

Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session January 4th, 2021

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, January 4th, 2021 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 additions or corrections to the December 7th, 2020 regular session minutes. None being heard and on a motion by Dennis Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to waive the reading of the December 7th, 2020 regular session and accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Robert Leslie presented Council with the account balances for each account and the expenditures effective January 4th, 2021. The Mayor asked for questions on the report. None being heard, the Mayor asked that the expenditures for December, 2020 be approved and that the Treasurer's report be made part of the minutes. The Mayor commented on the increase in the sewer fund.

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.

AACA 2021 Car Show

Mr. Carrol Browning advised the Mayor and Council the AACA annual car show had been scheduled for June 19th, 2021 with a rain date of August 7th, 2021.

Mr. Browning asked Council for their continued support with a \$1,000 donation and the continued assistance of the police department and city crew members.

On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to continue support of the AACA Car Show with a \$1,000 donation and the assistance from the police department and the city crew members. All were favor, motion carried.

The Mayor commended the AACA for the exemplary job they were doing with the AACA Car Show.

COVID Vaccine

County Commissioner, Jeff Maddox, addressed Council concerning the COVID Vaccine and the change being made to receive the vaccine. He reported that those wishing to receive the vaccine need to call and make an appointment in advance with the Wayne County Health Department.

The Mayor questioned Commissioner Maddox on the possibility of having vaccination sites in the Ceredo-Kenova area. Commissioner Maddox updated the Mayor and Council about other projects on which the commission was working at present.

Ramsdell House and Museum Closures

The Mayor reported, as discussed last month, that because of the COVID the Ramsdell House and the Museum would be closed for the next 60 days.

Lobby Reopening

The Mayor reported that the City Hall lobby and the tax office would reopen a week from today, with the same restrictions in place as before.

Street Light Installation

The Mayor updated Council on the new lights installed on Greenwood and Fairwood lanes and the improvement of the lighting in the area.

Senior Wellness Center Update

The Mayor advised the project had to be delayed because the block layer was finishing another job.

The Mayor also reported the Silver Slippers workout and dance room was open and everyone was well pleased with the facility.

Fairwood Lane Street Drainage

The Mayor addressed the need to improve the street drainage in the area of the Bari Roy residence at #16 Fairwood Lane. He stated that because of blacktopping over an extended period of time, the road was preventing the water from draining.

The Mayor also reported that Ms. Roy had requested a curb cut to extend her driveway 12 foot on the southside of her current driveway to give her more parking area and allow for the installation of a storm drain, which would drain the area.

On a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to approve the curb cut and 12-foot extension of Ms. Roy's driveway, south from the existing driveway. All were in favor, motion carried.

1401 B Street Rental

The Mayor advised Council that Jeff White had requested that he be able to rent the house owned by the Town at 1401 B Street. After discussion on rent for the house and on a motion by Oscar Adkins and a second by Robert Leslie, Council voted to rent the house to Mr. White for \$500 per month, on a month-by-month basis. All were in favor, motion carried.

North Side of Main Street Light Replacement

The Mayor discussed removing three of the knee lights on the east side of Main Street and replacing them with new pole lights. All were in favor.

Executive Session

The Mayor took the meeting into executive session at 7:17 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

One day last week I found myself in the office sometime after six in the evening, struggling with budget reconciliations, answering calls about COVID protocols, and straining to working on next year's plan for town operations. It struck me that for many years the mayor position in Ceredo was a part-time office, and I wondered just how the work facing me could have been completed in an hour or so a day.

The answer is pretty obvious. For our first 100 years or so, the town operated with less than a handful of employees and a budget that didn't allow for many improvements. For the nest fifty years or so, several new funding sources filled Ceredo's coffers. Managing when there is more money than you can spend doesn't require a lot of time.

Things have changed. The combination of a sharply declining tax base (see: the coal industry, ANR, the

Ceredo Plaza, coal severance taxes, and state revenue sharing) and increased state regulations imposed on municipalities have simply created a situation that demands several hours a day of oversight. Perhaps former Mayors could do things faster, but I think the real answer is that we are just facing different times that require more attention if we are to maintain services and adjust town operations as we determine our future tax base.

Late Mayor Otis Adkins warned me four years ago that mayoring in Ceredo was fast becoming a full-time job. He was correct.

We have been very successful in carrying forth with the first four-year plan for Ceredo. Current planning is being done on a yearly basis until we can determine what our budget will be for the 2021-22 fiscal year, but there are a few projects that have been previously funded and should be

completed before July.

Work is nearing completion on the Senior Wellness Center, and I urge each of you to utilize the Center. It was built for you. The street lights installation project, started on Greenwood, Fairwood, and Main, will continue. Lighting will be installed on the outdoor courts in the town park, thanks to volunteer labor. The annual tree removal program, delayed in November with an injury to the contractor, should start in April.

