

Grants pay for improvements

By Sharon Corcoran
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The Sherman County Economic Development Council is working with the city to apply for \$400,000 in grants to improve homes and businesses and improve the "visual appeal" of the town.

The council started this year with \$35,000 in their budget for home and business improvement grants, and board members say they feel the council got its money's worth from those and would love to see what \$400,000 could do.

The council had \$35,000 to give grants to home and business owners to help improve the outside of their buildings, said Jeremy Jennings, the group's new executive director. So far, the council has spent \$12,000 of that money, and \$10,000 has been set aside to help the Shine On Sherman County Beautification Committee. Any remaining money would carry over to next year's budget, Jennings said.

It looks like the program is working well, Chairman Don Newell said at the council's meeting Tuesday, Nov. 20. It really makes a difference. Newell asked about progress on a state Community Development Block Grant, which Helen Dobbs, executive assistant, has been helping the city apply for.

The \$400,000 would come from the state program, Jennings said, but it doesn't look like Goodland will get it this year.

"If we don't get it this round," he added, "we'll definitely apply next year."

The council originally planned to target up to 200 properties, he said, the city submitted a map with 77 but was told to narrow it down some more. If Good-



Wane's Carpet and Drapery Shop at 718 Caldwell was one of the businesses that benefited from the Sherman County Economic Development grants for exterior improvements.

The shop got the grant to repaint the exterior and put up a sign. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

land gets the block grant, he said, it will already be allocated. The map covers part of Goodland.

"We have a giant map with houses marked," he said. "If it's approved, the worst ones in that area will get the money."

If they approve the grant, he said, the state Department of Commerce development division will send a team to inspect the area, and they will decide what Goodland will get. It will be split up, with \$17,000 to \$18,000 spent on each property, he said, so that would improve about 23 houses.

The idea is to update one area, he said.

The program usually is reserved for smaller communities of 3,000 to 5,000 people, he said, but it's not unheard of for one a little larger to get the grants.

The council has awarded two rounds of the project development grants this year, giving \$1,500 each to two homes and two businesses in each round. The first round for homes went to Lola Wiley at 1501 Center to help paint and shingle her house and LeAnn Haarberg at 1307 Harrison to replace rotting soffit and fascia. The homeowners matched the grants with \$8,860 total, said former director Tiffani McMinn.

The first-round business grants went to

the Goodland Grind and Gallery at 1530 Main to help put in a courtyard-style patio on the north side and for awnings at Pioneer Health at 910 Main. The businesses matched the grants with a total of \$5,500.

In the second round, the home grants went to Sherry Eisler-Carroll to replace nine windows for energy efficiency in a home on north Main and to Bertha Aguilar for scraping paint, priming and painting and shingles and edging.

The business grants went to Jacque's Hallmark to replace 18 windows on the upper level and to Wane's Carpet and Drapery Shop to repaint the exterior and paint the sign.

Women win Christmas On Us bucks

Two more lucky winners collected \$50 last week in the Goodland merchants' Christmas on Us promotion, and the contest continues this week with \$300 hidden in the pages of today's Good-

land Star-News.



McClure



Ensign

Micki Ensign came in Monday afternoon to collect \$50 on a winning ticket from the Conservatory Salon. She said she would use the prize to buy Christmas presents.

Gudrun L. McClure was in Friday to collect \$50 on a winning ticket from Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliances. She said she did not know what she would do with the scrip money.

They were the third and fourth instant \$50 winners after Brad Schick and Rich Bateman collected prizes the week before.

Be sure to collect your tickets at participating merchants and you may be one of those who find your number hidden in today's paper.

The 10th annual Christmas on Us promotion will spread a total of \$1,700 around to lucky shoppers over the four weeks.

The prize money has to be spent at participating businesses, including Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, Elliott's Inc., American Communications, Mann's Jewelry, Klip 'n Kurl, McClung's Appliance and Furniture, Orscheln Farm and Home Supply, Antique Warehouse, the Stitch-n-Place, The Conservatory and *The Star-News*.

Shoppers will have chances to win six more \$50 "instant prizes" along the way. Participating businesses will hand out one ticket for every \$10 a customer spends, with a limit of 250 tickets per transaction.

If you ask at *The Star-News* office, we'll give you one free ticket each week. No purchase is required to win.

The customer takes half of each ticket and the other side is dropped into gift-wrapped collection boxes which are emptied once a week into a large bin. The *Star-News* staff will pick tickets each week and hide the winning numbers in "Christmas on Us" advertisements, which are today and next Tuesday.

Winners have four days, until 5 p.m. each Monday to bring their tickets to *The Star-News* office, 1201 Main, and collect \$50 in scrip.

At least ten \$50 instant prizes will be given out over four weeks, for a total of \$500. Eight winning numbers will appear in ads each week, which means eight shoppers have a chance to win up to \$300 more with the prizes given out on a first-come basis until all are gone. All of the \$50 instant winners will be given out during the month.

