



ANTIQUE VEHICLES (above) lined both sides of Penn Avenue on Saturday at the Eighth Annual Museum Summerfest Car and Vintage Sports Show. Caleb Hielman (below) stood on the edge of a car and peered

into the car. Jim Gamblin (bottom photo) enjoyed a burger during the noon picnic and entertainment.

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes and Kimberly Davis

Cars shine at show

Vehicles of all shapes, sizes, colors and age lined Main Street in downtown Oberlin on Saturday for the annual museum Summerfest Car and Vintage Sports Show.

Early in the morning, men and women started to show up to park their cars, set up their lawn chairs and spot clean their vehicles.

The show drew 108 entries, including antique vehicles, race cars, motorcycles and three vintage campers, organizers said.

Dana Marintzer, a museum board member who helped run the show, said she thought it had gone well. She said the show had drawn more entries than last year, with lots of different cars.

There were lots of people downtown on Saturday. Mrs. Marintzer said she hadn't yet heard how many were at the breakfast or lunch that day.

Throughout the day, judges walked the street looking at the vehicles so the museum could hand out trophies toward the end of the day.

Winners for the poker run included:

- First place to Rich Shaw with his 1936 Chevy sedan.
- Second place to Danny Krayca, Goodland, in his 1980 Corvette.
- Third place to Kenny Jones, Oakley, in his 1963 Impala.

Winners of the show included:

- Shane Wurm, St. Francis, in his 1970 Mercury Cougar, Best of Show.
- Cory and Haley Riedel, Golden, Colo., for a 2006 Chevy Corvette for the Greatest Distance.
- Ross Rodenbeck, Colby, for a 1950 Mercury two-door chopped, for Mayor's Choice and Top 10 Cars.
- Gleason and Kelva Dryden, Oberlin, for a 1926 Ford Model T touring car for Museum's Choice.
- Tom Purvis, Goodland, for a 1955 Shasta Camper for vintage sports vehicle People's Choice and Best Vintage Sports Vehicle.
- Dana Marintzer, Oberlin, for a 1967 Chevy Impala convertible, for Top Cruiser at the cruise-in Friday.
- Rex Grotheson for a 1959 Buick Century for People's Choice.
- Kevin Cooper, Oberlin, for a 2009 Harley-Davidson for Best Motorcycle.
- Wilbur Reichert, Dresden,



for a 1973 Plymouth Duster, for Best Mopar.

- Jim Coghill, Ogallala, Neb., for a 1956 Chevy Belair, Best Chevy and also Top 10.
- Denny and Pat Wurm, Oberlin, for a 1975 Pontiac Aster, for Best Pontiac.
- Bob and Vicky Adams, Trenton, Neb., for a 1935 Chevy two-door coupe, for Best Street Rod.
- Jim and David Sporn, Oberlin, for a 1936 Ford panel delivery, Best Work in Progress.
- Pete Jensen, St. Francis, for a 1939 Ford half ton, Best Pickup.
- Evan Goltl, Hill City, for a 1970 Chevelle, Best Muscle Car.
- Joe Samson, Ludell, for a 1929 Ford Model A, Best Antique.
- Monty Hazlitt for a 1970 Ford Mustang Mach I, Best Ford.

Other winners in the top 10 included:

- Dean Berndt for a 1956 Ford Fairlane.
- George Rose for a 1937 Buick two-door coupe.
- Dale Musgrave for a 1955 Crown Victoria.
- Rex Grotheson for a 1959 Buick Century.
- Leonard and Don Sewell, Hoxie, for a 1957 Studebaker gold Hawk.
- Alvin Koenig for a 1940 Ford Coupe.
- Bob and Vicky Adams, Trenton, Neb., for a 1935 Chevy two-door coupe.
- Larry Morris, Oakley, for a 1960 Chevy Impala.



Vintage race cars, drivers speed around dirt track

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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With a loud roar, the vintage race cars sped around the dirt track.

The engine noise grew as the

drivers rounded turn four and sped up for the straight away in front of the grandstands at the Decatur County Speedway.

