

# City council discusses city's upgrade

## Alumni organizes

As the St. Francis Community High School Alumni Association continues to plan the 2014 reunion and reorganize. Tom Keller, chairman, reported that Susan Dinkel is converting the hard copy contact information from Shirley Zwegardt's notebook into a digital database.

Shirley, former coordinator, had the list current as of 2013. Her list included year graduated, maiden and married names, postal address, deceased classmates, and alumni that married classmates or other St. Francis high school alumni. Those who have a digital copy of your classmates, your spouses classmates, or siblings classmates, are asked to forward it to Susan at her school email address, sdinkel@usd297.org.

Mr. Keller also asks that if people have phone numbers, land line and mobile numbers, plus email addresses, to please include that information with their mailing address. Contact information will only be utilized to contact individual alumni regarding activities of their association, unless they indicate on a consent form what contact information

they choose to share with other high school alumni.

We hope to have such a consent form included with the invitations for this year's reunion, he said. Similarly to registering on the alumni website, stfrancisalumni.org, each alumnus can determine how much of their personal contact information they may choose to share with other alumni.

The next planning group meeting is set for 7 p.m. on Monday, March 10, in the high school cafeteria.

All alumni are welcome to attend these planning meetings.

### Survey

A survey is being circulated on e-mail that is directed to St. Francis high school alumni, their children, and friends. The information will be used in the reorganization of the alumni association.

Those who have not received the survey may contact Mr. Keller at 785-332-3991, e-mail tomekeller48@gmail.com, or pick up a copy at The Herald office. An updated survey which can be filled out and sent directly back to Mr. Keller is at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QJWGRKK>.

By Amanda Miller  
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City Council held their regularly scheduled meeting Monday, Feb. 24, after meeting with County Commissioner Dale Patton. Several guests were present, and the city superintendent brought new Christmas lights for Main Street for the council to see.

Emergency Management Director Ryan Murray was at the City Council meeting to find out when the council would like to conduct siren testing.

The council agreed that once a month would be sufficient. The siren test will be held the first Monday of each month, year round, at 9 a.m.

### Electrical upgrade meeting

The group that met for the electrical upgrade review included council members Bruce Swihart and Carla Lampe, city superintendent JR Landenberger, city clerk Glori Milne and for an outsider's perspective, Carl Werner. They all went over multiple scenarios, and looked at the numbers on how to finance the upgrade.

Mr. Landenberger said that Mr. Werner brought up the cash reserve. The cash reserve on hand has always been like an insurance policy in case something breaks or goes wrong. However, maybe the extent of the cash reserve does not have to be as high, Mr. Landenberger said. In conclusion, he said they need to find out what the comfort level is for a cash reserve amount, utilize it, and stabilize it.

Mrs. Lampe asked Mr. Landenberger if he had thought about what his comfort level would be for a cash reserve amount. He said not far behind what is currently in it, when considering the number of things that have not been done or updated.

The group went through each department looking at trends. The street crew has already been cut, and is too lean, Mr. Landenberger

said. There is no room for cuts there.

Mrs. Lampe stated that the profit or loss margin has stayed basically the same, which says a lot about trying to figure out a fair electrical rate for citizens. She also said that Mr. Werner asked why Mr. Landenberger was not city manager, rather than superintendent.

"It was interesting to hear [Mr. Werner's] input," Mrs. Lampe said.

Council member Roger Jensen asked if they discussed the police department and their numbers. He stated that if we cut the police force to just a third of what is current, the city could pay for the upgrade.

Mrs. Lampe said they did discuss it.

Council member Paula Keller asked if the group could put down what was discussed in the meeting in writing for the rest of the council to review. Mr. Landenberger said he would, as well as get a spreadsheet of the numbers for everyone to review.

### Snow Removal

Shelly Klie visited with the City Council to voice her dissatisfaction with the snow removal from her home. Mrs. Klie said she has visited with council members Carla Lampe and Roger Jensen as well as City Superintendent JR Landenberger in the past, but no solution has been given.

"Why can't there be a resolution that serves everyone, not just the city?" Mrs. Klie asked the council.

Mrs. Klie lives by the hospital on the emergency snow route. She stated that the city piles extra snow on her property when they are clearing the emergency route. If there were to be an emergency at their home, Mrs. Klie said they would be unable to leave, and assistance would not be able to get to the house.

Quoting The Herald's article, she quoted Mr. Landenberger as

saying that Adams Street was too narrow to pile snow in the middle of the street. However, she measured Adams and it was 38 feet. First Street is 35 feet wide, she said. She asked, then, why can they not pile it in the middle of Adams?

Mrs. Lampe said she was glad Mrs. Klie came to the City Council meeting. She then asked Mr. Landenberger who was responsible for the parking lot of the hospital, as all the extra snow from there is causing some of the issue. They agreed that they could ask the hospital about removing their own snow from the parking lot, or in the cases of a lot of snowfall, using some of the parking lot or sidewalk for snow piling.

Mr. Landenberger stated that if they are going to do it differently, he will take the snow and push it all to the north block of Adams so that it is not on the emergency route.

Mayor Scott Schultz assured Mrs. Klie that they will do some more checking in to the matter.

### Superintendent report

J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, showed a new string of Christmas lights to the council. The old bulbs were breaking often, and the lines were old. The new lights are LED, and very durable with a three year warranty. The cost to completely replace the lights and string will be \$5,185 for the 4,000 feet of lights needed.

The council liked the lights and agreed to purchase them.

Mr. Landenberger reported that with all the wind and moisture, there have been some outages. He said, although some people had an outage for an extended period of time, they did not call for a long time.

"If you see or hear something, we want that information because it tells us where a problem lies," said Mr. Landenberger.

