

# The Bel Aire Breeze

P.O. Box 120 - 210 W. Main  
Valley Center, KS 67147

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One of two Dalmation hydrants painted by Denise Lasher — on North Highland and at 4343 N. Woodlawn.



A Batman-themed hydrant in the 4900 block of North Hedgerow Court that was painted by Mackenzie Cline.



American flag hydrant at 49th Street and Hedgerow that was painted by Cameron Connolly.



A WuShock-themed hydrant in the 4100 block of North Edgemoor that was painted by Aaron and Melissa Lair.

## Bel Aire gets creative with fire hydrants

Program encourages residents to adopt a hydrant

By David Dinell

When Andrea Corcoran heard that the city of Bel Aire was looking for residents to “adopt” a fire hydrant, including painting them, she knew it would be a fun family activity. So she signed on, and enlisted her children Jaicee, 12, Jacqueline, 9 and Brock, 7, in the project.

In short order, the family created a nearby hydrant this summer into the character of Mike Wazowski from the popular movie “Monsters Inc.” in the 4900 block of North Hedgerow Court, turning a nondescript utilitarian device into a head-turning attraction and a source of pride for the Corcorans.

“We’re very happy with it,” Corcoran said. “People stop and take photos of it.”

Her husband, Dwayne, wasn’t one of the painters, but he’s as happy as any of them about the way the project turned out.

The Corcorans, who have lived in Bel Aire for about nine years, looked online for ideas before taking up their paint and brushes for the project, which took about eight hours to complete.

The family is not alone as a growing number of Bel Aire residents are putting their



Photos by David Dinell

Denise Lasher touches up the paint on a fire hydrant she painted across the street from her house on North Highland as a minion character from the movie “Despicable Me.” She also painted two hydrants as Dalmations, the traditional dog breed of firefighters and fire stations.



Andrea Corcoran and her children, from left, Jacqueline, 9, Jaicee, 12, and Brock, 7, painted a Bel Aire fire hydrant into the character of Mike Wazowski from the popular movie, *Monsters Inc.*, in the 4900 block of North Hedgerow Court. It’s part of the city’s Adopt-a-Hydrant program, designed to help the city and residents.

### To get involved

For more information or to get involved, go the city’s website at [www.belaireks.org](http://www.belaireks.org) and click on the Adopt a Hydrant logo on the lower left hand side.

You can also contact city staff at 744-2451 with questions.

## City establishes land bank

Move could save the city thousands

By David Dinell

The Bel Aire City Council approved the creation of a new entity called a land bank, which will hold and manage the city’s raw land. The move, which is allowed under state law and came at the council’s Aug. 4 meeting, is projected to save the city about \$17,000, said Mayor David Austin.

“We’re taking advantage of an opportunity,” he said. “This will lessen the burden on Bel Aire’s taxpayers.”

The city has about 17,000 acres outside of the industrial park and pays about \$24,000 each year in taxes to Sedgwick County and the Wichita school district.

The money means a lot more to Bel Aire than to outside taxing bodies, Austin said. It’s also a matter of fairness, he said, as Bel Aire taxpayers are funneling money to outside entities and don’t see a return on it.

However, everyone will profit in the future when and if the land is developed as that means new construction is on it, he said. Council members concurred with Austin on the move.

“It’s the prudent thing to do,” said Ramona Becker.

Betty Martine was interested in tabling the measure so Ken Lee, who was absent due to a work commitment, would have a chance to vote on it. However, she was informed by the city attorney that the motion had to be voted on. Austin said Lee had indicated in the past that he approved of the concept.

The land bank will consist of the five council members and one non-voting member, who will be the treasurer. Austin said he wants to get someone with a banking

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## City council votes to allow fireworks for special events

By David Dinell

Bel Aire Mayor David Austin often comments that the topic of fireworks seems to always spark a lively discussion. That was the case again Aug. 18 as the city council debated how Bel Aire should allow fireworks displays for special events.

The issue stems from a resident’s request to be allowed to have a fireworks display for an occasion at the end of September. The city ordinance doesn’t allow for that, but council members realized that many cities do allow them, with a fee and a variety of provisions.

After a discussion at a council workshop Aug. 11, the city came up with a proposal that would permit four such special event

displays a year. Provisions include paying a \$250 fee, getting approval by the Sedgwick County Fire Department and having liability insurance.

“It’s a good compromise,” Austin said of the amendment, which would be added to the city code.

Council member Betty Martine wanted a rule added that required the sponsoring party to clean up after the event, which was added to the ordinance.

There were other concerns, but the council was informed that if it delayed passage, the requested event would not be able to be held, and it could always make changes to it later. With that, the concept

See FIREWORKS, Page 4



**Mayor's corner**

By David Austin

This weekend council President Guy MacDonald called me with the news that Bill Brookhouser, Bel Aire's first mayor, had passed away. I immediately was flooded with memories.

How can we immediately honor him, I thought?

On Aug. 24, I learned that only the president of the United States can officially lower the American flag and only the governor of a state can lower the state flag. The mayor can only lower city flags, so we lowered the City of Bel Aire flag at City Hall through Aug. 26.

Ten months ago, I had the honor of presenting a key to the city to Bill Brookhouser. He told me, more than once, that I had given him the wrong key because it wouldn't open the vault. He always had a great sense of humor.

The last time I saw him was in May. That was when he came to his final Public Building Commission meeting. He asked a few months prior that I look for his replacement.

But he was so sharp and knew the history of the city well. I didn't want to appoint a replacement.

At the May meeting, in addition to talking about naming a replacement to the PBC, we talked about his time aboard the USS New Jersey during World War II and how I wished I had known that when my daughter and I toured the battleship a few years back. He talked about closing his business to care for his wife whom he loved deeply, even long after Alzheimer's disease robbed her of her memory.

If only I had known it was to be our last conversation. I will always treasure our conversations about life, family and the city.

He moved to Bel Aire in 1953, long before it was a city. He served on the Bel Aire Incorporation Committee.

In addition to being involved in incorporating a city, he was also a leader in expanding USD 259, opening a new school.

He enjoyed a career in public education and was a charter member of the Wichita Heights School Board, responsible for opening Heights High School before it was incorporated into USD 259.

