

The Bel Aire Breeze

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Fireworks sales poised to skyrocket

Tents have been set up in preparation for sales to begin this weekend across north Sedgwick County.

Chris Strunk



By The Post staff

If early nationwide reports are any indication, residential fireworks sales and displays could be historic in 2020.

Many retailers across the country are reporting significant increases in sales so far.

The vice president of a national retailer told NBC News that the company

had already seen a 15 percent increase in sales across the country.

Some retailers attribute the uptick to pent-up demand for a celebration because of the coronavirus pandemic. Others have said many residents plan bigger buys this year because cities are cancelling their fireworks displays.

Whatever the reason, fireworks will be a hot

commodity this year.

For north Sedgwick County residents, a couple of cities are not cancelling their plans. Park City and Bel Aire will have fireworks displays on the Fourth of July.

Still, residents will have plenty of opportunities to have their own displays as most cities are

See FOURTH, Page 2



Courtesy photo

Heidi Marcinik started HAHHA Urban Farm at her home in Bel Aire. It is a sort of drive-through farmer's market.

HAHHA's is no joke

Bel Aire woman starts drive-through farmer's market

By Taylor Messick

The COVID-19 pandemic has not been good for many new business ventures, but one Bel Aire resident found a way to make lemonade when life handed her lemons.

Heidi Marcinik has been a Bel Aire resident for more than 20 years. She is from Florida and said she gardened with her family growing up. She also worked for Trees for Life in Wichita and spent time in Guatemala studying permaculture strategies before moving to Bel Aire.

Last year, Marcinik was the first person to sign up for the Growing Growers ICT program. She became an apprentice under Ryan Kirkpatrick of Kirkpatrick Farms in Valley Center to try and learn more about farming. While doing that, she created a garden at home to practice on.

"As I got into this, I realized I was going to have more food than I can consume," Marcinik said.

So, she thought it would be fun to have a drive-through farmer's market.

"I live on a corner lot that's

really easy to get to and I could have people pull up to the curb and pick up their veggies," Marcinik said. "I didn't really know of farmer's markets that were doing that. I didn't even know of any farmers who were doing online shopping."

After successfully testing online orders on her hahaurbanfarm.com website briefly last year, Marcinik began preparing for the spring growing season. That's about the time that COVID-19 showed up and

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Chris Strunk

Residents, including Steve Thornton of Wichita, wait to go inside the Valley Center Community Center to be tested for COVID-19. A total of 124 tests were administered, the health department said.

Mobile clinic runs out of tests

By Chris Strunk

Officials with the Sedgwick County Health Department didn't expect so many people to come to their mobile COVID-19 testing event in north Sedgwick County June 22.

In fact, they didn't bring enough test kits.

The health department tested 124 residents between 9 a.m. and noon. There was a steady surge of socially distanced people in line outside of the Valley Center Community Center in Lions Park.

"It was probably our largest crowd to date," said John Lucero, the health department's COVID-19 outreach sampling program director. "We had to turn away

See TESTS, Page 5

City prepares for Woodlawn expansion

By Taylor Messick

The city in June took a couple of steps forward in the Woodlawn expansion project process. A selection committee and right-of-way acquisitions were ironed out at June council meetings.

During the design process, MKEC identified three locations where additional right-of-ways are needed and several

locations where temporary easements will be required. The temporary easements will allow contractors to use personal property while construction is taking place. This allows for reimbursement to property owners to restore the property to the desired state.

The council unanimously voted to hire Skeens Consulting Services at an amount not to exceed \$63,100 for right-of-way

acquisitions last month. The city manager, engineer and attorney will work with the contractor to negotiate payments to property owners on the city's behalf.

The engineering consultant selection committee for the project was also approved. Previous members consisted of the mayor, city manager, city engineer,

See ROAD, Page 5



The Woodlawn Expansion Selection Committee met June 16 to discuss the selection of an engineering firm for construction inspection of the Woodlawn project. They will review and interview selected firms and then make a recommendation to the city council.

Courtesy photo



Protect it ALL

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Forrest Hummel, Agent

1510 E 61st Street N., Suite 3
Park City, KS 67209
(316) 223-7979





Mayor's corner

By Jim Benage

Certainly, you've seen the flags along Woodlawn, 45th Street and Rock Road. This year Bel Aire celebrates its 40th year as a city.

There are multiple events planned for this celebration. 40th on the 4th is coming up at 7 p.m. July 4 at City Hall. There will be a picnic with games, music, food (for sale) and ice cream.

About 9:30 or so, we will have a fireworks display. This may be the first professional fireworks display for Bel Aire. If not, it is the first in a very long time. Come join in the celebration.

As many know by now, on June 3 there was a social media post that was threatening to Bel Aire and surrounding communities. Sheriff Easter and Chief Attebery did a great job of combining forces that night. We had our 10 police officers and 25 sheriff's deputies in Bel Aire that night patrolling the city to assure there were no flare-ups of violence.

That night remained peaceful, thanks to the work of these peace officers.

This was a great example of good police work and agencies working together.

If you get a chance, tell them thank you for protecting the citizens of Bel Aire.

Please keep council member Jeff Elshoff and his family in your prayers. Jeff is dealing with some serious health issues. He has been in ICU at KU Medical in Kansas City. Hopefully, by the time this is published, he will be home.

We may see some utility work start on Woodlawn in the next few weeks. This work has to be done before the real construction can start between 37th Street and 45th Street. That construction is tentatively slated to start in March.

The Bel Aire swimming pool is open and appears to be a great success. Of course, we need to abide by social-distancing guidelines. By the way, this will be open for night swimming during our celebration of 40th on the 4th. Please see times posted for this.

At 9 a.m. July 11, we will hold our second "Coffee with the Mayor" at the City Hall, in the Senior Center. Come ready to discuss issues on your mind. This is your chance to engage in an interactive discussion, much less formal than our meetings.

Please be safe. Wash hands often. Practice 6-foot distance and wear a mask when in public. Let's continue to support each other.

Have a great Independence Day celebration. Be careful with the fireworks. Remember, in Bel Aire you can only use these on July 4, not before and not after.

Come celebrate with us at the 40th on the 4th party at Bel Aire City Hall.

