The Bel Aire Breeze

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City commits to opening pool

By Taylor Messick

The Bel Aire City Council revisited the proposition of opening the city pool following the governor's updated guidelines for reopening May 19. In the end, council members decided to move forward with a June 8 opening date.

The topic was brought back up at the request of council member John Welch.

City Manager Ty Lasher said the city had been working toward opening the pool after the council approved that pursuit May 5. Welch said he was still hesitant about opening the pool while the dates and restrictions for the governor's reopening phases remain fluid. He wondered if the pool would have to turn people away with capacity caps or additional demand due to other area pools shutting down for the summer. He questioned how admission would be handled if the pool started regularly reaching capacity. He also pointed out that the pool was short four lifeguards.

Gov. Laura Kelly has since made her reopening plan a recommendation and not a mandate, leaving reopening for counties to govern. Sedgwick County, in response, voted to keep the plan as a recommendation and not mandate specific rules for which businesses and activities can take place. The move cleared the way for swimming pools to open.

See POOL, Page 5

Sprucing up for summer

City public works employees have been busy improving public parks recently. Work has included removing existing surfacing and installing a new concrete border at Bel Aire Park. New playground safety surfacing is being installed. The material for the safety surfacing is made from recycled tires and funded in part by a Waste Tire Management Grant from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Public works staff worked with community volunteers to restore two Purple Martin birdhouses that can be found in Alley Park. This park is designed for those who enjoy a more natural setting for bird watching or fishing in the large pond.

Courtesy photos

City revisits council vacancy policy

By Taylor Messick

The Bel Aire governing body revisited the topic of council vacancies on May 19. Mayor Jim Benage expressed displeasure with the city's policy earlier this year after the council had difficulty coming to a consensus on a fifth council member.

The situation began when Benage attempted to nominate John Welch to his former council seat on Feb. 4 and the nomination failed. Welch was the third-leading vote-getter for city council in November 2019 with 643 votes (25.5 percent) when Benage was elected mayor. Welch missed out on being elected by just one vote to council member Diane Wynn. Another candidate failed to garner enough votes Feb. 4 and the item was tabled until Welch was confirmed on March 3.

Council member Joel Schroeder said he spoke to former mayor Gary O'Neal about how the city has handled vacancies in the past. O'Neal said the policy has been inconsistent through the years. Sometimes the highest vote-getter was automatically awarded the open seat and other times the mayor has selected another candidate. Schroeder said O'Neal stated that his preference was for the highest vote-getter to be selected.

On May 19, that's what the city proposed. The policy that was floated would allow the mayor to automatically offer the seat to the first highest vote-getter or to open the seat up for

See VACANCY, Page 6

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Mayor's corner

By Jim Benage

The COVID-19 rules keep changing. Our city manager, Ty Lasher, has been working diligently to keep on top of them. The last change was on May 14. They may change yet again before this is published. So here is what is changing for Bel Aire as of this writing:

•City council restarted in-person meetings on May 19. However, if we learn that more than one council member will not be physically present, we will do online meetings.

•City Hall and the rec center are open to the public starting May 26. Both will look different with new carpet and plexiglass at City Hall and new paint at the rec center. Activities at the rec center will have limitations.

•The city pool opens on June 8. There will be social-distancing rules. We understand some other area pools will be open but some will be closed.

As you may know, I advocate the wearing of cloth masks in public. However, recently I have been reading about ill effects of wearing masks. They can aid in reducing the spread of droplets, which carry the coronavirus. But it appears they should not be worn for long periods of time and, of course, need to be kept clean.

This month marks the one-year anniversary of the Bel Aire Recovery Center. However, due to the COVID-19 issues, they are not having any in-person celebration. I did meet with their CEO. The center is doing well and is looking to offer additional services.

A big shout-out to Sherwin-Williams for donating paint to the rec center. The staff has repainted the entire interior, including the gym. Look forward to seeing the new look.

Bel Aire is now officially out of the residential development business. On May 15, we closed on the sale of the last lot the city owned in Central Park. You will see other changes at St. James and Colonial (near Isely). That last lot was the lot just north of where St. James ends. It is now private property.

So, Isely school parents please expect changes here. There will be NO parking on that lot. In fact, that makeshift road that connected St. James to the alley east of St. James has been roped off as it is on private property. The city has been working with the Central Park Home Owners Association, the property owner, Andrew Reese (the developer in the Central Park Area), and USD 259 to develop a more comprehensive solution to the traffic issues in this area. Hopefully, by the time school restarts, all pieces will be in place to enhance safety for Isely school children.

Please be safe. Wash hands often. Practice six-foot distance and wear a mask when in public. Let's continue to support each other.

It is an honor to serve as your mayor.

City OKs sewer lift station pump repair

By Taylor Messick

The Bel Aire City Council in May accepted a bid from JCI for the repair of the 53rd Street sewer lift station pump. The cost to the city is $12,270.

Council member John Welch asked about the possibility of purchasing a new pump. City engineer Anne Stephens said that would probably cost over $30,000. She also said the city was having issues with Flowserve pumps and would not recommend purchasing another one at this time.

Welch also asked about the possibility of increasing pump maintenance to minimize failures. Stephens said there isn't much that can be serviced and that the pumps are designed to run until failure.

"The failure issues that we have are when people throw down rags, non-flushable wipes and the lovely mop heads that seem to appear," said Stephens. "Those are the problems we have because those get clogged in the pumps and the pumps start spinning and overheat."

City Manager Ty Lasher said the city keeps two pumps at each of its stations to make sure there is a backup in case one goes down.

Stephens said bypasses have been installed at the Rock Road and 53rd Street stations. This will allow use of a portable pump if both pumps should fail.

Council approves new truck for public works

By Taylor Messick

On May 5, the Bel Aire City Council approved the purchase of a new truck for the public works department. City engineer Anne Stephens said the department's old truck has become a hassle.

"The initial idea was to replace the dumping bed for a cost of around $11,000," said Stephens. "However, as we've kind of moved through the year, we've found that this truck has been having more and more technical issues and is requiring more expense to get fixed."

Stephens said the truck has gone in for repairs several times and more issues keep arising. A truck is needed by the department for snow removal in parking lots and interior streets. But the maintenance costs and the hassle have become an issue with the old truck.

"It is a 2004 model and it's very heavily used by all divisions of public works," said Stephens. "It's really pretty critical that this truck is in good operating condition. It is one of our main snow-removal vehicles."

