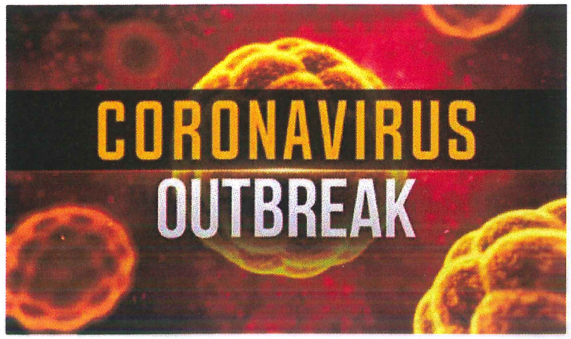

A Message from Mayor Braun

Life as we know it has changed drastically in the past hours, days and weeks. In this time of great uncertainty and even fear for some, I want to offer a word of calmness and assurance. The City Council, staff and police department are all concerned about the safety of everyone in our community. We are working on your behalf to assure that cautions, practices and higher level decisions are not only being taken seriously but also being enforced. Please follow the directives of social distancing and limiting exposure to others very seriously. Our lives depend upon it!

Please keep yourselves informed through the City Facebook page, credible news sources and community announcements. We also want to be vigilant not only about the COVID-19 pandemic, but also for those who may try to take advantage of such circumstances. If you are contacted by door-to-door solicitors or phone calls that make suspicious offers or claims, please contact City Hall 283-7633 or call 911.

We are all in this together, we care for each other and will continue to be available to answer questions you may have. Prayers for healing, strength and courage for our community and the entire world are certainly encouraged.

CITY HALL DURING THE CORONAVIRUS

At this writing, City Hall is closed to the public and will likely remain closed for some time into the future. However, essential and nonessential business will be conducted. Police, fire and emergency services will continue to respond. Trash and recycling will be picked up. There is no threat to North Newton's water supply or sewer service. Water bills will continue to go out. We will continue to keep citizens updated via the website, Facebook, and news stories. We will respond to emails and/or telephone calls, though there may be up to a 24 hour delay in responding to these. The big change will be that the lobby at City Hall will not be open. If you have an emergency, call 911. They should know how to respond to your call.

Spring Clean Up Week, originally scheduled for April 6-10 has been postponed. The City crew will pick up those items that have already been put out. We will post the revised dates in the newspapers, our website and Facebook page, and on water bills.

KIDRON CREEK CLEANING

The City retained the services of Conservation Contractors to clean debris from Kidron Creek recently. This firm specializes in leaving as small a "footprint" as possible. They used an excavator with a grappling hook to clear log jams that were obstructing flow. Some trees were removed to allow access, but there was little clear cutting. The company concentrated on the area south of 30th Street as that was the area with most of the obstruction. Because North Newton was declared a disaster zone as a result of last year's flooding events, we are eligible for reimbursement of our costs by the Kansas Department of Emergency Management.

SEWER TELEVISING/REPAIR IN PROCESS

Although North Newton's sewage is being diverted and pumped to Hesston, there is a stretch of approximately 500 feet of sewer line beyond the diversion point that is still connected to the Newton sewer system. We recently learned that there is significant groundwater infiltration along this stretch of line. Recent televising has indicated a couple of cracks in the line that are the primary cause. These cracks will be repaired in anticipation of a long term agreement with Newton for emergency sewer services.

NORTH NEWTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION CONTINUES STEADY GROWTH

The January 1, 2020 asset balance of the NNCF stands at a record high of $471,490. Donations to the Fund in March totaled a robust $3,800! The NNCF Board, at its regular monthly meeting on March 3, 2020, determined that $10,000 in NNCF earnings would be distributed to beneficiaries in the North Newton and Newton areas in the current 2020 funding cycle. During the March meeting the Board approved Kathy Campbell, Tom Jackson, Ray Olais, and Mark Janzen as new members of the Board. The North Newton Community Foundation is an affiliate of the Central Kansas Community Foundation.