It is an honor to serve as your mayor.

City plans events to celebrate 40th

By Taylor Messick

At the June 2 Bel Aire City Council, meeting City Manager Ty Lasher announced that community members have come together to make celebrations for the city's 40th anniversary possible. Bel Aire was incorporated as a city on Nov. 26, 1980.

With the easing of restrictions for COVID-19, Bel Aire has been attempting to put some of its community events back together. Lasher said several local businesses have donated money that will fully fund three events the city has made preliminary plans for in the second half of the year.

"The big thing is the budget," said Lasher. "And the nice thing is that we have worked with all of our vendors and the people we do business



City Manager Ty Lasher gives plaques to Garver company and the Bel Aire Lions Club for donating money for the city's 40th anniversary celebrations.

with and we have actually raised \$15,000 and that should cover all the expenses of this. Our budget this year — council did include about \$10,000 for special events. We know we've got issues with COVID and reduced revenues ... but we owe it to the people that donated to do some things and celebrate our 40th anniversary.

... And we're going to try to keep it within the money we've generated."

Lasher proposed three events that are in various early stages of development for July 4, Oct. 17 and Dec. 5. The city is planning firework displays for two of those events.

The July 4 celebration would be at City Hall



from 7 to 10 p.m. and Lasher said there would be games and activities from 7 to 9 p.m. The estimated cost is \$8,000. In the evening, Lasher proposed about a 30-minute fireworks display.

The Oct. 17 Fall Festival is scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. and all the usual activities are tentatively planned at the

recreation center. The estimated cost is \$2,000. One addition Lasher proposed was a parade.

The city's actual anniversary falls on Thanksgiving this year, so the city wants to combine the main celebration with its Christmas Open House at City Hall on Dec. 5, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The estimated cost is \$5,000.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran-ELCA

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

Each Sunday we have two worship services. The 9 a.m. service is a contemporary service. The 10:30 a.m. virtual online service is more traditional.

As always, everyone is welcome at the Lord's Table in our worship services.

For more information about the church and its activities, find us online at www.christ-lutheran.org, on Facebook, or call us at 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 shagemeister@sbeglobal.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 WichitaGreenwichUnitedMethodistChurch. 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.

Worship 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 Soye. 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.saintmichaelorthodox-church.com. Email inquiries to jfflora@icloud.com.

Wichita Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist

Located at 4558 N. Hydraulic, Wichita.

Birger Drager 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.

Fourth

Continued from Page 1

allowing them to start this weekend.

But before you rip open those artillery shells, you might want to check the rules for discharging fireworks. Across north Sedgwick County, those rules are not uniform.

In some areas, you'll have nearly two full weekends to shoot fireworks.

Some cities allow residents to discharge for more than a week. Others are stricter.

Bel Aire has some of the strictest fireworks

rules in Sedgwick County.

The government there allows the discharge of fireworks from 9 a.m. to midnight on July 4 only.

You can buy fireworks in Bel Aire from June 27 through July 4. Stands are allowed to be open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. each day.

In Park City, you can shoot fireworks from June 27 through July 4. Times are 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. June 27 through July 2; and 8 a.m. to midnight July 3 and 4. Sale times are the same.

Kechi has added a day to its schedule. You can shoot and buy fireworks there from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. June 27 through July 2; and 10 a.m. to midnight

July 3 through 5.

In Valley Center, sales and discharge times are the same. You can shoot and buy fireworks from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. June 27 through July 3 and from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. July 4.

Sales in unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County are not allowed. However, you can shoot fireworks from 8 a.m. to midnight July 1 through 4.

Ryan's Dog Grooming
217 N. Oliver
Kechi, KS
371-7258

The non-emergency number to report fireworks complaints from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m. July 1 through 5 is 290-1011.

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HIGHLIGHTS



Eddis and Reuben Roundtree Sr.

Local couple marks 70th

Reuben T. Sr. and Eddis M. Roundtree will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary July 29. You can send cards to them at 5224 E. 39th North, Bel Aire KS 67220 or call them at 744-3349.

— The Breeze staff

Students graduate

Carly Holm and Kendra Wicks, both of Bel Aire, along with Karen Haffner of Wichita, were part of the spring 2020 graduating class at Washburn University.

Holm received a bachelor of science in nursing, Wicks a bachelor of arts in mass media, and Haffner a master of arts in human services.

Elizabeth Seis, of Wichita, graduated from the University of Utah during the university's first-ever virtual commencement April 30.

Alisn Stevens, of Wichita, earned a doctor of physical therapy from the University of Saint Mary in Leavenworth. Graduates were honored with a week of virtual commencement ceremonies that began May 9.

Karthick Raja Neelamegam, of Wichita, graduated with a master of science, majoring in computer and information science, from Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia, Ark.

— The Breeze staff

Students honored

Paul Amstutz, of Wichita, was recently inducted into the Phi Sigma Tau National Honor Society in Philosophy. This honor was announced at the honors convocation ceremony for Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill.

Phi Sigma Tau is the International Honor Society in Philosophy, promoting scholarship and interest in philosophy at institutions of higher learning.

Amstutz was also named to the dean's list for the spring 2020 semester at Wheaton College.

To receive this honor, an undergraduate student must carry 12 or more credit hours and achieve at least a 3.5 grade point average.

The following Bel Aire students earned honors for their academic performance in the spring 2020 semester at Kansas State University: Nikita Hammond, Thomas Kempf, James Myose, Natalie Pfeifer, Cameryn Rasmussen, Jillian Schmitz and Joshua Weber.

To receive these honors, a student had to earn a grade point average of at least 3.75 on at least 12 graded credit hours, along with commendations from their deans.

Guns found after threat

Park City police responded to the report of a gun being pointed at a woman at Quik Trip in the 1000 block of East 61st North June 5.

Officers contacted the suspects at Spangles in Park City and Bel Aire police assisted. No gun was found in the vehicle, but the suspects later admitted they hid the weapon in a wooded area behind the Applebee's in Park City. A tan and black rifle as well as drug paraphernalia were located in the location described by the suspects. All items were seized by Park City officers.

No one was hurt.

