

# The Bel Aire Breeze

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## BEL AIRE BREEZE YEAR IN REVIEW

# Bel Aire made gains in 2013



A community on the brink of growth like it has never seen before has reached the end of a successful year. Construction crews were busy, property taxes were stable and an overall sense of community had city leaders happy with the progress that was made in 2013. The past 12 months had its peaks and valleys, but it ended with momentum heading into 2014.

Before we look ahead to what the New Year will bring, here's a look back at the year that was in Bel Aire:

### January

At the Jan. 22 filing deadline for the April elections to determine city council, mayoral and school board representatives, eight Bel Aire residents vied for four spots on the city council. Council member David Austin was the lone resident to file for the mayoral seat that was vacated by Harold Smith.

In working with Shopping Center Development & Consulting LLC, the city began discussing plans to develop a downtown district neighboring City Hall that would include a mix of retail and entertainment options, appropriately called, "retail-

ainment."

Bel Aire resident Kris Wheeler took ownership of the Wichita Wheat Kings, college-aged summer league baseball team in the Walter Johnson League affiliated with the National Baseball Congress. Wheeler renamed the team the Wichita Aviators.

### February

The plans for Caban Marketplace, a downtown development on 580 acres along Rock Road from K-254 to 53rd North were unveiled. The plans included a nearly \$100 million destination resort water park, a 220,000-square-foot sports training academy and a 100,000-square-foot aquarium.

A longtime Wichita-area company began operating in Bel Aire as the first tenant of the city's 800-acre Sunflower Commerce Park. Century Manufacturing, which specializes in making acrylic and transparent plastic promotional materials, operates out of a 36,000-square-foot facility south of 53rd and Webb. The company's work included the creation of the 2013 NBA All-Star game trophy.

### March

The Bel Aire Senior Club hosted a March 18 forum for

the eight city council candidates and mayoral candidate at the city's rec center. At the forum, which drew several residents, the candidates addressed the future council's vital role in alleviating the city's debt and keeping a watchful eye on utility rates among several topics.

The city council implemented a slight increase to the city's water and sewer rates. The increase was necessary to offset debt service and maintenance costs. The council approved a recommended 6-percent increase in the water fund through 2015 before reverting back to a 3-percent annual increase thereafter. The council also approved a recommended 5-percent increase in the sewer fund through 2017 before

reverting back to the automatic 3-percent annual increase thereafter.

Bel Aire police advised residents to be on alert after a string of burglaries and larcenies in the area.

### April

The city's new leadership took their oath of office before the April 16 city council meeting at City Hall. David Austin stepped in as Bel Aire's new mayor. Incumbent Peggy O'Donnell retained her seat on the city council, joined by newcomers Ramona Becker, Guy MacDonald and Betty Martine. The group joined incumbent Ken Lee who was

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# Medical setbacks force chief to resign

By Matt Heilman

Due to a health-related setback, Bel Aire Police Chief John Daily has had to resign his post. From his home, an emotional Daily said he was honored to have worked for the City of Bel Aire and its residents.



Daily

Daily started as Bel Aire's police chief on May 5, 2006. His last official day was marked as Dec. 13, but he hasn't been able to work full-time since September. In his three-month absence, Lt. Troy Griggs has taken over the leadership role, at least in the interim.

It all started for Daily last December when he had back surgery. After a lengthy recovery process and physical therapy, he received his full release to go back to work on June 26 and he was doing well.

"I was done with all the rehab and that stuff," he said.

But the worst was yet to come. On Sept. 13, Daily had a dentist appointment to have a couple of teeth extracted. In a bizarre series of events, that appointment almost indirectly cost him his life and led to his resignation, about two-and-one-half years before he planned to retire.

Daily said one of the teeth he had pulled had an infection in it. He was given an oral antibiotic, but the infection spread, ultimately to the point on his back where he had under-

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# Former Shocker plans hoops academy

By Matt Heilman

Bel Aire's Sunflower Commerce Park reeled in another business. Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said Next Level Hoops Academy is purchasing a six-acre site near 53rd North and Webb Road, which will consist of two lots of the 800-acre industrial park property.

In a news release issued Dec. 6, the City of Bel Aire described Next Level Hoops Academy as a "state of the art basketball facility."

Jason Perez, a former Wichita State basketball standout who played for the Shockers from 1996 to 2000 is the founder of Next Level Hoops Academy. After his college career, Perez played professionally in Europe before returning to Wichita to start the academy in 2010. Next Level Hoops Academy leads basketball camps, clinics, group training and one-on-one training sessions. The academy that started with five teams in 2010 now has nearly 30 teams and is still growing, the news release said.

Next Level Hoops Academy also has its own AAU organization where the top teams travel to compete at tournaments across the country. The new facility in Bel Aire will have six basketball courts for league play, tournaments and practices. The Dec. 6 news release said Next Level Hoops will also be host to its own strength and conditioning facility.

"The goal for (Next Level Hoops Academy) is to have the best training facilities and basketball academy in the Midwest," the news release said.

Perez said he chose the Sunflower Commerce Park as the new home for Next Level Hoops Academy because of the convenient access to the property and "recent activity in the area."

"We wanted to locate in an active environment," he said.

Marlin Penner and Tymber Lee of John T. Arnold Associates negotiated the sale of the property.

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## Mayor's corner

By David Austin

When I first decided to seek the office of mayor, I was asked why many times over. The answer is simple. Great days are ahead for this area and I want to be Bel Aire's biggest cheerleader. What's not to love about this city?

Let's take a look back at just a few of the many highlights that took place in 2013. "The Wichita Business Journal" listed Bel Aire as the most affluent Wichita Metro Area community.

Our new housing starts ranks in the top five growth years of Bel Aire's history. And while it technically opened in November 2012, the Sunflower Commerce Park began what I am sure is soon to a trend of regular and steady expansion.

It is only going to grow more in 2014. As many of you already know, Bel Aire has been awarded a funding package from the Kansas Department of Transportation to construct a rail siding in Sunflower Commerce Park. This makes our 1-year-old commerce park much more desirable to some industries that rely on rail service to transport their goods. It also makes our park unique to the region. Construction should begin on the siding this month.

In July we added a new position of community development specialist and we are lucky to have Rick Rekoske, who holds a master's degree and is well-experienced in community development, join the staff. With this new position, we expanded the Community Development Advisory Committee and celebrated four major events in four months, including Hot Dawgs Pool party on Aug. 12. We had more than 125 dogs and 300 humans attend and participating businesses involved included Heartland Animal Hospital, Heartland Play and Stay, PALS Animal Rescue, The Dog Treatery, Lee Media Group and the Hairy Sofa. The committee is already making plans for an even more exciting time next August.

On Sept. 26, Bel Aire hosted its first ever Lunch and Learn for all realty companies, resale companies, builders and agents with over 50 people in attendance. This too will definitely become at least an annual event.

On Oct. 12, we partnered with Sunrise Christian Academy to create a talent show and Broadway on 45th musical. Heartland Animal Hospital was there again in support as was Chisholm Trail State Bank, Halo Massage, and the Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce.

Then we finished out the banner year with a Christmas Open House on Dec. 7.

As we continue to grow, I have asked the community development specialist to work with the committee and present an expanded 12-month plan with quarterly reports to the council. So stay tuned for more exciting events to promote our great city.

Who wants to talk about our finances?

The good news is we had nearly \$305,000 in land sales to date. And we are already in discussions on future land sales.

More good news. Have you driven through the intersection at 45th and Rock recently? If you were one of those avoiding it, you can stop. Just last month, the west lane of Rock Road was re-surfaced.

In 2014, thanks to a low-interest loan from the Kansas Department of Transportation, the city will borrow \$1 million to replace 45th Street, from Webb for one-half mile, Edgemore from 41st to 45th Street and Gunnison from Flagstaff to Clarendon. Also, Woodlawn from 37th to 53rd will be resurfaced if funds are available. We won't stop there. Already planned in 2016, Bel Aire is partnering with the City of Wichita and the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization to rebuild 37th street from Woodlawn to Oliver into a new three-lane road. I wish we could repair or replace a lot more streets, but this list was built on survey results and recommendations from our engineer. We have put off street repairs for far too long and the time to do them is now, before it costs us even more in the future.

In addition to repaired streets, I am going to ask council to consider the construction of four new entry signs. We currently have four entry monuments, two of which must be removed very soon due to wood rot.

Also coming in 2014 are new water meters. Meters typically have a life of around 10 years. Old meters can fail causing false readings and revenue loss for the city. Ours are a lot older than 10 years. The new meters will be electronic and can be read at City Hall. This will ensure accuracy and can easily be monitored to assist citizens in the case of leaks. This will also allow public works staff to work on other projects rather than spending several days reading meters.

