SERVING CEREDO, WEST VIRGINIA

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 5

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May 2019

Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session March 4th, 2019

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, March 4th, 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 and Approval of Minutes

The Mayor asked if Council had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the February 4th, 2019 Regular 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 February 4th, 2019 Regular Session and accepted the minutes as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Robert Leslie presented Council with the existing account balances in each Town account and the expenditures as of February 28th, 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 as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Ceredo Elementary Update

The Mayor reported the Wayne County School Board had voted to authorize the Superintendent to execute the deed turning the Ceredo Elementary School property over to the Town with one caveat. The Board asked that, if in the future Pre-K classes were needed, would three (3) rooms be made available for those classes, which would be carried out by a separate contract.

On a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to accept the deed for the school property and authorized the Mayor to sign the deed accepting the property for the Town. All were in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with the Wayne County Board of Education to permit the Board of Education to lease three (3) classrooms for a nominal amount, for Pre-K Classes, if needed at a future date. All were in favor, motion

The Mayor recommended a five-year contract.

Sewer Rate Increase Update

The Mayor reported he had attempted to contact accountant Michael Griffith for an update, but had been unsuccessful.

Special Levy Election Update

The Mayor advised early voting for the Special Levy had begun effective March 2nd, 2019 with election day being set for Saturday, March 16th, 2019. The Mayor encouraged everyone to come out and vote for the Levy. Sewer Department Staffing

The Mayor expressed the need to address future staffing for the sewer department and asked that Council give thought for recommendations to address the future needs.

Fire Station Plaque

The Mayor discussed the placing of a plaque on the fire station recognizing the donation of the property by George B. Richmond for the purpose of building a fire station for the Town. The Mayor asked Chief Robson to look into the matter.

Water Department Equipment Request

The Mayor addressed Council about the need to purchase an amplification unit for the water department to locate leaks in water lines. The Mayor reported the unit would cost approximately \$4,500.

On a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to purchase the FCFS-30 leak amplification system for \$4,500. All were in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor addressed a major leak in the left supply line going to the reservoir on Crescent Hill and recommended contacting Terence Moran with Potesta and Associates for a plan on how to move forward.

Jordan Branch Pump Station

The Mayor advised Council of the need to repair leaks and recoat the lines carrying water from the pump station over the floodwall. Maintenance Superintendent, Ronnie Jarrell, reported he had talked with Service Pump about repairs to the piping.

Sanitary Sewer Cost

The Mayor addressed the cost of treating sanitary sewage because of flooding and stormwater entering the sanitary sewer lines. The Mayor recommended having Potesta and Associates submit a quote for some engineering work to determine where the stormwater was entering the system.

Employee Health Insurance

The Mayor discussed the employee health insurance premiums. He advised he was in the process of obtaining bids from other insurance carriers.

Ordinance 1501, Establishing The Position of Fire Marshall, First Reading

The Mayor discussed the need for a position of Fire Marshall for the Town. The Mayor read, on First Reading, an Ordinance Establishing The Position of Fire Marshall in the Town. On a motion by Joe Ratcliff and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to approve, on first reading, Ordinance 1501, Establishing The Position of Fire Marshall for the Town. All were in favor, motion carried.

Fire Marshall, David Caudill, discussed developing a program of standards for fire safety in the Town.

Assessed Property Value In Ceredo

The Mayor advised Council the Wayne County Assessor had stopped by to deliver copies of the assessed value of property in the Town for tax purposes, which were \$47,840,883.

Fair Housing Month Proclamation

The Mayor read a proclamation proclaiming April 2019 as Fair Housing Month in the Town of Ceredo. See attached copy.

<u>Ceredo Corporate Boundaries</u>

The Mayor addressed the city limits of the Town as recognized by the State of West Virginia and Wayne County, which had been distributed to Council.

The Mayor asked Street Superintendent, Ronnie Jarrell, to go to each roadway and land mass leaving the Town and make sure a sign was erected marking the boundaries and if needed, place a sign at the intersection. See attached copy.

Committee and Board Appointments

The Mayor presented Council with a list of committee and board appointments to become effective April 2019. He also stated open slots were available on various committees and asked Council members or interested parties to contact him if they were interested or if they knew someone who may be interested in serving on a particular committee. See attached copy.

Police Department Report

Police Chief Tony Poston advised the Mayor and Council that the equipment installation for the new cruisers should be completed by Thursday, March 7th, 2019.

Chief Poston also discussed the upcoming academy appointments and Narcan training for the police officers.

Street Department Report

Maintenance Superintendent, Ronnie Jarrell, reported on the pricing and availability of grinder pumps being used by the sewer department. The Mayor asked Mr. Jarrell to contact Mr. Robert Marsh at Northern Wayne Public Service District for information on the new pumps.

Stormwater Manager/Administrative Assistant Report

Mr. Dustin Long, Stormwater Manager/Administrative Assistant, advised the push camera had been ordered with an expected 3 to 4 week delivery. Mr. Long also reported on the Unsafe Housing Authority's preparation to remove the structures located at 725 Main Street and 341 3rd Street East.

The Mayor discussed the possibility of the Town crew removing the house at 826 Main Street. The Mayor also advised the property at 741 Main Street had been purchased by the Golden Girls Group Home. Mr. Long reported on the electronic reporting system and the upcoming MS4 Permit inspection.

