

New office headquarters in Century II building

If you have driven down main street in Bird City recently, it is hard to miss the flurry of construction east of the Legion Hall and Bird City Century II Development Foundation (BC-CII) building. The portion of the Prairie Land Electric building previously used by Milliken Law Office is being remodeled to house the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation (GNWKCF).

"The Bird City Century II office will remain in the current space co-located with the Legion Hall building," said Darci Schields, Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation director. "Teryn Carmichael, newly hired Bird City Century II Development director, and Coleen Jensen, administrative assistant, will keep their offices in the original building to conduct the Bird City Century II business."

"The newly remodeled building will be the headquarters for Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation," she said. "My office, as the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation director, and Carol Sloper, grants coordinator, will make use of the new space. Current plans are to have the project completed by mid-August. Over the past eight years, both foundations have been housed under one roof, but with the growth of the foundations, the need to separate was evident."

Both organizations have separate governing board of directors and professional staff to

conduct business, but the two foundations have unique and different purposes.

The Bird City Century II Development Foundation, Inc. was founded on Dec. 17, 1985 with remaining funds from the Bird City centennial celebration earlier that year. The Foundation was organized for the betterment and benefit of the Bird City community and continues to function as such. It represents an opportunity for all friends of Bird City to give back to the community to enhance and ensure the quality of life for present and future generations of Bird City.

Century II has a number of philanthropic funds, including the Edgar and Mabel Robertson Scholarship Fund, Cheylin Business Development Fund, Bird City 150th Celebration Fund, Business Incubator Loan Fund, Cheylin E-Community Business Loan Fund, Cheylin Schools Foundation Fund, Thresher Association Endowment Fund, Bird City Community Initiative Grant Fund, and some Donor-Advised Funds.

Tax-exempt donations can be made to any of the existing funds or new funds can be established as a legacy for an individual, family or organization. An annual community "Match Day" is held in conjunction with National Giving Tuesday (the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving) to increase the impact of local donations. Each year, Century II offers a dollar for dollar match for donations given to local or-

ganizations or funds on that day.

Since inception, Century II has donated nearly \$1.8 million scholarships and grants to benefit the citizens of Bird City and the Cheylin 'community.' To date, 129 local Cheylin graduates have received financial assistance in seeking higher education through the Edgar and Mabel Robertson Scholarship Fund. Countless projects have benefited the community including park improvements, economic development projects, a new recycling center, a tornado shelter, improvements to the school, support of the thresher show, and support of civic organizations just to name a few.

In 2009, the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation was formed by members of the Bird City Century II board to increase exposure and opportunities for philanthropy throughout northwest Kansas and the tri-state region. The vision was to help Northwest Kansas area community foundations realize the benefits to regionalization and to work together to build a strong regional philanthropic community.

Century II was the first affiliate member of Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation and has been joined by five other community foundations (GROW Decatur County Foundation, Gove County Community Foundation, Norton County Community Foundation, Sheridan County Community Foundation and Sherman County Community Foundation) over the past eight years. Discussions are ongoing with several other area foundations regarding affiliation. Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation offers financial investment services, professional administrative support and various resources to its affiliates, many who are operated entirely by volunteers.

Along with our affiliates, Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation also has Partner Community Foundation relationships with the Kansas Wildlife Federation and Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas. These non-profits have organizational funds established allowing donors a tax-deductible avenue which helps provide financial support to further their organizations' missions.