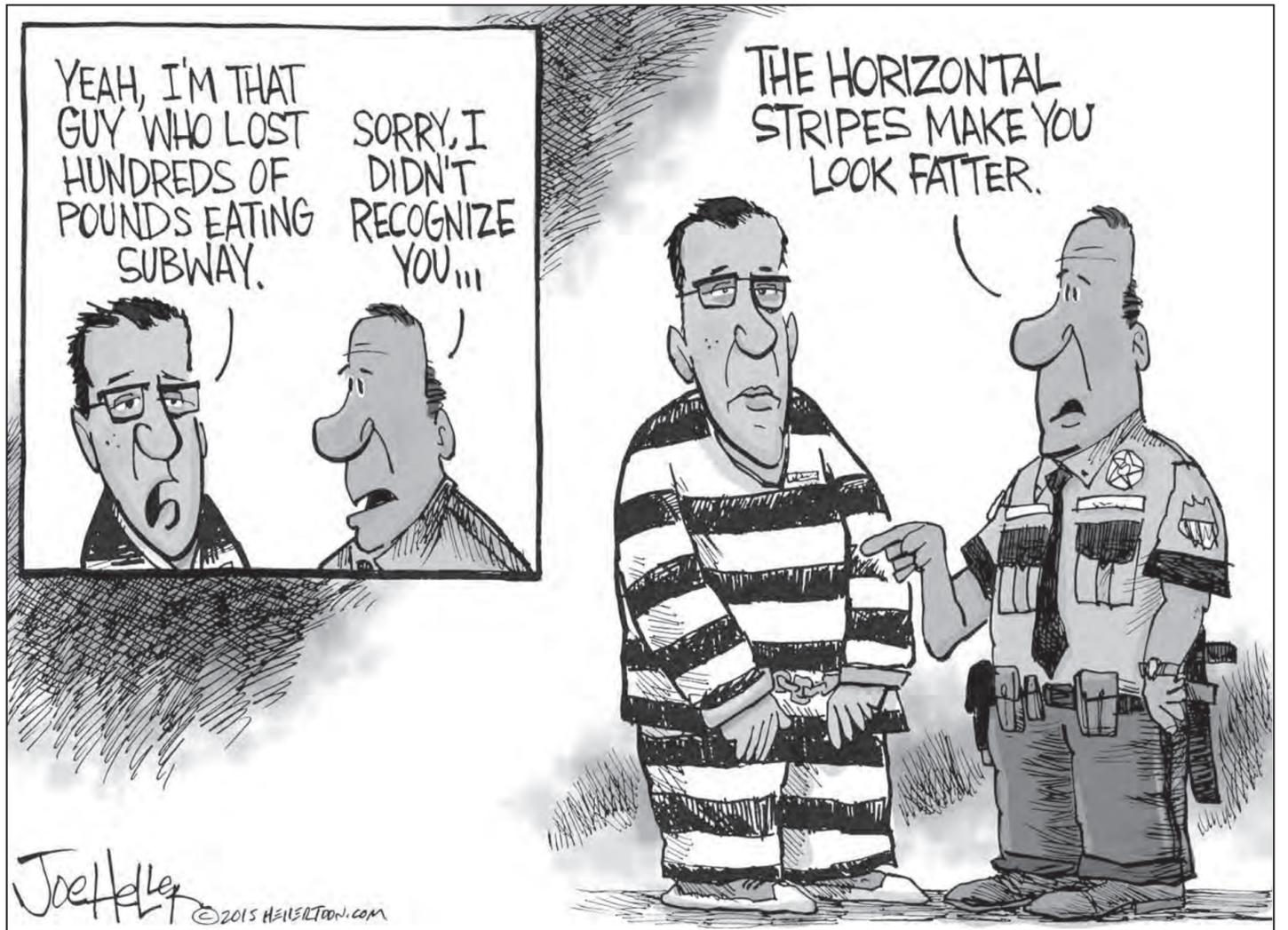
In his "retirement," he continued to serve Bel Aire on the aforementioned Public Building Commission from 1999 to 2015.

His memory will forever live on. Brookhouser Park is a neighborhood park in the Willow Creek subdivision. Located on the corner of North Rushwood and East 44th, Brookhouser Park offers many amenities in its 0.75-acre site. Along with a covered shelter area and park benches, the park features a composite play structure, two swing sets, a spring whale toy and a merry go-round.

**In other news: Growth**

Next Level Hoops Academy started construction on expansion of their state-of-the-art building. Construction is also really hopping in Central Park. Rick Hoffman has 5 new houses under construction in The Villas. Katie Wyatt has started a new home in The Village and new higher-end homes are all under construction and available across from Central Park, too. And other new homes are being planned and built in Central Park, too.

Stay tuned as more growth is on its way.



## Tough to say goodbye to your kid

I didn't think it would be this difficult. We took our oldest son to college Aug. 15, dropping him off for his freshman year at Barton Community College in Great Bend.

As we were leaving his dorm room to go to Walmart in search of a couple of pillows, which he forgot to pack, my wife got tears in her eyes and got a big hug from Ray.

I got sad on the drive back to Valley Center.

We still have two kids at home, but everything is so different now. I keep expecting Ray to come home. I keep thinking I'll hear a knock on our bedroom door late at night. It's Ray, letting us know he made it home safely.

Just like always. I'm sure I'll see his car in the driveway.

Every time I drive by the courts at the intermediate school, I expect to see him and his friend (now roommate) Triston Herbst playing tennis.

Those days are over, I'm afraid.

"Hey," he texted me the other night about 11:15 p.m. He knows I sometimes stay up late to watch Sports Center.

"Hey," I answered. "How was your day?"

Part of me hoped to hear that he missed us badly and his day was terrible. Another part of me wanted to hear that everything was fine and he was enjoying his new home.

I didn't expect to read his next words.

"Pretty great," he said. "Yours?"

"Pretty great?" Not really what I wanted to hear.

I asked him what he did. "Pretty eventful, actually," he texted, adding a couple of texts worth of stuff.

Mind you, classes hadn't started yet. College life

**Out of the office**

By Chris Strunk

without classes is pretty awesome, as I recall.

I told him we missed him and were praying for him every day.

