Olathe STAR bond project moves forward

JACK WEINSTEIN  staff writer

A proposed sales tax and revenue bond development in Olathe got a much-needed blessing July 24.

After the Kansas secretary of commerce designated the site at 119th Street and Renner Road as an eligible area for a STAR bond district, the city officially created the district.

The designation of a STAR bond district at 119th Street and Renner Road, the City Council officially created the district.

Ben Hart, the city's strategic financial management director, said the move doesn’t mean the state has approved STAR bonds for the project, which could include extensions of the University of Kansas' Natural History and Spencer Art museums.

“It’s the first step in a very long process,” Hart said. “We'll be back before you a number of times.”

STAR bonds are state-approved tax incentives paid for by revenue generated from the sales taxes at a development. Typically, STAR bonds are granted for entertainment and tourism districts that expect to draw visitors to the area.

Developers seek more than $140 million in STAR bond financing to help offset the cost of the approximately $347 million project.

A STAR bond district never has been created in Johnson County. The secretary of commerce conditionally had approved a STAR bond district a few years ago at 119th and Renner for an arena across the street from where Bass Pro Shops now resides.

Tim Danneberg, city spokesman, said the state’s conditions weren’t viable for Olathe, so that project didn’t move forward.

John Petersen, an attorney for Indianapolis-based developer MaeGrace LLC, said although the proposal is in its early stages, plans have called for 150,000 to 175,000 square feet of museum space, which may include the Museum of World Treasures, now in Wichita. The developer also hopes the more than 680,000 square feet of retail space — including Bass Pro Shops — would create a destination shopping development. A 225-room hotel and some commercial development have been included in the proposal, Petersen said.

The next steps include a redevelopment plan and a STAR bond plan that the city must approve before it goes to the secretary of commerce, Hart said.

A final proposal must be submitted to the secretary of commerce within 90 days, but the developer doesn't want to wait that long, Petersen said. He said MaeGrace hopes to return the proposal to the city for approval in 30 to 45 days.

“We want to keep it moving,” he said.

If STAR bonds are approved, the city cannot apply sales tax revenue generated at Bass Pro Shops before the district was created toward the project.

Contact Jack Weinstein at 764-2211, ext. 130, or jweinstein@theolathenews.com.
A group of KU Hillel freshmen at a welcoming program last year.

KU Hillel welcomes new Jewish freshmen

KU Hillel will host a “Welcome to KU” reception and information night for all incoming Jewish freshmen and their parents at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 6, at the Jewish Community Center in Overland Park.

Students and parents will have an opportunity to meet Jewish student leaders, KU Hillel staff, and learn about the KU Jewish community.

“This is a great program for incoming Jewish freshmen,” said Liz Cohen, a senior from Leawood who attended the program as a freshman and is now on KU Hillel’s board. “It is a very good way to learn about the KU Jewish community and meet new people.”

At the reception, student leaders and staff will lead a question-and-answer session for the students and parents about Jewish life at KU and transitioning to life at KU in general.

For more information, contact KU Hillel, (785) 749-5397, or check out the Website at www.kuhillel.org.
Naismith Hall has housing features that can’t be beat

One of the biggest decisions facing high school graduates as they head off to college is where to live. However, if you want the whole university experience you need to live in a university dorm, and if your going to the University of Kansas, then your decision has become a lot easier.

Naismith Hall, just off of Mt. Oread and the KU campus, is loaded with amenities that the other dorms simply can’t compete with. Basic needs aren’t a concern, Naismith Hall features an unlimited meal plan so that a hot meal is always available. Complimentary housekeeping means that students can focus on homework, and not housework. The hall also features a state-of-the-art movie theater so that you and your dorm mates can enjoy a night at the movies, in addition to free cable and Internet. For a caffeine jolt during your study time, you can visit the Coffee Café on-site, where students can congregate and relax. There are also study lounges found on every floor.

One area in particular where none of the other dorms can compare is the outdoor swimming pool, where residents submerge themselves in the pool after submerging themselves in their studies. This is a great way to get some exercise and avoid that dreaded “freshmen weight gain.” After splashing around in the pool, you can enjoy the free tanning area. “It is the things that we offer that makes us unbeatable by any other student housing facility,” said Kara Clayton, assistant property manager of Naismith Hall.

In addition to their top notch Naismith Hall, you also enjoy a great location.

