

Flower shop opening soon

Vintage Daisies & Things by Janet Frye will be opening soon at 306 Neosho. Curbside Flowers was previously, at this location. The new shop will have flowers for all occasions, balloons, candy bouquets, furniture, consignment vendor items, baby gifts as well as holiday gifts and jewelry. Christmas will be all year round (once set up), nuts and "Shit" spice products, new and old décor. They will have an open house in October. Thanks for your expansion.

Bri's Dance studio is moving from 308 Neosho to a larger building in New Strawn, just south of Casey's. Bri Birk has been in business in downtown Burlington for 10 years. Thanks for all your talent and effort for dancers.

St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, on North Third Street, is restoring their steeple, and wooden ventilation with new metal coverings. The high lift work has been fun to watch as that pesky maintenance has to be performed. Looking good.

The Burlington Baptist Bible Church at 605 Kennedy, has undergone extensive remodeling since an unfortunate smoke damage event earlier this year. We have posted pictures of the remodel on my Facebook page. Thanks for all your efforts, coming back better than before.

Burlington Unified School District 244 Superintendent's office has moved from just east of Burlington Elementary School to downtown Burlington in their newly remodeled building, previously owned by the City of Burlington. These improvements will provide a

great office space convenient to downtown, for years to come.

Alpha Roofing, just north of the Carnegie Library on North Third Street, continues to grow the roofing business. They do both residential and commercial roofing jobs all over Eastern Kansas. They have recently made some interior improvements at their office. Good to have Tysen Swank, Colin Sleezer, and their crews here, to do professional commercial and residential roofing.

USD 244 had several projects this summer including the complete renovation of the southeast wing at Burlington Elementary School, new roof at Burlington High School, numerous concrete paving projects and the restoration of old City Hall for the superintendent's office.

Hoover's Thriftway continues to make improvements in their cooler section, interior painting and keeping up with all the challenges associated with the pandemic. Hoover's continues to do an outstanding job of protecting employees and customers during the coronavirus issues. Why would you go anywhere else with the quality, cleanliness, and superior service. Thanks for all you do in the store and the community.

The nine-unit apartment and commercial building at 406-408 Neosho has been purchased by Texal Jenkins. Texal also purchased the former Chuck and Joyce Trimble home just west of New Strawn. Welcome to Coffey County.

Jon Hotaling, Randall Van Valkenburg, Dale Rein, and the Downtown Guy have been exploring Eastern Kansas on Fridays. We enjoy harvesting ideas from other communities to use here. We also get to experience agriculture, history, architecture, cuisine, and cus-

toms. Follow us on my Facebook stories.

The Burlington United Methodist Church has had a busy summer with recent trimming of trees with local contractor Randy Bradley of Bradley's Tree Service, Waverly. Sharp Painting repainted the interior and exterior of the church. Looks great!

The Christian Church has built on an addition adding an educational wing for their Sunday School programs. Hoping they will have an open house later this year.

Burlington Building Materials has been repainting and re-signing the lumberyard at 626 Neosho. The improvements look super.

Coffey County Land Title Company, Inc. was recently purchased by the Evans Family 4 from Polly and Gary Epting. Polly plans to stay during transition and licensing through the end of this year. They will continue to do title work, title search, closing services, escrows services and other real estate services. Thanks for continuing to provide a convenient and professional service in downtown Burlington.

A new business, Artisans Reflection Take 2, is coming together in the 104-106 N. Third Street buildings. Owned by Amanda Hernandez and operated by Lindsay St. Clair, they are feverishly working to open a new retail store in October. The store will offer some very unique booths of handmade, repurposed, up cycled, antique, and new products! They will offer gifts for all occasions and all ages. Book your favorite art class and even private handcrafted events with the girls. "We'll come to you! Huge growth coming in the near future!" Thanks for all your efforts, your experience in Newton retail, will be valuable here.

Lebo

Continued from Page 1

wall along the railroad crossing.

The council voted to have Kramer Consulting, LLC, provide services needed for the path/sidewalk to Spatz Park and the pedestrian walk at the railroad crossing. Kramer's costs would include assistance with the application, \$2,200, preliminary engineering, \$28,600, design and construction engineering, \$39,400, construction staking, \$17,200 and preparation of application for the railroad crossing, \$8,000.

