

The Bel Aire Breeze

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Complimentary copy

City leaders want property tax cap repealed

By David Dinell

On Jan. 11, the 2016 edition of the Kansas Legislature kicks off.

Like sports, predictions as to the outcome are difficult at best. However, as it has in the past, money issues — especially those dealing with education

— will be at the forefront.

For elected officials and administrators in the north Sedgwick County cities of Valley Center, Park City, Bel Aire and Kechi, however, a host of other issues rise to the surface.

While many of them don't resonate with the general public in the way hot-button social

issues, such as abortion, guns and voting rights do, they're no less important, leaders say, and could have a direct impact on the area's growth — or lack of it.

In that regard, there's no issue to get small town managers and mayors roiled like the state's cap on local government

property taxes, which passed in the final days of the lawmakers' marathon 113-day 2015 session.

Basically, lawmakers limited the amount of property taxes counties and cities can increase to the CPI, or consumer price index, which is now at low single digits.

There's an out: a special election can be held, but the way the council calendars work, that makes it nearly impossible — and expensive — to implement, say local officials.

They get their valuations in by July 1, but must have the budget to the county clerk by Aug. 25.

More than anything, it's micro-managing cities, say mayors such as Valley Center's Laurie Dove.

"When you do something that really takes a swipe at home rule, it's going to have a far-reaching impact," she said.

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David Dinell

Blood donation supervisor Teresa Foster checks the progress of Cindy Clasen's donation. Clasen says being a donor is a simple way to help those in need.

Blood donors turn out to support Battle of the Badges

By David Dinell

Cindy Clasen had a good reason to get up early on a cold winter's morning and head to Bel Aire City Hall: to help out others in need. In this case with a pint of blood.

"It's an easy way to do that," she said cheerfully as the blood flowed quickly from her right arm into a waiting vinyl container under the watchful eye of supervisor Teresa Foster.

Clasen was one of numerous Bel Aire citizens who showed up recently to donate blood in the 21st annual Battle of the Badges contest. The event is a good-natured competition between fire departments, law enforcement and emergency medical services to see who can garner the most votes from donors.

Clasen, a product designer and Bel Aire resident, was coy about her choice.

"I'm not going to tell you,"

she said in response to a query. "They're all good. You want to circle all three."

Not far from Clasen, computer programmer Timothy Gentry was getting ready for his donation. Gentry is an experienced hand at the blood-donating process and even came prepared with a small plastic card tracking all his recent donations.

Like Clasen, Gentry said he gives because it makes him feel good, and he, too, wasn't about to reveal his vote.

Three firefighters from Sedgwick County Fire Station 37 were nearby helping pass out T-shirts and snacks for donors. As one explained, they can help out but not donate while on duty. After all, it's tough to respond to a call with a line in your arm.

The donation process was a well-organized affair, running from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the community room. Most of the donors had made ap-



Courtesy photo

Mascots from law enforcement, EMS and fire urge donors to vote for them as the Battle of the Badges kicks off.

pointments set in 15-minute increments, but walk-ins were accepted, too.

After a health screening, the volunteers were led to the donor area. For some, such as Clasen with her fast-flowing blood, it didn't take long,

helped along with good-natured conversation from Foster and specialist Andrah Woody.

"We're the daytime vampires," cracked Foster at one point.

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Council tackles fees and salaries

By David Dinell

City recreation fees and salaries were among the topics of discussion at an issue-filled workshop held by the Bel Aire City Council Dec. 17 at City Hall.

A proposal to increase member fees at the popular city-owned recreation center sparked an exchange among council members.

While the fees are reviewed annually, they haven't been raised in several years, reported City Manager Ty Lasher.

Member Betty Martine objected to the increase, even a modest one, especially for residents who pay other Bel Aire taxes. She wants non-residents to shoulder more of the load. Ramona Becker agreed that residents should get priority and that a fee increase would be especially hard on seniors relying on Social Security as they received no increase this year.

However, member Peggy O'Donnell called the increase request "right in line."

"I don't think Brian (director Brian Hayes) would raise fees if he thought they would hurt people," she said.

The current yearly resident family fee is \$80 with a proposal to raise it to \$88. Non-residential families now pay \$130 a year. That rate also is poised to increase.

Another money-oriented topic, a proposed 2 percent cost-of-living annual raise for city employees, also was of concern to council members. Martine, a former city employee, said it wasn't necessary.

"We already pay a lot," she said.

Mayor David Austin defended the raise, saying that the city has among the smallest staff for its size and that morale was already low.

"This could do damage," he said of not granting a raise. "They don't feel supported by us."

Austin said he knows of staff who are looking to leave and was concerned there could be more.

Becker said if morale is low, officials need to find out why. Like Martine, she believes the current salaries are fair and added that it's not unusual for government employees to go through periods of no pay increase. Becker also said she believes a certain part of the job is public service and employees need to consider that aspect.

As the salary discussion continued — at times in a heated manner — the council and the mayor agreed it best to let the discussion cool off and bring it back at the next meeting.

In another topic, Becker inquired about creating a 24-hour "Safe Zone" at City Hall for citizens to conduct private seller transactions. Such zones are a trend nationwide and have gained in popularity with the extensive use of Craigslist.

Andover recently set up such a site, and officials at other

See WORKSHOP, Page 4

City approves bonds for second phase of apartments

By David Dinell

More apartment units are planned for Bel Aire.

The city council approved issuing \$8 million of industrial revenue bonds for an expansion project at Broadstone Villas on Lycee Drive near Northeast Magnet School at its Dec. 15 meeting.

The bonds will be used to construct 60 units to the complex, bringing its total to

108 units.

Most units are available for rent on an income-tested level. In this expansion, 48 units will be rented to families at or below 60 percent of the median income for the area. The other 12 will be available at the market rates.

Council members say their positive experience with the first phase of the apartments have led them to not objecting to more units.

Mayor David Austin said the affordable housing helps the city have a diversified stock of options at all price points.

Broadstone Villas operates under tax favorable status that is designed to help provide housing for moderate and middle-income families.

It isn't Section 8 housing. However, those with the renter subsidy vouchers can apply.

The developer, Zimmerman

Properties, will be applying for tax credits through the Kansas Housing Resources Corp., and if granted, construction should start in fall 2016.

"Broadstone Villas has been a terrific addition and Zimmerman Properties has been wonderful to work with," said City Manager Ty Lasher in a report to the council.

Its first phase is completely full with a waiting list of 300

for any available unit.

"It shows a huge demand for this type of housing," he said.

Like it did for the first phase, Zimmerman Properties gets tax abatements from Bel Aire through the bonds, but the project will more than pay off, Lasher said, as it will provide a \$1.50 in return for each \$1 given up in taxes.

The complex has two and three bedroom units ranging

in size from 1,033 square feet to 1,188 square feet and all have two baths. Income limits range from a low of \$13,860 to a high of \$45,900, depending on number of occupants and income category.

Rents are from \$306 to \$685 monthly, again based on income. Market rates are higher, but the renters don't have to meet income guide-

See CITY, Page 2



Mayor's corner

By David Austin

I've always heard time flies when you are having fun. Well then, 2015 was a blast. There were many exciting events and accomplishments to celebrate that made the time fly by.

One major accomplishment is the record year for housing starts — 102 new homes were constructed in Bel Aire or have begun in 2015. Your governing body and city staff also maintained a zero-mill increase for the third year in a row.

And I think 2016 can be even better.

You may have recently read or heard that the city of Wichita is raising its water rates by nearly 6 percent. Bel Aire gets its water through contracts with both Wichita on a whole sale contract and through the Chisholm Creek Utility Authority (CCUA). Knowing this hike was coming down the pike, your city hall staff prepared and budgeted prudently, so that as of today, we will not have to pass on that increase to Bel Aire customers.

In addition to the mill levy and water rates hopefully staying level for the entire 2016 calendar, your governing body is also ready to seek even more input from citizens for a great year.

