

The New C Crescent

SERVING CEREDO, WEST VIRGINIA

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 4

WE WELCOME YOUR EMAIL: info@townofceredo.com

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB: www.townofceredo.com

JUNE 2019

Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session May 6th, 2019

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, May 6th, 2019 at the Ceredo City Hall. The Mayor, Paul A. Billups, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included the Mayor, Paul A. Billups; the Recorder, Stanley E. Fink; and Councilmen Dennis Adkins, Oscar Adkins, Steve Diamond, Robert Leslie and Joe Ratcliff.

Reading of the Minutes

The Mayor asked if Council had any additions or corrections to the minutes of the April 1st, 2019 Regular Session or the April 16th, 2019 Statutory Session. None being heard, on a motion by Dennis Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to wave the reading of the minutes for the April 1st, 2019 Regular Session and the April 16th, 2019 Statutory Session and accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Robert Leslie presented Council with the account balance in each account and the expenditures as of April 30th, 2019. The Mayor asked for questions on the report. None being heard, the Mayor requested the report be made part of the minutes.

On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to approve the Treasurer's report and expenditures as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor addressed the balance in the Coal Severance Account and advised \$52,000 had been transferred from the General Fund to the Coal Severance Account to correct the balance.

West Virginia American Water

Mr. Dan Bickerton, Director of Business Development for WV American Water, asked about the status of the purchase of water for the Town. The Mayor reported he was still negotiating with Kenova and was scheduled to meet with Kenova's attorney, Dee Price, later in the week. He also advised Mr. Bickerton he would be contacting him within the next two (2) weeks.

Ceredo Elementary School Update

The Mayor advised the School Board staff was still in the process of removing items from the school, after which the Town would be receiving the keys.

Sewer Department Staffing

The Mayor advised Mr. P. J. Adkins had been hired to work in the sewer department. He stated Mr. Adkins was willing to take the required classes to be certified as a licensed system operator.

Main Street Demolition Update

The Mayor advised Mr. Doug Damron was near ready to start demolition of the properties at 725 and 741 Main Street. The Mayor also stated the property at 341 3rd Street, East was ready for demolition.

American Legion Baseball Program

The Mayor advised he had received a letter from the Ceredo-Kenova American Legion Post No. 93 indicating they were starting an American Legion Baseball Team. He reported the Legion is asking for donations to help purchase uniforms and equipment to get the team started. The Mayor recommended donating \$200 for the team.

On a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to donate \$200 to the Ceredo-Kenova American Legion Post 93 Baseball Team for the purchase of equipment and uniforms. All were in favor, motion carried.

Pickle Ball Court At Paul T. Billups Park

Mr. Dustin Long updated Council on the refurbishing of the tennis court to a pickle ball court with an anticipated opening date around Memorial Day.

Ordinance Fixing Sewer Rates, First Reading

The Mayor read, on first reading, an Ordinance establishing and fixing sewer rates, fees and charges for sewer service provided by the Town of Ceredo, West Virginia. After discussion and on a motion by Oscar Adkins and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to approve the Ordinance establishing and fixing sewer rates, fees and charges for sewer service provided by the Town of Ceredo, West Virginia, on first reading. All were in favor, motion carried.

Police Department Report

Police Chief, Tony Poston, updated Council on the progress Officer Chapman had made at the police academy. He also reported July 15th 2019 as a possible start date for Officer Thompson. The Chief also discussed the warning lights on the new cruiser.

Maintenance Superintendent Report

Maintenance Superintendent, Ronnie Jarrell, reported on the progress of removing refuge from the alleys, the marking of the potholes that need repaired, grass cutting in the Town and the expense of replacing sewer grinder pumps and the cost of pump replacements at the same address. He also stated trash cans were being delivered where needed and the hanging baskets should be arriving about the middle of the month.

Waste Water/Administrative Assistant Report

Mr. Dustin Long, Administrative Assistant, updated Council on the progress of the Pickle Ball project at the Town Park. He also reported the storm drain and sewer at the Greenwood Apartments were working well.

Adjournment

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

Summer is upon us and I couldn't be more proud of our town employees and residents. Ceredo streets and alleys are clean, we have very few weeds in town (and they will disappear as soon as our staff sees them), no junk piles in alleys, yard cars, or junk in front of houses ... the town is beautiful. I salute each of our residents for maintaining your yards, cleaning curbs around your street, and letting our staff know when tree limbs or rubbish need to be removed. You have truly made this a wonderful community in which to live.

The Town is looking at three major projects to be completed this year. The first, mandated by the Corps of Engineers, is the erection of flood gates surrounding the town for inspection purposes. The Corps requires that each flood gate be installed at

least once every three years to ensure that all materials are on-hand and that the staff is competent in installing the gates.

The Ceredo flood control system works very well, and we haven't been required to install the main gate crossing Route 60 on the East end of town for emergency purposes for many, many years. Still, the Corps requires that we do a test installation that will require cutting the asphalt on Route 60 and closing the highway – one side at a time – for two days. There will be traffic delays, and there will be a "rough road" spot on Route 60 for several days, but we simply must do it this summer.

The exact date of the Route 60 work is unknown, as we must coordinate with the state Department of Highways since Route 60 is a state road. Residents will be notified

with as much advance warning as possible. In addition to the Route 60 gate, we will also be installing three other gates around town that haven't been installed for several years, but those should not disrupt normal traffic flow. Our town employees will perform this project.

The second major project, also mandated by the Corps of Engineers as a result of our annual floodwall inspection, is examination of the "Jordan Branch Tunnel" that runs beneath the earthen levy near Third Street. This is a major project in that it requires specialized equipment to dam the Jordan Branch water to allow persons to walk inside the tunnel and inspect its condition. This project will require an outside contractor, as we do not have the equipment or manpower to complete the job. This

inspection is made necessary as a result of construction of the Greenup Dam, which raised normal pool waters in Twelve Pole Creek to a level that covered the discharge tunnel initially built by the Corps in 1940.

