

Money needed to get shade trees started for city

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Large trees, saplings and replacement trees for future years fill the dreams of the Oberlin Tree Board, and the group hopes the City Council will set aside \$2,000 next year to start a program to add more shade to the town.

Board members Gary Walter and Larry Van Otterloo asked the council Thursday to put its request down for next year.

The money would be divided three ways. The first third would be used to buy large replacement trees. The second would purchase small trees and the last one-third would go to set up a small tree farm on a corner of The Gateway property so that the city could produce its own trees in the future.

City forester Rocky Diederich has said he could care for the new plantings, the board members said.

City Administrator Gary Shike said that Oberlin had won the designation of being a Tree City U.S.A. for the 22nd year in a row.

On another matter, Mr. Shike told the council repairs to the memorial wall at the gazebo in Centennial Park have been completed by mason Don Daniels. The mayor and council members said the work looked good.

Councilwoman Rhonda May suggested the city ask Mr. Daniels to look at some brick work on the library. Other council members suggested having him look at the Oberlin sign at the top of Penn Avenue, known as the Alka Seltzer sign, and at some projects in the cemetery.

Mr. Daniels has told the city that he can repair the City Park band shell, Mr. Shike said, but to put it in great shape it will cost \$14,000. Temporary repairs would cost \$1,600, he said. Blocks at the base of the structure are being pushed out from under it, Mr. Shike said, and other work is needed.

"If we could look for grants and get some help on that, it could happen," Mayor Joe Stanley said.

Ms. May said that she was working to get the band shell put on the National Register of Historic Places

but that wouldn't guarantee the city getting any money to fix it.

Another project the city has been asked to help with, Mr. Shike said, is a county proposal that the city pay for labor while it pays for materials to put up lights and provide power for the horse arena at the fairground.

The county would like to get the work done before the fair in August, Mr. Shike said.

City Foreman Dan Castle said that about a year ago, he figured the cost of materials and labor to be \$4,500.

Councilman Ray Ward asked why the city should be doing work on county property.

"I suppose it could be a good neighbor deal and they'll be committing a lot of money to the city on the airport deal," Mayor Stanley replied. "The city gets a lot of good from the fairground and the events out there."

Ms. May said she thought the city should help the county. Councilman Jay Anderson asked that Mr. Castle figure out just how much it will cost, and the proposal was tabled.

In other business, the council:
• Heard a report from the Sappa Park Committee on what it hopes to get done over the next few months to a year. Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener provided the Sappa Park report but could not be at the council meeting on Thursday.

• Received a release from the Kansas Department of Transportation saying that the state would repair the turnoff from U.S. 36 into the cemetery by the Last Indian Raid historical marker.

The entrance has a dip, Mr. Shike said, and vehicles with camper trailers have a hard time negotiating the short road.

• Heard from Mr. Shike that a representative from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment was in town last week and said that he has seen several lagoons this spring that have a worse odor problem than Oberlin's.

"He said two more weeks (before the odor goes away), which we've heard before," Mr. Shike said. "He says it's environmental.

Staying close to mother



A NEW COLT stayed close to his mother on Monday. The baby, owned by Mick and Linda Glaze, was born Friday night at the Dave and Sherry Bergling place on the southeast edge of Oberlin.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

Lots of interest in two open school jobs

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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The Oberlin School District has had about 15 inquiries for the two social studies jobs open at the high school, board members learned at the March meeting, with seven to eight resumes in and a few interviews set up.

The positions will open up at the end of the year as the husband-and-wife teaching team Trevor and Tina Williams leave for jobs in Chapman, near Junction City in eastern Kansas.

Principal Charles Haag said more people have called about the job. There seems to be lots of interest, said Superintendent Pat Cullen, with some couples looking for jobs.

The district has two or three interviews set up already, said Mr.

Haag. Most of the applicants are from Kansas, although one came in from Indiana.

Dr. Cullen said the district has some upcoming capital outlay projects. It's time for phase 3 of the roofing project, he said, replacing the rest of the roof at the high school and the one at the district office.

What about bids? asked member Monte Moore. They should be in any time, said Dr. Cullen.

Work on refinishing the gym floor should start in mid-May, said Dr. Cullen. There was damage to the floor when the roof leaked. This would be the time to paint something else if the board wants to because it will be taken down to nothing.

The stage floor in the auditorium was also damaged, said Dr. Cullen, so it will be replaced.

"Did I miss the price on the floor and stage?" asked Mr. Moore.

Dr. Cullen said he has the bids and will have them at the next board meeting. The district will have to pay the deductible, he said, but most of the cost will be covered by insurance.

He said he doesn't yet have a date on the resurfacing of the track, but it will be done this summer.

The board will be receiving a plan for the entrance at the high school, including prices, he said. Dr. Cullen said he assumes that project is still a go, and the members nodded.

The heating system at the high school is another project, he said. By the April meeting, said Dr. Cullen, he hopes to have two to three companies to talk to the board members. Hopefully the board also will be able to select a firm then to do an energy audit for the district.

In other business, the board:
• Heard Principal Charles Haag had a good time and learned a lot during the national convention for principals in San Antonio. He said he would go every year if he could.

The speakers were some of the best he has ever heard, the principal said, and the conversations were

great. There are lots of people facing the same problems this district is. One of the speakers talked about not preparing the students for the future based on content, but based on personal skills. It wasn't about how to teach all kids, but on how to teach each student, he said.

• Approved \$8,229 to update the television lab at the high school, which is where channel 2 on Oberlin cable originates.

