

# Spring choices

## Incumbent stresses what the city offers

With a passion for the community and the time and ability to serve it, Jay Anderson is seeking another four years on the Oberlin City Council.

Dr. Anderson said he thinks the city has a lot of offer: a first-class museum, awnings downtown, growing antique businesses, the Pioneer Family statue, the LandMark Inn, the Dresser, the race track, The Gateway, the home-owned carnival and Sappa Park. Besides, he said the city is at the intersection of two major national highways.

Oberlin has the potential to become or be quite an attraction, he said. The city should play a role in that, because it's partly about economic development.

The city is helping, he said. A lot of things the city already has are being developed right now, including the Sappa Park lake bottom. The city just signed a lease with Pheasants Forever to help develop it.

Dr. Anderson, who has a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Kansas State University, said he would like to see Main Street become more of an attraction and see the city help in any way they can.

The city needs to help with the Economic Development Corp. and with the Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Anderson said he would like to see the city help agriculture, too, if the opportunity comes up.

Of course, he said, it would be nice to bring some industry to town. Dr. Anderson said the businesses that are already here need support,

but new ones need to be sought, too. There are some things, he said, that the city has to do. For example, the water project is necessary to meet new, tighter requirements set

by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The agency is very rigid on water standards, he said. It doesn't matter who sits on the city council; the projects have to be done to meet them.

Another item the city is working on is a new pool or pool renovation. Dr. Anderson said the pool committee has worked hard, which he appreciates. If every committee would step up to that level, he said, things would be great.

He said he didn't think merchants here sell enough big-ticket items like cars and such to get much from an increase in the sales tax. Dr. Anderson said he would like to see everyone in the county help support the pool, since it is used by everyone.

Dr. Anderson, who owned a veterinary practice here before he retired, has lived in Oberlin since 1962. He is a member of the Oberlin Rotary Club, the Masonic Lodge, the Oberlin Business Alliance, the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce and the Last Indian Raid Museum.



J. Anderson

## Man enjoys being involved in city

After two years on the Oberlin City Council, Joe Stanley decided to seek another four years in office.

Mr. Stanley was appointed to fill the seat held by Ken Shobe, who was a council member, when he was elected mayor.

Mr. Stanley said he likes being involved in city affairs. It is easier to sit on the sidelines and complain, he said, instead of helping solve some of the town's problems.

One thing he had a chance to work on a lot in the last couple years is the water project. Mr. Stanley said water is always going to be an issue here, both quality and quantity.

In the next four years, he said, the city needs to develop a better source so there is better quality and more water. Mr. Stanley said he doesn't know if that means re-wamping or re-drilling some of the wells or finding another water source. It might mean putting in a water treatment plant so the city can use the current wells.

Mr. Stanley said the council has worked to update the city's physical plant, or infrastructure. In the last two years, he said, the city has been setting aside money in the budget for each department for improvements and equipment needs.

Recently, the council has spent some time listening to ideas for a new pool. Mr. Stanley said he thinks it is important for the city to have a pool, but he isn't sure about where the money will come from. A sales tax increase is possible and

maybe the most fair way to raise the money, but he said he isn't necessarily in favor of any tax increase.

Mr. Stanley said one of the positive things the council has done since he has been in office has been to start to get more land at Sappa Park back into recreational use. He said he thought the council did the right thing by signing a lease with the conservation group, Pheasants Forever, for the lake-bottom ground. Although it will take some time, he said, in three to five years, people will see the positive steps to make it a recreation area again.

Another positive the council has done is plan for replacing the waste water treatment plant, he said.

The city has to replace the plant because of regulations set up by the Environmental Protection Agency. The plant also needed to be replaced.

Mr. Stanley has lived in Oberlin for 42 years, most of his life, although in his teens his family moved out of town for seven years.

He and his wife Regina have two children, Sarah, who lives in Louisiana, and Jessica, who is at Fort Hays State University.

The couple has owned Stanley Hardware, in downtown Oberlin, for 16 years as of next month.

Mr. Stanley is a member of the Oberlin Business Alliance, the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce, Oberlin Rotary Club and the Knights of Columbus, where he is a past grand knight.



Joe Stanley

## Quality education is her top priority

With over 16 years of experience on the Oberlin School Board, Delayne May is seeking re-election for the District 4 spot.

Mrs. May said she thinks the district is facing a lot of issues and her experience will help deal with them.

One of the major issues, she said, is declining enrollment and trying to keep up the quality programs the district provides. Declining enrollment means budget cuts, which the district has been working through. The money depends on how many kids are in the district and what the Legislature decides to do, she said.

The teachers and staff have done a good job of keeping up the quality while the district has been going through some tough times.

Mrs. May said she wants to see the district maintain high standards of education while also meeting the requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

More and more, she said, the board will have to look at consolidation and how it may work in northwest Kansas.

