

# The New Crescent

SERVING CEREDO, WEST VIRGINIA

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 2

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FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

## Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session January 6th, 2020 at the Ceredo City Hall

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, January 6th, 2020 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 corrections or additions to the minutes of the December 2nd, 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 December Regular Session minutes. All were in favor, motion carried.

The Recorder read the minutes of the December 13th, 2019 Special Session. The Mayor asked if Council had any corrections or additions to the Special Session minutes. None being heard, on a motion by Dennis Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to approve the December 13th, 2019 Special Session minutes as read. All were in favor, motion carried.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Robert Leslie, presented Council with the balance of each account and the expenditures as of December 31st, 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 Dennis Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor gave a six-month overview of the of the revenue and expenses for the Water, Sewer, Floodwall and General Funds.

### American Antique Car Association (AACA)

Mr. Carroll Browning, representing the American Antique Car Association (AACA), approached Council asking for their continued support for this year's 20th anniversary car show with a \$1,000 donation and support from the Town crew and Police Department. The Mayor commended Mr. Browning for the quality of show and recommended the Town continue their support of this event.

On a motion by Oscar Adkins and a second by Robert Leslie, Council voted to continue their support of the 2020 AACA car show with a \$1,000 donation and support from the Town crew and the Police Department. All were in favor, motion carried.

### Lincoln County Opportunities

Mr. Bill Carpenter of Lincoln County Opportunities addressed Council reaffirming their organizations' continued intent to locate a program in the old Ceredo Grade School cafeteria to feed the elderly.

The Mayor addressed the status of the needed preparations of the school cafeteria to accommodate the program. He also confirmed the continued support of the Mayor and the Council for this program.

### First Baptist Church of Ceredo Minister

The Mayor recognized Mr. Jeff Canterbury as the new pastor for the First Baptist Church of Ceredo and encouraged Pastor Jeff to continue his involvement in the community.

### 2019 Christmas Parade

The Mayor discussed the rain-dampened parade and advised he looked forward to next year's parade with anticipation of much better weather and greater participation.

### Republic Landfill

The Mayor addressed the use of Republic Landfill for 2020 and emphasized all refuse was to be taken to Republic.

### Town Employee Health Insurance Renewal

The Mayor addressed the health insurance renewal for Town employees, which will become effective March 1st, 2020. He advised he had received one (1) quote and he anticipated receiving quotes from other providers within the next week.

### Crescent Hill Cemetery Board Appointment

The Mayor addressed a request by the Crescent Hill Cemetery Board asking that Mr. David Amos be appointed to the Board.

On recommendation by the Mayor and on a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to appoint Mr. David Amos to the Crescent Hill Cemetery Board.

Northern Wayne Public Service District – Grinder Pump Assistance  
The Mayor advised he had spoken with Mr. Robert Marsh from the Northern Wayne Public Service District concerning assistance with the maintenance of the Town's grinder pumps. This assistance is needed due to the retirement of the Town's sewer department foremen, Mr. Sonny Gilkerson.

### Police Department Report

Police Chief, Tony Poston, addressed the number of calls the police department had answered during the month of December. He also reported that the department was functioning well. Chief Poston also updated Council on Officer Lange's progress at the WV Police Academy.

### Stormwater Manager/Administrative Assistant Report

Mr. Dustin Long, Stormwater Manager/Administrative Assistant, gave a slide show of the MS4 presentation he and representatives of the City of Kenova had presented to the children and staff at the Ceredo-Kenova Elementary School.

Mr. Long also reported he and Mr. Andy Cremeans had surveyed the floodwall for needed repairs and had discussed the preparations for closing the floodwall gate on Route 60.

The Mayor acknowledged the quality of the presentation provided at the Elementary School.

### Maintenance Report

Maintenance Superintendent, Ronnie Jarrell, reported the Town crew was working to remove the remaining Christmas decorations throughout the Town, as well as the leaves and other debris.

Mr. Jarrell also reported on the hours required for pumping during the last high water event and the number of people on vacation during the month of December.

### Municipal Court

The Mayor commended Judge Greg Jarrell and Court Clerk Scott Byard for the fine job they were doing with the municipal court.

### Adjournment

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

It appears that the longest-running battle in West Virginia history will continue for at least a couple more generations. Since at least the early 1950's, the Town of Ceredo has been engaged with the United States Postal Service over the issue of home mail delivery. No end is in sight.

Having full knowledge that several requests for home delivery had been made by former administrations, I took up the mantle roughly two years ago after hearing from a number of you that home delivery would be a great convenience. The local postmaster was receptive and I allowed myself to be overly optimistic. My mistake.

Our request was forwarded through USPS channels, and based upon information and belief, the local postmaster replied to his

superiors that he had no objection to the Postal Service providing the same service to Ceredo residents that has always been provided to Kenova residents. Still, the response of the Service was that no home delivery would be provided in Ceredo. Knowing that daily trips to the Post Office are difficult for many of our older residents, the battle was carried forward.

Assistance was requested from our U.S. Senators, Shelly Moore Capito and Joe Manchin. Staff members of both senators were receptive of our plea, but soon returned copies of the response provided to them by the USPS. In short, the Postal Service stated that no new home delivery service will be provided in the United States. Communities that enjoyed home delivery before institution of the "no

new" policy will continue to receive home delivery, but communities such as Ceredo shall forever face a closed door.

It is apparent that the policy of no new home delivery is a cost-saving measure, likely prompted by the construction of large thousand-home planned communities built in certain areas of the United States during the last twenty or thirty years. In those communities, primarily in Florida and Arizona, city planners simply designed postal collection/distribution points in convenient locations that are aesthetically fitting for the respective neighborhoods. While mail isn't brought to your door in those communities, it is left at a distribution box within walking distance of most homes.

