

# \*Water project means a hike

(Continued from Page 1) of those, 18 got grants. There are usually between 40 and 60 applications, she said.

It's a competitive application process, and part of the process is an income survey to show that the city has enough residents with low to moderate income to qualify for a grant. Of the surveys filled out and returned, 51 percent have to show they are in the low-to-moderate income range.

A survey done in 2006 was good for that project, Ms. Cox said, but is short 150 people.

Interim City Administrator Karen Larson said she went through the list of people who didn't return the survey and could only find possibly 55 who haven't since died or moved.

That means the city will have to start over with a new survey. The city needs 964 households to return the survey and more than half of them to fall in the low to moderate income standards, said Ms. Cox.

Mrs. Larson said the city will have to wait until next year to try for a grant because the new survey

won't be done by the end of the month. The city probably will try for the grant next year.

They will want them closer to the state average, which is \$31.05, Ms. Cox said.

The city's minimum bill now is \$17.40, said Mayor Joe Stanley. The city doesn't have the average water use yet.

David Blau, with Miller and Associates, the city's engineering firm, which is planning the water project, said for the loan the city is looking at rates of \$38 to \$40 a month.

There was some talk about raising the rates by only \$1 now, but the council decided it's not enough of a raise.

The council tabled the discussion until the next meeting on Thursday, Sept. 16.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Larson said, while the city isn't going to apply for the Community Development Block Grant this year, it may receive grant money from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development agency, which has promised a loan for the water plant.

# \*County budget includes raises

(Continued from Page 1) account.

The increase in the property tax levy doesn't include anything for the city's airport project, said Mr. McEvoy.

He said he would rather talk about county employees first, before putting money in the budget for the airport.

If the airport money is put off a year, said Mr. Gallentine, who serves on the city's airport advisory board, that would probably be OK. Then the county could look at it again next year.

It's been three years since the county increased wages for em-

ployees, said Commissioner Ralph Unger. What are other counties doing?

Mr. Mapes said other counties he works for are doing a 2 1/2 percent raise for employees, which would cost about \$16,000 here.

That's about half a mill increase, said Mr. Unger.

"I think that has a higher demand than the airport," he said. "We need to keep our people."

The increase in the property tax levy will allow the county to give the 2 1/2 percent raise and put money back into the equipment reserve fund, said Mr. Mapes.

# \*Fire destroys home and family's things

(Continued from Page 1) a line to a hydrant about a block to the south in case they needed more water.

Neighbors gathered across the street, where they comforted Mrs. Schurr and watched the firemen work. A strong north wind whipped the flames as they emerged from the front of the house.

The home, said Chief Cathcart, was pretty much destroyed. The fire burned the kitchen and the living room, with heavy heat and smoke damage throughout the rest of the house.

Mrs. Schurr, her husband Shannon and their four children lived in the home. The fire left the family homeless and the day-care families looking for another place.

Mrs. Schurr said when she pulled onto the street, returning from the grade school, her 9-year-old son was the first to notice the smoke and flames.

Through tears, she said, she was happy they hadn't been home. Moms of the day-care kids came and picked them up early that afternoon. Since then, they have needed to find new spots for their kids to go during the day and after school.

The Schurr family is staying at

the home of her parents, Robert and Sally May, in the country. She said they will probably stay there until they can find a new place.

Not much could be salvaged from the home, said Mrs. Schurr, a few blankets and a porcelain horse that had belonged to her great-grandmother.

She said friends have given some things to the family, including a couple of chairs, shelves, a lamp, a kitchen table, beds, clothes for the kids and even some toys.

Mrs. Schurr said they are thankful they live in a place like Oberlin, where people have been so helpful.

With school the next day, she said, people gave her kids clothes to wear, but they could use some more. She said Colton wears a 5T, Haley a 6-7, Tyler a 10 and Dustin a 16 husky pants and an adult small or a 16 in shirts.

St. John's Lutheran Church, with help from Thrivent Financial, plans to do a "hands-on service" to help the family instead of a benefit dinner. That means someone would go shopping with the family to buy immediate needs, said church member Norma Unger.



**RUSTY ADDLEMAN'S** grandfather, D.G. Addleman, managed the Oberlin baseball team in the 1900s. He is in the middle row to the far right (above). Rusty's father Ted played on the team in the 1920s. He is pictured (below) on the first row, far left.

# \*Ball games planned

(Continued from Page 1) perich, Dick Carman, Phil Wurm, Chris Bailey, Jay Fortin and Josh and Justin Williby.

The Hodgeman team will first play a team from Nicodemus at 2 p.m. Sunday at the county baseball diamond at the corner of Garfield Avenue and Maple Street. The Jetmore team will then play the Oberlin First-Nine.

