

Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session December 7th, 2020 at the Ceredo City Hall

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, December 7th, 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 Councilman 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 November 2nd, 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 November 2nd, 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 December 7th, 2020. The Mayor asked for questions on the report. None being heard, the Mayor asked that the Treasurer's report be made part of the minutes.

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

Wayne County News

The Mayor introduced Ms. Sara Ingram as the reporter covering the council meetings for the Wayne County News.

COVID-19 Update and Impact

The Mayor reported there had been relatively no changes to the Town operations in the last month. He added that the Town was still applying for the CARES Act funds through the State in hopes of being reimbursed for expenses incurred relating to mitigating the spread of the virus. He pointed out the hand sanitizer stands as a good example of items that could be reimbursed by the CARES Act monies.

KRT Deeds Finalized

The Mayor advised the deeds for the property that had been acquired from Kanawha River Terminals had been received and filed and the Town was now the title owner of the four (4) properties.

Street Light Installation

The Mayor advised the street light installation would start on Greenwood and Fairwood this week and due to the condition of the current pole, a new street light would be installed at the corner of Main and B Streets, just outside City Hall.

Wall of Honor at the City Hall

The Mayor asked Council to give serious consideration for nominees to be added to the Wall of Honor next month. He stated he would like to look at nominees every January who, over the years, had worked for the good and welfare of the Town on a volunteer basis.

Council Chambers Heating and Air Conditioning

The Mayor advised Council that Ross and Williamson had repaired two of the heating and air conditioning units servicing Town Hall, those being the original equipment installed when Town Hall was built.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Violation Notice

The Mayor addressed a letter from the EPA informing the Town that a boil water advisory notification had not been published in a timely manner in 2017. The Mayor advised Council a letter had been sent to the EPA addressing future reporting procedures.

Route 60 Entry Sign Proposals

The Mayor presented to Council, for their consideration, designs and bids for a new Town entry sign.

On a motion by Joe Ratcliff and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to approve design and bid of Paris Signs for the purchase of a new Route 60 entry sign for the Town. All were in favor, motion carried.

Lights for the Pickle Ball Courts

The Mayor addressed the proposals for lights at the pickle ball courts. He advised that State Electric had submitted the low bid for supplying the poles, wiring and LED lights at a cost of \$4,500 and that monies for the project were available in the Special Levy.

The Mayor advised Council that Mike Dawson, Charles Mitchell, Dallas Adkins, Bob Sparks, and Jeff Mannon had volunteered to install the lights on a volunteer basis.

On a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to pay State Electric \$4,500 for the purchase of the poles, wiring and LED lights at the pickle ball courts. All were in favor, motion carried.

Community Center Equipment Purchase

The Mayor discussed the developments at the former Ceredo Elementary School for the use of the exercise equipment purchased from the C-K Fitness Center.

The Mayor also discussed the various community needs for groups to have a place to meet and socialize, as well as to exercise. Discussion was held regarding the replacement of some windows, floor coverings and repairs to the heating and air conditioning systems.

Temporary Closing of the Ceredo Museum and the Ramsdell House

The Mayor advised he had spoken with the curators of the Museum and the Ramsdell House about the usage of the facilities during the pandemic and had suggested closing them for a couple of months.

After discussion and on a motion by Joe Ratcliff and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to close the Ceredo Museum and the Ramsdell House for a period of two (2) months. All were in favor, motion carried.

Longevity Pay

The Mayor and Council discussed a longevity pay for the Town employees.

On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to modify the current longevity pay to \$500 for employees with 5 years or more of service and \$250 for employees with less than 5 years of service. All were in favor, motion carried.

Water and Sewer Software

The Mayor and Council discussed the need for updated software for the water and sewer billing programs.

On a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to purchase software updates for the water and sewer programs from the current provider, Ampstun, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. All were in favor, motion carried.

Police Dispatch

The Mayor reported that the dispatch for the police department was doing well with no problems.

Adjournment

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

We have rounded the calendar year in what has been one of the more difficult years in American history. It does appear that relief is in sight with the COVID vaccine being distributed, and we will hopefully achieve some sense of normalcy within the next few months. That said, we must still maintain caution and follow protocols until the virus is behind us.