— The Breeze staff

Woman falls for prize scam

A Bel Aire woman fell for a prize scam that cost her \$850.

Police responded to the 5600 block of North Lycee June 6 where a woman reported that a man named James called her and said she had won \$1.7 million and a 2020 Mercedes automobile.

James told her she would receive the money and car if she bought a \$500 and a \$350 prepaid card and provide him with the information from the cards.

The woman said she went to the store and purchased prepaid cards and provided the information from the cards to James. However, he did not show up with the money or car.

— The Breeze staff

Teen takes mom's card

A teenager with expensive taste in clothing warranted a police call last month.

On June 11, Bel Aire officers were requested to check on a runaway juvenile.

A woman in the 5600 block of North Lycee reported that her 13-year-old daughter walked out of their apartment and was missing. An officer arrived at the apartment complex minutes later and contacted daughter. The daughter stated that her mother was mad at her because she took her mom's credit card and spent \$1,000 on clothes without her mother's approval.

After talking with both mother and daughter, they agreed to return home together.

— The Breeze staff

K-254 bridge under repair

The Kansas Department of Transportation announced that a bridge renovation project on K-254 near Kechi created a short work zone that restricts traffic to one lane.

Both eastbound and westbound K-254 are restricted to one lane over the Middle Fork of Chisholm Creek, west of Oliver. Repairs to the

bridges include deck patching, a concrete overlay on the driving surface, and bridge rail replacement. Wildcat Construction of Wichita is the lead contractor on the \$453,548.50 project.

The project is scheduled to be completed by late October.

— The Breeze staff

No evidence of shooting

Park City police responded to a possible drive-by shooting in the 1900 block of East Gary early June 2.

Police said the calling party reported hearing several gunshots and seeing a vehicle leave the area at a high rate of speed. Police circulated the area and found no evidence of a drive-by shooting.

— The Breeze staff

Man charged in family fight

A Wichita man was arrested June 9 after a dispute with his father-in-law that started in Wichita and ended near Valley Center High School.

Eric Salisbury was charged in Sedgwick County District Court this week with two counts of aggravated assault, criminal damage to property, criminal discharge of a firearm at an occupied vehicle, three counts of criminal threat and possession of a firearm on school property.

Police say Salisbury drove his vehicle into the high school parking lot to turn around.

Salisbury is out of jail on bond.

On June 8, Valley Center police received a call of a "rolling disturbance" coming into the area. One vehicle was apparently following another vehicle. The two stopped near the high school at 93rd North and Meridian. The suspect fired a gun at the father-in-law's vehicle, striking it twice but not hurting anyone.

The father-in-law drove south on Meridian, where it met a Valley Center police officer in the 700 block of North Meridian. The suspect's vehicle fled the scene.

The man was later arrested at his home in Wichita.

— The Breeze staff

Police chase animals

Local police have chased their share of cows. Last week, they were after donkeys and a

llama.

On June 9, Valley Center police responded to 85th and Broadway after receiving a report that cows and a llama were roaming the area. Police contacted the owners, who retrieved the animals without incident.

The next night, a Valley Center officer responded to the 800 block of West 69th North to assist Park City police in an attempt to corral a horse and three donkeys.

Police contacted Park City animal control and the owners of the animals.

— The Breeze staff

Drugs found in wrong-way car

A man who was driving a vehicle against traffic on I-135 June 18 was suffering from a diabetic emergency, police said.

Police also found a stolen gun and drugs inside the man's vehicle.

About 8:45 p.m., Park City and Valley Center police responded to I-135 when they received a report of a vehicle traveling south in the northbound lanes of the highway.

The vehicle was located in the median.

Police said the gun was reported stolen out of Missouri. Police also found meth, marijuana and drug paraphernalia in the vehicle.

— The Breeze staff

Police probe motel shooting

Wichita police are investigating a shooting that wounded five people at a motel near Bel Aire June 20.

Officers responded to a shooting call at a motel in the 3700 block of North Rock Road about 3 a.m. Officers contacted a 20-year-old male, an 18-year-old male, and a 65-year-old female who all had sustained non-life-threatening gunshot wounds. They were transported to area hospitals for medical treatment. Officers also located multiple

shell casings outside of the motel and vehicles that had been damaged by gunfire.

A 19-year-old male and a 24-year-old male, who were at the incident on Rock Road, later arrived at an area hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The investigation revealed a party was occurring in a room of the motel, and a disturbance ensued. The disturbance continued outside, leading to multiple shots being fired, striking the five individuals.

The 65-year-old was struck while in a room and was not part of the disturbance.

This was not a random incident, and the investigation is ongoing, police said.

— The Breeze staff

Woman rescues cat from dogs

A Bel Aire woman rescued her cat from two dogs that were coming after it.

On May 26, police were called to the 4400 block of North Edgemoor where a woman reported hearing her cat scream in the backyard.

The woman said she went outside and saw that the neighbor's two pit bulls had jumped the fence and had the cat cornered on the deck.

The woman was able to rescue the cat without any further incident.

— The Breeze staff

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BRANDI BAILY

has the **RIGHT KIND** of **EXPERIENCE** for the **JOB**

Dedicated Leadership — Proven Experience

Experience of Each Candidate

Brandi Baily		Opponent Saucedá
Yes	13 Years serving Sedgwick County Citizens in Finance	No
Yes	18 Years Financial Management Experience (Government & Banking)	No
Yes	Bachelor's Degree & Master's Degree (MBA)	No
Yes	Experience serving as a Municipal Treasurer	No
Yes	Experience serving as an Elected Official	Yes
Yes	Elected by Council to serve as City Council President	No

On **AUGUST 4TH** go to the polls

and **VOTE** to **ELECT BRANDI BAILY**

SEDGWICK COUNTY TREASURER

Paid for by Brandi Baily for County Treasurer, Ray Mann, Treasurer



City of Bel Aire

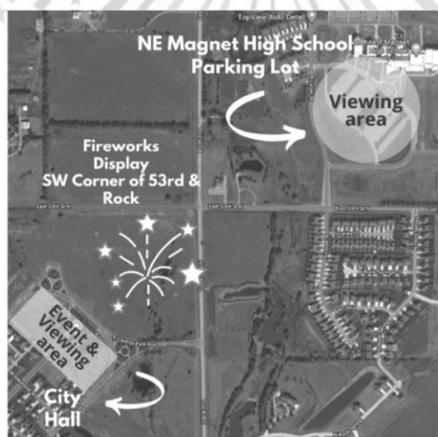


40th for the 4th

July 4th, 2020
City Hall 7-10 pm



Join us to celebrate the 4th of July and the City's 40th Anniversary!



