

Slimmer pool plan looks for support

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The fat has been cut off the original plan, leaving a six-lane outdoor pool with a diving area and a zero-depth entry costing \$1,536,000 as the pool for Oberlin's future.

After explaining the plan to city and county officials around the county, members say, they plan to turn the pool effort over to officials and see if the cities or the county can raise the money to build it.

The cost estimate is \$1 million less than the price estimate by Water's Edge Aquatic Design months ago, said Anna Shaw, a member of the city's pool committee, which has been leading the effort.

After the first numbers were released, she said, the committee called the engineer and asked them why the numbers were so high.

Almost-new boiler goes bust

The year-old boiler at the city swimming pool is broken and needs a new part.

Although the boiler worked at the beginning of the swimming season, it broke sometime last week, leaving the water in the pool a little chilly.

City Administrator Gary Shike said a serviceman from Hansen Plumbing in

North Platte, where the boiler was purchased last year, has been here more than once to fix it. The company is now getting a replacement ignitor for the boiler, he said.

Mr. Shike said he isn't sure when the part will be here.

The new plan includes a six-lane outdoor, heated pool, said Mrs. Shaw, with the committee. It leaves a spot for a slide, but doesn't include the slide. The plan doesn't include sun shades, but does have tables for concessions, diving boards, a concession stand and some other items.

The idea, said Mrs. Shaw, is that if later someone wants to raise the money to put in a slide or sunshades, there would be a place to put them.

Last Monday, she said, the group had a conference call with a financial expert. The committee doesn't suggest going with the finance person, she said, since they have done a lot of that work already.

Mrs. Shaw said what the group did decide is that they have two steps left to finish and

then they will step down.

The city has money and the responsibility to hire a grant writer and take the next step, she said. The committee has been working for years, held fund raisers and has gotten a plan drawn up.

Bake sales and other fund raisers aren't going to raise enough money to build a pool, though, she said.

At a recent town meeting where people talked about the county's positives and the future, the pool wasn't even brought up, she said.

"We think that people in the county think the pool committee is already taking care of the project," said Mrs. Shaw, adding that if the committee remains in existence, it will

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They also asked for the extras, all the fat, to be cut off the plan.

The engineer said they were using cost estimates for a few years down the road, she

said, thinking it would take Decatur County some time to raise the money. The engineers

also had included slides and extras the committee didn't ask for.

Alumni group works to boost education here

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

A group of alumni has found a way to help improve the future education of students in the Oberlin School District, with the new Decatur Community Educational Foundation.

Last Tuesday, members of the foundation's board explained their plans at the Oberlin Rotary Club's noon meeting at The Gateway. Members who were present included Dr. Mark Olson, president; Jill Reichert, vice-president; Col. Gary Allen, secretary; and Paul Shields. Other members who weren't able to make it to the meeting include Colleen Rittmann, treasurer, Ken Badsky, Jane Gilliam and Roland May.

The board has been together a little over a year and a half, said Mr. Shields. In that time, they have been organizing the foundation and setting up the different funds. Now, he said, they are starting to take their plans to the public.

Mr. Shields said this all started when some of the groups were working on bond issues for the school district. The bond issues failed, he said, and it became clear it would be hard to get one passed with the drought and other economic problems here.

Still, he said, the group thought that they could start something to bring in money for schools, said Mr. Shields, and not just local money.

The Oberlin School District has a strong alumni group, he said. The board thought people would give money to help keep the schools in shape and offer scholarships for Oberlin kids.

The foundation has three established funds, he said. The Decatur Community Education Fund will provide grants to support education. These can be for anything from technology to helping fix up a part of the building, he said, but the money cannot be used for teacher salaries.

The Decatur Community Scholarship Fund, Mr. Shields said, is just that, a way to provide graduates with scholarships for further education.

There is also an Endowed Fund, where by donating a minimum of \$10,000, a donor can put their name on a fund and establish the guidelines.

Until the end of December, said Dr. Olson, people can join the Founders Club with a minimum donation of \$10,000, either all at one time or \$2,000 a year over a five year period.

