

City commission candidates answer questions

CITY, from Page 1A

family and any organizations you might belong to in the community. I am a lifelong resident of Goodland. I graduated from Goodland High School in 1984, attended Fort Hays State, and returned to Goodland in 1986.

My wife Jill and I, and our three sons, own and operate a farm. We produce wheat, corn and sunflowers.

I presently serve on the Kansas State Fair Board as its chairman. I am on the Kansas Sunflower Commission, Groundwater Management District 4 board, and the Sherman County Farm Bureau board.

I am a past chairman of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, a graduate of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership program and a past chairman of Leadership Sherman County. I am a member of the Goodland United Methodist Church, Rotary club and Elks club.

Annette Fairbanks

Questions for City Commissioner Candidates:

1. Why are you running for the City Commission?

I presently serve on the Goodland City Commission and would like to continue working in that capacity. I was first elected in 2005 and then re-elected in 2007. I have enjoyed serving the people of Goodland and have learned a lot over the last six years about city government.

2. What do you see as the greatest

challenge facing the City and the greatest opportunity?

As in most communities, our biggest challenge right now is keeping the cost of working and living in Goodland affordable, and creating jobs to bring our young adults back to our town to live and raise their families. We want our community to be appealing to visitors and prospective businesses, yet meet the everyday needs of our citizens.

Our greatest opportunity is for growth because of our location and our people. A positive attitude and Midwest values are our most valuable tools.

3. What would you like to see the city accomplish in the next 5 to 10 years?

In November of 2009, the City leaders held a goal setting session and several of the top 10 objectives are well on their way to becoming a reality.

A downtown grocery store, general clean-up of our town, welcome signs on I-70, bowling alley, incentive plan for new and existing businesses, water treatment plant, city newsletter and welcome kit are just a few examples.

It has been the hard work and persistence of several local organizations working with the City and Economic Development that has made these possible. Continuing projects the City needs to pursue include keeping Main Street alive, looking for avenues to create better paying jobs, promoting the assets

of Goodland including our airport, railroad, golf course, parks and recreational facilities, health care, school system, community supported events, etc.

We have come a long way in the last several years and the future of Goodland looks very bright.

4. Background information, family and interests.

I was born and raised in Kansas City. I graduated Bishop Miege High School and attended Kansas State University. My husband Jerry and I moved to Sharon Springs in 1976 and then to Goodland in 1978. We have three children who have graduated from Goodland High School and Kansas State University.

David is currently living in Kansas City and attending UMKC Law School. He will marry his longtime girlfriend Genna Gleason in June of this year. Christi and her husband Mike (Cervone) live in Washington DC where she is employed as an IT Administrator with USA Today. Stephanie resides in Colorado and is in Law School at Denver University and will graduate in May of this year.

I have owned and operated Teeters Abstract & Title Company since 1998. I am a licensed and bonded Title Insurance agent for the State of Kansas and my business is located at 1011 Main Ave.

I have a passion for animals and volunteer a little time each week to the NWKS Animal Shelter. Jerry and I enjoy most any outdoor activ-

ity but especially riding bikes.

Gary Farris

1. Why are you running for the city commission?

To help make a difference.

2. What do you see as the greatest challenge facing the city or the greatest opportunity?

Attracting business.

3. What would you like to see the city accomplish in the next 5 to 10 years?

Growth and jobs.

4. Give us some background on you as where you were born, grew up, graduated from high school, went to college, professional work, family and any organization you might belong to in the community.

Graduated from Edson High School in 1968. Fort Hays State from 1968-1971. Custom harvesting for 17 years and manufacturing for 31 years.

Bill Finley

1. Why are you running for the city commission?

To give back to the community that has been a great place to raise my family.

2. What do you see as the greatest challenge facing the city or the greatest opportunity?

Challenge—limited resources, declining population. Opportunity—stronger ties developing between county and city.

3. What would you like to see the city accomplish in the next 5 to 10 years?

Try to retain our young people in Goodland or northwest area by developing job opportunities through economic development.

4. Give us some background on you as where you were born, grew up, graduated from high school, went to college, professional work, family and any organizations you might belong to in the community.

Born in Goodland, went to kindergarten in Goodland but moved to Brewster and finished High School in Brewster in 1969.

Graduated from Northwest Tech in 1972. Worked for a local car dealer in Goodland before moving to Hugoton in 1974. Lived in Hugoton until moving back to Goodland in 1987 and began teaching collision repair at Northwest Tech.

Moved from a teaching position to an administration position in 2006 at Northwest Tech. Presently serving as Vice President of Student Services. Education—Bachelor of Science in Vocational Technical Education from Pittsburg State University.

