

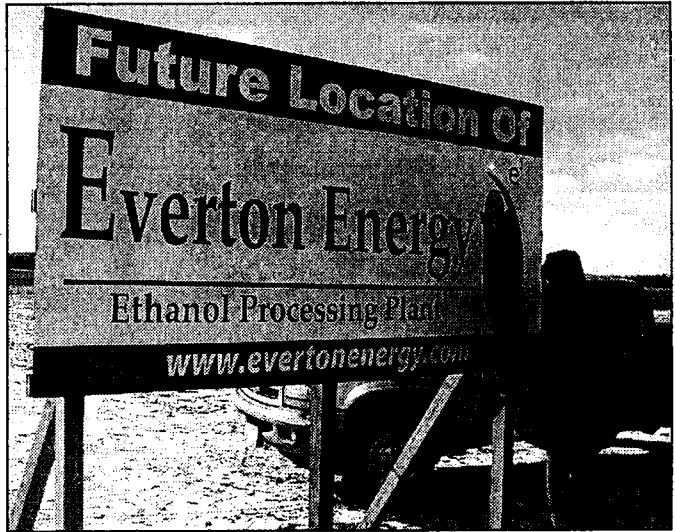
New faces are in the news in 2007

Cloud County Health Center hired a new CEO, the city of Concordia and the Brown Grand Theatre both hired new managers, the Cloud County Historical Society Museum hired a new curator and one new member was elected to the Concordia city commission. Work on the Cloud County Historical Society Whole Wall project began, a recall petition was filed for a Cloud County Community College trustee who later resigned, a new heating and air conditioning system was installed at Concordia Junior Senior High School. Residents celebrated the 100th birthday of the Brown Grand Theatre and the grand opening of the Orphan Train Museum and Morgan Dowell Research Center. These were some of the many highlights of 2007 in the Concordia area. Following is a month by month review of newsworthy events reported in *The Blade-Empire* throughout the year.

JANUARY

Jim Wahlmeier took over as the CEO of the Cloud County Health Center, moving here from Smith County. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners approved a 2 percent cost of living wage increase for county employees, with the exception of county commissioners. . . . Bryant Johnson was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. . . . Cheryl Lanoue became the first person to file for one of two open seats on the Concordia City Commission. . . . The Cloud County Commission reorganized and Bill Garrison was

elected chairman of the board. . . . USD 333 board of education approved the hiring of Kay Thompson as a first grade teacher to replace Jodi Walters who had resigned. . . . Joe Strecker and Joe Jindra who were serving on the Concordia City Commission, announced that they were seeking reelection. . . . Bob Steinel, Charles Lowers and Connie Morrison had filed for open seats on the Cloud County Community College Board of Trustees. . . . Barbara Shunn received the Leon Gennette Lifetime Achievement award for community service at the 80th annual Concordia Area Chamber of Commerce Dinner. Marsha Doyenne, owner of Essentials and Country Cousins, was honored as the 2006 Business Person of the Year. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners approved the employment agreement for Andy Asch, highway administrator which stated that he would be compensated \$37,514.56 for services as highway administrator and \$13,300 for services as weed director. . . . Gas prices in Concordia fell to \$1.99 in Concordia. . . . At a Concordia city commission meeting, Mayor Joe Strecker invited commissioner Charles Johnson to place his tape recorder where everyone could see it. . . . Pat Murk, Wanda Backstrom and Kevin Pounds filed for election to the USD 333 school board. . . . Charles W. Leckberg, Troy Willoughby and Eldon Wisdom filed for a seat on the Concordia city commission. .



Ethanol in the news

Ethanol was in the news in 2007 with Everton Energy's plans to build a plant east of Concordia. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

. . . Cloud County Community College women's basketball coach Brett Erkenbrack received the game ball autographed by his players after picking up his 400th career victory when the Thunderbirds defeated Garden City. . . . Eric Mork, director of Domestic Business Development for ICM, talked about the ethanol industry during the annual Cloud-Corp Dinner. . . . Jack Alexander Skocny, son of Molly and Josh Skocny, born Jan. 29, was the first baby

born at the Cloud County Health Center in 2007.

FEBRUARY

Claire deRochefort-Reynolds was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. . . . Lisa Fleming was Concordia's new city clerk and Ruby Maline was the new financial director. . . . Alex Fall and Shelby Brownell were crowned the Concordia High School Winter Sports Festival king and queen.

(see News on page 4)

News

... February

... The Unified School District board of education accepted resignation of Concordia Junior-Senior High school principal Cheryl Hochhalter. ... A petition seeking the recall of Cloud County Community College board of Trustees member Josephine "Sandi" Kinser, had been filed with the Cloud County clerk. ... Concordia High School senior Dustin Dooley completed a perfect 44-0 season and won his first state title at the Class 4A Wrestling Championships in Salina. ... In the city primary election, Cheryl Lanoue was the top voter in the city commissioner race with 742 votes. Eldon Wisniewski came in second, 186 votes behind. Joe Jindra received 553. In the race for open seats on the Board of Trustees, incumbent Dan Gerber led the way with 411 votes, followed by Marsha Wrenne with 980 and Charlie Wrenners with 767 and Bob Steimel with 1646. ... Cloud County Community College board of trustees accepted a bid of \$248,000 from Stupka Construction for the remodeling of campus apartment building No. 7.

MARCH

Kyle Stacken was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. ... Work on the Whole Wall brick mural for the Cloud County Historical Society Museum Annex had begun with sculptor Catharine Magel and Jane Saunders of St. Louis doing the carving. ... Cloud County board of commissioners approved creating the position of Solid Waste supervisor for the Solid Waste Department. ... Susan Cantine-Maxson was welcomed as the new manager of the Brown Grand Theatre. ... The petition seeking the recall of Cloud County Community College Board of Trustee member Josephine "Sandi" Kinser had been found sufficient by Cloud County Clerk Linda Bogart. ... Three Concordia banks were providing \$1 million in bonds to help finance the Concordia Junior-Senior High School heating, ventilation, air conditioning and electrical project—Citizens National, Peoples Exchange and United Bank & Trust. ... Kansas Department of Revenue agents and Cloud County Sheriff's officers executed tax warrants and seized the business assets of Gator LLC, Rick Breault Jr., commonly known as The Rock, for nonpayment of state sales and withholding taxes. ... The Concordia city commission approved a request from Larry and Tammy Hamel for \$60,000 from the revolving loan fund for the Hamels to purchase Coppoc Sports from Jim and Joyce Coppoc. ... Cloud County Community College board of trustees approved \$22,484 in additional repairs to the campus apartment building being renovated by Stupka Construction.

APRIL

Cloud County board of commissioners approved hiring Justin Murdock as Solid Waste supervisor. ... Cheryl Lanoue and Joe Jindra captured seats on the Concordia City Commission in the general election. Lanoue ran away with the race, receiving 977 votes. ... The USD 333 board of education accepted the low bid of \$1,649,150 from Pestinger's Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., of Salina to install an air conditioning and heating system in the junior-senior high school building. ... Cloud County Community College trustee Sandi Kinser, who was facing a recall

election, submitted a letter of resignation to the CCCC board of trustees. ... In its annual reorganization, the Concordia City Commission chose Charles Johnson as the new mayor. ... Representatives of Everton Energy laid out their plan to the Concordia City Commission for the proposed ethanol plant. ... Patrick Sieben was hired as the new instrumental music director at Cloud County Community College. ... Concordia city commission approved a development agreement for infrastructure construction for Tallgrass Veterinary Hospital, 5-0.

MAY

Michelle Johnson was the Student of the Month at Concordia High School. ... Representatives from Everton Energy met with the Concordia City Commission and spent nearly two hours answering questions concerning the proposed ethanol plant. ... Valedictorians at Concordia High School were Leah Lowell, Corinna Hood, Ben Swenson and Stuart Warkentin. CHS had 85 seniors graduating. ... The 26,000 pound vault door from the former Central National Bank at the corner of Sixth and Washington was removed by workers from Kansas Concrete Cutting and Monday Security Corporation. ... Concordia High School hurdlers Alison Widen, Alex Muff and Witney Sorell celebrated a 1-2-3 sweep at the Class 4A State Track and Field Championships in Wichita. Muff won the race, Sorell was second and Widen third. ... Faith Nyswonger was appointed by a 4-1 vote of the Cloud County Community College board of trustees to fill the position of Sandi Kinser, who had resigned. ... Cloud County board of commissioners agreed to draft a letter of support for the proposed ethanol plant.

JUNE

Alan Maish raised security issues at Concordia Elementary School with the USD 333 board. ... A 12-year-old Beloit girl, Leah Tompkins, was killed in a two-vehicle accident three miles south of Concordia on Highway 81. ... Barbara Henry and Susie Haver informed the Concordia City Commission that the location for the Kansas Sampler Festival in Concordia would be the Blosser Municipal Airport. ... Representatives of Horizon Wind Energy, LLC of Houston announced that it had signed a 20-year purchase power agreement with Empire District Electric Company of Joplin, Mo. ... A late freeze in April followed by heavy moisture contributing to disease development had an impact on Cloud County's 2007 wheat crop. ... Concordia city commissioners approved offering a contract to Tom Armour for the interim city manager position. ... A negotiated agreement with USD 333 faculty was approved by the board of education which called for a salary increase of six percent for the 2007-08 school year.

JULY

Cloud County Community College board of trustees waived its bidding policy to bid anything over \$1,000 and approved a contract with Budreau Construction in the amount of \$43,015.03 plus a performance bond of \$4,389 for the location of a water-damaged manhole. . . . The Concordia City Commission filled the position of interim manager on an interim basis offering a contract to Tom Housh, Hutchinson. . . . A movie, "The Silo," was being filmed in

Cloud County. . . . Dr. Steven Housh was elected president of USD 333 board of education. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners approved having chairman Bill Garrison sign the 10-year Energy Lease Agreement and Grant of Easements and the memorandum of Understanding of Wind Energy Lease and Agreement.

AUGUST

Sears opened a new store in Concordia. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners approved a proposed budget of \$8,104,587. . . . Miranda Right (Danny Parker) was crowned Miss CASA 2007 during the "Men in Tights," Under the Lights" at the Brown Grand Theatre. . . . Bryan Sprung, the former pastor of the Miltonvale Wesleyan Church, was found guilty of molesting a 10-year-old Miltonvale girl in 2006. . . . Cloud County Community College board of trustees accepted a bid of \$54,500 from PLACES Architects and Bartlett & West for the development of a facilities master plan for the campus. . . . Construction was completed on a new helipad for Cloud County Health Center.

SEPTEMBER

Concordia city commission heard that a Cloud County resident, Joe Reedy had applied for and obtained 700 acre feet of water rights from the Dakota Formation and had applied for a permit to construct a 50-million gallon ethanol plant to be constructed in the Huscher area. . . . Cloud County Co-op had its second best financial year with earnings from local operations totaling \$1,218,558. . . . A "Hand In Hand" celebration marked the 100th birthday of the Brown Grand Theatre and the grand opening of the Orphan Train Museum and Morgan Dowell Research Center in the historic Union Pacific Depot on Washington Street. . . . Concordia city commission approved a settlement agreement with the Blosser family to finally put an end to the litigation over airport usage. . . . Cloud County Community College's proposal for merging with Salina Area Technical School was rejected. . . . Fall Fest was celebrated with a large parade, entertainment and activities for all ages.

OCTOBER

Bryan Sprung was sentenced to 20 years in prison for molesting a young Miltonvale girl. . . . Dirk Lowell was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. . . . Carl Bernstein, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his investigative reporting on Watergate, presented a lecture at the Brown Grand Theatre as part of the Charles and Marion Cook Lecture Series. His topic was "The Media State: The Rise and Triumph of the Idiot Culture in America." . . . Mark Skiles of Eureka was hired as the new Concordia city manager. . . . Westar Energy, Inc., announced that it reached an agreement with Horizon Wind Energy to purchase 96 megawatts of clean, renewable energy from the second phase of the 201 megawatt Meridian Way Wind Farm in Cloud County. . . . Sculptors of the bricks for the Whole Wall project east of the Cloud County Historical Society Museum Annex had finished one-third of the project. . . . Cloud County commissioners voted to raise sheriff's deputy wages. . . . Concordia city commission approved a 10-year tax abatement on the 100 million gallon ethanol plant. . . . Concordia city commission granted approval for City Park as the location for the 2008

and 2009 location for the Kansas Sampler Festival, as the previous site selection, Municipal Airport, had been rejected by the Federal Aviation Assoc. . . . Manna House of Prayer with chili prepared by Betty Suther took first place in the annual Chili for Charity contest. . . . Two hundred forty students from 10 area communities met at the Cloud County Community College Little Theatre to hear Friends of Rachel speaker Dustin Galyon speak. . . . Cloud County Community College board of trustees authorized the administration to seek bids on converting the old kitchen area into a testing area and a conference room.

NOVEMBER

Eileen Remley was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. . . . Cloud County Health Center board of trustees, medical staff and administration had conducted a feasibility study to evaluate the existing hospital facility. . . . More than 60 people attended a Concordia city commission meeting to express their displeasure over alleged ordinance violations the Downtown Smoke Shop was facing. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners accepted the only bid received for the sale of the Lost Creek Medical Building. The bid was from Casselrock Inc., in the amount of \$1,218. . . . The newest addition to Concordia's Christmas decorations was aluminum stars in the downtown planters which were made by Henry Enterprises. . . . Representatives from Cloud County Health Center told Concordia City Commissioners of plans to construct a new \$20 million hospital as well as \$5 million in new equipment.

DECEMBER

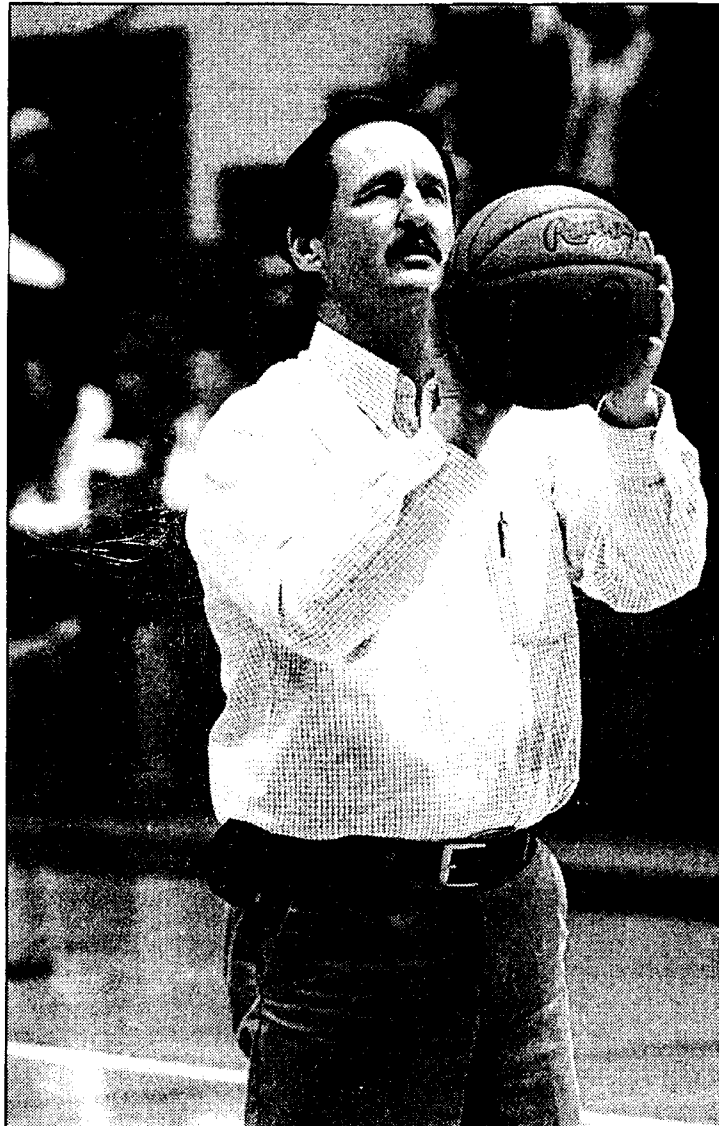
Levi Whitley was the Concordia High School Student of the Month. . . . Concordia City Commission approved a zoning change and conditional use permit for Everton Energy's ethanol plant to operate. The zoning change, from agricultural land to heavy industrial, pertained to 111 of the 500 acres of Everton's land. The remaining land would continue as agricultural. . . . The original charge of second degree murder against Shannon Lewellyn, Belleville, in the September death of Douglas Lee Schmidt Jr., was amended to involuntary manslaughter with Lewellyn being bound over for arraignment on Jan. 7. . . . A winter ice storm brought down trees and power lines in the "Concordia area and forced a number of closings and cancellations. Prairie Land sent crews from Oberlin and Bird City to help restore power. Residents were piling up branches for the city crews to pick up. . . . Cloud County board of commissioners approved a funding agreement for CloudCorp in the amount of \$45,000. . . . The Cloud County Community College board of trustees purchased the former home of Robert LaBarge at 2134 Republican, which it planned to convert to college housing. . . . Concordia city commission approved a \$45,000 appropriation for CloudCorp. . . . Lisa Fleming retired as Concordia city clerk. Winners in the Concordia Christmas Lighting Contest were Josh and Jamie Meyer, 806 W. 13th St., first; Donald Jones, 216 W. 17th St., second; and Ray and Monty Harper, 702 W. 6th St., third.

Thieves walked off with little money, but did extensive damage during a break-in at Rod's Food Store.



Battling the elements 1/2/08

Gary Strait, an employee of the city of Concordia Water Department has to contend with the ice and snow in his effort to read a water meter Wednesday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)



Taking his best shot 1/3/08

Concordia City Manager Mark Skiles shoots a free throw during halftime of the Clatsop County Community College women's basketball game Wednesday night in Bryant Gymnasium. Skiles took part in the contest on Concordia Night at the college. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

City votes down nuisance ordinance

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

The Concordia City Commission shot down an amended nuisance ordinance, 3-2, at a special call meeting Thursday night.

The amended ordinance came before the Commission as a response to alleged nuisance violations by the Downtown Smoke Shop. Several months ago, a nuisance complaint was filed by Monte Wentz against the Downtown Smoke Shop, alleging he could smell smoke in his office, which is next door. The original ordinance stated that a nuisance could be any "foul substance or substances which emit or cause any foul, nauseous, unhealthy, or disagreeable odors."

The amended ordinance, which was voted down by Commissioners Cheryl Lanoue, Darrel Hosie and Charles Johnson, classified the failure to confine such foul odors, including tobacco smoke, a public nuisance.

City Attorney Larry Uri said the Commissioners had asked him to

craft a "beefed up version" of the original ordinance, which would classify smoke as a nuisance.

The ordinance would also have given the city the option to abate such a nuisance by seeking an injunction to prohibit the activity.

The current ordinance, Uri said, gave the city two options to put a stop to nuisances—abating or fining. Had the new ordinance been passed, the city would have had the option to take the issue to court.

The third portion of the amended ordinance, Uri said, stated the continuing presence of odors, smoke, fumes, or emissions of the type normally associated with the smoking of tobacco, in any premises adjacent to where smoking is permitted, would be evidence that the smoke was not contained within the building where it was produced.

In other words, Uri said, if smoking was taking place in "building A," and the owner of "building B" could smell it, the owner of the latter didn't have to prove the smell wasn't coming from somewhere else. The

owner of "building A" would have to prove the smell didn't originate in his or her building.

That final portion gave Lanoue cause for concern. She said she was worried that people might read too much into that, and wondered if the new ordinance could pertain to smoke from fireplaces.

Uri said the key to the proposed ordinance was the word "continuing," not something that happens every once in a while.

Commissioner Hosie said he had problems with approving the new ordinance.

"I think it will create far more nuisances than this solves," he said. "I question whether we need to change what we already have."

Commissioner Phil Gilliland, who along with Joe Jindra, voted in favor of the ordinance, said it was essentially a property rights issue.

"I do think that a business owner has the right to conduct business in the way they feel is best to serve their customers," Gilliland said. "At the same time, I think your proper-

ty rights end at your wall. The business owner has an obligation to make sure it doesn't infiltrate their neighbor's business."

The negative votes outweighed Gilliland and Jindra, and the amended nuisance ordinance was defeated, 3-2.

In a related matter, the Commission voted 5-0 to amend the smoking in restaurants ordinance, redefining what a restaurant is.

The ordinance also centered around the Downtown Smoke Shop, who had been labeled a restaurant, because it served drinks and snacks. Because of the city ordinance prohibiting smoking in restaurants, smoking was banned at the Smoke Shop on Nov. 1.

The new ordinance, which will allow smoking at the Smoke Shop again, now defines a restaurant as a "public eating establishment, except drive-ins, in which the primary function is the preparation and serving of food on the premises."

(see Ordinance on page 8)

Ordinance

(continued from page 1)

Uri said the change made a definition of a restaurant consistent with the city's zoning ordinances. He also said the change seemed to be consistent with other smoking ordinances throughout the state.

In the only other item of business, the Commission reappointed Charlie Lowers to a three-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

During public comments, Kirk Lowell, said his board would be discussing the contract between CloudCorp and the city, at Lanoue's request from the last meeting. Earlier in the meeting, Lanoue asked that the minutes from the Dec. 19 meeting be amended to reflect that she asked Lowell to formulate a new policy outlining what

CloudCorp provides the city, and what the city expects in return. During that meeting, Lanoue said she wanted to see what CloudCorp was spending city dollars on, "so we can be accountable to the citizens."

Lowell clarified that he said at the last meeting he was interested in sitting down with the contract to change some of the language, not formulating a brand new policy. He said the issue was on the agenda for the next CloudCorp meeting, and it should be up for discussion at the next Commission meeting.

"There are people in this community around you who are credible," Lowell said to Lanoue. "You have credible people who are trying to do the best we can, and when you ask for something, that happens."

Legals

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on Tuesday, January 8, 2008)

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-2948

AN ORDINANCE amending Article IX of the Concordia Code, pertaining to smoking in restaurants; repealing Concordia Code section 11-432; and amending the Concordia Code, by adding a new section 11-432.

BE IT ORDAINED by the governing body of the City of Concordia, Kansas:

SECTION 1. Section 11-432 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Concordia is hereby repealed as of the effective date set forth below.

SECTION 2. The Code of Ordinances of the City of Concordia is hereby amended, by adding a new section 11-432, which shall read as follows:

Sec. 11-432. Definitions.

For the purpose of this article, the following words and terms as used herein are defined to mean the following:

Bingo hall means any room, hall, building, enclosure or outdoor area used for the management, operation or conduct of a game of bingo by any nonprofit organization holding a license to manage, operate or conduct games of bingo pursuant to Kansas law and in which food service for consumption on the premises is incidental to the primary activity of the establishment.