The changing of the calendar year is a time that causes many of us to reflect on the prior months and look, hopefully optimistically, toward the future. While municipal government operates on a July-June fiscal year, January nonetheless causes me to take stock of where we are and where we wish to go. As I have been doing this over the past couple of weeks, I thought it might be helpful to recount what has been accomplished in Ceredo during the recent past, and to ask each of you for suggestions as to things you may want to see for the town in the coming months.

In bullet-point form, following is a review of what your town administration has accomplished:

- New landscaping around Town Hall
- New landscaping along Main Street between B and Route 60
- New landscaping along Route 60 East
- Replacement tree program, removing 14 dead/diseased trees to date and planting 24 new trees
- Repair of entrance markers on Greenwood and Fairwood Drives
- Modernization of the town computer system
- Updated the maintenance fleet with 3 new trucks
- Updated snow removal equipment
- Updated police fleet with 4 new vehicles
- Purchased new protective vests for all police officers
- Purchased new firearms for all police officers
- Created the Ceredo Farmers Market
- Refurbished the interior of Town Hall with new carpet and countertops
- Replaced HVAC system at Town Hall
- Acquired the former Ceredo school property
- Acquired four properties from Kanawha River Terminals
- Demolished 5 dilapidated houses
- Updated water and sewer billing software
- Brought B&O, floodwall, and storm-water collections to over 95%

- Constructed outdoor pickleball courts and refurbished the southside basketball court
- Refurbished and opened to the public the Ramsdell House
- Installed modern street signs at every intersection
- Purchased modern LED street lights and decorative poles
- Corrected stormwater issues along Route 60 and at 6th Street West
- In the process of opening the Ceredo Senior Wellness Center
- Negotiated the construction of the Golden Girl Group Home Retail Center
- Completed the annual street paving program
- Repaired over 300 feet of bad sidewalks
- Removed more leaves than anyone could think possible
- Renegotiated town insurance policies to reduce costs by \$110,000

Your Town Council has been diligent in the performance of their duties to accomplish these things, especially in light of significant decreases in tax revenue that will affect municipal funding for the foreseeable future. In addition to the tangible

things that we can see, the Council has also created a water and sewer maintenance fund, as mandated by the Legislature. Most small cities and towns have not been able to comply with this directive, aimed at ensuring the financial viability of municipal utilities, but Ceredo has done so.

All the while, we have maintained the best municipal services in the state. Twice a week garbage service, clean streets, rare water disruptions, and excellent police and fire service – all provided for the lowest municipal rates in the Ohio Valley. To continue at this pace in light of decreasing revenue, it will require that the town work efficiently and that Ceredo residents continue their long history of volunteering services for the public good. I have no doubt that our residents will step up and our goals will be accomplished.

As members of the town government prepare our plan for the next couple of years, it is important that if you have an idea or suggestion that might enhance town operations or life in Ceredo, please let us know. Town government is here to serve you; thus, it is important that we know what the town can do to improve services or make your life better.

Let's hope the virus is soon behind us, and that 2021 will be another great year in the history of West Virginia's "Most Livable Small Town."

CHARACTERS OF CEREDO

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

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

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

his beat may be.

There have been a handful of people in the last 100 years that changed the way we live in Ceredo. These people were mostly businesspersons, elected officials, or sportsmen. Most lived the entirety of their lives here, thus perhaps their individual interests in making the town a better place. One, however, was only with us a short while but accomplished enough during his years here to have affected our lives in very positive ways.

Tom Roberts was a native of Donora, Pennsylvania, and attended the University of Pittsburgh. Following graduation from Pitt, Mr. Roberts took employment with Ashland Oil and moved to the tri-state around 1940. Shortly after beginning his employment in Ashland, Tom met and married Julia Stark, daughter of one of Ceredo's most prominent residents, Henry Stark.

A likeable man that quickly earned the respect of Ceredo residents as he assimilated into our community, Tom set forth during the following fifteen years to create a number of businesses that enhanced life in Ceredo.

In retrospect, Mr. Roberts was in the same class as his father-in-law as both an entrepreneur and a sportsman.

