

The Bel Aire Breeze

Vol. 6, No. 4

MAY 2011

Complimentary copy

Journey raises money for housing charity



Photos by Matt Heilman

Bel Aire Council member David Austin with his road bike in front of Bel Aire City Hall April 18. In July, Austin plans to ride his bike 303 miles from Clay Center, Kan. to Moberly, Mo. as part of a fundraiser for the Fuller Center for Housing, a Christian ministry that aims to end poverty housing around the world.

Bel Aire man plans benefit bike ride

By Matt Heilman

Bel Aire City Council member David Austin is trying to get himself in shape to complete a long bike ride. In July, Austin will ride 303 miles from Clay Center, Kan., to Moberly, Mo.

He's upping the mileage on his slick road bike in preparation for the challenge. He appreciates the health benefits, but is planning the long ride for a selfless cause.

The route Austin plans to ride is just one stretch of the cross-country journey mapped out to raise money for the Fuller Center for Housing, a non-profit Christian ministry that works "to eliminate poverty housing conditions throughout the world."

The full route of the Fourth Annual Fuller Center Bike Adventure stretches from Seattle, Wash., to Washington, D.C. Austin said a few brave cyclists plan to ride the entire way.

With a place in his heart for the Fuller Center for Housing, Austin said he was drawn to get involved when he saw that the route would go through part of Kansas. He admits there's no way he'd be able to complete the full route, even if his work and family schedule allowed him the time to do so.

He shook his head, questioning his plan to even go 303 miles over a four to five day stretch.

"This is crazy," Austin said with a laugh. "I can't believe I'm doing this. I haven't ridden a bike recreationally since I got my



David Austin takes a short ride in Central Park near City Hall April 18. When the weather cooperates, Austin takes advantage to build mileage on his road bike in preparation for his charitable bike ride in July.

driver's license 22 years ago."

Austin admits he could probably request donations for The Fuller Center without the physical demand, but he feels taking part in the bike ride is a better representation of what the ministry is about.

A former millionaire, who sacrificed all of his material possessions to make a difference for the less fortunate, founded the Fuller Center, as well as Habitat for Humanity,

See BIKE, Page 2

Challenger, incumbent win seats on city council

By Matt Heilman

The city council general elections were completed April 5 and at least some change came to Bel Aire.

City council incumbents Carolyn Marlier and Dave Sly faced challenger Moe Terrebonne for two at-large seats. In a close race, Sly won a second term on the council with 306 votes, which equates to 35 percent of the votes.

Terrebonne received 292 votes for 33 percent, edging Marlier, who received 260 votes for 29 percent. Terrebonne's victory marked the end of Marlier's 12 years on the council.

Marlier said her health slowed her down during the last few weeks of the campaign, but she was OK with the outcome.

"I'm good with it," Marlier said. "I've put in my time and I've enjoyed it. I will still stay active and keep interested in what goes on in the city."

Terrebonne said he was grateful for everyone who voted for him and was ready to get to work.

"I'm going to work hard now that I'm on the council to monitor the budget to make sure we don't spend money unnecessarily," Terrebonne said.

There was also a mayoral election in Bel Aire, where incumbent Harold Smith maintained his post after running unopposed.

City OKs property marketing agreement

By Matt Heilman

Bel Aire city leaders have taken an active role to promote land sales in the city, but the city council and mayor don't have the same expertise as professional developers or real estate agents.

Over the past few months, the city has seen encouraging signs for residential growth, but there's also commercial and industrial property that needs developed for Bel Aire to overcome its land debt.

After consulting with representatives of the J.P. Weigand real estate agency, the council moved to acquire help to market city property on Bel Aire's east side.

The council voted 3-0 to approve an agreement with John T. Arnold & Associates to market the entire city-owned property east of Webb.

Council members Gary Breault and Peggy O'Donnell were absent from the April 5 meeting.

The land in the agreement includes about 800 acres in the proposed industrial park that runs along 53rd North between Webb and Greenwich and 80 acres of agricultural land east of Greenwich.

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said the council discussed how to best market industrial property in the city at a couple of workshops and determined that John T. Arnold had expertise in

See MARKETING, Page 2

Council avoids characterizing debt management plan as a resolution

By Matt Heilman

It's almost that time of year again when the City of Bel Aire will be faced with difficult decisions regarding its management of land debt. The council and staff keep a sharp eye on the issue year-round, but the subject gets tenser as budget season nears.

Long-term financing is in place for the city to make in-

terest payments on a principle of about \$19 million in land debt on about 1,600 acres. Meeting the interest payments will likely stretch the city budget thin for the next few years.

In addition to paying off the interest, Mayor Harold Smith has repeatedly emphasized the need for a portion of land sales to pay off the principle so the city isn't left

with a \$19 million deficit after land is sold.

While there are indicators of progress, the city has to look at where it's at now, not what could be. Yes, new schools are being constructed and new housing and business opportunities are on the way.

However, the city has to pass its 2012 budget in August and as council member Dave Austin bluntly stated

at the April 19 meeting, "We know it's gonna be a sucky year."

Before the 2011 budget was passed last year with a 3-mill property tax increase, Smith laid out a payment plan for the city to meet interest payments, based on a conservative estimate on land sales.

The mayor's recommendation called for the city to raise property taxes a minimum of

3 mills for 2011, 2012 and 2013, assuming the conservative land sale projection was met. One mill in Bel Aire is equal to about \$45,000.

Interest payments jump a little past \$1 million in 2012, at a rate that will be consistent until it jumps to \$1.7 million in 2021.

To prepare for the 2012 interest payments, Smith revised his plan for an even

more conservative projection, based on the worst-case scenario of no land sales next year.

Smith's updated plan calls for the dedication of 9 1/2 mills to the interest payments in 2012 and allows proceeds from all land sales to pay off part of the principle.

City Manager Ty Lasher

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Willie's wild ride was short-lived

The smiling cowboy who greeted motorists with the tip of his hat near 77th North and I-135 had a good run. "Wild Willie West," as he was called, was always the first to know when it rained, but the last to complain about the weather.

He never quit grinning and showed a sense of pride in his job to direct traffic to Wild West World, the short-lived theme park in Park City that offered entertainment for a few months in 2007.

Even after the park was closed and his boss was thrown in jail, Willie kept his head up all the way to the bitter end.

In November, an online bidder bought the digital cowboy sign at a public auction. On April 6, Willie was taken apart and moved away in pieces on the back of a couple of flatbed trucks.

I don't know where he's going or if he'll be put back together again. Whatever the future holds, it's hard to imagine his smiling face looking over a different landscape.

He was home in Park City. That's where he was raised and that's where he planned to stay forever.

Unfortunate circumstances surrounding Wild West World ended Willie's time before anyone anticipated. In his life, Willie was a contro-

Heil on life

By Matt Heilman



versial figure.

Some people thought he was "great." Others called him "stupid" or "tacky."

Whatever they said, it didn't matter.

Willie didn't let what people thought about him affect his mood. That grin was literally painted onto his face and not even the meanest bully in the toughest schoolyard in America could break his expression.

He was a friendly interstate landmark as iconic as the famous chimney sweep guy who sits along the highway between Moundridge and McPherson. Whether you loved him or hated him, you can't deny that Wild Willie West left his mark on the area.

