

PARK CITY POST

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Complimentary copy

Group resumes push for slot machines

By Matt Heilman

The start of a new legislative session has a Wichita group re-energized in its efforts to push for gaming in Sedgwick County and the reopening of a mothballed property neighboring the Kansas Pavilions.

The group called Wichita Wins is advocating for slot machines at the Wichita Greyhound Park. On Jan. 10, Beth King, spokesperson for Wichita Wins, confirmed that owner Phil Ruffin is interested in reopening the park if he's allowed to add slot machines.

"Mr. Ruffin is planning to invest \$50 (million) to \$100 million in reopening the park if he is allowed

to add slot machines," King said in a news release. "In order to achieve that, the Kansas Legislature will have to pass legislation allowing citizens of Sedgwick County to vote on the issue, and the Sedgwick County commissioners must agree to put the question on the ballot. Sedgwick County voters would then need to pass the question."

In 2007, Sedgwick County voters rejected a vote for gaming and Ruffin closed the Greyhound Park. Since then, the Wichita native and casino owner has stayed active with his business endeavors in Las Vegas.

If slot machines were allowed and Ruffin followed through with

funding to reopen the Greyhound Park, King said the benefits would be "wide reaching."

"It is estimated that the reopening would create 500 new jobs and generate an estimated \$1.8 million in gaming revenue each year for Sedgwick County along with additional property tax revenue," King said.

She said the additional revenue would include \$770,000 for the Valley Center school district, \$367,500 for Sedgwick County, \$228,750 for the Sedgwick County Fire Department, \$118,750 for Grant Township, \$57,500 for the

See GAMING, Page 4



If a group advocating for gaming in Sedgwick County has its way, the blight at the Wichita Greyhound Park property could be replaced with a \$50 million to \$100 million entertainment venue.

Matt Heilman

Tami and Mike Logue in the remodeled kitchen of their Park City home. The couple was able to move back to their home the day after Christmas, about six months after they were displaced by an explosion and fire caused by a gas leak.

Matt Heilman



City sees spike in burglaries in 2013

By Matt Heilman

The Park City Police Department made 251 less arrests in 2013 than 2012, down to 395 from 646. While on the surface, the dip in arrests appears to be a positive, Park City Police Chief Phil Bostian pointed out a few categories that are cause for concern.

Police saw increases in the numbers of aggravated assaults, domestic violence calls and family or children offenses, which can range from a small child being outside unattended by a parent to physical abuse.

But the statistic concerning Park City police most is the number of burglaries that were reported in 2013. Last year, police responded to 55 burglaries, more than double the 27 that were reported in 2012.

Bostian said he couldn't point to any specific factors for the spike in burglary calls.

"It's really kind of hard to know," he said. "We're trying to figure that out too."

Bostian said he'd like to think residents are being more alert and calling police more often, but that likely wouldn't account for such a large jump in burglary calls.

"I'd understand if it was a small bump, but it doubled," Bostian said.

Recently, a video game available on Android mobile devices has led to several suspicious character reports in Park City. In the game called "Ingress," players live out the video game in a sort of augmented reality.

The first part of the game involves players actually going to a physical location and then virtually tagging, marking, closing or taking over that location, Bostian said.

The most recent suspicious character report confirmed to be linked to the game occurred at the Park City Baptist Church. Bostian said a vehicle occupied

See CRIME, Page 4

There and back again

Park City couple settles into rebuilt home after June fire

By Matt Heilman

On a Saturday night last June, Mike Logue ascended the stairs from the basement of his Park City home. The onion-type smell at the house on Kerian Street had grown stronger and he made a mental note to call about it on Monday.

Mike returned to the main floor after turning on the clothes dryer downstairs. He was putting a pitcher of iced tea into the refrigerator in the kitchen when there was an explosion that came from the

basement. A heat surge forcefully made its way up the stairs.

Had Mike been in the basement five minutes later, he says he wouldn't have survived to talk about what happened on that otherwise calm, early summer night.

The Logue's world was shaken on June 22, 2013.

"We won't forget that date," Mike's wife, Tami Logue, said.

That night, an explosion caused by a gas leak displaced the Logues from the place they'd called home for nearly 28 years, the home neighboring Tami's parents, the home where the couple raised their children and spent time with their grandchildren and a home within the Valley Center school district

where the Logues committed two decades of service.

Tami worked for the district for 20 years in a variety of roles at the elementary school level, from the front office to the lunchroom to the classroom. Most recently, she served as a special education para at the intermediate school. Mike served on the school board for 12 years before stepping down in 2005.

In the aftermath of the explosion and ensuing fire, the Logues' immediate response was to be thankful that nobody was seriously hurt.

Mike and Tami had planned to renew their wedding vows

See FIRE, Page 4

Residents sound off about pool

By Matt Heilman

On one of the coldest nights in recent memory, the Park City Park Board held a public forum to discuss the future of an amenity that is typically more desired when temperatures are at least 80 degrees warmer.

After conducting some research as a group and weighing options for the city's public pool, the park board was ready to hear more input from residents and publicly encouraged them to attend the board's Jan. 6 meeting. About 10 residents answered the call.

Residents who addressed the park board included a former city council member and a former mayor. Views differed on funding options if the city

were to pursue the construction of a new pool, but those who spoke agreed that the summertime staple is an amenity the city should have.

First to address the board was former city council member Cecil Goldsmith. Goldsmith reminded the board that he was the lone councilman to vote against closing the pool at a special council meeting in October of 2012.

At that time, the decision to close the pool at least through 2013 was made in the face of a budget shortfall. Goldsmith said the matter should have been brought to a vote in the city.

With the discussion rekindled, he said he'd like to see residents have the chance to vote on whether or not

they'd be willing to fund a new pool with a property tax increase.

Park board chairman John Oswald said projections from the city's finance director estimated how much revenue could be accumulated over five years with a couple different funding options.

He said "exploratory figures" from about three months ago showed that a two-mill property tax increase over a five-year period would generate about \$645,160. A one-mill tax increase over that same stretch would generate about \$322,580.

A one-cent sales tax over a five-year period in the city would bring in about \$550,000, Oswald said.

The park board has expressed that

it would like to see the city be able to open the pool this summer as the board continues to explore options for the future. If residents ultimately decide they don't want a new pool, a less expensive alternative that has been discussed is the inclusion of a splash pad, similar to what Valley Center has in McLaughlin Park.

Each year in Park City, the pool costs about one mill in property taxes to open. In 2012, one mill in the city generated about \$58,700. But that summer, the city spent more than \$70,000 on the pool, including extra expenses to fix leaks. Park City Administrator Jack Whitson said it's unknown what future repairs would be needed for the pool if it were kept open.