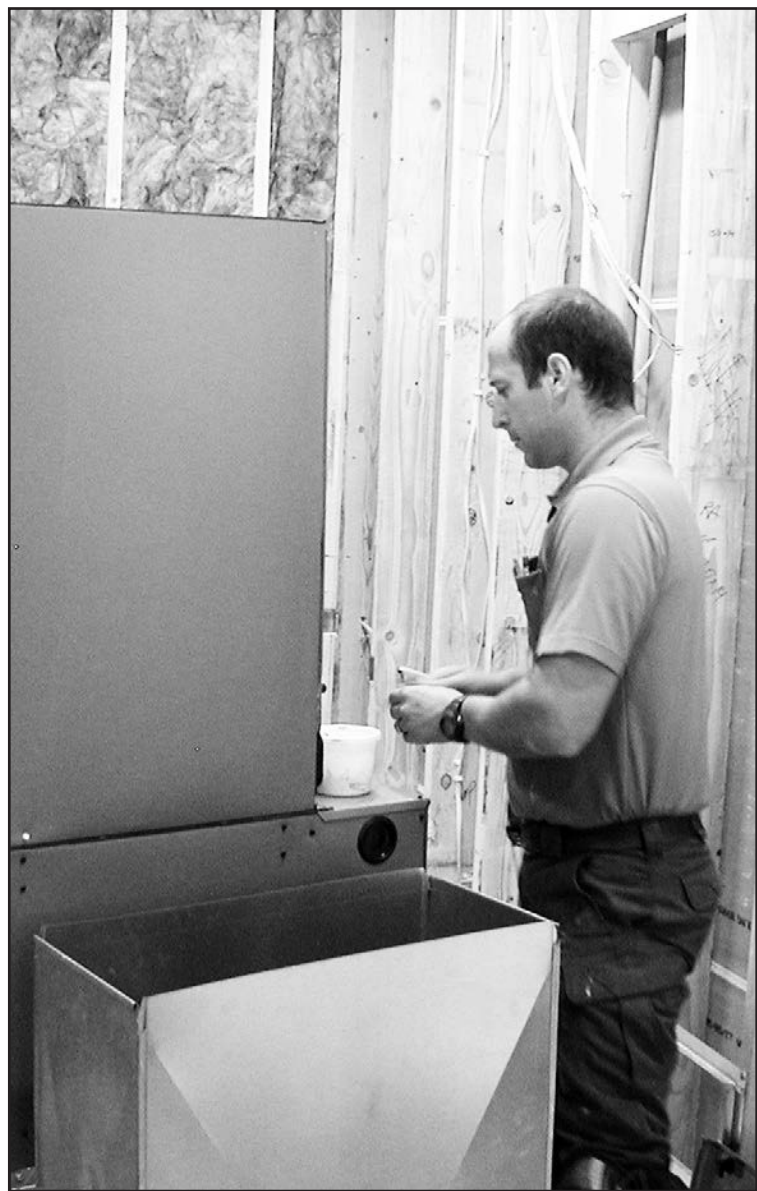
An online donation option was implemented last month allowing donors to give through the foundation's website at www.gnwkc.org; donors can now easily contribute to a fund or cause they feel strongly about using our secure, protected network.

Since 2015, Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation has partnered with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation to help administer the Hansen's community pass-through grant funds for ten of the 26 counties included in the Hansen Foundation's mission area (Cheyenne County being one of the 10). Recently, the Hansen Foundation announced that they will offer these counties \$100,000 in funding opportuni-



Levi Pochop works on remodeling the space in the building that will house the offices of the Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation.

Times staff photo by Tim Burr



Jared Sowers and his team work on installing the HVAC unit.

Times staff photo by Tim Burr

ties for the third year in a row. The Logan-based foundation has provided communities the opportunity to tap into funds for clean-up projects and matching endowment funds as well.

"It is an exciting time for Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation to truly have an independent identity," said Mrs. Schields. "Currently there are 72 funds established under Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation which are all setup for the betterment of northwest Kansas. The power of a regional

foundation is just beginning to be realized. As the foundation grows, its ability to realize greater investment returns increases as well." The Greater Northwest Kansas Community Foundation staff provides great attention and care to each individual fund and its affiliate foundations freeing the affiliate volunteers and staff to focus on local priorities.

Darci is excited to have Carol Sloper as the regional foundation's Grants Coordinator, who was hired on May 1. "The knowledge and experience Carol has in

the non-profit sector, has already proven to be a great added resource for our foundation," said Mrs. Schields. Carol is currently coordinating a new grant writing service that will be offered regionally to help build up our communities in northwest Kansas, through seeking and utilizing available grant funds. This new service will be implemented Aug. 1, so watch for details.

An open house will be planned later this fall after the office renovations are completed.

Upcoming Promotions

Tri-State Antique Engine & Thresher Show

Featuring stories about demonstrations, buildings, history, shows and Queens.

July 27-29



Cheyenne County

Fair Pre-Fair Special Section

Aug. 2 - Aug. 5

Featuring 4-H'ers and upcoming happenings at the fair. Look for the section in the Aug. 1st Herald & Times.



The Saint Francis Herald & Bird City Times

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