

# Couple wants city to close alley near their house

An Oberlin couple has asked the City Council to close the alley next to them, saying it's too close to their house. The council set a public hearing on the request for 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 18.

City Administrator Karen Larson said Roger and Nancy Robinson came to the council meeting on Thursday, July 21. They asked to have the alley closed by their house, between North York Avenue and North East Avenue on the north side of Ash Street.

The decision is up to the council, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch. A notice needs to be published in the newspaper for 20 days, then the council can hold a hearing.

The hearing is set for the council meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 18.

Mr. Hirsch said the last alley closing was done in 2006.

Mrs. Larson said the city has received permission from several landowners to test private irrigation wells in the continuing search for better water.

Councilman Jim Miesner said they found a pretty good field of existing wells, adding that they are going to look for "the sweet spot."

"So we need to get permission from the landowners to test?" asked Councilman Rusty Adleman.

"Correct," said Mayor Bill Riedel.

In other business, the council:

- Heard that the city pool will shift to limited hours on Monday, Aug. 15, as kids and lifeguards return to school. The pool will still be open on weekends until Labor Day, Mrs. Larson said, and it'll be open for adult swim for an hour during the day and in the evening.
- Received a request from Kim-

berly Davis, with the Sappa Park Committee, for help in digging holes for and putting up the smaller playground equipment at the park. Since then the work has been done.

- Heard that the city has received the OK from the Federal Aviation Association to talk bids on refurbishing the existing runway and taxiway. Bids are to be opened at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 24.
- Received a signed lease back from Baker Hughes, an oil field firm which uses a gated property at the airport. The rent was increased from \$80 to \$150.

- Heard that the city has been getting lots of complaints about lots not being mowed. Mrs. Larson said they are trying to get them all mowed, but with the rain the weeds may be getting ahead of them.

- Heard that the city received a \$150 donation to do "something special" for the crews that worked through the windstorm this summer. Mrs. Larson said they plan to use the money to have a chicken-fried-steak dinner for the employees.

- Heard that the Board of Zoning and Appeals will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday. On the agenda is a request for special use for the city to build a water treatment plant.

- Talked briefly about the city crew picking up tree limbs from around town. Mrs. Larson said it's something that has been put on the back burner, but the crew will get around to it.

- Talked about using one of the buildings at the former youth ranch as a storage shed for the cemetery.

- Heard that Police Officer Bret Marietta had graduated from the state law enforcement training academy.

# Tickets on sale for hospital benefit

Tickets are still available for the upcoming Decatur County Hospital benefit, though the golf tournament is full with 29 teams.

The prime-rib dinner starts at 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 13, at the Oberlin American Legion Hall. Tickets, \$30 per person, can be purchased at

the hospital until Friday.

Live and silent auctions during the dinner will help raise money to remodel the lobbies in the hospital and clinic.

Last year, the tournament, dinner and auctions raised around \$13,000, said Administrator Lynn Doeden.



AT SAPPA PARK last Thursday, Jeremy Tally (above) pushed a wheelbarrow full of concrete over to one of the holes drilled for playground equipment while Glen Stragey and Ken Shobe waited to fill the next wheelbarrow. Jacob

Fortin and Rachelle Scott (below) helped set up one of the pieces of new playground equipment.

— Photos by Connie Riedel



# Volunteers, city install equipment at park playground

Volunteers and city crew members helped move concrete and set up poles for additional playground equipment at Sappa Park on Thursday.

That afternoon, seven people joined to move ready-mix from an Oberlin Concrete truck by wheelbarrows to the holes that had been dug by the city crew.

Connie Riedel, with the Sappa Park Committee, said owner Wayne Hackney donated the concrete to anchor the playground equipment poles.

City crew members put up the one-piece of equipment and then helped move concrete, set poles and put on the plates needed for the other pieces to be put up on.

Volunteers will be needed to put together the remaining pieces of small playground equipment, Mrs. Riedel said, but the work day hasn't been scheduled.

Mrs. Riedel said they are going to need some additional sand for under the playground equipment and some kind of border to keep the sand in.

# Mayor visits with commissioners

By KIMBERLY DAVIS  
k.davis@nwks.com

The Decatur County commissioners chatted last week with Oberlin's mayor about the city budget and what's going on in the city and county.

"What's the status of the city?" asked Commissioner Stan McEvoy at the meeting on Tuesday, July 19.

Mayor Bill Riedel said the budget talks had gone reasonably well. The budget is down to the bare bones, he said. The city is definitely thinning things out of the budget and is on track to reduce the property tax levy.

City Administrator Karen Larson, he said, has done a great job with The Gateway and has made it run more efficiently. Instead of the Civic Center costing the city \$100,000 or more a year, said Mayor Riedel, the loss is now running around \$50,000.

The city also paid off some debt,

he said, allowing it to reduce the levy even more.

Mayor Riedel said the city isn't going to transfer as much money out of the electric department to help pay for other areas next year as it has in the past.

