

Jennings Community Conversations held

Carolyn Plotts



Ideas were flying during a Community Conversation held Sept. 12 at the Senior Center in Jennings. Invited guests were representatives from Oberlin, Jennings, Dresden and Norcat. More than 50 people attended the supper and conversation to express their ideas for how to improve their communities. The free-will donation barbecue beef meal was provided by the Jennings American Legion. Sponsored by the Decatur Tomorrow Steering Committee, and directed by Terry Woodbury of Public Square Communities, LLC, the conversation addressed three issues: 1. identify something in each community to be proud of. 2. identify something in each town that would improve the community and 3. identify a project or event that would benefit the entire county.

Each community named its strengths: Oberlin, the recreation tri-plex and Sappa Park; Norcat, Auker Park and the new roof on the City Building; Jennings, the Senior Center and Firemen's Fun Day; and Dresden, Mona's Market and Greenhouse.

The category of "ways to improve your community" generated the most ideas. Benefitting residents was the main concern. Many sugges-

tions centered on the idea of a transportation system to take residents to Oberlin for medical treatment. Others liked the idea of "Life Skill" classes to teach painting, pottery, cooking, basic auto mechanics and cultural dances. Still others liked the idea of a "Share Fair" at Mona's Market in Dresden where cottage industries could market their wares.

One county-wide project was proposed to create and maintain a "Calendar of Events" to help organizations plan events so there would be fewer conflicts.

Many volunteered to be part of Action Teams to explore the feasibility of turning some of the ideas into reality. All agreed to do their part in promoting and attending activities in every community.

The Decatur Tomorrow Steering Committee will announce when and where Action Teams will meet to plan their strategy. If you have any questions you may contact Deanna Castle or Kem Bryan in Oberlin; Doyle Brown in Jennings; Carolyn Plotts or Norma MacCallister, Norcat; or Mona Amlong in Dresden.

Boteler certified through state

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Bureau of Water announced recently that Tim Boteler of the Norton Correctional Facility is one of 112 water treatment operators and wastewater treatment operators certified from January through August.

Kansas has over 1,100 community and public water supplies that require a certified operator. As

a protection to the public, individuals who operate water treatment plants must meet minimum training standards to assure water is properly treated so it's safe to drink. Conversely, wastewater treatment plant operators must be trained so they can operate wastewater treatment systems in a manner that prevents the release of excessive pollutants.

Guests

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Rod Davis, David Donovan, Joe Durham, Galen Engel, Raymond Griswold, Frank Harting, Bob Hill, Ken Hill, Gary Lacy, Jim Long, Mark Knackendoffel, Randy McKinley, Larry Neuberger, Maurice Peterson, Kev-

in Philbrick, Don Pilkington, Vale Poage, Craig Standish, Jim Steinert, Tim Sterrett, Scott Stuewe, Roger Streit, Ronald Streit, Kevin Thayer, Bob Wertenberger, Kurt Vollertsen and Craig Ward. (Freshmen were still in junior high in those days.)

Team managers were Jerry

Allen, Roger Cooper, Tom Cunningham and Jon Meyer.

The head coach was J.J. Byrum and his assistant coaches were Kirk Pope and Ken Major.

EDITOR'S NOTE:
The information for this story was taken from the 1970-71 NCHS Yearbook.

Pool

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Jones said that before he can support moving forward with a pool improvement project, some questions need to be answered.

"I'm wondering where we are going to get the money to pay for (pool renovations)," he said. "I'm not in favor of raising a sales tax and I don't think we should go deeper into debt for this project. Before we do anything, we need to have funding in place."

Jerry Moritz also expressed concern over the financing of a potential pool project and the need to consider new construction.

"There is always going to be maintenance that needs to be taken care of, but I don't think we are at the point of needing to build a new pool," he said. "Where are we going to come up with the money for a project like this?"

Norton City Administrator

Rob Lawson explained that representatives from Aquatic Design will visit the city pool site and assess the current condition of the facility, including maintenance concerns and handicap access. The company will provide an assessment and also make recommendations for the future of the facility and whether or not the city should consider upgrades or new construction. The study is expected to take place later this fall.

Data

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full-time equivalence, several other factors and categories affect the difference as well.

Maintaining and increasing enrollment numbers is vital for school districts, particularly for rural districts, but thanks to an agreement with Lenora, enrollment this year won't matter to

next year's school budget. Because Norton and Lenora consolidated, the district budgets were combined and guaranteed for three years. Typically, school districts are awarded state funding based on enrollment from the previous year, but because of the incentive, a decrease in enrollment won't affect the

district's state funding for next year.

The 2011-2012 enrollment census will become official after the district's Learning Center holds another official count day on Oct. 4. To be become official, the enrollment must also under a Kansas Department of Education audit.

Police

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regular basis will be given advanced notice of the move and also be provided with information about other potential meeting spaces to make the transition as easy as possible for everyone involved.

Lawson also reported that most of the renovation work to move the police department could be done by city employees to keep costs down and could be completed in a relatively short time. The transition will include installing department equipment

and knocking down at least one wall to make the space more suitable for the department.

The cost for the renovation will come from the police department's budget.

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your news
877-3361

Flu Vaccine
is now available at the
Norton County Health Department,
801 N. Norton Ave., Norton, KS
OFFICE HOURS ARE:
8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to
4:30 p.m.-Monday through Thursday
8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Friday

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY
For Questions, Please Call: 785-877-5745

Daisy Dukes

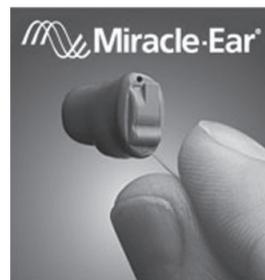


Norton Community High School students Dalton Miller and Jacob Brooks showed off their school spirit Tuesday at the school by dressing up as "Hillbillies" for homecoming week dress-up days. The students have been participating in school spirit activities all week and the Norton Bluejays will take on Oberlin Friday evening for the Homecoming football game.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

ONE DAY ONLY

FREE



Hearing Screening
John Lang - H.I.S.
Miracle Ear Representative



**Mr. Lang will be at the
Norton Senior Center
Tuesday, September 27
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 P.M.**

**Call for an Appointment
1-866-540-4327**