The final major project to be undertaken this summer is the installation of new street lights. Our current street lights have the industrial look that was popular, and affordable, in the early 1970s. The new lights, which will be installed on Main Street, B Street, 1st Street West, Greenwood Drive and Fairwood Drive, are much more aesthetically pleasing. The new lights are similar to those around Pullman Plaza in Huntington, consisting of black fluted poles with acorn-style LED globes. Town Council approved the project during the June meeting, and it is

now being decided as to whether we try to do this project in-house or with assistance from a contractor. Completion of this project will enhance to beauty of the town, provide better lighting, and result in lower power costs due to the LED fixtures.

The former elementary school has, at long last, been turned over to the town. Our summer youth program workers have cleaned miscellaneous rubbish that was left in the buildings, and decisions will soon be made on prospective future uses of the property.

Demolition of the two deteriorated houses on Main Street is complete. The houses, built around 1900, were once beautiful homes owned by Pauline Alvis and Jack Thompson, respectively, in their better days. As part of this urban renewal project, the

Golden Girls Group Home will now construct a retail outlet and office space on the property, greatly enhancing our southside of town.

During my evening walks and bike rides around town I have noticed an increasing number of residents taking evening walks or sitting on porches, reminiscent of days gone by in America. Perhaps we are revisiting the community spirit that once made America great, and never really left Ceredo. Please feel free to join me on my evening walks or rides, or flag me over if you have ideas that may improve life in Ceredo. The business of local government is to support the needs of our residents, and we will do our best to meet that mission.

FARMER'S MARKET OPENS

The Ceredo Farmer's Market opened for the season on Saturday, June 15, 2019. Now in its third season located at the Ceredo Picnic Shelter on the Mitch Stadium parking lot, the market will be open on Fridays and Saturdays from 9 AM – 4 PM through October.

If the opening weekend crowd is an indication,

this will be a great season for the market. New vendors have joined the anchor farms – Greenbrier Farm and Rocky Knob Farm – and a great variety of vegetables, fruits, jams, jellies, salsa, dinner rolls, and sweet baked goods will be available each week. Additionally, the now world-famous Amish doughnuts are again

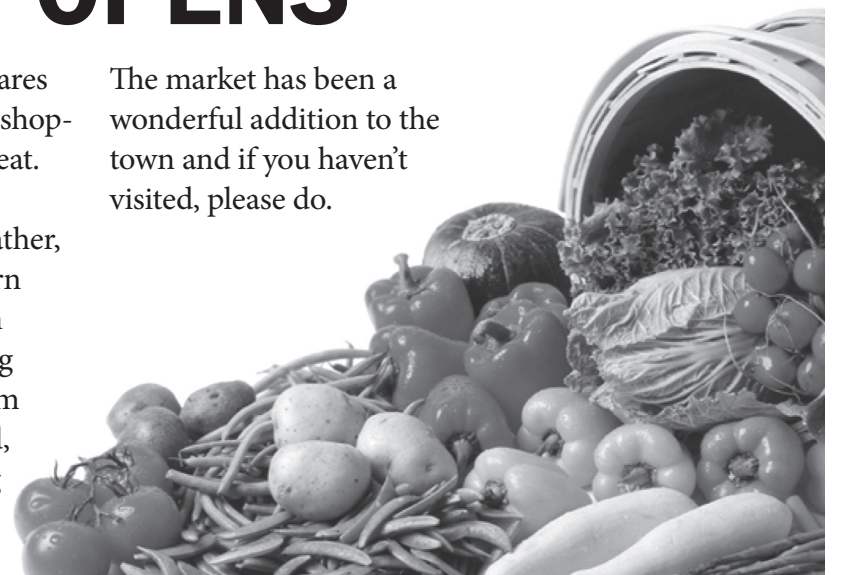
available, but supplies are limited due to the Amish hand-production process and those treats usually sellout within the first couple of hours, so come early!

Another addition this season is a weekly cooking demonstration, with samples, by Wayne County Extension Agent Lisa Bell. Lisa obtains items from

the market and prepares them on-site, giving shoppers an additional treat.

With a little cooperation from the weather, our annual sweet corn harvest should begin in early July, meaning weekend crowds from Huntington, Ashland, and the surrounding area will converge on the market.

The market has been a wonderful addition to the town and if you haven't visited, please do.





Ceredo Police Blotter



NAME	ARRESTED ON	CHARGE(S)
Blankenship, Brandon Thomas	5/22/2019	Driving Revoked – DUI
Brooks, Anthony Brian	5/23/2019	State Capias: DUI
Blankenship, Jonathan Lee	5/24/2019	Reckless Driving, Destruction of Property
Walters, Jeremy David	5/25/2019	City Capias: Driving Suspended
Vanscoy, Lonnie A.	5/28/2019	Driving Revoked-DUI, No Insurance
Griffith, Joshua	5/28/2019	Public Intoxication, Possession of Controlled Substance
West, Rebecca D.	5/29/2019	City Capias: Failure to Appear
Woodward, Dawn M.	6/10/2019	City Capias: Failure to Appear, Driving Suspended Misc.

Grass Outlawed!

Not marihuana, weed, pot, or cannabis, but bluegrass, fescue, rye or any other type of lawn grass has been outlawed from Ceredo streets. The Town has for several years had an ordinance prohibiting grass clippings from being left on town streets, and a vast majority of our residents comply by either bagging grass clippings or blowing them back onto their yards. Unfortunately, we have a few, mostly paid yard cutters, that continuously blow clippings onto the street and leave the job.

Other than causing the streets to look messy, grass clippings and leaves are the top problems with clogging our storm sewers. Roughly once a month during the summer season the Town is forced to clean clogged storm drains, at a cost of \$2,500 per day, and the culprit is grass clippings. The State Department of Environmental Protection conducts “audits” to determine whether the Town has a program in place to prevent grass

clippings from entering the storm drains, and we certainly don’t want to incur a fine from the DEP.

Our employees do a great job during the Fall in removing leaves from our streets, but during summer months it is difficult to find those yards that have left grass in the street and to remove it before it finds its way to the storm drain. We ask that each resident be cognizant of this issue, and please remind persons you may have hired to cut your grass that the fine for leaving clippings in the street or on the sidewalk is \$200, making it a potentially high-priced yard mowing experience.

