

The Bel Aire Breeze

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Complimentary copy

City building master plan for cycling, walking

Effort is part of city's long-term planning project

By Matt Heilman

Fresh off one of the top five years in the city's history in terms of overall growth, Bel Aire Mayor David Austin said he sees the city as "the next big growth area for Sedgwick County."

If Bel Aire's current level of development picks up as expected in

the next handful of years, Austin's projection will likely come true. And with perhaps more attention than ever on the city from realtors, developers and potential homeowners, the name of the game in Bel Aire continues to be planning.

The development of a master plan has started to pay off in the city's 800-acre Sunflower Commerce Park where the first 155 acres in the park's first phase are classified as "shovel ready." Marlin Penner, president of commercial real estate company John T. Arnold and Associates, has aided the city in marketing the property.

Recently, he's also been called

on to assist Bel Aire in completing a master plan for housing. Specifically, the city has concentrated on about 600 acres running north to south from K-254 to 45th Street and east to west from Webb to Rock Roads.

The master plan for the land calls mostly for a mix of single-family and multi-family housing including apartments. Office and retail space are also part of the picture.

Steadily, the vision for how the Bel Aire landscape could look in the next decade is coming into focus. In line with the diverse housing options and business growth, Bel Aire is looking to establish a master plan for the

construction of bike/walking paths throughout the city.

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said grant money could be available to help the city become more pedestrian friendly, but not without a master plan.

Bel Aire Community Development Director Rick Rekoske and City Engineer Garrett Glaser have started the process for developing a master bike/walk plan with input from an ad hoc committee of residents.

Lasher said a master bike/walk plan likely consisting of additional sidewalks and at least one bike trail would tie in with future development on all fronts, including residential, retail and

industrial construction.

Eventually, the master bike/walk plan will be presented to the planning commission before it's subject to final approval by the city council, Lasher said.

While the long-term plan won't likely be realized for years, Austin said he was glad to see it kick-started with the formation of the ad hoc committee.

Austin said he enjoys occasionally taking 10-to-20 mile long bike rides with one of his neighbors and he'd like the opportunity to get out more within his community.

See PLAN, Page 6



Photos by Matt Heilman

City leaders and Next Level Hoops Academy officials break ground during a ceremony on April 18.

Land deal for cement company underway

Buzzi Unicem buying 12 acres

By Matt Heilman

More tangible progress on the development front is coming soon for Bel Aire's Sunflower Commerce Park. At the Bel Aire City Council's April 15 meeting, the group took measures to close on the sale of a 12-acre site at 53rd North and Greenwich and approved a railroad track easement in line with plans for construction of rail siding off the main Union Pacific line that runs through the park.

On the site, Buzzi Unicem USA, one of the nation's largest cement manufacturers, is planning to expand its operation. The company's commitment to build in Bel Aire was contingent on the city's ability to obtain funding for construction of rail siding, which is needed for Buzzi Unicem to meet its needed shipping capabilities.

On April 15, the council cleared the way for the city to close on the property with Buzzi Unicem with the approval of the sale and disposition of the property under a lease agreement. The lease agreement with the property dates back about four years.

In 2010, as part of Bel Aire's plans to handle the debt it owned on about 16,000 acres of undeveloped land, the city established a public building commission to essentially take ownership of the land and lease it back to the city. The action taken on April 15 essentially transfers the ownership of the 12 acres at 53rd North and Greenwich from the public building commission back to the City of Bel Aire. The next step is for the city to close the deal on the 12 acres with Buzzi Unicem.

Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said the deal is expected to close by the second week of May, clearing the way for Buzzi Unicem to begin work on its new facility.

About a mile west of the site, the city held an April 18 groundbreaking for the Next Level Hoops Academy near 53rd North and Webb Road, just north of Century Manufacturing, which is currently the lone business operating in the Sunflower Commerce Park.

- Also on April 15, the council:
- Approved an appropriations ordinance of \$652,898.94.
 - Heard from Mayor David Austin who proclaimed April 26 as Arbor Day in Bel Aire
 - Heard that the Bel Aire Lions Club will have an electronic recycling and shredding day from 9 a.m. to noon May 3.
 - Heard from council member Guy MacDonald who reported that the city's tree board was planning an Arbor Day tree planting at 10 a.m. April 26 near the pond in Central Park. This year, a tree was planted in memory of Alex Funcheon, a former Bel Aire resident and Sgt. in the U.S. Army who was killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad, Iraq in 2007.

Construction begins on Next Level Hoops

By Matt Heilman

More than 200 young athletes, coaches, colleagues, city representatives, friends and family members gathered to support a former Wichita State University basketball standout at a groundbreaking ceremony for the home of what's been described as his "state of the art basketball facility."

On April 18, Jason Perez, who starred for the Shockers from 1997 to 2000, addressed the crowd and turned dirt to signify the start of construction for the new home of the Next Level Hoops Academy on about six acres near 53rd North and Webb Road in Bel Aire's Sunflower Commerce Park.

Once complete, the facility will house six individual courts used for league play, tournaments and practices for both basketball and volleyball. Perez, a San Antonio native who played professionally in Europe after his career at Wichita State, transitioned to coaching in the Wichita area

when his playing days were complete. The permanent site in Bel Aire will give the Next Level Hoops Academy something it hasn't had before — its own gym and workout facility.

"The seed for this was planted five years ago when I started coaching a basketball team," Perez said at the April 18 groundbreaking. "The following year, I started the Next Level Hoops Academy. And now look what we got."

A news release leading up to the groundbreaking said the academy started with a handful of boys' basketball teams and personal development training in 2010.

"The organization is continuing to grow and now has over 20 boys teams and over 10 girls teams, ranging in age from 8 to 17 years old," the news release said. "The Next Level Hoops Academy focuses on using basketball training to expand and teach greater



"The seed for this was planted five years ago when I started coaching a basketball team," owner Jason Perez says.

See HOOPS, Page 5

Bel Aire council approves street improvement

By Matt Heilman

With all the development ongoing in Bel Aire, the city is making a concerted effort to keep up with needed infrastructure improvements, especially on city streets. At its April 1 meeting, the Bel Aire City Council approved spending

\$66,674 for paving improvements on 53rd Street from approximately 450 feet east of Lycee Road, just east of 53rd North and Rock Road, east to the edge of Rock Spring Road. Lycee Road is a frontage street that leads to Northeast Magnet High School off of 53rd Street. Across 53rd from Northeast

Magnet is the Rock Spring housing addition.

The council's official action taken on April 1 to improve the area was the approval of a quote from Andale Paving for a roller compacted concrete extension from the point just east of Lycee Road to Rock Spring Road. Bel Aire Mayor David Austin

said there have been "lots of complaints" about the condition of 53rd Street just north of City Hall from area homeowners and motorists who drive by the high school. Ultimately, homeowners in the Rock Spring addition will pay for the infrastructure work over time through the issuance of special assessments. Lasher

said a temporary note issued for the city's portion of infrastructure work, including utility placement and paving would roll into a bond this fall, setting the city up to begin seeing a reimbursement for the work through the specials.