At the Dec. 17 workshop, I unveiled and announced a new council action request form that will create a tracking and accountability system in writing. This will also ensure that all council members receive the identical information before deciding to take action or not on any given item. We also set a standing time for council workshops so the public will know on a regular basis when they are scheduled, if needed.

With a goal of expanded transparency, I invite all citizens to come to our January workshop to share their city priorities with council. I want to hear from you, the citizen and Bel Aire business owner, and learn what is important to you. A resolution I have for 2016 is to seek more input from citizens on the direction we should take in governing your city. I also pledge to work more with council and using the council action request forms as a guide when making meeting agendas.

Your governing body also recently voted to resurrect a Bel Aire history project. The end result will be a correct revision to the original manuscript that ran through 2006 and a new piece taking us to the present day. A lot has happened in 35 years. Hopefully by the end of this year a living document will be in place and ready to record the next 35 years.

So 2016, ready or not, here we are. To all current and future citizens — Happy New Year. I wish you all great health and happiness. Thanks again for the honor of serving as your mayor.

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2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

January

Former Bel Aire police officers Nathan Mavia and Robert McCaslin were indicted in federal court in a scheme to buy and sell guns. Mavia was charged with mail fraud, while McCaslin was charged with making false statements to investigators.

Concierge Surgical Recovery Center opened in Bel Aire's Tierra Verda development near 53rd and Webb Road.

February

The city council approved the purchase of an "entry monument" at 37th North and Woodlawn. The sign, which cost about \$7,200, welcomes people to the city.

The police department expanded its use of cameras. The local Lions Club raised money to purchase two additional body cameras for officers.

March

The pricetag on a sewer project near 45th North and Woodlawn came with some sticker shock. The cost was \$150,000 more than the engineer's estimate. City leaders said the project was vital.

The spring city elections drew several candidates. Mayor David Austin sought re-election and would face challenger Andrew Uhlschmidt. Ken Lee and Betty Martine filed to retain their at-large council seats. Challengers for those seats included Jeanette L.R. Clement, Michael Gordon, Jeff Oldenettel and Stephen Scholtz.

April

The Catholic Care Center announced it was expanding its campus. The center was embarking on a \$12.5 million series of projects spread over the next 10 years. They included a community center, expanded parking lots and residential units.

City officials toured the newly opened Broadstone Apartment com-

plex in the 5600 block of North Lycee. The apartments at the time included 48 units. They were for residents who meet income guidelines.

May

David Austin won re-election as mayor. Incumbent council members Ken Lee and Betty Martine also won in the spring elections. Lee stepped down in September, saying personal and professional obligations were keeping him from devoting time to the council.

The city council approved the refinancing of \$5.39 million bonds that were used for infrastructure improvements. The move would save the city about \$500,000 over the life of the bonds.

June

The federal firearms case against former Bel Aire police officers widened. Former Chief John Daily and a third former officer, Ricky Swanson, were charged with wire fraud and mail fraud. They were accused of conspiring to buy firearms at a discount by claiming the weapons to be property of the police department.

City officials had a ribbon-cutting ceremony to begin work on a rail siding to serve the Sunflower Commerce Park. The \$1.3 million project is designed to attract industries that rely on railroad transportation.

There was good news and bad in Bel Aire in 2015.

There were accomplishments and failures, joy and heartbreak. There were times that made us wince and other times that caused us to celebrate.

That's what happens in communities. Some times it hurt. Other times, it feels really good.

We said hello and we said farewell.

Now, we say goodbye, but not for good. As we look forward to new beginnings in 2016, we'll take a piece of the past 12 months with us.

Because some history is worth repeating and mistakes make worthy teachers, this month we present a month-by-month review of 2015.

July

The city sold 2.3 acres of city-owned property in the Sunflower Commerce Park and another 80 acres of agricultural land near 47th and Greenwich. The announcement came during a city council meeting. "It not only sells the land," Mayor David Austin said, "these deals can bring in jobs and employees." The commerce park property was purchased by Freedom Buildings LLC. The farmland was purchased by a Wichita physician as an investment.

The Bel Aire Recreation Center's fishing derby, which was held at the Great Plains Nature Center's pond, drew about 25 children and parents.

August

Two women from southeast Kansas were killed when the vehicle they were in collided with a semi on K-254 at Greenwich. The vehicle pulled out in front of the semi.

The city council approved a 2016 city budget that holds the line on property taxes. In a 3-2 vote, the council agreed to cut spending on commodities and contracts by 10 percent.

September

The city council voted to allow fireworks displays for special events. The new ordinance allows four special event displays a year and requires a \$250 fee, insurance and approval by the fire department.

Blood

Continued from Page 1

While the banter was lighthearted, there's a serious side to the whole business at hand.

"One of the reasons why the battle was created was to answer the need for blood during the holiday season," said Jan Hale, communications director for the American Red Cross' Midway Kansas chapter. "Schedules get so busy and there are so many other things going on besides day-to-day activities. Sometimes that appointment to donate to blood gets further down the to-do list, but the reality is that the need for blood remains the

same."

At best, blood has a 42-day shelf life, she said, so there's a constant need for it. It's well used, too, as up to three lives can be saved by one donation, Hale said.

The area Red Cross' Battle of the Badges is one of the longest running such competitions in the country.

"They take it seriously," she said of the agencies.

There's a trophy the winner gets to claim — at least for a year — along with "bragging rights."

"Those are important," Hale said.

For those who missed the competition, but still want to help, the Red Cross' dona-



Timothy Gentry, a regular blood donor, prepares for his contribution in Bel Aire.

tion center is at 707 N. Main, Wichita. Phone 265-6601. The winner of the competition will be posted on Facebook under



Photos by David Dinell

Each donor in the Battle of the Badges receives a T-shirt with this logo on it.

City

Continued from Page 1

lines.

The apartments are owned and operated by Springfield, Mo.-based Wilhoit Properties Inc., which has more than 100 properties in the Midwest.

The bond request was originally scheduled for the council's Dec. 1 meeting. However, the company's vice president of development, James McDonald, wanted to be at the meeting but couldn't make it due to a medical situation. He was at the Dec. 15 meeting and made a well-received presentation.

The initial phase of the complex is the first time in his 17 years with the company that he can recall every unit leased before it even opened.

Said Austin: "It's exciting to know that we have 300 people who want to move to Bel Aire."

McDonald said the company will be moving on applying for the tax status in February and it all goes well, should be breaking ground in the fall.

The fact that the city is co-operating on the construction will help the decision-making process, he said.

The project should be finish by fall 2017, he said. The company bought four acres from the city for the new apartments, to be known as Broadstone Villas II and are planned to be built north of the current units.

In other action, the council:

- Continued to table an information technology service agreement. The original proposal was with Cybertron, however, members wanted to get other proposals. The staff now

wants time to receive and review them. Lasher reports that several companies are interested in submitting bids, but need time to find out what the city's needs are.

Austin to sign a three-year master services agreement with Cybertron for information technology services at a cost of \$4,000 monthly. The subject was brought up at the past meeting, but several council members wanted to review points of the contract in further detail and it was decided to table to agreement until this meeting.

The city had several technology issues and used an outside vendor before deciding to hire an IT employee. He left after a short stint and so the council decided to go back to a vendor, this time under a flat fee schedule so there would be no unscheduled expenses. The original proposal with Cybertron called for a monthly fee of \$4,000.

- Approved an appropriations ordinance of \$4.4 million. The higher-than-normal amount includes three note payments with revenue from land sales.

- Approved a farm lease of agricultural land owned by the city to

area farmers. Lasher said the farmers have all been with the city for awhile and have been responsible in making their payments. The rents, which were increased two years ago, are determined by finding the average lease rates in the region. The farmers and their rents agreements are: Clyde Roths, 230 acres, \$8,243; Harris Entz, 252 acres, \$8,532; Tom Patry, 160 acres, \$1,840; and Mike Bohannon, 363 acres, \$18,100. The total is 1,005 acres for \$36,715 in rent.