The USPS has suggested

that such collection boxes may be approved for Ceredo. This was the same offer suggested approximately thirty years ago when Mayor Napier sought to obtain home delivery in Ceredo. The problem with this system, even if the USPS would approve it, is that the layout of Ceredo was planned some 150 years ago. Our streets and sidewalks will not accommodate collection boxes in any aesthetic sense. The things would look like what they would be, an afterthought, and ruin the beauty of many of our neighborhoods. Thus, the battle will continue.

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You are likely aware from the last two "Message" columns that a decrease in Ceredo's tax base will necessitate some changes in discretionary spending in the coming years. There

has been some concern about continuation of our summer flower program, and I am pleased to say that flowers for both the hanging baskets and flower gardens have been ordered. Ceredo's "Flower Lady," Delcie Elkins, is gearing up for another great season.

As we streamline expenses some town employees, such as Jeff White and David Patrick, will be undertaking dual assignments. Jeff's primary assignment is as an assistant with the water department, but when there are no pressing water projects Jeff will assume the role of beautification assistant and will care for our flower gardens. David Patrick is our mechanic and electrical inspector, and has agreed to also handle watering and fertilizing of the hanging flower baskets.

Matt Myles, a street

department employee, is cross-training to handle sewer issues in addition to obtaining his CDL certificate so that he can fill-in driving the garbage truck as needed. Dale Maynard, also assigned to the street department, will add caretaking duties at Crescent Hill Cemetery to his duties while Tommie Workman continues to recover from medical issues.

We are indeed fortunate to have employees that are willing to "do what it takes" to maintain Ceredo in the manner to which we have all become accustomed. Please continue to support our maintenance staff and let them know that their hard work and dedication is appreciated.

## BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT UNDERWAY

The Ceredo Beautification Committee, the oldest such organization in the state, has announced a new project that will be undertaken this Spring. In conjunction with the Town's refurbishment efforts at the former Ceredo Elementary School, the Beautification Committee will undertake to redesign and install new landscap-

ing in front of the school property.

The project, known as Celebrate Ceredo Graded School, will include the purchase and planting to flowers, shrubbery, and trees; installation of landscape lighting; some exterior painting; and lawn maintenance. Renderings of the completed project will

be featured on the Beautification Committee's summer postcard series.

The project design has been donated by George Kotalic of Kotalic Landscaping. Work will be performed by members of the Beautification Committee, members of the Ceredo Indoor Pickleball Club, and other community volunteers.

To help defray expenses in completing this project, the Committee is asking for donations of \$25 between February and May, 2020. In addition to the donation, the Committee is asking that donors include a paragraph of "favorite school memories" that will be included in a bound volume at the Ceredo Museum. All

donors will be recognized on a plaque displayed on the school property. This is a most worthy project that will help beautify Ceredo and help maintain a property that has touched most of our lives in some way.

Please help by sending your donation of \$25 along with any memories of the school to "School Beauti-

fication Project", P.O. Box 691, Ceredo, WV 25507, or drop them off Town Clerk's office. Current members of the Beautification Committee are Kathy Billups, Debbie Adkins, Brenda Francis, Kelly Adkins, and Kathy Jarrell.

# Ceredo Scholarship Fund

We are pleased to announce that the Ceredo Scholarship Fund has affiliated with the Marshall University Foundation for the purpose of maintaining the annual award and, hopefully, to establish an endowment fund that will create a perpetual revenue stream to support our scholarship.

The Ceredo Scholarship Fund was created in

2019 at the suggestion of former Ceredo residents Mike Watts and the late Herb Stephens, Jr. The idea first presented by Mr. Watts was that we have enough current and former Ceredo residents that have the ability to donate \$100 annually to support a scholarship for a Ceredo student attending Marshall. Your response was overwhelming. We

were able to award the first scholarship last May, and since that time the fund has grown to have a balance of \$2,100. As always, Ceredo residents were willing to step-up for a good cause.

Through the assistance of Ceredo resident Ann Cornell, we have been able to join forces with the Marshall Foundation. Our local representatives will still

have input as to choosing the annual recipient.

The cost of attending college has increased dramatically over the past twenty years. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the average cost for a West Virginia resident to attend Marshall is roughly \$20,846. That's correct, north of twenty-thousand dollars a year. For students living at home

the cost is approximately \$10,750 per year.

We have all heard about the cost of tuition and the burden of student loan debt. While we cannot alone defray the entire cost for a Ceredo student, the \$1,000 annual scholarship will certainly help, and in some cases may be the deciding factor as to whether one of our children is able

to attend college or not.

Please step up. Many of us can afford the \$100 annual donation for this most worthy cause. Please forward your check to the "Ceredo Scholarship Fund" to Town Hall, P.O. Box 691, Ceredo, WV 25507.

## DAR Office Opens

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Westmoreland Chapter, celebrated the opening of their new headquarters on January 18, 2020. The DAR Headquarters is located in the former Ceredo Elementary School.

The local Westmoreland Chapter was organized in April, 1975, and has been a fully operating chapter since that time. The Ceredo location is the first permanent home for the group, and will serve as a meeting place with space

to preserve and display historical, genealogical, and other chapter documents.

Local officers include Marilyn Oppenheimer, Regent; National Defense Officer, Sharon Curnutt; Treasurer June Ashworth; and Secretary Charlene Honaker. As part of the initial meeting at the new headquarters, Mayor Paul Billups presented Regent Oppenheimer with keys to the facility and Belinda Jividen, Vice President of the West Virginia Gold Star Mothers, spoke on

behalf of that most worthy organization.