Austin said the roller compacting process is a better and

less expensive paving improvement than applying asphalt.

"Any time you can get something better and cheaper, I'm on board," he said.

- Also on April 1, the council:
- Approved an appropriations ordinance for \$313,038.12.
 - Heard Austin proclaim April as Fair Housing Month.
 - Approved holding a workshop at 6:30 p.m. April 8.



Mayor's corner

By David Austin

No foolin' — April rocked in Bel Aire! We started the month with a grand-opening celebration at Dr. Wolff's new office at 53rd and Rock. This land has gone from vacant land to a modern day family medical office in what seems like no time. We applaud Dr. Wolff for seeing our community and that intersection in particular as one on the grow.

Now Bel Aire residents have a hometown local family practitioner for their medical needs, including physicals.

Then seven short days later, we held a groundbreaking for Wichita State University basketball Hall of Famer Jason Perez and Next Level Hoops Academy. And what a ceremony it was! Perez had a dream five years ago of opening a facility to teach basketball skills, athleticism training, volleyball and even homework help.

It was nearly a year ago Jason and I first discussed this possibility before worship service at Eastside Community Church, where we both attend. He mentioned his dream and his need for land. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Jason, his lovely bride Heidi their two darling kids and about 200 fans and supporters filled the groundbreaking ceremony. As of press time, footage from the ceremony was still available at www.kake.com.

In the midst of a grand opening and groundbreaking, Bel Aire held its Spring Festival on April 12 at City Hall.

One of the first things I did after you gave me the honor of serving as your mayor was to transform the economic development advisory committee and expand it to the economic and community advisory committee. We expanded the number of citizens who serve on the committee, representing a variety of groups in Bel Aire. They were charged with creating events and activities to promote living in Bel Aire, events for families and visitors to enjoy.

The Spring Festival was exactly that. Despite fierce winds, more than 350 people enjoyed kites, clowns, balloon animals, vendors, an Easter egg hunt, live music and more. The bouncy house, face painting and hot air balloon rides were canceled due to the crazy wind. But a fun time was still had by all, including a handful of four-legged friends who came out to enjoy the day. Lucky, your first dog, was there, too.

Plans are already underway to host an even better and bigger event next spring. In the meantime, I can't wait to see what the committee comes up with for the fall and for Christmas time.

More than just the committee members helped out at the event. The Bel Aire Lions Club hosted the Easter egg hunt and donated all the candy. Sunrise Christian Academy National Honor Society members were there, too, volunteering. And out in large numbers were members of the growing Bel Aire Revolution Church, who in addition to volunteering at the event, provided fancy cupcakes and bottled water for everyone.

PALS Animal rescue was present, showing rescue dogs available for adoption. Heartland Animal Hospital donated items, too. All in all, the cost of the event to the taxpayer was less than \$200 since just about everything was donated and/or run by volunteers. Chisholm Trail State Bank helped with advertising and Bob and Luigi's along with Can You Dig It BBQ were there offering delicious food. It truly was a community event.

If you are interested in being more involved in our growing city, the City of Bel Aire has formed an Adopt-a-Park program and is looking for volunteers who share a sense of community and ownership. If you are interested in adopting one of our six parks, please contact Rick at rrekoske@belaireks.gov or call 744-2451, extension 218.

Fortune and fame don't equal happiness

April 5 marked the 20th anniversary of the tragic death of an American icon in the music industry. A strung-out 27-year-old who ironically made millions dressed as a lethargic slacker didn't like the monster he created with his gritty, generation-defining music. So, he decided to end it all.

Kurt Cobain's angst-fueled songs were meant for the misunderstood outcasts, the high school weirdos who sat alone during lunch and despised P.E. class. The problem was that Kurt's band, Nirvana, was just too good not to be heard on mainstream radio.

The trio was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame on April 10, nearly 23 years after Nirvana became a household name.

After the band's breakout album, "Nevermind," was released in 1991,

Heil on life

By Matt Heilman



the genie was out of the bottle. A handful of radio chart toppers catapulted the Pacific Northwest grunge pioneers into the mainstream. To Kurt's dismay, it wasn't long before the meathead jocks and arrogant preps that likely would have made his life hell as a teenager were blaring "Smells Like Teen Spirit" from locker rooms and car stereos across the country.

Kurt played along for a few years. At times, he actually seemed to be enjoying himself as his fortune and

popularity grew beyond the point that the hardcore punk rockers he associated with before his band made it big considered him a sellout.

Ultimately, as the story goes, by the spring of 1994, Kurt didn't see anything else worth accomplishing as an artist. And with his life defined by his craft as a musician, he allegedly decided to leave this world alone with his thoughts, his record player and a shotgun in his Seattle area home on April 5, 1994.

I am a full year older than Kurt was when he decided that he had accomplished all that he was going to in life. At 28, I'm still holding out hope that the best is yet to come.

The rock 'n' roll cliché says that it's better to burn out than to fade away. I tend to disagree with that credo. Even if this life is as good as it's going to get, I'm aiming to live

for as close to forever as I can and to lift up as many people as I can along the way.

At the end of the day, words of encouragement, kindness to strangers and reliable friendship mean more in this world than the artistic brilliance of a brooding music man.

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Pedestrian plans should be a priority for area cities

In north Sedgwick County, we're encouraged with the prospects for new businesses and residences, but cities need to offer more than just places to work and shop during the day and to sleep at night.

We want to see more commitments to improve the quality of life for residents by giving them places to bike, hike and walk. The accessibility of safe pedestrian transportation is an underrated amenity that is an important factor in marketing communities.

Last month, we learned that the City of Bel Aire is in the beginning stages of developing a master plan for bike and walking paths that will allow residents to more easily travel throughout the community without burning fuel.

There's a lot of development happening that is changing the

landscape of Bel Aire. The city has been a newsmaker with its new home starts and construction in its industrial park. We're encouraged that the city is taking the initiative to involve its bike/walking path plan with the ongoing development.

The City of Valley Center has also taken the initiative to improve pedestrian transportation. The city placed sidewalks as a high priority with its 2014-15 capital improvement plan.

We applaud the forward thinking and the increased safety that sidewalks provide to children walking or biking to and from school. The sidewalks along McLoughlin from Fifth to Meridian and along Emporia from Main to Fifth are wide enough to accommodate children on bikes and on foot.

There are also several sidewalks planned throughout Val-

ley Meadows. Once the work is complete, we believe the community will be better for it.

We'd like to see the City of Park City also step up and improve transportation for pedestrians. The city has taken steps to increase safety for children walking to and from the city's parks and library, but we want to see more, especially west of I-135. Someday, we'd like to see the city find a way to allow residents to safely walk or bike on either side of the interstate on 61st and 53rd Streets.