The council approved making an application to the KDOT Cost Share Program to have a 10-foot wide multi-use sidewalk along Ogden Street from Fifth Street to Bree Drive. The sidewalk would provide a safe route for pedestrians and bicycle riders to the future Casey's location and Dollar General Store. Council approved having Kramer Consulting LLC provide an engineer's opinion. The estimated cost for a 10-foot wide path is \$304,500. The city could apply to the KDOT Cost Shared Program which is due by Oct. 1. If awarded a cost-share grant, the city's share for the project would range from \$99,000 to \$124,000.

The council approved contracting with Kramer, LLC to provide services needed regarding the construction of the sidewalk from Fifth Street to Bree Drive. Costs include \$1,600 for assistance with the project application, \$29,000 for preliminary en-

gineering, \$33,800 for design and construction, and \$13,800 for construction staking.

Travis Norris of Schulte Supply Company discussed the automated water meter reading system by Neptune. Following discussion, the council approved transitioning over the next three years to an automatic water meter reading system. The cost will be around \$96,000 from capital outlay and capital improvement over the three years. The 2020 water budget has already included \$30,000 for the transition.

Gary Knight, superintendent of streets and utilities, reported Lebo Lake had been sprayed for sericea lespedeza. He also reported the ditch on East Broadway had been cleaned and some sewer lines jet rodded.

Boden was unable to attend the monthly Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 12 meeting. The cost of water from the wholesale district will increase 43.6 cents per 1,000 gallons.

Aaron Cathcard provided a written police report that showed the police had given three verbal warnings, assisted other agencies eight times, issued one citation, made two welfare/public safety checks, and had three other calls.

Clerk Carrie Sloan presented a written clerk's report that included sales tax report, monthly income/expense, bank balances and monthly clerk's cash report. She had looked over the water funds and found the city's expense per 1,000 gallons through August was \$12 per 1,000 gallons. The revenue received came to \$11.90 per 1,000 gallons sold. It has been about two years

since the city has increased water rates to customers. Sloan reported the city will be receiving funds from the CARES ACT.

Court Clerk Catherine Griffin reported municipal court had three continued cases, one hearing, and three failures to appear.

Griffin, who is also zoning administrator, reported two zoning permits were issued, one for a fence and one for a carport. She also reported the new Casey's store has changed the location planned for a sign along Interstate 35.

The council approved renewing the health and dental insurance with Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The premiums per single coverage are decreasing by \$137.92 per person.

Fall Countywide Cleanup Week is Oct. 12-17. The council agreed to participate by helping citizens haul waste to the landfill. The city employees will provide pick up services on Monday and Tuesday of the week.

The council approved funding the advertising of the citywide garage sales in the Emporia Shopper and The Coffey County Republican.

The council renewed the IT contact with Alpha Tech for \$1,966. The contract includes anti-virus, backup of all critical systems, monitoring and updating network equipment, and unlimited onsite and remote support.

The council passed two ordinances, Ordinance 586 deals with using the 47th edition of the "Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities" and Ordinance 585 deals with the 26th edition of the "Uniform Public Offense Code."

County

Continued from Page 1

County Engineer

In his weekly update, County Engineer Wayne Blackburn said crews are putting filter rock in place at the new landfill cell, which will last for several more weeks. Once some equipment is serviced, the Mathias Lake project will begin. Crews are also mowing countywide and working on gravel road enhancement. Blackburn is in the process of getting the signs and cones for the Old Highway 50 project.

During the past week, one zoning permit was issued to Ty and Katherine Rich to build a 3,096 square foot house and 3,200 square foot shop at 659 Blackbird Road, which is zoned A-1 Agricultural.

Economic Development

Richard Lira kept an appointment to generally discuss economic development with county commissioners. Lira, who has lived in Waverly about five years, said he has an ownership interest in multiple businesses in Kansas, including SCORE Liquor, Pizza and Convenience Store and the soon to open TimeOut Tavern and Grill in Waverly. He believes there is a huge opportunity for the county.

Lira wanted to make sure commissioners capture any COVID-related dollars so assistance will be available for already established businesses in need.

"My question is ... why should I bring my business to Coffey County?" Lira said.

