

The Bel Aire Breeze

Vol. 9, No. 6

July 2014

Complimentary copy

Fireworks rules vary across county

Sell for
8 days,
shoot for 1
in Bel Aire

By Matt Heilman

The biggest celebration of summer is a week away. This week, ahead of America's 238th birthday, the colorful noisemakers that headline the celebration go on sale throughout the area. As the fireworks tents and

the air-conditioned Wholesale Fireworks buildings stock their shelves and tables, it's important to note the rules for the patriotic pyrotechnics in our communities and the county at large.

The general rule of thumb for shooting off fireworks in cities is that any firework that may be

sold in a city can legally be shot off in that city.

In the cities of Park City, Bel Aire and Kechi, fireworks went on sale June 27. Sales in Valley Center follow three days later. Sales in all four communities continue through July 4.

In Bel Aire, fireworks may

be purchased as early as June 27, but may not be discharged until July 4. The fireworks can be discharged from 9 a.m. to midnight July 4. The debris must be cleared by 10 p.m. July 5.

Fireworks sales in Bel Aire are available at a tent located near Family Video at 4554 N.

Woodlawn and an air-conditioned Wholesale Fireworks Building in the former Porter Paints building just northwest of 37th North and Woodlawn.

In Valley Center, the sale and discharge of fireworks is allowed

See FIREWORKS, Page 2

Back on board

Navy veteran revisits battleship on which he served in WW II



Bel Aire resident Bill Brookhouser stands on the dock in front of the USS New Jersey May 30 in Camden, N.J. Brookhouser served on the battleship during his service in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946.

Courtesy photo

By Matt Heilman

Bill Brookhouser's service to his country during World War II is chronicled in old photo albums he keeps in his Bel Aire home. A smiling sailor in his late teens grew up in his three-year service aboard the USS New Jersey that patrolled the seas of the South Pacific from 1943 to 1946.

Brookhouser was one of about 2,500 servicemen, known as "plank holders," who served aboard the battleship that was commissioned by the U.S. Navy in May of 1943. He boarded the ship two months before the commission and four months shy of his 20th birthday.

Brookhouser, who turns 91 this month, is one of two surviving members from a crew of about 50 men who were the first to serve on the USS New Jersey. The other surviving member from the crew is Brookhouser's friend, Henry Pierce, who lives in Rhode Island. The surviving duo's friendship

goes back to their days in the service, Brookhouser said.

"It's kind of amazing that the two that chummed around together are the only two left," he said.

The first mayor of Bel Aire who carried out a long and fruitful career as a teacher and administrator in the Wichita school district, said there is a mix of fond and dark memories that stir an array of emotions when he looks back on his days in the Navy.

Recently, Brookhouser took an up close trip down Memory Lane when he stepped aboard the USS New Jersey once again.

"I just had to go aboard it one more time before I expire," Brookhouser said.

On May 29, Brookhouser began his trip with a stop in Philadelphia. He met his son-in-law, Kelly Reich, there before making the short trek to Camden, N.J., where the USS New Jersey is docked. He returned home on June 4.

Brookhouser received somewhat of a hero's welcome on his trip to the USS

New Jersey, including having a car sent for him to take him to the ship. Aboard the New Jersey, he saw parts of the ship he hadn't seen in almost 70 years and other parts he'd never seen before, including the captain's quarters.

"I felt like an admiral when I got there," he said.

Brookhouser was invited to the ship's decommissioning ceremony in 1991, but those in attendance had to stay on the fan tail and didn't get to "really see the ship," he said.

Twenty-three years later, he had the opportunity to see all of the ship, including parts that the general public doesn't get to see on guided tours.

On his trip, a college history professor was on hand to relieve the past with Brookhouser as he made his way through the massive vessel that stretches nearly 900 feet in length. Brookhouser joked that the largest body of water he saw before he boarded the New Jersey was a farm

See SHIP, Page 2



Matt Heilman

Ten-year-old RJ Richard, playing left field for the Rays, catches a fly ball to record the final out of his team's June 23 game at the Bel Aire Rec Center's baseball and softball complex.

Nearly 300 play ball at Bel Aire Rec Center

By Matt Heilman

It was a typical Monday evening in Bel Aire on June 23. As is the case with almost every game night on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays in May and June, the parking lot in front of the community's rec center was near capacity.

Several residents rode by the property on bicycles. Others walked along the sidewalks with family dogs on leashes.

In front of the six fields that comprise the Bel Aire Rec Center's baseball and softball complex, volunteers with the community's Lions Club made snow cones. In the background, lawn chairs were scattered around four of the fields as the final week of games was underway for participants ranging in age and skill level.

On one end of the complex, the 11-12 year-old Bel Aire Bandits baseball team played a Valley Center opponent in competitive Wichita Heights League action. On the other end, a group of preschoolers and kindergartners played T-ball.

In between, there was a machine-pitch softball game and a recreation league game

See REC, Page 2

Cities respond to state's gun laws

By Matt Heilman

The law was meant to eliminate confusion by enforcing the same weapons rules in cities across Kansas. House Bill 2578, signed by Gov. Sam Brownback this spring, restricts cities from enforcing their own gun ordinances, for citizens as well as city employees.

House Bill 2578 has cre-

ated a challenge for cities that had until July 1 to make sure they comply with state law before the most recent round of legislation goes into effect, said Kechi City Administrator Bob Conger.

House Bill 2578 essentially builds off the Personal and Family Protection Act passed by the Kansas Legislature last year. In a nutshell, the Personal

and Family Protection Act says that if you have a conceal carry license, you can carry your handgun out of sight into any public building that doesn't have adequate security at its entrance.

But until this spring, cities still had some authority to enforce their own policies relating to weapons. When the Personal and Family Protection

Act passed last spring, Kechi leaders supported a weapons policy that sought to ban city employees from carrying concealed guns or knives while on the job.

The policy excluded law enforcement personnel who are required to carry weapons. When the policy was discussed last June, Conger said the purpose of the policy was to

keep weapons from becoming a distraction and taking away from city business.

Under the legislation passed this spring, the policy no longer falls within the state statute. At its June 12 meeting, the Kechi City Council amended its personnel policy in order to comply with state law.

While he joined the Kechi council and Mayor Ed Parker

in understanding the state's push to enforce uniform weapons laws and make them consistent, Conger indicated the possibility of on-the-job distractions could still be a concern for the city.

"An individual's right to carry is inarguable. However, we have employees that on oc-

See GUNS, Page 2



Mayor's corner

By David Austin

Signs. It is time for new entry signs. I shared that vision and that opinion at the state of the city address in December and believe it even more so today. Several months ago, the city asked you your opinion on keeping the current signs or going with a new designed one.

The new one was chosen by over 80 percent. Your city council members asked that we give additional options, and a number were submitted. Before you in the water bills and online are five options plus a none-of-the-above option. I should tell you the council unanimously selected one, but want to hear from you before moving forward.

Our current entry monuments are rotting and need to come down due to their condition. I need to point out that this does not replace the city seal, which is the current sign. They read "A city of the future with respect for its past."

