

With city pool falling apart, committee seeking support

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:
 Anyone who has been to our swimming pool lately knows that what used to be a beautiful pool, built about 50 years ago by Bruce Guinn and the Nichols Construction Co., with age has become a deteriorating blemish on our otherwise beautiful community.

If you just drive by the pool, it looks blue, cool, and pretty, but a closer examination shows problems such as the following:

- The paint on the floors (although new again this year), is peeling, with every previous year's paint showing through. (A disturbing and disgusting sight as you walk into the bathhouse. The stained walls add to the dismay.)
- Most of the windows have missing glass sections or no glass at all. In fact, according to the lifeguards, a child was cut on broken glass from a window just this summer.
- The eaves around the outside of the building are peeling and in places are rotting.
- The concrete deck is cracked almost everywhere and chunks of cement are falling, being kicked accidentally, or being thrown into the pool.
- The material is falling off racing stands in shreds and the stands themselves are stained and unappealing.
- The bottom and sides of the pool are discolored from the work done fixing the leak earlier this year. The pump house windows are rusting.
- Doors are missing on the bathroom stalls, with shower curtains that become shredded and filthy by

the end of the year taking their place.

- Cheap clocks break easily and have to be replaced often; this year we have had three already.
- Our community has lost a lot of water due to leaks in the recent past. A rough-looking patch of cement covers the bottom of the pool where the leaky drain used to be.
- Rusty metal sheets cover the drains for the baby and middle pools.
- The sink in the women's bathroom is leaking onto the floor.
- The boiler has broken, leaving the water unbearably frigid.

In other words, our pool is a maintenance nightmare. The city crew is in a quandary right now. How much maintenance money and time-intensive labor do you spend on a pool which might not last even one or two more years?

The city Pool Commission, of which I am a member, is at this time trying to secure the services of a pool architect to evaluate our pool. The evaluation alone is going to cost between \$3,000 and \$8,000, depending on what we ask for.

With your help, a fund-raiser, which will kick off in the commercial building at the Decatur County Fair, will help pay for the evaluation. We also need your help with information gathering. The Pool Commission has put a questionnaire at

Raye's Grocery to try to determine what people want for the pool. Thus far, close to 200 have been filled out.

The second fund-raiser will depend on what the survey tells us and what news the architect who evaluates the pool gives us. If a major renovation or building of a new pool is indicated, then the Pool Commission plans to sell personalized bricks that will be used in the design of the pool.

We are also planning to look at federal and private grants to see if any will cover a year-round geriatrics/hydrotherapy section that the current surveys are telling us the community is interested in having.

If this county, through the survey, says that it wants to have a fancy slide or two at the pool, the commission will certainly look into the costs and feasibility of it. If the architect and the town say that a new pool should be built, we will look at the cost of adding it to the Gateway, building near the old pool in City Park, or putting it in a different location.

Why is this important? A close look at the pool through the eyes of a young family wanting to move to Oberlin right now would give them serious doubts about this town's pride, safety, and the future of this pool. If we want young people to settle in Oberlin, we need to provide a good quality of life.

Please support our fund-raiser so Oberlin can have a pool that they can once again be proud of.

Anna Seeber Shaw
Oberlin

RAWLINS SPECIALTY CLINICS

707 GRANT STREET - ATWOOD, KANSAS 67730
(785)626-3211

Bringing Specialized Healthcare To Your Community

August 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Dr. Rubinowitz Hematology/ Oncology Clinic	3	4	5 Dr. Werth Urology Clinic	6	7
8	9	10	11 Dr. Frankum General Surgeon	12 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	13 Dr. Reeves Podiatry	14
15	16	17	18 Dr. Curtis Cardiology	19	20	21
22	23	24 Dr. Miller Cardiology Clinic	25	26	27	28
29	30 Dr. Rubinowitz Hematology/ Oncology Clinic	31				

TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL (785)626-3211
 Cheryl Banister, RN - Specialty Clinic Director
 Thank you for allowing us to assist in your healthcare.



Fair Finale

August 25

You won't want to miss
 this special section!
 Call Dave at THE OBERLIN HERALD
 to advertise in this special!