"On behalf of the DAR, we are very grateful to Mayor Billups, the Ceredo Town Council, and employees of the town for allowing the DAR to establish a permanent headquarters in Ceredo. Working with members Wilma Skean and Linda Parsons, the town has provided the DAR with a place of which we can all be proud," said Ms. Oppenheimer.

## Employee of the Month

"This is the best place I have ever worked," said street department employee Matt Myles, "each day our mission is to make life better for the residents of Ceredo, and it is rewarding to see how much the residents appreciate our work."

Matt has been employed by the town for around six months, and has proven himself to be a hard-working employee willing to undertake any job that will improve the town. A Ceredo native, Matt is a son of Kenova Councilperson Linda Myles-Cole and the



Matt Myles  
Employee of the Month

late John Myles. Matt held a number of jobs before joining the town crew, most recently working in the natural gas industry. "My last

job required me to travel for long periods, and I didn't want to be away from my family. Working in Ceredo is perfect for me. My dad was a strong believer in volunteering and doing things for the public good, and I now understand the satisfaction he got from helping others. I hope to be the same kind of person."

According to Superintendent Ron Jarrell, Matt has developed into a valuable employee in a short time, and is capable of handling most of the work required of the maintenance staff.

## Garbage and Trash Removal

For many years Ceredo residents have enjoyed twice-weekly household garbage pick-up at the lowest rate in West Virginia. The town has maintained this service in large part through the diligence of our employees and cooperation of our residents in bagging and limiting items to household garbage. Our rates, currently \$9.00 a month for regular service and \$5.00 a month for senior citizens, are based on average amounts of household garbage produced per household.

The primary expense

to the town for garbage pick-up is the "dump fee", the amount the town has to pay the landfill. Landfill costs are based on tonnage, thus the more garbage we take to the landfill, the higher our costs. Current residential charges are adequate to cover the average garbage produced every Monday and Thursday in Ceredo.

From time-to-time we have additional trash items left for pickup by the town sanitation crew. These are usually household items such as chairs, sofas, mattresses, and appliances.

While the town is happy to be able to remove these items for our residents, the town incurs additional landfill costs when this service is provided. To cover the additional cost when "extra" items are picked-up, a "per-item" charge is added to the homeowner's monthly bill. The additional charge is less than what it would cost the homeowner to load the item, drive to the landfill, and pay the landfill a minimum charge for disposal.

A second area of concern is that a few

customers produce an extraordinary amount of household garbage. As a rule of thumb, two 55-gallon drums will hold the residential garbage produced over four days. Unfortunately, we have a few locations where the sanitation crew encounters what appears to be garbage produced by several households, most likely the result of friends or relatives living outside the town and bringing their household garbage to Ceredo to take advantage of our low rates. This must be stopped in order

to avoid a rate increase, and it is blatantly unfair to increase the rate of rule-abiding residents because a few persons are trying to "beat the system."

We understand that an occasional "spring cleaning" may result in a heavier than usual trash load at your residence, and that is not a problem. The problem is when we are weekly picking up garbage from two or three houses located outside the town, and the in-town homeowner is only paying our minimum charge. To eliminate this prob-

lem, persons found to be leaving trash from outside the town will be charged with littering, and service for the in-town resident allowing such practice will be terminated.

The town will continue efforts to eliminate unfair practices, and with your help we will be able to maintain twice-weekly service with the lowest rates in the state.

## KID CEREDO

Josh Carroll's boyhood dream included long bus rides to perform before screaming fans. Through hard work Josh has made that dream come true, albeit to perform in different venues than those of which he dreamed as a baseball player at Ceredo-Kenova High School. Like most boys, Josh planned to be a professional baseball player, a vocation that requires long rides between games. Instead, the long rides Josh has taken over the last fifteen years have been on tour busses between musical performances from Delaware to Daytona to Dallas, and most recently to the Ro-Na Performance Center in Ironton, Ohio.

Now a resident of Roanoke, Virginia, Josh developed a love of music at an early age but didn't seriously think of a career on stage until after graduating from high school. It was while playfully singing around friends that Josh first realized that he might have a good singing voice, and almost by accident a career developed.

In 2010, while residing in Roanoke, Virginia,



Josh Carroll | "Kid Ceredo" (Left)

and singing with various bands, Josh formed the "Cowboy Band" as a tribute to Kid Rock. Since that time the "Kid Rock Cowboy Tribute Band" has performed an average of 140 shows a year, ranging from large bike rallies such as Daytona and Myrtle Beach to more intimate performance centers.

The performance in Ironton was special for Josh since it was the closest the band has performed to Ceredo. A number of friends and family members attended, and Josh's uncle, area musician Newman Sullivan, accom-

panied the band onstage with his rhythm guitar for a couple of numbers.

In recognition of his hometown, Josh frequently wears Ceredo hats or t-shirts during parts of his show. Following the Ironton show, the band departed after a morning visit to Tudor's and headed south to continue a thirty-day tour through North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. While he may portray "Kid Rock" with his current band, Josh Carroll will always be "Kid Ceredo" to those of us that watched him grow up in our town.

## New Pastor At FBC

The First Baptist Church of Ceredo has a new pastor. Jeff Canterbury, formerly of Jumping Branch, West Virginia, has accepted the call to the pulpit to serve the congregation of one of Ceredo's oldest churches. Prior to accepting the position in Ceredo, Pastor Canterbury served at the First Baptist Church of Hinton for 6 ½ years.

The vacancy at First Baptist Ceredo was created with the retirement in 2019 of former pastor Rodney Hale. Pastor Hale served the Ceredo congregation for 19 years prior to the church Search Committee recommending Pastor Canterbury to be come the 37th pastor of the Main Street church that was organized in 1887.

