

# School group forms

Ten people worked on forming the Decatur Community Educational Foundation on Friday afternoon at the Oberlin School District office.

After the first meeting at the beginning of the month, letters were sent out to announce that Gary Tunnison, from Lincoln, Neb., would return to help set up the foundation if those who got the letters were interested in returning. Ten of the two dozen did.

Of those, seven volunteered to serve on the board: Sheriff Ken Badsky; Jill Reichert, an accountant; Dr. Mark Olson, an Oberlin veterinarian; Colleen Rittman, secretary at the feed yard; Jane Gilliam, a financial consultant; Gary Allen, retired; and Paul Shields, an area farmer.

The foundation has already received its first donation with a \$25 check from Mr. Tunnison.

The consultant suggested the group start out with a name, then they should talk about a logo. Since the school emblem is the Red Devils, he suggested carrying that on. He said most foundations have five categories of donors, and each one has a name that ties in with the logo. For instance the donors who give \$25 to \$499 could be the Little Devils or those who give in the highest donation range could be the Big Devils.

Mrs. Reichert asked about using silver, gold and bronze. Mr. Tunnison said he doesn't suggest it, especially when the school is already associated with a logo that people know.

For federal requirements, said Mr. Tunnison, the foundation will have to incorporate. The group will also have to apply for tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service, but they will give the foundation a three-year grace period to raise money.

The foundation, he said, will be using the school board's attorney, Allen Shelton.

Mr. Tunnison said the board will also need to come up with a written motto, a positive statement which goes on every mailing.

He also went over the memory book which is a \$10 donation for people who have died. It is a way to pay tribute to someone. With the \$10 donation the person is then listed in the newsletter under the memory book with the year they graduated and who is honoring them.

One of the most important things, he said, is that every time a donation comes in, not to let more than 24 hours pass before a thank you letter goes out.

Donations should be tracked in a computer program. He said the foundation can have a website, list the donors and allow them to track where the money has been or will be spent.

Dr. Olson said the community has a strong alumni list with around 5,000 living graduates. Mr. Tunnison said each one should be sent an envelope so they can give. The foundation will never get any money unless the group asks, he said.

Mr. Tunnison also talked to the group about investment policies and fund raising.

The foundation will hold the next meeting from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the district office. At that time officers will be elected, the board will be selected, and articles of incorporation and bylaws will be adopted.



**HAMMERS IN HAND**, nurse Becky Alstrom (left) and unit coordinator JuliAnna Baker helped tear down a wall to make a new, more home-like eating area for the Angel Lane neighborhood at the Good Samaritan Center.

— Herald staff photo by Dave Bergling

## Samaritan Center breaks out of old mode

The Decatur County Good Samaritan Center is getting a little more like home each day.

Last week, a wall was hammered down in the Angel Lane Neighborhood on the north side of the building, so the area can be made into a dining room.

The wall was formerly the location of the bird cage was in the bird room, said Unit Coordinator JuliAnna Baker. The bird cage has been moved out to the main part of the building.

She said that the extended room

will eventually have a kitchenette complete with dishwasher, stove, microwave and other appliances. Families will then be able to come in and prepare food for their relatives.

The 23 residents who live in the Angel Lane neighborhood will start eating their meals in their own dining room, instead of the main dining room.

Mrs. Baker said she didn't know when the work would be finished since she thought they would have to knock out a second wall into the

hallway. For about a year and half, the center has been operating with the neighborhood concept, she said, with residents assigned to either Angel Lane or Country Reflections. The idea is to make the center more like home and less like an institution.

Later, the common dining room, which all the residents use, will become a "Times Square" area, where residents and their families can hang out. The birds have been moved to that area and a fish pond has been

added. Activities Director Jan Badsky said the money from fund raisers in the past year or so has been used to implement the neighborhood concept.

With the help of the Decatur Community High School cheerleaders, the center did a giveaway this year to bring in money.

"Anyone wanting to donate to the neighborhoods," said Mrs. Badsky, "can contact me. Any support is appreciated."

## Director asks for full time technician

Decatur County commissioners asked the ambulance director to discuss his plan to hire a full-time emergency medical technician with ambulance volunteers before they make a decision.

At the meeting Nov. 10, Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy asked the commissioners for a full-time paid technician. The commissioners tabled the discussion and decided to table it again at the meeting last Tuesday.

Mr. Pomeroy said he would like to see a salary of between \$22,000 and \$25,000 and then benefits on top of that.

Hiring a full-time person would help save on costs for transfers and runs, so it would cost the county about \$10,000 a year to hire someone.

Commissioner Patricia Glenn asked if the full-time person would

## County Roundup

At the meeting last Tuesday, the Decatur County commissioners:

- Approved the purchase of three Mack truck tractors from a dealership in Hays for \$89,500, including trade. Story to come.
- Asked the health administrator to get new carpet bids after the plans were changed. Story on Page 10A.
- Asked the ambulance director to

discuss a full time paid emergency medical technician with volunteers before they make a decision. Story on left.

• Heard from the county auditor that the county is managing its money well and increasing the amounts transferred into some funds. Story to come.

get run time money, but he said no. She asked if he gets paid for transfers, which Mr. Pomeroy said he would, but that can be eliminated.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn asked how the volunteers would feel about a full-time person.

Mr. Pomeroy said he hasn't talked with them yet. He said he was wait-

ing for the commissioners' approval.

Mrs. Glenn asked where he would advertise the position, and he said in *The Oberlin Herald*, the *Country Advocate*, *Hays Daily News* and the regional emergency medical technician website.

