

## Getting a bracelet



**DOROTHY MOORE GOT A BRACELET** supporting the Oberlin pool project from Gabrielle Johnson during a get together at City Park on Sunday while her friend Ila

Ray (seated) talked to Isabel Grafel (on left) and Madelaine Johnson about the ballot issue.

— Herald photo by Susan May

# Pool committee asks for support

## Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Thank you to our Oberlin City Council members for all you do to move our town forward and make Oberlin a wonderful place to call home.

Our committee was appointed by the council to do the research on a new pool for Oberlin, both the options and means to pay for the project. When we asked to be appointed, we promised there would be no expense to the city in the initial stage.

Money was used from the existing pool fund at the Chamber of Commerce, which was started by prior pool committees and includes donations from past years as well as recent gifts. If the pool issue passes, the remaining money will go toward the pool project.

Why a new pool? There are not enough Band-Aids to fix the present pool's problems. Redoing the piping or adding filtration to the two smaller pools is not enough. The present site does not comply with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act, which requires facilities to permit handicapped swimmers to use the pool. There is no way to maintain adequate chemicals to keep the public safe from harmful bacteria, and perhaps

the waste of water issue should be front and center at a time when water is becoming such a precious commodity. At present, underneath the main basin, the pool has only half of a filtration system in place.

A new pool would meet all of these needs.

Bonds to pay for the pool would be issued by a Public Building Commission under a Kansas law established in 1965. Many have used these commissions for building projects. One advantage is that the municipalities do not tap out their borrowing limits.

Both general obligation and public building commission bonds are fixed-rate bonds with similar credit ratings. Oberlin's financial advisor helped the City of Phillipsburg in getting an "A" rating (investment grade) on their bonds.

To describe these bonds as risky or a loophole is an overstatement, especially when the bonds will be backed by a sales tax. Phillipsburg, like Plainville, Norton and many other towns, opted to establish a commission so they would not tap out the city's borrowing capabilities in case some emergency arose that required a bond issue. The council appoints the board members, and can appoint themselves, if they so

choose.

The sales tax vote, if it passes, would make money available to the city to make payments to the public building commission to make the annual bond payment, and all additional revenue above the pool payment could be used at the council's discretion. The state estimates that Oberlin will collect \$225,000 a year with a 1.5 percent sales tax. The projected revenue exceeds the projected \$190,000 yearly bond payment for the pool.

We realize that sewer, water and streets are important as well. Yet when people choose to move to a town, they expect that those things have been maintained and kept up-to-date by present and previous councils.

When people look to move city, it is the public places, the gathering spots that are important. Young families trying to decide whether to move here or remain here are interested in schools, medical institutions, churches, shopping and what

they can do as a family together or what is available to them in their retirement. Those things include the Golden Age Center, bowling alley, movie theater, and yes, the swimming pool.

The council voted unanimously to allow this vote on Tuesday, Nov. 6. As a committee, we have tried to come up with an affordable pool that fits our community's needs, for all ages and physical abilities. So after months of gathering information and sharing it with the citizens, we believe a swimming pool is a "need" for our community, for recreation, fitness and jobs for our youth.

It is a project that cannot be pushed along to another committee and another city council. We need to do it now and invest in Oberlin's future. We hope you feel the same and will vote YES on Nov. 6.

Oberlin Pool Committee: Susan May, Danielle Leitner, Rachel Johnson, Sarah Howland, Erica Fortin, Valisha Raile and Shayla

## Youngster asks for new pool

To the Editor:

We need a new pool because more people would come to Oberlin and therefore we would raise more money to help this beautiful community grow. We also need a new pool because the old one isn't safe anymore.

Do you really want your children getting hurt? And lastly, just so that everyone can hangout and have fun!

Vote YES! in November.  
Kaitlyn Howland, age 9,  
Oberlin

## Property owner asks council not to meddle

To the Editor:

I believe everyone who owns this or her home and pays taxes in Oberlin belongs here. And that is their decision to decide what he does with such. I do not believe a city council should be making this kind of a decision.

If the owner's house is a danger to him or others, that is a different situation. If there is trash or junk, that should be cleaned up. People could volunteer to help the elderly

or those who are not physically able. To fix up their home is the right of the people who own such! I don't believe, unless a law is passed before these people moved into their home, that anyone should tell them what to do.

