

# Dog rules attract a crowd

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**  
sdecamp@nwkansas.com

Fifty to 65 people jammed into the Oberlin City Council meeting on Thursday, many of them to hear a debate on the city's animal control ordinance.

When it comes to a small town, Mayor Bill Riedel noted, you don't mess with someone's pet.

And when it came time for the City Council to take up the issue of how the dogcatcher is to do his job, and how a pet owner is to make sure his or her animal behaves, it was one of the most hotly debated issues of the night.

After a woman complained to the council this spring about getting a ticket for allowing her dogs to run at large because they were not restrained on her own property, several people have questioned how the city enforces its leash law. They asked that the council review the matter, but so far, the review may have raised more questions than answers.

The main problem appears to be the way the ordinance on pets is worded.

"What (the issue) is, is that it doesn't specify what 'under control' means," Mayor Riedel said. "The way it is presented now, I understand that your dog must be on a leash at all times or in a fenced yard."

There is no way to write common sense into plain-script ordinance, he said.

Currently, he said, if a dog owner is ticketed for having a dog "at large," they can always contest it in court. But many dog owners would rather not spend their time and money presenting their case in front of the judge.

Jeff Johnson, Oberlin's animal control officer, was present at the meeting, though he declined to comment during the proceedings.

"The ordinance is fine," Johnson said the next day. "There's nothing really wrong with it, except they could put a cap on the amount of cats a resident can have in their possession."

"I just have to be thick-skinned, because I have to take the hits from everybody. I'm not a popular person, and they have to blame it on somebody. I think I'm pretty fair, I've really only written three tickets this last month when I could've written 20 or 30. I think a lot of the people who complain are repeat offenders."

Councilman Doug Williby seemed to agree.

"If we hire the right person, then we won't even be having these conversations," Williby said. "Just leave it as it is and leave it at the discretion of the dog catcher. We hire these people to do a job and (we should) trust them to do it."

"They should trust me to do it," Johnson said. "A lot of the things that I do wind up having to go to court, and a lot of this stuff should just be left to the judge, concerning if they should pay a fine or not."

In the end the council decided to sit on the issue until they could speak with City Administrator Karen Larson, who was not present due to illness. They will monitor the situation and how it is being handled, as well as get some ideas on how the ordinance is applied. In the meantime, the issue is being shelved.

"If it's still a problem, we'll address the situation again," Mayor Riedel said.

# Cool summer fun



**AT THE POOL** on Monday, Alex Eskew ate a popsicle while he hung out with his friend Jesse Isbell (left) during a safety break. — Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

# Tick caused woman's illness

By **MARY LOU OLSON**  
ml.olson@nwkansas.com

Kem Bryan, an Oberlin farm wife and mother who has been fighting an unknown illness nearly all of her adult life, said she was finally diagnosed with Lyme disease in November.

After consulting more than 40 doctors, she said, a specialist in Wichita finally was able to tell her that her problem is Lyme disease. He told Mrs. Bryan to find a Lyme-disease literate doctor, someone who had studied the disease and worked with it, to deal with her symptoms.

"When the doctor asked me to tell him the last time I had really felt good in my life, I told him that it would probably be when I was 17, and now I am 54," she recalled. "I spent a lot of time with my dad at the farm growing up and probably was bitten by a tick when I was a teenager."

She said that the first sign of possible Lyme disease infection is seeing a tick embedded in the skin. An infected bite with a bull's eye around the bite can also be a sign. Many times, flu-like symptoms, rash and headaches will follow.

"If the disease is not treated in a timely manner, tremors, migrating pain, sleepless nights, bacterial attacks on body organs, mental issues, hormonal fluctuations, brain fog, central nervous system disruption, loss of sight, malaise, Bell's Palsy, (a tic) of the face or gut, pain to nerve endings and perhaps other symptoms may occur," she said. "There are over 300 documented symptoms of Lyme."

Mrs. Bryan said she joined the Lyme disease United Coalition. The e-mail address is lymeinfo@lduc.org.

"The goal of this group is to educate the public about Lyme disease, its symptoms and treatment and support Lyme disease victims," she said. "Early detection and treatment are the most effective ways to control this disease."

"This opportunist disease can lay dormant in a person's body for years until the host becomes weak or stressed. Then, the bacteria that a vector insect, such as a tick, flea or louse, injected into the host becomes active and destruction begins."

"To help deter a bite, wear a long-sleeved shirt and long pants and use an insect repellent when you are outdoors. Check carefully for ticks when you get home and remove them promptly."

Mrs. Bryan said she has lost a lot of weight since she became ill in 2009. She is on a restricted diet and said that she has found that gluten-free, low-carb meals, along with some medications and natural supplements, have helped the most.

In searching for answers, she said, she underwent a hysterectomy and surgery for kidney stones, hoping that this would improve her health, but there was no change. Her new doctor has told her Lyme was causing those issues.

"Though it has been a devastating illness for me," she said, "the most important thing I can do is inform the public of Lyme disease dangers and to encourage others who may have some of these symptoms or a mysterious illness to go to a LLMD (Lyme-literate medical doctor) for a checkup to see if Lyme disease could be the problem."

Kem, the daughter of Bob and Sally Henningson of Oberlin, is married to Rod Bryan, who farms southwest of Oberlin. She gradu-

ated from Decatur Community High School in 1975 and she and her husband have three married children, Summer Creed and Hunter and Brandon Bryan.

"My husband has been wonderful throughout my illness," she said, "and has taken me to many doctors in search of an answer. I am not able to work outside the home anymore but I do volunteer two mornings a week at the Bargain Box Plus just to keep my sanity and be around people."

She said that she networks with many others around the state who have Lyme disease and also has been helped by a Lyme disease support group in Wichita.