- Approved a supplemental water supply and wastewater service agreement with the Chisholm Creek Utility Authority, which handles the city's water and sewer services. Among other things, the agreement covers an energy audit project. Total cost is \$1.9 million and Bel Aire's share is about \$39,000 a year during a 20-year period.

- Approved extending the time frame of a land sale contract in Sunflower Commerce Park to Srinivas Krishnamurthy, who wants to open the Holistic Psychiatrist Center there. The buyer wants to close on the sale after the New Year, when the offer was set to expire, thus the need for

an extension. The new deadline is Jan. 15.

- Authorized a proposal with Jay Price and Mennonite Press to finish and print 250 copies of a book call The History of Bel Aire. Cost of the project is \$5,000. Price is a history professor at Wichita State University and in 2006 completed a manuscript on the history of Bel Aire. However, a book was never published. With the 35th anniversary of the city, council members said they wanted to see the work updated and a book published. Both Price and Mennonite Press have experience in producing local history books. There was a motion to table to project and authorize it at a later date, but that motion failed.

- Approved a title transfer of land to the Bel Aire Land Bank. The land bank is a legal entity formed in order to handle special assessments and tax abatements.

- Set a workshop for 6 p.m. Dec. 17 at City Hall.

All five members and the mayor were present. There was one, 10-minute executive session to discuss a non-elect personnel matter. No binding action was taken.

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City of Bel Aire



Bel Aire Recreation

BOYS BASKETBALL 2016

For ages 5 through 11. Games will be played on Saturdays beginning Jan. 16. **Registration deadline has passed but some openings remain.**

YOUTH CHEERLEADING

For boys and girls ages 4 and up. **Space is limited.** These recreational cheer classes will focus on motions, jumps, and routines involved in cheerleading. Classes will meet on Thursday evenings beginning Jan. 14.

BASKETBALL CLINIC (ages 5 & up)

From noon until 2:30 p.m. Jan. 9. The clinic will be run by Brent Atwater of TMK Sports Training. Coach Atwater played collegiately at Texas Christian University.

YOUNG REMBRANDTS

Participating in Young Rembrandts provides children with comprehensive art literacy that serves them well not just at the drawing table, but in school and into adulthood. There will be a free demonstration at 4:30 p.m. Jan. 5. **Space is limited.**

WICHITA HEIGHTS JUNIOR BASEBALL/SOFTBALL LEAGUE

For boys ages 11 through 14 and girls ages 11 through 15. Registration deadline is Feb. 20 and some restrictions apply. Please call for more information.

COED INDOOR SOCCER

Indoor soccer is for boys and girls ages

4 through 11. Games will be played on Saturdays beginning March 12. Practices will be set up by coaches on weeknights beginning the week of Feb. 29.

TAEKWONDO (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet from 5 to 6 p.m. Monday and Friday and from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

YOGA

Classes are from 6 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Anyone 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.

SENIOR AEROBICS/CHAIR EXERCISES

Senior aerobics meets from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays 10 a.m. Chair exercise meets at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Fridays. You can join at any time.

A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after registration deadlines. For more information about these or any Bel Aire Recreation programs, call 744-2700.

Community Events

TOPS — Tuesdays at 9 a.m., Senior Center

City Council — First and third Tuesday of each month

Jan. 9, noon — Red Hat lunch and games, Call Anita at 744-2840 for more info.

Jan. 12, 7 p.m. — Bel Aire Heights HOA meeting in the Community Room

Jan. 12, 7 p.m. — Central Park HOA meeting at the Senior Center

Jan. 18 — Bel Aire city offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Winter water tip:

Help keep winter salt and sand out of our ponds

At your home, you can prevent pollution to the ponds and backwaters by limiting the amount of salt and deicers you use on your driveways and sidewalks. One teaspoon of salt can contaminate five gallons of water.

- As a rule of thumb, if there is a layer of salt remaining on your driveway after the ice melts, you used too much salt. If you do have excess sand or salt, sweep it up and throw it away so that it is not washed into the storm sewer.

- The earlier you shovel after a snowfall, the less likely you are to need salt.
- Consider using an anti-icing agent before it snows. It will prevent the snow from bonding with the pavement and speed the melting process.

Bel Aire Seniors

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

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

Locations

Senior Center/Community Room

7651 E. Central Park Ave.

744-2451

Recreation Center

5251 E. 48th North

744-2700

Weekly Events

Bel Aire Walkers — M-F, 8-9 a.m. at the Rec Center (indoors & climate controlled). Free for Bel Aire Senior members, alternate times available

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

Senior Coffee — Thursdays, 10 a.m. at the Senior Center

Braum's Breakfast — Fridays, 9 a.m. on North Rock Road

Line Dance Class — Fridays, 2:30 p.m. in the Community Room

Chair Exercises — Fridays, 10:30 a.m., at the Rec Center

Monthly & Special Events

Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m. — Potluck dinner and meeting, pet emergency services, Community Room.

Jan. 5, 8:30 a.m. — Breakfast at IHOP, North Rock Road.

Jan. 6, 10 a.m. — Volunteer library work time, Senior Center.

Jan. 7, 1 p.m. — Game Day, Rec Center.

Jan. 8, 2:30 p.m. — Senior Center planning meeting, Senior Center.

Jan. 11, 11:30 a.m. — Lunch at Jimmies Diner, North Rock Road.

Jan. 13, 10 a.m. — Open Sewing, Rec Center.

Jan. 13, 10:30 a.m. — Memory Café, dementia support group and information with Cypress Springs, Senior Center.

Jan. 15 — Foot care with Hermes Health. Call 260-4110 to schedule an appointment.

Jan. 15, 6 p.m. — Pitch, Senior Center.

Jan. 18 — Senior Center closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Jan. 19, 6 p.m. — Ladies Dine Out. Call Anita at 744-2840 for more info.

Jan. 20, 10 a.m. — Men's coffee at Braum's, North Rock Road.

Jan. 20, 10:15 a.m. — Senior Aerobics Brunch, different locations.

Jan. 20, 1:30 p.m. — Book Club meeting, Senior Center.

Jan. 20, 2 p.m. — Women's coffee at Braum's, North Rock Road.

Jan. 21, 1 p.m. — Game Day, Rec Center.

Jan. 22, 2 p.m. — Genealogy group, speaker Jim Mershon.

Jan. 25, 12:30 p.m. — Covered dish lunch, program by Randy Williams, Rec Center.

Jan. 27, 7 p.m. — Bunko at Senior Center. Call 744-2451, Ext. 135, for reservation.

Jan. 29, 6 p.m. — Pitch, Senior Center.

Scenes from the City of Bel Aire's Christmas Open House



CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

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

Worship services are held at 9 (contemporary) and 11 a.m. (traditional). Communion is offered at both services. Sunday School for all ages begins at 10:15 a.m.

For more information about the church and its activities, find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org, or call 744-1242.

Chad Langdon is the pastor 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 at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, and at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

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

The Rev. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel

Community Bible Chapel is located at the corner of 45th North and Arlene. Please call Amy Smith at 323-2819 with any questions.

Cornerstone Christian Church

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

Our pastor is Jim Rackham and youth pastor is Brandon Morrow.

Sunday Worship is at 9:30 and 11 a.m. and a nursery is provided.

Our Wednesday Study Groups include adult studies, youth and AWANA. They all meet at 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for the service of your choice.

Fairmount United Church of Christ

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

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

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

For more information, call 682-1597 or visit at 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 at 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The first Saturday evening of each month are youth activities.

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

Greenwich United Methodist Church

Greenwich UMC, at the edge of Wichita, is a traditional, family church that serves all ages. Sunday worship is at 9 a.m. Life Studies (study group for all ages) is Sunday from 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Paula Scott is available at the church each Wednesday for prayer and fellowship. United Methodist Women meet at 10 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month and also hosts a church brunch quarterly. Special events are announced on the church sign, Facebook and by mailings. Please call to be added to our mailing list or email shagemaster@sbcglobal.net.

