

Plan presented to build lake at park

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

The City Council heard about plans for a small lake and wetlands at Sappa Park at a meeting Thursday, but put off any decisions until budget time.

The water for the lake, said City Administrator Gary Shike, would come from the existing flow of Sappa Creek, which would be diverted through the wetlands and lake.

At one time, there was talk about using the discharge water from the city sewer system to fill a lake, but a pipeline to the park was deemed too expensive. The water in the creek, said Mr. Shike, comes mostly from the waste water plant anyway.

Once the wetland and small lake are full, said Mr. Shike, then the rest of the water would wash down the creek as it does today.

Dennis Haag, with the Watershed Institute, met with the council to explain the plan,

Council Countdown

At a meeting Thursday night, the Oberlin City Council:

- Discussed when people can set off fireworks around the Fourth of July, but didn't make any changes to the days or times. Story on Page 3A.

- Signed a contract with Mid-States Energy Works to provide a new breaker box and install the transformer at the power plant for \$49,600. Story on Page 5A.

- Ratified the mayor's decision to declare

a stage 2 water emergency, putting the city on an even/odd watering plan. Story on Page 3A.

- Talked about a project to hold water from the creek in a small lake and wetland area at Sappa Park, but didn't make any decisions. Story at left.

- Decided to give 90 days' notice on the maintenance contract with Kone Inc. for elevator maintenance, although the contract is good until 2009. Story on Page 3A.

which was outlined in a letter in last week's *Oberlin Herald*.

Many in this area remember when Sappa Park had a state fishing lake, built in the

1930s by the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. After it filled in with silt, the state gave the land to the city. The city lost the water rights

for the lake, though, and there hasn't been water in the lake bed since the 1960s. When there is a good rain, the lake fills up, but mostly the lake bottom is used for farming and bird habitat.

Mayor Ken Shobe said he was trying to visualize how much area would be left for walk-in hunting for Pheasants Forever. The conservation group leases the bottom ground at the park.

That can be determined later, said Mr. Haag, but the group will still have most of the ground. There will be five acres of open water and two to three acres of marsh land in front of the shelter house.

What kind of wildlife would live in marsh? asked Councilman Jay Anderson. Muskrats, beaver, mink, among others, said Mr. Haag, plus a wide range of birds. The water will fluctuate some, he said, but all

kinds of animals will use it.

Parts of the small lake will be deeper than others, he said; that way, when it is dry the deeper part should still have water in it so fish can survive. There will also be parts of the ground that will be saturated.

Mr. Haag said he understands there are local contractors with heavy equipment who could build the lake.

Does the small lake need to be kept a certain distance from the ground water? asked Mr. Shike.

In Kansas, you would have to get a permit if you got into the ground water, which Mr. Haag said they probably will hit at 12 feet. Most likely the city wouldn't get that permit, he said.

When ground water is contacted, he said, it is exposed to loss, so there has to be a permit. (See LAKE on Page 5A)

District to get more money

Oberlin may get \$146,000 more

Under a new school finance plan passed by the special session of the Legislature last Wednesday, the Oberlin School District should get \$146,000 more next year.

Superintendent Kelly Glodt said the plan that passed will increase school money by \$148 million, with an increase in the per pupil base of \$150. Last year, the district received \$3,863 per pupil, he said, and with the increase, that will go up to \$4,013.

That money, about \$104,000, goes in the general fund budget, which can be spent for salaries and general bills.

The Legislature had to do something about school finance after the Kansas Supreme Court ordered an increase in spending on education, he said.

Although both the House and Senate passed the bill and Gov. Kathleen Sebelius signed it, he said, there hasn't been any decision on how to pay for it.

Mr. Glodt said the new school finance bill will be good for the Oberlin district, although not as good as some of the other plans that were suggested.

Along with the \$104,000 for the general budget, the district will get an additional \$42,000 in the at-risk budget.

Although \$104,000 sounds like a lot of money, said Mr. Glodt, the gas bill is expected to go up \$12,000 this year, and the district will see an increase in insurance for the buildings after a big claim for new roofs.

The district is also looking at two large classes at the high school, next year's seniors and juniors, which means that they may lose more enrollment as those kids graduate. The base money is based on how many students are enrolled.

Mr. Glodt said even with the financial difficulties over the last year and cuts that had to be made, the district ended the year in the black, which is good.

Good yields found as harvest finishes

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**

Harvest in Decatur County is pretty much over, with elevators reporting higher yields and a good crop overall.

Karol Evans, manager of the Decatur Co-op, said they are about 95 percent done. This week, he said, the last 5 percent should be complete.

Including all of the locations, he said, the Co-op brought in over 3.5 million bushels of grain. Mr. Evans said they are probably storing around 40,000 to 50,000 bushels on the ground in Oberlin so that the elevator can continue to bring in more of the crop.

Mr. Evans said in just one day in Oberlin the elevator took in 179,000 bushels.

"The wheat quality has been excellent," said Mr. Evans. "The weights have been good and the yields have far exceeded what farmers thought."