Around 27 vintage race cars from Colorado, Kansas, Texas,

Oklahoma and Nebraska showed their style Saturday night at the United Rebel Sprint Series race event. On Sunday, men and women drove the track again for a "fun day," with anywhere from one to

four on the track at the time. There was one racer from Australia, said Bill Riedel, organizer.

Several drivers and their vintage cars also attended the museum's Summerfest Car and Vintage

Sports Show before the races on Saturday.

One of those racers was Skip Roberts of Loveland, Colo., who showed his 1969 Edmunds.

(See **RACERS** on Page 10A)

City cleans up bills

Utility rules are approved

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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The Oberlin City Council voted unanimously Thursday to approve an ordinance to help clean up the almost \$80,000 in delinquent utility bills.

The council talked about the delinquent bills at a meeting Thursday, May 21, but didn't make any decisions.

Part of the problem, said City Administrator Austin Gilley, is that the city's disconnect notices are unclear. Also, he said, the staff has no authority to offer payment plans.

In some cases, he said, a utility user has paid the lineman cash to cover a bill, and that's not a good practice.

The current ordinance, said Mr. Gilley, doesn't follow the state's deposit law, either. Interest earned on deposits is supposed to be returned to the person placing the deposit.

The proposed ordinance does away with deposits, he said. It has the council serving as the hearing board for disputes, increases the reconnect fee to \$100 and lowers the late fee to 5 percent from 10 percent at present.

The payment times don't change.

The city has almost \$80,000 in delinquent bills now, said Mr. Gilley, and some of them are on a payment agreement. For those already on an agreement, he said, if they come in before Sept. 1 to set up a new one, they could avoid shut off. That agreement would be set up to pay off the owed amount over a year.

The current payment agreements will no longer apply, he said.

(See **COUNCIL** on Page 10A)

Mayor discusses trapping

Oberlin's mayor told City Council on Thursday that he had received a call from dispatch asking when the city had authorized trapping cats, saying that as far as he knew, it hasn't.

Mayor Joe Stanley said he got the call last week from a dispatcher, who said people had been calling and asking if the city had OK'd trapping. He said he assured the dispatcher that the council had not authorized the trapping of cats.

However, said City Administrator Austin Gilley, the city's ordinance on animal control and regulation authorizes law enforcement officers or the animal control officer "for the health, safety and welfare of residents of the city" to place "humane traps" on public property or a requesting resident's private property to capture an animal that is creating a nuisance.

In the same ordinance it defines nuisance animals as those that "molest or interfere with persons in the public right-of-way, attack or injure people or other domestic animals,

(See **QUESTIONS** on Page 10A)

Flag is in the paper

Sponsoring businesses and *The Oberlin Herald* are providing an American flag to be put in the window of your home or business this week for Flag Day, which is Sunday.

The flag is inserted in today's newspaper. Put it on the wall, in your window or wherever people will see it. Patriotic groups suggest displaying the flag prominently through the Fourth of July.

Wheat in test plot looks good but shows signs of leaf rust

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**
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After breakfast on Thursday, 33 participants drove west of Oberlin to check out this year's Extension wheat demonstration plot.

The plot, sponsored by the Walter May family and the Decatur County Extension

office, boasted 18 varieties.

Speakers Greg McCormick, with AgriPro; Brian Olson, area Extension agronomist with Kansas State University; Dan O'Brien, an extension agronomist; and Ryan May talked about the different plots.

Ryan May, said Byron Hale, county extension

agent, had a wheat plot as one of his 4-H projects. He had done some herbicide treatments on his plot and talked to the farmers about it.

Ryan, 14, planted Danby, Fuller, Post Rock, Smoky Hill and 2137. The plot included various fertilizer tests for his eighth-grade

science project.

In the main plot, the varieties included Armour, Aspen, Bill Brown, Fuller, Hatcher, Hawken, Hitch, Infinity, Jagger, Millennium, Postrock, Smokey Hill, T136, T129, TT 140, TAM 111, TAM 112 and Winterhawk.

