

Playing cards



SHUFFLING THE CARDS for a fast game of spoons, Joan McKenna enjoyed a Valentine's party at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church basement on Sunday evening.
— Herald staff photo by Cynthia Haynes

Oberlin plans to replace older water lines in town

Oberlin will be getting some new water lines to replace ones that have outlived their usefulness, part of a larger project to clean up the city's water supply and beef up the distribution network.

At its meeting on Feb. 2, the City Council awarded a contract to Midlands Contracting out of Kearney, Neb., to replace about 4,000 feet of water pipe for \$563,000.

The pipe will be replaced from the intersection at East Avenue and Hall Street west to Rodehaver Avenue and tie into a relatively new line on Cass Avenue. Other pipe will be replaced along Marks, Griffith and York avenues near Hall.

This is an area where the pipe is just getting too old and corroded to continue using, said Oberlin City Administrator Karen Larson. During previous projects, workers have found old iron pipes to be from two-thirds to three-fourths blocked

by corrosion and debris.

The bid from Midlands was the lowest of five the city received, although it was higher than the \$544,000 engineers' estimate for the project.

Other bids were from BSB Construction, Curtis, Neb., \$630,000; Smoky Hill, Salina, \$651,000; General Excavating, Lincoln, Neb., \$682,000; and APAC-Kansas, Hays Division, \$816,000.

The Midlands bid includes 60 radio-read meters with a 20-year warranty to replace old meters along the lines, the council was told, and the project should be completed by Oct. 31.

On another water issue, the city learned that out of six test wells drilled, four were positive for providing better water for the town.

The six drilling sites all met the city's criteria:

- They were as close to town as possible.
- Landowners agreed to the test drilling.
- They are all at least two miles apart and two miles from irrigation wells.
- They are all over part of the Ogallala Aquifer but at least 1 1/2 miles from an Ogallala outcrop.

Chris Miller of Miller and Associates, the city's engineering firm, said that the next step is to decide where to place new city wells and to begin obtaining water rights.

The council agreed to do that. The wells could replace a planned water-treatment plant, estimated to cost more than \$4 million, which would remove excess uranium and arsenic from the water, but not the elements that make it "hard" or hard to drink. That plant could have cost the city \$100,000 or more a year to operate, officials estimate.

Council could get payment

The Oberlin City Council hopes to hear what its insurance carriers will pay on damages to an electrical transformer and the city's main substation during its meeting on Thursday.

The transformer was damaged in a fire in December caused when a raccoon crawled into the works. The city has been waiting to hear what its insurance will pay. As of

Monday, City Administrator Karen Larson said, she hadn't heard from the company but was still hoping to have information before the meeting.

Chris Miller of Miller and Associates, the city's engineers, will be at the meeting to discuss drilling water wells and hopefully have information on what it should cost to replace some water lines near

the hospital before the street there is replaced.

There should also be a report on progress for the project to rebuild the main runway at the city airport this summer, Mrs. Larson said.

The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Thursday in the upstairs meeting room at The Gateway.

Golden Plains Unified School District No. 316 HONOR ROLL

<p>1ST SEMESTER Superintendent</p> <p>Grade 12</p> <p>Grade 11 Angela Ritter Morgan Walz</p> <p>Grade 10 Jordan Christensen Macayla Easton Kylie Jones Leea Juenemann Tristan Schwarz Hailee Sperser</p> <p>Grade 9 Rachel Ritter Brooke Wark</p> <p>Grade 8 Kami Miller Tayler Petersen Madison Walz Nicholas Brown Morgan Ritter</p>	<p>1ST SEMESTER Principal</p> <p>Grade 12 Hannah Antholz Jacquelyn Armstrong Cole Christensen Sandra Galvan Katrina Griggs Julia Rogers Trey Schwarz Tyler Stevenson Emily Wachendorfer Ethan Walter Kalyn Weber</p> <p>Grade 11 Jose Bermudez Tomas Ferencak Andrew Luna Camron Sperser Colten Wachendorfer</p> <p>Grade 10 Jacob Antholz Joshua Barnhart Emmy-Marie Fringer Tori Fringer Jacob Griffith Chance Hoeting Cheyenne Miller Caitlin Sperser Grant Sperser Zachary Sperser</p>	<p>Grade 9 Rebecca Bange Ana Bermudez Shania Finlay Joseph Koerperich Taylor Todd</p> <p>Grade 8 Kynndra Rush Brianna Stoll Kade Wessel Koi Wessel Cole Ziegelmeier</p> <p>Grade 7 Jesus Aragon Arianna Camacho Joseph Griffith Jessica Koerperich Austin Rivera Bodie Sauvage Gabrielle Schiltz Kellee Snyder Dawson Sperser</p> <p>Grade 6 Clayton Bange Devin Davidson Jennifer Esparza Charlotte McCurdy Kaylin Schaben</p>
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Hospital sends letter of intent

Decatur Health Systems has sent a letter of intent to a doctor in Indiana asking him to come to work here, contingent on him getting a Kansas license.

Hospital Administrator Lynn Doeden said Dr. Alexander Platz and his wife were in Oberlin the end of January. He showed interest in the community and the job.

While he is licensed in Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois and Minnesota, she said, he isn't licensed in Kansas.

Getting a Kansas license could take three to four months.

If Dr. Platz accepts the job, that would give the Decatur County Hospital and Family Practice Clinic two doctors and three "mid-level" providers, physician assistants and nurse practitioners.

"Decatur Health Systems," said Mrs. Doeden, "provides competent, fully trained staff who are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "At times when there is not a

physician present, patients with health-care emergencies will be assessed and treated by qualified medical personnel such as a physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse, with physicians' support via the telephone or pager, and appropriate care given."

The hospital employs Dr. Steven Albert, Sean Conroy, a physician assistant, and two nurse practitioners, Lynetta Ward and Tricia Carney.



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