

Property penalties could go up

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Oberlin may put in stronger penalties for those who allow their property to get run down or hazardous.

The City Council looked at photos of rundown properties and talked about the penalties for not mowing or keeping property safe and sightly at its meeting on Thursday.

City Foreman Dan Castle told the council that he thought people who didn't keep their property in good shape and expect the city to mow and care for it should go to jail.

While most council members felt that was a little extreme, they agreed that people should bear the responsibility for their property or pay some stiff penalties.

Mr. Castle said that city now

charges \$100 an hour to mow property but he didn't think that many owners paid that or were even billed most of the time.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said that he would look into rewriting the city ordinances to come up with something appropriate noting that at the last two county tax sales all property has brought more than was owed on it.

This was after Code Enforcement Officer Jan Ackerman had shown photos of houses and properties, about which she has received complaints and asked the council to help her deal with the problems.

Mrs. Ackerman told the council that she had contacted the first 10 people on their list of problem properties and seven of them re-

(See COUNCIL on Page 10A)

Herndon Ox Roast set for Saturday

The every-five-years Herndon Ox Roast kicks off Saturday morning with a parade down Main Street.

At noon, the traditional barbecue will feature the same recipe used at each roast for nearly a century. That takes three cows and basketloads of carrots, apples, green peppers, tomatoes, onions and spices, said Nadine Green of Herndon, an Ox Roast volunteer. The meat and vegetables are cooked in a huge pan on a bed of hot coals, made with about 15 tons of wood.

The vegetables, she said, are put into the pan first, then the meat and spices, along with 20 gallons of water. The lid put on the pan and lowered into the pit on the bed of hot coals. It's covered with about three feet of dirt and left to cook for

24 hours.

After a day, the dirt is removed and a front-end loader is used to lift the pan out. After everything is removed, the gravy is made right in the pan.

"The entire community gets involved," said Ms. Green. "Prairie Land Electric Co-op donates the beef, Ben-Lee Processing donates the processing, Williams Brothers Grocery donates other necessities for the meal, Finley Construction donates and serves the iced tea, along with many other area businesses who give money or share their time and energy to make the day a success."

The all-day celebration was first held in 1914 and drew 2,500 people. (See PARADE on Page 10A)

Celebration plans underway for July

Members of the Oberlin Business Alliance heard tentative plans for this year's Fourth of July events, which will serve as the second part of Oberlin's 125th Anniversary celebration.

Kem Bryan, who is helping coordinate the events with Faith Lutheran Church and the Decatur County Ministerial Association, said the group is still brainstorming ideas for the all-day celebration, so everything is tentative.

Ideas for events so far include:

- Reading of the Declaration of Independence or part of it.
- A community church service which Pastor Chris Nelson is organizing. John Paulson will speak.
- A community potluck lunch with the Community-wide Band playing in the background.
- Activities at the city pool in the afternoon.
- Volleyball in City Park for adults and kids.
- A corn tank. Mrs. Bryan said she needs some more adults or teenagers to monitor this.

Around 3 to 4 p.m., she said, the celebration would move downtown.

Ideas for events downtown include:

- Lawn mower races.
- Best decorated bicycles.
- A kid/adult team wheel barrow race. Participants, said Mrs. Bryan,

would need to bring their own wheel barrows.

- Kids' sidewalk chalk drawing.
- Patriotic music at the gazebo in Centennial Park for an hour.
- Coffee and cookies in the Golden Age Center.

- Silent movies at Sunflower Cinema at 1, 3 and 6 p.m.
- A hot-dog and watermelon feed from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Golden Age Center.

- A parade and ice cream at 6:30 p.m. at the Good Samaritan Center.
- A intergenerational historical treasure hunt at 7:30 p.m.
- A texting competition with cell phones at 8:30 p.m.
- A kids building contest with construction sets of their choice at 8:30 p.m.

Mrs. Bryan said she's talked with the Oberlin City Council about closing Main Street from the highway to Hall Street from 2 to 7 p.m. that day.

Fireworks are planned at dusk at the fairgrounds.

There's \$1,450 budgeted for the day, she said, adding that she didn't think they would use all the money. What's left will be passed on for the next activity for the anniversary.

All activities are subject to change, said Mrs. Bryan. There will be prizes given.



