

# Sign policy tops council agenda

By Amanda Miller  
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In what escalated to a lengthy discussion, the city council was handed a digital sign policy for the LED sign on U.S. 36 that city attorney Mike Day had drafted. One council member came prepared with statements from community members, and several others had strong opinions on whether or not certain items should or should not be allowed on the sign.

Council member Paula Keller said the response she heard from the community was that the council was being way too restrictive with the sign.

"Anything public should be on that board," Mrs. Keller said. She suggested that the city council follow the example of *The Herald* with whatever is allowable on the newspaper's Bulletin Board.

In essence, Mrs. Keller said, any event that is open to the public should be allowed on the sign.

The policy is being brought forward after Senator Ralph Ostmeier, Cheyenne County's elected representative, came to visit St. Francis. When a request was made to put his upcoming town hall meeting on the city's digital sign, it was denied because it was deemed political in nature.

Some people have argued that an elected representative, not in the county to campaign or raise money, but here to answer to his constituents, is not a political event. The line does get gray in these areas, which is why the request for a policy was made.

Under the current policy of absolutely no religious or political signs, Mrs. Keller said even if the president of the United States was coming to St. Francis, it would not be allowed on the sign. If our own hometown state representative Ward Cassidy wanted to host a town hall meeting, that could not be put up on the sign either, she said.

Mr. Day is going to look into the state rules and regulations on what is allowed on the signs and see if that will give the council some direction.

Mrs. Keller wrote a letter to the editor, published last week, in which she encourages comments from residents of St. Francis and their input.

The policy has been put on hold for now.

## Alumni

Susan Dink and Grant Keller visited with the city council about the plans for the St. Francis High School Alumni this year.

The alumni celebration will be held June 21 in the park, and the meal will be served outside between the courthouse and the bandshell.

The group is planning to have a beer garden, just like the one that was set up for Celebrate St. Francis last year. The beer garden will be in the basketball court area, within the fence, with people checking identifications to make sure that minors are not able to drink illegally.

The city council was encouraging, and said that the beer garden went very smoothly last year. They hope that by having one at alumni this year, even more people will come out, and the community will all show up as well.

## Pool committee

Several ladies from the pool committee visited with the council members about fundraising ideas for this summer.

The committee plans to have a fundraising meal on Friday, June 20, during the Art Walk at the park.

They also asked the council if they would be willing to donate a swimming punch card and theater gift card to the winners of the coloring contests during the Art Walk. The council agreed to give the committee the gift cards for the winners of the coloring contests.

## Administrative reports

JR Landenberger, city superintendent, was named a Kansas Municipal Energy Agency director again, and was also appointed as a Kansas Municipal Utilities voting delegate, along with Dan Blair.

Mr. Landenberger said the city will be giving up a small area of coverage by the fairgrounds. A shop is being built that would require a power line to be hung over the amusement rides at the fairground. The city is giving the power supply to PrairieLand, to avoid those lines being hung.

The city council agreed to have the city replace all 42 lights on Main Street with LED lights. This will cost approximately \$12,000.

City attorney Mr. Day did not have any reports, except to mention he did begin to receive payments from Sam Mancini, former owner of the Bella's Markets grocery store in town.

City clerk Glori Milne told the council that the theater sign has been fixed, and payment has been authorized. Goodwill called, and will have the truck parked by the recycling center from Monday through Friday for residents to drop items off.

## Council Comments

Bruce Swihart said that Forrest Burr has been hired as pool manager for the swimming pool, and lifeguards have been hired.

Scott Schultz, mayor, said things were coming together to honor Jack Weinstein. He was awarded the Medal of Honor earlier this year. Mr. Weinstein died in 2006. His wife, Nancy, flew to Washington, D.C., and met with President Obama to accept the medal on behalf of Mr. Weinstein.

Mayor Schultz said that they would be recognizing Mr. Weinstein on June 20, during the evening Art Walk in the Sawhill Park.

## Next meeting

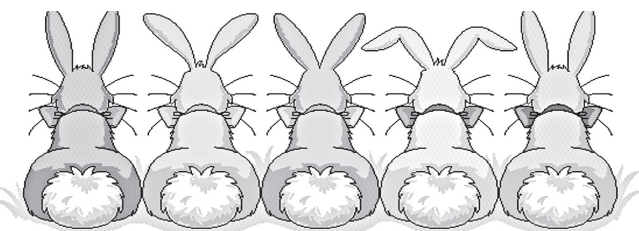
The next council meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Monday at city hall. All meetings are open, and the public is encouraged to attend.

# Easter egg hunt activities



MANY KIDS SCRAMBLED to get the candy once they were allowed to break from the lines at the Easter celebration at the elementary school on Saturday.

Herald staff photo by Mande Miller



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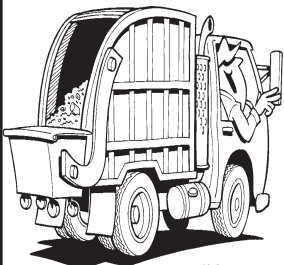
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Fri. & Sat. • 11 a.m.-10 p.m.  
Sun. • 11:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

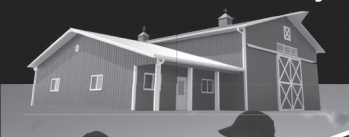
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## Preparation Seminar for Divine Mercy Sunday

—We call it ETERNITY

Saturday, April 26  
9 a.m. - Noon

(A light lunch will be served)

St. Joseph Catholic Church Hall  
Bird City



Jesus, I Trust in You

\*Confession will be available for anyone who requires this sacrament or has not been able to attend the Reconciliation Service offered during Lent.

Presented by: Roberta Lambert, a lay contemplative from Abilene, Texas. She is certified by the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy for completing the theology and spirituality course in DIVINE MERCY ESSENTIALS and has been dedicated to promoting this spectacular Feat of Mercy since her miraculous conversion 29 years ago.

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