CITY COUNCIL MAY DELAY WORK SESSION

The City Coucil may delay its spring work session scheduled for Monday, April 13 at 5:00 P.M. The regular council meeting scheduled for 7:00 P.M. may also be postponed. We will post updates on the City's Facebook page and website.

Eventual topics of a work session will be possible flood prevention options, expanded park facilities, and the potential water line connection to the Public Wholesale Water District #17 wells. The public will be invited to attend and observe.

REMINDERS ABOUT TRASH & RECYCLING

Every once in awhile we must remind citizens about some of the finer details of our trash and recycling sytem in North Newton. Here are some important reminders:

- You may set out your black bags of trash even if they are not completely full. *However, your clear bags of recyclables should be full before you set them out.*
- The City doesn't dispense extra bags when you run out. The contractor, South Central Recycling, delivers a set of rolls to households about every seven months. (Let us know if you do not get a delivery when others have.)
- Tie your bags securely!
- If your bag of recyclables is not picked up there is a reason-- the bag is not full, there are unwanted materials inside, lids were left on bottles and containers, items are not rinsed, etc. Check out the Trash & Recycling Program guide on our website.
- Corrugated cardboard (two-walled) must be broken down and flattened before setting out. Do not bag it. Weight the stack down if it is a windy day.
- Low quality paperboard, such as cereal boxes, is NOT considered cardboard and is to be placed in a clear bag.
- **If you have a complaint or concern, we encourage you to call South Central Recycling at 316-282-0813.**

Pet waste left in yards, parks, and other outdoor areas washes away with rain and snowmelt into storm sewers and ditches that flow directly into our creeks. These wastes and the pathogens they contain (bacteria, parasites, and viruses) are a major threat to our water quality.

Why is it better to put pet waste in the trash? Disposing of pet waste in the trash removes the pollution source from contact with surface water and contains it in a landfill situation, where discharges are monitored and containment levels are known. Landfills are designed to safely handle substances such as dog waste, cat litter, and dirty diapers.

UPDATE ON HIKING/BIKING PATHS

A preconstruction conference for the upcoming North Newton path project was held at the KDOT office in El Dorado in late February. Vogts Parga Construction is the contractor and the project starting date is April 13. They will have 55 working days to complete the project. Working days do not include weekends, holidays, or days when weather prevents working. Thus, the project should be complete by midsummer.

In other news, the Harvey County Commission retained the services of MKEC Engineers to provide a feasibility study for the creation of a walking/bike path between North Newton and Hesston. Both communities provided financial assistance for the study. MKEC presented the results at a recent County Commission meeting. Several options were discussed. The preferred option was to have the path near to, but not next to, old 81 Highway. The proposed route would be from the intersection of 36th and Anderson in North Newton, westward to Old 81 Highway, Northwest along the highway to Hickory Street in Hesston, and Westward on Hickory. The County Commission is considering moving forward on the project.

NOTE WORTHY

❖ Residential customers' **sewer consumption** was re-averaged this billing. The new sewer consumption figure and monthly charge will remain on your bills for a year.

❖ An air hose is available to the public for **free tire fill ups** and is located on the southwest corner of City Hall towards the back lot. Complimentary tire gauges are available at the air hose.

The 2020 Census is very important for our nation and state. If you have received something in the mail from the Census follow instructions to complete it.

Anyone can also respond by calling 1-844-330-2020 or by going to https://my2020census.gov/.

April 2020

NORTH NEWTON
CITY OF NORTH NEWTON

2601 North Main; P.O. Box 87
North Newton, KS 67117

Office Hours

8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Mon. – Thurs.
8:00 A.M. to Noon, Friday

City Hall: (316) 283-7633
www.northnewton.org
Facebook.com/northnewton

Police Department: (316) 283-3191
Twitter: @NorthNewtonPD

A quarterly newsletter for the people of North Newton