To loosely reference an Elton John song, the digital sign burned out long before his legend ever will.

Matt Heilman is a reporter for The Bel Aire Breeze. Reach him at 755-0821 or matt@arkvalleynews.com.



Mike Alumbaugh

Crews remove the Wild West World cowboy "Wild Willie West" from the former theme park's sign along I-135 April 6.

Higher percentage of voters up north

Nice job, north Sedgwick County voters.

You're better than the average.

A higher percentage of voters in Bel Aire, Park City, Kechi, Valley Center and the USD 262 school district turned out for the April 5 election — 14 percent compared to 13 percent — than Sedgwick County as a whole. It's not much, but it says something.

The city election with the highest turnout was Valley Center with 18 percent. Kechi had 16 percent. Bel Aire had 12 percent and Park City 11 percent.

The Valley Center school district election — the most highly contested races in north Sedgwick County — had 14 percent turnout.

So, what does it say?

Here's one possibility: Voters in this area of the county are only slightly less disinterested in local elections than voters in all of Sedgwick County.

Here's another: Voters in the area of the county are slightly more interested in local elections.

We choose to view the glass as half full.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

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Marketing

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industrial properties.

The agreement with John T. Arnold is for two years.

Lasher said John T. Arnold's commission percentage is inversely related to the size of a sale. So, the bigger the sale, the smaller the percentage John T. Arnold would receive. For example, Lasher said John T. Arnold would receive about 4 percent on a land sale of \$10 million.

The marketing agreement also includes a lease rate because Lasher said there are some companies that prefer to lease property rather than own it.

Also on April 5, the council:

- Approved an appropriations ordinance of \$330,213.27.
- Heard from Lasher who discussed plans for an Arbor Day celebration on April 30, which will coincide with the unveiling of Bel Aire's 30th anniversary project where commemorative bricks will be stacked to form a monument on a median along the drive leading to City Hall.

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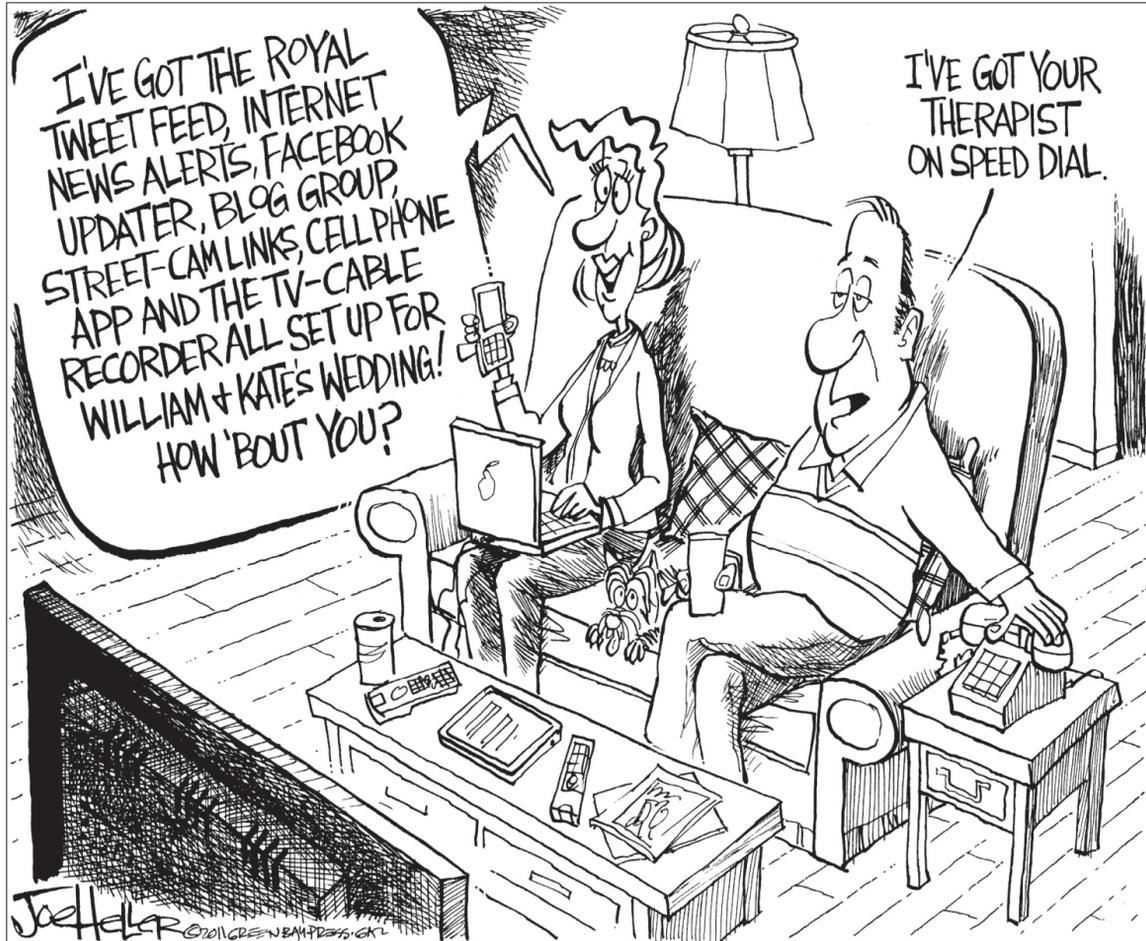


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Anniversary announcements, wedding announcements and obituaries run free of charge in The Bel Aire Breeze. Call 755-0821 or e-mail it to legal@arkvalleynews.com



City

Continued from Page 1

said that if no land is sold, Bel Aire would need to account for nearly \$1.3 million in interest payments in 2012, an amount that comes out to 28 mills.

In the worst-case scenario where no land is sold, Smith's plan calls for a compromise of a tax increase and cuts in city services, which would equate to roughly \$427,000 in

reduced spending.

Smith brought the plan before the council as a starting point to deal with the budget, but it in no way calls for the approval of deep cuts or a steep tax hike. It just provides what council member Gary Breault called "a low-ball starting point."

"This plan eliminates the guesswork, which from a budget standpoint makes us feel more comfortable," Lasher said.

The council agreed that it was wise to start looking at

the budget from the worst-case scenario and build from there, but they denied Smith's plan as a resolution. Smith pointed out that a resolution isn't binding like an ordinance and is subject to change an unlimited number of times before the final budget must be approved in August.

The council thanked Smith for the guidance and didn't object to his figures, but they didn't want the official minutes of the April 19 meeting to indicate to the public that they were supportive of a budget

that called for a tax hike.

"I don't think we should do something like a resolution because it could confuse the public," newly elected council member Moe Terrebonne said.

Council member Peggy O'Donnell agreed and said that in her mind, there was some finality associated with the word "resolution" that she wasn't comfortable with.

So, while accepting Smith's work to provide the "low-ball starting point" to iron out the 2012 budget, the council voted 4-0 to deny it as

a resolution.

"I can live with that," Smith said. "I didn't want to make it more complicated. My sole purpose was to lay out what's in front of us."

Council member Dave Sly was absent from the April 19 meeting.

There are a few workshops to go, input from the public in a town hall meeting or two and a lot of number crunching ahead before the council can comfortably say for sure how taxpayers will be impacted in 2012.

