



the New C Crescent

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VOLUME 36, NUMBER 2



Wayne County Taxes

It's that time of year again, and tax tickets are being delivered.

Our Wayne County Tax and Assessor's Extension Office at Ceredo Town Hall is happy to answer all your tax-related questions.

The extension office handles tax and dog tag payments, affidavits, registration and license plate sticker renewals, and Homestead Exemptions.

The extension office is open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Registration stickers are available on Mondays after 12:00 and all day on Tuesdays. (Please note that the office is closed for lunch from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM on Mondays and from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM on Tuesdays.)

For questions outside of the extension hours, please contact the Wayne County Tax Office at 304-272-6723

or
the Wayne County Assessor Office at 304-272-6352.

Back to School: A New Year Begins August 13

The sound of school bells, the excitement of seeing old friends, and the anticipation of new opportunities signal that another school year is just around the corner. Students across the Ceredo-Kenova area will return to the classroom on Thursday, August 13, 2026, marking the beginning of a new academic year.

As families prepare by shopping for school supplies, organizing schedules, and meeting teachers, the Town of Ceredo extends its best wishes to every student, teacher, administrator, and school employee for a successful year ahead. The first day of school is an exciting milestone for kindergarten students beginning their educational journey, as well as for seniors preparing for their final year before graduation.

Education has long been a cornerstone of the Ceredo community, and each new school year represents fresh opportunities to learn, grow, and build lasting friendships. Whether it's the first day of kindergarten or the last first day of high school, every student has the chance to make this year one to remember.

Welcome back and best of luck to all our students and educators!

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JUNE MINUTES

The Town Council of the Town of Ceredo met in regular session on Monday, June 01, 2026, at Ceredo Town Hall. Mayor Paul Billups called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Council members present were Steve Diamond, Joe Ratcliff, Scott Byard, and Oscar Adkins. Also in attendance was Treasurer Robert Leslie. Councilman Oscar Adkins led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes

Mayor Billups asked if there were any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes of the May 02, 2026, Regular Session. None being heard, Steve Diamond made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Scott Byard. All were in favor; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Town Clerk, Rachel Grant, presented account balances and expenditures for the month of May 2026. Mayor Billups asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. None being heard, Oscar Adkins made a motion to approve the report as presented. The motion was seconded by Steve Diamond. All were in favor; motion carried.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Billups presented the newest member of the Wall of Honorees with a plaque honoring his commitment, and unwavering dedication to the Town of Ceredo. Charles Clarkson has been a staple in the community and has honored his town through his persistent care and duty with the Crescent Hill Cemetery, the C-K Alumni Band, and multiple committees throughout the years.

The Common Council of the Town of Ceredo does hereby recognize, and directs all persons by these presents to know, the C-K Angels are honored for their outstanding sportsmanship and athletic prowess, in the truest spirit of Little League Baseball and the C-K Little League as a team player making contributions toward winning the 2026 Les Ghiz Memorial Tournament as a member of the C-K Angels Baseball Club.

#1 Karson Bennett

#4 Bryce Heck

#5 Sam Spoor

#7 Myles Pratt

#13 Tucker Montgomery

#15 Cole Mitchell

#17 Samuel Thacker

#27 Easton Chinn

#28 Parker Chinn

#37 Noah Wellman

#99 Liam Cisco-Flanagan



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June Minutes Continued

The Tri-State Airport expansion project is underway. With it, an increase in sewer volume has been calculated by the engineers, and Ceredo Sewer will need to begin preparing for the increased flow. Councilman, Steve Diamond, along with Sewer Operators, Tim Haynie and John Jackson, will meet with these engineers on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, to develop a plan.

Mayor Billups appointed Oscar Adkins and Joe Ratcliff to assist the Ceredo Police Department in their search to fill their vacancies and to ensure the current staffing is sharing an equitable amount of work among the department staff.