Henry Stark built the Wayside Golf Course in Ceredo, a well-remembered 9-hole track that brought golf to the general population of Ceredo. Tom Roberts took operational control of the golf course, and in short order brought a new national craze, "carpet golf", to our town. In addition to the miniature golf course that entertained families, Tom Roberts also added a driving range on the Wayside property and built concrete outdoor ping-pong tables. The importance of these things is that without Tom Roberts bringing them to us, most people in Ceredo at that time would never have had the opportunity to play golf, miniature golf, or ping-pong. Thanks to Tom, we did.

In addition to his work around the golf course, Mr. Roberts also built the Green Gables Motor Cabins (the Holiday Inn of their day) near 6th Street West, and established the Green Gables mobile home park (still in operation today along 6th Street West). With much activity in the area, it was logical

that a restaurant-bar be built, thus Mr. Roberts built the Wayside Inn.

As our town continued to grow and the Wayside Golf Course was being squeezed on all sides, Mr. Roberts designed a way for a new national craze, drive-in movie theaters, to come to Ceredo. By building an entry road from Route 60 across the number one fairway, the Ceredo Drive-In was built around 1949. In perhaps his last venture before moving his family to Florida in 1956, Mr. Roberts built the first mechanical baseball batting cages in Ceredo.

Any discussion of things that were instrumental in Ceredo's history must include a full handful of things that would not have been here but for Tom Roberts. We all share great memories of the golf course he operated, of our first venture with carpet golf, learning what ping-pong was, and nights at the Ceredo Drive-In. The Wayside Inn changed hands several times after the Roberts family left Ceredo, being operated for a while by Willie Muncy and later owned by Otis Adkins and operated under the Ceredo Lounge name.

Tom Roberts was only with us for fifteen years, but in that short time he made Ceredo a better place, and opened the world to those living here at the time. We are glad Tom Roberts came, and certainly wish he would have stayed longer.



Tom Roberts

Lonnie Hits 90!

Ceredo resident Lonnie Carpenter celebrated his 90th birthday on January 11, 2021. Lonnie is a native of Ceredo's south side and remains very proud of his roots. A graduate of Ceredo-Kenova High School, Lonnie spent his working career in the banking industry with an occasional venture as an entrepreneur. Following a number of years associated with Huntington banks, Lonnie

returned to First Bank Ceredo and built a house on Greenwood Drive.

In the mid-1970's, Lonnie was instrumental in the formation of Farmer's Federal Savings, initially located in the 700 block of C Street. With the closing of Leslie's Restaurant, Lonnie directed the move of Farmer's Federal to the former Leslie's location on Route 60. Farmer's eventually sold to BB&T after Lonnie's retirement.

In addition to his vocation, Lonnie was involved with many community projects and served as a member of the Ceredo Town Council. These days, Lonnie serves as one of Ceredo's foremost historians, often providing information about "what used to be" for the benefit of our residents. Anyone that hasn't had the opportunity to sit a spell on Lonnie's porch to listen to yarns of bygone days is missing a Ceredo treasure.

The New Crescent congratulates Lonnie Carpenter on the occasion of his 90th birthday, and thanks him for his service as one of Ceredo's true sons.

Tax Office Re-Open

The Wayne County Tax Office located in Ceredo Town Hall reopened on Monday, January 11, 2021. The office will be open on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8 until noon and 1 to 4. The office had been closed due to COVID restrictions since October.

Representatives of the Sheriff and Assessor will staff the office. Persons may pay county taxes and purchase vehicle renewal stickers at the Ceredo office. Social distancing protocols will be in place, and as long as the public recognizes these precautions the office will remain open.

The Ceredo satellite office was created by former Sheriff David Pennington, and has been a very convenient location for residents of our area to handle matters that otherwise might require a drive to Wayne. The cooperation of Sheriff Rick Thompson and Assessor Ric Browning in maintaining the Ceredo office is greatly appreciated.

Please keep in mind that the Town merely provides space for the tax office, and town employees are not able to perform functions or answer questions relating to county tax matters.

Street Light Project Underway



Installation of our new street lights has begun. The first six lights were installed on Fairwood and Greenwood Drives, and a seventh light was installed at the corner of Main and B Street beside Town Hall.