Bike

Continued from Page 1

which is one of the nation's largest non-profit organizations.

"He gave it all away. The first-class tickets and the Lincoln Continentals," Austin said.

The man who turned his back on his wealth was Millard Fuller, a close friend of Austin's father, John Austin.

John Austin was a minister who started one of the first affiliates for Habitat for Humanity in the 1970s in Paducah, Ky. With Fuller, John Austin helped start new affiliates for the home-improvement ministry across the Midwest.

"Some of my earliest memories were riding around in the car with my dad and Millard, spreading the word throughout the Midwest," David Austin said.

Now, Habitat for Humanity has more than 200,000 affil-

ates across the United States, he said.

After initiating the growth of Habitat for Humanity, Fuller and his wife, Linda Fuller, established the Fuller Center for Housing about six years ago.

Millard Fuller died in 2009. In his teen years, growing up in Pennsylvania, David Austin, now 38, helped raise awareness of poverty with volunteer hours and fundraising for Habitat for Humanity. In 1988, Austin celebrated his 16th birthday while walking from Patterson, N.J., to Raleigh, NC. In 1990, he took part in a fundraising walk from Pasadena, Calif., to Tijuana, Mexico.

He's worked on several homebuilding projects across the country and has seen former president Jimmy Carter roll up his sleeves and hammer nails to put sweat equity into the fight against poverty.

Like Habitat for Humanity, the Fuller Center for Housing emphasizes "giving a hand up

instead of a handout," Austin said. In other words, the ministry is available to help those who are willing to help themselves.

On his four- or five-day bike ride this summer, Austin said he plans to stop in Kansas City near his halfway point to volunteer on a Fuller Center home build.

Settled with his wife, Keturah, and teenage daughter in Bel Aire, Austin is looking forward to stepping out of his comfort zone for a good cause. Currently, he's seeking sponsorship for the fundraising adventure.

"I'd love it if the community would sponsor me in support," he said.

For more information on

the Fuller Center for Housing or the ministry's fundraising

bike ride, visit www.fuller-center.org/bikeadventure.

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City of Bel Aire



NOTES FROM CITY HALL

SPECIAL PROMOTION FOR HOME BUYERS IN CENTRAL PARK

The City of Bel Aire will provide FREE WATER AND SEWER SERVICE for 6 MONTHS (a maximum of \$2,000 per household) to all buyers that purchase a spec

home or custom home in the Central Park community sold by Weigand New Homes. The water and sewer credit is only available on contracts written between March 16 to May 31, 2011.

The Bel Aire Utility Advisory Committee has an opening for a volunteer

member. The Utility Committee consists of five citizens who advise the Governing Body during a 2-year term on matters relating to water, sewer, storm water run-off, trash, and sump pump discharges. The Committee meets once per month, currently on the second Tuesday,

from 2:30-4:40 p.m., at City Hall. Meeting day and time can be changed for the convenience of all Committee members. For more information, contact Mayor Smith at 744-2650 or a City Council member.

Keep This Date Open!
June 18th
7:00 to 10:00 PM
MUSIC AND MOONLIGHT
City Hall Terrace
Music Talent Show (age 18 and under)
Plus: Music under the stars (bring your lawn chair)
No admission cost!

ATTENTION K-8 PARENTS... WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

The City of Bel Aire is currently working to submit an application to the Kansas Department of Transportation for a Safe Routes To School program. What is Safe Routes To School? It is a program designed to help cities and schools work together to promote physical activity in our children. The program encourages them to walk or ride their bike to school, rather than relying on vehicular transportation. To begin, the City of Bel Aire is preparing a Phase I application that must be submitted to the KDOT by May 31, 2011. The Phase I stage is required to tell the state how we intend to provide a safe environment for our children to walk or ride their bike to school.

How can you help? The more support we can get from the community, the more attractive the City's application is to the Department of Transportation. Please take a few minutes to complete the Parent's Survey found on the City of Bel Aire's homepage (www.belaires.gov) or at the National Center for Safe Routes To School website (www.saferoutesinfo.org). Additionally, any K-8 parents who would like to write a letter of support for the program is encouraged to do so. This would help increase our chance of being selected for the next phase of the competition. Please address letters to the following, BUT DO NOT SEND THEM:

Ms. Becky Pepper
Kansas Department of Transportation
Eisenhower State Office Building
Bureau of Transportation Planning
700 SW Harrison Street
Topeka, KS 66603-3754

Instead, please send letters of support and completed surveys to:

City of Bel Aire
ATTN: Cody Sims
7651 E. Central Park Ave.
Bel Aire, KS 67226

Your letters of support and survey results will be included in the application packet that will be presented to KDOT in May. Please submit the letters of support and the completed surveys by Friday, May 20, 2011. For questions or concerns, contact Cody Sims at City Hall at 744-2451 or csims@belaires.gov. Help us show why Bel Aire is the right community for the project!
Thank you for your help and support!

Bel Aire Recreation

5251 E. 48th North • www.belaires.gov • 744-2700
Mon., Tue., & Thur. 8-8 • Wed. & Fri. 8-7 • Sat. 9-3

For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700.

HELP WANTED (Seasonal Part-Time)

The City of Bel Aire is accepting applications for Recreation Center Attendant. Duties will include light cleaning, facility coverage, and program assistance. This is a seasonal part-time position on M-F mornings from May 16 to August 12. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age. Apply at the Bel Aire Recreation Center, 5251 E. 48th N.

UMPIRES NEEDED

Bel Aire Recreation is accepting baseball & softball umpire applications for the upcoming season. Experience preferred and must be at least 16 years old. Call Adam at 744-2700 if interested.

X-BOX CONNECT

A new X-Box Connect gaming system is now available for use at the Rec Center thanks to a \$500 donation from the Bel Aire Lions Club and a \$500 grant from Sam's Club. The virtual video game is available during scheduled times for members and day fee users.

CENTRAL PARK SWIMMING POOL

The Central Park Swimming Pool at 7350 E. Central Park Ave. opens to the public on May 28th. Offerings will include swimming lessons, open swim, rentals, memberships, and day passes. Brochure information will be available online at www.belaires.gov

RECREATIONAL SUMMER T-BALL, BASEBALL & SOFTBALL LEAGUES

There are a few spots remaining in each age group, but we anticipate filling them rather quickly. If you are interested in signing up, please do so as soon as possible.

MARVELOUS MODELS

This beginner class will focus on how to model your own clothes and walk the "runway," with an emphasis on self-confidence and having fun! The class will be for ages 5-10 and meet from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. beginning on Tuesday, June 7th. On the last day of class, August 2nd, there will be a mini fashion show for parents, grandparents, friends, and family to come and enjoy.

FISHING CLINIC

On Tuesday, June 14th from 9:00 - 11:00 am the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will conduct

a free Fishing Clinic at Bel Aire's Alley Park. Topics introduced include: safety, fish identification, baiting a hook, hooking a fish, reeling and handling a fish. Fishing equipment will be provided. Parents are encouraged to assist their children. Space is limited, pre-registration is required.

HORSEBACK RIDING at Singletree Stables (2100 E. 45th St. N.)

Participants will experience the basics of horsemanship including horse care, grooming, tacking up, and riding. Parents are welcome to observe. This year we are going to have five sessions in the month of June instead of one a month. The classes will be on Thursdays from 1:00 - 2:30 beginning June 2nd and running through June 30th. The registration deadline is Friday, May 27th.