Been married for 39 years and have two children, both of whom are working in Goodland. Have two grandchildren and expecting a third in April.

Past/present community services—Goodland Activity Center past board member, Hunter safety Master Instructor, Goodland School District Booster Club President, Coordinator for Northwest Tech endowment, member of Elks and

member of Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Chris Zimmerman

1. I am running for city commission because I feel my youth and knowledge will help bring a different prospective view to the table, allowing possibilities of new ideas or improving others.

2. One of the challenges I see in Goodland is improving some of the things we have and the possibility of bringing other things into this community. Goodland has a great location and is capable of growing and expanding its opportunities.

3. Things I would like to see in the next 5 to 10 years would be helping current businesses and seeing new opportunities for other businesses, so Goodland is enticing to others. To allow more people to want to call Goodland their home.

4. I was born and raised in Goodland, graduating from Goodland High School in 2002, then continuing my education at Wyotech in Laramie, Wyo., where I studied Collision/Refinishing Street Rod and Chassis Fabrication. Graduated in 2003.

Also have credit hours from Kansas State University studying Hazmat/Hazwoper. I worked in different parts of Kansas, and in April of 2010 moved back to Goodland, where I now restore older vehicles at Dinkel Collision Repair.

I am a Goodland Volunteer firefighter.

Two blocks of Main Ave. to get new bricks this summer

By Tom Betz

tom.betz@nwkans.com

The city has been notified the grant money has been approved to allow the project of replacing the bricks on two blocks of Main Ave.. The commissioners approved a contract on Monday to move the project ahead.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the project has been in the works for a while. He said the city applied for a transportation enhancement grant in December of 2009. He said the city had received notice the grant had been approved, but at the time

no money was available.

"We now have notice the money is available," he said. "The grant will basically pay for the bricks, and is part of their historical effort to help cities improve while maintaining the historical atmosphere."

He said the plan is to replace the bricks of the block from 10th to 11th, and the staff agreed to add 12 to 13th as the second block.

The project would include some work on the storm drainage system under the two blocks.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked if any utilities or curbs would be re-

placed in the process of replacing the bricks.

Jeff Mills of Evans, Bierly, Hutchinson and Associates, said the project is only for the bricks in the streets, as the curb and gutter have already been replaced.

Gerber said the design contract with EBH is for a maximum of \$119,000, and the total estimated construction cost is \$920,284. The grant will pay up to 75 percent of the project, and the city will be responsible for the remainder and the engineering costs.

He said the work will not include

the water lines as the long term plan is to move the water lines under the sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if this would cause a problem with the High School reunion planned for the second week of August. He said the last time the city had this type of project the streets were torn up during the reunion.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she understood the problem, but felt it is a project that shows the city is getting things done.

Gerber said the city has the option

to proceed and take a chance it might not be completed in time, or wait until August and take a chance with winter stalling the project.

Dechant said waiting until August would put the project up against Flatlanders Fall Festival in September.

Commissioner John Garcia asked if Mills thought it could be done before the reunion.

Mills said they may be able to get it done.

Garcia asked about damage to the curbs.

Mills said it should not hurt the

curbs. The project is taking out the bricks in the street. He said they will have to close down one block at a time while it is being done.

Rasure asked how long it should take to do a block.

Mills said it should be four to six weeks.

"I have not been around brick laying and do not know how long it takes," he said.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said the bricklaying went pretty fast.

Rasure made the motion to approve, seconded by Fairbanks. The motion passed 5-0.

School bond citizens' committee offers coffee, burgers to public

BOND, from Page 1A

The current Central School was built in 1948 with the bond for \$252,000 passing with 258 voting for and 65 against.

In 1963 the bond to build Max Jones Fieldhouse for \$810,000 passed. Only \$399,000 was used for Max Jones Fieldhouse the rest was remodeled for Goodland High School and built the administration building for the current Northwest Technical College. Originally the college was part of the Goodland School District.

Vignery said he was amazed by the foresight that was shown in building the fieldhouse and the technical college. Both have a big financial impact in the community now. The fieldhouse is the best sports facility in the area.

The last bond passed in 1967 to build North and West Elementary Schools. It took five times to pass it. The vote was 1,204 for and 812 against.

Vignery said the argument is that times are too hard to pass a school bond. Vignery noted that when times were hard historically, people readily passed school bonds, such

as in 1936 during the Depression. He also noted that when times were good, as in 1926 during the Roaring

brook and the late Bill Pittman. House explained to the audience that historically the State of Kansas

Currently the Goodland School District qualifies for 15 percent state aid on school bonds. The legislature has been considering cutting that amount. That would amount to \$3.2 million that the state would pay of the \$14.9 million bond.