475-2206

Budke Motors Inc

3 x 10 1/2

oh/adv

Ad will be E mailed to GDN
 on Friday 7/30/4

BANKWEST OF KANSAS

SUNWEST BANKS OF COLORADO

INVENTORY*

2002 Chevy Ext. Cab Z-71 LS	1986 Drake 4 Car Trailer
2001 Pontiac Grand Am SE	1994 Buick Skylark
2001 Pontiac Sunfire	1994 Plymouth Voyager
2001 Pontiac Grand Am	1992 Chevrolet Lumina
2001 Dodge D1500	1992 Oldsmobile Cutlass
2001 Ford Sport Trac	1990 Plymouth Gr. Voyager
2000 Oldsmobile Alero	1990 Buick Skylark
2000 Plymouth Gr. Voyager	1989 Olds Cutlass Supreme
2000 Jeep Cherokee	1989 Dodge Dynasty
2000 Dodge Gr. Caravan	1989 Buick Riviera
1999 Dodge Durango	1989 Pontiac Bonneville
1999 Ford Ranger 4x4	1988 Suburban
1998 Jeep Cherokee	1985 Chev Suburban
1998 Pontiac Grand Am GT	1982 Plymouth
1998 GMC Safari Conversion	1998 Playcraft Pontoon Boat
1998 Chevy K1500 Pickup	2003 4 Wheeler
1997 GMC Suburban	2002 MZ Mosquito 125 Scooter
1996 Olds Cutlass	2002 MZ 125 SX Motorcycle
1996 Dodge Intrepid	2003 MZ Mosquito RX 50 Scooter
1998 Ford Ranger	2003 MZ Mosquito RX 50 Scooter
1995 Dodge Dakota	1979 21.5' SeaRay Boat V-8
1995 Herrin 4 Car Trailer	1990 Olds Silhouette

Other Equipment
 2 (10,000 lb) Auto Lift kits
 120 Gal. air compressor

Misc. Shop equipment

**Availability of the above inventory is subject to change.*

Stop by 930 S. Range, Colby, KS on August 11th, 12th, and 13th to view the vehicles and building between the hours of 9:00AM and 5PM on August 11th and 12th and 9:00AM to Noon on August 13th. All vehicles and building will be offered by sealed bids submitted no later than 3PM on August 13th. Forms will be available to make your bid on site during these dates. **BANKWEST OF KANSAS reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to refuse any and all bids. All vehicles are sold AS IS, and, except where prohibited by Kansas law, with NO warranties, express, implied, or otherwise.** For additional information please call 785-462-7557.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
 The governing body of
OBERLIN
 will meet on the 19th day of August, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at the Gateway Civic Center for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Detailed budget information is available at the City Office
 and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY
 Proposed Budget 2005 Expenditures and Amount of 2004 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2005 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	2003		2004		Proposed Budget 2005		
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Est. of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2004 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	562,896	40.945	657,750	42.090	586,100	281,260	40.490
Employee Benefits	102,824	9.621	107,400	12.515	117,600	67,836	9.766
Library	39,000	3.400	39,000	3.504	39,000	24,144	3.476
Special Liability	17,716						
Bond & Interest	146,449	15.184	194,681	9.787	221,081	93,122	13.406
Special Street	40,002		44,000		50,000		
Special Parks & Recreation	2,375		12,139		3,000		
Gateway Civic Center	164,191		208,630		195,750		
Tourism and Convention	4,558		5,500		5,000		
Sewer & Disposal	92,959		194,930		310,014		
Electric Fund	1,312,216		1,828,020		1,953,081		
Water Fund	177,748		409,908		417,058		
Sappa Valley Youth Ranch	59,508		72,000		73,000		
Community Growth Fund			50,000		50,000		
Risk Management Fund	1,393						
Equipment Fund							
Totals	2,723,835	69.150	3,823,958	67.896	4,020,684	466,362	67.138
Less: Transfers	288,600		313,600		317,600		
Net Expenditure	2,435,235		3,510,358		3,703,084		
Total Tax Levied	487,025		470,361		xxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation	7,043,068		6,927,716		6,946,339		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1,	2002		2003		2004		
G.O. Bonds	1,140,111		1,031,333		1,989,133		
Revenue Bonds					190,000		
Other			1,245,000		200,000		
Lease Purchase Principal	79,192		63,451		46,657		
Total	1,219,303		2,559,784		2,425,790		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

Kevin M. Castle
City Clerk