When we moved here several years ago, we built a new home but still were required to follow certain guidelines. One was to have no less than three bedrooms. But building new is different. Sooner or later

there will be many older homes that need fixing up. Are you going to do it?

The City of Oberlin has a lot more important issues to think about than fixing up people's homes. As far as Ms. Ackerman, what she does is rude!

I recently found out the basement house near mine has been gutted and trashed inside. The new outside door has been removed. I would hope someone would be checking

into this situation!

Where is Ms. Ackerman on the complaint I sent in? I never had a response. Since there is much debate and my concern about people's rights is important, I believe the people should have a right to vote on what others can put on to other homeowners. The people's feelings are far more important than what their house looks like.

Elsie Wolters,  
Oberlin

## City might rent caretaker house at Sappa Park

By **STEPHANIE DeCAMP**  
sdecamp@nwkansas.com

The Sappa Park committee is considering renting out the old caretaker's house at the park to hunters and campers and reinvesting the profits to improve the shelter house, particularly the proposed bathrooms.

Pheasants Forever is also working on a seven-page application to divert water from an irrigation well to fill the pond and wetlands at the park, said committee member Jim Miesner after the meeting. Rain water would normally take care of this in an average year, he said, but because of the drought, they hope to fill the pond from the well. He said that application should be done this week.

The entire lake hasn't been filled up since the 1960s, but it has never altogether dried up, said committee member Gary Anderson. The state has volunteered to stock the revived pond with fish if it is filled again, City Administrator Karen Larson said.

Mr. Anderson, owner of the LandMark Inn, was elected chairman of the committee at a meeting last

Tuesday at the LandMark. Members discussed the direction they want to go at the park, and what can be done before winter, as well as what they will be looking to do come spring. Also at the meeting were Mrs. Larson. Councilman Jim Miesner and Pheasants Forever biologist Alex Heeger.

The group decided to meet at 5 p.m. the second Tuesday of every month at the LandMark, however the members were to meet Tuesday to prepare for hunting season.

"The caretaker's house is ready to move into" after recent repairs, said Mr. Miesner, recounting a tour the City Council took a few weeks ago. Mr. Heeger asked what the house would need before it could be rented.

"Right now, it needs two mattresses, a microwave and a refrigerator," said Mrs. Larson.

She said the city hopes someone might donate a refrigerator and microwave, but will buy the mattresses new. The group agreed to try and get everything set up as soon as possible so that they could rent the house for this year's hunting season.

Mr. Heeger reported that the

opening day of the bird season will be Saturday, Nov. 10, and the big Pheasants Forever banquet will be the night before at The Gateway. The group decided to look into how much they could charge for the house, but at the very least, they said, it will be \$100 a night.

Mr. Miesner reported that Shayla Williby is helping the city write a grant application for \$100,000 to fix up the buildings at the old youth ranch at the park. Mrs. Larson said the city is talking to a Lyme disease organization that has expressed interest in the buildings.

They have been vacant for five or six years, she said, and bringing in an organization like this would help the hospital, too. The woman the city has been talking to has also looked into one of the nursing homes in town that has had trouble filling its rooms. She is thinking that the organization could use that home for its more seriously ill patients, and the ranch houses for those who are recovering.

The old bathrooms at the shelter house, which haven't been in use for years, are vandalized constantly, said Mrs. Larson. The committee

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(With her pal, Bubbles)

Leota Brown is one busy lady. She's a seamstress, hat maker, cake decorator, cross-stitch designer, and master angler. She's best friend to her

dog, Bubbles, too. Leota has better ways to spend her time than driving 75 miles to North Platte for chemotherapy treatments.

Receiving chemotherapy treatments in McCook is so important for busy people like Leota. Our new Oncology Services suite offers leading-edge chemotherapy treatments in a spacious area for infusions, with an area dedicated solely to chemotherapy treatments coming soon.

Leota works with visiting oncologist, Dr. Maria DeVilla of the Callahan Cancer Center in North Platte, and enjoys our certified chemotherapy nurses so much, she thinks of them as family.

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