

City backs order banning family's dog

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The City Council vote 3-2 Thursday against allowing an Oberlin woman to keep her American Staffordshire Terrier, a cousin to the pit bull, bringing the original order to get rid of the dog back into play. The dog was removed from the city limits by the owner the following day; she said it had been "taken out to pasture."

At the second council meeting last month, on Thursday, Nov. 15, Jennifer Fahrenbruch came to the council to ask why she got the order from animal control officer Jeff Johnson. The letter said the woman is keeping a pit bull dog, which isn't allowed in the city.

Mrs. Fahrenbruch said her dog is an American Staffordshire Terrier, not a pit bull. The council asked her to get some documentation that the dog isn't a pit bull and gave her an extension on the order.

The original order, issued on Wednesday, Nov. 14, said the dog needed to be gone in two weeks, and that later was extended to three weeks.

The ordinance banning pit bulls, said Mayor Joe Stanley, was adopted in the 1980s. It was written by the Kansas League of Municipalities and is used by 200 plus cities in the state.

At the meeting Thursday, Mrs. Fahrenbruch gave each member of the council a letter from Dr. Randy Leska, an Oberlin veterinarian, and a bill from his clinic showing that the dog is an American Staffordshire Terrier.

The ordinance, however, defines a "pit bull dog" as any bull terrier breed, including the Staffordshire terrier, the American Pit Bull Terrier breed, dogs that are mixed breed of those and any dog which "has the appearance or characteristics of being predominately bred with a bull terrier, Staffordshire bull terrier, American pit bull terrier, American Staffordshire terrier or any other breed known as pit bull."

By the city's definition, said Mayor Stanley, the dog is still a pit bull.

It is a cousin of the pit bull, countered Mrs. Fahrenbruch, but by breeders' standards not a pit bull.

Mayor Stanley said he isn't sure if the council has had any comments, but he has had a lot, and people don't want anything to do with the dog. According to the vet, he said, the dog is an American Staffordshire Terrier, so the order of the animal control officer stands unless the council wants to take action.

Councilman Jay Anderson apologized for his comment at the last meeting, when he said the breed isn't a pit bull. He said he had the breed mistaken with another.

Darrin Glading, who was in the audience, said he has come into contact with this dog and he isn't violent. Mr. Glading said he has

four dogs and each one is part of his family, just like kids. Surely Mrs. Fahrenbruch feels the same way, he said. If there was a questionable family member, that person isn't just shipped off. Instead you try to take care of them. If this was your child, asked Mr. Glading, would you be willing to ship him off?

Dr. Anderson said he and his wife used to have a pit bull back in the 1970s, before the ordinance, but he had to get rid of the dog after deciding a pit bull didn't belong in the city.

It says on the Internet, said Mrs. Fahrenbruch, that you can train the dogs to be the way you want. The American Staffordshire Terrier and the pit bull are two different breeds, she said.

"You said prove he isn't a pit bull," she said. "I did exactly what you asked me to do. I have learned more about pit bulls in the last three weeks and the two aren't the same. The mayor didn't even know there was this ordinance. Why would I?"

No one said if you proved he wasn't a pit bull you could keep the dog in town, said Councilman Ray Ward.

Not unless the city changes the ordinance, said Councilwoman Rhonda May.

The codes were written when people were taking the bull terrier and training it to be violent, said Mr. Glading.

These dogs, said Mayor Stanley, were trained this way for the last 500 years, not just two decades.

The dogs can be trained to be nice, said Mr. Glading. All of this needs to be taken into consideration.

"This is profiling," she said. Still, said Mayor Stanley, the city has laws to abide by.

"I think my dog should get a reward, because I did what you asked me to do," said Mrs. Fahrenbruch. "There's two different breeds."

"The State of Kansas disagrees with you," said Mayor Stanley, "so unless there is a motion by the council, the order stands."

Saying "the State of Kansas has been wrong before," Councilman Rob McFee made a motion to change the ordinance to take out the American Staffordshire terrier.

Ms. May seconded the motion. Both voted in favor of the motion, which failed in a vote of 3-2.