Pastor Canterbury has served in the ministry for twenty-eight years. He is a graduate of Appalachian Bible College and earned a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies from Temple Seminary in



Jeff Canterbury – Pastor  
First Baptist Church of Ceredo

Chattanooga, TN, and a Master of Divinity degree from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Pastor Canterbury is now seeking to further his education by entering the Doctor of Philosophy program at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Pastor Canterbury will be residing in the church parsonage pending the

arrival of his wife, Becky, and son, Nate, who are remaining in the Hinton area until the end of the school year. In addition to his work at First Baptist Ceredo, the pastor hopes to become involved with other community activities as he assimilates into our town.

# THE COAL COMPANY

To most of us living in Ceredo today, the coal loading facility located between Main Street and the mouth of Twelve Pole Creek has been in existence since the beginning of time. Actually, construction of the venerable facility began in 1947 and the plant began operation in May, 1949.

Prior to 1947, the area now occupied by the coal facility along the Ohio River was mostly a vacant field. Union Concrete Pipe Company operated a plant located west of Main Street, and a "pole yard" that supplied creosoted pine poles occupied a small piece of property just east of Main Street.

At the conclusion of the Second World War, Truax Traer Coal Company of

Chicago sought to build a coal transfer facility where coal could be removed from railroad cars and loaded into barges for more economical transport to steel mills and power plants located along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Ceredo was chosen on the basis of available deep-river property and railroad proximity to the southern West Virginia "Billion Dollar Coal Field." After some debate, the Ceredo town fathers approved plans for construction and the future of Ceredo was forever changed.

The original facility included a rail yard, a car dump where rail cars were essentially turned upside-down and emptied onto a conveyor, a coal wash-

ing facility, and a river barge from which coal was loaded into fleet barges. The company had a harbor boat, the "Flying Saucer", that was used to move fleet barges beneath the conveyor loading system. Construction of the original facility cost Six Million Dollars.

In short order, Truax Traer captured a significant market share of coal coming from mines in southern West Virginia and the Ceredo location was operating twenty-four hours a day. Truax was one of the largest coal producers in the United States, owning mines in Illinois, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. From 1949 until 1963, the Ceredo coal plant employed approximately 100 men.

In 1959, Truax Traer sold the Ceredo location to the Oglebay Norton Coal Company. Oglebay Norton was primarily involved in the ore business, with operations around in Great Lakes and in Canada. The company is perhaps best remembered as being the owner of the cargo ship "Edmond Fitzgerald," subject of a Gordon Lightfoot song of the same name, commemorating the sinking of the ship in Lake Superior.

In 1963, the company discontinued coal washing operations and eliminated approximately thirty jobs. In 1993, Oglebay Norton sold the Ceredo facility to a conglomerate that operated under the name of Kanawha River Terminals (KRT), and in 2016 the

facility was purchased by SunCoke Energy Partners. The original tipple and surrounding structures were demolished and replaced by more modern structures in the 1990's.

Always a good corporate citizen, the coal company has historically supported many community scholastic and recreational activities. Since implementation of a Business and Occupation Tax by Ceredo in the early 1970's, owners of the coal company have paid in excess of Twelve Million Dollars to the town, and during the government "synfuel" project that ran for seven years approximately twenty years ago the company not only hired a significant number of area workers, but also made contributions

to local causes above and beyond the required taxes. Under the direction of the late Fred Verardi and Butch Smith, ably assisted by Pete Lowe, Ceredo was able to call-on and count-on KRT to help with many projects that required engineering expertise or heavy lifting.

The coal industry today is continuing a downslide nationally, but good planning by the owners of the Ceredo facility has allowed our plant to remain in operation. It is apparent that the glory days of coal are over, but to the extent possible the coal company continues to be a great corporate neighbor.

# WAYSIDE ALUMNI

The Wayside Golf Course Alumni Club, a dwindling group, has obtained a concrete ping-pong table similar to those used at the golf course in the late 1950's. The club is planning a summer reunion and table tennis tournament, to be played on the concrete table. In addition to singles and doubles competition, there will be a challenge team match between the Way-

side boys and members of the Kenova Subterranean Ping Pong League.

The Kenova lads have national experience, having participated in the United States National Tournament held at Cobo Hall and Arena in Detroit. KSPPL members with national experience expected to compete at the Wayside tournament include Ric Griffith and Danny Pelfrey. "It's been a while since we

played on a concrete table, but this is for a good cause and to have an opportunity to face Mr. Cox is very special," said Pelfrey.

The "Mr. Cox" is Wayside's ace, 1958 Wayside club champion E.G. "Hush Puppy" Cox. The Pup won Wayside's first open tournament while home on leave from the Air Force, where he was a member of the Air Force Pacific Command Table Tennis Team

and in training to compete in the 1960 Olympics.

A wrist injury suffered during a softball game eliminated Cox from participating in the Olympic Trials, but during his tour of duty in Asia and the Pacific Basin, Cox faced the very best table tennis players in the world, including 1957 World Champion Toshiaki Tanaka of Japan and 1961 World Champion Zhuang Zedong of

China. "I recall facing Tanaka at the Worlds in Stockholm," said Cox, "he was a tall fellow, long arms, and very methodical. We split the first two games and I lost a close third match, probably due to jet lag since I flew from Manila to Stockholm the day before the tournament."

Cox will be honored during the Wayside reunion, and promises to

play an exhibition match against the tournament champion. "I probable have more experience on concrete than any active player," said Hush Puppy, "It will be enjoyable to see the old boys and maybe show some young players the nuances of playing on concrete."

