

Landowner asks engineer about plant

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

An Oberlin landowner, upset over the city's decision that she couldn't keep chickens in town, questions whether the city's new sewer plant south of town will meet state requirements because it isn't 100 feet away from her property line.

Julie Cunningham has owned farm ground just south of the sewer plant for the past year. Asked about the situation, Mrs. Cunningham said her lawyer told her not to talk about it.

In 2003, the city started plans with its en-

gineers to build a new sewer plant, replacing the old plant north of Sappa Creek. The city bought land and work started last June on a new lagoon system south of the creek.

Chris Miller, engineer and owner of Miller and Associates, the McCook firm which does most of the city's work, said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has recommended standards, which include one that a sewer plant should be 100 feet from any property line. The edge of the plant being built isn't 100 feet away from Mrs. Cunningham's property, he said. At

the closest, it's less than 40 feet from her property. About two acres of her land is within 100 feet, he said.

One of the first steps before starting to build a sewer plant is to get the approval from the state, Mr. Miller said. He said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment saw the plans for the plant in Oberlin and approved them. Everything on the plan was approved, he said, including the distance to Mrs. Cunningham's property.

Mr. Miller said before construction started, the engineering firm surveyed the

city's land. The survey, he said, showed that the people to the south were actually farming into the city's land.

He said Mrs. Cunningham chose to have the land surveyed again. Mr. Miller said he offered to pay for that survey, but she said no.

At first, he said, he and Mrs. Cunningham were working on the issue. In the last month, however, she got a lawyer, he said, so now the engineering firm's lawyer is working with hers.

On Thursday, Nov. 9, the city Board of

Zoning Appeals talked with Mrs. Cunningham about chickens she had in her front yard in town. The board said she couldn't keep the chickens because she didn't have an acre of land, as required by the city zoning code.

Mrs. Cunningham said, as she left the meeting, that she may have been out of compliance in town, but the city is "out of compliance" at her farm and they could call it a wash.

The land needed to make the property 100 (See LAWYERS on Page 5A)



AT HER HOME Dorene Shuler (above) put out a place setting which will decorate her table for the Decatur Professional Women home tour on Sunday. Rhonda May (be-

low) stood in front of a fire place made out of semi-precious stones. An original stained glass window (bottom) decorates the Nedland/May home. — Herald staff photos by Kim Davis

Four women win instantly with promotion

Four shoppers won \$50 in scrip money last week from the Oberlin merchants and *Oberlin Herald* Christmas on Us promotion.

The winners include Frances Vacura, Norma Unger, Patty Brown and Roxie Pomeroy. The four women found their winning numbers in last week's Christmas on Us section of the newspaper.

The week before two people claimed their \$50 in scrip money, which means there are four more chances to win instantly and only a week and a half until the big drawing.

Mrs. Brown got her ticket No. 613972 at the LandMark Inn. She said she wasn't sure how she was going to spend the money, but thought some of it would go for groceries.

Mrs. Unger got her ticket No. 991957 from Raye's and thought she would spend the \$50 scrip money at the store on groceries.

Mrs. Vacura got her ticket No. 805407 from Golt's Home Planning Center and wasn't sure what she would spend the money on. Mrs. Pomeroy received her ticket No. 572051 from Raye's.

The two instant winning tickets that weren't claimed last week were No. 379353 from Stanley Hardware

and No. 9739645 from Ampride.

The way to play is to pick up red tickets at sponsoring businesses for every \$10 a person spends or stop by the chamber or newspaper office and pick up a ticket. There is no purchase necessary to win.

All participants have to be 18 years and older to play. Those who work at *The Oberlin Herald* aren't eligible to win, neither is their immediate family. People employed by sponsoring businesses can't get tickets at their place of employment.

To see a complete list of rules look at Page 4C of the Christmas section.

This week six numbers will show up in the Christmas on Us ads. The first four people to match their ticket numbers and come into the office will be instant winners.

Any instant money that isn't given away before Saturday, Dec. 16, will be given at the drawing.

The drawing will be held 11:30 a.m. at Centennial Park on that Saturday. Winners must be present and also have their tickets at the drawing.

The newspaper staff will draw for a second prize of \$500 and then the grand prize of \$1,500.

In case of bad weather, there will be a back up location, which is still being determined.

