

Eight candidates running for three city commission seats

CITY, from Page 1

Goodland since 1978. Fairbanks met her husband at Kansas State University, and they raised three children, David, Christi and Stephanie, in Goodland.

"I own and operate Teeters Abstract and Title Company," she said, "and Jerry is senior trust officer and general counsel for First National Bank.

"I have served on several local boards, and hold membership in numerous community organizations. I am a graduate of Leadership Sherman County and most proud to have been the chairperson for the recent Steever Water Park Project. I would appreciate the opportunity to serve on the City Commission."

Josh Dechant — Dechant is an ag loan officer at Bankwest. "I am, running because I see that Goodland has the potential to be an even more influential city," he said, "and a cornerstone community between Denver and Salina.

"One of my greatest hopes is that the citizens and members of our City Commission will work together to ensure a positive change in our city, to create a better, safer and cleaner city in which we all will be proud to live, raise a family, work, own and operate a business, attend school, worship and play."

Dechant was born in Hays but grew up in Thornton, Colo. He graduated from Colorado State University in 1999 and moved to Goodland that summer. He married Koren in April of 2000. She is now a mom and the 4-H horse project leader. The couple has two children, Hannah 2 1/2 years, and Caleb 10 months.

He was previously employed by ADM-Collingwood Grain as a branch manager, and this is what brought him back to Kansas. Dechant is a member of the Sherman County Micro Loan Committee, Sherman County Extension executive board, Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board and this year's Leadership Sherman County Class.

Gary Farris — "I want to try to make a difference, something everybody needs to be active in."

Farris was born in Goodland in 1949 and raised at Edson, where he graduated from high school in 1968.

He went to college at Fort Hays State for 3 1/2 years and during the summer worked in custom harvesting. During his final year of college, he was told he was going to be drafted in 1972, but when the lottery went into effect, he said, his number was 95, and he dropped out of college and worked custom harvesting. His last year in the harvest work was 1979.

Farris returned to open Ferris Manufacturing in a building in Edson and moved the plant to Goodland in 1997. His company builds grain trailers and other types of truck boxes, including one for the county's new weed spraying truck. He built the easel for the giant Van Gogh painting.

He is married to Nancy, who is a counselor at the Goodland High School. They have an 8-year-old daughter at home, Laramie, and his son Dan graduated from high school in 2003. A daughter from a previous marriage, Heidi, lives in Tulsa.

Farris's family has been here for

many years, and his mother, Florence, was the postmaster at Edson for 41 years.

Farris employs four full-time people and one part time. He said things took a sharp downturn in 1998, when he went from doing 36 trailers a year down to three, but business has gotten somewhat better in the past couple of years.

John Garcia — "I have a tremendous investment in the community, and I care for Goodland and the people. I want to continue to see Goodland progress and move forward with a positive spirit and a positive attitude."

Born in Edinburg, Texas, in 1951, Garcia went to school at Ulysses, where he graduated from high school in 1969 and went to work with his father's trucking business. He came to Goodland in 1974 and went to work with Jim Caldwell in 1978. He opened Garcia's Home Furnishing and Appliance in 1993.

His wife Nora is an aide for the Goodland School District and also works at the store. They have two grown daughters, both living in Kansas City, Kan., Bernice Moore and Ivel Boyle.

Garcia is chairman of Sherman County Economic Development Council and a former chairman of the Goodland Activity Center. He serves as treasurer for the Church of the Nazarene and is a member of Goodland Rotary. He was honored in 1998 as the No. 1 minority-owned business in Goodland, and awarded the Rotary Governor's Cup award in 2001.

John Golden — "I've always had an interest in the community, and I would like to see the quality of life improve. The community

needs to set the example for the quality of life."

Golden was born in Goodland in 1932 and graduated from high school in 1950. He graduated from the University of Kansas in 1954 and then served in the Army in Germany from 1955-57. He came back to Goodland in 1958 and has been in farming and ranching since then.

He served three terms in the state House of Representatives in the early '60s, and served as a Sherman County commissioner from 1977-1984. He served three terms as a city commissioner in the 1990s.

Golden is a member of Goodland Rotary Club and St. Paul's Episcopal Church and has been involved in many county and city projects.

His wife Marcia has been active in the Carnegie Arts Center and Sunflowers U.S.A. Inc., and they have three grown children, Margaret Bowker, who lives in Shawnee, Gennifer House of Goodland and Richard Golden, who lives in Olathe.

Mike Miller — "I feel I can look at the issues facing the city objectively and make decisions that would benefit the citizens."

Miller has lived in Goodland since 1964. He was born in Denver in 1960, but moved here as a child and graduated from Goodland High School in 1978. After graduation, he went into the construction business — something he always wanted to do — and was in retail for 20 years running Miller's Electronics. He is the owner of Miller Construction and Miller Enterprises, which owns rental property and buildings in the city.

He and his wife Jodi have two sons Matt, 16, and Andrew, 15.

David Walker — "I am running because we have a totally unresponsive city commission. They are totally out of synch with reality."

Walker, a member of the Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars, said he is not a negative person, but he believes strongly the community needs to change direction.

He was born in Burbank, Calif., in 1947. After high school, he spent four years in the Air Force, with one year in Vietnam.

He graduated from San Diego State in 1975 and was a reporter for five years. He then became a fire dispatcher until after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorists attacks.