With your assistance we should be able to avoid having to unclog drains during the next few months, and at the same time keep our streets looking neat and clean. Please help, the money we have to pay to clean storm drains can be put to much better use.

Demolitions Underway

The Ceredo Unsafe Housing Commission has initiated the demolition of several condemned houses in Ceredo. The structure at 341 3rd Street East was demolished during the week of June 10, and structures located at 725 and 741 Main Street were demolished during the week of June 17.

The demolition of these dwellings will protect the neighborhoods from rodents or the possibility of the vacant structures being used as drug dens. Fortunately, the problem in Ceredo is a significant as is being faced by other cities, and the Unsafe Housing Commission is doing a good job of protecting our neighborhoods.



The Main Street properties have been purchased by the Golden Girls Group Home, and construction

is expected to begin soon on a retail store and office building that will greatly enhance the area.

The Mitch, Tadpoles, and Travel Ball

It is mid-June and baseball season at Legendary Mitch Stadium is finished for the year. The park, still one of the best in West Virginia, was refurbished a bit this year but has likely lost its title of “best Little League field not located in Williamsport.” There is no fault involved, just changing times.

There are literally hundreds of Ceredo and Kenova residents that had a hand in building, maintaining, and rebuilding Mitch Stadium since 1955, and there are undoubtedly many current volunteers willing to assist with projects at the stadium. The difference, now and since 1955, between Mitch Stadium and nearly every other youth baseball park in the country is that for the first fifty-five years or so of its existence, The Mitch had “full-time” caretakers, first Elmer Mitchell, then Had Dale, and finally Paul Billups and Scott Hensley.

These men didn’t accomplish the job alone,

and all would be eager to tell you that it was the hundreds of volunteers that really did the work, but what these men brought was continuous oversight to the facility – the did the planning, coordinated the projects, were always present, and concerned themselves with the stadium itself, having no regard as to which team won or lost. While most Little League volunteers, by their very nature, stay for as many years as their children are involved and move on to the next league, these fellows didn’t leave, and their presence separated The Mitch from the average youth facility. There is nothing “to be fixed” or to “do better”, it is simply the good fortune we had over a continuous period of years.

Youth baseball, and youth sports in general, have been in a steady decline for the past twenty years. The hometown Little League concept, with local parks that meant so much to small communi-

ties, is suffering. Nearly every boy that came of age in Ceredo and Kenova between 1955 and 2010 was touched by Mitch Stadium – it is where we made lifelong “new” friends, were introduced to the pungent aroma of five-cent cigars, learned that tadpoles grew into frogs in the right field swamp, that more salt on popcorn meant more soft drink sales, figured out that sawdust soaks water off the infield, and boys that arrived in the bed of a pickup truck from Lavalette were pretty good ballplayers.

It is where we learned that wool uniforms are hot, some cups aren’t made for drinking, that having your name announced was exciting, that there is always a better player, that we were as good as boys from Huntington or Barboursville or Wayne, that there may be a little crying in baseball, and for perhaps only once in many lives a young boy was a member of a team.

It is interesting that in

those days when a boy “made” a Little League team, he became forever associated with that team. During a fifty-year reunion at Mitch Stadium held several years ago, every returning player identified with “his team,” whether it was the Cards or the Giants or the Reds or whatever, once a boy made the team, he was forever that team. Those were the days when America, and perhaps Ceredo and Kenova, were gentler places. Residents actually walked to the stadium on summer evenings to watch ball games, no matter who was playing. Today you will be hard-pressed to find anyone on the place that doesn’t have a child participating that night. Times change.

The remaining factor forcing the decline of youth sports is the “travel ball” madness that has overtaken every sport. Roughly thirty years ago there were elite “travel” teams, consisting of truly elite players, players

blessed with extraordinary talent, that were organized to play after local regular season schedules were complete. Good business people quickly saw the billion dollar opportunity, and shortly “travel” teams were organized in most every community. The pitch, in every sport, has been one that tugs the heartstrings of every parent, that your child will improve with better coaching, playing more, against better competition. All probably true. The problem is the next pitch, that Little Johnnie might earn a college scholarship or be a professional player if the parents simply get him better coaching and more games, is probably not true.

What gets lost in this mix are the lifelong friendships that are formed in local leagues, the playing for the sake of playing, without the pressure of having to perform well as a ten-year-old to keep that chance of earning a college scholarship. On a recent

plane trip I was speaking with a fellow from South Carolina that told be his son was the second-rated eight-year-old shortstop in South Carolina. Think about that. Someone is actually making money by having parents buy “ratings” of eight-year-olds. That is achievement by proxy disorder, poster case.

Lost are the kids that don’t have the money to travel every weekend or get “special” coaching. Lost are the kids that made a local team, played right field, batted last, but were on a team for that once in life. Those are the kids, and the friendships, and the joys that are lost with the demise of hometown Little Leagues. Life will go on, baseball will be played, but never again in Ceredo and Kenova will an eager nine-year-old get his first baseball cap and become a Brave or a Dodger or a Cub for life.

Receive notifications by

- Call
- Email
- Text
- And more



For one-step notifications
SIGN UP TODAY.

Get local news and alerts instantly.

SIGN UP NOW

CIVICREADY
Powered by Regroup

CEREDO TOWN STATS

POPULATION 1,412

MALE 42.6%

FEMALE 57.4%

ELEVATION 552

AREA 2.26 SQ. MI.

LAND 1.53 SQ. MI.

WATER .73 SQ. MI.

MEDIAN AGE 48.9

HOUSING UNITS 718

AROUND TOWN

Ozzie Hawes, Columnist

Former Ceredo residents Freda and Keith Chadwick were recent visitors to Town Hall. The Chadwicks, both educators, have resided in Texas for many years but still consider Ceredo to be home. Keith is a former Ceredo and Huntington police officer. Ceredo is proud that they call Ceredo home, and we hope that some day after retirement they will again reside in our town.

Seen at the Farmer's Market last was a proud grandmother, Ceredo resident Donna Kiser, along with her six-month old twin grandchildren, Cora and Desmond McLean. The twins were accompanied by their parents, Courtney Kiser McLean and Scott McLean, of Omaha, Nebraska. The dully proud MawMaw has made several trips to Omaha to assist Courtney and Scott over the past few months, and it was great to see the beautiful twins celebrating their first half-birthday in Ceredo.