"You let rapists live here; child molesters and rapers live here, but you won't let a dog," said Mrs. Fahrenbruch. "That takes some courage. I feel sorry for you. If you don't believe they are here, look it up on the Internet."

The original order from the animal control officer stands, Mr. Shike said, which means Mrs. Fahrenbruch had to get rid of the dog as soon as possible. The council didn't give Mrs. Fahrenbruch another extension, Mr. Shike said, and the original three weeks was up.

Mrs. Fahrenbruch left in tears.

It takes a little wind to blow real good



AT THE GRADE SCHOOL Monday afternoon, students that night. The concert was canceled, however, because of weather, and it hasn't been rescheduled yet. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Two more win \$50 in merchants' contest

Two winners claimed \$50 instant prizes this week from the Oberlin merchants' Christmas on Us promotion.

Timmarie Sporn said she got her ticket, No. 124391, at Stanley Hardware. She plans to spend the money on Christmas gifts.

The second winner was Charlie Godwin, who received ticket No. 122371 from D&M Sinclair. He said he plans to spend the money on things from the Home Planning Center.

Tickets not claimed this week included No. 262019 from the American Legion, No. 597599 from Ward Drug Store, No. 285189 from Southwest Implement, No. 248915 from Addleman Drug Store and No. 607520 and No. 832416 from Raye's Grocery.

This is the final week to try your hand at

winning a \$50 instant prize. Each week, ticket numbers are printed in the Christmas on Us ads inside the newspaper. If a ticket matches one of those numbers, bring it to *The Oberlin Herald* office by 5 p.m. Friday to claim \$50 in scrip money as the prize.

There are four instant prizes left, and eight numbers hidden in ads in this week's paper. The first four people who bring winning tickets to the office will get the four prizes. Any leftovers will be given away during the grand prize drawing at 11 a.m. Saturday in Centennial Park.

All winners have to be 18 or older and must be willing to have their picture taken for the paper. Friday is the last day to get tickets in the contest from sponsoring merchants. Shoppers get one free ticket for each \$10 they spend. If a clerk

forgets to give you tickets, remind them. You get one free ticket in this case.

No purchase is required to win. Anyone 18 or older can get one free ticket each week at the newspaper office or the Chamber office.

All of the money has to be spent at sponsoring businesses, including Addleman Drug Store, Stanley Hardware, Ward Drug Store, Land-Mark Inn, the Sons of the American Legion (tickets available at the American Legion Hall), Southwest Implement, the Carpet Center, D&M Sinclair and A&W, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Rocking R, Ray Jewelry, the Bank, Raye's Grocery, R&M Service Center, Culligan Water Conditioning Co., Prairie Petals, the Dresser, Stellar Sales, Decatur Co-op Association, Ultimate Fertilizer and Home Planning Center or *The Herald*.

County OKs sale of bonds for hospital addition

The Decatur County commissioners approved a resolution allowing an investment banking firm to begin selling \$650,000 in bonds to cover the cost of the specialty clinic addition at the Decatur County Hospital.

At the meeting on Nov. 21, County Attorney Steve Hirsch said Gilmore and Bell of Wichita will sell the bonds.

Although the debt will be in the county's name, he said, the hospital board and the management firm, Decatur Health Systems, will actually pay the debt off.

The commissioners talked with road and bridge supervisor Tim Stallman, who asked for permission to take his truck to North Platte because it has a whining noise. The cost will be over \$500, he said.

The commissioners also approved the purchase of carbide blades for the road groomers, which will be under \$2,000.

Mr. Stallman said the crew just finished the dirt work on a hill on the Jennings Road. The crew is little behind on gravel work. That is the last road that needs work from last year's winter storms, he said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved the transfer of \$10,000 from the general fund to the landfill account.

- Received a bill for \$450 for the repair of the manual ramp on the transportation bus. The job will be

paid for from the Kansas Department of Transportation.

- Heard that Noxious Weed Director Gaylen Huntley had some information about a handicapped bus, but decided it had too many miles.

- Talked about trying to find a fork lift for the recycling center.

- Approved a payment to the Beaver Valley Rural Fire Department in Nebraska of \$2,500 for a farm fire that covered land in Decatur County

along the Nebraska border.