The department will need the vehicle before the winter and Stephens said there is currently about a 20-week wait for delivery. The council unanimously voted to accept a bid from Rusty Eck Ford for $94,632 for a Ford F-550 to replace the old F-350. That price includes equipment costs. The money will come from the equipment reserve.

City hires firm for right-of-way acquisitions

By Taylor Messick

Bel Aire is looking to purchase additional rights-of-way for five tracts of land for the Woodlawn expansion project. City engineer Anne Stephens recommended hiring a firm to assist in the project.

"We're going to be installing some fairly large end sections for our storm sewer," Stephens said. "So the railroad did ask that we purchase right-of-way from them. The two tracts are on the northwest corner of 45th and those are basically mirroring the right-of-way on the south side of the street to the north side of the street. There's limited right-of-way there as it was originally platted, so we're just getting more right-of-way for the intersection and mostly storm sewer improvements."

Most of the parcels are temporary construction easements that Stephens said were needed for grading and for a nicer finished product. She said no permanent facilities will be placed in these easements.

The fifth parcel is located in Bel Aire Park and owned by the Sedgwick County Fire Department. Stephens said it will be a parking area.

"We're taking that street in front of Bel Aire Park and moving the parking area towards the back," said Stephens.

Stephens asked to have a firm hired to acquire the needed parcels. The staff does not have much experience with this type of project.

"I have never done any sort of property acquisition before," she said. "I know Ty has done a little bit and been involved in some. But this is a massive magnitude — 29 parcels is a lot. We're all pretty busy right now and frankly don't have the time or expertise to get all of these 29 parcels done in the timeframe that we are allowed."

The city got three bids and all three bidders are approved by the Kansas Department of Transportation. Stephens was only able to get a reference for the highest bidder and said she had concerns over the simplicity of the lowest bidder's proposal, which came in at roughly half the price of the winning bid. The council unanimously decided to go with Steens Consulting Services at an amount not to exceed $63,100.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran-ELCA

Christ Lutheran is at 53rd North and Hillside, across from Wichita Heights High School.

Worship services are held at 9 a.m. (contemporary) and 11 (traditional). Communion is offered at both services. Sunday School for all ages begins at 10:10 a.m.

For more information about the church and its activities, find us online at www.christ-lutheran.org, on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/CLCwichita/ or call 744-1242.

Chad Langdon is the pastor.

Church of the Resurrection

Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord's day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday masses are at 8 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is www.resurrectionwichita.com, and the telephone number is 744-2776.

The Rev. Michael J. Schemm is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel

Community Bible Chapel is located at the corner of 45th North and Auburn.

If you have any questions about our church, please call Amy Smith at 323-2819.

Cornerstone Christian

Cornerstone Christian Church is at 5531 E. 37th North, Wichita KS 67220-2037. The phone number is 686-0208.

Sunday worship is at 10:15 a.m. A nursery is provided.

Wednesday study groups at 6:30 p.m. include adult studies, youth and Awana.

Cornerstone Christian Church will host a free family fun event from 4 to 6 p.m. the third Saturday of each month. See you there.

Pastor is Jim Rackham, and youth pastor is Tate Strasner.

Gospel Assembly

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, Sunday services are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Prayer service is at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Praise and worship is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Youth activities are on the first Saturday evening of each month.

Phone number is 744-1502. The Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

Greenwich United Methodist

Greenwich UMC at 5500 N. Greenwich Road is one mile south of K-254 and five miles north of 21st North.

Sunday worship is at 9 a.m. with Life Studies for all ages from 10 to 10:30.

Pastor Paula Scott is available at the church each Wednesday for prayer and fellowship.

United Methodist Women meet at 10 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month and host a church brunch quarterly.

Special events are announced on the church sign, Facebook and by mailings. Please call to be added to our mailing list or email shage meister@sbcglobal.net.

Greenwich UMC missions support large local charities like Open Door, Grace Med or Youthville, as well as small charities like Flint Hills Therapeutic Riding Center and Wichita Children's Home, to name a few.

Like us on Facebook at Wichita Greenwich United Methodist Church. Call us at 744-0203.

Kechi United Methodist

Located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. Sunday worship is at 9:03 a.m. (contemporary) and 11 (traditional), with Sunday school at 10.

Bingo is at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month.

Men's Bible study is at 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays.

Our pastor is Michelle Gowin. Find us online at www.KechiUMC.org and "Like" us on Facebook.

The church phone number is 744-1221.

LifePoint

A fellowship of the Assemblies of God, LifePoint is located at 400 S. Abilene in Valley Center.

Life University/Sunday school meets at 9 a.m., with Kids Church at 10:30. There is no regular Sunday night service. For special activities, check online at www.lpcag.org.

Wednesday evening's Launch children's program is at 6:30 p.m., with Velocity Student Ministries for youth meets at 7.

Adult small groups meet throughout the community.

Senior pastor is Steve Rains. Youth pastor is Jacob Soyez. Children's pastor is Nathaniel Thurman. Call the church at 755-2331.

Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Located at 6770 E. 34th North in northeast Wichita.

You can reach us at 683-5538 or via email at postmaster@risensavior.net.

Sunday morning services in our Worship Center are at 8 and 10:30, with a nursery and Children's Church during the 10:30 service. We provide adult Bible classes and children's Sunday school beginning at 9:15 a.m.

Each month we provide options to participate in a variety of Bible studies, fellowship and service opportunities for all ages.

Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter — search RisenSaviorICT! Find out everything Risen Savior has to offer on our website www.risensavior.net.

Senior pastor is Tom Harmon. Assistant pastor is Nick Cordt.

Saint Michael Western Orthodox Christian

Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church is at 2710 E. 61st North, Park City.

It is a congregation of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

Worship with us Sunday Adult Class at 9 a.m., morning prayer at 9:45 a.m. and Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m., and Wednesday Holy Eucharist at 6 p.m.

Men's Bible study group meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Monday.

Women's Bible study group meets at 10 a.m. on the second and fourth Friday.

Wednesday service is at 6 p.m.

Saturday Vespers are at 4:30 p.m.

The Very Rev. Dr. John Flora is archpriest and pastor. The Rev. Deacon Basil Anderson is assistant. Frank Tritschler is head chanter. Readers are James Finneran and Moses Rothenberger. Mrs. Sally Buxon is organist.