Bowling center/alley means a place of business open to the public which offers the use of not less than twelve (12) full scale bowling lanes that are each equipped with operable automatic pin setting apparatus and in which food service for consumption on the premises is incidental to the primary activity of the establishment.

Class A club means a premises so licensed by the State of Kansas which is owned or leased by a corporation, partnership, business trust or association and which is operated hereby as a bona fide nonprofit social, fraternal or war veterans' club, as determined by the director, for the exclusive use of the corporate stockholders, partners, trust beneficiaries or associates (referred to as members) and their families and guests accompanying them.

Class B club means a premises so licensed by the State of Kansas operated for profit by a corporation, partnership or individual, to which members of such club may resort for the consumption of food or alcoholic beverages and for entertainment.

Drinking establishment means premises so licensed by the State of Kansas which may be open to the general public, where alcoholic liquor by the individual drink is sold.

Licensed club means a class A or class B club with a valid license issued by the State of Kansas.

Other person in charge means the agent of the proprietor authorized to perform adminis-

trative direction to, and general supervision of, the activities within a restaurant at any given time.

Physically separated means separated from the smoke-free restaurant area by continuous floor-to-ceiling walls which are interrupted only by doors which are continuously closed other than when a person is actively entering or exiting the smoke-free area.

Proprietor means the party, regardless of whether or not the party is owner or lessee of the restaurant, who ultimately controls, governs, or directs the activities within the restaurant. The term does not mean the owner of the property, unless the owner ultimately controls, governs, or directs the activities within the restaurant. The term proprietor may apply to a corporation, partnership or limited liability company as well as to an individual.

Restaurant means a public eating establishment, except drive-ins, in which the primary function is the preparation and serving of food on the premises.

Separate designated smoking area means an indoor area where smoking is allowed, physically separated from the required smoke-free restaurant areas, and which includes physical separation and appropriate ventilation so that smoke from those areas does not drift, permeate, or re-circulate into any smoke-free restaurant areas.

Smoking means the:

- (1) Carrying or placing of a lighted cigarette, lighted cigar, or lighted pipe or any other lighted smoking equipment in one's mouth for the purpose of inhaling and exhaling smoke;
- (2) Placing of a lighted cigarette, lighted cigar, or lighted pipe or any other lighted smoking equipment in an ashtray or other receptacle and allowing smoke to diffuse in the air; or
- (3) Carrying or placing of a lighted cigarette, lighted cigar, or lighted pipe or any other lighted smoking equipment in one's hands or any appendage or devices and allowing smoke to diffuse in the air.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the official city newspaper. The provisions hereof are severable, and in the event of invalidity, for any reason, of any portion of this ordinance, the remaining provisions of the ordinance shall remain in full force and effect, with the invalid provisions deemed excised.

PASSED by the governing body and signed by the mayor this 3rd day of January, 2008.

Charles B. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:
Chér Knudsen
Interim City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Lawrence R. Uri, Jr.
City Attorney

1 year ago
Jan. 11, 2007—Johnita Crawford of Clyde was sworn in as Cloud County commissioner by Magistrate Judge Guy Steier. . . . Joe Jindra and Joe Strecker filed for reelection to the Concordia City Commission.

METER SERVICE WORKER Public Utilities Division

The City of Concordia Department of Public Utilities is seeking to fill the position of Meter Service Worker. Interested persons must meet the following minimum requirements.

Responsible for reading of utility meters, including recording and reporting readings and connects/disconnects of service and will assist water crew on occasions. Equivalent of a high school diploma; possess, or be able to obtain a valid Class C Kansas Driver's License; Possess or be able to obtain a valid Commercial Driver's License within one (1) year; and an established personal driving history that is acceptable for coverage by the City's insurance carrier. Physical examination and drug screening tests will follow all conditional offers of employment.

Deadline: City of Concordia will accept applications until 5:00pm on Jan. 17, 2008. A resume may be included with completed city application form.

Apply at: The City of Concordia City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas 66901, 785-243-2670. Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be made at the time of applications.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

1/11/08

POSITION OPENINGS

POOL MANAGER: The City of Concordia is accepting applications for the position of Pool Manager. Experience in pool operations and maintenance along with supervisory experience preferred.

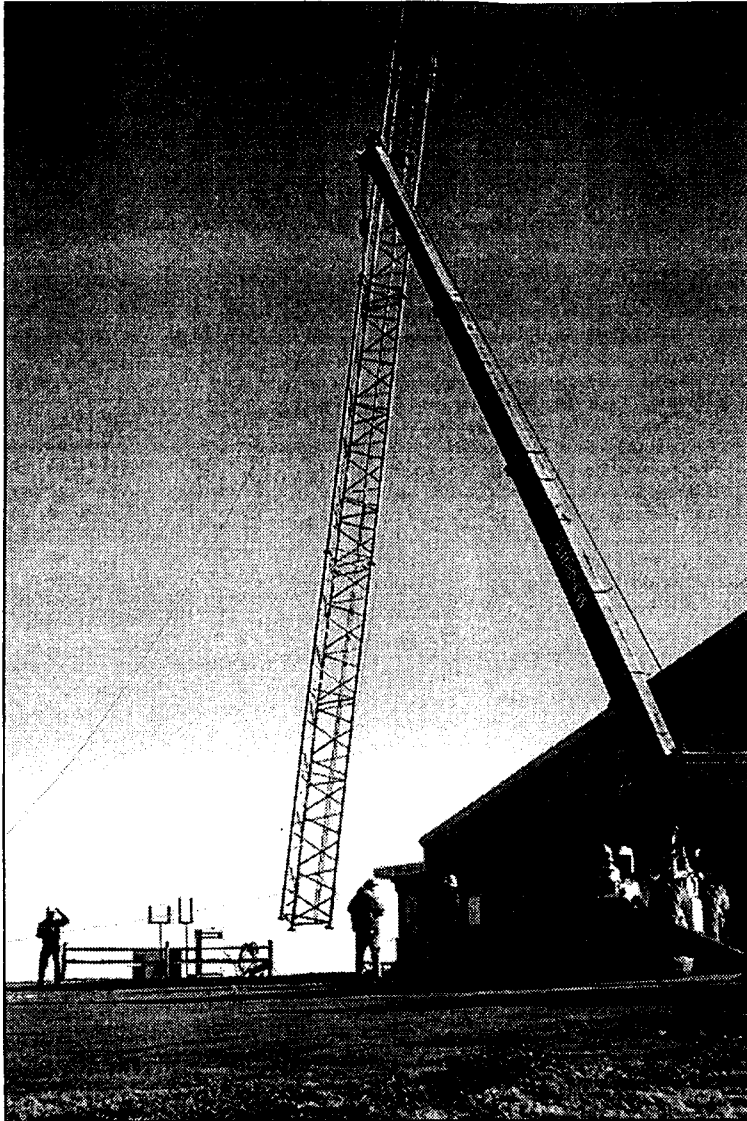
PLAYGROUND DIRECTOR: The City of Concordia is accepting applications for the position of Summer Playground Director. Experience in supervising children ages 5 to 12, arts & crafts and organizational skills preferred.

Applications should be submitted to City Hall, City Clerk, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, KS 66901. Applications will be accepted until 5pm, January 24, 2008. EOE. 1/11/08

NOTICE 1/11/08

The city of Concordia is accepting applications for curb and gutter replacement. The program enables persons to replace broken curb and gutter along their property with the city providing the labor, equipment and total cost of removal of existing curb and gutter sections. The landowner shall pay the cost of materials for the curb and gutter; per-foot charge for saw cuts, and the out-of-pocket 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.

Anyone interested in this type of construction should contact the City Clerk's office, 701 Washington, Concordia, KS 66901, or call 243-2670. Deadline: February 15, 2008.



Taking down the tower 1/16/08
A crane is used to take down a large tower at Blosser Municipal Airport Tuesday as part of the renovation project. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

City declines airport improvements offer

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

After a 20-minute executive session Wednesday night, the Concordia City Commission declined an offer from Beldon Blosser to continue with improvements at the airport.

Phase three of the project, which began in December, would have included furnishing the airport lobby, a teaching room, office, and a training room. City Manager Mark Skiles said the projected total cost was \$50,000, half of which would have come from the Blosser Foundation.

In December, the Commission began the project, which included a remodel of the airport lobby, office and classroom areas, and a hangar. The cost of the project was \$158,362. The Blosser Foundation committed \$54,100 to the project, and the city contributed the rest, finding several sources of income in the 2007 budget.

Commissioner Phil Gilliland

asked Skiles if there had been any investigation into private donations or grants that could fund the city's half of the project. Skiles said he hadn't.

"The airport looks great, but we need to wait to do more until we get a fixed base operator," Gilliland said. "We've already spent unbudgeted funds, so I think we need to decline at this time."

Commissioner Darrel Hosie agreed. He expressed his concern that the money for the project was not budgeted this year, which has just begun.

"We don't know what might be coming up through the year that would need funding, and we could really be putting ourselves in a bind," Hosie said.

If the proposition came at the end of the year, when the Commission knew there was money left in the budget, he said he could support it.

Commissioner Cheryl Lanoue expressed her appreciation to Bloss-

er for his contributions in the previous renovation phases, but also declined accepting his offer.

While the Commission vetoed spending money at the airport, it did agree to give another \$2,000 to the Concordia Senior Center.

Gary Dvorak, food service operations manager, said the Center was asking for a continuation of the proposal representatives had made in August 2007. At that time, they asked for \$2,000 to finish out 2007, and \$4,000 for 2008 to supplement employee salaries.

The city gave the Center \$4,000 for this year - half for salaries, and half to help purchase a new van. Dvorak said the Center had only received \$2,000 in 2008 for the salaries, when they had asked for \$4,000.

"It's very generous, but we're asking you to fully fund the \$4,000 we requested," Dvorak said.

One of the main services offered by the Center is its daily, low-cost,

meals. Dvorak said the Center provides a "great meal" for seniors and those on a fixed income. The suggested donation, for those 60 and older, is \$2.75. Hosie asked Dvorak if that price could be raised.

"If we were for-profit, I would think we could, but we are a center providing a need for people on a fixed income," Dvorak said.

When asked if he could find \$2,000 in the budget, City Manager Mark Skiles said he could.

"Do you want me to tell the senior citizens of this community that I can't find the money?" he asked, with a laugh. "I can, if it's the pleasure of the Commission."

Commissioner Joe Jindra said the Center is an important part of the community, and needs the assistance.

In other business, the Commission approved a plan to replace valves and a diving board at the swimming pool.

(see City on page 8)

City

(continued from page 1)

Public Works Director Ron Copple said most of the valves at the pool are corroded and leak. He received a proposal from Hood Heating & Air in the amount of \$18,345 to replace 12 of the valves, and also repair some leaky plumbing.

The one-meter diving board will cost \$8,000, and city staff would install it. Copple said the high dive had been replaced last year, which cost \$16,000.

An ordinance amending the duties of the city clerk was also approved. The new ordinance states the clerk will report to the city manager, and also outlined the duties of the clerk.

A street vacation at 233 East 16th was also approved. Bruno Rehbein, planning commission secretary, said Tony Miller had applied for the vacation after he found part of his business was in the right of way. The request was for a portion of land 8 feet by 61 feet.

Hosie was concerned about vacating only part of the property, rather than the whole parcel.

"I feel rather than correcting the problem, we're just putting a band-aid over it," Hosie said.

Rehbein said the Planning Commission didn't want to give

up any more public land than was necessary. He also said fixing the problem would alleviate any future problems should the city make improvements to the street.

"Yes, this is quick and easy, but quick and easy isn't always the best way to go," Hosie said. "I don't have any objections to this project, but I just think we should go all the way with it."

Bids for two trucks and a mower were also accepted. Copple recommended accepting a \$48,800 bid from Wornack Sunshine Ford & Kawasaki for a two-ton truck, and a \$28,503 bid from Babe Houser for a one-ton truck and dump box. The mower will come from Budreau Muffler, with a low bid of \$33,500.

The Commission also approved the continuation of participation in the Firefighter's Relief Fund. Fire Chief Larry Eubanks said the annual declaration is necessary to participate in the organization, which provides insurance to firefighters should they be injured in the line of duty.

Later, during staff comments, Eubanks reported that the department had done 58 long distance transfers in 2007, and assisted with 13 fly-outs.

**FULL-TIME COMMUNICATIONS/
RECORDS SUPERVISOR**

Police Department

3/8/08

The Concordia Police Department is seeking to fill the position of full-time Communications/Records Supervisor. This position provides two-way radio communication for public safety departments; 911 emergency and administrative telephone service for citizens in the City of Concordia and maintains agency records. Interested persons must meet the following minimum requirements.

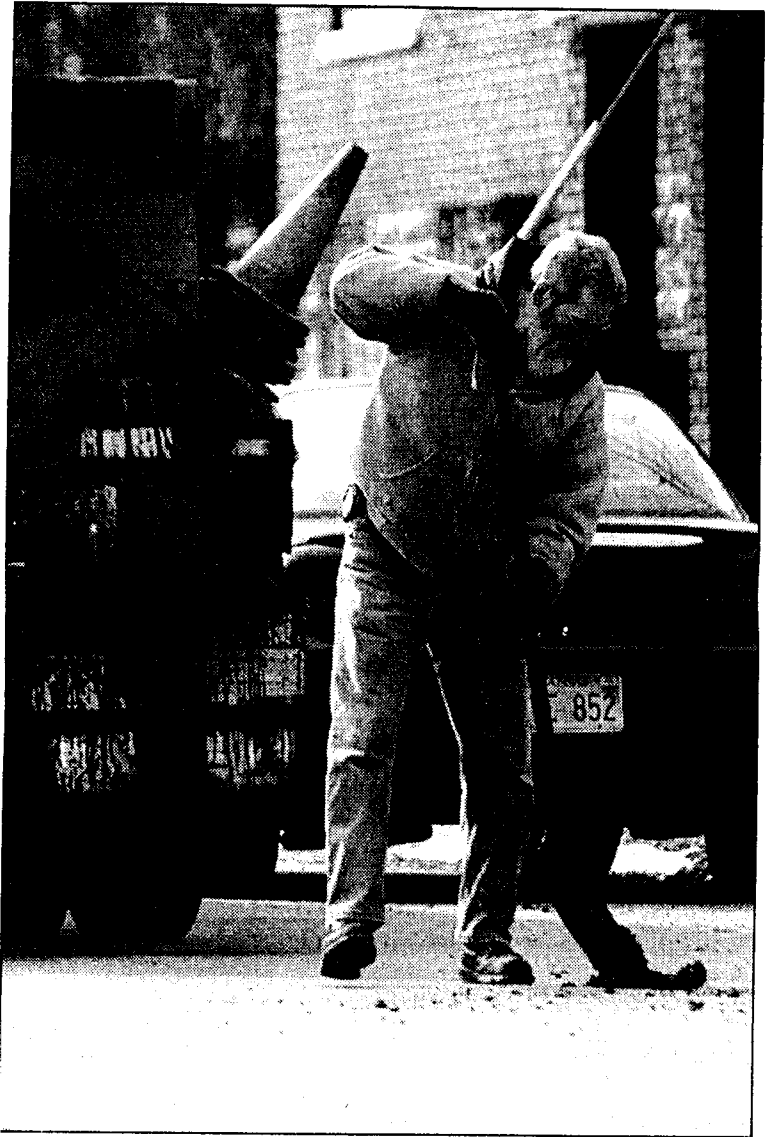
Be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. Citizen. Equivalent of a high school diploma; no felony convictions; good typing and communication skills; pass a written examination. Computer experience a plus. Physical examination and drug screening tests will follow all conditional offers of employment. Minimum five(5) years experience working in public safety communication or related field.

Complete job description is available at City Hall.

Deadline: The City of Concordia will accept applications until filled. Resume may be included with completed city application form.

Apply at: The City of Concordia City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, KS 66901, 785-243-2670. Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be made at the time of application.

An Equal Opportunity Employer



Patchwork

2/11/08

City of Concordia employee David Gilkeson uses asphalt to patch potholes Monday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

50 years ago

Feb. 14, 1958—Concordia city crews had torn down the dilapidated old shed at the Fairgrounds, which had been used in the past as a dog pound. City Manager Chuck Moss said a better animal shelter would be built to house strays who were impounded. . . . Jiffy cake mixes were 10 cents for a 9-ounce package at Boogaarts.

City moving forward with dam project

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

A number of years have passed since discussions first began, but the Concordia City Commission is still moving forward with its flood control project. Wednesday night, the Commission heard a report from Frank Mercurio, engineer with KLA Environmental Services on phases one and two of the 21st Street dam project.

Phase one, which has been completed for some time, was a topographical survey of both dam sites – 21st Street and Plum Road.

Phase two, a geotechnical investigation, has also been completed. The soil and rock where the dams are to be constructed were studied, and KLA found both to be conducive to construction.

"There were no soil or geological conditions found that would stop the project from moving forward," Mercurio said.

There is some soil, where the reservoir at 21st Street would be, Mercurio said, that has a higher seepage rate. But, he explained, that would have no bearing on the actual construction of the dam. The pool of water would be approximately six acres, or similar to the pond of water that is currently there.

The soil at Plum Road is similar, Mercurio said, and there is one small area of clay soil in the vicinity, but it would not cause any problems

with construction.

"There are no adverse situations at either location that would cause us to change any design," Mercurio said.

Mayor Charles Johnson asked Mercurio if having a reservoir that close to the airport would be allowed by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Mercurio said the design didn't call for an actual pool of water, it would be more of a sediment pool, which is just a part of the flood control scheme.

Commissioner Phil Gilliland asked if all the studies done so far could be used by the Army Corps of Engineers. City Manager Mark Skiles said the information could be shared, but it was still highly unlikely the Corps would build the dam. Concordia's flood control project was approved by the Corps, but no money has ever been forthcoming.

The next part of the process, Mercurio said, is the design phase of the dams. Before moving forward, he said, the Commission must make decisions on whether there will be a sediment pool at 21st Street, if land in the area is to be preserved for development, and a specific location for the dam at Plum Road.

The dam at Plum Road could either be built on the actual road, or upstream. Either location would not have a bearing on the engineering or costs, Mercurio said. If the dam is

built on the road, the Commission would have to work with the County Commission to get that done.

In response to a question about costs, Mercurio said that, in 2005, the estimate of the project was \$895,000. Since then, he said, construction costs have risen 20-30 percent because of higher fuel prices. That would put the estimated price tag at \$1.2 million today.

The ending total could rise even more, considering the dam is still at least three years from being completed. Mercurio said it will take a year for the design, another year to obtain all the permits, and about a year for actual construction.

"I, for one, would like to see this project move along as quickly as possible," Commissioner Darrel Hosie said. "We've been very fortunate in the last four or five years while we've drug this thing out."

Hosie said Concordia has been lucky to not receive some of the heavy rains that have plagued the area in the past few years, which could have compromised the strength of the current dam at 20th Street.

He said he is in favor of making a decision on the location of the Plum Road dam right away, so design work can begin.

But, the Commission decided to hold off, and will meet with the County Commissioners to get their input on that portion of the project.

In the only other item of business, the Commission set April 2 as a public hearing for fire debris removal at 718 East 5th. The house, owned by Bernita Swenson, caught fire last month, and has been classified as an unsafe structure.

City Attorney Larry Uri said the city had received a share of the insurance proceeds of the fire, and will hold it until the property is either repaired or torn down.

Building Inspector Bruno Rehbein said he has talked with Swenson a couple of weeks ago, and she was unsure if she would tear the house down or repair it.

During the City Manager report, Skiles said representatives with the Federal Emergency Management Agency will be back in town in March, to evaluate damage from December's ice storm.

Anyone who has limbs in their yard is asked to bring them to the curb, so city crews can pick them up.

By law, Skiles said, city workers cannot go on private property to retrieve limbs. To deal with that, a volunteer group has offered to help get limbs to the curbs for city crews.

If someone is physically unable to clean up the tree branches, Skiles said, they can call City Hall with a name, address, and phone number. He will relay that information on to the volunteers, and they will clean up the branches.

Everton moving forward with plant

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

Despite recent rumors circulating around town, Everton Energy is still moving forward with its proposed 110 million gallon ethanol plant.

Construction has come to a halt at the plant site, east of Concordia, which is a combination of the weather and financing, according to both Bert Farrish, president and CEO of Everton, and Blake Hendrix, vice president and director of processing operations.

Hendrix said construction had been suspended during December, because of the cold weather conditions, which made it difficult to pour concrete.

Since then, the country has experienced a sub-prime mortgage collapse, which has taken its toll on Everton's financing.

"The sub-prime mortgage collapse has affected a variety of funding mechanisms, including the bond reinsurance industry," Hendrix said. "The credit markets have severely tightened in the past few months, and have gone more conservative."

The mortgage collapse is a relatively new development, but delays have put Everton in this position, Hendrix said.

Approval of the air quality permit, he said, was delayed three months because of a letter written by Concordia Mayor Charles Johnson, which led to a public hearing. That public hearing, that lasted less than 15 minutes and where only one person spoke, led to a three-month delay in Everton's receiving its permit. Hendrix said they could not finalize financing until they had the permit.

"These delays have put us to a point where the credit market soured for us," Hendrix said. "We are actively seeking investors, and are going to move forward with the project."

"We have a significant amount of money already invested in the site, and we're not going to walk away from it."

Farrish said last week that he expects construction to recommence in March. Hendrix said once the financing is locked up, people will see a lot of construction activity.

Before all the delays, construction was scheduled to begin in August 2007, with a completion date set at December 2008. The plant was to be operational in January 2009. Now, Hendrix said, the first grind of grain will probably be in April or May 2009.

"People are still working on the project, whether you see them or not," Hendrix said. "The original founders are still actively involved, and ICM is still committed to the project."

Another hot topic around town has been Everton's inability to obtain water rights. Hendrix said receiving rights is an ongoing process, and the permit requests are still tied up at the state level.

"We expect to see some preliminary issuances within the next 30 days," he said.

Another delay that has faced Everton in its quest to obtain water rights is the fact that there are competing water claims, Hendrix explained. Those competing claims have led Hendrix to find water elsewhere—from new water rights, senior water rights, and effluent water from

Concordia's Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Hendrix said Dennis Reedy has applied for an irrigation permit, and Joe Reedy has asked for water rights specifically for an ethanol plant—to be built in the area of Cloud Ceramics.

"They've locked up the water until December 2008," Hendrix said, unless the state steps in and asks them to prove they are moving forward with the construction of an ethanol plant.

Everton began trying to obtain water rights in January 2007, and Hendrix said it's not unusual for the process to take 12 to 18 months.