Ramsdell House Monument

The Mayor presented Council with a draft of a proposed monument to be located at the northwest corner of the Ramsdell property in the area of the grave plots. He also reported on the donation of a Ramsdell desk by Ric Griffith, which will be placed in the House at a later date.

Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Rob Robson reported that the fire department had received a USDA Grant in the amount of \$50,000 and was in the process of purchasing new heart monitor/defibrillators and other equipment for the department. He also advised the fire department was in the process of applying for other grants to upgrade the department's equipment.

Stormwater Van Purchase

The Mayor advised that the stormwater program was in need of a vehicle to house and transport the camera equipment. He reported that a van had been located and could be purchased for \$3,100.

On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to approve the purchase of the van for the stormwater program at a cost of \$3,100. All were in favor, motion carried.

<u>Adjournment</u>

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session March 22nd, 2019

The Town of Ceredo, Town Council, held a Statutory Meeting on Friday, March 22, 2019 at the City Hall. The Mayor called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting had been called for the purpose of canvassing the Special Levy Election results.

Those present included the Mayor, Paul A. Billups; the Recorder, Stanley E. Fink; and Councilmen, Dennis Adkins, Steve Diamond, and Bob Leslie. Oscar Adkins and Joe Ratcliff were absent because of work. Canvas of Votes - Special Levy Election Held March 16th, 2019

Council proceeded to open the sealed envelope and counted the number of ballots and poll slips. The num-

bers entered into the record are as follows:

Precinct 12

For the Levy – 67 Against the Levy – 0

Total votes cast for the Levy 67 Total votes against the Levy 0 Favorable percentage vote 100%

Council found the count to be correct. After re-sealing the package of ballots and poll slips, Council signed across the seal.

On a motion by Bob Leslie and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to approve the results of the Special Levy Election. All were in favor, motion carried.

<u>Adjournment</u>

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Until February, 1992, the Town of Ceredo owned and operated our own sanitary sewage treatment facility. Located near the floodwall just west of the former Union Concrete Pipe location, the sewage treatment facility served our residents for approximately forty years, and being owned by the Town we could, in large part, control costs.

During calendar year 1989, the Town was notified by the Department of Environmental Protection that our treatment facility would require significant upgrades, and at the same time we were urged by the Public Service Commission to have our sanitary sewage treated by the City of Huntington at their facility near Camden Park. The City of Kenova was placed under the same pressure, undoubtedly as a

way to help finance upgrades at the Huntington facility. Without much option, both Ceredo and Kenova began pumping our sanitary sewage to Huntington in February, 1992, and paying Huntington a fee each month based on the gallons of sewage shipped by each municipality.

Over the 26 years that we have been paying Huntington to treat our sanitary sewage we have been subjected to a number of rate increases, most of which Ceredo has absorbed without passing the increases to our residents. The last increase in Ceredo was in June, 2012.

In real numbers, during the calendar year 2016 we paid Huntington \$104,287; in calendar year 2017 the sum was \$117,031; and in 2018 we paid \$158,344. Thus, our sanitary treatment cost

increased by \$54,000 over a threeyear period, without passing the increase to our customers.

In addition to paying Huntington to treat our sewage, we are also forced to pay the Northern Wayne Public Service District a fee for transporting sanitary sewage from our customers south of Twelve Pole Creek. This fee averages around \$32,000 per month. Our monthly bill to AEP for power to operate the 114 lift stations on our sanitary system averages \$2,500. All these costs are before payroll and general maintenance expenses on our entire sanitary system, and it is of note that replacement pumps for our lift stations cost \$850 each.

The obvious question is "what can we do to control costs, and thus hold any necessary rate hikes to a minimum?"

lower the rate we are charged by Huntington, we can limit the gallons of sewage we are pumping to Huntington. An analysis of our monthly gallonage to Huntington reveals that during months of heavy rain or flood conditions, we are shipping between three and five million extra gallons of sewage to Huntington. For example, September, 2016 was a dry month and we shipped 2,747,072 gallons of sewage to Huntington. February, 2019, was a month of heavy precipitation and flood conditions, resulting in 9,410,656 gallons shipped to Huntington. The obvious answer here is that we have storm water, which does not require treatment, entering our sanitary system; as a result we are paying Huntington to treat water that should be flowing onto

While we can't directly

the ground or traveling through our storm system.

To cure this problem, and thus to keep rates as low as possible, we must locate the places where stormwater is bleeding into our sanitary system. The first, and easiest, place to look is at downspouts on residential and business properties. The Town will be surveying to determine where downspouts may be connected to our sanitary system, and we ask that homeowners do the same.

The second place the Town will look is at our manholes and lift stations. There is a strong possibility that somewhere on our system high water is flowing directly into the sanitary lines. We have engaged an engineer to assist with this process. Hopefully, we will complete these two surveys before winter, and be able to significantly reduce what we are paying Huntington on a monthly basis.

On the bright side of this problem, sewer rates in Ceredo are currently significantly less than those of surrounding cities. Based on a "monthly minimum" usage of 3,000 gallons of water, the Ceredo rate is currently \$9.00 per thousand gallons, or \$27 per month. Similar usage in Huntington would cost \$39.03 per month, and the Kenova rate would be \$50.12 per month.