AT THE CAR SHOW on Saturday in Oberlin, Wayne Goltz hot beef sandwiches. Joe Stanley, a member of the Oberlin Museum Director Sharleen Wurm (below) helped serve

— Herald staff photos by Cynthia Haynes

Show draws crowd

Shiny cars were parked downtown for the ninth annual Museum Summerfest Car Show on Saturday.

People walked around, checking the interior and exterior of the vehicles. Some even looked under the hoods.

Museum board members served lunch under the canopy out front over the noon hour and people picnicked on the museum grounds.

After lunch, a poker run was held, with Melissa Boyle taking first, Toby Boyle second and Ken Badsky third.

Car-show trophies went to:

- Bruce and Emily Bolen with a 1969 Chevy Camaro for Best of Show.
- Jim Gamblin for a 1964 1/2 Mustang for the best Friday night cruiser.
- David and Jim Sporn for a 1936 Ford panel delivery van for Mayor's Choice.
- Lewis Collins with a 1949 Chevy convertible won Museum's Choice.
- Chris Mastin for a 1955 Chevy Belair got "best work in progress."
- Lee Don Scott with a 1941 Indian four-cylinder motorbike took people's choice vintage sports vehicle.
- Jim Marshall with a 1928 Whippet Coach 96 took People's Choice.

Those with vehicles in the top 20 included:

- Lewis Collins for a 1979 Chevy Corvette.
- Dallas Hayes for a 1957 Chevy 3100.
- Greg Harvie for a 2005 Kawasaki 1500.
- Jason Krayca for a 1923 Ford T-bucket.
- Alvin Koenig for a 1949 Chevy Fleetline.
- Bill Haag for a 1971 Ford Torino.
- Mark Loseke for a 1968 Ford Torino.

- Bob and Shawn Adams for a 1979 Chevy Camaro.
- Dana Marintzer for a 1967 Chevy Impala SS convertible.
- Lynn Menagh for a 1931 Ford roadster.
- Toby and Melissa Boyle for a 2006 1700 Midnight Silverado.
- Gene Gallentine for a 1992 Chevy IROC dragster.
- Gary McClanahan for a 1934 Plymouth coupe hi-boy Rio.
- Larry Morris for a 1960 Chevy Impala.
- Dave and Bev Posson for a 1949 Mercury coupe.
- Leonard Sewell for a 1954 Studebaker Hawk.
- Kevin Cooper for a 2009 Harley Rocker C.
- Allen and Marcia Scott for a 1972 Chevy Malibu.
- Bob and Shirley Sproul for a 1949 Ford F-1 pickup.
- Wayne Goltz for a 1969 Chevy Impala sports coupe.



Fire marshal called for grocery store fire

State fire marshal's investigators were called out early Friday morning to look at a possible arson at Raye's Grocery in Oberlin, and later, remains of what may have been an incendiary device were found at a another store nearby.

Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said police reported around 3:20 a.m. Friday that there was a fire on the

roof at Raye's. The fire was put out quickly, he said, with minimal damage to the roof.

There were definite signs of arson on the roof, said Chief Cathcart, saying he didn't want to go into any details because the case is under investigation. A state investigator came from Scott City.

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said

Patrolman Troy Haas, who was on duty Friday, smelled the smoke. He got there quickly, the chief said, before there was much damage, and reported the fire.

On Friday afternoon, said Chief Lockhart, evidence was found at Dollar General, two blocks west of the grocery on Hall Street, indicating that a possible incendiary device

had been thrown at that building. The device was found and reported by an employee from the store, he said.

A call to the fire marshal's office was not returned.

Flag inside today's 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 Monday.

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.





AT THE FRONTIER Restaurant on Thursday, Alan Jilka, 1st District, talked with Greg Lohoefer, the only Democratic candidate for Congress in the Kansas — Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Congressional candidate stops for coffee

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Alan Jilka, who's running for Congress in the Kansas 1st District, stopped by and had breakfast in Oberlin on Thursday.

Unlike all the other candidates for Kansas' "Big First," Mr. Jilka knows he's going to win his primary since he's the only Democrat in a crowded race.

With seven Republicans vying for the seat, Mr. Jilka, a "pro-life Democrat" from Salina, says he figures he'll be facing whoever wins the crowded Republican primary for a chance to take over the seat which has been held by Rep. Jerry Moran.