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

The church is located at 5500 N. Greenwood Road, about one mile south of K-254 and five miles north of 21st North.

Like us on Facebook at Wichita Greenwich United Methodist Church. We would love for you to come join us Sunday. Feel free to call anytime 744-0203.

Kechi United Methodist Church

You are invited to worship at 9:03 a.m. (contemporary service) or 11 (traditional service) Sundays,

with Sunday school at 10 a.m., at Kechi United Methodist Church, 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. All are welcome.

Men's Bible Study is at 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays. The coffee is always on.

CareGivers Support group meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of every month in the basement parlor.

Bingo is at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month. Everyone is welcome to join in.

Our new pastor is Greg Reed. Find us at www.KechiUMC.org and "Like" us on Facebook. The church phone number is 744-1221.

LifePoint Church

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

Sunday worship service and Kids Church are at 10:30 a.m., with Life University/Sunday school for all ages is at 9. No regular Sunday night service. For special activities, see the website, www.lpcag.org.

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

Adult small groups meet throughout the community.

Senior pastor is Steve Rains. Youth pastor is Jacob Soyce.

Children's pastor is Nathaniel Thurman. Call 755-2331.

Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Contemporary Sunday worship services are 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 is at 10:30 a.m. A nursery is provided during both Bible class and second service.

There are two weekly sessions of Lifetree Café in Valley Center. Thursday at 1 p.m. (lunch at noon) at the Community Building (316 E. Clay) and Monday at 7 p.m. at the home of Pastor Terry and Barb Wiechman (1241 S. Park). 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.

Risen Savior preschool classes for 3- to 5-year-olds are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11:45 a.m. Please contact Michelle Peshek, director/lead teacher, with questions at atmichel@risensavior.net or call the church office at 683-5538.

Please join us. The church is located at 6770 E. 34th North in Wichita. The phone number is 683-5538, and we are online at 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 North, 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).

Saint Michael is a western rite congregation using the Liturgy of Saint Gregory. It is the only western rite Orthodox Church in Kansas. Join us for our worship of the Holy Trinity using the ancient and beautiful liturgy of the Undivided Church.

Sunday Adult class is at 9 a.m. Discovering Jesus in the Book of Deuteronomy is the topic.

Wednesday service is at 6 p.m. with Saturday Vespers at 4:30 p.m. Call the church for more information at 734-6248 or visit our website at www.saintmichaelsorthodoxchurch.com.

Email inquiries to jflora@cox.net.

Wichita Three Angels Seventh-Day Adventist Church

The church is located at 4558 N. Hydraulic, Wichita KS 67219.

The pastor is Nathan Stearman. The Sabbath school is at 9:30 a.m. Worship service is at 11 a.m.

For more information find us at www.godsclot.com or on Facebook, email eric@godsclot.com or call 530-1040.

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

Tax

Continued from Page 1

"I don't think it was the right thing to do."

Without the ability to use additional property taxes, if needed, to fund local services, cities will have to rely on other means of revenue, she said.

"Really what the Legislature is saying is that, 'we know better than you, even if we're not there,'" Dove said.

Park City Mayor Ray Mann also said he resents the Legislature telling cities what to do.

"You expect growth and if you need an increased budget and they try and lid it, it could potentially come back and hurt you," he said. "It's crazy for them to tell municipalities, who better manage money than anyone else, to come back and tell them what to do. Just look at the (budget) mess they're in. That's the bad part."

In Bel Aire, Mayor David Austin agreed.

"What I dislike the most is that our hands are tied," he said. "The Legislature is supposed to make laws and set the state budget. That's why we have city councils and mayors to make decisions at this level."

Kechi City Administrator Bob Conger said the property tax lid will be a "killer locally for growth."

It also will make budget planning extremely difficult and could force cities to have to plan a budget two years ahead, Conger said.

The state should want cities to develop, he said.

"The optimistic way to look at it is if the state won't hamper a city's ability to grow, that will help the state to grow, too," Conger said.

Dove said the cap, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2018, needs to be repealed.

She and other local officials will get their wish to at least have an attempt to repeal the law, said Cindy Green, deputy director of the Kansas League of Municipalities, who said that's the top priority of the organization, which represents 595 Kansas cities and counties, including those in The Breeze's coverage area.

Another topic of concern are changes in elections.

Officials are not happy about the state shifting local elections to the fall, but that's a done deal.

"Moving the elections was a horrible idea but they still went ahead and did it," said Austin.

Because of the change, cities will extend terms into the fall, which will make Dove, who was elected in April, the longest-serving single-term mayor in Valley Center history.

City seats, however, will remain nonpartisan — and that's the way to keep it, officials say.

"There's no reason to have party affiliations at the council level," Austin said. "When we're partisan, it's not good at this level. We need to stay focused on what's best for our city."

Valley Center's Dove con-

cluded.

"They (parties) really don't play a role in what you do at the local level," she said.

While area city councils have no direct impact on education funding, that doesn't mean they're not concerned about it, Dove said, and in that regard the council has been meeting with the Valley Center School Board to ensure they're working together.

"One of the things that's important to me is that no one functions in a silo," she said.

The different governing bodies need to explore how they can operate together, she said, and ways they can work on issues.

"We have the right people in the right places to make that happen," Dove said.

There are literally dozens of other issues city leaders, including Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher, are watching out for, including annexation.

Currently, cities can annex less than 20 acres without going through county channels and he would like to see that continue.

Lasher also is concerned about the public employee retirement system, or KPERS, and any reduction of benefits promised to workers as Bel Aire is part of that system.

And while cities don't have a say over issues such as guns, mandates handed down by the state can affect them and Lasher wants to see that cities can set policies regarding weapons and their employees.

In addition, Lasher would like the comprehensive Transportation Program, or Kansas T-Works, not used as a funding source for the state's general fund budget, as it has been.

"Roads are important to our economic development," he said.

Reducing T-Works funding would adversely impact vital highway programs throughout the county and state, he said.

Lasher got the backing of several council members, who said they agree with the KLM's 2016 Legislative agenda.

One, Ramona Becker, said it's important that municipalities have "a united front" during the session.

Kechi's Conger, who has been in office since 2012, said he's seen a change in those three years between the Legislature and the public, and it's not been for the better.

"The state legislators are making themselves less available to public scrutiny and comment," Conger said.

There are fewer town hall meetings and public events, and that concerns him.

Lasher also is more important than ever, he said, for citizens to let lawmakers know what they want.

"They need to give them a sense of how their actions affect them and what is the ultimate impact," he said.

Local officials will do just that during the first week of February when the KLM holds its annual City Hall Day to meet with lawmakers.

Workshop

Continued from Page 1

cities have considered them. Austin said Bel Aire doesn't have the same all-hours public safety capacity that Andover does, such as its own 911 dispatch service.

However, citizens are now welcome to use City Hall during regular business hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays for such transactions. For other hours, they are encouraged to use QuikTrip at 37th North and Rock or Dillons at 37th North and Woodlawn.

Other policy topics included: council workshops, council vacancy rules, employee holidays and funeral processions in the city. Ordinance issues were: codification and charter on election and appointments, which city officials had recently experienced.

Former member Ken Lee resigned Sept. 1 and, according to a new state law, his seat

had to be filled in 60 days or the city would have to hold a costly special election. Previously, there was no deadline on an appointment. However, cities do have the ability to opt out of the law if they pass their own ordinance, which Park City did a few months ago.

Before the workshop, the council held a brief special meeting to formally approve industrial revenue bonds for the Wichita Hoops expansion project. The motion passed quickly on a 5-0 vote.