It is because of this new signs are needed. The future is here and changing daily. We are growing, and more and more families are calling our city home. More families are visiting commercial sites in Bel Aire, too. I want people to know they are in Bel Aire and not in Wichita when they visit our terrific community. I want signs that stand out and announce you are in Bel Aire. This identification will become more important as new businesses and new folks move in and visit.

We value your input. For more info or to vote, visit www.belairesks.gov

Street repairs

That's right, street repairs are coming to Bel Aire. First up is 45th Street at Webb. Like modern signage, good entryways are necessary, too as we put our best foot forward to make our city look attractive as it can be. Repairs will begin this month.

Awards

We continue to rack up national recognition in Bel Aire. The city received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting! Only 14 cities in Kansas received this award — and most are way bigger than us. We were recognized for being transparent and for having our finances in top shape. This is not an easy award to win. My thanks and congratulations to Michelle Meyer, director of administration and finance for her work.

Keith Price and city staff have also received an award with FEMA by staying compliant with FEMA floodplain regulations. Thanks to Mr. Price's hard work, citizens living in the floodplain receive a decent discount on flood insurance because we meet the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System.

Best place for homeownership

A new study from NerdWallet, a consumer advocacy website, lists Bel Aire as the fourth best place for homeownership in Kansas! The data included affordability, population growth and homeownership rates.

Again, I want to thank our staff members, who continue to do more with less each and every single day to make Bel Aire great.

You are always invited to attend any of our city council meetings or to contact us via the city website.

Until next time, I wish you and yours a happy and safe Independence Day.

Weapons laws take one-size approach

We appreciate simplicity. Generally, we agree that making things less complicated means they're improving.

However, we also lament the loss of local control on anything. And we believe the State of Kansas overstepped its bounds by implementing new one-size-fits-all weapons legislation that takes away the authority of county and city governments to implement their own rules.

At times, our Legislature is a little intrusive for a group that seems to despise sweeping regulations handed down from the federal level.

Cities of varying sizes with different needs, demographics and crime rates should have a say in what's allowed. We know our communities in north Sedgwick County better than lawmakers in other parts of the

state. The timing issue is also a little bothersome, as cities have been left to scramble to make sure they're weapons-related ordinances are in compliance with state law by July 1. We understand that laws take effect every year at the same time, but gun laws require more than just changing signs on the front window of City Hall. The legislation requires a lot of thought, discussion and potentially additional training on procedures. The three months cities have had to respond seems a little rushed.

Like with any ordinances cities pass, we don't feel it's too burdensome to be educated and to understand how rules may differ when it comes to possessing a weapon and to understand that restrictions may vary based on cities' populations. Bad

things happen to good people and the world seems to be getting crazier by the day. But with trained law enforcement in place, we've never felt unsafe in our communities, even before the state Legislature felt it necessary to loosen gun regulations for citizens.

The legislation passed this spring builds off last year's passage of the Personal and Family Protection Act, which, in part, says cities can no longer ban concealed weapons in municipal buildings that don't meet "adequate" security standards. Essentially if a city doesn't have at least two officers available to stand at a building's entrance all day with wands or walk-through metal detectors, guns are allowed. Even in municipal court proceedings.

But until now, cities still had some leverage to implement

their own ordinances relating to weapons. They had the authority to ask employees not to carry weapons while on the job, they were able to prohibit motorists from carrying loaded weapons in their vehicles and they could specify when and where weapons could be sold.

Not anymore. New state law throws local weapons ordinances out the window. Starting July 1, motorists can travel with loaded weapons across Kansas, city employees don't need clearance from their supervisors to carry concealed firearms or knives and cities and counties can't even keep databases of employees who carry concealed weapons.

Even asking someone if they have a concealed weapon can be a violation of their Second Amendment rights.

We don't blame the state for wanting to make things less complicated, but there should be room for cities to enforce their own rules based on their needs.

And maybe we're naïve, but we believe that if you don't feel safe traveling through our small towns without a loaded handgun or a machete in your passenger seat, that's unfortunate.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

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Fireworks

Continued from Page 1

from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. June 30 through July 3, and from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. July 4.

Fireworks tents are located in the parking lot of Leeker's Family Foods at 801 S. Meridian, across the street from Leeker's at 810 S. Meridian and in the parking lot of Bartel's True Value at 506 S. Meridian. Valley Center's air-conditioned Wholesale Fireworks building is located at the northeast corner of 69th North and Meridian.

In Park City, fireworks go on sale June 27 and may be

discharged between 8 a.m. and 10:30 p.m. June 27 through July 2, and 8 a.m. to midnight July 3 and 4. This year, fireworks tents are located at 1600 E. 61st North, 6024 N. Broadway, 415 E. 61st North and 1701 E. 61st North.

In Kechi, fireworks go on sale June 27. There is one Wholesale Fireworks tent in the city, located outside the strip mall space called Jesse's Corner at 1300 E. Kechi Road. In the city, fireworks may be discharged from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. June 27 through July 2 and 10 a.m. to midnight July 3 and 4.

In all four communities, charitable groups and non-

profit organizations are able to generate funds by working for fireworks vendors in the tents and buildings.

In Bel Aire, the city's Lions Club will work out of the tent near 45th North and Woodlawn while a group from Sunrise Christian Academy will raise funds for the school by working at the Wholesale Fireworks building about one mile south of the tent.

In all unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County, permitted fireworks may be shot off from July 1 through July 4. However, it is illegal to sell or buy fireworks in unincorporated Sedgwick County. In the coun-

ty, most of the fireworks that can be purchased in a Sedgwick County city are OK to ignite.

Specifically prohibited in the county are sky lanterns, any rockets mounted on a wire or stick, or "any device containing such rockets," the county said in news release on fireworks rules.

Valley Center also passed an ordinance against sky lanterns, which, in 2012, were blamed for a field fire on the city's west side.

In preparation for complaints and emergency calls that can accompany fireworks, the county is also again going to utilize the non-emergency fireworks complaint line it established in

2012.

"Since then, it has helped keep emergency lines open and ready to take emergency calls," the county's communication department said.

The non-emergency line reserved for fireworks complaints is 290-1011.

If fireworks cause injury or damage to property, residents are still advised to call 911.

The non-emergency fireworks complaint line is available from 6:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. July 3 through 5. For more information concerning fireworks safety and regulations, visit Sedgwick County's website at www.sedgwickcounty.org.

Rec

Continued from Page 1

of 9-and-10-year-old baseball players.

As he made the rounds from one field to the next and briefly spoke with parents, players and coaches finishing up their games, Bel Aire Assistant Recreation Director Drew Conwell said the overall participation is

consistent with what he's seen in recent years.

But, in his seven years working for the Bel Aire Rec Center, going back to his days as an intern for the program, Conwell has noticed something different this year in what he said has been "a really good summer."

"I've seen so many more new faces this year than I've ever seen," Conwell said.

This year, Conwell said there

are 299 participants signed up to play T-ball, youth softball and baseball in Bel Aire. The participation includes 26 teams, four of which play in the more competitive Wichita Heights baseball/softball league.

The other 22 teams play in the Bel Aire Rec League.

The total participation is "right around" what the Bel Aire Rec Commission saw last summer, Conwell said.

"We're sitting pretty well for the most part," he said. "We're right around capacity."