According to reports from Greenwood and Fairwood residents, the new decorative posts and LED lights are a great addition to the town. The new lights provide enhanced brightness and are directed to the streets and public areas without interfering with residential windows. The next phase of installation will include Main Street, starting at the intersection with B Street and extending to the old school grounds.

Fire Damages Delcie's House



Fire damage at Delcie's House.

The residence of one of Ceredo's most well-known and respected citizens, Delcie Elkins, was damaged by fire on December 23, 2020. The fire started in the kitchen of the residence located on the corner of Main and High Streets at approximately two o'clock in the afternoon.

Thanks to excellent work by the Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department, ably assisted by the Kenova Volunteers, the fire was quickly brought under control and actual fire damage was limited to the kitchen area. Unfortunately, the remainder of the dwelling suffered heavy smoke damage. According to the fire report, the conflagration was extinguished in twelve minutes after receiving the 911 call. Excellent work by the fire department.

Most of us know the house because of the beautiful landscaping and flowers that cover Delcie's yard. Known as "Ceredo's Flower Lady" because of her work in planting and maintaining flower gardens around town, Delcie resides with her son Donnie and nephew Clyde. Delcie and Donnie escaped without injury, and Clyde was on his daily route at the time of the fire.

Last month's New Crescent featured a picture of Christmas decorations on the 800 block of Main Street, along with recognition of Delcie, Suzanne Woods, Sherry Johnson, and Michelle Chatterton. During this tragedy, the ladies quickly came together to assist Delcie and her family, including taking donations to assist the family until such time as the house is repaired. Persons wishing to donate may drop your donation at Town Hall or contact Suzanne Woods.



vehicle fire at a Briarcliff residence

The fire at Delcie's house started a busy 24 hours for the fire department. Later that day the staff responded to a serious vehicle accident on Walker's Branch, and the following morning a vehicle fire at a Briarcliff residence caused damage to an attached garage. "The Fire Department was great," said Ms. Elkins. "They were here by the time Donnie and I got outside, and they really saved our house from being damaged worse. The fire was spreading fast."

At last report, Delcie hopes to be back in her house within two or three months, depending on how the weather affects rebuilding efforts.

“FIRST THINGS FIRST”

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

Looking Back... Looking Forward (Some Random New Year's Thoughts)

With the turning of the page of the calendar, we have exited 2020 and welcomed the new year of 2021. And while the old year has bid us “goodbye,” many of us have walked away from it with almost a celebratory “good riddance”! By everyone’s estimation, 2020 was NOT an easy year! Having faced a pandemic, with all of the associated issues with it — lockdowns, economic downturns, fatigue with restrictions, toilet paper shortages (sorry, I couldn’t resist!) – we are all hopeful that the new year will bring better days.

The name for the month of January comes out of Greek and Roman mythology. The Roman god Janus was the god of doors and had two faces, one looking backward and the other looking forward. In many ways, that is exactly where we are right now, having walked through the “door” of the new year (if we can retain the metaphor). As we look forward to new opportunities, new possibilities, and even new challenges the new year may bring our way, it’s also good to look back at what has been, not with regret, but with gratitude. If you survived 2020, BE THANKFUL! Remember the good, and put the bad behind you. And then look forward with anticipation to what may yet happen this year. This is somewhat similar

to Paul’s thoughts in Philippians 3:13-14, where he exhorts us to forget the things that are behind and to reach forward to the things which are before. We don’t know fully what’s in store in 2021, but we can still look forward to the fresh start the new year will provide.

One of the things we most certainly need to do is to seek God’s direction for the new year. As we said before, we don’t know what the new year will bring, but He does! Seeking God can help us avoid many of the pitfalls in life that await those who simply presumptuously press forward with their own plans and ambitions. In my home in Ceredo, I have a plaque that my wife bought for us that quotes Proverbs 16:3, “Commit to the Lord whatever you do

and He will establish your plans.” Far from being presumptuous, Solomon tells us that we can depend on God to accomplish HIS plans and purposes in us. And when that happens, everything will be just as it should be, even in the midst of a pandemic. Back in 1908, a British poet named Minnie Louise Haskins wrote a poem entitled, “God Knows,” also known as “The Gate of the Year.” One part of that part reads this way: I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.” And he replied: “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.” That’s good advice!