Living in a safe, vibrant community on the cusp of major growth is one of the many reasons I love this city and love living here. We have much to look forward to in 2014, like I said, continued street, infrastructure and park improvements, hopefully new entry signs, lots more businesses and land sales.

Also, in January, we will begin the process of filling in the brand new and recently council-approved mayor's youth council so younger people can feel they have a say in government, too and become involved. We will also begin our adopt a park and an adopt a fire hydrant programs.

As I reflect on this year, I want to thank all those citizens who volunteer their time to serve on boards and committees. You are dedicated to making our community a better place.

I also want to thank you also for allowing me the honor to serve as your mayor.

## 2013

Continued from Page 1

appointed to fill the unexpired term of Dave Sly.

At its April 2 meeting, the city council took measures to bring new residents to the city. The council supported continued construction for Phase I of the Courtyards at Elk Creek where plans called for the construction of patio-type homes dubbed courtyard homes because each home has its own private courtyard. The council also supported plans for the continued construction of single-family homes in the Elk Creek addition near 45th North and Rock Road.

## May

At its May 7 meeting, the city council unanimously approved a real estate sales agreement with Developer's Inc. for about five acres of land for \$58,650. The property, neighboring Northeast Magnet High School near 53rd North and Rock Road, is planned to include duplexes. Also at the meeting, the council issued a letter of intent with Zimmerman Properties LLC to issue industrial revenue bonds for the construction of a 48-unit apartment complex on a four-acre tract north of Northeast Magnet. The complex will be built through the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program.

Students in the first graduating class of a high school in Bel Aire flipped their tassels and tossed their caps at a May 13 commencement ceremony at Century II. The Wichita Northeast Magnet High School Class of 2013 had 120 graduates, including three valedictorians and two salutatorians.

## June

The city celebrated a groundbreaking for Tierra Verde, a planned health and wellness destination resort near 47th North and Webb Road. The planned three-phase development is starting with the Concierge Surgical Recovery Center where Dr. George Watson will move his practice from his current office in Park City.

At its June 4 meeting, the Bel Aire City Council approved a real estate purchase agreement for a developer to buy two lots and a portion of a third totaling about 21 acres at \$22,500 per acre in the Sunflower Commerce Park. Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher described the prospective tenant of the property as "a worldwide distribution business."

The U-14 Bel Aire Bandits baseball team won the championship of the June 8 and 9 El Dorado Drillers Invitational in El Dorado. The Bandits beat the Kingman River Dawgs in the championship game, 6-5. Matthew Antoine sealed the title with a walk-off homerun over the centerfield fence.

## July

Bel Aire resident Rick Richardson likely contracted Sedgwick County's first case of Lyme disease in 2013. The disease stemmed from a tick bite to Richardson's leg. The bite occurred near hedgerow behind his property. As of July 15, there were eight reported cases of Lyme disease in Kansas.

For the second consecutive year,

the City of Bel Aire found itself in a favorable position to approve its annual budget without raising taxes. At its July 16 meeting, the city council approved the publication of a 2014 budget that actually called for a slight decrease in the city's portion of property taxes from the 2013 mark.

Erin Holloway, a junior at Northeast Magnet High School, won two gold medals at the July 11 though 14 USA Karate Nationals at the Bi-Lo Center in Greenville, S.C. The student from the Holloway Martial Arts Training Center won her gold medals in weapons and a martial arts discipline involving defense and attack maneuvers called Kata. Holloway also won a bronze medal in sparring.

## August

On Aug. 6, crowds gathered at Sedgwick County Fire Station 37 in Bel Aire for the annual National Night Out event hosted by the city's police department. This year, the nationwide event included inflatables, a dunk tank, and safety presentations from Sedgwick County fire crews, free snow cones courtesy of the Bel Aire Lions Club and free ice cream from Blue Bell Ice Cream.

On Aug. 12, Bel Aire's Community Development Committee organized the first Hot Dawgs Pool Party at the community pool in Central Park. The swim party for residents and their dogs included attendance from representatives of Pals Animal Rescue Inc., Bel Aire Mayor David Austin with his "granddog," Lucky, and KWCH meteorologist Ross Janssen with his Welsh corgi, Millie.

## September

The city council approved the final plant and developer's agreement for the Lycee Heights addition, neighboring Northeast Magnet High School near 53rd North and Rock Road. The residential development on five acres is planned to include about 15 duplexes.

Construction began on the new home for Rock Ridge Family Medicine following an Aug. 29 groundbreaking ceremony at the northeast corner of 53rd North and Rock Road. Dr. Timothy Wolff, who has practiced in Wichita for 16 years, is expected to begin seeing patients at Rock Ridge Family Medicine in Bel Aire in Spring 2014.

Shuttle Aerospace, a Wichita airplane parts manufacturer solidified its plans to move its operation to Bel Aire's Sunflower Commerce Park. The plans were cemented at the city council's Sept. 17 meeting with the finalization of a real estate sale contract.

Bel Aire's new schools showed an enrollment increase in their second year in the city. Northeast Magnet High School near 53rd North and Rock Road showed an increase of 56 students from its first year in Bel Aire. The Sept. 20 headcount showed an enrollment of 644. Bel Aire's Isely Traditional Magnet Elementary School near 53rd North and Woodlawn showed an increase of 51 students from its first year in Bel Aire. The Sept. 20 headcount showed an enrollment of 492 students for Isely.

## October

The city council approved a real estate purchase agreement between the city and a large cement manufacturing company called Buzzi Unicem for nearly 15 acres in the Sunflower Commerce Park. The land near 53rd North and Greenwich was sold at a price of about \$306,000.

Two Sunrise Christian Academy high school students were recognized among the nation's top National Merit scholars. Senior Michael Lee was recognized as one of the top 32,000 students among a group of about 1.5 million National Merit participants. Fellow senior Abigail Wilson was recognized as a National Merit semifinalist among the top 16,000 National Merit participants from the group of 1.5 million.

## November

The City of Bel Aire scored another victory in the Sunflower Commerce Park when it was able to obtain funding for rail siding from the Kansas Department of Transportation. The rail siding, built off the main Union Pacific line running through the 800-acre commerce park, will increase the shipping capabilities for manufacturing businesses.

Bel Aire Mayor David Austin announced that he is working to establish the Mayor's Youth Council in the city. The youth council is a way to get more of the city's youth actively involved in Bel Aire and have a say in what happens in their community, Austin said. The youth council will consist of up to 21 students living in Bel Aire between the ages of 13 and 19.

## December

Mayor David Austin delivered the city's first State of the City address prior to the Dec. 3 city council meeting. In his address, Austin outlined the city's accomplishments and the challenges ahead.

The city received word that a former Wichita State University basketball player is planning to bring a basketball training facility to the Sunflower Commerce Park. City Manager Ty Lasher said Next Level Hoops Academy is purchasing a six-acre site near 53rd North and Webb Road, which will consist of two lots of the 800-acre industrial park property. Next Level Hoops, described as a "state of the art basketball facility," was founded by Jason Perez, a former WSU basketball standout who played for the Shockers from 1996 to 2000.

## Hoops

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The Bel Aire City Council paved the way for the plans for Next Level Hoops Academy to move forward with the approval of a real estate purchase agreement at its Dec. 3 meeting. The agreement is between Perez, the City of Bel Aire and the city's public building commission, which was established in 2010 to help the city manage its land debt. The agreement includes the two lots for \$136,000.

# Much to do in 2014

The past year was one to remember in Bel Aire. The city experienced growth like it hadn't seen in several years and now is on the brink of more growth unlike anything it's experienced before. There was a lot to celebrate for Bel Aire in 2013, but the year wasn't perfect.

Not every day was sunny and not every picture was pretty. But at the end of the year that was, there's plenty to look forward to in 2014. At the time when most of us prepare New Year's resolutions, here's a look at what we'd like to see Bel Aire accomplish in the year ahead.

First of all, we want to see more progress with downtown development. The city has heard scenarios of what's planned for establishing an identifiable downtown district in the city, but it remains to be seen if the lofty ambitions come to fruition.

A state-of-the-art aquarium, water park and large shopping center sounds great, but until funding is finalized and construction equipment starts moving, it's hard to get overly excited. We're anxious to see if 2014 could be the year the seemingly "pie in the sky" plans start to become realities.

We've enjoyed the discussion about Bel Aire's potential and imagining what's around the bend for the city, but in 2014, we're hoping news about what we "will see" exceeds news about what "we might see."

