

The Fairview Enterprise

since 1888

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“Letter from the Mayor”

The City of Fairview is looking good! This is the positive comment I hear more often than the negative opinions of some residents. I do hear some complaints—street signs missing, yards that aren't mowed, noise from the mill, alleys that need repairs, dogs loose, cars parked in the city park, cats all over town, pot holes, water backed up in yards, cars speeding thru town, cars junked in town and not moving, trash from the truck stop, smoke from brush burning, and the usual people with the same tickets as last year.

These are just a few of the problems we have that cannot seem to go away. Most of them can be fixed by our residents themselves but they choose not to. The city does take these problems seriously, but our list is long too. I would like to thank everyone who has planted extra flowers, mowed a little more often, and used the city wide cleanup to improve their property.

Right now the city council is rewriting our code book to bring it up to date. Many of the codes are obsolete and the new wording will cover so many more situations that come up in the future. Code enforcement will be easier with better definitions. Right now we can have the County Sheriff come to check on a complaint only to find we have no ordinance against it.

The City is working with the mural commit-

tee to develop a nice mural on the west end of Fairview. This will show visitors and highway traffic that we take pride in our town. Hopefully the mural project will catch on and can be repeated at other locations that have mural potential. By the way, donations are being accepted. (Send your check, marked “mural project,” to the Farmers State Bank, P.O. Box 8, Fairview, 66425.)

The highway 36 improvement project is moving at its normal “state project” pace. Several residents did not sign the temporary easements needed to start the bid process in time for this year, and eminent domain proceedings had to begin. Now it looks like it could be the summer of 2025 before construction might start.

The TA Express is continuing its remodeling to accommodate the new Dunkin Donuts that is coming soon. Some of the equipment needed for the new operation was damaged in shipment and had to be reordered. Hopefully, this will be something we will see this summer.

Maybe this will be the year Fairview gets some things checked off our “to do list!”

Please enjoy your summer and be proud of Fairview for what it has.

Mayor Art

(Ed: One of the things Fairview has is a good mayor.)

“Justice”—and how it came about

We recently received this interesting essay from *Enterprise* reader Iras Humphreys, who lives with her husband Charles Gray in a post-and-beam home they built in northern Wisconsin.

Iras grew up in Ashland, Kansas, where her grandfather, known to all as “Prof Humphreys,” was the long time principal of the high school—even when Mom and her siblings were in school. Charles Gray is from Hiawatha, where his parents owned Gray Jewelers.

Iras and Charlie met at KU fifty years or so ago, and have lived an interesting life together. This essay describes one early chapter in Charlie's life—a life in which artistry, in one form or another, has always been an important part.

One early manifestation of that was Charlie's work in the creation of “Justice,” the large sculpture dominating the foyer of the Judicial Center in Topeka, home of our Supreme Court. His essay:

“This statue of ‘Justice’ represents the unique vision of its creator, Bernard ‘Poco’ Frazier. His concept of justice was symbolized by the presence of two powerful elements, the rising woman with the prairie falcon grazing her fingertips.

“As Poco explained, his sense was that justice should be all-seeing, not blind, and as such, the prairie falcon possesses an incredible visual acuity.

“Secondly, the concept that justice should be swift is likewise represented by the prairie falcon, the fastest bird in level flight on earth.

“Lastly, the woman personifies the ideal that the administration of justice should also be tempered by compassion.

“Anecdotally, Poco related that he had been fascinated by the flight of the prairie falcons since his childhood, growing up near Athol, Kansas.

“He was able to observe them as he did his field work, and he admired their grace, speed, and form.

“Additionally, the vast and undulating contours of the Kansas prairies and the sweep of the sky can be seen in his art.

“He likened the forms of the land to an inland ocean, whose waves you could study repeatedly. Artistically, he was fascinated and inspired by the human form and the gracefulness it portrays.

“These values were represented by the way Poco

taught his sculpture classes at the University of Kansas until his retirement in the mid-1970s.

“His assignments encouraged the exploration of combining relatively simple forms—a plane, a cone, a cube—and how their arrangements and interactions could form interesting harmonies. Along with these abstract explorations, he thought that a sculptor should also be conversant with human anatomy.

“Above all, though, he insisted that an artist, and anyone else, should observe—not merely to look, but to see.

“This statue was the culminating work of Poco's career, which he unfortunately was not able to see in its completed form at the Kansas Judicial Center.

“Undoubtedly he was able to envision it though, and his competed 1:4 scale model was used throughout all phases of the project.

“This spanned the selection and quarrying of stone from the renowned marble quarries of Carrara, Italy, to the final rasp strokes of the falcon's beak.

“Unfortunately, Poco did not have the chance to complete the statue with his own hands, as he experienced a heart attack just hours before he was to depart for Italy. After several months of recovery, he was able to resume preparation for ‘Justice’ and to work on a bronze statue of Coronado.

“A second but fatal heart attack a few months later halted the project until Poco's son Malcolm Frazier was awarded the commission. This was such a natural decision, as Malcolm had not only the understanding of the artistic vision and a familiar experience of the artistic process, he had the fine artistic hands to expressively complete the work.

“As a condition of the commission, the services of a stone carver with experience in monumental

(multi-stone, large scale) statuary was required.

“This was fulfilled by the arrival of Dante Rossi, a master carver who worked in the monument industry in Barre, Vermont. Dante's birthplace was a small Italian village within sight of the marble quarries, and he received sculpture training at L'Accademia dei Belli Arti in Carrara. His experience and enthusiasm was invaluable.