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CEREDO!

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@zoom-internet.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.....	10/20
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.....	10/20
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter	10/21
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 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.....	09/20
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	12/20
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!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FIRST AMENDMENT

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ceredo’s First Epidemic

The COVID-19 pandemic continues with an ever-increasing number of Ceredo residents being affected. Travel restrictions, social restrictions, mask mandates, hygiene mandates, and business closures have altered our lives to a degree that we have never experienced. These days are not, however, the worst ever experienced by Ceredo residents.

In early 1903, there were approximately 500 persons residing in Ceredo, the town having struggled back to its pre-Civil War population. The town was once again robust, with several business establishments operating and talks of a large railroad presence coming in the near future. Within ten months, Ceredo was for the second time in its roughly fifty-year existence ravaged by an event that changed the course of the town forever.

Smallpox. The dreaded, deathly disease that spread across large portions of America found its way to Ceredo. Contact tracing being rather difficult at the time, there are several hypotheses about just how the virus first arrived. Some believe a former railroad employee, then living in St. Louis, sent a letter to a friend in Ceredo. The St. Louis man was infected, and unwittingly licked the envelope shut, thus sending germs to Ceredo. Another theory is that the virus found its way to the Wayne County Jail, and released prisoners brought it to our community. The most likely theory is that the virus was rampant in the Central City section of Huntington, and by personal contact spread westward to Ceredo.

Whatever the origin, the smallpox virus hit Ceredo with a vengeance. The Town Council quickly passed an ordinance “forbidding anyone getting off the streetcar coming from Huntington.” It wasn’t until August, 1903, that health officials in Huntington admitted that the city was suffering an outbreak of the disease. By that time several local cities and towns had joined Ceredo in placing a quarantine against people traveling from Huntington.

After Ceredo placed the

quarantine against Huntington, that city dispatched two men – a Judge LaLance and Dr. Lesage – to visit Ceredo for the purpose of investigating the conditions here. Upon exiting the streetcar at Main Street, both visitors were detained by Ceredo Town Sergeant J.O. Marcum and were on their way to the local jail when Mayor W.F. Sturgill intervened and put the gentlemen on the next streetcar back to Huntington. Huntington newspapers complained bitterly about their delegation being returned to the city and about being quarantined by Ceredo, but the quarantine stood.

By August, Huntington instituted a program to mark houses where infected persons were residing. A yellow flag was placed on each of the identified houses, and no one was allowed to enter or leave the premises unless they were being transported to a “pestilence house”, where victims were taken to be quarantined from the world until they either recovered or met their fate.

Two such houses were established in Ceredo during October, 1903, one on Brownstown Road and the other at the east end of town on Bridge Street. Guards were hired to ensure that no one entered or left the “pest houses”. Kenova established a “pest house” at 8th and Poplar, operated under the same rules as the Ceredo houses.

Every night, a horse-drawn wagon visited each “pest house” in Ceredo and Kenova to carry the days victims to their final resting place. A bell was placed around the horse’s neck to warn passersby that the wagon carried bodies that were infected with the virus. The wagon slowly made its way up Brown’s Hill (now known as Crescent Hill) in Ceredo to what was established as the smallpox cemetery, located across the road from the present-day Crescent Hill Cemetery. It speaks of the dread people had of the disease that the victims were buried at night.

By the end of October, 1903, it was reported that 118 Ceredo residents had died of smallpox, with 20 people then confined to “pest houses.” This would have been roughly 20% of the town

population. On November 1, 1903, a mass meeting was held in Kenova to decide whether a quarantine should be placed against Ceredo. The residents of Kenova voted to place the quarantine against Ceredo, and also voted to prohibit persons from other towns and communities along the Norfolk & Western rail line from entering that city. Additionally, the Kenova City Council resolved to order all children off the streets and directed the Town Sergeant to kill all stray dogs and cats running loose in public places. Ten armed guards from Huntington were hired by Kenova to enforce all aspects of the city’s quarantine rules.