New Business

Following a public comment period with an open hearing June 01, 2026, from 5:30-6:30pm, no objections were heard. Ceredo Town council was presented with the proposed final draft of the zoning ordinance by zoning commissioner, Greg Jarrell, for a vote. Scott Byard provided a motion with a second by Steve Diamond. All were in favor, and the proposed ordinance was adopted.

The audit for fiscal year 2024-2025 was completed by BHM CPA Group in May 2026. The audit found there are no deficiencies to report through the Town's records, and any previously listed deficiencies were corrected during the fiscal year.

Superior Office Supply presented updated pricing for the current printer lease. The increase will be \$19.45 monthly. The printer is vital to Water, Sewer, and Town Hall operations. A motion was made by Oscar Adkins and seconded by Robert Leslie. All were in favor, increase approved.

Town Clerk, Rachel Grant, read the Election Conformity Ordinance aloud to issue a one-time term extension for elected officials as the Town will no longer be operating on a quadrennial election basis and will align per the West Virginia State Code with a state-wide election. This will add a one-time extension to all terms previously scheduled to end March 31, 2029, extending the term from April 1, 2029, through June 30, 2030, following the election.

With no objections being presented, upon a motion by Steve Diamond, a second by Joe Ratcliff, the ordinance passed on first reading and will be presented again July 6, 2026, for a second reading and motion.

Mayor Billups discussed the upcoming fiscal year's budget beginning July 1, 2026, and asked council for their input regarding annual raises. The Town had budgeted for a 3% increase overall in the payroll budget to allow for cost-of-living increase and to meet the current market salary demands. The Town Council agreed to proceed with the increase with a motion by Scott Byard, and a second by Robert Leslie. None opposed, these will be applied by the mayor's office for the upcoming fiscal year.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

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Business is Booming

It's been two months since the Ceredo Farmers Market opened, and business is in full swing!

Each Friday and Saturday customers gather at the Mitch to buy produce, catch up with neighbors, and enjoy the community that Ceredo offers. Multiple businesses convene to provide Ceredo with locally grown goods. Rocky Knob Farm and Spruce Creek Farm both sell a variety of fruits and vegetables. Fresh Cut Kenova provides freshly cut flowers and sweet treats such as pies and cookies. Baked with Grace offers a weekly-changing menu full of specialty coffees, lemonades, and baked goods.

These businesses have been returning to the market for years. Baked with Grace is on its 3rd season; Fresh Cut Kenova is on its 5th season; and both Spruce Creek and Rocky Knob Farm are on their 8th season. Loretha Wilson of Spruce Creek Farm states they have a "lot of community support." This combined with the great location has kept them coming back year after year. Stephanie Fields of Fresh Cut Kenova also comments on the community and says that due to the area's support, they've been able to "build up regular customers." The Ceredo Farmers Market is where Fresh Cut Kenova originally began, so it only makes sense for the small business to return to the place that encouraged it.



Rocky Knob Farm

The New Crescent Ad Space Available

Support your hometown newspaper while reaching customers throughout the Town of Ceredo.

Monthly Advertising Rates

Half Page – \$80/month

Quarter Page – \$50/month

Eighth Page – \$30/month

Contact Rachel Grant

681-254-4453

info@ceredowv.gov

The New Crescent

Business is Booming Continued...



Spruce Creek Farm



Fresh Cut Kenova

When asked about popular trends in produce this summer, Loretha claimed that the cucumbers, green beans, and tomatoes have been in high demand. Don't worry, though! There is still plenty of fresh produce to choose from. So, whether you're looking for quality fruits and vegetables, beautifully grown florals, or a tasty, sweet treat, each vendor has something special to offer. The Ceredo Farmers Market is open every Friday and Saturday this summer and fall from 9AM-4PM, so come spend your weekends with us and help support the community we call home!