Mr. Moran is running for the Senate. Oberlin was Mr. Jilka's first stop Thursday, and he spent about an hour between 7 and

8 a.m. drinking tea and talking to farmers, early eaters and a few die-hard Democrats at the Frontier Restaurant before heading off to Norton to do the same again at the Town and Country Kitchen.

By the end of the day, he was to have stopped at Phillipsburg, Smith Center, Mankato, Belleville and Scandia, where he attended a U.S. 36 Association reception.

A former Salina mayor, he has a bachelor's degree in history from Notre Dame University and a master's in comparative literature from the University of South Carolina.

He taught English as a second language in Mexico and Brazil and studied Spanish and Portuguese.

While in college, he was an intern with U.S. Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, a Republican. After

returning from his work abroad, Mr. Jilka said, he went to work for Congressman Dan Glickman, a Democrat.

He taught at Tennessee State and Kansas Wesleyan universities before returning to Salina to join his family's retail furniture business. Later, he got involved in local politics.

The most common question Mr. Jilka received at the Frontier was, "Who is he running against?"

Republican candidates for the First District are state Sens. Tim Huelskamp of Fowler and Jim Barnett of Emporia; Monte Shadwick, another former Salina city commissioner; Rob Wasinger of Cottonwood Falls; Tracey Mann of Salina, a Quinter native; Sue Boldra of Hays; and Marck Cobb of Galva, in McPherson County.

*Council sets hearing date on properties

(Continued from Page 1A)

spended. However, three is still a problem, she said, with those properties:

- 211 W. Commercial, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Quakenbush, is a real hazard, she said.
- 113 W. Hall, owned by Kenneth Morgan, is falling apart in the back.
- 203 E. Hall, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Russ, is really bad, she said.

She and City Attorney Steve Hirsch presented resolutions to hold hearings for the properties on Hall, one commercial and one residential.

The resolution does not condemn the properties. Mayor Joe Stanley stressed. It just sets a hearing for 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 12, on the problem.

This is the first step in forcing the owners to repair or remove the structures.

Mrs. Ackerman said that she had several other properties that she thinks have health hazards and have citizen complaints about. She showed photos and briefly explained the problems with property at:

- 302 W. Hall, owned by Nolan and Bobbi Jo Johnson of Oberlin, where the front looks pretty good, but most of the problems are in the back yard.
- 217 S. Cass, owned by Evelyn and Ralph Clapper Sr. of Oberlin, where lots of old tires are stored. These are a health problem unless they are treated, she said. There is also lumber and other debris stored in the yard
- 309 W. Washington, owned by Michael and Victoria Sylvester of

Oberlin, where an old septic system may be causing a sink hole and there is an open cellar.

- 128 N. Griffith, where the back is overgrown with weeds.
- 105 N. Griffith, a vacant lot that has lots of rocks and debris from deteriorating landscaping.
- 608 N. Cass which is mostly overgrown.

Mrs. Ackerman had two other properties on her list, 709 Broadway and 805 S. Chandler, which she said in her opinion also have problems which should be addressed.

The council, however, decided that she should just concentrate on the properties she has had citizen complaints about and not worry about others.

"I feel that if they contact me and make an effort, we need to work with them," Mrs. Ackerman said of the owners, noting that many of them live out of town.

The council agreed, adding that any citizen could contact Mrs. Ackerman with a complaint about poorly kept property.

"I think people need to know that they have the right to complain and they should complain," said Councilman Ray Ward.

"Let's keep cleaning them up," agreed Mayor Joe Stanley.

Mr. Castle asked if Mrs. Ackerman could send out notices to those people who need to mow their overgrown yards. He said he would gather the complaints and give them to her.

The council agreed that that would be a good idea and should help not only to get the lawns mowed but get people to pay for the mowing.

County to pay insurance for Golden Age

The Decatur County commissioners approved paying the insurance for the new Golden Age Center at their meet last Tuesday.

Greg Lohoefer, with the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., said the Golden Age's share of the bill is \$3,690 for the year. He said he has a couple other insurance companies wanting to bid next year.

The commissioners approved

paying for the insurance. The check was written to the development group, which has paid the monthly insurance for the building.

Marilyn Mack, chief dispatcher, said she received a maintenance contract from R&S Digital for the 911 system mapping. The first year will cost \$3,500, but the county can sign up for three years and it will cost \$2,500 for the following two years.