ZUMBA

ZUMBA is at the Bel Aire Recreation Center! This is a Latin-inspired, dance-fitness class that incorporates Latin and international music and dance movements, creating a dynamic, exciting, exhilarating, and effective fitness system. A ZUMBA class known as a ZUMBA Fitness-Party combines fast and slow rhythms that tone and sculpt the body using an aerobic/fitness approach to achieve a unique blended balance of cardio and muscle-toning benefits. Classes are held on Mondays and Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. You can join at any time! New spots have opened and the class will move to the gym beginning May 2nd.

TAEKWONDO

We are accepting registrations for ages 5 & up. Classes meet on Monday & Friday from 5:00-6:00 p.m. or Tuesday & Thursday from 7:10-8:10 p.m.. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

YOGA

Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:10-7:10 p.m.. You will need to provide your own yoga mat.

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. Rates are going up after the first of the year, so join now!

Bel Aire Senior Club

Activities are held at 4551 N. Auburn unless otherwise noted. Those 55-plus are welcome to participate. For information on programs and services for seniors, contact Vicki Shepard, Tri-City Senior Director, at 744-1199. The club is self-governed and activities benefit all participating seniors.

Free computer class Monday 10:00 AM Park City Senior Center
Free Line Dance lessons Wednesday 2:30 PM Park City Senior Center
Square Dance Lessons and Dancing 6:30 PM every Thursday (except 3rd Thursday of the month) Park City Senior Center

May 3 8:30 a.m. — Breakfast at Livingstons, 832 N. Webb Road

May 9 10:00 a.m. — Board Meeting

11:30 a.m. — Lunch in Old Town at the Pump House located at the corner of 2nd & Mosley (825 E. 2nd St.) some parking in front on street and a few spots in their parking lot

1:30 p.m. — Tour of Great Plains Transportation Museum. Located at 700 E. Douglas. Cost--\$3.00 per person

May 18 10:00 a.m. — Men's Coffee at Braums

May 18 2:00 p.m. — Ladies Tea/Coffee at Braums

May 23 6:00 p.m. — Covered Dish Dinner
Hosts: Wanda Urquhart
Program: Craig Cole Magician

Just a reminder to start saving for the annual senior garage sale

DAY TRIP—FRIDAY JUNE 10, 2011

Bus trip to Abilene, Kansas

Ride on the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad

Lunch at the Kirby House

Stop at Russell Stover Candies

Tour the Smoky Hill Vineyards & Winery

Tour Prairie Lavender Farm

Price includes transportation & all admissions & lunch \$65.00 per person

Reservations & payment need to be made by May 27th

Call Vicki at 744-1199 for reservations

Bus departs from Maize at 7:00 a.m.

Bus departs from Park City at 7:30 AM

For information on senior activities or resources contact

Tri-City Senior Director Vicki Shepard at 744-1199

Deadline for June: Friday, May 20

Bel Aire Breeze

Bel Aire Senior Center

All events are held at the Bel Aire Senior Center, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., unless otherwise noted and are for ALL SENIORS living in or near Bel Aire.

The center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and has library books to check out, places to study or do research and computers for use.

For more information about the center and its activities, contact Rick Eberhard, Senior Director, at either 744-2451, extension 121, or reberhard@belaires.gov. Beginning Jan. 1, Officer hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday (Excluding holidays, special events or senior-related meetings.) Any senior can belong to or attend more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County

Sr. Breakfasts NEW LOCATION IN MAY Friday, 9 a.m. except on Breakfast & Learn Days, McDonalds 3527 N. Rock Rd. Buy your own breakfast.
Men's Fellowship Coffee Every Monday, 10 a.m., Bel Aire Sr. Center, all men over 55 invited
Bridge Every Tuesday, 1 p.m.
Aerobics NEW TIME Every Wednesday, 9 a.m.
Oil Painting Classes Every Thursday, 1-4 p.m., Cost

May 2 @ 6:30 p.m. - May "Senior Potluck Dinner & Program" @ Senior Center, bring a large covered dish to share with others; drinks are provided and bring your own table service. Special Program by SG. CO. Extension Office Horticulture Agent Bob Neier @ 7:30 PM - Presentation on Spring planting and gardens and garden composting ideas. Doors open at 6:00 PM.

May 4 @ 10:30 a.m. - "Hand crafted Jewelry Class" in Sr. Ctr. (small fee paid to instructor); Senior Advisory Board Meeting @ 6:30 PM - open meeting.

May 6 - (NEW) Department of Aging "Hoarding Conference" @ Wichita Marriott Hotel - Sr. Director attending & Out of Office.

May 7 - (NEW) Senior Center event sponsored by the TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Club - "Shredding Event" for City residents only of Bel Aire, in West parking lot at City Hall 7651 E. Central Park Ave. 9 AM to 12 Noon. Bring your paper items to be shredded in cardboard boxes. No plastic bags allowed.

May 7 - (NEW) Senior Ctr. "SPRING MYSTERY DINNER" - Meet at the Senior Center @ 4 PM to drive to location - head west to the country (clue). If you would like to go, RSVP to Senior Director by May 4th and car pooling will be utilized and drivers are needed.

May 8 - Mother's Day 2011 - Honor Mothers every where.

May 9 @ 7 p.m. - Central Park HoA Board Meeting at Sr. Ctr.

May 13 @ 9 a.m. - (NEW) Special "Breakfast & Learn Event @ the Exploration Place" museum in downtown Wichita. RSVP are needed by May 12th. Meet at 8:30 AM to car pool from Senior Center.

May 13 @ 7 p.m. - Senior Fun Night - bring your favorite board or card games to share with others along with some finger food and snacks to share. Drinks are provided.

May 14 - Senior Red Hats Society Meeting - Call 744-0217 for time and location.

May 14 @ 5 p.m. - (NEW) Special event "Dinner with Friends". Meet at Senior Center to car pool to Bread Basket Restaurant in nearby Newton, KS to go enjoy their special evening German Food Buffet. RSVP by May 12th to confirm your reservation to Sr. Director's Office.

May 18 @ 10:30 a.m. - "Hand Crafted Jewelry Class" in Senior Center (small fee paid to instructor).

May 19 @ 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. - At the Senior Center - "AARP Drivers Safety Training and Program" in Senior Center - \$12.00 fee for AARP Members and \$14.00 Non-AARP Members. Call 744-2451 Ext. 121 to register in advance due to limited seating. Note: This will be the 2nd and final AARP program scheduled locally for 2011 in Bel Aire.

May 20 - "Elder Abuse Conference" - Sponsored by TRIAD Council of the Mental Health Assoc. of SC Kansas.

May 21 @ 10:30 a.m. - Single Seniors Group Meeting at Senior Center.

May 23 @ 7 p.m. - Bel Aire Tree Board Meeting at Senior Center.

May 25 @ 7 p.m. - Sr. Ladies BUNKO Game Night.

May 27 - All Evening events canceled: NO Sr. Fellowship NOR Pitch Games (canceled) due to the holiday weekend.

May 30 - "Memorial Day Observed" - NO Men's Coffee/Fellowship - the Senior Center and City Hall CLOSED to observe the holiday. Please fly your USA flags at home or at your business?