If anyone sees a flash, or a line down, please call the city office, even if it is after hours. The phone call will go to dispatch, but the city will get the information.

### Senior Center

Art Kreuger with the Senior Center came to give report. He said that the Senior Center broke even in 2013. Memorials were up some, which contributed to the financials breaking even.

They have done some work to the Senior Center building over the last year with memorial funds and some grant funds. However, they do not have any new remodeling projects on the horizon. Everything is caught up at this point.

Mr. Krueger said that it is a good place to come and eat, and you don't have to be 90 to enjoy a good meal there!

### Next meeting

The next city council meeting will be held Monday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. in city hall. The public is encouraged to attend.

## Senator visits county

By Amanda Miller  
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Senator Ralph Ostmeier came to Saint Francis for a town hall meeting on Saturday, March 1.

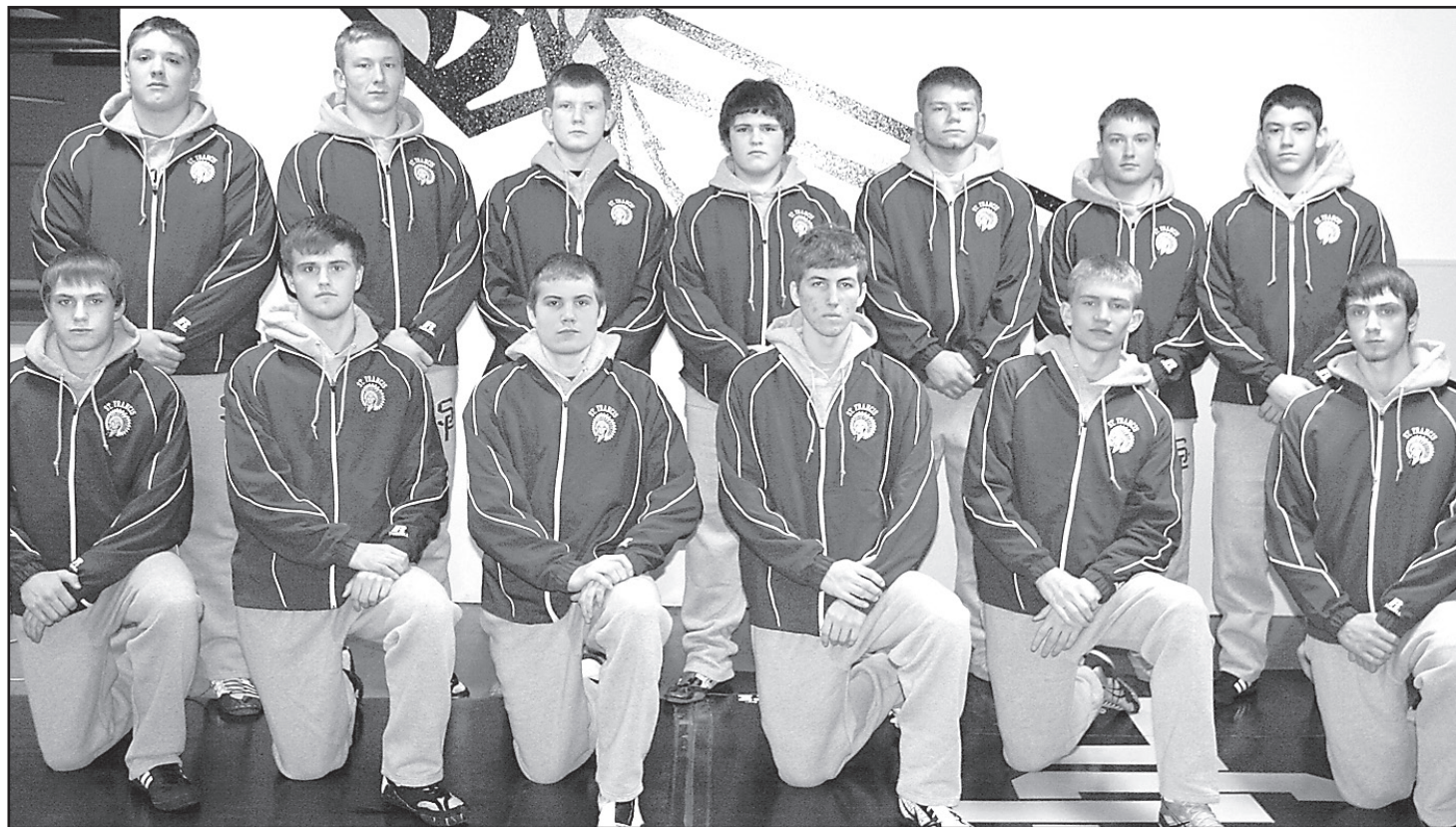
About a dozen people showed up to greet the Senator at Cuppa Joe's on the chilly Saturday morning. He discussed what bills were coming up, and what was going on in the legislature right now. It was an informative meeting.

Kim Zwegardt, Cuppa Joe's owner, said that the main issue that was discussed was a bill regarding

the water issues with the Ogallala Aquifer.

According to the High Plains Water District, the Ogallala Aquifer is one of the largest aquifer systems in the world. It stretches across all or portions of eight states, generally from north to south, including South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas and underlies about 174,000 square miles. Approximately 95 percent of the water pumped from the Ogallala is for irrigation.

## CONGRATULATIONS WRESTLERS!!



2013-2014 St. Francis Community High School Wrestling Team – Back row: (l to r) Shakotah Balnka, Kyler Zwegardt, Ryan Grover, Blake Meyer, Lane Hobrock, Lane Hoffman, Justin Pacheco; front row: Joel Hill, Garrett Brunk, Philip White, Matt White, Clay Cassaw and Connor McBride.

Photo courtesy of SFHCH Wigwam

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