In 2009, voters in Sedgwick narrowly approved the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund a new pool at a price not to exceed \$800,000. Sedgwick, a community north of Park City on the border between Harvey and Sedgwick counties, has a population of about 1,700 residents.

If construction of a new pool were ever given the green light in Park City, it would be at a new location, the park board said. At the pool's current spot in Hap McLean Park, south of 69th North and Hydraulic, board members said options are limited because the structure sits in a flood plain.

One option would be to construct a

See POOL, Page 4

HIGHLIGHTS

City issues six permits in Dec.

The City of Park City issued six building permits during December for a total valuation of \$256,761. Of that number one was for the construction of a new home and one was for the construction of a new commercial facility. The permits are listed by date they were issued, address, type of project and valuation:

- Dec. 3, 6140 Judson, reroof, \$4,194;
- Dec. 3, 1473 Bearhill, reroof, \$12,567;
- Dec. 10, 6060 N. Broadway, reroof, \$6,500;
- Dec. 13, 6421 N. Hydraulic, remodel, \$3,500;
- Dec. 10, 2927 Fairchild Court, new home construction, \$180,000;
- Dec. 30, 6960 N. Broadway, new commercial construction, \$50,000.

— The Post staff

Man arrested on sex offense charge

A Park City man was arrested Dec. 27 on a charge of aggravated indecent liberties with a child and a juvenile female was removed from a home in the 500 block of East 63rd North in Park City. A Sedgwick County sheriff's report identifies the man arrested as John Wesley Melugin. The report shows that Melugin was arrested on one count of aggravated indecent liberties with a child.

A Park City police report shows that the arrest was made in the 100 block of South Market in Wichita. A Park City officer assisted the Wichita-Sedgwick County Exploited and Missing Child Unit by providing case information and transporting Melugin to the Sedgwick County Jail. The officer also stood by when the juvenile female was removed from a Park City home. The Dec. 27 Park City police reports show that court subpoenas were also delivered in the 500 block of East 63rd North on Dec. 27, but it's unknown if the subpoenas are related to the case.

Neither Park City police nor Det. Virgil Miller with the Wichita-Sedgwick County Exploited and Missing Child Unit could discuss the case further as the investigation is ongoing.

— The Post staff

Wild title defense to start

The defending Central Plains Indoor Football League cham-

pion Wichita Wild are soon set to begin the quest to defend their title. The Wild's season kicks off on the road Feb. 28 at the Lincoln (Neb.) Haymakers. Wichita follows with a week off before traveling to take on the Oklahoma Defenders March 16. The Wild's home opener at Hartman Arena is set for March 22 against the Dodge City Law. Kickoff for every home game is 7:05 p.m. The Wild's home slate also includes an April 12 game against Lincoln, April 26 against Oklahoma, May 17 against the Kansas Koyotes and June 7 regular season finale against the defending CPIFL runner-up Salina Bombers. The Wild travel to Salina on May 3.

For more information on the Wild, including team news and ticket information, visit the team's website at www.wichitawildfootball.com.

— The Post staff

Dates set for weather program

When it comes to threats of severe weather in north Sedgwick County, we've been lucky for the last several years. But as long as we remain in "Tornado Alley," the threat for severe weather is there, reaching its peak in the spring and early summer. In preparation for those upcoming peak severe weather months, Sedgwick County Emergency Management has scheduled its annual severe weather safety programs in area cities. The class will be 6:30 p.m. March 3 at Valley Center City Hall, 6:30 p.m. March 4 at Kechi City Hall, 6:30 p.m. April 3 at the Bel Aire City Building and 6:30 p.m. April 7 at the Park City Senior Center.

The severe weather safety class is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Sedgwick County Emergency Management at 660-5959.

— The Post staff

New senior director ready to serve Park City

By Matt Heilman

For 20 years, Vicki Shepard was the face of senior services in north Sedgwick County. Now, her replacement is hoping to carry on Park City's reputation as having one of the best senior programs in the Wichita area.

Shepard retired as the Tri City Senior Director in January. When she started in 1993, she served seniors in Bel Aire, Maize and Park City.

Budget cuts restructured the tri-city senior services program to a point where Shepard was called to primarily concentrate on Park City where she had her office and spent most of her days.

In replacing Shepard, Jennie Benitez has been hired to serve the role of Park City Senior Director. Benitez, 26, graduated from Wichita State University in December with a master's degree in Aging Studies.



Matt Heilman

Jennie Benitez has been hired as Park City's new senior director. The 26-year-old recently completed her master's degree in Aging Studies from Wichita State.

While attending graduate school, she served an internship for the City of Bel Aire for about a-year-and-a-half, working at the community's senior center. When she heard that Park City was seeking a

senior director, Benitez said she thought it would be worth the effort to "throw (her) hat in the ring."

She earned her Bachelor's degree in Exercise Science from WSU. Benitez said she

was pulled into aging studies after she had the opportunity to help seniors with chair exercises as part of her undergraduate work.

Benitez, who grew up in north Wichita about two miles from Park City, said she has ideas she'd like to implement in her new role, but she first wants to get know the staff of volunteers and the seniors she'll be working with.

"I think my biggest fear when I was coming in is I didn't want to shock too many people," Benitez said. "I know everybody loved Vicki, so I didn't want to come in and start shaking things up."

Benitez said her first goal with her new position is "to keep everything running."

"And then, once I kind of get to know everybody more and everybody gets more comfortable, with me, then I'm going to start incorporating some new stuff," she said.

Park City Pride to host seminar on cyber safety

By The Post staff

The Park City Pride Committee is hosting a seminar on how people can protect themselves and their families from cyberbullying and Internet crimes with a pair of free informational programs at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 and 26 in the Park City Public Library.

The title of the seminar is "Scams, Cyberbullying and Internet Crime: Dangers of Twenty-First Century Technology."

The seminar is designed to help citizens be aware of "dangers and pitfalls of confidence scams, elder abuse, fraud, advance fee scams,

computer wireless network security, cyberbullying, financial and other current crime trends," Pride said on its flier advertising the seminar.

The seminar will feature presentations by Jeremy Couch, assistant vice president and corporate security officer with Emprise Bank, Park City Police Chief Phil Bostian, Stephanie Quick, the supervisor for the Safety Services Department with Wichita Public Schools, and Len Warren, Park City Library director and an Internet security expert.

For more information on the seminar, call 744-0044 or visit www.parkcitypride.info.

