



COLBY FREE PRESS

50¢

Wednesday

November 19, 2008

Volume 119, Number 184

Serving Thomas County since 1888

10 pages



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press



Fall grains pouring in

Ted Junenemann (above) unloaded part of the corn harvest from his semi-trailer truck at the Frontier Ag elevator at Breton on Tuesday. Corn poured from the semi into a grate (below). The crew was using an auger (left), to pile milo being released from a truck on the ground outdoors.



City studies regulations for water

Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby City Council worked Tuesday on a list of criteria they will be giving to whoever ends up building a new golf course.

"We're responsible for making sure the water is tested, to make sure it meets the permit requirements for bacteria and to make sure it's properly chlorinated..." said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong.

Colby resident Ed Collins has plans for a golf course east of town on land near the new wastewater treatment plant. Rory Bedore, a former Colby resident, announced plans to buy and improve the existing Meadow Lakes Golf Course. The city has said it has enough water for only one.

The council signed a memorandum of understanding with Collins on Oct. 2, 2007, where they agreed to provide him with effluent water to be used solely for irrigating and maintaining his future golf course. The memorandum says that any final agreement may be unilaterally terminated by city if, in the judgement of the council, Collins has not made satisfactory progress on developing and building a golf course within 18 months of the date of the agreement.

In other business Tuesday, the council:

- Approved establishing a redevelopment district for the Bosselman Truck Project. The territory included in the district includes the truck stop and Willow Street from the center line of Country Club Drive east through the intersection of Stephens Drive. When the motel project is completed, it will be added to the district and road improvements will be constructed, Armstrong said.

- The council agreed on a change to the municipal code prohibiting truck parking on any street or alley within residential zones in the city for more than two hours a day. That includes single family, duplex, multiple family zoned districts R-1, R-2, R-3, or a mobile home community zoned district (R-2MH).

- A recreational vehicle can be parked in a residential zone for 48 hours a week. This code does not apply to emergency vehicles such as ambulances or fire trucks and it doesn't apply to street, sewer, gas, telephone, electric or other utility repair and maintenance vehicles.

- Agreed to a request made by the Senior Progress Center to convert all seven parking stalls directly in front of the facility into handicap stalls. The stalls will be reserved for disabled people from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- Authorized construction of lighting for ball fields at Young Memorial Park. The resolution

Councilman toughs it out

Councilman Tom Waldschmidt showed he was a true team player, saving the day at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Waldschmidt was going to skip the meeting because he hurt his leg and was walking with a cane. It seems, though, the council needs five members present to do business.

When the meeting started at 7:30 p.m., the council thought maybe they could have a quorum with Waldschmidt participating via speaker phone. However, City Attorney John Gatz checked the state law and found that five councilmen needed to be in the room to do any business.

With that, Waldschmidt agreed to hobble down to City Hal. He got there about 8 p.m.

The eight-member council was a little short of people on Tuesday because councilmen Phil Deyoung and Pat Mallory were on vacation and Tim Huffles had a conflicting event he had to attend.

authorizes borrowing money with temporary notes to pay for the project.

This means the city will take bids from banks to borrow about \$330,000 over a two year period. The city has agreed to allow Theron Frogatte of Oppenheimer and Co. to market these notes to potential bidders. Armstrong said the bidder that offers the lowest interest rate will get the notes.

The estimated cost includes for the lighting, bond fees and interest on the temporary notes until they are converted to general obligation bonds. Armstrong said the notes will be paid off in 15 to 16 months. Bids will be expected for council approval on Dec. 2, and the closing will be on Dec. 18. The city will get the money at that time.

The contractor, Techline Sports Lighting, has agreed to wait until then for final payment if the project is completed before that. The city and the recreation department are committing \$40,000 to the project.

- Approved a 3 percent increase in lease fees for privately owned hangars at the Colby Airport.

- Issued an order on the Horner property at 165 E. Cherry St. for violation of environmental codes. This gives the owners 14 days to request a hearing before the council, or they can improve the yard conditions in 30 days and the structural defects in 60 days.