We want to see the city continue to make strides in land sales and we want to see a mix of new residents and businesses in Bel Aire fall in love with their new home.

We want to see projects through that started in 2013 and we want to see more projects break ground in 2014. This time next year, we hope to see Bel Aire look back fondly at 2014 as a year that the property tax rate was lowered, development took off like never before and the boundaries where Bel Aire ends and Wichita begins were more clearly defined.

If the current leaders in the city continue to practice cautious optimism when dealing with developers interested in the city and use tax dollars wisely, there should be no question that Bel Aire's best days are still ahead.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

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## Daily

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gone surgery.

A week after the dentist appointment, Daily said he was at work and could barely move. He couldn't walk under his own power.

A reserve officer on his way home from Bel Aire gave Daily a ride to the Minor Emergency Center in Wichita. The physician's assistant who saw Daily noticed the chief was having back spasms "as a result of something around the surgical area."

Daily's 101-degree fever was believed to be a byproduct of the pain. Daily was sent home with his wife, Barbara, who was instructed to give him medicine.

Daily went home and went to bed. He was in bed all day the next day as well before the antibiotic he was taking started to kick in.

On Sept. 22, nine days after his dentist appointment, Daily's fever started to subside.

But the relief was temporary. His fever returned that night and spiked to more than 103 degrees.

On Sept. 23, Daily's wife, with

assistance from a nephew, took him to see his doctor.

"The doctor says, 'I'm sending you to the hospital,'" Daily recalled.

He was taken to the emergency room at St. Francis hospital.

"At this point on, I don't remember anything," he said. "By this time ... I'm basically unconscious."

Daily said he doesn't remember being admitted to the hospital. He heard from his wife that the doctor tending to him said his system was shutting down and that if he wasn't stabilized soon, he'd die.

The former chief said he's been told he was about two or three hours from dying in the hospital on Sept. 23. With a high fever and an aggressive infection, Daily spent about a week in the intensive care unit at St. Francis. He spent 25 days in the hospital before he was released. A hospital bed was prepared for him at his home. Daily still had to take intravenous antibiotics and work with Via Christi home health professionals.

The infection had settled in the area where he'd had surgery to the point that it started affecting his

nerves.

"Almost from the beginning it made it almost impossible to walk," he said.

Two months out of the hospital, Daily is recovering, but he's still depending on a walker and occasionally a wheelchair to get around.

"As a result of all of that," I used up all of my sick time and my vacation time," he said.

Through the Family Medical Leave Act, Daily was given about 12 weeks to return to work full-time after his paid days off were exhausted. Although slowly on the mend, his doctor hasn't yet been able to release him to fulfill his duties for Bel Aire on a full-time basis.

The city had to move on, prompting Daily to submit his letter of resignation on Dec. 13.

The health setback has put a wrench in Daily's plan to retire from law enforcement at the end of June 2016.

"Now, I'm in the process of attempting to get paperwork squared away to see if I can get medical retirement from the state," he said.

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said the city's police de-

partment has been challenged in Daily's absence. As a lieutenant, Griggs' transition to an administrative role has taken him off the street. A second officer is serving a military deployment and another "is no longer with the department," Lasher said.

"Obviously with your department director gone, that makes it tough on the staff," Lasher said. "Troy (Griggs has) done the best he can filling in for John."

"... We're down for sure two bodies. And you can argue we're down three with Griggs taken off the street."

Lasher said the city is hoping to fill one of the officer vacancies after the first of the year and will go through the more drawn-out process of hiring for the chief position in the months ahead.

Daily said he is going to miss the City of Bel Aire and the citizens he served for seven years, seven months and eight days as the city's police chief.

"I have the utmost respect and appreciation for the community and its citizens and I've enjoyed my time," he said. "I enjoyed every bit of it."



# City of Bel Aire



## Bel Aire Recreation

**BOYS BASKETBALL**  
Basketball is for boys ages 5-11. Games will be played on Saturdays beginning Jan. 4, 2014. Practices will be set up by coaches on weeknights beginning the week of December 16th. The deadline has passed but limited openings remain.

**YOUTH CHEERLEADING**  
Cheerleading is for boys and girls ages 4 & up. These recreational cheer classes will focus on motions, jumps, and routines involved in cheerleading. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning Jan. 7, 2014. Space is limited, therefore pre-registration is required.

**INDOOR SOCCER**  
Indoor soccer is for boys and girls ages 4-11. Games will be played on Saturdays beginning March 1, 2014. Practices will be set up by coaches on weeknights beginning the week of February 17,

2014. The registration deadline is February 8, 2014.

**TAEKWONDO**  
(ages 5 & up)  
Classes meet on Monday & Friday from 5:00-6:00 pm or Tuesday & Thursday from 7:10-8:10 pm. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

**YOGA**  
Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:10-7:10 pm. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Adults can join at any time! Teens & adults can join at any time!

**FITNESS CENTER**  
(ages 16 & up)  
The Fitness Center consists of elliptical cross trainers, treadmills, recumbent bike, multi-station weight machine, and free-weights. There is no charge for pass holders, or it is available with the purchase of a daily pass.

A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after the deadline. For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700

## 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 library books to check out at no cost nor time restraints, along with computers available for study or research. Remember any senior can belong or attend to more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County.

**Locations:**  
Senior Center/Community Room – 7651 E. Central Park Ave., 744-2451  
Recreation Center – 5251 E. 48th St. N., 744-2700

**Weekly Events:**  
Bel Aire Walkers – M-F, 8-9 a.m. at the Rec Center (indoors & climate controlled)  
*Free for BA Senior members, alternate times available*  
Men's Coffee & Fellowship – Mondays, 10 a.m. at the Senior Center  
Yoga – Mondays & Wednesdays, 6 p.m. at the Rec Center (monthly fee)  
Bridge Games – Tuesdays, 1 p.m. at the Senior Center  
Low Impact Aerobics – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. at the Rec Center  
Braum's Breakfast – Fridays, 9 a.m. on North Rock Road

## Monthly & Special Events:

NO POTLUCK IN Jan.

- Jan. 7, 8:30 a.m. – Breakfast at Cracker Barrel
- Jan. 8, 10 a.m. – Volunteer library work time at the Senior Center
- Jan. 9, 11 a.m. – Senior Safety and Remodeling Your Home with Hart Pharmacy at the Senior Center
- Jan. 13, 11:30 a.m. – Lunch at Deano's, 97847 E. 21st.
- Jan. 15, 10 a.m. – Men's Coffee at Braums
- Jan. 15, 10 a.m. – Open Sewing at the Senior Center
- Jan. 15, 11:45 p.m. – Lunch at Todd Brian's and visit to the Kansas African American Museum. Call Jennie to RSVP
- Jan. 15, 2:00 p.m. – Ladies coffee/tea at Braums
- Jan. 17, 11 a.m. – Fall Prevention with Jean Skladzien at the Senior Center
- Jan. 19, – Ladies Dine Out - for info call Anita at 744-2840
- Jan. 22, 10 a.m. – Men's Coffee at Braum's on North Rock Road
- Jan. 22, 10:15 a.m. – Senior Aerobics Brunch (different locations)
- Jan. 22, 2 p.m. – Ladies Tea/Coffee at Braum's on North Rock Road
- Jan. 23, 2 p.m. – "Dashing with Food" - Rite Bite Series with Denise Dias at the Senior Center
- Jan. 27, 6 p.m. – Covered Dish Dinner, Rec Center
- Jan. 28, 9 a.m. – Planning Committee, Rec Center
- Jan. 29, 10 a.m. – Open Sewing at the Senior Center
- Jan. 27, 7 p.m. – Bunko at the Senior Center
- Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m. – Potluck Dinner, Teresa Hatfield "Master of Memory" – Community Room

## Community Events

TOPS – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. at the Senior Center  
City Council Meetings – 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month

- Jan. 1 – City Offices Closed
- Jan. 6 – 7 p.m. – Municipal Court
- Jan. 13 – 7 p.m. – Central Park HOA Meeting
- Jan. 16 – 12:30 p.m. – Municipal Court
- Jan. 27 – 7 p.m. – Tree Board Meeting

## Get a discount on your next bill when you up for e-billing today!

What's your New Year's Resolution? If it's to cut down the clutter we have the solution for you! Sign up for e-billing now through March 1, 2013 and

receive \$5.00 off of your next Bel Aire utility bill! With e-billing your monthly statement will be sent directly to your e-mail so you never have to worry if it

arrived in your mail box or not! Call, write, or e-mail us your information today to get signed up for e-billing and help cut the clutter in 2014!