When it comes to improving pedestrian transportation, we're sure residents appreciate the effort, especially the ones who like to make the most out of the nice weather on spring or summer evenings by incorporating exercise into opportunities to explore their communities.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

Plan

Continued from Page 1

"I'd ride every day if I could," he said.

Meanwhile, more road improvements are planned for high-traffic areas in the city. Lasher said engineering is expected to start in June for roadwork to ease the flow of traffic on 37th Street from Woodlawn to Oliver.

He said Bel Aire is partnering with the City of Wichita

on the project that should be completed in 2016. More improvements are planned for Woodlawn from at least 37th Street to 45th Street as part of a project within the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's five-year plan, Lasher said.

An engineering study is also being completed on two intersections on 45th Street on Oliver and Rock Road. Lasher said the study was possible with grant money from the Kansas Department of Trans-

portation.

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JAMES OLTMAN — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
316-529-5900

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City of Bel Aire



Bel Aire Recreation

HELP WANTED

The City of Bel Aire has part-time openings available for youth baseball/softball umpires. Apply in person at the Bel Aire Recreation Center.

RECREATIONAL SUMMER BALL LEAGUES (boys ages 5-11 & girls ages 5-12)

Teams will play up to two games per week on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday evening, or Saturdays beginning June 2. Leagues include T-Ball, Machine Pitch and Youth Pitch Baseball & Softball. The deadline has passed but limited openings remain.

HERSHEY'S TRACK & FIELD DAY

Bel Aire Recreation has partnered with Andover Parks & Recreation to bring you the Hershey's Track & Field day on Saturday, June 7 @ 10:30 am. This FREE program is open to boys and girls ages 9-14 year and will be held at the Andover District Stadium. The registration deadline is June 3. Please call for more information.

FISHING CLINIC

Bel Aire Recreation has partnered with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to bring you a free fishing clinic on Friday, June 20th from 10:00 – 11:30am. Parental/guardian assistance is required in this interactive clinic. Space is limited, therefore pre-registration is required.

MAXIMIZE CAMPS

Bel Aire Recreation continues to partner with

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

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

SUMMER DAY CAMP

The Wichita YMCA will again offer a state-licensed day camp this summer at the Bel Aire Recreation Center. Elementary age activities include arts & crafts, games, sports, swimming, field trips, and much more. For more information or to register call the YMCA at 264-1610.

TAEKWONDO (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet on Monday & Friday from 5:00-6:00 pm or Tuesday & Thursday from 7:00-8:00 pm. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

YOGA

Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:10-7:10 pm. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Adults can join at any time! Teens & adults can join at any time!

FITNESS CENTER (ages 16 & up)

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

Non-Members - \$44/session

MORNING SESSIONS M-Th
Session Dates: 6/16-6/26, 7/7-7/17 & 7/21-7/31

Times: 11:00 - 11:45 am & 12:00 - 12:45 pm

EVENING SESSIONS M-Th

Session Dates: 6/16-6/26, 7/7-7/17 & 7/21-7/31

Times: 7:00 - 7:45 pm

PRIVATE SWIMMING LESSONS

Private swimming lessons are available by appointment and are subject to availability.

Summer Passes	
Individual (ages 12 & older)	\$100 /year
Family: 2 adults and dependent children residing in the home	\$150 / year
Daily Fees	
Under age 12 (must be accompanied by an adult)	\$2 per day
Over age 12	\$3 per day

Central Park Swimming Pool

7350 E. Central Park Ave. 744-7331
Pool opens May 26th weather permitting
Fee Information

POOL HOURS

WEEKDAYS
Swimming Lessons 11:00 am—1:00 pm
Open Swim 1:00 pm—7:00 pm
Swimming Lessons 7:00 pm—7:45 pm

WEEKENDS
Saturday & Sunday
Pool Hours 1:00 pm—6:00 pm

POOL HOURS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

POOL RENTALS

Have your next party at the pool!
Rental packages are available after normal business hours.
Rentals are subject to availability.
Up to 25 patrons—\$40/hour
Over 25* patrons—\$60/hour
* Limit of 50 patrons

GROUP SWIMMING LESSONS

Members - \$35/session

Bel Aire Seniors

All SENIORS 55+ are cordially invited to all events listed below. The Senior Center and Library area are open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday excluding holidays. The library has a wide selection of library books to check out at no cost nor time restraints, along with computers available for study or research. Remember any senior can belong or attend to more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County.

Locations:

Senior Center/Community Room – 7651 E. Central Park Ave., 744-2451
Recreation Center – 5251 E. 48th St. N., 744-2700

Weekly Events:

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

Men's Coffee & Fellowship – Mondays, 10 a.m. at the Senior Center

Yoga – Mondays & Wednesdays, 6 p.m. at the Rec Center (monthly fee)

Bridge Games – Tuesdays, 1 p.m. at the Senior Center

Low Impact Aerobics – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. at the Rec Center

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

Monthly & Special Events:

May 2, 6-9 p.m., - Pitch night with snacks at the Senior Center

May 3, 9 a.m. – McPherson College Auto Restoration Car Show, Departs Senior Center at 9am

May 5, 6:30 p.m. – “Cinco De Mayo” Potluck ~ bring side dish, Community Room

May 6, 8:30 a.m. – Breakfast Club for info call Carolyn at 744-2650

May 7, 10 a.m. - Volunteer library work time at the Senior Center

May 8, Downsizing & Organizing Workshop with Three Pea Design, Lunch Provided 12pm, Senior Center

May 9, 12 p.m. – Defining your Legacy Luncheon. Create an Estate Plan & Consider how you'll pass your financial and personal legacy on. Lunch provided. RSVP by May 7th.

May 12, 11:30 a.m. - Senior Club Lunch contact Carolyn 744-2650

May 14, 10 a.m. – Open Sewing at the Senior Center

May 14, 1:30 p.m. – Low Vision Solutions, Senior Center

May 15, 2 p.m. – Naked Nurses Dessert Bar, 2 pm Senior Center

May 16, 6-9 p.m., - Pitch night with snacks at the Senior Center

May 17, 10 a.m. – Master Gardener Garden Tour, Departs Senior Center 9am, \$10 per person

May 19, 6 p.m. – Covered Dish Dinner, Rec Center

May 2, Ladies Dine Out - for info call Anita at 744-2840

May 21, 10 a.m. – Men's Coffee at Braums

May 21, 10:15 a.m. – Senior Aerobics Brunch (different locations)

May 21, 2 p.m. – Ladies Coffee/Tea at Braums

May 28, 10 a.m. – Open Sewing at the Senior Center

May 28, 7 p.m. – Bunko games at the Senior Center

May 29, 2 p.m. – Rite Bite Series: Portion Distortion, Denise Diaz, Senior Center

May 30, 6-9 p.m., - Pitch night with snacks at the Senior Center

Community Events

TOPS – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. at the Senior Center

City Council Meetings – 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of every month

May 15, 3 p.m. – Red Hat visit to Duck Arboretum & Supper. For info call Anita at 744-2840

Spring Festival, Easter egg hunt success

The City of Bel Aire was extremely delighted with the huge turnout for the Spring Festival & Easter Egg Hunt held on April 12th at the City Hall grounds. Attendees for the event enjoyed kite flying that began at 10 AM and food by Can you Pig it BBQ as well as Bob & Luigi's Pizza. The event's activities kicked off at 3:00 PM with several craft vendors, dog treats from Heartland Animal Hospital and the Dog Treatery. PALS animal adoption and Edwards Jones were also in attendance serving the attendees. While at the event, everyone enjoyed kite flying, clowns, Easter Bunny, magician, live bands (Big Mac Combo and Sky Lines the Band) and a really nice Easter Basket, donated by Providence Realty was valued over \$100 for one lucky winner! In addition, The Bel Aire Police Department and Sedgwick County Fire



Gabriella Holman from Sedgwick Kansas.