"We do have enough water now," Hendrix said, "but I would like to have it in a different form, so we wouldn't have to construct such a complex system."

Once all the complications are ironed out, Hendrix said, Everton will continue with its plans to construct a \$240 million ethanol plant.

"There are good businesses here (in the area) now, and we hope to add to that," Hendrix said. "We look forward to doing that."

THE CITY OF CONCORDIA

Is now accepting applications for summer employment for the Public Works Department, Swimming Pool and Summer Playground. Application will be accepted for the following positions. (applicants must be 16 years old or older unless otherwise noted)

- Maintenance workers (Public Works, 18 years and older)
- Head Lifeguard
- Lifeguards (15 years and older)
- Cashiers/Auxiliary (14 years and older)
- Playground Leaders
- Tennis Assistant
- Umpires

Lifeguards require CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard Certification with WSI certification preferred.

Deadline: City of Concordia temporary/seasonal application form must be completed and received in the City Hall no later than 5:00p.m. on March 7, 2008.

Apply at: City Hall, City of Concordia, 701 Washington, Concordia, KS. EOE. 2/26/08

Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on February 22 and February 29, 2008
RESOLUTION NO. 2008-1802

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 2-251 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Concordia, Kansas, has informed the governing body that in his opinion the structure is unsafe and dangerous:

The premises located at 718 E. 5th Street, Lot Nine (9) in Rigby's Sub-Division of Block Two (2), in East Concordia Addition, in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof, EXCEPT a tract of said Lot Nine (9), thence West nine (9) feet South line and ten (10) feet west of the Southeast corner of said Lot Nine (9), thence East to the southeast corner of said Lot Nine (9), thence North along the East line of said Lot Nine (9), to the point of beginning.

All of Lot Ten (10) and Lot Eleven (11) EXCEPT the West Two Feet (W 2' of Lot Eleven (11) in Rigby's Sub-Division of Block Two (2), in East Concordia Addition, in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. It is hereby ordered that on April 2, 2008 at 5:00 p.m., at City Hall, 701 Washington, Concordia, Kansas, the owner, agent, lien holder or occupant may appear and show cause why the structure should not be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks on the same day of each week. At least 30 days shall elapse between the last publication and the date set for hearing.

SECTION 3. This order shall be served within three days after its first publication on the last known place of residence and occupant in mail, return receipt requested, marked "deliver to addressee only."

SECTION 4. If, at the time and place of hearing, after hearing all evidence submitted by the enforcing officer and any other interested party, the governing body determines that the structure under consideration is unsafe or dangerous, it shall state in writing the findings of cause the resolution to be published once in the official city newspaper and a copy mailed to the owners, agents, lien holders and occupants in the same manner provided for the notice of hearing. The resolution shall fix a reasonable time within which the repair or removal of such structure shall be commenced and a statement that if the owner or removal of such structure within the time stated or fails to diligently prosecute the repair or removal of such structure, the governing body will cause the structure to be repaired or removed.

PASSED by the governing body and signed by the Mayor this 20th day of February, 2008.
 Charles B. Johnson, Mayor
 ATTEST:
 Cher Knudsen
 Interim City Clerk
 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
 Lawrence R. Ut, Jr.
 City Attorney

THE CITY OF CONCORDIA
 Is now accepting applications for summer employment for the Public Works Department, Swimming Pool and Summer Playground. Application will be accepted for the following positions. (applicants must be 16 years old or older unless otherwise noted)

- Maintenance workers (Public Works, 18 years and older)
- Head Lifeguard
- Lifeguards (15 years and older)
- Cashiers/Auxiliary (14 years and older)
- Playground Leaders
- Tennis Assistant
- Umpires

2/29/08

Lifeguards require CPR, First Aid and Lifeguard Certification with WSI certification preferred.

Deadline: City of Concordia temporary/seasonal application form must be completed and received in the City Hall no later than 5:00p.m. on March 7, 2008.

Apply at: City Hall, City of Concordia, 701 Washington, Concordia, KS. EOE.

Attention, Concordia Residents!

2/29/08
Please place your tree limbs at or near the curb in front of your property

FEMA representatives will be in Concordia in March, to complete the damage assessment from the December ice storm.

Spring cleanup will take place during the week April 7. The last day city crews will pick up limbs is April 11.

If you are unable to move your limbs, call city hall at 243-2670, and a volunteer organization will do the work for you.

Two file for ^{Jan. 18, 2008} city commission

Cloud County Clerk Linda Bogart announced Thursday that two persons have filed for election for positions on the Concordia City Commission. Incumbents Darrel Hosie and Phil Gilliland are both seeking the two three-year terms that are open.

Filing for positions on the Miltonvale City Council were Ed Mottin and Dwaine Randel. Three seats are open for this board.

Filing deadline is noon, Tuesday, Jan. 22. If no more than four file for the Concordia City Commission and no more than six file for the Miltonvale City Council, there will be no need for a primary prior to the April 1 general election.

THE CITY OF CONCORDIA
 Will accept sealed bids for a riding mower, two ton truck chassis and a one ton truck with dump box for the Public Works Department. Specifications are available at City Hall. **Sealed bids will be accepted at the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, KS until 2:30 p.m., January 28, 2008.** The City has the right to reject any and all bids.
Jan. 18, 2008

^{March 25, 2008}
Sign up for summer ball
 Those boys and girls wanting to play Girls Softball, Pee-wee Baseball or K-18 Baseball this summer, who are not already on a team, must register at City Hall by April 4.



THE CITY OF CONCORDIA is soliciting for a Concessionaire for the Concordia Sports Complex for the 2008 season. A complete copy of the concessionaire agreement may be obtained from City Hall.

The City of Concordia reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason. No proposals will be accepted after 10:00 a.m. March 24, 2008. Proposals should be submitted in a sealed envelope, marked **(Concession)**. Envelopes received thereafter will be returned to the sender, unopened. No fax proposals submissions will be accepted or considered. Proposals will be opened at 10:00 a.m. March 24, 2008. **All proposals must be submitted in writing to the City Clerk, City Hall, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas 66901.**
March 14, 2008

Snow removal
 City of Concordia employees remove snow from the streets after a winter storm dumped about five inches of the white stuff on Wednesday. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)
Jan. 18, 08

DOG TAX ^{March 18, 08}
 Section 4, City Code: All dogs five months of age and older must be licensed. All dogs must have a certificate of Rabies Vaccination and must be vaccinated every three years. License fees are five dollars (\$5.00) for each male dog and spayed female dog, and eight dollars (\$8.00) for each unspayed female dog, each dog over four (4) in a family, ten dollars (\$10.00). All persons, firms or corporations owning or harboring a dog or dogs within the city limits must provide a license for their dog before the 1st day of April or a fifty percent (50%) fee will be added to regular tags herein specified.

March 14, 2008

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on March 7, and March 14, 2008)

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-1803

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 2-351 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 630 W. 2nd Street, Concordia, Kansas, and more completely described as:

The East One Hundred Thirty-five (135) feet of the West Half (W/2) of the East Half (E/2) of Government Lot Three (3) in the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section Thirty-two (32), Township Five (5) South, Range Three (3) West of the 6th Principal Meridian in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas, subject to easements of record.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. It is hereby ordered that on April 16, 2008 at 5:30 p.m., at City Hall, 701 Washington, Concordia, Kansas, the owner, agent, lienholder or occupant may appear and show cause why the structure should not be condemned and ordered repaired or demolished.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks on the same day of each week. At least 30 days shall elapse between the last publication and the date set for hearing.

SECTION 3. This order shall be served within three days after its first publication on each owner, agent, lienholder and occupant at the last known place of residence by certified mail, return receipt requested, marked "deliver to addressee only."

SECTION 4. If, at the time and place of hearing, after hearing all evidence submitted by the enforcing officer and any other interested party, the governing body determines that the structure under consideration is unsafe or dangerous, it shall state in writing the findings of fact in support of such determination and shall cause the resolution to be published once in the official city newspaper and a copy mailed to the owners, agents, lienholders and occupants in the same manner provided for the notice of hearing. The resolution shall fix a reasonable time within which the repair or removal of such structure shall be commenced and a statement that if the owner of such structure fails to commence the repair or removal of such structure within the time stated or fails to diligently prosecute the same until the work is completed, the governing body will cause the structure to be repaired or removed.

PASSED by the governing body and signed by the Mayor this 5th day of March, 2008.

Charles B. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:
Chér Knudsen
Interim City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Lawrence R. Un, Jr.
City Attorney

Concordians attend city clerks meeting

March 14, 2008

Three Concordia women attended a luncheon and meeting of City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers, March 12-14, in Wichita.

Verna Ferguson, former Concordia city clerk, Chér Knudsen, interim city clerk, and Stacie Crum, deputy clerk, were in Wichita for the three-day event. Ferguson was among the past presidents of the organization being recognized at the luncheon.

Ferguson served the organi-

zation in 1993 and, during this time, had the honor of representing Kansas at the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Convention in Orlando, Fla.

"This organization has net-working to help new clerks journey through the maze of municipal laws," said Ferguson, adding that she had spoken with one of the presenters who was giving a workshop on the Federal Labor Standards Act.

THE CITY OF CONCORDIA is soliciting for a Concessionaire for the Concordia Sports Complex for the 2008 season. A complete copy of the concessionaire agreement may be obtained from City Hall.

The City of Concordia reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason. No proposals will be accepted after 10:00 a.m. March 24, 2008. Proposals should be submitted in a sealed envelope, marked (Concession). Envelopes received thereafter will be returned to the sender, unopened. No fax proposals submissions will be accepted or considered. Proposals will be opened at 10:00 a.m. March 24, 2008. All proposals must be submitted in writing to the City Clerk, City Hall, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas 66901.

March 11, 2008

ATTENTION, CONCORDIA SPORTS COMPLEX NEWS!

ANYONE wanting to use the fields at the Concordia Sports Complex, for any reason, is advised to go through Concordia Recreation at City Hall. This includes college and high school teams, tournament teams, traveling teams, tryouts, etc.

Fields may need to be worked and/or set up. This **CANNOT** be done on a moment's notice. We need to know which field, the date, and time the field is requested.

Beginning in April, Concordia Recreation teams will have their practice schedules assigned. All other non-rec teams will need to reserve a field for practice by contacting Tom Gennette at City Hall. Contacting our grounds crew will **NOT** get you scheduled. You must go through City Hall.

Those teams who have reserved a field will have precedence over anyone on that field. Reservations **MUST** be made for ALL tournaments. Use of concession stand can be arranged. Keeping a running schedule of the Sports Complex activities from April through August will help us avoid any conflicts. Please, **DO NOT** use fields that are chalked for games, or if the infields are muddy. Your team's cooperation will be appreciated.

March 4, 2008

Thank You,
Tom Gennette
Recreation Director
City of Concordia

- Field Reservations will be made on a weekly basis
- 1 1/2 hours per practice (you may go longer if no one is behind you)
- Teams may be limited to two practices per week
- Reservations will begin on Friday for the following week.

March 18, 2008
25 years ago

March 18, 1983—Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Jensen, Concordia, announced the birth of their daughter, Joy Arlene, born March 12. . . . The Concordia Fire Department was sponsoring a country and western show featuring LeRoy Van Dyke at the Brown Grand Theatre. Van Dyke, formerly with the Grand Ole Opry, was known for his song, "The Auctioneer's Song."

Three vie for two commission seats

Three candidates are up for election to the Concordia City Commission tomorrow, April 1st. Incumbents Darrel Hosie and Phil Gilliland are being challenged by former Commissioner Greg Hattan for the two open seats on the Commission.

Each candidate was asked five questions, and the following are their responses:

1. Why do you want to serve on the Commission?

Phil Gilliland: I want to help shape the direction of the City and feel we need a positive, progressive City Commission. Concordia has made tremendous progress in the 15+ years I have lived here, and I think it has the potential to be much more. We need to have an open, welcoming attitude for new businesses, residents, and ideas. Our challenge is to balance laws and regulations that protect existing citizens and businesses, with a supportive and cooperative attitude that welcomes new opportunities. That takes common sense and a sometimes creative attitude to find that balance.

I also think my financial background provides an important asset to the Commission. I do not believe in micromanaging individual departments or the day to day operations. Our job should be to set our financial priorities. We must balance the needs we have for replacing and upgrading our aging infrastructure, with adequate public safety, and the potential growth and expansion that new industry and business bring.

Greg Hattan: I previously have served 18 years on the City Commission, including six terms as mayor of Concordia. During that time, I enjoyed working with my fellow Commissioners, city staff, community volunteers, and local, state and federal agencies to help establish many beneficial programs and complete several successful projects. I believe that my experience and knowledge of city operations would be helpful in addressing present and future opportunities for our community.

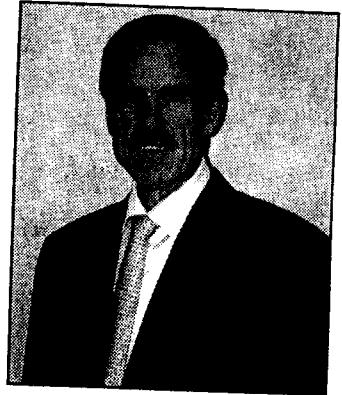
Darrel Hosie: After working both



Phil Gilliland



Darrel Hosie



Greg Hattan

for and with the public throughout my adult life (30 years as County Extension Agent and six years on the Concordia City Commission), it just seems natural to continue to be involved in my community and to make a positive contribution back to it. Hopefully my experience of working with the public has helped me understand and appreciate the problems and concerns of individuals so that I can represent all Concordians with common sense and fiscal responsibility.

2. What are your immediate and long-term goals for Concordia?

Hattan: In terms of local government, immediate goals would include the following:

1. Create a more accurate and understandable report of the city's finances by enhancing our audit procedures;

2. Monitor the progress of the Everton Energy ethanol plant;

3. Review the south flood control project and determine if all available financial and technical assistance has been identified;

4. Create a more positive public attitude by ensuring that "everyone has a seat at the table," when important decisions are made.

Long-term goals would include the following:

1. Review the capital improvement plan to determine that our infrastructure needs - water, sewer and streets - are accurately prioritized and funded;

2. Aggressively seek outside funding and grants to assist the funding of large projects, and the establishment of programs beneficial to our community;

3. We need to find creative ways to assist the nonbusiness entities - i.e. Brown Grand, Frank Carlson Library, Senior Citizens Center, and Youth Center that enrich our lives, and help establish Concordia as a regional center;

4. We need to continue viable economic development programs that assist local businesses and recruit new businesses to our community.

Hosie: My immediate and long-term goals for Concordia remain the same as when I first filed for City Commission six years ago. They include a user-friendly city government; financial accountability; an inviting climate for new and existing businesses; cooperation with other local units of government (Cloud County, C.C.C.C., U.S.D. #333 and neighboring communities); and, making Concordia an inviting place in which to live.

Gilliland: With the tremendous opportunities the new wind farm and ethanol plants bring to Concordia, I believe the future of Concordia is very positive. Agriculture has been, and will continue to be, the backbone of our local economy. Right now, we are seeing record high grain prices, which give us the strong base economy that underpins everything else. If we want to remain a regional trade center for

North Central Kansas, and South Central Nebraska, we must continue to work to find economic diversity. Cloud Ceramics, Alstom, F&A, and CCCC are all important parts of the economic diversity that many rural communities lack. With the addition of the wind farm and ethanol, we have the opportunity to see real growth in population and improvement in the average age of our community. In the next 2-5 years, we have a chance to see our population stabilize and possibly begin to rise.

As a community, we have limited resources and we must work together to prioritize major capital expenditures, not just at the City, but also at the College, USD, County, and Hospital. We will need to work together as a community to utilize new and existing revenues to address the needs of each of those entities. If we work together, I feel the next 10-20 years will allow us to address some significant community capital assets that would serve the community for the next 50 years.

Because of where we are now, and where I see our potential, I would not support moving back to a volunteer fire department. The potential cost increase in insurance rates, the lower level of protection a volunteer department would provide, and the new industry that we have coming make this a poor time to change.

(see Commission on page 4)

SPRING CLEANUP 2008

Let's Clean Up the City of Concordia!

The city of Concordia is planning a Spring Cleanup for the week of **April 7th - April 11th for residential areas**. We ask for your support & assistance in making Concordia a cleaner place to live. Please place your items near your front curb on Sunday, March 26th (alleys will not be picked up). Items to be picked up will be in the following categories:

- Furniture (wood & cloth covered)
 - Tree branches
 - Metal materials
 - Car batteries
- Appliances (Refrigerators, Freezers & Air Conditioners)
 - Car Tires

These items will have to be paid for at City Hall prior to pick up:

- Tractor & Equipment Tires - per unit charge of \$20
- Vehicles (Bring titles to City Hall if you have them, and advise of location)

Please separate items into the listed categories for pick up by city crews. Items will not be picked up if stacked together.

The following items are **NOT** included in spring clean up:

- Asbestos
- Plumbing & Electrical Items
- Construction Materials such as Concrete/Brick/Gravel; Lath/Plaster; Sheetrock; Shingles (all types); and Vinyl Siding
- Hazardous Waste Items
 - Household Trash
 - Leaves or Grass Clippings

City crews will start picking up on First Street going east and west working to the south, then the north and south streets, Cloud to 3rd Ave.

City staff asks that you assist a neighbor or friend. If you need assistance, please call City Hall to have your name added to the list. A little help can make a big difference in whether the old piece of furniture or the brush pile gets to the curb. *April 4, 08*

Thank you for your assistance in making

Concordia a cleaner place to live!

Questions? Call the City Offices at 243-2670.

March 18, 2008
FULL-TIME COMMUNICATIONS/RECORDS SPECIALIST I
 Police Department

The Concordia Police Department is seeking to fill the position of full-time Communications/Records Specialist I. This position provides two-way radio communication for public safety departments; 911 emergency and administrative telephone service for citizens in the City of Concordia and maintains agency records. Interested persons must meet the following minimum requirements.

Be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. Citizen. Equivalent of a high school diploma; no felony convictions; good typing and communication skills; pass a written examination. Computer experience a plus. Physical examination and drug screening tests will follow all conditional offers of employment. Experience preferred, but not necessary.

Complete job description is available at City Hall.

Deadline: The City of Concordia will accept applications until position is filled. Resume may be included with completed city application form.

Apply at: The City of Concordia City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, KS 66901, 785-243-2670. Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be made at the time of application.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

Part-Time Animal Control Officer
Police Department
 The Concordia Police Department is seeking to fill the position of Part-time Animal Control Officer. Interested persons must meet the following minimum requirements.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, possess or be able to obtain a valid Class C Kansas Driver's License, and an established personal driving history that is acceptable for coverage by the City's insurance carrier. Have no felony convictions. Physical examination and drug screening will follow all conditional offers of employment.

Deadline: City of Concordia will accept applications until filled. A resume may be included with completed city application form.

Apply at: The City of Concordia City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas 66901. 785-243-2670. Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be made at the time of application.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

April 29, 2008

Sign up for T-Ball *April 18, 08*

Boys and girls who have turned 5-years-old before Aug. 1 and did not turn 7 before Aug. 1 are eligible to participate in Concordia Recreation T-Ball.

Those wanting to play can sign up at City Hall by May 2. There is a \$10 fee.

April 18, 2008
LAND FOR SALE
 Lots 1 - 6 & 13 - 18 of Blk
 18 Concordia Original
 Town - SW of 18th and
 Spruce. Sealed Bids,
 RTR, accepted thru 4:00
 p.m. 4/25/08 at Concordia
 City Hall, 701 Washington
 785-243-2670.

25 years ago Apr. 29, 2008
 April 29, 1983—Mr. and Mrs. David Retter were elected co-presidents of the Washington School Home and School Association for the 1983-84 school year. . . . The Concordia Fire Department was presenting Grand Old Opry star, LeRoy Van Dyke in concert at the Brown Grand Theatre. Tickets were \$7.50 in advance.

1 year ago April 17, 2008
 April 17, 2007—Concordia junior Beau Backstrom fired a 78 to place second individually in the Abilene Invitational golf tournament. Concordia shot 566 to finish tied with Chapman for fifth. . . . Concordia city commission elected Charles Johnson as the new mayor and Darrel Hosie as mayor pro tem.

Legals

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on Friday, April 4, 2008)

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-2956

AN ORDINANCE amending the policies and fees of the City of Concordia with respect to connection to the city water system and amending the procedures for disconnection and reconnection of water service; repealing sections 20-1, 20-2 and 20-34 of the Concordia Code, and amending the Concordia Code, by adding new sections 20-1, 20-2 and 20-34.

BE IT ORDAINED by the governing body of the City of Concordia, Kansas:

SECTION 1. Sections 20-1, 20-2, and 20-34 of the Concordia Code are hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. The Concordia Code is hereby amended by the addition of new Sections 20-1, 20-2, and 20-34, as follows:

Sec. 20-1. Definitions. The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Consumer, customer, or person each mean any person or entity whose premises is connected to the system, and any person or entity who is applying to have a premises connected or reconnected to the system.

Delinquency means failure to pay for water and sewer service by the due date. Premises means any separately leased or separately owned part of a structure.

System means the water and sewer system of the city.

Sec. 20-2. Water and sewer connection fee.

(a) Connection fee. Any consumer who applies for and is allowed to connect a premises to the system shall pay to the city clerk a fee of \$20.00. Any consumer who discontinues service at a premises and applies for and is allowed to connect to the system at a different premises shall pay to the city clerk a fee of \$20.00.

(b) Reconnection fee. Should any consumer have water or sewer service discontinued for failure to pay for sewer or water service, as provided by Section 20-34, to any premises, there shall be a reconnection fee of \$30.00 for reconnection during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday excluding legal holidays, or a reconnection fee of \$60.00 for reconnection at any other time.

(c) Prior to the connection of water service to any premises, the consumer requesting the service shall pay a deposit in the amount of \$80.00. The deposit shall be held and accounted for as required by K.S.A. 12-822 and any amendments thereto. At such time as the consumer has completed twelve consecutive months of payment for water and sewer service without delinquency, the deposit and any accrued interest shall be refunded to the customer. If a consumer who has had a deposit refunded discontinues service at a premises and applies for and is allowed to connect to the system at a different premises, no deposit will be required.

system at a different premises, no deposit will be required.

(d) Responsibility for payment. All charges for water service shall be the responsibility of the customer.

(e) Temporary disconnection and reconnection. A consumer may have water service temporarily disconnected and reconnected once in any twelve-month period without charge. Minimum water and sewer fees will continue to be payable during any such temporary disconnection.

Sec. 20-34. Discontinuance of water service for failure to pay.

