

Matthew sworn in, Sacco elected mayor

A new commissioner was sworn in and a new mayor was elected during a special meeting of the Concordia city commission Monday night at City Hall.

Mark Matthew, who received the most votes in the general election back on November 7, was sworn in by city clerk Stacey Smith.

Keaton Snavelly, also elected to the commission, was not in attendance for the meeting.

Outgoing commissioner Lyle Pounds was recognized for his years of service, and presented with a plaque.

Outgoing commissioner Tim Parker had been recognized during a meeting in December.

Commissioner Sam Sacco was elected as mayor, replacing Chuck Lambertz.

Lambertz was selected mayor pro tem.

A new city attorney contract with Justin Ferrell was approved by the commission.

Ferrell had been appointed city attorney in August 17, replacing Larry Uri. He was with Brewer Law Firm at the time, and has now started Ferrell Law Firm.

The new contract, effective January 1, 2018 designates Justin Ferrell of Ferrell Law Firm as the city attorney.

A change order to the contract with APAC-Kansas, Inc. for the Sixth Street water line project was approved by the commission.

During the December 21 meeting, the commission had given approval to extending the contract with APAC-Kansas to place the water lines on Sixth Street from Washington Street through State Street and then from State Street to Cedar Street at a cost of \$620,371.55.

Ken Johnson of Campbell & Johnson Engineers PA informed the commissioners that in the contract there was a unit misidentified on the bid item as square feet, and it should be square yards.

"It doesn't change the price or anything, because the price is already set," Johnson said.

The change order was approved on a 4-0 vote.

Johnson said that he had talked to APAC-Kansas, and if Campbell & Johnson gets the plans to them this week, there is a chance they can start on the project by the end of January.

"They have ordered some materials based upon the proposals, and it is not looking good for them to be here before the end of January. So probably right after the first of February before they can start," Johnson said.

The contract time for the project will be 90 working days from when APAC-Kansas begins the project.

Also during the meeting, the commission approved appointing four new members to the Recreation Advisory Board, including Trevor Applebee, Jenny Acree, Amy Bridwell and Shirley LeDuc.

The commission also approved appointing Kristin M. Bolte to the Housing Authority.

A resolution defining the corporate limits of the city was approved by the commission.

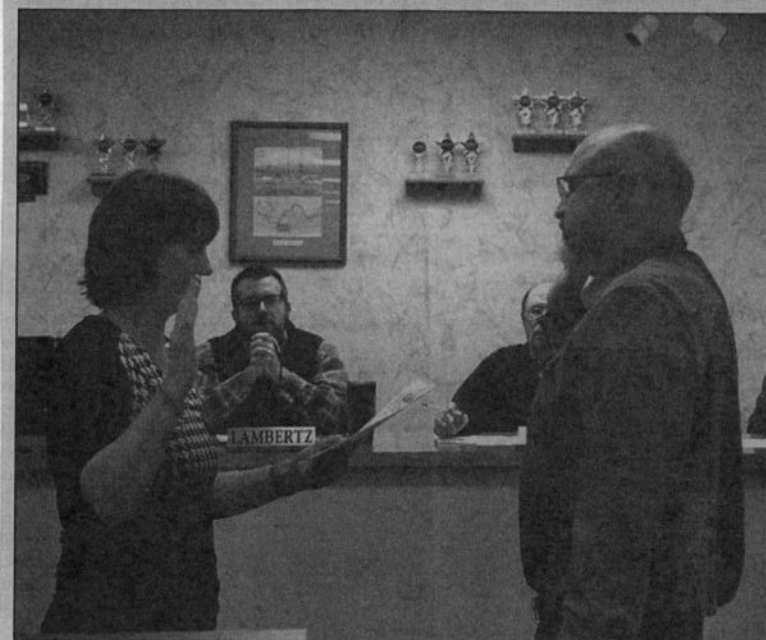
If the city annexes or loses property, a resolution must be approved to define those corporate limits, noting the changes.

Amy Lange, who took over as city manager beginning on January 1, presented her first manager's report to the commission.

"So far the week has gone pretty well. We are one week in. The city staff has been incredible to work with, and have been very patient with all of my questions," Lange said.

Following the meeting, the commission conducted a study session on a proposed sidewalk reconstruction policy.

(see City on page 6)



Oath of office

Concordia City Clerk Stacey Smith, left, delivers the oath of office to new city commissioner Mark Matthew during a meeting Monday at City Hall. (Blade photo by Jim Lowell)

City

(continued from page 1)

Ron Copple, Public Works director, informed the commissioners that sidewalks had been added to the curb and gutter policy.

The policy allows residents to apply for damaged public sidewalks to be replaced by the city.

Residents would cover the cost of the materials, and city

employees do the labor and the removal, like the curb and gutter program.

Those residents entering into the program would pay for one-half of the cost up front and the other half upon completion of the project.

Copple said that if the proposal passes at the next meeting, he would advertise the program, give it a month

or two to get the projects in. He would then get estimates, and then send out agreements to the residents, take the agreements to the commission for approval and probably do the work in the fall.

The policy will be presented to the commission for a vote during the January 17 meeting.



Years of service

In recognition for his years of service, Concordia City Clerk Stacey Smith, left, presents outgoing city commissioner Lyle Pounds with a plaque and a key to the city during the commission meeting Monday night. (Blade photo by Jim Lowell)

Meeting postponed Jan. 8

the Concordia Housing Authority board meeting scheduled for Tuesday has been rescheduled for January 16 at 5 p.m. in the city commission room at City Hall.

Land Bank to meet Jan. 11

The Concordia Land Bank will conduct its annual meeting following the city commission meeting on January 17.

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire, January 19, 2018)

Inventory of the Concordia Land Bank

The Concordia Land Bank, an entity of the City of Concordia, pursuant to K.S.A. 12-5903 (f), publishes the following inventory of all property held by the Concordia Land Bank as of December 31, 2017.
Kansas Military Board tract, 2.65 acres bordering Airport Drive
104 Lincoln; Lots 1, 2 & 3, Block 199
330 W 6th St.; Lots 15 & 16, Block 133
324 W 2nd St.; Lot 7, Block 77

Amy Lange
City Manager
For the Board of Trustees
of the Concordia Land Bank

Legals

(Published in the Blade-Empire on
Wednesday, January 3, 2018)

NOTICE OF HEARING BY THE CONCORDIA PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Concordia Planning Commission to consider the vacating of a platted easement. A petition has been filed in the office of the City Clerk praying for vacation of the Railroad spur right-of-way in Nor' East Industrial Park.

The public hearing will be held in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 701 Washington, Concordia, Kansas on **January 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

All persons desiring to be heard on the proposed vacations shall have the opportunity to be heard.

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to Director of Community Development, 785-243-2672 (TDD 785-243-2336) by 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 19, 2018.

Bruno Rehbein
Planning Commission Secretary

1w

Legals

(Published in the Blade-Empire on
Friday, January 19, 2018)

On October 4, 2017, the City of Concordia adopted Ordinance No. 2017-3125, adding new Section 21-138 to the Concordia Code for the purpose of stating what is unlawful to place on public streets and sidewalks. A reproduction of this ordinance will be available for not less than one week following the publication of this summary of the ordinance at the website address of the City of Concordia, <http://www.concordiaaks.org/>. This summary is certified by the city attorney to be legally accurate and sufficient.

1fr

(Published in the Blade-Empire on
Friday, January 19, 2018)

On January 17, 2018, the City of Concordia adopted Ordinance No. 2018-3130, amending Concordia Code Section 18-205 to define the location of public sidewalks. The complete text of this ordinance may be obtained and viewed free of charge at the office of the city clerk. A reproduction of this ordinance will be available for not less than one week following the publication of this ordinance at the website address of the City of Concordia, <http://www.concordiaaks.org/>. This summary is certified by the city attorney to be legally accurate and sufficient.

1fr

CONCORDIA SUMMER EMPLOYMENT TAKING APPLICATIONS NOW!

Jan. 12

The City of Concordia is now accepting applications for summer employment for the Public Works Department, Swimming Pool and Summer Playground.

PLAYGROUND DIRECTOR: ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SUMMER PLAYGROUND DIRECTOR. EXPERIENCE IN SUPERVISING CHILDREN AGES 5 TO 12; ARTS & CRAFTS AND ORGANIZATIONS SKILLS PREFERRED.

Applications also will be accepted for the following positions:

Public Works (Streets, Parks, Cemetery, Sports Complex)	18 and older
Tennis Coach	16 and older
Tennis Assistant	14 and older
Head Lifeguards	16 and older
Lifeguards	15 and older
Playground Leaders	14 and older
Umpires	15 and older

Lifeguards require CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard Certification with WSI certification preferred. Must turn appropriate age no later than the start of the season.

Deadline: City of Concordia temporary/seasonal application form must be completed and received at City Hall no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 6, 2018. **We will not accept late applications.**

Interviews will be held during spring break. Exceptions must be noted when applying.

Apply at: City Hall, 701 Washington, visit the website at www.concordiaaks.org, or email cityclerk@concordiaaks.org for application. EOE.

Snavely sworn in as city commissioner

Keaton Snavely was sworn in as the newest member of the Concordia city commission during its regular meeting on Wednesday.

Snavely was elected to the commission, along with Mark Matthew, in the general election last November.

Matthew was sworn in during a special meeting on January, but Snavely was unable to attend.

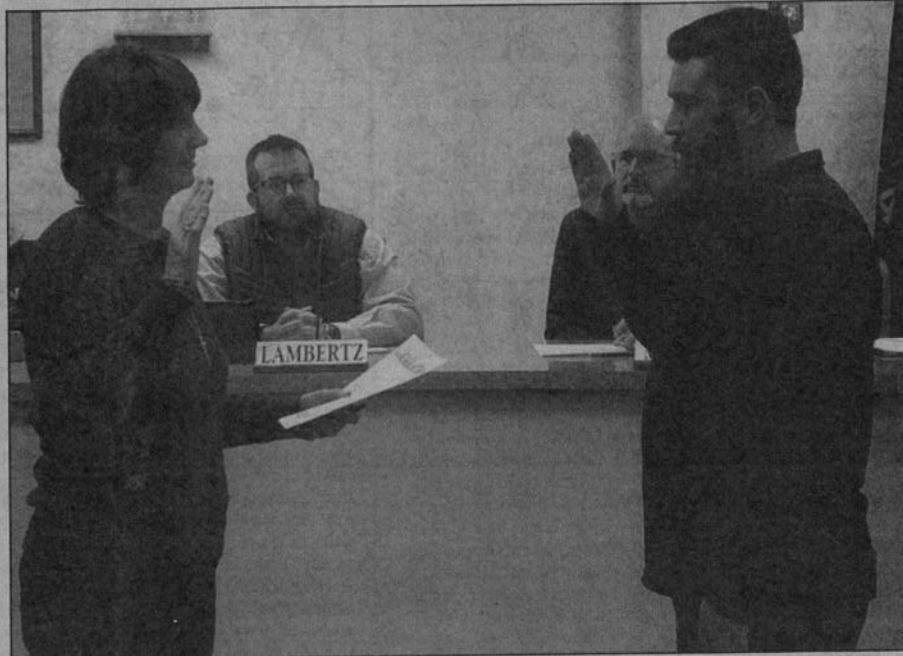
During the meeting, the commission approved a resolution which adds sidewalks to the previous curb and guttering reconstruction policy, after adopting an ordinance which defines the location of public sidewalks as those located in the public rights-of-way and shall run parallel to public streets, and are intended for public thoroughfare.

The comprehensive curb, guttering and sidewalk policy provides an avenue for residents to repair defective public sidewalks on their property with the aid of the city.

Residents would apply for the program, and if the project is accepted would pay the cost of the materials for the repairs.

The city will provide the labor and equipment, and will cover the cost of removal of the old sidewalk.

Property owners participating in the program will pay



Swearing in

Keaton Snavely, right, is sworn in as a Concordia city commissioner by city clerk Stacey Smith during a meeting Wednesday night at City Hall. (Blade photo by Russell Gagnon)

half of the cost of the estimated materials prior to the repairs. The remainder of the cost would be due within 30 days of the completion of the project.

"If you take a 44-foot lot you

are looking at \$400 to \$500 dollars for getting that sidewalk replaced with us doing it," Ron Copple, director of public works, said.

In other action taken by the commission, the purchase of a

new boiler for the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool from Hood Htg, Air, Plumbing, Electric, Inc., Concordia, at a total cost of \$62,050, which includes a five-year warranty.

(see Snavely on page 8)

Snavely

(continued from page 1)

The city received two bids for the boiler from Hood and from Callabresi Heating & Cooling, Inc.

Copple said that the old boiler had lasted 15 years, and recommended accepting the bid from Hood.

In action also involving the swimming pool, the commission approved a quote from Hood of \$8,594 for the installation of equipment that will be needed for a slide that would be the first of the new water features.

The commission put off action on contract from Mason Corporation, Brentwood, Tenn., for the purchase and installation of the slide at a cost of \$54,000.

A \$2 monthly per resident fee had been approved by the commission last year to fund the addition of the water features at the pool.

City finance director Amber Farha provided information about the slide to the commission.

The slide would be for those five-years-old to adult, and Mason Corporation would plan to install it in April.

Payment of the slide would be made in three installments of \$18,000. The first payment would be made after signing the contract, the second when Mason Corporation employees arrive and the third after completion of the installation.

Matthew questioned

project.

Matthew said that he had questions for Campbell & Johnson.

There was not a representative from Campbell & Johnson at the meeting.

"I look at it, \$24,000 for engineering and inspection for a two week job, divide that out, how many dollars a day? To me it just seems like a lot of money," Matthew said.

Matthew said he would like to know what all is involved in the construction design and engineering/inspection costs.

Mayor Sam Sacco asked if it had to be Campbell & Johnson doing the engineering and inspection and if it had been put out for bid, and Copple told him that it hadn't.

"That is the problem I have had," Sacco said.

Copple said that he could call Brad Waller, Alfred Benesch & Company, Manhattan, and the city would probably not save any money on the project.

"I would rather do it local. I am not saying they are taking advantage of us," Matthew said.

City manager Amy Lange said that design fees will typically run from 8-15 percent of the project, depending on what all is included, and that if you have a project where it includes all of the design work, bid letting and inspection, it will probably get closer to that 15 percent mark.

some of the language in the contract with Mason Corporation.

"I have several questions. Just for clarification and just some concerns," Matthew said. "This whole contract is theirs. It is all their side, nothing for us. So we really have to watch what we are doing."

Following discussion of the issues Matthew brought up with the contract, the commission decided to delay action on the contract until clarification could be provided by city attorney Justin Ferrell, who was not able to be in attendance at the meeting.

It was announced to the commission that the city had been able to purchase a children's slide for the baby pool off of Purple Wave at cost of \$577.50.

Farha said that the city was expecting to spend about \$1,000 to refurbish the slide.

A slide for the baby pool was to be included in phase two of the pool enhancement program at an estimated cost of \$17,000.

"Good job of doing that, you just saved us a lot of money," Matthew said.

Copple presented the commission with a construction estimate from Campbell & Johnson Engineers, P.A. For a two-inch mill and overlay project on State Street from 18th Street to the south side of Pleasant Hill Cemetery and on Campus Drive from the south side of the cemetery to Republican Street.

Estimated cost of the project is \$305,770.

Copple asked for approval of \$31,500 for Campbell & Johnson for construction design (\$7,500) and construction engineering/inspection (\$24,000) so bids could be sent out for the

"If you look at these numbers, it is probably not out of line," Lange said.

The commission approved the \$31,500 to Campbell & Johnson for the construction design and construction engineering/inspection.

During commission comments, Sacco proposed having commissioners reach out to the public more by conducting informal gatherings in the community.

"If the city is to thrive, all of its citizens must feel valued or appreciated, and a lot of cities, not only in Kansas, but in other areas, are starting to find out that they need to start reaching out to people," Sacco said.

Sacco said he would like to conduct informal gatherings with residents.

"We will be there. We are not there to say anything. We are there to listen," Sacco said. "Really that is the only way you can find out what is on the minds of the people, is by going to them."

During the first of two study sessions following the meeting, Chris Atkins, recreation director, presented information about the proposed installation of a sand volleyball facility at the Concordia Sports Complex.

The facility would be placed where the playground currently is.

Some of the playground equipment would be moved to a different location.

Atkins said that some of the equipment is beyond repair.

There was also a study session on a proposed ordinance concerning the campground at the Airport Park.

The ordinance will be presented at the next commission meeting for a vote.



Cleaning up the street

City of Concordia employees clear snow from the streets downtown on Friday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Jan. 12

Commission to meet Jan. 83

The Concordia city commission has a special meeting scheduled for 12:15 p.m. Thursday to vote on the contract with Mason Corporation for the installation of the slide at the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool.



Smoothing it

City of Concordia employees smooth concrete that was poured after a water line was repaired in the 100 block of West Fifth Street. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Jan 19

City approves contract for pool slide

A contract with Mason Corporation for the purchase and installment of a large slide at the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool was approved by the Concordia city commission during a special meeting on Thursday.

The contract was presented to the commission during its regular meeting on December 17, but a vote was delayed after commission Mark Matthew voiced concerns with some of the language.

The slide is included in the first phase of planned pool enhancements that will be funded by a \$2 fee included in the city utility bills that was approved by the commission in December.

Cost of the slide is \$54,000, and will be made in \$18,000 installments.

Matthew had raised concerns about language in the contract that dealt with liens.

City manager Amy Lange, told the board that she had visited with a representative of Mason Corporation, and changes to the contract had been agreed to.

"I believe we have made satisfactory changes to be able to

allow you to approve that contract moving forward," Lange said.

Lange said that one item related to liens had been struck, along with the first sentence in another section of the contract stating the buyer will sign a lien as part of the execution of this document.

Added to the contract was an item related to liquidated damages on the seller if the project was not completed in time.

"So in the unforeseen event that, for some reason, installation would not be complete by May 25, the seller would pay liquidated damages in the amount of \$200 a day. And the reason for that is the pool is scheduled to open May 26, and if the pool slide is not installed that could impact our attendance," Lange said.

Installment of the slide is expected to begin on April 3, and will take 7-10 days to complete.

Lange said that Ron Copple, director of public services, has started working on determining the exact location of the slide so he can provide that information to Hood

Heating Air Plumbing & Electric.

A contract with Hood for plumbing and electrical work for the installation of the slide was approved at the previous regular meeting.

Copple will also provide a basic drafting of locations for plumbing and electric to be sent to Mason Corporation to be signed off on.

Mayor Sam Sacco asked Lange how sure she was that the city would be 100 percent ready for the installation of the slide.

"I have 100 percent faith in Ron and his work with Hoods to make sure we are ready to go," Lange said.

Matthew said that going forward the city needs to make sure it does a risk analysis on contracts to know what the possible exposure is for things that could come up that are unexpected.

"That may help us going forward in not having some of the surprises that could come up," Matthew said.

City attorney Justin Ferrell, who was not in attendance at the January 17 meeting because of illness, said that

had he been there he could have explained why the original contract with Mason Corporation was okay.

Ferrell said he talked with Lange about the contract, and he explained that the contract was okay.

"We thought let's talk to Mason and see if we can get it a little better, and we were able to," Ferrell said.

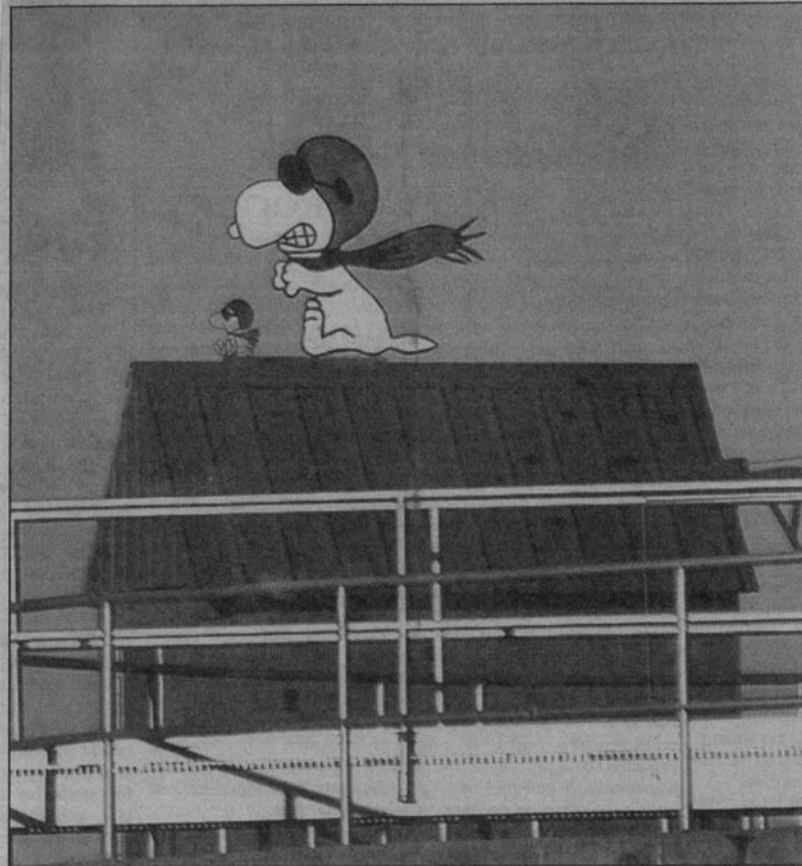
Sacco asked Ferrell why he thought the lien part of the contract was okay.

Ferrell said that it is an installment contract, and the seller is actually assuming more risk than the city is.

"It is honestly very common stuff. I understand looking at the lien language made everybody nervous, gave you guys pause, but it is generally in an installment contract how those things go," Ferrell said.

Ferrell said that by allowing the lien language to be removed from the contract, Mason Corporation is backing their work and their goods.

"They are giving up some protections in that contract by waving that lien information. It is better for us now," Ferrell said.



Flying ace

Snoopy, the flying ace, with his sidekick Woodstock, are perched atop a building at the Concordia water treatment plant. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Jan 24



Now on the job

Amy Lange is now on the job as Concordia city manager after taking over on January 1. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Jan. 26

By Russell Gagnon
Blade Staff Writer

"The radio dial in my car has been stuck on the channel for 10 years," she

(see Lange on page 4)

do, so remember to keep that

**CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS
TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD FROM October 1, 2017 THROUGH December 31, 2017**

FUNDS	3rd Quarter Ending Cash Balances	Receipts	Expenditures	4th Quarter Ending Cash Balances
100 General Fund	\$ 990,850.04	\$ 795,137.53	\$ 741,358.93	\$ 1,044,628.64
203 Industrial Development	4,826.58	1,031.44	4,000.00	1,858.02
205 Special Highway	104,205.69	37,560.01	50,703.36	91,062.34
206 D.A.R.E. Grant	2,565.57	-	689.69	1,875.88
208 Cyber Crimes	442.10	-	-	442.10
214 Animal Shelter	26,987.92	3,383.50	2,401.13	27,970.29
217 Special Park and Recreation	31,708.45	3,420.81	-	35,129.26
221 Computer Equipment/Replacement	10,375.38	-	-	10,375.38
222 Vehicle Equipment Reserve Acct.	149,618.82	-	1,679.87	147,938.95
230 Judges Training Fund	2,937.50	2,318.00	2,998.00	2,257.50
244 911 PSAP	96,407.64	13,461.00	45,223.08	64,645.56
250 Fire Dept. Grants & Donations	1,495.26	91.00	675.00	911.26
255 Police Dept Grants & Donations	57.28	250.00	-	307.28
260 Animal Trust Fund	30,282.97	30.26	-	30,313.23
270 Cemetery Endowment	40,725.57	-	-	40,725.57
290 Recreation Grants & Donations	4,333.80	12,050.00	15,825.00	558.80
301 Bond and Interest	273,108.96	7,144.00	-	280,252.96
303 Tax Increment Bond Fund	32,408.28	1,959.91	34,368.19	-
444 TIF Projects	38,552.34	34,368.19	-	72,920.53
450 Capital Improvement Projects	481,993.40	-	236,121.63	245,871.77
451 Wastewater Treatment Facility	3,004,160.19	68,521.11	777,423.75	2,295,257.55
550 Central Garage Fund	-	38,049.40	24,449.84	13,599.56
601 Water/Sewer General	744,272.80	404,905.45	324,018.86	825,159.39
650 Gas Fund	8,576.61	2,385.75	3,002.72	7,959.64
725 COC Cafeteria Plan	17,272.01	6,196.14	6,581.40	16,886.75
735 Library Fund	8,498.79	3,162.74	11,661.53	-
736 Library Employee Benefit	2,221.79	824.55	3,046.34	-
750 Continuing Econ. Development Grant	544,012.98	5,739.88	-	549,752.86
780 Cloud County Landfill	3,625.49	73,604.63	54,087.68	23,142.44
802 Water Protection Fund	1,474.49	1,493.97	1,962.66	1,005.80
TOTALS	\$ 6,657,998.70	\$ 1,517,089.27	\$ 2,342,278.66	\$ 5,832,809.31

LIABILITIES:

General Obligation Bonds	5,405,600.00
TIF General Obligation Bonds	1,930,000.00
Capital Leases	1,113.05
TOTAL	\$ 7,336,713.05

CASH AVAILABLE:

Cash on Hand	1,901.33
Checking Accounts	976,148.13
Money Markets & Savings Accounts	2,173,466.39
Certificates of Deposit	2,681,295.46
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	\$ 5,832,809.31

I, Amber Farha, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.

