

Summer blood drive needs you

It's a known fact that blood donations go down in the summer, but the need is just as great as any other time of the year, according to the American Red Cross.

Norton County hopes to do its part when the Norton Community Blood Drive unfolds on Wednesday, June 24 at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall, 108 S. Wabash. The American Red Cross will be at the hall from Noon until 6:30 p.m. Anthony Knoll and many community volunteers are organizing the event and will be working at the various stations.

The Norton volunteers have

been a vital part of the blood chain for many years. In the past year, an average of 125 units of blood was collected at each of the five community drives hosted. The June 24 blood drive has a goal of 127 units. Blood Drive Coordinator Knoll said, "We try our hardest to make people comfortable; I believe that is why they keep coming back."

The Central Plains Region of the Red Cross Blood Services is one of the oldest blood donation mobile systems in America, and the Norton drive has been a part of that heritage. In addition to the five community drives hosted at the

Norton National Guard Armory or the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Parish Hall, the Norton High School also hosts a winter blood drive.

To give blood, you must be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds, feel well, and be in good health. Kansas allows 16-year-olds to give blood with parental consent. If you have given blood before, it must be at least 56 days since your last donation. Call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (448-3543) to make an appointment for June 24, or visit bloodisneeded.org for more information.

Council

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County benefits include an increase in sales tax dollars, strengthen Norton County as a regional hub for services, medical services, jobs, recreation, money would be invested locally and it would complete the medical services being offered, such as the new ambulance facility and growing nursing school.

The city pool is only open during the summer. In 2007, there

Healthcare

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are in the country.

In Norton County, the health department offers several services to underinsured or uninsured people.

Mrs. Frack said services include childhood and adult vaccines; family planning services, including basic women's healthcare, physicals, birth control and breast exams; the Kansas Breast Cervical Cancer Institute allows women to get mammograms.

Some of these services are offered on a sliding scale with factors such as annual income and the number of people in the household taken into consideration, she said.

Mrs. Frack also said there are two health promotion blood draws each year where people can come to get screened for health problems.

"A lot of people wait for the blood draws to get screened. We've had a lot of people who found out they had diseases like cancer and high blood pressure from these clinics," she said.

Other services include home healthcare, which helps seniors stay in their homes longer. This service is also provided on a sliding scale and provides private duty nurses (RN and LPN), medication assistance and household services, such as house cleaning, she said.

The WIC program, Salvation Army and American Cancer Society also have services which offer aid to low income people in Norton.

The uninsured can also get help through a Maternal Child Health Grant.

Regardless of income, a nurse will go into the home to give the family information about where they can go to get vaccines and other services.

The health department also provides people with assistance for Medicaid forms.

Mrs. Frack said many people who qualify for Medicare don't fill out the forms because they can be confusing. "It's been a barrier," she said.

The underinsured, those who have to pay high premiums, can qualify for child vaccines, WIC and family planning services.

Mr. Miller said the hospital's new fiscal year starts July 1, and there will be no changes in the charge structure at the hospital. He said they are trying to be sensitive to the economy and healthcare expenses.

Other city council notes:

- Charlotte Linsner, Northwest Kansans Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, presented information about their services in Norton. She said in 2008 there were 10 cases in Norton County. She also reported that the shelter house in Phillipsburg costs an estimated \$390 per day and can hold 12-15 people at a time. Mrs.

were 101 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day and the pool was open 76 days. In 2008, there were 99 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day and the pool was open 79 days.

The foundation has several activities outlined: year round swim lessons; a 'swim with me' program for infants and preschoolers; year-round family recreation time; physical education swim classes for junior and high school students; training for athletes and injured athletes; parties for community groups; Boy Scout Merit badges; Valley Hope recreational time; a swim team; and water aerobics

The tentative plan is to use a pool dome as the air support structure. This would allow nine months of indoor swimming and the dome could be taken down for the three months of summer.

Mr. Leroux said the city needs to have input from the community about the pool Committee meetings are open to the public, he said.

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Linsner asked for a donation of \$600, saying that the council has given \$500 in previous years. Vote taken, motion passed.

- The Safety Committee reported that there were two rescue calls and two weather watch calls. Jeff Otter also reported that there has been a complaint about the 48 hour parking limit on city streets. The situation will be discussed at another meeting.
- The Public Works Committee reported on there being different charges on water tap fees. The fees are being adjusted due to the increased cost of materials.
- Street replacement by Norton Manor was also discussed, with an estimate of \$9,900. Vote taken, motion passed.
- A motion was made to approve the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church's curb replacement request. The city will pay the cost of the concrete and the owner would pay for a private contractor. Vote taken, motion passed.
- A motion was made to approve Mary Jo Horesky's request to have her sidewalk replaced. The city will provide the labor and the property owner will pay for materials. Vote taken, motion passed.
- The Finance Committee discussed the mill levy history for the past 10 years. They discussed items funded through the general fund for the past five years, without any levy increase to cover

additional expenses.

- The Parks Committee discussed a request from the horse council to add a two day roping event to their schedule on Aug 1 and 2. Vote taken, motion passed. The school district has tentatively agreed to help finance the repairs to the tennis courts.
- Karen Griffiths reported that the Wiltfong property has been cleaned up and no further action will be taken.

Council members present included Jeff Otter, Toby Kuhn, Kim Snyder, Roberta Ryan and Joe Leroux. Donna Foley was absent.

The Public Works Committee will meet on June 29 at 6:00 p.m., the next Finance Committee meeting will be held on July 6 at 5:30 p.m., the next Personnel Committee meeting will be held on July 2 at 4:00 p.m. The meetings are held at the City Building.

Resident's son realizes 20-year long dream

Todd Dreiling, 37-year-old son of Norton Telegram publisher Tom Dreiling, "finally got it done — but it took 20 years.," as he described it.

Todd, playing on the Springhill Golf Course in the Denver area Sunday got his first hole-in-one. It came on the par 3, 160-yard 18th hole.

"We could see it take a couple of hops, and I thought perhaps it might have gone down the backside, but when we got up there it was in the cup," he said.

The witness was golfing buddy Greg Melton.

Todd started golfing the summer

prior to his junior year at Goodland High School and he has been at it since.

An employment relocation from Goodland to Hays by his dad found him entering TMP for his senior year.

A standout basketball player for the Goodland Cowboys, he took his talent to the floor at Thomas More Prep where he was a starter and teammate of widely known and respected Norton resident Toby Kuhn.

That duo represented the tall and short of it — Toby the tall and Todd the short. Toby, well over the

6-foot mark and Todd well under. Both were coached by TMP's Joe Hertel.

Dreiling, his wife Darci, and children Grayson and Kennadi, make their home in Centennial, Colo., where Todd manages a family business. Darci is employed by the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver.

Both are graduates of Fort Hays State University

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