

# Contractor license changes discussed

By Karen Krien  
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For the last two meetings, the St. Francis City Council has discussed changing the requirements for contractor licenses. At the Monday, Jan. 24, meeting, the council again talked about raising the minimum liability insurance from \$100,000 to \$300,000 and, again, it was tabled to the next meeting.

Now, contractors who are working on houses, businesses or other structures in the city are required to have insurance if the job needs a building permit. The council has been discussing that insurance would be needed if there was siding, roofing or windows installed. Bruce Swihart, councilman, was opposed to this requirement. He said he thought it was too restrictive.

Roger Jensen, councilman, asked if the council was responsible to protect residents as consumers? That is what building permits are for, he said.

Mr. Swihart said the owner of the property should have the right to hire who he wants.

Dale Weeks, councilman, said that after the hail storm several years ago, there were contractors everywhere, if they are not insured and the roof leaks, who is liable?

It was noted that contractor fraud generally involves siding, roofing, tree trimmers and asphalt companies. Paula Keller, councilwoman, wondered why interior work such as plumbing and electrical liability insurance? J.R. Landenberger, superintendent, said the city has code regulations.

Mr. Jensen said he thought it was poor business not to have the insurance. The council agreed to table the matter until the next meeting.

### Trash

Mr. Landenberger said there had been no feed back from the people with trash pick up outside the city limits but are not on city utilities. If the city trash truck will continue to pick up their trash, the rates are going to raise. While there are different rates for barrels (how many), there will also be a mileage charge of \$10 per mile. The city clerk said the highest cost would probably be \$73 a month.

A letter will be sent to these residents telling them of the new rates or giving them the option of having their trash picked up by a private company which will be cheaper.

### Theater equipment

The new digital theater equipment will be ordered. Mary Lampe, clerk, said there was a problem as the auditors made a mistake when the theater money was budgeted. It was put into the capital improvement fund instead of the equipment reserve fund. Mrs.

Lampe will talk to the auditor. The council agreed to move the money to the proper fund.

### Power

In the superintendent's report, Mr. Landenberger talked about the Kansas Municipal Energy Association meeting he and Clerk Lampe had attended. He recommended that the council pay \$2,500 for a 9-month study to see if the city would be better off joining a bigger pool concerning electricity and transmission rates. He is expecting Goodland to join in with St. Francis, Oberlin and Sharon Springs. We need to explore all our options, Mr. Landenberger said.

He talked about repairing the transformer by the light plant. He feels that it is important to get the equipment to make the repairs as quickly as possible. If we don't, it could takedown a \$400,000 transformer. The council gave authorization to get the equipment.

### In other business

In other business:

- A trailer park license was approved for Kathy Woodcox.

- Fred Waters, representing the Cheyenne County Alcohol Council, requested and received \$372.50 to be used for education. The money comes from the tax collected on alcohol sold in the county.

- Superintendent Landenberger said he was meeting Eric Oel-schlager, state engineer for the Northwest District about signs directing travelers to downtown St. Francis. It was noted that the signs will be paid for by the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce.

- Mr. Landenberger said that the owner of the Smith property was given until the middle of February to get her possessions out. The city will not accept the quit claim deed until then.

- The only building permit was approved for the Christian Church to have a drain on the sidewalk.

- The pamphlet put out by the Cheyenne County Development Corporation was examined.

- Gloria Bracelin, Chamber secretary, was approved to receive \$1,325 out of the transient guest tax fund. The money will cover the cost of the expenses and a booth at the Kansas Sampler Festival held May 6-8. Mrs. Bracelin and others will represent and promote St. Francis and the surrounding area.

- Mt. Swihart talk about erecting a sign at the swimming pool letting people know that the council is putting money aside to build a new pool. The sign would encourage people to give donations to the new pool.

### Next meeting

The next city council meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 14, at the city hall on Main Street.



THE ST. FRANCIS SINGERS entertained the crowd at the Kansas Day celebration held in Bird City on Saturday..

# Kansas Day celebrated in Bird City

Saturday, Bird City hosted the Kansas Sesquicentennial and the observance of the 82nd Kansas Day celebration at the American Legion hall. Festivities began with the potluck luncheon set out by the Wesleyan Women. Among the large selection of desserts was a carrot cake specially decorated for the occasion by Shirley Zweygardt.