Department displayed the latest gadgets and equipment, while providing valuable education to kids of all ages.

Unfortunately, the winds did not allow for the Inflatable bouncy house or the Tethered hot air balloon rides to occur, but the spirit of those able to make it were still very enlightened by all the various activities occurring simultaneously.

The Easter Egg hunt was a huge smash with a record number of kids participating this year! The Egg hunt was sponsored by the Bel Aire Lions Club and Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce. The City of Bel Aire is a proud partner with the Bel Aire Lions Club and without their support and dedication to this event, the Spring Festival & Easter Egg Hunt could not have been this successful! One of the key components to the success of the event was the huge outpouring of volunteers that were present at the event. Mayor Austin and the Bel Aire City Council wishes

to thank the Revolution Church, the National Honor Society at Sunrise Christian Academy and NE Magnet high school and the Community Development Advisory Committee for all their hard work and dedication to see the event shine! Revolution church also provided a sponsorship for the event as well as FREE cupcakes and FREE water bottles. The Wichita Thunder mascot (Thunder Dog) was in attendance as well. Congratulations to Gabriella Holman of Sedgwick Kansas on winning the huge Easter Egg Basket drawing. Gabriella's mom was a winner of the Impossible Trivia contest on Light 99.7 PM and their attendance was very much appreciated!



The City of Bel Aire held a ribbon Cutting for Dr. Wolff's office at 53rd Street North and Rock Road on April 11.

Bel Aire receives the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada

Bel Aire city leaders are proud to announce that the City of Bel Aire received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2014 Budget. This award represents a significant achievement by Bel Aire as this is the first year the City has ever received such recognition. It reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff to meeting the highest principals of government budgeting. In order to receive the budget award, Bel Aire had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- A policy document
- A financial plan
- An operations guide
- A communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

A Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation was presented to Michelle Meyer, the City's Assistant City Manager/Finance Director.

In the last fiscal year, 1,353 participants from all over North America received the award; 14 were cities within Kansas and only 3 were cities of the 2nd class.

The GFOA is a nonprofit profession association serving nearly 18,000 government finance professionals throughout North America. The GFOA Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards Program is the only national awards program in government budgeting.

City Hall

Ty Lasher, City Manager	744-2451, ext. 217
Recreation Department	744-2700
Central Park Pool	744-7331
Parks Department	744-8609
Police • Emergency	911
Non-emergency	744-6000
Animal Control (Sedgwick County)	660-7070
Public Works	744-2888
Water/Sewer Emergency (after 5 p.m.)	761-6972 or 761-6973
Utility Billing	744-2451, ext. 132
(Waste Connections)	838-4920
Hazardous Waste (Sedgwick County)	660-7464

POLICE REPORTS

April 17 — Officer Thompson responded to an alarm on a residence in the 6000 block of Danbury. The residence was secure.

April 17 — Officer Roney approached the driver of a vehicle stopped in the road with its lights on in the 9500 block of East 45th North. The driver had stopped in the road to talk with her husband and was unaware it was illegal to park in the road. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license and illegally parking in the road.

April 17 — Officer Roney responded to a report of a wrong-way driver in the 9500 block of East 61st North. Officer observe a vehicle sitting diagonally with its lights on in the center median of 61st. A sheriff's deputy arrested the driver on a charge of DUI.

April 16 — Chief Griggs responded to a burglary in progress in the 5800 block of East Odessa. A couple returned home to find an unknown vehicle in their driveway. The suspect vehicle backed out and the driver waived the couple into the driveway and then honked the horn. Another man came out of the front door of the house carrying a pillowcase that contained jewelry from the couple's residence. The suspect vehicle left and the male resident pursued the vehicle throughout the surrounding neighborhoods. The suspect vehicle was last seen traveling east on Perryton at Woodlawn. The front door of the residence had been forced open, causing \$500 in damage, and the loss was estimated at \$750.

April 16 — Chief Griggs responded to check a residence in the 4300 block of North Janesville. A resident found a front door kicked in with about \$500 in damage. There was no other loss.

April 16 — Officer Thompson responded to a suspicious character in the 5600 block of Perryton. A man walking his dog apparently stopped to take a picture of a house. Officer did not find the man.

April 15 — Chief Griggs took a report from a resident in the 8400 block of East Granite that someone entered his vehicle and blew into the ignition interlock device. The suspect must have been drunk because the device detected alcohol. The resident said the state charges him \$40 every time someone blows into the device and it detects alcohol. There was no sign of forced entry and no damage to the vehicle.

April 15 — Chief Griggs took a report from a resident in the 400 block of North Harding who was unlicensed with the work of an unlicensed contractor who was removing concrete around a pool and replacing it with new concrete.

April 14 — Officer Foxx took a report of a burglary at Sunrise Christian Academy in the 5500 block of East 45th North. A suspect was seen on surveillance video using a flashlight. The suspect entered an office where two locked carts containing iPad computers are located. No loss was reported.

April 14 — Officer Toomey responded to a report of missing jewelry in the 4200 block of North Eagle Lake Court. Two rings valued at a total of \$2,500 were missing.

April 14 — Officer Toomey took a report of larceny at the station.

April 13 — Officer Steele responded to a burglary in progress in the 6900 block of East Odessa. Cassandra J. Serene was arrested on a charge of domestic violence-disorderly conduct.

April 12 — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle for seat belt and driving violations in the 5200 block of North Rock Road. The driver was cited for driving without a valid identification.

April 12 — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm on a residence in the 4900 block of East 48th North. The alarm was deemed false.

April 12 — Officer Steele responded to a suspicious character report in the 4200 block of North Stratford Lane. A resident said someone was parked in a vehicle behind a residence possibly accessing the Internet without permission. There were no signs of suspicious activity.

April 11 — Officer Foxx responded to a hold-up alarm at a residence in the 6600 block of East Summerside Place. The homeowner accidentally set off the alarm.

April 11 — Chief Griggs responded to an alarm on a residence in the 6200 block of East Woodlawn. The residence was secure.