Many Ceredo residents, this writer included, enjoyed their first truly "home cooked, locally grown"

dinner of the year this week with the opening of the Farmer's Market. The half-runner green beans, new potatoes, and tomatoes were particularly good. The vendors offering dinner rolls, breads, and cookies made the meal complete. The market has grown into a great place for local residents to gather each Friday and Saturday.

A pretty big thumbs-down to the person that stole several flowers from the flower garden located near the Veteran's Memorial in the town park. Ceredo has become known as "flower town" as the result of many years expanding our annual plantings, at no small cost but great benefit to the beauty of the town, and for someone to steal flowers in unconscionable. Delcie the Flower Lady and her sons, David and Donnie, are quite disturbed by this theft. Cameras have been installed, so any future flower thieves will certainly have an appointment with Town Judge Greg Jarrell.

The summer youth program, reinstated this year after several years' absence, has been very successful. The young lads have swept the streets, trimmed trees,

power washed the concrete floodwall, and prepared our flood pumping stations for painting. Weather permitting, the boys will paint the floodwall and pump houses before the program ends. This is a win-win program for all concerned, the boys learn work habits and make school money, and the town benefits greatly from their efforts. Hopefully, we will be able to continue this program next year.

Former Ceredo-Kenova baseball star Charlie Hoback was in town recently. Charlie attended school in Wayne where he earned All-State honors pitching for the Pioneers, but played summer baseball in C-K, where he was an all-star pitcher during the early 1960s. Charlie's brothers, Randy and the late Kenny Hoback, pitched for the Wonders. The three brothers were taught to pitch by their father, the late Darrell Hoback, and were undoubtedly the best three-brother pitching act in Ceredo since the days of the "All-Wright" team led by professional pitcher Rasty Wright and his uncles in the early 1900s.

Charlie continued to pitch baseball in amateur leagues until nearing his

40th birthday, and has resided near Richmond, Kentucky for many years. It was good seeing Charlie and his wife, and recounting the glory days of Little League and Babe Ruth baseball in C-K.

Special thanks to those residents that have provided lunch for our Maintenance Department employees. Our staff, while perhaps getting a bit long-of-tooth and gray haired, continues to do a great job of keeping Ceredo clean. Most of our employees have been with the town for well over twenty years, and while they may not be a fast as they once were, they all work hard and they all love our town.

On a good day, when all our employees are able to work, Superintendent Ronnie Jarrell has four and one-half men to collect garbage twice a week, cut grass, and do other general maintenance, along with any major "project" that may be on the agenda. Compare our few men with the staffs of other cities, and compare the cleanliness and beauty of Ceredo to those same cities, and it is clear that we are fortunate to have the fine workers we employ.

The town was notified several months ago that a new historic roadside marker designating the location of Fort Pierpont in Ceredo, home of the 5th Virginia (later West Virginia) Volunteer Infantry, would be erected. The sign is apparently complete, and should be delivered in the near future for placement in front of Town Hall near the corner of Main and B Streets. The fort was located at this place between 1861 and 1865.

The Ceredo Museum, perhaps one of the best small-town museums in America, will soon be able to expand with space in the former Ceredo Elementary School. The museum now has far more display items that can be adequately viewed by visitors, and the expansion of some displays in the old school, located directly across Main Street, will provide a better experience for visitors. Curator Syd Hanson continues to do a great job at the museum. If you haven't visited the museum, I urge you to do so. You will be pleasantly surprised by a Ceredo jewel.

Efforts continue to convince the Department of

Highways to pave Crescent Hill Drive in Ceredo. Last year the road was nearly impassable before the County patched potholes in early November. Last month the County again patch as few holes, but the entire road needs to be paved. If there is any truth to the adage that the squeaky wheel gets the grease, we may see some action soon.

The New Crescent salutes the efforts of Briarcliff resident and Ceredo property owner Barry Mosser. Mr. Mosser not only keeps his apartment properties looking good, but he has undertaken for several years to maintain the High Street bridge over Twelve Pole Creek. His efforts have inspired others to do that "one extra thing" to improve our blocks or neighborhoods.

The United Bank, formerly First Bank Ceredo on Route 60, has undergone a facelift this summer. The entire building has been painted and landscaping has been refurbished, resulting in a great look for those banking or passing on Route 60. A job well done by a good corporate neighbor.

THE NEW CRESCENT

Published by The New Crescent, Ceredo, West Virginia for the residents of Ceredo, Kenova and the surrounding area, reporting news, announcements of interest, government actions and features both current and historical.

Letters welcome.

Advertising available. Write the New Crescent, Post Office Box 691, Ceredo, WV, 25507 or call 304-453-1041.

In All The World There Is Only One Evaroni's
US RT. 60 914 Oak Street, Kenova, WV



Supporting Our Community
Ceredo United Methodist Church
Thrift Store

Clothing, Shoes, Housewares, Books, Collectibles For everyone in the family
Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 10:00am-4:30pm • Saturday 10am-2pm
All Donations Greatly Appreciated
Location: 218 Main Street, Ceredo

GIBSON'S BARBER SHOP
Complete Tonsorial Services
Beautiful Downtown
Catlettsburg, Kentucky

Gary Gibson, Proprietor
Big Jim, Number 1 Barber
Brent - Middle Chair

Old Fashioned Barbering • Open Wednesday - Saturday

HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry 08/19
In Memory of J. J. & Roma Gail Billups 08/19
Mike Watts 09/19
Paul & Kathy Billups 10/19
Dinah & Dale Ledbetter 10/19
Jennifer Ferguson 10/19
Connie & Mark Beford 10/19
In Memory of Janice Justice 12/19
Donna Vanhoose 02/20
In Memory of Charles & Betty Pratt 02/20
Gary & Marsha Pinson 03/20
Brenda Francis 03/20
George Keigley 03/20
In Memory of Houston & Gladys Woolwine 03/20
Katrina Childers 03/20
In Memory of Herb & Helen Stephens 08/20
In Memory of Coach Dale Craycraft 08/20
Rhonda & Barry Scragg 04/20
In Memory of Robert (Pete) & Carolyn Sullivan 04/20
In Memory of Alberta "Dossie" & Sherman Medley 04/20
Tim Wilson 05/20
John C. Hall 05/20
Dr. Ron & Lucinda Akers 06/20
Jim & Pat Billups 02/21
Jeanette & Roger Barker 03/21
Jack & Ann Riggs 05/21
Leigh Ann Johnson 04/22