He started a landscaping and garden business that he operated for 20 years. He said the increased government regulations got to be too much, and he decided it was time to leave Sacramento and find another place to work.

"I told my wife I felt California was crazy, and we needed to get out of the place," he said.

His wife Lavera, who works at Cobblestone, is a native Kansan, he said, and her sister, Kris Cowan, was living in Goodland, so they came to look for a better place to live.

"We have been here for about two years and really enjoy the community," he said.

He has three stepchildren Sarah, 28, living in Germany; Nichole, 16, a junior at Goodland High School;

and a stepson living in California.

Walker feels the city needs to change back to a strong mayor form of government, to have someone who will be out front and made the tough decisions.

Brent Wood — "I think I can make a difference in our community. I think there are some things that can be accomplished and need leadership to work for community development."

Wood was born in Fort Scott and graduated from high school in Russell in 1981. He attended Bethany College in Lindsborg for two years and got insurance and securities licenses.

He spent 10 years in western Colorado at Montrose and Grand Junction working as a financial advisor.

He came to Goodland in 1997 to get closer to his family. He came to work with Sun America Securities, which was affiliated at that time with Bankwest.

Today Sun America is owned by AIG advisor group, which bought the company in 1998. Wood has been with Sun America since 1992. While in Colorado, he said, he and a partner established the Center for Financial Planning, and when he left, he sold his interest to his partner.

Wood and his wife Jennifer have five children Kathy, 14; Matthew, 6; Lucas, 5; Andrew, 3; and David, 2.

matters of record

District Traffic
The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:
Jan. 26 — Clifton S. Wiggins, 26, Loveland, Colo., \$132 for speeding.
Tye W. Jackson, 20, Kim, Colo., \$70 for no seat belt.

Jan. 27 — Vincent L. Brydon, 33, Topeka, \$213 for speeding.
Joseph C. Harrer, 31, McKinney, Texas, \$159 for speeding.
Gary W. Crawford, 48, Hazle Hurst, Ga., \$90 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belts.
James A. Walden, 43, Powder

Springs, Ga., \$138 for speeding.
Ryan M. Baum, 26, Denver, \$65 for speeding.
Shawna M. Simpson, 30, Ardmore, Okla., \$132 for improper parking.
Eber M. Aguilar, 25, Aurora, Colo., \$150 for speeding and \$10

for no seat belt.
Jan. 28 — Hugo C. Ortiz, 30, Arlington, Texas, \$150 for speeding.
John L. Hatfield, 23, Fort Collins, Colo., \$132 for speeding.
Matthew A. Bryce, 23, Goodland, \$160 for no Kansas registration.

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**ABSOLUTE SALE FOR THE
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Saturday, Feb. 19,
VFW Hall, 824 Main, Goodland, Kan.
STARTING TIME 9:30 a.m. sharp.

This is another sale where the hall will be full with something for everyone. Lunch served by the VFW Auxiliary so plan on spending the day.

VEHICLE (selling at approx. 1 pm) 1991 Pontiac Bonneville, 4dr, V-8, 78,260 one owner miles

FURNITURE:
Lighted Oak glass curio hutch; Nice tan and flowered sofa; Sofa sleeper; 2 matching recliner - rockers; Tan swivel rocker; Mauve glider rocker; Lighted corner curio hutch; Wood drop leaf table with 4 chairs; Wood drop leaf table with 2 chairs; Kitchen table with 4 chairs; High back chair; Double bed with chest, night stand; Twin Bed; 2 night stands; 2 sets coffee and end tables; Zenith console TV with remote; Portable TV; 2 corner shelves

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
TV stand; Book case; Boxes of dishes, cookware, glassware; Music Box; Small writing desk; Lots of sheets, blankets; Wicker baskets; Wood storage cabinet; Pictures & wall hangings; Halogen bar light; 5 shelf wall unit; Hoover Brush Vac; Brass swing-arm light; Round patio table with 2 chairs; Hoover canister vacuum; Oak What-Not-Shelf; Unique floor lamp; Elect heaters; Cookie Cutters; Magazine rack; Nick Knacks & stand; 19 Springbox Jigsaw Puzzles; Woven Wall hanging; 2 ft tall Mason jar; Whirlpool microwave; Apple bird house; Necchi 503A sewing machine; Concrete lawn ornaments

ANTIQUES
4 small stands; 2 Ron Lee Hobo collection pates with Spanish Mariache statue; Smoking stand; certificates; Pepsi metal sign; Round Oak table, 2 leafs; (No Camping or Fishing) American toy sign, metal; Oak chair; (Traveling in Style) 3 Furbies / Original boxes; Cookie jar; Carnival glass; Small Quilt; Green Depression glassware; '60s Syrup dispenser; Stained glass lamp; Pop, whiskey and misc bottles; Milk bottles; Ceramic bowls; 50's pop cooler; Union Pacific calendars; Christmas Village Trees; Several old toys; Mechanical bartender toy; 4 Plaques of the Season; Barbie toys; Costume jewelry; 1929 buttermilk containers; Cream caps from Goodland

MORE ITEMS NOT LISTED

This will be a large sale again so please be on time. For more information contact Terry Richardson at Homestead Realty, 1023 Main, Goodland. 785-899-2328, 899-3093 or cell 899-8094 www.goodlandsrealestate.com

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