



Walkers use park

AT THE COMMUNITY WALK Thursday at Sappa Park, Rebecca Mason, with her sister Bethany on her back; Doug and Jo Mason (top); and Greta and Joanne Wendelin headed back in on the walking trail. At the shelter house, Linda Manning, interim ambulance director (right) cooked hot dogs for the walkers while Dakota Tate (above) rode his bike.



Mom wants more Saturday splash time

A mother asked the Oberlin City Council at a meeting last Thursday why the swimming pool closes when there are fewer than 10 patrons, and why it's not open Saturday nights.

Kimberly Davis, a mother and managing editor of *The Oberlin Herald*, asked the council why the pool closes at 6:30 p.m. on Saturdays when it stays open until 8:30 p.m. every other night. She said that kids who choose not to go to the theater need somewhere to go. It is better for them to be at the pool than running around on the streets, she said.

Mrs. Davis also asked about the rule of needing 10 kids by 1:45 p.m. each day to keep the pool open. Sometimes kids can't get there by that time of day, she said. They have

City Countdown

At a meeting Thursday night, the Oberlin City Council:

- Approved transfer of the cable franchise agreement from Cebridge Communications to Eagle Communications. Story to come.
- Talked about maintenance at Sappa Park, and heard a couple question what the city was doing. Story on Page 1A.

- Heard complaints about the swimming pool schedule and rules from a mother, but made no changes. Story at left.
- Left the name of the Oberlin Cemetery as it is, rather than change it to Oberlin Memorial Park, when the tiebreaker vote from the mayor was a no. Story at top right.

chores to do or other things to do. Last summer, she said, there were times when the lifeguards closed the pool because they didn't have 10 kids, but still stayed there on the payroll, said Mrs. Davis.

Mayor Ken Shobe asked why 10

is a magical number? Is that when the city breaks even?

Administrator Gary Shike said the city doesn't break even on the pool. The number is the administrator's call, said Mayor Shobe.

Maybe, he said, the administrator could see if they could get lifeguards to work Saturday nights.

The city might try it for a couple of Saturday evenings and see if any kids show up.

Mr. Shike said the number of 10 kids and the early hours on Saturday night are traditional.

He noted that he hasn't had a lot of applicants for the lifeguard positions. Anyone interested can apply at the city office.

In other business, the council:

- Hired Rusty Grafel, a student at Fort Hays State University, to be the pool manager at \$8 an hour.
- Agreed to pay other seasonal employees minimum wage plus 25 cents an hour raise for those who are returning.

Swimming pool to open on Saturday

The Oberlin Swimming Pool will be open at 1 p.m. Saturday for the summer.

The city crew has painted the pool, said City Administrator Gary Shike, and it is filled. The crew always fills the pool a week before the opening to get all of the water circulated and make sure there aren't any problems.

Two years ago, he said, the crew

filled the pool and then found a leak that had to be fixed. The pool opened almost a month late that summer.

Mr. Shike said the council approved hiring Rusty Grafel, a 2002 graduate of Decatur Community High and now a student at Fort Hays State University, as pool manager at the meeting Thursday night. The city still needs lifeguards, he said. Anyone who is interested should get

an application at the city office right away.

Pool passes, \$60 for a family and \$30 for an individual, can be purchased at the pool.

The daily rate is \$2 for adults and \$1 for kids 12 and under. The kiddie pool is free.

The pool will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. for open swim Monday through Friday. Dur-

ing the week, ladies' swim will be at 11 a.m. and lap swim from 6 to 6:30 p.m. The pool is open from 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. on Sundays, but closed Saturday night.

Swimming lessons will be offered, with the first session from June 22 to July 1 and the second from July 13 to July 22. The city will determine a charge later.

Terrorism cash to help fight massive flu outbreak

The Decatur County commissioners approved an application for bioterrorism grant money this year to be used for influenza pandemic planning.

Health Administrator Marilyn Gamblin said the federal govern-

ment had some money left and is disbursing it in grants for this year.

Of the department's grant money this year, she said, she has \$9,364 to spend. Ms. Gamblin said she would like to replace the phones.

County Clerk Marilyn Horn said

she would see if a phone system like the one at the courthouse would work at the health department.

Ms. Gamblin said she will have a conference call on mumps cases in the state. So far, she said, Decatur County hasn't had any reports of the

illness. The closest confirmed cases were in Sheridan County.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that attendance at the health fair at the end of April was down.

Council buries ‘memorial park’ as cemetery name

A motion to change the name of the Oberlin Cemetery to the Oberlin Memorial Park was voted down at a City Council meeting Thursday night when the mayor broke a tie with a no vote.

Councilman Jay Anderson presented a plan for long-term care and landscaping at the cemetery. Part of the plan was to form a cemetery district, change the name and plant more trees.

Mr. Anderson said the newer section is barren. He suggested that maybe families could plant trees which would be approved by the sexton at the graves of loved ones and then the city would take care of them.

The plan has a list of four options for financing:

- Continue as the cemetery is set now with city residents carrying the full cost.
- Raise the prices of lots to non-residents or make the lots marketable for metropolitan areas.
- Discontinue present maintenance and go to a volunteer schedule.
- Put in a memorial wall with laser-engraved tiles naming people whose roots are here, but don't live here. The tiles would be sold.
- Form an expanded cemetery district with eligible townships, including Oberlin, Bassettville, Sappa, Logan, Liberty, Roosevelt and a part of Center.