The New Crescent Honor Roll is intended to be a way we give special recognition to those persons who donate at least \$50.00 during the year to support our publication. Since the Honor Roll is a twelve-month feature, you will need to renew your contribution every twelve months to remain on the Roll. Your name not appearing indicates your year had expired.
A very special "Thank You!" to all of you who have helped us to continue the paper with your gifts. With your help, we have been able to publish and deliver The New Crescent to every home in Ceredo since February 1990!




Preferred Home Health


705C Street • Ceredo, WV
(304) 453-3590
1-800-995-2151 or 1-800-496-6944

Providing in home health care for Wayne, Cabell, Lincoln, Boone and Wyoming Counties in West Virginia

Medicare Certified and Joint Commission Accredited.



HAND DRAWN NOTE CARDS



6 NOTE CARDS - \$8
PROCEEDS GO TO CEREDO BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

ARTWORK BY LOCAL ARTIST
LEE ANN BILLUPS BLEVINS
E-MAIL: leeann44@zoominternet.net
PHONE: 304-634-3713

"Do you have your Medicare plan through HUMANA?"

You may qualify for a **FREE GYM MEMBERSHIP!**

SilverSneakers is a fun, energizing program that helps older adults take greater control of their health by encouraging physical activity. Tri-State Rehab offers this program to people who are eligible for Medicare through Humana in which SilverSneakers provides a free gym membership. This program is designed exclusively for older adults who want to improve their strength, flexibility, balance and endurance.

Start your new fitness program with us today!



Healthways SilverSneakers® Fitness Program




Westmoreland | 4120 Waverly Road | Huntington, WV
304.429.7381

Ramsdell House Museum Collection Growing

- The Ramsdell House Museum Collection continues to grow as Ramsdell, Civil War and Underground Railroad artifacts and documents are harvested, catalogued and researched on a daily basis. Many of the documents and relics previously found and showcased during the home's initial use as a museum are still on display, with the addition of many new items found in the attic, floor and wall spaces, and cellar.
- The tedious and important work of scanning and cataloguing documents is largely being performed by intern and volunteer Steven Cody Straley, a Marshall University Master's history major specializing in historic document preservation. Cody also works with the Ceredo Historical Society Museum, The Kenova Museum and The Heritage Farm Museum.
- The Ramsdell House holds an extraordinary number of original letters, journals, ledgers and documents from Zophar Ramsdell's service in the Civil War, as well as thousands of records from his service as Special Postal Agent, or Postmaster following the war. His son Willie carried on their service as Postmaster. Zophar Ramsdell was a meticulous record and journal keeper, and his children followed his example, with hundreds of their letters being found in the home, as well.
- There are so many treasures within the home that there is little physical space left to add to the collection, but a recent donation filled a gap of an item which seemed to be missing: a working 1800s-era pump organ. Within the original relics were dozens of hymn books, Sunday school and church publications, etc., indicating that the Ramsdell was likely used for church meetings. However, there was not a piano or organ present when the home was acquired by the Town of Ceredo in the 1980s. There were also a number of classical music books, including vocal and instrumental instruction books which further indicated a musical history for the house.
- The Mason and Hamlin pump organ was donated to the Town of Ceredo for The Ramsdell House by a family in Park-



ersburg. The organ had been in their family home for generations, but in recent decades was not being used and the family feared that it might fall into a state of disrepair. Instead, it is now tucked in at The Ramsdell where it can be played regularly and recreate some of the music the home used to be filled with.

- Ramsdell staff is still working to pin down the exact year of the organ, but have found that the manufacturer was originally located in Boston, Massachusetts beginning in 1854. Reed organ production ended in 1927. The fact that the Ramsdell family came to West Virginia from Massachusetts as part of Eli Thayer's abolitionist colony makes the Massachusetts-made organ an even better fit. Centennial trim on the organ may indicate manufacture during or after 1876. The organ is in good working order and Ramsdell staff would be thrilled to have any area organists visit the home to play the instrument. Regular use is better for a pump organ than allowing it to sit unused. It is hoped that after the museum officially re-opens its doors later

this summer, regular organ concerts might be presented.

- Other new plans, finds and additions to the home include a small bookstore and reading room, a handicapped entrance and a back "sitting porch." The stone cellar of the home, with what might have been the last door the Underground Railroad guests had to pass through as slaves on their way to freedom, is now available for viewing. Mayor Paul Billups will have a major presentation to announce at the official re-opening ceremony towards the end of summer. More to come!



CHARACTERS OF CEREDO

Ozzie Hawes, Columnist

EDITOR'S NOTE: There was a time in America when every small burg had a handful of "characters," people that marched to the beat of a different drummer, lived life their way, and had no desire to conform to societal expectations. From every social, financial, and political class, these characters could bring a smile to your face, cause you to shake your head in wonderment, and often make those living in the social norm to vicariously enjoy the per-

sonal freedoms expressed by a character. Ceredo has had its share.

Unfortunately, characters are a vanishing breed. Perhaps because characters stood out in situations of social interaction, and today we have become a Facebook, Twitter, and cell phone society where social interaction is less valued and less used, we just don't see the characters. It's safe to say that none of the characters of Ceredo would have had much use for social tools, preferring to exhibit their traits in a brutally honest, "what you see is

what I am" fashion.

This is another column in a series about the characters of Ceredo, hoping to create a record of their existence and an appreciation for the drummer, whatever his beat may be.

He walked from his home on Goodwill Road to downtown Ceredo nearly every day from 1960 until his death, almost always dressed in a brown suit, white shirt, and brown striped tie, smoking Prince Albert roll-your-owns, and willing to stop and talk to

any passersby. Leo Smith was a character.

