(Continued from Page 1A) had done that several years ago, but none of the other members was on the council then

The mayor said he thought that was a great idea and suggested spring would be a good time.

• Got a request from Councilman Rusty Addleman for an update on electrical rates in other towns to compare with Oberlin's.

Mayor Reidel said that was also a good idea. He noted that the electrical system is a revenue generator for the city and without it, taxes would probably have to be raised, since the money pays for a lot.

• Received a suggestion from the mayor that council members attend county commission meetings and take a more active role in the health care system. Although the hospital and clinic belong to the county, he said, their problems affect the city and its citizens.

He told the council that the substation problems and health care are probably the two biggest challenges the council will face in 2012.

• Learned that City Administrator Karen Larson was on vacation but should be back for the next

• Passed a resolution allowing the city to use cash accounting for many of its financial items. The city has to pass this resolution every year or do everything on an accrual basis, which is time consuming and unnecessary, Administrative Assistant Steve Zodrow told the council.

 Designated The Bank of Oberlin, Farmers Bank and Trust and First National Bank as depositories for the city this year.

 Heard from city Sexton Jeremy Tally that he is checking the cemetery records to make sure they are all correct before moving them to a computer format. He said he already has 12 pages of corrections.

Mr. Tally said that he has raised \$5,000 so far to pay for the digital directory that will eventally be installed at the cemetery at a cost of \$20,000.

• Learned that the city pays the county to maintain the road from the U.S. 36 to the golf course, and if work is needed, the county road and bridge supervisor should be

Councilman Addleman said he thinks the road needs gravel.

• Noted that the next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at The Gateway.

want

new rig

The Decatur County commis-

sioners talked at their meeting

last Tuesday with members of the

ambulance crew and the emergency medical director about the possibil-

Chris Koerperich, an emergency

medical technician with the crew,

said he is working with an ambu-

lance committee on the idea of

replacing one of the units. Direc-

tor Linda Manning said they need

to get rid of car No. 1, which is in

Several ideas were kicked around,

including using a box from an ex-

isting rig on a new chassis or pos-

sibly going to a "first response"

vehicle in Jennings rather than a

Ms. Manning said the service

needs to get into a rotation for its

equipment, because they haven't

bought an ambulance since 2007

and that one has 80,000 miles on

"Does the Jennings ambulance do

transports?" asked Commissioner

Ms. Manning said it doesn't Ac-

tually, said Mr. Koerperich, lots of

times the Oberlin ambulance gets

people in Jennings and brings them

The director said they are just

trying to get some ideas together to

Commissioner Ralph Unger

asked how long a remount on a new chassis would take. Mr. Koerperich

said he didn't know but could find

"What's in the equipment fund?"

County Clerk Colleen Geihsler said the ambulance department has \$7,755 in equipment and around

\$280,000 in the regular operating

asked Commissioner Stan McE-

start replacing the vehicles.

Gene Gallentine.

back here.

fully equipped ambulance.

Jennings

ity of getting a new ambulance.



NURSE PRACTITIONER Lynnetta Ward took a call on Thursday as she began work at the Family Practice Clinic in Oberlin. - Herald staff photo by Carolyn Kelley-Plotts

## \*Nurse practitioner starts

in Winfield. She said she continued grocery store, and everything you to live in Moline and commute to need is here.'

In Winfield, she said, the pressures of the job were less, but she missed the interaction with a variety an on-line search which led her to Oberlin. She said one of her best friends, Kim (Schroeder) Holt, was a native of Oberlin and had spoken highly of her hometown.

"Oberlin is a great little commuso friendly. Even the people at the courthouse were so helpful giving me all the information I needed as

a new resident. Oberlin has a great being here," she said. "I'm hoping

What's the difference between a physician assistant and a nurse practitioner? Mrs. Ward explained:

"A PA is a certified health-care of patients. That's when she began provider who works with one supervising physician ... while a nurse practitioner is an independently licensed provider who works collaboratively, with one or more physicians to provide healthcare."

Lynn Doeden, chief executive nity," Mrs. Ward said. "Everyone is officer of Decatur Health Systems, said the hospital and clinic are glad to have Mrs. Ward.

the transition from eastern Kansas to western Kansas goes smoothly for her. I really appreciate how the community has responded to her."

Mrs. Ward said she and her husband Elmer, who she said prefers to be called "Ferd," are settling into their new home in Oberlin. Married for 5 1/2 years, they have a combined total of five children. She was quick to mention that her daughter recently gave them their first grandchild.

'Oberlin is bigger than the community we just moved from," said Mrs. Ward, "and I think it is a won-

"We're so excited about Lynnetta derful town."

## \*Grant could pay for new streets

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 ★ THE OBERLIN HERALD 5A

(Continued from Page 1A) have what's called a "bituminous surface," built up over the years with layers of liquid asphalt and sand. The city for years sealed these streets every three years, building the surface up above the gutter and leaving the crown of the road quite high.

relatively little maintenance, the report says, but the bituminous streets (33.1 percent, fully a third of the system) are in the worst shape. And the nine blocks chosen for the project are some of the worst of the worst:

• Commercial Street west of U.S. 83 to Elk Avenue. The report notes that the earthen grade on this block is now exposed in some places, and potholes, edge cracking and deterioration are a continual problem.