Given the circumstances outlined above, it is likely that we will be forced to increase our sewage rates later this year. If so, our new rates would remain less than those currently charged in Huntington and Kenova, but enough to ensure that our sewer



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NAME	ARRESTED ON	CHARGE(S)
Brian Keith Hagley	03/28/2019	DUI 1 st Offense
Brenda Ann Gibson	03/30/2019	DUI – Drugs 1st Offense, Possession of Controlled
		Substance X 2, Destruction of Property
Mark Anthony Chandler	04/07/2019	Driving Revoked – DUI, State Capias: Possession of
		Controlled Substance
Derrick Joseph Bowman	04/12/2019	Battery
Carrie Sue McCoy	04/13/2019	Reckless Driving
Jonathan Brian Walker	04/13/2019	Possession of Controlled Substance – Summons Issued
Barbara P. Christain	04/17/2019	DUI 1 ST Offense
Daniel Howard Beam	04/18/2019	Possession of Controlled Substance, Possession of Drug
		Paraphernalia

Summer Regulations

Most of us are happy that summer is upon us, the town is clean and green, and outdoor activities can resume. As we enter the season it is good to keep in mind certain regulations that can affect the good and welfare of the town. If we all follow these basic regulations our neighborhoods will remain the pride of all towns in West Virginia.

GRASS CLIPPINGS Grass clippings must not be left on streets or sidewalks. By ordinance, residents are required to keep our streets and sidewalks clear and clean, since clippings not properly disposed of can clog our storm drains and are generally unsightly. Please be considerate when cutting grass.

PET WASTE

Many of us will be walking our dogs or other domestic animals during the summer months. Please remember to carry waste disposal equipment when walking

your dog. By ordinance, dog waste must be picked-up and disposed of in a sanitary fashion. The town has placed trash receptacles at most intersections for this purpose.

Please also keep in mind that dogs must be leashed, and cats may not be permitted to run free in neighborhoods. In prior years we have had incidents involving feral cats, and none end in a good way.

YARD SALES

The town permits yard sales with certain restrictions. The first yard sale of each year is free, but a permit is required. Additional yard sales at the same residence require a permit and a small fee. Persons desiring to hold a yard sale should contact the Town Clerk for a permit.

PARKING IN YARDS With summer visitors in town it is sometimes tempting to park cars in yards. This is prohibited within

the town. Unfortunately, our streets and houses were constructed at a time when most people didn't own cars, and now most families have multiple cars. This problem is not unique to Ceredo, and sometimes forces us to walk a few extra steps from an on-street parking space, but parking in yards leads very quickly to deteriorating neighborhoods. Our police will overlook the occasional necessity, but when it becomes a common practice it will be addressed.

RUBISH REMOVAL Spring and summer cleaning projects frequently result in items that our residents want rid of that are not typical household garbage. The town will remove small items at no additional charge, but larger items do require a small charge since we are charged at the dump. To schedule pick-up of items other than household garbage, please contact Town Hall.

Flag Disposal
The Town of Ceredo will be working with Boy Scout Troop 82 of Kenova in creating a disposal location for old, worn flags of the United States and the State of West Virginia. Members of Troop 82, led by Mitchell Davis, a Life Scout working toward the Eagle Scout designation, will build and maintain a collection box to be located on the Town Hall premises. The Troop will remove flags from the collection receptacle on a monthly basis and honorably retire the flags in a proper manner.

This is a great Scout project, a project from which most of us can benefit, and a fitting reminder that our flag is an object to be properly cared for. The New Crescent commends Scout Davis and Troop 82 for this project.

The collection box will soon be installed and notice will be provided to our residents when the program is underway.

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.

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Ceredo Second Lowest Crime Rate

SafeWise, a national survey agency that rates America's safest cities, recently released the list of West Virginia's safest cities for 2019. The Town of Ceredo was rated as the second safest city in West Virginia, based on the number of violent crimes and property crimes per one thousand population. The report is based primarily on FBI Uniform Crime Report statistics, with certain thresholds for the size of cities ranked. Crime rates in West Virginia, once the lowest in the nation, are now higher than national averages. The national crime rate for violent offenses is 4.49 incidents per 1000 population, while West Virginia's rate is 5.58 incidents per thousand population. Property crimes in West Virginia totaled 32.11 incidents per thousand, while the national average is 27.11 incidents per thousand.

According to the SafeWise report, property crime is rated as the top safety concern in the state. This concern undoubtedly grows from the current illegal drug situation in West Virginia, with persons committing property crimes in an attempt to finance drug usage.

Population	Median	Income	Violent CrimeProperty Crime		
1. Grafton	5,121	\$31,627	0.00	1.56	
2. Ceredo	1,365	\$55,179	0.00	19.05	
3. Madison	2,831	\$42,245	0.35	16.25	
4. Wellsburg	2,634	\$37,396	0.38	12.53	
5. Buchannon	5,610	\$34,423	0.53	42.25	
OTHER CITIES OF	INTEREST:				
7. Barboursville	4,315	\$38,629	0.70	69.06	
20. Kenova	3,029	\$34,131	1.98	27.40	
34. Huntington	47,933	\$28,673	8.93	43.44	

The low crime rate in Ceredo is in large part a result of good work by our Police Department coupled with residents that maintain neighborhoods in the fashion we have done since 1857. Most experts agree that well-maintained neighborhoods discourage criminal conduct, places where neighbors know and look out for each other. Congratulations Ceredo!

Ceredo Scholarship Fund

There was some confusion last month when the Ceredo Scholarship Fund was announced, such confusion caused by reference to the "Ceredo Boys Scholarship." The reference to gender was a colloquial reference to the group that came up with the idea, and had absolutely no connection to the gender of the recipient.