The city workshops are open discussion sessions for council members and intended to save time at council meetings by having the issues explored beforehand. No binding action is taken and although the public

cannot comment during the meetings, they are welcome to attend and listen. Also, while no minutes are kept, the sessions are taped and uploaded to the city's YouTube site for citizens to view. The next council meeting is 7 p.m. Jan. 5 at City Hall and will feature many of the topics from the workshop.

A new link from the city's web site can send viewers directly to the latest meeting

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videos. Go to www.belaireks.org, go to the City Government tab on the left hand side, and to 2015 City Council Videos and click on the blue "here" link.

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BEL AIRE POLICE REPORTS

Dec. 15 — Officer Trelow took a report in the 5600 block of North Lycee. A woman said she has a protection-from-abuse against her ex-boyfriend. She invited him to the residence to pick up his belongings but in the process, they got involved in a verbal argument.

Dec. 15 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5800 block of East 53rd. The driver was cited for speeding and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Dec. 15 — Officer Roney responded to the 5300 block of North Rock Spring. ComCare's suicide prevention line relayed the information that a 16-year-old male was having suicidal thoughts but was afraid to tell his parents. Officers determined that the youth was a threat to himself and transported him to St. Joseph hospital for a voluntary mental health assessment.

Dec. 14 — Officers responded to a burglary in the 5800 block of East Wildfire. The reporting party said someone tried to break into his model home. After further investigation a broken window in a basement was found. The suspect(s) made entry into the home. The window was broken by concrete stone.

Dec. 14 — Officer Wallender took a report of a stolen tag in the 5100 block of Industry. A license plate was taken from a FedEx truck in the FedEx yard.

Dec. 14 — Lt. Foxx took a report at the station of a vehicle wreck in the 6200 block of East 37th. No injuries were reported.

Dec. 13 — Officer Davis responded to the 6200 block of East Woodlawn. A woman contacted 911 stating three people came to her house and said people were going to rob her. She also made statements about speaking with god, black magic, lost souls, people spying on her, talking and seeing people no one else sees. She refused to go to St. Joseph Hospital for a mental evaluation because she said she is not crazy. She did not appear to be a danger to herself or others.

Dec. 13 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for a headlight infraction. The driver was cited for driving without a valid license and defective vehicle equipment.

Dec. 13 — Officer Wallender took a theft report in the 5000 block of East 37th. A man said someone came onto his property and took his wagon.

Dec. 13 — Officer Davis responded to disorderly conduct in the 6000 block of East Clarendon. The man's son arrived at the house, went into his sister's room and started asking her for money. The calling party, the son's father, wanted his son to leave the residence and leave his sister alone. The son did not want to leave. The son stated he was asking his sister for money so he could get new shoelaces and wanted to look in her mirror. The son still has a key to the house, receives mail at the house and has property in his room at the house. The father stated he is going to formally evict his son and get some sort of protection order. The son left the residence.

Dec. 11 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 7200 block of East 45th. The driver was cited for speeding.

Dec. 11 — Officer Trelow responded to the 6200 block of East Woodlawn. A woman reported that she was told by four people that some people around the neighborhood use black magic and wish to harm her. Her husband was contacted and stated she has been hallucinating lately. Officers informed the husband about mental health services.

Dec. 8 — Officer Steele stopped a vehicle in the 5500 block of North Lycee. The driver claimed to be lost. While checking the driver, officer discovered the woman had a bench warrant through Wichita for theft. Abriauna Dixon was arrested on a charge of contempt of court.

Dec. 8 — Officer Davis responded to a domestic disturbance in the 6000 block of East Clarendon. A man reported he and his adult son were arguing.

Dec. 8 — Officers responded to Heights High School about a possible assault that may have occurred in Bel Aire. Investigators discovered the woman was suffering mental problems and was transported to ComCare by a Wichita police officer.

Dec. 7 — Officer Toomey drove up on a non-injury accident in the 5300 block of North Oliver. A driver was cited for inattentive driving.

Dec. 7 — Officer Elpers responded to a burglary at Great Wall, 6254 E. 37th. An employee stated that the business was closed the previous day and when employees came into work the cash register was empty along with their change box and tip jar.

Dec. 6 — Officer Roney assisted Kechi police at Kar Wash, where officers recovered a stolen vehicle, stolen property, drug paraphernalia and tools believed to be intended to be used to burglarize the car wash.

Dec. 6 — Officer Wallender assisted Park City police with a burglary in the 1400 block of East 69th North.

Dec. 6 — Officer Trelow responded to a burglary in the 4300 block of North Mission. The victim said someone broke the downstairs window to the residence and made entry. The only loss was a purse that was inside that room. Upon further investigation it was later discovered that a relative had faked the burglary. The homeowners do not want to prosecute.

Dec. 5 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5000 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Dec. 3 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5900 block of East 53rd. The driver, Orlando Hernandez, was arrested on a drug charge. A passenger was taken to the hospital after apparently swallowing an unknown amount of cocaine.

Dec. 2 — Officers Roney and Trelow responded to a domestic disturbance in the 5600 block of North Lycee. A woman was arrested on a charge of battery against her ex-boyfriend and on a warrant. A man was arrested on a warrant.

Dec. 1 — Officer Brown responded to a death case in the 4800 block of North Battin.

Dec. 1 — Officers Brown and Steele responded to a report of disorderly conduct in the 8400 block of East Granite Court. Officers heard dogs barking. They attempted to contact the owner of the dogs but got no answer at the door. Investigation is ongoing.

Dec. 1 — Officer Trelow took a report of larceny from the 5100 block of East Ashton. The reporting party said an owl lawn decoration was taken from the front yard by an unknown subject.

Nov. 30 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle in the 5100 block of North Oliver. The driver, Theresa Goseland, was arrested on a charge of DUI.

Nov. 30 — Officer Wallender responded to the 6000 block of East Clarendon. A man said he was contacted by someone claiming to be a Microsoft representative. The suspect stated that his computer had an issue and the man would need to go to the caller's website to get the issue fixed. When the reporting party went to the website, his antivirus told him not to go to this website. Officer told the reporting party that Microsoft would not contact him by phone.

Nov. 30 — Officer Toomey responded to vandalism in the 8400 block of East Granite. A vehicle had its driver's side window smashed and completely broken by an unknown suspect. The reporting party's son had just stepped out from the house when he saw a male (unknown age or ethnicity) wearing blue jeans and dark coat throw something or break the car window with something. Nothing was taken from the vehicle. No other damage was observed.

Nov. 30 — Officer Elpers responded to a non-injury wreck in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn. No injuries were reported.

Nov. 30 — Det. Davis took a report of larceny at the station. The Bel Aire Municipal Court clerk reported a woman came into the Bel Aire Police Department to pay a portion of her fines on a ticket. The woman removed an ornament that had just been hung from the Christmas tree without permission. The woman then left the building. Investigation is ongoing.

Nov. 29 — Officer Trelow responded to an attempted suicide in the 5000 block of North Hampton.

Nov. 28 — Officer Camplin responded to a burglary in the 6800 block of East 44th. The calling party said he was walking his dogs and noticed his neighbor's door was open. The calling party said his neighbor had been gone for a few months. Officers saw the front door of the residence had been kicked open. The burglars took electronics and jewelry.

Nov. 26 — Officer Steele responded to a simple assault in the 4700 block of North Hillcrest. The suspect was lying in the kitchen. The calling party had an abrasion on his right forearm. The suspect was transported to the Sedgwick County Adult Detention Center where he was booked on a charge of domestic battery.

Nov. 25 — Officer Brown attempted to stop a vehicle for speeding in the 4800 block of North Greenwich. The vehicle fled. Officer pursued the vehicle to about the 10000 block of East 77th, where he could no longer see due to poor visibility conditions. Officer discontinued the pursuit.

Nov. 25 — Officer Camplin took a report from the 4900 block of North Hedgerow. A woman called the station to say that a contractor did not finish a construction job her insurance company paid for them to do. The woman was informed this was a civil matter and her insurance company would be the victim. The woman said she needed a case number for the District Attorney's Office.