## 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

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



## HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry.....	10/20
Jim and Pat Billups .....	02/21
John C. Hall .....	05/20
Paul and Kathy Billups.....	10/21
Jack and Ann Riggs .....	05/21
Mike Watts.....	09/20
Leigh Ann Johnson.....	04/22
Connie & Mark Beford.....	10/20
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter .....	10/20
In Memory of Herb & Helen Stephens.....	08/20
In Memory of Coach Dale Craycraft .....	08/20
In Memory of J. J. & Roma Gail Billups .....	08/20
In Memory of Charles & Betty Pratt.....	02/20
Donna Vanhoose.....	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
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
Dr. Ron & Lucinda Akers.....	06/20
In Memory of Clarence & Dotty Clarkson.....	07/20
Marlene Simmons.....	07/20
Herm Matney .....	08/20
In Memory of Anagene Wooten Gibbs.....	08/20
In Memory of Kathleen Wooren Marcum .....	08/20
In Memory of Larry Cole .....	08/20
In Memory of Charles & Dorothy Watts .....	09/20
Jeanette & Roger Barker.....	03/21
Karin & Mike Dawson .....	02/21

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!

## 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  
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# FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

One hundred fifty years ago February 3rd, America made a big step toward the nation we know today. Black men got the right to vote with the ratification on February 3, 1870 of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The monumental change that came just after the polarizing and bloody Civil War, say historians of the era, brought its own controversy and challenges that speak to us now. The promise of the amendment that the right to vote "shall not be denied...on account of race" wouldn't be fulfilled until nearly 100 years later, with the passage of the Voting Rights Act. And suffragettes, including those who were fervent abolitionists, would have to wait 50 years until the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920, bringing women the vote. Ceredo's history as an abolitionist colony, strategic location on the banks of the Ohio River and significant anecdotal references have long perpetuated the local legend that Ceredo may have been a stop on The Underground Railroad. With the re-opening and dedication of the Ramsdell House as a museum in September, more credible information began to surface to support Ceredo's important contributions to the Underground Railroad, which was the

network used by enslaved black Americans to obtain their freedom in the 30 years before the Civil War (1860-1865). The "railroad" used many routes from states in the South, which supported slavery, to "free" states in the North and Canada. Between 1840 and 1860, it is estimated that more than a thousand slaves a year were smuggled out of the South. Three crucial junctions of the Underground Railroad existed in Virginia, at Norfolk and Richmond and in Western Virginia. Many slaves escaped through Western Virginia into Ohio. With the sharing of information from verbal histories of ancestors who came through Ceredo as slaves and passed into freedom across the Ohio River, Pastor Robert Young of The First Baptist Church of Burlington, Ohio, and Bishop T. Andrew Aiken of The Greater Love Temple in South Point, Ohio confirmed what historians have long believed regarding Ceredo's critical role in abolition and reconstruction, even before it held the name "Ceredo." Ceredo founder, Massachusetts congressman Eli Thayer recruited 500 anti-slavery church, business and community leaders to come to what was then Ceredo, Virginia to establish an abolitionist colony. Zophar and Almeda Ramsdell

were among those original colonists and their home, referred to as The Ramsdell House, still stands as a museum to tell Ceredo's story and remind us of our anti-slavery history.



Rosa Parks, the activist whose arrest started the Montgomery Bus Boycott.  
Image Source: Picasa

In February of 1926, Carter G. Woodson started national Negro History Week, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. This week would later become Black History Month. President Gerald Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." February contains a number of important dates in black history:

- February 1, 1865 - The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery, was adopted by the 38th Congress.
- February 3, 1870 - The Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the federal government and each state from denying a citizen the right to vote based on that citizen's "race, color, or previous condition of servitude." It was ratified on February 3, 1870, as the third and last of the Reconstruction Amendments.
- February 4, 1913 - Rosa Parks (born Rosa Louise McCauley) was born on this day in Tuskegee, Alabama. At age 42, she was working as a seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama, and was a prominent member of the NAACP. On Dec. 1, 1955, her activism would catapult her to national fame. On that day, a white man

stepped on a Montgomery bus, unable to find a seat in the full white section at the front. The bus driver told the four black people sitting in the first row of the black section to get up to make another white row. Three got up, but Ms. Parks refused to move. Two Montgomery police officers boarded the bus and took Parks into custody. Her arrest led to the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation on public transportation. "People always say that I didn't give up my seat because I was tired," Parks wrote in her autobiography, "but that isn't true. I was not tired physically...No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in."

- February 10, 1964 - After 12 days of debate and voting on 125 amendments, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by a vote of 290-130.
- February 14, 1817 - Frederick Douglass, "The Great Emancipator," is born.
- February 15, 1848 - Sarah Roberts was barred from a white school in Boston. Her father, Benjamin Roberts, filed the first school integration suit on her behalf. The Black History Month 2020 theme, "African Americans and the Vote," is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920)

granting women's suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) giving black men the right to vote. In the Radical Reconstruction period that followed the Civil War, newly freed black men made great political gains, winning office in Southern state legislatures and even Congress. The Southern backlash was swift and marked by the passage of "black codes" designed to intimidate black voters, prompting a call for formal, national legislation on the right to vote. The women's rights movement grew out of the abolitionist movement, with activists like Frederick Douglas working alongside Elizabeth Cady Stanton to secure the right to vote for all. That goal was reached with the passage of the nineteenth amendment in 1920. Ceredo can be very proud of our important contributions to abolition and civil rights for all regardless of race or gender as we celebrate Black History Month 2020, the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) granting women the right to vote and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) giving black men the right to vote.