- Picnic on the lawn
- Corn-hole Tournament
- Games
- Music
- Pool Night Swim
- Food & Snow-cones
- *Don't forget blankets and chairs!**

Questions?
Please call the
Bel Aire Recreation Center
316-744-2700

Fireworks show begins around 9:30 pm near City Hall. Viewing areas include NE Magnet High School parking lot, Central Park Community Pool and City Hall.

Please do not park on Central Park streets.
Social distancing is recommended.

Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors: Kaw Valley Engineering, PEC & Baughman Co. P.A.

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.

Locations

Senior Center / 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

- July 4, 7 to 10 p.m. — 40th for the 4th, City Hall
- July 6, 11:30 a.m. — Welcome back lunch, Rec Center, RSVP to 744-2700
- July 9, 1:30 p.m. — Summer craft, Rec Center, RSVP
- July 15, 1:30 p.m. — Book Club meeting, Senior Center
- July 16, 2 p.m. — Gardening tips virtual presentation w/discussion, Senior Center
- July 21, 2:30 p.m. — Family research: FindAGrave.com presentation, Senior Center
- July 24, 9 p.m. — Hermes Foot Clinic, Community Room, RSVP
- July 27, 2:30 p.m. — Guess the Celebrity Game, Senior Center
- July 29, 2 p.m. — Jewelry making basics, Senior Center, RSVP

FIREWORKS IN BEL AIRE

Fireworks can only be detonated on July 4th from 9 a.m. to midnight.

All firework debris must be cleaned up before 10:00 p.m. on July 5th.

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER

316-290-1011

This line functions as an **alternative to 911** and is meant to receive calls for non-emergency nuisances that do not pose a threat to life or property; examples include complaints pertaining to parties, excess noise, fireworks, etc.

Non-emergency phone line will be available:

July 1 - July 5,
each night from 6 p.m. to 3 a.m.

Bel Aire Recreation

NOTICE: In the interest of public safety, 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.

40th for the 4th

Join us to celebrate the 4th of July and the City's 40th anniversary with a picnic on the lawn, cornhole tournament, games, music, pool night swim, food, sno-cones & fireworks! Fireworks show begins around 9:30 p.m. at City Hall. Viewing areas include Northeast Magnet High School parking lot, Central Park swimming pool & City Hall. Don't forget blankets and chairs! Questions? Call the Recreation Center at 744-2700.

Cornhole tournament

Starts at 7 p.m. Grab a partner and come have some fun. Sign up by July 1 at the Recreation Center or call for questions.

Night swim

A night swim at the Central Park swimming pool on the 4th of July. From 7 p.m. until the fireworks are over. \$5 per person.

Swimming pool

Now open! Come see us for swimming lesson enrollment & pool rental! 7350 E. Central Park Ave. Phone 744-7331. Monday thru Friday, 1 to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 6 p.m. We accept checks and cash.

Group swimming lessons

Ages 5 & up, Registration required at 7350 E. Central Park Ave. We accept checks and cash. Session 2: July 6 thru 16, Monday thru Thursday. Session 3: July 20 thru 30, Monday thru Thursday. Times 11to11:45 a.m., noon to 12:45 p.m. and 7 to 7:45 p.m.

Keep Your Dribble Instructional Basketball Clinic

Different sessions offered for ages kindergarten through 12th grades (Ages, dates, times & prices differ). **Prior registration 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

British soccer camp

Challenger Sports' British Soccer Camp from July 13 to 17. Join over

150,000 players who will learn the Challenger way this year for fun kicks and awesome accents! For ages 3 thru 16. Register at challengersports.com.

Water wars

Join us for a fun night of water balloon fights and other water games. Bring the entire family to this FREE event! 6 to 7:30 p.m. June 21 at the Rec Center.

Bel of the Ball

Fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, brothers, uncles, friends and daughters will dance the night away. Music, food and fun. \$20 for adult and child and \$5 for each additional daughter. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. July 31, at the Rec Center.

Taekwondo (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

Dynamic Aging

A class geared towards individuals age 50 and above to provide opportunities to practice a variety of movements in a safe environment. Classes meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

Adult pickleball

From 9 to 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Fridays at in the Rec Center gym. \$2 drop-in fee or membership!

Yoga

Classes held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday and Wednesday. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Teens & 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. From 9 to 10 .m. Wednesdays.

Fitness Center

Need a place to come work on your new year's resolutions? Check out our fitness center, which consists of elliptical cross trainers, free weights, multistation weight machine, recumbent bike and treadmills.

FREE senior programs

Line dancing, senior aerobics, Bel Aire walkers, sewing and more. 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.

Community Events

- July 1 — Municipal Court, 5:30 pm., City Hall (scheduled appearances)
 - July 3 — City offices closed for Independence Day
 - July 4 — Fortieth for the Fourth, 7 to 10 p.m., City Hall
 - July 7 — City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall
 - July 8 — Lions Club, 11:30 a.m., Gospel Assembly Church
 - July 11 — Coffee with the Mayor, 9 to 10 a.m., City Hall Senior Room
 - July 11 — City brush site open, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 53rd North between Rock and Webb
 - July 13 — Utility Advisory Committee, noon, City Hall
 - July 16 — Municipal Court, 12:30 p.m., City Hall (scheduled appearances)
 - July 16 — Planning Commission, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
 - July 16 — City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall
 - July 22 — Lions Club, 11:30 a.m., Gospel Assembly Church
 - July 27 — Tree Board, 7 p.m., City Hall
- More information can be found at www.belaireks.gov.*

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2020 Consumer Confidence Report shows that Bel Aire's water consistently meets safety regulations and is safe to drink!

Drinking water regulations are set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Drinking water is tested for contaminants, such as certain bacteria, many times per month.