Baked With Grace



The New Crescent

A Piece of Home, Carried Forward

By Gary Workman

I grew up in a way that straddled two worlds, but only one of them ever truly felt like home. My grandparents' house at 801 1st Street West in Ceredo sat tucked between the railroad tracks — one set right behind the house, and several more just a block away. To most people, that might sound noisy, but to me it was the soundtrack of childhood. Those trains were steady, familiar, and as long as they weren't blocking your path when you needed to get to the other side, comforting. When I later moved to live with my mother in the quiet woods of Ohio, the silence felt strange. I missed the rumble of home.

My biological grandmother, Viola Magdalene Smith, passed away when my father was very young. My grandfather later married Betty, but she was always Na-Na to me. I lived with my grandparents until around third grade, and when my grandfather learned he had lung cancer, his last wish was for me to return and spend that time with them. Those years shaped everything that came after.

Ceredo was an idyllic place to grow up. Our neighborhood was full of kids — Collis Blake, Shane Harshbarger, Amie Maynard, Dana and Brad Smith, Mark Bellomy, Rusty and Amber Metz, Josh Carroll, Jeff and Kimberly White, Greg Skeens, Mark Chapin, Jessica and Delsie Maynard — too many friends to list, really. We played everywhere: in the alley behind Betty Rutherford's house, where one of her daughters practiced twirling a flaming baton; on Big Wheels rattling down the pavement; on the hillside behind my grandmother's house; on the old basketball court that once stood where the new Town Hall is now; and in the pony field which has been transformed into a beautiful park. I remember when the elementary school built its gym and when Principal Kenneth Cathell took a pie to the face — probably for a fundraiser, but to us kids it was just legendary.

My grandmother and Ms. Rutherford were close friends. They'd go shopping for quilts and little things, talking the way lifelong friends do. And at home, Na-Na had a way of keeping me in line — whenever she broke out my middle name, "Gary Curtis...", I knew I'd crossed a line.

She loved cardinals, cream horns, and sweets of all kinds. Looking back, she definitely had a sweet tooth. She was one of the most influential people in my life, and there isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of her.

Even as life carried me forward — through school in Ohio, into the Army Reserves in 1995, active duty in 1996, deployments, promotions, and years spent in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Germany, Alabama, and New York — my home of record remained my grandmother's house in Ceredo. No matter where I lived, that address was the one that felt true.

My grandmother eventually remarried. In 2004, I drove down to Florida from Recruiting School in South Carolina to meet Paul Adkins. He was a good man, and I don't know if I ever saw my grandmother happier. They wintered in Florida, and during my R&R from Afghanistan in 2005, they came to meet my wife and daughter at Disney World. That was the same week that hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana. Not long after, Paul began having trouble breathing while swimming, and tests showed lung cancer. He passed in January 2006. I was still deployed and couldn't come home for the funeral. Years later, after retiring from the Army as a Chief Warrant Officer, my wife and I settled in West Carthage, NY — the closest to home we'd ever been. In many ways, our little village reminds me of Ceredo: a river nearby, a few stoplights, and a sense of community that feels familiar. I serve on our village planning board now, and I often think of Ceredo when making decisions. That town shaped my understanding of what a community should be.

When I returned to Ceredo this June, I visited my grandmother's old home. The family living there now allowed me to take a couple plugs of grass from the yard — a small piece of the place where I grew up. I placed one at her grave on Cemetery Hill and brought the other back home with me to New York. It's growing well. Every time I see it, I think, that's home.

No matter where life has taken me, Ceredo has always been home — and it always will be.

The New Crescent

EARLY VOTING AT CEREDO TOWN HALL!

EARLY VOTING WILL BE AVAILABLE MONDAY
THROUGH SATURDAY
FROM **OCTOBER 21 - OCTOBER 31** FOR ALL
REGISTERED WAYNE COUNTY VOTERS.