Lira who said he applied for the economic development position in January, is dissatisfied with how economic development has been done in the past. He believes economic development in Coffey County can be done by a part-time director or outsourced.

Executive Sessions

Commissioners granted a request from County Counselor Wade Bowie II to enter into a 20-minute executive session to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel under the non-elected personnel exception to KOMA. Also present for the executive session were County Treasurer Karen Maley and Payroll/Benefits Coordinator Denise Humlicek.

Coffey County Sheriff Randy Rogers requested a 20-minute executive session to discuss issues concerning potential litigation involving the Coffey County Sheriff's Office and potential liability to Coffey County, which are issues deemed privileged under the attorney-client exception to KOMA. Commissioners granted the request with County Counselor Bowie and Undersheriff Mike Roney also present.

Sheriff

Sheriff Randy Rogers said a Chevrolet Tahoe was found in St. Louis, Mo., already equipped with emergency lights and equipment installed would be a better fit for the detective's vehicle. Rogers recommended purchasing this vehicle in addition to a Tahoe commissioners approved two weeks ago from Crow-Moddie Chevrolet.

Rogers said three new vehicles are included in the 2021 sheriff's budget. By purchasing the second Tahoe this year, the new sheriff would be given the flexibility to only purchase two new vehicles in 2021.

Commissioners authorized the purchase of a 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe in the amount of \$41,731 from Don Brown Chevrolet, St. Louis, Mo., with funds to come from the sheriff's office capital outlay.

Rogers plans to use the Tahoe purchased in St. Louis to replace the detective's Tahoe, which recently sustained severe damage when a chase suspect backed into it. The other Tahoe will be used by a school resource officer.

Rogers said the architect is moving forward on the jail study; he wants to have a face-to-face meeting the week of Oct. 12 with the county attorney, sheriff, district judge and one or two commissioners.

Commissioners asked about the entire board being able to listen to the architect's meeting about the jail, without violating the Kansas Open Meeting Act. County Counselor Wade Bowie II advised against more than two commissioners participating early on, even if just listening.

Rogers will reach out to the sheriff-elect since the jail study will stretch into next year.

Miscellaneous

On a 3-1 vote, commissioners decided to waive landfill fees to dispose of a 43' by 23' shed, built in 1920, at 626 E. Third, LeRoy, which is owned by brothers Lonny and Ronny Rohr. Saueressig opposed, saying he didn't want to start disposing of only sheds.

Wayne Hess expressed concern about excessive dust at his residence near the Mid-States Materials Wolf Creek Quarry at 1673 17th Road. Numerous trucks are accessing the quarry and dust control is wearing off in some places. County Engineer Blackburn said county trucks are beginning to take different routes and are slowing down. He said Mid-States is looking at doing additional dust control next year for the three residences on the road. "This is good discussion," Blackburn said. "We need to look at the haul route roads, not just providing dust control 1,000 feet from the rock quarry."

Commissioners appointed Huginon as voting delegate and Johnson as first alternate for the 2020 Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) virtual conference event on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Prior to adjourning, commissioners reviewed and signed September warrants and vouchers.

ed to provide new services for their members. However, the guiding principles of serving members and their communities have stayed the same.

The people who started those cooperatives probably were not that different from you and me. They were trying to build a business, make a living and support their families. What made them special was the willingness to do something risky. They joined their neighbors, taking a chance together in hopes it would fix their problems.

In the spirit of cooperatives and the pioneers who built them, I challenge you to look

around at your community. What problems need solving? No one is going to solve them for you. You do not necessarily have to start a cooperative to fix every problem but working together with your neighbors and investing in your community are great places to start.

And if you do have a local co-op, remember support them is just like supporting your neighbors and community.

"Insight" is a weekly column published by Kansas Farm Bureau, the state's largest farm organization whose mission is to strengthen agriculture and the lives of Kansans through advocacy, education and service.

Insight

Continued from Page 4

which allowed them to team up and build an elevator for storage and have an organization that could take care of selling and shipping grain to larger markets. Cooperatives helped farmers make a better living for themselves and their neighbors.

Through the decades, these small community cooperatives have grown and merged with other cooperatives to create more efficiency and adapt-

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