April 11 — Officer Foxx took a report of someone etching crosses and the pound sign into the curb owned by the city in the 4800 block of North Farmstead Court. A resident also noticed that someone shot her "No Trespassing" sign with a BB gun.

April 11 — Officer Roney responded to a fraud report in the 4000 block of North Danbury. A resident received a phone call from someone claiming to be with the IRS and that the resident had a federal warrant that needed to be paid by phone immediately or Bel Aire police would be contacting her. The woman called police.

April 10 — Officer Roney responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4200 block of North Country Lane. A man had been sitting on the tailgate of his truck in front of a residence talking on his phone for an hour. There were no signs of suspicious activity.

April 9 — Officer Thompson responded to two dogs running at-large near Kenawee and Auburn. Officers found the dogs, Stevie and Oodl-Bug, and coerced them into their yard. Officer warned their owner that the next time the dogs were out on an adventure, officer would contact Sedgwick County Animal Control.

April 7 — Officer Foxx impounded a 2002 Mercury Cougar that was partially blocking the road and had two flat tires. The owner was contacted on April 4 but failed to remove the vehicle.

April 7 — Officer Toomey responded to an injury accident in the 5300 block of North Greenwich. A large commercial truck collided with a pickup and both vehicles rolled into a field. A driver was taken to the hospital.

April 6 — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm at Wickham Glass Co. in the 4700 block of North Webb. An employee had accidentally set off the alarm.

April 6 — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm at Heiland Roofing in the 3800 block of North Hillcrest. An employee had accidentally set off the

alarm.

April 6 — Officer Foxx took a report of an assault in the 6100 block of East Quail Ridge Court. Two men got into a fight while playing beer pong. One of the men suffered injuries to his face, forehead and neck. Jonathan Dohm was arrested on a charge of battery.

April 6 — Officer Steele responded to a report of found property in the 4000 block of North Farmstead. A mailbox was recovered.

April 6 — Officer Steele responded to assist the fire department on what appeared to be an uncontrolled fire in the 5700 block of North Rock Road.

April 5 — Officer Foxx responded to a found property report in the 6500 block of East Shepherds Crossing. A woman found a large envelope full of personal mail while she was walking around her property. The mail was returned to its owners.

April 5 — Officer Roney stopped a motorcycle for speeding in the 5600 block of North Oliver. The rider, Christopher L. Wilkerson, was arrested on charges of operating a motorcycle with a revoked license, altered tag, no proof of liability insurance, defective signal and habitual violator.

April 5 — Officer Steele checked a residence in the 3800 block of North Oliver. There was no apparent suggestion of suspicious activity.

April 4 — Officer Foxx responded to an alarm on a residence in the 6200 block of East Woodlawn. The alarm was deemed false. A dog apparently set it off.

April 4 — Officer Steele responded to a vandalism in the 4800 block of North Farmstead Court. A resident reported a prank that involved dish-washing soap and toilet paper.

April 4 — Officer Steele responded to check the welfare of an individual in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn. A woman was seen walking. She had been in a verbal dispute with her boyfriend.

April 3 — Officer Foxx responded to a larceny in the 5700 block of East 39th North. A woman said 100 gallons of gasoline was removed from two 50-gallon barrels inside a shed in the backyard of the residence. The woman said tenants of the residents may have taken the fuel.

April 3 — Officer Roney took a report of theft of services at a duplex in the 8400 block of East Granite Court. Two water meters had been removed and installed at the duplex. Owner was unaware of the incident.

April 3 — Officer Roney responded to a possible fraud in the 5700 block of East Hanover. An alleged computer service called a resident and wanted personal information so the resident could receive a refund. The caller attempted to contact the resident three times, stating the resident would be arrested if he didn't provide the information. The resident was suspicious and contacted police.

April 3 — Officer Thompson responded to a suspicious character report in the 4200 block of North Stratford. A resident said a woman was trying to sell alarm systems and claimed a house down the street had been broken into. The woman was not telling the truth.

April 2 — Officer Thompson re-

sponded to a vehicle burglary at Family Video in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn. The passenger-side window had been broken and a purchase was taken.

April 2 — Officer Thompson responded to a disturbance in the 5900 block of North Clarendon. A woman said her ex-boyfriend forced her away from her front door and entered the home against her will, assaulting her current boyfriend. The ex-boyfriend fled.

April 2 — Officer Thompson responded to a non-injury accident at 37th North and Woodlawn. A driver was cited for failing to yield while turning left.

April 1 — Officer Thompson responded to a report of threats made by phone in the 4000 block of North Oliver. One text message was received. It did not reach the level of being a chargeable offense.

April 1 — Officer Thompson responded to a disturbance in the 4400 block of Gunnison. No crime had occurred.

April 1 — Officer Roney responded to an abandoned vehicle in the 6200 block of North 95th East. A damaged vehicle was discovered. No occupants were found.

April 2 — Officer Thompson responded to a report of a suspicious character at Resurrection Catholic Church in the 4900 block of North Woodlawn. Officer identified the person as one of the church's new converts whose picture was in the lobby.

March 30 — Officer Foxx took a report of possible fraud in the 3900 block of North Auburn. A couple reported filing a joint tax return with H&R Block electronically and being notified that a tax return had already been filed and the return was \$10,000. The man said it was not the correct amount for his return.

March 30 — Officer Steele responded to a report of larceny in the 5200 block of East 39th North. A man said he was missing a 60-day temporary vehicle license plate.

March 31 — Officer Foxx responded to a possible suicide attempt in the 4400 block of North Eagle Lake. A woman was taken to the hospital for evaluation.

March 31 — Officer Foxx stopped a vehicle in the 4800 block of North Woodlawn after seeing it drive through several neighborhoods in a suspicious manner. The driver was a contracted employee for a company that services Bel Aire's water meters.

March 31 — Officer Foxx took a report at the station of an expired vehicle tag missing from a trailer parked in front of a residence in the 6900 block of East Perryton.

March 31 — Officer Toomey assisted EMS in the 5100 block of North Hampton. A woman had fallen from her scooter while trying to walk her dog. The woman was taken to the hospital with a leg injury.

March 29 — Officer Foxx assisted Park City police on a suspicious character with weapons and shots fired in the 3300 block of East 69th North. Officers contacted residents who were shooting pistols and rifles on property they owned.

March 29 — Officer Foxx responded to a call of a suicidal person

in the 5900 block of East Memphis. The resident said he did not want to hurt himself. He was stressed about an insurance claim.

March 29 — Officers Thompson and Roney responded to a suspicious character climbing over a back fence in the 4800 block of North Battin. The residents' grown daughter had gone into the neighbor's backyard with their friends living there. When she attempted to return, the gate was stuck, so she climbed over the fence with the help of her mother.

March 29 — Officer Roney assisted Kechi police and Sedgwick County sheriff's deputies on stolen vehicle report in the 9500 block of North 47th East.

March 29 — Officer Steele responded to a burglary in progress in the 2200 block of East 45th North. The call was handled by the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office.