## City Partners with Perfection Builders to visit Area Businesses

Recently, Rick Rekoske, Community Development Director partnered with Tanya Leighton to promote the City, Bel Aire Area Chamber of Commerce and Bel Aire Christmas Celebration event. Over 40 businesses were visited within the Bel Aire

Area and surrounding area. The City of Bel Aire and Perfection Builders personally handed invitations to businesses for the Christmas event, provided Chamber of Commerce brochures with applications, and Tanya provided packets of information

for maintenance free courtyard homes in Elk Creek. The collaboration of the City and Perfection Builders is a true testament for the community coming together. The City also invites any real estate company and agents to continue partnering with us.

## Christmas Coloring Contest Winners



(LEFT) Amelia Beck, 9, won first place for the age group 7-9. (RIGHT) Melanie Ackerman, 11, won first place for the age group 10-12. Brock Acker, 6, won first place for the age group 6 and under.

## Christmas in Bel Aire

The Mayor, City Council, staff, and Community Development Committee want to thank all those that were able to attend the Bel Aire Christmas Celebration on December 7th at City Hall. Between 75-100 attendees enjoyed musical performances by Risen Savior Choir and Gospel Assembly band and children's choir. The Community Development Committee coordinated the Christmas lights display, including wreathes along Central Park Avenue. Santa welcomed folks as they entered the event and the Mayor of

Bel Aire introduced the winners of the Christmas Coloring Contest, including Brock Acker, age 6; Melanie Ackerman, age 11; Amelia Beck, age 9. The City of Bel Aire was very pleased with the creativity, skill and number of entries for the coloring contest. The City of Bel Aire also wishes to thank the Central Park Homeowners Association for their generous donation for all of the Christmas wreathes and lights within Central Park, as well as the American Lung Association for their willingness to partner at this event, and their kind donation for a door prize.

The City of Bel Aire Police Department also proudly wishes to inform the residents of Bel Aire, Officer Sean McCaslin recently received the Wichita Public Schools Good Apple award! The City of Bel Aire would like thank him for his dedication and commitment to excellence here in Bel Aire!

On December 10th, The City of Bel Aire hosted a breakfast in appreciation for volunteer members of the community that dedicate their valuable time and energy to the City by serving on boards and committees of the City.

## City Hall

- Ty Lasher, City Manager ..... 744-2451, ext. 217
- Recreation Department ..... 744-2700
- Central Park Pool ..... 744-7331
- Parks Department ..... 744-8609
- Police • Emergency ..... 911
- Non-emergency ..... 744-6000
- Animal Control (Sedgwick County) ..... 660-7070
- Public Works ..... 744-2888
- Water/Sewer Emergency (after 5 p.m.) 761-6972 or 761-6973
- Utility Billing ..... 744-2451, ext. 132
- (Waste Connections) ..... 838-4920
- Hazardous Waste (Sedgwick County) ..... 660-7464

# Mayor sees victories and challenges

By Matt Heilman

The City of Bel Aire has been in a state of transition for about the last three years. The city has seen a mix of victories and shortfalls in its efforts to reduce its debt, but overall, Bel Aire is in a better financial position than it was in 2010 and 2011.

And toward the end of a year that saw continued construction and a slight tax break approved for the year ahead, Bel Aire Mayor David Austin addressed the city's residents to deliver Bel Aire's first State of the City address.

Austin began his address by reminding residents of the slight tax break that was approved in August with the passage of the 2014 budget. The feat was accomplished with a mix of increased construction

and a combination of budget cuts and property tax increases in the 2011 and 2012 budgets.

"Though it was only half a mill, it speaks volumes from where we were just three years ago," Austin said of the 2014 tax decrease.

Austin discussed new industries in Bel Aire and the addition of two new schools for contributing to a population that has likely increased since the 2010 census. In 2010, Bel Aire had a population of 6,769.

"I am confident that number is higher today and will continue to rise," Austin said.

He pointed out that 2013 ranked in the top 10 growth years in Bel Aire's history and could be in the top five by the end of the year.

As of Dec. 1, Bel Aire has seen 71 new housing starts in the city, including 21 new

single-family homes. Austin also discussed progress on the business front, including the progress made in the city's 800-acre Sunflower Commerce Park and the securing of funds from the Kansas Department of Transportation that will allow for the construction of rail siding on the property. The city is responsible for about \$315,000 of the \$1.3 million project. Austin said the city's portion would be reimbursed through the issuance of special assessments.

"I can't tell you how great this is," Austin said. "It just made our one-year-old commerce park much more desirable to some industries that rely on rail service to transport their goods. It also makes our park unique to the region."

The first company expected to utilize the rail siding is Buzzi

Unicem, a cement manufacturing company that is working to finalize a deal with the city to construct a \$6 million facility on a 12-acre lot on the southwest corner of 53rd North and Greenwich.

Austin said the master plan for the commerce park is "already working the way (the city) envisioned."

Austin discussed the city's Community Development Advisory Committee and the restructuring of the city's staff that cleared the way for the city to hire Rick Rekoske as the city's community development specialist tasked with marketing Bel Aire.

Austin said the city's hiring of a city engineer and consolidating the position with the role of public works director will save the city about \$30,000 per year.

The savings and overall improved budget forecast has the city in position to tackle infrastructure improvements in 2014. Some of the needed roadwork started in recent months, including repair and resurfacing at 45th North and Rock Road. In 2014, Austin said the city will be able to borrow \$1 million through a low-interest loan from the Kansas Department of Transportation to make larger repairs on 45th, including from Webb Road for half a mile.

"Also, Woodlawn from 37th to 53rd Street will be resurfaced if funds are available," Austin said.

He said the list of repairs was compiled from survey results and recommendations from the city engineer.

"We have put off street repairs for far too long and the

time to do them is now, before it costs us even more in the future," Austin said.

Residents in Bel Aire will also receive new water meters in 2014.

The mayor touched on improvements in the city's parks, rec center and senior center toward the end of his speech that carried an overall positive tone.

However, he did point out that Bel Aire is still facing a steep land debt on about 16,000 acres that remain undeveloped.

This year, 63 percent of the city's \$4.4 million budget has gone toward land-related debt payments. And next year, about 64 percent of the city's \$5.69 million budget will go toward the debt payments.

"This is a challenge our city meets each and every day," Austin said.

# Obamacare regulations trip Bel Aire

By Matt Heilman

Employees for the City of Bel Aire have been told they may soon have to pay more for less. In late November, the city learned that its insurance plan through Blue Cross Blue Shield doesn't qualify with the Affordable Care Act and will no longer be available starting in February.

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said the city's insurance was well above the minimum standard established with the new law and there wasn't a clear explanation offered for why the current coverage couldn't continue.

"That's my biggest question," Bel Aire Mayor David

Austin said.

Lasher clarified that Blue Cross Blue Shield wasn't dropping the city from receiving coverage; it's just that the plan in place is no longer offered with the current insurance law.

Lasher said the city's plan comes with a low deductible and low out-of-pocket expense. "We had a good plan," Lasher said.

He said its termination prompted a letter he sent to Congressman Mike Pompeo.

In the letter, Lasher expressed the city's concerns and confusion, especially because he had understood that as long as an insurance plan wasn't considered "a high risk" it wouldn't be pulled. He said Blue Cross

Blue Shield offered the city another plan that costs more and has less benefits.

"I simply wanted you to know the pain this is causing me and my staff in losing the terrific health coverage we had through Blue Cross Blue Shield in exchange for worse coverage at a higher price," Lasher said in his letter to Pompeo.

Moving forward, he said the city is considering a plan through Coventry Health Care that is similar to the plan city employees previously enjoyed.

However, it comes with a higher price tag to the tune of about \$200 more per month for a family, Lasher said.

The City of Park City offers its insurance through Coventry

on a plan that city administrator Jack Whitson said is good until November of 2014.

He said the city is already preparing for challenges and looking at options for its future coverage.

"We'll have a big decision coming up," he said.

The City of Kechi offers its employees insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield, but is not having to drop its plan. City clerk Laura Hill said the city's current plan is good through February. She said the city has spoken with representatives from Coventry and Blue Cross Blue Shield and is "waiting on all documents" to make a decision on its future coverage.

In Bel Aire, Austin said the city had prepared for an insurance hike in its 2014 budget passed in August, but wasn't expecting to have to have to settle for a lesser plan or search for a new provider. The current plan expires at the end of January, Austin said.

ary, Austin said.

He said there aren't many options available and there's not much time to shop for a new plan.

"I don't want to punish our employees because of this federal law," Austin said.

# Senior director stepping down

By Matt Heilman

After more than 20 years serving the senior population in north Sedgwick County, Vicki Shepard is ready to join it in retirement. On Jan. 3, Shepard will work her last day as the tri-city senior director.