After realizing that some confusion could exist, and based on the amount of donations to this most worthy endeavor, the Ceredo Scholarship Fund has been expanded to include two scholarships, one for a boy and one for a girl.

Please consider donating to this Fund. Donations may be sent to Ceredo Town Clerk, Lynn Salmons, at Town Hall. Each year a scholarship of \$1000 will be awarded to one boy and one girl from Ceredo attending Marshall University. Please be a part of this group.



AROUN

Ozzie Hawes, Columnist

Former Wayne County Sheriff David Pennington, for many years a resident of Ceredo and the Pro Emeritus of Wayside Golf Club, recently displayed his ability on the links by shooting his age at Sugarwood Golf Club. Now retired to the life of a gentleman farmer, Dave's golf game arrears to be getting better now that he has time to play more.

The Department of Highways, at the urging of Governor Justice, appears to be moving forward with county road projects that have been neglected for several years. Hopefully, the DOH will repair the road slip on the south end of Crescent Drive and pave

what is commonly known as Cemetery Hill and Broad Hollow Road, all of which belong to the

Ceredo Police Officer Matt Chapman is attending the West Virginia State Police Academy at Institute. Matt started the sixteen-week course on April 15, and should be back on patrol as a fully certified officer in late August. During Officer Chapman's absence our other officers will be working some overtime, supplemented by School Resource Officer Kim Wolfe and members of the Wayne County Sheriff's Office.

Three new businesses have recently opened in Ceredo.

Austin's Pet Supply, located at 302 Main Street, offers a full-line of pet supplies and pet food. Based on opening weekend crowds, the business should have a good following.

Tasty Freezer Meats has opened a location at 211 6th Street West. The business provides select or custom cuts of meat on a "by appointment" basis.

House of Hair Salon, operated by master stylist Erica Bevins, has opened at 1005 C Street. Ms. Bevins has worked in the styling arts for 19 years and is the daughter of former Ceredo resident Patty Stephens Bevins. House of Hair is a full-service salon. Appointments are preferred but the salon does accept walk-in clients.

The Ceredo Congregational Church Steeple Chase 5K race will be held Saturday, May 4, 2019. Starting time is 9:00 AM, at the church. Runners or walkers may register at Tri-State Racer. com or at the gate. The course is flat and fast.

Ceredo's "Flower Lady," Delcie Elkins, is back on the job. Delcie retired last year due to health concerns, but a little rest has allowed Delcie to resume her annual duties. A horticulturist supreme, Delcie will undoubtedly have the town's flower gardens in great shape, once again the pride of the Ohio Valley. When you see Delcie hard at work please stop and express your appreciation for the fine work she does.

The Ramsdell House renovation is nearly complete, with a "soft opening" for local student tours scheduled to begin in early May. Interior refurbishment includes numerous historical exhibits, mostly of items associated with the house and the Ramsdell family, prepared by curator Debbie Wolfe and assisted by local historian Ric Griffith, himself a relative of the Ramsdell family.

During the exterior repair it was discovered that the Ramsdell House was built without wood framing. The exterior walls are actually two layers of brick, with plaster on the interior side. There are no studs or other wooden framing. The inside layer of brick is a light-orange color and softer

than the outer layer, both styles likely fired at the brick furnace that was operating in Ceredo in 1858. Harvey Sifford, master mason, is in charge of the exterior restoration.

All documents have been signed to transfer the former Ceredo Elementary School property to the town. The BOE has been removing Board property from the building and should have the premises ready to turn over within the next few days. We hope by June 1 to have initial use plans in place.

BUDGET APPROVED

The Ceredo Town Budget for 2019-2010 was formally approved by the Town Council on April 16, 2019, and thereafter approved by the West Virginia State Auditor. The new budget will take effect on July 1, 2019, and run through June 30, 2010. The annual budget includes only General Fund monies and does not include our water and sewer utilities, Special Levy funds, or monies held in the Street Improvement Fund for major street projects.

The General Fund total is \$1,340,312. Of this total, the major funding sources are expected to be from property taxes, accounting for \$184,468; Excise Tax on utilities, \$77,594; Business and Occupation Tax, \$458,046; Fines, Fees, and Court Costs, \$90,100; Licenses, \$75,400; Refuse Collection, \$50,250; and IRP Fees, \$35,000. These estimates are, of course, subject to change based upon the business climate and collection of taxes by the Sheriff.

General Government expenses, including wages of the Town Hall staff, Police Judge and Court Clerk, building maintenance on all town properties, rehabilitation of unsafe dwellings, printing and office supplies, public grounds maintenance, utilities and insurance are budgeted to total \$492,812.

Police Department expenses are budgeted to be \$290,00, with an additional \$150,000 to cover the Central Dispatch and Communications Center. Street Department expenses, including wages, street and sidewalk construction, and equipment should total \$271,000, and Refuse Collection, including wages, dump fees, fuel and truck payments are anticipated to be \$83,000. You will note that refuse costs exceed the fees collected by approximately \$30,000. This balance has been covered by excess B&O monies in years past, but with the discrepancy growing and B&O taxes shrinking, we will be forced to give a closer look at trash collection fees in the future.

Culture and Recreation expenses are expected to total \$34,500, which will include parks maintenance, contributions to the Community Center, Youth Programs, library contributions, fairs and festivals including the annual car show and Autumnfest, and \$9,000 earmarked for rehabilitation and renovations at the former Ceredo Elementary School.