June 28 @ 11 a.m. - Elder Abuse Awareness Day @ Botanica, the Wichita Gardens - Wear something purple? Drop by the Bel Aire Senior Center Booth!

Celebrating Older Americans Month 2011
Theme: Older Americans: Connecting the Community



Cowboy up

Cowboy Ryan Arndt of the Arndt/Bailey Ranch wrestles a steer in the calf-roping portion of the April 17 ranch rodeo as part of the 10th Annual Cowboy Extravaganza at the Kansas Pavilions. In its 10th year, the extravaganza expanded from a one-day to a three-day event and utilized most of the pavilion complex.

Matt Heilman

POLICE REPORTS

April 20 — Lt. Spencer responded to the report of lost juvenile in the 3800 block of North Oliver. The child returned home shortly after officers arrived on scene. The child had been at a friend's house.

April 20 — Officer Hazelwood responded to the report of a suspicious person in the 4300 block of North Eagle Lake Court. The residence and grounds were checked and no signs of anyone were found.

April 20 — Officer Foxx responded to the complaint of a barking dog in the 5700 block of Hanover. The dog and owners were located without incident.

April 20 — Officer Foxx responded to a family disturbance in the 6000 block of Clarendon. Suspects left the area prior to officer's arrival.

April 19 — Detective Pentecost responded to the report of a suspicious phone call in the 500 block of Willow Point.

April 19 — Officer Hazelwood responded to the report of a suspicious person in the 6000 block of East Rodeo Court. Officer contacted two people and told them to get a permit to go door to door.

April 19 — Officer Hutton took a person into custody on a court commitment for the Bel Aire Municipal Court.

April 19 — Officer Swanson responded to the report of a suspicious vehicle in the 4700 block of North Glendale. The vehicle was clear and no occupant was located.

April 18 — Officer Toomey attempted to conduct a traffic stop at 5000 N. Webb. The driver increased his speed to over 100 mph, attempting to flee and elude pursuit by police. The car was abandoned on Sharon Lane in Wichita. The driver fled the area. The driver was not located.

April 18 — Officer Toomey responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 4700 block of North Kruger. The residence was having phone problems.

April 17 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at 6700 E. 45th North.

April 17 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that had a unregistered tag at 3800 N. Woodlawn. The tag was seized.

April 17 — Officers McCaslin and Hutton disposed of a raccoon found in a yard in the 6100 block of East Quail Ridge Court.

April 15 — Officer McGuire checked the welfare of a person in the 4000 block of North Edgemoor. Officer contacted the homeowner. He mistakenly pushed on the gas while backing into his garage and backed into his residence, damaging the residence.

April 15 — Officer McGuire took the report of vandalism at 6700 E. 45th North. Someone cut tires and broke the window of a vehicle.

April 15 — Officer Hutton served a warrant at 5714 E. 49th North. Michael Nelson was arrested on the warrant.

April 15 — Officer Hutton responded to an audible alarm in the 4500 block of North Dundee. The alarm was false.

April 15 — Officer Foxx assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department in the 4500 block of North Rushwood

Court.

April 15 — Detective Pentecost took the report of harassment in the 4000 block of Frittillary.

April 14 — Officer Swanson found a large trash dump in the roadway at 11500 E. 45th North. Officer notified city works.

April 14 — Officer Hazelwood took the report of someone entering a residence in the 4000 block of North Auburn and taking property. Officer checked the neighborhood and did not locate anything.

April 12 — Officer Brandewiede took the report of damage to a vehicle parked in a driveway.

April 12 — Detective Pentecost responded to a motor vehicle accident at 3700 N. Oliver. One person was transported to the hospital.

April 12 — Officer Brandewiede responded to an alarm in the 4100 block of Edinburg. The alarm was false.

April 10 — Officer Swanson responded to an alarm in the 5900 block of East 37th North. Employees were on scene. The alarm was false.

April 10 — Officer Hutton responded to a possible disturbance in the 4400 block of North Mission. The suspect fled the area. The victim refused EMS treatment.

April 7 — Officer Foxx responded to the report of suspicious activity in the 4900 block of North Hedgerow Court. Officer checked the premises and found no signs of burglary.

April 7 — Officer Foxx assisted Kechi police with a traffic stop at 5800 E. K-254.

April 6 — Officer Swanson responded to the report of two people trying to fish in a private pond in the 5200 block of North Rock Road. They left the area prior to officer's arrival.

April 6 — Officer Hazelwood responded to a motor vehicle accident at 3800 N. Woodlawn.

April 6 — Officer Hazelwood arrested Adam Wittsell on a charge of driving with a suspended license at 7651 E. Central Park.

April 6 — Officer Mavia transported a person to the Sedgwick County jail on a Bel Aire court commitment.

April 5 — Officer Swanson conducted a traffic stop at 5300 N. Webb Road. A person was issued citations for no proof of driver's license and speeding.

April 5 — Officer Steele responded to the report of domestic violence in the 4800 block of North Hedgerow. There was not a noticeable disturbance.

April 4 — Officer Toomey responded to an alarm in the 6200 block of East 37th North. The owner was contacted. No problems were found.

April 4 — Officer Brandewiede responded to an alarm in the 7800 block of Turquoise Trail.

April 4 — Officer Brandewiede responded to a motor vehicle accident at Woodlawn and 45th North.

April 4 — Detective Pentecost took the report of vandalism at 4341 N. Woodlawn. Someone cut a swing in half.

April 3 — Officer McGuire responded to the report of an abandoned vehicle in the 4200 block of North Rushwood. The vehicle was towed.

April 3 — Officer Brandewiede arrested Chad S. Clipperton on charges of driving with a suspended license and failure to register vehicle at 5125

Police promote seatbelt usage during Click It or Ticket

By The Breeze staff

Each May, the Bel Aire Police Department joins law enforcement agencies across the nation for the annual Click It or Ticket campaign to promote seatbelt usage. This year's campaign will take place from May 24 through June 6. Bel Aire police and other law enforcement agencies will be increasing traffic enforcements, with additional officers on the roadways in the state to enforce occupant protection and other traffic laws. The Kansas Department of Transportation has provided a grant again this year to fund the extra enforcement efforts.

This year, the Kansas Legislature approved a primary seatbelt law.

The program aims to reduce the number of preventable deaths and injuries that occur when unbelted drivers and passengers are involved in traffic crashes. Officers will be aggressively enforcing seatbelt, child restraint (including seatbelts and child passenger safety seats), speed and impaired driving violations.

The Memorial Day holiday falls during the Click It or Ticket campaign.

Nearly 70 percent of people killed in traffic crashes in Kansas in 2008 were not properly restrained.

E. 46th North.

April 2 — Officer Brandewiede assisted EMS in the 6700 block of East Odessa.

April 2 — Officer Brandewiede responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 6600 block of East 44th North.

April 2 — Officer McGuire responded to the report of vandalism in the 5600 block of East 45th North. A person spray painted on the water tower.

April 2 — Officer McGuire responded to an audible alarm in the 5900 block of East 49th North. The owner was contacted.

April 2 — Officer Brandewiede took the report of a stolen tag in the 5600 block of East Denise.

April 2 — Officer McCaslin responded to the report of a larceny in progress in the 4100 block of North Oliver. Officer checked the area and did not locate the suspect.