As difficult as it is right now, I know others have survived similar situations.

I got to thinking about Bart and Jean Balthazor, of Valley Center. For the first time, all five of their kids will be in college at the same time this fall. Only one of them is still living in Valley Center.

Warren, the oldest, is a senior at Wichita State University and will finish a degree in engineering technology management in the spring.

Elliott moved to Manhattan Aug. 16 and will be a junior at K-State majoring in mechanical engineering.

Claire, the only daughter, graduated from Wichita State University last December and moved to Topeka Aug. 8 to begin her nursing degree at Washburn.

Miles, who graduated from VCHS two years ago, returned to Kansas Wesleyan in Salina earlier this month. He's on the football team and is majoring in biomedical chemistry.

And then there's Evan, who is my son Ray's age. Evan started his college career this fall at K-State. He's majoring in chemical engineering.

Bart said having the youngest child leave home was unsettling.

"It got quite real all of a sudden," he said.

Bart said they are adjusting to life without having all of their kids at home.



It was easier for Ray to let go than it was for his parents, to be sure. He started his freshman year at Barton Community College late last month.

"We have to figure out how to shop," he said. "We don't need four gallons of milk at a time anymore."

Adjustments will come hard around our house. But I guess we'll figure it out and cope with all the changes.

Sometimes I feel like Oskar Schindler on "Schindler's List," who lamented that he wished he could have done more to save Jewish prisoners from the Nazi prison camps during World War II.

I know I could have done more to prepare Ray for this chapter in his life. I also regret the times I got mad at him for doing aggravating teenager stuff — like forgetting to bring a pillow to college.

He'll be OK, I'm sure, despite all of my shortcomings as a parent.

"We're just missing you," I texted him. "We all are. ... Talk to you later."

"Miss you guys!" he responded. "Goodnight."

On a lighter note, I got a text from Ray late last month that was a little more upbeat.

He was at the Barton County Courthouse getting a new driver's license and he bumped into a fellow student who was there taking his driving test. The student's name is Quick and he's one of the top sprinters on the Barton track team. Ray said he gave Quick a ride back to campus because he failed the test.

"You know what they say, 'He can run, but he can't drive,'" I responded.

Chris Strunk is publisher of *The Ark Valley News* and *The Bel Aire Breeze*. Reach him at 755-0821, news@arkvalleynews.com or on Facebook.

**The Bel Aire Breeze**

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## Wishing students, educators good year

It's time to go back to school.

Thousands of area students will return to the classroom this week as the 2015-16 school year begins.

We wish students, teachers, principals and staff good luck as they prepare for another year of education. It takes a village to raise a child, and we're thankful we have caring and responsible education professionals to help make that happen.

We want our schools to be safe. We want them to be physically comfortable but intellectually challenging.

We want to strengthen our safety nets to be sure no child is left behind. We want our schools to renew their energy and their focus to give our community's children their best every day.

As the fall sports season approaches, we also want to wish all of our student-athletes good luck as they prepare to represent our schools and our communities. We also hope they stay safe.

While we hope for successful outcomes, giving tangible rewards for hard work and dedication, we know that wins and losses won't define our students. We would rather see them be better people than better athletes. How they handle winning and losing will more accurately reflect their character and their abilities.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

Deadline for October: September 16

# Bel Aire Breeze



# City of Bel Aire



## Bel Aire Recreation

### DAZZLING DANCERS

These recreational classes will focus on ballet and jazz dance. Class attire includes comfortable clothing, dance slippers and a hair tie. Classes begin Sept. 19. **Registration is required.**

### COED OUTDOOR SOCCER

Soccer for boys and girls ages 4-11. Games will be played Saturdays from Sept. 12 through Oct. 24. Practices will be set up by the coaches on weeknights starting Aug. 31.

### COED FLAG FOOTBALL

Bel Aire is teaming up with the Valley Center Recreation Commission for flag football. Practices will be held at the respective home location with games being played at both sites. Flag Football is for boys and girls in third through sixth grade. Games will be played Monday, Tuesday or Thursday evenings or Saturday mornings. Practices will be set up by the coaches on weeknights starting Aug. 31.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Bel Aire is teaming up with the Valley Center Recreation Commission for girls volleyball. Practices will be held at the respective home location with scrimmages being played at both sites. Volleyball is for boys and girls in the third through sixth grades. Practices

will be set up by the coaches on weeknights starting Aug. 31. Scrimmage dates TBA.

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Ages five through 11. Registration deadline is Oct. 10. Practices will begin the week of Oct. 19. Games will be held on Saturdays beginning Oct. 31.

### TAEKWONDO (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet Monday and Friday from 5 to 6 p.m. or Tuesday and Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

### YOGA

Classes are held Monday and Wednesday from 6:10 to 7:10 p.m. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Teens & adults can join at any time.

### FITNESS CENTER (ages 16 & up)

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

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

## Bel Aire Seniors

All SENIORS 55+ are cordially invited to all events listed below. The Senior Center and library area are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. The library has a wide selection of 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.

### 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 BA Senior members, alternate times available  
**Yoga** — Mondays & Wednesdays, 6 p.m. at the Rec Center (monthly fee)  
**Chair Exercises** — Tuesdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m., at the Rec Center  
**Bridge Games** — Tuesdays, 1 p.m. at the Senior Center  
**Low Impact Aerobics** — Wednesdays, 9 a.m. at the Rec Center  
**Senior Coffee** — Thursdays (new day), 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

