

By Jan Rahn

Managing Editor

Residents can look forward to a “Movie in the Park” on Friday nights this summer, thanks to the donation of a sound system by the Perkins County Area Arts Council.

Dana Harris, city administrator, made the announcement to Grant City Council during the regular meeting on May 28. Harris said a complete sound system was donated by the arts council who requested that movies now be held on the weekends.

During past summers, “Movie in the Park” was held on Wednesday nights because it was the only time that could be arranged for equipment to be brought in from out of town.

According to Harris, the summer movie schedule and sponsors are being organized and will be announced soon.

Later on this summer, the City of Grant will be sponsoring their second annual “Cruise Night.” More details on the August event will follow as the time approaches.

Pool

To clarify questions about when the pool can be open, Harris would like the public to know that the pool can open only when the outdoor temperature reaches 70 degrees.

The pool was closed recently because of storms that left too much dirt and debris for the filters to keep up and it could not be cleaned in time to open.

If the water in the deep end is cloudy, whether due to a chemical issue or dirt from a storm, the pool will not open. Staff must be able to clearly see the bottom of the entire pool.

MEAN Lawsuit

Because of a lawsuit with an electrical provider from a southern state, MEAN (Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska) must pay a \$6.3 million settlement for incorrect use of transmission lines owned by Southwest Power Pool of Arkansas.

Harris explained to council that she was unaware of the lawsuit, which had happened in the previous two years before she became administrator. She learned of the suit and settlement at a meeting in May in which members of MEAN, such as Grant, must pay their share of the settlement.

Thus, Grant must pay \$47,000 based on the amount of electricity used over that period as a member of MEAN, which will be passed along to consumers.

According to MEAN, the average cost to residential customers in Grant will amount to approximately 30 cents per bill starting in April 2014.

Harris said the city has five years to pay their portion of the lawsuit, it can be done via monthly payments, and there will not be any interest charged.

Speeding an Issue

A Grant resident was present to address council with a request for a sign on the west edge of 4th Street that would slow speeding traffic coming into town in an area where children are playing.

The speed limit on residential streets is 25 mph, however, drivers are traveling much faster coming from the west and do not heed the slower limit.

After discussion, council decided to request more law enforcement patrol in that area.

According to Harris, the sheriff’s department has been made aware of the citizen request.

In Other Business

- Armor coating will begin soon on several streets within the city limits.

Residents will be made aware in advance and are asked that they move vehicles from the street. If vehicles are not moved, they will be towed so that work can progress during the scheduled time.

- Council members unanimously rejected bids on purchasing a generator for the city’s #6 well and will continue to rent a generator as a backup in case of power failure.
- Cement work on the airport is scheduled to begin soon. There was a delay in starting the hangar project due to weather. It is still on schedule and will be completed within the bid period.