Shepard is retiring from a position that has evolved since she stepped into the role in 1993, serving the communities of Park City, Bel Aire and Maize.

Budget cuts have restructured the tri-city senior services program to a point where Shepard's replacement will take the role of Park City Senior Director, concentrating on the city in which Shepard has her office and spends most of her days. Shepard still attends events for the senior groups in Maize and Bel Aire and she has friendships in all three communities.

"I still love my seniors," Shepard said. "I've made so many friends with my seniors, I'll still be in contact with a lot of them. It's just time to move on."

Shepard said one of the primary reasons she's retiring after this year is to spend more time with the senior she's known the longest, her father.

"It's just a combination," she said. "I'm getting older and my father's getting older. I want to spend more time with my dad and I want to start doing things that I want to do."

Shepard said she's also looking forward to spending time with her husband, Jim Shepard, on their rural property in Butler County, planting pecan trees and being able to play more rounds of golf.

"I used to play seven days a week and this year, I've only played once," she said.

She said she still remains involved in serving seniors in part by maintaining her place on the board for Active Aging,

a monthly publication sent out to seniors throughout Sedgwick County.

Her county-funded position has become more complex and administrative over the years, but at the heart of her job have been the relationships that she cherishes.

Shepard has learned to counsel seniors through often-complex matters related to social security and Medicare, but the friendships she forged were with the strongly-participated programs, activities and celebrations that she's organized.

Shepard's service to seniors started before she became the tri-city senior director. About seven years before taking the job, she began working as an assistant volunteer coordinator for the Meals on Wheels program, a position she served for about six months before she took over as the program's lead volunteer coordinator. For six-and-one-half years, Shepard was responsible for organizing 350 to 400 volunteers per week to deliver 750 to 1,000 meals per day.

She did well enough in the program to draw the attention of a woman who helped start the tri-city senior services program. Shepard had stood out as the coordinator for a program that benefited seniors and she was strongly encouraged to apply for the vacant tri-city senior director position.

"I had no idea what it involved," Shepard said. "I had no idea what a senior director did. I was kind of dumped into it and there we went."

## CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

### Christ Lutheran Church

As always, Communion will be served at all morning services.

A variety of weekly and monthly activities are offered including Falcon Fellowship (Free lunch for students at Heights High School on the second Wednesday of the month), youth groups, quilting, choirs and men's breakfast.

Find the church online at [www.christ-lutheran.org](http://www.christ-lutheran.org); e-mail office at [clc.kscoxmail.com](mailto:clc.kscoxmail.com). Pastor Chad's email is [pastor@clc.kscoxmail.com](mailto:pastor@clc.kscoxmail.com). Call the office at 744-1242.

The church is located at 5356 N. Hillside (at 53rd and North Hillside, across from Wichita Heights High School).

### 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 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is [www.resurrectionwichita.com](http://www.resurrectionwichita.com). Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

### Community Bible Chapel

The church is located at 4551 Auburn, south of 45th North between Oliver and Woodlawn, in Bel Aire.

Worship service and breaking of the bread are at 9 a.m., with Bible study and Sunday school at 10:30 on Sundays.

Wednesday prayer and Bible study are at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Melvan Adair at 744-7091.

### Fairmount United Church of Christ

The church welcomes a new minister, Rev. Larry Young.

Visit the newly renovated building at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita (one block south and one block east of Hillside and 17th North).

Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. which includes children's church. Sunday school begins at 9:30.

For more information, call 682-1597 or visit at [www.fairmount-tucc.org](http://www.fairmount-tucc.org).

### Gospel Assembly Church

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Prayer service is 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The first Saturday evening of each month are youth activities.

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

### Greenwich United Methodist Church

Sunday worship service at 9 a.m. Fellowship and coffee follow the service.

Pastor Jeff Miller can be reached at 744-0203.

Senior Day first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m.

United Methodist Women meet the first Thursday of each month at 1 p.m.

Movie night is the second Saturday of each month at 6:30 p.m. A snack is served.

The church is located about a mile south of K-254 on Greenwich Road. The phone number is 744-0203.

### Kechi United Methodist Church

You are welcome at Kechi United Methodist Church, 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. The Contemporary Service is at 9:03 a.m.; the Blended Service is at 11:00 a.m. on Sundays.

Pastor Mitch Reece will begin a new sermon series, Dec. 1 entitled, "The Person God Can Use."

Youth Group for 6th - 12th grades meets every Sunday at 4 p.m..

Looking for Healthy (Health Strategies) meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m.; cost is \$10/session.

CareGivers Support group meets every first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the basement parlor. Bingo is every first Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. Every 3rd Tuesday a Hot Meal is prepared at KUMC and served to the United Methodist Open Door Ministries Drop-In Center at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers welcome!

Find us at [www.KechiUMC.org](http://www.KechiUMC.org). Follow us on Facebook, or Twitter @KechiUMC. Pastor Mitch can be contacted at [Mitch@kechiumc.org](mailto:Mitch@kechiumc.org). Phone number is 744-1221.

### Pine Valley Christian Church

The church is located at 5620 E. 21st North. Sunday school is at 9 a.m. with worship at 10:15. For more information call 685-2421.

### Randall Road Baptist Church

Randall Road Baptist is located at 6556 N. Randall, Park City.

Sunday School starts at 10 a.m. Worship is at 11 a.m.

Sunday evening activities start at 6 p.m.

Wednesday bible study begins at 7 p.m.

Contact Pastor Jim McQuery at 201-1696 or e-mail at [jmcquery@cox.net](mailto:jmcquery@cox.net)

### Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Contemporary Sunday worship services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Communion on the first and third Sunday. Adult Sunday school and Bible class meet at 9:15 a.m. Children's church at 10:30. A nursery is provided during Bible class and second service.

Wednesday Evening Ministries is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. with activities for all ages. A nursery will be available for preschool-age children. King's Kids is for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Confirmation class for children in grades six through eight. IMPACT! is for grades nine through twelve. There will also be adult Bible classes.

The church is located at 6770 E. 34th North in Wichita. The phone number is 683-5538. [www.risen-saviorwichita.net](http://www.risen-saviorwichita.net).

Senior pastor is Tom Harmon.

### St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church

Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church is located at 2710 E. 61st Street Park City, KS 67219. It is a congregation of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. "...the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch." Acts 11:26.

On Sunday at 9 a.m. is our adult class, "The Story of Christianity" Service of Matins is at 9:45 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy (Mass) at 10 a.m. Nursery service is provided.

On Wednesday our service is at 6 p.m. On Saturday Vespers is at 5:30 p.m. Men's Study Group first and

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third Monday at 7pm. We are studying the Gospel of Luke.

Women's Study Group second and fourth Friday at 10 a.m. Dare To Live Fully Right Where You Are. We will continue our study of "One Thousand Gifts" by Ann Voskamp.

Wednesday Potluck Supper & Program "When A Nation Forgets God" Jan. 8 "When God is Separated from the Government, Judgement Follows" Jan. 22 "It's Always the Economy" Liturgy 6pm Supper 6:45 Program 7:30. All are Welcome.

Holy Days for January: Jan. 2 Holy Name of Jesus; Jan. 6 Epiphany; Jan. 12 Feast of the Holy Family; Jan. 21 St. Agnes; Jan. 24 Saint Timothy; Jan. 25 Conversion of Saint Paul

Fasting during January: All Fridays are days of fasting and abstinence. Jan. 4 is a fast and abstinence day in preparation for Epiphany. Jan. 4 is also the tenth anniversary of the founding of Saint Michael's Church.

Call the church for more information 734-6248 or visit our website: [www.stmichaeloc.org](http://www.stmichaeloc.org)

Email inquiries: [jflora@cox.net](mailto:jflora@cox.net)

### University United Methodist Church

The church is located across from the Wichita State University campus at 21st and Yale.

Sunday activities include adult and youth educational classes at 9:15 a.m., traditional service at 10:30 and youth group activities from 4 to 6 p.m.

E-mail [uumc2220@uumc.net](mailto:uumc2220@uumc.net); phone 686-6765. Rev. Charles Claycomb is the pastor.

Send your church's upcoming events and service times to [legals@arkvalleynews.com](mailto:legals@arkvalleynews.com) or call 755-0821.

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# POLICE REPORTS

**Dec. 18** — Interim Chief Griggs responded to an alarm in the 4800 block of East Willow Point Court. A siding company was working on the house. The alarm was declared false.

**Dec. 18** — Interim Chief Griggs took a report of an exchange student from Serbia losing his passport in the 5500 block of East 45th North.