In addition to the sanitary sewer upgrades explained elsewhere in this issue, stormwater projects on Greenwood and Fairwood Drives are scheduled to begin this summer. An increased number of houses, years of repaving, and not the best planning have left us with stormwater invading several driveways and yards. Hopefully, engineering work will be completed soon and funds will be available to complete these projects.

No capital equipment purchases (cars, trucks, heavy equipment) are anticipated over the next two years. Our town buildings are in good shape, as are our streets and alleys. Some annual paving will be required, but no major projects are anticipated. The WV Department of Highways is expected to pave Crescent Hill in the early summer.

If we can accomplish these things as we wait for the coal industry to stabilize so we can determine our new tax base, we should be ready by the start of the new fiscal year in July to put forth a second four-year plan for Ceredo. Any suggestions of projects you would like to see are welcome, and your continued efforts to maintain our clean streets and well-manicured yards are greatly appreciated.

ELECTION PREVIEW

The quadrennial Town of Ceredo general election will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2021. The town polling place is located at Town Hall, and polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. through 7:30 p.m. All registered voters residing in Ceredo are eligible to vote.

Incumbent Mayor Paul Billups and Recorder Stanley Fink, both representing the Citizens Party, are unopposed. Six persons have filed for the five seats on Town Council, including incumbents Robert Leslie, Joe Ratcliff, Oscar S. Adkins, and Steve Diamond. Current councilman Dennis Adkins is not seeking re-election. Ron Jarrell is running on the Citizens ticket, and Tommie L. Kelley is running as an independent for the

seat being vacated by Dennis Adkins. Voters may select not more than five candidates for the Town Council.

The absentee voting period began on February 2, 2021. Registered voters may request an absentee ballot application through March 14, 2021, by contacting the Clerk's Office at 304-453-1041 or visiting the office in person.

The early voting period starts March 5, 2021, and runs through March 17, 2021. Early voting will take place at Town Hall, Monday through Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Persons wishing to utilize the early voting period should bring one form of identification and check-in at the Clerk's Office.

OFFICIAL BALLOT GENERAL ELECTION Town of Ceredo, West Virginia March 20, 2021		
To vote for a candidate mark an "X" opposite to and at the left of the name		
CITIZENS PARTY	PEOPLES PARTY	NON-PARTISAN
FOR MAYOR (Vote For ONE)		
<input type="checkbox"/> PAUL A. BILLUPS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOR RECORDER (Vote For ONE)		
<input type="checkbox"/> STANLEY E. FINK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOR COUNCIL (Vote For Not More Than FIVE)		
<input type="checkbox"/> ROBERT LESLIE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> TOMMIE L. KELLEY
<input type="checkbox"/> RON JARRELL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> JOE RATCLIFF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> OSCAR S. ADKINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> STEVE DIAMOND	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Senior Wellness Center Nearly Complete

The Ceredo Senior Wellness Center, located in the former Ceredo Elementary School building on Main Street, is nearly complete.

When fully renovated the facility will include cardio equipment such as exercise bikes, treadmills, and elliptical machines, along with a complete set of Nautilus weight training machines. Additionally, the facility will include an indoor pickleball and walking court, a lounge area with coffee and television for our morning social club, corn hole boards, a Zumba/Yoga and Silver Sneakers exercise room, and a community meeting room. Also located in the facility is the Golden Girl Group Home fitness room and the C-K Alumni Band practice facility.

It is anticipated that the facility will be open to the public before the end of February. “Since acquiring the former school property we have considered many possible uses, and our greatest fear was that allowing the property to remain dormant would hasten deterioration,” said Mayor Paul Billups. “The availability of equipment from the closing of the C-K Fitness Center at the War Memorial Building in Kenova presented an opportunity to repurpose the old school

grounds in a way that should enhance the lives of our mature residents in Ceredo and Kenova. The building has, in a way, come full circle.”

Most of the work has been carried out by town employees, making the project affordable through the use of Special Levy funds earmarked for recreation purposes. Two of the old first grade rooms have been opened, creating one large space for the fitness equipment. Removal of the old single-pane glass windows, minor block work, and new insulated windows should make temperature control a tolerable expense. The old drop ceiling has been removed, exposing a beautiful wood ceiling that was constructed in 1956 and still looks new.

The gym has been repainted, as has the pickleball court. LED lighting has been installed in most areas, and a laminated wood floor was installed in the Zumba-Silver Sneakers room.

“With a very minor expense, the old school has been turned into a first-class facility for our residents,” said Town Treasurer Robert Leslie. “It will be wonderful to see the building once again as a vibrant part of our community, a place where residents can not only exercise, but also socialize. There

is truly something for every segment of our population in the facility.”

The town has appointed a Board of Directors for the Center – Doug Adkins, Barry Scragg, Ron Jarrell, Heather Ferguson, and Karin Dawson.