(a) If a water bill, sewer service charge or a landfill utilization charge is not paid on or before the due date, water service to the premises shall be discontinued by order of the director of utilities.

(b) When water service has been discontinued as authorized in this section, the water service shall not be resumed until the total amount of all delinquent water bills, sewer service charges and landfill utilization charges shall have been paid, together with the delinquent penalty provided for in this section and the reconnection fee provided for in section 20-71.

(c) Prior to discontinuing water service as authorized in this section, written notice of the proposed discontinuance shall be given the affected party advising that water service will be discontinued unless the total amount of all delinquent water bills, sewer service charges and landfill utilization charges plus a penalty equal to ten percent of all delinquent water bills, sewer service charges and landfill utilization charges is received on or before the fifth calendar day from and including the date of such notice. The notice shall also advise the affected party that opportunity for a hearing on the delinquent account and proposed discontinuance exists. Request for hearing must be made to the director of utilities on or before the fifth calendar day from and including the date of the notice. If requested, the hearing will be held on or before the fifth calendar day from and including the date of the notice prior to the proposed discontinuance of water service on the sixth calendar day from and including the date of the notice.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication in the official city newspaper. The provisions hereof are severable, and in the event of invalidity, for any reason, of any portion of this ordinance, the remaining provisions of the ordinance shall remain in full force and effect, with the invalid provisions deemed excised.

PASSED by the governing body and signed by the mayor this 2nd day of April, 2008.

Charles B. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:
Chér Knudsen
Interim City Clerk



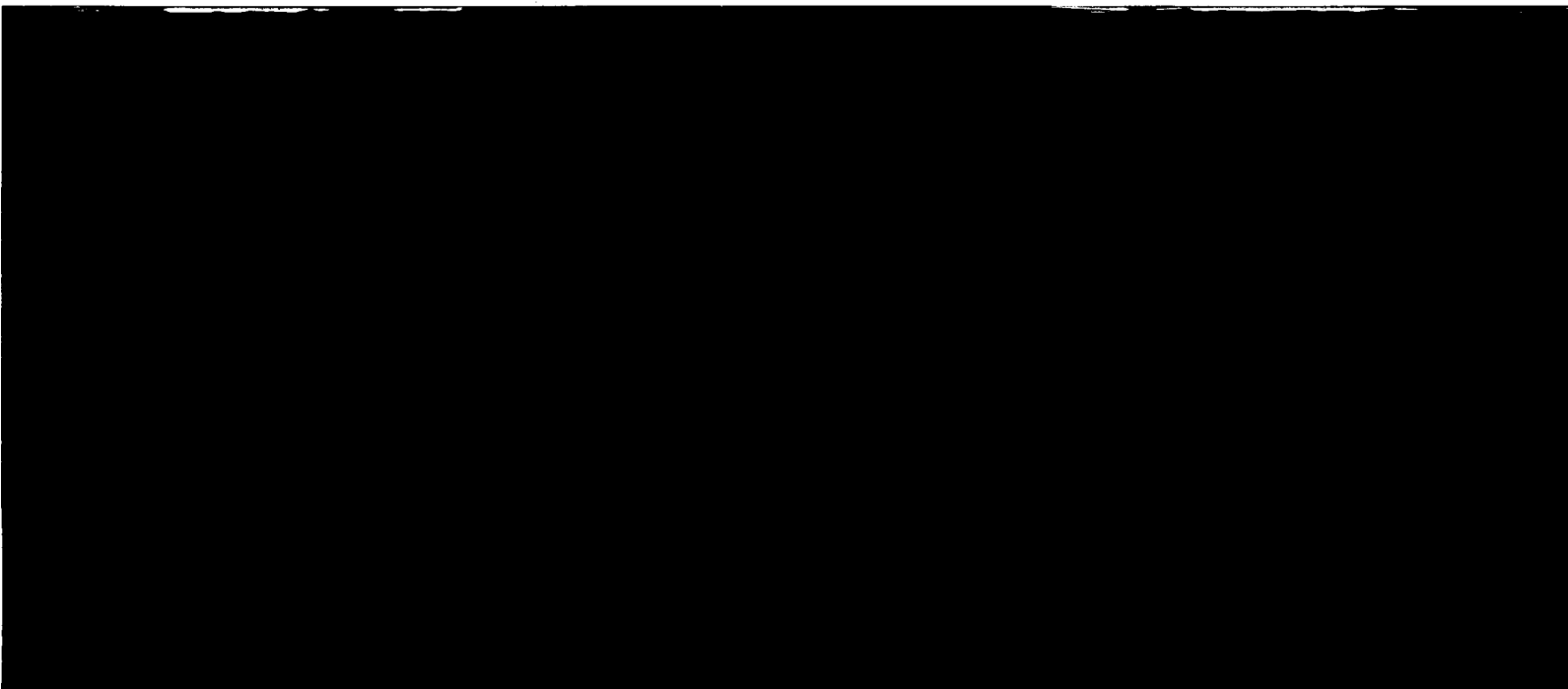
APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Lawrence R. Uri, Jr.
City Attorney

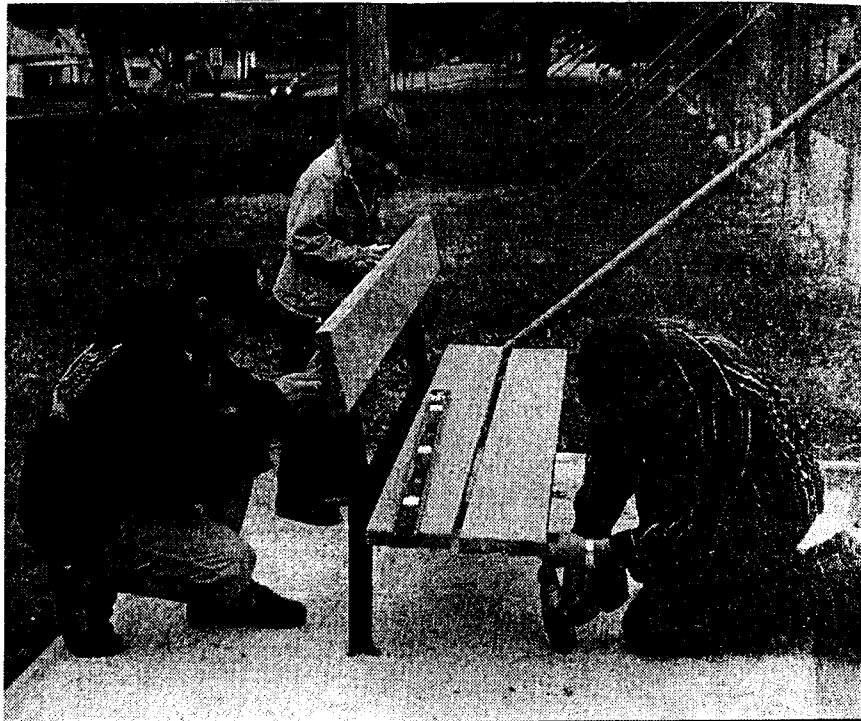
Blade-Empire Friday, April 4, 2008



Serving time

A group of inmates are serving time in the "Big House" set up in the Concordia Town & Country parking lot as part of a fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Doing their time, from left, are: John States, Danny Parker, Vicki Kopsa, Brian Marks and Dr. Maria Jindra. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)





City to test, ^{May 2, 2008} flush hydrants

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

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

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

Throughout the week, residents may experience water discoloration.

The discoloration is not a public health problem, but may be 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 should clear up in a day or so.

Flushing will begin at 6 a.m., on Monday and Tuesday, and at 7 a.m., the rest of the week.

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

Anyone with questions can 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.

May 14, 2008

Senior project

Logan Copple (left), Jesse Copple (middle) and Ron Copple put together a bench at the tennis court that Logan made for his senior project. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

May 12, 2008

Legals

Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on
May 12, 2008

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-1613

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

WHEREAS, the City offered for sale by sealed bid the following real estate:

Lots One (1), Two (2), Three (3), Four (4), Five (5), Six (6), Thirteen (13), Fourteen (14), Fifteen (15), Sixteen (16), Seventeen (17) and Eighteen (18) in Block Eighteen (18) in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas, according to the recorded Plat thereof.

AND WHEREAS, the highest bid was submitted by Dale Simpson and Linda Simpson, husband and wife, in the amount of \$2,525.25;

AND WHEREAS, the Governing Body deems it in the best interests of the City to accept the bid and convey the real estate accordingly;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS:

The mayor and the city clerk are authorized to execute the attached deed for the purpose of conveying the above-described real estate on behalf of the city to Dale Simpson and Linda Simpson, husband and wife, in consideration for the payment of the amount bid, and the city manager is authorized and directed to take such actions as are deemed by him to be necessary or advisable to complete the transaction.

PASSED by the Governing Body and signed by the Mayor this 7th day of May, 2008.

Gregory L. Hattan, Mayor

ATTEST:
Chér Knudsen
Interim City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Lawrence R. Uri, Jr.
City Attorney



Tour Fire Department *May 14, 2008*
 Tiger Cubs from Cub Scout Pack 38 recently toured the fire and ambulance facilities. Those in the group were (l-r): Cory Anderson, Cami Anderson, firefighter Jim Wilson, Jesse Copple, and Cade Anderson.

**Part-Time
 Animal Control Officer
 Police Department**

The Concordia Police Department is seeking to fill the position of Part-time Animal Control Officer. Interested persons must meet the following minimum requirements.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, possess or be able to obtain a valid Class C Kansas Driver's License, and an established personal driving history that is acceptable for coverage by the City's insurance carrier. Have no felony convictions. Physical examination and drug screening will follow all conditional offers of employment.

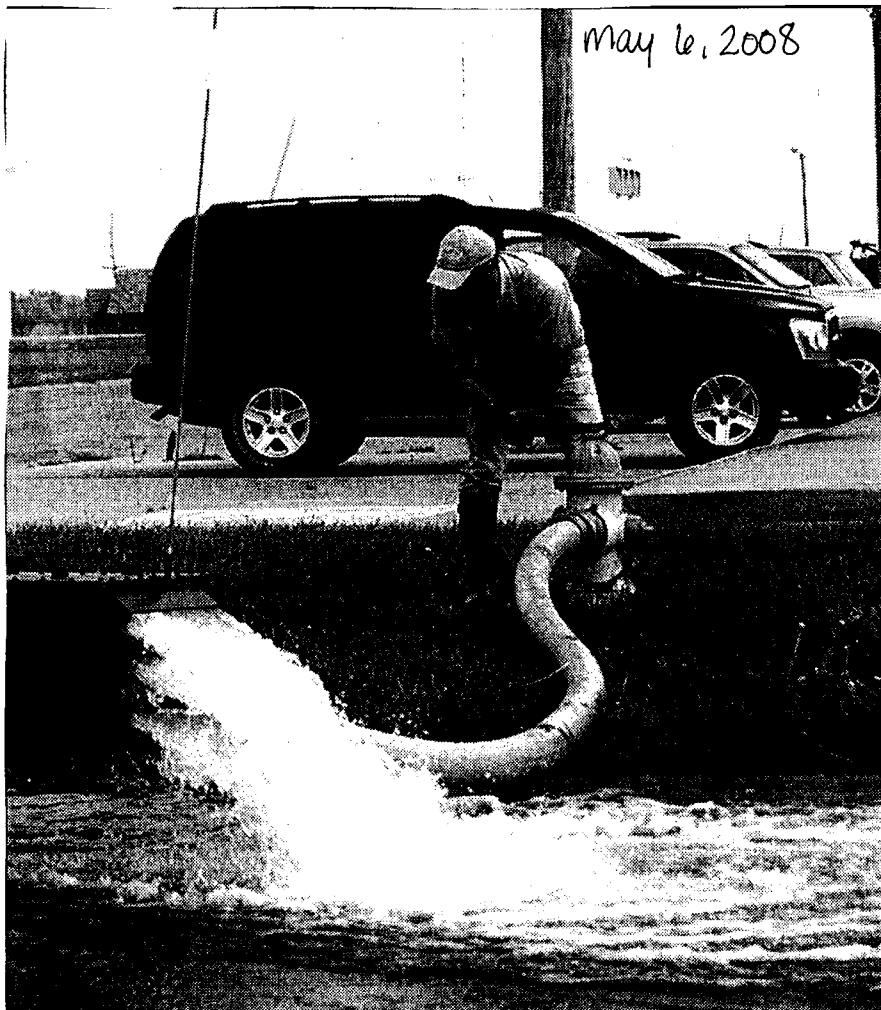
Deadline: City of Concordia will accept applications until filled. A resume may be included with completed city application form.

Apply at: The City of Concordia City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas 66901. 785-243-2670. Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be made at the time of application.

May 2, 2008
 An Equal Opportunity Employer

May 21, 2008
 25 years ago

May 21, 1983—Mary Ann Palmquist received a letter of appreciation from the City of Concordia for her eight years of service on the Frank Carlson Library board of trustees. . . . Darren Lee Dreiling and Kara Jane Kocher were married at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Concordia.



Flushing it out

City of Concordia employee flushes a fire hydrant Tuesday morning. The city is flushing and testing the hydrants throughout the week. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

WANTED
Four
10 to 13-year-old girls
 for A-Team Concordia Recreation Softball
 Call Tom @ City Hall for more information
 785-243-2670 *May 21, 2008*

Dear Editor,

June 6, 2008

I wrote a letter to the editor last week; and, for some reason, they didn't print it.

I want the public to know what a great bunch they have on the ambulance crew. We had to call 911. They were here as soon as possible. They did everything they could do and showed my family so much caring. I will never forget how hard they tried to save my husband.

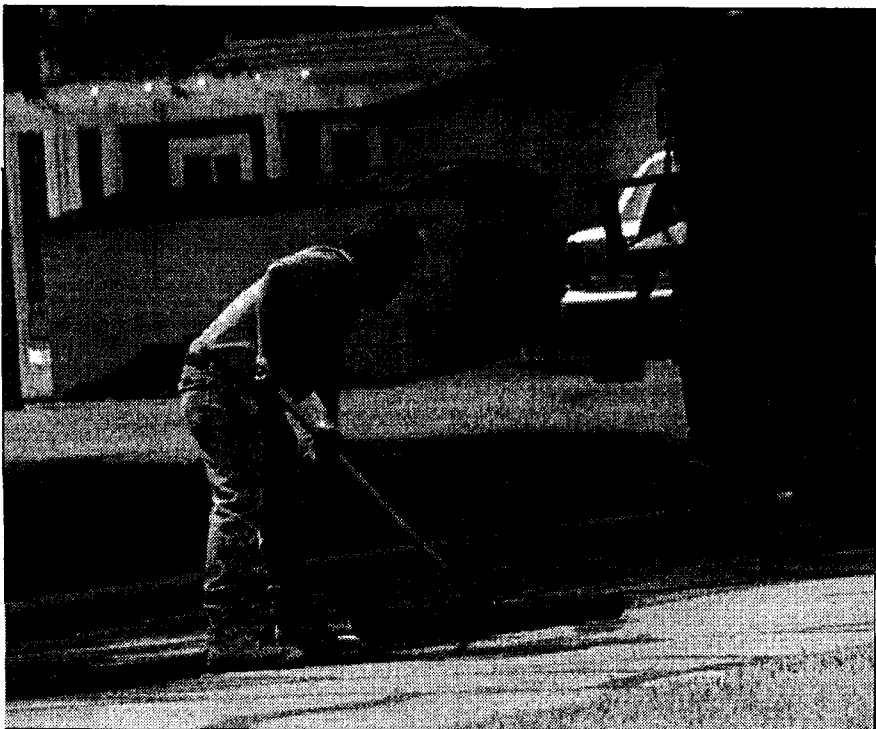
Neva Demanett
Concordia

5 years ago June 6, 2003

June 6, 2003—Concordia city commission approved a conditional use permit for Chado's Body Shop to move from 901 Lincoln to 924 E. 6th. . . . Joel Timme, Concordia, was awarded second place in the state for Division 1 in the Cloud County Farm Bureau Safety Poster Contest.

10 years ago June 9, 2008

June 9, 1998—The Concordia city commission took under consideration a development agreement which would lead to a \$1 million expansion project by F&A Food Sales and the creation of 22 new jobs in the community. . . . Troy Allen Willoughby and Jewell Elizabeth Trueblood announced their May 23 wedding, which took place at the St. Joseph Catholic Church.



Patchwork

City of Concordia employee Jim Metro works to patch a rough spot in the street Monday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

June 23, 2008

Legals

June 20, 2008

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Friday, June 20, 2008.)

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-2960

AN ORDINANCE changing the zoning classification of certain specifically described property in the City of Concordia, Kansas; ordering the official City Zoning District Map to be changed to reflect such amendments; and amending Section 3-201 of Article 3 of the Zoning Ordinance for the City of Concordia, Kansas.

WHEREAS, specific amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for the City of Concordia, Kansas, has been proposed by the Planning Commission of the City of Concordia, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the said Planning Commission duly published a notice of public hearing in the Concordia Blade-Empire, on May 6, 2008, fixing the hearing date as May 27, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., and setting out the place of said meeting, the amendment proposed, and the affected legal description; and

WHEREAS, written notice of the proposed amendment was mailed to all owners of land located within 200 feet in the city limits of the area proposed to be altered, and to all owners of land located within 2,000 feet in the unincorporated Cloud County of the area proposed to be altered; and

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2008, at the time and place designated, the Planning Commission, with a quorum present met, held the public hearing and voted unanimously to recommend the adoption of said proposed amendment.

WHEREAS, more than 14 days have expired since the date of conclusion of said public hearing and no protest against said proposed amendment has been filed in the office of the City Clerk:

NOW, THEREFORE, Be it Ordained by the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, Kansas:

SECTION 1. That having received a recommendation from the Planning Commission, the zoning classification or districts of the lands legally described hereby are changed as follows:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

A tract of land in the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of Section Nine (9), Township Six (6) South, Range Three (3) West of the 61st Principal Meridian in the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas, more fully described as: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of said Section 9-6-3; thence North 00 Degrees 23 Minutes 59 Seconds East along the west line of said NW 1/4 for distance of 528.55 feet to the Point of Beginning; thence South 89 Degrees 19 Minutes 56 Seconds East for a distance of 1029.56 feet; thence North 18 Degrees 40 Minutes 52 Seconds East for a distance of 2166.66 feet, to the south right of way line of College Drive, a street in the Blosser Skyline Addition --- Phase 1 Plat; thence North 70 Degrees 26 Minutes 00 Seconds West, along the south right of way line of College Drive for a distance of 80.01 feet; thence continuing along

said south right of way line with a curve turning to the right with an arc length of 223.41 feet, with a radius of 390.00', with a chord bearing of North 52 Degrees 51 Minutes 19 Seconds West, with a chord length of 220.37 feet; thence continuing on said right of way line, North 36 Degrees 26 Minutes 39 Seconds West for a distance of 19.47 feet to the east boundary of the College Hill Addition, thence South 18 Degrees 40 Minutes 52 Seconds West along the east line of said College Hill Addition for a distance of 830.12 feet, to the southeast corner of said College Hill Addition; thence North 89 Degrees 08 Minutes 28 Seconds West along the south boundary of the College Hill Addition for a distance of 1185.00 feet to the west line of the NW 1/4 of Section 9-6-3; thence South 00 Degrees 23 Minutes 59 Seconds West along said west line for a distance of 1447.44 feet; to the Point of Beginning, having an area of 2051615.13 square feet, or 47.10 acres, which includes 0.83 acres of Public Road Right of Way.

Be and is hereby changed and re-zoned from "R-1" Low Density Residential District, to "P" Public Use District.

SECTION 2. That the boundaries of the "P" district are hereby amended to include the property described in Section 1 of this ordinance; and the boundaries of the "R-1" district are hereby amended as being amended to exclude the property described in Section 1 of this ordinance.

SECTION 3. The official City Zoning District Map shall be updated to reflect the amendments described in Section 1 of this ordinance, and to alter and amend the boundaries of the affected zoning districts as described in Section 2 of this ordinance.

SECTION 4. That Section 3-201 of Article 3 of the Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended to include the above zoning district amendments and the official City Zoning District Map, as amended, are hereby reincorporated in the said Zoning Ordinance for the City of Concordia, Kansas.

SECTION 5. That all ordinances or sections of ordinances in conflict herewith are repealed.

SECTION 6. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication as provided by law.

PASSED by the Commission, this 18th day of June 2008.

Gregory L. Hattan, Mayor

ATTEST:
Chér Knudsen
Interim City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Lawrence R. Uri, Jr.
City Attorney



Commission votes to table resolution

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade staff writer

In a relatively short meeting, the Concordia City Commission voted 4-1 to table the only resolution on the agenda.

The resolution, to establish credit card accounts, was tabled until the June 18 meeting, with Commissioner Darrel Hosie casting the dissenting vote.

City Manager Mark Skiles said he did not like the debit card system the city had implemented, and felt that credit cards would be safer.

"With credit cards, you get a statement monthly and all the charges are listed," he said. "Debit cards are maybe less secure because they hit your account immediately."

Skiles said having credit card accounts would provide an additional system of checks and balances on expenditures.

Commissioner Cheryl Lanoue said she wasn't opposed to using credit cards. But, she said, she wanted to see a policy in place before authorizing their use. She said employees should be required to turn in receipts on purchases, and personal use

should be prohibited.

"If they don't turn in receipts, then the employee should be held personally liable for it," she said.

Skiles said most cities with credit cards have those guidelines.

Hosie said from what research he had done, he found credit cards were safer than debit cards. He said the city should start using the cards, "under good faith," and approve a policy at the next meeting.

Mayor Greg Hattan said he would like to see a policy in place before going ahead with credit card use.

"Given our track record, I think it's a good idea to spell out their use with a policy," Hattan said.

He agreed with Lanoue that those who use the cards be required to turn in their receipts.

Commissioner Charles Johnson also agreed with the receipt clause, and asked that the policy also spell out the maximum number of cards the city would have.

Skiles said he and city staff can draft a policy, and that making the switch to credit cards didn't have to be done immediately.

Hosie said it seemed the Commis-

sioners was creating a "lot of busy work," and that if credit cards were safer, they should switch to them immediately.

The Commission will revisit the issue at the June 18 meeting.

The Commission also voted to approve moving forward with a performance audit.

During Skiles' report, he said he had contacted four firms to perform the audit, but was waiting to hear back from them on timeframe and cost.

Rather than waiting on a cost estimate, Hosie moved that city staff make arrangements for a performance audit to cover the accounting and financial departments for the last five years.

Hattan said he is in favor of an audit, but clarified that the Commission's approval of the motion did not authorize entering into any contract. Once an auditor is chosen, the Commission will have to approve a contract.

