

Wheat Ridge is home to family

By CAROLYN KELLEY-PLOTTS
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Every day is a family reunion at Wheat Ridge Terrace for the Shirley clan.

Dennis and Judy Shirley made a quick move to the retirement center after a fire Nov. 11 damaged their home in Oberlin. There they joined his mother, Merle Shirley, who has lived at Wheat Ridge for nine years; her mother, Doris Sloan, a resident since 2009; and his aunt, Juanita Eckhart, who moved to the senior apartments in 2005.

Judy Shirley said Wheat Ridge Terrace exemplifies the joy of living in a small town. She said the night of the fire, Teresa Shaughnessy, manager at Wheat Ridge, was out of town. A phone call, however, gave them permission to "just go on in." Mrs. Shirley said,

"I guess with both our moms here, she figured she could trust us," Mrs. Shirley said.

The complex is managed by Decatur Health Systems, which also runs the Hospital, the Family Practice Clinic and Cedar Living Center.

All the Shirley relatives agree that the facility meets their needs. They share lunch in the main dining room, meet every day for coffee in one of their apartments, and in nice weather, sit on the patio overlooking the grounds. Other amenities include a library and reading room, music room, workout equipment, mail delivery and a storm shelter.

Judy Shirley said remodeling on their home will begin soon, but in the meantime, she and her husband are happy at Wheat Ridge. Even if their friends do sometime tease them about moving back in with their mothers.



SURROUNDED BY RELATIVES, Dennis Shirley (center) lives at Wheat Ridge Terrace Apartments with (from left) Tanner, the family dog; his wife, Judy; his mother, Merle Shirley; his mother-in-law, Doris Sloan; and his aunt, Juanita Eckhart.

— Staff photo by Carolyn Kelley-Plotts

Properties will stand and stay on city tax rolls

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Three properties once marked for destruction are being renovated and will be staying on the tax rolls.

Code enforcement officer Jan Ackerman told the City Council at its meeting Jan. 5 that out of 19 nuisance complaints on property she dealt with last year, three are being rehabilitated by new owners.

She said that the city's Connections program, which she started, has allowed three out-of-town owners to donate their rundown properties to people who are fixing them up.

The program requires the people receiving a property to pay all back taxes and pay for title work on the transfer, she said. They must be willing to turn the properties around and get them fixed up.

This has kept those properties on the tax rolls and probably saved the city thousands in demolition expenses, she said, and kept that debris out of the county landfill.

The properties are 110 S. York, 203 E. Hall and 609 N. Neill, she said.

Her company, White Barn Services, has earned \$300 for this service, mostly from preparing the forms for those interested in taking over the properties, Mrs. Ackerman told the council.

Other successes in 2011 have been four properties which have been made safe and cleaned up

at 302 W. Hall, 805 S. Chandler, 501 N. York and 106 E. Maple, she said.

Four other properties are still in the works, she said, including one at 407 W. Maple which belongs to Councilman Rob and Loretta McFee.

The council tabled a resolution which would have required cleanup of that property, a couple of months ago, Mrs. Ackerman said. The members wanted to hold a work session to update its complaint form, and that was done. The new form requires two signatures of Oberlin residents for a complaint to be filed.

Mr. McFee told the council that he has been working on the property and Councilman Josh Williby said he had seen some progress.

When Mrs. Ackerman asked the council what it wanted to do about the tabled resolution, a motion to consider it died for lack of a second after Councilman McFee said he wasn't going to vote at all.

Other property that needs work includes houses at 409 N. Marks, 201 N. East and 120 S. Cass, she said.

Despite the properties still needing repairs, Mrs. Ackerman told the council, she feels good progress was made on the city's cleanup project.

Mayor Bill Riedel agreed with her.

"The program seems to be working," he said.

Winter is ... what? Oberlin students tell us how they feel

Second graders in teacher Kathy Tacha's class at Oberlin Elementary School continue to learn about nouns, verbs and adjectives through writing.