### Monthly & Special Events

**Sept. 1, 9 a.m. to noon** — Foot Care with Hermes Health, call 260-4110 to schedule an appointment  
**Sept. 2, 10 a.m.** — Volunteer library work time, Senior Center  
**Sept. 3, 1:30 p.m.** — Older Adult Pet Adoption Program info, Senior Center  
**Sept. 4, 6 p.m.** — Pitch, Senior Center  
**Sept. 5, 2:30 p.m.** — Pearson Farm's Mobile Farmers Market, Rec Center  
**Sept. 6, 1 p.m.** — Game Day, Rec Center  
**Sept. 7, Labor Day** — Building closed, potluck moved to Sept. 14  
**Sept. 9, 10 a.m.** — Open Sewing, Rec Center  
**Sept. 10, 11:30 a.m.** — Estate Planning with Minh Nguyen, Senior Center  
**Sept. 14, 6:30 p.m.** — Potluck dinner, music with James Beck, Community Room  
**Sept. 15, 10:30 a.m.** — Exercise Class with Life Care Center (during Chair Exercise), Rec Center  
**Sept. 15, 6 p.m.** — Ladies Dine Out, call Anita 744-2810 for more info  
**Sept. 16, 10:15 a.m.** — Senior Aerobics Brunch (different locations)  
**Sept. 16, 1:30 p.m.** — Book Club meeting, Senior Center  
**Sept. 17, 1 p.m.** — AARP Car Fit Volunteer Training (744-2451, ext. 121, to volunteer)  
**Sept. 18, 9 a.m.** — AARP Car Fit event, Senior Center  
**Sept. 18, 6 p.m.** — Pitch, Senior Center  
**Sept. 19, 9 a.m.** — Pearson Farm's Mobile Farmers Market, Rec Center  
**Sept. 23, 7 p.m.** — Bunko, Senior Center (reservations at 744-2451, ext. 121)  
**Sept. 24, 2 p.m.** — Genealogy group, Senior Center  
**Sept. 24, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** — Senior Expo. Participating locations include Botanica, Exploration Place, Old Cowtown Museum, Wichita Art Museum. More info at [www.cpaaa.org/senior-expo](http://www.cpaaa.org/senior-expo). A van will leave from City Hall at 8:45 a.m. for this event. Space is limited; call Jennie at 744-2451, ext. 121, to reserve a seat.  
**Sept. 28, 6 p.m.** — Covered dish dinner and program, Rec Center

## Community Events

**TOPS** — Tuesdays at 9 a.m., Senior Center  
**City Council meetings** — First and third Tuesday of each month  
**Sept. 7** — Labor Day, city offices closed  
**Sept. 12** — Brush drop-off site open.  
**Sept. 14, 7 p.m.** — Bel Aire Heights HOA meeting, Senior Center  
**Sept. 14, 7 p.m.** — Central Park HOA meeting. Community Room  
**Sept. 17, 11 a.m.** — Red Hat outing to State Fair. Call Anita 744-2840 for info

**Cruise into Bel Aire**  
2015 CITY OF BEL AIRE FALL FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW

October 17th 10:00am-2:00pm

**Bel Aire Recreation Center**  
5251 E 48th St North, Bel Aire, KS 67220

**Show & Shine Everyone welcome**  
Cars, Trucks & Cycles - No entry fee  
Fall Festival also includes vendor fair, music, food & fun for the whole family.  
For more information contact: Tristin Terhune 316-744-2451 or [tterhune@belaireks.gov](mailto:tterhune@belaireks.gov)

City of Bel Aire  
[www.belaireks.gov](http://www.belaireks.gov)

## Beautify Bel Aire

Congratulations to Nick and Jamie Lual-len at 4149 N. Auburn. All their hard work re-ally shows through from the front door to the stone design. They will receive a \$50 gift cad from Tree Top Nursery and a sign was placed in their yard for the month of August.



**CITY OF BEL AIRE**  
**FALL FESTIVAL**  
**OCTOBER 17, 2015**  
Attention:  
Crafters & Vendors  
If you are interested in having a booth at the Bel Aire Fall Festival, please contact:  
Tristin Terhune  
744-2451 ext 119  
[tterhune@belaireks.gov](mailto:tterhune@belaireks.gov)

**City Hall and the Senior Center will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of the Labor Day holiday**

Interested in learning about

**Bel Aire MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL**

Are you a Bel Aire resident attending high school between the ages of 13-19? We want YOU to apply NOW for the Youth Council at [www.belaireks.gov](http://www.belaireks.gov). Contact Tristin at 744-2451 for more information.

# 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 (traditional) a.m. 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](http://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](http://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 316-323-2819 with any questions.

## Cornerstone Christian Church

Cornerstone Christian Church is located at 5531 E. 37th St. 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 11:00 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 Hillside and 17th North.

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.fairmountucc.org](http://www.fairmountucc.org).

## Gospel Assembly Church

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Prayer service is 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

Sunday worship service at 9 a.m., with fellowship and coffee afterward.

Pastor Jeff Miller can be reached at 744-0203.

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

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

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

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

## Kechi United Methodist Church

You are 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.

Everyone is invited to a Family Fun event from 6 to 8 p.m. Sept. 26 at the church. Ice cream, inflatable obstacle course, balloon art, Troubles the Clown, face painting, blow ups.

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.

Thursdays through September, KUMC hosts the Kechi Farmers Market from 4 to 6:30 p.m. in the parking lot. Come see what's going on.

Our new pastor is Greg Reed. Find us at [www.kechiUMC.org](http://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.

Sunday worship service and Kids Church are at 10:30 a.m., and Life University/Sunday school for all ages is at 9. No regular Sunday night service. For special activities, see the website, [www.lpcag.org](http://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 Soye. 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 Sunday at 5 p.m. at the home of Pastor Terry and Barb Wichman (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. Enrollment forms and information are available at the church office. Please contact Michelle Peshek, director/lead teacher, with questions at [atmichelle@risensavior.net](mailto:atmichelle@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](http://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. 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.saintmichaelorthodoxchurch.com](http://www.saintmichaelorthodoxchurch.com).

Email inquiries to [jlflora@cox.net](mailto:jlflora@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.godscloset.com](http://www.godscloset.com) or on Facebook, email [eric@godscloset.com](mailto:eric@godscloset.com) or call 530-1040.

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

## Suzy's Hair Designs

234 Sioux Street  
Kechi, KS 67067  
316-744-2431  
[suzyzoo2@att.net](mailto:suzyzoo2@att.net)

# DEATHS

## WILLIAM BROOKHOUSER

William E. "Bill" Brookhouser, 92, died Aug. 22, 2015.

He was a teacher, principal counselor and first mayor of Bel Aire.

