

* Some jobs secure

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tags, vehicle title and driver's license work for the state Department of Motor Vehicles.

"Things have changed a lot since I've been here, and will continue to do so," she said. "The population is less than when I started, and there are a lot of new faces. I used to know everybody raised here in Oberlin. I guess the population is the biggest change I've noticed in the town."

"But I love my job; I'm so glad I have it, and I hope I get to stay for several more years."

The Clerk

Colleen Geihlsler is in her second term as county clerk, and has never had to run against anyone for her office.

"We are the secretary to the county commissioners and the center hub of the courthouse," she said of her position. "We take care of accounts payable and payroll, work with the banks and balance the accounts. Both we and the treasurer do that."

As clerk, Ms. Geihlsler is also the Decatur County election officer, so she handles the ballots when it comes time for a vote. Her office also does the budgets for the townships, takes care of the mail, manages county micro loans to small businesses and much more.

"I love my job, because it's not the same thing every day," she said. "We have so many different things to work on. I mean, we even take care of the transportation bus. I really enjoy it. And in this job, you know you have to have it done; it doesn't matter how long it takes."

"I like the girls that work with me. I like the people in the courthouse, and some of them have been here since I started in 1993, so we're like a family."

The Register of Deeds

Register of Deeds Kari Ketterl is here to protect the public and make sure that everything that everyone owns is put in their name, and in the right place," she said.

"The first year I ran against Democrats and Republicans," she said. "I'm only in my second term now, and glad to be here. It was a pleasant surprise to know I didn't have to run again. I love it because of the people, I just enjoy seeing people and being around them."

The Sheriff

"This is my seventh term and 28th year," Sheriff Ken Badsky said. "Out of the seven terms I've served, I've run three unopposed. It was very stressful at times to run against somebody."

"My philosophy is, if you're always doing the best job you can, and doing good things in the community, then you're always campaigning. I believe my closest race was a primary competition with a former deputy, and I won by only eight votes."

Mr. Badsky said, the stress comes from pouring your heart and soul into the job, and fearing that you could lose it all in one day.

"Basically," he said, "we're one of those offices that a lot of people don't want to hear from—unless they need us. But we're here whether you need us or not ... and we're human beings like everybody else. I just have to thank everybody that backs our department. With all of our guys, it's never 'I,' but always 'us.' It takes everybody to make things work."

"If I didn't love it, I wouldn't do it. It's a thankless job, but it's also gratification and working under stress. And there's a natural high and adrenaline rush in that. I definitely love my job."

The County Attorney

County Attorney Steve Hirsch is the man that county commissioners and other office holders go to when they need legal advice. But his job as the county attorney is two-pronged: he's also the prosecutor in criminal cases, and handles anywhere from 100 to 150 a year.

"I'm the go-to guy on that," he said, laughing. "From the most serious cases to traffic tickets. This is my 24th year, and I've been elected six times. All but the first time, I was unopposed."

"On the civil side," he said, "in my 24 years, I've had super county commissioners to work with who really try their best. It's been a privilege to work with them and every other official of Decatur County; they do a tremendous job."

"On the criminal side, there are a lot of difficult decisions, but protecting the people of the county is always our No. 1 goal. And I say 'we' because it's very much a team effort. Our police department is second to none, and our new trooper, they all do a tremendous job protecting the public, and I only play a little role in that."

Getting a fresh coat of paint



ROY JORDAN painted and primed the ferris wheel alone in the heat Monday, after volunteers from the Danbury branch of the Decatur Co-op had left for vacation or called in sick. Mr. Jordan, who said he made his living as a painter for many years, took it with a sense of humor, and turned the rusty skeleton into a shining white structure once again.

— Herald staff photos by Stephanie DeCamp

* Candidates attend forum

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the forum. Mr. Long did not.

Those present answered their questions either off the top of their heads or from notes, but all with conviction. An atmosphere of civility and good nature prevailed, as candidates in turn agreed and disagreed. Answers were timed for brevity.

After each group had answered the prepared questions, many of

which are also covered in the individual candidate profiles in this issue of *The Oberlin Herald*, audience members got a chance to ask about specifics.

The prepared questions included why each person is seeking office, what qualities they possessed that make them the best option, what their strengths and weaknesses are, and what schooling and job experiences they have.

Ms. Scott said she thought the forum was a wonderful success, adding that the group hoped to do another before the November elections.

* Move won't stop candidate

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officer. She said Mr. Long is eligible as long as he remains in the home at Norcatour and it is not occupied by anyone else.

"If he's elected and someone else moves into the house," Ms. Geihlsler

said, "then the (party) committee would have to appoint someone else to fill in his position ... it could be a mess."

Mr. Long said that he bought the home in Oberlin for personal reasons.

"It's time to let someone else live out there and take the farming responsibility ...," he said. "It's time to pass the reigns over to the younger generation."

He added that he still plans to be at the farm at Norcatour every day.

Weed department looks to replace old truck

By STEPHANIE DeCAMP
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The county's Noxious Weed Department has been looking to replace one of its four trucks soon, but suffered a setback Sunday, July 15, when its primary, and seemingly most reliable, truck also broke down, Director Gaylen Huntley said.

All four trucks are used this time of year to spray the county roads for weeds. Mr. Huntley said that the truck first wouldn't start, and then began smoking from its fuse box.

The truck was taken to Taylor Motors of Colby, where it was purchased, and was back on the road by Wednesday, said Mr. Huntley.

Road Supervisor Tim Stallman said the truck considered the "good one" is only four years old, but no longer under warranty.

The breakdown highlights the county's vehicle problems, which include nine fire trucks that need to be replaced as well as a sheriff's car. The fire department has money for one truck, and plans fund raisers

over the next few months to help pay for other equipment.

The weed-control truck in question has had some electrical problems before, when the steering went out, Mr. Huntley said.

"This time I don't know what went wrong," he said, "but it was smoking, and there's a computer in there that controls the lights, too."

The truck is a 2008 one-ton Dodge 3500 with 140,000 miles on it. Mr. Huntley said the computer within the fuse box had fried.

"This isn't the one we were looking to replace," Mr. Huntley said. "This is the workhorse of the vehicles."

Commissioner Ralph Unger suggested filing an insurance claim with the county clerk, but Mr. Huntley said the repairs were only \$595, which is under the deductible, so that wasn't necessary. Thankfully, the job of spraying the road tops should be completed over the weekend, Mr. Huntley said Monday, as only Beaver township was left on the list.

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