For more information call 734-6248 or go online www.saintmichaelorthodoxchurch.com. Email inquiries to jfflora@icloud.com.

Wichita Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist

Located at 4558 N. Hydraulic, Wichita.

Birger Draget is pastor. Sabbath school at 9:30 a.m. with worship service at 11.

For more information, go online at www.godscloset.com or on Facebook (Gods Closet - Wichita).

For God's Closet, call 778-0474.

Send your church's upcoming events and service times to legals@arkvalleynews.com or call 755-0821.

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HIGHLIGHTS

Local students graduate

Christal Adams, of Wichita, has graduated from Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Mo., with a bachelor of arts in mass communication.

Lindsay Burt, of Wichita, graduated from Cedarville University with a Bachelor of Arts in intercultural studies-missionlogy during the 124th annual commencement held May 2.

Cedarville University is located between Dayton and Columbus, Ohio is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,380 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study.

John Davis, of Wichita, earned a bachelor of science in information technology from Western Governors University. The online, nonprofit university is based in Salt Lake City.

— The Breeze staff

Students in online festival

Three Bel Aire students participated in the first-ever Sterling College Online Music Festival that ran for most of the month of April. Isaac Wu and Irene Diao each played the violin and received a Superior I rating. Amelia Beck played the viola and received an Excellent II rating.

Because spring regional and state music festivals were canceled due to COVID-19, Sterling College music professor Larry Brownlee organized the "virtual" music festival. In total, almost 400 solos were entered.

Each student provided a musical solo performed on a YouTube video, which was adjudicated by a Kansas music educator. All students were given ratings and a critique of their performance.

— The Breeze staff

Casings found, but no suspect

There was evidence, but no suspects.

On April 19, Bel Aire police officers were dispatched to the 5600 block of North Lycee to check on a report of shots being fired. Police found 11 shell casings on the street, and witnesses described a white SUV with dark tinted windows as the suspect vehicle.

No suspects were identified. No one was injured.

— The Breeze staff

Renter forgets crack pipes

A renter left something important behind.

On April 20, a man at Enterprise Rent-A-Car in the 6300 block of East 37th North requested officers to look through a rental vehicle because a person who had rented and returned the vehicle left crack pipes in the car.

The items were seized and submitted into evidence.

— The Breeze staff

Photos spark investigation

The Exploited and Missing Child Unit opened an investigation into a report of a juvenile receiving photos over a cellphone app.

On April 21, police took a report from the mother of a 10-year-old girl. The mother said she found out that her daughter had been talking to an unknown male on the TikTok app at 3 a.m. She said she felt the conversation was sexual in nature.

The mother believed that photos of a nude person had been sent and received but were deleted before the mother discovered the communication.

— The Breeze staff

Groceries left in Central Park

Although there was no estimate, there may have been hundreds of dollars worth of groceries abandoned in Central Park in Bel Aire.

On April 21, a woman reported to police that she found grocery bags near the front of the entrance of the community pool in Central Park. An officer located 22 Dillon's grocery sacks full of perishable and non-perishable food. Some of groceries had already expired, so police disposed of them.

Police took the non-perishable food to the Wichita Children's Home.

— The Breeze staff

Thieves buy diet program

These identity theft suspects were apparently trying to stay safe and healthy while putting someone else in financial jeopardy.

On April 24, a woman from the 5300 block of North Cypress called the Bel Aire Police Department to report that someone was attempting to use her bank card. She noticed that there were four pending charges to her debit card that did not belong to her. She contacted her bank and the charges were removed.

The bank was able to tell her the names the suspects used while making the charges. The subjects had attempted to charge services to an exercise and dieting program as well as one charge to Norton Anti-Virus. The woman contacted the companies and they were unable to give her any further information.

— The Breeze staff

Drugs left in plain sight

A man left his drugs where anyone could see them.

On April 24, Bel Aire police officers were dispatched to a suspicious character call in the 5900 block of East 47th North. The caller said a black four-door SUV had a green substance consistent with marijuana sitting in plain view on the passenger seat.

The vehicle was parked on the public street adjacent to the homeowners association lake north of 47th. The officers found four white males in the trees near the lake. The owner of the car was identified. He also was the owner of the marijuana. He was cited for unlawful possession of marijuana.

— The Breeze staff

Relative's ashes dumped

A fight near Kechi ended badly for a local family.

On May 12, Bel Aire and Kechi police responded to a disturbance in the 9900 block of North Hillside. After arriving, officers discovered a large disturbance had taken place. There was significant damage, including broken televisions, food dumped on the floor and holes in walls.

The contents of an urn also were dumped on the floor. Officers were told the ashes on the floor were the remains of a relative of the woman involved in the disturbance.

— The Breeze staff

Local students recognized

Karen Haffner, of Wichita, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. She was initiated at Washburn University.

Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Zakariyya Hassan, of Wichita, was named to the dean's list at Northeastern University in Boston for the spring 2020 semester.

To make the dean's list, a student must carry a full program of at least four courses, have a quality point average of 3.5 or greater out of a possible 4.0 and carry no single grade lower than a C- during the course of their college career.

Hassan is majoring in health science.

Amariani Garcia, a graduate of Wichita Northeast Magnet High School, won an award from Kansas Collegiate Media for her work with Butler Community College publications. Garcia won second place in comics/editorial cartoons with the Butler Lantern for "Free open journalism attacked from new angle."

— The Breeze staff

Motorcyclist hurt in wreck

A motorcyclist was hurt on a wreck April 26 in the 7800 block of North Greenwich.

The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office said David T. Long lost control of the motorcycle and went into a ditch.

EMS crews took Long to Wesley Medical Center with serious injuries.

The wreck happened about 4:30 p.m. The motorcycle was hauled away.

— The Breeze staff

Church offers Boxes of Hope

Riverlawn Christian Church is offering hope in a box during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The church's Boxes of Hope campaign is designed to bring needed supplies and a message of hope directly to the doorsteps of those who need it most. Volunteers from Riverlawn Christian Church are ready to get these boxes out to their neighbors.

By texting HOPE to 444-4338 or visiting riverlawn.org/hope, people in a 14-day quarantine or those who are vulnerable due to age or underlying health concerns can request a box containing necessities such as toilet paper, paper towels, disinfectant wipes, diapers, baby wipes, and even a few snacks and food items. Boxes of Hope are free of charge. They are meant to be a tangible encouragement to those who cannot leave their homes.

