

# Weight room will open up for public use

The community weight room at the Decatur Community High School will open next week.

Superintendent Duane Dorshorst said the elliptical trainer and treadmill have been delivered and the staff is putting them together.

The room will be open from 6 to 7:30 a.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday except when school is closed or there is a sporting event at home. If there is a home event, the weight room will be closed in the evening but open in the morning.

Those wanting to use the room will be doing so at their own risk,

said Mr. Dorshorst.

People who want training on the weights or the cardio machines can call the high school office at 475-2231, said Mr. Dorshorst. There will be a charge of \$5 for the service.

Students won't be allowed in the weight room during those times unless they are accompanied by a parent or a guardian.

He said the district hopes to continue to upgrade the weight room as needed, but wanted to get it open as soon as possible, as many people won't be exercising outside during the winter.

# Council to discuss selling beer at alley

The Oberlin City Council plans to discuss a change in the city ordinance on cereal-malt beverages which would allow beer to be sold and served at the new bowling alley downtown.

The current ordinance doesn't allow beer to be sold or served within 500 feet of a library. The new bowling alley is within that distance. At the last council meeting in November, the members discussed changing the ordinance, but didn't vote.

Interim City Administrator Karen

Larson said she has received a contract for Verizon Wireless to build a tower south of town on city property. The council has discussed the tower before, but hasn't had the contract to approve.

She said engineers with Miller and Associates, which has been working on the water treatment plant, will be here to discuss the discharge of uranium from the new plant.

The meeting, open to the public, will start at 7 p.m. Thursday upstairs at The Gateway.

# Utility customers will pay a deposit

The Oberlin City Council approved having new utility customers pay a \$200 deposit before getting service.

The council talked about the idea of a deposit at the first meeting in November, but didn't make any decisions until the meeting Thursday, Nov. 18.

While the proposed ordinance originally had the deposits broken down into one for water, one for sewer and one for electricity, Councilman Rob McFee said he thought there should just be one for everything. He added that he didn't think it was high enough, because \$200 doesn't cover a utility bill that

isn't paid.

That depends on the month, the house and number of people in it, said Mayor Joe Stanley.

There are some people who only have one or two of the utilities, but not all of them, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch.

The city also charges \$25 for water and \$25 for electricity. That hook-up fee is non-refundable.

The council approved the ordinance with the \$200 flat deposit for all utilities. The city will pay interest on the deposits, but when the money will be returned to the customer wasn't decided.

# Volunteers needed to clean up the town

Volunteers are needed for the City Slickers group next spring to help clean up neighborhoods in Oberlin.

Deanna Castle, with Decatur Tomorrow, said they appreciate all the volunteers who helped pick up trash and keep the neighborhoods

clean this year.

The City Slickers, a unit under the Decatur Tomorrow City Beautification group, will start again in the spring.

Anyone who wants to help can call Mrs. Castle at 475-3227 or Kem Bryan at 475-2694.

# County buys two loads of fuel

The Decatur County commissioners approved ordering two loads of fuel for the road and bridge department at their meeting Tuesday, Nov. 9.

One load, said Supervisor Tim Stallman, will be a split, half clear

diesel and half unleaded. The other load will be a full load of dyed diesel.

The commissioners also approved a bid for \$440 from Weathercraft to put a hole in the roof for the wires for the new computer and radios.



# Santa hears wishes from area children

**THE MAN IN RED** talked with over 100 youngsters Friday night after the Parade of Lights in downtown Oberlin. Kids of all ages climbed onto Santa's lap to tell him what special gift they want come Christmas. Several of the kids, including Lilly Rippe (above), drew Santa a picture or wrote him a list. Some told Santa several items they were hoping for while one of the younger ones, Michaela Wasson (right), just sat and smiled. Santa will be back at the Golden Age Center on Saturday, Dec. 18. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis



Kole Breth dug into a bowl of chicken noodle soup at a church supper. His picture didn't make it in the paper last week, but he got on our Facebook page along with a lot of other community items and photos.

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