• Approved the purchase of 20 laptop computers at the grade school and 22 at the high school for teachers for \$55,000.

• Heard that the annual employee recognition dinner will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 15., recognizing those who have worked for the district for five years or more.

• Changed the board meeting in April from Monday, April 14, to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, because of the athletic banquet.

• Talked about updating the safety and crisis management plan.

• Heard that Sheila Jansonious, grade school counselor, got into a fender bender in a district vehicle in Hays and had to leave the vehicle there. She didn't get a ticket and there weren't any injuries.

Sirens to be tested on Monday all year

Emergency sirens will be tested at noon every Monday, year around, the new emergency preparedness director told Decatur County commissioners.

Director Patti Skubal said at the meeting Tuesday, March 11, that the state planned to an emergency drill that day. She said she debated testing the sirens that day, but decided not to because no one knew here about it.

Mrs. Skubal said she plans to take part in the state drill next year and would like to test the sirens year around because the state wants everyone to and she thinks that it's a good idea.

The former director, said Mrs. Skubal, had asked her about the chimes, which use the same system as the sirens. The chimes, which used to go off several times a day at certain hours, have been broken for months, she said.

"As far as I'm concerned, those

are a city thing," said Commissioner Ralph Unger.

If the city wants the chimes to work, he said, it can fix them.

Actually, he added, he thought the county bought the first set of chimes and then replaced them once. But, the chimes are really a city benefit, he said.

Commissioners Doyle Brown and Stan McEvoy agreed.

Sirens in Jennings, Dresden and Norcatour do not have shut-offs, said Mrs. Skubal. The sirens wind up and then have to run out. In Oberlin, the sirens can be shut off.

The sirens going off every Monday year around, said Mrs. Skubal, will be different, but people will get used to it.

Several people have actually called dispatch, she added, to see if the county is taking part in the state test.

Groups wants to stop teens from drinking

The Decatur County Interagency Team will sponsor a program on preventing underage drinking in the cafeteria at the Decatur Community High School at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The evening is for kids and parents together, said Patti Skubal, county emergency management director. A 20-minute video will be shown, followed by questions and answers. The program, said Mrs. Skubal, will end about 8 p.m.

The idea is to discuss and raise awareness about underage drinking, she said. The team, which includes law enforcement officers, Head Start, the county clerk's office, High

Plains Mental Health, the Regional Prevention Center and others, hopes to education people about the impact of underage drinking, she said.

Research shows, said Mrs. Skubal, that one in 20 eighth graders report being drunk at least once in the past month. One out of every five high school sophomores and about three of every 10 seniors say they have been drunk within a month.

Mrs. Skubal said the team will give away door prizes to kids who attend, including an Xbox 360, some Apple iPods and coupons for fuel. To win door prizes, though, their parents must be present.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The burning of vegetation, limbs and other organic material will be permitted (no rubber tires):

Saturday, March 15

through

Sunday, May 4

provided adequate safety measures are taken, and being mindful of wind conditions.

By Order of
City Mayor
Joe Stanley

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Auction location: From Danbury, NE: West 2 mi. on Hwy 89 to Rd 395, South 4 mi. From Oberlin, KS: North on Hwy 83, 9.5 mi. to Rd. 308, East 5 mi. to Rd 491, North 2 mi. East 1 mi., North 5.

Selling at 1 p.m. VEHICLES

2003 Ford F350, std cab, 22k mi., V10, auto, 4x4, long box • 1991 Dodge Ram 3500, standard cab, 5 speed, 4x4, flat bed (need eng. work) • 1963 Ford truck 16 ft. box & hoist • Stock Trailer 6x20, gooseneck

TRACTORS, HARVEST/AG EQUIPMENT

Allis 8050 tractor MFWD, 8053 hrs. showing, 20.8xR38, 3 pt., 3 hyd. with 10ft angle Otter dozer • Allis 7060 tractor, 2wd, 6867 hrs. showing, 18.4x38, clamp on duals, 3 pt., 3 hyd. • Farmall 'M', Tractor, wide frt., with loader • Gleaner L2 Combine, 1076 sep. hrs. showing, hydro • AC platform header, 24 ft., bat & pickup reels • AC sunflower header, 20 ft. • Hesston Round Baler, 5510 • JD 9400 Hoe Drill, 20 ft., 10 in. spacing, fert pump • IH Cyclone Planter, 8x30 • Quinstar Follow Master III, 28 ft. with pickers • Sunflower Disc, 20 ft. • Sunflower Chisel, 20 ft. • Noble sweep plow. 3x5 • JD 7 bottom plow, 4 bottom plow, 500 gal. poly tank • Miskin dirt scraper 6 ft., 3 pt., Bale mover, 3 pt. post hole digger • McCurdy gravity wagon • Rotary Mower 5 ft.

SHOP EQUIPMENT & TOOLS

Power train protable gen. 4500W (new, Lincoln AC/DC 225 amp. welder, cutting torch, Napa battery charger, Central drill press 5 spd., Campbell Hausfield 60 gal. 5 hp. air compressor, Generac generator 15000W pto., space heater, hand tools, nuts, bolts and few antique items. Many more item.

MISCELLANEOUS

Augers: 8x50 pto, 6x30 belt 10 hp. Kohler, 4x20 drill fill • Old manure wagon • Dump rake • Propane tanks • Fuel tanks over head and protable • Fencing supplies • Bale feeder • Cattle panels • Small squeeze chute • Many scrap iron pieces.

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