Mrs. Glenn suggested he get a

## Two teens may never be charged

Parents of two teen-age girls who allegedly took beer from a delivery truck outside Fine Spirits have been contacted to get them into the first-time offenders program through the Northwest Kansas Juvenile Justice office.

Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius, who is handling the case, said his office does not release information in a case when dealing with teens under 16. In this case, the girls were 15 and 16.

Mr. Sebelius said he sent information to the parents of the teens saying that the first-time offenders program may be appropriate for them. If that works, he said, there wouldn't be any charges filed.

As of Monday afternoon, he said, he hadn't heard back from the parents of the 16 year old. He is handling the case because the Decatur

County attorney's office had a conflict of interest.

The program includes an intervention arrangement where the teens will work with Barry Richards of Oberlin. Basic requirements for supervision have to be met. If Mr. Richards feels it is necessary, Mr. Sebelius said, the teens could be referred to other programs.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Mayor and City Council, City of Oberlin, Kansas will hold a public meeting for Wastewater Treatment Improvements for upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment facility as required by the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund on the 8th day of January, 2004 at 6:30 P.M., local time, in Meeting Room No. 1 & 2 at the Gateway in Oberlin, Kansas.

The purpose of this public meeting is to discuss the proposed wastewater treatment improvements. All local citizens and any other interested parties, governmental agencies or groups are encouraged to comment.

Maps, drawings, and other pertinent data will be available upon request for public inspection by contacting the City Clerk. All persons interested in the design, location and construction of the wastewater treatment improvements are invited to appear and express their views. Written statements may be submitted prior to or at the time of the hearing.

Deanna Castle  
City Clerk

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Mayor and City Council, City of Oberlin, Kansas will hold a public meeting for Wastewater Treatment Improvements for upgrades to the existing wastewater treatment facility as required by the Kansas Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan Fund on the 11th day of December, 2003 at 6:30 P.M., local time, in Meeting Room No. 1 & 2 at the Gateway in Oberlin, Kansas.

The purpose of this public meeting is to discuss the proposed wastewater treatment improvements. All local citizens and any other interested parties, governmental agencies or groups are encouraged to comment.

Maps, drawings, and other pertinent data will be available upon request for public inspection by contacting the City Clerk. All persons interested in the design, location and construction of the wastewater treatment improvements are invited to appear and express their views. Written statements may be submitted prior to or at the time of the hearing.

Deanna Castle  
City Clerk

## Homes to open for tour

Four families will open their homes on Sunday, Dec. 7, for the annual Decatur Professional Women's Christmas Home Tour.

Diane Frickey, who helped organize the event, said the homes will include those of Jonna Inman, LaDawna Richards, Beverly Garrett and Gerry Neff. All of the homes this year are in Oberlin, she said.

Mrs. Frickey said they started out with just three homes, but in the last few weeks have added another. The committee calls homeowners to see if they want to open up their homes, although sometimes they volunteer. She said they call after getting names by word of mouth. Sometimes they have done some redecorating, they have a collection others may be interested in or something else of interest.

Following the tour, there will be a soup supper with dessert at the United Church. Anyone attending the tour needs to be at the church by 3:30 p.m. so that they can be divided into groups and carpools can be organized.

Tickets are being sold by all club members or at The Dresser for \$12, which pays for the tour and dinner.

All of the money goes to scholarships for high school graduates or continuing education students from Decatur County.

For questions, call Mrs. Frickey at 475-2882.

## Stores to close for holiday

Better plan ahead for the holiday Thursday, because just about everything in town will be closed for Thanksgiving.

St. John's Lutheran Church will sponsor the annual community Thanksgiving Day dinner at noon on Thursday. Proceeds from donations will cover expenses of the dinner and will go to the Food Pantry. Everyone is welcome. For reservations or to donate salads or pies, contact Connie Olson at 475-2464.

Businesses planning to be closed include Raye's Grocery, the Frontier Restaurant, Mean Gene's, the Red Crown Lounge, the LandMark Inn, the Re-Load, A & W Restaurant, Pizza Hut and the Meadowlark Grill.

Also closed will be all county, city, state and federal offices and the post office, all banks and financial institutions, the schools and the Oberlin City Library, which will close at 3 p.m. today.

County and city offices and the schools will remain closed on Friday, but regular hours will resume at the library.

### OPEN THANKSGIVING DAY

Businesses which will be open on Thanksgiving Day include Crossroads Express, from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Ampride, from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Dollar General, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and D & M Sinclair from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### SETTLE IN FOR THE WINTER!



Picturesque 1942 2-story Tudor duplex showcases timeless design with its newly-finished oak floors, wide woodwork, plastered walls, steam heat and high ceilings. There are 4 charming bedrooms, 3 baths, 2 laundries and 2 updated kitchens with oak cabinets. The larger unit boasts 1505 sq. feet and full basement. The smaller unit (462 sq. ft.) is ideal for rental space or in-law suite.



This 2-bedroom cottage is bargain priced! Prominent features include hardwood floors, new stove and dishwasher and plentiful storage. The quiet neighborhood assures a private and relaxed lifestyle!

Call us today about our newly listed homes!

Office — 785-475-2785

Lynn's Mobile — 785-475-8514 — Roberta's Mobile 785-475-7156

Marcia Lohofener — 785-475-2521 Jerry Lohofener 785-475-2521

Jackie Votapka — 785-475-3963

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE AT [www.johnson-real-estate.com](http://www.johnson-real-estate.com)

## Johnson Realty, Inc.

Roberta Johnson, Broker — Lynn A. Johnson, Associate Broker

Jackeline Votapka, Sales Associate  
109 N. Wolf, Oberlin, KS 67749