Cole talked about the four areas the renovations would improve. First she said technology would be improved. She has heard that there are not always enough plug-ins for teachers now to run things. With new electrical and technology backbones in the high school and the elementary school, teachers would have those to rely on.

Secondly, she said, there are a lot of teachers approaching retirement age and facilities are one thing that

prospective teachers look at when they decide where they want to work.

Thirdly, Cole said, is the improved air quality and heating and air conditioning. With people working and living in air conditioned buildings and their air conditioned cars, why are some of the teachers and their classes struggling in the heat?

The fourth area is the pride of the students in their school. Good facilities can influence kids to go to school when they might not otherwise.

Cole said that the renovation plans are not perfect. If the bond is voted down, the School Board may go ahead and move the junior high into the high school without the changes that would keep younger and older students separated. The district would also not have the funds to tear down that structure if that was the only option, leaving an empty building.

Superintendent Shelly Angelos answered the question of what it would cost to do the major renovations the district needs to do on its buildings. She said that in the study done for the district by architects

Horst, Terrill and Karst of Topeka, the cost of the renovations would cost \$20 million.

Construction Manager Michael Ayars of Ayars and Ayars answered the question of how long the metal roof would last on the renovated North Elementary School. He said it would last a lifetime, or about 50 years, and is a pitched roof.

He also answered the question of renovation versus building new. He said why not use the resource of the current North Elementary building. That would save money as well as preserve the history connected with the building.

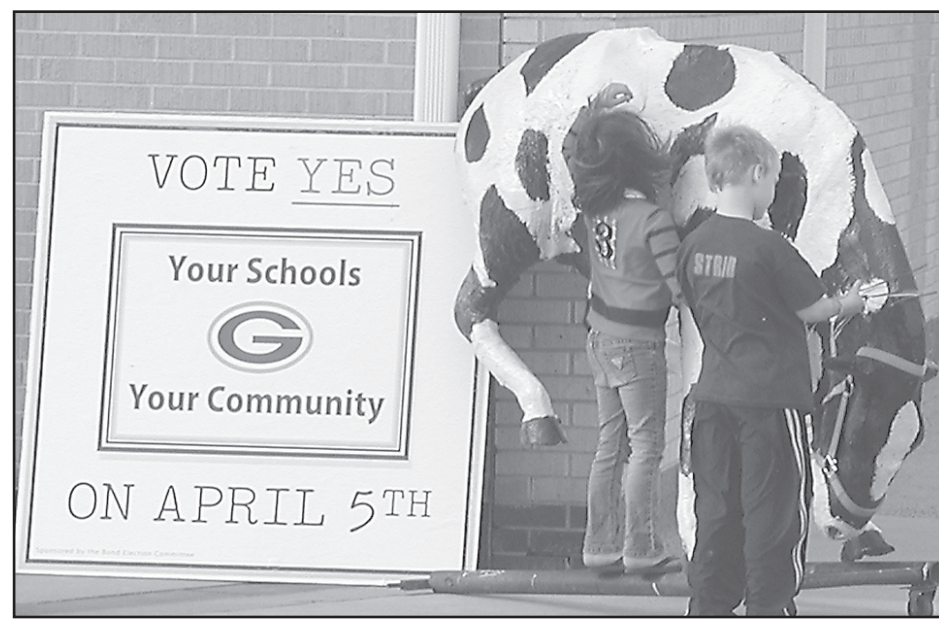
"The site is a wonderful location," Ayares said.

Bond Advisor Dustin Avey of Piper Jaffrey was there visiting with people and explaining the financing of the bond.

Project Manager Cristy Joy of Architecture Etcetera also visited with people.

Goodland School Board members attending were President Chuck Wilkens, Gary Slough and Mike Cochran. Those not attending were Jane Philbrick, John Hendrich and Amy Sederstrom.


"Hope you all vote," said Cole.



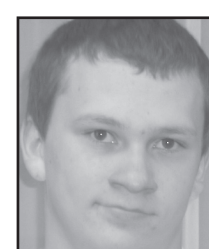
Horse outside Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall was a hit with kids on Monday. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

GHS Cowboys of the Week


Based on positive academic performance, attendance improvement, positive attitude or random acts of kindness, the student nominees this week are: DJ Yarbrough and Sloan Ruhs.



DJ Yarbrough, Junior
Nominated by: Mrs. Reed
Parents: Christie Yarbrough
Activities: Wrestling, Baseball, FCCLA



Sloan Ruhs, Junior
Nominated by: Mr. Mercer
Parents: Mike and Chandra
Activities: G-Club, FCCLA, Football, Wrestling



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