

Group wants a new pool

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
c.haynes@nwkansas.com

While Oberlin City Council members said at a recent meeting they want a new pool for the town, they said they didn't have enough information to put the issue to a vote of the people.

One councilman said he wouldn't vote for anything that increased taxes without a "sunset" provision saying the tax would expire when the project was paid for.

Valisha Raile spoke for the city's swimming pool committee, which was organized to find a way to replace Oberlin's nearly 60-year-old pool.

City Administrator Karen Larson said a new outdoor pool with the features the committee feels are needed will cost about \$2.3 million.

Councilwoman Fonda Farr noted that, while the price seems high, the pool is nothing fancy. It will only have one diving board, a family slide and a small kiddie area, according to the plans.

Mrs. Raile said that the committee is asking that the council authorize a 1.5-cent sales tax question to be put on the ballot for the November election with the money going to pay for the pool.

Mayor Bill Riedel said he was worried about how the pool would be paid off if the state removes the sales tax on food, which makes up a large part of the city's sales.

Mrs. Farr asked if the \$2.3 million would go against the city's borrowing power.

City Attorney Steve Hirsch said that the city would have to pay for the bonds issued to build the pool

Council plans airport meeting

The Oberlin City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday in the upstairs meeting room of The Gateway for a special session on the municipal airport.

The council received an e-mail from Jeff Deitering, an engineer with the Federal Aviation Administration in Kansas City, on May 17 saying that the city needs to come up with a new reason to build another runway because traffic at the airport has not come up to projections. The e-mail also asked if the city could pay its 10 percent share of the project, up from 5 percent because of

changes in federal law.

The council, which met that night, decided that it needed to get together with everyone interested in the airport project and see what can be done. A special meeting was arranged for Thursday to discuss the problems.

Next week, at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 7, the council will hold its regular meeting. On the agenda will be discussion of putting a 1.5 percent sales tax on the August ballot to pay for a new swimming pool. The council also expects an update on the water project.

one way or another, but that a sales tax initiative would not decrease the city's borrowing power.

Councilman Josh Williby noted that sales tax collected in the city has gone up every year for the past three years.

Councilman Rob McFee asked about a sunset clause, but was told that that would not be practical because the way the law is written. If you make the tax for a special purpose with an end date, said City Attorney Steve Hirsch, it can't go more than 10 years, which would not be enough to pay off the pool.

"I'm not in favor of a tax proposal that goes on forever," Mr. McFee said. "I cannot and will not vote for that."

"Once you put a tax on it very, very seldom goes away. And, I'd be very surprised if the state drops

theirs."

Mr. McFee did say that he felt a sales tax is the fairest type of tax, since you don't have to pay it if you don't buy anything.

Mayor Riedel said that he also worried that if the city gets a 1.5 percent sales tax for a swimming pool, it will limit any future sales tax since a city can only collect up to 2 percent.

The mayor suggested that the council get together with its bond attorney, Sarah Steele, and with anyone else who might be able to answer the council's questions at the next meeting on Thursday, June 7.

While the county needs all ballot questions as soon as possible, Mrs. Larson said, it was obvious the council needs more information before making a decision.

Paper wants progress information

The staff at *The Oberlin Herald* plans to do a Progress Edition in June and needs your help.

The last Progress Edition was in 2008. The staff would like to include all new businesses since then in the edition next month, said Kimberly

Davis, assistant publisher. She said they would also like to include the businesses that have moved, remodeled or updated something in the last four years.

Other stories will cover public improvements since that time and

planned improvements, such as the proposed new swimming pool.

Anyone who has information about progress made in Decatur County in the last four years is invited to call *The Herald* at (785) 475-2206.



Services held for veterans

OLD FRIENDS reminisced before the start of Memorial Day ceremonies at the Lyle Cemetery in rural northeast Decatur County. Seated on the concrete footings of a cemetery plot were (from left) Deb Helm, Dee Magers and Rea Magers. Jacob Helm (right) snapped a smart salute after he delivered the Memorial Day address at the Lyle Cemetery.

— Herald staff photos by Carolyn Plotts



Elevators make some money

The Decatur Cooperative Association made money last year, returning a big chunk of it to the members.

General Manager Kurt Anderson said the co-op's earnings were \$172,540 and net including patronage from regional co-operatives used as suppliers was \$613,385.

Of that, said Mr. Anderson, \$139,300 was paid out to members.

Mr. Anderson said he presented the financial information to roughly 190 guests at the association's annual meeting on Thursday, April 19.

The earnings, he said, were up about \$70,000 from last year.

Decatur Co-op elevators, said Mr. Anderson, handled 9.3 million bushels of grain, down a little from the 11.5 million bushels the previous year. He said the numbers were down because of a smaller wheat harvest and some "droughty" corn in the Lenora area.