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PHIL BOSTIAN, CHIEF OF POLICE, CITY OF PARK CITY

STEPHANIE QUICK, SUPERVISOR, SAFETY SERVICES DEPT. WICHITA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LEN WARREN, PARK CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY DIRECTOR, INTERNET SECURITY EXPERT

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THE PARK CITY REPORT

CITY OF PARK CITY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

No City Council Meeting was Held on Dec. 24, 2013.

January 7, 2014 Special City Council Meeting:

- Approved a six-month incentive program for new home buyers

January 14, 2014 Regular Meeting:

- Named Charles and Stephanie Trimmell, Lionel Chavez, Harley Teal, Martha Garrity, and Dana and Carol Plamann winners of the Park

City Holiday Lights Contest.

- Held a public hearing on proposed tax abatements for a prospective buyer of the Hayes property.
- Did not pass a resolution allowing tax abatements for a prospective purchaser of the Hayes property.
- Approved an ordinance granting tax abatements to the Express Inn and Suites at a 50% rate for five years.
- Approved the rezoning of the property at 6146 Independence from R-2 to C-1.
- Approved the final plat request for land located in the Walter Park City addition.

- Renewed the trash and recycling agreement for five years.
- Modified a land purchase option agreement with Bob Shellenberger to accelerate payments and receive a \$50,000 discount in return.
- Approved a cooperative agreement with the Kansas Department of Wildlife which will pay Park City an annual fee and provide for stocking the lake and other benefits.
- Approved the purchase of a Ford pickup truck for the Director of Public Works.
- Adopted a Debt Management Plan.
- Approved the purchase of a new copier for the Police Department.

Park City Senior Center Director Jennie Benitez will be taking appointments for AARP free tax preparation, from Feb. 3 - April 15, every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, by appointment only. Call 744-1199.

ACCOUNT NUMBER ON CHECK

Please make sure that when you pay your utility bills with a check that you write the account number on the check. The account number can be found on your statement. This will be helpful and ensure that the check is credited to the correct account.

Also, if you place the payment in the drop box that is located in the parking lot at City Hall, please put your payment and the statement stub in an envelope so that they stay together. Remember – no cash please. As always, you can sign up for e statements and can pay on line.

AUTOMATIC PAYMENT OF UTILITY BILLINGS

Enroll now for automatic payment of water and sewer bills. Once enrolled, a billing will continue to be mailed to you that shows the amount that will be automatically deducted from your bank account. If you would like to enroll in this plan, just come by City Hall and complete the authorization form or call the water clerk at 744-2026 ext 207.

COME SEE US AT THE HOME SHOW

Please stop by the Park City Booth at the Home Show. Dates are Thursday, February 6th thru Sunday, February 9th, 2014 at Century II in Wichita, KS. The City of Park City booth number is C606 & 607 located in the Convention Hall of Century II. We will be promoting the benefits of living in Park City – small town living with big City access. A great place to raise a family or start one with new homes ranging from the 80's to the 400's. If you are interested in building a new home, or just want to stop by and visit, we would love to see you!



Park City Youth Program 2014 Baseball and Softball Sign-ups

January 26th	10 am to 5 pm
February 1st	10 am to 5 pm
February 15th	10 am to 5 pm
February 16th	1 pm to 5 pm
March 1st	10 am to 5 pm
March 2nd	1 pm to 5 pm
March 15th	10 am to 5 pm
March 16th	1 pm to 5 pm

Fees District \$80 out of district \$105 T-Ball \$60
online registration at www.ecoats.org/pcyp or
online at <https://active.leagueone.com/0tr/Pages/Welcome.aspx?Clubid=14047>
or At the Park City Community Building at 6801 N. Hydraultic

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

PC = Pride Center, SC = Senior Center, CB = Comm. Bldg, CH = City Hall, PCL = Park City Library

Feb. 1 – 7 p.m., Senior Dance SC
Feb. 2 – 7 p.m., PCYP Board CB
Feb. 3 – 7 p.m., Park Board CH
Feb. 5 – 10:30 a.m., Seniors Catered Lunch SC
Feb. 6 – 6:30 p.m., Court CH
Feb. 8 – 9 a.m., PRIDE PC
Feb. 8 – 7 p.m., Senior Dance SC
Feb. 11 – 7 p.m., Council CH
Feb. 13 – 1 p.m., Court Trials CH
Feb. 13 – 6:30 p.m., Court CH
Feb. 13 – 7 p.m., Library

Board PCL
Feb. 15 – 1 p.m., Pride Food Pantry PC
Feb. 17 – 7 p.m., Planning/BZA CH
Feb. 20 – 5:30 p.m., Seniors Finger Food
Feb. 20 – 6:30 p.m., Court CH
Feb. 22 – 7 p.m., Senior Dance SC
Feb. 25 – 7 p.m., Council CH
Feb. 26 – 11:30 a.m., Chamber Luncheon
Feb. 27 – 1 p.m., Court Trials CH
Feb. 27 – 4:30 p.m., CUA Bel Aire CH
Feb. 27 – 6:30 p.m., Court CH
Feb. 27 – 7 p.m., Seniors Square Dance SC
Feb. 28 – 8 a.m., Commodities - Leekers

SENIOR CALENDAR

For a complete schedule of all daily/weekly activities & programs, call Jennie Benitez at 744-1199.

Monday

9:15 AM exercise
10:15 Bible study (except first Monday)
1:00 crochet/art class
7:00 cards

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tax Assistance with AARP begins in February. By appointment only, please call Jennie at 744-1199.

Feb. 3 - 10:30 am Board meeting

Feb. 5 - 10:30 am - Chisholm Trail Seniors Catered Lunch and meeting (lunch by reservation)

Feb. 7 - 11:30 am Woodcarving 101

Feb. 14 - 11:30 am Diabetes Presentation

Feb. 18 - 8 am Breakfast at Auntie C's

Feb. 20 1 PM - Card bingo — fee \$1 5:30 PM - Finger Food

Feb. 21- 11:30 am Acupuncture presentation

Feb. 21 - 6 PM Fun/food/games

SENIOR DANCES

\$4 donation at the door Refreshments served Saturdays

Feb. 1, 7:00 PM The Wildwood Band

Feb. 15, 7:00 PM The Wildwood Band

For more information on senior activities contact Jennie Benitez, Park City Senior Center Director at 744-1199.

Tuesday

10:00 Chair exercise
1:00 Bridge lessons
6:00 TOPS every Tuesday

Wednesday

9:15 AM Exercise
1:00 Walking
2:30 Line dance lessons

Thursday

9:00 AM Wii Bowling
10:00 Chair exercise
7:00 PM Square Dance (except third Thursday)

Friday

9:15 Exercise
1:00 Pinochle

Saturday

1:00 PM cards
Lunch offered by Good Neighbor Nutrition, Monday through Friday, 11:30 am. Reservations Required, Call 744-0751. Homebound delivery Monday through Friday.

