

LIBRARY

News and Notes from Cheryl

Happy New Year! Well, a new SCHOOL year that is! Seems like just when you get into a summer routine it's time to go back to the school routine. Many patrons this week recalled not starting school until after Labor Day... wonder if it had something to do with the fact that "way back then" classrooms didn't have air conditioning? It wasn't until about 10 years ago that I've had air conditioning in my home (besides the occasional window unit) and it makes me wonder how we lived without it! One of my favorite sayings is "The luxuries of today become the necessities of tomorrow" and ain't it the truth?! We are so blessed. Lucky. Flat out spoiled. Let's be sure to remember that and be thankful.

What DID we do back then, before central air? People spent more time outside, I know-taking it easy under a shade tree or on the porch, sitting in the breeze. We actually SAW our neighbors! Maybe even KNEW them! Participated, perhaps, in their lives and the community! It's easy and comfortable now to just hole up in our cool homes, escape in the tube or on our phones and ignore the outside world. But with that ease and comfort comes isolation, and because of that isolation we can miss out on an important need of every human-connection with others. Studies show that one of the basic needs of humans is a sense of belonging. All of this to bring me to... LIBRARY NEWS! Between the city and the library and the churches in and around Sylvia, there are many opportunities to "belong" --- functions, gatherings, ways to enjoy yourself and/or help others. There's no need to feel obligated to participate in ALL the community's activities, but why not make the effort to join in on ONE or a few of them? Not everyone is a "joiner" or a "social butterfly" (take my husband, for example) and that's perfectly fine, but I'm thinking it would be a rare person who didn't get a sense of well-being from at least an occasional connection with their peers.

The Library is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 1 to 6 or later. We have books, movies, magazines, a patron computer, printers, a fax machine, TV, water, snacks, games, crafts, chairs, a couch, toys, listening ears AND..... you guessed it, air conditioning! Woohoo! Come in and say hi, or stay awhile! Cheryl 620-388-2084 anytime or email at sylvialibrary@hotmail.com

Call 811

Many people are familiar with commercials highlighting the risks of accidentally striking underground utilities such as internet, water, or gas lines while digging. It is important to recognize that this could happen to anyone, as utility lines are typically buried at a depth of 12 to 16 inches. Even routine tasks such as driving a t-post into the ground can cause significant damage. To ensure safety and prevent costly accidents, always contact 811 for a free utility location service before beginning any project that involves digging.

Streetlights

Did you know that the city does not own the streetlights but rents them from Midwest Energy? If you see a streetlight out, while it is fresh in your mind, call 800-222-3121. They will create a work order so that it can be fixed or replaced. They will need the location and your phone number in case of questions.

Please understand the city has no control over the streetlights except to pay monthly rental whether they are working or not - so they want them to work. Please make a free call and help keep our town brightly lit and safe.

Reminder

CITY PET TAGS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN BOTH LEGAL COMPLIANCE AND THE SAFETY OF YOUR FURRY COMPANIONS. NOT ONLY DO THEY SIGNIFY THAT YOUR PET MEETS LOCAL REGULATIONS, BUT THEY ALSO SERVE AS A VITAL TOOL IN REUNITING LOST PETS WITH THEIR OWNERS.

TAGS COME WITH A UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER LINKED DIRECTLY TO YOUR CONTACT DETAILS, MAKING IT EASIER FOR YOU TO BE NOTIFIED IF YOUR PET IS FOUND. TO REGISTER YOUR PET, YOU'LL NEED TO PROVIDE PROOF OF RABIES VACCINATION, ENSURING YOUR PET'S HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY. ANNUAL COST IS MINIMAL - A FEE OF JUST \$5.00 FOR THE FIRST PET AND \$2.00 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL ONE.

Summer Fun Picnic

We would like to thank all of you that attended the end of season BBQ at the park. It was wonderful to get together with great food and conversations. If you didn't get the chance to come to the picnic, please stop by the park and check out the continuous renovations. The south restroom is functional. The sink does drip so you need to turn on the valve under the sink to access the water. The horseshoe pits are being worked on. There are sets of horse shoes that may be checked out from the city office or library for your enjoyment.

Keeping utility meters clear is essential for ensuring accurate readings and maintaining safety around your home. To achieve this, regularly check the area around your gas, water, and electricity meters to ensure they are free from obstructions such as debris, snow, or overgrown vegetation and do not block the meters. Avoid parking or storing items like bicycles, trash cans, or outdoor furniture around the meters. Checking the area around your utility meters and keeping it accessible not only facilitates accurate billing but also ensures that any emergency repairs can be performed swiftly.



Water Project Update

At the special City Council meeting held August 21st the council voted to award McPherson Backhoe Inc. both phases of the water project per recommendation of Schawb-Eaton's advisor. September 3rd a Notice to Proceed will be given allowing MBL access to start the process. There is much behind the scenes work so the anticipated construction is estimated to begin in November. Phase 1 which includes the well itself has a completion date in the Spring of 2026. Phase 2 including the water lines is to be completed early Fall 2026. If you have any questions stop by the city office.

New to the Sunflower Center

Game nights are a fantastic way to bring friends and family together for an evening of fun and laughter. We would like to host a game night that would cater to all interests. What would you like to see? Board games, Cards, Competitions? Any ideas would be appreciated.

A clothing give away will begin September 25th. If you have any clothing you would like to donate, you may bring it to the Sunflower Center Friday mornings from 9-10:30 or leave it at the city office or library during business hours.

Pleasant Hill Church

Kids & Teens: Bible Study @ Church Wednesdays: 6:30-7:45
MS/HS Youth Group @ Gym Sundays: 5-7PM



Reminders

- Sept 1 Labor Day City Office Closed
- Sept 6 Community Carry in dinner 12:00 Sunflower Center
- Sept 8 City Council Meeting 7:00
- Sept 25 Commodity Distribution and clothing give away 4-6 Sunflower Center
- Sept 26 4th Friday at 4 Library Book Talk