Also during Skiles' manager report, he told the Commission that golf carts have never been legal on city thoroughfares. His comment stemmed

from last month's ordinance, which permitted the use of work site vehicles, but reiterated that golf carts are illegal on city streets.

"Golf carts have never been legal in Concordia," Skiles said. "We put that in there to remind people of that."

Johnson showed a state statute allowing for low speed vehicles, and said that applied to golf carts, too. Skiles and City Attorney Larry Uri said that didn't apply to golf carts. When Johnson asked if Concordia could implement a charter ordinance to allow golf carts, Uri said it couldn't. He cited an attorney general opinion, which stated the city of Ellinwood couldn't charter out of the ordinance.

"A city can't charter out from under a traffic ordinance because they are uniform across the state," Uri said.

Hattan asked Skiles if he had received any complaints about the dust blowing at the Everton Energy ethanol plant site.

Larry Remmenga, utilities director, said Kansas Department of Health and Environment had met with Everton officials on Tuesday. The issue is being dealt with by KDHE.

(see Resolution on page 8)

RESOLUTION

(continued from page 1)

Johnson asked if anything had been done about the speed limit around Hood Park.

Police Chief Danny Parker said officers had done a two-week survey of the area, and didn't find high incidence of speeding. He said if they were to change the speed limit in the block surrounding the park, that is viewed as a speed trap, which isn't legal.

Skiles said the problem is people who park along the curbs by the park, and children darting out into the street.

During staff comments, Ron Copple, public works director, reported that mill and overlays will begin soon. The first project, 11th Street, from Willow to the west city limits, Elmhurst from 10th to 11th, is scheduled to start today.

The mill and overlay of 6th Street, he said, will be done at night, so as to not disrupt downtown business operations.

During public comments, Armand Balthazor was back to

continue talking about dilapidated houses in town. He showed pictures of structures - on 6th Street, near the Cloud County Museum Annex - that need to be addressed. He said once the Whole Wall project is completed, those houses will detract from it.

He also asked that something be done with three houses on Valley, between 5th and 6th streets. He suggested the city work out a deal with property owners to get them to remedy the problem.

"Let's do something," he said. "Let's enforce the laws or raise their taxes. Have you ever raised taxes on a shack? That might motivate them to do something."

Hattan suggested Balthazor give Bruno Rehbein, building inspector, his list of houses, so he could add them to the city's "hit list."

The Commission adjourned to a study session, discussing a demolition program, nuisance abatements and goal setting.

Commission approves zoning change

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

In the only item of business Wednesday, the Concordia City Commission approved a zoning change for Cloud County Community College.

The change, from R-1 (residential low density) to public use, involves land to the south and east of the college.

Bruno Rehbein, planning commission secretary, told Commissioners the original plan for the land was for a wind turbine. But, because of Federal Aviation Association regulations, the turbine can't be erected so close to the airport.

Rehbein said the college went through with the change anyway, which will allow for other educationally based activities. The zoning change, he said, makes the property compatible to school uses.

Laura Robertson, with the Salina Airport Authority, gave a presentation to the Commission on Great Lakes Airlines.

The airline, which began service from Salina in March, serves only rural communities.

"Great Lakes is built to serve rural communities," she said. "It is the leading airline that serves only rural communities."

With flights to both Denver and Kansas City, Robertson said the airline had 350 passengers last month. The airline also has ticket and baggage agreements with most airlines, she said.

One of the benefits of Great Lakes' local service, Robertson explained, is that it saves both time and gas. By flying, passengers can skip a long car drive to Kansas City, as well as save on high-priced gasoline and parking.

"We can get you there cheaper than a speeding ticket," Robertson said, quoting the CEO of Great Lakes.

If a passenger books a flight 30 days in advance, a one-way ticket to Kansas City is \$69, and \$109 to Denver.

Kirk Lowell, executive director of CloudCorp, said having a local air service is nothing but a benefit to economic development.

"It can be a very positive thing for us in recruiting businesses to our

community," he said.

During Commissioner Comments, Charles Johnson asked if it is true that three shotguns have been stolen from Concordia Police Department cars.

That is true, said Police Chief Danny Parker, but it was not publicly reported because he preferred the "bad guys didn't know about it, so they wouldn't try it again."

"We are investigating the issue," Parker said. "I saw no benefit by publicizing that case. In fact, we don't publicize all cases. A lot of the time, that's at the request of the victim because they don't want their name in the paper."

Both Parker and City Manager Mark Skiles said they weren't trying to hide anything.

Johnson also requested to see an inventory of what was at the department. Skiles said it was his opinion that he didn't want everyone knowing what sort of fire power the department has.

"Well, it's a little difficult to sit up here and manage things when you don't know what you have, or what's going on," Johnson said.

Parker said the situation was remedied by providing each patrol car with its own key to unlock the shotguns.

During staff comments, James Buller, with the Concordia Fire Department, reported on several firefighters' time spent assisting in Chapman.

Last week, after the tornado hit, a number of departments from across the state were called in to assist. Buller, Jim Menard, Nick Girard, and Derek Champlin all traveled to Chapman with an ambulance and a rescue truck.

"By the time we got there, there were so many ambulances already there, it was amazing to see the response," Buller said.

The four firefighters did a complete search of a three block by three block area, which was the hardest hit of the town. They went house to house, checking homes and vehicles, searching for anyone who had been injured.

"Honestly, with a lot of them (houses), there wasn't much left of them to search," Buller said.

(see Zoning on page 8)

Zoning

(continued from page 1)

Interim City Clerk Chér Knudsen reported that she had spent a day in Chapman, helping in City Hall. Most of the office people, she said, had lost homes in the tornado, but had been working at City Hall nearly nonstop.

"Whatever needed to be done, we did," Knudsen said. "It was a very humbling experience. They need all the help they can get. If anyone has free time, I'm sure they'd be happy to have you."

Parker said he is sending police officers to Chapman, as are a number of law enforcement agencies across the state.

Commissioner Darrel Hosie asked the commission to think about a financial donation to the city of Chapman, which could be made at the next meeting. He also thanked all the city employees who had answered the call for help from Chapman.

"Because," he said, "we may need that help someday, too."

Mayor Greg Hattan said he had received several inquiries as to a public storm shelter. Fire Chief Larry Eubanks said there are such shelters. Locations are at the Courthouse, an above ground shelter behind the old OCC building, and the emergency operations center at Airport Park.

During the Manager's report, Skiles said he is still working on finding a firm to conduct a management audit. He said he has asked for dates to meet representatives from the four firms. The general consensus from all four, though, was that an audit wouldn't be performed until as late as October.

During Commissioner comments, Joe Jindra presented information on record rainfall for Concordia in a two-day period. Ranking number one was May 8, 1950, when Concordia received 6.51 inches of rain—which led to the collapse of the 20th Street dam.

There was additional information about how much rain Mitchell and Republic counties received in 2003, which was anywhere between 8 and 12 inches.

"The replacement of the 20th Street dam has been my top priority for several years now," Jindra said. "After reviewing

the minutes of the May 8th Corps of Engineers Kickoff meeting, after hearing Jim Wintter's comments at our last city commission meeting and reading Pat Gerhardt's letter, with all the recent flooding in Iowa and elsewhere in the Midwest, and after having the National Weather Service research some rainfall statistics, I'm more concerned than ever."

Legals

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Friday,
July 11, 2008)

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-1815

BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the City of Concordia, Kansas:

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2008, at a regular meeting duly called and held, the governing body adopted Resolution No. 2008-1807, whereby it was ordered that if owner of the following-described tract:

The premises located at 833 E. 6th Street, Concordia, Kansas, and more completely described as:

Lot Eighteen (18) in Block Three (3) in Drake's Addition to the City of Concordia, Cloud County, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof.

failed to commence the repair or, removal, or demolition of the dangerous structure thereon on or before June 7, 2008, or failed to diligently prosecute the same until the work was completed, the governing body would cause the structure to be repaired or removed;

AND WHEREAS, Resolution No 2008-1807 was published in the official city paper on May 9, 2008, and was served on each owner, agent, lienholder or occupant at the last known address by certified mail, return receipt requested, marked "deliver to addressee only;"

AND WHEREAS, the owner has failed to commence the repair or removal of the said structure;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. The city manager is hereby authorized and directed to forthwith cause the said structure to be razed and removed.

SECTION 2. This resolution shall be published once in the official city paper.

PASSED by the governing body and signed by the Mayor this 2nd day of July, 2008.

Gregory L. Haltan, Mayor

ATTEST:
Chér Knudsen
Interim City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Lawrence R. Uri, Jr.
City Attorney

11



Trying to keep up

With recent rains making it a difficult task, city of Concordia employee Josh Brown attempts to keep up on the mowing at Pleasant Hill Cemetery Tuesday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

July 29, 2008

July 15, 2008 GET INVOLVED IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

It is the intent of the Concordia City Commission to involve qualified citizens in the governing process. To that end, the Commission announces that vacancies do exist on the following board.

Interested applicants must be residents of Cloud County.

AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD

If you are interested in serving the community by becoming a member of this board, please come by City Hall and obtain an Expression of Interest Form. To be considered for the above appointment, you must return a completed Expression of Interest Form to the City Clerk's office no later than 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29, 2008.

All members of boards, commissions and committees serve without compensation.

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

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



Fun in the Sun with your Little One!



Ages: Infant - Preschool
(Adult participation required)

11 a.m. - Noon • Mondays & Wednesdays
Starts July 21st

July 22, 2008 Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool
\$1.00 Admission



Concordia's Fireworks Display Thursday, July 3rd

July 1, 2008

10 p.m.

Concordia Sports Complex

- DONATIONS ARE NEEDED -

Please contact or e-mail the Chamber of Commerce

EVERYONE INVITED!

Concordia Rotary Club will be serving

Pie & Ice Cream

8:00-9:30 p.m.

Concordia Sports Complex & ALCO parking lot

Pie, \$1.50 • Ice Cream, 75¢ • Combination, \$2.00

Look for the red barn & the traveling golf carts!

All donations help fund next year's fireworks display & Rotary Youth program.

(Published in the Blade-Empire on Thursday, July 31, 2008)

Blade-Empire Thursday, July 31, 2008 7

CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS
TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD FROM April 1, 2008 THROUGH June 30, 2008

FUNDS	1st Quarter Ending Balance	Post Closing Adjustments	BEGINNING	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURES	ENDING BALANCE
			AS ADJUSTED			
100 General Fund	\$1,271,981.28	\$8,227.53	\$1,280,208.82	\$2,858,729.17	\$2,599,463.10	\$1,539,474.89
203 Industrial Development	\$7,058.35	\$0.00	\$7,058.35	15,022.23	0.00	\$22,080.58
205 Special Highway	\$151,487.99	\$0.00	\$151,487.99	42,989.96	31,110.08	\$163,347.87
208 D.A.R.E. Grant	\$1,269.44	\$50.00	\$1,319.44	700.00	100.00	\$1,919.44
207 Civil Asset Forfeiture	\$4,140.21	\$0.00	\$4,140.21	0.00	1,048.35	\$3,091.86
208 Cyber Crimes	\$769.81	\$0.00	\$769.81	50.00	648.00	\$171.81
208 Employee Health Care	\$139,802.83	-\$155.65	\$139,647.18	132,674.58	149,024.17	\$123,297.59
210 Employee Benefit	\$7,405.77	\$0.00	\$7,405.77	0.00	7,405.77	\$0.00
212 Emergency Telephone System	\$100,273.15	\$0.00	\$100,273.15	8,515.40	5,658.58	\$103,128.97
214 Animal Shelter	\$5,024.98	\$0.00	\$5,024.98	120.00	100.00	\$5,044.98
217 Special Park and Recreation	\$35,544.18	\$0.00	\$35,544.18	2,063.10	0.00	\$37,607.28
219 Capital Improvement	\$792,759.49	\$0.00	\$792,759.49	0.00	0.00	\$792,759.49
220 Downtown Revitalization Grant	\$6,345.56	\$0.00	\$6,345.56	0.00	0.00	\$6,345.56
221 Computer Equipment/Replacement	\$18,186.03	\$0.00	\$18,186.03	648.00	7,943.17	\$10,872.86
222 Vehicle Equipment Reserve Acct.	\$583,951.32	\$0.00	\$583,951.32	5,737.85	48,066.20	\$541,622.98
223 B.A.T. Reserve Fund	\$3,859.70	\$0.00	\$3,859.70	0.00	0.00	\$3,859.70
224 City Hall Community Room	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	0.00	25.00	\$0.00
230 Judges Training Fund	\$3,027.49	\$0.00	\$3,027.49	1,657.50	2,256.00	\$2,429.99
240 Kansas E911 Grant	\$199.72	\$0.00	\$199.72	0.00	0.00	\$199.72
245 911 Wireless	\$48,914.93	\$2,577.85	\$51,492.78	5,159.47	287.70	\$56,364.35
250 Fire Dept. Grants	\$2,880.27	\$0.00	\$2,880.27	0.00	0.00	\$2,880.27
260 Animal Trust Fund	\$33,396.26	\$0.00	\$33,396.26	6,760.10	400.00	\$38,756.36
270 Cemetery Endowment	\$36,485.14	\$748.85	\$37,233.99	0.00	0.00	\$37,233.99
280 Recreation Grants & Donations	\$7,349.74	\$0.00	\$7,349.74	0.00	0.00	\$7,349.74
301 Bond and Interest	\$127,778.64	\$0.00	\$127,778.64	61,228.28	0.00	\$189,006.92
303 Tax Increment Bond Fund	\$187,701.23	\$0.00	\$187,701.23	376,514.81	48,139.38	\$520,076.66
444 TIF Projects	\$34,908.61	\$0.00	\$34,908.61	0.00	0.00	\$34,908.61
450 Capital Improvement Projects	\$21,900.00	\$0.00	\$21,900.00	42,282.20	0.00	\$20,462.20
501 Street Projects	\$24,131.64	\$0.00	\$24,131.64	0.00	24,131.64	\$0.00
505 Demo & Misc. City Projects	\$17,038.48	\$0.00	\$17,038.48	0.00	17,038.48	\$0.00
506 Storm Water Drainage	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	1,092.09	\$0.00
507 Curbs & Gutter Projects	\$1,092.09	\$0.00	\$1,092.09	0.00	1,092.09	\$0.00
508 Orphan Train Depot Restoration	-\$282.47	\$0.00	-\$282.47	1,000.00	717.53	\$0.00
550 Central Garage Fund	-\$20,995.17	\$0.00	-\$20,995.17	72,828.33	87,482.87	-\$15,561.71
601 Water/Sewer General	\$940,730.48	\$304.91	\$941,035.39	338,975.20	280,058.76	\$969,951.63
606 Designated Water Connect Fees	\$38,583.84	\$0.00	\$38,583.84	4,542.38	43.82	\$43,082.41
607 Water/Sewer Projects	\$28,051.87	\$0.00	\$28,051.87	0.00	0.00	\$28,051.87
611 City of Concordia Memorial Fund	\$5,363.38	-\$37.81	\$5,325.57	825.80	0.00	\$6,151.37
830 Airport Fund	\$2,943.29	\$0.00	\$2,943.29	29,805.56	36,376.66	\$-3,628.81
701 Inventory Revolving	\$6,200.41	\$0.00	\$6,200.41	0.00	6,452.84	-\$252.43
702 Tree Planting Program	\$721.38	\$0.00	\$721.38	0.00	708.36	\$13.02
703 Escrow Fund	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	0.00	0.00	\$10,000.00
710 Post Fire Debris Removal	\$5,125.81	\$0.00	\$5,125.81	0.00	5,097.98	\$27.83
725 COC Cafeteria Plan	\$15,208.87	\$0.00	\$15,208.87	1,450.68	12,856.82	\$3,803.83
735 Library Fund	\$5,522.43	\$0.00	\$5,522.43	38,205.30	43,727.73	\$0.00
736 Library Employee Benefit	\$1,692.81	\$0.00	\$1,692.81	10,045.22	11,738.03	\$0.00
750 Continuing Econ. Development Grant	\$253,442.99	\$2,249.10	\$255,692.09	8,847.05	0.00	\$264,339.14
780 Cloud County Landfill	\$3,823.57	\$0.00	\$3,823.57	\$4,986.22	54,280.03	\$4,329.78
802 Water Protection Fund	\$4,978.69	\$0.00	\$4,978.69	2,028.28	1,380.66	\$5,844.31
TOTALS	\$4,631,899.59	\$13,942.78	\$4,645,842.37	4,128,288.49	3,464,778.97	5,307,366.78

LIABILITIES:

General Obligation Bonds
Lease
TIF GO Bond
TOTAL

Escrow Account Blosser Airport United Bank

I, Ruby L. Maline, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.

CASH AVAILABLE:

1,915.00 Citizens & Peoples Exchange
153.13 Investments
2,480.00
4,528,368.00 TOTAL

\$25,991.40

Ruby L. Maline
Ruby L. Maline, City Treasurer

Concordia Recreation
July 29, 08
Back To School
Swim Party
Middle School, Junior High &
Senior High Students ONLY
Tuesday, August 5th
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.
Concordia Municipal Swimming Pool
Snack Bar will be open

**CITY OF CONCORDIA
Customer Relations**

This full time position involves a wide variety of tasks and administrative support work in the City Clerk/Finance Office. The primary responsibility of this position is to respond to citizen inquiries, take messages, refer calls, nuisance abatements, accounts receivable billing, assisting with accounts payable and entering receipts into the computer. This position involves clerical tasks and a variety of duties which follow well established methods and procedures. This position requires teamwork with co-workers in the administrative and finance offices.

This applicant must be at least 18 years of age, have the equivalent of a high school diploma, no felony convictions, and prior work experience in business procedures. Physical examination and drug screening test will follow all conditional offers of employment.

Deadline: City of Concordia will accept applications until position is filled. Resume may be included with completed city application form.

Apply at: The City of Concordia City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas 66901, 785-243-2670. Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Request for accommodations should be made at the time of application.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

August 19, 2008

SERVING

August 20, 2008

OUR COMMUNITY

A look at those who risk their lives to protect ours ...

CHUCK NONDORF

Chuck Nondorf has been a part of the Concordia Fire Department for 15 years, having started as a volunteer in 1993. In October 1996, he became a full time employee and he was promoted to captain last month. Nondorf is EMTI and Firefighter 2 certified. He works in 24-hour shifts and, when not on calls, does building inspection and pre-plans, does minor maintenance and helps to educate youth about fire safety and prevention.

As a volunteer, Nondorf received in-house training through former Concordia fire chief, Bob Burns. In 1995, he received his firefighter 1 certificate through the University of Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute. In 1994, he received his EMT certification from former firefighter, Willie Higgins.

In 2004, he received his EMTI certificate at Belleville from Michael Guy of Ft. Riley. Having this certification allows him to start IVs on patients when necessary.

Further training at the University of Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute resulted in his becoming firefighter 2 and driver/operator certified.

Always looking for ways to learn and better himself, Nondorf now is enrolled in a Fire Inspector 1 class, which will start in February, in Hays.

Nondorf grew up in Courtland and graduated from Pike Valley High School. He went to auto body school in Manhattan and has worked as an auto body tech, construction laborer and ready mix truck driver, but did not find any of these jobs as satisfying as his work with the fire department.

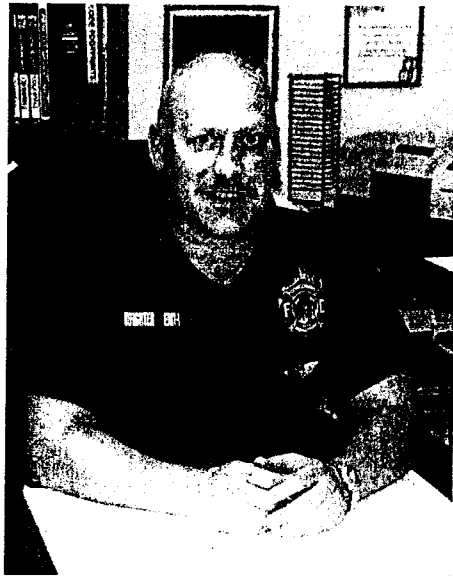
"I like meeting and helping people," Nondorf said.

One vivid memory Nondorf has as a firefighter was in June 1997 when the Perfect Touch (now Essentials) at 118 West 6th, burned. He was working as a backup for nozzleman Larry Eubanks on the second floor of the building. The fire was between the downstairs ceiling and the upstairs flooring. When Eubanks' low air alarm went off, they exited the building. Five minutes later, the roof of the building collapsed and went down to the second floor.

His oldest son, Tyler, nominated him for "America's Most Wanted All Stars" for his work on this fire, and he was interviewed by phone.

Nondorf is married to the former Samantha Goff, and they celebrated their one year anniversary in June. Besides Tyler, now 15, he has another son, Christian, who is 8.

When Nondorf isn't working, he enjoys hunting, fishing and camping with his family.



**Nutter
Mortuary**

SPONSORED BY:

116 East 6th
243-2525

City approves demolition program

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

After several months of hearing complaints on dilapidated houses, the Concordia City Commission voted Wednesday night to do something about them.

A policy to implement a new demolition cost-sharing program with property owners was approved, though on a 3-2 vote.

The cost-share comes by way of the city's reimbursing property owners up to 50 percent of the cost of site demolition and refurbishment. The maximum amount of reimbursement would be \$4,000.

In addition, water and sewer connections to the property would be disconnected by the city at no charge.

While the Commission had no qualms about those stipulations, it was how properties were selected that resulted in the split vote.

The original policy read that the city manager would have sole discretion to determine which properties be eligible for demolition.

Rather than giving that power to the city manager,

Commissioner Cheryl Lanoue asked that it be the duty of the City Commission, in consultation with the city manager and staff, to decide.

Before the vote, Commissioner Darrel Hosie said he was concerned with making that change.

"It will slow the process down and change the whole approach to the demolition program," he said.

By putting the authority with the Commission, he said, it would result in too much discussion and debate.

"We're not out there investigating the properties, staff is," Hosie said. "That's what we hired staff to do."

Hosie said he also feared that by bringing proposed demolition projects before the Commission would discourage participation, "because people don't want to get into a public debate."

Commissioner Joe Jindra agreed with Hosie. "Something that shouldn't become political could," he said.

Mayor Greg Hattan disagreed with Jindra, saying the Commission has a say in how the city's money is spent, and should also have a say in this program.

Jindra responded by saying the Commission had recently streamlined the nuisance abatement program—by putting that in the hands of the city manager—to save time, and should be doing the same with the demolition program.

Hosie and Jindra cast the dissenting votes, with Hattan, Lanoue and Charles Johnson voting in the affirmative.