TOPS

Take Pounds Off Sensibly meets Tuesday evenings at 6:00 PM. For more information on joining contact GiGi Roths at 312-1945. No Board meeting in January Board Meeting

PRIDE FOOD BANK

The Park City Pride Food Bank is the third Saturday of each month. The food bank is required to follow the USDA income guidelines for commodities. Proof of income and residency is required. If you are in need of food assistance or would like more information, please contact Park City Pride at 744-8685.

RECYCLING DAYS IN PARK CITY

East of I35
TUESDAYS – 8th and 18th

West of I35
Wednesday – 5th and 19th

(Place recyclables at curb by 6 a.m.)

GET YOUR RECYCLING CART – CALL CITY HALL TODAY

PLEASE NO:

- styrofoam
- electronics
- ceramics or dishes
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2014 SEWER RATES TO BE DETERMINED BASED ON WATER USED NOW

Water usage from December 15th through March 15th of each year determines the amount of sewer charges on water billings for the twelve-month period from April 1st to the following March 31st. The readings taken on the 15th of January, February and March are averaged to calculate the sewer rate. These readings are usually the lowest usage of the year, but they can be high if there is a water leak during that time period. If a leak has occurred, have it repaired in a timely manner and bring the receipts to the Water Clerk at City Hall. By keeping your water usage down during this three-month period, you can control the sewer rate on your utility bill. If you have any questions about how to conserve your water usage, stop by City Hall and ask for a water conservation brochure.

EXTREME COLD WEATHER: KEEP YOUR PETS SAFE

We have experienced some extreme cold weather this winter. Long periods of time with exposure to extreme cold may be too stressful for pets that are typically outdoors. You may need to make special arrangements. Please pay extra attention to pets that are kept out doors. It is required that pets that live out doors have adequate shelter, substantial food and clean fresh water. Do you have enough dry bedding material for your dog to bed down in? On really cold nights can that dog or cat stay in the garage? Some animals absolutely love the cold weather and some don't tolerate it at all. Know which one your animal is, and take appropriate action. If you have a doghouse that is in great shape and don't use it any more contact our office at 744-2026 and donate it so we can then recycle your doghouse to someone who needs it. Got any cat carriers you don't use? We could use them to transport lost cats. Give us a call. Department of Code Enforcement

PARK CITY BEAUTIFICATION

You may have noticed construction on the median & the streetscape area on 61st Street east of Jacksonville west to I-135. Construction hours will be from 7 am to 6 pm with occasional Saturday work. It is expected to be completed by March 15th. The end result will be worth it! The median and sculpture area improvements are part of the City Beautification Project. In addition to these upgrades, look for new Welcome to Park City Signs, Destination/Wayfinding signs, and street signs with Park City logos. These improvements, along with the two electronic Community Information Signs installed a couple of years ago, are designed to establish a positive, coordinated image for Park City. They are the result of numerous public meetings and hours of volunteer work by the Beautification Committee. Many thanks to the citizens that attended meetings and provided valuable opinions and information. Special thanks to the following individuals that have served on the Beautification Committee: Ebony Clemons, Larry Cook, Sydney Francis, Charles Glotta, Lori Glover, Larry Kelly, Ricky Riffel, Nathan Strawder, Kathleen Woodard, Leah Young, Curtis Zerr.



PARK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT IDENTITY THEFT PREVENTION

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in America. It can occur when a criminal steals personal identifying information such as name, birth date, Social Security number or your mother's maiden name and uses it for their own gain. These thefts can occur through lost or stolen credit or debit cards, non-secure online transactions, personal information recovered from your garbage, and most frequently, stolen mail from your mailbox. The Park City Police Department would like citizens to know that identity-theft-related crimes are on the increase in our area. However, there are some basic steps you can take to lower your risk of being a victim of identity theft.

BASIC SAFETY TIPS

- Don't carry important numbers or passwords with you.
- Memorize your Social Security number.
- Don't use your date of birth as your password.
- Never leave receipts behind.

CREDIT/DEBIT CARDS

- Sign your new credit cards immediately.
- Report lost or stolen credit cards immediately. Make sure you keep the numbers of the issuers somewhere besides on the back of your card!
- Always check your monthly financial statements carefully against your receipts.
- Review your consumer credit report annually.

MAIL

- Don't leave mail in your mailbox for more than a day. If you are gone, arrange to have a trusted neighbor or friend pick up your mail.
- Double check that mailboxes are official US Postal Service collection boxes before you deposit your mail.
- Shred or tear up all unnecessary documents that have your personal information on them.

ONLINE

- Never put in a credit or debit card number through a website unless it offers a secure transaction.
- A secure transaction will have a "padlock" icon at the bottom

strip of the web page. Also, the URL address will change from "http" to "https" on the page where you input personal data.

DISCOVERING ID THEFT

- Checking your financial statements frequently and carefully can be your best first step towards discovering an ID theft.
- The sooner you discover your identity is being used, the sooner you can begin to fight back to lessen the damage the criminal can do.

REPORTING ID THEFT

- Call the Police: To report a physical theft of your belongings, or a robbery. If immediate danger is over, you can make a report to the Park City Police Department's

non-emergency line: (316) 744-2011. If it is outside normal business hours, call 9-1-1.

- Call the U.S. Postal Inspection Service office: If the crime involved the U.S. mail, call (877) 876-2455. Be sure to call the Park City Police Department as well.
- Call the U.S. Secret Service: If the crime involved counterfeit credit cards or computer hacking, call (316) 267-1452. Be sure to call the Park City Police Department as well.
- Call the issuing credit card company, if the crime involved credit card fraud.

---Chief Phil Bostian
Park City Police Department

AUTOMATED PHONE SYSTEM AT CITY HALL

City Hall now has an automated phone system. When you call you will be asked to make a selection from the menu and will be connected to a specific department. The Police Department and the Court have a direct number that may be called from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A list of extensions/numbers is provided below for your convenience.

744-2026

203

215

204

214

206

202

209

208

207

201

213

225

205

210

216

744-2011

744-6417

City Hall

City Administrator

Assistant City Administrator/HR

Finance Dr./ City Clerk

City Attorney

Mayor

Accounts Payable

Payroll

Building Permits

Utility Billing

Utility Billing

Inspections

Compliance Officer

Compliance Officer

Court Clerk

Asst. Court Clerk

Police

Court

The City of Park City offers e-mail utility bills. If you would like to have your bills e-mailed instead of receiving a card in the regular mail just complete this form and return it to City Hall. You may also sign up on our website www.parkcityks.com.

