

## Community Development News

By Christy Hopkins

I spent a good portion of my day Monday confirming details and putting finishing touches on some plans for Tribune's Christmas Open House, which is scheduled for Friday, November 20. Those reading the article elsewhere in the paper will notice a few changes, namely:

1) There's no waiting in line for carriage rides this year – they can be booked in advance through an online signup on the www.greeleycounty.org website or by calling our office at (620) 376-2548. Carriage rides will be free, as always, thanks to the generosity of First Farm Bank and riders should gather at the bank's front door five minutes before your scheduled time.

2) Santa will be joining us virtually this year and appointments with him should be scheduled, too. Visit [www.greeleycounty.org](http://www.greeleycounty.org).

org or call the office at (620) 376-2548 to reserve time for your children. To talk with Santa, children should come to our office at 510 Broadway five minutes before their scheduled time.

3) The VFW Soup & Pie Supper has been cancelled. You'll want to make other plans for dinner the evening of the Christmas Open House.

4) Greeley County Recreation is hosting a take-home craft and pre-packaged snack. Kids can both home to complete them – they won't be doing the craft together that evening.

Local businesses have a variety of events and activities scheduled for your enjoyment. It's been an odd year and I know how much they will each appreciate your support throughout this holiday season and all year long.



Auxiliary members met at the Post Home Monday evening, November 9, 2020. President Joyce Huddleston opened the meeting.

After the flag salute the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Committee Reports were read and reviewed. The treasurer's report was given and approved.

Several members attended the District 6 Fall Annual Conference at Victoria, Kansas, Sunday, October 25.

Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11, 2020. **Celebrate a Veteran.**

It was decided by the members to NOT have the Annual Soup Supper on Friday, November 20

in connection with the Downtown Christmas Open House.

The annual VFW Thanksgiving meal has been cancelled this year.

Christmas Idea Fair has been postponed to Saturday, December 5, at the 4-H building. Auxiliary members will be there with Buddy Poppies for distribution. It will be decided within the next couple of weeks if this event happens.

We closed with National Home Prayer.

The next meeting will be Monday, December 14, at the Post Home.

Everyone please stay well with our community COVID-19 issues.

— President/Pro Tem Reporter - Joyce Huddleston

## Unified Supervisors meet

The Greeley County Board of Supervisors held a regular meeting Monday, November 9, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. in the courthouse and streaming online. Present were Unified Greeley County supervisors Kirby Kleymann, Alena Ballinger, Monty Moritz, county clerk Jerri Young, MSD public works director Brock Sloan, and MSD public works administrator Gina Bond. Supervisors Scott Steele and Corbin Myers were absent.

Kleymann called the meeting to order.

There were no public appointments.

Bond distributed hospital improvement bill #34 to be approved in the amount of \$127,637.98. Motion was made by Ballinger, seconded by Moritz and passed unanimously.

Bond distributed a consulting agreement with Lochner for the Airport AWAS system replacement. The cost is \$25,000 to be paid from the state grant and FAA. A motion was made by Ballinger to approve the consulting agreement; motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A meeting was discussed to be arranged with the Pioneer CEO on November 12 or 13, concerning the tower. The

phone meeting will need two supervisors and two airport board members.

Bills were reviewed and approved unanimously in the amount of \$78,918.40 for GSD and \$244,554.23 for MSD.

Minutes of the October 26, 2020, meeting were approved 3-0, as well as the reconvened meeting of October 28<sup>th</sup>.

Clerk, Sheriff, and Treasurer reports were approved unanimously.

Sloan reported that a resignation from Luvern Lang, the road department supervisor, has been received and advertising for the position will begin. He also reported that the Road and Bridge crew is in modified quarantine.

Votes were canvassed. The turnout was almost 74%. Jerri Young, election official, had the voting machine in the meeting room and the 13 provincial ballots that will count were opened and put through it. Results were not immediately available, but there were no final results that could be changed by that number of votes. The votes were approved.

Official minutes of supervisors' meetings are available at the county clerk's office.

## Medicare Open Enrollment begins October 15 and goes thru December 7, 2020

During Open Enrollment, people with Medicare have until Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> to review their health and drug plan options, and make the best decision based on financial and medical needs. Re-enrollment and plan changes will take effect on January 1, 2021. Medicare health and drug plan costs and covered benefits can change from year to year. That's why it is important for people with Medicare to review their health care plan during Open Enrollment to ensure they have the right coverage for their financial and medical needs. People with Medicare are encouraged to review and update their coverage choices before the closing date. Otherwise, they may have to wait another year to make changes.

If you're among the 1 in 3 people with Medicare who has diabetes, here's some more good news: Starting in 2021, many participating drug plans will offer a 30-day supply of insulin for \$35 or less per month. If you take insulin and enroll in one of these plans, you could save an average of \$446 per year on your out-of-pocket costs for insulin next year.