The grand prize drawing for \$1,200 will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 15, on 12th Street across from the Sherman Theater.

It's simple enough, but there are a few rules.

- You must be 18 to participate.
- Employees of participating businesses are not eligible to win at their workplace, but can collect tickets from other sponsors. *Star-News* employees and their immediate family are not eligible.
- All prizes will be awarded in scrip, which can be spent only at participating businesses.
- The last day to collect tickets is Friday, Dec. 14.
- Winners must be present at the grand prize drawing and be able to show their winning ticket.
- All winners agree to have their name and photo published in *The Star-News*. Winners of major prizes must provide their tax identification number and agree to be interviewed and photographed for the newspaper.
- Be sure to remind the clerk if you're not offered tickets. If that happens, you should get one extra ticket.

Commissioners question road supervisor about oil

By Tom Betz
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The road crew bought a special-type oil at a Colby hardware store because dealers in Goodland were out of stock or couldn't be reached, Sherman County commissioners heard Friday.

As commissioners were reviewing the month-end bills, Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked about the purchase of seven cases of Briggs & Stratton oil from Beringer Hardware in Colby for \$243. Rasure said he wondered how many small engines the county could have to need seven cases of oil.

"I could not say," Commissioner Mitch Tiede said. "This is a straight 30-weight oil." Rasure wondered if the county had to have a specific brand.

"I do not know," Tiede said. "Guess I would have to call Steve (Goodman, road and bridge supervisor) and ask."

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said from the paperwork with the bill, Goodman had called around and asked at least two places for the oil.

"Can't we find oil in Sherman County?" Rasure asked.

"I would think we should be able to," Tiede said.

"Call him up and ask," said Thomas.

"We can not pick every department in here," Tiede said.

"We should be supporting people in our county," Rasure replied.

"I agree, but we should be supporting our people," Tiede said.

"Can't we have a county policy to buy as much as possible in our county?" Rasure asked.

"Do you want a law that everything has to be bought here?" Thomas countered.

Rasure said he felt the purchase was just one of many, noting that questions had been raised at a previous meeting about the purchase of extension cords and radiator repairs out of the county.

Tiede said he had talked to Goodman about the radiators and that Goodman told

him he had once taken some to Alex West in Goodland and had problems with the ones that were done. Tiede said Goodman told him he had to take them back and then to Burlington to get them fixed.

Larry Enfield, a farmer and former candidate for county commissioner, said he had a phone call from Mark Beringer, owner of Beringer Hardware in Colby, thanking him for having Sherman County support Colby.

Enfield said Beringer was joking because he knows that Enfield believes too much money is being spent out of Sherman County.

"Beringer said Steve came in and bought seven cases of oil," Enfield said. "He told me Sherman County has an open account with the hardware store."

"I asked him about the Colby purchasing policy, because Beringer is on the Colby (city) council. He told me, 'If you want to get fired, buy something out of town.'"

"I do not know why the oil was purchased in Colby," Tiede said. "I do not do the purchasing. I am getting tired of hearing this."

"If you can do a better job you are welcome to have this job. I am trying to do a good job for everyone."

"Call him up and get your answer. We'll take it back if we have to. I don't know what the reasoning is."

"Call him and find out," Thomas said.

"Kevin, you asked."

Rasure got Goodman on the speaker phone and asked about the purchase.

"It is for all our smaller air-cooled engines," Goodman said. "We have several small motors. It is a special 30-weight oil. I used to get it from Claussen's, but they are closed right now, and Wal-Mart said they did not have any and would not order until spring."

"It is a specially designed oil?" Tiede asked.

"It is for air-cooled engines and does not break down," Goodman replied.

Rasure asked if there were any other brands.

"Not that I have found," Goodman said. "I was not able to find any around here. I usually have some on hand, but ran out this time. I needed to get these engines serviced. I've got some if you want to see it. I called several places and that was the end result."

"Is that a satisfactory explanation for everybody?" Tiede asked and the phone call was ended.

"I guess I am not that particular personally," Tiede said. "I have always just used 30-weight oil. I am not as picky."

Thomas said he runs regular 30-weight oil in his mower.

Rasure said other places in Sherman County that sell mowers might have an oil that would work.

Thomas said directing Goodman to use any oil would amount to micromanaging, and he was sure this was a one-time thing.

Rasure said he felt it was more than a one-time thing, and that the commissioners as the policy-making body should continue to insist that departments buy as much as possible within the county.

"Were the electrical cords a one-time thing?" Rasure said.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she had been told that Yost Farm Supply in Goodland sells 50-foot electrical cords with a lifetime warranty and OSHA approved, similar to those the road crew got in Colorado, for \$25.

Later, Alex West, owner of Alex's Radiator, came to the meeting to ask about radiator repair business that has been

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