KDHE publishes a yearly Consumer Confidence Report of drinking water quality. Contaminant classifications on the report are: *Regulated, Secondary, Disinfection Byproducts, Lead, and Copper*. Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG) are listed for each analyzed contaminant. If a contamination violation were to happen, water users would be notified and advised of safety precautions.

Find the details of your Consumer Confidence Report at BelAireKs.Gov/2020ConsumerConfidenceReport

Brought to you by the Utility Advisory Committee

BEL AIRE POLICE REPORTS

May 15 — Officers were dispatched to a call for EMS in the 400 block of North Farmstead. Officers followed Sedgwick County EMS to Wesley Medical Center, where the person was admitted.

May 16 — A woman in the 4900 block of Farmstead Court reported her 16-year-old son was refusing to get out of her car. The woman had just picked up her son from the Juvenile Detention Center. He had been a passenger in a stolen vehicle with marijuana. The woman had taken her son to his father's house on Farmstead Court but the teenager wanted to go to his mom's house. The woman attempted to physically remove her son from her vehicle, but he refused until police arrived. The teenager eventually agreed to stay with his father for the evening and let his parents figure out what to do with him in the morning.

May 16 — A woman reported she was mowing the lawn with her riding mower when she struck the water meter, which services her neighbor, in the 4400 block of North Westlake Court. The water meter is on her property and has been since the houses were built. Recent heavy rains may have changed the ground contour just enough to make the meter an issue.

May 17 — A woman reported that her stepfather pushed to the ground and held her down in the driveway of their residence in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court. She also reported he struck her with an open hand in the face during a previous altercation. The woman had observable injuries. The woman's mother witnessed the incident and corroborated the facts. The father later came to the Bel Aire Police Department and was served with a uniform criminal complaint for domestic battery. The man was told he was not allowed to have contact with or be in the same residence as his daughter.

May 17 — A man involved in a domestic violence case reported an unknown individual entered his unlocked truck and stole his wallet and other property in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court.

May 17 — A man involved in a domestic violence case and a theft from his vehicle reported finding a personal check in the street in front of his residence in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court.

May 17 — Officer Steele responded to a voicemail at the police department regarding found property in the 7400 block of East 53rd North. The caller found a folding knife.

May 17 — A woman in the 4500 block of North Krueger reported receiving text messages from an unknown number about her speaking with an ex-boyfriend. Officer Crouse

May 18 — A woman reported five of her prescription medications were stolen from her bathroom at her residence in the 5300 block of East 49th Court North. She said she noticed them missing on May 17. She said she believes, because of past events, someone known to her stole the prescription medication. She does not wish to pursue criminal charges.

May 18 — A man in the 4900 block of North Farmstead Court reported his son ran away from home and had been missing for 72 hours. While speaking with the man, the son arrived home.

May 19 — A 9mm pistol was found in a returned rental car at Enterprise Rentals in the 6000 block of East 37th North.

May 19 — Bel Aire police assisted the city code enforcement officer at a residence in the 4000 block of North Edgemoor. It appeared someone entered a residence that had been previously red-tagged for no occupancy. No one was located at the residence.

May 19 — Bel Aire police officers responded to the Dollar General store to meet with a man who needed to report his son as a runaway.

May 20 — Officers responded to pick up a runaway that was reported on May 19. The 16-year-old was taken to the Wichita Children's Home.



The fast lane
Officer Jordan Whitfield got called out to relocate a large alligator snapping turtle in the roadway May 23.

Claire Cawthon

May 21 — Bel Aire police responded to assist EMS on a sick call in the 4800 block of North Farmstead Court. A man was experiencing a medical situation. The man refused to be transported to the local hospital.

May 22 — A boy was involved in a vehicle pursuit with the Wichita Police Department. He was driving a vehicle that belonged to his mother. The boy fled on foot after the vehicle became stuck in a ditch, and Wichita Police Department later took the boy into custody in the 5000 block of East 38th North.

May 23 — Officers were dispatched to the 4800 block of North Farmstead Court to assist EMS with a sick call. The man refused to be transported for treatment.

May 24 — A woman in the 4300 block of North Country Lane reported her boyfriend choked her. The woman had observable injury and marks to her neck. There was a witness to the assault. The man left the residence after the assault.

May 24 — A woman in the 5900 block of East Kenawee reported she was concerned for her son's health. Officer Smithwick spoke to the son and he agreed to allow EMS assess his health. He refused transport to the hospital.

May 26 — A woman reported hearing her cat screaming from her backyard in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor. She went outside to find that the neighbor's two pit bulls had jumped the fence and that they had her cat cornered on the deck. She was able to rescue the cat without further incident.

May 27 — A man was driving south in a black Chevrolet pickup on Woodlawn when he ran the stop sign at 45th North. The vehicle collided with a white Ford SUV while it was eastbound through the intersection. Both vehicles were driven away. The man was cited for the violation.

May 28 — Officers responded to a suspicious character call in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court. A man found a Toyota Avalon parked in the driveway of his rental property. While there, an unknown female exited the backyard. The unknown female had no good explanation for why she was in the backyard. The female left and came back to the residence and talked to the owner of the property and asked him if the house was up for sale or for rent. The man said he told her it is up for rent soon, but it has never been put on the market. The unknown female left the residence.

May 29 — A man reported finding a dog in the Denise Park area. The dog, a male chocolate Labrador, did not have a collar or identification. Officer transported the dog to the Wichita Animal

Shelter.

May 29 — Multiple vehicles were observed in the parking lot of Epic Sports in the 9700 block of East 53rd North. The vehicles were suspected of illegal street racing. All vehicles, occupants and driver's information were collected. The individuals were transported from the area.

May 30 — Bel Aire officers assisted the Kechi Police Department with a call in Kechi. A man reported that he accidentally discharged his 9mm Taurus handgun inside his residence and shot his left thumb. The bullet exited the residence through the south kitchen wall.