The participation isn't limited to Bel Aire residents. Conwell said the city's youth sports program has also brought on participants from a few area communities including Sedgwick, Andover and Wichita.

Conwell said families are drawn to the Bel Aire Rec Com-

mission in part because of the program's emphasis on character building to accompany the skill development.

"With coaches, we stress four things, fundamentals, fun, safety and sportsmanship," he said. "That's really the building blocks of this program in general. We stress that to the parents as well. I guess you can always throw in a fifth one, which is family."

Guns

Continued from Page 1

casion have to go to residences and businesses that do resist firearms," Conger said. "At what point does it become a distraction?"

Kechi council member Brian Adams wondered if there was a way to prohibit city employees from concealing weapons if they didn't have the license to do so. By state law, Conger explained that unless voluntarily admitted, there would be no way to know who has a concealed weapon because even asking someone if they're concealing a weapon can be a violation of their Second Amendment rights.

House Bill 2578 also disallows counties and cities

from compiling databases of employees who have conceal carry permits.

Kechi council member Dave McConnaughay said if citizens are allowed to carry concealed weapons into City Hall or other municipal buildings, it made sense for the personnel working for the city to have the same opportunity to defend themselves.

"The discussion we're having tonight is one that's been had by many councils across the state," Conger said of the latest legislation at the June 12 Kechi City Council meeting. "It's uncharted territory. We're still trying to figure it out."

Conger said he would continue to review the city's personnel policies to make sure all of the rules in Kechi match up with state statute. An amendment to House Bill

2473 allows motorists to travel with loaded handguns across the state, without the need for conceal-carry licenses.

Kechi Police Chief John Blevins said the law shouldn't change how car stops are conducted other than to remind officers to be cautious and to assume that everyone they stop has access to a loaded weapon.

Valley Center Police Chief Mark Hephner said a motorist was found to be in possession of a loaded weapon on a recent traffic stop. While the possession was technically still illegal since the stop was made before the new law went into effect on July 1, Hephner said his department chose not to pursue any charges associated with the weapon because the legislation allowing citizens to travel with loaded firearms had already passed.

The City of Valley Center also had to amend part of its weapons policy in response to House Bill 2578. Valley Center City Administrator Joel Pile said the city's planning commission had to amend a law prohibiting the sale of firearms as a home occupation.

Pile said any citizen applying for a home occupancy license to sell firearms still has to meet the same guidelines as dealers who sell weapons from commercial businesses or gun shows. Pile described the guidelines as "fairly minimal."

Last year, Valley Center, Park City and Bel Aire were granted four-year exemptions from the Personal and Family Protection Act, essentially giving them until 2017 to develop a security plan for their municipal buildings. The cities are not otherwise exempt from any of

the provisions handed down with the legislation passed this spring.

"We still have a waiver for guns coming into City Hall for the next four years," Park City Administrator Jack Whitson said.

As a city of the third class, likely unable to obtain the staffing and equipment necessary to obtain security measures the state deems as "adequate" by 2017, the City of Kechi decided not to join its neighbors in seeking an exemption from The Personal and Family Protection Act.

The Personal and Family Protection Act and the House bills that followed in the 2014 legislative session still allow school districts to ban weapons from their properties, Valley Center Assistant Superintendent Mike Bonner said.

Ship

Continued from Page 1

pond. On the recent return trip, Brookhouser said he was struck by the size of the vessel where he'd spent part of his early adult life.

"The ship seems much bigger now than when we were on it," he said.

Aboard the ship during World War II, Brookhouser said Captain Carl Holden whipped 2,500 men into shape, ready to combat the Japanese Empire on the open sea.

"He molded us young kids into a pretty good fighting machine," he said.

Toward the end of the war, Brookhouser worked in the ship's service department, which included laundry services, a barbershop, a shoe repair shop and an ice cream shop among several available services on the USS New Jersey.

Aboard the ship on his recent visit, Brookhouser was also able to revisit his teaching days by speaking to a class of elementary and junior high school students who were taking a tour. Brookhouser said most of the



Matt Heilmann

About a week after returning from his trip to see historical sites in Philadelphia and visit the USS New Jersey in the state that bears its name, Brookhouser, 90, reflects on his World War II service that spanned part of his late teens and early 20s.

stacked bunks where servicemen slept at night have been removed and rapid-fire rocket launchers have replaced the machine guns at the battle stations.

The memories have also been kept alive with the resurfacing of a letter that Brookhouser wrote to a fellow serviceman's cousin during

World War II. In a letter he received in May, the son of the woman to whom Brookhouser wrote during World War II requested to meet him and offered



Brookhouser in 1945 during the latter part of his World War II service in the U.S. Navy.

condolences for the loss of his wife.

Brookhouser's wife, Virginia Brookhouser, died in February. The veteran and representative of America's Greatest Generation also was able to make a trip to the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., on an Honor Flight in 2009.

He said he enjoyed that experience, but didn't get to really relive his service until he stepped aboard the USS New Jersey one last time.

"These memories stay with you," Brookhouser said.



City of Bel Aire



Bel Aire Recreation

MAXIMIZE CAMPS

Bel Aire Recreation continues to partner with Brent Atwater to bring you several camps this summer. Please call 807-1036 or www.maximizetraining.com for more information.
 Summer Basketball Camp (ages 6-12) July 14-17; 9am-12pm
 Speed & Agility Camp (ages 6 & up) July 14-17; 1pm-2pm

COED OUTDOOR SOCCER

Soccer is for boys and girls ages 4-11. Games will be played on Saturdays from September 6th through October 18th. Practices will be set up by the coaches on weeknights starting Monday, August 25th. The registration deadline is August 16th.

COED FLAG FOOTBALL

Bel Aire will be teaming up with the Valley Center Recreation Commission for flag football. Practices will be held at the respective home location with games being played at both sites. Flag Football is for boys and girls in 3rd through 6th grade. Games will be played on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings. Practices will be set up by the coaches on weeknights starting Monday, August 25th. The registration deadline is August 16th.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball is for girls ages 8-11. Games will be played on Saturdays beginning September 6th through October 18th. Practices will be set up by the coaches on weeknights starting Monday, August 25th. The registration deadline is August 16th.

TAEKWONDO (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet on Monday & Friday from 5:00-6:00 pm or Tuesday & Thursday from 7:00-8:00 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

THE CITY OF BEL AIRE ENTRANCE SIGN SURVEY
YOUR OPINION IS IMPORTANT!

The current city limit signs that let visitors know when they are entering the City of Bel Aire are in disrepair and need to be replaced. These signs are important to our image because they are the first thing visitors see when entering our city. The Bel Aire City Council would like your input about which of the following design options best represent our community. Please make a check mark by the option that you feel best represents Bel Aire. Voting is open July 1st to July 31st. E-mail your input to Rick Rekoske at rrekoske@belaireks.gov or mail/deliver this sheet to City Hall.

___ Option 1. (___ with seal ___ without seal)

___ Option 2.

___ Option 3. (___ with seal ___ without seal)

___ Option 4. None (Would prefer different design)

___ Option 5. I recommend we remove the current dilapidated signs, not replace and save the money

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3



\$6,000-\$7,500



\$3,000-4,500



\$7,000-\$9,000

4th of July ORDINANCE

As our 4th of July approaches, please note, Fireworks can only be detonated from 9:00am to midnight on the 4th.