"In a world that sometimes seems hopeless, Jesus offers hope to us in so many different ways," Pastor Jeff Isaacs said. "One way that he continues to offer hope today is by using his church to love on people he loves. To that end, we are participating in Boxes of Hope. This ministry was started by a church in New Jersey to help show the love of Jesus to the world, and we at Riverlawn are excited to be part of this hope- offering ministry."

Volunteers will wear masks and gloves, and items will be isolated for 72 hours per CDC guidelines before being placed into the boxes. Volunteers will work in shifts of no more than 10 people stationed at least eight feet apart.

To donate to the effort, go to https://getboxesofhope.com/kansas/ and click Riverlawn Christian Church under the Give a Box tab.

— The Breeze staff

DEATHS

WAYNE HEMMEN

Wayne Hemmen, 91, of Wichita, died May 1, 2020. He was a retired life insurance salesman.

Hemmen

He was preceded in death by his parents, Victor and Hilda Hemmen; first wife Margot Marie Hemmen; and brother Robert Hemmen.

Survivors include his son, Jim (Janet) Hemmen of Wichita; daughters Mary Kay (Don) Williams of Bel Aire, Linda Hemmen of Tyler, Texas, and Sharon (Chuck) Carr of Wichita; wife Elaine Aaron of Wichita; stepsons Rene (Susanna) Aaron of Fallbrook, Calif., and Armand (Roxanne) Aaron of Olathe; stepdaughters Madeleine (Ronald) Starks and Emily (Zeb) Pischnotte, all of Wichita; brothers Delbert Hemmen of San Antonio and Kenneth (Betty) Hemmen of Wichita; four grandchildren; 11 stepgrandchildren; seven great-grandchildren and 15 stepgreat-grandchildren.

Rosary was May 5 at Downing & Lahey East Mortuary, with funeral Mass on May 6 at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church. Memorial with Guadalupe Clinic, 940 S. St. Francis, Wichita KS 67211.

RENAE McCRORY

Renae E. McCrory, 72, of Bel Aire, died May 12, 2020.

She was born March 13, 1948, in Winfield to Edd and Evangeline Ruth "Van" (Johnson) Carlson. She graduated from Winfield High School in 1966. She received an associate degree from St. John's College in Winfield. She worked as a receptionist for the Kansas Highway Patrol for over 22 years.

McCrory

She was preceded in death by her parents. Survivors include sons Ryan and Thad McCrory, grandsons Jason and Jeffrey McCrory, brother Bruce (Kristen) Carlson, nephew Scott Carlson, niece Kara Carlson and husband Michael Hauber, great-nephew Felix Hauber, and many other family and friends.

Private family graveside service and interment was held May 16 at Prairie Home Cemetery, Holdrege, Neb. Additional memorial services in Kansas will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Mulvane United Methodist Church, 130 S. Central, Mulvane KS 67110. Nelson-Bauer Funeral Home in Holdrege had charge.

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City of Bel Aire

City of Bel Aire

Bel Aire Seniors

All SENIORS 55+ are cordially invited to all events listed below. The Senior Center and library area are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The library has a wide selection of books to check out with neither cost nor time restraints and computers are available for study or research. Any senior can belong to or attend more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County.

The Bel Aire Senior Center will be closed for all programs when USD 259 schools are closed due to inclement weather. For more information, please call 744-2451, Ext. 135.

Locations

Senior Center/Community Room
7651 E. Central Park Ave. / 744-2451
Recreation Center
5251 E. 48th North / 744-2700

Weekly Events

Pickleball — Monday and Friday, 9 to 11:30 a.m., Fridays 5 to 7 p.m. Rec Center, $2/person or Rec membership
Bel Aire Walkers — Monday through Friday, 8 to 9 a.m., Rec Center (indoors)
Sew "N" Sew More — Monday, Wednesday & Friday, noon, Rec Center.
Dynamic Aging — Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m., Rec Center. $40 for four weeks or $5 per class. Chris at 620-640-2104 for more info.
Low Impact Aerobics — Wednesday, 9 a.m., Rec Center
Open Sewing — Wednesday, 10 a.m., Rec Center

Monthly & Special Events

June 3, 2 p.m. — Meet the new Senior Coordinator, Rec Center
June 9, 2 p.m. — Trivia challenge, Rec Center
June 11, 2 p.m. — Bingo, Rec Center
June 15 — Senior Center reopens
June 17, 1:30 p.m. — Book Club meeting, Senior Center
June 22, 6 p.m. — Meet the new Senior Coordinator and presentation about COVID-19 response, Seniro Center
June 24, 2 p.m. — TED talk and discussion, Senior Center

In the interest of public safety, please be advised that all Bel Aire rec and senior programming may be subject to modification, change, or cancelation to reflect current state and local COVID-19 orders, with or without notice.

Community Events

June 2 — City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall
June 3 — Municipal Court, City Hall (prescheduled appearances)
June 8 — Utility Advisory Committee, noon, City Hall
June 10 — Lions Club, 11:30 a.m., Gospel Assembly Church
June 11 — Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
June 13 — City brush site open, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 53rd North between Rock and Webb
June 16 — City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall
June 18 — Municipal Court, City Hall (prescheduled appearances)
June 22 — Tree Board, 7 p.m., City Hall
June 24 — Lions Club, 11:30 a.m., Gospel Assembly Church
June 25-27 — Citywide garage sales

More information can be found at www.belaireks.gov.

Bel Aire Recreation

NOTICE: In the interest of public safety, please be advised that all Bel Aire Rec programming may be subject to modification, change, or cancellation to reflect current State and local COVID-19 orders, with or without notice.

Central Park Swimming Pool
Opens June 8! Open Monday through Friday, 1 to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 1 to 6 p.m. (hours subject to change). Enrollment for swimming lessons and pool rental requests accepted starting June 8.