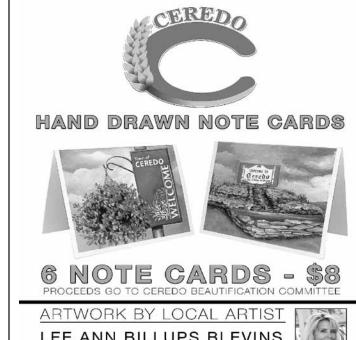
A total of \$14,000 has been budgeted for beautification programs, down from a high of \$40,000 in the 1970s and 80s when Business and Occupation Taxes were at their peak, and \$5,000 is budgeted for Social Service programs to assist our elderly popula-

In addition to the General Fund budget, the town should receive approximately \$94,000 annually from the recently approved Special Levy. The Special Levy funds are earmarked for certain projects, and add to the budgeted amounts for such things as street maintenance, equipment purchases, and the Volunteer Fire Department.

It is of note that this budget is approximately \$150,000 less than our annual budgets of the period between 1999 and 2006, and proportionately less than budgets of the 1978 – 1990 years. The reason for decreased revenue is the closing of the Harts/Big Bear anchor stores in the Ceredo Plaz a and the end of the federal synfuel project at KRT. Fortunately, our current budget is sufficient to continue basic municipal services, but we are no longer able to do significant "discretionary spending" or put significant sums in reserve for major projects such as street paving. Additionally, the state Revenue Sharing program and Coal Severance program have either been discontinued or, in the case of coal, diminished due to lack of mining.

The Council has done its best to present a realistic budget, based

on our latest financial audit of the 2017-2018 fiscal year and the current trend of tax collections. As always, revenue and expenses will be monitored on a trending basis and any forecasted changes will be addressed by Council to ensure that we handle the people's money in a way most beneficial to the long-term good and welfare of the town.



LEE ANN BILLUPS BLEVINS E-MAIL: leeann444@zoominternet.net

PHONE: 304-634-3713



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF CEREDO

5K RACE SATURDAY, MAY 4TH **CEREDO'S BEST** ROAD RACE!



HONOR ROLL

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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
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 contribu-tion 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!

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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 personal 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.

Russell Hutchinson has been a member of the Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department since shortly after man discovered fire. For over 60 years Russell has answered the call to fight nearly every conflagration in the Ceredo-Kenova area, including the Ceredo Elementary School, Ferguson Hardware, and Kenova Box fires. A first responder to the Marshall plane crash in 1970, Russell has been the CVFD representative at memorial services for a number of years.

Most mature adults in Ceredo recognize Russell as



These days Russell can still be found around the fire department, and while he has taken retirement quarters in Kenova, he remains a Character of Ceredo.

having worked a full career at International Nickel, where he rarely missed a day of work and, according to former INCO Maintenance Superintendent Stanley Fink, was a valued employee that was dedicated to his job.

Then there is Russell the Character. In perhaps his first act of adventure while in elementary school, Russell, along with Lafe Patterson and Noah Kimbler, decided to skip school and travel to Kentucky. The lads made it to Catlettsburg, where they stopped at the Catlettsburg Stock Market to watch various animals being auctioned. Unfortunately, Ceredo Mayor Paul Billups was at the stock sale

that day and recognized the three boys. Waiving extradition, Mayor Billups loaded the lads in the back of his car and returned them to the school principal for further proceedings.

Russel became a motorcycle enthusiast in the 1950s, and on his most fateful ride he encountered gravel on the pavement at Washington Avenue and 17th Street West in Huntington. According to eyewitness accounts,

Russell and his motorcycle hit the pavement and slid across the parking lot at Whisman Bros. Tavern, coming to rest against the building.

A young lady working as a curb girl at the tavern, having witnessed the accident and seeing Russell, bleeding head to toe from road rash, ran to him and asked, "How can I help you." Russell, being Russell, answered, "I'll have a Black Label beer please."

Russ gave up motorcy-

cling for several years while raising his family, but by the 1980s he again was riding a bike, along with his dog. Russell strapped a plastic milk basket behind his motorcycle seat and took the dog, replete with goggles, along with him.

An avid fisherman, Russell once caught a piranha in the Ohio River near Ceredo. How the African flesheating fish made its way to Ceredo is unknown, but the event was witnessed by the late Pete Sullivan, and man known for his honesty. The two fishermen had the species confirmed by a Marshall professor, so believe it or not, it happened.

These days Russell can still be found around the fire department, and while he has taken retirement quarters in Kenova, he remains a Character of Ceredo. We salute the many good deeds he has done for our residents and the enjoyment his stories have brought us.

CHANGES IN THE PULPIT

The Ceredo Church of Christ received a new pastor late last year. Matt Mc-Brayer, a native of Chattanooga, TN, was called to the Ceredo ministry. Prior to accepting this assignment, Matt pastored a church in Lebanon, Missouri.

Joining Pastor McBrayer in Ceredo are his wife of

11 years, Autumn Kidwell McBrayer, and their five children, Alethia, Stella, Timothy, LeAndra, and Titus.

Pastor McBrayer holds an undergraduate and graduate degrees in Bible/Ministry and Human Services from Ambridge University, as well as graduating from the

Memphis School of Preaching. In addition to his work at the church, Matt enjoys reading, bow hunting, fishing, time with his family, and Alabama football.

The Ceredo Church of Christ has met at its current location, 264 4th Street East, since 1968. Sunday services include Bible Class at 9:00

a.m., Worship Service at 9:45 a.m., and Evening Service at 6:30 p.m., with Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor McBrayer and the congregation welcome the community to any service, and the Ceredo community welcomes the McBrayer family as part of our town.