Nov. 25 — Officer Roney responded to the 4800 block of East 44th Court North. A man reported that his wife was making suicidal statements and had locked herself in a bedroom. Officers talked the woman out of the room at which time the woman confirmed that she wanted to harm herself by removing staples in her stomach from her recent surgery. The woman was transported to Via Christi St. Joseph Hospital for a mental health evaluation.

Nov. 24 — Officer Roney responded to a suspicious character call in the 4200 block of North Stratford. The resident reported seeing a white truck several houses down from her residence. The truck was occupied by a white male in his 50s or 60s. The resident did not recognize the vehicle and stated that she did not feel safe during her daily walk with the man looking at her. No other suspicious activity was reported.

Nov. 24 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for defective equipment in the 7000 block of East 45th North. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license, altered tag, expired tag and no insurance.

Nov. 23 — Officer Toomey responded to a suspicious character call in the 5700 block of East Memphis. The subject was a civil process server serving court papers to the calling party regarding a child custody case.

Nov. 22 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for a tag light violation in the 3800 block of North Parkwood. The driver was arrested on a Sedgwick County warrant and was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Nov. 22 — Officer Wallender stopped a vehicle for a tag violation in the 7900 block of East Lycee. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license and illegal tags.

Nov. 22 — Officer Trelow responded to Galichia Hospital for an animal bite that happened in the 4900 block of North Homestead.

Nov. 20 — Det. Davis was dispatched to make contact with Bel Aire Public Works regarding a city light pole that was truck in the 5000 block of North Hampton. It appeared a large vehicle struck the light pole and left the scene. The light pole is valued at \$3,500 by Westar Energy. No suspect information was available.

Nov. 19 — Officer Davis was watching a vehicle in the 5100 block of Brookstone. He saw the suspect enter the driver seat of the vehicle. The suspect had been informed in court less than an hour before that his driver's license was

Editor's note: Police reports were received in time for the December Breeze, but they were accidentally overlooked. They are published here this month.

suspended. He was instructed by the judge to not to operate a motor vehicle. The vehicle was stopped after a traffic violation and the suspect, Justin Cwikla, was arrested on charges of driving with a suspended license, interference with the judicial process and DUI. The man was taken back in front of the judge, who issued a bond revocation on his previous charges. The man was transported and booked into jail for the bond revocation.

Nov. 19 — Officer Roney assisted the sheriff's office in the 4500 block of North 127th East. A male was found in the intersection with his wrists bound and blindfolded. Officer assisted the man by removing the tape from his wrists and head. He preserved the tape as evidence. The man had been abducted from the Plainview area of Wichita and had been robbed and beaten. EMS transported the man to Wesley Hospital while several sheriff deputies secured the crime scene where the male was dumped.

Nov. 18 — Det. Davis responded to a disturbance in the 5800 block of East 49th. A woman was at the residence trying to get her belongings.

Nov. 18 — Officer Roney responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 4500 block of North Oliver. No injuries were reported.

Nov. 18 — Lt. Foxx responded to a report of a wounded deer at 14300 E. K-254. Officers located the deer in the field and it was euthanized. The deer meat was donated to a family in need in Haysville and it was processed by a Bel Aire resident.

Nov. 17 — Chief Atteberry responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 6300 block of East 37th. A driver was taken to Wesley with injuries.

Nov. 17 — Officer Roney responded to the 5200 block of North Holder Lane. A representative of Wilkinson Construction said he found a large amount of trash that had been placed in his construction dumpster. The man said he's been seeing a large amount of refuse placed in his dumpster recently so he opened one of the bags to see if he could find a name on any of the items within. The man gave the officer several receipts with a name on them. After reviewing computer records, officer located the owner who resides on North Auburn in Bel Aire. The man was not home when officer Roney attempted to contact him.

Nov. 17 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for a defective headlamp in the 5500 block of East 37th. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Nov. 16 — Officer Wallender checked the welfare of a person in the 5600 block of North Lycee. A woman called the Bel Aire Police Department requesting a welfare check on a friend. When officers arrived, the woman's door was open and she was in the back bedroom of the apartment. After making contact with her, officers called for EMS to check on the woman. She was transported to the hospital to be examined by doctors.

Nov. 16 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for cutting through private property to avoid a traffic-control device.

Nov. 16 — Officer Toomey assisted EMS in the 4300 block of Country Lane. A woman was transported to Wesley Medical Center for treatment.

Nov. 15 — Officer Trelow stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5000 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for expired license.

Nov. 14 — Officer Brown assisted EMS in the 5700 block of East Odessa. EMS and fire resuscitated a victim and transported the victim to Wesley.

Nov. 14 — Officer Camplin responded to the 5900 block of East 45th North to prevent a disturbance. A woman said she had a PFA against her but she had a court order from her lawyer stating she may pick up her belongings. A man said the woman may take anything of hers that he may have missed.

Nov. 12 — Officer Trelow assisted the sheriff's office with a disturbance in the 5100 block of North Hillside.

Nov. 11 — Officer Trelow worked a wreck at 53rd and Oliver.

Nov. 10 — Officer Brown attempted to assist a motorist in the 3800 block of North Woodlawn. The driver of the van was displeased for having been checked.

Nov. 9 — Officer Davis responded to a vicious dog complaint in the 8400 block of East Granite Court. It was reported a pack of dogs was running the neighborhood with white foam coming from their mouths. The reporting party also said one of the dogs was barking, growling and scaring people. The owner of the dogs located the dogs and put them back in the fenced area of his home. The owner of the dogs had previously reported the theft of his dogs, but advised he had located all of his dogs except for two chocolate lab puppies. This is the third time the man's dogs have escaped his yard. He is aware of the hole in his fence and is aware that his female chocolate lab is aggressive towards people. Investigation is ongoing.

Nov. 9 — Chief Atteberry responded to a fall in the 4200 block of North Eagle Lake. A 2-year-old child had been knocked over by a dog and struck his head on the concrete sidewalk. Fire and EMS attended to the child who was with his mother and grandmother at the time of the incident.

Nov. 9 — Officer Elpers responded to a vehicle fire in the 3800 block of North Parkwood. The vehicle was fully engulfed in flames. The driver of the white Dodge Ram stated that his vehicle started smoking while he was diving and eventually caught fire inside the engine compartment.

Nov. 9 — Officer Elpers responded

to a hit-and-run wreck in the 6200 block of East 37th North. The victim said he was driving west on 37th when a black Ford Taurus drove into the side of his trailer as the driver was pulling out of the Dillon's parking lot to also go west-bound. The suspect then got out of her car and yelled at the victim that it was his fault before getting back in her car and driving away. The suspect was located and cited for fleeing the scene.

Nov. 9 — Officer Elpers responded to a report of aggravated assault and battery in the 5900 block of East Flagstaff. The suspect said he was angry and wanted to hurt himself. The suspect's father tried to disarm the suspect of a knife when the suspect bit his father on the arm. The suspect then grabbed another knife as his father fled the room. The suspect threw the knife at his father. The suspect said he wanted to hurt his father and cut him for not allowing him to go to the strip club. The suspect, Joshua Gentry, was arrested and booked into the Sedgwick County Adult Detention facility on charges of aggravated assault, aggravated battery and contempt of court.

Nov. 8 — Officer Camplin was dispatched to a report of a 14-year-old girl making statements about hurting herself. Upon arrival he made contact with the girl who said she did not make any statements of self-harm. The girl's social worker did not believe her and requested the girl be taken to St. Joseph Hospital for a mental evaluation. The social worker met the officer at the hospital and took custody of the girl.

Nov. 7 — Officer Trelow responded to check the welfare in the 5600 block of North Lycee. The sister of the woman who lives at the residence was concerned because of suicidal statements. Contact was made with the woman. She advised that she did not want to hurt herself nor did she have a plan.

