

# Next hearing on grocery store to take place Sept. 19

By Douglas Sloper  
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The City Council meeting began at approximately 7 p.m. so that the council could meet with Terry Miller, City Clerk to discuss how the county determines tax revenue and mill levies.

The discussion began with how property valuation is determined. Mr. Miller explained that it is largely done by formulas established by the state. A property tax is an Ad Valorem tax which means it is based on the value of the taxable property. Taxpayers pay a flat rate per dollar value of taxable property that they own. This flat rate is called a mill levy and is \$1.00 of tax per \$1,000 of assessed value or one mill is total valuation divided by \$1,000.

## Police report

The topic of on call pay for the police department was again discussed during Chief Gugenmos report. He contacted the Oberlin and Atwood police departments to determine how those towns handle on call pay. Oberlin does not have on call pay, but an officer is paid a minimum of 3 hours for each call out. Atwood pays their officers \$3.50 per hour when they are on call. Shane clarified his request that he wants to pay all three of his officers \$40 per week of on call. After more discussion, Mayor Scott Schultz motioned that the matter be discussed further in executive session.

## Bandshell

Work on the Bandshell will begin soon in two to three weeks. Mayor Schultz was concerned that any Christmas decorations that were still in the basement would need to be moved. After discussion it was decided that the decorations could be moved and stored at the old firehouse.

## New Pool

The new pool committee continues to explore ways to raise money for a new pool. Superintendent Landenberger reported that he has been approached by many citizens asking why the city can't fund a new pool. He put together a spreadsheet to show how much utility rates and the mill levy would have to be raised in order for the city to fund a new pool. Attorney Mike Day inquired if this would be a good time to give this out to the public. He felt it might confuse more people than help explain why the city cannot fund a pool

on its own. Mr. Day suggested waiting and presenting the figures to the New Pool committee first, to help them understand the city's side. The suggestion was also made that some of the funds raised by the committee be used to hire a consultant to see how to proceed and inform the public. Council members Lampe and Jensen agreed and said that the council should wait to get behind this project until all the information and facts are in.

## Keller Pond/Riverwalk

The committee met to discuss the issues and decide how to go forward and make sure that all parties, the Kellers, and the City are talking and working together. JR Landenberger explained that a landscape architect referred to in the Keller lease agreement is needed to apply for grants. The cost of this service would be less than \$3,000. The conservation district is also involved in funding frost proof hydrants and trenching to provide well water for the cattle and trees, since water for the cattle and irrigation formerly used from the pond has been cut off.

## Building permits

The following building permits were approved by the council: Jared Mauck, utility garden shed and carport; Jan Fortin, fence; Esther Confer, fence and concrete patio.

## Superintendent's report

Superintendent Landenberger handed out 10 more pictures to the council of trees along Main Street that have gotten too big or are sick and will need to be removed. He indicated that it would cost \$1,000 each to remove and replace the trees. A long discussion ensued on how and why these trees were planted in the first place. Mr. Landenberger reported that the green and white ash trees that were planted were not supposed to get as big as they have gotten. There is nothing that can be done, and unfortunately the only way to resolve this issue is to take care of the trees now, before they get even bigger or sick, said Landenberger. The council finally agreed to allow the removal of 20 trees total this year.

A compressor at the plant went down and will cost \$2,500 to rebuild.

Mr. Landenberger contacted Larry Steele of Miller and Associates to look into the cost of

sandblasting, repairing and repainting the pool. This would involve sandblasting the several coats of paint, repairing cracks to make the pool structurally sound and repainting. The council approved the cost of the \$1,450 to write the specs and the bidding process. Mr. Steele estimated that to repair the pool structurally, sandblasting back to the original concrete and repaint with 3 coats of epoxy paint would cost approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000. This would extend the life of the pool another 5 to 10 years.

## Attorney's report

Mike Day talked to the O'Dell's attorney to get an update on the grocery store. The O'Dell's plan is to take over operation of the grocery store. They will repair the building and restock the inventory. The hearing date is Sept. 19 and then Mr. Mancini will have 45 days to come up with money necessary to complete the cash out with the O'Dell's.