An ironworker by trade, at a time when union ironwork was not plentiful, Leo made do. During his career he was most proud of his part in building the Maysville, Kentucky bridge over the Ohio River, and at the end of his career Leo worked on the West Huntington bridge as a safety man, operating a boat beneath the structure to rescue any worker or equipment that might have fallen into the water. Between those jobs, Leo spent a

good deal of time simply being a character.

His daily walks to town included stops at Jay Kendrick's Grocery, Donk McFann's gas station, Woody Asbury's grocery, Copley's grocery, Ray's Pool Room, and the First National Bank of Ceredo. Leo always had a story, and always had time to take part in a conversation. A mannerly fellow, Leo wasn't a troublemaker. He passed generational knowledge of life and Ceredo history to all who would listen.

Perhaps Leo was dealt

a bad hand, or perhaps he played his hand bad, but by his later years Leo was a kind man that enjoyed his role as a character, his friends along the way of his daily walks, and the fact that in his mind he put on that suit every day and approached life as a gentleman.

Leo Smith, a true character of Ceredo.

Park Renovations Completed

Renovations to the Paul T. Billups Park have been completed. The project, overseen by Administrative Assistant Dustin Long and part-time employee Bob McGlone, includes the transformation of two tennis courts into three pickleball courts, including a new surface and bench seating for participants or onlookers, plus a total refurbishment of the basketball court that included new backboards, new playing surface, and regulation lines on the court.

The project was completed with in-house labor, our street and water department em-

ployees performing the work in addition to their regular duties, and the men did a great job.

Pickleball, the fastest growing participant sport in America, is often referred to as "tennis for older people." A cross between ping-pong and badminton, the sport is becoming so popular because it doesn't require running and players of any age are able to compete. A number of Ceredo and Kenova residents have been learning the game while construction was ongoing, and it appears the once neglected courts will become

an evening gathering place for sporting folks.

Pickleball equipment, consisting of paddles and balls, is available for loan at the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall. Persons interested can stop by Town Hall and check out the equipment at no charge. The courts are open daily between 8 AM and 9 PM, with no charge for court time.

The walking track continues to get good use, and will be improved later this summer with the addition of lights to make the track safer for those walking in the early morning or late evening hours.



Woodward & Associates G. Marcus Woodward

- Senior Health Plans
- Senior Drug Plans
- Medicare Supplements

Phone: 606.325.8865 | 606.327.1958
Fax: 606.325.1285

PO Box 870 Ashland, KY 41105-0870
E-Mail: marcus@marcuswoodward.com

Austin's
SINCE 1947
HOMEMADE ICE CREAM
Deliciously Different
1103 C St. Ceredo, WV
Phone: 304-453-2071
OPEN DAILY 10:30am - 10:00pm

Tri-State Cremation Society "An Affordable Cremation Option"



www.tristatecremationsociety.com

Tri-State Cremation society is proud to announce the opening of our New On-Site Crematory. As the **only** provider in Cabell and Wayne Counties to have an On-Site Crematory, rest assured your loved ones never leave our care. Whether your wishes are simple cremation or full services, our staff is available 24hrs to assist. **Two locations in Huntington and Ceredo to better serve you.**

Ceredo-Kenova & Ferrell-Chambers Funeral Homes
1135 Route 60 P.O. Box 907 Ceredo, WV 25507
924 20th Street Huntington, WV 25703

Matthew A. Chambers, Licensee-In-Charge
Brian O. Stewart, Crematory Licensee-In-Charge

Call Today: (304) 522-1514

cremation@hotmail.com

ROCCO'S
RISTORANTE

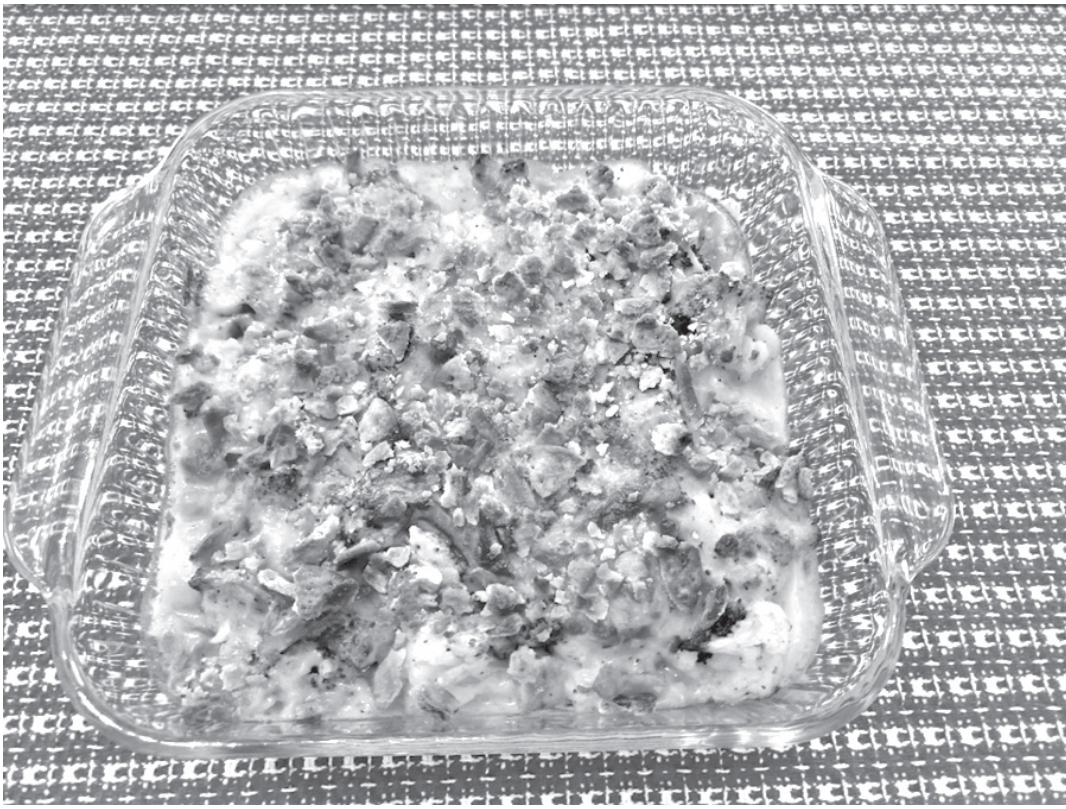
"Fine Foods with a Personal Touch"