**Dec. 18** — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4600 block of North Farmstead Court. A vehicle was seen parked on the street. Officer made contact with the occupants. A woman employed by the City of Wichita Department of Environmental Services was conducting surveillance for possible child care permit violations.

**Dec. 18** — Officer Thompson took over a domestic violence case that was originally reported to Wichita police in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn. A woman reported being punched by her boyfriend. The boyfriend was not located.

**Dec. 17** — Officer McCaslin responded to an alarm in the 6600 block of East Central Park Avenue. The alarm was declared false.

**Dec. 16** — Officer Murphy responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn. A vehicle and a motorcycle collided. No injuries were reported.

**Dec. 16** — Officer Murphy responded to a report of a lost adult in the 4200 block of North Rushwood. The woman was found.

**Dec. 15** — Officer Foxx took a report from a man who had reported his stolen vehicle in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn but later found it.

**Dec. 15** — Officer Steele discovered a vehicle with its lights activated in the 3900 block of North Hillcrest.

**Dec. 15** — Officer Steele stopped a vehicle in the 5100 block of East Willow Point after seeing it failing to stop at a red light at 37th North and Oliver. The driver, Ryan M. Neugebauer, was arrested on charges of DUI, refusing to a chemical test and resisting arrest and was cited for traffic violations and driving with a suspended license.

**Dec. 13** — Officer Steele responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 4100 block of North Edgemoor. No injuries were reported. One driver was cited for inattentive driving.

**Dec. 13** — Officer Steele searched the neighborhood in the 4900 block of North Homestead after receiving a report of a possible suicidal person. A driver was cited for expired tag and driving with a suspended license.

**Dec. 12** — Officer McCaslin confirmed a warrant on a suspect picked up in Harvey County.

**Dec. 12** — Officer Murphy stopped a vehicle for defective headlight in the 3900 block of North Parkwood. The driver was giving a warning.

**Dec. 12** — Officer Thompson responded to a report of domestic violence in the 5900 block of Memphis. One person was taken to the hospital for evaluation. The other was arrested. They were both issued complaints for domestic battery.

**Dec. 11** — Officer Thompson responded to a report of a father and son arguing and the father pointing a stick at the son. There was no disturbance.

**Dec. 10** — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in which the driver was not wearing a seatbelt. The driver, Elijah B. Wheeler, was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia and was cited for seatbelt violation.

**Dec. 10** — Officer Foxx assisted Wichita police on a burglary in the 4700 block of North Spyglass.

**Dec. 10** — Officer McCaslin took a report of a missing wedding ring from the 4800 block of North Chapel View.

**Dec. 10** — Officer Thompson responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 4400 block of North Mission. It was accidental.

**Dec. 10** — Officer Thompson responded to an alarm at City Hall, 7651 E. Central Park Ave. It was a false alarm.

**Dec. 9** — Officer Foxx took a report at the station from a man who said his daycare provider took his credit cards and charged more than \$1,400 on them.

**Dec. 9** — Officer Murphy responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4000 block of North Clarendon. An unidentified man was knocking on the door of a residence. There were no signs of suspicious activity.

**Dec. 8** — Officer Foxx responded to a two-vehicle wreck on icy conditions in the 6400 block of East 45th North. No injuries were reported.

**Dec. 8** — Officer Foxx responded to a report of juveniles playing on the ice in Eagle Lake Park. The juveniles were instructed to stay off the ice.

**Dec. 8** — Officer Foxx responded to check the welfare of a man walking in the 5900 block of East

Kenawee. The man was not located.

**Dec. 8** — Officer Murphy responded to a loud music complaint in the 6900 block of East Odessa. The owner agreed to turn down the music.

**Dec. 8** — Officer Murphy responded to a possible domestic altercation in the 4200 block of North Janesville. A woman left the home, saying she didn't want to stay there because her son had been drinking.

**Dec. 8** — Officer Steele responded to a report of vandalism in the 5000 block of North Colonial Court. A window of a vehicle had been broken. Damage was estimated at \$300.

**Dec. 7** — Officer Foxx responded to a call in the 3900 block of North Oliver. There was no disturbance.

**Dec. 7** — Officer McCaslin responded to a call in the 4000 block of North Edgemoor. A neighbor's dog had chewed holes in a section of common privacy fence. The neighbors discussed arrangements to fix the fence.

**Dec. 7** — Officer Steele responded to a report of domestic violence in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn Drive. There was no problem at the residence.

**Dec. 7** — Officer Steele checked a vehicle parked in the 5200 block of North Oliver. The car had been vandalized. Attempts were made to contact the owner.

**Dec. 7** — Officer Steele responded to a hold-up alarm in the 3500 block of North Woodlawn. There were no signs of suspicious activity at the business.

**Dec. 6** — Officer Foxx took a report of a found youth bicycle found in a resident's yard in the 5800 block of East Memphis. Officer collected the bike.

**Dec. 6** — Officer Foxx took a report of disorderly conduct in the 4900 block of North Hillcrest. A man reported being threatened by another man.

**Dec. 6** — Officer Foxx responded to a call in the 4200 block of North Janesville. A resident said a woman was at the home without permission. The woman, Donna Myers, was asleep in the basement. She was arrested and taken to jail.

**Dec. 6** — Officer Thompson took a report of a man driving around looking at cars and homes in the 4200 block of North Rushwood Court. Officers found no suspects.

**Dec. 6** — Officer Steele discovered a large appliance near the edge of the road in the 5100 block of North Woodlawn.

**Dec. 6** — Officer Murphy assisted EMS in the 4100 block of North Auburn. A man was taken to the hospital.

**Dec. 5** — Officer Foxx assisted EMS in the 4800 block of North Hillcrest. No one was transported to the hospital.

**Dec. 5** — Officer McCaslin responded to a found property call in the 4400 block of North Mission. Officer collected a bag of white substance that tested positive for methamphetamine. The bag was found in front of a residence.

**Dec. 5** — Officer Thompson received a report of an unattended child in a vehicle in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn Court. There was no child or vehicle in the area.

**Dec. 4** — Interim Chief Griggs assisted EMS in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court. A woman was taken to the hospital after falling in her front yard.

**Dec. 4** — Officer Thompson responded to an alarm in the 4100 block of North Oliver. It was a false alarm.

**Dec. 4** — Officer Thompson responded to an alarm in the 3800 block of North Hillcrest. It was a false alarm.

**Dec. 4** — Officer Murphy responded to a call in the 6300 block of East 44th North. A woman said her boyfriend was going to her mother's residence to destroy property. The boyfriend didn't go to the residence.

**Dec. 4** — Officer Murphy responded to an alarm at Heiland Enterprises in the 3800 block of North Hillcrest. There were no signs of suspicious activity.

**Dec. 3** — Officer Steele stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4700 block of North Webb. The driver was cited for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

**Dec. 3** — Officer Steele assisted EMS in the 6000 block of East 45th North. A person who had fallen was taken to the hospital.

**Dec. 3** — Officer Thompson responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn. No injuries were reported.

**Dec. 3** — Officer Thompson responded to a report of a suspicious person going around knocking on doors in the 4300 block of North Rushwood Circle. It was a salesman for an exterior contractor.

**Dec. 3** — Officer Thompson responded to a disturbance in the 5200 block of East 37th North. There was no disturbance.

**Dec. 3** — Officer Murphy responded to an alarm in the 5100 block of East Willow Point. The alarm was deemed false.

**Dec. 3** — Officer Murphy assisted EMS in the 3800 block of North Cozy Drive. A woman was taken to the hospital.

**Dec. 2** — Officer McCaslin took a report of found property in the 4400 block of North Stratford. A backpack with a basketball and a pair of earphones was found near a residence in September.

**Dec. 2** — Officer McCaslin responded to an alarm in the 6600 block of East Central Park. There were no signs of criminal activity.

**Dec. 1** — Interim Chief Griggs received numerous complaints of a dilapidated vehicle, trailer and trash littering the yard and driveway area of a residence in the 3800 block of North Parkwood. Officer told the owner to take care of the situation or receive a citation for the violations.

**Dec. 1** — Interim Chief Griggs responded to check a business in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn. The business was secure.

**Dec. 1** — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of domestic violence with a weapon in the 4200 block of North Rushwood. Jennifer S. Johnson was arrested on a charge of aggravated assault. Police said Johnson threatened a roommate with a kitchen knife.

**Dec. 1** — Officer Steele responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4700 block of North Hillcrest. A person knocked on a resident's door and left. Officer did not find the person.

**Dec. 1** — Officer Steele responded to a hold-up alarm in the 4800 block of North Hedgerow Court. A personal panic alarm was accidentally activated.