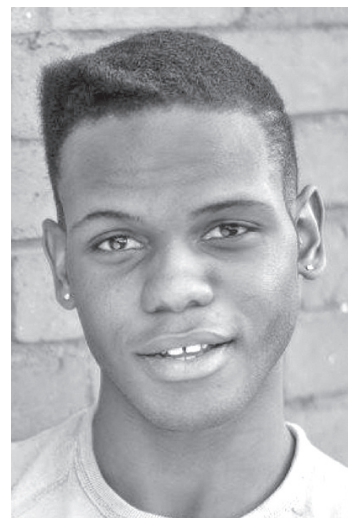
## "SAFE HAVEN" A CELEBRATION OF UNITY, CEREDO AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Town of Ceredo and The Ramsdell House are presenting a "Celebration of Unity, Ceredo and Black History Month" event on Saturday, February 22nd at 3:00 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Ceredo. Special guests include Pastor Robert Young of The First Baptist Church of Burlington, Ohio, Sister Angela Linthicum-Young and international performer Eli Nova, with a welcome by Ceredo Mayor Paul Billups and First Congregational Church of Ceredo Pastor Marty Gute. Pastor Young spoke at last September's re-opening of



Reverend Robert and Angela Young

The Ramsdell House Museum and brings profound personal insights to Ceredo's history associated with The Underground Railroad, America's Black History and today's critical issues of racism, unity and brotherhood. He and his wife, Angela Linthicum-Young are the busy parents of four children and currently serve in The First Baptist Church of Burlington, Ohio, which traces its roots back to slaves who sought safe haven in our area on their way to freedom. Eli Nova (known to local theatre fans as Elijah Boyles) is an international performer who spent the last three years



Eli Nova

in performing tours of Europe and South America aboard Norwegian and Oceania

Cruise Lines. Nova holds a BA in Music Theatre from Pace University in New York City and West Liberty University in Wheeling, West Virginia. Area theatre goers remember his many theatre roles, especially his role as Jesus in WLU's production of Godspell. He enjoyed several contracts with Dollywood Entertainment in Tennessee and performed in Broadway Showstoppers with The Fred Barton Orchestra. Parking is available at the church and in the Ceredo Plaza parking lot. For more information, call The Ramsdell House at 304-908-9696.

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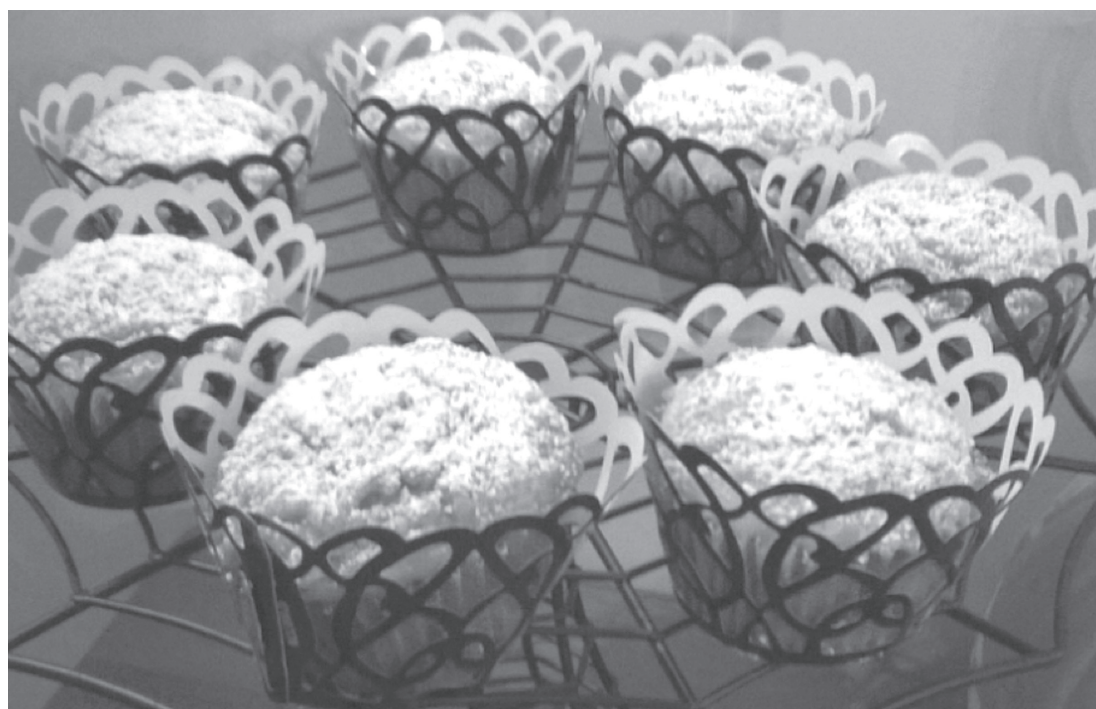


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# The Crescent Kitchen



## MORNING GLORY MUFFINS

by Natalie Hemann

These muffins remind me a little of carrot cake, so if you like carrot cake, you will probably like these muffins. This recipe has a little bit of everything in it...you could call them "kitchen sink muffins!" They may take a little bit more effort to prepare than a "normal" muffin, but I think they are worth it. I was pleasantly surprised when I won first place with this recipe in the muffin/quick bread category at the 2013 C-K Autumnfest Bake-Off.

- Ingredients:**  
 2 cups all-purpose flour  
 2 teaspoons baking soda  
 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon  
 ½ teaspoon salt  
 1 ¼ cups packed brown sugar  
 2 apples, peeled, cored, and chopped (1-1/3 cups)  
 1 ¼ cups finely shredded carrots

- ½ cup raisins  
 ½ cup coconut  
 ¾ cup chopped walnuts  
 1 8 ounce can crushed pineapple (juice pack), undrained  
 ¾ cup cooking oil  
 3 eggs  
 ½ teaspoon vanilla

**Directions:**  
 Line eighteen 2-1/2-inch muffin cups with paper bake cups; set aside. In a large bowl combine flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt; stir in brown sugar. Stir in apples, carrots, coconut, walnuts, and raisins. In a medium bowl combine undrained pineapple, oil, eggs, and vanilla. Add pineapple mixture to flour mixture; stir just until moistened. Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups. Bake in a 375 degree oven about 18 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted in centers comes out clean. Cool in muffin cups on wire rack for 5 minutes. Remove from muffin cups; serve warm. Makes 18 muffins.