John Ewy, with the Jetmore squad, said the vintage-ball team first formed in 2007 as a living history organization made up of volunteer players.

Their uniforms are based on the style seen in the mid to late 1860s, although they are made of cotton, not wool.

The team, he said, plays by the rules adopted by the National Association of Baseball Players



in 1860. "To enhance the flow of the game," he said, "we also blend a few rules from 1870." Sharleen Wurm, director of the Last Indian Raid Museum, said the museum will be selling vintage-

style Oberlin black and grey ball jerseys for \$20 and ball caps for \$10 at the game. There will also be refreshments, she said.

The event is part of Oberlin's 125th Anniversary celebration. Any business that wants to tie its

banner on the fence can do so for \$20, which will go towards paying for the visiting team's expenses to get here.

There will also be a chance to make a donation to cover the expenses at the game.

# \*Money needed to finish bowling alley

(Continued from Page 1) properties that can be sold and grain donated to area elevators.

The Decatur Co-op, Hansen Mueller and High Plains Co-op are all taking donations from the 2010 wheat harvest, Mr. Lohoe-fener said. Those who donate will be recognized at the dedication and on a plaque.

The giving levels include:  
 • Anchor with a gift of \$25,000 or more.  
 • Powerhouse, \$10,000 or more.  
 • Kingpin \$5,000 or more.  
 • Strike, \$1,000 or more.  
 • Pin setter, \$150 or more.

Mr. Lohoe-fener said he's heard some questions about the bowling alley, including whether it will

serve beer. He said they have to get a special variance to sell beer because it's within 600 feet of the library. It will only be sold after 7 p.m. unless there is a special event going on, he said.

Organizers also plan to have bowling leagues, but need volunteers to help put them together. Some people have expressed in-

terest in managing the bowling alley but no decision has been made, he said. Also, he said there will be more food available as money allows.

Make donations to the Decatur Area Development Fund Inc. and mail them to the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., 104 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

# Council OKs trimming trees, weeds on highway

The Oberlin City Council gave the go ahead for the city crew to trim some trees, weeds and pampas grass that present a hazard to drivers after talking with the city code enforcement officer at a meeting Thursday.

Jan Ackerman said some trees and weeds on the northwest corner of Commercial and U.S. 83 are hard to see around, especially if you're at the stop sign at the bottom of the hill driving east across the highway.

The city received a written complaint about the weeds and trees on the property, she said.

The council discussed whether the trees are by the underground garage or the house on the corner. Mayor Joe Stanley said the two properties are owned by different people. He said the last he knew, the underground garage was owned by someone from St. Francis. This isn't the first time the property has been on the complaint list, he added.

There's no need for her to re-search who owns the property, said Mrs. Ackerman, unless the council wants something to be done about

it. If not, she said, she won't do anything.

If it's an immediate hazard, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch, then the city can just trim the trees up and cut the weeds so people can see up the highway.

There have been several complaints from people coming down Commercial, said Interim City Administrator Karen Larson.

City Foreman Dan Castle said they would have to divert traffic to trim the trees because of the location. He said he thought someone had trimmed some of the weeds back.

There was some discussion about whether the state would do the work since the obstruction may be on the highway right of way. Mr. Hirsch said he didn't think so.

The way the process works, he said, it will take three to four months to get anything done once a letter is sent out. If it's a traffic hazard, the trees and weeds could just be trimmed.

Mayor Stanley suggested talking to someone at the Kansas Depart-

ment of Transportation to get some signs to divert traffic so the city crew could get the job done.

There have been complaints about the pampas grass at 503 N. Wilson, said Mrs. Ackerman. People have to pull out in the street to see around it.

It needs to be removed, she said, or it will just keep growing back.

How about if the city trims it off, said Mayor Stanley, and then sends the owner a letter about removing the grass next to the street.

Other properties the city has received complaints on, she said, include:

- 110 S. York, which is owned by someone out of state. There are lots of overgrown trees and shrubs that need to be taken care of. Next door at 112 S. York, owned by Bev Reiter, there was a weed problem but it's been taken care of.

- There's an inoperable vehicle at 110 S. York, said Mrs. Ackerman, that belongs to the people at 112 S. York. It should be removed.

- 120 S. Cass, said Mrs. Ackerman where she's contacted the

# Candidate debate set for Oct. 14

A debate between the candidates for the 120th District seat in the Kansas House of Representatives will be aired on Smoky Hills Public Television.

Bob Streyevy of Norcatur, the Democrat, and Ward Cassidy of St.

Francis, the Republican, face each other for the seat in the general election in November. Mr. Cassidy beat incumbent John Faber in the Republican primary.

Mr. Streyevy said the debate will be aired at 9 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 14,

on the station, channel 12 on the Oberlin cable system.

The debate, he said, is a good chance to get the public involved in the race.

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