Rodney Hale, Pastor at the First Baptist Church of Ceredo, retired in mid-April. Rodney led the Ceredo congregation for 19 years, becoming a fixture in Ceredo and well-respected resident of our town.

Rodney and his wife plan to relocate to Tennessee to

be closer to their grandchildren. The Hale family will be sorely missed by our community. It is difficult to earn the title of "Son of Ceredo" without having been born here, but Rodney earned the title and will always be thought of as being one of us.

WATERSHED PROTECTION ELEMENTS AROUND YOUR HOME – PART 1

The Town of Ceredo is regulated as a Phase II Small MS4 Program. MS4 stands for stormwater discharge from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems. The storm water sewer in Ceredo is separate from the sanitary sewer. Sinks, toilets, and interior floor drains must be connected to the sanitary sewer system. The wastewater discharged to the sanitary sewer receives treatment to remove pollutants prior to release to creeks and rivers. Pollutants contained in stormwater runoff flow directly into local waterways, without treatment, where they can be harmful to humans and the environment. Oil and grease, food waste, paint, concreterelated wastewater, chemicals and even dirt must be prevented from entering the storm drain system in order

to preserve our local waterways. Stormwater runoff is a fact of life. How we deal with stormwater runoff requires everyone's involvement.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection requires MS4's to incorporate Watershed Protection Elements into local development codes, policies, and ordinances, as well as comprehensive and master plans for land use, transportation, and neighborhoods. You can help keep our streams and rivers clean and reduce stormwater runoff by implementing some of these techniques around your home.

Minimize Impervious Surfaces

An impervious surface is an area on the earth that

impedes or prevents the flow of water into the soil. Impervious surfaces increase runoff volume, velocity, temperature, and pollutant loads. Some impervious surfaces, such as bedrock outcrops and clay soils, occur naturally. More often, however, they are a result of human development. Rooftops, parking lots, severely compacted soils, and even gravel roads are all considered impervious surfaces. Reducing impervious surfaces involves the minimization of pavements, the use of permeable surfacing, the protection of natural conditions, the use of disconnection practices and the application of Low Impact Development principles.

Use permeable materials -Replace solid concrete and asphalt driveways with pav-

ers, cobblestones, brick, and turf stone, all of which will slow down the flow of water and allow it to settle into the ground. Solid concrete can also be divided with decorative and functional paver inlays.

Use a green roof - Green roofs can transform an impervious rooftop into a beautiful building amenity that absorbs stormwater, reduces energy use, and lengthens roof life.

Decrease flow of stormwater into storm drains - If impervious surfaces must be used, drain to a vegetated area or capture the runoff in a rain barrel. Gutter down spouts can be positioned so that runoff from rooftops drains into vegetated areas rather than straight into storm

drains.

Reduce thermal impacts

Urbanization tends to replace ed water becomes runoff and porous surfaces with impervious surfaces. Surfaces such as grass or other vegetation allow some of the water that falls on them to infiltrate into the soil. Impervious surfaces (such as pavement or roofs) prevent infiltration, thus forcing the water that falls on them to run off; therefore, as development increases, infiltration tends to decrease and runoff tends to increase.

The addition of impervious surfaces can increase stream temperature for two reasons. First, impervious surfaces absorb solar radiation which raises their temperature. When a storm event occurs,

some of this heat is transferred to the water that falls on these surfaces. This heateventually flows into streams raising their temperature. Second, impervious surfaces reduce infiltration, which decreases baseflow. Baseflow tends to have a cooling effect on stream temperature because groundwater is usually maintained at a relatively constant temperature, despite fluctuations in surface temperatures. As baseflow decreases, this cooling effect decreases as well. Therefore, as more impervious surfaces are created, stream temperatures increase due to the combined effect of increasing warmer runoff and decreasing cooler baseflow.

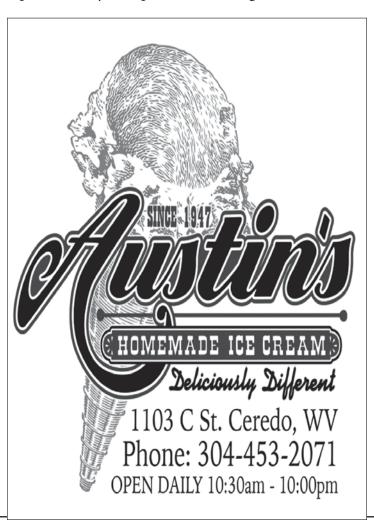
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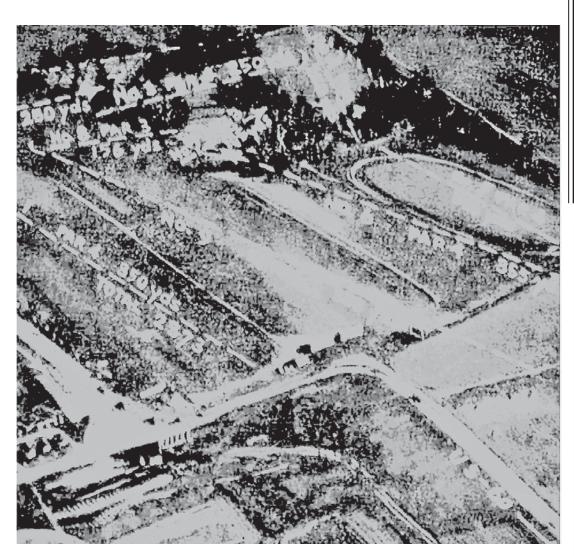
Long before the existence of Park Terrace, Fairwood Drive, Greenwood Drive, United Bank, the Ceredo Plaza, Norandex, and Mitch Stadium, these was Wayside Golf Club. The nine-hole course occupied all the land south of Route 60 between 6th Street West and 1st Street East, extending south to the old B&O Railroad line.

