

# Appointments made to library, appeals board

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
City commissioners proclaimed Girl Scout Week and Fair Housing Month at Monday's city commission meeting, and approved appointments to the library board and the Board of Building Appeals.  
The proclamation for Girl Scout Week was a bit late, but 16 girls plus their leaders attended the meeting and watched Mayor Rick Billinger sign the document. Girl Scout Week was March 7-13, when the organization celebrated 92 years of service.

Mayor Rick Billinger signed a proclamation declaring April as Fair Housing Month to celebrate the rights of people to equal housing under the Civil Rights law of 1968.  
The commission approved reappointment of Darwin McClung of Rhoads Construction and Camron Paxton of Paxton Building Service to three-year terms on the appeals board. It approved reappointment of Barb Winston to a four-year term on the library board. The library board recommended her for a second term and the commission unanimously approved it.

City Manager Ron Pickman said there are vacancies on the planning commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. He said they are having trouble finding people to fill these openings, and would appreciate any suggestions commissioners might have.  
Mayor Billinger was appointed as the city's member of the governing board of Kansas Municipal Energy Agency, replacing Commissioner Dean Blume. Blume asked to have someone else take the position, which he has held for several years. Commissioner Chuck Lut-

ters, the alternate to the board, said he would rather have another person fill that spot. Commissioner Dave Daniels was appointed to be the alternate.  
In other business, the commission:  
• Approved a request for a new 3.2 package beer license for Kabredlo's, 320 E. 8th. Pickman said this was a new license request because the business had lost the manager who was on the previous license. The new license lists Stephanie Starr Corcoran as the manager with the owner being

Michael Olderbak of Lincoln, Neb.  
• Approved a payment of \$2,281 to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison & Associates for engineering work for the project to acquire additional land near the airport. Pickman said this concludes the engineering portion of the project and the next step will be to contact the landowner to get an appraisal.  
• Approval having the mayor sign the annual operation and maintenance statement with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks for the continued operation of the Steever Park Development.

Pickman said the city accepted money many years ago from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to build the Steever ballpark, and the annual agreement stipulates that the property will continue to be used for outdoor recreation. The city got permission to move the ballpark to allow the development of Steever Water Park on the property.  
• Set up the annual utility rate review for Monday, April 5, following the regular commission meeting.  
• Approved payment of bills totaling \$417,854.

## Testing the base



Jerry Nemecheck, an engineer with Evans, Bierly, Hutchison Associates, drilled holes in the intersections at 11th and 12th and Main on Friday as the first step in replacing the old bricks. He said the tests were to determine the condition of the base under the bricks so the firm can design the new intersections to be done this year.  
Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

## Yard waste will go up for some

City commissioners got proposals to change the trash and yard-waste programs Monday, including a 50 percent increase in the charge for picking up yard waste in roll-out containers, and an ordinance will be presented at the next meeting.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the recommendations were forwarded by the county commissioners and the county solid waste committee.

The city would give up control of rates for yard-waste pickup, and the county has approved a \$2-per-month increase in the charge for roll-out containers to \$6. There would be no increase for people who continue to use large neighborhood dumpsters for yard waste, who pay \$12 now.

One recommendation is to repeal the sections of the city ordinance which deal with the rates for the yard waste program and a provision setting the yard waste season from March to November.

Pickman said the city ordinance would be changed to say, "The county or contractor shall provide a yard waste program. The terms and rates of the program will be reviewed annually by the county solid waste committee and approved by the Sherman County commissioners."

City Commissioner Dean Blume asked if the yard waste rates would go up, and how the program would be handled.

Chuck Redlin, owner of In the Can, the contractor which handles

the trash collection in the city, said there would not be any increase for those who use the large neighborhood yard waste dumpsters, but he had asked for an increase in the rates for the smaller roll-out containers picked up at individual homes.

"My truck doesn't care if it is picking up a large dumpster or a roll-out," Redlin said. "We figured we were losing money on the smaller containers at \$4 per month."

When the request for a rate increase was taken to the solid waste committee, Redlin said, he asked for an increase on the roll-outs to \$12 a month. County commissioners felt that was too much of an increase and recommended to Redlin the roll-out rate go from \$4 to \$6 a month, and that the county would pay an additional \$3 per month to Redlin to pick up the smaller containers.

"We want to be sure everybody understands the yard waste program is important and will continue," said Tom Betz, head of the county solid waste committee. "It was the feeling of the committee and our recommendation to the county commissioners the yard waste be separated from the trash collection because it is more of a negotiated program and is not mandatory like the trash collection is."

"This the first year of the new program, and we are a little late doing the annual review the contract between the city and county says should be done. Most of the system is working well, and we have found few places where changes need to be done."