Books which have helped her include: "Lyme Disease Treatments" by Bryan Rosner, and "Out of the Woods" by Katina Makris. A favorite is "The Tick Slayer," written by Perry Louise Fields, an Olympic runner who tells how she got well after suffering from Lyme disease. Perry plans to try out for the Olympics in Colorado Springs this summer, Mrs. Bryan said.

She said she would be glad to talk to anyone who thinks they may have contracted the disease. Contact her at kr@plplus.net or (785) 475-3395.

Complete information on the disease is available from the International Lyme and Associated Disease Society, which can help victims find a knowledgeable doctor who can help with diagnosis and treatment. The website is www.ilads.org.

# Citizens question feds nixing runway

By **KIMBERLY DAVIS**  
k.davis@nwkansas.com

About 20 people came out for a special meeting of the Oberlin City Council to talk about the need for a longer runway at the municipal airport, which has been questioned by federal officials who would pay most of the cost.

The city received an e-mail from Jeff Deitering of the Federal Aviation Administration regional office in Kansas City, asking about the city's justification to build a longer runway. The message also asked for assurance that the city could come up with the 10 percent local share of the costs, estimated at \$800,000 to \$1 million.

"In 2007, when we first started planning for a new runway at your airport, it was based on a need by a local manufacturer (Bus and Coach International)," Mr. Deitering wrote, "and a forecast of having 10 aircraft based and several hundred operations of our design group II at the airport by 2012. These were the justifications for the new runway."

"Since then we've had a recession, and it appears BCI scaled back their presence in the area and the latest 5010 master record for the airport shows only five aircraft..."

There are 10 planes based here, airport manager Bob Fraker, who runs the fixed-base facility at the field, said at the special meeting May 31. He said he's not sure where the agency got its numbers.

At the special meeting on Thursday, May 30, Mayor Bill Riedel said he didn't know either, but they didn't get the numbers from the city. He told the audience more than once that the city isn't against the project. He said he doesn't think anyone on the council is against the airport.

"The bottom line is the Federal Aviation Administration holds the purse strings," he said. "We have to convince them."

Connie Grafel, marketing director for the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., asked about the first part of the e-mail, which mentions the title work needing to be done to buy land for the runway expansion. She said she checked Decatur County Title and Abstract office and was told that it's done.

Mayor Riedel said the city has done its part on preparations to buy the land, so this must have to do with the federal agency.

For the justification, he said, the airport needs a minimum of 10 aircraft based at the field and 500 flights a year with planes that weigh a minimum of 12,500 pounds. He said if they count 250 flights, they can project the other 250.

The mayor said they started checking into medical flights, since those are listed on the sheriff's reports. In 2011, he said, they found 12 flights and so far this year, seven.

In 2009, Ms. Grafel noted, voters approved the runway expansion by "a landslide," a 2-1 vote. The community still needs economic devel-

opment, she said, adding: "What's changed since then?"

The bus factory has left and First National Bank isn't flying in. Mayor Riedel replied, so flights are down. Mr. Deitering said they need to see 500 flights a year.

"I am a little mystified that we have to do this again," said Gaylord Shields, a member of the city's airport committee.

The agency said at the time that it didn't matter if BCI moved or not, he said; the project was approved. Why the questions? asked Mr. Shields.

It's just the way the agency works, the mayor said. The city just got the money for Phase I, rebuilding the existing runway. The second phase, the new, longer runway, has not received final approval.

The city has done its work on this project, said Mayor Riedel. Nothing has been sent in late; all of the work needed has been done. The agency is tightening its purse strings, he said, and apparently came to the conclusion to pull the plug.

Recently, the agency reclassified all airports, said Mayor Riedel, and Oberlin's doesn't fit into any of the four classifications.

Greg Lohofener, speaking as a member of the Economic Development Corp. board and as a businessman, said it's true that Bus and Coach is no longer here, but that wasn't why the town needs or wants a longer runway. Mr. Lohofener went through some justifications, including possible freight businesses, generating air traffic, fuel sales, corporate business and the potential of a spray-plane operator wanting to use the runway for business.

This project started with 35 people traveling to Kansas City to meet with federal officials face-to-face, he said. They went to Hays to talk with Kansas Department of Transportation officials. That was followed by 20 going to Salina to meet with the Kansas National Guard.

The best way to get this back on track, said Mr. Lohofener, is to send a group authorized by the city to the federal office to present justifications in person.

When asked just about everyone in the audience raised their hands saying that they would go.

Mayor Riedel asked for a written proposal for the justifications to be presented. Councilman Rob McFee agreed that the proposal needs to be in writing so everyone knows what is going on.

Mr. Lohofener asked if the 10 percent match would be a problem for the city. Under old rules, the city had expected a 5 percent match.

Mayor Riedel said that would be up to a vote of the citizens, since it could create \$850,000 or more in debt.

One person said that the people have already voted. Mr. McFee noted that was not a vote on debt for the city, just to move forward with the project. The people might have to vote again on a bond issue to borrow money for the runway.

## Voting Time is Near

Along with the upcoming harvest it is time to start thinking about voting for county commissioner. As a candidate for District 3, I would like to introduce myself, Bob Jones. I am a lifetime resident and carrying on a family business that has been going on for 100 years. I have over 16 years experience in city government. I would like to offer to district 3 voters the knowledge acquired over those years. I look forward to not only serving the voters of Decatur County, but also helping District 3 achieve the goals desired.

So, please remember to vote.

Thank you  
Bob Jones

Paid for by Bob Jones

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All flowers and decorations on the ground and around the headstones at the Oberlin Cemetery must be removed before Sunday, June 24th. After that, the city will remove them in preparation for spraying, mowing and weed eating.

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