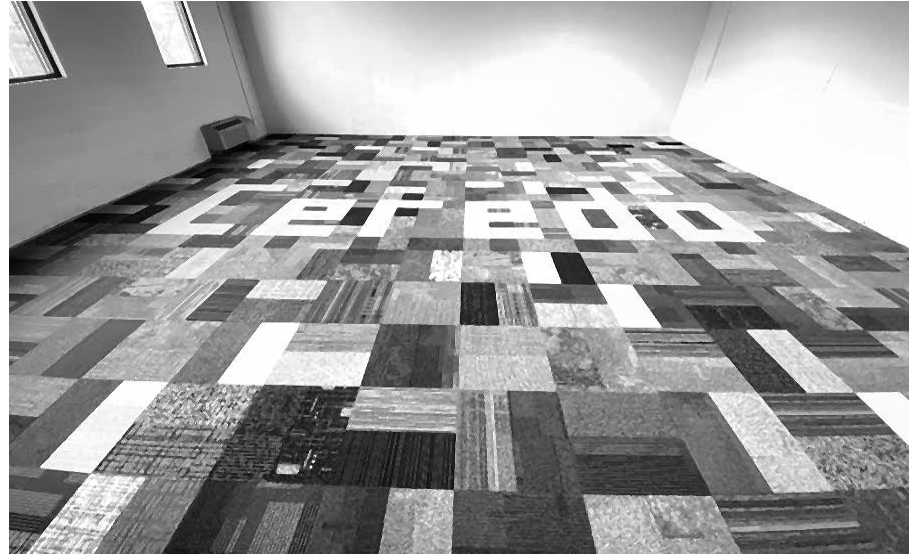
The Board has started meeting to determine such things as hours of operation, membership fees, and court rental fees. These items will be determined shortly and information will be made available on the town website: www.ceredovv.gov.

As a courtesy to persons holding memberships at the defunct C-K Community Center, the Wellness Center will honor those memberships along with Ceredo Pickleball Club memberships that were cut short by the COVID pandemic in March, 2020.

Residents of Ceredo and Kenova are urged to stop and tour the Wellness Center. The town has made every attempt to include “something for everyone”, and there aren’t many towns our size in West Virginia that have a facility such as this. Please take advantage of the opportunity as the old school comes back to life.



Soon to be Cardio Room after installation of carpet tiles.



Soon to be Nautilus Machine Room after installation of carpet tiles.



Recently painted Indoor Pickleball Court

Dennis Adkins Retires From Council

Councilman Dennis Adkins has decided not to seek re-election. A member of the Town Council since 2006, Adkins cited his age in the decision not to seek another four-year term.

“Dennis has been a steady voice on Council, a person that offers well-thought advice based on his years of experience. His knowledge will be sorely missed”, said Mayor Paul Billups. A long-time resident of Ceredo’s southside, Dennis embodied the thoughtful intelligence that made him an exemplary member of council.

An avid sports fan, it is expected that Dennis will now have more time to assist in coaching the Reds and Marshall football on television.

Six persons are vying for the five seats on council, with Ron Jarrell joining the Citizens Party ticket and Tommie L. Kelley running as an independent along with four incumbents – Robert Leslie, Oscar S. Adkins, Joe Ratcliff, and Steve Diamond.

“It has been a true pleasure serving with Dennis,” said Recorder Stanley Fink. “He is a good person and always had the best interests of our residents at heart during his 15 years as a council member. I’m sure he will make himself available to assist with special projects as we move forward.”

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

David Patrick doesn’t run quite as fast as he once did, nor has he lifted any cars lately, as he once could. Still, David contributes much to the daily activities in Ceredo. A graduate of Buffalo High School, David is a Master Electrician along with being a great carpenter and mechanic. In addition to keeping the lights on in Ceredo, Dave handles all electrical work associated with our floodwall pumps and sewer force system. Many of the seasonal wooden decorations displayed in Ceredo are the work of David Patrick, and he is the man that keeps our fleet of lawn mowers and weed eaters running.

Undoubtedly the most versatile employee on our staff, it will be impossible to replace the many skills possessed by David when he retires. “Anything that is a technical problem, the first place we turn is to David Patrick,” said supervisor Dustin Long. “Whatever the problem, it seems that David has done it before. Having him on staff prevents us from having to call a contractor on a regular basis.”

A resident of B Street, David and his wife Carole have two daughters, Megan, an attorney, and Summer, an accountant.

Police and Fire Training Center

As work progresses on the Ceredo Senior Wellness Center on the north side of the former elementary school facility, work is also underway on the south end of the former school building. The Ceredo Police Department, in a project led by Chief Tony Poston, is nearing completion of a two-room training center for police officers and emergency personnel. One room consists of physical training equipment, including cardio machines and weight training equipment. The second room is designed as an open workout area with mats on the floor where officers may train on hand-to-hand techniques.

“While we are a small department, it is important that our personnel are properly trained just the same as a larger department. We are fortunate to have this facility, and if used properly the training here will make our officers safer as they perform their duties. There is a very dangerous trend in America today with assaults against police officers, and those things can happen in small towns as easily as larger cities”, said Chief Poston.