# Holy Smoke Expands Menu

Ceredo's newest eatery, Holy Smoke BBQ, has expanded its menu. Located in the Ceredo Plaza, the popular restaurant is adding additional items that should provide even more options for the dining public.

The restaurant is now offering an "all-you-can-eat" fish special every Friday evening. The Friday fish special will include French fries and hush puppies, and should be a great addition to the standard BBQ items that are so popular.

On Saturdays, Holy Smoke owners Ron and Denise Kilgore will be offering "all day breakfast" featuring gravy



Ron Kilgore  
 Holy Smokes BBQ Owner

and biscuits along with the newly popular chicken and waffles. According to the Holy Smoke staff that have tried the breakfast items, the chicken and waffles are great.

"Business in Ceredo has been good," said Ron Kilgore, "with any BBQ restaurant it is necessary to offer some different items, and after talking with our customers and trying several possibilities, we decided on the Friday fish and Saturday breakfast items. Hopefully, our customers will enjoy these additions."

Holy Smoke offers excellent BBQ items and comfort foods. The dining room is always spotlessly clean, service is great, and the smell of the smoker outside is enough alone to cause hunger pains. The restaurant also offers catering service for any size group.

# Indoor Pickleball

The Ceredo indoor pickleball court is now open for public use. Located in the former Ceredo Elementary gym, the regulation size court is available between 8 AM and 8 PM, Monday through Saturday, and 1 PM until 4 PM on Sundays.

In order to play on the court persons are required to purchase an indoor pickleball membership, available from the clerk's office, at a cost of \$25 for six months. Money received for memberships will be used to cover the cost of equipment and lighting for the indoor court. Guests are allowed to play one time at no charge.

To reserve court time in two-hour blocks, members may call the Ceredo Police Department at 304-453-1041. The court is video-monitored at all times, and players are urged to be courteous and play well with others as this is a municipal recreational court.

Pickleball lessons are available upon request. Persons desiring lessons, whether introductory or advanced, should notify the police dispatcher at the above-referenced number and an instructor will contact you to schedule a time.

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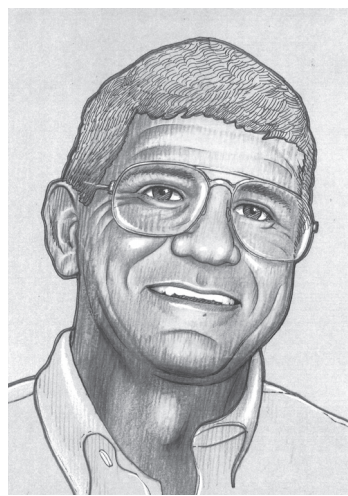
# Huntington Art – Ceredo Artisans

The City of Huntington has two large sculptures displayed in the city, one in Ritter Park, “Earth Portal” and the other on the Civic Arena Plaza, “Continuous Ascent.” While Huntington owns the art, both pieces were created by the skilled hands of Ceredo artisans.

During an urban renewal project in 1978-79, the Huntington Urban Renewal Authority and the City of Huntington decided that a sculpture should be placed on the 9th Street Plaza, near the recently opened library. The city considered several proposals for the sculpture and chose to combine forces with one of the city’s largest employers, Inco Alloys, to have a work created with the use

John Rietta was chosen, and Ceredo resident Stanley Fink, then a master welder at Inco, was chosen along with fellow Inco employee Vernor Sartin to bring the idea of Mr. Rietta to life. The sculpture, named “Continuous Ascent”, took six months to create. Using 1 ½ inch steel plate and welding torches, Fink and Sartin worked daily to translate the artist’s sketches into a sculpture. “This project wasn’t like when a sculptor works in marble,” said Fink. “John Rietta couldn’t do the actual forming with his own hands, so we took his ideas and translated them into the piece.”

“It was a daily challenge, but Rietta was easy to work with. He appreciated the skill and effort required to bring life to his



Taylor “Butch” Frazier Jr.  
Self Portrait

piece,” Fink continued. Prior to undertaking this project, Fink studied sculptures at the Huntington Galleries and was aware that a sculpture’s beauty lies in individual taste. Still, Stanley noted that anyone with a relationship to art will realize that “the idea, the technique, the hours of work, and the relationship of the work to its surroundings, in this case the City of Huntington urban renewal and the importance of alloy steel to the city”, have made “Continuous Ascent” a lasting part of Huntington’s landscape.

The “Continuous Ascent” sculpture was dedicated with a ceremony on September 8, 1979, at which time Fink was recognized for his work on the project. During a second urban renewal project in 2000, the sculpture was moved to the Civic Arena Plaza, where it stands today.

Huntington’s second sculpture, “Earth Portal,” was created and built by late Ceredo resident Taylor “Butch” Frazier Jr. Butch was undoubtedly one of the most talented persons ever to reside in Ceredo, being skilled in various forms of art but preferring sculpture – whether in clay, aluminum, marble, wood, or steel.

Butch attended Ceredo-Kenova High before dropping out in the late 1950’s to serve a three-year hitch in the Marine

Corps. After completing his service, Butch returned to C-K and graduated with the class of 1965. Wanting to further his art education and encouraged by C-K art teacher Martha Rollins, Butch attended the Columbus College of Art and Design for one year. While studying in Columbus, Butch befriended fellow student Albert Wong and developed a serious interest in sculpture.