This is probably the best harvest in quantity and quality of wheat in the last three years, he said. Less than a million bushels in all facilities.

The yields, said Mr. Evans, have been in the 50 to 60 bushel-per-acre range, though some fields hit by drought or a freeze were lower.

The Co-op loaded one 2-car train of grain over the weekend, he said, but as the grain was loaded out it pretty much came in just as fast. There is supposed to be another train coming in this week to haul off some more of the crop.

Mr. Evans said over harvest, the

Co-op hired some extra help, but they are now back down to the regular summer crew and full-time employees.

In Selden, at Hi-Plains Co-op, bookkeeper Jackie Schulte said they have taken in right at 765,000 bushels. For the most part, people in the area are done cutting, she said, although there is still one farmer going who will be done this week.

Over the weekend, she said, the elevator was closed since things had slowed down. One person was on call.

She said she has seen a lot of smiles from the farmers in the area. They are happy with the crop, she said, though not the selling price.

Mrs. Schulte said there is no comparison between the harvest last year and this one.

In the Traer area, Rich Grafel at D&S Grain said everyone finished up cutting on Sunday.

People were pleasantly surprised, he said, and there were some really fantastic yields. Some of the yields ran 68 plus bushels per acre for a half section and 66 bushels per acre for a quarter section. Normally 60 bushels per acre is good.

There were some poorer yields northwest of Traer, he added, with the crop having some freeze and drought damage.

With harvest pretty much done and the wheat in the elevator, farmers are looking toward the fall crop.

Mr. Grafel said the fall crop in the Traer area looks fantastic. The area has missed almost all the hail, but received some rain.



ON HIS DAUGHTER'S HORSE, Randy McHugh (above) talked on his cell phone during a western-style show this weekend. Kira Meitl (below) with the Tripple Creek Riders waited for her event. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Horse lovers compete

Horse enthusiasts and riders gathered at the Tripple Creek arena at the south end of the Decatur County fairground for two days of competition this weekend.

The two-day Kansas Western Horseman Association show was sponsored by the Tripple Creek Riders.

The first day, said Kristin McHugh, over 30 riders entered, but the second day was a little slimmer. She said there were people from Decatur County, Alton, Scott City, Oakley and Phillipsburg.

Although this was the first association show, since one scheduled for last year got rained out, this is not the first event the riders (See SHOW on Page 5A)



Thirsty city still pumping near 700,000 gallons of water a day

The city pumped over 700,000 gallons of water twice last week and came close two times, even with the watering restrictions.

The city has been under a water warning, and on the even/odd watering system, for weeks now, yet con-

tinues to pump close to or just above the trigger of 700,000 gallons per day.

Water consumption is still pretty high, said City Administrator Gary Shike.

The police department has given

out some warnings, said Mr. Shike, although there haven't been any tickets given yet. The officers are trying to be as nice as they can, he said.

There are a lot of people complying with the restrictions, he said, but

there are still a few who haven't. It has been on the radio, public access channel and in the newspaper, he said, and everyone should know the rules.

If the city hits one million gallons a day, he said, there won't be any

outdoor watering allowed. On Saturday, the city was only 257,000 gallons away from that mark.

The city pumped:

- 450,000 gallons on Monday, July 4.
- 583,000 gallons on Tuesday,

July 5.

- 396,000 gallons last Wednesday.

- 692,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 705,000 gallons on Friday.
- 743,000 gallons on Saturday.
- 694,000 gallons on Sunday.

* Show brings riders

Club hosts horse show

(Continued from Page 1A)
 have hosted. Two weeks ago, they had a National Barrel Horse Association competition, and every Friday the members get together to practice.

The club's main goal, said Mrs. McHugh, is to get horse lovers on horseback in a safe place. Most of the effort is directed at the kids, but the club is open to people of all ages and all skill levels.

"It is fun to get together and ride," she said, "and competition puts a new twist to the riding part."

The club costs \$15 a year for a family and \$10 a year for a single person, she said.

This year, with money the group made with fund raisers, they were able to add a crows nest, electronic timers and a speaker system at the arena. She said they are trying to get a grant for roping chutes, lights and other improvements.

For the last two shows, she said, the club has had some help. Race promoter Don Bolt loaned them a concession trailer, an emergency medical technician was on standby, the fire department wet down the arena and Norm Richards let them use a window air conditioner for the crows nest.

Normally Ernie Fowler keeps the arena in working order, said Mrs. McHugh.

Everyone who enjoys horses, even if they don't ride anymore, is welcome to come to events and practices, she said. It is good to get everyone together and have a good time.

There is another show coming up, she said, the 4-H and open show at the county fair. Club members will be able to ride in the show and are providing the arena. It will be held on Saturday, Aug. 6. Entries need to be in by 8 a.m.



Donors fill blood bottles

THE AMERICAN Red Cross got blood out of Pat Wright (above) of Oberlin and Larry Johnson (right) of Jennings and dozens of other volunteers during the semi-annual blood drive on Thursday at The Gateway.

— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes



* Lake might return

(Continued from Page 1A)
 mit in place, said Mr. Haag.

The city will have to guarantee the state that the city won't have any more than 15 acre feet of water stored in the hole, he said. Getting the water there is the easy part, said Mr. Haag; the hard part is keeping it there for a period of time.

Fifteen acre feet of water, said Dr. Anderson, means 15 acres of one foot deep water or five acres of three-foot-deep water.

The lake will have an average depth of three and a half feet, but there will be some deeper water to support fish during a dry period. If there is deeper water, said Mr. Haag, there would need to be some shallow water, too.

There have been other ideas suggested for the park, like a Frisbee golf course. Sappa Park, said Dr. Anderson, is getting back to its original use, which is recreation.

The city has budget meetings coming up, said Mayor Shobe, and the lake idea can be discussed then.

It would be nice to have some water there, said Dr. Richard May, a Pheasants Forever member who was in the audience, and this looks like a straightforward process.

Duane Cheney with Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development agency, said the city needs to look into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, part of the Interior Department, because they have some money.

Although the city has a contract with Pheasants Forever for the lake bottom, it allows for the city to remove some of the ground for reconstruction of a lake.

Garage sales coming

Only a week and half left until the Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors the big downtown extravaganza and citywide garage sale.

The extravaganza will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 23, at the gazebo downtown. There will be vendors, entertainment and the Decatur County Ministerial Association will sponsor a garage sale. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, pork burgers and bratwursts for lunch.

Anyone who is interested in selling something can bring a table downtown and just set up.

The Chamber will sponsor the citywide garage sale, which starts after 3 p.m. on Friday, July 22, and at 8 a.m. the next morning.

So farther are 30 garage sales planned in town for that weekend.

Maps of the garage sales will be ready after 3 p.m. on Thursday, July 21, at the Chamber office.

Council signs installation contract

The Oberlin City Council signed a contract with Mid-States Energy Works to provide a new breaker box and install a new transformer at the power plant for \$49,600.

Both City Attorney Steve Hirsch and Foreman Dan Castle looked at the contract.

Mr. Hirsch said the council should add around \$750 to the contract for a performance bond to guarantee that the work will be done.

The council discussed whether or not they should ask for the performance bond.

City Administrator Gary Shike and Mr. Castle both said they were comfortable with the company and Mr. Hirsch noted that the city is paying the company in installments as work is done. The council approved the contract without the bond.

The work is to be done by May. Mr. Castle said the transformer is ready and the company said they could start working on the project this fall.

On another matter, the council approved a petition by George and Cecilia Brown to pave part of Ingalls Avenue in northeast Oberlin. The Browns, the only adjoining property owners, will pay the full cost of \$12,000.

Councilman Patrick Pomeroy said he has been asked about the city spraying for mosquitoes. He said he talked with Rich Shaw, who said it would cost around \$4,800, but he can't get insurance to spray for the bugs.

If the area gets any rain at all, Mr. Pomeroy said, it will seem like Mr. Shaw never sprayed.

Mr. Pomeroy said he noticed that the east side of the sign at the entrance to Sappa Park has been painted for the Last Indian Raid Monument. He said that with money being put into the park, he thinks the sign should be used for it.

Councilman Jay Anderson said they talked today about using the other side of the sign for the park at

a meeting of the park committee.

In other business, the council:

- Appointed Ken Morris, Lee Gilliam and Gary Anderson to three-year terms on the Board of Zoning Appeals and Planning Commission.

- Heard from Don Stapp, who asked about the weeds in the field to the north of the First Oberlin Rental Apartments. The field is farmed by Mick Glaze, who has hired someone to go in and cut the weeds above the cane growth, said City Administrator Gary Shike.

- Talked with Shayla Williby, who received a letter from Gov. Kathleen Sebelius about expanding gaming and no decisions were made about any kind of action.

- Heard that Mr. Shike has received some questions about sewer rates after Sam Steinmetz came to the last meeting about his rate being changed while he was gone for the winter. He said there have been a lot of complaints in the billing department. He said there are only seven rate-payers affected by the change to median sewer rates because they are gone for the winter. He said they haven't figured out a solution yet.

- Talked about recreational vehicles being parked in the middle of Main Street. The council didn't see a problem, since delivery trucks already park there. The city will be putting up some signs saying that recreational vehicles can park in the middle of Main Street.

Golf tourney planned

The Decatur County Hospital is getting ready for its fifth annual golf tournament and charity auction in August.

For the last four years, the hospital board has sponsored the event to raise money for equipment. Last year, the group raised over \$4,000 which they used to buy newborn hearing equipment for the nursery.

This year, they want to buy a patient lift with built-in scale. The four-person scramble tournament will be held on Saturday, Aug. 20, at the Oberlin Country Club. Each team needs to pay \$200 for the entry fee.

Dinner and an auction will be held that evening at The Gateway. Tickets are \$25 a person.

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