In addition to the police training center, the Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department has utilized two former school rooms for training purposes. One room is in a classroom configuration, and fire personnel are using that room to conduct classroom training for new members. A second room is being configured to allow training in such things as confined space safety and building entry techniques. Fire Chief Rob Robson is in charge of the Fire Training Center, and Fire Marshal Dave Caudill has been conducting the classroom training programs.

Town Seeking Sewer Grant

Ceredo has applied to the West Virginia Critical Needs Funding Program for a grant to repair certain parts of the town sanitary sewer system in the area of 6th Street West and to extend the sanitary system from 6th Street West along the south side of the Speedway property to the Ceredo Plaza entrance at 4th Street West. If awarded, the grant will cover 100% of the project costs.

“The 6th Street sanitary sewer has been a problem for many years”, said Mayor Paul Billups. “The original line was installed around 1940, and after that time several private lines were attached, including the line from the old Wayside Inn property. When the current structure, the Towne Shoppes, was built, an incorrect connection was made that has created issues which need to be corrected.”

In addition to correcting the line at 6th Street, the sanitary sewer line will be extended to enhance economic development possibilities for unimproved properties at the intersection of 6th Street and Poplar Street, a vacant lot south of the Speedway property, and a vacant lot on Route 60 near the Ceredo Plaza entrance. A gravity-flow line will be laid from 6th Street West along the north side of the Ceredo Plaza property to join an existing main line.

Project costs are expected to be in the range of \$250,000. “Given that this is a 100% grant-funded project, it is a great opportunity for the town. We certainly don’t have the funds in our sewer utility to do these improvements, and our application appears to be on point with the state requirements for such projects”, said the Mayor.

Town Council has retained the services of Potesta and Associates for engineering and design of the project, and will be working with the Region II Planning and Development office to serve as project administrators. A decision on the grant application should be made within 45 days, and if successful, construction could begin in early summer.

CEREDO TOWN STATS

POPULATION 1,412

LAND 1.53 SQ. MI.

MALE 42.6%

WATER .73 SQ. MI.

FEMALE 57.4%

MEDIAN AGE 48.9

ELEVATION 552

HOUSING UNITS 718

AREA 2.26 SQ. MI.

“FIRST THINGS FIRST”

– Devotional thoughts from Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Ceredo.

“Seek **FIRST** the kingdom of God...” (Matt. 6:33)

What Love Really Looks Like

Here we are in the month of February. And even though winter’s chilly winds are still blowing all around us, there is still the warmth of love that permeates our hearts this time of year. Yes, Valentine’s Day! The day that no husband should ever forget! Love is so much a part of our everyday vocabulary. We love our spouses and children. We love our favorite meal. We love our favorite teams and players. And by the time this article goes out, we will know who the G.O.A.T truly is: Brady or Mahomes. The word “love” is

used in so many different ways for so many different things. But how do we really know what love is? Actually, love is one of those things that is better caught than taught. It’s better seen than explained. One of the most well-known verse in all of the Bible, and for many years the most quoted verse in all the Bible (until just recently), is John 3:16. If you grew up in church, you most likely learned it. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” These memorable words paint for us the picture of the greatest expression of love the world has ever seen or will ever know. There is no doubt that God loves us. He loves us all. As the Bible says

elsewhere, “God is love.” And God has shown his love through time in many different ways. But John tells us in this great verse that “God loved us in this way. He sent his one and only Son,” Jesus. No other expression of love can match that! But even the picture of John 3:16 is not fully complete. There’s a piece of that portrait that still needs to be added. Romans 5:8 says, “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Although God is love, he is also holy, and righteous, demanding perfection and perfect obedience to his holy law. That’s something we can’t do. And that’s the problem. We “fall short” of that glorious standard of perfection (see Romans 3:23). So, someone else has to

make up the difference for our failure to perfectly obey by taking the punishment for that disobedience. And God sent his Son Jesus Christ to do just that. God love us so much that he sent Jesus to die for us, even though we were “sinners.” So, do you want to know what love really looks like? Just look at a cross, where the only perfect man died for all imperfect people like you and me. And through that death, we will not face eternal punishment, but rather have “everlasting life.” But you still have to believe he did that for you! Do you? Will you? If you need help with this decision, or would like to talk to someone about it, reach out to us. We’d LOVE to talk to you!

Jeffrey F. Canterbury is the pastor of the First Baptist Church, 448 Main St., Ceredo WV. For more information about the church, including service times and archived messages, please visit the church’s website at www.fbcceredo.com. Or you can call the church at 304-453-2092. All scripture quotations are from the New King James version of the Bible. If you have any

questions related to the Bible you would like answered, please send them to Pastor Jeff at fbccsecretary@zoominternet.net or mail them to P.O. Box 967, Ceredo, WV 25507.



Our Doors Are Open To You!

Service Times:
 Sunday 10:45 am
 (In-person & Live Stream)
 Sunday 7pm
 (Live Stream)
 Wednesday 7pm
 (Live Stream)

448 Main St.
 Ceredo, WV 25507
 Phone: 304-453-2092
www.fbcceredo.com

Services live streamed on our website.

