

City will buy snow plow blade

The Oberlin City Council approved the purchase of a snow plow blade which will be attached to the front of a city truck.

Foreman Dan Castle said the blade will cost \$5,333 from Bernie's Trucks and Equipment of Hays. He said the Oberlin School District bought one and he went and looked at it.

The blade can be mounted on a four-wheel drive pickup, he said. It's light weight and a good idea, said Mr. Castle.

The idea is to put it on the city's 2002 Dodge pickup. There are areas in town that are too narrow to get a grader or maintainer in to clear the snow.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said she thought the city should get it.

Mayor Joe Stanley asked if the item is available anywhere else. The council either needs to waive the bid process or get bids, he said.

Mr. Castle said he didn't know of any business in town that sold this kind of equipment.

The council approved waiving the bid process and purchasing the equipment.

After a short discussion, the council approved closing the city

offices on Friday, Dec. 26, and closing at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24, for Christmas Eve.

Mayor Joe Stanley said the state and county are closing at those times and he wanted to know if the city wanted to do the same thing.

It would be nice to do that for the city employees, said Councilman Ray Ward, especially if they want to travel.

It's nice unless they are paid hourly, said Councilman Rob McFee. Then, if they don't work, they don't get paid.

The council approved closing early on Christmas Eve and a holiday day for Friday, Dec. 26, in a four to one vote, with Mr. McFee voting against it.

It wasn't said if that time would be a paid holiday or not.

The council signed a resolution endorsing U.S. 83 being rebuilt as a four-lane highway from Nebraska down through Kansas.

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., asked the council for support on this, said Mayor Stanley.

The council approved the resolution and plans to mail it to the economic development group in McCook.

Council discusses new administrator

The Oberlin City Council met in closed session for an hour Thursday night to discuss the candidates for city administrator, but didn't take any action.

The two 30-minute sessions for non-elected personnel resulted in no action, except that the council set a 5:30 p.m. meeting for Monday night to do phone interviews with the three candidates.

Originally, the council got four names from a representative of the League of Kansas Municipalities,

but one, Richard Herbel, emailed Mayor Joe Stanley and took his name off the list.

The other three candidates are Austin Gilley, who recently worked as the deputy director for Oklahoma's Merit Protection Commission; Craig Zins, who recently worked as the Public Service Director for the City of Green, Ohio, and Julie McCoy, who works for the Northern Natural Gas Company.

Mayor Stanley didn't say when the council would have a decision.

County helps fair with entertainment

The Decatur County commissioners approved transferring \$7,500 to the Fair Board for an entertainment fund after the board spent money it made on entertainment for improvements at the fairgrounds.

After paying the purses for the winners and other expenses, said Greg Long, board president, the group should have had \$7,381 for next year.

That money, however, was spent to make improvements at the fairgrounds. Mr. Long said they didn't know that they wouldn't be able to use the maintenance money raised from taxes on entertainment.

This money would be used to help the race promoters, said Mr. Long, which in turn would keep all of that money in town.

The money made on entertainment, said Mr. Long, went towards improvements in the electrical system at the fairground.

This was a safety thing and had to be done, he said; it isn't a recurring expense.

County Attorney Steve Hirsch said he was a little confused because although the board was asking for a reimbursement on the net of what

they made in entertainment, they are really asking for the money they spent on maintenance.

Basically the board had \$7,381 that was made in entertainment that was spent on maintenance and now there isn't any money for entertainment, said Commissioner Doyle Brown.

Without some money in the fund, said Commissioner Stan McEvoy, it seems it would be impossible to have any entertainment for the fair next year, because the money that is raised in taxes for maintenance can't be used under state law.

Mr. McEvoy made a motion to transfer \$7,500 out of county general into a new entertainment account for the fair.

"Are there any more hidden things that we need to bail out?" asked Commissioner Ralph Unger.

In October, the county gave the board a \$2,500 transfer to finish out the year. The money is to be withheld from the first tax transfer in 2009.

This wasn't hidden, said Mr. McEvoy.

Mr. Unger seconded the motion and all three approved the transfer.