(See **WHEAT** on Page 10A)

*Council OKs new utility ordinance

(Continued from Page 1A)

So currently, after two years of payments, asked Councilwoman Rhonda May, the utility user gets the \$75 deposit back? Yes, but not everyone pays a deposit, said Foreman Dan Castle.

It would be helpful in the ordinance if the point of service connection is better defined, said Ms. May, since most people think that is the meter.

The point of service connection is the point that he service connects with the wire at the home, not actually the meter, said Mr. Castle.

Councilman Bill Riedel suggested the city require a permit for new electric connections. A city this size, said Mr. Gilley, can't afford to keep a building inspector on the payroll.

People do have to get building permits, said Mr. Gilley, but if people choose to make an improvement without first applying for the permit, it's hard to police. The last two permits were for the new Golden Age Center and remodeling for Subway.

There is an ordinance for wiring, and the city does do an inspection based on the electric code, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch.

Why should there be a permit to hook up the electric wiring, asked Councilman Rob McFee, if the city crews already looking at the wiring before it's hooked up?

City bills, which also include water, sewer and trash service, are due the first of the month, said Mr. Gilley, and are late after the 10th. So if the bill isn't paid by the 10th, said Mayor Joe Stanley, the five percent late charge would start and then the user would get shut off?

Is the shutoff notice sent certified mail? asked Mayor Stanley.

No, said Mr. Gilley.

Ms. May asked how shut-offs are done now. Mr. Gilley said he suspended shut-offs in January because he felt the city was on shaky ground.

If the bill wasn't paid by the 25th of the month and there wasn't a hearing or payment agreement, said Mr. Castle, the customer was shut off. If the city wants to do payment agreements, said Mr. Gilley, and have the administrator handle those, that's OK, but it would be better if that was part of the ordinance.

The council approved the new ordinance unanimously. The full text is printed on Page 7B of today's paper.



ON SUNDAY, Skip Roberts (above) checked out his vintage race car after he took a few laps around the Decatur County Speedway. Saturday night, a vintage car (below) took to the track. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

*Racers hit the track

(Continued from Page 1A)

Mr. Roberts said he's been to Oberlin before to visit his friends Bill and Connie Riedel, although this was his first time to race at the track.

He said he purchased the Edmunds race car in 1995 and has restored it twice now. He added that it's going to need to be restored again since it got a little beat up over the weekend.

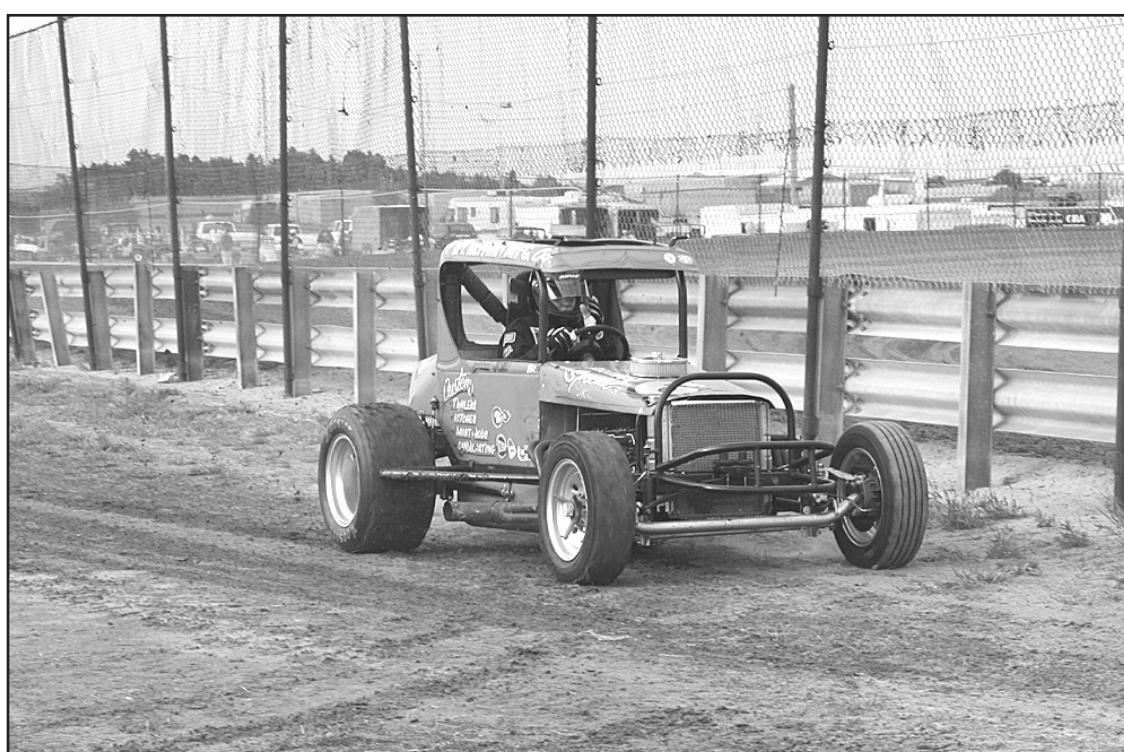
The track is great, said Mr. Roberts. On the dirt track in Oberlin, he said, he can get the car up to 75 miles per hour on the straightaway. The longer the straightaway, the greater speed a racer can move, he said.