 Find us on Facebook:
 First Baptist Church
 Ceredo West Virginia

First Baptist Church Ceredo
 Pastor Jeffrey F. Canterbury

HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry.....	10/21
Jim and Pat Billups	02/21
John C. Hall	05/21
Paul and Kathy Billups.....	10/21
Jack and Ann Riggs	05/21
Mike and Susan Watts.....	10/21
Leigh Ann Johnson.....	04/22
Connie & Mark Beford.....	10/21
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter	10/21
In Memory of Herb & Helen Stephens	08/21
In Memory of Coach Dale Craycraft	08/21
In Memory of J. J. & Roma Gail Billups	08/21
In Memory of Houston & Gladys Woolwine.....	04/21
Katrina Childers.....	05/21
In Memory of Alberta “Dossie” & Sherman Medley	04/21
Herm Matney	08/21
In Memory of Anagene Wooten Gibbs	08/21
In Memory of Kathleen Wooren Marcum	08/21
In Memory of Larry Cole	08/21
In Memory of Charles & Dorothy Watts.....	09/21
Jeanette & Roger Barker	03/21
Karin & Mike Dawson.....	02/21
American Legion	01/21
Ceredo-Kenova Community Center.....	01/21
Evaroni’s	01/21
CUMC	12/21
Roberta and Charlie Mitchell	03/21
In Memory of Robert (Pete) & Carolyn Sullivan.....	04/21
Jennifer Ferguson.....	04/21
Oscar, Bonnie, Michelle Booth.....	04/21
John M. Spangler, Esq.....	05/21
In Memory of Frances Cornell.....	05/21
In Memory of WW. Mills, MD.....	05/21
In Memory of Larry Jack Heck	06/21
Floyd Mays	06/21
Mike & Karen Skeens.....	07/21
Keith and Freda Chadwick.....	07/21
Tyler Dawson, DDS	07/21
Raymond Keigley.....	07/21
Brenda Francis	07/21
O’Dell Mannon	07/21
Dr. Ron & Lucenda Akers.....	07/21
Marlene Simmons	07/21
The Flanagan Family of Saratoga Springs, NY.....	10/21
In Memory of Milton J. & Evelyn Mills	10/21
In Memory of Charles & Bet Pratt	10/21
Vern & Cindy Eagleston Blaine	11/21
Brother Otis Adkins.....	01/22
Brother Mose & Sister June Napier	01/22
Susann Meurer.....	12/21
Robert & Mary Lee Leslie.....	01/22

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

Former Chief Frazier Passes

Former Ceredo Police Chief Joe Frazier passed away at age 90 on January 31, 2021. Chief Frazier served the town for nearly twenty-five years, beginning his police career as a part-time officer in the early 1970s, and ending his career as Chief of Police in 1994.

A millwright by trade, Joe had a great interest in police work and when his construction career was sufficiently established to allow him some free time, he applied for a weekend job with the Ceredo department. After earning pension rights from the millwright’s union, Joe took full-time employment as a police officer.

During Joe’s time in Ceredo the town had four bars serving alcohol, and at least two of those establishments had regular fights on weekend nights. Being a small town, Ceredo had one officer on duty, thus breaking up a fight and arresting the combatants was not a job for the meek of heart. Joe didn’t shirk his duty, and the Ceredo Jail was a bust place most weekends. Local lore, which is likely true, has it that one Saturday night Joe brought 13 arrestees to Ceredo’s two-cell jail, thought to be a town record.

In days before radar, it was difficult to accurately estimate speeding, but Joe managed to do so, earning accolades for his work in maintaining safe driving on Ceredo streets. In retirement, Joe stayed in touch with the department and the town administration, always volunteering to return to duty if needed.

The administration and employees of the town mourn Joe’s passing. His smile and eagerness to enforce the law will be missed.



Former Ceredo Police Chief Joe Frazier

Gas Brought Sinclair to Ceredo

On May 8, 1936, the Huntington Herald-Dispatch reported that a gas well had been struck in Ceredo, and industrial opportunities were expected to soon follow. The well, located near High Street in Brownstown, South Ceredo, was drilled by the Sinclair Glass Company at the direction of the company's general manager, J.A. Morehead. The wells initial flow was stated to be 100,000 cubic feet, with a much larger flow expected when the well was "shot."

According to the Herald-Dispatch, the Ceredo well "means for a certainty that the Ceredo-Kenova area, like Huntington, has in its substrata an enormous reservoir of natural gas." The Huntington paper went on to predict that the inducement of "virtually free" natural gas would be an inducement for more factories to move to the area.

Astute Ceredo businessman and banker Henry J. Stark, apparently having bank funds involved with the operation and looking for ways to attract more business concerns to Ceredo, had a deal with the Sinclair company whereby should they develop gas in excess of the company's requirements, Sinclair would dispose of the excess to other industries in the Ceredo-Kenova area for not more than 15 cents per thousand cubic feet. This is a great example of the way Henry Stark worked, thinking ahead for the good of the entire community.