Amber Farha
Amber Farha, City Treasurer

PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in the Blade-Empire Monday, January 29, 2018)

6th STREET WATERLINE REPLACEMENT

The City of Concordia has extended the 6th Street Water Line Replacement Project to include Washington to Cedar Streets. APAC-KANSAS, INC., Shears Division, the contractor for Phase 1 will also be completing the work for Phases 2 and 3. They are scheduled to begin work in February of 2018. The project will involve the replacement of waterline on the north side of 6th Street between Washington and Cedar Streets.

A Public Meeting is scheduled for Monday February 6, 2018 at 7:00 pm in the Commission Room at the Concordia City Hall, 7th and Washington. Representatives from the City, Contractor and City Engineer will be available to answer questions.

During construction the traffic will be changed to one-way traffic running east only between State Street and Washington Street (Phase 2). Sidewalk on the north side will remain open as much as possible. Persons walking should expect some inconvenience. Access to all businesses will remain open at all times. Because there are fewer service connections in Phase 3 (Cedar to State Streets) construction will be completed using the Horizontal Direct Boring method; hopefully, allowing for fewer open trenches and better access to the local businesses.

No parking will be allowed on the north side of 6th Street and parking on the south side may be limited for Phase 2 (State to Washington Streets).

The City Engineering Inspector will be on site during work hours. If you have any problems, please contact Campbell & Johnson Engineers at (785) 243-1755. If the inspector cannot be reached, please call the City Utilities Department at (785) 243-2670.

The waterline replacement will cause temporary inconvenience because of the nature of the work. We will appreciate your patience during this period. If you have any questions, please call Campbell and Johnson Engineers at (785) 243-1755.

Jan. 30
**CURB & GUTTER AND
SIDEWALK NOTICE**

The City of Concordia is accepting applications for curb & gutter and sidewalk replacement. The program enables persons to replace curb & gutter and public sidewalks along their property with the City providing labor, equipment and the total cost of removal of existing material. The landowner shall pay the cost of materials for the curb & gutter and sidewalk; per-foot charge for saw cuts, and any administrative costs. Applicable engineering plans and specifications shall be provided by the City and shall be paid for one-half by the City and one-half by the landowner. One-half of the estimated landowner costs shall be paid up front, with the remainder collected by the City after completion of the project. Anyone interested in this type of construction should contact the City Clerk's office, 701 Washington, Concordia; or call 785-243-2670. Deadline: March 16, 2018.

City commissioners schedule Neighborhood Listening Tour

Members of the Concordia city commission and city manager Amy Lange have scheduled the 2018 Neighborhood Listening Tour.

Mayor Sam Sacco, Lange and a city commissioner will be in attendance at each event on the tour for an informal conversation with community members about the quality of life in Concordia now, and what can be done to prepare the next generation.

The schedule for the listening tour is as follows:

February 26 - 7 p.m., voting Ward 3, Val-

ley Rental Center - north room. *Feb 2*
March 5 - 7 p.m., voting Ward 4, Valley Rental Center - north room.

March 12 - 7 p.m., voting Ward 1-2, Nazareth Motherhouse - auditorium.

March 19 - Noon, general population, Concordia Senior Center (RSVP required for lunch \$5.25 per person).

March 19 - 7 p.m., voting Ward 1, First Christian Church Fellowship Hall.

March 26 - 7 p.m., voting Ward 2-2, Concordia Golf and Wellness.

Insure with Alliance Insurance Group



More snow, more cleanup

City of Concordia employees were once again cleaning snow off the streets after about 2.5 inches fell on Sunday. More snow is expected today. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

DOWNTOWN EVENTS STAFF & GROUNDSKEEPER

Feb 9, 13
The City of Concordia

Is seeking to fill the part time position of Downtown Events Staff & Groundskeeper, an approximately 20 hour per week position.

Some duties:
Groundskeeping and maintenance of downtown Concordia and Broadway Plaza. Set-up and clean-up of special events. Requires working various days of the week (including many weekends and holidays), and various hours of the day.

Deadline: City of Concordia will accept applications until the position is filled.

Apply at the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington. Application and complete job description is available online at www.concordiakans.org. Accommodations are available upon request for persons needing assistance EOE.

CURB & GUTTER AND SIDEWALK NOTICE Feb 6

The City of Concordia is accepting applications for curb & gutter and sidewalk replacement. The program enables persons to replace curb & gutter and public sidewalks along their property with the City providing labor, equipment and the total cost of removal of existing material. The landowner shall pay the cost of materials for the curb & gutter and sidewalk; per-foot charge for saw cuts, and any administrative costs. Applicable engineering plans and specifications shall be provided by the City and shall be paid for one-half by the City and one-half by the landowner. One-half of the estimated landowner costs shall be paid up front, with the remainder collected by the City after completion of the project. Anyone interested in this type of construction should contact the City Clerk's office, 701 Washington, Concordia; or call 785-243-2670. Deadline: March 16, 2018.

(Published in the Concordia Blade Empire February 6, 2018)

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Feb. 6

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Concordia Planning Commission to consider amending the Zoning Regulations. The amendments proposed are as follows:

- Article 2: definitions of care facilities updated to meet current Kansas State Law.
- Article 6: changes in uses allowed in residential table 6-1 to reflect definition changes.
- Article 9: changes in uses allowed in commercial table 9-1 to reflect definition changes.
- Article 19 & 26: floodplain administrative variances for detached wet-floodproofed accessory structures up to 400 square feet.
- Article 11: Repealing the entire Highway 81 Mixed Use Overlay District.

The public hearing will be held in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 701 Washington, Concordia, Kansas on the 27th day of February, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to Director of Community Development, 785-243-2670 (TDD 785-243-2336) by 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 23, 2018.

The public is invited to attend and participate in the public hearing and may pick up a copy of the proposed amendments at City Hall.

Bruno Rehbein
Secretary

Commission discusses noise ordinance

Implementation of a noise ordinance was discussed by the Concordia city commission during a study session following its regular meeting on Wednesday.

City attorney Justin Ferrell informed that the city does not currently have an ordinance in place that establishes penalties for loud noise complaints.

"We do not have a noise ordinance in the city of Concordia, and what ends up happening is, if there is any kind of disturbance, and when I say disturbance, I am talking about a party, and officers have to go out there and they write a ticket, they have to write a ticket for disorderly conduct. A disorderly conduct ticket is a misdemeanor, and it is not necessarily something a law enforcement (officer) wanted to write for house parties," Ferrell said.

Ferrell said he did some research on a lot of college towns, and the one drafted by the city is modeled after the one Manhattan has.

Ferrell said that city needs to fill the void, and the proposed ordinance allows the officers some discretion. It allows officers to write a ticket that is an infraction.

The penalty for the first offense in a 12-month span is a

\$45 fine and a mandatory appearance in municipal court.

A second conviction in the 12-month span would be \$100 fine plus court costs and the third conviction would be a \$250 fine plus court costs.

There are some exceptions included in the ordinance, such as events that have received a permit issued by the city.

The ordinance will be presented to the commission for a vote at a later meeting.

The commission also had a study session on a proposed towing ordinance.

Concordia Police Chief Bruce Johnson told the board that currently the reimbursement costs to the city if a vehicle has to be towed is \$150.

The new ordinance would allow the city to be reimbursed for the actual amount charged for the towing and adds an eight percent administrative fee.

Action will be taken on the towing ordinance at the city commission meeting.

During the regular meeting, the commission approved the terms of the federal fund exchange agreement following a lengthy discussion.

The agreement deals with funds from the federal government that the city receives for street projects.

Public Works director Ron

Copple informed the commission that the exchange rate has changed from 90 percent to the city and 10 percent for the state to 75 percent and 25 percent.

Funds received through the exchange can be used for anything involved in a street project including rock and asphalt.

Copple said that Concordia has received between \$50,000 and \$67,000 per year, and the funds must be used by September 15.

Mayor Sam Sacco raised some concerns about the exchange program.

City manager Amy Lange suggested a study session to examine the projects that Copple has planned.

By voting to approve the exchange agreement, the city is not required to use the exchange.

Once it is determined how much money the city will receive, a request to exchange federal funds will have to be approved and submitted.

Also during the meeting, the commission approved vacating a platted railroad right-of-way in the Concordia Industrial Park.

Vacating the right-of-way was requested by CloudCorp and recommended by the Planning Commission.

A petition submitted by

CloudCorp asked to vacate the right-of-way to better serve adjacent lots with more flexible usage options.

An ordinance amending the provision for long term parking of trailers and recreation vehicles in Airport Park was approved by the commission.

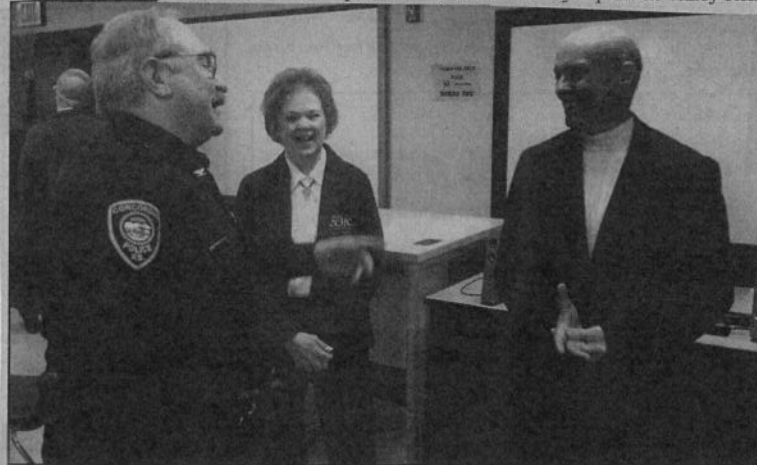
During staff comments, Copple reported to the commission that Kansas Gas Service had informed him that it would be doing gas line renewals for about 800 customers in the city.

Kansas Gas Service will be replacing lines from the main to the house, and expects to do 40-50 per week.

Director of Utilities Jeremy Arnold informed the commission that work on the water line replacement along Sixth Street from Washington Street to Cedar Street would begin the first week of March.

During his mayor's comments, Sacco thanked the commissioners for agreeing to participate in the upcoming listening tour and Lange and her staff for putting the tour together.

Sacco, Lange and one other commissioner will be available at each of the scheduled listening tour events. The first one is scheduled for February 26 at 7 p.m. at Valley Rental Center.



Meet and greet

New Cloud County Community College president Dr. Mark Smith, right, visits with Concordia Police Chief Bruce Johnson, left, and Pam Campbell during the Traveling Chamber Coffee Tuesday morning at the college. (Blade photo by Russell Gagnon)

Firefighters to take part in Fight for Air Climb

On February 25th, the 'CFD Brothers' team from the Concordia Fire Department will again take part in the American Lung Association's (ALA) Fight For Air Climb benefit held in Kansas City, Missouri.

The members of this years CFD Brothers team are Levi Whitley, Derek Champlin, Jace Champlin, Johnnie Mastin, John Christensen, and Logan Higbee.

Participants, loaded down with full firefighting gear and breathing apparatus, will climb 42 floors - 902 steps - in a timed event. Each team's times will be added together to determine the fastest overall time.

The ALA's mission is to save

lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease. The organization helps those in our community facing lung diseases such as asthma, COPD, and lung cancer.

Pledges can be mailed to the:

Fight For Air Climb
c/o American Lung Association
8400 West 110th Street,
Suite 130
Overland Park, KS 66210

You can also make a donation online by logging on to the ALA's website for the event: FightForAirClimb.org. Once you have logged in, click on the Team Participation icon and select 'CFD Brothers' to make your donation in their name.

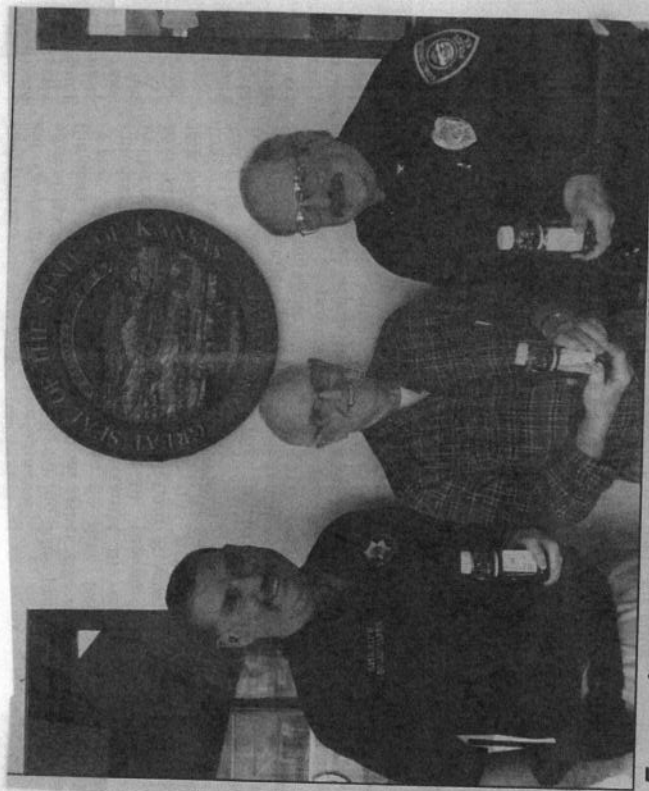
Insure with Alliance Insurance Group



Fighters helping out

Feb 15

CFD Brothers team participating in the 2017 Fight For Air Climb. Standing, from left, are: Levi Whitley, Jace Champlin and Johnnie Mastin. Kneeling is Derek Champlin.



Expressing his appreciation

Concordian Gary Reynolds, middle, expresses his appreciation for the work done by law enforcement officers by presenting Cloud County Sheriff Brian Marks, left, and Concordia Police Chief Bruce Johnson with bottles of his honey. Reynolds provided honey to all of the police officers and sheriff's deputies. (Blade photo by Russell Gagnon)

Feb 15

Reynolds presents gift of honey to law enforcement officials

Gary Reynolds has been a bee man for 56 years. He raises bees, tends to the hives, and harvests the honey that he sells under his own label Rainbow Honey.

Reynolds is also a supporter of law enforcement officers, and has a great deal of respect for the job they do, and the dangers they face every day they go to work.

A recent, nationwide spate of police officers being killed in the line of duty compelled Reynolds to action.

"I think a lot of people just don't realize or appreciate what the officers do," he said. "They put their lives on the line even for things like routine traffic stops."

Reynolds wanted to show his appreciation to the local law enforcement agencies in Concordia and Cloud County. He gifted all the officers of the Concordia Police Department and all the deputies of the Cloud County Sheriff's office with bottles

of his honey on Valentine's Day.

"It's just my small little way of showing my appreciation for the work they do," he said.

Cloud County Sheriff Brian Marks and Concordia Police Chief Bruce Johnson consider the gifts, and the meaning behind them, very special.

"We really appreciate it when someone comes forward like this," Sheriff Marks said. "We're doing a dangerous job, and it means a lot to us when someone recognizes the risks we take."

Chief Johnson agreed. "We very much appreciate what Mr. Reynolds has done. First responders usually don't get a lot of accolades for what we do, and we usually get a lot of criticism. We are grateful for this act of appreciation."

A bottle of honey on Valentine's Day. A small gift that made a big impression.

City commission passes noise ordinance

A noise ordinance and an amending ordinance dealing with fees charged for towing and impounding vehicles were approved by the Concordia city commission during its regular meeting on Wednesday.

Discussed during a study session at the previous commission meeting, the noise ordinance establishes fines for loud noise offense between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Loud noise is that described as plainly audible from across the real property boundary line of its source.

City Attorney Justin Ferrell informed the commission during the study sessions that if police officers responding to a loud noise complaint had to write a ticket, it would be a ticket for disorderly conduct, which is a misdemeanor.

The new ordinance establishes a fine of \$45 for a first conviction, within the preceding 12-month period, with a mandatory appearance before municipal court.

A second conviction within a 12-month period would be punishable by a \$100 fine plus court costs and a mandatory appearance before municipal court. A third and subsequent conviction would be punishable



Acknowledging the work she does

Concordia Mayor Sam Sacco, left, presents Susie Haver with a proclamation and a key to the city in recognition of the work she does promoting Concordia and Cloud County as the Cloud County Convention & Tourism director. (Blade photo by Russell Gagnon)

by a \$250 fine plus court costs and a mandatory appearance before municipal court.

There are exceptions granted, such as events that have received a permit issued by the city.

The amended towing and recovery of impounded vehicles ordinance establishes new rates of reimbursement to the city by the vehicle owner.

During a study session at the previous meeting, Concordia

Police Chief Bruce Johnson said the reimbursement to the city for the towing of a vehicle was \$150.

The amended ordinance sets the towing fees at the actual amount charged by the towing company and an eight percent administrative fee.

Those persons wanting to recover an impounded vehicle will pay the actual storage amount charged, or \$20 per day if stored on city property, and an eight percent administrative fee.

Also during the meeting, Cloud County Convention & Tourism director Susie Haver presented a 2017 review to the commission.

City manager Amy Lange presented Haver with a proclamation for her commitment to promote Concordia and Cloud County.

The proclamation stated, "Be it resolved by the governing body of Concordia, Kansas, the mayor and commissioners of the city of the Concordia hereby congratulate Susie Haver for her lifelong commitment to our community and her unwavering devotion to promote and market the resources of Concordia as well as all of Cloud County."

(see Noise on page 8)

Noise

(continued from page 1)

Haver informed the commission that the Tourism staff, which includes herself, part-time employee Marian Condray and director communications Jori Gillette, is funded by a five percent transient tax that is collected countywide.

The Tourism office gift shop did \$13,891 in total sales in 2017, compared to \$10,243.15 in 2016.

Cloud County Tourism hosted 30 group tours in 2017, totaling 569 visitors and 122 small tour arrangements, including 381 visitors from 17 different states, with 104 overnight stays.

Cloud County Tourism is one of 22 travel information centers for the state of Kansas.

There were 4,784 people who visited the office, 3,687 from Kansas, 1,068 from the United States and 29 from other countries.

"It is a wonderful job. We are very happy to promote Cloud County," Haver said. "We are very fortunate that we have a lot of attractions. We work really well, I think, with the attractions to help promote and to make sure when people come to Concordia, and Cloud County, and North Central Kansas and Kansas, that they leave really glad they stopped. And I think we can guarantee that is the case."

Doring guest comments, Staci Wiese, an area supervisor for Leisler Oil Company, which operates Short Stop Convenience Stores in Concordia, proposed beer sales on Sunday to the commission.

"A lot of our customers are asking for that," Wiese said.

Lange then informed the commission that there would be a study session on the Sunday sales topic during the March 7 meeting.

"We wanted to make sure we had enough time to research all of the current legislation, proposed legislation and have the time to walk through how it might impact Concordia if we choose to move forward, then we would anticipate at the following meeting asking you to take action one way or another on the request," Lange said.

During commission comments, Mark Matthew said he had received a lot of good feedback on the upcoming neighborhood listening tour the commissioners and Lange will be participating in.

The first event of the tour is scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday night at Valley Rental Center.

Commissioner Chuck Lambertz echoed Matthew's comments on the listening tour.

"I think that it is a good opportunity for folks to voice, hopefully, some positive praise, but maybe their concerns. I would also hope, and extend the invitation, that it doesn't necessarily require an event such as this. I think that we have had a very approachable group of commissioners for a period of time. I certainly look forward and welcome this opportunity, but hopefully, people feel comfortable approaching us as individuals, as a group, to be able to express and that if they don't feel comfortable in this avenue to please feel comfortable in whatever avenue they are, to express their thoughts, their views. We want to do the best job we can for everyone we are working with," Lambertz said.

Lange, during her manager's report, informed the commission that the recordings of the commission meetings will be available on the YouTube Channel.



Cleaning up again

City of Concordia employees were once again clearing snow from streets on Friday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

223

City commission approves ^{Feb. 27} change order for treatment plant

A change order for the first phase of the wastewater treatment plant improvement project was approved by the Concordia city commission during a special meeting on Monday.

The commission approved the change order totaling \$14,385.14, including labor and materials, to replace a gate that had

broken at the plant between ditches two and three.

Concordia city manager Amy Lange reported to the commission that replacing the gate was the best solution.

APAC-Kansas, Inc was awarded the bid for phase one of the treatment plant improvements.



League and tournament champs

Feb. 26

The F&A Bulls won the Concordia Recreation Men's Basketball league championship and placed first in the tournament. Team members include Garrett Farha, Spencer Farha, Danny Farha, John Christensen, Ron Johnson, Matt Kueker, Richard Kueker, Brad Pruitt, Jeremy Thayer and Justin Steinbrock



Place second

Republic County placed second in the Concordia Recreation Men's Basketball league tournament. Team members include Kurt Childs, Colton Grove, Nathan Lindberg, Trenton Kuhlman, Caleb Mahin, Kale Johnson, Brett Vogt, Trey Kuhlman and Trevor Kuhlman.

F&A Bulls win league, tourney

The F&A Bulls placed first in the Concordia Recreation Men's Basketball League and won the league tournament.

The F&A Bulls finished 7-0 in league play and defeat-

ed Republic County 81-79 in the championship game of the league tournament.

The Concordia Dream Team placed first in the Women's League with a 4-0 record.

Playing for the Dream Team were Laura Krier, Amy Bridwell, Bailey Garlow, Amber Farha, Arin Sorensen, Dana Sandman, Paige Mortimer, Lisa Melton and Kara Champlin.

City wants to address sidewalk issue

By Russell Gagnon
Blade Staff Writer

The city of Concordia is going to fix its sidewalk problem, but the deadline for residents to submit their application to have city crews make the repairs is approaching fast.

It's a problem that's been growing for years. Literally. Many of the issues with sections of residential sidewalk are a direct result of tree roots growing out of the ground and pushing sidewalks up at odd angles. Unfortunately, sometimes the roots break the cement and brick, creating stumbling ledges and sharp edges.

Over the years, what was once an eyesore has now become a safety issue in some areas, and the city commission had instructed the Public Works department to fix the problem.

Article 18-116 in the General Provisions of the Code for the City of Concordia, Kansas states:

It shall be unlawful for the owner of any property having sidewalk adjacent thereto to permit any brick, stone, or segment of such sidewalk to be raised above the established level of the sidewalk more than one-half inch, in any manner which might catch the feet of pedestrians, or to permit any hole or depression to occur in the sidewalk in which pedestrians might step or catch their feet in a manner likely to cause injury.

In non-legalese, there is an ordinance on the books and the city is going to start enforcing it. But the city also wants to help property owners make the repairs.

Beginning this Fall, for those property owners who have submitted applications, city repair crews will provide all the labor and equipment, and pay the total cost of removing existing curb and gutter of sidewalk sections, backfilling, and all removal costs. The property owner only has to pay for the cost of materials. For any necessary engineering plans or special specifications, the city will pay one-half of the cost and the



Measuring a raised sidewalk

Ron Copple, Concordia Public Works director, measures how much a sidewalk is raised. City code states a sidewalk should not be raised more than one-half inch. The City is offering to help homeowners repair sidewalks that aren't up to code. This sidewalk is raised four inches. (Blade photo by Russell Gagnon)

property owner shall pay the other half.

"We've been told to get these sidewalks fixed," said Ron Copple, Concordia's Public Works director. "This is a great way for the city and landowners to work together to solve the problem. I really don't think there's going to be a cheaper way for landowners to get the work done."

Each property owner will pay the city

one-half of the estimated materials cost and charges up front. The property owner then has up to 30 days after the job is finished to pay the remainder of their share of the costs.

The deadline for filing your application for sidewalk repair is March 16. Application forms can be claimed and submitted to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall.



'CFD Brothers'

Concordia Firefighters competed in the American Lung Association's Fight-For-Air-Climb in Kansas City. Front is Derek Champlin. Back row from left, are: Logan Higbee, Levi Whitley and Johnnie Mastin.

Firefighters compete in Fight-For-Air Climb

The Concordia Fire Department's 'CFD Brothers' competed in the American Lung Association's Fight-For-Air-Climb held in Kansas City on February 25th.

The team of Levi Whitley, Derek Champlin, Jace Champlin, Johnnie Mastin, and Logan Higbee competed against other firefighters in a timed climb up 42 floors of a high-

rise building. They climbed 902 steps in total, fully dressed in their firefighting gear and breathing through the air apparatus tanks strapped to their back.

The CFD Brothers team raised \$956 in donations for the ALA's fight against lung diseases such as asthma, COPD, and lung cancer.

Insure with Alliance Insurance Group

Water line project to start

APAC-Kansas will begin Sixth Street water line replacement project in Downtown Concordia on Monday.

Traffic will be reduced to eastbound only from Washington Street to State Street.

Parking on the north side of Sixth Street will not be accessible.

GET INVOLVED³⁻⁶ IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Concordia City Commission intends to involve as many qualified citizens as possible in the governing process. To that end, the Commission announces that vacancies do now exist or will soon exist on the following citizen boards, commissions and committees:

AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

If you are a citizen of Cloud County and interested in serving the community by becoming a member of the City of Concordia Airport Advisory Board, you are asked to fill out a short Expression of Interest Form. To be considered for the above appointment, return a completed Expression of Interest Form to the City Clerk's Office. You are urged to act at your earliest convenience.

All members of boards, commissions and committees serve without pay – out of a concern for the public good.

Expression of Interest Forms will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 9, 2018.

Forms and more information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington Street, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas, 66901.