Wayside was a par 34 layout, with seven par 4 holes and two par 3 holes, with a total distance of 2373 yards. One of the last courses with sand greens, Wayside was a true jewel in downtown Ceredo between 1938 and 1948, before the property was slowly repurposed for other uses, first being the Ceredo Drive-In Theater and later the businesses and streets listed earlier. The original layout was modified to accommodate the Drive-In, and continued in operation until 1960.

There are a few, but very few, Ceredo residents still living that actually played the original layout. There are a few more that caddied the course in their teenage years, and perhaps even a few more that can remember George Davis, the greenskeeper, walking the course each day to drag the oiled-sand greens. One of those with a memory of the course is former Sheriff David Pennington, who provided the adjoining picture of Wayside. David caddied at the course and did odd-jobs during his high school years and was fortunate to have played the course on "caddy day".

Wayside was built by late Ceredo resident Henry Stark, and managed for many years by Stark's son-in-law, Tom Roberts. The club professional serving the longest tenure was late Ceredo resident Virgil Ratcliff.

Progress has its place, and while the town has benefitted from the various businesses and housing developments, it sure would be nice to be able to walk today to Sixth Street and tee-off along the south side of Route 60 toward the old Walnut tree at $1\,\frac{1}{2}$ alley. One more round on Wayside might even get retired Ceredo golfer Jack Riggs to get his clubs out for one more round.



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She inspired a car bumper, appeared on the cover of Life Magazine and was as uniquely American and identifiable as Howdy Doody. The big-hearted, down-to-earth woman we Ceredoans knew as Ruthie Egnor became an international icon and after decades of hobnobbing with the likes of Bob Hope, Milton Berle, Howard Hughes, Cary Grant and Frank Sinatra, chose Ceredo to live out the last peaceful years of her extraordinary life. Virginia Ruth Egnor, best known as Dagmar, was described by Life magazine as a "national

institution," and a nationwide poll of editors in the 1950s voted her "the most photogenic girl on TV."

"Standing 5 feet 11 inches in her heels, Dagmar combined the voluptuous curves of a Venus, the provocative grace of a young Mae West and the virtue of a Girl Scout," Murray Schumach wrote in The New York Times in 1950.

She was born Virginia Ruth Egnor in West Virginia, and changed her name to Jenny Lewis when she went to New York with her first husband and started modeling and acting to keep herself busy while he was often absent during his assignment with the Navy Ferry Command on Long Island. She was given the name Dagmar when she became a character in NBC's "Broadway Open House," a vaudeville-style mix of music and jokes in the 1950's which was a forerunner of "The Tonight Show."

Dagmar was television's come-to-life pinup girl. To servicemen and woman and their families, she was the icon that represented everything good about the heartland. She was Rosy the Riveter, the Farmer's Daughter and Miss Hometown Festival all rolled into one. Long before Cher and Madonna, she only needed one name, and she perfected the brilliant dumb blonde character which remains standard actress repertoire today.

At the height of her career, the Huntington

High School graduate was getting more than 8,000 fan letters a month, and living in a Central Park South penthouse J. J. Schubert built for Al Jolson that featured a driving range on the terrace. After Broadway

Dagman

Open House, she starred in her own

television show called, "Dagmar's Canteen," and was a guest on TV's first telethon with Milton Berle and Walter Winchell, who dubbed her "Dagmarvelous."

Dagmar appeared on Bob Hope's very first television show with Dinah Shore, Walter Pigeon, Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. and Frank Sinatra. At the urging of Mitch Miller, she recorded an album of duets with Frank Sinatra for RCA, and made the cover of "Life" magazine in 1951. She went on to perform in theater, summer stock and Las Vegas, and was a regular on "Holiday Squares."

Fifty years later, Ruthie was nominated for The Greater Huntington Wall of Fame. The nominating committee received letters from Bob Hope and Milton Berle.

Hope wrote, "If a non-resident can nominate someone to The Greater Huntington Wall of Fame — I nominate Dagmar. No one likes to be called any name that indicates a senior citizen status — a moniker like "pioneer" for instance. Well, Dagmar may not like it but she was a television pioneer."

Mr. Television, Milton Berle, with whom she appeared on Texaco Star Theater, had similar words of praise. "This letter," he wrote, "is intended to nominate a great lady of comedy —

Dagmar — to the Greater **Huntington Wall**

of Fame. She has been a tremendous representative of her city, since she referred to Huntington most favorably in all of her press releases. Dagmar was, and is, a very special lady, there is only one like her." Ruthie was always proud of her West Virginia roots and returned frequently to visit family and friends, buying homes for family members in the area. She moved to in June 1996 to be near her family. In her last years, she lived with her brother, Bob Egnor, and his wife.

Virginia Ruth "Dagmar" Egnor, 79, of Ceredo, West Virginia, died peacefully on Tuesday, October 9, 2001, surrounded by loved ones. She was survived by three sisters, three brothers, an aunt, and numerous nieces and nephews.[5] Her legacy lives on in many mediums.