He was born July 7, 1923, to Everett and Grace Brookhouser in Salina. He was a veteran of World War II. He married Virginia on April 4, 1947.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife and three siblings. Survivors include daughters Virginia S "Ginny"

Brookhouser of Denver, Tiffanie A. (Kelly) Reich of Greensboro, N.C., and son, Jeffrey L. (Lucy) Brookhouser of Ontario, Canada; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral service was Aug. 26 at Cochran Mortuary Chapel of the Roses, Wichita, with graveside service at Roselawn Memorial Park, Salina. Memorials to the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial, 62 Battleship Place, Camden NJ 08103 and/or Alzheimer's Association, 1820 E. Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67214.

## MARY JOHNSON

Mary Kathryn Johnson died July 21, 2015.

She was preceded in death by her husband Charles; parents Dewey and Mable Bowman; sisters Dollie Jones and

Wilma Bowman; and brothers Donald, Lloyd and Junior Bowman. Survivors include daughters Vicki Johnson of Bel Aire and Val and Mike O'Keefe of Baton Rouge, La.; and brothers James (Mary) Bowman of St. Joseph, Mo., and Merlin (Mary) Bowman of Liberty, Mo.

Funeral service was July 25 at Terrace Park Funeral Home, Kansas City, Mo. Interment in Terrace Park Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Victory in the Valley, 3755 E. Douglas Ave., Wichita KS 67218 or Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, 313 S. Market, Wichita KS 67202.

## SAUNDRA SMITH

Saundra Lee Smith, 74, died July 28, 2015. She was a retired middle school administrator and teacher.

The proposed budget for 2016 is slightly less, or \$13.27 million. The final budget can be less than that but cannot be more.

Approved an appropriations ordinance in the amount of \$645,154.

Received notice of three mayoral re-appointments to the Utility Advisory Committee. They are: Dan Broyles, Art Tenbrink and Bill Moss. The council members will consider the three and make their decisions known at the Aug. 18 council meeting. The advance notice is something council members asked Austin to do so they have time to look into the candidates' background and work performance history and interview them if needed.

Approved a municipal advisory services agreement with Columbia Capital for financial advising. Jeff White, a principal with the Overland Park firm, was on hand to answer questions. The company works with other cities similar in size to Bel Aire, White said. Austin said the city went with the new firm because of changes with the previous adviser and because officials want to make sure the city is getting the "best

back, Austin said, as the council irons out details and assesses how the first special events fireworks event went. As of now, the new permits are available through City Hall officials for any group that wants to abide by the rules and pay the fee.

In other action, the council: Approved adopting the 2016 city of Bel Aire operating budget. There is no mill levy increase. Austin said the budget was not the easiest one he's done and he's not completely happy with it, but it's over and done with.

Listened to a presentation by Ben Hart, vice president of Allen, Gibbs & Houlick LLC on his independent auditors' report. This is the third year the firm has done it. There are no major problems, he said, however, because of the city's small staff size, it does face some challenges in financial operations, such as having different people handling money. It's aware of that and working on it, he said.

Approved three re-appoint-

ments recommended by Austin to the Utility Advisory Committee. They are: Dan Broyles, Art Tenbrink and Bill Moss.

Authorized a memorandum of understanding with USD 259 regarding a Bel Aire school resource officer working in the Northeast Magnet and Isely schools. The officer will be paid for with federal funds.

Approved a revised letter of intent to issue a \$7.5 million industrial revenue bond for River Cement Sales Co., which is doing business as Buzzi Unicem, for its distribution facility in the Sunflower Commerce Park.

Approved the purchase of a replacement tractor for the Parks Division from Kubota in the amount of \$22,050. The tractor is used to mow grass in ditches, empty lots and Alley Park. The tractor was to be purchased in 2016, but the city's current vehicle, a 1999 Ford, recently broke and will not be worthwhile to replace, Austin said. The repairs would cost \$4,100 and the

tractor would be worth only \$6,500 after them.

Approved a revised utility policy.

Approved a letter to the Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning Commission opposing any changes to the three-mile zoning area of influence currently allowed to cities in the MAPC zoning codes.

## Land

Continued from Page 1

background to fill that slot.

City manager Ty Lasher said the land bank concept is a growing one.

"A lot of cities are doing it," he said.

The concept was originally designed in the early 1970s to deal with large amounts of vacant and blighted property in some area. It allowed cities to take in properties but without incurring the fiscal burdens, such as debt or special taxes, on them.

Land banks gained popularity out of the foreclosure crisis in 2009, and the practice was endorsed by the federal government as a way for cities to deal with the fallout. They have since

been used by cities as a way of also dealing with large amounts of vacant land, the situation in Bel Aire.

The idea was first presented as an option to the council in May.

"The more we looked into it, the more it made sense to us," Austin said. "It will allow the city more flexibility as a land owner."

In other action, the council: Listened to a presentation by assistant city manager and finance director Michelle Meyer on the 2016 budget. As required by law, there was a public hearing on the budget. However, no one appeared to speak on it. The budget can be examined online by going to the city's website. Meyer stressed that the city's mill levy remains the same, 45.73 mills, so taxes should remain the same for most residents. The city has a 7.45 percent increase in its valuation, mostly due to new construction.

The current year budget estimate for 2015 is \$13.28 million.

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# BEL AIRE POLICE REPORTS

July 20 — Chief Atteberry responded to a disturbance in the 4900 block of North Hillcrest. The calling party needed her ex-husband to be served with a protection order.

July 20 — Officer Toomey responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 5100 block of North Woodlawn. No injuries were reported.

July 20 — Chief Atteberry responded to a vandalism call in the 6000 block of East Forbes. The calling party pointed out a vehicle stuck in the mud behind a residence. The owner of the truck approached and said he worked for a sub-contractor. He said he attempted to cut through the yard to get to the second house from the corner that is also under construction. He said he was stuck in the mud and left his vehicle and went to work. The owner of the property said he would consider pressing charges.

July 19 — Officer Elpers ran a tag on a vehicle and it came back as stolen. Officer stopped the vehicle at K-96 and Oliver. The driver said she bought the vehicle and kept the same tag that came with it.

July 19 — Officer Davis responded to a domestic violence call in the 4800 block of North Harding. The calling party suffers from a medical issue and agreed to seek help from a doctor.

July 19 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for an expired tag in the 5500 block of East 37th North. The driver was cited for having an improperly licensed vehicle.