March 29 — Officer Steele responded to an alarm at Simply Safe in the 3900 block of North Woodlawn Court. There were no signs of suspicious activity.

March 28 — Officers Thompson and Roney responded to a report of trespassing in the 4300 block of Bellmore. The juvenile trespassers were warned not to walk in the reporting party's yard.

March 28 — Officer Elpers stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5900 block of East 37th North. The driver was cited for speeding and driving without a state-issued driver's license.

March 27 — Officer Camplin responded to an alarm on a residence in the 4200 block of North Westlake Drive. All doors were locked and everything was secure. The alarm was deemed false.

March 26 — Chief Griggs responded to an alarm on a residence in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor Court.

March 26 — Chief Griggs responded to check the welfare of a man in the 4500 block of North Westlake Court. There was no one at the residence. Dispatchers broadcasted an attempt to locate the man and his white van.

March 25 — Chief Griggs responded to an alarm on a residence in the 5100 block of North Rock Road. The alarm was false.

March 25 — Chief Griggs responded to an alarm on a residence in the 4400 block of North Edgemoor Court. There was no sign of forced entry.

March 25 — Officer Thompson stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 5000 block of North Webb. The driver was cited for no driver's license in possession.

March 25 — Officer Thompson received a report in the 4500 block of Westlake Court that a man had been kicked and elbowed by his wife while arguing about their pending divorce and custody of their daughter.

March 24 — Officer Camplin responded to a possible vandalism in the 5300 block of East 37th North. There was no damage to property. Someone had just left a pile of wood, glass and mirrors in the parking lot.

March 24 — Officer Camplin received information from Bel Aire Senior Patrol about an unoccupied residence that had been broken into

and kids were going into at night in the 5900 block of East Clarendon. A garage door had fallen off its track and windows had been broken. Windows appeared to have been broken from a recent hailstorm.

March 24 — Officer Toomey responded to a 911 hang-up call in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn. A man had been on the phone with dispatchers complaining about someone's bad driving in Wichita.

March 24 — Officer Elpers responded to a report of a suspicious character in the 4300 block of North Bellmore. A resident heard a noise and saw a shadow crouched by a shed in the backyard.

March 23 — Officer Camplin responded to a non-injury accident in the 4500 block of North Woodlawn.

March 23 — Officer Camplin stopped a vehicle for speeding in the 4900 block of North Rock Road. The driver was cited for speeding and no driver's license in possession.

March 22 — Officer Camplin responded to a report of vandalism in the 4900 block of North Hedgerow Court. A home was egged and toilet papered.

March 22 — Officer Camplin met Kingman police in Goddard to take custody of Timothy Kirkpatrick, who was arrested on a Bel Aire warrant.

March 22 — Officer Camplin responded to a report of four teenagers walking in the 4300 block of North Bellmore and acting like they were kicking a vehicle.

March 22 — Officer Thompson responded to a vicious dog report in the 4700 block of North Glendale. Officer put the dog back into its yard. The resident was not home. It was the third time the officer handled the dog at this address.

March 22 — Officer Elpers responded to check the welfare of an individual reportedly stuck in a window in the 5500 block of East Prairie Hawk. A resident was stuck in the window well of a residence. The fire department responded and got the man out with a ladder.

March 21 — Officer Camplin stopped a vehicle after seeing it was parked at the city water tower in the 6400 block of East 45th North. The driver said he was playing a game that involved using the GPS in his phone to attack portals.

March 21 — Officer Thompson found a shovel and a posthole digger in the 4900 block of North Farmstead.

March 21 — Officers Steele and Elpers found a disabled vehicle in the 6100 block of North Webb. The vehicle slid into a ditch when the driver was parked and sending a text to a friend.

March 21 — Officer Roney responded to a report of vandalism in the 6400 block of East Odessa. The victim was in Wichita.

March 20 — Officer Camplin checked a suspicious vehicle parking in the 4600 block of North Elk Creek. The vehicle's owner was fishing in a pond north of 45th North. He had an expired Kansas fishing license.

March 20 — Officer Camplin responded to a two-vehicle wreck in the 4700 block of East 37th North. A driver was taken to the hospital with a broken arm. The same driver was issued two citations.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran is located at 53rd Street North and Hillside, across from Wichita Heights High School. Services are at 8:30 a.m. (Contemporary), 9:45 a.m. (Kid Friendly) and 11:00 a.m. (Traditional). Communion is offered at all services. Adult Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m.

For more information about the church and its activities find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org, or call 744-1242. Pastor Chad Langdon is the minister of Christ Lutheran Church.

Church of the Resurrection

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

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

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is www.resurrectionwchita.com. Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. James F. Weldon 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.

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

Fairmount United Church of Christ

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

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

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

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

Gospel Assembly Church

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

p.m. Sunday. Prayer service is 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The first Saturday evening of each month are youth activities.

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

Greenwich United Methodist Church

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

Pastor Jeff Miller can be reached at 744-0203.

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

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

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

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

Kechi United Methodist Church

You are welcome at Kechi United Methodist Church, 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. The Contemporary Service is at 9:03 a.m.; the Traditional Service is at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

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

CareGivers Support group meets every first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the basement parlor. Bingo is every first Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. Every third Tuesday a Hot Meal is prepared at KUMC and served to the United Methodist Open Door Ministries Drop-In Center at 10 a.m. Volunteers welcome!

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

contacted at Mitch@kechiunc.org. Phone number is 744-1221.

Pine Valley Christian Church

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

Randall Road Baptist Church

Randall Road Baptist is located at 6556 N Randall, Park City.

Sunday School starts at 10 a.m. Worship is at 11 a.m.

Sunday evening activities start at 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible study begins at 7 p.m.

Contact Pastor Jim McQuery at 201-1696 or e-mail at jmcquery@cox.net

Risen Savior Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Contemporary Sunday worship services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Communion on the first and third Sunday. Adult Sunday school and Bible class meet at 9:15 a.m. Children's church at 10:30. A nursery is provided during Bible class and second service.

There are two weekly sessions of Lifetree Café in Valley Center. The sessions are led by Pastor Terry Wiechman and are held at the Community Building, 316 E. Clay Street, on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. and Sundays at 6:00 p.m. 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. Everyone is welcome to attend!

During the Lenten Season, the Wednesday Evening Ministries is from 6:30 to 7:20 p.m. with activities for all ages. A nursery will be available for preschool-age children. Kings' Kids

for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Confirmation class for children grades six through eight. IMPACT! is for grades nine through twelve. There will also be adult Bible classes. Please join us!

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

Senior pastor is Tom Harmon.

St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church

Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church is located at 2710 E 61st Street Park City, KS 67219 It is a congregation of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. "...the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch." Acts 11:26

On Sunday at 9 a.m. is our adult class, "Jesus: The Man, the Message and the Meaning" Service of Matins is at 9:45 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy (Mass) at 10 a.m. Nursery service is provided.