(NO FIREWORKS ARE ALLOWED BEFORE OR AFTER JULY 4TH.)

Residents should clear their private property

along with the adjacent public right-of-way by 10:00pm on July 5th.

PLEASE SEE ORDINANCE 485. THIS ORDINANCE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE (under Documents > Ordinances > Ordinance 485)

Thank you for your cooperation!

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 be long 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
- Braums Breakfast** – Fridays, 9:00 a.m. on North Rock Road

Monthly & Special Events:

- July 1st, 10 a.m.** – Berry farm trip, departs Senior Center
- July 2nd, 10 a.m.** - Volunteer library work time at the Senior Center
- July 2nd, 6-8 p.m.** - A Matter of Balance* (8 week session) Senior Center
- July 3rd, 7 p.m.** – Bradley Fair Jazz concert & Fireworks, Departs Senior Center
- July 4th, 6-9 p.m.** - Pitch night with snacks at the Senior Center
- July 7th 6:30 p.m.** Potluck ~ please bring a side dish, Community Room
- July 9th, 10 a.m.** – Open Sewing at the Senior Center
- July 9th, 6-8 p.m.** - A Matter of Balance* (8 week session) Senior Center
- July 10th, 6:30 p.m.** – Creature from the Black Lagoon at Orpheum Theater \$4, Departs Senior Center
- July 12th** Indian Center Powwow , Departs Senior Center TIME TO BE DETERMINED \$4
- July 15th, 6 p.m.** - Ladies Dine Out - for info call Anita at 744-2840
- July 16th, 10:15 a.m.** – Senior Aerobics Brunch (different locations)
- July 16th, 6-8 p.m.** - A Matter of Balance* (8 week session) Senior Center
- July 17th, 12 p.m.** – Epilepsy Foundation Luncheon, Senior Center

This training is designed to help caregivers and seniors understand the needs of older adults that live with or are at risk for epilepsy. It provides basic, straightforward information about epilepsy.

- July 18th** - Pitch night with snacks at the Senior Center
- July 21st , 6 p.m.** – Covered Dish Dinner, Rec Center
- July 23rd, 6-8 p.m.** - A Matter of Balance* (8 week session) Senior Center
- July 23rd, 10 a.m.** – Open Sewing at the Senior Center
- July 23rd, 7 p.m.** – Bunko games at the Senior Center
- July 24th, 9 a.m.** - Berry farm trip, departs Senior Center
- July 30th, 8:30 a.m.** – AARP Driving Class, Senior Center
- July 30th, 6-8 p.m.** - A Matter of Balance* (8 week session) Senior Center

*A Matter of Balance is an Evidence Based course focusing on balance and controlled falling. 8 week sessions. Please call 744-2451 x 121 for more info.

Community Events

- TOPS** – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. at the Senior Center
- City Council Meetings** — 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month
- July 8th, 7 p.m.** — Bel Aire Heights HOA meeting
- July 12th, 11 a.m.** — Red Hats swim party & lunch, Call Anita for more info 744-2840.
- July 14th, 7 p.m.** — Central Park HOA meeting
- July 28th, 7 p.m.** — Tree Board Meeting

CONGRATULATIONS

Steve Samuelson, National Floodplain Specialist with the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources / Floodplain Management, would like to announce and congratulate the City of Bel Aire on meeting the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System. This was accomplished through the work done by Keith Price in keeping the many projects taking place in Bel Aire compliant with FEMA Floodplain regulations. As a result, anyone that lives in a floodplain in Bel Aire is entitled to an additional 10% off their flood insurance premium. Congratulations to the Bel Aire Staff!

CONGRATULATIONS

The City of Bel Aire is pleased to announce we have received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting!

Congratulations to Michelle Meyer, Director of Administration and

Bel Aire Ranked Fourth Best Place for Homeownership in Kansas

Bel Aire city leaders are proud to announce the City of Bel Aire was ranked as the 4th best place for homeownership in the State of Kansas by NerdWallet.

NerdWallet, a consumer advocacy website, recently conducted a study to find the best places for homeownership in Kansas – and Bel Aire ranked among the top five. As renting becomes less affordable, NerdWallet wanted to give potential homebuyers a look at the current housing market.

NerdWallet based its rankings on the following criteria:

- Homeownership rate
- Selected monthly homeowner costs
- Monthly household income
- Population growth



NerdWallet ranked Bel Aire as the fourth best place in Kansas for homeownership. The area has a homeownership rate of 88.4%, and median monthly homeowner costs are \$1,445. Bel Aire's population grew by 2.5% between 2010 and 2012. For more information about NerdWallet, visit nerdwallet.com/cities.

The City of Bel Aire is renewing the Water Conservation Program starting July 1, 2014. It is important to note there have been some small changes to the plan, but in general we have added a couple devices to include smart irrigation controllers, rain barrels, rain sensors and dual-flush conversions. Additionally, the amount of the rebate for some of the current eligible devices has increased from last year to encourage use of this program. Rebates are retro-active and will be honored effective January 1st 2014. Please visit our website or drop by City Hall to pick a Water Conservation Plan up.

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

POLICE REPORTS

June 22 — Officer Foxx checked a residence in the 7300 block of East Gabriel.

June 22 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of burglary in the 5200 block of North Lycee Circle. Tools and equipment were taken from a trailer belonging to TNT Construction.

June 22 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of vandalism in the 4700 block of North Hedgerow. A man reported unknown person(s) broke out the back window of his vehicle.

June 22 — Officer Steele responded to an alarm at the Wholesale Fireworks building in the 6300 block of East Crestmark Street. There was no suggestion of suspicious activity discovered.

June 22 — Officer Steele checked a residence in the 4500 block of North Glendale.

June 21 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of auto theft in the 5900 block of East 37th North. A work truck was reported stolen from Tree Top Nursery.

June 21 — Officer Foxx responded to a report from a citizen that a neighbor had drained their pool twice and flooded her yard and that two of the neighbor's pit bulls had damaged numerous privacy fence boards in the 5800 block of East Denise.

June 21 — Officer Foxx responded to assist Sedgwick County Sheriff's deputies in response to a disturbance call with a weapon in the 8500 block of North 127th East. Contact was made with the victim and the suspects were not located. The scene was turned over to deputies.

June 21 — Officer Steele responded to a report of vandalism in the 4400 block of North Mission Road. Someone shattered a rear windshield to a vehicle. A puncture mark was also found on a tire.

June 20 — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm in the 4700 block of North Webb Road. The alarm was false.

June 20 — Officer Foxx responded to a silent entry alarm at Northeast Magnet High School in the 5500 block of North Lycee. Two men on scene were there to repair areas of concrete. The security company arrived and reset the alarm.

June 19 — Officer Thompson responded to a report of fraud in the 4700 block of North Glendale. A man reported his parents' checking and savings accounts experienced unauthorized transfers from their Bank of America accounts.

June 19 — Officer Thompson served a resident with a summons and notice of a hearing for a protection order.

June 19 — Officer Thompson responded to a non-injury accident involving a deer in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn.

June 18 — Chief Atteberry responded to a report of loud banging coming from an abandoned home in the 4500 block of North Woodlow.