April 2 — Officer Steele conducted a traffic stop on a juvenile traveling 117 mph in a 55 mph zone at 6000 N. Webb Road. The juvenile was arrested on charges of possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

April 2 — Officer Foxx responded to the report of a loud party in the 4200 block of North Edgemoor. Officer contacted several people sitting on the back deck of the residence.

April 2 — Officer Foxx responded to the report of armed robbery at the Quik Trip at 37th North and Rock Road. Officer checked the area but did not locate the suspect. Officer assisted

Wichita police in checking area businesses.

April 2 — Officer Steele responded to the request to check the welfare of a person at K-254 and Oliver. A possible DUI was turned over to the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office.

April 1 — Officer Hutton responded to the request to check the welfare of a person in the 4900 block of North Hedgerow. Dallas Williams was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct and two Sedgwick County warrants.

April 1 — Officer Mavia assisted EMS in the 6000 block of East Perryton.

March 31 — Officer McGuire conducted a traffic stop at 4300 N. Oliver. He issued citations for speeding and a tag violation.

March 31 — Officer Swanson responded to the report of a verbal domestic violence disturbance in the 5900 block of East Flagstaff.

March 29 — Officer Brandewiede responded to the report of a suspicious person in the 6500 block of Perryton. The vehicle left the area before the officer arrived. Officer checked the area and did not locate the vehicle.

March 29 — Officer Hazelwood assisted EMS in the 5800 block of Flagstaff.

March 29 — Officer Swanson responded to the report of a suspicious person in the 6600 block of East 44th North. Officer made contact with a contractor working in the area.

March 29 — Officer Steel responded to the report of loud music or loud

noise in the 4700 block of North Oliver. The owner was contacted.

March 28 — Officer McGuire arrested Jeffery A. Humbolt on a City of Wichita bench warrant and charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and driving with a suspended license in the 4100 block of North Oliver.

March 28 — Officer Hutton assisted Wichita police with a possible moving disturbance in the area of 37th North and Woodlawn. Raisa Ginyard was arrested on charges of aggravated battery, domestic battery, aggravated endangerment of a child, criminal damage to property and driving with a suspended license.

March 26 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop in the 6300 block of East 37th North. Samantha Marie Hughes was arrested on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

March 26 — Officer Brandewiede assisted Kechi police with a traffic stop at mile marker 2 on K-254.

March 26 — Officer Hazelwood assisted Kechi police with a disturbance in the 400 block of East Cheyenne Court.

March 26 — Officer Foxx arrested Jalisa Monique Diaz on a charge of DUI at 4200 N. Woodlawn.

March 26 — Officer McGuire responded to a disturbance in the 400 block of West Cherokee.

March 26 — Officer Brandewiede arrested Zachariah E. Walters on a charge of driving with a suspended license at 6300 E. 37th North.

March 26 — Officer Swanson responded to an alarm in the 6600 block of East 44th North. Everything was secure.

March 26 — Officer Hutton assisted EMS in the 4800 block of East Willowpoint Court.

March 25 — Officer McGuire responded to the report of a hit-and-run accident at 37th North and Woodlawn.

March 25 — Officer Foxx responded to a medical alarm in the 6100 block of East 37th North.

March 25 — Officer Foxx assisted Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office with a traffic pursuit at 2029 N. Woodlawn.

March 24 — Officer Swanson responded to an alarm in the 4200 block of North Mission. Everything was secure.

March 24 — Officer McCaslin took the report of a found cat in the 5100 block of North Yorkshire. The person who found the cat said she would care for it and attempt to locate the owner.

March 23 — Officer Brandewiede responded to the report of a cow in the road at 11000 E. 29th North. Officer located the owner fixing the fence. He returned the cow to the fenced area.

March 23 — Officer Hazelwood responded to a motor vehicle accident at 45th North and Woodlawn.

March 22 — Officer Brandewiede responded to the report of a vehicle fire in the 9500 block of East 45th North. Officer found a car that was burned to the shell. Officer assisted with traffic control.

March 22 — Officer Swanson took the report of a found bicycle at 4014 N. Oliver.

March 22 — Officers Mavia and Hazelwood responded to the report of suspicious people in the 5800 block of East Kewanee. Officer checked the area but did not locate the suspects.

March 22 — Lt. Griggs conducted a traffic stop at 4200 N. Oliver. He issued a citation to a person on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

March 21 — Officer McGuire responded to the report of domestic violence in the 6100 block of East 41st North Circle. There was no indication of physical violence.

March 21 — Detective Pentecost took the report of someone entering an unlocked car in the 5100 block of Remington and ransacking the contents. The interior was left covered in dog hair.

March 21 — Officer Swanson took the report of a person receiving unwanted text messages in the 4300 block of East Eagle Lake Court.

March 21 — Officer Toomey checked on two people at 4500 N. Westlake.

March 20 — Officer Brandewiede assisted Kechi police with a traffic stop at 9300 E. 61st North.

March 20 — Officer McGuire conducted a traffic stop in the 4700 block of North Oliver. Adrian L. Reedy was arrested on a City of Wichita bench warrant.

March 19 — Officer Brandewiede responded to a request by Pennsylvania State Police to check the 6100 block of East 41st North for items purchased fraudulently.

March 19 — Officer McGuire checked the 4300 block of North Janesville for suspicious activity.

March 19 — Officer Brandewiede responded to an audible alarm in the 15400 block of East 45th North.

March 19 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at 3800 N. Woodlawn.

March 19 — Officer Brandewiede conducted a traffic stop at Homestead and 47th North. Jose Martin Gonzalez was arrested on a charge of driving with a suspended license.

March 18 — Officer McGuire conducted a traffic stop at 4900 N. Woodlawn. A person was issued citations on charges of driving with a suspended license and speeding.

March 18 — Officer McGuire conducted a traffic stop at 4900 N. Woodlawn. A person was issued citations on charges of speeding, driving with a restricted license and driving without an interlock device.

March 18 — Detective Pentecost conducted a traffic stop at 3700 N. Harding.

March 18 — Officer Hazelwood responded to the report of vandalism at Denise Park at 5800 E. Denise.

March 18 — Lt. Spencer responded to the report of two vicious dogs at large at 6457 Danbury. Sedgwick County Animal Control took custody of both dogs.

Dinner with the Doctor

Da Vinci® Robotic Surgery



Dr. Kent Bradley, M.D. and the Newton Medical Center Robotic Surgery Team discuss the recently acquired da Vinci® surgical system, one of the most effective, least invasive surgical treatment options available today.

Tuesday, March 3, 2011
Optional buffet: 5:30 p.m. — \$5
Presentation: 6 p.m. — FREE

Seating is limited —
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Truck driving school opens near Park City

By Matt Heilman

As a self-employed nurse practitioner, Tandy Noeller traveled across Kansas and conducted pre-employment DOT, or Department of Transportation, physicals for several large trucking companies. Her job was basically to assure that potential commercial truck drivers had good eyesight, good hearing and were clean of drugs.

Among her stops were truck driving schools in Fort Scott and Topeka. Noeller said she enjoyed meeting the instructors and students and developed an idea to assist an industry in need of workers.

Noeller and her husband, Richard Noeller noticed the shortage of qualified truck drivers in Kansas and saw that the Wichita area hasn't had a truck driving school to help with the shortage in more than

a year.