“Malcolm was also assisted by Charles Gray, a former student of Poco's at KU.

“Crucial assistance was given as well by the architectural engineer Jack Bradley, the expertise of the building general contractor, masonry contractor and the general laborers who built scaffolding and muscled the stones into place. One always had the feeling that Poco was able to witness these things in his own way.”

Charles Gray

Below, a photo of the huge work in progress; Charles is in the middle on the ladder. Under that, the finished work)



Very Latest on the Mural Project

The Fairview mural project is moving forward, thanks to the dedicated work of Christy Klein-Tross, the Mural Committee, and the Fairview City Council. The committee chose the 7th of 12 designs provided by Christy. The design was approved by the Council, with some specific modification requests. The completion of the mural is expected to take approximately one week, and will most likely happen during late August or early September 2024. Christy Klein and Matt Lock will work together on this portion of the project.

The mural design theme features native Kansas wildlife and plants found in the Fairview area, while structures and images from Fairview's past and present may be spotted in the background.

The upper portion will read, “Welcome to Fairview, Kansas, established 1886” over a background of two intersecting highways, 36 and 75. The word “Fairview” will be in block capital letters. Prior to beginning the project,

the existing “Fairview sign” will require significant repair and preparation.

The concrete structure, originally an abutment that supported the Rock Island Railroad Highway 36 overpass, has age-related cracking, pitting, and scaling. The sheet metal “Fairview” portion of the sign has significant rust-through damage and will be replaced. The concrete surface will be cleaned and professionally sealed, and the structure coated with primer prior to painting.

The replacement metal for the upper section will not be installed until the painting is done. This has two advantages: 1. Painting can be done on the metal at ground level, indoors or outdoors, ensuring that weather won't be a factor in timely completion of the project. 2. The contractor can remove old metal and install the completed, painted metal at the same time to save an extra trip.

Committee chair Sierra Goering submitted a grant application through the

Kansas Creative Arts Industries Commission on February 23. This is a matching funds grant, meaning, if the grant is approved, ½ the cost of the mural will be raised through donation, and this will be matched by the grant. The committee is still awaiting the final decision of the Commission.

Mayor Art Vonderschmidt stated that the City of Fairview is, “committed to the mural project, even if for some reason the grant is not approved.”

We are thankful for several generous donations that have been received already. Donations to the mural project may be made via the Fairview Farmers State Bank, PO Box 8, Fairview, KS 66425. In order that your donation may be tax-deductible, please make checks out to “City of Fairview,” and include “mural project” in the memo.

For more information, please contact the mural committee chair at:

sierramrenner@gmail.com.
Shane Spangler

Wheat Harvest Looks Pretty Good



Wind turbine and the wheat harvest around Minneola last year.

(From “Farm Progress” and other sources.)

The Wheat Quality Council annual winter wheat survey of Kansas was completed on May 16. It involved 70 participants from USDA, K-State, representatives from the milling and baking industry and farmers.

They made a total of 449 stops over three days in fields along six routes from Manhattan to Colby to Wichita. Their conclusion was that Kansas could produce as much as 290 million bushels of wheat this year, up from an historic low of 191 million bushels in 2023 and 260 million bushels in 2022.

As always, there was great variation from county to

county, and even within individual fields. Crop prospects in north central and northwest Kansas looked promising; southwest Kansas much less so. The projected average yield for the entire state, according to Wheat Tour participants, was 46.5 bushels per acre.

Earlier in May, the USDA National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) estimated that Kansas would produce 267.9 million bushels, with an average yield of 38 bushels per acre.

Dr. Romulo Lollato, K-State Wheat Extension Specialist, said that while a 46.5 bushel per acre average yield was possible if conditions re-

mained optimal until harvest, he thought that estimate was on the high end. We will soon see.

(For perspective, the bushels per acre figure for Brown County last year was 71.5. For Nemaha County, 65.2.)

The Wheat Quality Council, headquartered in Lenexa, was founded in 1938 to evaluate the milling and “end use” quality of wheat. It supports the development of improved cultivars, and works with universities and growers organizations to strengthen the wheat industry.

The wheat harvest should be underway in south central Kansas by the time you receive your paper.

“Comprehensive Plan” for Brown County

We have been informed by Bill Vonderschmidt, Chairman of the Brown County Planning Commission, that the Commission will conduct public hearings on June 21 to discuss the proposed “Comprehensive Plan for Brown County.”

This is the plan developed on the basis of the results of the public opinion survey conducted in the county last November, to which more than 800 county residents responded. The summary results of that survey were

the subject of briefings held in February in Fairview, Hiawatha and Horton. (See the Enterprises of November 29, 2023 and February 18, 2024 for details.)

According to a May 23 press release, the June 21 public hearings will take place in the same venues as in February, i.e., the Fairview Community Center (from 12:00 to 1:00 pm), the Fisher Center in Hiawatha (4:30 to 5:30 pm), and the Blue Building in Horton (6:00 to 7:00 pm).

The press release noted that

the hearings will cover “... relevant history, demographics, ... natural resources, social services, water supply issues, land use and transportation.”

As in February, the meetings will be facilitated by project consultant Dick Horton. (If you have questions, he can be reached at richardhorton971@gmail.com.)

This is an important undertaking for the county, and we hope there will be a good turnout in Fairview for the June 21 public hearing.