- Heard that Ambulance Director Linda Manning has collected 87 percent of the bills in 2006 and 73 percent so far in 2007.

Meeting Thursday on airport

The city's Airport Committee will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway to hear a report on plans for a longer runway to accommodate business jets.

Anyone interested in the run-

way project can attend the meeting, which will be upstairs in The Gateway. City Administrator Gary Shike said Brad Weisenberger, with Bucher, Willis and Ratliff, the engineers working on the project, plans to attend.

Teens plan to pick up food donations Sunday

The Oberlin Teens for Christ plan to collect nonperishable food and toiletries in their third annual Porch Light Food Drive on Sunday.

People can leave the items they want to donate in a bag or box on their front porch and turn their light on. Between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., the teens will be around to pick up the items, all of which will go to the food drive at Stanley Hardware. Later, everything will be taken to the Decatur County Food Pantry in the

basement of the United Church.

The teens will stay in town, but anyone from outside the city who wants to donate can drop their items off at the Teens for Christ building at 114 S. Rodehaver between 6 and 7:30 p.m. that night.

"We hope to catch all of the homes," said Pastor Doug Mason, who heads up the teen group, "but, for obvious reasons, it is easy to miss a house, so feel free to call 475-2599 if your donation was missed."

Presents needed Friday

Anyone who has Angel Tree presents to turn in needs to do so by Friday.

People can drop off the wrapped gifts for their "angel" at Fredrickson Insurance Agency between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The tree, sponsored each year by

the Oberlin Jaycees, collects gifts for kids who might not otherwise have much of a Christmas. People pick a child from the tree — no names are used — and buy gifts.

Parents can pick up the gifts during those hours on Monday and Tuesday.

LOOKING FOR WORK?

SER's employment and training specialists may be able to help you find a permanent full-time job in the field of your choice. They can also assist with the training to start a new career. To be eligible, you need to have done work in any of the following anytime within the last two years: farms, ranches, harvest fields, greenhouses, feed yards, grain elevators, or other agriculturally-related jobs. SER is a non-profit organization, and our service is free.

Call 785-623-4016 or toll-free 877-723-4016. Hablamos español.

HOUSE AUCTION

Sat., Dec. 22, 2007 • 10:00 a.m.

Sale Location: 119 S. Marks, Oberlin, KS 67749



AUCTIONEER'S NOTE: This 2 bedroom home with basement and single car garage, would make a great starter home, or if you are thinking of down-sizing, it would be ideal. Included with home are window coverings, kitchen range, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer and deep freeze. The home and all appliances are sold in "as is" condition.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: All of that part of the North Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section One (1), Township Three (3) South, Range Twenty-nine (29) West of the 6th P.M., described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot Ten (10), in Block Nine (9), in the Original town, now city of Oberlin, Kansas, thence East one hundred sixty (160) feet, thence South at right angles seventy-five (75) feet, thence North at right angles one hundred sixty (160) feet, thence North at right angles seventy-five (75) feet to the place of beginning more commonly known as 119 South Marks, Decatur County, Oberlin, Kansas.

2008 TAXES: \$521.06

SALE SUBJECT TO COURT APPROVAL.

POSSESSION: Day of closing.

INSPECTIONS: Each potential bidder is responsible for conducting their own independent inspections. Property sold in "as is" condition. Neither Seller nor Johnson Realty, Inc., its agency and representatives are making any warranties about the property, either expressed or implied.

TITLE: Title insurance will be issued with Buyer and Seller each paying 1/2 of the cost. Any escrow closing fees will be paid 1/2 by Buyer and 1/2 by Seller.

TERMS: Cash or letter of loan approval from lending institution. 10% down at signing of contract, balance with certified funds day of closing. Closing will be on or before January 22, 2008.

AGENCY: Johnson Realty, Inc., its agents and representatives are the Exclusive Agents of the Seller.

To view this property, call Lynn or Roberta Johnson, Johnson Realty, Inc., 122 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, KS. (785) 475-2785 or Lynn's cell (785) 475-8514 or Roberta's cell (785) 475-7156.

JOHNSON REALTY, INC., Roberta Johnson, Broker

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