Financial pressures caused Butch to leave Columbus after one year and take employment in the sheet metal industry, but his love of art, particularly sculpture, continued. For many years Butch worked an eight-hour shift to support his family, then worked several more hours in his studio creating art. Over the course of his lifetime, Butch completed over 100 sculptures, many of which are now on display in cities around the country.

Of Butch’s best-known works are a sculpture of his son, Chip, while playing youth baseball. That piece, one of his favorites titled “Summertime Warrior,” was displayed at both the Huntington Museum of Art and the J.B. Speed Art Museum in Louisville. In 1982, Butch was commissioned by the City of Weirton to sculpt a piece named “Quiet Moments,” depicting a woman sitting on a lawn reading a book. That sculpture, made of hammered aluminum, is displayed on the lawn of the Mary H. Weir Public Library in downtown Weirton.

In 1996, Butch was diagnosed with lung cancer, yet he continued creating art. In 1998, the artist was hard at work on his last major project, a 12-foot-tall elliptical creation made of steel alloy and stainless steel that was created for display at the National Ornamental Metal Museum in Memphis, Tennessee. While doctors marveled by the fact that Butch was still alive, much



Civic Arena Plaza,  
“Continuous Ascent.”

less still working on a major sculpture, he continued with the sculpture.

Through an agreement with the Huntington Park Board, Frazier agreed to display his

last sculpture in Huntington’s Ritter Park. On May 1, 1999, the finished sculpture was dedicated with a ceremony in Ritter Park, placed between the 8th Street and 10th Street entrances where it still stands today. Butch passed away on May 3, 1999, two days after the dedication.

According to news stories of the time, it appeared to Butch’s family and doctors that he fought off his medical condition until his final work was complete.

The next time you are in downtown Huntington or driving through Ritter Park, take a moment to admire the two sculptures in that city, and know that it was the skill of Ceredo artisans that created those pieces.



Ritter Park, “Earth Portal”

of INCOLOY alloy 800, and metal unique to the Huntington plant.

The design proposed by Alabama artist and sculptor

ideas, and he was receptive to our suggestions as the project went along. As a result of this, there are a lot of our ideas incorporated into the finished



John Rietta, Stanley Fink, and Vernor Sartin

## Underground Railroad Historian to Speak

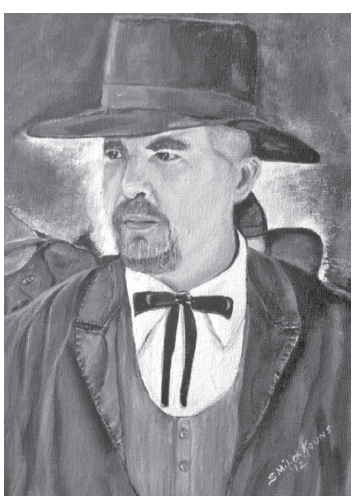
On Saturday, February 29th, Underground Railroad Historian Chris Saunders will be visiting The Ramsdell House in Ceredo to discuss the critical history of our region in The Underground Railroad, the Civil War and our contributions to abolition and reconstruction. The program will begin at 11:00 and is free and open to the public.



Chris Saunders  
Underground Railroad Historian

It has long been believed that Ceredo served as a launching point for enslaved persons seeking to cross the Ohio River into freedom. Saunders is researching Ceredo’s connections with Underground Railroad conductors and safe houses in Burlington and South Point, Ohio.

The State of Ohio had more area bordering slave states than any other state in the Union. Lawrence County, the southernmost county in Ohio, bordered the slave states of Virginia and Kentucky. Countless enslaved African Americans first tasted freedom after crossing the Ohio River into Burlington and Ironton, Ohio. Chris Saunders will identify and give biographical sketches of some of the individuals of various ethnicities and religious beliefs who worked together in an informal network of safe houses and escape routes to help enslaved African Americans to freedom in the northern states and Canada.



Chris Saunders by artist  
Sharon Milich Kouns

tors and is currently in the process of compiling brief biographies of each.

In 2011, Saunders was contacted by PBS to help research the family history

of nine-time Grammy winning R&B singer John Legend for the show Finding Your Roots, which led him to the Polley family, who after legally obtaining their freedom were kidnapped and held captive in Wayne County, Virginia. After the show aired, his research helped obtain a retroactive finding of freedom for the Polley children in the Wayne County (West Virginia) Circuit Court after 162 years, a legal conclusion to the longest active fugitive slave case in U.S. history.

Saunders is the co-author of the article “Burlington 37 Cemetery” in Tri-State Living (2012). He has portrayed Underground Railroad conductor Jim Ditcher in the Ironton Woodland Cemetery Ghost Walk. He also has made presentations to local schools, historical societies, and other groups. Saunders served as a trustee for the Lawrence County Historical Society, 2013-2014, and provides tours to individuals, schools and civic groups.

Saunders will also display some of his Underground Railroad and Civil War artifacts, including these, which are specifically related to the Underground Railroad. The Ramsdell House Museum is free and open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays are set aside for school and group

tours, with interactive activities for all age groups. As February is Black History Month, school groups are urged to secure tour dates as soon as possible.

For additional information, contact the Ramsdell House at 304-908-9696.



Engraving on Slave Waist Restraint reads:  
“Negroes For Sale Or Lett. Ellison and Bennett Tobacco, Horses & Slaves Richmond, Virginia 1845”



Slave Restraints from the collection of Underground Railroad Historian Chris Saunders



Slave tag worn around the neck, reads:  
“Black Maria House Slave Columbia, SC 1847”



Handcuffs used to restrain enslaved African Americans: one adult size, one child size



Some of the descendants of the Burlington 37 in 1909. The Burlington 37 were the former slaves of James Twyman from Madison County, Virginia. Upon receiving their freedom, the 37 settled in Burlington, Ohio. Photo taken at Burton’s Cliff in Burlington, Ohio.