In mid April, the Noellers opened the Wichita Truck Driving School in north Wichita, near Park City. The school occupies about 2,000 square feet of space on the second floor of the United Warehouse facility at 901 E. 45th North.

The facility, which includes 35 truck docking stations and "a very large area for driving instruction," can be accessed by taking Hydraulic to 45th and driving west.

The school's four-week commercial truck driving program consists of about 80 hours each for classroom time and driving instruction.

Tandy Noeller serves as the school's owner and classroom instructor.

Since the early 1990s, Tandy has had a CDL license, which is what is needed to drive a commercial rig.

Richard Noeller, who also holds a CDL license and has driven commercially for more than 40 years, will serve as a driving instructor at the Wichita Truck Driving School. Richard has owned his own custom harvesting business and had a harvest crew driving commercial trucks for more than 30 years. He has experience helping drivers earn commercial licenses.

Away from the new truck driving school, Richard and Tandy own a couple of farms in Greenwood and Wilson counties, southeast of Wichita.

Jack Kendrick, who also brings more than 40 years of commercial driving experience to the Wichita Truck Driving School, will assist in the classroom, as well as serve as a driving instructor. He will teach defensive driving courses offered through the school.

Kendrick is the former director of a truck driving school in Kansas City, where he retired in 2010. The Wichita Truck Driving School's Commercial CDL Training Catalog says Kendrick "has worked very hard at trying to get students jobs after graduation."

Tandy said the Wichita Truck Driving School, which has been approved to operate as a private postsecondary institution with the Kansas Board of Regents, aims to get every participating student their commercial driver's license and assist them with applying for jobs.

Tandy said she hopes to give students chances to meet potential employers at the school, but she can't guarantee they'll all be hired once the four-week course is finished.

However, statistics speak well for anyone contemplating a career as a truck driver. Ac-

cording to the Wichita Truck Driving School's training catalog, statistics show that about 96 percent of graduates are hired directly after school.

The Kansas Department of Labor reports that Wichita-based OTR, or over the road truck drivers, earn an annual salary of more than \$38,000 per year.

While the school doesn't make direct hires, Tandy said students will be provided assistance to earn CDL permits to start with, and will be accompanied to the Department of Motor Vehicles once they've earned their commercial driver's licenses and begin looking for a job.

To apply for the Wichita Truck Driving School, students must be at least 21 years old. The total cost to take part in the school's four-week program costs Kansas residents about \$2,656, primarily consisting of the cost for tuition. Residents of Missouri,

Oklahoma, Arkansas or Nebraska who wish to attend the school can expect to pay about \$3,123.

Leading up to the first classes on April 18, Tandy said she was pleasantly surprised at the responses she received at a Wichita job fair.

With student participation expected to continually increase, she said she planned to need more trucks and instructors as classes progressed.

"It's been very well received," Tandy said.

The Wichita Truck Driving School is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday. Tandy said Friday hours are meant as make-up days for students who miss a day or need extra help.

For more information on the Wichita Truck Driving School, call 838-3336, or visit the school's website at www.wichitatruckdrivingschool.com.



Courtesy photo

Representing Sunrise at the state Mock Trial tournament are (from left) Brianna Barone, Hannah Carlson, Benjamin Schmidt, Elizabeth Lim, Czarina Cutaran, Peggy O'Donnell, Brandon Layton, Bekah Noxon and George Swartzendruber.

Sunrise second at state Mock Trial tournament

By The Breeze staff

Students from Bel Aire's Sunrise Christian Academy competed in a state Mock Trial competition April 1 and 2 at the Johnson County Courthouse in Olathe. The Sunrise group finished

second in the tournament, narrowly missing on the opportunity to compete at the national Mock Trial tournament May 5 through 8 in Phoenix.

Wichita Independent won the tournament, edging Sunrise by three points. Sunrise

Mock Trial coach Peggy O'Donnell said this is the second consecutive year her group has finished second at state.

"Many people do not realize that many students go on to compete at the college level in Mock Trial," she said.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday service times are 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship and 9:45 a.m. Sunday School.

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

Find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org; e-mail office@clc.kscoxmail.com. Call the office at 744-1242 for more information.

Church of the Resurrection

Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord's Day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is www.resurrectionwichita.com. Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. Sherman A. Orr is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel

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

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

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

Vacation Bible school will be held at the church from

6:30 to 8:45 p.m. June 13 through June 17. This is for children ages 4 through sixth grade.

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

Crossroads Friends Church

Crossroads Friends Church meets at Stucky Middle School (east from 45th North and Hillside) at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

The church has Crossroads Kids and Crossroads Cribs ministry areas, as well as contemporary music, relevant Bible teaching and a laid-back, friendly atmosphere.

Lead pastor is David Norman and associate pastor is Jeff Mullen.

Call the church office at 361-0407 or visit it online at www.crossroadswichita.com.

Fairmount United Church of Christ

The church is located at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita (south of WSU main entrance).

Rev. Dr. Monte Gravenstein, interim minister, leads Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible study begins at 9:30. Children's church and nursery are at 10:30.

For more information, call 682-1597 or visit at www.fairmountucc.org.

Gospel Assembly Church

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Bible study is 7 p.m. Monday. Prayer service is 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is 7 p.m. Wednesday.

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

Greenwich United Methodist Church

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

Pastor Natalie can be reached at 773-2300 or 744-0203.

Pastor Natalie is at the church from 5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays.

Free coffee and donuts are available from 5:30 to 9 a.m. Thursdays.

The students of Marsha Meyersick will have a piano recital at 2 p.m. May 7.

Visit the church online at Greenwichsumc.org.

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

Kechi United Methodist Church

Located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi, the Rev. Guy E. Rendoff is the pastor. Church phone number is 744-1221, its website is www.kechiumc.org and its e-mail address is kechiumc@sbcglobal.net.

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Resident finds creative way to save on water bill

By Matt Heilman

Bel Aire resident Keith Ehrlich has a plan to keep his yard aesthetically pleasing while saving money on his water bill at the same time.

At Ehrlich's home in the 4900 block of East Willowpoint Court, landscapers are busy putting in plants that can grow and flourish with less than 12 inches of water per year. Ehrlich is also

having buffalo grass planted, which requires less water than most grass and doesn't need to be mowed nearly as often.

The process of landscaping Ehrlich's yard with plants that don't need much water is called "xeriscaping." Ehrlich expects the project to be complete by the end of May.

"Theoretically, I won't have to water my front yard," Ehrlich said. "I don't have

to fertilize or mow my lawn nearly as much."

While the process of xeriscaping his yard is expensive now, Ehrlich said he expects to see a payback from savings on water bills in four to five years.

PEOPLE

Good Shepherd Hospice hosts Grief and Loss Support Group Meetings from 10 to 11 a.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month.

The meetings are held at the Catholic Life Center Assisted Living Activity Room, 6550 E. 45th North. Call Sharlene, bereavement coordinator at Good Shepherd Hospice, for more information at 616-2277.

†††

Butler Community College announced the President's and Dean's honor roll for the fall semester. Area students on the list from Bel Aire include: Brittany Jefferson, David McAdam, Scott McCoy, Kimberly Webb, Cassia Williams. Area students from Kechi include: Chelsie Batterman, Samuel Chaney, Sarah Kaiser, Dylan Morlan.