• Elk Avenue from Oak Street at the north end of Sappa Valley Manor to Elm Street south of The Gateway. Drop-offs along the edge are pronounced, and some homeowners have filled in the gutter to level out their driveway entrances.

• Columbia Street, from Antelope Avenue to 175 feet west of Broadway. This street also has bad dropoffs on the edge, 4 to 6 inches, and broken or missing pavement. It's the main access to the Decatur County Hospital, so it's used by many emergency vehicles, as well as those visiting the hospital and clinic, and neighborhood residents.

• Griffith Avenue, from Washington Street to U.S. 36. The report notes that Griffith is a busy street linking U.S. 36 and downtown and poor conditions at the edge of the says.

pavement, along the gutters.

The city has had some complaints about these streets, the report notes. and a few claims for damages. While the city's insurance company did not pay the claims, it's possible someone could be hurt because of the bad paving.

The repair project would strip out The brick and concrete streets, the existing pavement and, where nearly half the system, require necessary, repair the sub grade. New pavement, either asphalt or concrete, would replace the old. The report notes that concrete should last 40 years with little maintenance. while asphalt would last only about 20 and would require \$1,500 per block per year for crack sealing. It says the engineers, Miller and Associates out of McCook, recommend bidding for both, since the cost might vary with availability. The city seems to prefer the concrete, however.

One Rotary member, Dr. Jay Anderson, asked Mr. Zodrow if the city had considered repaying the street with brick, since it lasts longer and looks better. Mr. Zodrow replied that not many brick streets are being built today, probably because of the cost. He said he wasn't sure the city could afford brick paving for the project.

"It might take 50 years to pay for brick streets," he said.

If the grant is approved – the announcement is expected by Friday, Jan. 27, Mr. Zodrow said-the report says construction could begin in August and be completed by October. With delays, the work might have to be put off until May 2013, with completion that summer.

"The proposed project will fix serving the Catholic church. It has four of the worst areas in the street significant surface cracking and system," the report's conclusion

## Crew digs up sewer line

Oberlin city workers were busy digging up a sewer line to the onto our line and crushed it," she hospital and Cedar Living Center on Monday morning.

The hospital reported a backup Karen Larson said, and when found a blockage so bad it bent up

out its sewer lines, she said, it appeared that something was

"Something must have fallen said on Monday.

It's never a good time to have a sewer line out, especially to in its system, City Administrator the hospital, she noted, but with cold weather expected this week, the city tried to check the line, it the workers were trying to get to the break as quickly as possible. However, she noted, the Since the city regularly cleans sewer line is nine feet below the

"Hopefully, we can have it back up before it gets cold," she said.

## Workers CropProduction constantly changing

come out each year are constantly evolving and changing, Extension experts say.

The latest research findings on these products and sound soil fertility practices and recommendations will be explained at a Soil Fertility School sponsored by the Thomas and Rawlins County Extension offices from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the 4-H Building in Atwood. Continuing education units and certified crop adviser credits have been applied for. This is a great time to get a start on those credit hours to renew your license, said

Crop production and the many new products that Clint Milliman, Thomas County agricultural agent. Addressing these ever-changing products and soil fertility practices will be Dorivar Ruiz Diaz, K-State

specialist in soil fertility. Reservations should be made by Thursday by calling the Thomas County Extension office, (785) 460-4582, or the Rawlins County office, (785) 626-3192. For information, call either office, or e-mail Mr. Milliman at milliman@k-state.edu or Cynthia Dixson, Rawlins

County Extension agent, at cdixson@k-state.edu.



Tri Valley Health System's Pain Clinc is a multidisciplinary clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of individuals suffering from pain. Tri Valley Pain Clinic is Medically Directed by Dr. Kevin Balter, MD of Platte Valley Pain Care in Kearney.

Acute and chronic pain conditions evaluated and treated in the Pain Clinic include but are not limited to:

- Muscular (myofascial) pain
- Post-surgical pain
- Reflex sympathetic dystrophy (RSD) Shingles and post-herpetic neuralgia
- Diabetic neuropathy
- Irritable bowel syndrome
- Arthritis, joint pain, TMJ, sacroilitis • Severe angina, ischemic vascular pain
- Low back pain Neck pain
- Whiplash
- Headaches
- Sciatica pain
- Cancer pain Spasticity
- Fibromyalgia

Treatments include Physical and Emotional Rehabilitation, Medication Optimization and Specialty Procedures.

For more information call Tri Valley Health Sytem at 308-697-1172 or Platte Valley Pain Care at 308-236-0507. Please obtain a physician referral to make an appointment.

Dr. Kevin Balter





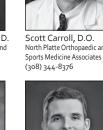
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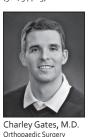


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