ready and the people who bought luminarias as well as The Herald office that sold luminarias, said Ms. Rose.

Our final date for the 2013 Relay is in August so if team members come by or you see those "cute" pink flamingos in your yard, you can still help us out for our final total! Cheyenne County has one of the top Relays in the state - one we can be very proud of, Ms. Rose concluded.

# 'Vision for St. Francis' needs younger ideas

How did it happen?... St. Francis was turning 125 years old and it seemed the ideal time to create a vision for where we want to go in the next 25 years and try to figure out how to get there!

First we met... With help from the Kansas Leadership Center, the first public meeting developed a history timeline. One surprise - during hard times, the community took on big projects and made them happen.

And met again!... We brainstormed together to identify as many groups (factions, stakeholders) that we could think of and came up with 17 factions. We then figured out what questions we needed to ask them.

And then we went out... Teams were formed to go out to individuals who were good representatives of the different factions. Inter-

views were set up and questions asked. We listened and took notes.

And this is what we found... The questions asked and the compiled data from all 75+ interviews are available on the city of St. Francis website - www.stfrancis-kansas.com.

What was missing... Oops...in looking over the data, we realized that a "younger" voice was not well represented, so we are currently gathering names to attend a meeting to gain that input. If you are between 20 and 35 years old, we want to hear what you have to say! If you are interested in attending, please call Bonnie Cram at 785-332-2156 or email her at bonniecram@sbcglobal.net to get on the list.

Come help us create a vision for the future of St. Francis!

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**Wednesday, August 14**  
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Laura Story  
Dove Award Winner

**Friday, August 16**  
7:30 p.m.  
Styx  
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**Saturday, August 17**  
7:30 p.m.  
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and the Talbott Brothers

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