June 18 — Officer Wallender assisted a citizen at the station. The citizen stated her son had found a black CD case with 23 miscellaneous CDs near Eagle Lake.

June 18 — Officer Thompson responded to a panic alarm in the 4900 block of North Highland Court. The alarm company had improperly programmed the new alarm. There was no emergency.

June 17 — Chief Atteberry responded to a report of a vicious dog in the 3800 block of North Cozy Drive.

June 17 — Chief Atteberry responded to a report of larceny in the

6200 block of East 37th North. A man reported the theft of tires.

June 17 — Chief Atteberry responded to a report of disorderly conduct by phone in the 4200 block of North Saint James Place.

June 17 — Officer Thompson responded to a report of a possible drunken driver in the 3400 block of North Oliver.

June 9 — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm in the 6800 block of East 44th North. The alarm was false.

June 16 — Officer Steele took a miscellaneous report involving suspicious characters in the 6300 block of East 37th North.

June 15 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a death in the 4800 block of North Harding.

June 15 — Officer Steele responded to a report of simple assault in the 5900 block of East Memphis. There were a disturbance, but no assault.

June 15 — Officer Steele responded to a report of simple assault in the 4200 block of North Oliver. There was a report of a suspicious vehicle parked in a church parking lot.

June 14 — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm in the 5800 block of East Clarendon. The alarm was false.

June 14 — Officer Foxx responded to a suspicious character report in the 5700 block of East Flagstaff. A woman reported a female riding a bicycle, coming to her front door and asking about her children and other children in the neighborhood. The woman was identified as a licensed vendor selling children's educational material.

June 14 — Officer Thompson responded to a report of a found bicycle abandoned in the 6100 block of East 47th North.

June 14 — Officer Thompson responded to an alarm in the 4500 block of North Hillcrest. A sweep of the residence revealed no intruders.

June 14 — Officer Steele responded to a possible burglary-in-progress in the 5800 block of East 47th North. There were no signs of suspicious activity.

June 13 — Officer Thompson transported a suspect with a Bel Aire warrant from the McPherson County Jail to the Sedgwick County Jail.

June 12 — Officer Thompson responded to a report of a found bicycle in the 5900 block of Denise.

June 12 — Officer Thompson responded to a report of a burglary-in-progress in the 6200 block of East Woodlow Drive. There was no burglary, but a subject was issued a uniform criminal complaint for possession of drug paraphernalia.

June 12 — Officer Steele responded to a report of suspicious characters in the 4100 block of North Edinburg Circle. A citizen reported an identified male and female were near the front porch of her residence.

June 11 — Lt. Griggs responded to a report of auto theft in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn Court. A 1998 Dodge Ram was reported stolen.

June 11 — Lt. Griggs responded to a report of simple assault in the 6700 block of East 45th North. A man at the Catholic Care Center with a swollen and bruised cheek said two unknown men had punched him in the face.

June 11 — Officer Thompson responded to a report of a resident receiving threatening text messages from her estranged husband in the 4000 block of North Danbury.

June 10 — Lt. Griggs responded to a holdup alarm at the Catholic Care Center in the 6700 block of East 45th North. The alarm was false.

June 10 — Officer Thompson provided traffic control after an electric pole had fallen in the 5800 block of North Oliver.

June 10 — Officer Thompson responded to a report that an unknown man had taken the bolts loose from his front electric security gate and entered his property in the 6800 block of North Woodlawn.

June 9 — Officer Foxx responded to assist a Sedgwick County Sheriff's deputy in response to a possible burglary-in-progress in the 12000 block of East 61st North. Officers made contact with a woman who had permission to be on the property.

June 8 — Officer Foxx responded to an attempted burglary reported in the 6300 block of Quail Ridge. A man reported unknown person(s) had attempted to break into his residence using an unknown pry tool.

June 8 — Officer Steele responded to an unknown accident in the 4700 block of East 45th North. An injury accident had occurred in Wichita.

June 7 — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm in the 3800 block of North Hillcrest. The alarm was false.

June 6 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a lost tag from a vehicle in the 5700 block of Flagstaff.

June 5 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a Samsung tablet found in the 4800 block of East Ashton.

June 5 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a non-injury vehicle accident involving a parked vehicle in the 4300 block of Janesville.

June 5 — Officer Thompson responded to an injury accident involving a vehicle and a bicycle at the exit from the Catholic Care Center in the 6500 block of East 45th North. The bicyclist received minor injuries.

June 4 — Lt. Griggs responded to suspicious character report in the 5600 block of East Memphis. There was a meter reader for Kansas Gas Services.

June 4 — Lt. Griggs responded to an audible alarm in the 4400 block of North Westlake Court. The alarm was false.

June 4 — Officer Thompson transported a suspect from Municipal Court to the Sedgwick County Jail.

June 3 — Lt. Griggs responded to a report of a lost handicap placard in the 4200 block of North Eagle Lake Court.

June 3 — Lt. Griggs responded to a suspicious character report in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court. Officers checked the area and did not locate a suspicious female who had allegedly come up to people's doors, requesting water and saying she was on a scavenger hunt.

June 3 — Officer Thompson responded to a non-injury vehicle accident at Mill Stream and North Rock Road.

June 2 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a man losing his Kansas license plate decals in the 4900 block of East Willow Point Court.

June 2 — Officer Foxx responded to dog-at-large in the 5000 block of Remington. The dog was located and taken to the Wichita Animal Shelter.

June 2 — Officer Steele responded to a burglary-in-progress reported in the 6500 block of East Shepherd's Crossing. A construction crew was laying carpet at the residence. There was no burglary.

June 1 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop in the 5100 block of North Oliver. A man was issued citations for speeding and driving with a suspended license.

May 31 — Officer Steele respond-

ed to a suspicious character at 37th North and Parkwood. A suspicious vehicle was parked at a church.

May 30 — Officer Thompson responded to an alarm in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn Court. An employee of a business arrived and secured the business.

May 30 — Officer Steele responded to a report of disorderly conduct in the 6400 block of East Rodeo. A man reported receiving repeated calls from an unknown caller and that an unknown female had been at his residence asking for him by name.

May 29 — Officer Roney responded to a report of a verbal argument at Tree Top Nursery in the 5900 block of East 37th North. Upon arrival, no one matching the description of the suspects was found. A Tree Top employee said a man and woman had a verbal argument in the parking lot before leaving the business. No crime was committed.

May 28 — Officer Thompson responded to a non-injury vehicle accident where a lawnmower allegedly struck a vehicle in the 5300 block of East 37th North.

May 28 — Officer Thompson conducted a traffic stop in the 5100 block of North Oliver. A man was cited for speeding and transporting an open container of alcohol.

May 27 — Lt. Griggs responded to a report of a man missing from the 4200 block of North Rushwood Court. It is believed the man is missing voluntarily. He was entered into the National Crime Information Center as a missing person.

May 27 — Officer Thompson assisted Kechi police in response to three men fishing on private property in the 400 block of Kodiak Street in Kechi. The men were advised they were fishing in a private pond. The three men complied when they were asked to leave.

May 27 — Officer Roney assisted the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in checking for suspicious characters in the 7900 block of North Woodlawn. Fifteen juveniles attempting to start a campfire left the property without incident.