During Open Enrollment you can:

Switch from one Medicare Part D (prescription drug) plan to another.

If you didn't enroll in a Medicare Part D plan when you were first eligible, you can do so during open enrollment, although a late

enrollment penalty may apply.

KEEP IN MIND that this enrollment occurs once a year from October 15 through December 7.

Any changes you make during Fall Open Enrollment will take effect **January 1**.

In most cases, this is the only time you can pick a new Part D plan.

If you have Medicare Advantage, you can also switch to Original Medicare and join a Part D plan.

You can find the Medicare Plan Finder by going to [Medicare.gov](http://Medicare.gov) and follow through the steps provided. You will be able to view your plan now and your best options for 2021. You can enroll in a new plan right from there or if you wish to keep your current plan – do nothing at all.

You can also call Greeley County Health Services at 376-4251 Ext. 213 and make an appointment with Connie Rupp (Certified SHICK Counselor) to assist you with the Medicare Plan Finder and your options. Even if you just changed plans last year, come in so we can check the best plan for your current medication list.

Ready to get started? Set a reminder on your phone for October 15- December 7 or jot a note on the top of your calendar, and get ready to compare and save on your Medicare drug plan for 2021.

## Governor Issues Emergency Declaration For Wildland Fires

Gov. Laura Kelly has issued a state of disaster emergency declaration due to wildland fires in northwest Kansas. The declaration authorizes the use of state resources and personnel to assist with response and recovery operations in affected counties that meet certain criteria.

"We want to do everything we can to support local first responders," Kelly said. "This declaration will allow the state to posture to support local response as needed."

The northwestern portion of the state is at a heightened fire risk through Sunday, Nov. 8. Conditions across the state are dry with low relative humidity, strong southerly winds, and an abundance of dry grass and other flammable vegetation.

The State Emergency Operations Center in Topeka is currently activated in

response to the coronavirus pandemic and will be monitoring for critical fire weather across Kansas.

"Wildland fires destroy crops and grazing land, and threaten homes and lives," said Angee Morgan, deputy director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. "It is important that we have resources on standby to assist local first responders get fires under control as quickly as possible."

It only takes one spark to touch off a wildland fire, so Kansans are urged to use care when burning outside, including fires in outdoor grills, and to make sure all smoking materials are completely extinguished before discarding them. Contact your local county emergency manager to see if there is a burn ban in your area.

## AG Derek Schmidt: Federal anti-robocall law should be interpreted broadly to protect consumers

TOPEKA – (October 26, 2020) – The U.S. Supreme Court should affirm a lower court ruling that strengthens the main federal law used to fight robocalls to cellphones, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt says.

Schmidt joined the attorneys general of 36 other states and the District of Columbia in filing a brief last week with the U.S. Supreme Court in an appeal filed by social media giant Facebook. The states are asking the justices to affirm a lower court ruling that supported a broad definition of "automatic telephone dialing system," commonly called "autodialers," based on the plain language in the 1991 Telephone Consumer Protection Act. The TCPA generally prohibits the use of autodialers or an artificial or pre-recorded voice to make a call to cell phone users. At issue is whether autodialers include only a device that can store and dial numbers it generates, or whether autodialers also includes devices that select a random number from numbers on a targeted list.

The attorneys general argue that the TCPA applies to all devices that store and

dial numbers automatically, whether they are sequential numbers, numbers selected from a targeted list, or numbers that are randomly generated. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit upheld this broader definition when it heard and rejected Facebook's appeal in 2019.

"Facebook's attempt to limit TCPA's application to autodialers that use number generators misreads the statute's words and all other indicia of Congress's intent," the attorneys general wrote in their brief. "To further, not hinder, the TCPA's manifest purpose, the court should hold it applicable to systems that automatically dial stored numbers and affirm the judgment of the court of appeals."

The attorneys general wrote that the TCPA is written to minimize the burden on legitimate business activity where the consumer has voluntarily consented to providing phone numbers to potential business callers. By narrowing the interpretation of the act, robocallers and robotexters would remain able to inundate cellphones, as well as emergency numbers, hospitals and business-phonesystems, with unwanted communications.

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**THANK YOU**

I would like to thank the citizens of Unified Greeley County for their support in re-electing me as your County Treasurer. I appreciate the confidence and trust you have put in me and will continue to serve you as best I can.

**Mary D. "Diane" Gentry**

**Greeley County Republican**  
(USPS 228-020)  
**507 Broadway • Tribune, Kansas**  
**Phone: 620-376-4264**  
**E-mail: [newspaper@sunflowertelco.com](mailto:newspaper@sunflowertelco.com)**  
**OR [gcrnews@gcrnews.com](mailto:gcrnews@gcrnews.com)**

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**Thank you, citizens of Greeley County for your vote of confidence!**

**I appreciate the opportunity to serve you another four years!**

**Lisa K. Robertson**  
**Register of Deeds**