Another recommendation, Pickman said, was adding a new classification to the city ordinance dealing with storage buildings. The recommendation from the county was to add a "non-commercial storage" category and define it as being similar to a residence, with a minimum annual fee of \$25.

Pickman said he did not feel the non-commercial designation was workable and suggested maybe it be a storage Class A and Class B with the second class being private stor-

age with the low annual fee.  
Mayor Rick Billinger asked who would decide what fit the classifications and how they would be billed.

Redlin said he would be doing the billing of all these, as set up in the county contract. Pickman said it would be up to Redlin to police this, as it would not be a decision made by the city staff.

"We don't want to be the ones deciding who fits this classification," Pickman said, "but we do want it to be strong enough to comply with the city's current ordinance."

Betz said the ordinance requires a payment from every business and address in the city, and there are several commercial storage facilities that are not being charged for trash collection. The new definition is to give Redlin some flexibility while fitting within the city ordinance that everyone is to pay a trash fee.

The city commissioners agreed this was a good approach and directed Pickman to have the city attorney draft an ordinance.

A recommendation for a citywide cleanup program this spring was discussed and the commissioners said it sounded like a good idea. They said the city, county and Redlin should get together to work out the details. He said it might be possible to do it on a specific day, so people could call in the Can or the city to arrange for pickup.

Betz said the county has agreed to accept computer monitors at an upcoming household hazardous waste collection from 7 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 3, at the county facility on Cherry Street south of the railroad tracks. This would be for dead computer monitors only. The other parts of a computer can be taken to the county transfer station.

## corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors.

## Firm might put warehouse on I-70 here

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
A Dallas medical equipment firm wants to locate a warehouse distribution center on I-70 in western Kansas, and Goodland may be in the running.

Director Carolyn Applegate told the Sherman County Economic Development Council about the firm at its monthly meeting Tuesday at Western State Bank.

Applegate said the contact for the warehouse came from the state and she met with several people here on the idea. The director said she is waiting for details from the state Department of Commerce.

In her director's report, Applegate said another presentation was made by Homeland Realty on the truck plaza. She said an offer has been made, but she has not heard it has been accepted by the bank which owns the former truck stop. She said the city has sent a notice to the bank to have the site cleaned up.

She said the Howard Johnson motel has a new owner and she has been working with him. He is planning a complete remodeling of the hotel, and has brought in some new people to manage the business.

The quick lube business planned

## Council Roundup

At its monthly meeting last Tuesday, the Sherman County Economic Development Council:

- Discussed a new web page design as a business recruiting tool. Story on Page 11.

- Discussed developing a program with high school students to encourage them to consider staying in town after school or going into business. Story on Page 11.

- Director Carolyn Applegate said she got an enquiry from a medical equipment company from Texas about a warehouse on I-70. Story at left.

for the southeast corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot is working with the city to get approval of their plans. Applegate said she met with building inspector Steve Criswell and City Manager Ron Pickman about the plans.

She said Don Ballek of the state Department of Commerce was at a community meeting in Kanorado and helped develop an action plan for economic development.

As for the strip mall at Wal-Mart, she said she had met with Mike Hunter and Pickman and called Dan Vorkink, who is developing the area on the north side of the parking lot. She said he plans are to break ground later this year.

Applegate reported the micro loan committee has approved loans

to Sunflower Computers and JK Radiator. The first micro loan went to El Reynaldo's Restaurant last year.

She has asked the county commissioners to extend the appointments to the micro loan review committee because the program has been extended for six months. She said the county will need a loan committee because when the money is repaid, it goes into a revolving loan fund which can then be loaned out again.

The Goodland Chamber of Commerce would like to invite you to our annual meeting on **March 29, 2004, at 7:00 p.m. at the VFW Hall, 824 Main.** There will be a dessert bar and coffee for you to enjoy. Our agenda for the evening will be "Looking Toward the Future". We hope to see you there!

## Sherman County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, April 3, 2004  
7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mountain time  
HHW Facility  
1820 Cherry Street  
Goodland, Kansas

For more information please contact Kenny Griffith at 821-1024.  
No early drop off or no drop offs without personnel present.  
There will be no **Used Oil** collected at this time.  
For Sherman County Residents Only!

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## The cost of growing old is going through the ceiling!



So although your savings may seem to be enough today. Someday you may have to seek state assistance.

The S.R.S. is ready to assist people in that position, but they permit a person to retain only a small amount of money for themselves. Certainly not enough to pay for a suitable funeral.

The state does, however, encourage people to make prearrangements and to prefund their funeral while they still have enough cash to do so.

We at Bateman Funeral Home can help by setting up the funeral you want and helping you set up the prefuning to assure your wishes will be carried out, all within the guidelines of the S.R.S.

Call **Diann Ross 785-890-6600** for information or to set up an appointment.  
Diann is a representative of Homesteaders Life Co.