July 19 — Officer Elpers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 4900 block of North Hillcrest. A man said he and his wife are getting a divorce and his wife changed the locks on the house so he could not get in. The situation was resolved, and the two separated for the night.

July 18 — Officer Camplin stopped a vehicle for a vehicle defect in the 4200 block of North Oliver. The driver was arrested on a Sedgwick County warrant and cited for driving with a suspended license. The suspect's name was not available.

July 18 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for failure to dim headlights in the 4400 block of North Oliver. The driver was arrested on a charge of DUI. The suspect's name was not available.

July 18 — Officer Davis responded to a disorderly conduct call in the 4400 block of Westlake Court. The calling party said she was receiving threatening text messages from an ex-boyfriend.

July 17 — Officer Crice assisted the highway patrol with a semi vs. car injury accident on K-254.

July 17 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for expired tag in the 9200 block of East 45th North. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license and no insurance.

July 17 — Officer Elpers arrested Vernon M. Benton, Bel Aire, on a Bel Aire warrant in the 7200 block of East 37th North.

July 16 — Officer Camplin stopped a vehicle for a missing driver's side mirror in the 4800 block of East 37th North. The driver was arrested on a Wichita warrant and cited for driving with a suspended license.

July 16 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4800 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for driving in violation of restrictions.

Aug. 16 — Officer Camplin responded to a report of a domestic violence disturbance in the 6700 block of East Rodeo. A dispatcher said a male and female were arguing. There were no signs of a physical disturbance.

Aug. 16 — Officer Camplin responded to a report of a lost 53-year-old woman in the 5600 block of East Denise. The calling party said her daughter's godmother walked off while they were looking for their cat. The woman was located at 45th North and Edgemore.

Aug. 16 — Officer Davis responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 4900 block of Prairie Lakes Parkway. Officer went to the location and spotted a vehicle leaving the scene. The vehicle fled. A pursuit continued south and west until the vehicle hit a curb in the 1700 block of North Lorraine. Three suspects fled; two were apprehended. The female suspect, Megan T. Holthaus of Wichita, who was driving, was arrested on charges of burglary, theft and felony evade and elude. The male suspect was transported to the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center and booked on charges of burglary and theft. A third suspect is still at-large. A full recovery was made of the stolen property.

Aug. 15 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 6000 block of North Oliver. The driver, William Z. Flurry of Benton, was arrested on a charge of DUI.

Aug. 15 — Officer Elpers responded to a home accident in the 5500 block of East Falcon. The homeowner said her son was intoxicated and decided to cook something. He left the kitchen and when he came back, the stove was on fire. The young man tried to carry a pan with burning grease outside when some of the grease landed on his bare foot. The young man was transported to St. Francis with burns to the foot.

Aug. 15 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4100 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

July 15 — Officer Roney responded to the 4200 block of North Mission. The calling party said his sons were being abused by his ex-wife and her boyfriend. The boys were examined and there were no signs of abuse. The Department for Children and Families was notified.

Aug. 14 — Lt. Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn for a seat belt violation and obstructed view. The driver was arrested on Sedgwick County warrants and drug possession charges.

Aug. 14 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 6000 block of East 37th North. The driver was issued a notice to appear in court for driving with a suspended license.

Aug. 14 — Officer Roney discovered a motorcycle plate he took a report on the previous day had been reported stolen in Wichita.

Aug. 14 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for defective equipment in the 9600 block of East 45th North. The driver was given a notice to appear in court for defective equipment and driving with a suspended license.

Aug. 14 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for defective equipment in the 6300 block of East 37th North. The driver was arrested on a Wichita warrant and cited for driving with a suspended license. The suspect's name was not available.

Aug. 13 — Lt. Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 4100 block of North Woodlawn for obstructed view and defective brake light. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Aug. 13 — Lt. Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 4500 block of North Oliver for having a tag not assigned to it. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license and tag violation.

Aug. 13 — Lt. Foxx responded to a medical call in the 4800 block of North Harding. The case was referred to Adult Protective Services.

Aug. 13 — Officer Roney took a report of a larceny in the 5800 block of East 45th North. The reporting party said someone took the license plate from his 2006 Kawasaki motorcycle. The victim said someone replaced his tag with one from another motorcycle.

Aug. 12 — Officer Camplin stopped a vehicle in the 7800 block of East 45th North. The driver was given a notice to appear in court for driving with a revoked license, no proof of insurance and concealed tag.

Aug. 12 — Officer Camplin responded to a rolling disturbance that started when a vehicle was repossessed in the 13200 block of East 53rd North. The suspect said he wanted to get items out of the truck. The victim said he tried to let the suspect take the items from the truck before he towed it. However, the suspect was too busy on the phone. The suspect then began to follow the victim and attempted to get him to stop. The suspect was told to go home and contact the repossession company at a later time to get his property.

Aug. 12 — Officer Crice responded to a report of an out-of-control person in the 5900 block of East Flagstaff. Officers were advised that the subject had not been taking his medications and became upset. The subject, Joshua S. Gentry of Bel Aire, was transported to St. Joseph for treatment for a cut to a finger and then booked into the Sedgwick County Jail on charges of criminal damage to property and probation violation.

Aug. 12 — Officer Roney responded to a dog at-large in the 4100 block of North Parkwood. The calling party said a mixed breed male dog knocked the gate to her back yard off its hinges and began having relations with her pure-bred golden retriever. Officer attempted to contain the animal, which appeared to be a male shepherd mix without a collar, but was unable to catch it. The dog is from the 3800 block of North Cozy.

Aug. 11 — Officer Crice and Chief Atteberry assisted family members with a man who had medical issues in the 4800 block of North Harding. The man walked a short distance away from his home and

was too fatigued to walk back. He refused a ride. Chief waited with the man for over an hour until he was strong enough to return home under his own power.

Aug. 11 — Officer Roney responded to a report of a violation of a protection-from-stalking order in the 4400 block of North Eagle Lake Drive. The caller said his brother-in-law violated the order that states he is not to contact him directly or indirectly. The brother-in-law lives in Tribune.

Aug. 10 — Officer Davis assisted EMS with a non-responsive patient in the 4800 block of East 44th Court North. The man was later pronounced dead.