Nov. 7 — Officer Davis responded to lost animals in the 8400 block of East Granite Court. A man reported six puppies and two full-grown dogs were missing from his backyard and he believed they were stolen. The man said that he saw a vehicle stop on the road by his fence. The vehicle then left the area. The two full-grown dogs returned to the house later. The man advised he planned on selling the puppies for \$650 each.

Nov. 6 — Officer Camplin took a report of fraud at the police station. A man reported someone had been applying for credit cards using his information. The man said he did not authorize this and the credit agencies requested him to make a report.

Nov. 6 — Officer Camplin responded to the 4300 block of North Woodlawn. A man was reportedly swinging a knife at the park located next to Sedgwick County Fire Station 37. Officer recognized the suspect as a man from 5900 Flagstaff whom officers have made many calls on. Officer saw the man sitting on a bench and swinging his knife at him and Det. Davis. The man said he wasn't feeling right in his mind and wanted to go to ComCare. Officer Elpers transported the man to ComCare for a voluntary mental evaluation.

Nov. 6 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for failure to maintain its lane in the 5400 block of North Rock Road. The driver was in possession of an open container of alcohol and admitted to drinking. The driver was cited for a traffic infraction and released to a friend.

Nov. 5 — Officer Trelow responded to a welfare check in the 5000 block of North Hampton. The man officers were checking on sent a Facebook message to another person who took the message as an indicator that the first man wanted to hurt himself. Contact was made with the man and he did not want to hurt himself.

Nov. 5 — Chief Atteberry took a report at the station from a man in the 5000 block of East Willow Point who said someone is letting a dog defecate on his driveway. The man said this has happened five or six times since the first of August. He advised he returned home from school on Nov. 4 when he saw that it had occurred again. He does not know who the suspect may be although from the evidence he believes the dog is medium-sized.

Nov. 4 — Officer Steele stopped a vehicle for a defective taillight in the 5500 block of North Rock Road. The driver was arrested on a warrant and cited for driving with a suspended license.

Nov. 4 — Officer Camplin responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4600 block of North Hedgerow. A man was sleeping in his vehicle for over an hour. The man said he and his wife had gotten into an argument and he needed to cool off so he left home and found a place to sleep in his car. The man had a warrant through Sumner County. The man was transferred to the custody of the Sumner County Sheriff's Office.

Nov. 4 — Officer Camplin responded to a custody disturbance in the 4300 block of North Rushwood Court. The birth mother was trying to take her child when the father's new girlfriend tried to stop her. The birth mother took her child and left to go to the Bel Aire Police Station to make a report. It was determined the birth mother is the only custodial parent at this time.

Nov. 3 — Officer Crice responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 5300 block of North Rock Road. No injuries were reported.

Nov. 3 — Officer Davis responded to vandalism in the 6700 block of East 44th. The victim reported someone threw an egg at his front door and sprayed what he believed was weed killer on his yard west of his residence. The man did not want to pursue charges. He just wanted the vandalism documented.

Nov. 3 — Det. Davis responded to the 5600 block of North Lycee. A woman wanted to report she was awarded a protection order with temporary orders and her ex-husband was still communicating with her.

Nov. 3 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for an expired tag in the 6300 block of East 37th. The driver was cited.

Nov. 3 — Officer Elpers responded

to a domestic disturbance in the 5900 block of East Flagstaff. The suspect said he hit his father in the leg with a cane. The suspect was in violation of his probation conditions. The suspect was transported to the Sedgwick County Adult Detention Facility and booked on battery charges and for violating his probation conditions.

Nov. 2 — Officers responded to a verbal disturbance in the 5900 block of East Flagstaff. The suspect was off his medications and he had also been drinking. The parents of the suspect advised their son was getting really loud and about Nazi stuff. No one had any injuries and nothing at the house appeared broken. The suspect told responding officers he wanted to cut his throat with a knife. The suspect was transported to St. Joseph Hospital for a mental evaluation. His parents also arrived at St. Joseph to check the boy in for treatment.

Nov. 2 — Officer Elpers responded to a burglary in the 4800 block of East Ashton. A woman said on Oct. 21, someone attempted to pry open the rear sliding door of her home. Photos were taken of the damage.

Nov. 1 — Officer Elpers responded to a burglary in the 4500 block of North Frithill. The victim said he was gone all weekend and came home to find the back window on his house was open. The man provided a list of stolen property.

Oct. 31 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4200 block of North Oliver. The driver, James Harris, was arrested on a charge of contempt of court.

Oct. 31 — Officer Trelow responded to a burglary in the 6600 block of East 44th Court North. The victim said someone took electronics and jewelry from the residence.

Oct. 31 — Officer Elpers took a report of lost property in the 4500 block of North Frithill Court. The calling party reported the loss of a cellphone, which transmits data from a heart monitor. The phone was later located.

Oct. 30 — Officer Davis witnessed a vehicle traveling at 60 mph in a 40 mph zone. He stopped the vehicle and the driver handed him a Kansas ID card. Further investigation showed the driver had failed to pass a required exam to get a valid license. The man was cited for speeding and driving without a valid license. The man's vehicle was released to a licensed driver.

Oct. 30 — Officer Davis responded to disorderly conduct in the 4600 block of North Farmstead. The call involved a drunken man who did not want to leave a residence. Officer saw the man involved standing in the hallway of the residence talking to his ex. The man said he wanted to go stay at his mother's house and both said there was no physical contact. The woman said she wanted him to leave due to his intoxicated state and him being rude. Officer Brown transported the man to his mother's house. There were no further calls at the residence.

Oct. 30 — Det. Davis was contacted via phone by a man who said his neighbor was threatening him because he was throwing coffee grounds and tea leaves in his yard to keep the stray cats off his property. The woman was contacted and asked to stop her threatening behavior.

Oct. 29 — Officer Crice responded to Northeast Magnet High School. A female student told her counselor she was afraid to go home. The child was found to be having suicidal and homicidal thoughts. She was transported to Saint Joseph Hospital for evaluation.

Oct. 29 — Officer Trelow responded to a larceny in the 4300 block of North Edgemoor. A man reported an unknown subject entered his unlocked vehicle, taking tools, Ray Ban safety glasses, iPhone charger and a blue lunch box.

Oct. 29 — Officers Roney and Trelow responded to a larceny with a weapon at Kohl's on North Rock Road. They located the suspect vehicle at an Ironwood address in the Willowbend addition just north of where the larceny occurred. While in the area, the officers saw a black male exiting the suspect vehicle matching the description of one of the individuals involved in the disturbance with a weapon. The male fled into a residence. Officers secured the exterior of the residence until Wichita police arrived and took over the scene.

Oct. 29 — Det. Davis took a report of theft in the 4200 block of North Stratford. A man reported that his unlocked vehicle was parked in front of his residence, and was entered by an unknown person. That suspect stole a Hoyt Bow value at \$1,000.

Oct. 28 — Officer Trelow responded to a burglary in progress in the 5900 block of East 45th North. Officers made contact with a woman who had been served with a protection-from-abuse-order that her boyfriend obtained against her. The woman was told to get some belongings and leave the residence. After she gathered her belongings she decided she wanted to make a sexual assault report against her ex-boyfriend.

Oct. 28 — Officer Brown stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5000 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Oct. 27 — Officer Brown responded to a report of domestic violence in the 5900 block of East 45th North. A man wanted to report his ex-girlfriend threatened to call 911 and make a report that he sexually assaulted her if he kicked her out of the house. Officer gave the man information on how to obtain a restraining order if he desired or how to give an eviction notice.

Oct. 27 — Officer Steele responded to a report of domestic violence in the 6000 block of East Clarendon. There was no crime to report.

Oct. 26 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for failing to signal at 45th and Oliver. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Oct. 26 — Officer Wallender responded to a suspicious call in the 5800 block of Odessa. A woman said she made contact with four boys who were riding skateboards on the dam of the homeowner association lake. She told the boys that it was private property and they could not skate there. The

woman then told the boys that she was calling the police. Officer explained that the boys thought the no trespassing sign was for non-residents, and they did not understand the homeowners association. They were told they could not skate on the homeowner's association property.