If you have questions, please call the City Clerk's Office at 785-243-2670



Street repairs

City of Concordia employees repair a stretch of East Seventh Street on Thursday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Commission discusses Sunday sales

Sunday alcohol sales was the topic of conversation during a Concordia city commission study session on Wednesday.

Commissioners were presented pros and cons of passing an ordinance that would allow the sale of alcohol on Sunday, which is currently prohibited within the city limits except in a place of business that is licensed to sell cereal malt beverage for consumption on the premises which derives not less than 30 percent of its gross receipts from the sale of food.

The city received a request from Leiszler Oil Company, Inc., which operates two Short Stop convenience stores in Concordia, to allow the retail sale of cereal malt beverages on Sundays.

"We chose to have a study session. We wanted to invite all of you so we could hear your comments, your questions, your concerns, just have an open conversation with the commissioners to make sure we get the best information possible," City manager Amy Lange said.

Lange said that the city commission is expected to take action on the proposal at the meeting on March 21 of the first meeting in April.

Should the commission pass an ordinance allowing Sunday sales, there would be a 60-day

waiting period during which a protest petition could be filed.

The protest petition would need to be signed by five percent of the eligible voters in Concordia who voted in the 2016 general election.

If a valid petition is filed, the matter would go to a citywide vote in August.

Should the commission choose to allow the sale of cereal malt beverages on Sunday, it must also allow the sale of alcoholic liquor by businesses licensed to do so, and restrictions would apply to certain holidays and hours of sale.

Under state statute, the city can expand the days of sale on Sunday, except Easter, between the hours of noon and 8 p.m.

Lange said that passing the ordinance allowing Sunday sales would give liquor stores, which are currently closed on Sundays, the option of being open.

Alison Leiszler Bridges, executive vice president of Leiszler Oil Company, presented a case for allowing the sale of alcohol on Sundays.

"We have 16 convenience stores, and we only have four towns that don't allow beer sales on Sundays, currently, and we thought, we have the product, our customers want to buy it. They come up to the

counter every Sunday and try to buy it and we have to say no. If our customers want it, we might as well ask if we can sell it," Bridges said. "Our general consensus is it is safer for our customers to drink at home then, say to, go to a restaurant or a bar in town and drive home. And better to not put sales tax dollars outside of town."

Kelly Jackson, who with her husband Larry Jackson, owns Corner Liquor, and Lisa Strauss, owner of Liquor Outlet, spoke in opposition to allowing Sunday sales.

"Our liquor stores are small businesses who only have one employee on staff per shift. Only on select holidays would you walk in to find two employees. The convenience and box stores aren't in that position. They always have multiple employees, employees who are already there on Sunday. This change would have no impact on them whatsoever. However for us, we will be giving up that one day a week that we don't have to worry about our phone ringing or employee calling in sick or what have you," Jackson said.

Jackson said that the liquor stores are held to a higher standard when it comes to hiring employees.

"If that person who walks through the door is a minor, and

we sell to them, not only does our business get fined from the state, the person selling gets fined and is charged with distributing to a minor. So we have to be very picky and very choosy about who we hire," Jackson said.

Jackson also presented financial reasons for liquor stores not wanting to open on Sundays.

"For us, the cost associated with an extra day of sales, such as paying an employee, the utilities, it would not be offset by increase in sales," Jackson said.

Jackson said the two liquor stores in Concordia are small businesses, and are what make the town unique.

"We put our blood, sweat and tears into our business, and the money we make stays here. It is in our hometown. We don't have to send our money to an out-of-town or out-of-state corporate office," Jackson said.

Strauss said that her business is a family run store, and Sunday is their day for family.

"It doesn't need to be done on Sunday. It just doesn't need to be open sales on Sunday," Strauss said. "It just comes down to Concordia. Concordia is a good, family community. We don't need to open this up on Sunday."

(see Sunday Sales on page 6)

Sunday Sales

(continued from page 1)

In action taken during the meeting prior to the study session, the commission approved a bid from Hall Brothers, Inc., Marysville, for mill/overlay and striping project on State Street and Campus Drive from 18th Street to Republican Street.

Two bids were submitted for the project, and the low bid from Hall Brothers of \$134,629.60 was approved.

The project is expected to begin May 21 and is to be completed by August 1.

A bid from Chado's Auto Body of \$5,819.94 to repair and refinish a slide that was purchased by the city for the baby pool at the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool was approved by the commission.

Lange informed the commissioners that with the repairs, the city would have about \$6,500 in the slide, which is about a third the cost of purchasing a new slide.

The commission approved appointing commissioner Chuck Lambertz to the 12th Judicial Community Corrections/Juvenile Services Authority Board.

During her manager's report, Lange announced that the city had received a \$10,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation through the Community Foundation of Cloud County to help cover the costs of the citywide clean-up efforts.

Some of the money will be used to replace the trash cans downtown and about \$2,000 will be used to cover the costs of recycling tires that are picked up during the citywide cleanup.

Lange said that the clean-up, which previously took place every other year, will be an annual event. It will be the week of April 9.

During his mayor's report, Sam Sacco said that people were coming to the listening sessions being

hosted by the commissioners and Lange, and that "we are listening to them."

Commissioner Mark Matthew said that there is a need for repairs to the railroad crossings, especially on Cedar, Washington and State streets.

"I understand it is a monumental task to get railroads to fix their crossings, but I think somebody needs to contact them and put them on notice because it is really a mess," Matthew said.

City attorney Justin Ferrell said he would look into the situation, and the first thing he would do is send a letter to the railroads.

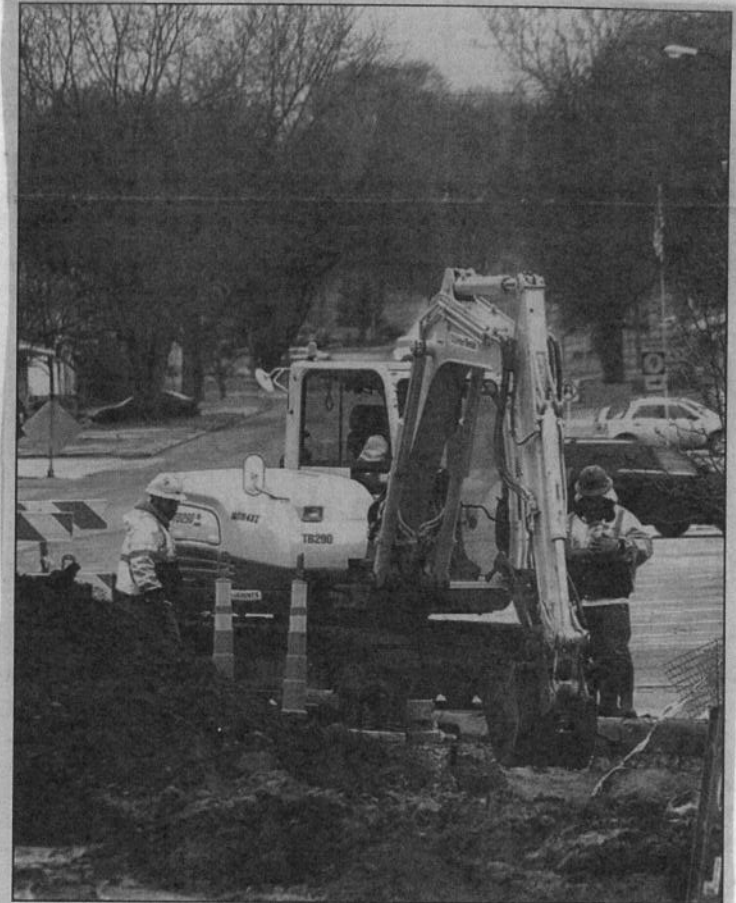
The commission went into executive session for 15 minutes, with Lange and Ferrell, to discuss acquisition of real estate.

Following the study session on Sunday sales, the commission had a study session of the capital improvement project list.



Waterline replacement project is underway

APAC-Kansas, Inc. has started the waterline replacement project from Washington Street to State Street. Half of Sixth Street is closed to traffic during the project. The Concordia city commission, in January, approved extending its contract with APAC-Kansas to include two more blocks of waterline replacements. The next phase will be from State Street to Cedar Street. The project is expected to take 90 working days to complete. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)



Digging in

Employees of APAC-Kansas dig into the ongoing waterline replacement project in the 200 block of West Sixth Street Tuesday morning. APAC-Kansas is replacing the waterline from Washington to State Street. That will be followed by the replacing of the line from State Street to Cedar Street. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

City commission approves pickup purchase

The purchase of a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 pickup from Concordia Chevrolet-Buick was approved by the Concordia city commission during its regular meeting on Wednesday.

Jeremy Arnold, Director of Utilities, reported to the commission that two bids had been received for the purchase of a pickup that will replace the 1996 Chevrolet S-10 used to read water meters.

Concordia Chevrolet-Buick submitted a bid of \$21,220 for the Silverado and Wornack Sunshine Ford submitted a bid of \$21,011.16 for a 2018 Ford F-150 XL.

Arnold recommended approving the lower bid from the Ford F-150.

Commissioner Mark Matthew raised the point that the Chevrolet had a backup camera, and the Ford did not.

Matthew asked Arnold that, other than price, was there any reason he wanted to purchase the Ford? Arnold said there was

not.

"I guess what I am getting at, from a safety standpoint the back up camera is a nice thing to have," Matthew said. "Also, if they are hooking a trailer up, or hooking up anything to it, it is a lot easier to see; therefore there may be less potential for damage. I don't have a horse in any one of these races, so it makes no difference to me. But I do think for \$200 I think the added safety of the Chevy, with having the backup camera, is probably worth the \$200."

The commission approved the purchase of the Chevrolet.

In other action during the meeting, the commission approved authorizing Mayor Sam Sacco to sign the request to exchange federal funds in the amount of \$63,828.49 with the Kansas Department of Transportation and to apply their reimbursement of \$47,871.37 to the 18th Street project.

The federal fund exchange program is a voluntary program

that allows a public agency to trade all or a portion of its federal funds allocations in a specific federal fiscal year with the Kansas Department of Transportation in exchange for state transportation dollars. The exchange rate for the 2018 program is \$0.75 of state funds for every \$1.00 of local federal obligation authority exchanged.

Public Utilities director Ron Copple recommended exchanging the federal funds.

The possibility of not exchanging the funds and accepting 100 percent of the federal funds had been discussed at a previous meeting.

Copple had informed the commissioners that by doing so the city would have to comply with federal standards on projects the money was used for.

"I think this is a nice little game the state has worked out, but I think that we would be spending more than the 25 percent to meet those federal standards, so I think this is going to

give us the most bang for the buck even though we are leaving 25 percent to the state. It is not a great deal, but I think it is the best way we can move forward," commissioner Chuck Lambertz said.

Reappointing H. Maria Jindra and Shane Haug to the Frank Carlson Library board was approved by the commission.

During her report to the commissioners, city manager Amy Lange said the plans have changed on the issue of Sunday alcohol sales.

The commission conducted a study session on Sunday sales during its previous meeting, and the issue was going to be on the agenda for the meeting on Wednesday.

"Those plans have changed, and in light of information we received from the County Clerk, and the way a potential election process would happen, and so we are going to delay that action until August 1," Lange said.

(see Pickup on page 6)

Pickup

(continued from page 1)

Lange said that all parties involved in the process had been notified of the change.

If the city were to approve Sunday sales, there would be a 60-day waiting period during which a petition could be filed calling for a vote on the issue.

Lange also received a request from Mason Corporation, Brentwood, Tenn., asking to delay the installation of the slide at the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool until the end of April.

Mason Corporation has another project scheduled in Kansas around that same time frame.

The commission, in January, approved the purchase of the slide, at a cost of \$54,000 as part of the upgrades to the pool funded by a \$2 monthly fee included on the city utility bills.

The contract requires Mason Corporation to have the slide installed by May 25.

"The request to delay to the last week of April is in with the contract language," Lange said.

Sacco said that the problem he had with changing the date for the start time is that the city's window for risk is now narrowed.

"I wouldn't mind doing this and helping them out, but at the same time things happen. And I think if we do that, and narrow that window, that we should be allowed to have a little more on the money on the penalty side to cover that," Sacco said.

Lambertz said he wants to protect the city, but that Mason Corporation is not really out of line with what the contract says.

Matthew said that he feels comfortable with what Mason Corporation wants to do as long as they are going to start within the window stated in the contract.

During commissioner comments, Matthew said that he was continuing to get good feedback on the commissioner listening tour events, and had received no negative feedback.

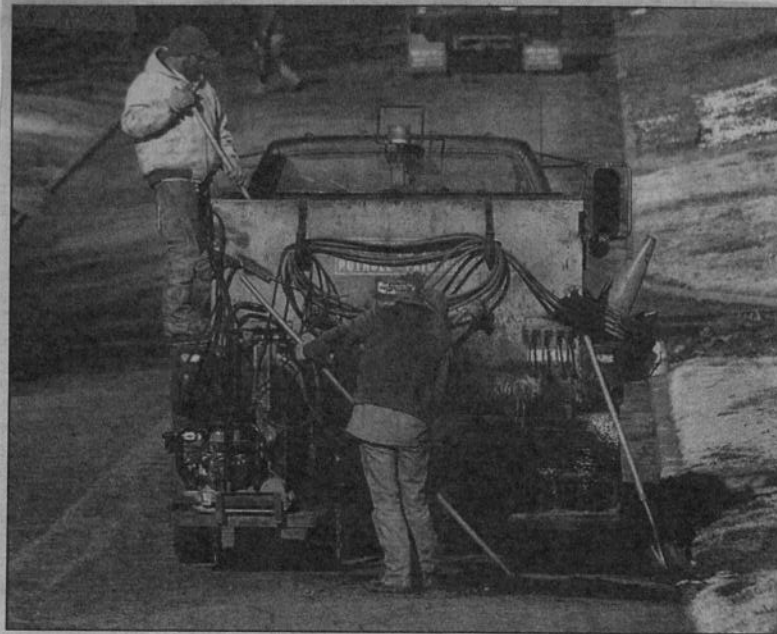
Lambertz addressed developing a public-private partnership in the community.

"I am hearing a lot of requests about what the people want the city to do, and I think they are fair requests, but I think what really makes change happen is people step up and do some things on their own in a collaborative effort with the city. One of the biggest successes we have had is due to a very open dialogue between private citizens and city staff," Lambertz said. "That is probably the message I would like to invite everyone to be a part of. There are certain things as a city it is our responsibility to do, and those will fall to us. But I think there are other opportunities where as citizens we can step up and improve the quality of our community."

Sacco, during his mayor's report, said that something he had picked up during the listening tour events, is that there are some people out there who want to pitch in and keep the city clean, but unfortunately there are some people who don't.

"One of the things that I kind of got from people out there is that they feel the city should enforce their ordinances more," Sacco said.

"When you think about it, maybe that is the only way you can get some people, you know pride is one thing, but not everybody has it, and the only way you get those people turned around is by enforcing ordinances. Maybe that is something we should do, and do a better job of."



Patchwork

City of Concordia employees patch streets on Friday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

3-30

Refresh Concordia

City-wide cleanup is April 9-13

Refresh Concordia 2018, a city-wide cleanup effort, is scheduled for April 9-13.

City of Concordia crews will begin picking up items on the morning of April 9.

Residents are asked to have items placed by the curb by April 8.

Items that will be picked up include tires, furniture (wood and cloth covered), tree branches, car batteries and appliances.

Concordia Public Works Director Ron Copple asks residents to have items sorted to aid in the cleanup efforts.

Only items sorted by category will be picked up.

The city-wide cleanup, which was done every other year, is now an annual event.

The Sisters of St. Joseph will be aiding in the cleanup effort by helping those in need of assistance with light yard work and with setting discarded items at the curb from 8 a.m. until noon on Saturday.

Those wanting to volunteer should meet at the east parking lot of the Nazareth Motherhouse on Saturday morning.

Insure with Alliance Insurance Group

43



Refresh Concordia

City of Concordia employees are picking up items around town this week as part of Refresh Concordia, the citywide cleanup effort. Refresh Concordia will be an annual event. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

4-13

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901



Waterline work continues

An employee of APAC-Kansas digs in along West Sixth Street Monday morning as the waterline replacement project continues. Water lines in Downtown Concordia are being replaced from Washington Street to State Street during the second phase of the project. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

4-2

City commission approves mower bid

In the only action taken during a short meeting on Wednesday, the Concordia city commission approved a bid from Krier Mower & Electric for a riding lawnmower.

Public Works director Ron Copple reported to the commission that the city had received four bids for the mower.

The low bid of \$12,200 from Budreau Muffler did not meet the specifications of being a front mount mower.

The commission, on recommendation from Copple, approved the bid of \$14,872 for a Grass Hopper 725DT mower.

A proclamation, which proclaims April as Fair Housing Month, was accepted by the commission.

During her city manager's report, Amy Lange presented the commission with a summary of the Neighborhood Listening Tour.

Lange, mayor Sam Sacco and commission members participated in six listening tour events, five occurring on Monday evenings from February 26 through March 6 and one noon session on March 19 to hear from residents on what they feel are great reasons to live in Con-

cordia as well as their priorities for the city in the future.

A total of 52 residents attended the evening sessions and 35 attended the noon session. The total of 87 residents represents 1.68 percent of Concordia's residents.

"You can take that for what it is worth" Lange said of the low attendance numbers. "We made the effort, and we asked people to come out, and we didn't get a very good turnout, but we still heard a lot of good feedback, or you take it as this is only 1.68 percent of the population, so maybe it is not representative of what the community really wants. But these were the people who did show up and made the effort to talk to us about these items."

Commissioner Chuck Lambert said that hopefully residents will hear that their thoughts were heard and considered.

"I think the thing that I got out of it the most was their ideas and their concerns. And when you read over this list, this is all stuff that if you walk the city you see, so they are really putting in some thought to it," Sacco said.

Lange's summary of the listening tour shows that the resident-led discussions centered on five common themes, property maintenance, infrastructure maintenance, community identity, floodplain management and taxes.

Those themes were mentioned during at least three of the six listening tour sessions.

The condition of sidewalks in the community was mentioned at all six sessions.

The city has added a program for the repair of sidewalks to the curb and gutter program, and has already received 37 applications from property owners.

An annual citywide cleanup, which the city has now instituted; blight and landlord licensing were mentioned at five of the sessions.

Issues mentioned at four of the sessions were the demolition program, and subsequent reconstruction, and helping neighbors.

Lange, in her summary, stated that the department heads have discussed the top five themes and their subsets.

"We believe we have initiated efforts to address four subsets: Sidewalks, annual citywide

cleanup, streets (maintenance) and late night swim," the summary stated.

The summary also stated that "because of how often this topic was mentioned during the listening tour, we believe we should focus our attention during the next year on reducing blight, which will involve the demolition program and nuisance abatement. Addressing blight may necessitate work toward public-private partnerships to promote reconstruction of structures on vacant lots."

Lange, in the summary, also stated that the city may need to investigate the potential benefits of a landlord licensing program, which may include the adoption of a property maintenance code.

It was also reported by Lange that the city is conducting a naming contest for the walking trail in College Park Drive.

Contest cards can be found in Concordia restaurants and at City Hall. The three finalists, selected by a committee, will be invited to the commission meeting on May 2, and each will receive a prize.

The contest winner will be announced during the meeting.

Concordia Firefighters to participate in Fill The Boot

The Concordia Fire Department will again be supporting the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) by participating in the Fill The Boot campaign on Saturday.

Firefighters will be at the intersection of 11th Street and Lincoln Street from 8 a.m. until noon, raising funds for children and adults affected by muscular dystrophy.

Started in 1954 in Massachusetts, the

Fill The Boot campaign had over 100,000 firefighters participate in 2017 and raised \$24 million.

Funds raised by Fill The Boot help fund research for new treatments for muscular dystrophy, support MDA care centers and gives more than 3,800 children the opportunity to attend MDA summer camps.

Firefighters have raised more than \$558 million over the past 60 plus years.

Housing Authority to meet

The Concordia Housing Authority has a special meeting scheduled for April 24 at 5 p.m. at City Hall to discuss the replacement of windows.

City commission approves change order

A change order and pushing back the substantial completion date for the wastewater treatment plant were approved by the Concordia city commission during its regular meeting on Wednesday.

The change order for phase one of the treatment plant improvements totals \$21,952.

"These are things that came to our attention throughout the project. Just like any renovation you have things that have to be done," Concordia city manager Amy Lange said.

The city commission accepted a bid of \$2,348,353 from APAC-Kansas, Inc. in March, 2017 for the first phase of the improvements.

With the change order, the revised contract value is now \$2,370,305.20.

Approved along with the change order, was extending the date for substantial completion by 49 days from April 10 to May 29.

Lange said that the extension is due to delays in the delivery of products needed for the project.

ect.

Commissioner Mark Matthew asked if there would be increased cost because of the extension.

"We will not incur additional costs because of the extra days. The extra days are solely due to the equipment delays," Lange said.

Also during the meeting, the commission expressed support for a city connecting link improvement program application to the Kansas Department of Transportation to widen the turning radius at the intersection of U.S. Highway 81 and First Street.

Public Works director Ron Copple said the reason for the project is make it easier and safer for trucks entering to be able to make the corner at that intersection.

The city would pay 10 percent of the cost of the project.

Total cost estimate of the project is \$659,879.10 with the city paying \$73,319.90.

An application for a cereal malt beverage license from Easy

G Sports Grill was approved by the commission.

The commission also approved re-appointing Brian Donovan and Mike Holmes to the Airport Advisory Board.

Lange was appointed to the board as an ex officio member.

The appointments were recommended by the Airport Advisory Board.

Following a lengthy discussion, the commission voted 4-1 to approve Ordinance No. 2018-3135 as proposed by the Concordia Planning Commission.

The ordinance amends the city's zoning ordinance.

Mayor Sam Sacco expressed concerns about a section of the ordinance pertaining to the repealing of the Highway 81 Mixed Use Overlay District. He voted against the ordinance.

Volunteers for the Sisters of St. Joseph Volunteer Cleanup Day, which was scheduled for the weekend prior to the start of the city's Refresh Concordia citywide cleanup effort, were recognized during the meeting.

The volunteer cleanup day

was canceled because of inclement weather, but volunteers still provided assistance on the following days to individuals who needed assistance.

Lange reported that during the week of Refresh Concordia there were 801 tires disposed of and 70 loads of tree limbs and 18 loads of metal hauled off and 78 trips to the Transfer Station. The city crews put in 355 man hours on the project.

The commission proclaimed the month of April as Donate Life Month.

The proclamation was presented during the meeting by Cloud County Health Center administrator David Garnas and administrative assistant Pam Campbell, and honors those who have made the decision to donate life and to focus attention on the critical need for donation and to encourage Kansas residents to register as organ, eye and tissue donors.

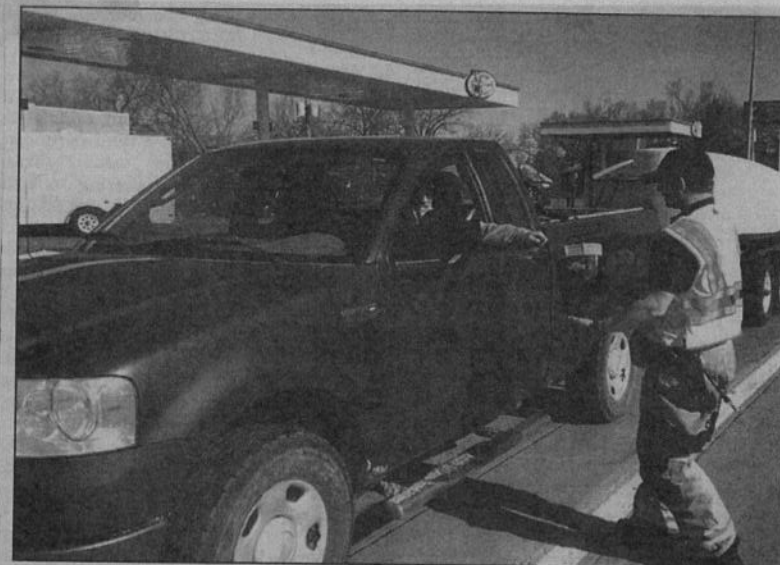
Following the regular meeting, the commission conducted a study session on downtown parking.



Sweeping up

The city of Concordia street sweeper sweeps up Eighth Street Thursday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

4-20



Filling the boot

A motorist traveling Lincoln Street in Concordia drops money into the boot held by Concordia Firefighter Levi Whitley on Saturday morning. The firefighters were participating in the Muscular Dystrophy Association Fill the Boot fundraising campaign. About \$2,700 was contributed during the event. (Blade photo by Russell Gagnon)

4-30



Setting up the slide

Employees of Mason Corporation, Brentwood, Tenn., install a water slide at the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool. The slide, costing about \$54,000, is the first of the enhancements planned for the pool that are being funded by a \$2 monthly fee attached to the city water bills. The required completion date for the slide is May 25. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

4-20

HOURS:

1-7 P.M.

All Summer

Night Swims

Every Tuesday

8-10 PM

Adult Swim:

Noon - 12:50 PM

SEASON DATES:

SATURDAY, MAY 26 -

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12;

DAILY

**LOCATED AT
11TH & CEDAR
785-243-1150**

CONCORDIA
KANSAS
We Build Community!

Concordia Municipal Pool

PUNCH CARDS!