May 26 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a woman who walked away from a group home in the 4200 block of North Rushwood. The woman was found and returned to the group home.

May 26 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a dog-at-large in the 500 block of North Lake Breeze Court. The dog was transported to the Wichita Animal Shelter.

May 26 — Officer Steele responded to a report of disorderly conduct in the 4700 block of North Hillcrest Street. There was a verbal argument.

May 26 — Officer Steele assisted EMS in the 6000 block of East Perryton.

May 25 — Officer Foxx responded to a burglary-in-progress report in the 6700 block of East 44th North. A subcontractor was working on the property. There was no burglary.

May 25 — Officer Foxx responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 4100 block of North Oliver. A woman who called 911 to report a suspicious character said she hung up when no one answered. There was no sign of suspicious activity in the area.

May 25 — Officer Foxx responded to a report from a woman that a co-worker knocked on her door and left when she refused to answer in the 6500 block of East Rodeo. The woman said the coworker had been following

and harassing her at work. She was advised to fill out a protection from stalking order. The woman later called back and advised it was her neighbor at her door and not her coworker.

May 25 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop in the 4700 block of North Oliver. A man was cited for driving with a suspended license.

May 25 — Officer Steele responded to a general alarm in the 4300 block of North Janesville. There was no apparent suggestion of suspicious activity discovered.

May 24 — Officer Thompson assisted the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in response to an alarm in the 1400 block of East 125th North. The alarm was false.

May 24 — Officer Thompson responded to a report of simple assault in the 4500 block of Eagle Lake Drive. An intoxicated female subject was arrested after she failed to comply with officers' commands.

May 23 — Officer Foxx took a miscellaneous report in the 4100 block of North Parkwood.

May 23 — Officer Foxx was contacted by a citizen who had a dog appear at his front door in the 4400 block of North Janesville. The dog was transported to the Wichita Animal Shelter after its owner couldn't be contacted.

May 23 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop in the 6000 block of East 53rd North. A man was issued citations for driving a vehicle with suspended registration, and an expired or altered tag and no proof of insurance.

May 23 — Officer Foxx assisted a citizen with a complaint that his neighbors were destroying his fence in the 4900 block of East 46th North.

May 23 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop in the 5500 block of East 37th North. A woman was cited for failure to wear her seatbelt, driving without possession of her driver's license and no proof of liability insurance.

May 23 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop in the 5500 block of East 37th North. A man was cited for driving a vehicle without a visible tag and for driving with a suspended license.

May 23 — Officer Thompson responded to a report of suspicious vehicle in the 4000 block of North Edgemore. The vehicle's owner lives in the neighborhood.

May 21 — Lt. Griggs responded to a larceny in the 4000 block of North Woodlawn. A man reports for WIS International unknown person(s) cutting the fuel line to a company van and stealing fuel from the vehicle.

May 21 — Officer Thompson took a miscellaneous offense report in the 5200 block of East 37th North. Allen Townsley was arrested on a charge of violating a no-contact order.

May 21 — Officer Roney responded to a report of two dogs attacking a cat in the 6100 block of Quail Ridge Court. The dogs were not found after a search of the area. The cat died from its injuries.

May 20 — Officer Thompson responded to a non-injury vehicle accident at Isley Elementary School in the 5200 block of North Woodlawn.

May 20 — Officer Thompson responded to a report of children trespassing in a woman's front yard, playing basketball in her drive and teasing her dogs in the 400 block of North Mission.

May 20 — Officers Thompson and Roney responded to an alarm in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn Court. The building was secure.

May 20 — Officer Thompson responded to an alarm in the 5800 block of Perryton. The new owner of a home did not know the password to deactivate the alarm system.

May 20 — Officer Roney observed a vehicle traveling northbound in the 5000 block of North Webb Road, quickly turn east onto 50th Street and its lights shutting off. The driver of the vehicle stated he had pulled off of Webb Road to urinate because he couldn't hold it any longer. The man received a citation after the officer discovered that his license was suspended.

May 19 — Officer Foxx assisted a citizen in the 4700 block of North Oliver.

May 19 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of fraud in the 4400 block of Gunnison. A woman reported receiving phone calls from two collections agencies in Texas. The collection agencies advised the woman that one of the social security numbers tied to the case used to belong to her. The woman has not lived in Texas.

May 19 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop in the 6300 block of East 37th North. A man was cited for failure to wear a seatbelt and not having his driver's license.

May 19 — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop in the 5600 block of East 45th North. A man was issued citations for not wearing a seatbelt, no insurance and driving with a suspended license.

May 19 — Officer Steele responded to an alarm in the 6300 block of East Crestmark Street. There was no suggestion of suspicious activity.

May 17 — Officer Foxx responded to an audible alarm in the 4500 block of Eagle Lake Drive. The alarm was false.

May 17 — Officer Foxx responded to a report of a lost medical bag in the 4100 block of North Auburn. The bag and its contents were located and returned to its owner.

May 17 — Officer Foxx responded to a domestic violence call in the 4100 block of North Oliver. Wichita police responded and arrested Cameron J. Caliman-Oloston on charges of aggravated battery and violation of a protection-from-abuse order.

May 17 — Officer Thompson responded to an alarm in the 4300 block of North Westlake Drive. The alarm was set off accidentally when a contractor working on the residence bumped a sensor.

May 17 — Officer Roney responded to assist the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office in response to a possible suicidal subject in the 5100 block of Peregrine Court. A man was transported to a Wichita hospital.

May 17 — Officer Roney responded to a report of two vehicles racing in the 4800 block of North Webb Road. The vehicles were stopped in the 5300 block of North Webb Road and two men were cited for racing.

May 16 — Officer Foxx responded to a non-injury vehicle accident involving a school bus in the 7900 block of East 53rd North.

May 16 — Officer Thompson responded to a report from a citizen that a woman, who had previously been warned to stay off of his property, peered into his backyard at his dog through a chain-link fence. The reporting party asked that the woman again be warned to stay off his property. The officer contacted the woman and warned her about trespassing again.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran is located at 53rd Street North and Hillside, across from Wichita Heights High School. Summer services from Memorial to Labor Day weekends are at 9:00 (Contemporary) and 10:30 (Traditional). Communion is offered at all services.

On Sunday evenings, 5-7 p.m. from June 8-July 27 we will have Vacation Bible School for all ages. The theme for this summer's VBS is the Ten Commandments. For more information about the church and its activities find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org, or call 744-1242. Pastor Chad Langdon is the minister of Christ Lutheran Church.

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. Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel

Community Bible Chapel invites the community to join us for Arrow Island VBS-Choosing God's Way! VBS will take place in the evenings during the week of June 16 - June 20, from 6:15-8:45 p.m. We would love to have kids age 4 through the sixth grade join us for music, games, snacks, crafts, and time exploring God's deep love for us. We are located at the corner of 45th st. N and Arlene. Please contact Amy Smith at 316-323-2819 with any questions. Hope to see you there!

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.fairmountucc.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 Traditional Service is at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

All youth 6th - 12th grade are invited Sundays at 4 p.m. for youth group.

