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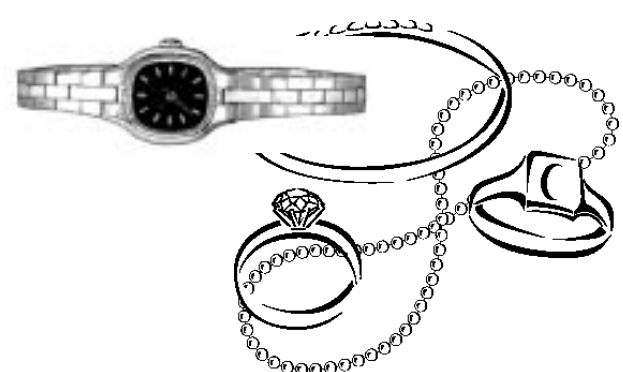


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* Health group talks about assisted living

(Continued from Page 1A)
Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden questioned whether it was assisted living without the independence of cooking. Maybe that's an in-between level, she said.

Jim Sullivan and LaVern Burtis, facilities managers for the hospital and the Good Samaritan Center, said both buildings will be in good shape for whatever use they are put to. Mr. Burtis noted that Good Samaritan is getting a new roof and the state is making them install a fire sprinkler system.

"Both facilities are going to be in decent shape to utilize," he said. "We just have to decide where we are going."

Mr. Sullivan said they could take pairs of rooms at Cedar Living, which is attached to and run by the hospital, and combine them, but it would involve some expensive work cutting into concrete.

The heating and cooling is a centralized two-pipe system, he said, and for individual apartments, they might need to install separate units. The plumbing would involve quite a bit of work, and that could get expensive. Mr. Sullivan said it would be even more expensive if they put in kitchens.

Someone noted that, so far, there is no Medicare payment for assisted living, as there is for nursing service. People would have to pay their own bills, but that might work out.

Mrs. Doeden questioned whether they want to convert rooms in either of the existing homes.

"If we add assisted living to Cedar Living Center or Good Samaritan, we're going to eliminate some staff positions," she said. "I don't think that's what we want to do."

"We want to bring jobs to the community...we need to fill our

rooms."

She said it might be better — and less expensive — to add assisted living at Wheat Ridge Terrace, a senior apartment complex near the fair-ground that is not quite assisted living. Commissioner Doyle Brown agreed that might work. The apartments did not pay off their original financing, however, and had to go through a reorganization.

Mr. Burtis noted that there seems to be a market out there, especially among people who used to live in Oberlin or whose parents no live here or once did. He said he had been at a crafts show in Colorado and had people asking him about facilities for seniors here.

Mrs. Doeden reported on inquiries she made on the need for nursing facilities for aging state prisoners. There is a demand, she said, but most would be on ventilators and the facility has to be approved.

Marcia Loehofener, Wheat Ridge manager, said that now, these older prisoners are housed in the prison infirmaries.

Members talked about plans for a booth and a health-care survey at the county fair this week. Employees from all the facilities will man the booth. Any questions they can't answer, they'll take to Mrs. Doeden or Janice Shobe, Good Samaritan administrator.

Jan Badsky of Good Samaritan said a good part of the effort would be to explain to people what the health facilities here have to offer. She said they should add a question on assisted living to their questionnaire.

The group agreed to meet again at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 31, in the commissioners room. The meeting takes up the final hour or so of the commissioners meeting.

Officers work minor accidents

Oberlin Police officers worked two minor accidents, issuing tickets for improper backing for both last week.

The first one took place about 8:30 a.m. Saturday, July 24, when Bernie Vacura, 54, backed his 1991 Dodge pickup into a 1999 Ford Explorer owned by Carrie Morford, 29, while he was trying to parallel park on Elm Street.

There was minor damage to the vehicles. Mr. Vacura received a ticket.

Around 3:05 p.m., Loyd Waldo, 76, was backing his 2004 Chevy pickup from a driveway when he struck a 2003 Ford Focus belonging to Gary Zodrow on the other side of the street in the 100 block of South Marks. Mr. Waldo was given a ticket.

On Sunday, July 25, officers received a call on a domestic battery. Around 9:38 a.m. Rodney Marshall, 18, was arrested for domestic battery against Joni Diederich, 19, in the 300 block of north Garfield.



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