10 PUNCHES

\$17

20 PUNCHES

\$30

30 PUNCHES

\$40

POOL PARTIES:

\$70 / HOUR

FOR 1 TO 50 PEOPLE

\$80 / HOUR

FOR 51 TO 75 PEOPLE

\$90 / HOUR

FOR 76 TO 100 PEOPLE

DAILY ADMISSION:

\$2.00

**4 yrs. & under AND
senior citizens (65
& over)..... FREE**

**OPENS SATURDAY,
MAY 26TH!**

**Jump in and enjoy our heated pool
and slides!**

**Buy Punch Cards at City Hall
OR the Pool all Season long!!**

**CITY OF CONCORDIA
2018 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE
REPORT
COVERING CALENDAR YEAR 2017**

The entire CCR is available
for viewing on the
City's website
at www.concordiaaks.org under Utilities

Please call Jeremy Arnold at
785-243-2670
with any questions you may have.

Pool Passes! 55

Family Pass

All under one household
Expires at the End of 2018 Season*

\$100 - Up to 4 People

**\$10 - for each additional
person up to 7 people**

**Pass can be variation
of any of the following:**

Parent(s) & Children

Parent(s), Grandparent

OR Babysitter, & Children

Single Pass \$50

Expires at the End of 2018 Season

One Person for the Season

CONCORDIA
KANSAS
We Build Community!

**** June 8 is deadline **
to purchase season passes!**

CITY ELECTION 5-118

Friday, June 1, at noon, is the filing deadline
for one (1) City Commission seat to be
contested in the November 6, 2018,
City General Election. To file for City
Commission, the signatures of at least twenty
(20) qualified electors are required on a
petition, or the candidate may pay a filing fee
of \$20.00. The filing will be for the position
now held by Chuck Lambert. If a primary
election is necessary, it will be held
August 7, 2018. Please file with the
County Clerk, 811 Washington St.

Concordia Police, DEA to partner in Drug Take-Back Day

The Concordia Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will be partnering on the Drug Take-Back Day program on Saturday for the 15th time in the last seven years.

The Drug Take-Back Day event gives the public the opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs.

Area residents can drop off pills for disposal at Concordia City Hall from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The DEA cannot accept liquids, needles or sharps, only pills or patches.

The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

"Unused medications are dangerous for kids, pets and the environment," Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt said, "Diversion of opioid painkillers, in particular, can contribute to the misuse of these drugs that has become a serious, nationwide program. Getting leftover medicines out of the medicine cabinets and safely destroyed keeps them from falling into the wrong hands and makes our communities safer."

Last Fall Americans turned in 456 tons of prescription drugs at more than 5,300 sites operated by the DEA and almost 4,300 of its state and local law enforcement parties.

In its previous 14 Drug Take-Back Day

events, the DEA and its partners have taken in more than nine million pounds, more than 4,500 tons of pills.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue.

Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse or abuse.

Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to drug use.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates opioid overdoses kill 115 Americans every day.

According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, pharmaceutical opioids are a leading cause of drug poisoning deaths in Kansas.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's national survey on drug use and health shows year after year that the majority of misused and abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including someone else's medication being stolen from the home medicine cabinet.

Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines, flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash, both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Insure with Alliance Insurance Group

The following vehicle has been impounded by the City of Concordia and will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder on purplewave.com, if the owner does not claim it within 15 days of the second publication of this notice and pay the removal, storage, and publication charges.
Vehicle 1: Maker: Dodge, Model: Dakota
PK, Year: 1997, VIN: 1B7GG23YXVS159935 Color: White

WORKER 5-24
Public Works Division

The City of Concordia Department of Public Works is seeking to fill the position of Municipal Service Worker. Job description available at City Hall.

Deadline: City of Concordia will accept applications until filled. Applications will be reviewed on June 15, 2018.

Apply at: The City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington. Application is also available online at www.concordiakans.org. Accommodations are available for persons needing assistance upon request.

An Equal Opportunity Employer.

EMS open house

Concordia EMS, in celebration of EMS Week, May 20-26, has an open house scheduled for 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Concordia Fire Department.

There will be blood pressure checks, hands-on CPR training, car seat checks and station tours. Hot dogs will be served.

Published in the Blade-Empire on 4-30-2018
CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS
TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD FROM January 1, 2018 THROUGH March 31, 2018

FUNDS	4th Quarter Ending Cash Balances	Receipts	Expenditures	1st Quarter Ending Cash Balances
100 General Fund	\$ 1,044,628.84	\$ 1,358,448.95	\$ 1,082,012.52	\$ 1,321,065.07
203 Industrial Development	1,858.02	26,486.95	3,000.00	25,344.97
205 Special Highway	91,062.34	35,326.94	10,293.32	116,095.96
206 D.A.R.E. Grant	1,875.88	8.74	689.69	1,194.93
208 Cyber Crimes	442.10	-	-	442.10
214 Animal Shelter	27,970.29	1,080.00	807.45	28,242.84
217 Special Park and Recreation	35,129.26	4,092.07	-	39,221.33
221 Computer Equipment/Replacement	10,375.38	-	378.99	9,996.39
222 Vehicle Equipment/Reserve Acct.	147,938.95	4,285.00	-	152,223.95
230 Judges Training Fund	2,257.50	3,576.00	2,345.00	3,488.50
244 911 PSAP	64,645.56	15,024.00	11,852.55	68,017.01
250 Fire Dept. Grants & Donations	911.26	-	1,847.00	(935.74)
255 Police Dept Grants & Donations	307.28	25.00	250.00	82.28
260 Animal Trust Fund	30,313.23	30.28	-	30,343.49
270 Cemetery Endowment	40,725.57	158.95	-	40,884.52
290 Recreation Grants & Donations	558.80	575.00	350.00	783.80
301 Bond and Interest	280,252.96	190,079.83	138,484.25	331,848.54
303 Tax Increment Bond Fund	-	449,724.61	22,813.75	426,910.86
444 TIF Projects	72,920.53	-	-	72,920.53
450 Capital Improvement Projects	245,871.77	-	66,935.76	178,936.01
451 Wastewater Treatment Facility	2,295,257.55	73,898.65	307,946.46	2,061,010.74
590 Central Garage Fund	13,599.56	32,535.27	46,134.83	-
601 Water/Sewer General	825,159.39	384,280.61	501,661.56	707,778.44
650 Gas Fund	7,959.64	11,810.39	9,452.81	10,317.22
725 COC Cafeteria Plan	16,886.75	6,196.14	8,384.69	14,698.20
735 Library Fund	-	95,598.28	95,598.28	-
736 Library Employee Benefit	-	28,169.51	26,169.51	-
750 Continuing Econ. Development Grant	549,752.86	5,114.59	-	554,867.45
780 Cloud County Landfill	23,142.44	79,261.99	99,711.87	2,692.56
802 Water Protection Fund	1,005.80	1,224.07	1,317.66	912.21
TOTALS	\$ 5,832,809.31	\$ 2,804,811.80	\$ 2,438,234.95	\$ 6,199,386.16

LIABILITIES:	
General Obligation Bonds	5,344,400.00
TIF General Obligation Bonds	1,930,000.00
Capital Leases	562.53
TOTAL	\$ 7,274,962.53

CASH AVAILABLE:	
Cash on Hand	1,901.33
Checking Accounts	1,341,188.48
Money Markets & Savings Accounts	2,182,380.13
Certificates of Deposit	2,681,365.03
Reconciling Items per Bank Rec	(7,448.81)
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	\$ 6,199,386.16

I, Amber Farha, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.

Amber Farha, City Treasurer

4-30

City commission approves zoning change

A zoning change, accepting several properties into the curb and gutter and sidewalk program and a pair of resolutions setting hearing dates for condemnation of structures were among the items approved by the Concordia city commission during its regular meeting Wednesday night at City Hall.

Upon recommendation of the Planning Commission, the city commission approved a zone change application from Kansas Crossroads Conservation and Development Area, Inc. for the property located at 305 West Fifth St. from "R-2" (medium density residential District) to "I-1" (light industrial district).

City building inspector Bruno Rehbein reported to the commission that there were no protests filed on the zoning change.

The property will be used as a makerspace offering a public work space.

"Phase one is going to be metal fabrication and a wood-working shop," Rehbein said.

The commission approved a resolution accepting 15 prop-

erties into the curb and gutter and sidewalk program.

Public Works director Ron Copple told the commissioners that the city is going to try to complete the 15 projects this year and have 11 more scheduled for next year.

Sidewalks were added to the city's curb and gutter program earlier this year. It allows residents to get damaged sidewalks replaced.

The residents cover the cost of the materials and the city employees do the labor.

Residents pay one half of the cost of the project up front, and the remainder once the project is completed.

Commissioner Chuck Lambert asked Copple what determined which projects would get done this year and which ones would get done next year.

Copple said it is based on when the applications were presented to the city.

Two resolutions were approved by the commission setting July 18, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. as the hearing date for properties at 403 East Fifth St. and 435 East Second St. that have been determined to be

unsafe and dangerous.

At that time, the property owner, owner's agent, any lienholders of record or any occupant of such structure may appear and show cause why the structure should not be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished.

If the properties are condemned by the city, the structures will be removed. A bill for the removal is sent to the property owner and if they do not pay within 30 days then it is placed on specials.

The commission also approved accepting the bid, pending a review by the insurance company, from David Erickson of \$7,574.40 for repairs on the roof at the old pump house building, which is now used by the city for storage of sand and equipment.

Copple said the roof was damaged, and water was leaking into the building. He said it appeared that it had been halled on, but is unsure when it happened.

"The worst part of it is that we don't know when it happened," Copple said.

It was determined by the

commission to have Copple contact the insurance company to inspect the roof and decide if the repairs will be covered or not.

The purchase of a Micro Rain water cannon from MWI Valley, Hiawatha, at a cost of \$6,815 was approved by the commission.

Recreation Department director Chris Atkinson told the commissioners that the new water cannon, for use at the Concordia Sports Complex, will replace two old ones that have been in use for more than 25 years and are no longer working properly.

The reappointment of Randy Greenwood to the Board of Building Trades/Appeals was approved by the commission. He will serve another three-year term.

A proclamation that proclaims May 25 as Buddy Poppy Day was presented to the commission and read by Mayor Sam Sacco. It asks that all citizens pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the name of freedom by wearing the Memorial Flower on this day.

Legals

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on May 18 and May 25, 2018)

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-2072

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, Kansas:

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1750 et seq., as provided by Section 6-101 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Concordia, Kansas, has informed the governing body that in his opinion the following structures are unsafe and dangerous:

The house and detached accessory building located at 435 East 2nd Street, Concordia, Kansas, and more completely described as:

Lot 18, Block 188, Concordia Original Town Site, in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas.

AND WHEREAS, the enforcing officer has determined that the structure should be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished, all pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1752.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS, that on July 18, 2018, at 5:30 o'clock p.m., the owner, the owner's agent, any lienholders of record and any occupant of such structure may appear at City Hall, 701 Washington Street, Concordia, Kansas, and show cause why such structure should not be condemned and order repaired or demolished. Notice shall be given by the City Clerk as required by K.S.A. 12-1752.

Passed by the Governing Body and signed by the Mayor this 16th day of May, 2018.

Sam J. Sacco
Mayor

ATTEST:
(Seal)

Stacey Smith
City Clerk

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on May 18 and May 25, 2018)

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-2071

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, Kansas:

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1750 et seq., as provided by Section 6-101 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Concordia, Kansas, has informed the governing body that in his opinion the following structure is unsafe and dangerous:

The premises located at 403 East 5th Street, Concordia, Kansas, and more completely described as:

Lots 19 and 20, Block 161, Concordia Original Town Site, in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas.

AND WHEREAS, the enforcing officer has determined that the structure should be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished, all pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1752.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS, that on July 18, 2018, at 5:30 o'clock p.m., the owner, the owner's agent, any lienholders of record and any occupant of such structure may appear at City Hall, 701 Washington Street, Concordia, Kansas, and show cause why such structure should not be condemned and order repaired or demolished. Notice shall be given by the City Clerk as required by K.S.A. 12-1752.

Passed by the Governing Body and signed by the Mayor this 16th day of May, 2018.

Sam J. Sacco
Mayor

ATTEST:
(Seal)

Stacey Smith
City Clerk

City reinstates family passes for pool

Pool passes are back.

Originally, the decision had been made by the city of Concordia administration not to offer single and family passes to the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool.

It had been decided to offer punch cards for admittance to the pool at the cost of \$17 for 10 punches, \$30 for 20 punches and \$40 for 30 punches.

The decision not to offer the family passes drew some negative reaction from the public.

Three people asked for the family passes to be reinstated during public comments at the Concordia city commission meeting Wednesday night at City Hall.

City manager Amy Lange reported to the commissioners that the administration, after comparing options for admission to the pool with surrounding towns, including Belleville, Clay Center, Beloit, Washington and Salina, and listening to negative feedback from the community, made the decision to offer the family passes.

"We recognize that our primary audience for pool attendance is school age children as

well as young families here in town. So that is the audience that we really need to listen to if we are going to listen to an audience, the ones that actually go to and use the pool," Lange said. "So what we are proposing to do for this year is to reinstate the passes. We do want to make a few minor changes with those goals of efficiency as well as maintaining cost and serving our public."

Lange provided the commissioners with the rates for the family passes that will be offered this year.

A single pass will be \$50 and a family pass will be \$100 for four people, which would include two adults and two children. Families have the option of adding up to three children at a cost of \$10 per child.

There is also an option to add one non-immediate family member of a daycare provider to the family pass.

The city will also offer the punch card options and the daily rate of \$2.

Earlier this year, the city commission approved a \$2 per month fee on city utility bills to help pay for the addition of water

features at the pool.

The first of those features, a water slide, has been installed.

Lange explained to the commissioners the reasoning for the original decision to do away with the family passes.

"We felt like we had three goals. One of the goals the commission had stated was to minimize our net loss. We lose about \$80,000 per year in pool operations. So we wanted to make sure we maintained that and did not grow that loss," Lange said. "Another thing we wanted to do, as a result of adding the slides, we wanted to increase attendance at the pool. We needed to be able to measure that adding the slide increased pool attendance. We also wanted to address the goal of efficient operations."

Lange said as they were going through those goals it was decided that this might be the year to eliminate the family passes.

In order to help eliminate confusion with the family passes, Lange said the city proposing a method currently used by the pool in Beloit.

There will be the basic rate for

the family passes, which will be available through May 25, the Friday before the pool opens. The first two weeks that the pool is open, a \$25 premium will be added to the cost of the passes, which will cover the added administrative costs. Family passes would no longer be sold after June 8.

During public comments, Jeni Johnson was one of three people who addressed the commission on the plan to discontinue the family passes.

Johnson said she is a mother of three, and that her family frequented the pool five to seven times per week last year.

"I am all for the renovations. I voted for that. I was great with the \$2 add on for the bill. That is fine. What I don't like is the fact there is no family pass. I am part-time employed. I am in nursing school. We are on a budget. It's the only way we make it work. So at the current rate, if I were to go five times per week, you are looking at \$300 plus. It is not in our budget. It saddens me that I won't be able to take them that much," Johnson said.

(see Pool Passes on page 8)

Pool passes

(continued from page 1)

Neb.

In submitting the proposed name, Friberg stated that it is conducive to further promotion of the rich heritage of Concordia, and that trail signage could be used to promote tourism efforts related to the three major heritage features of Concordia. The National Orphan Train Complex, POW Camp Concordia and the Nazareth Motherhouse.

The other two finalists in the naming contest were Mary's Mile, submitted by Fallyn Atkins, to honor Mary Lavon Brosseau who donated \$20,000 to the trail and Walkacon, submitted by Kristina Frost.

Atkins and Frost were recognized during the meeting. Friberg was unable to attend.

A bid from Vogts-Parga Construction, LLC for the parking lot and drive at Blosser Municipal Airport was approved by the commission.

Brad J. Walker, Alfred Benesch & Company reported to the commission that five bids had been received for the project, which will be 90 percent funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and 10 percent by the city.

Walker recommended approving the low bid, contingent on approval of \$264,255.45 from Vogts-Parga Construction. The city match will be \$27,339.05.

The commission also approved a resolution changing some wording in the city's demolition program policy.

City building inspector Bruno Rehbein said that the changes will make it clear that debris from demolition projects must be disposed of at the Cloud County Transfer Station as per state law and that before undertaking the demolition the property owner, or demolition contractor, must apply and receive the permit from the city.

Heather Workman also spoke to the commission, and said that she is the mother of three and has three foster children.

"They love going to the pool. I love, love the slide. My kids are super excited for that. But who can afford to pay \$300 for punch cards. We won't be able to let our kids go to the pool as often, and they go all of the time," Workman said.

Ashlea Marsh, the mother of three, said her family frequents the pool three or four times a week.

"It is just not in our budget to do the punch cards," Marsh said.

Lange said that she knew there were some constituents who did not understand how the agenda and processes work and were expanding the pool issues to be listed as a specific agenda item.

"The commission made the decision that, yes we are going to buy the water slide. There is a threshold, it was over \$5,000. You had to make that decision for that purpose. Where we place the slide, for example, is generally an administrative decision," Lange said. "As far as the passes go, the commission rightly made the decision are we going to charge or are we not going to charge. And you gave us the consensus that we need to stay with that daily rate basis. That is a policy decision to charge or not to charge. But how we administer the charges I am viewing as it has been in the past, as an administrative decision. Because the commission did not vote on this, that is why we did not place it as an agenda item."

Commissioner Mark Matthew said he is glad that the city is reinstating the family passes.

"I have had a few people just in the last few days confront me with that. And I think it is great that the public can see we do listen



Cutting it up

City of Concordia employees cut concrete for street repairs at the intersection of 15th and Lincoln. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

5-3



Flushing

City of Concordia employees flush a fire hydrant at Seventh and Washington Street on Tuesday. The city is flushing and testing all of the hydrants throughout the week. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

5-116

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901



Hustling to get it done

City of Concordia employee Lucas Applebee cruises along on a Hustler riding lawnmower while cutting the grass at the dog park located at Airport Park. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

5-9



Lifting it over the fence

A fish slide to be placed in the kiddie pool at the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool is lifted over the fence on Wednesday. The slide was purchased used off of Purple Wave and then refurbished. It is among the new features being added at the pool.

City Water Department to 510 test, flush hydrants next week

The Concordia Water Department will be testing and flushing fire hydrants Monday through Friday of next week.

The annual program serves two purposes, to flush and conduct a maintenance check on all hydrants in the community and to force an excessive flow of water through the main, which enables the Water Department to get rid of mineral deposits.

Minerals are naturally present in drinking water. Low water usage in the winter months contributes to the deposit buildup.

Throughout the week, residents may experience water discoloration, which is not a public health problem, but an inconvenience.

Prior to doing laundry, residents are urged to inspect the color of the tap water. If discoloration is present do not use the washing machine. The water color should clear up in a day or so.

Flushing will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday

and Tuesday and 7 a.m. the rest of the week.

The city apologizes for an inconvenience the flushing may cause, and thanks residents for their cooperation.

Anyone with questions should call City Hall.

The flushing schedule is as follows:

Monday - Strain Street through Fifth Street.

Tuesday - Sixth Street through Seventh Street.

Wednesday - Eighth Street through 10th Street.

Thursday - 11th Street through 16th Street east of Lincoln Street and 11th Street through 13th Street west of Lincoln Street.

Friday - 16th Street through the airport east of Lincoln Street and 14th Street through the south city limits west of Lincoln Street.

City commission approves ordinance

Ordinance allows alcohol sales, consumption in designated area during Fall Fest

An ordinance allowing the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages in a designated section of downtown during Fall Fest was approved by the Concordia city commission during its regular meeting Wednesday night.

Ordinance 2018-3138 allows the alcohol sales and consumption on Broadway Street from Sixth Street to Seventh Street and on Sixth Street from Broadway to Washington, while closed, on September 22 from 6 p.m. until midnight for the purpose of Fall Fest.

Upon approval of Form ABC-817 by the Kansas Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) division business in that area may temporarily extend their liquor license to sell alcoholic beverages within the closed streets.

The Fall Fest committee and the Concordia Chamber of Commerce intend to apply for a temporary permit through the ABC to provide a special event as a part of Fall Fest.

"The thought process of the Fall Fest committee was,

instead of setting up the vendors in Broadway Plaza, having them do a second setup or paying to have someone set that up, Easy G, Gambino's and Heavy's could all go ahead and sell the alcohol from their space, and people could walk out into that area with it, get to the Broadway Plaza where the music is going to be playing. And it just creates a more common flow for everybody, keeps people downtown a little bit longer during those evening festivities," city manager Amy Lange said.

Easy G Sports Grill, Gambino's Pizza and Heavy's Steakhouse & BBQ will be allowed to extend their liquor license on that evening.

The area will be barricaded to notify vehicles of the road closures and pedestrians of the boundary of the special event area.

Also during the meeting, 2019 budget requests from the Frank Carlson Library, Cloud Corp and Cloud Village Apartments were presented to the

commission.

Frank Carlson Library director Denise de Rochefort-Reynolds presented a budget request of \$180,449. That is an increase of \$3,199 from 2018.

The budget includes an increase of \$1642 for personnel.

De Rochefort-Reynolds informed the commission that the library has two full-time employees and eight part-time employees.

Also presented to the commission as the benefit fund request for the library of \$56,434. That is up from \$48,228 in 2018 with over \$9,000 of that being an expected increase in health insurance costs.

Ashley Hutchinson, Cloud-Corp executive director, presented the commission with a 2019 budget request of \$55,000 to help fund the general operations and related project development and an additional \$3,000 earmarked for Small Business Development.

The budget request from CloudCorp is the same as in 2018.

Sheila Jackson, site manager and secretary for Cloud Village Apartments, presented the commission with a budget request of \$10,000.

Cloud Village Apartments was awarded \$5,000 in 2018.

Jackson said that the funds will be used to repair sidewalks and the parking lot. The repairs are required by USDA Rural Development as part of the safety for the tenants.

The commission approved paying Layne Christensen Company \$6,108.58 for the purchase and installation of a pump motor for well #20.

Jeremy Arnold, utilities director, informed the commission that the pump motor had failed and it was removed and replaced on May 22, and was back in service the next day.

The commission met in two executive sessions, totaling 30 minutes, with Lange and city attorney Justin Ferrell to discuss non-elected personnel.

ATTENTION AREA CONTRACTORS

The Concordia Board of Building Trades will meet on Tuesday June 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission room at City Hall, 701 Washington Street to further discuss general contractor registration. All who are interested are welcome to come and join the discussion.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE WORKER Public Works Division

The City of Concordia Department of Public Works is seeking to fill the position of Municipal Service Worker. Job description available at City Hall.

Deadline: City of Concordia will accept applications until filled.

Apply at the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington. Application is also available online at www.concordiaaks.org. Accommodations are available for persons needing assistance upon request.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Friday, June 8, 2018



Bruce Johnson

Johnson resigns as Police Chief

The resignation of Police Chief Bruce Johnson, effective June 15, has been accepted by the city of Concordia.

Johnson has served as police chief in Concordia since 2013.

"We appreciate the contributions Bruce has made to the Police Department during his tenure, including modernization of the 911 system and initiating the use of body cameras by our police officers," city manager Amy Lange said.

Police Lieutenant Rick Fredrickson and Fire Chief Eric Voss have been named co-interim police chiefs while a search for Johnson's replacement is conducted.

We believe Lieutenant Fredrickson and Chief Voss possess the skills necessary to lead the department through this transition, and to continue to provide high quality law enforcement services for our community.

The co-interim positions provide a redundancy critical for continued operations as both will retain their regular job duties during this time," Lange said.

Advertisement for the police chief position is expected to be posted next week. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Concordia officer killed in accident

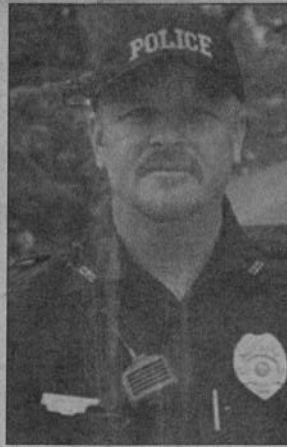
Officer Marc Henry of the Concordia Police Department was killed in a multi-vehicle accident that occurred at approximately 2:30 p.m. Monday, on the southbound lane of Highway 81, in Ottawa County, at the 178th Mile Marker.

On Tuesday morning the Blade spoke with Lt. Roy Henry of the Kansas Highway Patrol.

"A pedestrian was walking along the southbound 81 Highway in Ottawa County," Highway Patrolman Henry said. "Vehicles had slowed to avoid striking the pedestrian. A white Kia stopped in the lane of traffic. A motorcycle driven by Marc Henry rear-ended the Kia."

Marc Henry was transported to the Ottawa County Health Center in Minneapolis, where he was pronounced dead a short time later.

The Blade spoke with Ottawa



Officer Marc Henry

County Sheriff Keith Coleman at 9:43 am on Tuesday morning.

"The pedestrian has been

charged with pedestrian under the influence and murder in the second degree," Coleman said. "The incident is still under investigation."

Henry, 48, was born in Salina, Kansas. He served in the National Guard in the Army and Marine Corps. He had 20 years of military experience, and served 10 years of active duty.

Before joining the Concordia Police Department in 2012, Henry worked for the Clay Center Police Department and the Clay County Sheriff's Office.

"He wanted nothing more than to be a police officer," said Concordia Police Chief Bruce Johnson. "He helped recruit several of our officers."

The passing of Henry was especially emotional for Johnson.

"I worked with him on the

street in 2012," he said. "We not only lost a great officer, I lost a great friend."