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 p.m. Every third Tuesday a Hot Meal is prepared at KUMC and served to the United Methodist Open Door Ministries Drop-In Center at 10 a.m. Volunteers welcome!

Find us at www.kechiUMC.org. Follow us on Facebook, or Twitter @KechiUMC. Pastor Mitch can be contacted at 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

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.

Two weekly sessions of Lifetree Café in Valley Center: Thursday at 1:00 p.m. (Lunch at Noon) at the Community Building (316 E. Clay) and Sunday at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Pastor Terry & Barb Wiechman (1241 S. Park Avenue). Lifetree Café is a "conversation café"; a place and time for people to gather weekly to experience stories and talk about thought-provoking topics relating to life and faith.

Vacation Bible School from June 29 - July 1 from 5:45 - 8:00 p.m. & on Sunday morning, July 6. The theme of our VBS is "Blast Off! Launching a Mission of God's Love". VBS is for all

ages. Come and Join us! Please go to our website www.risensavior.net for registration information.

The church is located at 6770 E. 34th North in Wichita. The phone number is 683-5538. www.risensaviorwichita.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

Auto theft and trailer break-in net reported \$80,000 loss in Bel Aire

By Matt Heilman

In a two-day span in the City of Bel Aire, a reported auto theft to a local business and a burglary to a construction trailer accumulated losses that totaled about \$80,000. The auto theft was reported a little after 8 a.m. June 21 at

Tree Top Nursery in the 5900 block of East 37th North. On the report, an employee with the landscaping business told Bel Aire police a company truck was stolen sometime between 5 p.m. June 20 and 7:15 a.m. June 21. The employee said the stolen vehicle, identified as a 2007 Chevy

C2500 single cab work truck, has Tree Top Nursery decals on both its driver and passenger side doors. The truck included a 250-gallon water tank with a hose, hose reel and sprayer mounted in its bed. The employee told police the keys to the truck were hidden inside the fuel door. The

employee estimated the value of the vehicle, the water tank, hose, hose reel and sprayer at \$40,000. At about 1 p.m. June 22, a report of a burglary to a trailer was made in the 5200 block of North Lycee Circle where apartment construction is ongoing near Northeast Magnet

High School. The owner of TNT Construction reported arriving at the job site and finding his white, 2008 TNT trailer with its lock cut off and \$40,000 in tools and equipment missing. The construction company owner told Bel Aire police he left the job site at 8 p.m. on

June 21 and returned to the site at 12:45 p.m. June 22. The owner told police he would provide a list of tools and equipment that were taken, including their serial numbers. Photos were taken and submitted as evidence. Both theft cases remain under investigation.

HIGHLIGHTS

Alex Lasher, son of Bel Aire's Ty and Denise Lasher, spent the first week of June at the American Legion Boys State week in Manhattan. Boys State is a political exercise. It is designed to simulate elections,

political parties, and state and local governments. It is an exercise in leading as well as following others and tests the teens' skills in problem solving, and working within a team.

This year, 470 incoming high school seniors attended the event. The participants were selected based on academic record, leadership, extra-curricular and community involvement. Alex gave a short presentation before the Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce in April and the Chamber agreed to provide the scholarship of \$300 for Lasher to attend Boys State.

Rachel Fenske, an American Family Insurance agent in Wichita, has been recognized for providing outstanding customer experience under



Bel Aire budget award

Bryan Kidney of Springstead Financial presents Bel Aire Finance Director Michelle Meyer with a Government Finance Officers Association 2014 budget award at the June 17 Bel Aire City Council Meeting. The award recognized Meyer for her effort in preparing a 2014 city budget that effectively and clearly communicated its objectives to the city's taxpayers, letting residents see clearly where their tax dollars to the city were being spent. Bel Aire was in favorable company as one of just 15 cities in Kansas to receive the award, Kidney said.

the company's American Starr Excellence in Customer Experience Certification. Fenske has been an agent for American Family since July 2006. Her office is at 8343 E. 32nd North, Suite 130.

mined through an evaluation

process that included a customer satisfaction survey.

Hutchinson Community College announced honor rolls for the spring 2014 semester, including grades through the end of the interterm session. The president's honor roll requires a 4.0 GPA and the vice president's honor roll requires at least a 3.5 GPA.

On the president's honor roll were Zachary Howell of Bel Aire. On the vice president's honor roll were Sean Conyers and Lisa Spitzer, both of Bel Aire.

Pittsburg State University released honor rolls for the 2014 spring semester. To qualify for dean's scholastic honors, a student must complete at least 12 semester hours, receive a GPA of 3.60 for all credit course work that semester and have no grade lower than a B and no grade of I in any course during the semester. To qualify for all-A scholastic honors, a student must complete at least 12 semester hours, receive a grade

of A in all credit course work for the semester and have no grade of I in any course during the semester.

Hillary Hunsinger of Bel Aire, a senior in early childhood/late childhood studies was on the all-A honor roll.

Emily Wilson of Bel Aire, a senior in chemistry, was on the dean's list.

Solideth Prom of Bel Aire was named to the Dean's Honor Roll at Pratt Community Col-

lege for spring. To be on the honor roll, a full-time student must take at least 12 credit hours and have a 3.5 to 3.99 grade point average.

Lirona Rexhepi of Bel Aire graduated from College of the Ozarks, Point Lookout, Mo., during the 2014 Commencement exercises May 11. Rexhepi received a bachelor of arts degree in business administration. Rexhepi is a Sunrise Christian Academy graduate.

Local cities on home affordability list

By The Breeze staff

Bel Aire, Park City and Valley Center are among the top cities (with populations over 5,000) in Kansas for home ownership, a researcher has concluded.

Using home value and sales data as well as household income and cost of owning a home, the consumer advocacy website NerdWallet determined which cities had homes available, were affordable to live in and were growing.

Bel Aire is No. 4 on the list, behind Andover, Spring Hill and Derby. Park City is No. 6. Valley Center is 20.

Bel Aire's home ownership rate is 88 percent, the highest among the 20 cities, Park City 82 percent and Valley Center 78 percent. Homeowner costs as a percentage of household income

were 25 percent in Bel Aire and Park City and 28 percent in Valley Center. The standard of affordability, NerdWallet said, is 30 percent.

The median home value in Valley Center is \$134,000, while it's \$148,000 in Bel Aire and \$105,300 in Park City.

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Valley Center 316-755-9335
841 S. Meridian, Ste B Unruh Medical Building (South of Leekers)

Newton 316-283-9500
1715 Medical Parkway

East Wichita 316-684-2411
1851 N. Webb Rd.

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CLASSIFIEDS

5 Garage Sales

Garage Sale and Youth Fundraiser!
July 10, 11 and 12
Gospel Assembly Church
4230 N. Oliver.
Garage sale, open at 7
Car wash 10-2

Car Wash July 12 Only
First 100 cars are Free!

7 Wanted

Wanted: Extra Storage Space in the Bel Aire area. Looking for 1 or 2 car garage w/ constant access. 316-744-0821.

18 For Rent

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Bel Aire approves spending for street improvement

By Matt Heilman

When the City of Bel Aire finalized its 2014 budget last summer, the city's improved economic state allowed for its leaders to continue making plans to fund infrastructure improvements they said were long over due. With the budget, Bel Aire included a survey to give residents the chance to prioritize street improvements.