May 30 — A man and his wife reported seeing two juvenile males riding bicycles to the south of their residence in the 5500 block of North Lycee Court. They found burned pieces of notebook paper strewn about on the ground directly south of the fence of their backyard. Officer Smithwick observed bicycle tracks in the grass to the east and south of their residence, and notebook paper with frayed brown single marks strewn about upon the grass directly south of their fence line. Photographs were taken of the scene. Officer Gibson circulated the area for the reported suspects; however, he was unable to locate them.

May 31 — A man in the 5900 block of East 47th North reported his spouse discovered gas had been siphoned from their vehicles.

May 31 — A woman reported her stepdaughter has been verbally abusive, stole money from her, and she wanted her out of the residence in the 4500 block of North Frillyary. Through investigation, it was found the alleged criminal use of financial card occurred in Wichita. The stepdaughter has been a resident at this address for about six months. The stepdaughter was not willing to leave. However, she said she was just going to bed and would stay in her room downstairs. The woman was given the number for Wichita case desk and options for beginning an eviction process.

June 1 — A man reported a gray 2010 Ford Fusion struck his white Ford E2500 Cargo van in the 5300 block of East 49th Court North. The man had video showing the car striking the van. The driver of the Fusion was cited.

June 2 — Wichita Police Department was attempting to disperse an assembled group of people at 21st and Arkansas. After protesters fired multiple shots and the crowd began to show tendencies of violence, the Wichita Police Department asked to mobilize any available agency or department to assist. Bel Aire officers responded to assist the Wichita and the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office near 21st and Woodland.

June 2 — Officers responded to a domestic violence call in the 4500 block of Woodlow Drive. A man said he locked his wife out of the residence and he heard a loud bang from the garage. When the man entered the garage he said there were two dents in the hood of his car. Both parties were being difficult to work with, police said. Both said they would be civil the rest of the night.

June 3 — Officer Manuel was dispatched to FedEx in the 5100 block of North Industry Drive for an injured animal call. Upon arrival, he found a deer wandering in the employee parking lot. The deer had a serious head injury and it appeared the deer had been hit by a car.

June 3 — A gray Hyundai Sonata was observed with a defective headlight in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn. The operator was found in possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia. The man was served with a notice to appear in court.

June 3 — A non-injury accident was reported in the 4600 block of North Elk Creek Drive. A white 2016 Nissan Murano struck a median, traffic control sign and large boulder, coming to rest on top of the boulder and deploying all airbags in the vehicle. The driver was given a ride home by a passer-by without calling 911. A second passer-by called police to report the incident. The owner/driver was contacted at his home and he returned to the scene to make a report.

June 3 — Chief Atteberry reported an email threat targeting the City of Bel Aire, Park City and Valley Center with violence and property destruction. After receiving the threat, the Bel Aire police contacted other departments affected and the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office to coordinate a response to the threat. A plan was devised and put into action. No property damage or violence was reported.

June 4 — A man contacted the Bel Aire Police Department regarding a firearm he wished to surrender. He later went to the police department and turned over the firearm and ammunition. Both were submitted.

June 4 — A non-injury accident was reported in the 6200 block of East 37th North. A 2005 Toyota Camry emerged from the Dillon's parking lot and collided with a 2003 Honda Odyssey that was pulling out from the strip mall parking lot on the south side of the roadway.

June 5 — A woman from the 6000 block of East Perryton reported appearing in a social media video and later receiving threats.

June 5 — A man from the 4300 block of Bellmore reported that a Facebook group responded to a post made by his son. The man also commented on the post. After doing so, the group e-mailed his employer and put a post on his Facebook account about being racist. He contacted his employer and since they were notified, they suggested a police report.

June 5 — Officers were requested assistance with a welfare check of a man who had not been seen or heard from in about two weeks. There was concern that he may be inside the residence and in need of some kind of medical assistance. The man was later located. He had gone out of state without telling any of his neighbors or friends.

June 5 — Bel Aire officers were dispatched to a domestic disturbance between a male and female in the 4500 block of Woodlow. The female said all she wanted to do was to gather her things, her four children and leave. The woman said the packing would need to take place over the weekend. The male said that he just wanted her out of his house. Both individuals agreed to try and work out the moving arrangements this weekend. The woman said may have a new place to move into by the following Monday. No physical contact or disturbance took place.

June 5 — A woman found a wedding ring on the road in the 5900 block of Forbes Court. The



Fish tips
Bel Aire police Officer Brandon Gibson, who is an avid fisherman, helps with the city's fishing clinic June 12. The clinic was hosted by the Bel Aire Rec Center at the Central Park ponds.

Claire Cawthon

woman turned the ring over to the Bel Aire Police Department and it was turned in as found property.

June 5 — A vehicle was stopped for speeding in the 6500 block of East 45th North. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

June 5 — A woman reported someone pointed a gun at her at the Quik Trip in Park City. Officers contacted subjects at Spangles in Park City and Bel Aire police assisted. No gun was found in the vehicle, but subjects later admitted they hid the weapon in a wooded area behind the Applebee's in Park City. A tan and black rifle and drug paraphernalia were located in the location described by the suspects. All items were seized by Park City officers.

June 6 — A woman in the 5600 block of North Lycee reported that a man named James called her and said she had won \$1.7 million and a 2020 Mercedes automobile. James told her she would win the money and car if she bought a \$500 and a \$350 prepaid card and provided him with the information from the cards. The woman said she went to the store and purchased prepaid cards and provided the information from the cards to James. However, he did not show up with the money or car.

June 6 — A woman reported a backpack and three pairs of children's shoes were left at the playground at Eagle Lake Park in the 4200 block of North Westlake Drive. Officer Smithwick retrieved the backpack and turned it in as found property.

June 8 — A man in the 6600 block of East 44th Court North reported his Indonesian passport was missing. The passport was last seen in August of 2019.

June 8 — Officer Smithwick saw a 2005 silver Ford Mustang fail to stop at the stop sign while turning south onto Rock Road. The vehicle was found to have a suspended or removed registration. The driver was found to have a suspended driver's license. Officer Smithwick issued the driver a citation for running a stop sign, driving with a suspended license and illegal license plate.

June 8 — ResCare reported an adult male got upset and walked out of the ResCare home in the 8400 block of East Granite Court. The man was located by Officer Smithwick. He said he went for a walk and became tired, which slowed his return.

