

LOCAL

Salas family makes donation to St. Mary's

St. Mary's Catholic School and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church have received a monetary gift from Viviano and Faye Salas, who have been longtime Lawton residents and members of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church.

These funds will allow for the completion of a security perimeter around the parish and school, as well as contribute to the construction of a new high altar in the church.

"The security perimeter is something we have needed to complete for some time," said Father Brian Buettner, pastor of the school and parish. "Safety of our students is one of our primary concerns, and this will allow us to better control access and ensure the safety of our students."

The perimeter will have the same look and feel as the existing partial perimeter on the southeast corner of the property, but will enclose the majority of the block, and will include electric gates to assist with ease of access and to assist lockdown procedures.

"The impact and legacy of this generous gift will be felt in the school for years to come," said St. Mary's Principal Stan Melby. "We are so grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Salas for their contribution."

With the remaining funds, a high altar will be constructed in the sanctuary of Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, which will be loosely designed on the original high altar that was consecrated in the mid-1920s and later disassembled in the 1960s.

"Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church is one of the most beautiful parishes in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. Thanks to a recent capital campaign, we will be able to restore the sanctuary to its former glory and will allow families in our parish and school to participate in the project through additional memorial gifts for the other church furnishings," said Buettner. "This initial memorial gift from Mr. and Mrs. Salas will greatly assist the overall project and we are so thankful for their generosity!"

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church and St. Mary's Catholic School are located in downtown Lawton between Southwest 6th and 7th streets off of Gore Boulevard. St. Mary's is the region's only fully accredited Catholic school, serving grades Prek through eighth grade.

City

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property. The requirement for trees prompted council discussion, with Ward 3 Councilman Caleb Davis proposing — then dropping — a requirement for larger trees. Existing code requires trees with a 1.5 inch diameter, while council members had discussed trees with a 3-inch caliper.

Ward 5 Councilman Dwight Tanner briefly argued for those larger trees, citing intrusion into a residential neighborhood, but city attorneys said the council should adjust city landscaping code to require everyone to use larger trees, rather

than singling out one development. City planners said trees are a good way to mute noise from commercial activities.

The larger issues cited by residents center on traffic and drainage, both already a problem.

Rogalski said a city analysis of the stormwater drainage system needed to cure drainage issues in the neighborhood indicates a 72-inch underground pipe system to channel away water, a project estimated at \$2.5 million when it was added to the city's stormwater plan in 2013 (in today's dollars, the cost would be \$3.5 million).

Rogalski said while the project is listed on the city's long-term plan, it will not be done immediately. But, as a condition

of development, the commercial lot cannot make drainage any worse and might actually help because of flood controls it must institute for itself, he said.

Council members and residents also are concerned about traffic from Braum's worsening an existing problem because of impatient drivers on West Gore Boulevard who cut down Morford Drive to Northwest Arlington to avoid the Sheridan Road intersection. Rogalski said the solution might be speed control devices.

Ward 8 Councilman Randy Warren, acknowledging the idea isn't popular with city staff (who are concerned about vehicle damage), said he will advocate the use of speed

tables. Speed tables, wide enough to accommodate a vehicle tire, are intended to keep traffic speed at 25 mph or slower, and have been successful in cities such as Norman, Warren said.

"This is a good place for them," he said.

Rogalski said the developer also will face a decision when lining up its Sheridan Road access point with a traffic signal light already existing on North Sheridan Road for the retail complex to the west. Developers have the option of keeping the existing system, meaning they will allow only right-hand turns into and out of the parking lot. If developers want right and left turns, they must provide turn lanes and an adjusted signal light.

"Either way works for us," Rogalski said.

Council members also agreed to close the alley that cuts across the tracts from east to west, but the alley will remain open for the rest of the lots on Arlington and Lake east to Morford Drive.

Developers already have committed to leaving an access point on their eastern boundary so residents may continue to access that alley. Council members voted to ask Braum's to pave a 20-foot-wide by 50-foot long section of alley and install a speed bump at the alley's entrance to slow traffic and to lessen the amount of mud that would be dragged into the parking lot by drivers using the graveled alley.

Parades

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walkers, there will be antique automobiles and trucks.

There is also a competition to determine the top four floats. It features a \$100 prize for first place, \$75 for second, \$50 for third and \$25 for fourth.

For information, contact Ridley at City Hall at 580-658-5401 or via cell phone 580-641-0440.

Duncan Parade

"Our theme this year is 'Super Hero Christmas' and we're encouraging kids to dress up like their favorite super heroes and participate in a competition," said Main Street Duncan Executive Director Destiny Ahlfenger.

"We anticipate over 100 floats and walking or riding entries. Not everyone has to participate in the competition, but if they want to compete there will be a variety of categories, including those based on the 'Super Hero' theme."

Mayor Ritchie Dennington will lead the parade as Grand Marshal, followed by the Fort Sill



File photo

Students from the Heartbeat Dance House entertain the crowd at last year's Christmas parade in Duncan.

Color Guard, the Duncan High School band and Duncan High Cheer members. Parade entries include antique tractors, classic cars, horse clubs and individual riders and decorated floats. A visit from Santa Claus ends the parade.

"Participants in the Super Hero theme are encouraged to decorate their vehicles," Ahlfenger said. "While decorating isn't a requirement, awards will be presented to first-, second- and third-place entries."

Participants in the

judged events can register at www.mainstreetduncan.net/entries. Registration is free.

"To enter the parade without registering, participants should meet at 12th Street and Willow St. between 1 and 2 p.m. to receive directions," Ahlfenger noted. "Parade walkers should gather at

Main and Walnut streets and floats will meet at 12th and Willow."

Comanche Christmas

Parade

"One thing that's nice about our parade being at night is that we start off with fireworks, and because it's dark, the floats have lots of lights

on them that are really awesome," Chamber of Commerce President Trent Young said, pointing out a feature that separates Comanche from the first two events of the county's parade triple-header.

Floats that are entering Comanche's unique 7 p.m. parade begin registering at 6 p.m. in Comanche schools parking lot. Judging floats also begins at that time, at the junction of U.S. Highway 81 and State Highway 53, which is also Main Street. From there, the parade moves east to Comanche Grain.

Long-time area musician and businessman Allen Wooten is Grand Marshal of the 2018 parade.

Young also noted, "We're also going to be honoring two residents who died this year — Steve Bolton, the owner and publisher of The Comanche Times, and Ronnie Wisdom, who was our parade announcer for more than

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