At the time of the initial news story, the well was down only 2,461 feet. Mr. Morehead stated that the well might be drilled deeper, or a second well might be drilled in South Ceredo. Sinclair immediately went to work on a Ceredo facility, located at the intersection of Main and High Streets on what is now American National Rubber property. Sinclair manufactured specialty glass, such as lenses for automobile lights, traffic lights, and flash lights.

Sinclair expected to be open in Ceredo by July 1, 1936, and planned to employ around seventy persons. The paper noted that many of the employees were expected to take up residence in Ceredo or Kenova in order to be near their place of employment.

To borrow from the late Paul Harvey, now the rest of the story ... Sinclair did indeed move their operations to Ceredo, and in due course the Brownstown well was "shot." Unfortunately, when the well blew the

drillers were drenched in crude oil instead of natural gas. The following morning, many houses in South Ceredo were covered with oily splotches. The well was capped within a few days.

Sinclair continued operations in Ceredo until the mid-1950's and employed a significant number of Ceredo residents, but the anticipated free flow of natural gas never became a reality. As far as records indicate, no other attempts were made to drill for gas in the Ceredo area, although in recent years mineral speculators have visited the area in hopes that the fracking method of production may make the fuel extractable in our town.



THE CEREDO STATE STORE

Perhaps the most controversial business ever to come to Ceredo was the "State Store," an outlet owned by the State of West Virginia for the sale of liquor by the bottle. Until 1990, the state controlled all bottle sales of alcohol, a very good program for state coffers but one that caused problems for more than one Governor.

In 1972, the Ceredo Beautification Committee was searching for funding sources. Floyd Stark, President of the Committee, approached Town Council with a proposal to open a "State Store" in Ceredo, with taxes generated by the store to be used for beautification purposes. At that time, there was significant opposition to the sale of alcohol in the town, many being of the opinion that the town would soon be overrun by drunks. It was decided to put the matter before the people, and after several public debates the townsfolk approved the resolution by a slim margin.

The proposed plan called for demolition of the former Flanagan's Drug Store Buck Combs' Barber Shop, and the infamous Hillbilly Haven Bar on Main Street. The town obtained a loan for the project to widen Main

Street and install angle parking with flower beds. Demolition of the old buildings started within days of the election, and a new colonial style building was constructed on Route



60 at the intersection with Main Street. A long-term lease with the State Alcoholic Beverage Commission was used to secure the town loan.

Prior to the opening of the Ceredo store, the closest place to purchase liquor or wine was at a state store near 14th Street West in Huntington, or perhaps at a bootleg establishment in Catlettsburg. Several of Ceredo's characters made daily trips to 14th

Street for a bottle of Thunderbird wine, and is safe to say that they all supported the idea of a state store located just down the block from the Pool Room.

agreement with the Beautification Committee, deciding that all taxes in excess of \$40,000 would go to the town general fund.

In 1977, at the expiration of the initial state lease, the liquor store was moved to the Ceredo Plaza and the colonial building at Main and 60 became a Chinese restaurant. Liquor sales in Ceredo continued to flourish, drawing many customers from a then-dry Kentucky. Between 1977 and 1981, annual sales in Ceredo topped \$2,000,000, making the Ceredo store the second largest, by volume, liquor store in West Virginia.

In 1990, West Virginia privatized the liquor business and the Ceredo store was purchased by Robert Null of Huntington. The store later moved from Ceredo, but thanks to those twenty-odd years of liquor sales many town projects were completed. There may have been an occasional intoxicated person in town, but certainly not to the extent feared when the vote was held in 1972.


It was anticipated that the liquor store would generate between 8 and 10 thousand dollars a year in tax revenue, which would go toward operating expenses of the Beautification Committee. The store opened in August, 1973, with Charley Watts serving as the general manager. Much to everyone's surprise, the store generated \$40,000 in taxes during its second year of operations. Town Council quickly adjusted the

**CEREDO-KENOVA
AMERICAN LEGION
POST 93
302 8th Street
Kenova, West Virginia**

"THE HOME OF HOSPITALITY"

**We Support the Youth of Our
Community!**

**Commader - Tom Hayes
Adjutant - Thomas Walker
Secretary - Becky Millne**



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



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Kenova Police Preparing for New Recruit Testing

The Kenova Police Civil Service Commission is now accepting applications for the position of Probationary Police Officer. The previous candidate list has now expired. The department currently has one opening and that opening should be filled as soon as the process is complete. The starting salary for a probationary officer is \$37,440 (\$18.00 per hour). Once the candidate receives a law enforcement academy certification, the starting salary is \$39,520 (\$19.00 per hour).

All applicants must be able to pass a physical ability test on March 13. The physical ability test is consistent with West Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards (LEPS). The standard requires candidates to properly perform 18 push-ups in one minute, 28 sit-ups in one minute, and to run 1.5 miles in less than 14 minutes 36 seconds.

The Civil Service Commission will conduct the written examination on March 20 to those candidates who pass the physical ability phase of the process.