Happy Feet Soccer
Starts June 18 for six weeks (no class the week of July 4). Ages 2 and 3, 6 to 6:30 p.m. Ages 4 & 5, 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Happy Hoops Basketball
Starts June 16 for six weeks (no class the week of July 4). Ages 2 & 3, 6 to 6:30 p.m. Ages 4 & 5, 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Legends Academy Soccer Training
Start June 18 for eight weeks (no class July 4) Ages 6 to 7, one hour training. Ages 8 through 16, two hours training

TGA Golf
Starts June 16 for eight weeks (no class week of July 4). Ages 7 through 12

Keep Your Dribble Instructional Basketball Clinic
Different sessions offered for ages kindergarten trough 12th grades (Ages, dates, times & prices differ). ***Prior registration is required.***

- K thru 2nd grade — July 8, 10 a.m. to noon
- 3rd through 5th — July 15, 10 a.m. to noon
- 6th through 8th — July 22, 9 a.m. to noon
- 9th through 12th — July 29, 9 a.m. to noon

Fishing Clinic
June 20, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Alley Park in Bel Aire. We will meet at the Rec Center and walk to the park together. Poles and tackle must be brought by participants; bait will be provided. ***Prior registration is required***

British Soccer Camp
Challenger Sports' British Soccer Camp, July 13 to 17. Join over 150,000 players who will learn the Challenger way this year for fun kicks and awesome accents. Ages 3 through 16. Register at challengersports.com

Taekwondo (ages 5 & up)
Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m. Great classes for beginners to black belts.

Dynamic Aging
Geared towards individuals age 50 and over. Provides opportunities to practice a variety of movements in a safe environment. Classes meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday Thursday.

Adult Pickleball
Mondays and Fridays, 9 to 11:30 a.m.; Fridays 5 to 7 p.m. in the Rec Center gymnasium. $2 drop-in fee or membership!

Yoga
Mondays and Wednesdays, 6 to 7 p.m. Participants need to bring their own yoga mat. Teens and adults can join at any time.

Senior Aerobics
Includes fat burning cardio aerobics. These low impact exercises are designed to reduce stress on your joints and back while using all major muscle groups. Meets Wednesdays 9 to 10 a.m.

Fitness Center
Need a place to work on your New Year's resolutions? Then come check out our fitness center. The fitness center consists of: elliptical cross trainers, free weights, multistation weight machine, recumbent bike and treadmills.

FREE Senior Programs
Senior Aerobics, Bel Aire Walkers, Sewing, and more. Please call Sarah for more information.

For more info about any Bel Aire rec program, call 744-2700, visit www.belaireks.gov or follow us on Facebook @BelAireRec.

CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE WEEKEND

City of Bel Aire

June 25th-27th
Permit Fee Waived

Bel Aire Rec Center
Virtual Fishing Contest

Congratulations to our winners:

Siblings: Jacob & Aliza Koci
Biggest Fish: Jayden Wyatt
Parent/Child Duo: Brad & Julia Taylor
Smallest Fish: Tagg & Tony Ohlman

Thank you to everyone who participated!
Check our Facebook page for future contests!

Youth Fishing Clinic

Saturday June 20th from 9:30 am to 11:30 am @ Alley Park in Bel Aire. We will all meet at the Rec Center and walk over to the park together. Poles and tackle must be brought by participants (Bait will be provided) Sign up at the Recreation Center 316-744-2700
Pre-registration Required

City of Bel Aire RECREATION

Sherwin-Williams Donates Paint to Rec Center

Thank you to Sherwin-Williams for brightening up the Bel Aire Recreation Center! The Bel Aire store donated 20 gallons of paint for the gym, fitness center, office, and activity rooms.

Top right: Brian Hoff, manager of Bel Aire Sherwin-Williams accepts award from Mayor Jim Benage.
Bottom right: Recreation team paints rooms at the Rec Center.

BEL AIRE POLICE REPORTS

April 14 — A woman was running with her dog on 41st Street in Bel Aire when a Bull Terrier got out of a house, ran across the street and attacked the woman's dog. The woman fought with the dogs to try to separate them. The owner of the Bull Terrier helped pull his dog off the woman's dog and the two went their separate ways. The woman took her dog to the emergency vet for treatment. Officers Gibson and Stearns met with the woman and then the owner of the Bull Terrier. The owner of the Bull Terrier was cited for allowing his dog to escape and attack another domestic animal.

April 16 — A two-vehicle, injury accident was reported at 53rd North and Webb Road. A man driving a 1984 Chevrolet pickup failed to yield when pulling away from the eastbound stop sign at 53rd and Webb. The truck struck a northbound Suburban, which overturned and rolled into the ditch. The occupants, a mother and her children, received minor injuries in the collision. The man was cited for the violation.

April 16 — A Wichita police officer called the Bel Aire Police Department to advise a subject in a Bel Aire case had been located. Bel Aire officers went to question the individual, who was later booked on two counts of lewd and lascivious behavior.

April 16 — A woman in the 5200 block of North Rock Springs reported her vehicle was parked in the driveway at her place of employment when a basketball goal fell on her car.

April 18 — A woman reported looking out the door at Tree Top Nursery in the 5900 block of East 37th North, after hours, and seeing two unknown males loading trees and plants into a dark gray Chevrolet Z71 pickup and leaving westbound. Photos of the suspects were uploaded to Facebook in an attempt to locate the pickup and the suspects. Even though 21,000 people were reached with the post, no additional leads were gathered.

April 19 — Officers Gibson and Manuel were dispatched the 5600 block of North Lycee to check shots fired. Eleven shell casings were found in the street. Witnesses described a white SUV with dark tinted windows as the suspect vehicle. No one was injured.

April 19 — Officer Steele was sent to check the welfare of a child in the apartment complex in the 5700 block of North Lycee. He was able to contact the mother and all was well.

April 19 — A man in the 5600 block of North Lycee reported four to six kids between the ages of 8 and 12 years old were knocking on his apartment door loudly, scaring him and his family. The man said it has been an ongoing issue for the past two weeks during the stay-at-home order. Officer Smithwick was unable to locate any children in the vicinity, and the man was advised to contact apartment management.

April 20 — Officer Crice assisted EMS with a diabetic person who has a history of being combative in the 4800 block of North Farmstead Court. EMS treated the subject and the man refused to be transported.

April 20 — A man in the 6300 block of East 37th North requested officers to look through a rental vehicle because a person who had rented and returned the vehicle left their crack pipes behind in the car. The items were seized and submitted into evidence.

April 21 — Officer Manuel took a report by telephone, due to COVID-19, from the mother of a 10-year-old female in the 5200 block of North Holder Court. The mother said she found out her daughter had been talking to an unknown male on the TikTok app at 3 a.m. She felt the conversation was sexual in nature. The mother believed that nude photos had been sent and received but were deleted prior the mother discovering the communication. The Exploited and Missing Child Unit has opened an investigation.

