

Election

Incumbent seeks another four years

After serving for eight years on the Oberlin City council, Jay Anderson is seeking re-election for another four years.

Mr. Anderson said he's served on the city library board, the Decatur County Area Chamber or Commerce board and the board of Kansas Inc., a statewide development agency.

He and his wife Ann have lived in Oberlin since 1962. Mr. Anderson was born in Clayton. He attended high school in Paradise, Kan., and then went to college at Kansas State University, took a break and joined the Army and then went back to college.

In 1982, he retired from his full-time profession as a veterinarian. He later raised and raced Greyhounds and then retired from that.

This community, he said, has provided him with a great living, his family and even a wife. Mr. Anderson said he owes something back to the people here. Since he's retired, he said he has the time to do the job, including the research between the meetings.

Serving on a council in small towns is different, he said, as members need to be willing to do the research and look for new things.

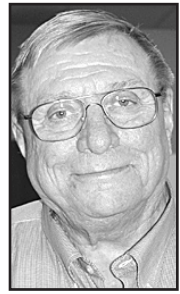
As a council member, he said it's also important to listen to the people.

Oberlin has lots of positives, he said, including Sappa Park, a concentration of antique stores, a large museum and the Gateway civic center.

Mr. Anderson said when he travels to Topeka, the two things that are always mentioned about Oberlin is The Gateway and the airport runway extension project.

The city also has good schools, he said.

"If we get organized," he said, "I think we could be a destination community."



J. Anderson

Although there are lots of positives for Oberlin, he said, the city faces some challenges. The state's demand for a water treatment plant is a big one, he said. That has at least 10 years of history behind it. Before he was elected to the council, Oberlin had joined towns from Nebraska to fight tighter regulations on drinking water. That basically ended with the court coming back and saying "tough."

The council has put a lot of work in on the project, to make it less expensive or get around having to put in a water treatment plant, he said.

The community needs to stay vibrant and livable, he said.

On that note, he added, Greg Lohofener should be named Man of the Year for what he's done for the community with the senior center, theater and bowling alley project. Mr. Anderson said he's simply in awe of what Mr. Lohofener has been able to do.

In a year to five years, Mr. Anderson said, he would like to see the development of more activities at The Gateway.

It would be good to see the airport project finished and have Oberlin be a place where air ambulances can land safely.

Some of the things that he wanted to see done have been accomplished, said Mr. Anderson, including new street signs.

People need a few things from the city, including water, electricity, security and streets to get around. It's the council's job to make sure they have those.

Mr. Anderson said he remembers what the town used to have and what's coming back. As a council member, he said he's put a lot of work in between the meetings and will continue doing that. He said he will continue to be a leader.

Woman wants to continue serving

Marcia Lohofener said she is seeking a full term on the Oberlin City Council because she wants to continue serving the people.

Mrs. Lohofener has served on the council for two years, after being appointed by Mayor Joe Stanley to take his spot on the council when he was elected as mayor.

Besides serving on the council, she is a member of the Decatur Tomorrow steering committee and airport committee.

She said she and her husband Jerry have lived in Oberlin since 1950. She graduated from Colby Community College with an associate degree in business administration and is a junior at Fort Hays State University, although she isn't currently enrolled. Her work experience includes over 25 years with Decatur Health Systems in different departments, at the chamber or commerce and economic development office, at an oil drilling and production company in Texas and as a registered dental assistant in Idaho. Most recently she was the manager at Wheat Ridge Terrace, but is now retired.

She said after two years on the council, she feels like she is just beginning to see how everything works. She said she's put lots of work into the city water project, wind research, and airport and motel projects. She said she's done her "due diligence" and wants to continue serving.

The job of a council member is to listen to the people, to study issues and to find out and know what fits the needs of Oberlin, she said. Everyone needs to take the opportunity to serve in some job like this when they have the time. Being retired, she said she has the time now to study the issues and listen to the people.

"Besides that, I care about Oberlin and Decatur County," she said.

Oberlin has attracted the at-

tention of other towns because people here are willing to work and do things in a progressive manner, she said. Oberlin offers quality schools and excellent health care.

It is also important to keep up the infrastructure, including streets, city facilities and the water and electric utilities. They play an important role in people's lives, she said.

The city faces financial challenges, she said especially paying for a new water treatment plant to meet federal Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

While on council, she has worked on trying to get other cities together to fight the regulations. Mrs. Lohofener said that didn't work because of the power of the federal agency.

It's also important to keep up with the city streets, which have several layers of oil. It's an embarrassment, she said, but it's going to be expensive to repave them.

Taxes on the people concern her. Some things can't be done without raising taxes, she said, but how are people going to pay for that?