Candidates who pass both phases of testing are also subject to a medical examination, drug screening, extensive background check, and polygraph examination prior to placement on the Civil Service eligibility list.

Kenova Police Chief Bob Sullivan said, "We are always excited to meet the new candidates. However, nearly all police agencies in this area are reporting a drop in the number of candidates interested in making law enforcement their career choice."

Kenova uses a national testing program to assist in the process. Sullivan added, "We will be offering materials to help potential candidates with the written test. The practice exam is free to those who properly file an application with the department. Those who take the test will receive a report on their score and suggestions on how to improve their score on test day."

"We have been very fortunate in the past five years. While the number of candidates overall might be lower, we have seen some good men and women show interest. We have been able to hire some outstanding candidates."

The entire state, if not the nation, is experiencing a lack of interest in law enforcement and the list of eligible candidates continues to decline. There are more than 150 municipal police departments in West Virginia. More than 120 of those agencies have ten officers or less.

The Kanawha County Sheriff's Office has recently assumed patrol duties in a number of that county's smaller communities. Small towns have difficulty recruiting and maintaining enough officers to provide adequate protection for their communities.

The times have obviously changed. The combination of agencies to provide law enforcement services is today's reality.

The Crescent Kitchen



Crescents for "The Crescent" by Natalie Hemann

I was looking for something different to make over the holidays and came across this recipe. I love crescent rolls so I knew I wanted to try it. I made it to go with our "party food" on Christmas Eve, but they would pair well with spaghetti or any pasta dish or to eat just as a snack. When I told my husband, Rick, that I was submitting this recipe to the next Crescent, being the "humorous" man that he is, he said, "crescents for The Crescent." So that is what I am naming this recipe!

Ingredients:

- 1 - Can (8 oz.) Refrigerated Crescent Rolls
- 1 - Tub (7.5 oz.) Chive & Onion

Cream Cheese Spread

¼ - Cup Finely chopped Tomatoes
(can also use canned petite diced tomatoes)

¼ - Cup Finely Chopped Red Peppers
4 - Slices Bacon, crisply cooked, drained and chopped

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Separate dough into 8 triangles and spread with cream cheese. Top evenly with remaining ingredients. Roll up, starting at shortest side of each triangle. Place point sides down on baking sheet. Bake 12 - 15 minutes or until light golden brown; do not over bake. Serve warm.

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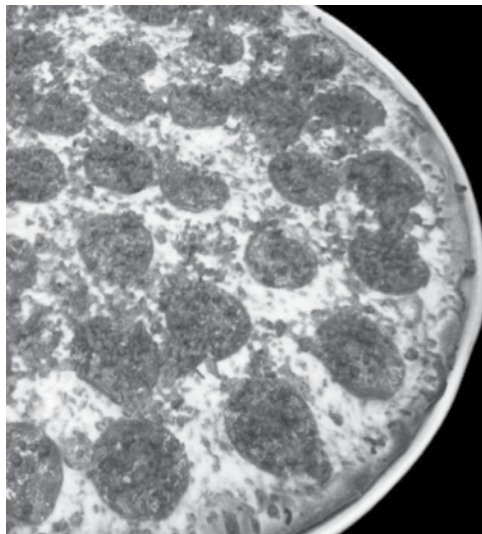


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A DAY AT THE MUSEUM

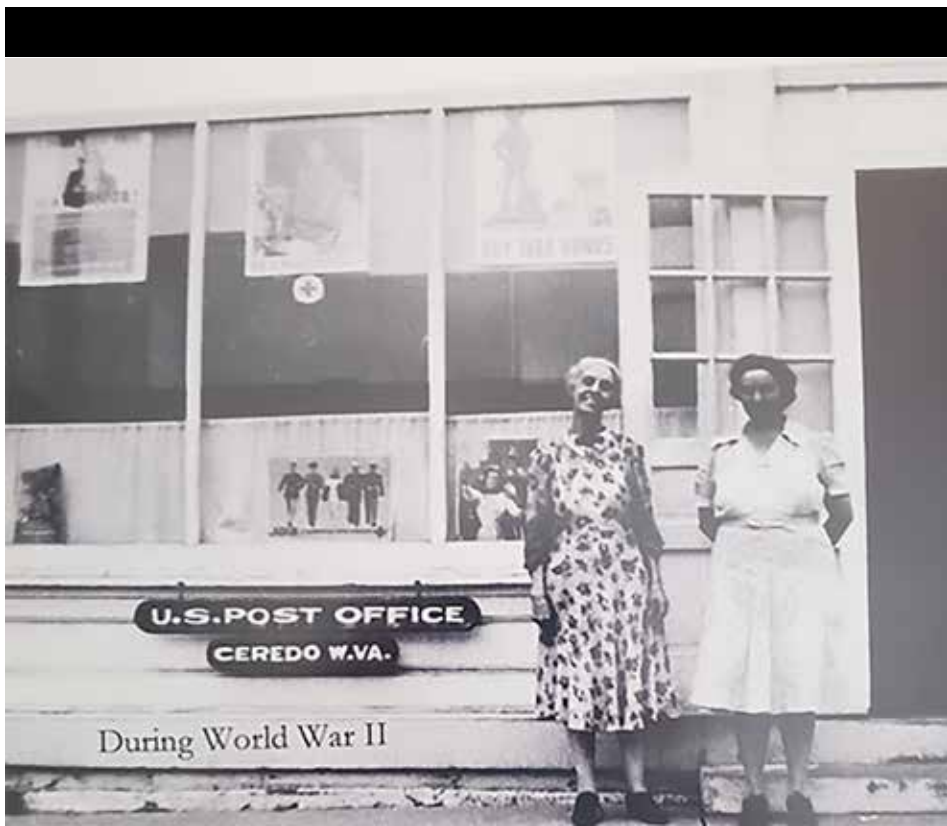
The Ceredo Museum is a goldmine of pictures and stories of Ceredo's past. During a recent visit several "the way we were" pictures rekindled memories of life in Ceredo.