**Nov. 30** — Officer Thompson responded to a report of an assault in the 4900 block of Parkhurst Court. There was no assault.

**Nov. 30** — Officer McCaslin responded to an alarm at Granite Transformations in the 6200 block of East 37th North. The alarm was declared false.

**Nov. 30** — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4200 block of North Rushwood Court. There were no problems.

**Nov. 30** — Officer McCaslin responded to a possible suicidal person in the 4200 block of North Rushwood Court.

**Nov. 29** — Officer Thompson assisted EMS with a patient at the Catholic Care Center in the 6700 block of East 45th North. A patient was taken to the hospital.

**Nov. 29** — Officer McCaslin responded to an alarm in the 4600 block of North Farmstead Court. The alarm was declared false.

**Nov. 28** — Officer McCaslin assisted EMS with a person who fell in the 5100 block of East 46th North. A woman was taken to the hospital for evaluation.

**Nov. 28** — Officer Steele assisted EMS with a person who fell in the 5200 block of East 39th North. No patient was transported.

**Nov. 27** — Officer Steele stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5100 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for speeding and driving with a revoked license.

**Nov. 27** — Officer Murphy assisted fire and EMS with a gas leak in the 4800 block of North Farmstead. Officer entered the residence and noticed a small dog feces and vomit in the living room as well as the odor of a skunk in the neighborhood.

**Nov. 26** — Officer Thompson responded to a report of a lost German Shepard in the 4000 block of North Parkwood.

**Nov. 26** — Officer McCaslin responded to check the welfare of a resident in the 4100 block of North Clarendon. Everything was OK.

**Nov. 25** — Officer Murphy took a report from a resident who said his neighbor placed a no-parking sign in the city right-of-way in the 6500 block of East 44th North.

**Nov. 25** — Officer Foxx assisted EMS at the Catholic Care Center in the 6700 block of East 45th North.

**Nov. 25** — Officer Murphy stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 7200 block of East 45th North. The driver was cited for speeding and no driver's license in possession.

**Nov. 25** — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle with an expired tag in the 4400 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license and illegal tag. The tag, which appeared to be altered, was seized.

**Nov. 25** — Officer Swanson

responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 5900 block of East 41st North. A truck drove through the area several times and then parked in front of a residence to let someone out. The owner of vehicle was located and everything was OK.

**Nov. 24** — Officer Swanson responded to a domestic disturbance in the 6200 block of East Woodlawn. It was a child-custody matter.

**Nov. 23** — Officer Foxx assisted EMS in the 4000 block of North Clarendon. A woman was taken to the hospital.

**Nov. 23** — Officer Foxx responded to check a residence in the 4200 block of North Woodlawn. A garage door and interior garage door were open at the vacant residence. There were no signs of criminal activity.

**Nov. 23** — Officer Foxx responded to a domestic disturbance in the 5100 block of East 46th North. A woman became upset when her nieces and nephews came to her house and began cleaning the interior. Officer said the house was in unhealthy living conditions. The case was forwarded to Adult Protective Services.

**Nov. 23** — Officer McCaslin responded to an alarm in the 4400 block of North Janesville. There were no indications of criminal activity.

**Nov. 23** — Officer McCaslin responded to an alarm in the 4300 block of North Woodlawn Court. The alarm was declared false.

**Nov. 23** — Officer Murphy responded to a report of a lost adult in the 5900 block of East Memphis. Later, officers received a report that the man had returned home unharmed.

**Nov. 22** — Officer McCaslin responded to a domestic dispute in the 4800 block of North Hedgerow. The argument was verbal only.

**Nov. 21** — Officer Foxx responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn. No injuries were reported.

**Nov. 21** — Officer Murphy responded to check a possible suicidal subject in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor Court.

**Nov. 20** — Officer Thompson responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 4700 block of North Woodlawn. No injuries were reported.

**Nov. 20** — Officer Thompson took responded to a complaint of a barking dog in the 9000 block of East 45th North. The owner was contacted.

**Nov. 20** — Officer McCaslin took a report in the 4100 block of North Battin. A man reported being approached by two men in the Dilions parking lot in the 3700 block of North Woodlawn. The men offered to do bodywork on the man's vehicle. The men followed the man home to look at a vehicle that was damaged. The man contracted services for hail dent removal and repair. The man said some work was done, but he wasn't satisfied with the headlight lenses that appeared foggy. Officer said it was a civil matter.

**Nov. 20** — Officer McCaslin responded to an argument between a woman and her son in the 4500 block of North St. James Place. It was a verbal argument.

**Nov. 20** — Officer Murphy responded to a domestic dispute between a man and a woman in the 5800 block of East 49th North. The man had a bloody lip. The woman was arrested on a charge of domestic battery.

**Nov. 19** — Officer Thompson responded to the theft of a John Deere farm tractor in the 5200 block of North Greenwich. The tractor was taken from a field and driven to a construction site near 29th North. At the construction site, the tractor was used to damage items. The tractor was recovered.

**Nov. 19** — Officer McCaslin assisted EMS in the 4800 block of North Chapel View. A man was taken to the hospital.

**Nov. 19** — Officer Murphy assisted EMS in the 4400 block of Edgemoor Court. A man was taken to the hospital.

**Nov. 18** — Officer Swanson responded to check the welfare of a person at the fire station in the 4300 block of North Woodlawn. A

man was taken to the hospital for evaluation.

**Nov. 18** — Officer Swanson took a report of the theft of a bicycle at Sunrise Christian Academy in the 5500 block of East 45th North. Loss was estimated at \$400.

**Nov. 17** — Officer Foxx assisted EMS with a 4-year-old who was choking on a magnet in the 5600 block of East 48th Court North. The child swallowed the magnet and was not transported to the hospital.

**Nov. 17** — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm in the 4300 block of North Country Lane. The alarm was false.

**Nov. 17** — Officer Swanson responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 5200 block of East 39th North. An unidentified man knocked on a resident's door and then left. He was not located.

**Nov. 17** — Officer Swanson responded to a report of a suspicious character at the Catholic Care Center in the 6500 block of East 45th North. An employee said a man wearing a hooded sweatshirt was seen in a construction area. Officer checked, and everything seemed secured.

**Nov. 17** — Officer Steele attempted to stop a vehicle for speeding in the 5900 block of East 37th North. The vehicle did not stop. It traveled on Woodlawn to 21st North, where it wrecked. Dennis J. McCoy was arrested on charges of DUI, reckless driving and fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement officers, and was cited for speeding, driving with a suspended license, disobeying a traffic-control device, illegal tag and no insurance.

**Nov. 16** — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm in the 6200 block of East 37th North. The business was secured.

**Nov. 16** — Officer Steele stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5200 block of North Woodlawn. The driver, David A. Hess, was arrested on a warrant and cited for speeding.

**Nov. 15** — Officer Thompson took a report of online fraud in the 6100 block of East 41st North. A resident said he bought a car of Craigslist and the sellers in Wisconsin wanted additional money for insurance.

**Nov. 15** — Officer Thompson responded to found property in the 6000 block of East 41st North. A pocketknife was found in a yard.

**Nov. 15** — Officer Thompson assisted EMS in the 4700 block of North Glendale. A woman refused EMS service.

**Nov. 15** — Officer Thompson responded to a report of a parking violation in the 5800 block of East 48th Court North. A pickup was parked out into the street. The owner was contacted to have it moved.

**Nov. 15** — Officer McCaslin responded to a report of the sounds of fireworks or gunshots in the 5600 block of East 49th North. Officer did not find the source of the sounds but saw large fireworks being discharged south of 37th North in Wichita.

**Nov. 15** — Officer Murphy stopped a vehicle for stopping in the road in the 6100 block of East 37th North. The driver was cited for no proof of insurance, driving with a suspended license and stopping/standing a vehicle in the road.

# Chase ends with crash and 3 arrests

A Nov. 24 police chase in north Sedgwick County ended in a crash at 77th North and Hillside and the arrest of three suspects. Officers from the Park City, Valley Center and Bel Aire police departments and deputies with the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office assisted on the call during first shift.

A Park City officer attempted to stop a 2007 Chevy Impala in the 5200 block of North I-135 when the driver fled.

Police chased the vehicle that had about a mile lead on the officers. Officers found the vehicle crashed at 77th North and Hillside, but the driver of the wrecked Impala wasn't ready to give in.

The driver, identified as Cody Lane Bush, of Topeka, attempted to flee the scene on foot. Bush was caught a short distance from the vehicle. Bush was arrested on charges of unlawful possession of a controlled substance, possession with intent to use drug paraphernalia, fleeing or attempting to elude law enforcement officers, operating a vehicle without liability insurance, driving with a suspended, canceled or revoked license and other traffic violations.