MONDAY, TUESDAY WEDNESDAY, & FRIDAY
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM
THURSDAY
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM
SATURDAY
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

DISCOVER THE
STORIES THAT
BUILT OUR
COMMUNITY



YouTube

The Town of Ceredo YouTube Channel features fascinating stories, local history, historic photographs, community landmarks, and the people who helped shape our town.

Whether you're a lifelong resident, a former neighbor, or simply love local history, there's something waiting to be discovered.

Watch, subscribe, and share!

Visit:

youtube.com/@TownofCeredo

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
\$750 per Standard Burial Plot
\$200 per Cremation Burial Plot
- Price Includes Perpetual Care



For more Information visit www.ceredowv.gov and click on the Cemetery page or Contact Charles Clarkson at (304) 908-9601

Interviews Available With:

Don Bailey
Richard Ruff
Fred Adkins
Earl Samples
David Lucas
Stanley Fink
Dan Ferguson
Mike Watts
Jerry Workman

The New Crescent

Wayne County Schools

Track Attendance

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18

Parent Note



Scan the QR code to submit a parent note

First + Last Day

August 13 & May 26

Thanksgiving Break

November 23-27

Christmas Break

December 21 - January 1

Spring Break

March 22 - 26

Early Release

February 19
April 26
May 26

Chronic absenteeism is missing more than 10% of the school year - 18 days - for any reason (excused/unexcused)

No School-Students

Labor Day - 9/7
PL / FS Day - 10/2
PL Day - 11/2
Election Day - 11/3
Veterans Day - 11/11
PL / FS Day - 12/18
PL Day - 1/4
MLK Jr. Day - 1/18
Curriculum Day - 2/3
PL Day - 3/10
Memorial Day - 5/31

OSE Days:
May 28
June 1, 2, 3, 4

Grading Periods

Kindergarten - 3rd Grade
8/13-10/13
10/14-1/4
1/5-3/11
3/12-5/26

4th Grade - 12th Grade
8/13-9/22
9/23-10/30
10/31-1/4
1/5-2/17
2/18-4/8
4/9-5/26

2026-2027

For bus information & school menus, please visit our website:
www.wayneschoolswv.org

THE CRESCENT KITCHEN

by Natalie Hemann

Super Simple Stir Fry

We have had some very hot weather this summer! I don't think any of us want to spend a lot of time cooking in the kitchen and probably do not feel like eating a heavy meal. This recipe will take care of both issues. It is fast and low in calories. I am not a big fan of Chinese food but my husband loves it. I came up with this recipe just to make him happy but was pleasantly surprised when I actually liked this dish, too! If you want a light meal and to spend less time in the kitchen, this recipe is for you.

Ingredients:

- 1 – 8 oz. Bag Perdue Short Cuts
- All Natural Chicken Breasts
- 1 – 10 oz. Bag Steamfresh Riced Cauliflower
- 1 – 10.8 oz. Bag Steamfresh Broccoli Cauliflower Mix
- 2 Tbs. - Lite Soy Sauce
- 1 Tbs. - Balsamic Glaze

Directions:

Heat chicken in microwave according to directions on package; cut into smaller pieces and add to mixing bowl. Microwave the riced cauliflower and broccoli cauliflower mix; add to chicken. Add the soy sauce and balsamic glaze and toss everything together.



The New Crescent

Ceredo's Parks: Where Community, Recreation, and Natural Beauty Come Together



Photos courtesy of Zachary Grant

In a world that often seems to move too fast, Ceredo offers something increasingly valuable—a place to slow down, step outside, and enjoy the simple pleasures of nature and community. The town's parks have become more than green spaces; they are gathering places where neighbors meet, families play, and visitors discover the welcoming spirit that makes Ceredo special.

At the heart of the park system is Paul T. Billups Memorial Park, a destination that has grown into one of the community's greatest assets. Its paved walking trail winds through beautifully maintained grounds, providing a peaceful setting for walkers, joggers, and anyone looking to enjoy the fresh air. A welcome new addition of outdoor exercise equipment is scheduled to be installed soon.

