

Council looks at rate hike

Gateway fees raised in 2003

The Oberlin City Council discussed raising the rates for use of The Gateway last Monday, but didn't make any decisions.

City Administrator Gary Shike said the last time the city raised the rates was 2003. The council discussed what they want from The Gateway, whether it should be a money maker or draw more people.

At a recent meeting, Councilman Ray Ward said people have said to him that they can't believe how low the rates are. Others, said Mr. Shike, say they already support the facility through taxes and the rates shouldn't increase.

Councilwoman Rhonda May, said Mr. Shike, commented that she doesn't want to see the city add more staff.

There wasn't any suggestion of how much the rates should be raised. The council took information home to look over.

In 2006, The Gateway cost \$175,973 to operate, Mr. Shike said Monday. The same year, the income for the civic center included \$14,475 in rental of the building, \$68,630 in catering and around \$1,277 in miscellaneous stuff.

He said the Gateway budget gets money for interested off certificates of deposit from the sale of the Morgan house and sale of the land at the intersection of U.S. 83 and U.S. 36 where Crossroads sits now. Last year, that was \$3,710.

The total income was \$88,093, Mr. Shike said, and the city subsidizes civic center budget about \$100,000 each year from the electric fund.

In 2006, Mr. Shike said, that left \$12,120 in carryover to start the current year.

The council budgeted \$192,100 for 2007, he added, with wages going up and food and fuel prices increasing.

A comment was made, said Mr. Shike, that people like the idea that if the arena is rented for a Saturday wedding, they can come in at noon on Friday to set up.

The council said they don't want to make The Gateway staff busier, as the city already pays enough overtime, said Mr. Shike.

The council didn't schedule another time to discuss the possible rate changes. Currently, users pay \$150 for the arena, \$75 for the theater with an extra \$10 an hour if a technician is needed, \$50 for rooms 1 and 2 upstairs, \$100 for the kitchen, \$15 for the lobby, \$10 an hour for room 3, plus \$10 if the room needs to be reset. There is no charge for room 3 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The Gateway can provide table linens, a stage, risers, a portable sound system, table and chairs, all for extra charges. The city catering staff does most meals at the center, charging by the item.



AT THE HIGH PLAINS ARTFEST on Friday night at The Gateway, Jody Betts looked at different pieces hung for the weekend show. Mrs. Betts was just one of the 170 people who milled around the gala that evening to look at the art work and talk with others.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

ArtFest Gala draws a crowd to look, buy

Pencil sketches, oil paintings, watercolor, pottery and photographs were hung with care in the arena of The Gateway just in time for the High Plains ArtFest gala on Friday.

Dressed in their best, 170 people milled around the artwork, studying pieces they may want to buy and those they appreciated. The show boasted 254 entries from 60 adults and 42 students.

The works included pictures of vehicles, people, windmills, animals and more. Artists from northwest Kansas, southwest Nebraska and northeast Colorado entered pieces in the show.

Area artists included Anna Seeber Shaw, Doc Williams, Gary Shike, Neil Marshall, Jim Merriott and Anthony Marshall. Students from

Decatur Community High School included Nicole Wolters, Lakin Lahe and Jennifer Plossard.

Ronald Michael, curator of the Sandzen Memorial Gallery in Lindsborg, served as the judge for show, choosing a piece called "Birdhouse on Hurdhoss Hill" by Glenn Randolph of McCook as Best of Show in the adult category. He chose a piece called "Shades of Degas" by Holly Liffin, a senior at Quinter High School as the Best of Show in the student category.

Those at the gala picked "Wilderness Wise" by Deonne Hinz of McCook as the People's Choice winner in the adult category and Miss Liffin as the student winner.

The Best of Show adult winner received a ribbon and \$250, and adult People's Choice a ribbon and \$200. The Best of Show in the student division won \$125 and a ribbon and the People's Choice won \$100 and a ribbon.

Eighteen pieces of art were sold for a total of \$4,655, said Mary Henzel, who helped organize the event.

Connie Grafel, Gateway marketing director, said the gala Friday and the show Saturday and Sunday had gone well. There weren't any complaints, she said, just lots of kudos from everyone. People told her they want the event, sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission, to keep going. In its third year, said Ms. Grafel, the event had more entries, more people, more pieces and more sales. The group plans on doing it again next year, she said.

Woman named to take City Council seat

Marcia Lohofener held her right hand in the air as she swore to uphold the constitutions of the United States and the State of Kansas at the beginning of the Oberlin City Council meeting Thursday at The Gateway.

Mrs. Lohofener was appointed to fill the seat left vacant when Joe Stanley became mayor. His election at the beginning of the month left a seat open on the council. Mayor Stanley said he had asked Mrs. Lohofener to take the job. She agreed and the council approved.

Mrs. Lohofener, who has lived in the county for all of but five years of her life, ran in November as a write-in candidate for Decatur County commissioner.

As a council member, she said, she plans to watch out for changes in the laws that come down from the state and federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations. Someone has to watch for those and be concerned about what the people here want and what's right for them, she said.

Infrastructure, she said, things like a proposed new water treatment plant and extension of the airport

runway, is important for continued growth and the future of the community.

Mrs. Lohofener said that part of her job too will be making sure Oberlin continues to be a great place to live.

Other areas important to her as a councilwoman include making sure money is spent wisely and the airport project, she said.

In the past, said Mrs. Lohofener, she has been asked to fill spots on the council, but never did. It seemed like a good time, said Mrs. Lohofener, when Mayor Stanley called her. She will serve the remaining two years of his term.