Two passengers who did not attempt to elude officers by foot were also arrested.

Theresa Jolynn Ashley and Michael Richard Patrick Wilkins, also of Topeka, were arrested on charges of possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia.

A Park City police report said the suspects were booked on possession of meth, marijuana and drug paraphernalia charges. The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office worked the wreck.

— Matt Heilman

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# Bel Aire extends gun ban for city buildings

By Matt Heilman

Bel Aire Mayor David Austin and the city council didn't question the merits of the Second Amendment, but at least for now, they'd like to keep firearms out of municipal buildings except for on the holsters of law enforcement officials.

Without enough available personnel or necessary funding to drastically heighten security measures, the coun-

cil approved a resolution necessary to continue the ban of concealed weapons within city buildings for at least another four years. The city buildings include City Hall, the Bel Aire Senior Center, the city's public works building, the Bel Aire Rec Center and the community swimming pool in Central Park.

The resolution is in response to the Personal and Family Protection Act that went into effect in July. In

part, the act says, "The carrying of a concealed handgun as authorized by the Personal and Family Protection Act shall not be prohibited in any state or municipal building unless such building has adequate security measures to ensure that no weapons are permitted to be carried into such building..."

Simply put, the law says that if you have a concealed carry license, you can carry your gun out of sight into

any public building that doesn't have adequate security.

Several cities in Kansas, including Bel Aire, Valley Center and Park City received six-month exemptions from the Personal and Family Protection Act, delaying the inaction of the law until Jan. 1, 2014. In seeking the exemption, city leaders expressed that the primary concern was in municipal court.

And the heightened security measures necessary to keep the "no gun" signs posted out front of city buildings could take a toll on small cities with less financing and personnel available than Wichita and Sedgwick County.

The resolution approved by the Bel Aire council extends the exemption through 2017. The four-year exemption is allowed by the state for cities to assess each city

building and establish a security plan for the buildings.

When the Personal and Family Protection Act was first enacted, Bel Aire Police Chief John Daily said he'd ultimately like to provide walk-through metal detectors for municipal buildings. He said the detectors could be obtained at a relatively low cost, but would require more officers to be present at municipal court proceedings that are held twice per month.

## DEATHS

### HELEN BUELL

Helen M. Buell, 93, of Wichita, died Nov. 17, 2013. She was born in Stanley, Iowa, on Dec. 9, 1919, to Ethel and William Morgan.

She graduated from Stanley High School in 1937. She received her bachelor of science degree in 1941 from Upper Iowa University, Fayette, Iowa.

She married James Blaine Buell from Centerville, Iowa, in 1944.

She taught in several Iowa elementary schools throughout her teaching career, but spent 23 years in the Mason City, Iowa, school system.

She and James retired from teaching in 1985 and moved to Wichita, where they devoted their love, time and energy to their grandchildren, family and church, Eastminster Presbyterian.

She is survived by her three children, Greg (Barbara) Buell of Wichita, Marcia (Terry) Anderson of Rogers, Ark., and Bruce Buell of Bel Aire; along with four grandchildren, Cami, Bradley, Joseph, Cassandra and four great-granddaughters; three sisters, Leota Didier of DuBois, Wyo., Wilma Hoth of Omaha, Neb., Mary Winkless of Palm Desert, Calif.; a sister-in-law, Rozella Morgan of Golden Valley, Minn.; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James; her parents; a brother, Clyde Morgan; and a sister, Mona Gerstenberger.

A memorial service will be at 2 p.m. Dec. 9 at Eastminster Presbyterian Church, in the chapel.

The family has established gift memorials with Eastminster Presbyterian Church, 1958 N. Webb Rd., Wichita, KS 67206 and Upper Iowa University, PO Box 1857, Fayette, IA 52142. Baker Funeral Home, Wichita, had charge.

### DEAN SCHUSTER

Dean Eldon Schuster, 83, supervisor for the Army Corps of Engineers, died Nov. 19, 2013.

Rosary was Nov. 22. Mass of Christian Burial was Nov. 23, both at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church. Burial followed at St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery in Andale.

He was preceded in death by parents, Karl C. and Dorothy (Polson) Schuster; stepson, Nick Orth III; nephew, Doug Schuster, and niece, Terree Gomer. Survivors, wife of 21 years, Erma (Schauf) Schuster; children, Jacqueline J. Carpenter (Steve) of Cleveland, Mo., John R. Schuster (Mary) of Dallas, Joel D. Schuster (Chris) of Leonardtown, Md., JoLynne Beutler (Dan) of Bucyrus, Kan., Deb Wetta (Greg) of Wichita, Dan Orth (Virginia) of Andale, David Orth (Kelly) of Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., Chuck Orth (Paige) of Dallas, Carl Orth (Diane) of Burnsville, Minn., Cindy Seiler (Kevin) of Colwich, Jeannie Preisser (David) of Keller, Tex., Kim Gish (Jason) of Bel Aire; brothers and sisters, Marilyn Thomas (Sam) of Kansas City, Mo., Larry Schuster (Kathryn) and Carolyn Eastman (Ron) all of Winfield, Deryl Schuster (Anita) of Wichita, Karla Peters (Paul) of Lawrence; 26 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Amedisys Hospice, 250 W. Douglas, Suite 101, Wichita, KS 67202. Downing & Lahey Mortuary West had charge.

### WAYNE HOLMSTROM

Wayne Holmstrom of Wichita died Dec. 13, 2013, surrounded by his daughters.

He was born on May 14, 1925, in Colorado Springs to Ira and Bertha Holmstrom, the fifth of six children. He

served in the Navy from 1943 to 1946 and graduated from Bethany College in Lindsborg in 1950. While at Bethany, he sang second tenor in the male quartet, The Pitch Pipers, and traveled the country promoting Bethany College with a variety of gospel, classical, barbershop and show tunes that were popular in the late 1940s. He met Inez Lundgren while at Bethany and they were married on Aug. 18, 1950. He and Inez lived in Sun City, Offerle and Kinsley, where he taught vocal music before moving to Wichita in 1962, where they raised their three daughters. He was a beloved vocal music teacher at Heights High School from 1962 to 1978, where his choirs received top ratings at city and state music festivals. He often said "anyone can sing notes, we want to make the music happen."

He was a longtime member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. As a man of deep faith he served as choir director there for 25 years. He was an avid gardener and enjoyed spending time in his workshop building furniture and projects for his family and friends. He loved working on the family cabins in Colorado and looked forward to time there every summer since 1946.

He and Inez were married 59 years before her passing in 2010. He was a devoted husband and a loving caregiver in her later years. He was all about family and faith and had a sense of humor that brought joy and laughter to many.

He is survived by daughter, Shala Lunt and husband Doug of Coffeyville; daughter, Signee Walker and husband Garry of Wichita; daughter, Dawn Rosenquist and husband Russ of Plano, Texas; grandchildren, Wade Lunt

and wife Susan, Sara Cyr and husband Jeremy, Kyle Rosenquist and wife Jacqueline, Blair Rosenquist, Jillian and Grant Walker; great-grandchildren, Mandi and Hannah Lewman, Jackson Cyr and Wrenn Lunt; identical twin brother, Wendell; and numerous nieces and nephews; "fourth daughter" and neighbor, Kerri Smith of Bel Aire; and his furry companion and buddy, Mesquite.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Inez; his sisters, Mildred Anderson and Arlene Dillard; brothers, Claire and Don; and their parents.

Memorial service was Dec. 21 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Gloria Dei Lutheran, Victory in the Valley, 3755 E. Douglas Avenue 67218 or Laughing Feet Performers, P.O. Box 48494, 67201. Broadway Mortuary had charge.

### EDWARD ANDRA

Edward P. "Prof" Andra, 93, a charter member of the 127th Observation Squadron of the Kansas Air National Guard, a veteran of World War II and former president of Consolidated Farmers Mutual Insurance Company, died Dec. 17, 2013.

He was preceded in death by parents, John and Anna (Diefenbach) Andra; wife, Alfreda (Thome) Andra; son Leo; daughter, Donna; and eight brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his children, Marilyn Kuhlman of Maize, Carol Bailey of

Wichita, Mary Kay Raple (Ron) of Colwich, and Mark Andra (Jeanne) of Wichita; brother, Lawrence Andra of Wichita; sister, Lucille Schauf of Bel Aire; 11 grandchildren;

and 16 great-grandchildren. Rosary was Dec. 22 and Mass of Christian Burial was Dec. 23, both at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in St. Mark.

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