In the next year to five years, she would like to see citizens continue to clean up and take care of their own properties, which helps make this look like a town where people care. She said she would like to see the airport progress, better relationships between the citizens and the council and the new administrator grow and succeed in his job.

At the Gateway, said Mrs. Lohofener, she supports the idea of using some of the money from the Bremer estate to get the building back into shape. She is pleased with the staff they have at the civic center.

If elected, she said she will study the issues and will be honest with the people.



Lohofener

Promoting city is candidate's plan

With a desire to promote the city and to serve the people, Bill Riedel says he wants to serve on the Oberlin City Council.

Mr. Riedel, who retired from the Coors Brewing Co. in Golden Colo., and his wife Connie bought a 1906 home, originally Dr. Eber Reeves' house, in Oberlin 14 years ago. The couple restored the old home and have lived in it for the past three years.



Bill Riedel

At Coors, he was a process manager in charge of in-plant transportation. The couple moved to Oberlin because of the people, said Mr. Riedel. He smiled remembering when he met real estate agent Jack Metcalf when they first came here to look at houses. The town was clean, had "one of everything" and was open to newcomers, said Mr. Riedel.

Over the years, he said, he's watched what's happened at the city, including an increase in taxes. It's important to promote the city, he said, and get new businesses in and support them, but city officials need to have a good case to ask for money.

It doesn't seem like the council is promoting the city now, he said. Lots of the things that motivated them to move here are deteriorating.

Mr. Riedel said he doesn't agree with spending \$4 million on a water treatment plant that still won't clean up the water enough for people to be able to drink it.

As a council member, he said, he will listen to the people and work for the people; that's part of the job. Council members need to make decisions based on what's best for the community, Mr. Riedel said, but beyond that, he doesn't have an agenda.

The majority of the people in Oberlin, he said, are retired and live on a fixed income. That needs to be taken into account as utility rates and taxes continue to climb.

Oberlin has lots of positives, said Mr. Riedel. It's clean. The people are friendly. There are tons of people with good intentions who are willing to work. There's just lots to offer, including Sappa Park, the golf course, gun club, race track, fairgrounds and more.

Look at the project to build a new Golden Age Center, theater and bowling alley downtown, said Mr. Riedel. It's absolutely amazing and shows what kind of people live here.

Some challenges or things to look at in the future, he said, are taxes and making sure that money is spent wisely. He said he would like to see The Gateway make a profit so money from other areas of the budget isn't supporting it.

The town has a declining population, he said, and if new businesses and people aren't brought in, the numbers will continue to drop. The council has to be aggressive in letting people know what we have.

In the next year to five years, he said, he would like to see a new motel built. That in turn will help fill The Gateway more.

Mr. Riedel said that he would love to see a new swimming pool, because the pool would be an important city asset. So would a new industry.

"If I didn't believe in this or the city I wouldn't put myself in," said Mr. Riedel. "Anyone who has been involved with politics knows you don't do it for glory, but because you believe in it."

Mr. Riedel said he enjoys restoring vintage and race cars. He is an honorary member of the city Convention and Visitors Bureau, and a volunteer at the race track, golf course and Sappa Park.

He has helped with the annual Pheasants Forever Banquet the past eight or more years and also took part in the DVD promoting the community that was placed on YouTube.

Councilman runs at voter request

After being asked by a voter to serve on the Oberlin City Council again, Rob McFee said he turned in his name.

Mr. McFee was elected to the council four years ago when voters wrote his name on the ballot, even though he wasn't running a write-in campaign.

Originally from Atwood, he said he's lived in Oberlin for 24 1/2 years, and worked for the post office here just about as long.

It's important for the council members to be responsible with the city's money, he said. Members need to listen to the voters and try to do what they want done.

There are lots of good people who live here, said Mr. McFee. Oberlin is a good place to have and raise kids. For some things, there are still enough volunteers to make things functional, while there aren't on others. The volunteer base is



Rob McFee

getting older, he said.

One of the biggest challenges the city faces is that Pauls Funeral Home is going to be burying most of the population in the next 15 years, said Mr. McFee.

The city is going to have to build a water treatment plant because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says it has to be done, he said. It's foolish to do so, because it's the same drinking water the town has had for the

last 150 years and it's still here. The water treatment project is going to cost users lots of money, he said. It's not cheap to live in a small town. The project will have to be paid for, whether with cheap money the city gets or by stealing it from the people. That's what taxes are, said Mr. McFee, the government taking money from people.

In the next year to five years, he said, he would like to see an arte-

sian well erupt, which isn't going to happen.

It would be good to see and hear sensible ideas on things, he said. It seems the city spends a lot of time on cosmetic things that aren't functional. By functional, said Mr. McFee, he means roads not being fixed, and the water and the electric lines not being rebuilt. Things people need to be in good condition to function, he said.