“Naismith Hall is conveniently located on the corner of 19th and Naismith Drive adjacent to the one and only Allen Fieldhouse,” said Clayton. “Students are a 7 minute walk to Jayhawk Blvd (the heart of campus) and across our back parking lot is the new KU Student recreation center.”

Living so close to such a historic building as Allen Fieldhouse comes with many benefits, not the least of which is you never have to worry about parking when the nationally feared Jayhawks take the court.

Naismith Hall has stood next to KU’s campus for over 40 years. Managed by Campus Advantage Naismith is dedicated to enhancing the students’ university experience.

“Naismith Hall offers quality student friendly living accompanied with Residence Life Programing,” said Clayton.

For more information call (785) 843-8559 or fax (785) 842-3991. Business hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Naismith is located at 1800 Naismith Drive, Lawrence, Kansas, 66044.

By choosing the University of Kansas you have made a great
noise for your education, and by choosing Naismith Hall you can feel comfortable and prepared to receive all the rewards that

The state-of-the-art movie theater in Naismith Hall is a perfect spot to kick back with friends and take in a film after a long day of classes.
Biesenthal To Recieve Dole Scholarship

The Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas recently announced 128 new Sen. Robert J. Dole Public-Scholarship Scholars for the 2007-08 academic year. The recipients, all 2007 Kansas high schools graduates, represent the largest class of Dole scholars since the program began in 2005.

Funded by NASA, the scholarships are distributed among the state’s four congressional districts to ensure the broadest statewide participation.

“This year, the Dole Institute received a second federal grant, and we are able to offer nearly three times the number of scholarships as in each of the previous two years,” said Bill Lacy, institute director.

The scholarship program began with a federal grant that funded 40 scholarships each in 2005 and in 2006. With the addition of the 128 scholarships awarded this year, the total number of Dole scholars comes to 208.

The new scholars will enroll this fall at one of the six Kansas Board of Regents universities or Washburn University in Topeka. Regents universities are KU, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University and Wichita State University.

Aligned with the primary mission of the Dole Institute, the scholarship program encourages young Kansans to get involved in politics, government and community service.

“Dole scholars represent the best among Kansas high school graduates,” said Barbara Ballard, director of the scholarship program and associate director of the Dole Institute. “Dole scholars are required to engage in 100 hours of civic activities annually. We hope that their experiences will influence them throughout their lives to become involved citizens.”

Recipients receive a $1,000 scholarship, renewable for three years, and commit to completing 100 hours of civic activities annually. Kansas high school seniors who have volunteered in community and public service in their communities and who have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale are eligible.

The new scholars were formally announced during a June luncheon meeting at the Dole Institute. They are listed by the high school, hometown and the university they are attending at www.news.ku.edu/2007/july/23/ dolescholars.shtml.

Wheaton 66521 Lora Biesenthal S Rock Creek High School Social Work 2nd District: Nancy Boyda

Also from the area are:

Manhattan 66502 John Tatum-Grice Manhattan High School Kansas State University Political Science 2nd District: Nancy Boyda

Wamego 66547 Mollie Robbins K Wamego High School Kansas State University Accounting/Finance 2nd District: Nancy Boyda

Waterville 66548 Marji Coon J Valley Heights High School University of Kansas Pre-Medicine 1st District: Jerry Moran

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KU athletics subpoenaed in student loan probe

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is now investigating whether top college athletic departments nationwide — including those at the University of Kansas, Auburn University, Ohio University and Texas Christian University — steered athletes and other students to education lenders in exchange for kickbacks.

Cuomo said Wednesday that he served 39 universities with subpoenas and requests for documents about deals between athletic departments and Student Financial Services Inc., which operates as University Financial Services. He said he’s looking at how team names, mascots and colors were used to suggest the company was the college’s preferred lender.

Jim Marchiony, associate athletic director at Kansas, said no one from the New York attorney general’s office ever contacted the university. He also said the athletic department didn’t have a direct relationship with University Financial Services.

“Kansas athletics does not give out the names of current or former student-athletes to UFS, and we do not receive a penny from UFS based on how many students or student-athletes apply for student loans with UFS,” Marchiony said.

“The sponsorship deal that UFS has is exactly like dozens of other sponsorships — like the local grocery store or the local car dealer or the local hotel — and all of these are with our rights holder, not with us,” he added.