Over the years, Mrs. Lohofener has been director of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp. and manager of the Decatur County Chamber of Commerce for four years. Both jobs taught her to work with businesses and people all over the county, she said, but also with state agencies and officials in Topeka.

She said she has served the medical community for 25 years and was an emergency medical technician for eight. Today, she is manager of

Wheat Ridge Terrace senior apartments under Decatur Health Systems, and in her spare time is an agent with Johnson Realty and owns a small antique shop called Nanny's Attic.

Mrs. Lohofener is an elder at the United Church, serves on the advisory board of the Decatur County Good Samaritan Center and the Decatur County Retirement Housing Corp. for Wheat Ridge, and is a member of the Monday Evening Club, the Decatur County Antique Guild and the Oberlin Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star.

Co-op reports a good year

Doug Claussen, new manager of Decatur Co-op, told members at the annual meeting Thursday at The Gateway that even with bad weather last year, the association was still able to return value to its members.

"On the financials, the association had \$28.5 million in sales and total earnings of \$275,000," he said.

A crowd of about 190 enjoyed the meal, served by The Gateway staff. Entertainment was by the DCHS Singers, with director Susan Nelson and accompanist Mary Lohofener.

Area seniors receiving \$1,000 scholarships from the association were:

- Kim Wessel, daughter of Bill and Carol Wessel.
- Marcus McKenna, son of Pat and Shelley McKenna.
- Marci Metcalf, daughter of Joe and Lolita Metcalf.
- Terry Urban, son of Terry Urban and Leslie Plotts.

The auditor's report, given by Greg Daughhettee of Lindburg and

Vogel, Certified Public Accountants of Salina, included a distribution of net earnings through patronage dividends to member-owners of \$226,000. Rod Bryan gave the board president's report.

The co-op honored several employees for their years of service. Directors elected were Paul Nauer Jr., Gerald Benda and Gary Orr Jr.

AUCTION REMINDER

Sat., April 28, 2007 • 10 a.m.

Location: From intersection U.S. 25 and U.S. 36 in Atwood, Kansas, go 7-1/2 miles east on U.S. 36, 7 miles south, 2 miles east and 2 miles south. From Midway on U.S. 36 south of Herndon, Kansas, go 5 miles south, 2 miles west, 3 miles south, 2 miles west and 2 miles south. Signs will be posted.

Sellers: Mumm Brothers & Guest Consignors

- Trailers
- Hay Equipment
- Trucks & Vehicles
- Shop Equipment & Misc.
- Livestock Equipment
- Tractors
- Machinery

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RETIREMENT AUCTION

Tues., May 8, 2007 • 10 a.m.

Location: From the intersection of Highway 36 and Highway 83 in Oberlin, Kansas, go 4 miles east on Highway 36 and 1/4 mile south. Signs will be posted.

Lunch will be served

Sellers: Bill and Ina M. Goodnight

AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: The Goodnights are retiring and are offering a large selection of tools and equipment. You won't want to miss this auction!

Tractors & Heavy Equipment



1947 Farmall Cub w/side sickle mower, new tires, very good shape. A collector's item!



2606 International tractor w/loader & bucket and a 14' backhoe, 24" bucket, real good shape



Rose lift truck, fork lift 6,000 lb. rated Western scraper, pull-type road grader, Pat. 1893 Gravel dump box, 8'

Vehicles

- 1966 Ford 100 custom cab pickup
- 1973 International 1110 345 V-8 pickup
- 1982 Sea Nymph 16' aluminum boat, outboard gas 70 hp motor, foot pedal, electric motor on bow, new carpet, always shedded, very good condition
- 1976 Camper van, fair condition/couch, sink, toilet, shower, stove, refrigerator



1971 C-50 Chevrolet truck, 14' box & hoist

Shop Tools & Miscellaneous

- Bishman safety lift air jack
- (2) 2"x7"x25" metal beams
- Vises, all sizes
- New 2" Marlow transfer pump
- Briggs & Stratton & Wisconsin engines
- Pipe vise
- Four cylinder Continental engine w/ Rockford clutch
- Ford 6 cylinder block

- (2) Floor jacks
- Parts cleaner air operated cabinet
- (2) Hydraulic presses
- 5"x18" Pressure tank • Hard hats
- Metal hand press
- (4) Pipe threaders
- Heavy duty hand winch
- Lincoln air grease gun
- Metal base tool cabinet, 18"x 23"

Woodworking Tools

- Wood lathe, 32" table w/bench
- Craftsman table saw
- M&W radial arm saw
- Sm wood lathe w/bench
- (5) Metal wood planes

Lawn Mowers

- Toro riding mower
- Murray riding mower
- Yardman push mower

Trailers

- 1978 28' travel trailer
- Single axle trailer w/12" tires
- Single axle trailer, 12' bed, 15" tires
- Triple axle trailer
- Heavy-duty tandem tilt bed trailer

Guns

- Shotgun, Steven pump Model 62
- New .22 Marlin bolt action, Bi-dl
- Lakefield bolt action, Mark 22
- .22 Sport King Special, automatic

Antiques

- (2) 50-gal. oil hand pump dispenser, work
- (3) Model-T radiators, good • 1951 Chev. pickup radiator • Pump jack
- Welding table w/vise • Car jacks, some heavy duty • (2) Wooden hand planes
- Black & Decker 1/2" electric drill, Pat. 1917 w/Cushman clutch, works
- Old wooden kitchen cabinet w/sink • (2) McCormick Deering cast iron header, barge platforms

Lots and Lots of Antique Hand Tools and Wrenches!
A Large Selection of Hand Tools Too Numerous to Mention!

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