Ceredo took action by closing all schools, mandating that all residents be vaccinated against the disease, and hiring an additional 15 men to watch over the “pest houses.” Shockingly, the smallpox vaccine had been available for over 100 years, but the public failed to heed the warnings of medical professionals to be vaccinated. The fear of being vaccinated directly led to a great loss of life in Ceredo and elsewhere. Local physicians Wharton, Shirley, and Burns worked tirelessly to vaccinate Ceredo residents once the mandate was in place, and the smallpox epidemic was gradually brought under control. It took several decades for Ceredo to fully recover from the population loss caused by the virus, and the fear of being vaccinated.

As we complain today about how COVID-19 has changed our lives and the restrictions we have lived under for the past ten months, we need but to recall how difficult things were in 1903. Many of the things we complain about today were experienced before – restrictions on travel, closing of schools, contact tracing by another name. Perhaps most importantly this month, we are again hearing of persons refusing to be vaccinated. Unlike in 1903, the government will not now mandate vaccinations, but like 1903, if we do not move forward to end COVID by being vaccinated, the virus will take many more of us before it ends.

Crescent Hill Cemetery Annual Report

The Ceredo Crescent Hill Cemetery Board of Directors recently presented their annual report of activities for calendar year 2020. Board members are Stanley Fink, Charles Clarkson, Kevin Moore, Ric Griffith, and David Amos. Mayor Paul Billups serves as ex-officio chair.

•Income for 2020 totaled \$6,350, derived from the sale of 9 standard plots and 8 cremation plots

•There were 21 burials at Crescent Hill in 2020, bringing the total number of interments at Crescent Hill to 1,704

•Several decayed trees were removed from the cemetery grounds and flower gardens were refurbished

•A new flagpole was erected at the main cemetery entrance

•A new entrance sign was installed along with a cemetery map designating sections of the grounds

•Brochure stands were installed to provide information to visitors

•Board members conducted a complete cemetery survey and located 98 burial sites not previously charted

•A comprehensive list of all burials, including birth and death dates along with military status, was compiled

•The graves of 166 military veterans were designated

•Headstones of 34 graves were marked for repair, and 26 veteran's graves without military markers were identified

•According to archival records produced prior to Ceredo's purchase of the cemetery, there are 186 unmarked graves at Crescent Hill

•In conjunction with the Gold Star Mothers, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Town of Ceredo, Crescent Hill took part in the Wreaths Across America program

•The Crescent Hill Cemetery website was updated and added to the Town of Ceredo website, www.ceredowv.gov. The complete list of Crescent Hill burials, along with grave plot locations, is available on this website

•Obituary notices maintained at the Ceredo Museum were updated, making research easier

The Cemetery Board did a great job this year, and more improvements will undoubtedly follow. Persons having suggestions or requests about the cemetery may contact the Board by leaving a message at Town Hall – 304-453-1041.



Image from Wreaths Across America



Image from Wreaths Across America

- OPINION - The Direction of America Mike Watts

I certainly do not condone what went on in Washington last week. It makes America look like a country out of a 1966 Harold Robbins novel (The Adventurers). I believe that we, democrats, republicans, liberals, conservatives, black, brown and white, have allowed and are allowing America to start a downward spiral from which it may never recover. The thing most disturbing to me is that we are so polarized, we look at the same thing but seem to see it in two entirely different ways – refusing to see or accept what is happening before our eyes for what it really is.

It is my opinion that we are allowing the media to dictate, or at least influence, our view of nearly every issue of importance. The power of television news coverage, combined with that of social media, is scary, but even more disturbing – it is dangerous. It seems that the average American of today is not interested, capable or willing to listen to what is being said and then doing his or her “due diligence” to see if what is being reported is factual

or not. Facebook and Twitter have granted themselves the sole right of censorship in the dissemination of information. They do this by having the ability to freeze or lock accounts that express views the companies do not support. This is censorship, plain and simple, and should not be tolerated or accepted by anyone. I would submit that “Snopes” and “FactCheck” are not reliable sources for those who seek the truth but are too lazy or unwilling to do their own thorough research.