Name as it appears on bill: _____

Service Address: _____

Account Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Automatic Payment of Utility Billings

Enroll now for automatic payment of water and sewer bills. Once enrolled, a billing will continue to be mailed to you that will show the amount that will be automatically deducted from your bank account. If you would like to enroll in this plan, just come by City Hall and complete the authorization form or call the water clerk at 744-2026. ext 207

February is an eventful month



Around Park City
By Cecile Cox

February is a month to celebrate many events. Can the groundhog really predict the weather? Some

really think so. Watch on Feb. 2 and see what is predicted this year.

Valentines day is Feb. 14 — a day to remember your loved ones. Its always fun for grade school kids to exchange valentines, when I was a child, way back when, us kids made all our valentines. The third Monday in February is Presidents Day. Lincoln and Washington are two of our

most famous presidents.

Mardi Gras is one day before Ash Wednesday. Celebrations are held in several American cities, especially New Orleans. The seventh Wednesday before Easter is Ash Wednesday and the first day of Lent.

Please notice the newly painted welcome signs in Park City. We want people to feel welcome in our city. There

is construction being done on 61st Street. Its part of the beautification project to change the look and be more attractive. It will be interesting to see the end result.

The Feb. 2 dance will be the Valentine and Sweetheart dance. The Wildwood band will play, Cecile Shoemaker will celebrate her birthday. So come out for an evening of fun and bring your sweetheart.

On Sat. Feb. 15 the Wildwood band will entertain us again with their country music and songs. Celebrating birthdays on that evening will be, Bill Dry, Lillie Marlene Steiner, Bill Hess and Marlin Satterfield.

Lillie Marlene and her husband are also celebrating their wedding anniversary, which is Feb. 20. Just so you know, the months that have five Saturdays will have three dances.

DEATH

JOHN BATES

John Laroy Bates, 67, died Jan. 8, 2014.

He was born in Wichita to Alvie R. Bates and Delores (Orth) Bates. He was a graduate of Heights High School.

He is survived by his wife, Teri Bates; daughters Tara Flores and husband Miguel, and Jessica Fleeman and husband Brian; grandchildren,

Jacob Fleeman, Grace Fleeman, Rachel Flores, Dexter Fleeman, Beau Fleeman, Samuel Flores and Mattilin Fleeman; father Alvie Bates; brothers Robert Bates, Jerry Bates and Billy Bates; sisters Barbara Watkins and Linda McGinty; and many other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Rita Bates; and mother Delores Bates.

Visitation was Jan. 14 at Baker Funeral Home, Valley Center. Services were Jan. 15 at Grace Presbyterian, Wichita. Memorials may be designated to the Kansas Humane Society, 3313 N. Hillside, Wichita, KS 67219 and Park City Police Department, 6110 N. Hydraulic, Park City, KS 67219. Baker Funeral Home, Valley Center has charge.

Gaming

Continued from Page 1

Valley Center Recreation Commission, \$18,750 for the State of Kansas and \$13,750 for the South Central Kansas Library System.

If the Greyhound Park were to reopen, King said it would include a Gilley's Saloon. She said the original Gilley's Saloon served as the backdrop for "Urban Cowboy," a popular

film from 1980 starring John Travolta.

The saloon is one small perk that Wichita Wins sees with the resurrection of the Greyhound Park.

"We believe that reopening the park will also catalyze additional development in the area, creating a ripple effect of more new businesses and more new jobs," she said.

To learn more about Wichita Wins, visit the group's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/WichitaWins.

Fire

Continued from Page 1

at church on June 23. Their daughter, Kelli Bucchin, was visiting from Manhattan with her two daughters to celebrate the occasion. In a bedroom, Bucchin and her daughters slept. Mike and Tami's granddaughters lay near a vent from which heat and black soot shot straight up after the explosion blew them.

Tami said the fact that "her babies" were safe after being so close to the vent was among the earliest blessings for her to count following the devastation.

When the explosion occurred, burning drywall from the basement was launched up the stairs. The heat surge was overwhelming.

Near Mike on the main floor, Tami put her hands up to cover her face. She initially thought the powerful force was an act of nature.

"I thought it was a tornado," she said. "I really did until I felt the heat."

Mike said he didn't hear the explosion, but he heard what he said sounded like wood separating from itself. He said he then

watched as a north wall of his home was blown out.

"We were all sort of in pockets where we were all semi protected," Tami said. "It's a God thing."

Tami had a few singed hairs and the family cat had some singed fur, but nobody in the home required medical attention.

Valley Center and Sedgwick County fire crews were quick to respond. They shut down the entire block.

The Logues went next door to Tami's parents where they sat in disbelief on the porch. Tami said the blocked-off street and sirens led her 3-year-old granddaughter to think a parade was going on. Inside their home, sparks had shot upstairs and caught furniture on fire.

As expected, the situation on the lower level was worse.

"When we got out, I went to the north side and looked into the basement window and all you could see was orange, it was so consumed," Mike said.

And not long after the fire was extinguished, the Logues had it confirmed that a gas leak was the cause of the onion smell. The catalyst for the explosion was determined to likely have been a spark emit-

ted from the clothes dryer.

Tami said the insurance inspector and Sedgwick County Fire Marshal told her and Mike that over the years, a small piece on the furnace called a drip leg had vibrated loose from a gas line, causing natural gas to drip from the pipe.

"I guess we had gas from the basement to the attic," Tami said. "It had just been a real slow leak."

The basic framework on the main floor remained intact, but the home was otherwise demolished. After spending the first couple of days at Tami's parents' house, the Logues were temporarily displaced to a hotel before they were able to move into a rental house.

Mike and Tami said they liked the property they rented and they questioned whether they wanted to rebuild their house on Kerman Street.

Ultimately, looking back on the memories from their home and the proximity to Tami's parents and neighbors they'd grown close to, the Logues decided the effort was worth it.

The couple moved back home the day after Christmas.

Mike and Tami had their home remodeled, giving it a different feel than it had before.

The basement was redone, the stairway leading downstairs was moved, additional space was dedicated to the kitchen and a bedroom was turned into the current living room.

"We changed it a lot because it was really hard to come back here," Tami said.

The one constant was their address.

The couple commended Klein Construction for helping the remodeling process run smoothly and for giving them a fresh start in a familiar place.

"It was easier to come back and have a different look," Mike said.

After speaking with an insurance adjuster, Mike, a professional painter, was awarded the job to paint his reconstructed home.

"It was a labor of love and it put a few bucks in my pocket," he said.