On Wednesday our service is at 6 p.m. On Saturday Vespers is at 4:30 p.m.

Men's Study Group first and third Monday at 7 p.m. We are studying the Gospel of Luke.

Women's Study Group second and fourth Friday at 10 a.m. Dare To Live Fully Right Where You Are. We will continue our study of "One Thousand Gifts" by Ann Voskamp.

Wednesday Potluck Supper & Program: May 7 and 21 Liturgy 6 p.m., Potluck Supper 6:45 p.m., Program

7:30 p.m.

Topic: INTRODUCING THE ORTHODOX CHURCH: Wednesday, May 21, 7p.m. A special program for those who are interested in learning about the Orthodox Church. This evening's program will be a tour of our church temple and an explanation of its architectural and artistic symbolism. Light refreshments and Q & A in the parish hall following the talk.

HOLY DAYS FOR MAY: May 3 Finding of the Holy Cross, May 7 Eve of the Apparition of Archangel Michael, May 21 Saint Constantine, May 28 Vigil of the Ascension

Fasting during May: All Fridays are days of fasting and abstinence. Rogation Days, Mon May 26. Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 are special days of fasting and prayer in preparation for Ascension Day.

Call the church for more information: 734-6248 or visit our website: www.stmichaoloc.org

Email inquiries: jflora@cox.net

Wichita Three Angels Seventh-Day Adventist Church

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

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

The church will have a God's Closet free shop day event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 9 at 4558 N. Hydraulic.

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

Arbor Day tree planting honors fallen soldier

By Matt Heilman

The Bel Aire Tree Board is continuing its Arbor Day Tradition of planting a tree in honor of a current or former resident. On April 26, the board was to dedicate a Chinese Pistache

tree to the memory of Alex Funcheon, a former Bel Aire resident and sergeant in the U.S. Army who was killed by a roadside bomb in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2007. The tree is to be planted near the pond in the Central Park Community along

Woodlawn between 53rd and 45th Streets North.

The tree board is also continuing its nationwide efforts to dedicate survivor trees. The survivor trees are grown from saplings of an elm tree that survived the April 19, 1995

bombing of Oklahoma City's Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The elm tree that withstood the blast stood across the street from the building. It was dubbed the original "Survivor Tree" with its ancestors carrying the same distinction.

The board currently has plans for two more survivor trees. One of the trees will be dedicated to Joplin, Mo., in recognition of the town's rebuilding efforts following a devastating tornado in April 2011. Another survivor tree

is dedicated to a woman who owned a search dog that was used in the recovery effort following the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

Since 2008, the tree board has dedicated nine survivor trees.



ABOVE: Karson Ryan of Canton battles the wind to get his kite in the air during the April 12 spring festival near the Bel Aire City Hall property. Ryan was one of several children who attended the event from outside the community. Joining him were his brother, Keaton, his sisters, Cassidy and Karlyn and his parents, Becky and Matt Ryan.

TOP RIGHT: Rob Prather with Pals Animal Rescue takes a break in the shade with Bailey a Great Pyrenees who is up for adoption through Pals. Bailey was one of six dogs who had a chance to meet potential owners at the April 12 spring festival in Bel Aire.

RIGHT: Children take off at the starting line of the annual Easter egg hunt in Bel Aire on April 12.



Spring festival draws a crowd

By The Breeze staff

Despite strong winds that altered a couple plans, Bel Aire's April 12 Spring Festival drew about 500 people, several of whom aren't Bel Aire residents.

The event, which included kite flying, live music and food vendors built off the city's annual Easter egg hunt

sponsored by the Bel Aire Lion's Club.

The high winds didn't allow for bouncy houses or the tethered hot air balloon ride that was initially planned, but there was a large turnout throughout the day, especially for the visit from the Easter bunny in the mid afternoon and the egg hunt that capped the event.

Hoops

Continued from Page 1

life lessons. Principles such as discipline, hard work, focus and relentless effort are all a vital part of not only winning on the court, but also succeeding in life."

Joining Perez as the co-owner of Next Level Hoops Academy is Evan McCorry, a coaching veteran in the girls' game who spent 15 years coaching at Bishop Carroll High School. With McCorry and the Next Level Hoops Academy Girls Director Gayle Soyez, Perez said he's confident the participation from female athletes at the academy would continue to build on its recent growth.

In the last year, he said participation ballooned from two girls' teams to 12. The Next Level Hoops Academy has its own AAU organization where the top boys and girls teams travel to compete in tournaments across the country.

The academy is also expanding its participation with volleyball. In Bel Aire, the Next Level Hoops Academy will be the home of the ICT Mavs volleyball program. The program's director, Beau Barnthson, said the Mavs organization started in Kansas City before branching out to Wichita. Barnthson, who has been involved with the Mavs for four years, has coached for eight years, including two years at Wathena High School in northeast Kansas before moving to the Wichita area.

Perez said the Mavs organization has five players out of the Wichita area signed to play college volleyball at the NCAA Division I level next year.

With basketball and volleyball, Perez said he envisioned "a one-stop shop" where athletes can get training with speed, strength and agility to accompany their team practices at the Next Level Hoops Academy. Part of the vision for the academy also calls for allowing parents to get a workout in or kick back and watch TV while their children train or practice.

Trainers will accompany coaches to compile what the Next Level Hoops Academy news release described as "a plethora of professionals associated with the facility."

McCorry said the Next

Level Hoops Academy should be open on Oct. 20 with volleyball season starting Nov. 1. He said the first volleyball tournaments would start in December. Perez said basketball training also gets going in November

with tournament play at the high school level picking up in March after school seasons are complete.

Perez and McCorry have partnered with Legacy Bank to finance the Next Level Hoops

Academy project in Bel Aire. Marlin Penner and Tymber Lee of John T. Arnold Associates negotiated the sale of the property, and Wichita's SPT Architecture designed the new facility.

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Rock Ridge opens new clinic

By The Breeze staff

The staff at Rock Ridge Family Medicine at the northeast corner of 53rd North and Rock Road hosted an April 11 open house to introduce the clinic to the community it now calls home. At the clinic, Dr. Timothy Wolff and the clinic's physician's assistant Micah Van Nover began seeing patients on March 31.

Before moving to Bel Aire, Wolff, a doctor of osteopathic medicine, had practiced in Wichita for 16 years and was on his own for six years at 9050 E. 29th North. He said the move to Bel Aire would, for the first time in his career, allow him to own the building in which he sees patients.

At the Aug. 29 groundbreaking for Rock Ridge Family Medicine, Wolff said owning his own medical practice fulfills a dream he's had since high



Matt Heilman

Taking part in an April 11 ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of Rock Ridge Family Medicine are (from left) Kelly Westfall, Micah Van Nover PA, Christeena Pierce, Lisa Wilt, Heather Mueller, Christine Wolff and Timothy Wolff DO.

school. Rock Ridge Family Medicine is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays, 7 a.m. to noon Thursdays and 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays.