- Lasagna
- Spaghetti
- Rigatoni
- Ravioli
- Fettucini
- Fresh Veal
- Seafood
- Manicotti
- Sausage
- Cacciatore
- Linguine with Clam Sauce (Red & White)

SUN TUES WED THUR
5PM to 10PM
FRI SAT 5PM to 10:30 PM

252 MAIN ST CEREDO
453-3000

The Crescent Kitchen



Ham & Veggie Casserole

by Natalie Riggs Hemann

Since “steamfresh” vegetables have come on the market I find that I eat more veggies. The convenience is hard to resist; you pop a bag in the microwave, push a button, and a few minutes later your veggies are ready! This casserole recipe is basically just stirring ingredients together, baking, and you have your main dish in just a few minutes. Serve with a salad and bread and your whole meal is ready to eat – this is my kind of meal!

Ham & Veggie Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 package (10.8 ounces) frozen broccoli florets
- 1 package (10.8 ounces) frozen cauliflower (I use lightly sauced, garlic)
- 2 teaspoons plus 2 tablespoons butter, divided
- 1/4 cup bread or cracker crumbs
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

- 1-1/2 cups milk
 - 3/4 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
 - 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
 - 1-1/2 cups cubed or diced fully cooked ham
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- Directions:
- Preheat oven to 425°. Cook broccoli and cauliflower according to package directions; drain.
 - Meanwhile, in a small skillet, melt 2 teaspoons butter. Add bread/cracker crumbs; cook and stir over medium heat 2-3 minutes or until lightly toasted. Remove from heat.
 - In a large saucepan, melt remaining butter over medium heat. Stir in flour until smooth; gradually whisk in milk. Bring to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir 1-2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat; stir in cheeses until blended. Stir in ham, pepper, and vegetables. Transfer to a greased 8-in. square baking dish. Sprinkle with toasted crumbs. Bake, uncovered, until heated through, 10-15 minutes.



FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances



CEREDO CRESCENT HILL CEMETERY

PROVIDING REST CLOSE TO HOME



- Tranquil Setting Overlooking The Ohio Valley
- Inside The Ceredo City Limits
- Most Affordable Burial Plots In The Tri-State Area
\$550 per Standard Burial Plot
\$175 per Cremation Burial Plot
- Price Includes Perpetual Care

CONTACT STANLEY FINK AT 453-5622 FOR MORE INFORMATION

HIGH RISK

LIFE INSURANCE

at a

LOW RISK

PRICE!

plus, in most cases, no 2-year "waiting period"

Attention: KY, OH, and WV residents, 45 to 80 years old, with any of the following health issues:

Bipolar disorder
COPD
Cerebral palsy
Depression or PTSD
Down syndrome
Fibromyalgia
Lupus

Intellectual disabilities
Multiple sclerosis
Obesity
Parkinson's disease
Rheumatoid arthritis
Schizophrenia
Spina bifida

Insulin-dependent diabetes, even with complications
Cancer, even while undergoing treatment

**For a free life insurance quote, call Joel at:
304-521-1021 or toll-free 1-800-999-4445.**

YES, you CAN get good coverage at a good price!

Limitations and exclusions apply. Benefits may vary by state and may not be approved in all states. Please see actual policy for complete details.

Rates quoted are not guaranteed. The final rate will be based on underwriting completion and approval of the application/enrollment form.

COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER

Open 7 Days a Week

HOURS:

Mon-Thurs 7am-9pm
Fri 7am-8pm
Sat 8am-3pm
Sun 1pm-5pm

1201 Poplar St
Kenova, WV 25530
304-453-2449

EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Nautilus Exercise Equipment

Free Weights

Cardiovascular Equipment

New Shower Facilities

Classes Available

MONDAY
Toning 9-10am
Silver Sneakers 10-11am
R.I.P.P.E.D. 5:30-6:30pm
Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm

TUESDAY
Zumb Toning 6:30-7:30pm

WEDNESDAY
Toning 9-10am
Silver Sneakers 10-11am
Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm

THURSDAY
R.I.P.P.E.D. 5:30-6:30pm
Zumba 6:30-7:30pm

FRIDAY
Toning 9-10am
Silver Sneakers 10-11am

SUNDAY
Zumba Sentao 2-3:15pm

INSTRUCTORS:

Heather Ferguson (Zumba, Silver Sneakers, R.I.P.P.E.D., Toning)
Sarah Lester (Zumba Gold)

**NOW IN WASHINGTON COURT HOUSE, OH
WAYNE COUNTY'S OWN...**

MARK & CONNIE
BEFORD



VISIT US FOR YOUR **FREE**

Tanger
Outlets

COUPON SAVINGS BOOK



BEFORD



LINCOLN

WHERE CONNIE CARES!

1700 Columbus Ave, Washington Court House
(800) 358-3673 | BEFORDAUTO.COM

Food Fair

Delightfully local. Deliciously fresh.

Beautification Winners Recognized

Renovations to the Paul T. Billups Park have been completed. The project, overseen by Administrative Assistant Dustin Long and part-time employee Bob McGlone, includes the transformation of two tennis courts into three pickleball courts, including a new surface and bench seating for participants or onlookers, plus a total refurbishment of the basketball court that included new backboards, new playing surface, and regulation lines on the court.

The project was completed with in-house labor, our street and water department em-

ployees performing the work in addition to their regular duties, and the men did a great job.

Pickleball, the fastest growing participant sport in America, is often referred to as "tennis for older people." A cross between ping-pong and badminton, the sport is becoming so popular because it doesn't require running and players of any age are able to compete. A number of Ceredo and Kenova residents have been learning the game while construction was ongoing, and it appears the once neglected courts will become

an evening gathering place for sporting folks.

Pickleball equipment, consisting of paddles and balls, is available for loan at the Town Clerk's Office in Town Hall. Persons interested can stop by Town Hall and check out the equipment at no charge. The courts are open daily between 8 AM and 9 PM, with no charge for court time.