In 2006, she was among the first to be inducted into the newly formed West Virginia Broadcasting Hall of Fame at the Museum of Radio and Technology in Huntington, West Virginia.

One of the more unusual tributes to Ruthie is best known to classic car fans. The following was published thirteen years after her passing, in a classic car magazine, with the headline: "The Woman Behind Our Beloved Dagmars-Virginia Ruth Egnor.":

"There's two of them, they're large, round, and you can't help staring with your mouth half

open as they pass by-there's nothing like a set of robust Dagmars to accent your classic's front end. When grille teeth, or tube grilles just aren't cutting it, customizing your bumper/grille assembly with a fine set of chromed torpedoes can really add that finishing touch. Ever wonder where these mesmerizing modifications got their name? Virginia's glowing personality, dedication to her craft, and her astonishing figure lent itself to what we as car guys know today as the Dagmar bumper. It was a staple in Cadillac, Buick, Chevy, and Packard designs-just to name a few-during the 50s. Today Dagmars are sought out in the kustom world to add some "weight" and boldness to a front end setup. So, next time you're looking to drop a set of big rounds onto your kustom or classic restoration, remember to thank the one and only, original Dagmar." (Rod Authority, July 26, 2014.) Here in Ceredo she was just Ruthie, a smart, kind friend with a big heart who loved her family and West Virginia. We agree with what Milton Berle said about her, "Dagmar was, and is, a very special lady, there is only one like her." Huntington Quarterly Magazine summed her up this way: "Beneath the bust line and the punch line beat the heart of the nicest hometown girl you would ever want to meet." We're proud she

chose to be Ceredo's hometown girl.

Farmers Market Set To Return

Anchor farmers Bill and Dorothy Stewart of Greenbrier tion, easy access and plenty of of Rocky Knob Farm promise an even bigger and better market this season.

"Since its inception in 2017, the Ceredo Market has been one of the better locations in the tri-state to get fresh, locallygrown produce," said Jason

and Rocky Knob employees are happy to assist those shoppers that are unable to get out of their cars. This is just a great thing for the communities of Ceredo and Kenova."

To balance the healthy offerings of our local farmers,

Ekers. "Ceredo has a great locathe market will again feature Amish doughnuts and pastries Farms and Jason and Tab Ekers parking. Plus, both Greenbrier every Friday and Saturday. The Amish goods often arrive at the market from Jackson, Ohio still warm. Additionally, Dorothy Stewart of Greenbrier Farms will be offering her world-famous baked goods and cookies while Tab Ekers will again be pressed to meet the demand

The popular Ceredo Farmers Market is scheduled to open for the summer on Friday, June 14, 2019.

for her homemade salsa, hailed as the best this side of the Rio Grande.

"In addition to our 'anchor farmers, we expect to have a number of other vendors offering specialty vegetables as they come in season," said Bill Stewart. "A number of smaller farmers specialize in hard to find items, and as they are

ready for harvest those farmers will also be at the market."

The arrival of Rocky Knob sweet corn, usually around July 1, draws visitors from Huntington, Ashland, and the surrounding area. "We take great pride in our corn, said Ekers, and we really appreciate the business generated by the Ceredo Market. We feel our

sweet corn is some of the best raised in America."

The Farmers Market has been very popular, with steady customers from June through October. Held beneath the town shelter on the Mitch Stadium parking lot, the market has become a community gathering place on summer weekend mornings.





1969 Camaro "Z/28" Bill & Jenny Irvin

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The Town of Ceredo lost a native son with the passing of Herb Stephens, Jr. on April 18, 2019. The eldest son of late Ceredo residents Herb, Sr. and Helen Stephens, Herbie first gained local fame as a member of the 1959 C-K Little League All-Star team that won our first state championship. During his high school track years Herb was known as the "Jim Thorpe of C-K" because he entered, and won, nearly every event at local track

At C-K, Herb was an All-State performer in basketball, baseball, and track, as well as being Drum Major of the band. Following high school, Herb attended Marshall for one year on

a track scholarship and played freshman basketball before enlisting in the Air Force, where he worked as a linguist and played on every base basketball team available.

Upon discharge from the Air Force, Herb was recruited to play basketball at Texas Christian University and began a lifelong relationship with both the Horned Frogs and the State of Texas. Upon graduation, Herb went to work for the Fort Worth Independent School District and also did color commentary on TCU basketball broadcasts for many years. His career culminated with several years as the Director of Athletics for the Fort Worth schools and in recognition of his work the school system there named an athletic facility in his honor.



Despite living and working in Texas, Herb never lost contact with Ceredo. A frequent visitor, Herb was an ardent supporter of the Little League, Mitch Stadium, and the Alumni Band, of which he was a member. He was an annual participant in the Eric Sparks Memorial Golf Tournament, and one of his last worldly acts was sending a donation to the newly formed Ceredo Scholarship Fund.

Herb is survived by his wife, Kathy, daughter Stephanie Wellman, and grandson Payne Wellman, all of Springton, Texas, along with his brother, John Stephens of Hurricane, and sister, Patty Bevins of Huntington.

A true Son of Ceredo, Herb was quick to tell his friends across the country about the hometown he loved. During this year's Conference USA basketball tournament in Texas, Herb was spotted on TV wearing a C-K baseball cap. His mementos from Ceredo were prominently displayed in his office. The man was proud of his town, and his town was proud of him. We shall cherish the many memories he gave us.