Noon music was provided by The Swingin' Seniors from St. Francis.

Tables were decorated by the Lutheran Women with large sunflowers. St. Francis second and third grade classes decorated the walls and a table with their art work consisting of: individually designed and colored license plates, tablets listing historical events leading to the formation of Kansas, and paintings of sunflowers depicting Van Gogh style of art.

The event began with a welcome by Lynn Glasco and the invocation by Gary Davison. Jacob Brubaker, and Casey Vandike from Bird City Boy Scout Troop 119 presented the American and Kansas flags.

Entertainment was provided by the St. Francis Singers, directed and arranged by Neala Carmichael, starting with "Home On the Range," "They Called the Wind Maria" and "Shall We Gather At the River." Connie Paulsen and Talley Morrow sang three German Russian heritage songs "Dee Dee Liegst Mir Im Herzen," "God Bless America" and "This Land Is Our Land." All three of these songs were sung in German Russian.

The group then sang and invited the audience to join in on "God Bless America" and "She's My Sunflower." The final song was put together by Neala Carmichael depicting Kansas events. Gilbert Ochsner interpreted some German. Mrs. Morrow and Mrs. Paulsen sang "Happy Birthday" to Kansas in German as Mia Morrow presented a cake with the numbers 150 on it.

The Wild Rose Poet, Helene Landenberger, St. Francis, read the poem, "Old Kansas" taken from a 1931 history book and Homes of Kansas, and her original composition of facts around the events that took place during the Kansas statehood.

More than a third of Kansas residents are of German ancestry. William Keel, professor of German and chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Kansas, spoke on Kansas' German Ancestry. Mr. Keel teaches courses ranging from elementary German to seminars in German language history, and German dialects. His research interests in German settlement dialects in Kansas are complemented by his involvement with the Society for German-American studies. He is editor of the Yearbook of German-American Studies.

There was a lively discussion with the audience and Mr. Keel throughout his presentation. Often he would ask a question in German and it would be answered by one of the German-speaking people present. He had a list of words and how they were said in high, medium and low German.

The 2012 Kansas Day officers were elected. Helene Landenberger will be president, Marilyn Magley, vice president, Rosemary Powell, secretary, and Marsha Magley, treasurer. In 2012 the Methodist and Catholic women groups will share kitchen organization and table decorations.

Special certificates of recognition were given to: Paul Roesener, born Feb. 17, 1917, as the eldest Kansas-born man, the Cheyenne County eldest born man in Bird City, Cheyenne County, and eldest man present; Myra Miller, born June 16, 1910, was the eldest Kansas born woman, born in Hunter, and was the eldest woman present; Margaret Shay, born April 29, 1915, St. Francis, was the eldest Cheyenne County born woman. There were



GERMAN HERITAGE songs were sung by Talley Morrow and Connie Paulsen.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien as Madison Ill.

two foreign born children present: Jorge Olivares, born Jan. 3, 2000, in Chihuahua, Mexico, and Nick Paulsen, born May 31, 2000, in Tajikistan. The youngest boy present was Roy Aiden Meyer born on Aug. 10, 2009, in Colby, and the youngest girl was Audrey Meyer born Dec. 11, 2001, in Goodland.

A memorial tribute and benediction was given by Norman Morrow from St. Francis.

An estimated 200 people attended the celebration coming from, St. Francis, Atwood, Goodland, Bird City, McDonald, Burn, Gem, Hurdon and Wichita; from Colorado, Greeley, Seibert, Arvada, Colorado Springs, and Hale; and as far away

Lynn and Candy Glasco also had their DVDs of the 125th celebration activities for sale.

## 2011 DOG TAGS ARE AVAILABLE



Come to the City Office, 209 E. Washington, to register your dog(s).  
**ALL Dogs that live in the city need 2 tags: a rabies tag from a veterinarian and a city dog tag from the city office.**

Fifth Street Apartments in Bird City, Kansas, have 2-bedroom duplex apartments for rent. We are offering free cable television for one year to new tenants. Applicants must income qualify for this property. For more information and an application you may contact N.W. Kansas Housing, Inc. at 785-421-2151 or pick up an application at Century II in Bird City.

Access

## St. Francis Equity Annual Meeting

Wednesday, Feb. 9 • 6 p.m.  
at the St. Francis Community High School with dinner followed by the meeting.

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