

Pool group digs in

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Members of the Oberlin Pool Committee plan to visit as many groups and community organizations as possible to explain plans for the pool and the upcoming sales-tax election.

The group will also have a booth in the Commercial Building at the Decatur County Fair, members decided at a meeting last month.

The Oberlin City Council voted to put a question on the November ballot so that people can decide whether to approve a 1.5 percent sales tax to pay for bonds for community projects, specifically to build a new swimming pool.

The proposed pool, to cost about \$2.3 million, would be built where the present pool is after the season is over next fall.

The committee estimates, based on what has happened in other towns in the area, that 50 to 60 percent of the cost of construction costs will be reinvested in Oberlin and Decatur County through hiring local subcontractors and the purchase of goods and services by out-of-town workers.

Committee member Susan May said that the group expects the construction to have a positive economic impact on our area.

Committee members plan to attend an Economic Development Corp. board meeting, Monday Evening Club, Decatur Professional Women, Masons, Oberlin Business Alliance, the United Methodist Women, Chamber of Commerce board, Pi Alpha club, PEO women and Rotary.

Anyone who wants to learn more about the pool project or have a presentation should call Mrs. Leitner at 470-7620.

The group also came up with a slogan for its campaign:

Promoting Oberlin Outdoor Living

Mrs. May said that pool wrist bands will be given out for a \$1 donation and T-shirts designed by Custom Trophy can be ordered for \$12. Brochures on the pool will be available.

A pledge sheet will be available at the booth. It will read "Are you a POOL fan?" "I support the new Oberlin Swimming Pool, financed by a 1.5-cent sales tax."

Blue posters are being placed all over town to show support for the project.

"We want to see the town plastered with our posters," Mrs. May said. "We want to see them in the window of every business, home and car of those who support the new swimming pool for Oberlin."

The group also discussed speaking at the annual Back-to-School Picnic next Wednesday, and having a display table at City Park that night.

Kerrie Wahlmeier suggested organizing a 5K Fun Run to promote patriotism and raise money for the pool project. The pool committee will work with her on this event, which is planned for Saturday, Sept. 1, at City Park. Anyone, who wants to help sponsor a T-shirt for the event can call Mrs. Wahlmeier at 475-4483.

The project's Facebook page is oberlinpoolproject.org and the website is oberlinpoolproject.org.

The group met again last Tuesday at the Business Entrepreneurial Enhancement Center.

All meetings of the committee are open to the public.



AFTER A BRIEF lunch break in Norcat, Chris Praetzle got back on the road on his coast-to-coast run to raise awareness for organ-donor registration.

— Herald staff photo by Carolyn Plotts

Jersey man walks for love of a brother

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Chris Praetzle, 22, of Mullica Hill, N.J., is a proud big brother to Brian Praetzle, now 19.

His little brother was born with damaged kidneys, and the family knew from the beginning that Brian would need a transplant. At age 3, he received a kidney and he has lived a happy, normal life since.

That's not where the story ends, however; that's where it begins.

Chris Praetzle is running across America, coast to coast, to raise awareness of the need for organ donor registration. He said 42 percent of all Americans are registered as organ donors, but he would like to see that number higher. It's a simple thing to do, he said; just sign the back of your driver's license with two witnesses.

Chris graduated in May from Arcadia University in Glenside, Pa., with a degree in sports psychology. Four days later, he left for California and the beginning of his adventure. On May 23, he said, he stuck his foot in the Pacific Ocean by the Santa Monica Pier and started his trek eastward. In the beginning, he expected to arrive in Atlantic City, N.J., and touch his toe in the Atlantic Ocean by mid-October. However, when he passed through Norcat on July 26, he said he was ahead of his pace and might get to Atlantic City by Oct. 1.

"When I started, I made between 20 to 30 miles per day," he

said. "Now, I've gotten stronger, and I can cover over 30 miles per day. My top day was 57 miles."

Mr. Praetzle said he has already worn through five pairs of shoes and is only half way across the country. Crossing the Mojave Desert was the worst part of his journey so far. He said he ran a nocturnal schedule from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., then found shade during the day.

He is prepared to camp out each night, with everything stashed in a three-wheeled cart that he pushes. He accepts lodging in homes and churches when he can. After leaving Norcat, he ran to Norton, arriving several hours later. Larry Lyles of the Norton Christian Church opened the doors to him and Mr. Praetzle spent the night there before heading to Phillipsburg the next day.

Following the completion of his coast-to-coast run, he said he plans to work at the Center of Sports Psychology in Philadelphia, dealing with pro hockey and basketball teams. A self-proclaimed running addict, he said this won't be his last run. He has already done three marathons (26.2 miles) and one ultra-marathon (any race over the standard 26.2 miles). He said he plans to do more.

You can follow his progress by going to the website brotherlyloverun.com with a link to his blog, brotherlyloverun.blogspot.com.

His parents are Mark and Karen Praetzle, Mullica Hill. He also has a sister, Julie.

* City budget to include 10 percent tax increase

(Continued from Page 1A) regarding the water project. Chris Miller, of Miller and Associates, the engineering firm out of McCook that is supervising the city's search for better water, said they now have three good wells south and east of town from which to pump drinking water. One of them, known as site 6, was test pumped this week and is the second best one they've found overall, he said. All but this last one have temporary water rights established, and he said that by the end of the week, paperwork would be filed for all three sites to have permanent water rights.

Getting water rights usually takes six to eight months, he said, so in the meantime, the city and his firm will be working on the layout of a pipeline, what kind of pipe will be used, how or if water will be blending with existing wells and other decisions.