## Other Business

Amanda Stinemetz is requesting a variance for a daycare. She met with the council, appropriate forms were given to her to fill out. It was determined that neighbors Tanner and Meghan Kinen, Ward and Gloria Cassidy, Pete and Kay Jensen, Roger and Traci Neitzel and Bill Smith would have to be contacted for their approval.

The city fire trucks are outdated and will need to be replaced. Mayor Schultz reported that the oldest truck barely passed the last inspection. The condition of the trucks affects the city's insurance rating. The oldest truck is 41 years old and the newest truck is 21 years old. Mayor Schultz request that George Harper be contacted to find the cost of a replacement truck.

George Harper would like to erect four flag poles in front of the Emergency Services building. He would like to display a US flag, Kansas state flag, and Emergency Medical Services flag and fireman's flag. Mr. Harper will talk to superintendent Landenberger to discuss this issue.

## Next meeting

The next meeting of the city council is set for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 23, in city hall on Main Street. Council meetings are open to the public to attend.



RESIDENT OF THE MONTH Rita Schmid enjoys recanting stories of her life with her daughter, Marty Gardino, at the Good Samaritan Village.

# Resident recalls driving big trucks to provide for family

Rita Schmid was honored as the September Good Samaritan Village resident of the month.

She was born Aug. 29, 1938 in McDonald to parents, Dale and Hazel LeBow. Her dad worked as a miner in Colorado and they would travel to the mountains so her dad could work the mines. When the weather got bad, they would go back to Kansas.

Rita spent most of her school years in McDonald, attending schools in McDonald, St. Francis and the Prairie Dog country school.

She graduated from McDonald High School. Her favorite subjects, she said, were English, social studies and history. Her favorite teacher was Grace Milliner. Ms. Milliner, Rita said, was a tough teacher and would not put up with any shenanigans!

Rita was the seventh sibling. She had four brothers, Charlie, Jimmy, Quinten (he died before Rita was born) and Gary, as well as two sisters, Beth Klepper and Linda Hopkins.

Rita said she helped out on the family farm by doing dishes, washing clothes and looking after her two younger sisters. You had to stay on top of those kids, she said, making sure they were behaving and learning.

She remembered as a kid, she would "heckle the heck" out of her older brother. He told my mom, "I'm gonna hit her!"

When the winter weather was bad her Uncle Miner Levall would hitch up the horses to a sled and take them to school. After graduating from school Rita did odd jobs for other people on their farms – just doing what ever needed to be done, she said.

Rita said she stayed out of trouble "mostly." However, she told about the day her mom found out she was smoking.

I started smoking around the age of 12, she said.

Her little sister, Beth, caught her smoking in the barn. This, she said, is where I always went to smoke.

Beth ran to tell Mother, Rita

said, and I had to tell where my hiding spot was – I kept them in my dresser drawer. She continued smoking until October 2012.

She remembered when cigarettes were 25-cents a pack. She never really said how many packs she smoked a day but did say it was more than two.

Rita's Uncle Earl and Aunt Marge Burr taught her how to drive. She would drive to town sometimes to just get red hot candy and then drive home.

Mother could throw a good shoe, Rita said. She would kick her shoe toward us when we were naughty because she knew they were out of reach. Her shoe would hit her target and it kept the siblings in line.

In high school, Rita remembers the senior sneak trip. They went to Arkansas where they met a guy there who took them to his private moonshine still. "WOW moonshine!" That's all she could say. When she got home, she tried to make some moon shine. She said she had a 20-gallon crock full of moon shine when lightning hit it and killed the yeast.

Rita met her husband Charlie Schmid when Louie, the man she was working for, called him and said he wanted to cook supper for him and meet their "hired girl." They married in 1954 at Scared Heart Church in Atwood. Rita and Charlie lived on the family farm with Charlie's mother. Rita said Charlie's mother was the best cook and was very patient with her. Rita said she fixed a lot of burnt toast.

Rita and Charlie had eight children: Tony, Tom, Tim, Ted, Cathy, Anita Ann, Marty and Mary. Today, she has 37 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Rita wasn't in the military but, for two years, she worked for a while at the Air Force Space Command as a civilian.

Charlie developed heart trouble and had to quit his job. He stayed home to raise the

kids and Rita went on the road driving a milk tanker truck.