Rather than approving a new policy for credit and debit cards,

In other business, the Commission approved a bid from AT&T 911 Inc., in the amount of \$117,576, for the purchase of a new 911 platform for the Police Department.

Despite being a higher bid—the other was from Nine One One, Inc. for \$105,808—Rick Voelker said purchasing the AT&T system would provide a seamless transition. In addition, AT&T maintenance personnel are local, and the CAD system is currently tied in with AT&T.

The AT&T system also features instant playback recording and a five-year warranty.

The Commission also approved a resolution to demolish a fire-damaged house at 833 East 6th. On March 19, the Commission passed a resolution finding the structure to be dangerous. A public hearing was conducted on May 7, but the

the Commission authorized City Manager Mark Skiles to procure a vendor to make a presentation on purchasing cards.

The cards, often referred to as P-cards, have been popular with many city governments across the Midwest, which have implemented them as a way to streamline purchases.

Cards would be given to city employees, which typically have spending limits and can be used only for specified purchases.

Commissioner Johnson said he would like the policy to lay out exactly how many cards would be issued.

Skiles said he wouldn't give a card to everyone.

"You're going to have to loosen up some of these controls to become more efficient," Skiles said. "I don't want credit cards, they are too loose ended. I can put more controls on P-cards."

Hattan said he didn't think the Commission had had the opportunity to review the P-card agreement. He said he would be in favor of approving the policy change at the same time as the Commission signed an agreement with a bank.

Despite Hosie saying he didn't want to continue using the less-secure debit cards, the Commission approved waiting another month to make the decision.

After discussing it briefly last

The owner has not commenced repair or demolition of the property, said Bruno Rehbein, city building inspector. There was no insurance on the house, he said, so the demolition costs will be assessed to the property's tax rolls. The cost to demolish the house could be between \$2,000 and \$5,000, he said.

"The hope is that this will pressure him to do what he says he's been going to do," Rehbein said.

During public comments, Armand Balthazor thanked the Commission for helping erect a flagpole at the Sports Complex. He also invited everyone to a dedication of the flag, tonight at 8:30 p.m.

"I'd like to see everyone at the flag dedication," he said. "You'll get a feeling I get, and every American should get, when they raise that flag."

month, the Commission approved—on a 4-1 vote—a \$500 contribution to the city of Chapman, which was devastated by a tornado June 11. Last year, the city donated the same amount to the city of Greensburg.

Skiles recommended the Commission donate \$1,000 to assist in that city's recovery efforts.

Johnson asked how much—in the way of staff time—had already been given to Chapman. Several staff members have helped in Chapman's city hall, and four firefighters worked there the night of the tornado.

"Really, it's inconsequential to me, because next time, it could be us," Skiles said.

Lanoue, who cast the dissenting vote, said she'd talked to a number of people who disagreed with making a donation. She said they had relayed the sentiment that if an individual wanted to give money, he or she could, but local tax dollars should be spent here. She said they didn't agree with Skiles sending city staff to Chapman, either.

In response, Skiles said he questioned anyone's integrity and willingness to help people, if they disagreed with helping those in need.

"I think you need to do something for people who are in need," he said.

(see Demolition on page 7)

Uri to serve as interim city manager

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

After two executive sessions Wednesday night, the Concordia City Commission agreed to offer the interim city manager position to city attorney Larry Uri.

Uri will step in until a permanent city manager is found, after the unexpected resignation of Mark Skiles on August 6. Uri's first day will be Sept. 16, when Skiles will take vacation days to finish out his tenure in Concordia. A contract with Uri will be approved at a future meeting.

Skiles, who replaced Larry Paine, has been city manager for less than nine months.

Mayor Greg Hattan said he is confident Uri, who has been an interim city manager in the past, will do the job well.

The Commission also approved entering into a contract with the League of Kansas Municipalities to assist in the search for a new city manager.

In other business, three properties were approved for demolition as part of the city's newly implemented demolition program.

The cost-share program, approved in July, allows the city to reimburse property owners up to 50 percent of

the cost of site demolition and refurbishment. The maximum amount of reimbursement would be \$4,000. In addition, water and sewer connections to the property will be disconnected by the city at no charge.

Building Inspector Bruno Rehbein said the three properties have all been declared unsafe and dangerous structures. They, along with their estimated costs of demolition, are: 834 East 5th, \$2,000; 221 West 3rd, \$4,482; and 833 East 6th, \$2,900.

Rehbein reiterated that the costs were approximate, and said they could be higher, or lower, depending on whether property owners received a waiver from Cloud County.

The County is offering a waiver of the county tonnage fee of \$20/ton for construction and demolition debris on six houses per year. Those wishing to obtain the waiver must fill out an application, and have it approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

"I think it's a good idea, and I'm glad we're getting started on it," Hattan said, after he received confirmation that all three houses are on the city's "hit list."

The Commission rejected an offer for a contract for financial services with Springsted. For \$8,000 Spring-

sted would identify options for the city to pay for infrastructure improvements for the proposed new hospital.

Uri said city staff, representatives from the Cloud County Health Center, the city's bond council, and Springsted met to discuss some possible major public improvements.

"It appears that building the hospital in the area they are proposing is going to put pressure on some city water and sewer infrastructure," Uri said.

If that became the case, the city could be looking at a high price tag for upgrading the infrastructure, which is where Springsted would come in. Uri said the company helps to identify cheaper ways to pay for high dollar projects.

Hattan said, for him, the cost of the study is too high. He said he prefers to table the issue until the hospital project is a "little further down the line."

He said the city has done its best to provide a ballpark figure for infrastructure construction, which is all it can do at this point. Discussing financing options would come later in the process, mainly after the hospital measure is voted on in November.

"I don't think \$8,000 is best spent

right now, but maybe down the line, it will be," Hattan said.

Commissioner Darrel Hosie agreed with Hattan, saying that he wondered what the city would be getting for \$8,000.

Uri said the city would receive options for financing, as well as guidance on who—the city or the hospital—would pay for what.

"Is it worth it? I can't tell you it will be, but we're talking about spending millions here, so it might be," Uri said.

Hattan said he thought it would be more appropriate to initiate the study once the project begins to move ahead.

The other Commissioners agreed with Hattan and Hosie, and rejected the contract offer.

Eric Johnson, representing the Cloud County Historical Society Museum, asked for an easement from the city to accommodate the Whole Wall mural project.

Johnson said they had discovered that the property line of the Museum Annex Building, at 6th and Lincoln, is on the face of the wall. Consequently, if bricks are added to the wall, the mural will go over the property line.

(see City Manager on page 8)

City Manager

(continued from page 1)

He asked that the city deed nine feet on the east side of the building, which is currently a parking lot, and one foot on the alley to the museum.

"Somewhere along the line, this (asking for the land) ball got dropped," Johnson said. "We're just here to see where you're at on this, because if not, I don't know where we'll put the wall."

Rehbein said the issue would need to go through a public hearing process, and said it wasn't a pressing issue, because no bricklayer has yet been found to erect the mural.

Uri said he had checked with the administrator of the Community Development Block Grant, which was used to construct that parking lot. He said the state indicated that must remain a public parking lot. Any plans to make changes to the lot must be approved by the state.

Dana Brewer, also with the museum, said they would like at least a one foot vacation for the foundation, and an additional eight feet for a memorial sidewalk.

Despite not having an easement on the alley side of the wall, Johnson said concrete had been poured for the foundation on Wednesday. He said they would be going through the public hearing process to vacate that foot of alley.

Hosie said he is in favor of taking time to study the issue, and make sure the Commission did what was right the first time. Hattan said he didn't see any roadblocks, and asked that the museum work with city staff.

After a public hearing, where no one spoke, the Commission approved special assessments for Spruce Street, which will be paved with concrete between 16th and 17th streets.

Property owners in that area will be paying the \$31,825 to

construct a concrete street, curb and guttering. The city will provide the labor and equipment, which is estimated at \$39,375.

Public Works Director Ron Copple said he expects to start on the project in late September.

Hosie said he was surprised that the cost was so low, and Copple said it is because he is using city labor, and not constructing a new drainage system.

"I'm glad to see this, but I'm concerned because almost 50 blocks (of city streets) aren't paved," Hosie said. "If we cost share here, are we setting a precedent that we'll do it for others? It used to be that property owners had to pay 100 percent (of street construction)."

Commissioner Cheryl Lanoue said that was before the city had its own concrete laying machine.

The Commission also set a public hearing for the demolition of the lumber yard at 102 East 5th. A new storage facility is proposed for the location. Because it is within 500 feet of a building on the National Historic Register, the state requires a public hearing.

During City Manager Skiles' comments, he reported that the slurry seal project is moving along well. Though having some streets closed is an inconvenience, he thanked the public for its cooperation.

Skiles also reported that Hall Brothers Construction is redoing all the work it did last year, which the Commission had not been pleased with. Copple said the company has done 85 blocks of streets this year, and is redoing the 75 from last year. He said they only have about 40 blocks left.

The Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss water pressure on the south side of town and the 2008 budget.

Skiles resigns as city manager

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

The Concordia City Commission meeting was rocked, Wednesday night, with the unexpected resignation of City Manager Mark Skiles.

Skiles gave 60 days notice, with his last day scheduled for Oct. 6.

At the conclusion of last night's meeting, Skiles addressed the Commission during his regular appointment. After commending those who offered assistance when his daughter broke her leg, he got to the heart of the issue.

A month after he came to Concordia, Skiles said, he was approached by two people who thanked him for coming to town. Then, he said, they apologized for the community.

"It's an insult of the greatest degree to a community that they would say that," Skiles told the Commission. "Concordia has a reputation it needs to work on overcoming, and it exists outside our community."

At Skiles' first meeting in Concordia, he told Commissioners they would enjoy working together.

"That was my intention," he said. "I didn't want to make everybody happy, and I didn't want to do a terrible job. I know that, but I've given my honest

effort."

Skiles commended city staff, calling them all quality people who know best how to do their jobs, and who deserve respect. What really set him off was how that level of respect toward city staff wasn't given by the Commission.

"I do find it immature, unprofessional, unacceptable, and unconscionable that Commissioners continue to make inferences as to staff's incompetence and honesty," Skiles said. "That's something you can't do."

In other cities, Skiles said, everyone actually works together to better the community. That's not the case in Concordia.

"There is a cancerous tumor in this city, that is holding you back from what you can become," he said. "You almost exist in spite of yourself, which is a sad thing to say."

Skiles told Commissioners that he'd had a number of people approach him recently, asking him to stick out the "tough times" and stay on as city manager.

But, with the political divisiveness in the community, and recent actions of the Commission, he said he is not the man for the job.

"Consider this my 60 day notice,"

Skiles said. "I appreciate the opportunity, but I don't think I'm the man for the job based on the actions that I have seen coming from behind your table."

After having been in several other communities, Skiles said he finds Concordia to be the most politically divided, which he partially attributes to a generational gap.

In closing, he said that the city must do something to work through this, if it expects to grow and advance.

"I don't know how to do it, I know I can't," he said. "A lot of things have to come together to make this happen, and I don't think I'm the man for the job."

Skiles, who replaced Larry Paine, has been city manager for Concordia for less than nine months.

After his comments, the Commission went into two 15-minute executive sessions, inviting Skiles into one. No action was taken, but the Commission approved contacting the League of Kansas Municipalities for assistance in finding a new city manager.

Mayor Greg Hattan, who said he was shellshocked at the news, said he is sorry to see Skiles go. He said Commissioners had not been dis-

pleased with Skiles' work, nor did they ask him to leave.

"I'm sorry the community didn't offer you what you were looking for, and we'll try to do a better job next time," Hattan said.

In action items, the Commission approved a contract with BG Consultants, not to exceed \$22,300, for work on a wastewater treatment plant project.

Utilities Director Larry Remmenga introduced Bruce Boettcher, an associate with BG Consultants. Boettcher said his firm will work on the city's behalf with contractors and suppliers to deliver a quality project. BG will act as a project facilitator and provide technical support through the project.

Remmenga said he expects the project, which includes rebuilding the clarifier and installing a new bar screening system, will probably begin in the spring of 2009.

The Commission also approved text amendments to the zoning regulations. The amendments, according to Building Inspector Bruno Rehbein, allow for more flexibility in waiving certain requirements of both subdivision and zoning regulations.

(see Skiles on page 10)

City commission approves budget

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

Even with a 4.451 increase in the mill levy, no one other than the mayor-made any comment during the city's budget hearing Wednesday night.

The proposed budget for 2009 calls for a mill levy of 49.491, with assessed valuation at \$24,199,460. The levy in 2008 was 45.040, while assessed valuation was slightly lower at \$24,017,236.

A mill raises a \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed valuation, which is the value of property in the city. One mill in the city of Concordia, with valuation at \$24 million, raises approximately \$24,000.

According to Mayor Greg Hattan, the answer to the mill levy increase was simple.

"We don't have any money," he said.

Over the past three years, he said,

fund. But, Hattan said, the main reason the mill levy had to be raised was the ethanol plant.

Last year, he said, the bond and interest levy was lowered. The reason, he said, was because the anticipated franchise fees from the ethanol plant would offset that decrease in 2009. But, with no ethanol plant as of yet, there are no additional franchise fees.

On the bright side, Hattan said, the mill levy is six mills lower than it was nine years ago, and nine mills lower than the city's all-time high in 2001-2002.

Despite the belt-tightening, the city is still planning to spend money on special projects in 2009. The flood retention structure at 21st Street is ongoing.

Hattan said City Manager Mark Skiles had reintiated talks with the Army Corps of Engineers for funding of the dam. He was able to get the Corps to commit to \$104,000 to help

Sen. Sam Brownback's office, and was able to obtain a soft earmark in the 2009 budget for additional funding.

"That is no guarantee of money," Hattan said. "That just means we're a player in the game."

In 2009, Hattan said, the Commission is changing its focus on tax increment financing.

"We're moving back to the original goal (of TIF) to improve infrastructure," he said. To that end, a project is scheduled to improve the sewer line at the north end of Broadway.

More money is to be transferred to the health insurance fund next year. The city, which recently made the switch to self insurance, will work to build a cushion in that fund to maintain it.

Other projects scheduled for 2009 include the demolition program, sealing streets, improvements at the waste water treatment plant, and a

Commission has worked toward improving the integrity of the city's operations, mainly its purchasing policy.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, Commissioner Joe Jindra voted against approving the budget. But, when it came time to adopt the budget, he voted for it. He gave no reason for his nay vote.

In other business, Bob Maxson, vice president for administrative services at Cloud County Community College, spoke about concerns the college has with water pressure.

Speaking on behalf of the college board and President Rick Underbakke, Maxson said the college has a problem providing adequate pressure to showers in the dorms. He said, in general, the city provides the college with the required 20 pounds per square inch.

"But, as you go up in buildings, you reduce the pressure," Maxson

businesses by having the Farmer's Market there.

"I doubt someone is going to take a load of peaches into Daylight Clothing to get fitted for a tuxedo from Jim's Formalwear to wear to the CloudCorp annual meeting," she said.

Commissioner Darrel Hosie, who asked that appointing a representative to the CloudCorp Board be added to the agenda, made a motion to appoint Commissioner Charles Johnson to that position.

Johnson would replace Hosie, who is the current city representative to CloudCorp.

Johnson said he wasn't interested in serving, and that he wouldn't be an appropriate member of the board.

"You've expressed concern about how CloudCorp works, so now's your opportunity to go to the meetings and see what's going on," Hosie said.

On a 2-3 vote-with Hosie and Jindra voting for it and Johnson, Hattan and Cheryl Lanoue voting against it-the motion failed.

During public comments, Armand Balthazor asked the Commission to do away with its membership to the League of Municipalities. He said the Commissioners were all well-educated people who could make their own decision on hiring a city manager. At the last meeting, the Commission approved a contract with the League to assist in the search for a new city manager.

"We keep getting people through the League, and they ain't getting it done," Balthazor said. "Let's argue. Let's fight. But, when we leave this room, let's leave as friends."

"Concordia needs to change, and any change would be a change for the better."

units would take away from the historic building.

"The proposed mini storage facility at this location appears to be a good fit," he said. "It creates a nice transition between downtown retail and the industrial uses to the north."

He said the Historical Society's issue was that both buildings would face the same street. The Society would like to see a more compatible facade on the proposed building.

"The applicant has explored alternatives, including leaving a portion of the existing wall, but determined the wall would be too unstable to try and keep," Rehbein said.

Rehbein recommended that the Commission go against the Historical Society's wishes, and allow Wetter to move ahead with his project. The Commission agreed, allowing Wetter to move ahead with his project.

The Commission also approved a contract for interim city manager services with City Attorney Larry Uri.

Uri's tenure as city manager will begin on Sept. 16, and he will be paid \$8,000 per month for his services.

New bylaws for the Airport Advisory Board, as well as several new members, were also approved. There were two major changes to the bylaws - expanding the Board to include members from all of Cloud County, and setting quarterly meeting dates. Brian Donavon, Dane Hansen, Ray Palmer, Steve Richards, and Everett Ford were all appointed to four-year terms on the Board.

Arlene Clayton appeared before the Commission, asking that the Farmer's Market be moved from downtown back to the City Park. She said she didn't see any benefit to downtown

Budget

(continued from page 1)

He asked who the college should work with to expedite some of this project, so we can make sure that this happens in a timely fashion."

Hattan instructed him to discuss the project with Larry Uri, the interim city manager.

During public comments, Skiles read a letter from Estaline Harrington regarding the issue with the college.

She said she understood Underbakke's thinking that the city should be responsible for improving the water pressure at the college. But, she suggested that the college look at where it could cut money to help pay for the project.

"Whether it is legally the city's total responsibility or not, I would like to see all the entities involved work together to get this done," she wrote. "After all, it is all tax money, regardless of which pocket it comes from."

Harrington suggested the two entities work toward a compromise on the issue.

"Each side needs to give a little to get it done," she said. "It sounds as though the city is trying. Please, College Board, meet them halfway."

Another public hearing was conducted, for property at 102 East 5th.

Bruno Rehbein, city building inspector, said Steve Wetter plans to tear down the old lumberyard at that location and construct storage facilities.

But, the Kansas State Historical Society has found that doing so would damage the environs of the Bankers Loan and Trust Building, which is on the historic register.

Rehbein said he disagreed with the Historical Society's thought that the new storage

**Concordia Recreation Women's
Volleyball Team Registration**

Mondays & Tuesdays • Beginning Oct. 20

\$80 per team

Entry deadline: Friday, Oct. 10, 2008

Register at Concordia City Hall.

Contact Tom Gennette, recreation director, at
785-243-2670, for more information

October 3, 2008

CITY MANAGER

Concordia, Kansas (pop. 5,389) located in North-Central Kansas; the community is a great place to live, work and raise a family. \$8.9 million budget, 55 FT employees. master's degree in public administration or closely related field required, but public sector work experience may serve as a substitute. Ideal candidate will have at least 3-5 years of municipal management experience. For additional community information visit www.concordiakansaschamber.com/. Strong management, communication, budgetary & personnel skills required. Salary \$70K-\$80K. Send resume and 3 professional references to LEAPS- Concordia, 300 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66603. EOE. Open until filled. Resume review begins October 23, 2008.

October 22, 2008



Patching it up

City of Concordia employees Ryan McDaniel, left, Jim Metro, middle; and Bill Drury lay rebar so concrete can be poured to fix a hole at the intersection of Fifth and Washington. (Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

Fire Prevention Week October 6th- 11th



October 9, 2008

Come have breakfast with our local
firefighters and thank them for all of their services.



Biscuits & Gravy Breakfast
Saturday, October 11
7:00-10:30 a.m.
at the Concordia Fire Department
Freewill donations will be accepted

Legals

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on
Friday, October 3, 2008)

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-2967

AN ORDINANCE pursuant to K.S.A. 12-504 and 12-505, as amended, vacating a portion 1 foot by 44 feet of the alley adjoining lots 3 and 4 in block 136 in the city of Concordia, Kansas.

A tract of land in the alley between 6th and 7th streets adjoining lots 3 & 4 in Block 136 Concordia Original Town, more fully described as:

BEGINNING at the Southeast corner of Lot3, Block 136 in the Original Town of Concordia, Kansas; thence south 1foot into the adjacent alley; thence West parallel with the south line of Lots 3 and 4 in Block 136 for a distance of 44 feet; thence North 1foot to the Southwest corner of lot 4; thence East along the South line of Lots3 and 4 for a distance of 44 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 44 square feet, more or less.

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2008 notice was published in the official City newspaper, pursuant to K.S.A. 12-504, as amended, of the intent of the City of Concordia Planning Commission to hold a public hearing to consider a vacation request of the above described portion of alley; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2008, at 7:00p.m. at City hall in Concordia, Kansas, the time and place stated in the above described notice, at a meeting of the Concordia Planning Commission duly called and held, all interested parties were afforded an opportunity to appear and be heard with respect to the proposed vacation of the property described above; and,

WHEREAS, after hearing such testimony as was produced before it, and such testimony was required in order to fully understand the true nature of the petition and the propriety of granting the same, the Planning Commission determined, from the proofs and evidence presented, that no private rights will be injured or endangered by such vacation, and the public will suffer no loss or inconvenience thereby, and that in justice the vacation ought to be granted, all in accordance with K.S.A. 12-505; and,

WHEREAS, the planning commission thereupon voted 5-0 to recommend approval of the vacation of the said portion of the street; and,

WHEREAS, no written objection was filed with the City Clerk, on or before the date of said hearing, by any owner or adjoining owner who would be party to a petition for vacation of said property,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, Kansas:

Section 1. Pursuant to K.S.A. 12-504 and 12-505, as amended, a tract of land in the alley between 6th and 7th streets adjoining lots 3 & 4 in Block 136 Concordia Original Town, more fully described as:

BEGINNING at the Southeast corner of Lot 3, Block 136 in the Original Town of Concordia, Kansas; thence south 1foot into the adjacent alley; thence West parallel with the south line of Lots 3 and 4 in Block 136 for a distance of 44 feet; thence North 1foot to the Southwest corner of lot 4; thence East along the South line of Lots 3 and 4 for a distance of 44 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. Containing 44 square feet, more or less, is hereby vacated.

Section 2. Upon passage of this ordinance and publication in the official City newspaper, the City Clerk of said city is directed to file a certified copy of this ordinance in the Office of the Cloud County Register of Deeds.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective on October 3, 2008 following its publication in the official city newspaper.

ADOPTED by the City Commission on this 1st day of October, 2008.

Gregory L. Hattan, Mayor

ATTEST:
Stacey Crum
City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Lawrence R. Uri, Jr.
City Attorney

Commission receives update on self-insurance

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

After being self-insured for nearly a year, the Concordia City Commission received an update, Wednesday night, on how the program is working.