During the meeting at The Gateway, he said, the co-op gave out four scholarships to Kaelea Stoney, Herndon, daughter of Larry and Deb Stoney; Blake Bergling, Ludell, son of Mark and Gail Bergling;

David Noren, Oberlin, son of Steve and Connie Noren and Brent Juenemann, Oberlin, son of Gary and Jennifer Juenemann.

The business has roughly 48 full-time employees and many part-timers, he said. The co-op paid \$190,000 in property taxes in four counties and donated about \$20,000 to area groups, clubs and charities.

This year, said Mr. Anderson, the co-op retired about \$60,000 in patronage refunds to estates, bringing the total cash pay out to members to around \$200,000.

How American Cancer Society Funds Were Used in the High Plains, 2010-11

- 32%--National Research, Programs, and Other Activities** - Includes grants, fellowships, nationwide 24-hour Cancer Information Center and Web site, and other national activities.
- 30%--Patient Services** - Programs supporting cancer patients and their loved ones from the time of diagnosis through the balance of life.
- 18%--Prevention and Detection Through Education and Advocacy** - Reaching people with information about healthy lifestyle behaviors and age-appropriate cancer screening guidelines.
- 17%--Fundraising**
- 3%--Management**



AS WE SAVE LIVES FROM CANCER, WHAT WE ARE REALLY DOING IS GIVING PEOPLE MORE OF THEIR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE: TIME. MORE TIME WITH THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, MORE MEMORIES, MORE CELEBRATIONS... AND MORE BIRTHDAYS.

DECATUR COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE

JUNE 15-16, 5:00 p.m. to morning

Gateway Community Center

Survivor's BBQ begins at 5:30 p.m.

BBQ open to public at 6:00 p.m.

Opening Ceremonies begin at 7:00 p.m.

Luminaria Ceremony with special Speaker at 9:30 p.m.

Activities: Games, Prizes, Music,

Survivor & Team Walk throughout the evening

Luminaria Donation Form

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ (\$10 ea Luminaria) that will light a luminaria during the Luminaria Ceremony at the Decatur County Relay for Life. (To be included in program book, donations must be received by May 31. Luminarias may also be purchased prior to the ceremony.)

In Honor of: _____

In Honor—A survivor of Cancer

In Memory of: _____

In Memory—Those who have succumbed to Cancer

In Support of: _____

In Support—A patient in the fight of Cancer

- Learn more about Relay for Life activities
 - Volunteer to help with the event
 - Volunteer to help with transportation for those fighting cancer
- Please make checks payable to: American Cancer Society*

Donor Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

SPECIAL RECOGNITION IS GIVEN TO ALL INDIVIDUALS SELLING \$1000+ IN LUMINARIAS & THE TEAM SELLING THE MOST LUMINARIAS
Pat Fringer and Phyllis LaSalle, Luminaria Co-Chairs
Please Mail to:

Decatur County Relay for Life
379 T LN, Oberlin, Ks 67749

Phone: 785-475-2560

This month at Decatur Health Systems	June 2012				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Providers Dr. Steven Albert DO Sean Conroy PA-C Lynnetta Ward APRN-BC Tricia Carney APRN-C	Emergency care available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week	Specialist Providers: Surgery: Dr. Eskildsen Oncology: Dr. Rubinowitz Cardiology: Dr. Curtis, Dr. McGowan, and Dr. Hoos-Thompson Urology: Dr. Werth			1 Dr. Albert Sean Cardiac rehab
Schedule appointments with the Family Practice Clinic at 475-2015.	4 Dr. Albert Sean Cardiac rehab	5 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta Tricia Cardiology Oncology	6 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Surgery Sonogram Cardiac rehab	7 Lynnetta Sean MRI	8 Lynnetta Sean Cardiac rehab
Schedule appointments with the hospital and Specialty Care Clinic at 475-2208.	11 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta Cardiac rehab	12 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Bone Density Outreach clinics	13 Dr. Albert Sean Lynnetta Surgery Sonogram Cardiac rehab	14 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Sean MRI	15 Dr. Albert Sean Cardiac rehab
The Fitness Center is open daily from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Call 475-2208 for membership information.	18 Dr. Albert Sean Cardiac rehab	19 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Tricia Cardiology	20 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Sean Surgery Urology Cardiology Sonogram Cardiac rehab	21 Sean Lynnetta MRI	22 Lynnetta Sean Cardiac rehab
810 W. Columbia Oberlin, KS "Caring and Sharing From The Heart"	25 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Oncology Cardiac rehab	26 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Outreach clinics	27 Dr. Albert Surgery Sonogram Cardiac rehab	28 Dr. Albert Lynnetta MRI	29 Dr. Albert Lynnetta Cardiac rehab