Last week's “protest” on our nation's Capitol was a disturbing and unfortunate event that should not have happened, but it did. You have probably noticed that I referred to those events as a “protest” rather than a riot. This too, is an example of how people view what is happening right before their eyes in entirely different ways. The media continues to refer to the events that took place earlier this year in Portland, Seattle, and Minneapolis as “peaceful protests” carried out by concerned citizens. To me, it seemed like mass rioting, looting,

and intimidation by a mob. However, I don't remember seeing it reported that law enforcement officers killed any of the peaceful protesters that wrought havoc on entire neighborhoods for days, or in Portland's case, for months. Yet, yesterday the Capitol Police shot and killed a 35 year-old woman (who was a USAF veteran) as she tried to climb through a door at the Capitol. After all that happened in Washington last week, I saw no reports of mass looting or destruction of public or private property in retaliation for police action against the “protesters.” I wonder why? Could it be that there was no retaliatory burning of neighborhoods or looting of stores?

Again, I suppose what you see and how you interpret it is up to the individual. I appears to me that parts of Minneapolis were nearly destroyed by “peaceful protesters” – lots of burning, looting, violence, destruction of property and disrespect to our flag. At the Capitol, there was definitely disrespect for civility and the rule of law, which is

totally unacceptable.

My whole point is that what is happening internally in America has to stop before it is too late to save the Republic as we know it. Don't be afraid to speak out about what is happening to our country, and do your part to try to get America back on track. A good start would be advocating for 12-year term limits for all members of Congress. If you don't agree that something needs to be done, what we see next happening to America may change the country forever.

Editor's Note: Mike Watts is a former Ceredo resident, graduate of Marshall University, Marine Corps veteran, and pretty fair quarterback. Mike currently resides in Oklahoma, where he golfs and pontificates on the future of America. The opinions expressed in this article are entirely those of the writer, and not necessarily those of The New Crescent.

American Legion Post 93

302 8th Street


Kenova, WV

304-453-6722

The Home of Hospitality

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

WE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY!



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



GOOD SAMARITAN FOOD PANTRY

Helping Our Neighbors in Need!

1523 Chestnut Street, Kenova, WV

Tuesdays 6:30 – 8:00 pm • Thursdays 1:00 – 2:30 pm

ROCCOS
RISTORANTE

“Fine Foods with a Personal Touch”

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

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

252 MAIN ST CEREDO
453-3000

Receive notifications by

- Call
- Email
- Text
- And more

SIGN UP NOW


For one-step notifications
SIGN UP TODAY.
Get local news and alerts instantly.