Cuomo began the investigation as an outgrowth of his national probe of student loan providers and college administrators, which he said uncovered a pattern of favoritism for lenders who provided kickbacks, “revenue sharing” plans, and trips and other gifts in exchange for designations as recommended lenders. Sometimes the colleges provided campus employees to staff telephone banks for lenders drumming up business.

Cuomo’s findings led to state and national reforms.
Susan Todd, Nemaha Valley High School, was one of more than 380 junior high and high school students from Kansas and 16 other states who arrived at the University of Kansas this summer to attend one of four Midwestern Music Camps. Susan attended the marching camp.

KU’s School of Fine Arts and Department of Music and Dance offer the camps. David Clemmer, director of athletic bands and assistant band director at KU, leads the camps.

The camps provide instrumental, vocal and keyboard students a variety of musical experiences, including opportunities to participate in full symphony orchestras, choirs, bands, jazz ensembles and music classes.
PATRICK’S PEOPLE

“Not being able to read the printed word is not the end of the world.”

ROSALIE TALLEY

VOICE OF THE BLIND

Rosalie Talley is a volunteer for the Audio-Reader Network, getting news to the visually-impaired via the radio

Rosalie Talley is probably one of the best-read people around, and she’s dedicated to spreading her knowledge of area happenings to those who can read the newspaper for themselves.

She’s a volunteer for Audio-Reader Network, a public service offered by the University of Kansas that provides information for blind, visually impaired and print-disabled individuals in Kansas and western Missouri through a closed-circuit radio station.

“There are some challenges for the readers. “We have names here that they don’t have anywhere else,” she said. “If we’re not sure, we’ll pronounce it the way we think we should, then spell it.”

Listeners can only hear Audio-Reader over special radio sets that are dedicated to this frequency alone. “There’s a retired man in Lawrence who builds and repairs these radios,” Talley said.

While the local newspaper readings are broadcast only from 2 to 4 p.m. weekdays, Audio-Reader itself is a 24-hour service, and includes best-selling books as well as news. “Late at night, they do broadcast some adult material, so if you don’t want to hear that, do not listen during the wee hours,” Talley said.

She said there are 6,000 Audio-Reader listeners in Kansas, out of 100,000 possible listeners. “That means less than 10 percent of the blind and print-disabled are able to listen,” Talley said. “That’s too bad, because Audio-Reader doesn’t cost anything except the electricity to run the radio. The program guide is available in Braille, and that’s free, too.”

“I’m proud I can do something to serve other people,” she said. “One of my favorite sayings is, ‘There but for the grace of God go I.’ All of my father’s side of the family had diabetes and my aunt had glaucoma. So far I’ve been lucky, but maybe someday somebody will come along and read so I can hear.”
Rosalie Talley reads a variety of stories from area newspapers live over the air Monday at the Audio-Reader studio at the KRPS public radio station on the Pittsburg State Campus. ANDREW D. BROSIK/THE MORNING SUN
Education News

DOLE PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARS

Four area students have been named Sen. Robert J. Dole Public Service Scholars for the 2007-08 academic year by the Dole Institute of Politics at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Ashley B. Geist, Cassandra L. Hopkins and Tiffany M. Morrow, all of Ottawa, and Dentin D. Chapman, Waverly, will receive a $1,000 scholarship, renewable for three years.

The recipients must enroll this fall at one of the six Kansas Board of Regents universities or Washburn University in Topeka. Regents universities are the University of Kansas, Emporia State University, Fort Hays State University, Kansas State University, Pittsburg State University and Wichita State University.

Geist will attend Kansas State University, Manhattan. Hopkins will attend Wichita State University. Morrow will attend Emporia State University. Chapman will attend Washburn University, Topeka.

To be eligible students must be Kansas high school seniors who have volunteered in community and public service in their communities and who have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
Many area students earned honor roll distinction for the spring 2007 semester at the University of Kansas, Lawrence.