Hospital to share status, plans

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Citizens Medical Center plans a public meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Colby High School auditorium to involve people with the hospital's services, finances and plans for the future.

Janice McCart, president and chief executive officer, said she encourages everyone to be there.

"Because of the vastness of health care's impact on the community," McCart said, "it is very important for people to know that such a vital piece of their lives is viable.

"People should be aware of services offered locally to save on time and travel. We have some of the most talented and educated individuals in the health care industry right here in Colby, and we want people to know how proud and confident they should be of their health care organization."

The meeting will cover the current status of the center's health-care system, including finances, quality, patient services, technology and statistics, she said, and the future direction and expansion of the organization.

"We're going to talk about future changes in the health care system," said Tama Unger, director of fund development and community relations. "We're looking towards the future. It's important for the community to know where the hospital is headed."

The idea for the meeting was developed between the administration and the hospital's board of trustees, she said.

McCart said they want to share information

with the community about the hospital and its operations. Because it is run by a private corporation, without any county tax money, she said, the board and administration want to give people a better picture of the hospital.

"Because the center is a not-for-profit, community hospital, and the fact that we are not on the public tax rolls, we don't have monthly communications with our public," she said. "This meeting is a way for us to share information that most communities get because they support their hospital through taxes. It's a way for us to be more transparent."

The hospital already gets a lot of public support, Unger said. During a board meeting earlier this month, she said, Melinda Olsen of the Thomas County Community Foundation, presented Bob Standage, chairman of the hospital board, with a surprise \$500 grant, she said.

Briefly

Clinic has lab, lots of kittens

Colby Animal Clinic has a half-grown, long-haired kitten and several 6-month-old kittens ready for adoption. They also have a stray adult male black lab that needs a home. For questions, call 460-8621.

Classes selling goodies for trip

The juniors and seniors of Heartland Christian School will hold a bake sale Saturday to raise money for a trip to Washington. They will be selling homemade pies, cakes and cookies from 9 a.m. to noon at Wal-mart in Colby.

Church youth making dinner

The senior high youth of the Colby United Methodist Church will be serving a traditional Thanksgiving dinner from 11:30

a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday at the church. Donations will be accepted for mission and ministry work. For information, call the church office at 460-6521

Outdoor water gets expensive

Colby water meters will be read Thursday. All water used between then and Feb. 20 will be used to figure indoor use for next year's sewer bill.

This means any outdoor use during the winter, such as lawn watering or washing a car, might drive up your sewer bill for the entire year. For questions, call 460-4400.

City crew trimming trees

The Colby city crew is trimming trees over streets and sidewalks as the weather allows. Trees will be trimmed

to 13 feet, 6 inches above streets and trimmed to 8 feet above sidewalks, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong. For questions, call the city office at 460-4410.

Genesis needs for food, money

Genesis-Thomas County is looking for nonperishable food and money to buy items to put in Christmas baskets, which will be distributed to those in need of help during the holidays.

Donations can be left at Genesis from 10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays or at LeRoy's Printing, or Sacred Heart Catholic, First Presbyterian, Colby United Methodist or Trinity Lutheran churches.

Send checks to Genesis-Thomas County at Box 214, Colby, Kan. 67701. For information, call (785) 460-7930.

Emergency medical class set

Thomas County Emergency Medical Services will be offering an emergency medical technician B class starting in January.

Classes will run for several five to six month and financial assistance is available. For information, call training coordinator Dawnelle Umberger at (785) 460-4585 or 443-0176.

Center offers lunch for seniors

The Thomas County Nutrition Center is open to those 60 and older and their guests to have lunch at noon Monday through Friday at the Senior Progress Center in Fike Park.

The cost is \$2.75 for those 60 and older and \$4.75 for others. Meals can be delivered. Reservations for those attending or picking up meals should be made by noon the day before by calling 460-2901.