April 21 — A woman reported finding grocery bags sitting in front of the entrance of the community pool in Central Park. Officer Smithwick located 22 Dillon's grocery sacks full of perishable and non-perishable food items. As some of the groceries had already perished, those items were disposed of. Chief Atteberry instructed Officer Smithwick to take the non-perishable foods to the Wichita Children's Home.

April 22 — A woman in the 5600 block of North Lycee reported she lost her wallet sometime in October 2019. She was contacted by Cash Net USA when an account opened in her name went into default. She required a case number to protest the account.

April 22 — A man in the 5600 block of North Lycee reported he bought a gaming system from an unknown man off of the Letgo App. When the man returned home to use the gaming system, it did not work. He called police to report the fraud.

April 23 — Lt. Foxx, Chief Atteberry and Officer Crice responded to an officer-in-trouble call at the Days Inn in Park City. Park City officers were actively fighting a subject who was under the influence of illicit narcotics. The man was taken into custody by Park City police.

April 23 — A woman in the 5600 block of North Lycee reported items were missing from the maintenance shed on the apartment complex property. She reported several items used to repair an AC unit were gone, and she believed the suspect was the former maintenance man.

April 24 — A woman from the 5300 block of North Cypress called the Bel Aire Police Department to report that someone was attempting to use her bank card. She noticed that there were four pending charges to her debit card that did not belong to her. She contacted her bank and the charges were removed. The bank was able to tell her that subjects identifying themselves as Raymond McDonald and Herman Lawrence made the attempted charges. The subjects had attempted to charge services to an exercise and dieting program as well as one charge to Norton Anti-Virus. The woman contacted the companies and they were unable to give her any further information.

April 24 — Officers Gibson, Smithwick and Stearns were dispatched to a suspicious character call in the 5900 block of East 47th North. The caller said a black four-door SUV had a green substance consistent with marijuana sitting in plain view on the passenger seat. The vehicle was parked on the public street adjacent to the homeowners association lake north of 47th. The officers found the four white males in the trees near the lake. The owner of the car and the marijuana was identified. He was cited for unlawful possession of marijuana.

April 25 — Officers Toomey and Steele responded to a call from a woman in Nevada to check the welfare of a person in the 4400 block of North Westlake Court. Officers made contact with a woman at an address and discovered she had lived there with her children for 10 months. The woman's oldest stepchild had blocked her mother, the woman calling from Nevada, on her phone. All was well at the residence.

April 26 — A man brought to the police station some old ammunition he found in the trunk of a vehicle he recently purchased.

April 26 — A woman from the 5600 block of North Lycee reported receiving an email from an unknown email address requesting $700 worth of Bitcoin or the sender of the email would release a compromising video of the woman. It was a scam. Officer Manuel suggested the woman change her passwords as a precaution.

April 27 — Officers Steele, Crice and Stearns were dispatched to a suspicious character call in the 5700 block of North Lycee. A woman said she observed seven boys and girls between 7 and 14 years old walking around Broadstone Villas and into the vacant office building at 5700 N. Lycee. There were no signs of vandalism or forced entry into the building. The woman also said that the children have been knocking on doors in the apartment complex at 3 a.m. and running away. The apartment manager was contacted, and she locked the unsecured eastern door of the office building.

April 27 — Bel Aire officers assisted the Wichita Police Department with an injury accident at 37th and Woodlawn.

April 29 — A woman in the 5600 block of East Memphis came to the Bel Aire Police Department and turned in a phone she found. Officer Steele attempted to locate the owner of the phone with no success.

April 29 — Officers Gibson and Stearns responded to an assist EMS call in the 4800 block of North Farmstead Court. A man was having a medical issue. The man told EMS and fire that he hadn't been feeling well and had a low-grade fever but no signs or symptoms of COVID-19. He was treated and remained at the residence.

April 30 — Officers worked a call with the Department for Children and Families in the 5100 block of North Colonial.

April 30 — Various reports were received from Adult Protective Services regarding alleged mistreatment of dependent adults in the 5200 block of North Rock Springs. An investigation is ongoing.

April 30 — Officers Gibson and Stearns responded to assist EMS with a chronic medical call in the 4800 block of North Farmstead Court. Adult Protective Services has been contacted due to the caretaker's lack of action to help control the condition of the patient.

April 30 — Officer Stearns took a phone message from a woman who described a prank phone call in the 5800 block of East Denise. The call was allegedly from a sheriff's deputy who told the woman someone was going to come to her house to serve her legal papers. The woman said the man had a foreign accent. The man asked for the four numbers of the woman's Social Security number and was persistent until she gave it to him. Stearns checked with Sedgwick County records, which the caller's phone number came back to, and no one needed to serve papers to the woman. The woman was told to notify her bank and to contact the three big credit bureaus about the situation.

May 1 — Officer Gibson was dispatched to an alarm at Enterprise Rent-A-Car in the 6300 block of East 37th. The building was locked up but a garage door on the north was unsecured. Gibson was finally successful contacting a key holder. The key holder arrived and secured the building.

May 2 — Officers Toomey and Steele responded to a call to assist EMS in the 4800 block of North Farmstead. A man was having a medical problem. The caretaker of the man admitted she put off calling for about an hour and a half. Again, officers contacted the Kansas Report Protection Center and Adult Protective Services regarding the situation. Steele requested the man be transported for medical treatment, but the request was denied.

May 3 — A woman in the 8700 block of East Chris reported a man's dog was walking freely in the neighborhood while she was walking her dog on a leash. The woman said the man's dog attacked her dog, and bit the woman on her right hand when she picked her dog up to avoid her dog from being injured. Sedgwick County Fire Department assessed the woman's injury. The woman refused transport to the hospital, and the fire department advised her to go to the hospital for treatment. The woman stated she was going to the hospital, and her husband was taking their dog to be assessed at the emergency vet clinic. The owner of the aggressive dog was issued a summons to appear in court for maintaining a nuisance animal.

May 3 — Officers Stearns and Gibson were dispatched to a domestic violence call at the station. A woman from the 4700 block of North Krueger reported that her ex-boyfriend had been following her, parking in front of her house and calling her obscene names. The woman informed the officers she just got approval of a protection-from-stalking order, but it had not been served. Stearns spoke to the man's parole officer and informed her about the man's actions. The victim also sent photos of text messages to the police department as evidence.