But Lady Luck wasn't done with her cruelty.

The Logues' home was coming back together and the couple seemed to have put the worst behind them when Mike faced a medical emergency.

He began having difficulties with his coordination and mobility. After about four months of "not feeling quite right" and

visiting specialists, Mike was found to have a severe case of stenosis where spinal fluid wasn't getting to his brain. His situation got worse before it got better.

Eventually, Mike was taken to the hospital in a wheelchair. A successful surgery allowed him to walk out of the hospital.

Mike said his surgeon couldn't believe the stenosis didn't keep him from being able to prime and paint his house.

Nearly recovered and back in his home on Kerman Street, Mike said he was cleared to return to work on Jan. 6.

Mike and Tami still have a few boxes to sort through and work to complete on the exterior of their home, but they are finally settled after a trial they said has led them to grow as a couple and in their faith.

They said the right contractors and insurance personnel were in place to make their decision to rebuild easier. Assistance from friends and neighbors also helped, as did family support, especially from their children.

"God has put people in place all along," Tami said. "They've just been there when we've needed them."

Pool

Continued from Page 1

new pool on about eight acres behind City Hall. Park City has an option on the land, which was to include a new rec center before November 2008 when voters turned down a 1-cent sales tax that would have paid for the facility.

The reaction to the sales tax at that time was one of the primary reasons Goldsmith said a slight increase in property taxes would be the better option for voters to consider for funding a new pool. As a voter, he said he would not support a sales tax.

Lori Glover said a sales tax would be the quickest way to raise money for a new pool, but she didn't have a preference on funding options. She said a town the size of Park City needs

to have a pool, especially for marketing the city to potential residents.

"A town of over 7,000 people in it, not having a public swimming pool to me is unfathomable," she said. "I can't even understand it."

Glover reminded the board that residents had spoken out to keep the pool in McLean Park open in 1995 when it was previously considered for closure. From there, she said the discussion shifted to the possibility of a new rec center, which never came to fruition.

Former Park City Mayor Emil Bergquist, who held the post in October 2012 when the decision was made to close the pool through at least 2013, said when he stepped down as mayor in April, the pool in McLean Park was operational after the council had approved funding for repairs in 2012.

He agreed that the city needs to have a pool, but he said more residents needed to weigh in.

He said ultimately, if residents want a pool, they need to decide if they'd be willing to keep the current pool open at an annual cost of \$50,000 to \$70,000 per year or if the extra funding was worth building a new pool. He reminded the board that the price tag for a new pool wouldn't include the annual operating costs to keep it open.

Bergquist said if the question of funding a new pool were brought to a vote, he'd prefer to see it considered as a slight property tax increase over five years.

In his address to the board, Terry Gresham, a Park City resident and a Wichita firefighter, questioned what was being done by the city to attract more people to the community.

He said a portion of tax

revenue should go toward a pool and while he understood the budget constraint at the time, he didn't think the decision to close it for the summer of 2013 was well thought out, especially because residents didn't receive proper notice of the special meeting at which the decision to close the pool was made.

"We pay our taxes so my kids will have something to do," he said.

Oswald emphasized that the park board did not know about the council's plans to close the pool for the summer until after the decision was already made. In exploring future options for the pool, he said he was

pleased with the input the board received at its Jan. 6 meeting.

"People need to get involved," park board member Jane Warren said.

She pointed out that there are several ways to weigh in on matters in Park City and to step out from the sidelines, including communication on the city's website, speaking at public meetings and by contacting city council representatives and the mayor. She said residents shouldn't expect anything to change if they don't get out in the community beyond daily commutes to and from work.

"If you just go to work and go to bed, you get what you get," she said.

Facilities should be a priority

We've heard the cliché before and we're bound to hear it again because it holds true. "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail."

In January, we reached out to city leaders about what they'd like to see in the year ahead. Park City Mayor Ray Mann would like to see the city build off the efforts that began several years ago and to begin planning for a new police squad room and a new City Hall.

He knows the city doesn't have the money for such upgrades in this year's budget and barring some unexpected fortune, it won't be able to cover the cost in 2015 or 2016 either.

But Mann sees a glaring need in his city and he's hoping to develop a plan that will allow the long-term goal to become a reality in the next few years instead of a pipe dream that doesn't get taken as seriously as it should.

The fact of the matter is, of the four communities The Ark Valley News covers each week, Park City has the most outdated facilities for its city staff and police force.

By most accounts, employees clock in every day and don't complain, but it's beyond time for the upgrades to become a priority instead of a wish list item.

Financing aside, there is absolutely no reason why the most active Sedgwick County community north of Wichita should have the worst facilities for its employees.

We always champion financial restraint and responsibility, but there comes a point where money has to be spent to better the community. And we'd like to see Park City welcome a new police station and City Hall before the end of the decade.

Mann said he doesn't want to see anything beyond what the city needs. Park City doesn't need a two-story facility with a view for its staff or police department, but a couple larger, storm-resistant buildings with enough room to increase efficiencies and keep the city moving forward shouldn't be too much to ask.

Time will tell what the best course of action will be. For now, continuing the dialogue that started several years ago and implementing a plan is the right thing to do.

— The Park City Post

The Park City Post

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Crime

Continued from Page 1

by two people was observed sitting in the church's parking lot "for no apparent reason."

The call for police was made when the activity outside the church was observed for a second day in a row.

While the gamers didn't physically harm or steal anything, Bostian said residents need to stay on their toes when it comes to reporting suspicious behavior in light of the spike in burglary reports.

"It is important for citizens

not to become complacent about what they perceive as suspicious behavior," he said. "The average person tends to wait too long before calling 911. Many burglaries, thefts and other crimes are deterred and solved by citizens who simply call in a suspicious character."

He said gamers playing

"Ingress" or any game like it "should be aware that their unusual behavior may generate a 911 call."

"They should take steps to avoid this if possible," Bostian said.

Suzys Hair Designs

234 Sioux Street
Kechi, KS 67067
316-744-2431
suzyszoo2@att.net

PASTRY PLACE DAYLIGHT DONUTS

1500 E. 61st North, Park City
Tues-Fri 6 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Sat-Sun 6 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Dining room/ Drive-thru
316-500-8288

MOUNTAIN CLEAR WATER

The way it was meant to taste!

Self-Serve, Your Container
6229 N Broadway
(In front of Atwoods)



Commercial Space Available!

