

CITY OF DWIGHT

OCTOBER 2011

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Has everyone noticed the improvements on Main Street? The new awning, paint and bench on the Home Town Cafe really dresses up the area. A new metal sign from Alexander Artworks was put up on the community building last week. The City was awarded a grant from Tri-County Telephone for 75% of the cost of the sign. A new library sign was also part of the grant package. A design for the library sign will be chosen in November.

A new business can also be found on Main Street. Barry Albin of Albin Law has set up his practice at 617 Main Street.

PRIDE/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A new metal roof is going to be installed on the City Maintenance Shop. The City purchased the metal for the roof with excess water project grant funds. A work day to **install the new roof** has been scheduled for **Saturday, November 5th** at 9 AM. If you are able to help, please let the City Office know by November 3rd.

Volunteers are needed to help **repair the front entrance of the community building**. This will involve removing the existing awning and replacing it as well as removing the stair railing and painting the new boards, poles and railing. If we have enough volunteers, we may also tackle **removing the rocks from the sidewalks** that appeared after the chip and seal project this summer. Plan to meet on **Saturday, November 5th** at 9 AM at the community building for assignments. In case of rain, plan to work on Sunday afternoon, November 6th at 1:30. Please bring any shovels, painting and construction tools you have. If you are able to help, please let the City Office know by November 3rd.

CITY OFFICE RELOCATION

A significant mold problem exists in the City Office building which poses health concerns. As a result, the City Office has been relocated to the library until a solution is decided upon. You may continue to drop your payments in the box at the old City Office as you have done in the past. The posted hours are 8:15 AM – 10:15 AM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The posted hours are times when the office will be

open for sure. The office is normally open up to 15 or 20 hours per week on various days. You may call or drive by to see if the office is open.

The Council now faces a daunting task concerning the City Office building. At the November 21st regular Council meeting, they plan to decide what to do for the City Office. Many ideas have been discussed. Among them are to clean the mold out of the current building and have it reconstructed. Another is to demolish the old building and replace it with a slightly larger new building with a ramp on the front for easy access. Another was to replace the old building with a new building to also include a shop on the back of the building. Another was to take over a portion of the library permanently for the City Office. Approximately \$10,000 of water project grant funds remain that can be used toward the City Office repairs or construction. If you have an opinion or idea, please talk to the members of the City Council to let your voice be heard. Everyone is welcome to come to the City Council meeting on November 21st at 7 PM to show your support.

WEBSITE

The City has contracted with Wes Bowman to update the current website. Angela Moore is providing the design which is similar to the brochure. The new website will include a community calendar, school and community group information, City Council information, a housing list as well as a list of businesses in the area.

We know there are several businesses in the community that do not have a storefront on Main Street in Dwight. We would like to get information on those businesses so that they may be listed as well. Some examples would be mechanic, jewelry-making, woodworking, copper polishing, ranching or web designing. Please contact the City Office if you know of a business that could be listed.

RECYCLING

Did you know that the City has a recycling center? It is located on the east end of the City maintenance shop on Highway 57 next to the old gas station. Each Thursday, the Morris County Recycling Center truck comes to Dwight to collect the items. They accept the following items: newspaper, magazines, phone books, white and colored paper, tin cans, #1 clear plastic, #2 plastic (milk jugs), #2 colored plastic (laundry soap bottles), film plastic (grocery bags), cardboard, electronics, waste motor oil, scrap metal, batteries and scrap aluminum. Please rinse milk jugs and tin cans.

WATER BILLS

Some residents have mentioned that they have not been receiving their water bills. The bills are normally sent out during the last week of the month. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the City Office for two reasons. If you let us know, we can try to determine why you didn't get your billing. The second reason is that a duplicate bill can be sent to you or the Clerk can tell you what your balance is. As a reminder, it is the citizen's responsibility to find out this information. The bills are due on the 10th of each month. By ordinance, if they are not paid by the 10th, a \$10.00 late charge is assessed. If they are not paid but the 20th, another \$10.00 late charge is assessed. Water will be turned off if the bill is not paid by the 28th.

NEWSLETTER

We will be trying a new way of mailing the newsletter out. The USPS has released a new program in which items such as newsletters can be sent at a much cheaper rate without having to address each one to a specific address. With the program, we can also send more pages at the lower rate. The catch is that in order to receive the lower rate, they must be sent in a larger envelope and have a special type of stamp. In the future, watch for the larger envelope. Thanks for the information, Debbie!

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

It is very clear now that our postal service is changing. Based on our newest census data and what has been in the news about postal service debt and future actions, there is some concern that our city may lose their post office. It is not a known fact that this may happen but now is the time to speak up.

Beginning October 22nd, Dwight's mail is being sorted in White City. Dwight will be a stop on the rural mail carrier's route based in White City. This means the mail arrives in Dwight much later. This creates many problems. The businesses do not get their mail at the beginning of the day therefore that day's mail may not have time to be processed. For anyone that has a post office box, your mail must come addressed to the post office box to ensure delivery.

The City Council will be sending letters to the following people voicing concern about our post office. If you are also concerned about Dwight not having a post office in the future, please contact the following authorities. A sample letter has been enclosed that you may make copies of. Adding how this will affect you personally to the letter would be very helpful for the postal authorities to get a clearer picture of our small town and how losing our post office would hurt our town.

POSTAL CONTACTS

Sam Gonzales
Manager, Post Office Operations
424 S Kansas Ave
Topeka, KS 66603-9992

Postal Rate Commission
901 New York Ave NW, Ste 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Patrick Donahoe
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, DC 20260-0010

Representative Tom Moxley
Kansas State Capitol, Room 174-W
300 SW 10th St
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7689
tom.moxley@house.ks.gov

1852 South 200 Road
Council Grove, KS 66846
620-787-2277
tmoxley@tctelco.net

Senator Jeff Longbine
Kansas State Capitol, Room 235-E
300 SW 10th St
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7384
Jeff.Longbine@senate.ks.gov

3012 West Highway 50
Emporia, KS 66801
620-342-2744
jlongbine@longbineauto.com

Congressman Tim Huelskamp
126 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2715

Senator Jerry Moran
354 Russell
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-6521

PO Box 249
1200 Main St, Suite 402
Hays, KS 67601
785-628-6401

Senator Pat Roberts
109 Hart
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-4774

PO Box 550
100 Military Plaza
Dodge City, KS 67801
620-227-2244

Dear

It is very clear now that the postal service is changing. Based on the newest census data for our city and what has been in the news about postal service debt and future actions, there is some concern that we may lose our post office. It is not a known fact that this may happen but I feel now is the time to speak up.

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It is vital to the City of Dwight that the post office remain open. Please support rural post offices.

Sincerely,

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 5	PRIDE Work Day, 9 AM
November 21	City Council Meeting, 7 PM
November 24	Thanksgiving
December 4	Cantata
December 9	PHMS Vocal Music Program – Alta Vista , 7 PM
December 19	PHES Vocal Music Program, 7 PM
December 19	City Council Meeting, 7 PM
December 25	Christmas

Dwight City Office
PO Box 157
Dwight, KS 66849
785-482-3455
cityofdwright@tctelco.net
dwightks.com