Commissioner Stan McEvoy said the electric reserve was probably set up when he sat on the council.

"The transfers from the electric fund," said Mayor Riedel, "are finally catching up with us."

"Anything you need from us?" asked Mr. McEvoy.

"Got any money?" the mayor replied.

"Nope," said Mr. McEvoy.

Mayor Riedel said he just wants the relationship between the city and the county to be good and for both to do what they can to support

each other.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he thought the lines of communication seem to be open.

Mayor Riedel said the city is going to look for water outside of town before building a water treatment plant instead of extracting uranium out and then having a company come pick it up.

He added that the situation with the uranium was one where the city attorney really earned his keep. The proposed contract was given to Steve Hirsch to look through, and he caught the liability issues on the uranium. Mr. Hirsch also is the elected county attorney.

The city has gotten permission from several landowners to test irrigation wells, he said.



## OPEN HOUSE

208 E. North St.

OPEN HOUSE, Sat. Aug. 6, 2:00 - 4:00 the last day of the Decatur County fair. PRICE REDUCED!!! Looking for an affordable starter home, retirement home or secondary home complete w/low maintenance yard? Attend the OPEN HOUSE, register for a door prize, enjoy refreshments and look through this charming home with 2 bdr. and bath on main floor and 2 bdr., bath & laundry on lower level.

**JOHNSON Realty, Inc.**

\$38,500.00

122 South Penn, Oberlin, KS 67749 • Office # 785-475-2785  
Roberta Johnson, Broker • Cell 785-475-7156  
Lynn A. Johnson, Associate Broker/Auctioneer • Cell 785-475-8514  
Dianne Bremer, Salesperson • Cell 785-470-7129



## S.A.M. Productions

with



Ron's Tire Service  
Ron Fowler - Oberlin



Saturday, August 6, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Gateway Civic Center  
Oberlin, KS



Nelson Concrete & Construction, Inc.  
Your Sioux Grain Bin Dealer

John Nelson  
Oberlin



HIGH PLAINS RADIO



Advanced Tickets are \$10 available at:

American Family Insurance in Norton & Hill City,  
United Northwest Federal Credit Union in Norton & Oberlin,  
Crossroads Express in Oberlin,  
Tequilas Mexican Grill in McCook, NE,  
High Plains Radio in McCook, NE.

OR  
Send \$10 per ticket along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:  
S.A.M. Productions, 310 E. Ash St. Oberlin, KS. 67749

### A Special Thank You to all our Sponsors

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Curt Wahlmeier Agency Inc. -Norton & Hill City        | Custom Trophy -Oberlin                       | Decatur County Title & Abstract Co. -Oberlin |
| Culligan -Oberlin                                     | Ward Drug -Oberlin                           | Oberlin Concrete -Oberlin                    |
| Creative Collision -Oberlin                           | Midwest Energy Inc. -Hays                    | Las Canteras Mexican Restaurant -Norton      |
| Stellar Sales/Walker Mowers -Oberlin                  | Nextech/Rural Telephone -Lenora              | Ray's Grocery Inc. -Oberlin                  |
| L & M Repair -Oberlin                                 | Mobile Music Express -Oberlin                | KWKR 99.9 FM-Scott City                      |
| Pauls Funeral Home Inc. -Oberlin/Selden               | Market Data Inc. -Oberlin                    | Ultimate Fertilizer Company -Oberlin         |
| Home Range Real Estate Inc. -Oberlin                  | Pizza Hut -Oberlin/Norton                    | Metcalfe Real Estate -Oberlin                |
| Great Northwest Insurance Agency -Oberlin             | Kelly's Home Medical Equipment LLC. -Oberlin | Oberlin Automotive -Oberlin                  |
| Prairie Petals -Oberlin                               | Sappy Valley Construction LLC. -Oberlin      | Decatur Coop Association -Oberlin            |
| Norton Auto Supply -Norton                            | Crop Production Services -Oberlin            | Selden Lumber -Selden                        |
| John Gall Auto Body -Norton                           | Ralph & Norma Unger Trusts -Oberlin          | S-S Livestock Feed & Equipment -Selden       |
| The Bank -Oberlin                                     | Lawson Auto Body & Customs LLC. -Norton      | Edgerton Auto Repair -Oberlin                |
| United Northwest Federal Credit Union -Oberlin/Norton | Eagle Travel Stops -Oberlin                  | Red Wing Chemical LLC -Norton                |
| Bryan Racing Team -Oberlin                            | Security Abstract Company -Norton            | Garrets Plumbing Heating & Electric -Norton  |
| Shear Creations -Oberlin                              | Kowpake Supply -Norton                       | State Farm Insurance -Oberlin/Norton         |
| LandMark Inn -Oberlin                                 | Norton Sports Center -Norton                 |  |

For More Information call: 785-475-7096 or 785-475-2281

Advertise here

Call Tim Davis at 475-2206!