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# Reports of tree borers on the rise

Numerous reports of borer holes in trees have been coming to Kansas State University experts and diagnostic labs since May.

"It's no real surprise. Unless the weather improves, next year's borer problems could be even worse," said Ward Upham, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist.

He explained with three factors:
• Borers are larvae that feed on and live in wood that is well-protected. The insect they become

typically emerges in May-August of the following year, ready to lay eggs. What tree owners see after that are all exit holes, not entrances.

• Healthy, vigorous sap flow can drown newly hatched larvae when they try to enter a woody plant. So, borers prefer stressed trees. Unfortunately, central U.S. plants have been on the defensive for the past two or more years (depending on location), due to both drought and heat stress, if not other insect attacks.
• That brief time when the

adults emerge and lay eggs is the only time when insecticides can work.

"Added to that," Mr. Upham said, "only a few active ingredients are still labeled for homeowner use. The results can be rather 'iffy.' And, the applications can be time-consuming.

"Besides, if an infestation is bad enough, hiring a certified professional might not keep your tree alive. It will be a source of infestation for other plants until it's chopped and then chipped, burned or hauled away."

That's why prevention is the all-around best way to deal with borers, he said. Supplying water through dry periods is vital. Mulching can preserve moisture, keep soil cooler and reduce competition from other plants.

For those who've found holes and want to know more, Upham recommends the following websites: "Shade Tree Borers" at www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/insect/05530.html/ and "Insect Borers of Fruit Trees" at http://extension.missouri.edu/p/g7190.

## Qualifying people may receive funds for utility bills

Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) Secretary Phyllis Gilmore said the federally funded Low Income Energy Assistance Program, administered by the department will provide a supplemental benefit to help with summer utility bills to those already participating in the program.

The payments are made to the participants' utility providers, not to beneficiaries.

"The summer heat can take an incredible — sometimes fatal — toll on our most vulnerable populations — the elderly, disabled and struggling families," said Secretary Gilmore. "This supplemental payment will help beneficiaries pay their bills, to keep them safe and comfortable during periods of temperature extremes."

The Low Income Energy As-

sistance Program provides an annual payment to help qualifying households pay winter heating bills. Individuals with disabilities, elderly persons, and families with children are the primary groups assisted. In the winter of 2012, nearly 54,000 Kansas households received an average benefit of \$182.

This year, funding is available to provide an additional payment to the utility providers on behalf of participant households for energy costs incurred during the heat of summer.

This is not a new application period; individuals who applied and received the benefit during the regular application period will automatically be issued a supplemental benefit of approximately \$340, bringing the average benefit for the year to over \$522.

### Public Notices

## Public hearing set for water supply loan

Published in the Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursday, August 16, 2012. (33)

#### Public Hearing Notice

The City of Bird City will hold a public meeting on Monday, September 17, 2012 at 8:00 P.M. and a public hearing on Monday, September 17, 2012 at 8:10 P.M. at City Hall, 111 E. 4th Street, Bird City, Kansas, for the purpose of considering an application to be submitted to the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund for water system improvements. A specific application to be discussed involves: 1) Replace existing 2 inch water main on Burr Avenue from 4th Street to 1st Street and continue east on 1st Street to Rich Avenue. The existing line will be abandoned and a new 6" diameter line will be constructed, 2) New radio read meters for all users, meter reading equipment and upgraded software, 3) Installation of Variable Frequency Drive or motor soft starts at Wells #6 and #7 to reduce power consumption at the wells, 4) Installation of 11 insert valve isolation valves so the City can isolate sections of the system to limit the area of service that is shut off to repair future leaks, and 5) Water storage tank improvements - repainting the interior and exterior as well as addressing compliance issues. The total estimated project cost is \$640,000 with \$320,000 proposed loan funding through the KDHE Loan Fund. The City is applying for the balance of \$320,000 in 2013 Community Development Block Grant Funds. Other project proposals introduced at the hearing will be considered. Oral and written comments will be recorded and become part of the City of Bird City's citizen participation program. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to persons with disabilities. Requests should be submitted to DeAnza Ambrosier, City Clerk by Friday, September 14, 2012.

## Public hearing set for Water/sewer grant

Published in the Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursday, August 16, 2012. (33)

#### Public Hearing Notice

The City of Bird City will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall, 111 E. 4th Street, Bird City, Kansas, for the purpose of considering an application to be submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds under the Water/Sewer category. A specific application to be discussed is water system improvements in an area generally bounded by the City of Bird City. Work includes: 1) Replace existing 2 inch water main on Burr Avenue from 4th Street to 1st Street and continue east on 1st Street to Rich Avenue. The existing line will be abandoned and a new 6" diameter line will be constructed, 2) New radio read meters for all users, meter reading equipment and upgraded software, 3) Installation of Variable Frequency Drive or motor soft starts at Wells #6 and #7 to reduce power consumption at the wells, 4) Installation of 11 insert valve isolation valves so the City can isolate sections of the system to limit the area of service that is shut off to repair future leaks, and 5) Water storage tank improvements - repainting the interior and exterior as well as addressing compliance issues. The estimated project cost is \$640,000 with the grant request for \$320,000 of the project cost. Other project proposals introduced at the hearing will be considered. Oral and written comments will be recorded and become part of the City of Bird City's citizen participation program. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to persons with disabilities. Requests should be submitted to DeAnza Ambrosier, City Clerk by Friday, August 31, 2012.

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### CHEYENNE COUNTY

#### 2011 Delinquent Real Estate Taxes

Published in The St. Francis Herald, St Francis, KS and The Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursday, August 16, 23, & 30, 2012. Notice is hereby given that the taxes assessed for the year 2011 on the lands, lots and blocks described in the following list, accompanied by the names of the owner and situated in Cheyenne County, State of Kansas, are in whole or in part unpaid and that said land, lots or blocks will be, on the first Tuesday of September, 2012, bid off by me in the name of Cheyenne County, NO BIDDERS BEING allowed and sold to Cheyenne County for the amount of delinquent taxes and interest and legal charges due thereon and unpaid to said date, according to the provision of Chapter 79, Articles 23 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated unless otherwise prohibited by applicable Federal or State law.

Table with columns: Name, Legal, Taxes. Lists property owners and their delinquent taxes for 2011 in Cheyenne County.

Continued to next column