



Happy Thanksgiving!

**Christmas
on Us
returns!
See Section C.**

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Dinner, parade, Santa on schedule

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Turkey day is here, and volunteers and people around the county are preparing for the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner, the Parade of Lights, holiday craft show and the opening of the Christmas Tree Tour at the museum.

Things kick off on Thanksgiving morning at 10:30 a.m. with a worship service at St. John's Lutheran Church, 510 N. Wilson in Oberlin. At noon, volunteers will start serving turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy and a vegetable.

People are invited to call Marvin May at 475-2443 or Teresa Diederich at 475-3525 to sign up to bring in a salad or pie. Both are still needed.

The meal is open to anyone and everyone who wants to come. Last year, said Mr. May, who is heading the dinner this year, they had 124 people. He said they were told to expect around 10 more this year.

If you want to attend, make a reservation by calling the same numbers. If you gets an answering machine, said Mrs. Diederich, make sure to leave the number of people coming to dinner and an address if a dinner

needs to be delivered. Mr. May said reservations aren't required, but it helps to know how many are coming.

People who need a ride to the dinner can call. Mr. May said volunteers also will deliver meals to people who can't get out.

The dinner was started in the late 1970s by the members of St. John's. In the '80s, members of the former Oberlin Pride Committee got involved.

Since then the Pride Committee has disbanded, but the church members and volunteers have kept the dinner going.

From 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, the Oberlin

Lions Club will hold a soup supper in the back room of the Golden Age Center downtown. The group will serve chicken-noodle soup, chili and homemade pies. The Lions are asking for a donation for the dinner. They are raising money for scholarships.

At 6:30 p.m. Friday, the Oberlin Business Alliance Parade of Lights will start on Main Street. Staging will take place in the parking lot of the Decatur Co-op at the south end of Penn Avenue.

Anyone who wants to enter in the parade can call the Chamber of Commerce office at 475-3441 or Gary Walter at 475-3817.

Prizes will be given for first, second and third place. Santa Claus should arrive on a fire engine.

After the parade, Santa will meet with kids of all ages in the Decatur County courthouse. Enter through the west door.

From 7 to 9 p.m., the Christmas Tree Tour at the Last Indian Raid Museum will be open. The museum will have music by the gospel group Faith, Hope and Charity. Refreshments will be provided.

People looking at the trees can vote for their favorite by adding change to a cup (See PARADE on Page 5A)



THE FAHRENBRUCH KIDS, (from left) Briauna, Modesta, McKenzie and Esperanza, circled around Mader, their family's American Staffordshire Terrier. City officials classify the dog as a pit bull. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Woman asks city if she can keep her dog

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The City Council gave an Oberlin woman three weeks to find out if her dog is or isn't a pit bull, since the infamous breed isn't allowed inside city limits.

Jennifer Fahrenbruch said she received a letter from the city telling her that she had two weeks to get rid of the dog. Mrs. Fahrenbruch said her dog isn't a pit bull, but an American Staffordshire Terrier, a related breed which looks much like a pit bull.

The online encyclopedia Wikipedia says the Staffordshire Terrier was bred out the American Pit Bull Terrier in an attempt to create a more friendly animal as a family pet. It can be difficult to tell the two breeds apart, the article

Council Roundup

At a meeting Thursday night, the Oberlin City Council:

- Approved a \$30,000 loan for the Oberlin Housing Authority to help pay off bonds for Sappa Valley Manor. Story to come.
- Received another proposal from Sunflower Wind to sell wind power to the city and agreed to send the draft to the city's third-party consultant. Story at right.
- Gave a three-week extension to

an Oberlin woman to find out if her dog is a pit bull or not. Story at left.

- Decided not to approve a resolution to borrow \$4.2 million from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to build a waste water treatment plant. Story above.
- Approved buying Santa Bucks for the full- and part-time employees, including council members. Story on Page 8A.

says, and many cities include both in breed bans.

Mrs. Fahrenbruch said she found an article on the internet from the website Dog Breed Info Center. It

states that the show strain was labeled the American Staffordshire, while the fighting dog strain was labeled the American Pit Bull Terrier. The two are now being recognized

as separate breeds.

She said she got the dog last October when it was a puppy and nursed it back to health. She and her husband Jake, have four children, she said, and the dog isn't mean.