Holiday homes on tour

IN HER ROOM, Amy Rehm (above) talked with guests during the Decatur Professional Women's holiday home tour on Sunday. About 25 people toured the Good Samaritan Center and two decorated family homes. In the kitchen at Anita Ketterl's house (right photo), Jan Bricker (left) and Carol Morford looked around.

—Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes



Four people win \$50 each in contest

Four people won \$50 "instant" prizes in the Oberlin merchant's "Christmas on Us" promotion this week.

The previous week, four people claimed prizes meaning, there are just two \$50 prizes left to win.

Anyone can be an instant winner by matching a ticket number from a participating business with a number in one of this week's Christmas on Us ads in *The Oberlin Herald*.

Winners this week were:
• Kristin Stragey brought in ticket No. 593439 that she got at Ampride.

Mrs. Stragey won an instant \$50 the week before, too, and was surprised when she matched another number in an ad this week. She said she wasn't sure what she would spend the money on.

• Reva Marshall brought in ticket No. 985250 that she got from Raye's Grocery. She said she planned to spend her winnings on groceries.

• Ed Dean brought in ticket No. 039078 that he got at Gold Home Planning Center. He said he planned to spend at least half on a gift for himself.

• Arian Arnold brought in ticket No. 811686 that she got from Addleman Drug Store. She said she plans to spend the money at either the Dresser or Prairie Petals.

Shoppers have just a week and a half left to collect tickets before the big drawing for the grand prize of \$1,200.

All tickets will be picked up by 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19. Shoppers get one ticket for every \$10 spent at a participating business. They can also get one ticket a week with no purchase from *The Oberlin Herald* or the Oberlin-Decatur County Area Chamber of Commerce office.

Then at 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 20, the big drawing will be held for the grand prize of \$1,200 and the first prize of \$300. The drawing is scheduled for the gazebo in Centennial Park unless the weather is bad. Then the drawing will be moved inside, to a place yet to be determined.

This year's sponsors include the LandMark Inn, Addleman Drug

Store, Southwest Implement, Stellar Sales, Home Planning, Dale's Fish 'N' Fun, Ward Drug, Raye's, Stanley Hardware, Rocking R, Ultimate Fertilizer, R&M Service Center, Prairie Petals, Ampride, the Bank, A&W Drive In and D&M Sinclair Service, the Dresser, the NWKansasonline.com business directory and *The Herald*.

Employees of sponsoring businesses are not eligible to get tickets at their workplace. No one can get more than 250 tickets in any one transaction.

Employees of the newspaper and their immediate family aren't eligible for any prize.

Winners must be present and have the ticket with them at the time of the drawing. All winners agree to be photographed and interviewed by the newspaper.

All of the prizes are paid in scrip that can be used at the sponsoring businesses only. No change will be given.

Teens to gather food in porch-light campaign

Members of Teens for Christ are getting ready for their third "Porch Light Food Drive," which is quickly approaching.

The group will collect food from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21, for anyone who sets it out and leaves their porch light on. The teens will stay inside city limits, but anyone who lives outside Oberlin can still donate by dropping the cans off between 6 and 7:30 p.m. that night at the Teens for Christ

building on South Rodehaven. "We hope to catch all the homes," said Pastor Doug Mason, "but for obvious reasons, it is easy to miss a home, so feel free to call 475-2599 if your donation was missed."

The food will be donated to Stanley Hardware for the community food drive. The food collected at the store will then be taken to the Decatur County Food Pantry in the basement of the United Church.

Paper will be day early during Christmas week

With Christmas just around the corner, *The Oberlin Herald* plans to have an early paper that week.

The staff will put the newspaper together on Saturday, Dec. 20, allowing the printing and mailing to be done a day early. The paper will be printed and mailed on Monday, Dec. 22, and most people should get

their paper by Christmas Eve.

That means that any ads or news that needs to be in the paper should be turned into the office by Friday, Dec. 19.

The Herald office will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25, and Friday, Dec. 26, for the holiday.

Santa letters to be in paper

Kids of all ages are invited to write a letter to Santa, which will be printed in newspaper in December.

The Oberlin Herald will once again print all letters to Santa in a special section, scheduled to come

out in the Wednesday, Dec. 24, section.

Kids can bring their letters to the newspaper office downtown or to the big Santa mailbox in front of Stanley Hardware.

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