The foundation, said Mr. Shields, (See SCHOOL on Page 10A)

Relay for Life starts Friday night with dinner, walk

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

The fifth annual Decatur County Relay for Life kicks off at 6 p.m. Friday with a survivors' reception in the Decatur Community High School cafeteria.

The relay is set up to help raise money for cancer research through the American Cancer Society.

At 6:30 p.m., the community band will start to play. Opening ceremonies will start at 7 p.m. at the high school track, with survivors walking the first lap and survivors and caregivers taking the second. Those survivors who are unable to walk can rock in chairs set up on the track.

New this year there will be a smoked-beef barbecue fundraiser at the track. The meat has been donated by the May Family Farms and Robert Groneweg has volunteered to cook the meat on his Traeger grill.

Things will continue with the release of the balloons and games. Around 8:30 p.m. hair cuts provided by Shelli's Hair Design staff will start for people wanting to donate their hair to Locks of Love. The program provides wigs for cancer patients who lose their hair during treatment.

Although the luminary ceremony

doesn't start until 10 p.m., anyone who wants to light a luminary for a loved one can do so around 9:45 p.m.

During the ceremony, Ralph Shaw will tell his survivor story. Both Anthony Marshall and Andrea Spanier will perform.

The relay volunteers ask that no children under the age of 16 be present at the track after midnight without a parent or adult sponsor.

Goodie baskets will be given away every hour throughout the evening and morning.

There are 11 teams registered for the relay this year, including Decatur Health Systems, Decatur Professional Women, Decatur County, Herndon Covenant Church, the Black Peppers, Oberlin Elementary School, the May Family, the Good Samaritan Steppers, the Bruggeman family and friends, Decatur Community High School and the Dresser. Teams are to keep at least one member on the track all night.

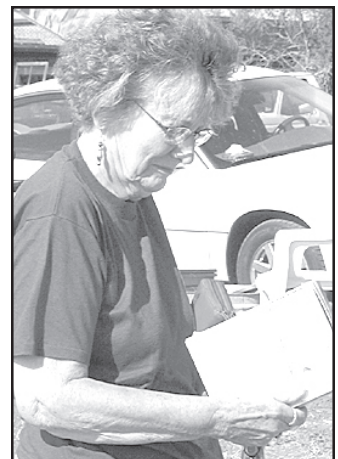
Even if you aren't on a team, the Relay volunteers invite everyone to the track to take part in the event. The walk ends Saturday morning at 7 a.m.



Bargain hunting

IN NORCATUR Saturday, Leone Purton (top) and Eunice Wenger (below) shopped for deals at the community-wide garage sale. People from Oberlin, Norton, Norcat and other towns shopped at the sales, including the one held by Pansy Price (right).

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Dad's section inside

Check out today's issue of *The Oberlin Herald* to find the first special section dedicated to dads, just in time for Father's Day.

Kids at Oberlin Elementary School wrote letters about their dads to nominate them for the Father of the Year contest, sponsored by the Oberlin Business

Alliance. With the help of sponsors, the newspaper staff was able to put those letters together with art from Carol Brown's kindergartners to honor dads in Decatur County. This year's Father of the Year is Paul Shields, whose daughter Cassidy's letter was chosen by the alliance

Hot weather causes water use to jump

Water use jumped to above 700,000 gallons almost every day last week, with the weather turning hot and dry and people continuing to water their lawns and gardens.

Although outdoor water use is allowed on alternate days, the Oberlin City Council has asked

people to be conservative and make sure that they water in their allowed times.

Watering is allowed from midnight to 9 a.m. and from 8 p.m. to midnight on specified days.

Those with even-numbered addresses can water Wednesday, Fri-

day and Sundays. Those with odd-numbered addresses can water Tuesday, Thursday and Saturdays. There is no outdoor water use allowed on Monday.

The city pumped:
• 471,000 gallons on Monday, June 5.

• 754,000 gallons on Tuesday, June 6.

• 740,000 gallons last Wednesday.

• 728,000 gallons on Thursday.

• 799,000 gallons on Friday.

• 630,000 gallons on Saturday.

• 511,000 gallons on Sunday.