Oberlin has wonderful people, he said. They are the friendliest and nicest he's met. He added that he hopes to come here to race again.

Behind the wheel of No. 38 was Ron Murphy of Scott City. He said he's just a rookie racer, only having driven since 1955.

Mr. Murphy said he built the 1950s style Dirt Track Roadster powered by a Ford flathead engine.

"I've built more cars than you have fingers and toes," he said.



This car, he said, is his love, well beside his bride. The couple just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in April.

Avis Murphy was on the top bench in the grandstand, videotaping the race. Mr. Murphy said he told his wife when he got into vintage races to just enjoy the races, but that lasted for one day.

They film the races so he can learn about his driving, he said. Mr. Murphy said he met Mr. Riedel for the first time on Saturday. Mr. Riedel said Mr. Murphy brought him a pamphlet on a 1949 Track Roadster from a race in Englewood, Colo.

Mr. Murphy said he's been to Oberlin before, when they cam-

panied with his son in International Motor Contest Association modified races. This is, however, the first time he's raced on the track.

"Today (Sunday), the track is in perfect condition," he said.

Mr. Riedel said the vintage race and car show had gone well. There was a range of comments from the racers and spectators, he said, and all loved the weekend. Mr. Riedel said one told him that it was his best racing weekend in the last 40 years. He said his daughter, Carrie Provo, who raced for the first time in years, said it was second only to the day she got married.

Everyone was amazed at how

nice the people here were and how neat the town was, he said. On Saturday, after the races, said Mr. Riedel, Pizza Hut stayed open late for the racers.

He said many people helped organize the event or worked during the weekend, but singled out LaMoine Wolfram, the fire department, the ambulance crew, museum board and the fair board.

On Saturday night, the Decatur Community High cheerleaders sold 50/50 raffle tickets, splitting around \$400 with the winner.

Mr. Riedel said one of the drivers told him he has already booked a room at the LandMark Inn for next year.

*Questions raised about cat traps

(Continued from Page 1A)

damage public or private property other than that of the owner or harborer, by their activities or excrement, scatter refuse that is bagged or otherwise contained and cause any condition which threatens or endangers the health or well-being of persons of other animals."

"We are not out actively pursuing cats," said Mr. Gilley, adding that this appears to be more of a property to property owner issue.

Mayor Stanley asked if that was what happened when he got the call from dispatch.

Mr. Gilley said he thought the

animal control officer had gone to someone to provide some information about cats and the gossip channel started. Mr. Gilley said he knew that one trap was requested, but didn't know if it was used.

Nuisance animals can be trapped according to the ordinance, said Mr. Gilley. If cats are trapped on someone's property, maybe it would be a good idea to require them to have tags, he said.