School year winding down for foreign students

By Matt Heilman

Rasmus Wich and Burit "Bond" Kultakerng have come together to live like brothers for almost a year. Wich, from Frankfort Germany and Kultakerng from a small community in Thailand are wrapping up their school year spent with American high school students as part of the International Student Exchange, one of several organizations nationwide that places foreign students with American host families. In most programs, students arrive to the United States in late July or August and return home in May or June.

Later month, Wich and Kultakerng, both 16, will return to their home countries to complete two more years of studies in college-level courses. Kultakerng said he would like to pursue career as a pilot. Wich said he plans to study computer science and may return to the United States for college in a couple years.

For the past nine months, the pair has attended Wichita Heights High School and lived in the Bel Aire home of Terri Dye, a single mother and grandmother who has hosted exchange students since 2004. Dye said she cherishes the time she's spent with international students and the opportunities she's had to learn about different cultures from around the world.

With Dye, Wich and Kultakerng have had the opportunity to travel within the United States. They've visited Chicago and have seen the sites in Colorado, Texas and Florida. They've also enjoyed day trips across the State of Kansas. With each stop, Dye said the students get souvenirs to take home with them. Before Wich and Kultakerng board their flights home, Dye is planning a trip with them to New Orleans.

At their home away from home in Bel Aire, Wich and Kultakerng have spent time with Dye's children and grandchildren. This winter, Kultakerng experienced his first snowfall and built his first snowman.

"I just try to let them be American teenagers," Dye said.

On April 5, Wich and

Kultakerng were two of about 10 international students who participated in an open house event for the International Student Exchange at Christ Lutheran Church near Heights High School.

The purpose of the open house was to give the public an opportunity to learn about the student exchange program and the benefits of hosting an exchange student.

The students representing the continents of Europe, South America and Asia displayed information about their home countries on tri-folds that primarily included maps and photos.

International Student Exchange Manager Jodi Sharshel, who began hosting foreign students more than 25 years ago, has worked for the International Student Exchange program for six years. Formerly of Andover and now based in Buena Vista, Ark., Sharshel is responsible for placing students with host families in Kansas, as well as parts of Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri and Arkansas.

At the local level, Connie Chaple serves as the Regional Advisor for International Student Exchange. The students present at the April 5 open house represented schools in the Wichita area and Harvey County.

"It's definitely an ongoing search for families that will open up their homes and their lives to take part in a cul-

tural experience and just show these kids the every day life," Sharshel said.

Some students involved in the exchange program this year were able to adapt to a new culture more quickly than others. For Wich and fellow German Samy Salem, who is attending Newton High School this year, the transition was easier than most. Wich has been to the United States before and comes from a family of world travelers. He's also studied abroad in the United Kingdom and France, although his current exchange living with Dye and attending Heights is the longest he's ever been away from home. Salem, who spoke the best English of the group at the April 5 open house, said he has an aunt who lives in the United States. Through her, he said he knew what to expect for the most part. However, coming from a country where small shops are the norm, he said his first trip to a Walmart was eye opening.

Dye, who is also hosting a former exchange student back in the U.S. to attend college at Wichita State, said she's enjoyed watching students improve their English and move on to successful careers after their exchanges are complete.

"It's just a really good experience," she said. For more information on International Student Exchange, visit the organization's website at www.iseusa.com.

DEATHS

ANNA BYERS

Anna Catherine Byers, 92, homemaker, died April 5, 2014.

Survivors include her sister, Cecilia Hart of Bel Aire; sister-in-law Vivian Wasser of Wichita; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Graveside service was April 8 at Rose Hill Cemetery, South Haven. Cochran Mortuary had charge.

CATHERINE LAUGHLIN

Catherine E. Laughlin, 104, died April 5, 2014, at the Catholic Care Center.

She was born Dec. 22, 1909, in Kansas City, Mo., to Michael Joseph and Ellen (Dugan) Cahill. She was co-owner of Laughlin Furniture Store.

Survivors include her son, Robert (Wilma) Laughlin; daughter-in-law Carolyn Laughlin, one grandson, eight granddaughters and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband Francis; son Peter; siblings Joe Cahill, Mary Nitsche, Margaret Wood, Annacetus Hurley and Neil Graham; and nieces and nephew.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated April 9 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception with the praying of the Rosary before the mass. Burial followed at Resurrection Cemetery. Memorials have been established with the Catholic Care Center, 6700 E. 45th St. N., Bel Aire, KS 67226 and the Center of Hope, 400 N. Emporia, Wichita, KS 67202. Cochran Mortuary had charge.

RONALD GRENDAHL

Ronald G. Grendahl, 76, died April 14, 2014.

He was born Oct. 18, 1938, in Van Hook, N.D., to Orlando and Esther (Hjelmstad) Grendahl. After graduating

from Newtown North Dakota High School he attended North Dakota State University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in the curriculum of Mechanical Engineering. He worked as a Mechanical Engineering Field Support Structures Supervisor at Cessna Aircraft for over 35 years. He married his wife Catherine July 6, 1984, and was married again in front of family and friends July 28, 1984 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Wichita.

He is survived by his wife; sons Brad and Michael of Wichita; daughters Lori Grendahl of Pittsburg, Jessica Johansen (Hicham Hassani), and Laura (Gabriel) Figueroa of Wichita; grandchildren Michael, Ciara, Kalen, Anna, Isaiah, Amira, Arella and Zayna of Wichita.

Celebration of life was April 19 at Wichita Bible Church. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to Sunrise Christian Academy Vocal Music Dept., 5500 E. 45th N., Bel Aire KS 67220.

LEONARD ROBL

Leonard F. Robl, 87, died April 13, 2014, in Bel Aire.

He was born Nov. 6, 1926, in Great Bend to Andrew and Mary (Luebbers) Robl. He spent the last ten years living in Ellsworth, having moved from the Claflin area, where he was a retired farmer and stockman. He was also a

member of the St. Bernard's Catholic Church of Ellsworth and the Knights of Columbus of Claflin of which he was a 3rd Degree Knight. On June 15, 1948, he married Doris Leiker in Bushton. She survives him.

Other survivors include his sons, Terry (Shirley) of Ellsworth, Steve (Vera) of Wichita, Jim (Maureen) of Sioux Falls, S.D. and Paul (Ceilly) of Bailey, Colo.; daughters Diane Robl (Peg) of Louisville, Denise (JT) Guy of Aibilene, Deanna Daniels and Darcie (Bryan) Green both of Wichita; sisters Rita Robl of Wichita and Lorraine Phelan of Ellinwood; and 20 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his daughters, Dana and Deanette. Funeral service was April 17 at the Catholic Care Center in the St. Elizabeth's Chapel, Bel Aire. Burial followed. Memorial contributions may be made to the Catholic Care Center or St. Bernard's Catholic Church, in c/o Parsons Funeral Home, PO Box 45, Ellsworth, KS 67439. Parsons Funeral Home, Ellsworth, had charge.

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