May 3 — An Adult Protective Services report from the 5200 block of North Lycee Circle explained a woman's financial cards were being unlawfully used by a known suspect, who is a former caregiver.

May 5 — Officers Smithwick, Gibson and Stearns responded to a domestic violence call in the 6500 block of East Rodeo. A man said he got into a physical altercation with his mother's ex-boyfriend. The man said that he was walking the ex out of the residence when all of a sudden things became physical between them. The ex said that he was talking to his ex-girlfriend when her son came up and got into his face, and things got physical between them. The woman said that she didn't know who started the altercation. Everyone was uncooperative.

May 5 — Officers Smithwick, Gibson and Stearns were dispatched to a check the welfare call in the 6600 block of East St. James Place. At the residence, Smithwick knocked on the front door several times and Officer Gibson talked to the neighbors. No contact was made.

May 5 — Officers were dispatched to a suspicious character call in the 5900 block of East 37th North. Officers contacted a woman who said her son was hearing voices from the Tree Top Nursery. The officers searched the surrounding areas of Treetop and did not find anyone.

May 6 — Officer Steele received a call of a fire hydrant being struck. Officer discovered Public Works staff attending to the damaged fire hydrant. There were some light dually-type tire marks near the damaged fire hydrant. A driver was identified and a traffic crash report was completed.

May 6 — A woman in the 4700 block of North Krueger reported a violation of protection-from-stalking order by her ex. Her ex also called her cell phone and did not leave a message. The ex has also had a third-party contact her via text messages.

May 8 — Officers Smithwick, Gibson and Stearns were dispatched to assist law enforcement in the 5600 block of North Lycee Court. The Wichita Police Department needed assistance with locating a runaway who was supposed to be in Bel Aire. The officers located the runaway and released him to his mother.

May 8 — Officers Smithwick, Gibson and Stearns were dispatched to check the welfare of an individual in the 4300 block of North Mission. A girl said her foster parents were getting into her face and they locked her out of the house. The girl had been recently released from state care just a few days before this incident. The girl was transported to St. Joe by EMS for an evaluation.

May 8 — Officers were dispatched to a domestic battery call in the 5700 block of North Lycee. Emergency communications were only able to provide officers with a wireless position. Officers were able to track down the location of the call. They talked to the people involved. The woman said her boyfriend struck her, but the boyfriend did not want to cooperate with police regarding the incident. The man's knuckles had cuts and he was bleeding. She had red marks on her upper chest.

May 9 — Officer Steele responded to a disorderly conduct call in the 4700 block of North Glendale. The report involved a business on Oliver playing loud music. When Steele arrived, there was no music playing. He attempted to make contact, but with no success.

May 9 — Officers responded to an injury accident at 53rd and Rock Road. A 2002 Toyota 4-Runner collided with the 2008 Ford F150, which was traveling west on 53rd. A witness to the accident reported that the driver of the truck appeared distracted when he pulled his vehicle into the path of the 4-Runner. Two people in the 4-Runner were transported to St. Francis Hospital and the driver of the F-150 was transported to Wesley Medical Center. The driver of the F-150 was issued a citation for running stop sign.

May 9 — A woman in the 4000 block of North Edgemoor reported her daughter was visiting from Colorado. The daughter started yelling at her mother over past events. The daughter was asked to leave and she initially did not. After officers arrived, the woman decided she needed to retrieve her personal belongings from the residence and leave.

May 10 — Officers responded to an unknown call for police in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor Court. The occupants of the house were contacted. There was no need for the police at the residence. The people in the residence were inebriated.

May 11 — A woman in the 5600 block of North Lycee Court reported she found the shared mailbox for her duplex damaged. She did not know what happened to the mailbox, although it looked as though it had been backed into by vehicle.

May 12 — Officer Steele responded with a Kechi officer to a disturbance in the 9900 block of North Hillside. After arriving, officers discovered a large disturbance had taken place. There was significant damage, including broken televisions, food dumped on the floor and holes in walls. The contents of an urn were dumped on the floor. Officers were told the ashes on the floor were the remains of a relative of the woman involved in the disturbance. Kechi worked the scene.

May 12 — Officers were dispatched to a domestic violence call in the 4300 block of North Stratford. A woman broke up with her boyfriend. While in Wichita, the man grabbed the woman by the arm, hindering her from leaving his residence. The man also broke the woman's son's fishing pole. The man followed the woman home and cussed at her while in her driveway. The man left before officers arrived. The woman was given instructions on how to get a protection-from-stalking order.

May 13 — Officer Steele responded to a call of vandalism in the 5500 block of North Lycee. The caller said there was damage to water tanks. Officer Steele checked the area and found no water tanks around Northeast Magnet High School. After searching with other city staff, they located valve box covers resting in the street and a damaged part resting in the grass close to an uncovered hole. The caller had noticed the cover had been disturbed about a week ago, and she decided to report he damage today.

May 13 — Lt. Foxx reported finding two electronic vape pens containing a brown tar-like substance. The substance was field tested, and a positive result for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) was found. The pens were placed into property and evidence.

May 13 — Officers Gibson and Stearns were flagged down at the Bel Aire Police Department by a man who needed to report an odd set of circumstances. The man said he was driving east on Central Park Avenue when he was trying to open a bottle of espresso. As he twisted off the cap, the espresso sprayed him in the face. As a result, the man drove off the road and struck a mailbox. The man was cited for engaging in activity that took his attention from the road.

May 12 — A man left a voicemail with the Bel Aire Police Department reporting a trailer was stolen from the street next to his home in the 4800 block of East 48th North. Officer Stearns spoke with the man over the phone. The man said he would email Stearns with any information he developed.

May 14 — A woman from the 5700 block of North Lycee said she ordered a package and when it was delivered, it was promptly stolen from her front porch.

May 14 — A man reported hearing a gunshot fired near FedEx from the field located to the east of the business in the 5100 block of North Industry. No evidence was located indicating a round struck any area of the building, entered the building, or struck a truck or machinery. There was a serious lightning storm occurring at the same time as the man heard what he thought was gunfire.

Pool

Continued from Page 1

Lasher said the city purchased chemicals in preparation of opening and has hired some lifeguards. He said the city has been able to hire guards from other pools that have closed. Seven have been hired and some can't start working until the second week of June. He also said the city is working on supplying the pool with hand sanitizer and that there will be no concessions sold this summer.