Joe Walter, with Benefit Administrative Systems, made a presentation to the Commission and those in attendance on how the program works.

In December 2007, facing a 25-percent increase in health insurance costs, the city made the decision to move to self-insurance. Mark Skiles, who was city manager at the time, recommended the Commission enter into self-insurance in an effort to keep employees adequately covered, while controlling costs.

Walter said BAS is the insurance broker for the city, which means the company writes checks for claims city employees make.

There are four components to any insurance plan, Walter said: Prescriptions, network, administrator, and claims. His company's job, he said, is to save the city money.

"Our job is to help you find out how much insurance you don't need, not stuff as much insurance down your throats as we can get away with," Walter said.

Before making the switch to self-insurance, Walter said, \$512,000 of city money was sent to the insurance carrier.

The suggestion of BAS, he said, was to take \$42,000 per month, which was paying for the insurance administrator and prescriptions, and make that a budgeted item. Prescriptions are now purchased from a wholesaler.

As far as claims, Walter said, those are largely unpredictable. With the city's insurance program, there is a \$35,000 stop/loss. Any claim under \$35,000 is paid by the city—at wholesale. Anything more than that is picked up by the reinsurance carrier.

In the last eight months, the city's cumulative claims—under \$35,000—were \$190,204. Two employees have gone past the stop/loss point — to the tune of \$54,000 and \$148,091.

The total fixed monthly costs to the city, Walter said, for administrative and network fees, has been fairly consistent at \$16,000.

"Your numbers look very good," he said. "If things keep up like they have so far, you're going to come in with a healthy dose of black at the end of the year."

At the end of August, he said, the city is \$23,000 ahead.

"Kauter than spend the money up front (as in the past), and maybe use it or not, you've spent prudently, only when you need it," Walter said.

In other business, the Commission approved two properties for demolition as part of the city's newly implemented demolition program. The properties and cost estimates, are: 220 East 1st, requested by Stan VanMeter, \$3,200; and 534 East 6th, requested by Louis Thrash, \$4,250.

The cost-share program, approved in July, allows the city to reimburse property owners up to 50 percent of the cost of site demolition and refurbishment. The maximum amount of reimbursement would be \$4,000.

The Commission also approved vacating one foot of the alley behind the Cloud County Historical Society Museum Annex.

The vacation will allow for a concrete foundation to accommodate the Whole Wall Mural.

The minutes of the last meeting again became an issue last night, as Commissioner Charles Johnson asked that they be more inclusive. He pointed out two instances where the minutes didn't, as he said, accurately reflect the questions that were asked or the discussion that ensued.

Mayor Greg Hattan said he would like the issue to be on a study session, so the Commission could come to a consensus as to what is included in the minutes.

Commissioner Darrel Hosie said the minutes only need to be a record of the business transacted at the meeting, not a verbatim account.

Johnson said it was the job of the city clerk to keep a thorough record of the meeting, and "if she's overworked, maybe we should hire another person."

(see Commission on page 10)

Commission

(continued from page 1)

Interim City Manager Larry Uri said it would be hard for the clerk to decide what to include in the minutes and what to leave out. But, he said, staff would try to be more expansive in the minutes for the next meeting.

During public comments, Ted Collins suggested that the minutes be put on a web site so everyone could have access to them.

Concordia Police Chief Danny Parker reported to the Commission on an Amber Alert training session at City Hall on Tuesday.

Fire Chief Larry Eubanks, who has been working on a Low To Moderate Income survey for a number of months, said the city does qualify for a Commu-

nity Development Block Grant.

To receive the grant funds, more than 51 percent of citizens surveyed must fall into the low to moderate income bracket. Of those surveyed, 67.02 percent fall into that category.

During the manager's report, Uri reported that the state had approved the the city deeding nine feet of land from the parking lot at 6th and Lincoln streets. The land will be used so the Whole Wall Mural can be erected.

The Commissioners adjourned to a study session, where they discussed adopting a commercial vehicle safety act, a CDBG for a fire truck, an ambulance vehicle, and the bidding process for the animal control vehicle.

CITY OF CONCORDIA, KANSAS
 TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT
 FOR THE PERIOD FROM July 1, 2008 THROUGH September 30, 2008

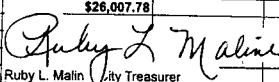
October 20, 2008

FUNDS	2nd Quarter		EXPENDITURES	3rd Quarter
	Ending Balances	RECEIPTS		ENDING BALANCES
100 General Fund	\$1,539,474.89	\$1,745,124.26	\$2,044,446.21	\$1,240,152.94
203 Industrial Development	\$22,080.58	5,986.69	22,500.00	\$5,567.27
205 Special Highway	\$163,347.87	44,163.07	109,629.75	\$97,881.19
206 D.A.R.E. Grant	\$1,919.44	50.00	0.00	\$1,969.44
207 Civil Asset Forfeiture	\$3,091.86	48.35	1,000.00	\$2,140.21
208 Cyber Crimes	\$171.81	0.00	0.00	\$171.81
212 Emergency Telephone System	\$103,129.97	6,197.87	5,460.54	\$103,867.30
214 Animal Shelter	\$5,044.98	595.00	200.00	\$5,439.98
217 Special Park and Recreation	\$37,627.28	2,696.62	0.00	\$40,323.90
219 Capital Improvement	\$792,759.49	400,000.00	581,920.55	\$610,838.94
220 Downtown Revitalization Grant	\$6,345.66	0.00	3,375.00	\$2,970.66
221 Computer Equipment/Replacement	\$10,872.86	20,000.00	8,855.39	\$23,917.47
222 Vehicle Equipment Reserve Acct.	\$541,822.98	293,589.63	80,363.00	\$754,849.61
223 B.A.T. Reserve Fund	\$3,859.70	0.00	0.00	\$3,859.70
230 Judges Training Fund	\$2,428.99	3,056.50	3,627.00	\$1,858.49
240 Kansas E911 Grant	\$199.72	0.00	0.00	\$199.72
245 911 Wireless	\$56,364.35	5,407.76	287.70	\$61,484.41
250 Fire Dept. Grants	\$943.88	8,179.12	0.00	\$9,123.00
260 Animal Trust Fund	\$39,756.36	168.69	5,000.00	\$34,925.05
270 Cemetery Endowment	\$37,231.99	0.00	0.00	\$37,231.99
290 Recreation Grants & Donations	\$7,349.74	0.00	0.00	\$7,349.74
301 Bond and Interest	\$189,002.92	135,089.09	48,284.38	\$275,807.63
303 Tax Increment Bond Fund	\$520,076.66	24,616.81	0.00	\$544,693.47
444 TIF Projects	\$34,908.61	0.00	0.00	\$34,908.61
450 Capital Improvement Projects	\$20,462.20	850,967.20	831,752.25	\$39,677.15
526 Employee Health Care	\$123,297.59	269,331.83	154,186.73	\$238,442.69
550 Central Garage Fund	-\$15,551.71	59,911.71	46,061.86	-\$1,701.86
601 Water/Sewer General	\$699,951.83	323,079.95	367,012.10	\$656,019.68
606 Designated Water Connect Fees	\$43,082.41	6,293.30	240.45	\$49,135.26
607 Water/Sewer Projects	\$26,051.97	0.00	0.00	\$26,051.97
611 City of Concordia Memorial Fund	\$6,181.37	0.00	0.00	\$6,181.37
630 Airport Fund	-\$3,629.81	38,774.27	27,738.30	\$7,406.16
701 Inventory Revolving	-\$252.43	0.00	0.00	-\$252.43
702 Tree Planting Program	\$15.00	0.00	0.00	\$15.00
703 Escrow Fund	\$10,000.00	0.00	0.00	\$10,000.00
710 Post Fire Debris Removal	\$27.85	0.00	0.00	\$27.85
725 COC Cafeteria Plan	\$3,803.63	16,645.48	8,438.76	\$12,010.35
735 Library Fund	\$0.00	10,647.48	0.00	\$10,647.48
736 Library Employee Benefit	\$0.00	2,530.29	0.00	\$2,530.29
750 Continuing Econ. Development Grant	\$264,339.14	7,249.64	0.00	\$271,588.78
780 Cloud County Landfill	\$4,329.76	49,913.32	49,048.20	\$5,194.88
802 Water Protection Fund	\$5,644.31	1,948.41	1,924.11	\$5,668.61
TOTALS	\$5,307,365.70	4,332,262.34	4,399,452.28	\$5,240,175.76

LIABILITIES:		CASH AVAILABLE:	
General Obligation Bonds	1,915,000.00	Citizens & Peoples Exchange	3,174,132.79
Lease	153,200.00	Investments	2,066,042.97
TIF GO Bond	2,460,000.00		
TOTAL	4,528,200.00	TOTAL	5,240,175.76

Escrow Account Blosser Airport United Bank	\$26,007.78
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I, Ruby L. Maline, do hereby certify that the above statement is correct.


 Ruby L. Maline
 City Treasurer

SERVING October 15, 2008
OUR COMMUNITY

A look at those who risk their lives to protect ours ...

SGT. RIC VOELKER

Sgt. Ric Voelker, third in command for the Concordia Police Department, has been serving on the Concordia force since 2000.

Voelker said his brother, a law enforcement major and psychologist at the Larned State Hospital, was a big influence in his pursuing a career in law enforcement. He saw it as a good career opportunity for him.

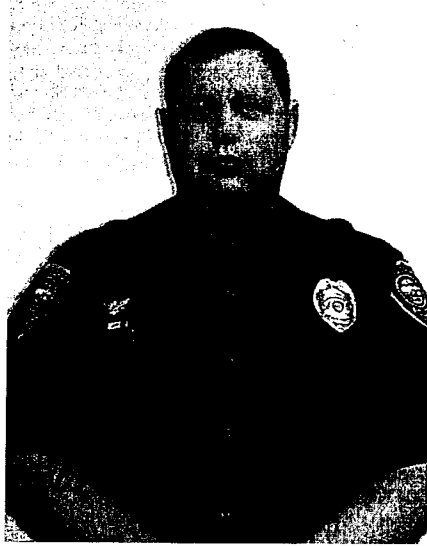
Voelker received eight weeks of training at the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson and worked as a patrolman in Kinsley for a year before moving to Concordia.

In Concordia, he first worked as a patrolman before being promoted to sergeant in 2005. He is now supervisor over the patrolmen's main duties. He also oversees the animal control division of the Concordia department. One of his most important duties is serving as tactical team leader and on-scene commander for special tactics team persons on site whenever a high risk incident is reported.

Voelker said he likes his job because it is never the same. "You never have the same duties two days in a row," he said.

In his spare time, Voelker serves as youth pastor for the Wesleyan Church in Belleville and assists with outreach events for the youth. He also enjoys playing the guitar and singing and spending time with his family. He is married and has four children.

While he doesn't have any particular dislikes about his job, he said he misses the personal contact found in patrol work.



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243-2525

Commission hears hospital update

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade staff writer

With the General Election less than a month away, Kirk Lowell gave the Concordia City Commission an update on the hospital building project, Wednesday night.

Lowell, chairman of the Airport Advisory Board, told Commissioners that James Wahlmeier spoke to the Airport Advisory Board on Oct. 8 about airport usage and how it relates to the proposed hospital.

Currently, the new hospital would be built at the northeast corner of the intersection of Highway 81 and Plum Road. The land, 56 acres purchased from Lynn and Patricia Mosher, is located at the southwest end of the airport.

In April, the Cloud County Health Center had Lowell present information to the Airport Board concerning a different hospital location between F&A Food Sales and the National Guard Armory.

At that time, the Board discouraged the proposed site because it was a non-aviation use of the airport.

The next month, during an executive session, the City Commission told CCHC the same thing. The

Commission encouraged CCHC to obtain other land adjacent to the airport.

In September 2007, the City Commission approved a policy discouraging non-aviation uses of airport land. Any such usage would have to be approved by the Airport Board.

Lowell said the hospital board believes a site adjacent to the airport must be accomplished. The key to the proposed hospital is having a taxiway from the airport to the back door of the hospital.

The hospital board believes, Lowell said, this would put the hospital in a position to facilitate fixed-wing life flight services, and recruit new doctors.

But, a number of citizens have voiced concerns over the new hospital being located on Highway 81. The hospital board still is comfortable promoting the Mosher site, with possible safety enhancements.

"CCHC believes a due diligence should be conducted by again considering the acquisition of the F&A/Armory site, because of the spotlight intersection access at this site," Lowell said.

The hospital board further believes, he said, that it is within the

Airport Board's authority to grant a waiver for the new hospital as non-aviation use.

The Airport Advisory Board discussed the request at length, Lowell said. The main issue that came up was the impact on the grass runway—between the Armory and F&A Food Sales.

"The Board's divided on that," he said.

Lowell said the Board authorized an engineer to study any impact on the grass runway, FAA issues, and other grass runway options.

"On the surface, it'd be pretty cool to have a business out there (at the airport) 24/7," Lowell said.

Mayor Greg Hattan asked Utilities Director Larry Remmenga how much money would be saved in utility extension if the hospital was located closer to the city. Remmenga said it would probably save the city \$2.5 million.

Lowell said \$1.6 million was included in the hospital's bond issue to help pay for utility extensions.

In other Airport matters, the Commission approved new bylaws for the Airport Advisory Board. One change now allows anyone in the county to be a member of the Board.

Previously, members were required to be citizens of Concordia, or who resided within three miles of the city limits.

Another change, which Lowell said the Board feels is important, is allowing it to make determinations concerning any future non-aviation uses of the airport land and facilities.

The Commission also approved terms for the nine Airport Board members. Members and their term expirations are: 2009, Ray Palmer and Lowell; 2010, Mike Holmes and Brian Donovan; 2011, Dane Hanson and Susan Retter; 2012, Steve Richard and Lawrence Schleuder; and 2013, Everett Ford.

During new business, Susan Sutton, president of the National Orphan Train Complex, asked the Commission for assistance in erecting directional signs in the city.

Two signs on Highway 81, both north and south of 6th Street, are proposed, which will list both the Brown Grand and the Orphan Train. A sign at the intersection of 6th and Washington streets will point visitors toward the Orphan Train museum.

(See City, page 8)

City

(continued from page 1)

Sutton said the museum complex has logged 3,200 visitors since its opening in September 2007, even without in-town signage.

Ron Copple, public works director, said he has already received a permit from KDOT to install the signs, and all he needs is the funding. The Commission approved spending \$1,515 to have the directional signs installed.

A contract was approved to allow for the application for a Community Development Block Grant. Fire Chief Larry Eubanks said he had recently completed a low to moderate income survey. The numbers indicate that 51 percent of those who completed the survey are in the low to moderate income category, which qualifies the city to apply for the CDBG.

Eubanks said the grant funds would be used to purchase a new fire truck. Eubanks said he plans to use the CDBG funds as a match for the fire truck grant. That grant, he said, is very competitive, and he thinks the city has a 45 percent chance of receiving it.

In other business, the Commission approved a bid from Wornack Sunshine Ford &

Kawasaki for a new animal control truck. The truck is a 2008 Ford F-150 and, with trade, will cost the city \$14,500.

An ordinance allowing the police department to conduct truck inspections was passed on a 4-1 vote. Commissioner Charles Johnson cast the dissenting vote.

Police Chief Danny Parker said an officer has been trained and certified to conduct the exempts farm trucks transporting grain or livestock.

Johnson said he had heard concerns over police officers being allowed to stop all commercial traffic, even local, which led to his nay vote.

Another request for the demolition program was also approved. The property, at 219 West 3rd and owned by NCK Commercial Laundry, will be demolished at an estimated cost of \$4,585.

No action was taken after a five-minute executive session to discuss non-elected personnel, at the request of Johnson.

The Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss building inspector truck bids, street department items, and bids on a sidewalk at the new Taco John's location.

Sewer project financing discussed

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

Getting started on the Broadway sewer replacement project led to a lengthy discussion as to how it would be financed, during the Concordia city commission meeting, Wednesday night.

The proposed project involves replacing the sewer line on Broadway from Third Street north to between 7th and 8th streets, as well as the drainage ditch behind the old Wal-Mart. Commissioners discussed the engineering contract, which was on the agenda for approval, last night. Proposed funding for the project is to come from tax increment financing.

Utilities Director Larry Remmenga said the sewer line is one of the oldest in the city and, at times, runs "hot," or nearly full. It provides sewer service to a large part of town, and he said the further north the

line goes, the more waste it collects.

While four of the Commissioners had few questions, Darrel Hosie said he thought more public discussion needed to go into the decision.

"This is almost a \$1 million project, and the only time we've discussed this was in a budget session," Hosie said. "I don't think we had any public discussion."

Remmenga said replacing the sewer line has been on the table for 10 years. He also said this could be a good time to do the project because of falling fuel prices, which have led to cheaper plastic pipe.

Mayor Greg Hattan said that when TIF was originally approved, replacing the Broadway sewer line was to be the second project completed, after the Wal-Mart Super-Center.

"It's been pushed aside for smaller, inconsequential projects, in my opinion," Hattan said. "Progress

needs to go forward. I don't see any advantage of waiting longer. Ten years is long enough, in my book."

Ruby Maline, the city's finance director, said the Commission needed to look at the life of TIF, and whether its revenues could support the project.

"We have to consider how much time is left on the TIF bond, to determine how many years we're going to have to pay that bond off, and whether there will be enough money from the TIF revenue to pay off another bond," Maline said.

Hosie reiterated that he thought not enough public disclosure had occurred.

"Decisions were made in a budget study session that are coming forward here and we really haven't made the proper decision without proper discussion," Hosie said.

Remmenga said that even if the engineering was done, it didn't guar-

antee the project being completed.

"So we're going to spend \$100,000 and maybe decide not to do the project?" Hosie asked.

Hattan pointed out that the total for preliminary engineering would not be \$100,000, but rather a little less than \$47,000. At this point, the city would only be paying the engineers, Campbell and Johnson, to do the preliminary design of the project.

Interim City Manager Larry Uri said state statutes required the city to follow a process prior to using TIF funds for a project. One of the steps in that process, he said, was a feasibility study on the project.

"We might need the design engineering to get close enough to a cost estimate for the feasibility study," Uri said. "We have to do the design well enough so we have a pretty good idea what it will cost."

(see Project on page 8)

Project

(continued from page 1)

Hosie still didn't agree with moving forward with the project.

"The economy is kind of upside down now, and we don't know where it's going," he said. "We don't know what our sales tax revenues are going to be."

Commissioner Cheryl Lanoue interjected that sales tax revenues are not related to TIF, or the sewer project. She said funding for the project would either come from TIF or water funds, not sales tax.

Hosie then said there was interest in developing land north of Concordia. He said he felt it important that the city invest money in extending water and sewer service across the river.

"Can we do both of these projects at the same time?" he asked.

Lanoue explained that the two projects were separate from one another, because the north development is not in the TIF district.

Hosie said he still wasn't comfortable with spending so much just for engineering work.

But, Uri explained that if the city moves forward with the project using TIF money, it will have to have a reasonable estimate of the cost of the total project.

On a 4-1 vote, the Commission authorized the mayor to sign a contract with Campbell and Johnson for design engineering for the project.

In another item of old business, the Commission approved the signing of the 2009 slurry seal project agreement with Campbell and Johnson.

At the Nov. 5 meeting, the Commission had tabled approving the agreement

because of concerns raised by Hosie. At the time, he said he was concerned about the contract stating any drawings or specifications being the property of Campbell and Johnson, and not the city.

Last night, Ken Johnson, with Campbell and Johnson Engineers, said that section of the contract is in place to protect the company. He said it protects the company from the city using a set of plans for another project, then holding Campbell and Johnson liable for it.

"Say we do the specs for a project and you like it so well you use the same specs on another project, something goes wrong and you say it's our fault," Johnson said.

In the only other matters of business, the Commission approved cereal malt beverage licenses for Casey's General Store and Pizza Hut.

During staff comments, Building Inspector Bruno Rehbein gave an update on the city's demolition program.

Three houses have been demolished, so far, and the city has paid out approximately \$3,500. The most recent, 220 East 1st, cost a total of \$3,820, and the city reimbursed the property owner, Stan VanMeter, in the amount of \$1,785.

Two other properties have been demolished, at 833 East 6th, and at 534 East 6th, what Rehbein called "the notorious blue house."

Two more projects will be forthcoming, at 219 and 221 West 3rd Street.

The Commission adjourned to a study session to discuss video equipment, purchase cards, audit bids, health insurance, and Cloud County Community College water line improvements.

NOTICE

Airport Advisory Board Meeting Tues., November 25

7:00 p.m.

City Hall Commissioner's
Meeting Room
Public Welcome

Commission will meet

Concordia City Commission will meet at 7 p.m., Nov. 21 and 24, in the Commissioners room at City Hall to interview city manager candidates. *Nov. 19, 2008*

GET INVOLVED 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:

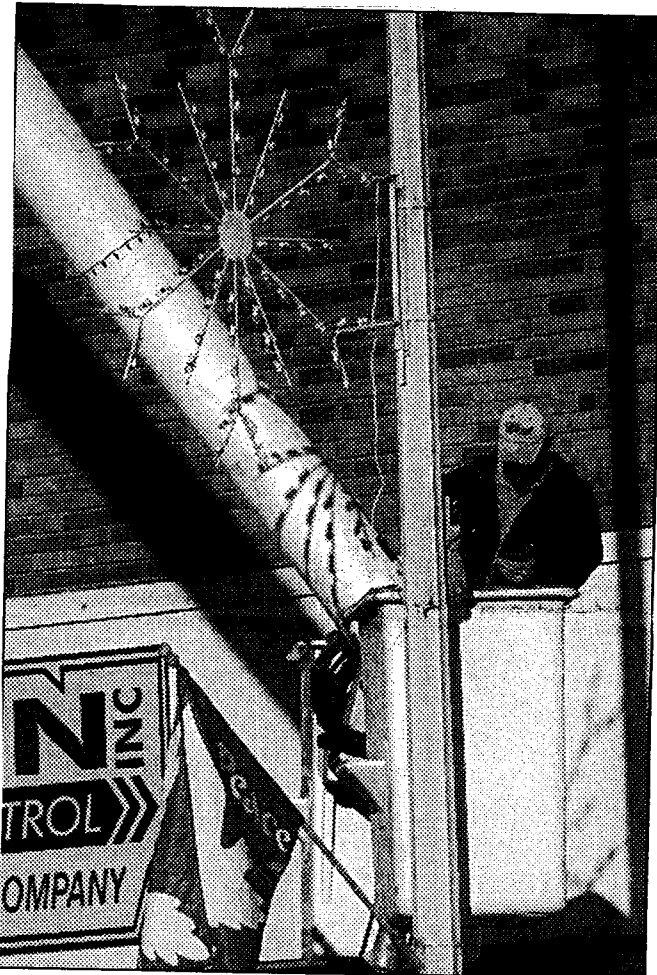
PLANNING COMMISSION
HOUSING AUTHORITY
BOARD OF BUILDING TRADES
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

If you are interested in serving the community by becoming a member of one of these boards, commissions or committees, you are asked to fill out a short Expression of Interest Form. To be considered for the above appointments, 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.