She drove the milk trucks without baffles in them and had to clean the tankers out for each load.

She also hauled oil tankers. She remembered how the oil tankers would have fumes that would make her light headed.

There were very, very few women who drove trucks back then. She said the only women she would see, were the hookers in the truck stops and "she didn't need any of that!"

Rita said she taught herself how to drive the big trucks and drove trucks for about seven years. It was a fast life, she said, and she was not home much but she always called home to check on the family.

Charlie died December of 1982. He was a very hard working man, Rita said.

One time, Rita said, I wanted to take art classes as a hobby and spent \$790. She also liked to dance, remembering she went to one barn dance.

The person who influenced her the most was her Dad. He always said "Go through once, leave a wide path and don't do damage".

The biggest change in her life, she said, was when her husband died. The kids were pretty well raised by then. They were trained, educated and got jobs to help out.

Rita also made some changes. I was the fist person in my church that came to worship in jeans. Rita said she didn't have a man telling her how to act like a lady. "HA!" God knew me, she said, and he didn't care what I wore. Rita said after that more and more women would wear pants.

Rita ended the interview with the advice to kids, "get off your lazy a\_\_ , make history, and quit living off everyone else!"

Village residents and staff, along with Rita's daughter, Marty Gardino, and daughter-in-law, Tina Schmid, enjoyed the refreshments.

# Obituaries

## Bernita Lucille Schield

March 5, 1920 - Sept 11, 2013

Bernita Shield, a lifelong resident of Cheyenne County, Kan., died Wednesday evening, Sept. 11, 2013, at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis.

She was born in Cheyenne County to Edgar and Anna (Sorg) Whisnant. She grew up on the family farm southeast of Wheeler. She attended South Star School to eighth grade. She married Clarence Schield on July 28, 1942. They began their life together on the farm 1.5 miles south of where she grew up.

Bernita worked side by side with Clarence, growing crops, cooking meals, helping out where needed. She very much

enjoyed gardening. She also enjoyed flowers; planting them in the spring and caring for them through the summer months, watching them grow.

Bernita's real enjoyment was maintaining her home, farmyard and cars. They all had to be clean, neat and shining. If they weren't just right, she would work at it until it was.

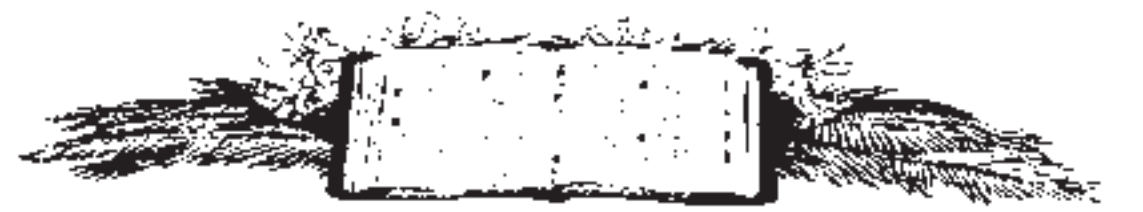
Bernita was baptized Sept. 26, 1920, at the Lawn Ridge Methodist Church. She was confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church on April 11, 1943, and then became a member of Peace Lutheran Church. She was also a member of the Lawn Ridge

Homemakers Club.

She was preceded in death by her husband Clarence; brothers, Harley Whisnant, Melvin Whisnant and sister, Alice Worley.

She is survived by her sons, Royce of Wichita; Stan of Montezuma; and Daryl of St. Francis; sisters-in-law Floriene Whisnant of Colby; Jessie Schield of St. Francis; and nieces and nephews. She will sorely be missed by her family.

Family funeral services were held Saturday, Sept. 14, at Peace Lutheran Church, with interment in the Goodland cemetery, Goodland.



# THANK YOU!!

The Cheylin Board of Education would like to thank all the people who came out and participated in the 'Drive 4 UR School' event held on Friday, September 13. We were overwhelmed by the support from the communities.

Thanks also to Yost Ford for sponsoring this event and their commitment to help the school. A special thanks to Brent Rueb, Sales Manager, and Cheylin Booster Club for coordinating this event.

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