Over the last 16 years, she said, the hardest thing she has ever been through as a board member was the teacher layoffs and staff cuts last year. People who were let go were friends, neighbors and relatives, she said. When staff is cut, she added, those remaining have to pick up the slack, which they have done.

Probably the most positive thing, she said, is that the schools in the

last 16 years have been able to maintain strong academic standards, including the extracurricular activities. It takes everyone in the schools to make that possible, she said.

The board also needs to look at maintenance of its buildings, she said. That is still a priority, although it won't happen all at once. Currently, said Mrs. May, they are getting bids for windows at the grade school. They plan on working on the playground this summer.

The board needs to fix up the buildings, she said, while remaining financially prudent.

Mrs. May has lived here since December 1982. She and her husband, Dr. Richard May, have three kids, Brianna, a junior at the University of Kansas; Danica, a junior in high school; and Nolan, a sophomore.

The Mays are members of St. John's Lutheran Church. Mrs. May said she stays busy working and is a very active mom.



D. May

## Newspaper will be late for election

Due to the city and school board elections, *The Oberlin Herald* will go to press a day late next week.

The paper will be printed on the news stands on Wednesday. Mailed copies will be received by subscribers in the area on Thursday.

Deadline for news and advertising will remain the same on Monday.

## Storm sirens will be tested

With spring here, the Decatur County storm sirens will be tested starting at 10 a.m. Monday and every Monday until fall.

Emergency Preparedness Director Bert Cool said all seven sirens in the county will be tested weekly. The sirens in Oberlin are by The Gateway, the ball park, the city shop and the hospital. There are sirens in Jennings, Dresden and Norcatour, as well.

The take cover signal is an oscillating noise and the all clear is a solid tone, he said.

## Easter fun



YOUNGSTERS Madeline and Annelise Amack showed their full Easter baskets to Wynemah Cox after an egg hunt at Cedar Living Center on Tuesday.

— Photo by Othelia Vacura

## Pre-school may cost district up to \$20,000

The Oberlin School Board heard at the March meeting that the integrated preschool for next year could cost the district up to \$20,000 if the mix of students doesn't meet federal guidelines.

The class is designed to help prepare young kids so they are ready to go to kindergarten. It is probably the best investment a district can make to help kids get off to a good start, said Superintendent Kelly Glodt.

He said there are 20 kids signed up for the class, for kids 3 to 5.

In order to get state money, he said, there has to be a 1-1 ratio of students and individual education plans to those who aren't. He said students can be on an individual education plan for anything from speech to behavior.

The board is going to have to decide if they are going to limit the number of kids or possibly charge a fee for the class, he said.

With the students signed up for the class now, said Mr. Glodt, it will cost the district \$20,000.

In other business, the board:

- Decided to ask for bids for replacement of the windows at Oberlin Elementary School.
- Decided to dismiss classes at 1 p.m. for the regional track meet on Friday, May 20. Mr. Glodt said it will take teachers from both schools to make the meet work.
- Heard that the new building at the ranch school is almost done.
- Held a closed session for 10 and five minutes for non-elected personnel. There was no action taken.

## Fashion show Sunday

The Dresser's annual spring fashion show will be at 2 p.m. Sunday at The Gateway.

Karen Metcalf, with The Dresser, said they are not selling tickets for the "Signs of Spring" fashion show, instead they are taking donations for

the swimming pool project at the door.

There will be gifts, refreshments and entertainment at the show.

The Dresser will be open for shoppers after the show.

## FARM MACHINERY AUCTION REMINDER

Tuesday, April 5, 2005 • 11 a.m.

Location: From Oberlin, Kansas at the Intersection of U.S. 36 and U.S. 83, go north on U.S. 83 4 miles.

**Sellers: Francis & Ann M. Kathka & Guest Consignors**

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High Plains

# Artfest

Show & Sale

The Gateway in Oberlin

April 9 & 10

Saturday - April 9 ~ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday - April 10 ~ 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission



Rick Doeden Artfest participant

Featuring both professional and high school artists from Northwest Kansas, Southwest Nebraska and Northeast Colorado.

For more information, please call Connie Grafel at 785-475-2400 or Mary Henzel at 785-475-3329.



The Hansen Foundation

Coming in April...

# NEW HOURS

For your convenience

## McCOOK EYE CLINIC

The Doctors and Staff of McCook Eye Clinic wish to inform you of a change in our office hours.

Our new hours will be:

Monday-Wednesday 8:00-6:00

Thursday 9:00-8:00

Friday 8:00-1:00

Saturday Hours by Appointment

This new schedule will allow us to provide more convenient and accessible care to our patients. We look forward to caring for you and your family's eyes in the years to come. Call and schedule your appointment today!

DR. ROBERT A STAMM

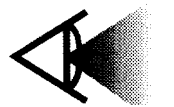
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