An official statement was released this morning by city manager Amy Lange.

"We are deeply saddened at the loss of a great colleague and friend," Lange said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with Marc's family, friends, and colleagues."

Henry will be buried at the Pleasant Hill Cemetery with full military honors, conducted by the Kansas National Guard.

The family requests that all guests who attend wear something blue, if possible. In lieu of flowers, the family also requests that donations be made to the Katie O'Connor Animal Shelter, or the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund in care of the Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home.

MARC A. HENRY

Marc A. Henry, age 48, Concordia, Kan., left this earthly life on Monday, June 11, 2018 at Ottawa County Health Center, Minneapolis, Kan. He was born on June 29, 1969 in Salina, Kan. to Darwin & Mary L. (Ash) Henry.

Marc graduated from Salina Central High School. Marc served in the National Guard in the Army and Marine Corps, as a military police officer and retired from the Guard in 2015. He had over 20 years of military experience and served 10 years of active duty. Marc also worked for the Clay Center Police Dept. & the Clay Co. Sheriff's office. He began working at the Concordia Police Dept. in 2012 and was currently a Senior officer with the department. Marc married Lisa Strauss on Feb. 5, 2017 in Concordia. Marc enjoyed riding his motorcycle, playing golf, scuba diving, tinkering around the house, playing with his 'gadgets', going to the range, but especially loved spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Lisa, Concordia; son, Johnnie Mastin (flauncée Haley Swenson), Concordia; daughter, Jordan Champlin (Alec), Concordia; grandson, Coen Champlin, Concordia; father, Darwin Henry (Nadine), Salina; mother, Mary Lynn Henry, Salina; sister, Josie Allen (Andrew), Concordia; brother, Ron Henry (Re-



MARC A. HENRY

gina), Salina & his niece & nephew, Jessica & Tyler Henry, Salina.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents & a niece, Faith Allen.

We will celebrate Marc's life on Friday, June 15, 2018 at 10:00 am at The Brown Grand Theatre, Concordia. In honor of Marc, the family requests, if possible, that you wear something blue to the funeral. Burial will follow at Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Concordia with full military honors conducted by the Kansas National Guard. Visitation will be Thurs., June 14, 2018 from 1-9 pm with the family greeting friends from 6-7 pm all at Chaput-Buoy Funeral Home, Concordia. The family kindly requests that in lieu of flowers, that memorials be made to the Katie O'Connor Animal Shelter or the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund in care of the funeral home. For online condolences, please visit www.chaputbuoy.com.

Commission to meet Thursday

The Concordia commission will conduct its next regular meeting at 5:30 Thursday instead of on July 4 because of the holiday.

To pick up decorations

The staff at Pleasant Hill Cemetery will pick up Memorial Day decorations on July 2. Anyone wishing to keep their decorations should pick them up before that date.

Man charged in Concordia officer's death

MINNEAPOLIS — A Salina man has been arrested and charged in Ottawa County in connection to an accident on Tuesday that resulted in the death of Concordia Police Officer Marc Henry.

Calm Stewart was arrested at the scene of the accident. He has been charged with second degree murder and pedestrian under the influence.

Stewart remains in custody in the Ottawa County Jail and has a first appearance scheduled for June 19.

It was reported that a pedestrian was walking along U.S. Highway 81 Tuesday afternoon, and was attempting to wave down passing vehicles, which caused them to slow down or stop. Henry, 48, was southbound

on his motorcycle near mile marker 178 in Ottawa County when he ran into the back of a vehicle that had slowed down or was stopped.

Henry was transported to the Ottawa County Health Center in Minneapolis, and was later pronounced dead.

Stewart had been transported to the Cloud County/Ottawa County line by the Cloud County Sheriff's Department earlier in the day. Cloud County Sheriff Brian Marks said that his department had been contacted by Mitchell County law enforcement about the transport of a transient to the Cloud County line.

A Cloud County Sheriff's deputy picked up Stewart at the county line, and then

transported him to the Ottawa County line.

Marks said it is uncertain where Stewart was headed.

According to Marks it is common practice for law enforcement agencies to cooperate in transporting transients from county to county.

Marks said that his department contacted the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department to arrange a meeting at the county line.

Ottawa County informed the Cloud County Sheriff's Department it would be about an hour before it could have someone there to pick up Stewart.

Stewart was dropped off at the county line, and is believed to have walked to mile marker 178 where the accident occurred.

Marks said that the deputy who transported Stewart to the county line is a drug behavior expert, and would not have dropped him off if he believed he was intoxicated.

"He would not have dropped him off if he thought he was intoxicated. He would have done something different," Marks said.

The investigation into the accident continues.

Funeral services for Henry are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday at the Brown Grand Theatre.

Henry, who joined the Concordia Police Department in 2012, will be buried with full military honors.

Family members are asking those attending the funeral to wear blue to honor Henry.



Curb and gutter project

City of Concordia employees pour new curb in front of the Concordia Junior-Senior High School Technical Education Center on West 11th Street. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)



Return of serve

Catelin Benyshek hits a return of serve during Concordia Recreation tennis Monday morning at the City Park. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Commission receives budget requests

Budget requests from the Concordia Senior Center and the Cloud County Resource Center were presented to the Concordia city commission during its regular meeting on Wednesday at City Hall.

Tony Burnett presented a budget request of \$10,000 for fiscal year 2019 on behalf of the Concordia Senior Center, which is the same amount that was budgeted for 2018.

The funds will be used for operating needs and to supplement the wages of the nutrition staff.

Burnett informed the commissioners that the two public transportation vans will each have over 100,000 miles on them next year, and that is the expected life span.

Cost of replacing the vans would be about \$39,000 each. With Kansas Department of Transportation and Food and Drug Administration funding covering 80 percent of the replacement costs, that would leave about \$15,600 that the Senior Center would have to come up with.

"I am asking for the \$10,000. If you could do any more that would help because we have roughly \$16,000 additional costs in operating for the vans," Burnett said.

Burnett said it is possible that the van that is in the worst shape could be replaced next year, and the other would be replaced the following year.

Teddy Lineberry, the Senior

Center manager, told that board that when the public transportation service started, it was the Senior Center van.

"We used it for senior citizens in our community. Over time it evolved, and then we had two vans, and then it became public transportation. That means it is no longer for seniors. Seniors can use it, but it is also for people who are going to their jobs, or going to Walmart," Lineberry said. "It is public transportation, that means it is for the city, it is no longer for the Senior Center."

Lineberry said that every year Senior Center money that could be used for operating costs goes to public transportation.

"So any help we can get from the city, because it is your city, your public transportation that we are managing," Lineberry said.

The public transportation service provided 15,875 trips in 2017.

In 2017, the Senior Center served 18,673 meals, and volunteers delivered over 7,000 of those to home-bound seniors.

Tonya Merrill, executive director of the Cloud County Resource Center, presented a 2019 budget request for \$21,500, which is an increase of \$1,500 from the amount provided for 2018.

In 2017, the Food Bank served just under 1,700 people in Cloud County an increase of 400 from the year before. Of those served, 850 were seniors

over the age of 55 and children under the age of 12.

During the meeting, Neil Phillips of Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips, PA presented the commission with the 2017 audit report.

"I think you have a pretty good audit sitting in front of you," Phillips said, "I think you had a positive year."

Phillips informed the commission that there were no audit adjustments, which to me says that you are getting numbers on a monthly basis that are accurate, because we didn't have to have an audit adjustment. So that means that Amber (Farha, city finance director) is doing a really good job in making sure the numbers are in a really good spot; numbers are accurately reported to you," Phillips said.

The commission voted to approve the audit and authorize the mayor to sign the management representation letter.

In other action taken during the meeting, the commission approved signing a grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration for reconstruction of the parking lot and access road at Blosser Municipal Airport.

The commission, in May, approved awarding a contract to Vogts-Parga Construction, LLC, Newton, at a cost of \$265,168.95 for the airport project.

The city's share of the project will be \$31,119, with the

remaining funds coming from Federal Aviation Administration grant.

The commission also approved a demolition program application for a house located at 1019 Washington St. The low bid of \$5,982.50 from Snaveley Excavating & Septic Systems, Inc. was accepted.

The property owners will be reimbursed \$2,841.25 according to the terms of the demolition program agreement.

During her city manager's report, Amy Lange said that Kyle Railroad has a bridge issue which has caused some delays on the tracks.

"We anticipate that there will be an increased amount of traffic on the Kyle Railroad lines in Concordia for the next several months, through potentially October. What this means is this may result in additional delays for people wanting to cross from one side of the tracks to the other," Lange said, "We are asking people to allow some extra time."

Members of the commission praised the support displayed by the community following the tragic death of Concordia Police Officer Marc Henry.

The funeral for Henry was last Friday.

"I am proud of the city of Concordia every day, but Friday was amazing," Commissioner Mark Matthew said.

Commissioner Chuck Lambert said that Friday was a fantastic showing of support.

NOTICE CITY OF CONCORDIA REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The City of Concordia is requesting proposals for the replacement of a rooftop HVAC unit. Specifications can be picked up at City hall 701 Washington street, Concordia, Kan. 66901.

**Proposals are due
Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.**

City

(continued from page 1)

"I know I am going to say some things that probably aren't too popular, but I think we need to look at less expensive options and get competitive quotes. I think the walking trail was a great thing, but I think \$10,446 is a lot of money right now with all of the infrastructure things we have to do," Matthew said. "I think we need to show the public that we are a little more fiscally responsible. We are still recovering from the money and the spending on the Plaza right now, and we can't keep spending money on these types of things while we have infrastructure things needed. So I am opposed to spending this type of money on this project right now."

Lange asked Matthew if he wanted the administrators to go out and get quotes from other companies for signs similar to those proposed by Wildside Creative.

"I think we need to have signs out there that basically say what they need to do, and hopefully we can get that done for \$1,500 to \$2,000. We need to go to more places than Wildside because we need to get the best pricing," Matthew said. Sacco, in agreeing with Matthew, said that now is not the best time for the city

to be spending that much money. He suggested revisiting the signage after completing the proposed 2019 budget.

"I think we ought to reopen the discussion after we have our budget and see exactly where we stand since this will be coming out of the general fund. And then we can look and say 'okay we are still going to get accomplished what we planned on doing, but we still have this much excess money we can go this far in it.' But I think until we really get into the budget I don't see where we can afford to spend any money on it," Sacco said.

Lange asked if it made any difference that the city has money in the budget this fiscal year for the projecting about what they are talking about at budget time is for next fiscal year.

"To me I just want to look at the budget and what we can plan on doing," Sacco said.

Commissioner Christy Hasch said that the city employees have sacrificed this year with paying more for their insurance benefits.

"I agree with you, Sam. I think for multiple reasons we need to back off on this," Hasch said.

The commission took no action on the proposal.

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Friday, July 6, 2018

City assessing liquidated damages on APAC

A supplemental agreement with Professional Engineering Consultants, PA in the amount of \$34,300 was approved by the Concordia city commission during its regular meeting on Thursday.

The funds will come from the wastewater treatment plant to cover the cost of additional engineering services for first phase of the wastewater treatment plant improvement project.

APAC-Kansas, Inc. was awarded the bid for the treatment plant project in March 2017 at an estimated cost of \$2,348,353 with an original substantial completion date of April 10, 2018.

A change order approved by the city commission established the substantial completion as May 29 and the final completion date of June 22.

"What we are experiencing now is that APAC has exceeded those dates and have fulfilled the contractual requirements of requesting a walk-through by Professional Engineering Con-

sultants in time to establish that new substantial completion date as May 29," city manager Amy Lange said.

As a result of the project delays by APAC an additional expense has been incurred by Professional Engineering Consultants (PEC).

PEC is billing the city for the additional 43 days in the amount of \$34,300.

Lange informed the commissioners that because APAC did not fulfill the contractual obligations, substantial completion was not established and has not yet been verified, the city can assess liquidated damages in the amount of \$800 per day as stated by the contract.

The liquidated damages assessed to APAC will be used to cover the cost of additional constructional inspection services being provided by PEC.

"Because we know they (APAC) are not substantially complete at this point in time and have also run into some other issues, we expect that

there will be more information and cost associated with this project coming down the line. Right now we are taking care of the additional 43 days we know about and that we know how to handle," Lange said.

The \$800 per day in liquidated damages charged to APAC would pass through the city's water treatment plant fund and be paid to PEC.

Mayor Sam Sacco asked how sure the city administrators are that APAC is going to pay the liquidated damages.

"It is in the contract; if they don't pay it, we sue them," city attorney Justin Ferrell said. "They will pay it. I am sure they will. I cannot think of a reason they wouldn't because it is pretty clear cut."

Also during the meeting, the commission approved the purchase of a 2017 Ford Explorer from the Kansas Highway Patrol to replace a patrol vehicle, a 2007 Chevrolet Impala with 146,840 miles, for the Police Department.

The Explorer, which was used by Trooper Wade VanMeter, has just under 50,000 on it.

The city is allowed to purchase used vehicles directly from the Highway Patrol under Kansas statute authority.

Following a lengthy discussion, the commission chose not to act on a proposal to place signage at Heritage Trail, a walking trail in the South Development.

Lange presented the proposal from Wildside Creative in Concordia for placing eight signs at Heritage Trail at a cost of \$10,446.27.

Lange said that the city worked with Wildside Creative to design attractive and durable signs.

Included in the proposal is a large welcome sign at the start of the trail.

Commissioner Mark Matthew, via conference call, expressed concern with spending over \$10,000 to place signs along the trail.

(see City on page 8)

Fire Department wins Battle of the Badges

The Concordia Fire Department squeezed out a 6-5 win over the Cloud County Department of Corrections in the Second Annual Battle of the Badges played at the Concordia Sports Complex.

It was the second straight year winning the battle for the Concordia Fire Department.

The Republic County Highway Department beat

the Concordia Fire Department 20-2 and the Cloud County Department of Corrections 10-9 to capture the tournament title.

The Battle of the Badges was played in honor of Concordia Police Officer Marc Henry who was killed in a motorcycle accident in June.

Proceeds from the tournament will go to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund.

Free Community Swim
Concordia Swimming Pool
Sunday, August 5th 7-8
4-7 pm
Sponsored by
Concordia Lutheran Church (LCMS)
Concordia Outreach
Pick up your Free Swim Tickets at the West Shelter House before entering the pool
Enjoy Cold Drinks and Popicles!

Legals

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Friday, July 20, 2018)

On July 18, 2018, the City of Concordia adopted Ordinance No. 2018-3139, amending licensing requirements for public vendors. A reproduction of this ordinance will be available for not less than one week following the publication of this summary of the ordinance at the website address of the City of Concordia, <http://www.concordiakg.org/>. This summary is certified by the city attorney to be legally accurate and sufficient.

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Friday, July 20, 2018)

On July 18, 2018, the City of Concordia adopted Ordinance No. 2018-3140, amending the Concordia Code Section to adopt the 2018 edition of the Uniform Public Offense Code for Kansas cities. This ordinance is updated annually to conform city criminal ordinances to state law, with certain exceptions as stated in the ordinance. The complete text of this ordinance may be obtained and viewed free of charge at the office of the city clerk. A reproduction of this ordinance will be available for not less than one week following the publication of this ordinance at the website address of the City of Concordia, <http://www.concordiakg.org/>. This summary is certified by the city attorney to be legally accurate and sufficient.

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Friday, July 20, 2018)

On July 18, 2018, the City of Concordia adopted Ordinance No. 2018-3141, amending the Concordia Code to adopt the 2018 edition of the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas cities. This ordinance is updated annually to conform city traffic rules to state law, with certain exceptions and additions as stated in the ordinance. The complete text of this ordinance may be obtained and viewed free of charge at the office of the city clerk. A reproduction of this ordinance will be available for not less than one week following the publication of this ordinance at the website address of the City of Concordia, <http://www.concordiakg.org/>. This summary is certified by the city attorney to be legally accurate and sufficient.

Special meeting set

The Concordia city commission has a special meeting scheduled for July 24 at 3 p.m. to discuss the 2019 budget.

BIDS WANTED

The City of Concordia is accepting sealed bids for a patch machine. Bids will be accepted until 10 a.m. Aug. 2, 2018. For more information, contact the city clerk at 785-243-2670, or 701 Washington.

First published in the Blade-Empire on Tuesday, July 31, 2018

Published in the Blade-Empire on 7-31-2018

CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS
TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD FROM April 1, 2018 THROUGH June 30, 2018

FUNDS	1st Quarter Ending Cash Balances	Receipts	Expenditures	2nd Quarter Ending Cash Balances
100 General Fund	\$ 1,321,065.07	\$ 1,231,067.80	\$ 1,048,758.46	\$ 1,505,374.41
203 Industrial Development	25,344.97	18,313.45	25,000.00	18,858.42
205 Special Highway	118,095.98	38,258.92	11,998.91	142,357.97
206 D.A.R.E. Grant	1,194.93	525.00	-	1,719.93
208 Cyber Crimes	442.10	-	-	442.10
214 Animal Shelter	28,242.84	1,145.00	1,713.36	27,874.48
217 Special Park and Recreation	39,221.33	-	-	39,221.33
221 Computer Equipment/Replacement	9,988.39	-	4,072.95	5,925.44
222 Vehicle Equipment Reserve Acct.	152,223.95	583.20	108,845.33	44,161.82
230 Judges Training Fund	3,488.60	5,486.00	3,701.24	5,253.26
244 911 PSAP	88,017.01	14,928.00	9,022.54	73,822.47
250 Fire Dept. Grants & Donations	(935.74)	-	1,500.00	(2,435.74)
255 Police Dept Grants & Donations	82.28	-	82.28	-
260 Animal Trust Fund	30,343.49	3,029.27	-	33,372.76
270 Cemetery Endowment	40,884.52	-	-	40,884.52
290 Recreation Grants & Donations	783.80	12,000.00	12,240.00	543.80
301 Bond and Interest	331,848.54	140,828.97	82,722.00	410,055.51
303 Tax Increment Bond Fund	428,910.88	284,803.12	-	711,713.98
444 TIF Projects	72,920.53	-	-	72,920.53
450 Capital Improvement Projects	178,936.01	47,871.38	174,559.94	62,247.45
451 Wastewater Treatment Facility	2,081,010.74	86,368.17	1,236,219.35	891,159.56
550 Central Garage Fund	-	37,337.32	37,337.32	-
601 Water/Sewer General	707,778.44	357,862.32	598,204.98	467,435.78
650 Gas Fund	10,317.22	6,394.37	4,918.50	11,793.09
710 Post Fire Debris Removal Fund	-	7,500.00	-	7,500.00
725 COC Cafeteria Plan	14,898.20	8,880.09	4,851.62	18,506.67
735 Library Fund	-	86,117.57	86,117.57	-
738 Library Employee Benefit	-	18,071.33	18,071.33	-
750 Continuing Econ. Development Grant	554,867.45	9,102.93	-	563,970.38
780 Cloud County Landfill	2,692.66	70,731.82	80,765.85	3,668.53
802 Water Protection Fund	912.21	1,347.76	1,187.14	1,072.83
TOTALS	\$ 6,199,388.16	\$ 2,448,413.78	\$ 3,488,678.66	\$ 5,147,121.29

LIABILITIES:	
General Obligation Bonds	5,283,200.00
TIF General Obligation Bonds	1,930,000.00
Capital Leases	-
TOTAL	\$ 7,213,200.00

CASH AVAILABLE:	
Cash on Hand	1,901.33
Checking Accounts	287,501.89
Money Markets & Savings Accounts	2,190,471.65
Certificate of Deposit	2,887,248.42
Reconciling Items per Bank Rec	-
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS	\$ 5,147,121.29

I, Amber Farha, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.

Amber Farha, City Treasurer

Commission approves SRO agreement

Among the items that did get approved during the Concordia city commission regular meeting on Wednesday were a School Resource Officer agreement with Unified School District 333, a Revolving Loan Fund change for Heavy's Steakhouse & BBQ and a license agreement with OCCK, Inc.

Decisions on replacing an air conditioning unit on City Hall and revising a solicitors ordinance were tabled by the commission.

At the request of city building inspector Bruno Rehbein, the public hearings and decisions on two properties deemed to be unsafe and dangerous were postponed.

A three-year agreement between the city and USD 333 for the purpose of providing a School Resource Officer (SRO) to serve the school district was approved by the commission. The agreement is then renewable in one year increments.

In 2015 the city received a grant through the Community

Oriented Policing Services for the purpose of providing and SRO to the district. The grant paid 75 percent of the annual salary and benefits for the position for the schools from 2015-18.

As a part of that grant commitment, the city was required to make an agreement with USD 333 to fund the position for one more year.

"The purpose of that was to make sure the officer still had a job and services were still provided," city manager Amy Lange said. "The school district and our police department, as well as our city staff, believe that position is still important."

City funds will be used to cover the SRO position for the 2018-19 school year.

"That was a result of some negotiations we had last fall between the then chief of police and the school district," Lange said.

In the final two years of the agreement, the funding structure for the SRO would revert

back one similar to the original agreement with the school district funding the salary during the school year and the city funding the salary during the summer as well as benefits.

The agreement was approved by the USD 333 board of education during its meeting earlier this month.

Allowing the Revolving Loan Fund to remove Marty Tatum's name from the Heavy's Steakhouse & BBQ, LLC loan documents and authorizing Mayor Sam Sacco to sign a written notification to Central National Bank giving approval to release Tatum as a party to the loan was approved by the commission.

Tatum and Tabytha Brown purchased Heavy's BBQ in 2015 utilizing private bank loans and a loan guaranty from the Concordia Revolving Loan Fund. They applied for a \$100,000 guaranty on a \$100,000 loan from Central National Bank with a rate of 5.58 percent with a 1.58 per-

cent on CD.

Heavy's has met the requirements set forth by the bank and the Revolving Loan Fund, inclusive of making timely payments.

A memo presented to the commission from CloudCorp executive director Ashley Hutchinson stated that Tatum wishes to dissolve his ownership in the business and remove his name from the loan documents, and that he and Brown have mutually agreed upon terms for dissolution of the partnership.

In other action taken during the meeting, the commission approved a license agreement with OCCK, Inc. for signage, seating and concrete pavement in the right-of-way to accommodate two bus stops near Cloud County Community College for 81 Connection.

The bus stops will be placed on each side of College Drive near Cloud County Community College's lot number four.

(see Commission on page 8)

Commission

(continued from page 1)
OCCK, Inc. currently has a bus stop for 81 Connection on West Seventh Street across from City Hall. It is also included in the license agreement.

City Clerk Stacy Smith presented public vendor and solicitors ordinances to the commission for consideration.

"Both of these ordinances I wanted to bring to you because I feel like they need to start being enforced," Smith said.

The public vending ordinance presented to the commission increases the possible fine for a violation from \$25 to \$250.

The proposed ordinance states that a license issued to a vendor is valid for a period not to exceed four days at a rate of \$25 per day for four hours of operation or \$50 per day for over four hours, and no applicant shall be issued more than four licenses per calendar year.

Commissioner Chuck Lambertz expressed some reservations about limiting a vendor to four licenses per year.

"If they are doing square business, if they are paying their license fees and showing us they are paying sales tax dollars, I don't see a reason why we couldn't support that," Lambertz said.

The commission approved the ordinance with a modification to the section pertaining to the number of licenses that can be issued in a calendar year.

A revised solicitors ordinance was not approved by the commission because of concerns that were presented during the discussion.

The commission tabled action on the new air con-

ditioning unit for City Hall. Proposals were submitted from Callabresi Heating & Cooling and Hood Heating Air Plumbing & Electric.

Callabresi and Hood will be allowed to present revised proposals based on the specifications for the unit.

Public hearings on unsafe and dangerous properties located at 403 East Fifth St. and 425 East Second St. were postponed.

Rehbein told the commissioners that he had been informed by one of the property owners that no notification on the public hearing had been received.

The public hearings will be rescheduled for the August 15 meeting.

The commission did approve standard traffic and public offense code ordinances.

A mid-year report on Broadway Plaza was presented to the commission by Hutchinson.

Hutchinson said the Plaza has hosted 73 events to date and 68 more are currently scheduled for this year.

Total attendance at the Plaza to this point has been 3,090.

Hutchinson said the Plaza has generated 86 percent of the revenue it received from all of last year.

Following the regular meeting the commission conducted a second study session on the 2019 budget.

The commission was presented with a preliminary budget at the first study session which proposes a bill levy rate of 36.257 which is a slight increase of 0.028 mills from 2018.

Another budget study session is scheduled for Tuesday at 3 p.m.

City commission approves Sunday sales

A resolution to allow the sale of alcohol on Sundays within the city limits of Concordia was approved by the Concordia city commission during its regular meeting Wednesday at City Hall.

The resolution states that the sale of retail alcoholic liquor and retail cereal malt beverages is allowed within the city Monday through Saturday between 9 a.m. and 11 p.m. except on Thanksgiving day, Christmas day and any election day during the hours the polls are open and on Sunday between noon and 8 p.m. except on Easter and Christmas day.

The commission approved the resolution on a vote of 4-1 with Mark Matthew voting against it.

"I am really not sold on making the change now," Matthew said.

Leitzler Oil Company submitted a request to the city commission in February to allow the sale of retail cereal malt beverages on Sunday.

The commission conducted a study session on the issue on March 7 and heard from Alison Leitzler Bridges of Leitzler Oil; Kelly Jackson, owner of Corner Liquor; and Lisa Strauss, owner of Liquor Outlet.