Mr. Gilley said he's not sure if the ordinance allows people to buy traps to place in their own yards or not, or if they have to go through the animal control officer.

*Wheat looks good

(Continued from Page 1A)

Mr. Olson said the wheat looked good and it was in really good condition. There was some leaf rust starting to move in on the varieties that are susceptible to that. He said he thought the plants will outrun the rust because they will be drying down about the time it becomes a problem, even though the cool weather will delay the drying down some.

Mr. Hale also said the tour had gone well. The wheat will be har-

vested, but when depends on the weather. The grain will then be taken to the Decatur Co-op to be weighed, and final results will be published.

At the tour, said Mr. Hale said, Mr. O'Brien talked about the outlook for the wheat market, which he said was positive. The May family has helped sponsor the plot for more than 50 years, serving breakfast at the 4-H building before the annual tour. Mr. Hale said the the food was really good, as always.

City to join county on hazard plan

The Oberlin City Council, at its meeting Thursday, accepted a resolution to provide information to help an outside firm write a Hazard Mitigation Plan that will identify hazards the county might face and how to deal with them.

Jacque Boultinghouse, emergency management director for Decatur and Sheridan counties, said Decatur County has applied for a the grant, with 75 percent of the money coming from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and 25 percent from the state. Ms. Boultinghouse said application went in before she was hired, so she didn't know the amount, and neither did the county clerk.

She said she would like to include the City of Oberlin in the plan, which would include not only the

county but all government units. She said there wouldn't be any cost to the city.

A mitigation plan, she said, will identify emergencies which the area might face, such as storms or hazardous material spills, and how to handle them.

If the county doesn't have a state-approved plan and there is a disaster here, said Ms. Boultinghouse, then the government won't help with money to clean up the damage.

If the council passes the resolution, the plan will cover all the cities, school districts and other agencies in the county.

City Administrator Austin Gilley said he has a survey the city needs to fill out for the plan. It's extensive, adding that he will work with the city foreman, police chief and

clerk on it.

Someone asked when the application had to be in.

"Yesterday," said Ms. Boultinghouse, as with all government things. The survey is needed as soon as possible, she said, since these plans were supposed to be done and approved by August 2004.

So if the city doesn't participate in this, asked Mayor Joe Stanley, it might not get any federal money for a disaster?

"Correct," said Ms. Boultinghouse.

It's a lot of work, she said, but it doesn't cost the city anything. The consulting firm, EFM out of Lawrence, will write the plan once it gets the information.

City wants drive architect to come

Mayor Joe Stanley broke a tie vote Thursday, siding with City Council members who did not want to move forward with a circle drive on the east side of The Gateway.

The mayor suggested that the architect who drew up plans for the two options come talk with the Oberlin City Council.

At the meeting Thursday, the council revisited the two options for drives at The Gateway. One on west would cost \$32,244 and one at the east door \$46,710.

At the meeting on Thursday, May 21, the council asked for public comment on the two options for the drives.

Since then, the city administrator said, he has received an e-mail from Kurt and Becky Vollertsen who

said, "It is very important that the drive be put in a place that fits with architect and landscaping of the building. We believe a circle drive would do this."

They added that the circle drive would be used by people of all ages.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said it would be nice if the drive could be made more circular than U shaped.

The architect could re-draw the driveway, said Administrator Austin Gilley.

It would be nice to add a few handicap parking spots in the circle drive, said Mayor Stanley. Maybe the architect could come to a council meeting.

After looking at the options, Ms.

May made a motion to proceed with the development of the circle drive on the east side of the building, with Councilwoman Marcia Lohofener giving a second. Both Councilmen Bill Riedel and Rob McFee voted no.

Mr. Riedel said he would like some more feedback from taxpayers, more than just one person, adding that he did appreciate the letter from the Vollertsens.

Mr. McFee said he would like to know what the price difference would be to make the drive more circular and to put parking spots in it.

The mayor voted no on the tie. Mrs. Lohofener said she thought the motion was to proceed with the drawing.

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