One of the most popular attractions is its outdoor pickleball courts. The fast-growing sport has found a welcoming home in Ceredo, bringing together players of all ages and skill levels. The courts are often filled with laughter, friendly competition, and plenty of encouragement.

Nearby, the Jeremy A. Shoemaker Amphitheater stands as both a beautiful landmark and a centerpiece for community celebrations. Throughout the year, the amphitheater hosts concerts, festivals, reunions, and special events that bring hundreds of residents together.

Just beyond the town park lies another hidden gem—Wayside Disc Golf Course. Winding through wooded terrain and open spaces, the course offers players a fun yet challenging experience while showcasing the natural beauty of Ceredo. Experienced disc golfers appreciate its technical layout, while newcomers enjoy the opportunity to spend a few relaxing hours surrounded by nature. The course has quietly earned a reputation among regional players as one of the Tri-State area's enjoyable places to play.

As communities across the country continue investing in outdoor recreation, Ceredo has quietly built something exceptional: parks that reflect the town's commitment to health, recreation, and hometown pride. Whether you're looking for exercise, peaceful scenery, or simply a place to reconnect with friends and neighbors, Ceredo's parks offer an open invitation.





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Employee of the Month Todd Darst, Building Inspector

The Town of Ceredo's employees are the backbone of the community, ensuring that beauty and safety are at the forefront of every aspect. In this edition, we will recognize the Town's Building Inspector for the incredible work and dedication he provides to our Town. That dedication is what first drew him to the profession.

"I have a strong desire to ensure that the people of Ceredo have safe, sanitary, and habitable places to live," he explained. "Everyone deserves a home that meets basic safety and health standards."

Beyond inspecting buildings and enforcing codes, he sees his work as an investment in the future of the community. By helping property owners maintain their homes and businesses, he believes he is also helping preserve the character and beauty of Ceredo while protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its residents.

When asked what he enjoys most about his job, his answer centered on helping others achieve one of life's biggest milestones.

"My favorite part of my job is helping residents achieve their dream of homeownership," he said. "By ensuring homes are built and maintained in compliance with the West Virginia State Building Code and all applicable life safety standards, I know the work I do helps provide families with homes that are safe, durable, and built to protect their health and well-being."

Throughout his career, one piece of advice has remained a guiding principle.

"The best advice I've ever been given is, 'If you don't have time to build it right the first time, how are you going to have time to rebuild it?'"

He says those words influence every aspect of his work, whether reviewing construction plans, conducting inspections, or enforcing building regulations while ensuring the highest level of integrity.

His path to Ceredo came through a combination of professional reputation and shared vision. Following an interview with the mayor, he knew Ceredo was the right place to put his skills to work.

"It was clear that my goals and values aligned with the Town's needs," he said.

For Todd, success isn't measured simply by completed inspections or issued permits. It's measured by safer homes, healthier neighborhoods, and a community that continues to thrive.

"Ceredo is a wonderful place to live and work," he said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the community."

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Honoring Those Who Served An Interview with Scott Byard

Henry “Scott” Byard is a Ceredo native and Air Force veteran. From airport director and pastor to councilman and court clerk, Scott has served Ceredo for many years and continues to work and make it the wonderful community that it is today.

Scott joined the Air Force right out of high school in 1972 and picked this specific branch due to its education. “They had more and better educational opportunities than other branches at that time,” he says. By the end of his 3 years, 11 months, and 29 days of service in the Air Force, Scott actually had more than enough credits for a degree. During his time, he became a fire protection specialist and served in the crash division. “Basically, I was the guy in the little silver suit that pulled the pilots out,” he laughed. Fire protection specialists perform many life-saving tasks including administering first aid, controlling fire outbreaks, and saving pilots from dangerous situations.