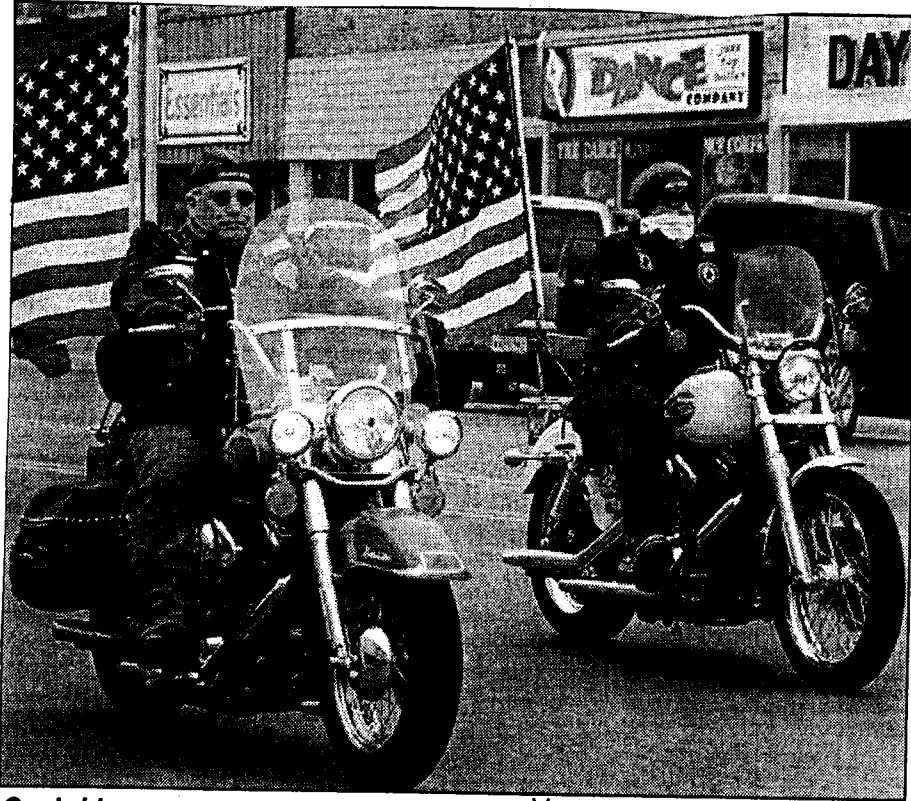
Forms and more information are available in the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington Street, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas 66901.

*If you have questions, please call the
City Clerk's Office at 243-2670* *Nov. 7, 2008*



Snowflake repairs November 26, 2008

City of Concordia employee Ryan McDaniel makes repairs to one of the snowflake Christmas decorations downtown Wednesday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)



Cool riders

November 10, 2008

Chilly temperatures didn't prevent Legion Riders Larry Eubanks, left, and his wife Janet from riding their Harleys in the parade Saturday morning that was part of the Veterans Open House, sponsored by the American Legion Post 76. (Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

Concordia Recreation
Adult Pick-Up Basketball
will play Nov. 7, 2008
Wednesday & Sunday Evenings,
beginning at 6:30 p.m.
at Concordia Middle School
November 5 thru April 29

December 30, 2008

DOG TAX

Section 4, City Code: All dogs five months of age and older must be licensed. All dogs must have a certificate of Rabies Vaccination. License fees are five dollars (\$5.00) for each male dog and spayed female dog, and eight dollars (\$8.00) for each unspayed female dog, each dog over four (4) in a family, ten dollars (\$10.00). All persons, firms or corporations owning or harboring a dog or dogs within the city limits must provide a license for their dog before the 1st day of April or a fifty percent (50%) fee will be added to regular tags herein specified.

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- PLANNING COMMISSION
- HOUSING AUTHORITY
- BOARD OF BUILDING TRADES
- BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

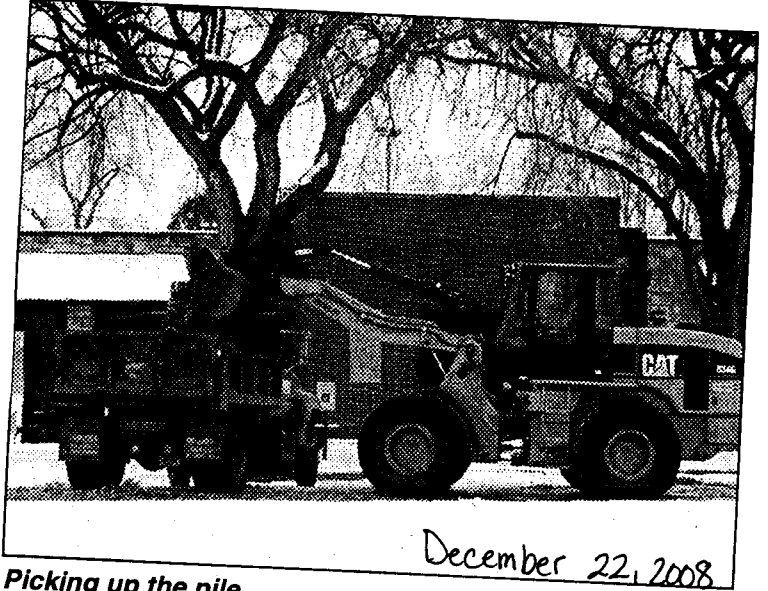
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*If you have questions, please call the
City Clerk's Office at 243-2670*

Dec. 5, 2008



December 22, 2008

Picking up the pile

City of Concordia employees use a loader and dump truck to clear away the pile of leaves in the parking lot at the City Park Monday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

Commissioners discuss city finances

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

What Mayor Greg Hattan called a train wreck started out as a discussion of the city's finances, Wednesday night, at the Concordia City Commission meeting.

At the last meeting, Hattan presented a number of figures, showing the city facing revenue shortfalls for this year. He pointed out that the city was looking at a shortfall of \$311,000 in water and sewer revenues, as well as being down in sales tax collections.

Given the state of the economy, he said at the last meeting, the city may have to revisit the 2009 budget and evaluate possible cuts.

Last night, Commissioner Darrel Hosie, who asked that a discussion of the city's finances

be added to the agenda, said he didn't agree with Hattan's projections.

"I went home and studied, and can't figure out where you got your numbers," Hosie said. "We're in a much better state, financial-wise, than you reported."

Hattan said he obtained all his figures from city revenue reports, which he said are official city documents. He said his comments are only projections, as the year isn't over.

"I'm pointing out that we account things differently than we budget, and some things don't always match up," Hattan said.

Hosie fired back that Hattan was using a doom and gloom tactic, and said he was only pointing out the negative fund balances, not the positive ones.

"I'm not disputing the numbers, I'm just pointing out that we account differently than we budget," Hattan said. "There are serious problems with water fees and not getting our property tax dollars."

Commissioner Cheryl Lanoue jumped into the fray, asking Hosie where he was getting his numbers. When Hosie said they were from the audit, which he had left in his truck, Hattan told him, "Go get it. We'll wait."

After a short recess, Hosie said according to the audit, the city's cash balance overall — cash in the bank — at the end of 2004 was \$3.5 million. At the end of 2007, that balance was \$4 million.

The city's unencumbered ending balance in 2004 was \$785,715, as compared to

\$675,364 at the end of 2007.

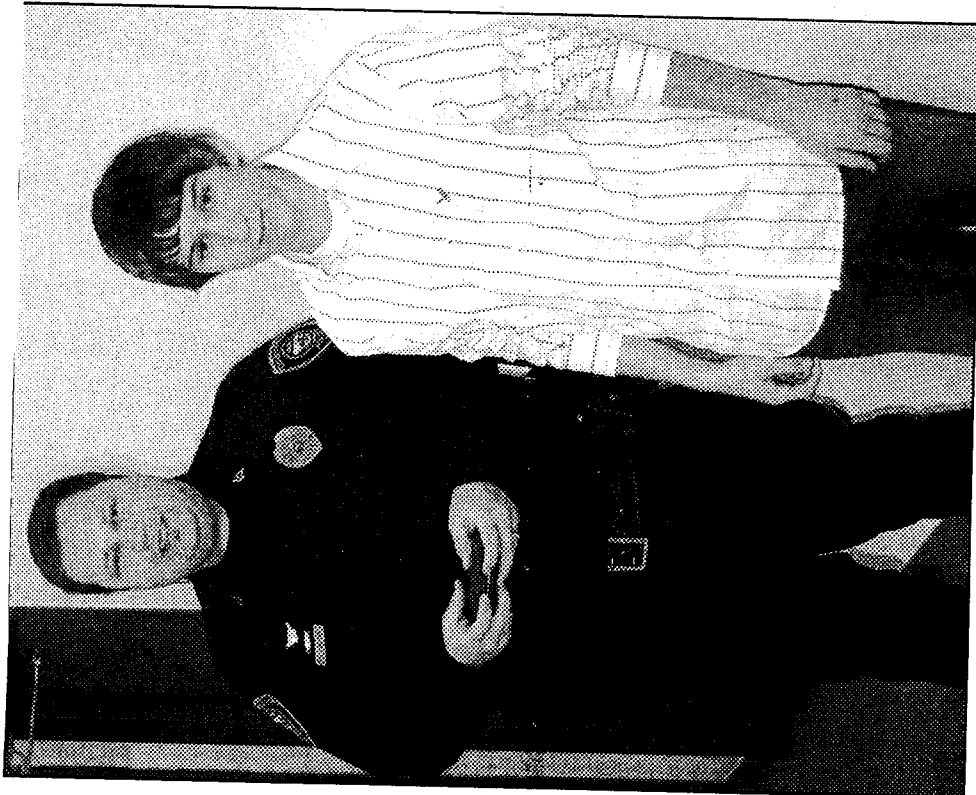
"That's down \$83,000, not \$1 million," Hosie said. "Where did the \$1 million come from if we overspent it?"

Hosie was referring to comments Hattan made during the budget hearing on Sept. 3. During that meeting, Hattan said the mill levy was raised because the city had overspent a little more than \$1 million out of the general fund. At that time, he said the city didn't have any money.

Last night, Hattan said he would be happy to provide the appropriate numbers.

"I don't have all of my book work with me to be ready for your sneak attacks, but I'll be glad to get you the information at the next meeting," Hattan said.

(see Finances on page 8)



Honoring a hero

Kyle Bogart, right, presents Sgt. Vic Voelker with a Hero Award during the Concordia City Commission meeting Wednesday. Voelker, a member of the Concordia Police Department, played a role in saving Bogart's life on Oct. 23 when his heart stopped at the Concordia Junior.

3/2/08

FULL-TIME COMMUNICATIONS/RECORDS SPECIALIST I

Police Department

2/25/08

The Concordia Police Department is seeking to fill the position of full-time Communications/Records Specialist I. This position provides two-way radio communication for public safety departments; 911 emergency and administrative telephone service for citizens in the City of Concordia and maintains agency records. Interested persons must meet the following minimum requirements.

Be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. Citizen. Equivalent of a high school diploma; no felony convictions; good typing and communication skills; pass a written examination. Computer experience a plus. Physical examination and drug screening tests will follow all conditional offers of employment. Experience preferred, but not necessary.

Complete job description is available at City Hall.

Deadline: The City of Concordia will accept applications until position is filled. Resume may be included with completed city application form.

Apply at: The City of Concordia City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, KS 66901, 785-243-2670. Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance. Requests for accommodations should be made at the time of application.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

CITY OF CONCORDIA

Will accept proposals for resurfacing of three (3) tennis courts. Specifications are available at City Hall. **Sealed envelope, marked "Tennis Court Resurfacing" will be accepted at the City Clerk's Office, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, KS until 1:00 p.m., April 8th, 2008.** The City has the right to reject any and all bids.

THE CITY OF CONCORDIA

is soliciting for a Concessionaire for the Concordia Sports Complex for the 2008 season. A complete copy of the concessionaire agreement may be obtained from City Hall.

The City of Concordia reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason. No proposals will be accepted after 10:00 a.m. March 24, 2008. Proposals should be submitted in a sealed envelope, marked (Concession). Envelopes received thereafter will be returned to the sender, unopened. No fax proposals submissions will be accepted or considered. Proposals will be opened at 10:00 a.m. March 24, 2008. **All proposals must be submitted in writing to the City Clerk, City Hall, 701 Washington, P.O. Box 603, Concordia, Kansas 66901.**

(Published in the Concordia Blade-Empire on Friday, March 21, 2008)

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-2954

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 20-7, TEMPORARY USES, OF ARTICLE 20, SUPPLEMENTAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS, OF THE ZONING REGULATIONS OF THE CITY OF CONCORDIA.

Section 1. Section 20-7, Temporary Uses, of Article 20, Supplemental District Regulations, is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION 20-7 TEMPORARY USES

20-701.

a. The following temporary uses may be permitted.

1. Carnivals and circuses, located in a commercial or industrial zone or on public property.

2. Contractor's office and equipment sheds on the site of a construction project only during the construction period.

3. Model homes or development sales offices located within the subdivision or development area to which they apply.

4. Outdoor temporary sales on private property and not incorporated or in partnership with the existing business located on that property in a commercial or industrial zone.

5. Seasonal sales of farm or garden produce, bulbs, plantings or cut flowers, on an individual's place of residence and raised by the same individual, provided no structure is constructed for such use.

6. One mobile home to be used as a temporary office for any allowable use in an industrial zoning district.

7. Any other temporary use which in the discretion of the Zoning Administrator is comparable in character and impact to any of the temporary uses specifically identified in 1-6 above.

8. Recreational vehicles, used for residential purposes, when located within the Manufactured Home Subdivision district and used in accordance with the following requirements:

a. Electric. Must have electrical service provided by a City franchised utility, with connection and usage in compliance with all applicable City laws and regulations.

b. Other utilities. Connection to City water, sewer or other public utility is not required. However any connection and usage of any such service shall be in compliance with all applicable City laws and regulations.

c. Minimum area. No recreational vehicle shall be placed on a parcel of less than 1,500 sq. ft.

d. Spacing and setbacks. No recreational vehicle shall be located within either 10 feet of a lot line or less than 10 feet from another recreational vehicle, manufactured home, building or structure.

e. Temporary permit. The Zoning Administrator may issue a permit for a term of up to six (6) months upon submission of a complete and satisfactory application. Upon request the permit may, at the discretion of the Zoning Administrator, be extended for a maximum of an additional six (6) month period.

b. Persons seeking approval for a temporary use authorized by items 1,2,4,7 and 8 in subsection 20-701. a. above shall make application to the Zoning Administrator at least ten (10) days in advance of the time desired for usage. Such application shall include a site plan showing existing and proposed usage. The Zoning Administrator may issue a certificate of temporary use upon the payment of the temporary use permit fee imposed by the fee ordinance, setting the period of time the temporary use may be allowed, and upon finding:

1. The temporary use will not impair the normal, safe and effective operation of any permanent use on the same or adjoining site.

2. The temporary use will not adversely impact the public health, safety, or welfare and will not create traffic hazards or congestion.

3. That adequate off-street parking is available for the temporary use and any permanent use on the site.

c. The following conditions for a temporary use shall apply:

1. Such use when conducted upon a parking lot of another business shall not occupy more than twenty (20) percent of the required parking spaces of such uses.

2. No temporary use shall be located within the required setback of the site.

3. Any sign used in conjunction with the temporary use shall comply with all requirements of the sign regulations for temporary signs, including the obtaining of a sign permit.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the official city newspaper.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Governing Body of the City of Concordia, Kansas, this 19day of March, 2008.

Charles B. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:
Chér Knudsen
Interim City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Lawrence R. Uri, Jr.
City Attorney

Advertisement for Mose for City Commission. Includes a photo of Mose and text: "Mose for City Commission", "Vote for Mose for City Commission on Tuesday April 1st", "Polling place paid for by Mose for City Commission".

3/27/08

City modifies fees for water system

By Jessica LeDuc
Blade Staff Writer

After tabling it last month, the Concordia City Commission approved an ordinance Wednesday, modifying fees for the city's water system.

The newly approved ordinance institutes an \$80 deposit for new water customers. When a customer completes 12 consecutive months of payment for water and sewer, without delinquency, the deposit will be refunded.

In addition to a deposit, water customers are now subjected to a connect fee of \$20. If, for some reason, a customer is disconnected, they will now pay more to be reconnected - \$30 - which is up from \$10. For reconnection of services after-hours, or on the weekend, the fee is \$60.

At last month's meeting, Utilities Director Larry Remmenga said the fee adjustments were to deal with water customers who don't pay their bills.

"Whenever we have bills we can't collect, it's the people who pay their bills regularly who end up picking up the slack," Remmenga said last month. "The only recourse we have, if we don't do something (with the fees), is to raise the rates."

The ordinance had been tabled last month because of a question raised about "snowbirds" - those who leave town for the winter. At that time, Commissioners Phil Gilliland and Cheryl Lanoue both said they didn't want to charge these people, because they are only gone a few months, and then return.

To be "considerate" to those customers, Remmenga said, a section was added to the ordinance to deal with snowbirds. Now, the ordinance allows for a customer to be temporarily disconnected and reconnected once every 12 months, without charge. Minimum water and sewer fees will continue to be payable during any temporary disconnection.

Also, if a customer is delinquent in payment, prior to discontinuing service, written notice will be given, and the opportunity for a hearing on the delinquent account exists. The request for hearing must be made to the director of utilities, who will then make a decision.

The ordinance passed last night on a 4-1 vote, with Lanoue casting the lone vote against. Before voting, she said she disagreed with the \$80 deposit, as well as the delinquency hearing falling under the jurisdic-

tion of the utilities director.

In other business, the Commission authorized Mayor Charles Johnson to sign a letter of agreement with Cloud County, regarding the Plum Road dam.

As per the agreement, which the Cloud County Commissioners have already signed, the City will construct, maintain and own the dam and all related facilities, and the County will own the road.

The County will have no financial obligation in the design or construction of the dam, and will only be responsible for the maintenance of the road and guardrails.

The City, according to City Manager Mark Skiles, will be required to maintain the dam and all related facilities, as well as being responsible for any future damage to the road caused by the dam. The City will also be required to control the brush and erosion on the dam.

The Commission also dealt with a change order in regard to the east water tower.

Remmenga said that in the process of rehabbing the inside of the tower, it was found that a valve was inoperable and needed to be replaced. In addition to that, Remmenga said, the climbing system-used to access the top of the

tower - is unsafe and also needs to be replaced. At present, he said, someone climbing the ladder has to actually unhook from the ladder to get to the top, which is extremely dangerous. In addition, the current access system is not OTHSA approved, and if someone fell off, the city would be negligent.

The total change order, for the new valve and a cable safety climbing system, was \$8,410.

In other action items, the Commission approved a cereal malt beverage license for Thunder Strikez, from C. Dwight Housh and Sandy Housh. The license will be for the bowling alley, which has recently been purchased by the Houshes.

At the request of the Frank Carlson Library Board, the Commission appointed David Strommen to a four-year term on the Library Board. He will replace Max Reeves, who will complete his second term on the board at the end of the month.

During staff comments, Concordia Fire Chief Larry Eubanks told Commissioners he is working to form a committee to look into the health and fitness of the firefighters and EMS personnel. Eubanks said the committee plans to develop a health and wellness policy.

ATTENTION,

CONCORDIA SPORTS COMPLEX NEWS!

ANYONE wanting to use the fields at the Concordia Sports Complex, for any reason, is advised to go through Concordia Recreation at City Hall.

This includes college and high school teams, tournament teams, traveling teams, tryouts, etc.

Fields may need to be worked and/or set up. This **CANNOT** be done on a moment's notice. We need to know which field, the date, and time the field is requested.

Beginning in April, Concordia Recreation teams will have their practice schedules assigned. All other non-rec teams will need to reserve a field for practice by contacting Tom Gennette at City Hall. Contacting our grounds crew will **NOT** get you scheduled. You must go through City Hall. Those teams who have reserved a field will have precedence over anyone on that field. Reservations **MUST** be made for ALL tournaments. Use of concession stand can be arranged. Keeping a running schedule of the Sports Complex activities from April through August will help us avoid any conflicts. Please, **DO NOT** use fields that are chalked for games, or if the infields are muddy.

Your team's cooperation will be appreciated.

Thank You,
Tom Gennette
Recreation Director
City of Concordia

March 4, 2008

- Field Reservations will be made on a weekly basis
- 1 1/2 hours per practice
(you may go longer if no one is behind you)
- Teams may be limited to two practices per week
- Reservations will begin on Friday for the following week.

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Hattan, Hosie secure seats on city commission

Less than 30-percent of registered voters turned out for Tuesday's general election, electing Greg Hattan and Darrel Hosie to the Concordia City Commission.

Hattan, a former Commissioner and Mayor, was the top votegetter, receiving 714 votes.

Hosie, one of the incumbents, came in second, garnering 663 votes. In a close third was the other incumbent, Phil Gilliland, who finished only 68 votes behind with 595.

Both Hattan and Hosie will serve three-year terms on the City Commission.

The results from the polling places are as follows:

First Christian Church (1st Ward, 1st Precinct of 2nd Ward, and 2nd Precinct of 2nd Ward): Gilliland, 348; Hattan, 331;

Hosie, 372.

Lutheran Church (3rd and 4th Wards): Gilliland, 200; Hattan, 306; Hosie, 234.

Advance ballots: Gilliland, 47; Hattan, 77; Hosie, 57.

Of the 3,395 total registered voters, 1,042 cast ballots Tuesday. That total does not include those who cast advance ballots.

In Miltonvale, Dwaine Randel and Ed Mottin were elected to the City Council. Randel had the most votes, with 46, and Mottin received 42. Josephine Huyghebaert and Gregory M. Copple each received 41 votes, making it a tie for the remaining open seat on the Council. According to the Cloud County Clerk's office, that race will be decided when the County Commission canvasses the votes, on Monday.



Spread it around

City of Concordia employee Forrest Daniels spreads new mulch in the playground area of the city park.

Blade photo by Jessica LeDuc)

March 20, 2008



Digging in the dirt

City of Concordia employee Jim Metro uses a loader to do some dirt work at the Airport Park Monday morning. (Blade photo by Jay Lowell)

3/24/08