

Home tour highlights luxury

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News
Warm houses decked out in the holiday's finest opened their doors Sunday for the fourth Holiday Home Tour sponsored by the Goodland Arts Council.

The three homes on the tour started receiving visitors about 1 p.m., giving people a peek at high-class holiday decorations and some pretty nice houses.

The 3,000 square foot home of Terry and Marilyn Imel, 716 Grandview Lane, was opened up for visitors on all three levels.

Tour hosts said the house, custom built in 1992, was decorated in "campaign" style, named from warring times when soldiers went out on "campaigns" regularly and brought back different styles of decor.

The house was decked out with a gigantic poinsettia, and the tables were set for a holiday feast.

Visitors were taken through the study, main living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom and master bedroom on the first floor.

The master bedroom featured a private patio and an adjoining bathroom complete with a whirlpool tub.

The rest of the house featured two bedrooms and bath upstairs and a living room, workout room and bathroom in the basement.

The tour continued into the home of Darin and Jona Neufeld, 659 W. 31st.

The family's large kitchen was roomy enough for a seating area to the side and a large dining table.

Hot apple cider and cookies were served to warm visitors up.

The house featured a big master bedroom with a large bath and whirlpool tub.

The children's rooms upstairs were decked out, pink in the girl's room and snacks for Santa in the boys'.

Downstairs, the house featured a bedroom, a bathroom, an office and a large family room. A Christmas tree was set up in the basement, and festive lights lined the window.

Tour host Darin Neufeld said he had taken one of the downstairs windows and enlarged it, installing

bricked shelves with herbs planted in each that rose up to the ground. He said he built the window well to provide a better escape route in case of an emergency, and the terraces were installed to avoid having a plain metal window well.

The third stop on the tour was the home of Fred and Jeanie Schields, 7315 K-27.

The house, a mix of Victorian and Tudor styles, is just east of the highway, guarded by a long row of trees planted to the north and a few trees throughout the front yard.

Work on the house was started in 1948, but said Jeanie Schields, it wasn't finished until 1950.

On the inside, the front door opens up to the stairway ahead, a living room to the left and a dining room to the right. A table placed in the hallway was decked out for Christmas, and a large tree loomed in the corner of the living room.

A faux fireplace in the living room was filled with candles, adding a glow to the room. The dining room led into a kitchen complete with the custom built cabinets. Another smaller dining room attached to the kitchen, a bathroom and an office with a built-in bar completed the first floor.

Upstairs, the home's original tub and counter were in the bathroom, flanked by three bedrooms and the master bed and bath. Downstairs, the basement featured a large living room, game room with pool table, bedroom and bathroom. A back staircase that led up to the first floor near the back door originally was used by farm hands for access to the downstairs bathroom, said Wayne Deeds, Jeanie's father.

Even the Schields' dogs live in luxury in a miniature dog house replica of the main house.

Each house was filled with visitors, and volunteers from the council gave tours or answered questions.

Following the tour, the Carnegie Arts Center was open for a social hour with cheese and crackers, cookies, nuts, cider and punch. Visitors shopped the center's Christmas gift shop and checked out the newest gallery show, featuring the work of Goodland artists.



The fourth Holiday Home Tour sponsored by the Goodland Arts Council took visitors out to the home of Fred and Jeanie Schields, 7315 K-27, Sunday, where Jeanie (right) described some of the finer points of her home to Charla Miller (left). Visitors toured the homes of Terry and Marilyn Imel, 716 Grandview Lane, and Darin and Jona Neufeld, 659 W. 31st, and then went back to the center for cider and treats.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

Chamber approves next year's budget

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

After working for the past few years and coming close to climbing out of a budget hole, the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board is working to avoid a deficit again next year.

Encountering some hard luck this year, the Chamber failed to raise enough money to pay for the Freedom Fest fireworks and has faced financial problems since.

Board members appealed to Sherman County commissioners, receiving another \$350 to help pay for the event this year and a commitment of \$2,500 for next year.

The board plans to go back to the City Commission on Monday, Dec. 20, for a larger contribution next year.

In a meeting Tuesday, Chamber board members agreed to speak with city commissioners individually to plead their case.

They are proposing a three-way split between the county, city and Chamber.

For the Chamber's third, they will try to get service organizations to contribute.

Ken Clouse, a board member and president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, said they should start looking for contributions soon.

Even if it gets extra money for the event, though, the Chamber still faces budget problems for next year.

Chamber board members reviewed a proposed budget and approved a revised edition that strives to keep the organization out of the red.

"I'm not comfortable budgeting a deficit year," said Brian Linin, a board member and chief financial officer with Frontier Equity Exchange.

Tremor Kizer, Goodland schools band director, said the Chamber is working to get out of debt, but to remember they went into last year with a deficit.

To stay on the plus side and pay back some money borrowed from the Sunflower Agriculture Show account, plans to move the Chamber office to a larger space across the hall have been put on hold.