DEATH

GILBERT SMITH

Gilbert Michael Smith, 76, Augusta, died April 14, 2011. He was a retired Iowa Beef Processors butcher.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Bernadine; brothers, Wayne and Grover Smith

Survivors include his sons and daughters-in-law, Stephen and Raydene Smith of Bel Aire, Eldon and Kim Smith of Lincolnville, David Smith of Dickinson, Texas, Bryan Smith of Snellville, Ga.; daughters and son-in-law, Dianne and David Smethers of Gardner, Janice

Smith of McKinney, Texas; sister and brother-in-law, Wilma and Richard Balay of Denver, Colo.; 14 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren.

Visitation was April 19 and funeral was April 20, both at Dunsford Funeral Home in Augusta.

Memorials to Sedgwick Healthcare Center, Hospice Care of Kansas or Kansas Humane Society in care of the funeral home.

Dunsford Funeral Home and Crematory of Augusta had charge.

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday service times are 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship and 9:45 a.m. Sunday School.

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Sunday praise band and worship are at 9:03 a.m. Sunday school is at 10. Worship is at 11.

Park City Church of the Nazarene

Sunday school for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Worship and children's church are at 10:45. Wednesday Bible study for adults begins with sandwiches and chips at 6:15 p.m.

The church is located at 2100 E. 61st North in Park City.

Pine Valley Christian Church

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

True Life Church

True Life Church meets at Circle Greenwich Elementary (just north of K-96 on Greenwich Road). Coffee, juice

and donuts are served early Sundays. There are activities with the TLC Kids Zone from children from birth through fifth grade. True Life Church has gospel-centered contemporary music and biblical messages delivered by Norm Duncan.

For more information, call 978-9292 or visit www.experienceTLC.com.

University United Methodist Church

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

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

to 6 p.m.

E-mail uumc2220@uumc.net; phone 686-6765. Rev. Phil Shull is the pastor.

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

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8:30 • Service w/Comm. every Sun.

11:00 • Traditional Service

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FAMILY TIES

Mother and son elected to serve neighboring communities

By Matt Heilman

Six years ago, Michael O'Donnell was a sophomore in college when he finished second in a four-person Bel Aire mayoral race. Though he lost to Brian Withrow by 26 percent, he didn't let the outcome derail his "affinity for politics." He was 20 years old and made a good run to pick up 496 votes, despite his inexperience.

In the same election, his mother, Peggy O'Donnell, an administrator and teacher at Sunrise Christian Academy, won a seat on the Bel Aire City Council, where nine people sought to fill three available positions.

In that April 2005 election, voters had to sift through 13 candidates, all of them newcomers. In a time of transition for Bel Aire, no incumbents sought re-election when they saw the "handwriting on the wall" amidst some unrest in the city stemming from a heavy debt tied to large land purchases.

"I would say, unequivocally, it was the most heated campaign in Bel Aire's history," Michael O'Donnell said. "I mean, the city was in an uproar."

Although the mother and son missed the opportunity to serve in the same city, they now share similar titles.

Earlier this month, Michael, 26, won a hard-fought election to earn a spot on the Wichita City Council, representing District 4 in the southwest part of the city that includes about 60,000 Wichitans.

Meanwhile, Peggy O'Donnell continues to represent about 6,800 residents in Bel Aire as a member of the city's five-person council. She won her second term in 2009.

"I'll be honest, it's really been a nice time," Peggy said. "I'm in my second term and I'm honored that the people have elected me again, but it



Matt Heilman

Michael O'Donnell and his mother Peggy O'Donnell stand outside of Bel Aire City Hall. Peggy is a Bel Aire City Council member. Michael was elected to the Wichita City Council this spring.

is a lot of work."

Michael is in his first term in public office and admits he's on a learning curve with trying to get adjusted to all of his responsibilities representing the state's largest city. The Friends University alum and Clear Channel sales and marketing professional doesn't take his council position lightly, although it's technically "a part-time job." Despite representing a much smaller population, his mother takes a similar

approach to her local government position.

"I think we both are very humbled that voters have entrusted both of us with serving as council members," Peggy said. "And it is a service that you do for the people and we want to listen to the people. We both believe less government is better."

In his run for mayor of Bel Aire and his recent triumph to land a spot on the Wichita City Council, Michael said his campaigning carried him

through, especially in the recent election.

"I do think my campaigning is what brought me to second place then at 20 years old and it's what brought me through my most recent election because all of the odds were stacked against me running for Wichita City Council," he said.

Michael said Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer, The Wichita Eagle and former council member Paul Gray, who served District 4 before

him, endorsed his opponent, Joshua Bick. Michael said Bick also outspent him on his campaign, 2-to-1.

Michael was helped by endorsements from former congressman Todd Tiaht and former Wichita Mayor Bob Knight. He's worked on campaigns for both men.

While he acknowledges the support was crucial, Michael believes his passion and willingness to knock on the door of as many residences as he could in his district made the difference.

In the 2005 Bel Aire mayoral race, Michael said he knocked on the door of every registered voter in the city. His mother campaigned along with him.

"I would go see some people and they would say, 'We met your son,'" Peggy said.

Peggy and Michael share a belief that their public service is a calling from God. Michael's father, Mike O'Donnell, is the pastor of Wichita's Grace Baptist Church, where Michael serves on the board.

In addition to professional and political careers, the O'Donnells put in time on volunteer efforts and emphasize the importance of working cooperatively, whether it is in a workplace or in a seat on a decision-making body that can have a direct impact on people's lives.

Michael said that although he and his mother aren't serving in the same council chambers, they're part of the same community that is south-central Kansas.

"She's serving Bel Aire with their specific needs and I'm fighting for Wichita and their specific needs, but when it comes down to it, we all want the same things," Michael said. "We want strong families, we want a strong community and great jobs. ... Bel Aire and Wichita and Andover and Maize and all of these cities that surround, we all need to work together cohesively as a group."

Letter poses no 'true threat,' judge rules

By Matt Heilman

Angel Dillard's letter was not a "true threat," a federal judge ruled last month.

Dillard, who lives northeast of Valley Center, sent a letter of warning to a doctor who shared plans to offer abortions in Wichita. The letter implied that the doctor should fear for her life, but any threat wasn't direct enough to constitute legal action in federal court.

Dillard stood before a federal judge April 19 for a hearing to determine whether she should stay away from Dr. Mila Means.

Means, of rural Kechi, is a physician who had been training to offer abortion services at her Wichita practice and has had protestors hold anti-abortion signs outside of her property.

The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division filed a civil complaint two weeks

ago, accusing Dillard of writing and sending a threatening letter to Means and violating the department's Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act.

A federal judge refused the government's request for a preliminary injunction ordering Dillard to stay away from Means. Essentially, the judge ruled that the letter didn't pose a "true threat" and was protected by The First Amendment of the Constitution.

In the letter, Dillard alerts Means that, "thousands of people are looking into your background, not just in Wichita, but from all over the US."

"They will know your habits and routines. They will know where you shop, who your friends are, what you

drive, where you live."

The letter also says Means should be checking under her car every day because "maybe today is the day someone places an explosive under it."

Dillard concluded the letter by urging Means to "think very carefully" about the choices she was making.

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