Students include:

- Baldwin City
  - Katherine Marcella Beall, sophomore, liberal arts, is the daughter of Cynthia and Raymond Beall. She attended Baldwin High School.
  - Emily Nicole Brown, senior, liberal arts, is the daughter of Dan and Jill Brown. She attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Jacob B. Coble, sophomore, liberal arts, is the son of Judy Coble. He attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Sonja Emily Combest, senior, liberal arts, is the daughter of Michael and Jody Combest. She earned a GED.
  - Marley Simone Cunningham, junior, fine arts, attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Anna E. Gillispie, senior, business, is the daughter of Valita Price. She attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Justin O. Goff, junior, liberal arts, is the son of Mary Goff. He attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Morgan Elizabeth Grissum, sophomore, engineering, is the daughter of Gary and Kathleen Grissum. She attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Jeffrey Thomas Hill, senior, business, is the son of David and Pamela Hill. He attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Lynne Marie Lammers, sophomore, liberal arts, is the daughter of Jana Jorn. She attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Rachel K. Miles, senior, business, is the daughter of Deanna Miles. She attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Denise Christine Orloff, sophomore, liberal arts, is the daughter of Bri-an and Sabiene Orloff. She attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Lori C. Smith, senior, liberal arts, is the daughter of Darrel and Kathy Smith. She attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Caroline Anne Williams, senior, liberal arts, is the daughter of James Williams. She attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.

- Colony
  - Meghan Diane Denchfield, senior, liberal arts, is the daughter of Charles Denchfield. She attended home school.

- Garnett
  - Ashli Nicole Bowman, senior, education, attended Anderson County High School, Garnett.
  - Ian Oak Osler, sophomore, liberal arts, is the son of Kenneth and Eileen Osler. He attended Anderson County High School, Garnett.
  - Jeffrey A. Robinson, senior, liberal arts, is the son of Richard S. and Jerry Lou Robinson. He attended Anderson County High School, Garnett.
  - Richard Z. Robinson, sophomore, engineering, is the son of Richard and Jerry Robinson. He attended Anderson County High School, Garnett.
  - Paul Robert Schreffler, senior, liberal arts, is the son of Dorothy Schreffler. He attended Anderson County High School, Garnett.
  - Belei Wang, senior, business, is the daughter of Christopher and Cui Hong Fink. She attended Anderson County High School, Garnett.
  - Marisa D. Kratzberg, senior, liberal arts, is the daughter of Richard and Sheila Kratzberg. She attended Anderson County High School, Garnett.

- Greely
  - Christopher H. Proctor, senior, liberal arts, is the son of Darrel and Kathy Proctor. He attended Ottawa High School.

- Ottawa
  - Hall A. Alexander, senior, business, is the son of Darwin and Jolene Alexander. He attended Ottawa High School.
  - Melissa M. Fuller, senior, liberal arts, is the daughter of Delores and David Jones. She attended Ottawa High School.
  - Andrew Jacob Garcia, junior, liberal arts, is the son of Jimmy and Jeanne Garcia. He attended Ottawa High School.
  - Brett Daniel Gilliland, senior, education, is the son of Leland and Ladena Gilliland. He attended Pomona High School.
  - Jennifer M. Harness, junior, liberal arts, is the daughter of David and Cynthia Harness. She attended Ottawa High School.
  - Imagene Eleleanor Harris, senior, liberal arts, is the daughter of Terry Crane. She attended Pomona High School.
  - Lynne Marie Lammers, sophomore, liberal arts, is the daughter of Carl Lammers. She attended Baldwin High School, Baldwin City.
  - Paul C. Lantis, senior, liberal arts, is the son of Cal and Carol Lantis. He attended Ottawa High School.
  - Tiffany M. McBurney, senior, allied health, is the daughter of Margaret and James McBurney. She earned a GED.
  - Hannah M. Peterson, senior, fine arts, is the daughter of Nile and Karen Peterson. She attended Ottawa High School.
  - Cynthia Carolyn Polesley, junior, liberal arts, attended Olathe Christian School.
  - Dusti Dawn Powell, senior, liberal arts, is the daughter of Helen Haresnape. She attended Ottawa High School.
  - Christopher H. Proctor, senior, liberal arts, is the son of Harland and Gayla Proctor. He attended Ottawa High School.
  - Jack Thomas Sachse, is the son of Thomas and Susan Sachse. He attended Ottawa High School.
  - Shannon Elyse Sullivan, junior, fine arts, is the daughter of Tom and Diane Drake. She attended Ottawa High School.
  - Patricia Lee Sylvester, senior, social welfare, is the daughter of V. Wayne and Cheryl Sylvester.
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Mitchell A. Plummer of Paola has recently been recognized as a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, National Leadership and Honors Organization at the University of Kansas.

Sigma Alpha Lambda is a national leadership and honors organization dedicated to promoting and rewarding academic achievement and providing members with opportunities for community service, personal development and lifelong professional fulfillment.