Oct. 26 — Officer Toomey responded to the 6100 block of Perryton. A man initially called wanting police to stand by to prevent a disturbance while he collected clothing and personal items. The man planned on going to a hotel. The man left in his car without any further problems.

Oct. 26 — Officer Wallender responded to a barking dog complaint in the 5800 block of Odessa.

Oct. 25 — Officer Davis responded to a larceny in the 4100 block of North Edinburg Circle. A woman reported that while moving, she packed a handgun in a box and placed the box in a U-Haul trailer. She said she hired a moving company to help unload the U-Haul. The woman said that when she checked on the pistol it was gone out of the box. She said the box was intact and everything in the box was as it should be. The ID on the weapon was entered into the National Crime Information Computer.

Oct. 24 — Officer Trelow responded to a nuisance in the 8400 block of East Granite Court. A man reported his neighbor's dogs were barking for over two hours. Officer was unable to make contact with the dog owner and the reporting party will consider pressing disorderly conduct charges.

Oct. 24 — Officer Brown responded to a disturbance in the 5800 block of Flagstaff. A woman said a man attacked her and caused physical harm. The man had scratches on his face. Neither party wanted to press charges at this time.

Oct. 23 — Officer Trelow responded to a larceny in the 5700 block of East Kenawee. A man said an unknown subject went through his unlocked Jeep and took a black iPhone.

Oct. 23 — Officer Trelow responded to the 5400 block of Prairie Hawk. A man reported unknown subject(s) went through his unlocked Honda Accord. Items in the glove box and center console were moved. No loss was reported.

Oct. 23 — Officer Trelow responded to a larceny in the 4400 block of Eagle Lake. A man reported an unknown subject entered his unlocked vehicle and took a folding knife and Leatherman multi-tool.

Oct. 23 — Officer Roney responded to a larceny in the 6500 block of East Rodeo. A man reported that his soon-to-be ex-wife entered his temporary residence and took several items without his permission. The man said he came home and found the garage door and front door open and the lights on.

Oct. 23 — Officer Elpers responded to a fraud in the 4800 block of East 44th Court North. A man said he received a call from someone purporting to work for the IRS. The person said they needed to send them a \$5,800 dollars money order or they would take the man's house and arrest him. The man said he told the person he could only send \$800 dollars. He sent a money order to the person at a North Carolina address.

Oct. 22 — Officer Trelow responded to a larceny in the 6200 block of East Danbury. A woman reported an unknown subject entered her and her husband's unlocked vehicle. Small electronics and papers were taken. Several other victims called and stated someone went through their unlocked vehicles as well.

Oct. 22 — Officer Roney responded to a report of trespassing in the 4100 block of North Parkwood. A man came home from work and found two men in his backyard. One was wearing a pink hoodie and the other was wearing a blue one. When the man confronted them, they ran west across a footbridge that crosses the lake to the rear of his property. The man said they left southbound on Battin in a silver early 2000s Ford Fusion with a possible Kansas tag.



Courtesy photo

Sunrise scholars shine

Sunrise Christian Academy held its National Honor Society induction Sept. 28. The guest speaker was Kansas Board of Regents vice chair and attorney Zoe Newton. Front row, from left are principal Meighan Keely, Hope Eckley, Mikaela Catalan, Sarah Brooks, Katrina Kisner and NHS adviser Peggy O'Donnell. Back row, from left are Zoe Newton, Jacob Keely, Nathan Kampe, Lindsay Manwell, Breleigh Alexander, Elizabeth Newport and superintendent Robert Lindsted.

Sports center gets bond approval for major expansion

By David Dinell

A request to the Bel Aire City Council by officials at Next Level Hoops Academy for \$5.5 million in industrial revenue bonds swept to approval Dec. 1.

Next Level, 5260 N. Toler Drive, opened last November, but the concept has been so well received, company officials now want to expand it.

The first phase was a 50,000-square-foot facility with six basketball courts and eight volleyball courts. The second phase, already under construction, is a 57,300-square-foot expansion and includes doubling the amount of basketball courts and adding more offices, coaches' rooms and a mezzanine.

Next Level is run by Jason Perez, a former Wichita State University basketball player. It also is home to the ICT Mavs, a regional volleyball program.

The academy offers athletic training on individual and group levels. It also brings in youth teams from around the region for tournaments.

In a brief presentation to the council, Perez said there is no other facility like it in the Midwest and predicted it will continue to grow and develop. "The best is yet to come," he said.

Construction on the second

phase should be done in the second quarter of next year. The complex started out with four acres, but has purchased more land to expand to 12 acres.

City Manager Ty Lasher said Next Level Hoops has experienced "overwhelming support and growth."

"I feel they have been a great addition to Bel Aire and the Sunflower Commerce Park, are bringing many visitors to town and will help with future growth," he reported to the council.

The council approved a recommendation that calls for a 100 percent tax abatement the first two years and then a sliding abatement each year of 10 percent until the 10th year.

After that, the abatements cease.

Even giving up the tax revenue, the city and other governing bodies come out ahead in the deal, Lasher said. For every dollar in taxes the city gives up, it gets five back in other avenues or through the economic development the business brings.

Lasher said the city wants

the company to be profitable while helping Bel Aire and its residents. City officials were practically beaming at the way the concept has progressed.

"We're very excited Phase 2 is here already," said Mayor David Austin. "It's a great concept they have."

About the only question Austin had was what kind of a grand-opening ceremony Perez had in store for the expansion. The first phase features a splashy opening, including a visit from sports network ESPN. Perez said he's working on it.

Perez said athletics is a deep market and he's not worried about competition, even from the YMCA, which has a large basketball facility in south Wichita and is building another one in Andover.

"It's good for all of us," he said. "In fact, I feel like they help us."

The bonds are issued by the city and picked up by investors looking for tax savings. Taxpayers are not liable in case of a default or other financial issue faced by the company.

HIGHLIGHTS

Fire damages Bel Aire house

A house fire shortly after 2 p.m. Dec. 4 in the 4400 block of North Eagle Lake Drive in Bel Aire caused about \$50,000 damage, but crews were able to prevent the entire structure from being destroyed. The fire started near the open garage and rapidly spread into it and to two cars parked in the driveway.

One car was destroyed and the other damaged, according to Sedgwick County division chief Robert Timmonds. He said a quick response was the key to holding the damage down. Crews from both Sedgwick County and Wichita responded, he said.

There were two people and pets in the house at the time of the blaze. However, they were all able to get out safely. Also damaged was an upstairs bedroom. The fire didn't spread into other areas of the house.

Timmonds said the value of the structure is about \$147,000 and the cause of the blaze is still under investigation.

'Junior Poet'

Molly Wierman, of Wichita, was one of 38 University of Dallas students who presented her "Junior Poet" project. These presentations are the culmination of intensive research and writing on a major English-language poet and are required of all English majors in order to satisfy degree requirements, though students from other majors choose to take the course as well. Wierman's presentation was on the poetry of T.S. Eliot.

Emporia grad

Baosheng Cai, of Bel Aire, received a bachelor of science in business degree in business administration from Emporia State University on Dec. 12.

DEATH

THOMAS GOOD

Thomas "Tom" Edward Good, 66, of Wichita, died Dec. 20, 2015. He was a retired computer programming consultant.

He was an avid motorcyclist and an active volunteer at the Sedgwick County Zoo.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Mary Good. Survivors include sons Michael and Nicholas of Wichita; sisters Judy (Bob) Armbruster of Lindsborg, Marty (Glen) Armbruster of Wichita and Mary (George) Owens of Rome, Ga.; his former wife Jalana Good of Wichita; and many nephews and nieces.

In accordance with his wishes, his remains were cremated. A private memorial will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Sedgwick County Zoo or to the Catholic Care Center, Bel Aire.

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