

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Rains and cold temperatures have slowed concrete work for city street projects on 17th Street and north Caldwell, the city commission heard Monday.

Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who is overseeing the projects for the city, said the city and county had a construction meeting last week with APAC of Hays, the contractor that will be doing the asphalt work on Caldwell for the city and the resurfacing work on old U.S. 24 for the 35 miles across Sherman County.

"The tentative start date is in May," Neufeld said. "The contractor's plan is to do the Caldwell portion in three phases. The first will be from Eighth to Toelkes, the second from Toelkes to Armory Road and the third from Armory to the airport entrance."

He said APAC spokesman Alan Moore told them the timing will depend on how they are doing on the old U.S. 24 project.

"We are trying to make it beneficial to both the city and the county," Neufeld said. "The contractor will be switching back and forth as their workload progresses."

He said Midland Construction's crews have installed a new storm sewer under 17th to Clark, and the old street has been torn up to Broadway.

He said the street is closed at Caldwell, and that was not what they had planned, but there were more storm sewer and utility adjustments at Clark than expected.

Wednesday, Neufeld said the cold weather had changed some plans on pouring concrete, but the contractor decided to keep crews going by tearing the south side of the street out to Main.

He told the commissioners the plan had been to pour the section of the south side of the street to the alley between McB's and Kears Liquor this week.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked if the contractor could switch plans and do the other half of the street at 18th and Cherry, so people could get out of town southbound.

Neufeld said Sporer Land Development, the major contractor, has agreed to move back and do the other half of the street close to the railroad crossing.

"The contractor will switch traffic over back at Cherry to finish the other half," Neufeld said. "The problem is with the railroad crossing. We cannot allow a car to stop on the tracks."

Neufeld said the other option would have been to use temporary stop lights to allow traffic through the one-lane section, but that would have cost \$1,000 or more.

Billinger said it has been a problem with people trying to turn south from 18th Street to cross the railroad tracks.

Neufeld said the police have been giving out warning tickets to people who have not seen the signs.

Neufeld said the work at Clark is about done and he hopes they can reopen the north half of 17th for westbound traffic later this week.

He said the storm sewer lines and utilities were the most complicated at this intersection.

"Are you mapping everything?" Billinger asked.

"Yes we are," Neufeld said. "We are mapping all the new stuff, and the old. We will note which of the old lines are abandoned and which are being used."

City Manager Wayne Hill said he was out at Clark and 17th and was surprised at the number of utility lines that had to be moved.

"Didn't you know where they were?" Billinger asked.

"Yes, we knew where they were," Neufeld said, "but we did not know exactly how deep, and in one case we needed 18 inches, but there was only 16 so we had to reroute the line."

Neufeld said the change orders will show up next month, but that the project remains under budget.

On Caldwell, Neufeld said the concrete contractor, Bryant and Bryant, will be replacing some sections of the intersection at Armory Road, and the tube at First Street will have to be replaced.

He said the intersection sections are cracking. Tube was not at the proper elevation.

He said the storm sewer inlets at Eighth and Caldwell have to be changed to give the proper openings.

City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the city would have to pay for the replacements. Neufeld said all these are at the contractor's expense because they did not do it based on the plans.

The commission approved requesting the county for payment of engineering costs to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates for \$19,063 and \$65,157 to Bryant and Bryant.

Daniels asked about a Gulick Park sign that had been broken by the contractor at Eighth and Caldwell.

Neufeld said because the contractor broke the sign, they will replace it as it was.

Daniels asked if the sign could be angled to make it a bit more visible to those driving along the street.

Neufeld said if there is a change, the extra cost would be the city's responsibility.

"I do not want it to cause a hazard," Daniels said, "but if it could be raise a few inches it would be easier for people to see it."

Neufeld said he would look at that. The city commissioners agreed the cost would be minimal and it would be good to have the sign more visible.

Walking the line



Goodland Police Officer Mike Fenner watched a sixth grader try to walk a straight line while holding up special glasses that make the world look like the person had been drinking. No student who tried could find the dotted line on the floor with the glasses on. The police, Sherman County sheriff's office and Kansas Highway Patrol had a booth at the Northwest Kansas Technical College on Tuesday morning as part of a sixth-grade career program. Maggie Ellis, college event coordinator, said 359 students from 11 schools spent the morning looking at booths from programs offered at the technical college and Colby Community College. The students came from Oakley, St. Francis, Goodland, Leoti, Colby, Cheylin, Quinter, Sharon Springs, Benkelman, Neb., and Wray and Flagler, Colo.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

City cleanup to be next week

By Tom Betz
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City commissioners agreed Monday to use city equipment and crews for collection efforts during the annual city-wide cleanup planned for Saturday, April 14.

Christie Rasure of the Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee asked for the city support.

Mayor Rick Billinger read a proclamation making April "Cleanup Month," saying he felt the yearly cleanup, now in its third year, was improving the looks of the city.

Rasure said volunteers will gather at the Northwest Kansas Technical College Student Union at 8:30 a.m. on April 14.

Teams will spread out across the city to collect trash and tree limbs piled out by the curbs.

"Calls are already coming in," Rasure said. "I think we have had about 50 already. People appreciate what we are doing."

Rasure said the cleanup will run from 9 a.m. to noon.

The teams will bring collected items to the lots west of Rasure Lumber to be separated and hauled to the county transfer station.

She said the Sherman County Household Hazardous Waste site will hold its spring collection from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. on the same day at the building on the west side of Cherry across from Pizza Hut.

She said people who have computers or electronic devices like toasters or microwaves will be able to take them to the country transfer station from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday, April 21.

She said the county has contracted with a firm from Denver to take all the electronic recyclable material at no charge to county residents.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said the Denver firm, Guaranteed Recycling, will take anything that plugs into the wall except big appliances like stoves or refrigerators.

City Manager Wayne Hill asked if there was an alternate date in case the weather was bad.

Rasure said she hopes the weather is good on April 14, but if it bad, they will move the cleanup back a week to April 21.

Hill and Rich Simon, public works manager, said they planned to provide trucks and people.


She said people should have their junk on the curb that morning by 9 a.m.

If they are unable to move the stuff to the curb, they can call the Chamber at 899-7130, Schyler Goodwin at 821-4653 or Ken Clouse at 890-3641.

APRIL IRRIGATION TIRE SPECIAL

11.2x24 Farm King \$99⁹⁵ each

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corrections

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Come & Join the Fun at the Annual Goodland Community Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday, April 7th – 10:30 a.m. – Gulick Park
(If bad weather occurs, it will move to the Goodland Activities Center)

Ages 0 to 8 Welcome! Age Groups: kids 2 & under, 3 to 5 & 6 to 8.

Come & Look for the Golden Eggs!

Also enjoy Face Painting, Games & Color pages.

Bring your own camera to take pictures with the Bunny!



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