To form a cemetery district, said Mr. Anderson, they need 51 percent of the people in those townships to sign a petition stating that they want to form the district.

Mr. Anderson suggested a cemetery committee with Sexton Nan Stanley, Larry Van Otterloo from

the tree committee, and someone from the council to develop a plan about what can be planted and how it will be cared for. Mr. Anderson said he would do it if no one else wanted to.

Mayor Shobe said they could get the tree committee involved.

City Foreman Dan Castle said they already have a plan at the cemetery, including new trees and work. The council asked him to bring it in, which he said he would do.

If the cemetery district is expanded, asked Councilwoman Rhonda May, would the people have to pay taxes for it? Mr. Anderson said yes.

It would be an increase in property taxes, said Mayor Ken Shobe, but they don't know how much. City Attorney Steve Hirsch said the cemetery district would also have to charge of any abandoned cemeteries in the district. A cemetery becomes abandoned if it isn't mowed for a year, he added.

Councilman Rob McFee said he would like to see the tree plan before anything else. Rick Pauls, owner of Pauls Funeral Home, said if there is a plan, he can tell families that come in, since they don't know about it.

Mr. Anderson said he wanted to adopt the name Oberlin Memorial Park.

The motion was made and Mr. Anderson and Councilman Ray Ward voted in favor of the change.

"Do you want it to be called Oberlin Memorial Park if we want other people in the county to join the cemetery district and help pay for it?" Ms. May asked.

Ms. May and Mr. McFee voted against the name change. Mayor Shobe broke the tie with a no vote.

QUARTERLY STATEMENT OF			
Jean Ann Hale, County Treasurer of Decatur County, Kansas, Showing Balance on hand for the Quarter ending April 30, 2006			
County General	66,235.03	Summer Recreation	1,153.57
S,W Bell Rural 911 ..	24,183.07	Public Trans	1,812.13
Wireless E-911	6,512.68	Special Jail Equipment.....	318.57
Landfill	8,305.67	PATF	109.24
Road & Bridge	293,037.13	Sp. Fire Equip.	94,001.77
Special Bridge	304,093.75	Bond & Interest	45,179.84
Home for Aged	86,866.83	RFD Memorial.....	2,458.14
Conservation Dist	3,429.37	Economic Develop. .	3,172.00
Co. Health Nurse	33,760.91	CORE	1,081.05
JUCO	54,979.58	RFD	141,208.95
Ambulance Memorial...2,	158.22	Bad Check Trst Fnd .	725.87
Ambulance	61,186.74	Stray Animals	1,930.29
Noxious Weed.....	36,942.04	History Books	2,429.00
Sp. Road Machinery	337,114.00	Corp. Plan Emp.	130,711.03
Election	43,171.43	Current Tax	139,154.00
Special Liab.	7,443.95	Advance Tax	213.07
Ambulance Sp Eqp .	56,247.94	Motor Vehicle Tax ...	57,574.06
Deeds Tech. Fund	9,433.64	Delq. Personal Tax	104.90
Employee Bene.	345,925.99	Good Sam Memorial	461,075.42
Equip. Reserve	138,067.35	Treas. Special Auto	24,201.44
Juvenile Detention	55.00	Motor Vehicle License (1,551.59)	
Summer Rec Memorial ..	2,864.60	Sales Tax	22,057.96
Senior Citizens	37,045.97	R.V. Tax	1,012.06
Employee WH	28,636.00	Partial Pay	1,684.20
Cafeteria 125	22,238.07	Redemption & Assig. ...	4,096.00
Sp Alcohol Program	3,042.92	Suspense Acct.....	1,106.41
Special Park & Rec	3,096.57	TOTAL	(1,551.59) 3,154,645.42

TOWNSHIP	Gen'l Revenue	Road	Sp. Road
Bassettville		7,914.83	2,268.53
Dresden	SW 534.60		
Finley		21,370.36	
Logan		4,628.57	
Oberlin		7,053.39	3,092.23
Olive		6,267.95	
Sherman		6,419.48	
Summit		17,050.42	
TOTAL	SW 534.60	70,705.00	5,360.76

CEMETERY	
Norcatar	24.16
Hawkeye	112.61
Finley	3,088.37
TOTAL	3,225.14

FUND	
County Funds	3,153,093.83
Township Funds	76,600.36
Cemetery Funds	3,225.14
TOTAL	3,232,919.33

CASH:	
Investments	353,636.58
The Bank	410,829.94
The Bank Oberlin	1,141,566.33
Cash	625.00
The Bank MM	65,107.84
The Bank Ob. MM	77,004.05
FNB/Good Sam Mem	461,075.42
1st Natl Bank MM	317,786.92
TBO Corp Plan	130,711.03
Farmers Bk & Tr.	274,576.22
TOTAL	3,232,919.33

I, Jean Ann Hale, Treasurer of DECATUR County, Kansas, do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief. SO HELP ME GOD.

Jean Ann Hale, County Treasurer

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That the foregoing statement was subscribed and sworn to before me, and in my presence, by the above named, this 30th day of April, 2006.

Marilyn Horn, County Clerk

Diabetic Support Group

Thursday, June 1 at 7 p.m. at The Gateway, Rm. 3

Dr. Sliter will present an Diabetes overview. Open to the Public. Free of Charge.

Refreshments will be served

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