

BZA agrees to move line

KEITH BRYANT
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The Board of Zoning Adjustments issued conditional approval for a variance to reduce a rear building setback at 23 Pamona Drive during its July 18 meeting.

The adjustment was needed to accommodate a septic system on the same lot as a three bedroom home the applicant, Gary Person, would like to build. "We picked this particular lot because it's a beautiful location and what we want to be able to do is build a house that fits the character of the neighborhood," he said. "We are asking for what we perceive to be the minimum amount that we need."

Person said that the lot's topography includes a dip in the front, which means the front of the lot cannot be used for septic.

The setback requested was 13.67 feet, compared to a typically-required 15 feet, making an adjustment of 1.33 feet, or roughly 16 inches.

Senior planner Jennifer Bonner said that there is also a drainage culvert in the front yard that needs to be worked around, which prevents the house from simply being moved forward.

"Believe me, I've looked at this for several days trying to come up with something simpler than this," Bonner said.

Associate planner Sarah Bingham said that this property is surrounded by common property, meaning there is no neighboring

lot someone may try to build on.

The applicant, she said, is in talks with the Arkansas Health Department about adjusting the septic lines to prevent this from being necessary. But if that falls through, she said, the applicant will need this variance to build his house.

Board member Charles Whittenberg said he had trouble understanding why the house couldn't simply be moved. However, he said, because this configuration has already been submitted for approval elsewhere and the applicant would need to pay an architect for additional adjustments, it doesn't seem reasonable to ask that he spend more money.

"My inclination is that I'm willing to grant the waiver given that nothing else changes," he said. "I believe that our goal should be that we don't have to issue variances when variances are not actually required."

The board unanimously approved the variance on the conditions that it be approved by the health department, the city receives documentation from the POA allowing the applicant to encroach closer to the side of, but not over, the property line and, if the health department requires changes, the applicant needs to work with his architect to fit everything in without using this variance. Additionally, the approval for this variance is to be recognized if a way to include both within the required setbacks cannot be found.

Bella Vista Radio Club pushing emergency communications plan

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The Bella Vista Radio Club met with police, fire and dispatch personnel to discuss a joint emergency plan between the club and the city.

Jack Fellenzer, public information officer for the club and chairman of the Bella Vista Public Safety Committee, said the club worked with former Police Chief Ken Farmer to build a basic emergency plan.

"(It) is very rudimentary," he said. "It's not finished, it's not tried, it needs a lot of work ... At some point in time, we will need to do more than a couple of exercises to see exactly how it's going to work."

The club could help the city in an emergency that knocks out communications, he said, though ideally this is a plan that will never need to be implemented.

He wanted to discuss the plan in a general sense and share the written plan with the departments, he said — particularly now that the Police Department has a new chief and dispatch supervisor — and meet again to establish a more complete plan once everyone has had a chance to read through it and consider it.

That more developed plan, he said, will then need to be tested, probably several times, to work out the kinks.

Fellenzer said his overall vision is to have a portable communications kit at every fire station. Operators could pull the equipment, plug it into an antenna at the station, then begin communication.

The club has access to a repeater tower just across the state line, he said, which has proven very effective, and nobody has been able to find any spots



Keith Bryant/The Weekly Vista

A mobile ham radio unit the club agreed to donate to the city. The unit can be mounted in a vehicle, club public information officer Jack Fellenzer said, or it can be mounted in a permanent location.

in the city that do not get a signal. If towers are down, he said, hand-held radios can still communicate directly with each another.

While the club has volunteers available near each station, he said, he'd also like to see police and fire personnel trained and licensed as radio operators. The licensing, he said, costs \$15 and is good for 10 years. With the amount of information available online, he added, there's little need to buy books to

study. Moreover, he said, getting licensed is easier now that testing can be done in Bella Vista.

Additionally, he said, equipment is currently affordable, meaning any investments the city makes in radio gear does not need to be particularly drastic.

"There's support out there, there's training out there," Fellenzer said. "We just need to identify what you guys think you need."

Fire Chief Steve Sims said that his department

has UHF, VHF, digital and low-band communications equipment, and they can still use all of that. The department, he said, is well covered in terms of communications, though another option isn't a terrible idea.

"If you go back and look at history, ham (radio) operation is oftentimes the only thing," he said. Ham radio is a term that refers to amateur radio operators.

Police Chief James Graves said there is a degree of liability with volunteers. Prospective volunteers need, at minimum, a standard criminal history check and fingerprints need to be run, he said, to positively identify them. This wouldn't be a huge expense, he said, but it is something to consider.

Purchasing radio equipment, he said, is something the department may look into during the next budget cycle.

Graves said he is in favor of moving forward with the plan.

"I think it's a great idea," he said. "The smallest micro level or macro level comes down to communication. When it happens we'll at least have the ability."

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a wife to occupy the oval office, haven't we fallen into a trap? With billions of dollars spent on political campaigns, the likelihood that one person will get a disproportionate percentage of the publicity, is very likely. The publicity doesn't even have to be favorable to everyone, just enough to keep people aware they are available.

Donald Trump got so much free television coverage it borders on the obscene. This was not a result of a well thought out program of tax reform or a more workable healthcare program. It was simply "the news" all day every day. What we elected is the most vocal and perhaps controversial leader America has ever had. But most of all he knows how to get attention. And, even after getting elected, his Tweets are news on all major news programs and his family's

questionable involvement keeps the front pages full of information on Congressional hearings that hamper work on meaningful healthcare reform. Please remember, I supported him over his Democratic opponent, but it was my view of a best choice. My first choice was Governor Kasich of Ohio who probably wouldn't have been much fun for the news media.

