



Volunteers sweep city for first April cleanup

By Kathryn Burke

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Volunteers gathered 17,260 pounds of construction debris, 4,840 pounds of metal, 4,580 pounds of furniture and trash and an estimated 15,000 pounds of tree limbs in a city-wide cleanup Saturday.

"I think it was a huge success," said Ken Clouse, head of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce beautification committee and president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Over 50 volunteers showed up at the college at 8 a.m. to team up, then head out to pick up the town. Some groups worked north-south streets while others headed east and west to cover the entire town.

The groups loaded the backs of pickups, trailers and city and county trash trucks with the debris and took it to an empty lot in the 700 block of Clark, behind a storage building owned by Rasure Lumber Do-It-Center.

There, the trash was then sorted into a metal, furniture, tree limb and construction debris piles before it was hauled out to the county transfer station.

Working together, crews had trucks and trailers empty in minutes and ready to pick up more junk.

A few people called ahead to let volunteers know they had items to pick up while others simply hauled the stuff to the curb.

Familiar faces pitched in including school Superintendent Marvin and County Attorney Bonnie Selby, Sheriff Kevin Butts and Deputy Roger Studer, City Manager Ron Pickman and Mayor Rick Billinger, theater owner Dave Branda, businessman Justin Bentzinger, Convention and Visitor's Bureau chairman Dale Neil, City Commissioner Dave Daniels, commission candidate Brent Wood, engineer Darin Neufeld and grant writer Penny Nemechek and her husband Jerry, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates

Clouse said some college students were on hand to help unload and even some high school and junior high kids got involved. Even with the large yield, Clouse said there's still more clean up to do.

"There's still plenty of trash out there," he said. "Everything we brought in is going

to make a big improvement."

Clouse said he hopes the success of this weekend's sweep will alert others and spur more involvement for the next one on Saturday, April 16.

Volunteers will be focusing on limbs and metal objects for that weekend. The final cleanup of the month is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, when volunteers will clean up highway entrances to town.

To volunteer to help with the next cleanup, call Clouse at 890-3641, Christie Rasure at 890-7149 or Arlo Hansen at 890-6692.

If you have tree limbs or metal that needs to be picked up on April 16, call a member of the Thetas Club. These ladies used to do some highway cleanup, but are volunteering to take the phone calls for this cleanup because they want to help.

The club members are Faye Paxton, 890-3850; Eileen Fortmeyer, 899-3562; Juanita Barnett, 899-3020; Charlene Cole, 899-2683; Fern Heckman, 899-3817; Phyllis Daniels, 890-3431; and Kathryn Wedermyer, 899-3781.



An estimated 15,000 pounds of tree limbs and other wood collected in the city-wide cleanup Saturday went up in flames (top left) across the street from Rasure's Lumber Do-It-Center that afternoon. Volunteer Amy Jo Schick (right) picked up an old garden hose while clean-up partner Sherri Knitig carried shingles back to a pickup already filled with trash. A diverse group of volunteers including high school student Mark Starr (below left, from left), city employee Eric Smith,

business owner Darrick Leiker, In the Can employee Brenda Starr and owner Chuck Redlin helped unload trash. Dennis Fyfe (below right) tossed bags of trash into the bucket of a front-end loader, which then deposited them into a large truck. In their first stop of the morning, volunteers Dale Neill (above left), Justin Bentzinger and Cassie Cooper cleaned up an alley off of Center Ave. by loading tree limbs into a trailer.

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