CEREDO CREOSOTING

Located on Main Street and the river on the site now occupied by KRT, Ceredo Creosoting was a healthy business between the 1920's and 1947. The business handled most of the pine utility poles that were erected in the Tri-State, many of which are still standing today. The business employed around 30 men, and included a trucking division that delivered the freshly creosoted poles used by the power company.

The picture below was taken in 1936, and a note on the original picture tells us that the hourly pay that year was 27 cents. Yes, 27 cents an hour to handle long pine poles covered with creosote. Hard work for tough men.

Employees identified in the picture include: Lyle Dawes, Tommy Dawes, Homer Hall, Loren Casto, Arnette Adkins, Alfred Hoosier, Verlin Williams, Roy Akers, Sam Tingler, Sebert Albright, Emery Warrick, Jenkins Warrick, and Bascom Huff.



CEREDO POST OFFICE

Ceredo has a long and storied history with the United States Postal Service. One of our founders, Zopher Ramsdell, was appointed as Postal Inspector of the Mid-Atlantic region following the Civil War. This appointment was made in consideration of Ramsdell's service to the Union Army, and included authority over postal installations in West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. Ramsdell's son, Willy, later became postmaster in Ceredo.

For many years, the postal service was politically controlled. With each change in national political control, local postmasters came and went. This same change happened with the location of post office buildings – when a new party took power, they leased space for local post offices in buildings owned by political supporters. Thus, it was not uncommon for the site of a local post office to change every four or eight years.

In Ceredo, the earliest known post office was located in Zopher Ramsdell's house. By World War II, the post office was located in a building on Route 60 near Main Street. It later moved to space in the old First National Bank building, made a quick stop at Ep Cole's Hardware, back to Route 60 near Main Street, and finally to its present location on Route 60 just west of United Bank.

The picture below was taken during WWII, as is apparent from the War Bond posters in the windows.

The employees pictured are Mrs. Marcum and Mrs. Alvis.

C-K BASKETBALL

The Ceredo-Kenova basketball team in the 1949-1950 season featured an oddity at the time – a player six feet and six inches tall.

Lee Canterbury was a dominating figure on the court and later played at Ole Miss. One of the better Wonder teams in recent years, the 49-50 squad finished with a record of 14 wins and 10 losses. Included in the regular season was a rare 90-point performance in a victory over rival Vinson and a late-season win against Barboursville, avenging an early season 29-point loss to the same team. In the regional tournament, the Wonders rolled over Wayne and upset Huntington High before being eliminated by Huntington East.

Members of the team included Alvis Brown, Paul Rutherford, Pat Sizemore, Lee Canterbury, Hal Frazier, Lafe Parsley, George Bocook, Tommy Maynard, Jack Riggs, and Joe Hodge. The team was coached by Babe Mazza and Woch Null was the team manager.

Interesting side-stories from this team are the cases of Alvis Brown and Joe Hodge. Alvis, a talented baseball player, spent one summer playing for a coal company team in southern West Virginia. Alvis later enrolled at Marshall and was playing for The Herd when someone protested that he had defaulted college eligibility by playing for pay at the coal company. The protest ended Alvis' playing career, but he later served as head baseball coach at Marshall for several years.

The other player of interest is Joe Hodge. Joe was a member of the



Wonders football team, but didn't get a lot of playing time. During these years, Fort Gay High School didn't have lights on their football field, thus played their games on Saturday afternoons. Hodge had a relative on the Fort Gay coaching staff, and after playing at C-K on Friday nights, he went to Fort Gay on Saturday afternoons and played for the Vikings.



CVFD – 1954

In 1954 the Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department was in its infancy. Operating with makeshift equipment and brave souls, the group posed for a department picture in front of Station One (the only station).

Members pictured are, front row, Phillip Carver, Russell Hutchinson, Bill Jolley, John Hall, and Grover Lyons. Back row, Homer Hall, Randy Hall, Bob Eagleston, Houston Woolwine, and Bill Lyons.