

# Trim job angers woman

An Oberlin woman complained to the Oberlin City Council last Thursday about a city employee cutting into a tree and lilac bushes on the side of her house.

Deb Lohofener said the ash tree on the west corner of her yard, near Washington Street, is important to her. It helps block that side of the house from the sun in the summer and has been on the lot since she bought her home years ago.

There are no power lines close to the tree, Miss Lohofener said, and she grooms it for the winter.

She has been asked by people at the Catholic Church across the street to the west to keep the tree and bushes trimmed so the branches don't scratch their cars when they park. Miss Lohofener said she continues to do that and pays for a professional to help groom the tree.

Last week, she said, she found city Foreman Dan Castle in her yard cutting the tree and bushes. She said she asked him to stop since she pays to have the job done professionally once a year. He didn't stop, she said.

She went on to say that Mr. Castle told her he was trimming her plants to allow for room for street sweeper. Miss Lohofener said the sweeper was used on the street at least four times last summer and there were no problems with the tree.

She said she would like to know why the tree was a target or a hazard. The lilac bushes too, she said, since they were drastically trimmed.

"He is our employee," she said. "He doesn't have the right to talk to me the way he talked to me, or any of us. He is our city employee."

Miss Lohofener said she would like an apology. She said she isn't going to sue the city, nor does she want another ordinance, but would like a policy about issues like this on personal property.

She added that it would have been nice to have been talked to beforehand.

Mayor Joe Stanley said they would talk to Mr. Castle and get some answers. Nothing else was said in the meeting.

The council did hold a 20-minute closed session for nonelected personnel with the foreman. There was no action taken.

## Oh Come All Ye Faithful



THIS LIFE-SIZE lighted nativity scene decorates Centennial Park for the Christmas season.

— Herald staff photo by Kimberly Davis

## City council OKs cell tower in south part of town

The Oberlin City Council authorized the mayor to sign a contract with Verizon Wireless to put up a tower on city ground on the south side of town.

Mayor Joe Stanley said City Attorney Steve Hirsch, a representative from the Decatur Co-op and a representative from Verizon met to talk about the issues brought up at the first meeting in December. At that meeting Kurt Anderson, general manager for the co-op, had some questions about the height of the tower and whether, if the tower fell on its side, if there was adequate insurance to pay the co-op for any damage.

Mr. Anderson said that the firm agreed to reduce the tower height to no taller than 230 feet, instead of the planned 280 feet. The 230 feet, he said, is from the current elevation on the pad site.

That's without the lightning rod, he added.

Verizon also agreed to increase their insurance to \$5 million, said

Mr. Anderson.

He added that the co-op believes the tower is important for the town, and with the increased insurance,

they are OK with it.

Mayor Stanley signed the contract.

Councilwoman Rhonda May said

she was is glad that they worked things out. The tower is a good thing for the city and for economic development, she said.

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**Please email or write Ron Bender, EDG Chairman with your letter of interest and resume to [rbender@ccmcks.org](mailto:rbender@ccmcks.org).**  
**Mail: Ron Bender, Clay County Medical Center, 617 Liberty, Clay Center, Kansas 67432**