The walking track continues to get good use, and will be improved later this summer with the addition of lights to make the track safer for those walking in the early morning or late evening hours.

Debbie Dorsey Yard of the Month May 2019



John Holland Yard of the Month May 2019



Valvoline Business of the Month May 2019



Romance at The Ramsdell

When Dale Wise decided to pop the question to Beth Graves Maynard, he wanted to do it at the most meaningful, romantic place he could think of.

School acquaintances from their C-K days where Beth had signed Dale's yearbook, "To a crazy guy who always picked on me...", the two had lost touch over the years and reconnected via a casual Facebook friend request on March 16th of this year.

Three months to the day later, Dale proposed to Beth at one of her absolute favorite places in the world: The Ramsdell House!

Almost everyone who grew up in Ceredo in the 60s and 70s remembers the Graves family and their home on B Street, which was a neighborhood gathering place for playing ball, "Spud" and frolicking in "the rock place." The family with three boys and five girls, and a devoted mom and dad lived in what is now known as The Ramsdell House from 1963 until 1977. Father, John, worked for Allegheny Airlines at Tri-State Airport while mother Necia controlled traffic at home.

Dale, a Controller at Berwind Land Company, and Beth, a teacher at River Park Hospital, plan on buying a home together in Ceredo.

Beth speaks of The Ramsdell with profound love and enthusiasm. "I LOVE this house!", she states repeatedly. "I have only wonderful memories of growing up here. It is such a special place!"

Walking through the house, she recounted memories in every nook and cranny: sliding down the stairway banister, her father playing "goodie and baddie" in the closet under the stairs, the Christmas tree in the window, the piano against the wall...

In the upstairs front room, now the "formal sitting room" of the museum-home, a rug hides a trap door in the floor. In it, are two notes handwritten in 2004 and 2012, with the signatures of Graves family members who returned for family parties, the last the 85th birthday of their dad. They had the forethought to sign their names and the dates and hide them in the floor. After cleaning the crawl space in the floor, museum staff carefully returned the lists to their hiding place, along with someone's lucky marble, tucked in a crevice in the wood.

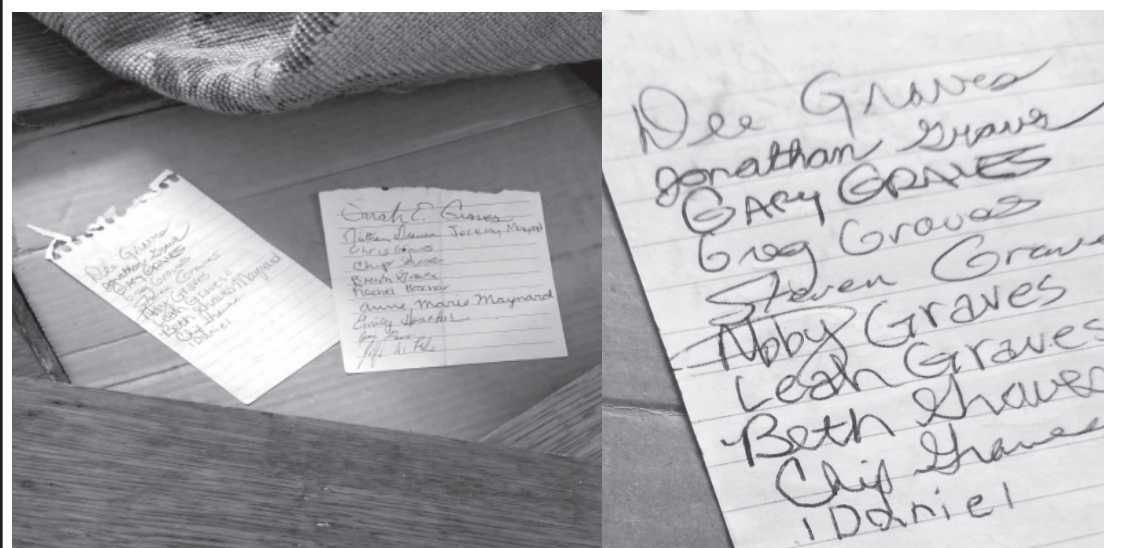
It was on the rug hiding the notes with Beth's signatures on them, that Dale knelt and asked Beth for her hand in marriage. He planned it for weeks, calling to reserve the home and organize decorations with the help of Pinterest.

On Sunday, June 16th, Dale arrived at the Ramsdell House with his "props": mason jar lanterns filled with white lights, remote-controlled battery powered faux candles, white fairy lights and red rose petals. After setting the stage, he left and took Beth to Rocco's for dinner. Then, under the guise of being asked to participate in a committee for the Ramsdell House, Dale drove Beth to her beloved childhood home. After wandering through the newly-renovated museum downstairs, Beth followed the rose petal trail up the stairs to find the sitting room full of twinkling lights and flickering candles, with Dale's playlist in the background. In her "favorite place" already full of love, they added one more wonderful memory and she said "Yes!"

Throughout its 160 years, The Ramsdell House has provided a welcoming backdrop for many weddings, baby and bridal showers, rehearsal dinners, family and holiday parties, and community meetings. During the Civil War, it served as a makeshift hospital providing care to wounded soldiers on both sides of the conflict, and midwives cared for many laboring women and newborn babies. As a safe house on The Underground Railroad, the home sheltered and assisted those seeking freedom just across the Ohio River.

A sign near the entrance to The Ramsdell House quotes the song, "There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place..." It seems the sweet spirit and the Ramsdell's story continues.

And Dale and Beth, by the way, really are going to serve on that Ramsdell House Committee!



The Graves children in front of their childhood home, The Ramsdell House. From left to right (youngest to oldest): Chip, Brenda, Sarah, Beth, Emily, Kathy, Greg, Gary.

American Legion Post 93

302 8th Street

Kenova, WV

304-453-6722

****The Home of Hospitality****

Commander—Tom Hayes
Adjutant—Steven W. Stewart
Secretary—Becky Millne

WE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY!



**** FOR GOD & COUNTRY****