

Main Street program may be good for town

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

After attending a state-sponsored conference in Garden City, Economic Development Director Tiffani McMinn thinks Goodland should start a Main Street program to help revitalize the downtown area. McMinn said she, Kay Younger, project coordinator for the council, and Andi Nelson, director of the Goodland Chamber, went to a Main Street program in Garden City on Aug. 9-10. She said Sherman County became a member of the Kansas Downtown Development Association, required if the county wants to be part of the program. The trip was one of three things decided informally at a council meeting on July 18, when there were not enough members to take a vote. The group voted Aug. 15 to

approve the actions discussed that night. The Garden City meeting cost \$150 for the registration, McMinn said. She said after listening to the program she thinks Goodland can do a Main Street project without having to create a separate office. Kansas Main Street, offered through the Kansas Department of Commerce and affiliated with the National Main Street Center, provides technical and financial assistance to Main Street programs in cities throughout the state. She said the organization offers help through a "Partnership City" membership. The organization has helped community leaders learn how to deal with issues affecting their downtowns, McMinn said. The program helps cities that are experienced in downtown redevelopment and cities

thinking about starting one. McMinn said state director Jean Warta would send more information. The program requires \$35,000 in the budget to start, she said, and without the money, the city cannot qualify for the "Incentives Without Walls" program through the Department of Commerce. The Main Street program is working in cities the size of Goodland and larger, McMinn said, including Garden City, Marysville and Russell. The second item from the previous meeting was a payment to Pete Whalen to settle the lease of the old office at 1208 Main. Council Chairman Shelly Thompson had said that Whalen felt the council should pay the \$250 rent for July to complete the lease, though the office had moved by then. Thompson said that Larry Minner, owner

of the building at 10th and Main where the offices are now, has agreed to reduce the August rent to cover the payment. The rent at the old office was \$250 per month plus utilities (which was averaging \$513 total), and the rent with Minner is \$650 for five rooms and a reception area, including utilities. The Chamber of Commerce has one of the offices and pays \$100 for rent. Thompson said the council had already paid Minner, so the \$200 reduction would be shown on the rent for September. The office moved on June 30. Council Secretary Richard Breininger, of Sunflower Computers, said they needed to have the actions in the minutes. The third item discussed at the July meeting was whether the council would have an ad in the Sherman County Profile being

produced by Consolidated Printing of Salina. The members present agreed to buy an ad. The question was the price for the ad, and if the council should buy a full page. McMinn said the profile would be more than a tourist piece, and that the people who have been contacted were pleased the council was working on this project. Council member Harlan House, a rancher and farmer, asked what McMinn had in mind for the council's ad. She said her thinking was to highlight the industrial park and the positive image of the community, along with listing the economic development basics and the incentives available for new businesses. House made a motion to spend \$1,795 for a full-page ad. Breininger seconded and it passed unanimously.

Community Conversation on October 19

By Tom Betz

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It will be a busy week in October when a "Community Conversation" is held to get ideas about the future of the county, followed by the Sherman County Economic Development Council's annual meeting. The council decided at a meeting on Aug. 15 to hold the annual business meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Goodland Elks Lodge. However, plans for the Community Conversation that night forced a change. The annual meeting was moved to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 19, at the Goodland Elks Lodge, and the council will take nominations for the two seats to be voted on in November. The Community Conversation will begin with dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 17, at the Elks. Kim Bohme, council treasurer from Miller's Home Furnishings, said the bylaws call for the annual meeting to be in October. She said she and Don Newell of S&T Telephone are up for election, and Dwane Timm from First National Bank is up for reappointment. For the seats held by Bohme and Newell, nominations can come from the floor at the meeting. Both can stand for re-election. The four bank positions on the council are nominated by the bank. Development director Tiffani McMinn said the Community Conversation program will begin with dinner about 5:30 p.m. and last until 9 p.m. The session is part of the "Shine On Sherman County" community planning program being sponsored by the council, the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau with consultant Terry Woodbury of Kansas Communities. Everyone is invited to both the council's annual meeting and the Community Conversation, McMinn said. McMinn said business people and others are being interviewed for the Shine On program, and there will be more information about the event coming in the next month. She said meetings with Woodbury so far have gone well, and about half of the interviews for the program have been completed. In her report, McMinn said she is working with some people on the script for a digital disc to highlight

Goodland and Sherman County. She said they need more photos. She said the city had approved \$50,000 for the council's budget next year, and that the county was reviewing the \$50,000 request. The Industrial Park Committee met on Aug. 9, McMinn said, and looked at some options for promoting the property along K-27. One idea was to offer the land for free to someone who wants to build a business, but there would have to be an agreement about the development. She said they looked at listing the property on Kansas Free Land web site. The cost to list is \$250. House said the Goodland Development Corp., which owns the park, should pay for the listing. Timm said it should be listed on the economic development web site as well. On the micro loan program, McMinn said she is working with a new business on a micro loan, and some other new businesses through Pioneer Development of Hill City. She said there is about \$22,000 in the fund that can be loaned back out. McMinn said the new web site is progressing. Rick Breininger of Sunflower Computers, who is designing the web site said they need more pictures, but said people can look at what is there at gogoodlandks.com. He said there are more pages to be added. Andi Nelson, part-time director for the Goodland Chamber, said she is working hard to increase memberships, and was getting out to meet with people. "I am trying to get things refocused," Nelson said. "I am looking at something for the opening of pheasant season and working on a Christmas program in cooperation with economic development." She said the annual banquet committee is planning for the event, and may have Miss Kansas come as the speaker. She was not sure on the date. "I am starting over," Nelson said. "It is wonderful working with Tiffani and Donna (Price of the convention and visitors bureau)." "Our board wants to have a joint meeting with your board. I'm not sure what they want to discuss." The council decided to hold the next meeting at the conference room of the new office at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19.

All intersections open temporarily



The brick laying crew from Stonescapes of Wichita put down bricks at 11th Street and Main Tuesday afternoon. When 11th was finished Main could be driven down. Intersections completed are 9th, 11th and 13th. Monday the 10th Street intersection will be closed for brick laying. Following its completion, the crew will work on 12th. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court: **March 25, 2004** — Autumn N. McDonald \$65 reinstated for no seat belt. **Dec. 10, 2004** — Bruce Schmier

dismissed for driving while license cancelled, suspended or revoked and \$114 reinstated for speeding. **Feb. 10, 2005** — Phillip L. Board \$177 reinstated for speeding.

May 12 — Marshall H. Timberlake \$360 reinstated for first conviction of driving while suspended. **Nov. 24** — Branislav

Njegovanovic \$138 reinstated for speeding. **Dec. 21, 2005** — Allison E. Kitch \$139 reinstated for speeding.

corrections

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