Jackson and Strauss each voiced opposition to allowing Sunday sales.

Action on the issue was delayed until August.

"This gives the commission

the most flexibility, and again try and save money for the taxpayers. If the commission decides tonight to allow alcohol and CMB (cereal malt beverages) on Sundays it initiates a 60-day protest period," city manager Amy Lange said.

Lange said that during that protest period, if there is a petition signed by 99 citizens of Concordia, which is equal to a percentage of citizens registered to vote in Concordia who also voted in the 2016 election, and turned into the County Clerk's office within the 60 days the issue will be placed on the ballot for the November general election for a vote.

"The reason we waited until now is because we can hit that 60 days time for a vote. If the 60-day protest period fell outside of the general election time frame we would have had to have paid about \$3,500 to put it to a vote," Lange said.

Mayor Sam Sacco said he favors Sunday sales as a way for the city to generate revenue.

"I guess I kind of look at it as revenue, especially during the summer," Sacco said. "I know during our last conversation that the liquor stores would prefer not to be open on Sundays, and I guess I still look at that as two different products."

Sacco said what he likes about the issue is that even if the commission does vote to support it the public does have a chance to petition against it

and have it on the ballot in November.

Commissioner Chuck Lambertz said that he is on the fence on the issue and can understand from a business owner's perspective their not wanting the commission to approve the resolution.

"I am not a huge fan of legislating morality, and I think I have said that a number of times before. So I don't like legally restricting people's rights to do things they want to do," Lambertz said. "I think that there is a good opportunity to capture some sales tax and liquor tax, and there is a portion of those sales that go to funding our recreation and wellness program through the state."

Lambertz said what he likes most about the issue is that it would provide the opportunity for it to be on a public ballot.

"We can sit here and decide what we want, and if the public wants it, they will support it and if they don't they won't," Lambertz said.

In other action taken during the meeting, the commission approved publishing the 2019 budget and setting a public hearing for August 15 at 5:30 p.m.

The budget proposes a general fund tax rate of 36.278. That is a slight increase of .049 mills from the 2018 rate of 36.229.

The commission approved

the purchase of a Carrier rooftop heating, air conditioning and ventilation unit for City Hall from Hood Heating Air Plumbing Electric, Inc at a total cost of \$9,563.49 which includes \$275 for a five-year extended warranty.

A solicitors licensing resolution, with modifications, was approved by the commission.

Lange, during her city manager's report, informed the commissioners that she is planning a meeting with representatives of Cloud County Unified School District 333 and Cloud County Community College to discuss plans for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds.

"Earlier in July we had our budget study sessions and one of the things we discussed was some potential projects and how we were going to fund those projects. We tossed around the idea of how to use the remainder of the TIF money, the TIF district expires in 2020. Knowing that having that TIF money is a result of other taxing entities sacrificing a little bit to be able to better the entire community I have invited the county, the school district and Cloud County Community College to gather together so we can talk about those potential projects and how we would use the money to make sure they are on board with the direction we are headed."

MUNICIPAL SERVICE WORKER 8-217

The City of Concordia Needs YOU! You will be rewarded with wonderful benefits, including 100% employee paid health insurance and an excellent retirement package.

The Department of Public Works is seeking to fill the position of Municipal Service Worker. Both streets and parks positions are open. Job descriptions available at City Hall. Applications will be accepted until filled.

Apply at the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington. Application is also available online at www.concordiaks.org. Accommodations are available for persons needing assistance upon request.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Pool to close on August 12

The last day for swimming at the Concordia Municipal Pool will be August 12. The pool will close at 5 p.m. that day.

The pool will be open daily from 1-7 p.m. through August 11, weather permitting.

The City staff would like to thank the lifeguards, pool staff and members of the community for their support.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
Concordia

will meet on August 15, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. at Commission Chambers of Concordia City Hall for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Hall, 701 Washington and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2019 Expenditures and Amount of 2018 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2019 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2017			Current Year Estimate for 2018			Proposed Budget for 2019		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *		Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *		Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2018 Ad Valorem Tax	
General	4,977,026	36.513		4,282,390	36.229		4,808,660	\$56,974	
Debt Service	632,513	10.730		746,674	10.689		872,460	249,331	
Library	168,229	5.793		177,250	6.586		180,449	155,370	
Library Employee Benefit	42,759	1.474		48,228	1.813		56,434	49,441	
Economic Development	58,000	1.575		58,000	1.826		60,000	42,132	
Special Highway	214,843			130,000					
TIF	803,896			800,171			240,881		
Special Parks & Rec	4,915			12,936			818,877		
911 PSAP	109,111			35,000			50,879		
Water & Sewer Utility Fund	1,471,495			1,830,382			147,618		
Gas Utility Fund	13,242			21,000			2,014,039		
Non-Budgeted Funds-A	138,266						58,000		
Non-Budgeted Funds-B	993,481								
Non-Budgeted Funds-C	1,420,970								
Totals	10,149,146	56.085		8,142,031	57.143		9,308,267	1,351,451	
Lease Transfers	642,224			674,312			607,990		
Net Expenditure	9,506,922			7,467,719			8,700,277		
Total Tax Levied	1,327,319			1,169,300			XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed									
Valuation	23,666,172			23,922,147			23,622,597		

Outstanding Indebtedness,

January 1,

2016

2017

2018

G.O. Bonds

Revenue Bonds

Other

Lease Purchase Principal

Total

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

7,105,400

6,128,000

7,135,600

0

0

0

5,114

3,200

1,113

7,110,514

6,131,200

7,216,713

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

City of Concordia

City Manager

CONCORDIA, KANSAS 66901

Monday, August 6, 2018

City to interview police chief candidates

The public is invited to meet the candidates for the Concordia Chief of Police position from 7:30-8:45 p.m. Sunday at City Hall.

The candidates will be participating in an assessment center-style interview process continuing on August 13 which includes a presentation on community-oriented policing and an in-basket exercise resembling a typical day in the life of a chief of police in addition to a formal interview with the search committee.

The city anticipates a new chief of police will be in place by October 1.

Chief of Police candidates to be interviewed, the biographical information on each, include:

Ric A. Fredrickson, Concordia: Fredrickson has served on the Concordia Police Department since 1998 in various roles including patrol officer,

bicycle patrol officer, Corporal, Sergeant and Lieutenant. During his time with the department, Fredrickson has served as a D.A.R.E. Instructor from 2002-12 and as the School Resource Officer from 2006-2012. He worked for the Cloud County Sheriff's Department as a deputy from 1991-98. He began his career in law enforcement as a part-time patrol officer and animal control officer with the Concordia Police Department, serving from 1998-2001 in addition to working on the family farm. In addition to basic certification from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, Fredrickson holds certifications related to forensic interviewing and the National Incident Management System. He is a member of the Kansas Peace Officers Association and Kansas Juvenile Offi-

Kenneth R. Davis, Concordia: Davis has served as a Sergeant at the Cloud County Sheriff's Department since 2013. He was a deputy from 2002-06. Davis worked for the Concordia Police Department from 2006-13 as an investigator and patrol officer. Prior to beginning his career in law enforcement, Davis served 13 years in the Kansas Army National Guard and two years in the South Carolina Army National Guard. In addition to basic certification from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, Davis holds certifications related to drug and child crimes investigations as well as range instructor for rifle, shotgun and handgun, among others. Davis has also been involved in the community through coaching youth football and baseball.

Daniel B. Costlow, Circleville: Costlow has served the

Onaga Police Department as Chief of Police since 2013. He also worked for the Pottawatomie Sheriff's Department as a deputy from 2010-13 and the Wabaunsee County Sheriff's Department from 2007-10. During his time, Costlow served as a D.A.R.E. Instructor for Wabaunsee and the city of Onaga and as a part-time S.W.A.T. Officer and firearms instructor for Pottawatomie County. In addition to basic certification from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, Costlow has certifications as a Glock Armorer, explosive breaching and handling and EMT. He is presently working toward K9 handler certification. Costlow is a member of the Kansas Peace Officers Association, among others. He is a member of the local saddle club and enjoys spending time with his family.

City commission closes in on new police chief

by Tonya Merrill

At the regularly scheduled Wednesday meeting of the Concordia City Commission, it was announced that the City hopes to make an offer to a new police chief by the end of this week.

The city has been searching for suitable replacement for this position following the resignation of Chief Bruce Johnson in June. Johnson had served as Chief since 2013.

Initially, 16 applications were received for this position and the 24-person selection panel trimmed them down to 4.

The interview process was then whittled down from 4 candidates to 2 when 2 of the candidates dropped out of the running citing "personal reasons."

The remaining 2 candidates, Interim Police Chief, Ric Fredrickson and Sgt Ken Davis, met with members of the community, commissioners, staff of the City, other officers, and dispatchers at public meetings on this past Sunday.

Comment cards were available so that members of the gatherings could submit their feedback on this issue.

Then separately each candidate had a formal presentation on community policing and an interview with the committee.

They also participated in a timed scenario-style challenge where they were asked to work in their mock office, answering three written essay questions while scenarios were brought to them as interruptions.

This style of interview looks at candidates in different circumstances, formal and informal settings, and allows them to present against one another and separately.

"I highly recommend this style of interview process," says City Manager Amy Lange. "It was very effective."

"We are hopeful that by the end of this week, we will be able to make an offer," Lange continues.

The new police chief will take over official duties beginning on

Oct. 1st.

In other items, the City also voted unanimously to begin demolition work on an "unsafe and dangerous" property listed at 435 E 2nd. The structural damage to house and shed have made it dangerous and the lot is overgrown.

A 90-day extension was granted to the owners of a fire damaged property at 403 E 5th, in order for them to have time to either secure a buyer or to get demolition bids of their own.

Public Works Director, Ron Copple told the city about a pre-planning meeting happening Aug 27th for the new FAA approved airport parking lot and entrance road.

Earlier this year, bids were taken for this project, which will be particularly funded by the FAA.

Copple also presented information about the bid for a patch mix machine to repair potholes in the streets. The machine itself is estimated to cost \$58,881 with an addition of

\$385.00 for an 8-gallon oil tank to hold the mix for the mixture making the total price, \$59,266.

A motion was made by Commissioner Matthew and seconded by Commissioner Hausch and it carried unanimously for this purchase.

City Manager Amy Lange also reported on the progress of the new Orphan Train Statue being placed near City Hall. The statue is complete and will be ready to place in the upcoming weeks.

A report on usage and activity of the City Pool is in progress and should be able to be presented to the Commissioners later this month.

The Commission voted to accept the 2019 Budget. The proposed budget will hold at 57 mills, which is the same as last year's. After a public hearing, Commissioner Lambertz motioned to approve and Commissioner Snively seconded the acceptance of this standing budget. The motion was unanimous.

Fredrickson named new Chief of Concordia Police Dept.

The City of Concordia has named Ric Fredrickson the next Chief of the Concordia Police Department. Fredrickson will begin serving as Chief of Police on September 1st.

The city conducted a regional search to fill the Chief of Police position. Fredrickson was selected from a pool of 16 applicants after an extensive assessment center interview process and thorough background check. The search committee also received and reviewed feedback from commissioners, city staff including police officers and dispatchers, and community members before making their selection.

"We are extremely pleased to make this announcement," said city manager Amy Lange. "Fredrickson's breadth of experience with multiple facets of law enforcement, coupled with his leadership experience, community involvement, and personality are impressive. We are confident he is the right person for this highly visible and critical position."

Fredrickson has served the Concordia Police Department since 1998 in various roles including Patrol Officer, Bike Patrol Officer, Corporal, Sergeant and Lieutenant. During this time, Fredrickson also served as a D.A.R.E. instructor from 2002 to 2012 and as School Resource Officer from 2006 to 2012.

Fredrickson also served the Cloud County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy from 1991 to 1998.

Fredrickson began his career in law enforcement as a part-time Patrol Officer and Animal Control Officer with the Concordia Police Department, serving from 1988 to 1991 in addition to working on the family farm.

To attend unveiling 8:31
The Concordia city commissioners will be attending the unveiling of the city's Orphan Train Rider statue at City Hall at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday.

Special meeting scheduled 8:00
The Concordia city commission has a special meeting scheduled for 7 a.m. Tuesday in the commission meeting room.

In addition to basic certification from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, Fredrickson holds certifications related to forensic interviewing and the National Incident Management System. Fredrickson is also a member of the Kansas Peace Officers Association and Kansas Juvenile Officers Association, among others.

Fredrickson has also been involved with the local community as a city league softball coach and as a member of the Concordia Elementary School site council.

Fredrickson and his wife Lynette have been married for 25 years. They have two daughters, Jenna, a sophomore at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska and Abby, a sophomore at Concordia High School.

Fredrickson says his first priority will be to assess the staffing needs of the department.

"I want to get the department up to full staff, with each member working where they are most effective to serve the community," Fredrickson stated.

Concordia home damaged by fire

Fire caused extensive damage to a house, located at 428 East 11th Street, Monday afternoon.

The Concordia Fire Department received the call at 4:23 p.m. and found the back of the house and a porch on the southwest corner were fully involved when firefighters arrived.

"We had a great response by the guys. Great teamwork, and were able to get it knocked down," Concordia Fire Chief Eric Voss said.

Voss said that the house is a total loss, and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Judy Marie Slye, who rents the house, was inside when the fire started.

"She was wakened by her dog," Voss said.

Lou Ann Dudley, who lives at 430 East 12th St., and her daughters Jessica Dudley and Tiffany Detterline, saw the smoke and called 911.

The three then got into a car and drove around the block to see where the smoke was coming from and spotted a dog in the driveway of the house that was on fire.

Jessica went to get the dog, and said it kept backing up as she approached.

"She was trying to tell us something," Jessica said.

Jessica noticed the brake lights on a car in the driveway



Extinguishing the blaze

Concordia Firefighters pour water onto a house fire at 428 East 11th Street Monday afternoon. (Blade photo by Jim Lowell)

were on, and she found Slye in the car.

The three ladies helped Slye out of the car and across the

street. She was taken by private vehicle to Cloud County Health Center to get checked out.

"I am just glad we were there," Lou Ann said.

Voss said there were no smoke detectors in the house.

Shooter drill conducted at CCHC

By Russell Gagnon
Blade Staff Writer

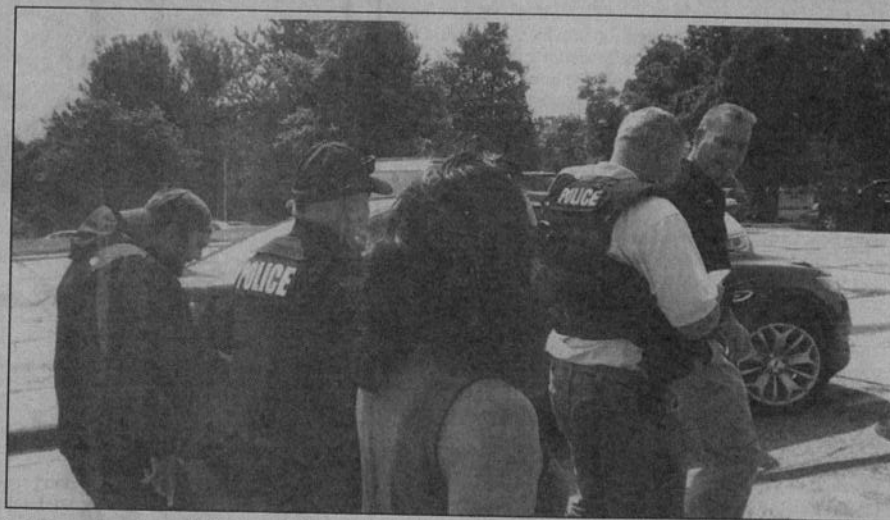
The gunman entered the hospital with a single purpose in mind: cause as much death and inflict as much suffering as possible.

45 seconds after he stormed through the main entry doors, three hospital staff members had been shot. Within two minutes, the gunman had shot another victim in the basement and then used the stairwell to reach the third floor, where he claimed a fifth casualty.

The entire event was just a simulation, but it was dramatic in its intent and laid bare a sad reality of the world we live in today: it is almost impossible to completely stop a lone wolf determined to inflict pain and suffering on his fellow man.

But the drill also proved that training and preparedness can dramatically minimize the carnage and casualties. Five casualties may seem like a lot, but there were over 100 staff and patients at CCHC when the gunman entered the building. Within minutes, most of those people seemed to vanish.

The drill began at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning with



This is just a drill

Johnnie Mastin, left, prepares to play the role of an active shooter during a drill at Cloud County Health Center on Tuesday. (Blade photo by Russell Gagnon)

a meeting of the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC) at the fire station. Chaired by Concordia Fire Chief Eric Voss - who also serves as the director of Cloud County Emergency Preparedness - the meeting was attended by representatives of local and countywide law enforcement agencies, fire departments, city hall, the Cloud

County Health Center (CCHC), the Cloud County Community College (CCCC), Mount Joseph, the Marquis Place, and Sunset Home.

After updates were discussed, Chief Voss moved on to the main focus of the meeting: an active shooter drill at CCHC.

Fireman John Mastin had volunteered to portray the

gunman who would suddenly enter the hospital and begin shooting. In order to observe the reactions and preparedness of the hospital staff, Voss, Sheriff Brian Marks, new Police Chief Ric Fredrickson, and city manager Amy Lange would shadow Mastin as he made his way through the facility.

(see Drill on page 6)

Drill

(continued from page 1)
Additional observers

would be placed on different floors of the building to further note the preparedness of the staff.

Voss scheduled the drill for noon, when many of the hospital staff would be at lunch. The intent was to try and catch the staff off-guard, and Voss directed Mastin to specifically target a finance committee meeting that was taking place in the basement cafeteria.

Voss also pointed out that, in this drill, the gunman was going to make an aggressive attack, running from one kill zone to another in order to expose as many flaws as possible in the staff's trained response.

Leroy Dickinson, Sr., Director of Operations at CCHC, confirmed that only key department heads were aware of the drill. The majority of the staff at the hospital did not know that an Active Shooter Drill was going to take place.

A little before noon on Tuesday, Mastin and his observation team approached the front of CCHC.

At 12:01... the gunman entered the hospital.

Seconds later, the recep-

tionist behind the front desk was shot, exposing the first major flaw of preparedness. Because it was lunchtime, only one person was at the entryway desk. With her disabled, no emergency alert was broadcast over the intercom system that a gunman had entered the building.

Mastin used a cap gun for realism and also threw small firecrackers to simulate gunshot sounds.

Within 45 seconds, the gunman had claimed two more victims in the hallway.

Just as he reached the stairwell, a tense voice suddenly blared over the intercom: "Code Silver! Code Silver!"

"Silver" was CCHC's code to alert staff that an active shooter was in the building, and their cue to immediately activate the hospital's emergency preparedness plan. It worked.

By the time the gunman reached the basement - and the finance meeting that was his main target - the cafeteria was empty. The gunman got through a door that wasn't locked and shot a fourth victim, but every other door he tried in the base-

City commission passes contract with Benesch

The Concordia city commission approved a contract with Alfred Benesch & Company, Manhattan, for preparation of a Federal Aviation Administration grant application.

Benesch will be paid \$7,000 to update the Aviation Demand Forecast and the Airport Layout Plan and submit the application for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) supplemental discretionary grant funding for a new and longer Runway 18/36 at Blosser Municipal Airport. Payment will be made from the general fund.

The federal government authorized a bill earlier this year as part of the 2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act that provides supplemental discretionary funding through the FAA Airport Improvement Program (AIP) for small rural airports.

The grant provides funding for projects without a local match. There is a total of \$1 billion available for federal fiscal years 2018-2020.

Blosser Municipal Airport is one of 43 Kansas airports eligible for

"priority consideration" under the bill because of its classification.

Proposed projects will be evaluated on their eligibility under existing AIP rules, the likelihood the proposed projects will be ready to proceed with construction during the same fiscal year and the ability of the project to enhance the long-term economic sustainability of the airport.

The design of a new and longer runway, identified as Runway 18/36 in the current airport master plan is a project eligible for the supplemental grant funding provided the increased length can be justified.

The last estimate prepared for the project was approximately \$8 million.

The FAA requires the Airport Layout Plan be updated as part of the grant application.

An updated Aviation Demand Forecast provides the necessary information to update the Airport Layout Plan. The update must be completed by an airport consultant approved by the FAA.

To honor the fallen

The Concordia Firefighters will walk the stairs at Harold M. Clark Stadium on September 11 at 10 a.m. to honor and remember the 343 firefighters who lost their lives on 9/11.

Also during the meeting, Mayor Sam Sacco signed a proclamation which designates September 21, 2018 as International Day of Peace.

The United Nations General Assembly, on September 7, 2001, unanimously passed Resolution 55/282 designating September 21 of each year as an International Day of Peace. It is intended to encourage the observation of a worldwide, 24-hour vigil for peace and nonviolence.

A Right of Peace special event will be observed on September 23 at the Nazareth Motherhouse.

The proclamation states that a broad coalition of religious and secular organizations in Concordia have committed to working together in observance of this special event.

City finance manager Amber Farha provided the commission with a report on the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool.

In December, 2017, the commission approved a \$2 per meter fee on city utility bills to help fund the addition of water features at the pool.

An 8x8 water slide was installed at the pool last spring along with a small slide in the baby pool.

Total pool income for the summer was \$22,697.57, that is up from \$20,479.95 in 2017.

The attendance at the pool during the summer was 11,837 compared to 10,064 for 2017.

Thursday, September 6, 2018

City approves contract for dam inspections

In the only action taken during a short meeting on Wednesday, the Concordia city commission approved city manager Amy Lange's signing a contract with RMA Engineers, Concordia, to provide safety inspections on the 21st Street Dam and the Plum Road Dam.

The construction of the dams was completed three years ago.

Lange informed the commissioners that the city had received letters from the Kansas Department of Agriculture, which oversees maintenance of the dams, stating it was time for the three-year inspections.

"Our dams are classified as high hazard dams and need to be inspected every three years, and this is the start of those," Lange said.

The city solicited proposals from three firms for the inspections including RMA Engineers, Campbell & Johnson Engineers, Concordia, and Alfred Benesch and Company, Manhattan.

Lange said that all three firms are qualified to do the inspections, and it came down to price.

The commission approved Lange's signing the contract with RMA Engineers to do the inspections for an amount not to exceed \$6,000, which will be paid from the general fund.

The inspection reports will be submitted to the Kansas Department of Agriculture within the specified timeframe which is May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019.

The contract with RMA Engineers includes the safety inspections and the required report as well as preparation of additional information necessary to aid in better tracking of maintenance and operations of the dams and for future safety inspections.

Lange said the inspections are required every three years.



Unveiling

Concordia mayor Sam Sacco and city commissioner Mark Matthew unveil the Orphan Train Rider Statue of Henry Lee Jost Wednesday afternoon at City Hall. (Blade photo by Jim Lowell)

Orphan Train Rider Statue unveiled at City Hall

The National Orphan Train Complex and the city of Concordia unveiled the 21st Orphan Train Rider Statue at City Hall on Wednesday.

The statue at City Hall honors Henry Lee Jost, a former mayor of Kansas City, Mo.

Jost was the son of Simon and Lena Jost.

When Simon's wife, Lena, died Henry Lee and his sister, Lizzie, were placed in the Five Points House of Industry temporarily.

Henry became a ward of the House of Industry when his board was not paid, and thus the parental rights were severed.

The Children's Aid Society selected Henry and 17 other children to be placed out in Hopkins, Mo. in 1881.

Henry spent time with several families before striking out on his own as a farmhand at the age of 15.

In 1886, Henry began to study law in the office of S.E. Browne. By the spring of 1897, he was elected Justice of the Peace of Hopkins Township. He attended the Kansas City School of Law in 1898 and moved to Kansas City and began working for the Jackson County prosecuting office in 1909.

Henry practiced law in Kansas City for

46 years.

The Democratic Party nominated Henry for the mayor of Kansas City in 1912 and he was elected.

Henry was re-elected mayor in 1914, but lost in 1916.

During Henry's years as mayor two notable events took place, the construction of Union Station and the establishment of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City.

Henry lectured at the Kansas City School of Law from 1917-1936 on criminal law. He was elected in 1922 as a Democrat to the 68th Congress and served one term.

Retiring in 1944, Henry lived on his farm in Belton, Mo. until his death in 1950 at the age of 76.

Henry and his wife, Minnie, had two children, Mary and Henry Lee, Jr. His son graduated from Vanderbilt University and became a lawyer.

The National Orphan Train Statue project was started in September 2016.

Businesses and organizations in the community sponsor statues to honor the Orphan Train Riders.

The statues are created by the Randolph Rose Collection in Yonkers, New York.

POLICE OFFICER

Looking for a rewarding career in law enforcement and have a positive impact on your community? Join the Concordia Police Department, where you can serve and protect nearly 5300 citizens. Officers perform general duty police work consisting of patrol work on an assigned shift, preliminary investigation, and miscellaneous duties. Excellent benefits package including KP&F retirement and 100% paid health insurance for the employee.

Requirements: must be at least 21 years of age, a U.S. citizen, possess a valid Kansas driver's license, high school diploma or GED, be able to pass a background check, reside in or within 20 miles of Concordia and successfully complete all steps in the hiring process. Certified officers are encouraged to apply.

Complete job description and applications are available online at: www.concordiakg.org, or contact City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington, 785-243-2670.

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Position will be open until filled. Resumes may be submitted with the application.