In other business, the council:

- Agreed to put a sales-tax increase to pay for a new swimming pool on the ballot in the November general election. It had already been approved, but newer, more specific wording was submitted to the council. The 1.5-cent increase would generate about \$225,000 a year to pay off money borrowed to build a pool. City Administrator Karen Larson said that was "a very conservative estimate," and that it would probably generate more.

- Approved a special-use permit to Rick Salem that will allow beer to be served during upcoming races on the county fairground.

- Heard that the airport construction crew had lost two weeks of work time due to the asphalt mixture being "a little off." But, said Mrs. Larson, they will begin concrete paving for the taxiway, and weather permitting, should be done next week. An 8-foot-by-12-foot concrete building has been built for runway lights and "different things that the airport will need up there," she said. After the asphalt and concrete have set, a crew will be brought in to dig trenches for the runway lights and do the landscaping. They should be done with the whole project by October, she said.

The airport has been closed since April, when crews for Smoky Hill Contractors out of Salina began re-

Water use hovers below limit

Oberlin water users managed to stay under the 700,000 gallons a day limit for most of last week, David Sporn of the city water department said.

On Thursday, Oberlin got .25 of an inch of rain. The city is under a "water warning." If use continues over 700,000 gallons a day, the city will have to impose further water-use restrictions. Current restrictions are detailed below.

The city pumped:

- 614,000 gallons on Monday, July 30.
- 642,000 gallons on Tuesday, July 31.
- 636,000 gallons last Wednesday.

day.

- 703,000 gallons on Thursday.
- 553,000 gallons on Friday.
- 684,000 gallons on Saturday.

The city continues to be on water restrictions. Residents with odd-numbered addresses can water on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Those with even addresses will water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Outdoor water use is allowed from 12:01 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 8 p.m. to midnight. Swimming pools can be filled once a week, according to the ordinance.

moving the pavement so the existing runway could be moved to the north, rebuilt and upgraded.

- Noted that the swimming pool will have different hours during fair week and afterward. This week and next, it will be open from 1 to 6 p.m. and weekends 1 to 7 p.m. After school starts, it will be open only on weekends from 1 to 6 p.m. until Labor Day.

- Asked that residents please stop dumping debris other than tree limbs at the burn site south of town that was designated for tree limbs only. The city is allowed to use that site under a permit from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, said City Administrator Karen Larson, but if people keep dumping there instead of the landfill, that privilege could be revoked. Police will be issuing tickets to anyone caught dumping trash there, she said.

- Heard there will be a pre-construction meeting on the street project at 10 a.m. today in room 3 at The Gateway.

- Got an update from David Perrin of the electric department, who said the city is still receiving materials, but crews will begin rebuilding the substation in October. They've had a lot of setbacks over the summer, he said, and power use has been high. The substation, which connects the city's power system to lines owned by Sunflower Electric, was dam-

aged in a fire caused by a raccoon last December. The city has been running on a temporary replacement transformer since then.

- Received an update on water use. Willard Perrin, water department manager, said that the average use last week was 650,000 gallons a day, and that the wells had dropped by 6 inches. The wells have dropped over 4 feet since the summer began, he said.

"They're not as low as I have ever seen them," he said, "but they're getting really close."

The city had been under water-use restrictions since July 5, when use jumped above 700,000 gallons per day, the trigger for a "water warning" under the city's water conservation plan.

- Heard from Police Chief Troy Haas that people should continue to lock their cars and houses, as they have not yet caught those suspected of a recent rash of stealing.

"We go through surges like this," Mr. Haas said, adding later that the department has received other informal theft reports—when someone tells the officer something was stolen, but doesn't want to file an actual report—on top of those on file.

He declined to say how many there were, but did say the current uptick began a few months ago, and that the police were keeping a close eye on things while the investigations continue.

* Pool will have some big changes

(Continued from Page 1A) the pool facility handicapped accessible, the consultant said. The state Health Department approved compulsory standards for new pools, he said, and the current pool does not live up to those. There would have to be significant changes, especially to the bathhouse, which requires modifications to doorways, toilets, showers and other considerations.

The new pool would have a sloped entry into the water, called a "zero-depth" entry, at one end. With handrails, this serves the dual purpose of also having a wading area gradually

ease into the deeper end of the pool, so that kids of all ages could play in the same body of water, and parents could more easily keep an eye on many of them at once.

There would also be "deck sprays," like sprinklers to run through, paddle wheels and cascades for kids to play with, and an area with a shaded deck where parents could lounge in shallow water with a full view of the entire pool. A connected area would have six lanes of deep water for swim meets, the diving board and a slide.

The majority of the pool would

be three to five feet deep, with "floatables" tethered to the bottom for kids to play with. The pool would be able to hold water aerobics classes, too.

The pool committee will have a booth at the county fair next week to show off the pool designs, said Mrs. May. And now with the city's blessing, they'll answer any questions people may have.



NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of
TWIN CREEKS EXTENSION DISTRICT #9
Decatur County.

will meet on August 22, 2012, at 6 p.m. at the Decatur County Courthouse for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied. Detailed budget information is available at Twin Creeks District Office and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2013 Expenditures and Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2013 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

Fund	Prior Year Actual for 2011		Current Year Estimate for 2012		Proposed Budget 2013		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Budget Authority (includes carryover)	Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax	Estimate Tax Rate*
General		New County		2.051	518,200	258,645	2.050
Debt Service							
Totals	0	0.000	0	2.051	518,200	258,645	2.050
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	0		0		518,200		
Total Tax Levied		New County		120,457,584	xxxxxxxxxxxx		
Assessed Valuation		New County			126,148,564		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

Patsy L. Maddy, Chair



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Grand Opening
Ron and Carol Cope Heart Center
Saturday, August 18, Noon to 6 p.m.

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