Her husband moved to town last September and she and the kids followed in March. Mr. Fahrenbruch works with Trilobite Testing and tests oil rigs. The family lives at 109 N. Grand.

A city ordinance, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch, declares that pit bulls are dangerous. The ordinance also says that American Staffordshire Terriers are included in the definition of a pit bull and are also not allowed in the city.

Mrs. Fahrenbruch said she (See WOMAN on Page 5A)

City delays once again on water loan

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin City Council decided Thursday not to go forward with a plan to borrow \$4.2 million from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to build a water-treatment plant.

The decision sets up a possible conflict with the state, which apparently expects the city to build the plant so it can meet new, tougher federal standards for drinking water.

The council first discussed the resolution to borrow \$4.2 million from the department's revolving loan fund at the last meeting in October. The council failed to pass the resolution when a majority of the elected members didn't vote in favor of it. At the first meeting in November, the board decided to not take any action waiting for public comment.

The council received a letter

Thursday from its engineering firm, Miller and Associates, out of McCook. Owner Chris Miller noted that the city has already "constructed a large water system improvement project, which replaced several blocks of water mains in town and provided for a large-diameter blending main to a proposed treatment plant location."

The city purchased land for the treatment plant, which included an irrigation well, he said.

Mr. Miller wrote that the city also upgraded one of the existing wells to have more water. The city applied for a 100 percent Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant to drill and equip the replacement well.

"The permit to construct the replacement well was allowed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment with the understanding the city would be constructing (See CITY on Page 5A)

Wind firm gives city a revised pact

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin City Council got a new proposal last week from Sunflower Wind to sell power to the city, and agreed Thursday to send it to its consultant for review.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said he received the draft the day before the meeting. He said he forwarded the draft on to the council, except for Councilman Rob McFee, for whom he didn't have an e-mail address.

Mr. Hirsch said he had looked at the proposal, but didn't think it was a lot different from the one Sunflower sent a couple of months ago.

The draft hasn't been sent to Joe Herz from Burr Oak, an electrical consultant whom the council hired

to look over any proposals. He said he wasn't sure if he should send him a copy or not.

Mayor Joe Stanley said he thought they should send Mr. Hirsch the draft.

Mr. Hirsch did say that he had e-mailed Brice Barton, with Sunflower Wind, to make sure he knew that City Administrator Gary Shike wasn't going to be at the meeting last week.

It looks like the proposal is for 9 cents per kilowatt hour, said Mayor Joe Stanley. If anyone bids under that price, he said, Sunflower Wind would get a chance to underbid them. Actually, it seems like everyone gets another chance to bid, said the mayor.

It sounds like if the bidding process doesn't start in a certain time frame, said Councilman Ray Ward, then the city won't be able to do the (See WIND on Page 5A)

Groups join forces to plan new recreation center

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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Two volunteer groups have joined forces to plan and build a new senior center, movie theater and bowling alley for Oberlin and Decatur County.

Greg Lohofener, who serves on both the Decatur Tomorrow planning group and the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Economic Development Corp. board, said the two are trying to fill in the gaps for services the community doesn't have and update some that exist.

A committee of sorts has been meeting, he said, including Mr. Lohofener, Helen Gee, with the senior meal site; Dorothy Moore with the Golden Age Center; Duane Dorshorst with the theater; County Clerk Marilyn Horn; and Brenda Breth, who serves on the Decatur



SAPPA VALLEY CONSTRUCTION provided a sketch of what the new senior center, movie theater and bowling alley

Tomorrow intergenerational group. They need to add someone from the

city to the working group, he said. Although the group has met

might look like. The steel building would be erected on the site of the present Golden Age Center and Sunflower Cinema.

twice, he said, they haven't actually formed a committee. He said he has

only been working on the idea for (See PLANS on Page 5A)

City reads all meters

The Oberlin city crew started reading water meters this week for the end-of-the-year record, which means it's time to stop lawn watering and other outside uses.

City Administrator Gary Shike said people should avoid any excess water use between now and March, because the winter reading taken that month is used to figure sewer charges for next year.

Mr. Shike said the crews will be back out reading meters again in the spring to complete the cycle for the sewer charges, which are figured each year based on lower winter usage.