- Restaurant Space
- Office Space
- Retail Space
- Industrial Space
- Grants & financial incentives available



- 10 minutes from downtown Wichita
- Located on I-35
- Third largest city in Sedgwick County
- Population of over 10,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

JAMES OLTMAN — ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
316-529-5900

WWW.HELLOHAYSVILLE.COM

Ryan's Dog Grooming

Kechi, KS
371-7258

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church

Christ Lutheran is located at 53rd Street North and Hillside, across from Wichita Heights High School. Services are at 8:30 (Contemporary), 9:45 (Kid Friendly) and 11:00 (Traditional). Communion is offered at all services. Adult Sunday School is at 9:45.

For more information about the church and its activities find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org, or call 744-1242. Pastor Chad Langdon is the minister of Christ Lutheran Church.

Church of the Resurrection

(Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord's Day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is www.resurrectionwichita.com. Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

Gospel Assembly Church

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Prayer service is 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The first Saturday evening of each month are youth activities.

Phone number is 744-1502. Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

Greenwich United Methodist Church

Sunday worship service at 9 a.m. Fellowship and coffee follow the service.

Pastor Jeff Miller can be reached at 744-0203.

Senior Day first Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m.

United Methodist Women meet the first Thursday of each month at 1 p.m.

Movie night is the second Saturday of each month at 6:30 p.m. A snack is served.

The church is located about a mile south of K-254 on Greenwich Road. The phone number is 744-0203.

Kechi United Methodist Church

You are welcome at Kechi United Methodist Church, 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. The Contemporary Service is at 9:03 a.m.; the Blended Service is at 11 a.m. on Sundays.

Pastor Mitch Reece will begin a new sermon series, Dec. 1 entitled, "The Person God Can Use."

Youth Group for 6th - 12th grades meets every Sunday at 4:00 at KUMC.

Looking for Healthy (Health Strategies) meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m.; cost is \$10/session.

CareGivers Support group meets every first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the basement parlor. Bingo is every first Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. Every 3rd Tuesday a Hot Meal is prepared at KUMC and served to the United Methodist Open Door Ministries Drop-In Center at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers welcome!

Find us at www.KechiUMC.org. Follow us on Facebook, or Twitter @KechiUMC. Pastor Mitch can be contacted at Mitch@kechiuc.org. Phone number is 744-1221.

Park City Church of the Nazarene

Sunday school for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Worship and children's church are at 10:45.

Wednesday evening light meal at 6:30 and Bible study at 7.

The church is located at 2100 E. 61st North in Park City.

The United Methodist Church at Park City

Located at 1510 E. 61st North, the church has worship every Sunday at 9 & 11 a.m. Professionally staffed child care and children's ministries are provided and a mother/baby room is also available. Youth "HOLEy (Donut) Time" is from 10:15 to 10:45.

Christian Preschool is enrolling for spring morning and afternoon class. Call Miss Kim at 316-744-0030 for more info.

Call or email Pastor Rob with any questions about upcoming events and activities at 744-0029 or 200-0156. Find the church on Facebook or follow on Twitter "@Churchparkcity" or visit the website www.churchatparkcity.com for more info.

Randall Road Baptist Church

Randall Road Baptist is located at 6556 N Randall, Park City.

Sunday School starts at 10 a.m. Worship is at 11 a.m.

Sunday evening activities start at 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible study begins at 7 p.m.

Contact Pastor Jim McQuery at 201-1696 or e-mail at jmcquery@cox.net

Riverview Baptist Church

Located at 844 W. 53rd North. The church office can be reached at 838-4861.

The pastor study number is 832-9060.

The church's website is www.wichitarierviewbaptist.org.

Sunday schedule has Bible study at 9:30 a.m., morning worship at 10:45 and evening worship at 6.

Ken Ham's "Answers in Genesis" DVD series is held on Sundays at 6 p.m. beginning Aug. 18.

Fellowship meal is at 6 p.m. Wednesday. At 7 is adult Bible study and prayer and youth group (grades nine through 12).

Awana Clubs on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Awana is for children age 4 (depending on birth date) through eighth grade.

Awana is a Bible club where students hear Bible stories, do scripture memorization, play games and fellowship with other kids their age. Awana is from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays August through early May. Call the church office for more information.

St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church

Saint Michael's Orthodox Christian Church is located at 2710 E 61st Street Park City, KS 67219. It is a congregation of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. "...the disciples were first called Christians at Antioch." Acts 11:26

On Sunday at 9 a.m. is our adult class, "The Story of Christianity." Service of Matins is at 9:45 a.m. followed by the Divine Liturgy (Mass) at 10 a.m. Nursery service is provided.

On Wednesday our service is at 6 p.m. On Saturday Vespers is at 5:30 p.m.

Men's Study Group first and third Monday at 7 p.m. We are studying the Gospel of Luke.

Women's Study Group second and fourth Friday at 10 a.m.; Dare To Live Fully Right Where You Are. We will continue our study of "One Thousand Gifts" by Ann Voskamp.

Wednesday Potluck Supper & Program "WHEN A NATION FORGETS GOD." Feb. 5. is "It's Always the Economy." Feb. 19. is "That Which is Legal Might Also Be Evil." Liturgy is at 6 p.m. Supper is at 6:45 p.m. Program is at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Holy Days for February: Feb. 1 Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Feb. 3 Saint Blaise of Sebastia, Feb. 5 Saint Agatha, Feb. 22 Chair of St. Peter at Antioch, Feb. 24 Saint Matthias the Apostle, Feb. 27 Saint Raphael of Brooklyn. Season of Pre-Lent begins on Sunday, Feb. 16. March 5 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Great Lent.

Fasting during January: All Fridays are days of fasting and abstinence.

Call the church for more information 734-6248 or visit our website at www.stmichaeloc.org

Email inquiries at jflora@cox.net.

Wichita Three Angels Seventh-Adventist Church

The church is located at 4558 N. Hydraulic Wichita, KS 67219.

The pastor is Nathan Stearman. The Sabbath school is at 9:30 a.m. Worship service is at 11:00 a.m.

Upcoming events: God's Closet — Our next FREE SHOP DAY EVENT is Feb. 7 from 9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m., located in the Wichita Community Health & Education Center at 4558 N. Hydraulic, Wichita, KS 67219. \$1 admission.

God's Closet is a non-profit organization. We collect new and gently used children's clothes and shoes, then once a quarter we have a Free Shop-day Event and give the clothes away. We charge a \$1 entrance fee per family. The fee is used exclusively to pay for any expenses we incur. Currently, there are no requirements to receive donations from God's Closet. If you are a family in need of clothes for your little ones, we invite you to join us for our Free Shop-day Event. God's Closet offers clothes for children from newborn to 18 years of age. We are always in need of donations. If you would like to help and be a blessing to a family in need by donating your gently used children's clothes and shoes, please contact us. Volunteers are always welcome too! For more information find us at www.godsclomet.com or on Facebook, email eric@godsclomet.com, or call 530-1040.