However, Scott’s military career did not begin so heroic. “Oh, basic training was actually very humiliating,” he states. The new recruits were forced to prance around in the same clothes for two weeks, march down an assembly line of vaccines, and shave their heads bald – an event that required many to reintroduce themselves due to lack of recognition.

“This was all part of [the military’s] plan, though,” Scott explains. “Basic training makes you pliable to their system and more of a teammate,” something that has helped him greatly. The training he received in the military has carried over into every aspect of his life. With his work at the airport, everyone was able to work together.



Even though he was in a supervisory role, he understood that he was no better than anyone else. Scott’s humility and dedication to his town is also seen in his work as a court clerk and councilman. When discussing Town Council, he states, “Everyone has different backgrounds, but we all work together towards the same goal: the betterment of our town.”

Scott attributes this teamwork mentality to the Air Force and is grateful for the service’s impact on his life. Though he is proud of his military achievements – such as having the fastest time during IG (Inspector General) Team Inspections – Scott claims that nothing makes him as proud as his salvation. While stationed in King Salmon, Alaska, Scott gave his heart to God, an event that led him to pastor a church in the Ceredo-Kenova area for many years. Now, Scott thinks back fondly to his military days and is so appreciative of what the service taught him. “I think all men should spend at least two years in the service,” he claims, because according to Scott, the lessons he learned and the people he met were invaluable. His years in the Air Force changed his life and made him who he is today.

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SERVING CEREDO, WEST VIRGINIA

Upcoming Events:

August 13, 2026

First Day of School

October 25, 2026

CK Alumni Band Concert 2pm,

Ceredo Wellness Center

October 21-31, 2026

Early voting

Upcoming Town Hall

Closures:

September 7, 2026

Labor Day

November 11, 2026

Veterans Day

November 26, 2026

Thanksgiving Day

Articles written by:

Anna Jarrell

&

Rachel Grant

unless otherwise noted

Honor Roll

In Memory Pat & Jim Billups 11/27

Paul and Kathy Billups 07/27

Mike & Susan Watts 08/27

Jack & Ann Riggs 07/27

Connie & Mark Beford 07/27

Dinah and Dale Ledbetter 08/27

In Memory of Alberta "Dossie" & Sherman Medley 02/27

Taylor Booth 12/29

Mike & Karin Dawson 06/27

Tyler Dawson, DDS 07/27

In Memory of Esther Adkins 07/27

Donna Jones 07/27

Dr. Daniel & Suzanne Brody 07/27

Vern & Cindy Eagleston-Blaine 09/27

Greg & Joy Jarrell 09/27

Kelly & Lisa Higgins-Flanagan 12/27

Bruce Flanagan 05/27

Chester & Margaret Mathis 11/27

George E. & Rebecca M. McCoy 11/27

Keith & Freda Chadwick 11/27

In Memory of JJ, Gail, & John Billups 12/27

Leigh A. Johnson 06/27

Tom Smith 09/27

Carl & Frances Cornell 09/27

Lola & Gary Jackson 09/27

Don Perdue 09/27

Michael & Debbie Hibbard 09/27

Sam Woolwine 03/27

Steve Woolwine 03/27

Patricia Holcombe 07/27

Jack Richmond 10/28

George Keighley & Brenda Francis 10/27

Charles Hensley, In Memory of Frank Hensley 12/27

Jennifer Rutherford 05/27

In Memory of Bill Evans 01/27

In Memory of Darlene Bias 01/27

In Memory of Betty Adkins 02/27

In Loving Memory of Charles M. Oshel 03/27

In Memory of Houston & Gladys Woolwine 08/27

Glenn Stotts 06/27

Morgan Billups 07/28

In Loving Memory of Herb & Helen Stephens 07/28

In Loving Memory of Herb Stephens, Jr. 07/28

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! If you would like to add your name or a loved one's name, please contact Town Hall at (304) 453-1041 or email: info@ceredowv.gov.