Oberlin council to decide price for former ranch

The Oberlin City Council will establish a selling price for the former youth ranch when it meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the council needs a price for listing on Midwest EServices, which is an on-line advertisement. The council hasn't made a decision whether they will sell the facility or not.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the council has to choose an airport consultant at the meeting. Under Federal Aviation Administration rules, the city has to select a consultant and develop a new master plan before making any changes to the runway.

Mr. Shike said the city has received two proposals and the airport

committee has looked at both. The council will review the proposals and make a decision.

At the beginning of the meeting, under public comments, Rose Eskew has asked to talk with the council about keeping her miniature horse, Scout. Mrs. Eskew met with the Board of Zoning Appeals in November to get a permit to keep Scout in town. The board said they couldn't look at the application or make a decision because the ordinance says she has to have an acre of land to even keep that kind of animal in the city.

The meeting will be held upstairs in The Gateway. It should be televised on local access cable channel 7.

Homes to be on tour

Trees are up with tiny twinkling lights, wreaths are on the doors, tables are set and things are ready for the annual Holiday Home Tour sponsored by the Decatur Professional Women on Sunday.

The home tour starts at the United Church at 2:30 p.m. and will end at the church with a soup supper.

There are four homes on the tour including Roger and Angie Wilson at 207 N. Ingalls, Dan Nedland and Rhonda May at 112 E. Maple, John and Lori Milnes at 702 E. Commercial, and Everett and Dorene Shuler at 101 S. Wolf. The tour will also include the Last Indian Raid Museum, which features 22 trees decorated by civic groups and others.

Each year the professional women host the home tour to raise money for scholarships the group gives to seniors graduating from Decatur Community High School and nontraditional students, older women returning to school.

At the May-Nedland house, visitors will get to see a home which is over 100 years old. She said the story is that the hoise was built in 1895 and later moved to town on logs, pulled by horses.

The home has several original stained glass windows and other items that have been updated since it was built.

Ms. May said the home was owned by the W. T. Stevenson family and he was a pharmacist in town, many years ago. He and his sons, Tudor and Charles Stevenson, owned and operated Stevenson Drug Store, now Ward Drug Store, on the east side of Main Street, for many years.

The home has also been owned by Pansy Stapleton Forsberg, who



put in the fire place, made from semi-precious stones, in the front room. She also put in the front staircase, several windows on the back porch and one in the dining room. The story goes that she bought the items from the Benton Memorial Hospital.

Ms. May said the old Victorian House, with the exception of some updates, is pretty much in its original condition.

The Shuler home, which was built in 2004, is located just north of Boy Scout Park. The home boasts new carpet, a wide staircase going downstairs, three bedrooms, an office, three bathrooms, an

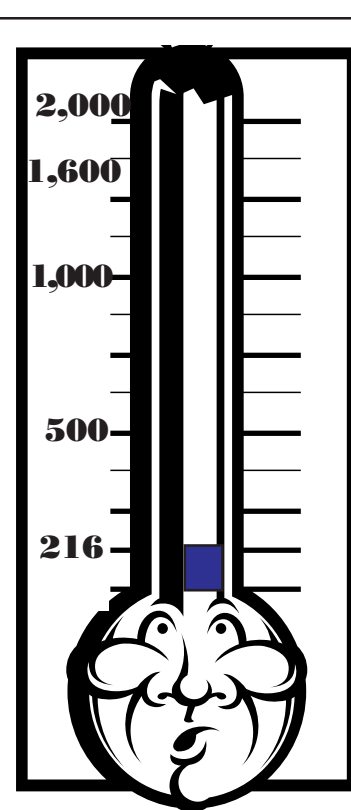


open great room in the basement and large kitchen.

The Shulers have decorated the house with Christmas trees, Santas and fine table settings both upstairs

and downstairs.

Anyone can go on the tour by purchasing a ticket from one of the group's members, at the Dresser or at *The Oberlin Herald* for \$12.



Drive starts slowly

In its second week, the annual food drive at Stanley Hardware has 216 items.

The drive will end when the new year starts. Joe Stanley, owner of the store, has a goal set of 2,000 items by the new year. Only 1,784 items to go.

All of the items will be donated to the Decatur County Food Pantry located in the basement of the United Church.