June 9 — Officer Toomey attempted to stop a maroon car for speeding in the 5400 block of East 45th North. The 2016 Chevrolet Malibu was traveling 55 mph on 45th street heading for Sunrise Academy School. Toomey chased after the car. The driver refused to stop even with the patrol car with lights and siren on directly behind him. There had been a medical issue at a residence, police learned.

June 9 — A woman reported finding three 9mm shell casings in the street. Officer Smithwick collected the casings and submitted them into evidence.

June 10 — A woman reported she caught two young boys in her unlocked apartment attempting to steal a hover board in the 5600 block of North Lycee. When the boys realized she was home, they fled through the front door and dropped the hover board on their way out. The woman recognized the boys as residents of the apartment complex and knew their names. The woman said she spoke with them and warned them to stay away from her property, and she wanted us to do the same but did not want to pursue criminal charges.

June 10 — A man reported having a disturbance with his wife in the 4500 block of North Woodlow. He is in the process of getting her evicted.

June 10 — A man was located in a black Chevrolet Camaro asleep at the wheel with food scattered on his lap in the block of North Woodlawn. The man was heavily intoxicated with medication. The man was evaluated by EMS and released to his father.

June 11 — A kids Power Wheel ride-on car was found in the field next to FedEx in the 5000 block of North Industry. There were no serial numbers on it. It was transported to the police department and placed into evidence as found property.

June 11 — Bel Aire officers were requested to check on a runaway juvenile. A woman in the 5600 block of North Lycee reported that her 13-year-old daughter walked out of their apartment and was missing. Officer Toomey arrived at the apartment complex minutes later and contacted daughter. The daughter stated that her mother was mad at her because she took her mom's credit card and spent \$1,000 on clothes without her mother's approval. After talking with both mother and daughter, they agreed to return home together.

June 11 — A couple had an argument in Fredonia where the police were called. Fredonia law enforcement told them to separate. The female brought their children to her parents' home in the 6500 block of East Rodeo in Bel Aire. The male followed her from Fredonia. He demanded custody of his children and created a scene. The man was ordered to leave the property for the remainder of the night at the direction of the property owner, to which he eventually complied.

June 12 — Officer Crice and Chief Atteberry responded to domestic dispute in the 4500 block of North Woodlow. A female said she was there to move her property out. While officers were in the front of the home speaking with the male, the female called 911 to report that the male was in the driveway attempting to do self-harm. This was not so as the man was speaking with officers at the time. The female also claimed the male had been hitting on her all day, though she had no marks to support that allegation. The male had obtained a protection-from-abuse order from district court. The PFA was served on the female and she left the residence after creating an additional disturbance.

June 12 — The Bel Aire Police Department received information that a man wanted on felony warrants for serious dangerous crimes was going to be in the area of 5200 N. Woodlawn. Bel Aire officers and a Sedgwick County sheriff's deputy set up in the area, out of sight. When the man pulled up, an officer/spotter called out to the officers in the area and the man was apprehended without incident. He was transported and booked by the sheriff's deputy.

June 13 — Officer Manuel saw a Ford Fusion speeding in the 7600 block of East 45th North. The driver had a suspended license and was arrested by the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office on a Sedgwick County warrant and on a charge of DUI. The woman was issued Bel Aire citations for speeding and for driving with a suspended driver's license.

June 13 — Officer Manuel saw a white Chevrolet Impala fail to stop at the stop sign at 45th and Woodlawn. He got behind the vehicle, and it rapidly increased speed from 40 mph to 61 mph in a posted 40 mph zone. He stopped the vehicle. The driver claimed he had just gotten into a verbal altercation with his friend. The incident happened somewhere in Wichita and the man did not want to report it. The man was cited for driving with a suspended driver's license and for failure to provide proof of liability insurance.

June 14 — A woman reported her boyfriend's ex-girlfriend was following her. The woman pulled into Wichita North station, and reported she lost visual of the suspect at 37th and Oliver. The woman said the incident started at her boyfriend's residence in Bel Aire. After investigation, it was determined the criminal actions occurred within Wichita city limits.

Tests

Continued from Page 1

a couple of people. We ran out of test kits.”

The health department started traveling outside of Wichita with its mobile testing clinic in June in an effort to test residents who otherwise would have trouble getting to the mobile clinics in Wichita.

Part of the reason 40-year-old Chad Palmer went June 22 was convenience.

The Park City man said it was easier than driving to a mobile clinic in Wichita.

Palmer said he is exposed to many people in his job delivering online orders at Walmart in Newton.

Getting tested would “put an ease to my mind,” he said.

He said he didn't have any symptoms.

“I just wanted to make sure,” he said. “... I'll put it all in the Lord's hands. I haven't had any symptoms or any fever. Everybody's

saying this is the new normal. I really don't believe this is the new normal. I know we're going to get through this. I know the Lord's watching over us and protecting us and keeping us safe.”

The free testing was available to anyone, regardless of whether they had symptoms of the coronavirus or fear that they had been exposed to someone who did.

“We just want to make sure everyone has the opportunity,” Lucero said.

Steve Thornton, a 50-year-old teacher from Wichita, was thankful for the opportunity.

“Peace of mind,” he said when asked why he was getting tested June 22.

Thornton's friend, 36-year-old Doug Wilson, who also is a teacher, said he would be traveling with a group and wanted to give other people assurance that he was healthy.

“Especially if it's this easy and accessible, it seems silly not to,” Wilson said.

Thornton said the line moved fairly quickly and the process was relatively painless.

“You fill out paperwork, they sit you down, tell you to tilt your head back and with no warning, they violate your nasal cavity with a Q-Tip,” Thornton joked. “... It goes farther back than I would've thought it would.”

Results for those who were tested would be available in three to four days.

Lucero said not many residents in the 67147 zip code have been tested since the coronavirus outbreak.

“That's one of the reasons we wanted to reach out,” he said.

Meanwhile, the number of cases in Sedgwick County grew to 896 on June 22. There have been 595 recoveries and 25 deaths.

Lucero said there may be a second event in Valley Center this summer. He said he would leave that up to local leaders.

“It's always better to

know than to not know,” Lucero said.

Other mobile testing sites included Clearwater and Colwich.