The students have used their words to describe fall and now winter, then used what they learned and turned those words into little winter poems:

Winter is...
Reading, snowing, sledding
White, blue, silver
Snow, coats, cocoa
Winter is...
Old!
Reece Grafel

Winter is...
Baking, drinking, eating
White, silver, gold
Cookies, hot cocoa, chocolate
Winter is...
Gorgeous!
Breckyn Jensen

Winter is...
Skating, skiing, snow boarding
White, blue, red
Coats, gloves, stocking hats
Winter is...
Beautiful!
Breckin Sauvage

Winter is...
Snowing, running, jumping
White, blue, red

Ice, cookies, coats
Winter is...
Snowy!
Ryan Ketterl

Winter is...
Snowboarding, sledding, snowing
White, red, silver
Snowboards, sleds, snowflakes
Winter is...
Spectacular!
Christopher Isbell

Winter is...
Snowing, scooping, shivering
Blue, silver, red
Snowflakes, icicles, school
Winter is...
Sparkly!
Jacie Fortin

Winter is...
Snowing, sledding, skating
White, silver, blue
Icicles, snow, snowmen
Winter is...
Spectacular!
Riley Ketterl

Winter is...
Sledding, skating, snowboard-
ing
White, purple, gold
Ice, cookies, egg nog
Winter is...
Pretty!
Malia Bishop

Winter is...
Snowing, slipping, skating
Gold, red, blue
Sleds, school, snow
Winter is...
Snowy!
Zander Kempt

Winter is...
Snowing, skating, sledding
Pink, purple, silver
Snow, ice, cookies
Winter is...
Cold!
Angela Canaway

Winter is...
Snowing, sledding, eating
Blue, red, gold
Ice, coats, snow
Winter is...
Awesome!
Bryce Peters

Winter is...
Snowing, sledding, snowboard-
ing
White, silver, gold
Blizzards, snowflakes, snow-
men
Winter is...
Gorgeous!
Brynna Addleman

Winter is...
Jumping, knitting, snowboard-
ing
Gold, blue, red

Ice, stocking hats, cocoa
Winter is...
Cold!
Tod Mastin

Winter is...
Snowing, sledding, scooping
White, silver, gold
Coats, snowpants, snowmen
Winter is...
Cold!
Corbin Wessel

Winter is...
Dripping, sledding, snowing
Egg nog, friends, icicles
Gold, silver, winter
Winter is...
Spectacular!
Madison Fick

Winter is...
Snowing, running, jumping
Pink, red, gold
Hot cocoa, icicles, school
Winter is...
Snowy!
Sierra Canaway

Winter is...
Sledding, skating, skiing
Silver, gold, white

Fireplace, snowboards, ice
skates
Winter is...
Spectacular!
Logan Hayward

Winter is...
Snowing, sledding, sliding
Red, blue, gold
Cookies, snow, sleds
Winter is...
Cold!
Jacquelyn Marshall

Winter is...

Snowing, jumping, running
Purple, red, white
Ice, snow pants, snowmen
Winter is...
Frigid!
Gage Scott

Winter is...
Sledding, playing, reading
White, purple, silver
Snow, mittens, snowboots
Winter is...
Gorgeous!
Morgan Ketterl

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This week at Decatur Health Systems

Monday, Jan. 23: **Dr. Stephen Albert, Lynnetta Ward, and Sean Conroy**
Cardiac Rehab
Fitness Center 6:30 a.m. -8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 24: **Dr. Stephen Albert (starting at 7 a.m.), and Lynnetta Ward**
Fitness Center 6:30 a.m. -8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 25: **Dr. Stephen Albert and Sean Conroy**
Cardiac Rehab
Dr. Walter Eskildsen, surgery
Sonogram
Fitness Center 6:30 a.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 26: **Sean Conroy and Lynnetta Ward**
MRI
Fitness Center 6:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan 27: **Sean Conroy and Lynnetta Ward**
Cardiac Rehab
Fitness Center 6:30 a.m. -8:30 p.m.



To make an appointment with Dr. Stephen Albert, Sean Conroy PA-C, or Lynnetta Ward APRN-BC, call the Family Practice Clinic at 475-2015. To schedule other appointments, call Decatur Health Systems at 475-2208.

Caring and Sharing From the Heart