EOE



Honoring the fallen

The Concordia Fire Department honored those who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks with a memorial stair climb at Harold M. Clark Stadium on Tuesday. Firefighters walked the steps at the stadium 23 times. There were 2,977 people killed in the attacks including 343 firefighters, 60 police officers and eight EMT/paramedics. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Flag football game set 9-27

The Concordia Fire Department will play the Cloud County Sheriff's Department/Concordia Police Department in a flag football game scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Sunday at Harold M. Clark Stadium.

A free will donation will be accepted at the game.

Donations will be used to purchase ambulance child restraints to be used in the ambulances.

Wear blue to cheer for the Sheriff's Dept./Police Dept. team and red to cheer on the Fire Dept. team.

City approves purchase of ambulance

Purchasing a new ambulance to replace Medic-5, which blew a head gasket, was approved by the Concordia city commission during its regular meeting on Wednesday.

The city will buy a 2017 Ford E350 with a V10 gas engine from Osage Ambulances at cost of \$9,700. It is a remount demo unit which will carry the same warranty as a new unit.

Fire Chief Eric Voss reported to the commission that Medic-5, a 2010 Ford F350 with a 6.0L diesel motor, was returning from a call in Glasco when it started blowing white smoke and then locked up as it was pulled into the Fire Department/EMS building.

Estimated cost of repairs to Medic-5 is \$6,000 for just the head gasket.

Voss said in the past two years the city has spent \$7,000 in repairs on the unit and it has only been driven 9,000 miles.

"The guys don't trust it to go anywhere. It is our last unit out," Voss said.

Voss contacted Osage Ambulances and was informed it had the 2017 Ford demo.

Including Medic-4, the city has four ambulances serving Concordia and the surrounding area.

"The biggest thing we are running into is the transfers, and that is just health care today," Voss said.

Voss said that this year, to date, Concordia has done 135 transfers to Salina and 191 total.

The busiest year was 2016 when the city made 203 transfers.

"I think we need to look at how we handle outside Concordia, and maybe go to the county and some of those towns and say we are running thin, and our equipment is getting miles on it and we are having to replace it, and the city can't keep doing this just on its own," Mayor Sam Sacco said.

Sacco said the city doesn't mind providing the manpower and taking the time to do it, but when it comes to the equipment, help is needed.

Ambulance

(continued from page 1)

Commissioner Chuck Lambert said there needs to be an equitable sharing of the cost for the ambulance service provided by the city.

Commissioner Mark Mathew said it would be nice if the county had a line item in its budget to help pay for the equipment.

"I agree with Sam, I think the county has to step up, and maybe it has to be a line item in their budget," Mathew said.

Medic-5 will be placed on Purple Wave for sale.

In other action taken during the meeting, the commission approved accepting the bid of \$8,665 from Snively Excavating for the demolition of a condemned property at 435 East Second St.

The city received four bids for the project, and Nutsch, Inc., Byron, Neb., submitted the low bid of \$8,500.

City building inspector Bruno Rehbein, who is the coordinator of the city demolition program, recommended using the local vendor in

Snively Excavating because its bid was only two percent higher than the low bid.

Two proclamations were signed by Sacco during the meeting.

September 17-23 was proclaimed as Constitution Week.

Fourth grade students from the Concordia Elementary School recited the preamble to the Constitution during the meeting.

The Daughters of the American Revolution initiated the observance of Constitution Week in 1955. The resolution was signed in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

September 22 was proclaimed as Buddy Poppy Day.

The VFW Buddy Poppy program, started in 1922, provides compensation to the veterans who assemble the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home for Children.

"I don't think the city can afford to keep furnishing equipment, and paying for it for the whole county," Sacco said.

City manager Amy Lange said that the way the city does ambulance billings is that, whatever insurance or Medicare doesn't pay for the ambulance runs, based on what is charged, then the rest is billed to a township in Cloud County based on a formula.

"A portion of that billing and a portion of the charges that we have does include a little bit that is supposed to pay for some of the equipment. It pays for personnel and supplies, but it also does pay for a little bit of equipment. So I think you are right. I think it is time to start talking to the county about increasing that a little bit, but we are sensitive to the fact that they are very sensitive to the amount they are getting charged," Lange said.

(see Ambulance on page 4)

Notice Oct. 9

The following vehicle has been impounded by the City of Concordia and will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder on purplewave.com, if the owner does not claim it within 15 days of the second publication of this notice and pay the removal, storage, and publication charges.

Vehicle 1: Maker: Ford, Year: 1998, VIN: 1FMZU34E7WZB69094, Color: tan

for assistance with ambulance service

Concordia city manager Amy Lange and Fire Chief Eric Voss met with the Cloud County board of commissioners during its regular meeting on Monday and asked for financial assistance with the ambulance reserve equipment fund.

The Concordia Fire Department, with four ambulances, serves all of Cloud County with the exception of Clyde and Mil-
tonvale.

The billings for the ambulance service provided to each of the townships is done annually.

Billings are based on a formula that considers the number of ambulance runs, the cost of runs compared to payments from insurance providers and the assessed valuation of each township.

Funds received from the billings are used to help cover the costs of replacing equipment, including ambulances.

The city commission, during its September 25 meeting, approved the purchase of a new ambulance at a cost of \$98,700 to be paid for from the equipment replacement fund.

During the meeting, the city commissioners discussed approaching the county about providing some financial aid for equipment needs.

In other action taken during the meeting, the commission approved awarding a Get in the Cloud small business grant of \$25,000 for Taco Grande in Concordia.

son for a terrace to be installed at NW4 26-2-2.

The resignation of John C. Crawford as an equipment operator for the Highway Department was acknowledged by the board.

Mike Hake, Solid Waste director, reported that the hours at the Recycling Center are now from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., and that the center has started to separate white paper from other paper. He also discussed selling paper to Secure Shred of NCK.

Derek Dick and Randy Dick, KAW Valley Insurance, Inc. discussed a self-insured group health plan with the board.

Ze Mustafa and Michelle Barnes, U.S. Cellular, discussed providing service to the county.

The commission approved Resolution 2018-31 to approve participation in, and adoption of, the Solid Waste management committee update for the region service by the North Central Kansas Solid Waste Management plan.

Proclaiming October as Down Syndrome Awareness month throughout the county was approved by the commission.

All Cloud County residents are encouraged to work together to promote awareness of Down Syndrome and to celebrate the accomplishments of individuals and their families.

The commission approved a 2018 tax year Real Property Relief Application from Jerry and Kathy Burgess for

County

(continued from page 1)

The number of items collected by each department, and their overall goals, include:

Courthouse, 569 of 1,145; Highway Department, 666 of 1,962; Sheriff's Department, 194 of 683; Law Enforcement Center, 1,118 of 1,118; County Health Department, 259 of 764; Solid Waste/Recycling, 386 of 382.

The challenge date is November 15, and two-thirds of each goal must be met for employees to receive December 24 off with pay.

The board met in executive session to discuss non-

043
elected personnel.

The following expenses, totaling \$223,709.01, were approved by the board:

General fund, \$49,302.97; special machinery & equipment, \$26,960; Juvenile Justice, \$3,328.99; Appraisal, \$409.68; County Health, \$5,940.01; election, \$173.50; Court Services, \$115.08; special alcohol and drug, \$450; road and bridge, \$105,307.58; juvenile reinvestment, \$46.69; Community Corrections, \$209.03; Cloud County Convention & Tourism, \$147.97; noxious weed, \$352.94; Solid Waste, \$28,564.57; VIN inspection, \$2,400.

Andy Asch, Highway Department administrator, met with the board and reported bids for a pickup were sent out and will be opened on October 22.

Asch also reported that he was going to talk to the State of Kansas about installing a light at the Highway No. 9 and Highway No. 28 junction, and that the department had started sealing on Union Road.

The commission approved a Joint Road Terraces Use Permit with Kenneth John-

property destroyed at 721 East Sixth St.

County Clerk Shella Thoman presented a report to the board on the Resource Center Challenge that the county employees participated in.

There were 3,192 items, including \$331 in cash, collected during the challenge. One-third of the goal of 6,054 items was to be collected by September 28 for the county employees to receive October 8 off with pay.

(see County on page 3)

City commission discusses pets, priorities

Pets and priorities were topics of conversation by the members of the Concordia city commission during two separate study sessions that were part of the regular meeting Wednesday at City Hall.

Proposed amendments to the city's animal control ordinance, including whether or not to eliminate breed specific language, was discussed by the city commission during one study session.

During a second study session, the commission formulated a list of what it regarded as priorities in the county in response to a request from CloudCorp board of directors.

The CloudCorp board asked each of the taxing entities in the county to provide a list of priorities over the next few years.

In action taken by the commission during the the meeting, a demolition program request and an irrevocable license for the installation, maintenance and replacement of private storm structures for Concordia

Technologies, LLC were approved.

City manager Amy Lange provided the commissioners with information on the proposed changes to the animal control ordinance which stated that the goal is to provide clear guidance to our city's residents related to expectations of pet ownership within the city limits and clear guidance to the animal control officer to perform her duties.

It stated in the memo that there is a section in the animal control ordinance related to dog ownership that is difficult to interpret, and even more difficult to enforce.

It is the goal of the city to register all dogs within the city limits which requires rabies shots. That results in an identification tag for a dog's collar that is to be worn at all times.

In 2004, the city commission passed an ordinance establishing the definition of dangerous and potentially dangerous dogs. It established a ban on pit bulls and fighting mastiff type dogs,

except those located within the city limits before December 15, 2004.

The ordinance allowed pit bulls or fighting mastiff type dogs within the city limits with restrictions that includes passing a canine good citizen test.

In 2014, the city commission discussed a repeal of the breed-specific regulation which would allow the dangerous and potentially dangerous provisions to apply to any type of animal. Following a survey taken by the city, the ordinance was left unchanged.

Of the 28 cities responding to a survey this year, Concordia is the only city that permits certain dog breeds with extra stipulations prior to registration. Eleven of the cities have a dangerous dog ordinance that does not prohibit or require special stipulations of specific breeds, 17 have a breed specific ordinance and of those, 13 ban pit bulls.

The city of Concordia staff analyzed dog bite cases and

tickets written by animal control officers from 2012 through August 31, 2018. There were 57 dog bite cases from a variety of breeds with 10 cases occurring by a prohibited breed or prohibited breed mix during that time. Of those, 14 of those dogs were provoked before biting.

Changes to the animal control ordinance presented to the commission included allowing all domestic dogs except those hybridized by wild canines, deleting language from the section on dangerous animals describing specific breeds prohibited with exceptions, combining the section on vicious animals with the section on dangerous animals and increasing fees from \$8 to \$20 for unspayed females and unneutered males; increasing the fee from \$10 to \$15 for each additional dog over the threshold of four dogs per household; increasing the fee from \$5 to \$10 for spayed and neutered dogs.

(see Commission on page 8)

Commission

(continued from page 1)

The fee waiver from March 1-March 31, and during the first 30 days the dog first becomes subject to licensing, would remain in place.

During public comments, Kristy Jensen talked about the breed specific regulation.

Jensen said breed specific legislation is a thing of the past.

"All over the country, states and local municipalities are realizing the negative effects that breed specific legislation has had. While it is intended to decrease the population of said dogs, and ensure that only safe ones are allowed to exist within the city it is proven time and time again that is not the case," Jensen said.

Jensen said that breed specific legislation results in increased cost for enforcement, vet care, euthanasia and disposal.

"Breed specific legislation does in no way stop people

commissioner Chuck Lambert said he believes strongly that breed specific language is really abhorrent.

"To make it clear and easy, I think stripping away the breed specific makes the animal control job a lot easier, court jobs a lot easier. A dangerous dog is a dangerous dog. A safe dog is safe dog. We target dangerous dogs, and more specifically their owners. I do believe it has 99 percent to do with ownership and training," Lambert said.

Animal control officer Jodi Baker said that doing away with the breed specific ban would result in owners not having to hide those banned animals, and will get them registered.

The commission spent more than 45 minutes discussing the proposed revisions to the animal control ordinance, and the topic will be revisited during a future meeting.

Hasch said her top priority was a modern medical facility.

There was some debate as to what would be listed as the third priority between desirable housing and upgrades to the education facilities.

"I think there's probably things in our school that need to be improved. Not \$30 million worth," commissioner Mark Matthew said.

The Unified School District 333 board of education during a study session in September discussed facilities needs.

A cost estimate for the upgrades discussed was \$32 million.

"Why are they just looking at that now? I mean, we just spent \$1 million on a football field and that money could have been used for building classrooms and improving it. It didn't have to go to the football field, and yet, all of a sudden now people are worried

an application from Jerry Burgess to have a fire damaged home at 721 East Sixth Street put into the city's demolition plan and authorized Mayor Sam Sacco to sign the contract to reimburse the owner \$3,250 upon completion of the demolition.

Concordia Technologies submitted a proposal to attempt to address some drainage issues on its property at 1830 East Sixth Street.

The commission approved the license for installation, maintenance and replacement of a private storm sewer structure to be located within the previously vacated Powell Avenue right-of-way.

During another study session, the commission discussed the prioritization of street improvement projects.

Ron Copple, director of public works, informed the commission that the plan was to use TIF funds to pay for the portion of two alley improve-

Oct. 4

Commission hears update on pool upgrades

Phase two of the upgrades at the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool was the topic of conversation for the Concordia city commission during a study session following its regular meeting on Wednesday.

A proposal from Avalanche Waterslides, Chamois, Mo., for an eight foot family slide to be installed on the southwest corner of the swimming pool was presented to the commission by city finance director Amber Farha.

Cost of the family slide, to be installed prior to the opening of the pool in 2019, is \$68,100 and includes the canopy and installation.

The installation does not include concrete work, plumbing to the slide, electrical work and fencing.

Information presented to the commission from Farha stated that public works director Ron Copple had done extensive research into the additional cost, and has conservatively estimated the amount to be \$21,600, bringing the total cost of the slide to \$89,700.

The cost of the slide will be paid for by the \$2 monthly fee added to city water bills that was approved by the city commission in 2017 to help fund

enhancements at the swimming pool and from the city's special parks and recreation fund.

Farha estimates the \$2 fee will fund \$43,470 of the cost, and the parks and recreation fund will cover \$46,230.

Farha said that it was estimated there would be around \$49,000 in the special parks and recreation fund.

"So there would be enough to cover it. We get about \$15,000 a year," Farha said.

Funds for the special parks and recreation fund come from the Kansas Department of Revenue alcohol beverage control's liquor drink tax distributed by the state. Half of the money goes into the general fund and half goes to the parks and recreation fund.

The first phase of the enhancements at the pool, completed earlier this year, included the installation of a custom slide at a cost of \$54,000 and a fish slide for the baby pool, purchased off of Purple Wave, for \$577.50, for a total of \$68,535.

During a commission meeting earlier this year, Farha presented a report on the pool attendance for the 2018 season.

Attendance was up 17.6 percent from the previous year, and the pool income rose by 10.8 percent.

Farha said that the \$2 fee on the water bill will be used in 2020 for the purchase and installation of a climbing wall and a floatable in the training pool. The estimated cost is \$42,435.

"After that it (\$2 fee) will be removed," Farha said.

"Honestly, I think it sounds silly, but I am really excited about that. I am excited to be a part of a governmental body that has something out as long as they say they will, and then actually pull it back," commissioner Chuck Lambert said.

Mayor Sam Sacco said that it is what had been voted on, and the costs haven't changed, so he has no problem with it.

In action taken by the commission during the regular meeting, the purchase of new municipal court software and repairs to the camera car used by the Utility Department, were approved.

City manager Amy Lange informed the commission that the current Summit municipal court software does not interface with the current municipal accounting software. The

software also does not interface with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) reporting software.

The city currently sends paper reports to the KBI to meet state reporting requirements, and the data is manually entered.

In KBI will no longer accept paper reports beginning January, 2019.

The commission approved the purchase of Incode Court from Tyler Technologies at a cost of \$15,373.

Repairs to the camera car by Key Equipment at a cost of \$9,169.02 was also approved by the commission.

The camera car is used for inspecting and maintaining the city sewer mains. It was not working when the city attempted to use it two weeks ago.

The rebuild of the camera car will include everything from new motors, seals, gears, axles to the crawler body. The camera, which was upgraded in 2015, will be installed on the new body.

An updated open records commission policy and corresponding resolution was approved by the commission.

(see Pool on page 8)

Pool

(continued from page 1)

CloudCorp executive director Ashley Hutchinson presented an update on the contract agreement between the city, Cloud County and Cloud County Cooperative Elevator Association Inc. for the former ALCO property.

Hutchinson, who had also presented a report to the Cloud County board of commissioners, said Cloud County Cooperative Elevator has, to date, has met the goals established in the contract.

If the goals are met, the final payment of \$125,000 will be forgiven at the end of 2019.

Renovations to the building total \$626,747.30 and expenditures for future improvements are estimated at \$221,000.

Cloud County Cooperative Elevator has paid \$18,880.90 in property taxes on the facility.

Lange, during her manager's report, said that the city has submitted the application for grant funding for a new runway at Blosser Municipal Airport to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Blosser Municipal Airport is one of 43 airports in Kansas to be eligible for funds through the FAA Airport

Improvement Program for small, rural airports.

There is no local match for projects selected to receive funds.

During public comments, Marilyn Pearce presented the commission with a petition signed by a group of 20 citizens concerned with excessive speeding by vehicles on West 18th Street.

The petition states that "It has become a speedway. There has been no respect for traffic rules and regulations, and we feel something needs to be done as soon as possible before someone gets hurt."

"They are just thinking it is a regular speedway. So we have really got a problem guys," Pearce said.

Also during public comments, Concordia High School tennis coach Michael Wahlmeier thanked the city for the use of the tennis courts and informed the commission that the courts are getting in bad shape.

Wahlmeier said that there is a possibility of grant funds being available through the United States Tennis Association to help cover the cost of repairs to the courts.

"I will have some more information for you. I have just started this process," Wahlmeier said.

Wanted: People to open their hearts, homes

Protected Homes needed for children at risk in Cloud County

By Russell Gagnon
Blade Staff Writer

This is a story of suffering, and compassion, and a desperate need for loving people to open their hearts and their homes to children.

Drug and alcohol abuse and familial violence are constant plagues of society, and no societal structure - from big cities to small rural towns in Kansas - are immune to it. Innocent people suffer because of the afflictions and actions of others. Children have always been part of the equation. Always.

Sometimes, for reasons that are often criminal, children must be removed from the homes they live in. The moment that decision is made a complex series of events are triggered. A child is taken from what is familiar, and placed into the unknown. It is an experience often filled with uncertainty and fear, but it can also be the beginning of a life the child never thought was possible.

Protective Homes can make that transition more comforting and tolerable. They are not shelters. They are not daycare facilities. They are your homes, and the homes of your friends and neighbors. They are your

parents, your brothers and sisters, your co-workers. They are caring and compassionate people who are willing to open their homes for 72 hours and take care of children in crisis.

"When a child is placed in protective custody, it's often a frightening and traumatic experience," said Wanda Backstrom. She is the Director of Community Corrections-Juvenile Services for the 12th Judicial District, and has been the Court's Chief Services Officer since 1985.

Working with her on the front line of support for children in need is Jen Warkentin, the Juvenile Intake & Assessment Coordinator for the 12th Judicial District. Warkentin has worked with at-risk kids for over 20 years.

There are many reasons why minor children, from newborn babies to 17-year olds, are removed from a home. A car accident might injure both parents, or an arrest of a caregiver results in that person being incarcerated behind bars. Often times it is because of abuse and neglect. But too often, the reason is drugs in the home.

"Most people truly care about their children," said Concordia



Involved in the Protective Homes program include Concordia Police Chief Ric Fredrickson (left), Jen Warkentin, the Juvenile Intake & Assessment Coordinator for the 12th Judicial District (middle), and Wanda Backstrom, the Director of Community Corrections-Juvenile Services for the 12th Judicial District.

Police Chief Ric Fredrickson. "But drug addicts just don't make very good parents."

When a child is removed from a home, often in the middle of the night, it can be a tense situation for everyone involved.

"It's not easy dealing with parents when that happens," Fredrickson said. "They're upset, angry, combative. The kids are confused and scared. They may have suffered abuse or lived in horrible conditions,

but it's the only life they know. This is how they grew up. They don't know that it's not okay to be hit every day. They don't know that they should bathe more than once a week. They don't know that life can be so much better."

When a child is removed from a home, he or she is placed in Police Protective Custody (PPC) for 72 hours while an intake and assessment of the child's needs is completed.

(see Homes on page 10)

Homes

(continued from page 1)

"We want to keep the child local for those three days if possible," Backstrom said. "For most of them, the situation is already traumatic. We don't want to also remove them from the only support systems they may have - their school and their friends - and send them to a different city to live with complete strangers."

Protective Homes fill the void. But there are not enough of them.

Currently, in Cloud County... there is only one.

Being a Protective Home means being there at all hours of the day and night. There is no pay. The reward is in showing a frightened child that there is love and support and the hope for a better life.

"Those first 72 hours can be crucial to a child's emotional ability to deal with the situation," Warkentin said. "To be able to put them in a home for three days where there is love and compassion, where they can bathe and eat healthy meals and sleep without fear is so important."

"The Protective Homes we have now are just fantastic people," Backstrom added.



Chief Fredrickson and Warkentin sort through the bags prepared for children in The Closet.

Easter dinner."

Sometimes it can be challenging for the Protective Home. The call for assistance could come at three in the morning. A child might enter the home with nothing but the clothes on their back. There can be behavior issues, and almost always

Protective Home.

"It's just so sad when they tell you their stories," she said. "You realize how lucky you are, and you just really want them to know that their life doesn't have to be so bad."

"That really is the hardest part of being a Protective

a child, and that's okay. The service is strictly voluntary, and not everyone is available or able to take a child all the time.

"We want prospective home applicants to be aware of what they might get," Warkentin said. "Some of these children are being re-



Extinguisher instruction

Concordia Fire Department Captain Rick Knudsen, right, provides Jena Lanoue instruction on how to properly use a fire extinguisher during a demonstration on Wednesday. (Blade photo Deanna Kymmer)

City approves purchase of slide for pool

Purchase of a family water slide to be installed at the Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool was approved by the Concordia city commission during its regular meeting on Wednesday.

The commission approved authorizing city manager Amy Lange to enter into a contract with Avalanche Waterslides, Chamols, Mo., with a base bid of \$65,000 and the addition of a canopy for \$3,100 for a total cost of \$68,100 to be paid for jointly from the swimming pool department in the general fund and the special parks and recreation fund.

Installation is included in the cost of the eight-foot slide, but concrete work, plumbing, electrical and fencing are not. Estimates for the additional work are approximately

\$21,600, bringing the total cost to \$89,700.

The slide, which is phase two of a three-phase plan for adding a feature at the swimming pool, is to be installed before the 2019 pool season.

Phase one of the plan included the installation of a custom slide by Mason Corporation, Brentwood, Tenn. at a cost of \$54,000, and the purchase, by auction on Purple Wave, of a fish slide for the baby pool from the city of Overland Park at a cost of \$5,777.50.

"This is a continuation of the entire project - that we approved," Mayor Sam Sacco said.

In 2017, the city commission approved a \$2 fee on all city utility bills to help fund the improvements at the pool.

That \$2 fee is expected to

cover \$43,700 of the cost of the slide and installation. The remaining \$46,230 will be paid from the special parks and recreation fund.

Funds in the special parks and recreation fund come from the Kansas Department of Revenue's Alcoholic Beverage Control's liquor drink tax.

Half of the fund received from the tax go into the city's general fund and half go into the special parks and recreation fund.

The third phase of the improvements at the pool is expected to include the installation of a climbing wall and a floatable in the training pool at an estimated cost of \$42,435. The \$2 fee on the utility bills will end after three years.

"I have had a lot of people ask me about this, and I think there has been some confusion as to

fee assessed to the water bills have been telling everyone to dollars, three years," commissioner Chuck Lambert said.

In other action taken during the meeting, the commission approved to approve a change providers for worker's compensation, beginning in 2019, Midwest Public Risk.

The city had been with Kansas Municipal Insurance Trust since 1996.

City clerk Stacey Smith informed the commission that the quote received from Midwest Public Risk is \$4,000 less than what was paid in 2018.

The commission approved reappointing Cheryl Lanor Dennis Smith and Mike G. Lagher to three-year terms on the Concordia planning commission.

(see Slide on page 8)

(Published in the Concordia Blade Empire November 6, 2018)

NOTICE OF HEARING BY THE CONCORDIA PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Concordia Planning Commission to consider a vacation of a drainage easement in Lot 3, Block A, College Drive Park Subdivision at Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas.

The public hearing will be held in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 701 Washington Street, Concordia, KS. on November 27, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

All persons desiring to be heard on these actions shall have the opportunity to be heard.

Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be submitted to Director of Community Development, 785-243-2672 (TDD 785-243-2336) by 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 23, 2018.

Bruno Rehbein
Secretary

City offices to be closed 11-9

The city of Concordia offices will be closed on Monday in observance of the Veterans Day holiday.

Tuesday is water shutoff day. Those who are delinquent should plan accordingly.

Slide

(continued from page 1)

The planning commission serves at the pleasure of the city commission, and duties include reviewing site plans for new construction or large additions, having public hearings on zoning changes, easement vacations and conditional use permits as well as reviewing zoning, comprehensive plans and subdivision regulations and recommending changes.

The terms for each of the three appointed will expire on October 21, 2021.

Five city employees were recognized during the meeting for their years of service. Each received an appreciation certificate provided by the League of Kansas Municipalities.