Aug. 9 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation in the 4700 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for traffic violations.

Aug. 9 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4800 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Aug. 9 — Officer Davis responded to a disorderly conduct report in the 5600 block of North Lycee. The calling party said she got into a verbal argument with her downstairs neighbor. Both parties complained about how much noise the other individual was making.

Aug. 8 — Officer Camplin asked Kechi police in the 400 block of East Kechi on a report of a 911 hang-up call. A dispatcher called the number back and a female answered. She sounded out of breath and upset. There had been a physical confrontation and they broke each other's cell phones and tablets. The man and woman were taken into custody by Kechi police and booked in jail on domestic violence charges.

Aug. 8 — Officer Elpers responded to a suspicious character report in the 5400 block of East Prairie Hawk Lane. Officer saw two males sitting in a parked car and could smell the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Officer found marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia. Both occupants were transported to the Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center and booked.

Aug. 8 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4300 block of North Woodlawn. The driver was arrested on a Wichita warrant and given a notice to appear in court on traffic charges.

Aug. 8 — Officer Roney found a male beagle walking south in the east ditch in the 4400 block of North Oliver. The dog had no owner information. The dog was taken to the Kansas Humane Society and placed in an overnight drop box. Officer took a photo of the dog and had it posted on the City of Bel Aire Facebook and Twitter pages. The owner located the dog and was able to retrieve it from the shelter.

Aug. 7 — Officer Camplin stopped a vehicle for a possible suspended license violation in the 4600 block of North Rock Road. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

Aug. 7 — Officer Crice responded to the 6700 block of East 45th. The homeowner's electricity had been off for an extended period of time due to a past due bill. Officer, the court clerk and Lt. Foxx are contacting charities to see if assistance can be found to help the man.

Aug. 7 — Officer Camplin took a report at the station. The calling party requested a case number for a lost tag. He said he sold a vehicle and threw away his license plate because he did not know he needed to turn it back in to the state for a refund.

Aug. 6 — Officers Crice and Camplin responded to an unknown call for police in the 6900 block of East Perryton. The calling party said,

through a translator, that she wanted to go back home to Saudi Arabia. Her son said he would be able to get her home within a couple of weeks. The mother and son were both told to try to limit their contact with each other while she was staying at the residence. They both agreed to limit contact.

Aug. 6 — Officers Roney and Davis responded to a rolling disturbance in the 3700 block of North Oliver. It was determined that the incident started in Wichita so Wichita police officers were contacted to take the report.

Aug. 5 — Officers responded to the 4600 block of North Oliver to check a man down in a driveway. Officer Camplin contacted an elderly man who appeared to have fallen. EMS was called to check the man. He was transported to St. Joseph for an exam.

Aug. 5 — Officer Roney responded to the 5800 block of East Clarendon after receiving a Crime Stoppers tip that the residence was using power from a neighboring residence. The homeowner said his power had been shut off and his neighbor provided an extension cord to his house to run fans until the power can be restored. Officers opened a project on the residence to attempt to find assistance for the man who recently lost his spouse and has limited resources.

Aug. 5 — Officers Roney and Camplin responded to a disturbance in the 6900 block of East Clarendon. The calling party said his mother was upset and was having some sort of mental episode. No crime was committed but EMS did transport the mother to St. Francis for chest pains.

Aug. 4 — Officer Steele responded to a report of disorderly conduct in the 5600 block of North Lycee. The calling party said a female had been attempting to provoke others to fight.

Aug. 3 — Officer Elpers assisted EMS in setting up spike strips for a vehicle pursuit that was coming north on Oliver from Wichita. The vehicle avoided the spike strips.

Aug. 3 — Officer Davis responded to a report of disorderly conduct in the 4500 block of Westlake Court. The calling party said a former co-worker was harassing her by calling multiple times and even went to her residence and banged on her door.

Aug. 1 — Officer Camplin responded to an unknown call for police in the 4800 block of North Harding. It turned out to be a medical call.

Aug. 1 — Officer Elpers took a domestic violence report in the 4700 block of North Hillcrest. The calling party who said he was at his ex-girlfriend's apartment in Wichita when she threw a brick through the back window of his vehicle.

July 31 — Officer Camplin stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5000 block of North Webb. The driver was cited for driving with a revoked license.

July 31 — Officer Camplin responded to a possible burglary report in the 6600 block of East 44th Court North. The resident said there were muddy footprints in the driveway. The calling party said there were muddy footprints coming from the side of the house to the front door. Upon further investigation, officer found there to be no forced or attempted entry into the residence. He spoke with the neighbors as well and they stated they did not see anything or anyone abnormal.

July 31 — Officer Roney took a theft report in the 6800 block of East Perryton. The calling party said he was missing a book of personal checks. He believes the checks were stolen from his residence on June 1 by a male who had access to the

garage.

July 31 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5000 block of North Oliver. The passenger in the vehicle admitted to having marijuana, a smoking pipe and a marijuana cookie. The driver was cited for speeding and the passenger was given a notice to appear in court for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

July 30 — Officer Crice followed up on a case presented by Kansas Adult Protective Services in the 6700 block of East 45th North. It concerned possible financial abuse of a woman and alleged medical malpractice.

July 30 — Officer Crice responded to a report in the 4200 block of North Rushwood. The calling party reported receiving phone calls from an unknown subject requesting repayment on a payday loan that was taken out in 2012 in New Mexico. He said he did not take out such a loan.

July 29 — Officer Roney took a report at the station of a possible theft. A woman told police she believed she discovered a scam while searching for a home to rent on Craigslist. She said she made contact with a two people by e-mail and text who wanted her to wire a \$1,500 deposit for rental of a residence. The reporting party said she felt uneasy about the situation and drove by to look at the residence. She found the residence currently listed for sale by Realty Executives. She contacted the listed realtor who advised that the Craigslist advertisement was a scam and that the residence is already under contract to be sold. The reporting party incurred no loss from the fraud attempt by the unknown suspect. However, officer discovered through speaking with the realty company that this type of scam happens frequently. The suspects only do business by e-mail and text and accept money through moneygrams or Western Union.