At its June 17 meeting, the Bel Aire City Council approved spending a portion

allocated for street improvements to repair a stretch of 45th Street from Webb Road west for half of a mile. With its pot holes, the stretch of 45th Street has been one of the biggest sources of discontent for Bel Aire residents. The council voted 4-0 to accept a quote from Andale Paving to make the improvement. Council member Guy MacDonald was absent from the June 17 meeting. Specifically the four council members present at the meeting accepted a quote of \$372,809 for roller com-

pacted concrete and cement soil stabilization. The city's road improvements are being financed with temporary notes Bel Aire will pay off in about three years, Bel Aire Finance Director Michelle Meyer said. Meyer said the eventual permanent financing for planned street improvements would not require an increase in the city's portion of property taxes. Additional planned roadwork includes a partnership with the City of Wichita to ease the flow of traffic on 37th Street from Woodlawn to

Oliver, among several projects.

A recent engineering study on two intersections on 45th Street at Oliver and Rock Road was possible with grant money from the Kansas Department of Transportation. Also on June 17, the council:

- Approved an appropriations ordinance of \$469,126.37.
- Received a presentation from Steve Samuelson with the Kansas Department of Agriculture/Floodplain Management division who recognized Bel Aire Building Inspector Keith Price with a plaque regarding the city's National Flood Insurance Program rating. Price and Bel Aire

were rewarded in part for their efforts in public outreach to educate citizens about flooding.

- Received a presentation from Bryan Kidney with Springstead Financial regarding the Government Finance Officers Association 2014 budget award to the city. Meyer accepted the reward in recognition of her part in preparing the budget. In recognition of the way the city's 2014 budget was presented and how well its objectives were communicated and understood by taxpayers in the city, Bel Aire was in favorable company as one of 15 cities in Kansas to receive the award, Kidney said.
- "It really is an outstanding achievement for any community in Kansas, especially a community of this size," he said.
- Heard from City Manager Ty Lasher who announced that a consumer advocacy group ranked Bel

Aire as the fourth-ranked city for home ownership in Kansas. Andover is third on the list Lasher said. The group ranked the cities based on factors such as cost-of-living, median household income and population growth.

- Approved the City of Bel Aire comprehensive financial policies.
- Approved an ordinance levying special assessments in the Rock Spring addition near K-254 and Rock Road.
- Approved a resolution offering the sale of general obligation bonds.
- Approved an Industrial Revenue Bond modification agreement between the Concierge Surgical Recovery Center LLC and Community National Bank and Trust. The modification reflects the death of Dr. George Watson who was to have served as the director of the recovery center.

Commerce Park receives state award

By Matt Heilman

The last couple of years have been fruitful for Bel Aire's Sunflower Commerce Park. The first tenant on the 800-acre site has been operating in the city for more than a year and construction is ongoing with continued development.

The tangible progress in the commerce park that stretches between 45th and 53rd Streets North and Webb and Greenwich Roads has been possible with collaborative efforts.

At the Bel Aire City Council's June 3 meeting, the city accepted a plaque that recognizes the Sunflower Commerce Park as the Project of the Year from the Kansas Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

Joining Bel Aire in earning

the "project of the year" award are Wichita-based construction company, Cornejo & Sons and TransSystems, a Kansas City-based company that guided the city in developing its master plan for the park.

Jeff Lackey, an engineer with TransSystems, presented the plaque as a representative of the Kansas Chapter of the American Public Works Association.

The association rewards projects based on engineering, innovation, teamwork and construction, Lackey said.

Construction in the Sunflower Commerce Park is ongoing for the Next Level Hoops Academy on an eight-acre site just south of 53rd North and Webb Road, a new facility for FedEx Ground on 21 acres just south of the Next Level Hoops Academy and railroad siding

near 53rd North and Greenwich. The rail siding paves the way for cement manufacturing company, Buzzi Unicem, USA to move to about 12 acres on the property. The rail siding, built off the main Union Pacific rail line, is expected to attract more business to the commerce park with increased shipping capabilities.

Century Manufacturing, which manufactures acrylic and transparent promotional materials, has been operating in the Sunflower Commerce Park since January 2013.

The master plan that helped attract Century Manufacturing and other tenants to the commerce park, called for 155 acres in the first phase of the 800-acre site to be shovel-ready, meaning infrastructure is already in place for construction to begin almost

immediately after a tenant commits to build.

After being recognized with the state-level award, Lackey said the Sunflower Commerce Park will now be considered for national recognition by the American Public Works Association.

Also on June 3, the council:

- Approved an appropriations ordinance of \$359,168.04
- Approved resolutions relating to paving, sanitary sewer, storm water drainage and water main distribution improvements for the Rock Spring Addition and the Sunflower Commerce Park.
- Approved confirming the appointments of James Schmidt to the Planning Commission and Rebecca Armstrong to the Community Development Committee.
- Held a 10-minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.

Mayor David Austin and council member Peggy O'Donnell were absent from the June 3 meeting.

DEATHS

RICHARD RAVENS

Richard Kent Ravens, 69, died May 12, 2014.



Ravens

He was the oldest of the three children of Paul and Angela Ravens and was born and raised in Wichita. He excelled in school and was extremely talented in art. He graduated from West High School and Wichita State University.

He was the lead artist at the former advertiser in Antioch, and since that time has been self-employed at Creative Communications 2000. He was a longtime friend of many in the community and was always available to help and lend a helping hand. His heart was truly that of a servant's heart.

He was a long time member and attender of CrossView Church — formerly Antioch Evangelical Free Church in Antioch. Having served his church faithfully over 25 plus years he also was the financial secretary — along with Linda for much of that time. His devotion to his friends and family were secondary to his love and devotion to Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his children, Cynthia (Kris) Deming of Milwaukee, Wis., Richard (Amy) Sparkman of Las Vegas, Nev., Daniel Ravens of Trevor, Wis., and Christina (John) Bridges of Westmoreland, N.H.; sisters Anita Ravens of Bel Aire and Linnea (Stephen) Glotzbach of Valley Center; grandchildren Nicholas, Joseph, Tara, Jeremy, Rick, Penny, Eleanor and Ruth.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Linda Ravens and his parents.

The family will be holding a memorial service on June 21 at

11 a.m. at CrossView Church in Antioch, Ill. In lieu of flowers, those desiring to make donations may do so to the family. Proko Funeral Home & Crematory, Kenosha Wis., has charge.

JOSE ANDRADE

Jose A. Andrade, 74, former Kansas Masonic Home Custodian, died June 4, 2014.

Survivors include his son, Alberto (Elsa) Andrade of Wichita; daughters, Celia (Pedro) Ibarra of Bel Aire, Silvia (Salvador) Coronado of Orlando, Fla., and Josefina (Rogelio) Jara of Washington; brothers Juan Andrade, Julio (Socorro) Andrade and Francisco (Alen-jandra) Andrade, all of Mexico; sisters Concepcion Ceniseros of Texas; 12 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Service was June 6 at Hill-side Funeral Home West.

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Thank you to our Veterans and the men and women currently serving our nation!

Wishing everyone a safe and blessed Fourth of July.

Carolyn McGinn
 County Commission