The company will do maintenance and updates. Mrs. Mack said she has a grant that will cover the cost of the contract.

The commissioners are going to check with the county auditor about entering into the long-term contract with R&S and one with Manatron for maintenance of the county's computer software which would freeze the rate until 2013.

If the commissioners sign the

Manatron contract, they will not have the 3 percent increase, said Clerk Colleen Geihlsler.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked about Oberlin's upcoming 125th Anniversary celebration. Commissioner Stan McEvoy made a motion to give \$125 for the 125th Anniversary celebration and \$500 for the Fourth of July, but there wasn't a vote.

*Parade kicks off Herndon roast

(Continued from Page 1A)

The theme for this year's roast is "What happens in Herndon, stays in Herndon."

The schedule for the day:

- 10 a.m. – parade on Main Street.
- noon – lunch.
- afternoon – music by Willis Pracht and Dianne Vap, Prairie Statesmen and Tumbleweed Chorus in the park.
- 1 p.m. – mud volleyball on

Keystone Street.

- 2 p.m. – kid's games on the south football field.
- 3:30 p.m. – cow-patty bingo on the north football field.
- 5 p.m. – outhouse races on Main Street.
- 7:30 p.m. – Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church.
- 9 p.m. – street dance on Main Street.
- 11 p.m. – fireworks.

Oberlin Merchants' Harvest Countdown starts

Check the fields and the weather forecast. The Oberlin merchants' annual Harvest Countdown contest starts today.

The contest gives people a chance to make an educated guess on the minute, hour and day the first load of wheat will arrive at a participating

Decatur County elevator, including the Decatur Co-op in Oberlin, Kanona, Jennings, Herndon, Danbury, Neb., Ludell, Lenora and Edmond, and Hansen Mueller Grain in Oberlin or Cedar Bluffs.

People 18 and over can enter to win. Those who have won in the

last five years and anyone who has delivered the first load in those years are ineligible. Also, relatives of the person delivering the first load and employees of the newspaper and their immediate family members aren't eligible to win prizes.

Entries can be made at participating businesses, with no purchase necessary.

The contest is put together by The Oberlin Herald. Sponsoring businesses include Fredrickson Insurance Agency, Hometown

Family Radio, KFNF, Decatur Title and Abstract, Decatur Co-op, Ward Drug Store, Stanley Hardware and Hansen Mueller.

The deadline to enter is 4 p.m. on Friday, July 2, or when the first load comes in.

Winners will receive \$50 for first, \$35 for second and \$15 for third. All prizes will be in scrip money which can be spent only at sponsoring businesses. No change will be given.

Contest held for holiday

Students in preschool through fifth grade at Golden Plains Elementary School participated in a Memorial Day coloring and writing contest sponsored by the Selden American Legion Auxiliary.

This is the second year for the contest, designed to help students better understand the meaning and background of Memorial Day.

All of the assignments were handled as part of their regular class work in art or English. Preschool through second grade students colored patriotic symbols, while those in grades three to five were given writing projects, such as essays or poems. Certificates and ribbons were given by the auxiliary to the first-, second- and third-place finishers in each class at a school assembly.

The winners were:

Pre-school (3-year-olds): first, Jordyn Fleckenstein; second, Kira Adelman; third, Tucker Wark.

Pre-school (4-year-olds): first, Breanna Rath; second, Memo Monge; third, Jazline Manriquez.

Kindergarten: first, Joshua Yanez; second, Ashton Schiltz; third, Garrett Carter.

First Grade: first, KeLynn Jacobs; second, tie Tylor Todd and Brooke Stoll; third, Bella Sauvage.

Second Grade: first, Karri Schaben; second, Jaiden Koerperich; third, Chuck Bailey.

Third Grade: first, Miguel Stevens; Memo Monge; second, Nolan

Ritter; third, tie Paris Bailey and Adrian Camacho.

Fourth Grade: first, Callie Uehlin; second, Kaylie Schaben; third, Charlott McCurdy.

Fifth Grade: first, Gabrielle Schiltz; second, Jessica Koerperich; third, tie Dawson Spresser and Austin Rivera.

One of the fifth-grade poems, written by Jessica Koerperich, was submitted by teacher Julie Ziegelmeier to a national educators magazine and has been accepted for publication.

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