July 29 — Officer Roney responded to a found adult call in the 4800 block of North Harding. The calling party found a male knocking on his front door. Officer recognized the man and called for EMS to respond to check the man. The man was returned to his residence where his son advised that he would care for him.

July 28 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5100 block of East 45th North. The driver was arrested on a charge of DUI and a Wichita warrant and was cited for traffic violations.

July 28 — Officer Davis responded to a report of disorderly conduct in the 4400 block of North Edgemore Court. The calling party said she found improper pictures of her young daughter on Facebook. The woman said she got in argument with unknown males over the phone in regards to her daughter. The unknown males threatened violence.

July 27 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5500 block of east 37th North. The driver was arrested on a Wichita warrant and cited for having no driver's license.

July 27 — Officer Crice took a larceny report in the 5100 block of East Willow Point. The calling party said she had some landscaping done at her residence and when she got up, one of the new plants was missing. It was a shrub with white flowers.

July 27 — Officer Crice responded to an aggravated assault in the 4200 block of North Mission.

A 6-year-old male got angry with a friend and swung a golf club at him. There were no injuries.

July 26 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for a seat belt violation in the 5500 block of East 37th North. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license.

July 26 — Officer Crice responded to a two-vehicle wreck at 37th North and Woodlawn. No injuries were reported.

July 25 — Officer Davis took a report of forgery in the 6900 block of East Odessa Court. The reporting party said his daughter took a book of personal checks from his residence without permission. Some of the checks were forged with his daughter's name and cashed by an unknown person.

July 25 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4300 block of North Oliver. The driver was cited for speeding, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

July 24 — Lt. Foxx took a fraud report at the station. The reporting party said he was paid for services he had not yet completed. The check he received was for double the amount he quoted for the work. He was assured by the scammer that the check would clear. The man withdrew the overage amount and wired it back to the scammer. He was notified 24 hours later by his bank that the check had not cleared and the check was fraudulent.

July 24 — Officer Davis stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4800 block of North Greenwich. The driver was arrested on a charge of DUI and other traffic violations. The suspect's name was not available.

July 22 — Officer Elpers responded to a simple assault in the 4700 block of North Woodlawn. A vehicle ran the stop sign and turned northbound on Woodlawn. The license plate on the vehicle was expired. When Elpers stopped the vehicle, the driver exited the vehicle and began to walk away. The driver was told to stop and she told the officer she was at her house and he could not stop her on her property. Officer got her to return to her vehicle. The woman again started to walk to her front door and said she was going inside. Officer stood in front of her to stop her. The driver would not provide any information to the officer and started to call 911 to demand a different officer to respond to the scene. The driver was eventually taken into custody on a charge of interference with a law enforcement officer and the other traffic violations. The suspect's name was not available.

July 22 — Lt. Foxx took a report of fraud at the station. A woman said her credit report indicated that someone opened a Verizon Wireless account with her information and charged a \$2,000 bill. The victim needed a police report for the credit bureau.

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# Northeast county property sold at auction

By The Breeze staff

About 360 acres of land in northeast Sedgwick County was sold by auction Aug. 6, earning the county about \$1.38 million.

McCurdy Auction conducted the sale.

The land sold for an average of \$4,235 per acre. Three parcels sold together for \$1.43 million and one sold for \$94,600, totaling

more than \$1.5 million. Costs of the sale and closing expenses were deducted.

The auction drew about 60 people, was conducted onsite and lasted about 45 minutes. There

were 15 registered bidders, including one from California.

McCurdy did not identify the buyers.

The property, which has been used for agricultural purposes, is

located near the 645-acre Northeast Sedgwick County Park.

Most of the property is near 85th North and Greenwich Road and 127th East.

## Hydrants

Continued from Page 1

stamp on nearby hydrants. It's all part of Bel Aire's Adopt-a-Hydrant program, designed to help the city and its residents.

Painting the device is one part of the citizen's responsibility. The adopter must also make sure the hydrant is clear of snow, weeds and debris.

As for the hydrant painting, the city and fire department will supply brushes and paint for basic silver and red paint schemes. However, special colors and designs need to be approved by officials before the work is undertaken. For those looking for inspiration, the Internet has hundreds of designs, including many on the popular Pinterest site.

At least 18 hydrants have been adopted, but there are a lot more to go as there are 396 hydrants within the city limits. The hydrants are placed about every 500 feet and, with their high volume and pressure, are vital parts of the front line of

defense for the fire department when tackling blazes.

The program got underway this summer with Denise Lasher, wife of City Manager Ty Lasher, painting three hydrants, including two Dalmations, the traditional dog breed of firefighters and fire stations.

One is in front of the Sedgwick County Fire Department Station 37 at 4343 N. Woodlawn and the other in the 4900 block of North Highland.

She also painted a minion character from the movie "Despicable Me" on North Highland Court.

Like Corcoran, Lasher got her hydrant ideas from the Internet. Painters don't need any special talent, she said, just the desire to do the project. It took Lasher about four hours to do each hydrant and that included time to wire brush them to prepare the surfaces.

"I found it very fun," she said.

Husband Ty, who came up with idea, helped by providing paint and brushes.

Other eye-catching hy-

drants include an American flag design at the southeast corner of 49th Street North and Hedgerow, a Batman design in the 4900 block of North Hedgerow Circle and a WuShock in the 4100 block of North Edgemoor.

Corcoran happens to be a high school art teacher, which means she comes to the project skilled, but she and others say that no special talent is

needed — just the desire to complete the project and enjoy it.

Indeed, the whimsical nature of the project is not going unnoticed.

Mayor David Austin recently remarked that an Andover resident told him that Bel Aire residents "have all the fun." That person also wanted to implement the program in Andover.

The practice of having citizens adopt a hydrant, both for decorating it and maintaining it, may be new to the area, but it's been implemented in other parts of the country.

The city of Boston has one, which officials say is especially vital in winter as heavy snow can block or even cover the city's 13,000 hydrants. With more than 5,500 fire calls, having the hydrants

makes sense, they say.

In Bel Aire, the concept is being embraced as the city has more than a dozen new applications.

Corcoran and others are looking forward to others joining in the trend.

"I think it would be great if all the hydrants in Bel Aire were painted," she said. "It will give residents more pride in their city."

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