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Pet killed in Park City house fire

By Matt Heilman

Three occupants made it out unharmed, but a dog was killed in a Jan. 20 house fire reported shortly before 3 p.m. at 5147 North Valentine in Park City.

Sedgwick County Division Fire Chief Carl Cox said the fire appeared to have started on a deck behind the home.

"When crews arrived, they found fire heavily involved on the deck of the home as well as the back of the house," Cox said.

He said the fire spread into the home, heavily damaging a living area before crews arrived. Cox said the bulk of the damage was to the back part of the house, but there was heavy smoke damage throughout the structure. Cox did not have a damage estimate, but he said the home was "salvageable."

He said an investigator was on scene to determine

the exact cause of the fire. He said the three occupants inside noticed the fire on the back deck and were able to evacuate safely. However, the occupants were not able to get two pet dogs out of the house.

Cox said firefighters got one dog out of the house.

"It was still breathing, but it was struggling to survive," he said. "We have crews that were attending to the dog, giving it oxygen and providing life support to the animal."

About an hour after the fire was reported, he said the dog's condition seemed to have improved.

Cox said the second dog was found by search crews as the attack on the fire continued. The second dog did not survive.

Cox said Sedgwick County Fire crews were assisted by



Matt Heilman

Fire crews from Sedgwick County as well as Wichita and Valley Center respond to a Jan. 20 house fire in the 5100 block of North Valentine in Park City. One dog was killed in the fire, but three people evacuated the home safely.

crews from the cities of Valley Center and Wichita.

He said crews were able to get the fire under control

quickly with a two-prong attack simultaneously fighting the blaze in the home and the fire on the back deck.

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City denies tax break for purchase of Hayes building

By Matt Heilman

Both sides agree that the longtime partnership between an industrial property developer and the City of Park City has been mutually beneficial. Park City has supported Air Capital Delivery and Warehouse CEO Lou Robelli in his development of the city's industrial park property on Prospect Drive. In turn, Robelli has brought in new businesses and employment opportunities in nearly 1 million square-feet of warehouse space.

And while city leaders say they want to encourage Robelli to continue growing in Park City, a point has been reached where the city council had to deny a request from the developer. At its Jan. 14 meeting, the council turned down a resolution determining the advisability of issuing industrial revenue bonds to help Robelli finance the purchase of the Hayes Company facility just west of 77th North and I-135.

Robelli has said that plans for the 475,000-square-foot facility included leasing about 200,000 square feet to the Coleman Company.

Robelli has already leased space in the facility from which most of the Hayes Company's operation has moved. The Hayes Company had specialized into a customer-managed

warehousing business, which ultimately led to the bulk of its operation moving to Dallas.

Locally, the Hayes Company recently had its property taxes brought back on the tax roles after it had benefited from a tax break to help its operation grow in Park City.

The company's plans in Park City didn't pan out like it had projected a decade ago. Robelli has had his eyes on making the use of the existing facility with a tax break. What Robelli had proposed to the council to help him finance the property was the option to pay \$110,000 annually over the next 10 years in lieu of paying property taxes.

Before making its decision on the resolution that essentially expressed whether or not it would be in the city's best interest to approve the financing plan, the council held a public hearing on the matter.

Former mayor Dee Stuart advised the council to take their time considering the issuance of revenue bonds to help Robelli finance the project. She said she didn't like the idea of giving a tax break to an existing facility that had already received an abatement from the city. She also wondered why the appraisal on the property had significantly dipped over the last few years.

Resident Carol Flower, former council member Keith Thomas and former mayor Emil Bergquist also spoke during the public forum. Thomas and Flower seemed to agree that it would be in the city's best interest to keep the Hayes Company facility on the tax roles.

"You really just can't afford to keep playing musical chairs with properties out there with the tax roles," Thomas said. "At some point, you have to get a return on your investment."

Bergquist reminded the council of the companies and employment opportunities Robelli has helped bring to Park City. He said Robelli has been faithful to the city.

"He hasn't pulled out on us," Bergquist said.

While the council voiced confidence that Robelli would follow through with bringing jobs to the Hayes Company facility, the group agreed that extending a 10-year property tax abatement to a property that has recently come back on the tax role wasn't the best option for the city. Mayor Ray Mann said he'd "have no problem" following Robelli's plan for financing if he was building a new building or adding on to the existing Hayes Company facility.

However, he didn't like the idea of issuing the tax abate-

ment for an existing asset that has already benefited from a tax break. Council member John Lehnerr pointed out that property tax exemptions also include taxes paid to local school districts, the fire district and Sedgwick County.

Council member Tom Jones said he would have liked to have been provided with more information prior to the Jan. 14 meeting, but he joined the council in its decision that it wasn't in the city's best interest to issue the revenue bonds with the acceptance of an annual payment in lieu of property taxes.

Robelli said he sought the tax break because he's facing a time crunch on finding

space for a client and he would eventually like to expand about 73 acres into another industrial park for Park City. He reminded the council that he was able to

develop the industrial park land on Prospect Drive quickly with the help of abatements.

"You guys have supported me since day one," Robelli said.

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Park City continues beautification plan

By Matt Heilman

The execution of Park City's long-term beautification plan is underway. The work started in early January with the deconstruction of the concrete median in front of QuikTrip off 61st North and I-135 and excavation by the Chisholm Trail cowboy statues in front of Subway, just east of I-135 on 61st Street.

The project currently has traffic down to one lane for a stretch of 61st near I-135. Park City Administrator Jack Whitson said the work on 61st Street is supposed to be completed by March 15.

The improvements are part of a beautification plan that the Park City council approved in August. The plan is to include landscaping with a

mix of stone and paving work on the medians off the interstate and stonework, flower and tree plantings to accentuate the city's Chisholm Trail statues along the 61st Street corridor.

The work on the 61st Street median will involve the planting of wild flowers to accompany the stone and paving work highlighted by a Park City sign.

In August, the council voted 6-1 to spend up to \$200,000 in reserve funds allocated in 2009 to get the project underway. About \$25,000 in additional funding was approved to pay for wayfinding signage in the city that is meant to guide visitors to city-owned properties.

Council member George Glover opposed the beautification plan when it came up for an Aug. 13 vote in part because

he felt the wayfinding signage should have been a higher priority than the other upgrades along the main corridors off the interstate. He also had voiced frustration that additional funding beyond the \$200,000 allocated in 2009 was available for beautification, but not for reopening the city's swimming pool.

Also as part of the facelift in Park City, city workers have been replacing entrance signs.

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