Sedgwick County also conducted a random sample study in June, testing Sedgwick County residents with or without symptoms at no charge. The goal was to test 1,400 participants.

The county randomly called potential volunteers.

Other testing options are available by calling 2-1-1.

Road

Continued from Page 1

planning commissioner and former council member Jeff Hawes. Current council members did not necessarily feel that they would bring any expertise to the table on this topic and asked if a volunteer community member would be interested. Michael Thom was unanimously confirmed to the committee June 2.

Stocks. Bonds. CDs. IRAs. Mutual funds.

Christi Kooz
Financial Advisor
309 East Kechi Road
Kechi, KS 67067
316-744-6222

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Member SIPC

City finalizes plans for fireworks

By Taylor Messick

Bel Aire announced June 16 that more details for its Fourth of July celebration have been ironed out.

At the June 2 city council meeting, City Manager Ty Lasher announced that community members had come together to make celebrations for the city's 40th anniversary possible. With the easing of restrictions for COVID-19 from the state and county levels, Bel Aire had been attempting

to put some of its community events back together. Lasher said several local businesses donated money that will fully fund three events the city has made preliminary plans for in the second half of the year.

The July 4 celebration will be at City Hall from 7 to 10 p.m. with parking around the building. Lasher said attendees would be allowed to picnic and enjoy the fireworks from the lawn. There will be a commercial fireworks show, and

the Bel Aire Lions Club will be serving hot dogs, sodas, snow cones and other treats. Folks are also welcome to bring their own food.

The fireworks will start at about 9:30 p.m., and the city is encouraging social distancing for the event. If viewers feel more comfortable watching the display from their vehicles, parking will be allowed at Northeast Magnet and Isely. Lasher

said some residents will be able to see the display from their homes. The fire department requested that the field across from City Hall be mowed ahead of the event, which has already been taken care of.

Lasher said the plan is for the firework displays to be brief. He is aware that this is a sensitive issue in town and is hoping this event will be a fair com-

promise. Lasher reminded residents that fireworks can be purchased from June 27 to July 4, but they can only be detonated on July 4.

In other business June 16, the council:
 • Unanimously approved the agenda, consent agenda and Appropriations Ordinance 20-10 in the amount of \$321,013.69.
 • Unanimously adopted a 2020 water conservation plan.
 • Unanimously re-appointed Art Tenbrink, Bill Moss and Dan Broyles to the Utility Advisory Committee.

• Unanimously re-appointed David Floyd to the Bel Aire Planning Commission.
 • Unanimously appointed Gary Northwall to the Bel Aire Tree Board.

• Unanimously approved the authorization of the city manager to work with the necessary parties for temporary and permanent right-of-way acquisitions related to the Woodlawn Expansion project.

• Unanimously confirmed Justin Smith as council president.
 • Unanimously approved the Central Park Homeowners Association transition plan.

Council vacancy policy updated

By Taylor Messick

The Bel Aire City Council approved a governing body vacancy policy with a 3-1 vote on June 2. The city has been ironing out this topic since the November 2019 election.

Mayor Jim 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 with 643 votes (25.5%) 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 new policy allows the mayor to automatically offer the seat to the first-highest vote-getter or to open the seat up for nominations. But the city tabled that policy May 19 because council member Jeff Elshoff said he did not necessarily think the mayor should have tie-breaking 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.

When the item was brought up again June 2, the language for the mayor breaking ties was removed. However, council member Justin Smith said he thought it should be added back in because it would give the mayor more accountability over his selection. That is the version of the policy the council voted to pass.

Elshoff was absent for the June 2 meeting where the policy was approved. Benage announced on June 16 that Elshoff was in the hospital. The council unanimously voted for Smith to fill the role of council president. Benage read the following letter on Elshoff's behalf:

"Twenty years ago I was diagnosed with a degenerative liver disease that closed my liver bile ducts over time. The past several weeks I've been dealing with complications from this disease as I am awaiting a liver transplant. Currently, I am in the ICU at KU Medical Center in Kansas City due to an infection that developed as a result of the disease. I am under the best care and am slowly making progress. I will be placed on a liver transplant list as soon as the infection is gone. My wife is able to be with me and my children are being cared for by family. I am honored to be your city councilman and plan on resuming my duties as soon as I am able."



Break times two Courtesy photo

The city had two water main breaks on May 29. Affected areas were Battin from Krueger to 48th, and Krueger from 46th to Harding.



Street repairs Courtesy photo

Crews complete thermal crack repair and crack sealing maintenance work for a smoother road on Westlake June 12.

Food

Continued from Page 1

Marcinik's idea began to take shape.

"I was really wondering what my farming friends were going to do," said Marcinik. "At the time, farmer's markets were closed. So I decided my idea of a drive-through farmer's market could be put in place right now. So, that's what I did. The situation with COVID actually gave me an opportunity to put that in place."

Marcinik quickly realized she wouldn't have enough produce from her home garden to carry the farmer's market. She recruited Victory Gardens in Maize and Serenity Farm in Sedgwick to help supply the market and said she is open to working with others. Her ordering process is set up so customers can buy directly from the specific farm they'd like to support.

"The farmers I work with are all organic and

sustainable growers," she said. "That is important to me for the care of the environment and for the care of what people eat and the nutritional content. I really look at growing as a holistic thing. That's what I believe in and that's what I want to support."

Another thing Marcinik said she values is community. She considers food one of the most important things in culture and praised its power to bring people together.

"One of my focuses in doing this right here in my neighborhood is to build community," she said. "Food is so central to our life and culture. It's a defining aspect and Kansas is still very much an agricultural state. Farmer's markets are really big here and that's great."

Marcinik opened for business on May 1 and said she had 20 orders the first week. She said she has had several repeat customers and the number has gone up recently as word has gotten out. That support has been

one of the most satisfying aspects of this experience for Marcinik, especially when it's coming from her neighbors and fellow community members.

"I've lived in this neighborhood over 20 years," she said. "Because of this, I've

talked to people that I know have lived here, but I've never talked to them before. Now I get to talk to them on a regular basis and that is great. Food brings people together in various ways and it's just fun to have that going on in Bel Aire."

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