Mr. McFee and his wife Loretta have three children, all who are out of college and working.

Mr. McFee serves on the council of Faith Lutheran Church and is a member of the Decatur Area Theater Association.

People don't have to vote for any of the candidates, he said. They can leave the spots blank if they don't think the council is doing a good job, or they can write in the name of someone else — or even of Donald Duck or Daisy — if they don't like what's happening.

Former employee wants spot

After being asked by several people to serve on the Oberlin City Council, Steve Horn said he decided to throw his hat into the ring.

Mr. Horn has lived in Oberlin since 1981, when he and his wife Marilyn moved here from Denver to be house parents at Cookson Hills. After that, he said, he worked for the city in the parks and cemetery department for 16 years.

Mr. Horn is a custodian at Decatur Community High School, but he said he plans to retire at the end of the year.

While working for the city, he was surprised at how many people came to the cemetery and just told him how they were feeling about things in the city and how many asked him to run for council, both then and now.

Mr. Horn said he doesn't think the city should have to forgive taxes to get a new motel when it isn't giving the same to existing businesses. As for the airport expansion, airports

are closing all over the nation, he said, and the McCook airport is always dropping flights. He said Oberlin doesn't need a 7,000-foot runway, because then the city might have to hire someone to run the airport and pay big wages and benefits.

Mr. Horn said he should have put his name on the ballot but he didn't, so he is running a write-in campaign. He said he doesn't want to stir anyone up, but if elected plans to use common sense to make decisions.

"I do not want the citizens to think that I am the cure all," he said. "There will be times that I will not vote to please everyone."

The job of a council member is to make sure the city runs as efficiently as possible, he said, adding that as a former city employee, he knows how it runs.

The city can't spend more than it takes in, said Mr. Horn. Taxes can't just keep going up so the city can spend more money. He added that he doesn't have an ax to grind, but

he thinks the city is spending money where it doesn't need to be spent.

Oberlin has lots of positives, including having a low crime rate and a clean town, he said. It's important to keep the city attractive to bring in new families and keep the ones that are here.

Part of keeping it attractive is to keep the taxes down or even lower them.

He said he's heard a lot about the expense of the new sewer system and the proposed water treatment plant. Mr. Horn said he isn't against a new motel, but wonders why the city should offer a new motel benefits that are not being offered to everyone. The water, sewer, airport and motel are hot topics right now, he said. People who have talked with him bring up the water and sewer projects a lot.

"Eighty percent of the people complain," he said, "but less than 10 percent do anything about it."

He said he's heard the complaints, serious complaints, and wants to do something about them, which is why he is running a write-in campaign.



Steve Horn

Area sponsors needed for 2009 Relay for Life

It might be hard to believe, but summer is just around the corner and so is the Decatur County Relay for Life in June.

The walk is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. Friday, June 19, at The Gateway and end at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 20.

Teams can sign up to walk through the night inside the building. The organization sent letters out last week asking for sponsors and walking teams.

There are five levels of sponsors, with those giving \$500 and more in cash at platinum, \$350 or more in cash or in-kind at gold,

\$300 to \$349 in cash or in-kind at silver, \$250 to \$299 in cash or in-kind at bronze or \$200 to \$249 cash or in-kind at contributor. Those at the platinum, gold and silver levels will have their logos on the Relay for Life t-shirt. Others will have their names printed on the shirts.

All donations can be mailed to Norma Unger, Route 2, Box 114, Oberlin, Kan. 67749 by Friday, May 1.

Anyone who wants to form a team or has a question can call her at 475-2560.

Farm and Home Show scheduled for weekend

The first Oberlin Farm and Home Show will focus on things for the farm and home, with area vendors showing wares.

The free show, sponsored by KFNF Radio,

will focus on things for the farm and home, with area vendors showing wares.

People are welcome to walk around from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 2

p.m. on Sunday.

Those attending will have a chance to win a Traeger Grill from R&M Service Center.

Abby Hissong for USD #294 Board of Education!



With your vote I will work toward the common goal of providing a quality education for our students. My business and leadership experience will help me to make well-informed decisions for OUR district.

I would appreciate your vote on April 7th!

Dan Wasson—an experienced leader!

- ◆ President of a successful family farming operation
- ◆ Father of 3 kids
- ◆ USD 294 Board of Education
- ◆ Goodland Technical College Area Board of Control
- ◆ Soil Conservation board member
- ◆ Farm Bureau board member
- ◆ Church leadership
- ◆ 2nd Lieutenant in the Kansas National Guard
- ◆ Graduate of DCHS!

I would appreciate your vote on April 7th!