Some day maybe we'll see a new face who rises from a log cabin in Illinois to the White House without the connection to the Ivy League or a multimillionaire family's support. Surely there are non-political leaders who truly want to

serve all of mankind and their generation will draw them to the forefront — much like we saw in Arkansas as the reverend Mike Huckabee ended up in the state's highest political position. It has at the least been an interesting story and sounded like a good "rags to riches" story until it became one.

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Leo Lynch, an award-winning columnist, is a native of Benton County and has deep roots in northwest Arkansas. He is a retired industrial engineer and former Justice of the Peace. He can be contacted at prtnews@nwadg.com. The opinions expressed are those of the author.

Estate Auction

Owner: BALLEW CATTLE RANCH
Monday, July 31, 2017 STARTS @ 3:33 P.M.
Location: 3500 S 177th St E • Tulsa, OK 74134

TRACTORS, DOZERS, CLASSIC VEHICLES, TRAILERS, HARLEY DAVIDSON, CHRIS - CRAFT BOAT, RTV, IMPLEMENTS, SHOP TOOLS & SADDLES AND TACK, MARTIN GUITARS & LONGHORN CATTLE AND HORSES

Auctioneer's Note: The Ballew Cattle Ranch is downsizing and is auctioning surplus field ready equipment. Cars, motorcycles, boat and guitars will be sold as well due to not being utilized. Most items are in excellent condition. This is a must see auction. Auction will have 1 ring. Lots of pasture parking. Visit our website for pictures at www.chuppsauction.com or follow us on Facebook for updates. We'll be adding items and pictures up to auction day.

Directions: From Broken Arrow, OK, Jct of E. Kenosha St (E 71st St) & S. Lynn Lane Rd (177th E Ave), go North on Lynn Lane 2.7 mi, auction will be on the right. From Catoosa, OK, Jct of Hwy 412 & S 193rd E Ave, take exit 240, go South on E 193rd E Av 3.0 miles to 31st St, turn right (West). Go west on 31st St 1.0 mi, turn south (left) on Lynn Lane Rd. Auction will be on the left. ADDITIONAL NOTE: Auction will be on Lynn Lane Rd between 31st St & 41st St, watch for auction signs.

Terms: Cash - Credit Cards - Check with Proper ID - OK Sales Tax Applies unless exemption is shown. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS. ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS DAY OF SALE SUPERSEDES PREVIOUS ADVERTISING.

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Your Pet Could Be A Celebrity!

Enter Your Pet in the 2018 Pet Calendar Contest Today!

See details below.

PRESENTED BY:

"Lola"
Winner of the 2017 pet calendar contest.

Enter your cat, dog, ferret, rabbit- any animal (no humans please) in our 2018 NIE Pet Calendar Contest!

It's easy, and all proceeds benefit the Newspapers in Education (NIE) program which provides no-cost newspapers for literacy projects in Northwest Arkansas Schools.

STARTING FRIDAY, JULY 14TH, we are looking for the TOP 12 pets in NWA to feature in our 19th Annual NIE Pet Calendar.

One pet out of the 12 will win Pet of the Year and will be featured in full color on the cover of the 2018 NIE Pet Calendar. All 12 winning pets receive a professional pet portrait session and are featured in the calendar. However, all pets that make the Top 36 will make an appearance in the calendar.

TO ENTER:

- Provide/Upload ONE clear, sharp, color photo of each entry.
- Photos should be of Pets only! No people (or parts of people), please!
- Photos may contain more than one pet.
- You may enter as many different pets as you wish. Keep in mind that friends and family votes add up, so spreading those votes among multiple entries limits your chances of placing in the calendar. (Also, it is not a photo contest, so multiple pictures of the same pet will not increase your odds of making it into the calendar)
- All photos must measure at least 4"x6" and no larger than 8"x10". Digital photos must be at 300 dpi at 4"x6". No Polaroid, copyrighted or professional photos are accepted.
- All photos will become property of Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette. NO PHOTOS WILL BE RETURNED.
- Please include the following with each entry: Your name, address, city, state, zip. Your day and evening phone numbers. Your pet's photo indicating your pet's name on the back of photo.

There is an entry fee of \$5.00 per photo submitted. Checks or credit cards (Master Card, Visa, American Express, and Discover) are accepted. You must include the card owner's full name, card number, and expiration date with the entry. New this year, Paypal.

Exotic pet owners are especially encouraged to enter. All pets are eligible.

ENTER ONLINE: www.NWAdg.com/pets

ENTER BY MAIL: Send photo, \$5.00 entry fee & required information to NIE Pet Calendar Contest, PO Box 1187, Fayetteville, AR 72702

ENTER IN PERSON: Drop off photo, entry fee & required information to one of these newspaper locations?

SPRINGDALE MORNING NEWS
2560 N. Lowell Rd., Springdale

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TIMES
212 N East Ave., Fayetteville

THE WEEKLY VISTA
313 Town Center West, Bella Vista

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY:
Tuesday, August 15th at 1:00pm

Voting will begin Monday, July 24th
All entries will be featured online and in the newspaper September through October.

*Pets owned by employees of Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette and their families are not eligible to compete.

For more information call (479) 684-5523 or email nie@nwadg.com.

NWADG.com/pets

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