Those recognized include Rick Knudsen, Fire Department captain, and Megan Murdock, utility billing/court clerk, 10 years; Tim Halfhide, wastewater plant supervisor, and Jared LeDuc, Sports Complex supervisor, 15 years; and Ric Fredrickson, police chief, 20 years.

Raymond Mendenhall, who recently retired from the Parks Department, was presented a 45-year certificate by the president of the League of Kansas Municipalities and Governor Jeff Colyer.

The commission joined Cloud County Health Center in proclaiming November 15 as the Great American Smokeout Day in Concordia.

Sponsored by the American Cancer Society, the Great American Smokeout Day encourages quitting tobacco use.

During a study session following the regular meeting, the board again discussed proposed amendments to the city's animal control ordinance.

The commission discussed the ordinance during a study session on October 3.

It was decided to keep the licensing fees and \$5 and \$8. There is also a \$10 per dog charge for any household over four dogs.

There is a fee waiver for dogs registered from March 1 to March 31 and during the first 30 days a dog becomes eligible to be licensed.

The staff also recommended that any person found violating any provision of the ordinance be subject to a misdemeanor and a fine not to exceed \$1,000 plus court costs.

The focus of the conversation during the study session of Wednesday was on whether or not to prohibit hybridized dogs and cats in the ordinance.

Lange and city attorney Justin Ferrell presented information to the commission.

The city ordinance presently states that a dog that has been hybridized with a wild canine cannot be kept within the city unless it has earned a Canine Good Citizen Certificate from the American Kennel Club.

A proposed change to the ordinance would state animals allowed within the city limits would include domestic animals, except those hybridized with wild canines and domestic cats, except those hybridized with wild felines.

Sacco asked what the state of Kansas considers to be a domesticated animal.

Ferrell said that under the Kansas Pet Animal Act, a dog is defined as any animal that is wholly or in part a species of *canis familiaris*. It is similar for a cat that is wholly or in part of the species *felis domesticus*.

It was reported to the commission by Ferrell that according to the United States Department of Agriculture does not extend approval for use of the standard rabies vaccine for hybridized animals.



Decorating downtown

City of Concordia employees put up the snowflake Christmas decorations in Downtown Concordia Monday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Friday, November 23, 2018)

On November 21, 2018, the City of Concordia adopted Ordinance No. 2018-3144, amending the animal control ordinances Concordia Code to remove breed-specific language and to increase penalties for violation of the ordinance. A reproduction of this ordinance will be available for not less than one week following the publication of this summary of the ordinance at the website address of the City of Concordia, <http://www.concordiaaks.org/>. This summary is certified by the city attorney to be legally accurate and sufficient.

1fr

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Ordinance allowing Sunday alcohol sales now in effect

Now that the results of the November 6 general election are official, the ordinance allowing the sale of cereal malt beverage and liquor within the Concordia city limits is now in effect.

The Cloud County board of commissioners canvassed the ballots from the election during its regular meeting on Tuesday.

Included on the ballot was a question for Concordia voters on whether or not to allow the sale of cereal malt beverage and liquor on Sunday.

The measure passed by 57 votes with 830 voting for it

and 773 voting against it.

The ordinance allowing Sunday sales was approved by the Concordia city commission by a vote of 4-1 back on August 1.

During a 60-day protest period, a petition was filed and certified by the Cloud County Clerk's Office, placing the question on the ballot.

Cereal malt beverage and liquor sales will be allowed from noon until 8 p.m. on any Sunday except Easter, and on Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day.

GET INVOLVED 11-28 IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Concordia City Commission intends to involve as many qualified citizens as possible in the governing process. To that end, the Commission announces that vacancies do now or will soon exist on the following citizen boards:

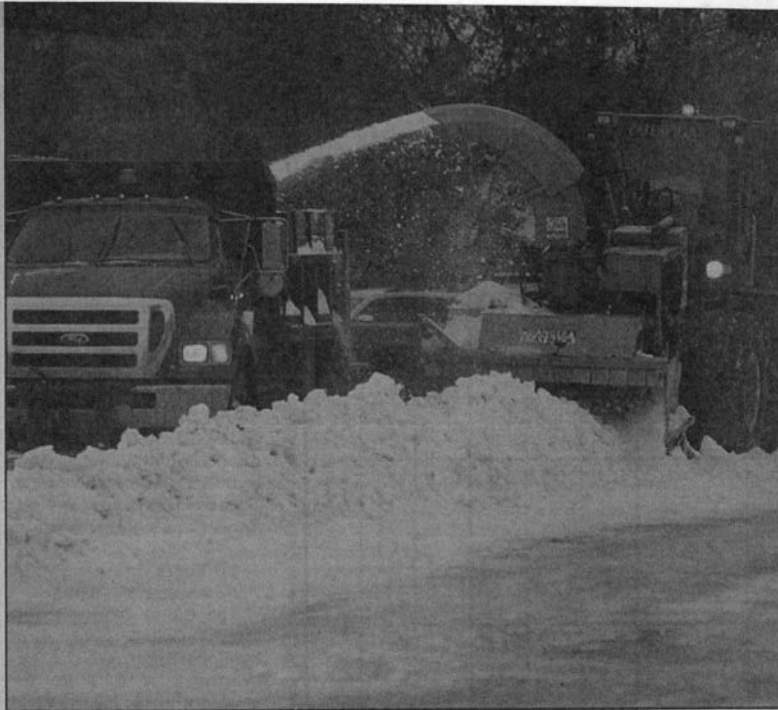
HOUSING AUTHORITY PLANNING COMMISSION

If you are interested in becoming a member of one of these boards, you are asked to fill out a short Expression of Interest form and return it to City Hall. You are urged to act at your earliest convenience.

All members of boards, commissions and committees serve without pay – out of a concern for the public good.

Forms and more information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington Street.

If you have questions, please call 243-2670.



Cleaning up the streets

City of Concordia employees clean up snow off the streets on Tuesday morning after a winter storm dumped 8 inches of the white stuff on Concordia on Sunday. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

11-27



City, CCHC employees respond to food drive challenge

12-12

Challenge accepted.

Following the lead of Cloud County employees, the city of Concordia and Cloud County Health Center (CCHC) employees entered into a food drive challenge.

That challenge resulted in over 7,000 food items and \$41.72 in cash being donated to the Cloud County Resource Center and Food Bank.

The city of Concordia employees donated more items than the CCHC employees, but the clear winners are those in need during the holiday season.

There were 35 of 55 city employees participating in the challenge, and they donated 3,363 items and \$614 in cash.

The cash was converted into an additional 540 items, bringing the total to 3,903.

The goal for the city food drive was 20 items per employee. It ended up equating to 70.96 items per employee.

"Our staff embraced the suggestion of a food drive immediately. Donations began arriving within a couple of days and continued through the last day of the event," Concordia city manager Amy Lange said. "We are so proud of our team. As public employees, we serve our community daily in a variety of ways. So having our employees give even more is certainly a testament to their desire to make a difference in the lives of our citizens."

The city patterned its efforts after the Cloud County employee food drive by offering an incentive of personal leave hours for certain levels of participation.

For every 20 items or \$20 donated, the employee earned four hours of personal leave.

Employees could earn a maximum of 24 hours of personal leave that must be used in 2019.

Through the incentives, employees earned a total of 792 hours of leave.

CCHC employees donated a total of 3,353 food items and \$47.72 in cash.

Some of the total cash donated was used to purchase a pallet of canned goods from Rod's Food Store.

The city of Concordia and CCHC each delivered the food items collected to the Resource Center on Tuesday.

Thus far, Cloud County employees have donated more than 4,200 food items and nearly \$1,200 in cash to the Resource Center and Food Bank.

The county board of commissioners, in September, challenged the employees to collect 6,000 food items.

In return to meeting the goals established, county employees will receive a certain day off with pay.

Insure with Alliance Insurance Group

Legals

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on December 7th and December 14th, 2018)

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-2079

BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, Kansas:

WHEREAS, the enforcing officer pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1750 et seq., as provided by Section 6-101 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Concordia, Kansas, has informed the governing body that in his opinion the following structure is unsafe and dangerous:

The premises located at 428 East 11th Street, Concordia, Kansas, and more completely described as:

The West 8 feet of Lot 2, All of Lot 3, and the East 14 feet of Lot 4, Block 77 Concordia Original Town Site in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas

AND WHEREAS, the enforcing officer has determined that the structure should be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished, all pursuant to K.S.A. 12-1752.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS, that on January 16, 2019, at 5:30 o'clock p.m., the owner, the owner's agent, any lienholders of record and any occupant of such structure may appear at City Hall, 701 Washington Street, Concordia, Kansas, and show cause why such structure should not be condemned and order repaired or demolished. Notice shall be given by the City Clerk as required by K.S.A. 12-1752.

Passed by the Governing Body and signed by the Mayor this 5th day of December, 2018.

Sam J. Sack
Mayor
ATTEST:
(Seal)

Stacey Smit
City Clerk

Meeting moved
The Concordia Housing Authority meeting scheduled for 5:00 tonight has been moved from City Hall to the Cloud Village community room.

12-14

City approves treatment plan change order

Moving toward completion of Phase I of the improvements at the wastewater treatment plant, the Concordia city commission approved deductive change order # 2 with APAC-Kansas, Inc. in the amount of \$24,000 during its regular meeting on Wednesday night.

City manager Amy Lange informed the commissioners that change order #2 finalizes the date of substantial completion of the wastewater treatment plant project, the date of final completion and the contract amount.

The change order for \$24,000 brings the total contract price for the project to \$2,346,305.20.

A bid from APAC-Kansas was accepted by the city of Concordia in March, 2017 in the amount of \$2,348,353 for Phase I of the treatment plant improvements.

The original substantial completion date for the project was April 10, 2018.

"We are finally nearing completion of Phase I of the wastewater treatment plant. Work has gone pretty well, quality of work has been good, the length of time has not," Lange said.

During a commission meet-

ing earlier this year, the commissioners were informed that the city was assessing liquidated damages against APAC-Kansas.

Lange, in a memo, stated that the completion date of this project took approximately three months longer than originally anticipated for a variety of reasons.

The memo also states that the city assessed liquidated damages in the amount of \$42,000 per the contract for delays deemed the responsibility of the contractor. The goal of the liquidated damages contract provision is for the owner to recover additional costs incurred by the owner as a result of delayed completion of the project. The delayed completion of the project cost the city \$32,400 in additional inspection/construction observation fees by the engineer. No other costs were incurred by the city as the plant was operational during the entire project. The contractor took the position they were not responsible for the delay for which they were being assessed and believed they owed nothing in liquidated damages. The engineer agreed with the owner's

assessment of liquidated damages.

It was stated that the mediation clause was removed from the contract between the owner and contractor, thereby leaving only the remedy of arbitration if a settlement agreement could not be reached between the representatives of the owner and the contractor for the amount of liquidated damages.

A settlement agreement of \$24,000, and extension of the final completion date by an additional 10 days, was reached.

Upon approval of the change order, the final pay application, including retainage, will be made to APAC-Kansas.

Mayor Sam Sacco voiced his concerns about doing business with APAC-Kansas in the future.

"As long as I am sitting here I never want to see a contract with their name on it because their contracts aren't worth anything," Sacco said. "If they can't stand by their contract, I think it is time this city stands up to people who won't abide by their contracts. This is my own personal feeling."

Lange said that she did inform APAC-Kansas, because

of their quality on work wastewater treatment plant and the waterline work on Sixth Street, she would not recommend that the commission not deem the company not a responsible bidder.

In other action taken during the meeting, the commission approved the 2019 professional service agreement for CloudCorp at a cost of \$58,000.

Under the agreement, CloudCorp agrees to provide programs and services to businesses and industries expanding in Cloud County, especially in Concordia.

CloudCorp executive director Ashley Hutchinson said the only change in the agreement is the addition of the facilitation of Cloud County Opportunity Zone projects to the list of services provided.

"The entire east side of town is now an Opportunity Zone, so it will be CloudCorp's mission to help cultivate projects there. We have learned a little bit more about Opportunity Zones, and have learned that we don't necessarily have to set up our own fund, there is plenty of capital out there. They are just looking for projects," Hutchinson said.

(see City on page 8)

City

(continued from page 1)

Hutchinson, who is stepping down from her position at the end of the year, informed the commissioners that the search for her replacement is ongoing.

"We have some good applicants, so I would expect we will see some movement on that very soon," Hutchinson said.

An on-call engineering consulting agreement with Campbell & Johnson Engineers, P.A. for 2019 in the amount of \$17,400, to be paid from the general fund in 12 monthly installments, was approved by the commission.

"We have been with Campbell & Johnson for nearly 50 years and they provide good, quality service for us," Lange said.

Purchasing a new scoreboard, at a cost of \$21,994.24, from Nevco Scoreboard Company for Doyen Field at the Concordia Sports Complex was approved by the commission.

The city, from the Parks and Recreation fund; Unified School District 333; and Cloud County Community College will contribute \$3,000 each toward the purchase of the scoreboard.

Concordia High School baseball coach Brandt Hutchinson has written a Community Foundation for Cloud County grant application in the amount of \$12,994.24 to help cover the cost of the scoreboard.

Chris Atkins, city wellness and recreation director, said that if the grant funds are not received then the remaining costs would be replenished by advertising contributions.

Also approved by the commission during the meeting included:

- An ordinance to vacate a portion of a drainage easement in the southeast corner

of the College Drive Park addition, near the intersection of Lincoln Street and College Drive, for the purpose of providing a fully developable commercial lot.

- Allowing the city manager to sign an agreement with Campbell & Johnson Engineers, P.A. to provide engineering services for the purpose of design, bid specifications, bid letting and construction inspection on a mill and overlay project on Archer Street from Fifth Street to 11th Street, at a cost of \$13,740. It was the only bid received on the project.

- A resolution setting the public hearing date for an unsafe and dangerous structure, 428 East 11th Street, for January 16 at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. The house has been vacant since a fire earlier this year.

- Affirm the exempt property status for IRB certification for Concordia Tractor, Inc.

- Reappoint Stacey Smith to the Housing Authority Board for a three-year term.

- A resolution updating the city's personnel handbook.

- A resolution supporting the implementation of the sun safety public health program in Concordia. The program is designed to raise public awareness in the prevention of skin cancer and provide sunscreen in public venues including the sports complex, swimming pool and Broadway Plaza.

The commission met in executive session for 10 minutes, with Lange and city attorney Justin Ferrell for preliminary discussion of acquisition of real estate.

Concordia Blade-Empire staff writer Russell Gagnon served as honorary mayor during the meeting as part of his research on an upcoming article about the city commission.

Developing Situation

City approves signing agreement for sale of land in South Development

Ridge Investment Group, LLC is making a commitment to Concordia.

The Concordia city commission approved authorizing mayor Sam Sacco to sign an agreement with Ridge Investment Group, Chesterfield, Mo., for the sale of city owned property in the South Development.

Information provided to the commission by CloudCorp executive director Ashley Hutchinson stated that Ridge Investment Group submitted the contract for Lot 3 Block A in the South Development, which is located in the southeast corner along College Drive and near Lincoln Street.

According to the information provided by Hutchinson, the developer and the client qualify for free land under the College Drive Park Land Pricing Policy, Resolution 2017-2057, adopted by the city in June, 2017.

"Your incentive policy that was passed in June of 2017 was a key factor for them taking a look at the property," Hutchinson said, "They are interested in putting in a single tenant space at this point and time."

According to Hutchinson, the currently unnamed client will be utilizing the front half of the property for the initial retail development, and the back half of the lot will be used for hopeful future development.

The contract states that if the land remains undeveloped after 18 months, the city of Concordia has a right to obtain ownership of the property for the same price of \$0, and if the remainder of the land remains undeveloped, the city has a right to obtain ownership of the property after five years at the same price of \$0.

"I think that is good because they will be paying the property

taxes on it while it sits, so if we have someone come to us in the mean time and is interested in the property, first of all we can direct them to a developer, which is helpful because we are not developers, and then second, while it sits and is waiting, somebody else is paying the tab," Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson informed the commission that the client working with Ridge Investment Group has asked to remain confidential at this time, but it is a national retail business.

The estimated property taxes on the 10,000 square foot building at that location is around \$25,000 per year.

"We think the first development will help prompt future development," Hutchinson said, "To have somebody commit, and it is a long term commitment for them also, they think Concordia is a good place for

their business to thrive, and that is exciting because that means it is a good place for a lot of businesses to thrive."

Commissioner Chuck Lambert said that a goal of establishing the South Development was making unmarketable ground marketable.

In other action taken by the commission during the meeting, accepting the Quit Claim deeds for properties at 429 East Second St. and 435 East Second St. was approved.

It was reported to the commission that the owners of the two residential properties, located within the floodplain boundary, intend to deed them to the city.

The properties were previously condemned and the structures were demolished, leaving two vacant lots adjacent to each other.

(see Developing on page 9)

Developing

(continued from page 1)
Both properties could be marketed for future residential development.

Placing the cities in the Land Bank allows the county to initiate an abatement on delinquent property taxes.

The city will initiate marketing efforts for the property immediately, and will mow the property until it sells.

Resolution 2018-2080, amending the 2019 pay scales for classified and non-classified employees by an increase of 2.1 percent for cost of living was approved by the commission.

"Our financials are where they were expected to be when we made the budget for next year," city finance manager Amber Farha said in addressing the increase.

The commission approved authorizing the mayor to sign the audit engagement letter with Jarred, Gilmore & Phillips for the year ending December 31, 2018 in the amount of \$13,000, to be paid for one half from the general fund and one half from the water/sewer utility fund.

Remaining with KMIT as the city's worker's compensation carrier was approved by the commission.

In November, the commission had approved switching to Midwest Public Risk as

the worker's compensation carrier.

Midwest Public Risk did not have the necessary commitments to begin the coverage in 2019.

City clerk Stacey Smith informed the commissioners that Midwest Public Risk is still interested in providing the coverage in 2020.

The commission approved cereal malt beverage licenses for Casey's General Store, Country Honky Tonk, Easy G Sports Grill, Gambino's Pizza, Pizza Hut, Rod's Food Store, Short Stop stores # 4 and # 10, Thunder Strikez Bowling Alley, Walmart and Wood Oil.

During staff comments, recreation director Chris Atkins reported that the city had received a \$7,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Cloud County for the purchase of the new scoreboard to be installed at the Concordia Sports Complex.

"Without their generosity and giving, we wouldn't have been able to do it," Atkins said.

Atkins said he is expecting delivery of the scoreboard in late January or early February.

Langue announced that the Concordia Police Department was voted as the winner of the Battle of the Badges Chili Cook-off.



Honorary mayor

Concordia Blade-Empire staff writer Russell Gagnon, third from left, serves as the honorary mayor of Concordia during a city commission meeting while doing research for Russell Is A City Commissioner. Commissioners, from left, are Christy Hasch, Keaton Snavelly, Sam Sacco, Chuck Lambert and Mark Matthew. (Blade photo by Jim Lowell)

RUSSELL IS... A City Commission

(EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS IS PART ONE OF A THREE-PART SERIES)

By Russell Gagnon
Blade Staff Writer

On the evening of December 5th, 2018, the moment most Concordians didn't think could happen but feared might, did happen. In the meeting room at City Hall I took my seat at the podium with the elected officials who govern this town. I was, unofficially, an official city commissioner for a day.

To make matters worse, I was also named Honorary Mayor.

Before anyone starts to panic, my new titles came with no real authority. I couldn't vote on anything, propose legislation, or pass a statute. Still, my hands were tantalizingly close to the reigns of power, so I milked it - and continue to milk it (more on that later) - for all it's worth.

The purpose of this RUSSELL IS... story is to provide a glimpse at the inner workings of a small town government, and talk about the issues Concordia has to face. The intent of the story is not to paint a bleak portrait, but rather praise those who have stepped forward to help lead this community through the challenges now confronting all of rural America. Parts of the story will focus on some sobering statistical data and financial facts that will almost certainly influence how the taxpayers of Concordia,

and all of Cloud County, deal with these challenges.

Concordians and Cloud Countians have been bred with a proud tradition of rural toughness and a generational spirit of getting things done. The community, as a whole, has marshaled its survival instincts to endure in a modern era when many small towns are vanishing. At the forefront of this fight are a group of elected officials who chose to assume the mantle of leadership because they care about the future of the community in which they live.

To research this story, I was granted access to Concordia's governmental processes and the people who manage them: city administrators, city employees, and the city commissioners.

Whether it's the city commission, the county commission, the board of education, or the boards of other municipal entities, the jobs are all risk-adverse. No populace is going to be 100% satisfied with a elective decision made on an issue, so assuming a leadership position in a small community often means you paint a verbal bullseye on your back. Taking a stance means opening yourself to the judgement of those who are opposed to that stance, especially when the issue involves how taxpayer revenue is spent.

(see Russell is on page 6)

RUSSELL IS...

(continued from page 1)

The challenges faced by Concordia residents are not unique, nor are they without solutions. There are difficult issues looming, but they can be overcome, and that is what makes the efforts of this citizenry and the elected officials who serve them all the more extraordinary.

THE CHALLENGES

Concordia is a graying population. Almost 27% of its citizens are over the age of 60, well above the state average of 19.8%, and the national average of 20.3%. Concordia, and all of Cloud County, is dwindling. From its heyday in the 1970's, Concordia has lost almost 30% of its overall population.

Cloud County is also one of the poorest counties in Kansas. There are 105 counties in the state, and Cloud County ranks 100th in per capita income.

modity dollars here - food, gas, clothing, entertainment - and their contributions account for a significant percentage of the sales tax paid in Concordia. Concordia, itself, is also aging. The town is over 100 years old, and much of its infrastructure - water lines, sewer lines, roads, buildings - is decaying and in need of repair. These repair costs are not cheap, and they will almost certainly increase in the years to come.

Another 23.4% of Cloud County residents are under the age of 18. Most are either children too young to work, or they are school kids employed in part-time, minimum wage jobs which do not generate a significant percentage of taxable income. So this leaves a smaller than average percentage of the population to shoulder the tax burden in a county with an above-average economic disparity.

having a full-time surgeon and anesthesiologist and OB-GYN, versus the availability of local family doctors and emergency and urgent care facilities. This is the modern-day reality of rural health care all across America.

Still... nobody is being born in Concordia anymore. The newest citizens of the flagship town of north central Kansas are delivered at hospitals in Salina, or Beloit and Minneapolis. Even Belleville. No slight against our northern neighbor and one-time arch-rival in sports, but really, who wants to be born a Buffalo and then raised a Panther?

In all seriousness, not having the type of hospital care in Concordia that is available in other small communities may be creating a larger negative perception of the town than realized. Concordians have learned to navigate around

to maintain Concordia's aging infrastructure, these are all spiraling costs that must be paid from a tax base that is dwindling.

Of course we all know the answer to the problem: the town needs more jobs. Not more service industry jobs that pay minimum wage, but manufacturing and technology and agricultural-related jobs that pay a wage respectable enough to attract new employees - and their spouses and families - to Concordia as permanent residents. When that happens, a ripple effect occurs throughout the entire economic chain, and the new residents eventually help lessen the tax burden on everyone else.

America is a great country. USA stands for freedom, and freedom equates to a remarkable quality of life for most. But there's nothing 'free' about freedom, and there's also nothing free

Russell is

(continued from page 1)

City Manager Lange and various department heads presented their status reports, and then the commissioners (the real commissioner, not me) met in executive session for 10 minutes with Lange and Ferrell to discuss the acquisition of real estate.

All-in-all a typical commission meeting, some of it important, some of it minutia, but all of it affecting how a small rural town like Concordia operates and spends its money.

At approximately 7:03 p.m., I tapped the gavel to officially adjourn the meeting.

question must be asked: what price is the city ultimately paying in the eyes of those who are considering making Concordia their home? Families and businesses might be reluctant to invest in the community's future because they see the lack of a full-service medical facility as a problem too important to ignore.

The USD 333 board of education is grappling with improvements and construction of school facilities that reach into the tens of millions of dollars. This is a sobering number for taxpayers, yet something must be done



Honorary mayor
Concordia Blade-Em
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RUS A City

(EDITOR'S NOTE
INSTALLMENT O
SERIES)

By Russ
Blade S

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The Heart Of the Business Engine

Finance Director Amber Farha (left), City Manager Amy Lange (center), and City Clerk Stacey Smith perform integral roles in the day-to-day operations of Concordia's city government.

old proverb famous, and it is relevant here: "It takes a village".

In this modern era of exorbitant health care costs, schools in financial jeopardy, and spiraling taxes, sideline citizenry in a small rural town is no longer a viable option. Civic leaders always encourage citizens to come to commission meetings and board meetings... but few do.

Maybe the system in place for citizens - and taxpayers - to voice their opinions might be part of the problem. Expecting citizens to muster at various board meetings may also be an archaic mentality from the 1950's and 1960's that is no longer relevant.

school district, the hospital, and the city manager. Present a cohesive voice for all the issues the community faces. Then the onus will be on the taxpaying citizens to join in the effort ahead; to come and hear for themselves what needs to be done and why it needs to be done and, most importantly, to let their voices be heard.

Just a thought, for whatever it's worth, from a former Honorary Mayor.

I want to thank the city employees and city staff for taking the time to visit with me for this series of articles. I most want to thank the city commissioners for allowing a glimpse into their civic lives:

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The first step to getting the
things you want out of life
is this: Decide what you
want.
-Ben Stein



Merry Christmas from All the
Corner Liqueur Belives!