"There may be times — it has happened in the past — where we've had to turn people away because we've been at capacity or we didn't have enough lifeguards on staff," said Lasher. "We're planning on having three (lifeguards) out because we think with a lot of pools closed there will be people wanting to swim. In the past, we've had to turn people away and that's tough when they have a membership."

Staff has also wondered how many will avoid the pool altogether over safety concerns. Lasher said they were trying to balance those two extremes in the decision-making process. He said they have discussed how to handle extra patrons if the pool starts getting overwhelmed by swimmers from other cities. They discussed potentially only allowing Bel Aire residents to use the pool and pointed out that they are the ones paying the debt service on the pool.

Lasher rechecked the governor's most recent order during the meeting and clarified that the pool would be permitted to open June 8 at the earliest. Council member Jeff Elshoff expressed frustration with the governor and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Elshoff said he was skeptical of the information and recommendations being laid out and called them arbitrary. He said the city should "roll the dice" by defying the order and opening the pool a week earlier as originally planned. He then challenged whether or not state troopers would be sent to shut the pool down. He called the pool "probably the safest place in the country, literally" because of the chemicals in the water.

Mayor Jim Benage said he was writing a letter to the governor sharing many of Elshoff's concerns. He said he wanted details about how the decisions have been made as most of the city's businesses seem to be on the verge of becoming eligible for reopening.

Later, Benage touted a program being rolled out by the governor to provide $9 million in CARES Act funding to local municipalities to be given to local businesses and said Bel Aire was eligible. Benage also said he sent letters to the president and Kansas representatives encouraging the federal government to provide municipalities with revenue-replacement funding for COVID-19. He said they have been resistant to providing such direct funding.

Council members Joel Schroeder, Justin Smith and Welch agreed on the point that a governor's order should be followed even if individual members don't agree with or understand them. Smith said he was still fine with opening the pool June 8 as long as guidelines are being followed. Schroeder said he shared Welch's concerns but would support opening the pool when it is allowed.

In other business, the council:

•Approved the agenda, consent agenda and Appropriations 20-09 in the amount of $733,159.40 with a 4-0 vote.

•Proclaimed May 25 Memorial Day and May 18 through 22 Public Works Week.

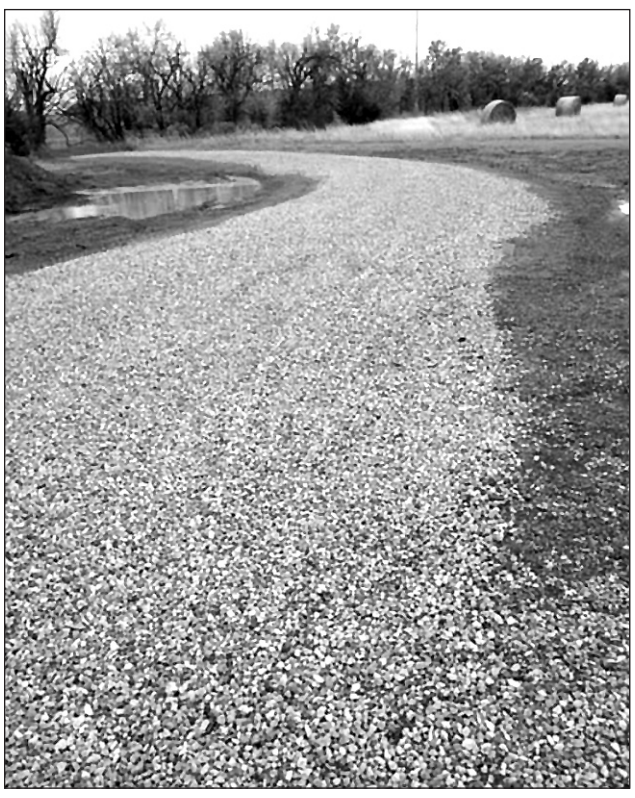
•Unanimously approved a bid of $161,186.75 from Mies Construction for stormwater drainage installation in Rock Spring 3rd Addition.

•Unanimously approved a quote of $12,270 from JCI for repair of the 53rd Street lift station pump.

•Unanimously voted to table the city's vacancy policy.

•Unanimously voted to table an appointment to the Woodlawn Construction Engineering Consultant Selection Committee.

All members of the council were present. There was a 30-minute executive session taken for consultation with the city attorney regarding proposed contract negotiations.



Better access

Courtesy photo

Bel Aire's brush site is a popular program that residents look forward to each season. Thanks to public works staff, soon visitors will see the addition of an exit road that was constructed using recycled asphalt millings. It will be finished with gates and new signage to help improve traffic flow for those busy drop-off days.

Thanks for paint

Courtesy photo

Mayor Jim Benage thanks Brian Hoff of Sherwin-Williams store in Bel Aire for helping the city for brighten up the recreation center. The store donated 20 gallons of paint for the gym, fitness center, office and activity rooms.

Courtesy photo

Sunrise graduates

Sunrise Christian Academy in Bel Aire recognized the Class of 2020 in May. The class of 50 graduates has received $2.75 million in leadership, athletic, service and academic scholarship offers, the school announced.

Sunrise wins eight Jesters

By The Breeze staff

Sunrise Christian Academy received eight Jester Awards for its production of "Hello Dolly." The awards were announced during a ceremony on YouTube May 3.

Awards were for outstanding stage crew, outstanding playbill design (Mindee Henry and graphic design class), outstanding sound design (Emily Jones), outstanding lighting design (Andrew Keck), outstanding set design (Jerry and Mindy Ploeckelmann), outstanding costume design (Lori Goebel), outstanding artistic design (Rob Fuller) and outstanding overall production.

Council

Continued from Page 1

nominations. That might sound similar to the options the city has had in the past, but the idea is to have a clear policy with some direction.

Council member Justin Smith pointed out that currently, if a vacancy occurred, the first highest vote-getter would not be available because Welch has already been seated. He said the city should also clarify its policy in such an instance and said his preference is that the second highest vote-getter would not be able to be seated automatically in the case of another vacancy.

Council member Jeff Elshoff said he did not necessarily think the mayor should have tiebreaking power. He said he was concerned that the proposed policy still allows the mayor to basically choose which candidate to nominate or whether to nominate a candidate at all. Elshoff also pointed out that the mayor would ultimately decide the vote if it ended in a tie. Ultimately, council agreed to table any action on the matter for now.

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