

Petition drive for proposed Hospital District
by Lee De Bevoise

The road to creating a new Hospital District for Warren Memorial Hospital began at the Soup Supper held as part of last week's 1st Annual Community Christmas Festival in Friend. All of the City Council members were present to explain the petition that was available for signatures. The only qualification to signing the petition was that a person be a "resident freeholder". The term means "owners of land within the proposed district, who also reside in the district," explained Mike Mullally, City Attorney for Friend.

Actual wording of the petition is as follows:

"The undersigned, being not less than ten percent (10%) of the resident freeholders whose names appear on the current tax schedules in the offices of the Saline County Assessor or Seward County Assessor, and who reside within the boundaries of the proposed hospital district described below, do hereby request the County Board of the County of Saline to do all things required for the formation of a hospital district under the provisions of Section 23-3528 to 233552, R.R.S. Neb. 1997, as amended. Such proposed hospital district is to be named Warren Memorial Hos-pital District and the hospital to be maintained by such proposed district is located at or about 905 2 nd Street in the City of Friend, in the County of Saline, in the State of Nebraska (Warren Memorial Hospital). The territory to be included within such proposed district is legally described as follows: REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA: Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34, all in Township 8 North, Range 2, East of the 6 th P.M. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, all in Township 8 North, Range 1, East of the 6 th P.M. Including all real property located within the corporate boundaries of the City of Friend, Saline County, Nebraska. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36, all in Township 7 North, Range 1, East of the 6 th P.M. Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34, all in Township 7 North, Range 2, East of the 6 th P.M. Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6, all in Township 6 North, Range 2, East of the 6 th P.M. Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4, Township 6 North, Range 1, East of the 6 th P.M., all of the above described real estate located in Saline County, Nebraska REAL ESTATE LOCATED IN SEWARD COUNTY, NEBRASKA: Sec-tions 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, including all real property located within the corporate limits of the Village of Cordova, Seward County, Nebraska, all located in Township 9 North, Range 1, East of the 6 th P.M. Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34, all in Township 9 North, Range 2, East of the 6 th P.M., Seward County, Nebraska."

Signatures of at least 10 percent of all "resident freeholders" (resident landowners) in the above areas are needed for the proposed Warren Memorial Hospital District to move to the next step, which is to be considered and voted upon by the County Commissioners as to whether the proposed Hospital District will appear on the ballot of an upcoming election.

A Hospital District is needed to provide necessary funding for Warren Memorial Hospital. If approved by the voters, the additional tax

on a \$100,000 home would be \$35 per year. However, the additional tax could increase to a maximum of \$70 per year on a \$100,000 home with an override vote.

Copies of the petition are available at Friend's City Hall, as well as any of the Warren Memorial Hospital Board members.