The new space, the old American Family Insurance office, would cost almost \$200 more per month than the \$463.50 rent they now pay.

Chamber manager Courtney Warden said they could use the extra space to store their the bottles of water, Christmas ornaments and other items they sell out of the office.

Flatlander Fall Festival expenses were trimmed from \$2,500 in the original budget to

\$1,500.

Last year, not including advertisement, the Chamber spent \$1,493 on the festival, which board members agreed they could stick to for next year.

Chamber President Donna Swager said she has asked the Convention and Visitors Bureau for some help with the festival from the guest tax the hotels collect over the weekend.

"I don't know what is generated by Flatlanders," she said, "but I think it should go back in for next year."

Drastic cuts also were taken from the Chamber's advertising fund. The budgeted \$4,000 already was \$300 less than what was spent this year, but that was cut in half.

Swager disagreed with the cut, saying advertising was one of the benefits they extend to their members.

Linin said they could try for fewer, but more targeted, advertisements to get the most from the smaller budget.

Board members agreed that if they raised more money, they could increase spending on advertisement.

To fill the gap, Chamber board members will try to recruit more businesses to join the group.

They already have four new members signed up for next year and Warden said they need a total of 44 to meet the originally proposed budget, less for the revised edition.

"Can we generate those kinds of dues this year?" asked Clouse.

"I think we can," Warden replied.

"We have no other choice but to get 44 new members," Kizer said. "I think that's a good challenge for us."

Linin, co-chairman of the Chamber membership committee, said the group agreed to update information packets for visitors, new businesses, former members and business that have never been members.

The new packets, in customized yellow folders with black lettering, will include information on the Chamber's lobbying power at the state level, networking possibilities and community support.

Linin said they will pair up board and committee members with other Chamber members to go out and talk about the organization in the community.

Warden said if each board member signed up two new members, that would take care of 18 of the 44.

Board members also plan to set up a table at their annual banquet with some packets and information on the Chamber for potential members.

Family struggles after tragedy strikes

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

Closure has been hard to find for the family of two murder-suicide victims, Richard, 75, and Donna, 69, Hurd, who were found dead at their home, 102 Broadway, Sunday night.

Goodland Police Chief Ray Smee said the investigation is ongoing, but since they can't speak to the victims, they can only guess.

"I'm not going to comment on speculation," he said.

Donna was shot twice with a 9mm pistol and police believe Richard turned the gun on himself. The bodies were found around 8:30 p.m. Sunday.

day by the couple's grandson, Chris.

The couple's sons, Tim, of Raymore, Mo., and Mike, Kansas City, Mo., remembered their parents for their love of family.

"They loved their grandchildren," said Mike. "Family was a big priority."

Tim said his father was friends with everyone.

"He was very outgoing," he said. "He was very friendly and he loved to visit."

Richard was born in 1929 in Goodland to Wanda and Lowell Hurd. He grew up as the family's third generation in Sherman County

and graduated from high school here in 1947. After school he entered the Navy, served on an aircraft carrier and later joined the Air Force.

"He had a lot of interest in military history," said Mike. "He enjoyed reading books about military history."

Richard married Donna (Hayden) in 1955. They had two sons, two grandsons, one granddaughter and one great-granddaughter.

Richard worked for several automotive parts stores, finding a home at Shores Bros Auto Supply where he was manager when he retired at age 62.

He was a member of the Veterans

of Foreign Wars and was active, along with Donna, in the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church.

Tim said the family is shocked at the shooting.

"It really didn't make any sense to us," he said, "because we didn't know of any marital problems."

Chief Smee said they are still working on the case to help the family understand what happened.

"We're running down some leads," he said, "but it's just for the family."

The funeral mass was scheduled for 10 a.m. today at the Catholic Church with Father Norbert Dlabal presiding. Private inurnment will be at a later date. Memorials may be designated to the church's memorial fund care of Koons Funeral Home, 211 North Main, Goodland, KS 67735.

X-Pressos need to raise \$9,000

The X-Pressos show choir has two months to raise about \$9,000. And the group is asking for help to do it.

The group put out a call for bookings in September and by Wednesday had raised \$2,400 of the \$11,000 needed. The group has been busy this month but doesn't have much scheduled after that, Director Randy Berls said.

Any group or organization that needs entertainment and would like to help the choir raise money should

call Berls at the high school at 899-5656 to set up a time.

The group is preparing for the 2005 National Showchoir Competition, he said, set for March 17-20 in Branson, Mo. Last year in May, he said, the X-Pressos competed in Denver against choirs from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska and won the entire competition.

The group has also been invited to perform in Salt Lake City and at Carnegie Hall in New York, Berls

said, with the Kansas State University choir and a few other high school choirs from Kansas in the summers of 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The last time the X-Pressos competed in Branson was in 2002, he said, and the group placed 12th in the nation.

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