CIVICREADY
Powered by RingCentral

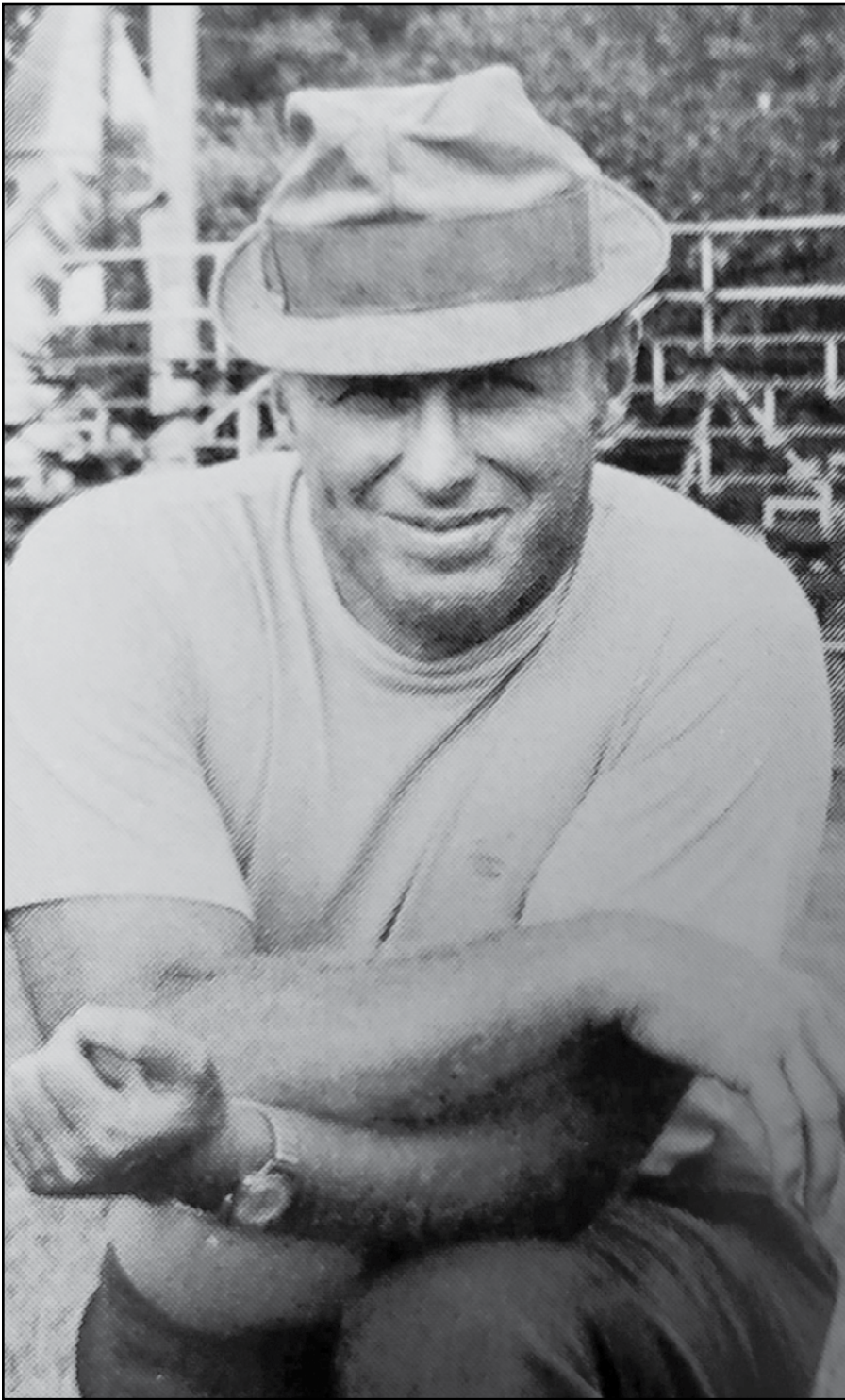
In All The World There Is

Only One Evaroni's

US RT. 60 914 Oak Street, Kenova, WV



In memory of Coach Carl Ward 1929 – 2020



The Crescent Kitchen



SKILLET CHICKEN MAC & CHEESE by Natalie Hemann

Since the pandemic I have been cooking a lot more than I used to, which means there are a lot more dishes to clean. I am blessed to have a dishwasher, and a pot and pan scrubber named Rick! I don't want to overwork either one, so I am happy when I can find a dish that does not involve a lot of clean-up and this dish fits the bill. You fix your meat, vegetables, and starch all in one pan. So when you want a one pot meal, or should I say one skillet meal, you might want to try this.

Happy New Year! 2021 has to be better than 2020!

Ingredients:

- Cooking Spray**
- 4 - Small Boneless Chicken Breasts
- 1 - Tbs. Olive Oil
- 1 - Tsp. Poultry Seasoning
- 1 - Package (10.8 oz) of Steamfresh

- Broccoli, Cauliflower, & Carrots**
- 1 - Package (7.25 oz.) Kraft Macaroni & Cheese
- 2 - Cups Water
- 1 - Cup Shredded Cheddar Cheese

Directions:

Spray a large skillet with cooking spray; turn to medium high heat; add chicken breasts. Drizzle the chicken breasts with the olive oil and sprinkle them with the poultry seasoning. Cook chicken until brown on both sides. Cook the Steamfresh vegetables in the microwave according to package directions and add to chicken; add macaroni & cheese mix to pan and add water. Add ½ cup of cheddar cheese and stir. Bring to a boil for 2 minutes; cover and reduce heat to low. Simmer for 15 minutes or until chicken is thoroughly cooked (at least 165F degrees internal temperature); stir occasionally. When chicken is ready sprinkle the rest of the cheese over the dish.

Supporting Our Community Ceredo United Methodist Church Thrift Store

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





Realty Exchange
Commercial / Residential Brokerage
Broker: Shane Radcliff

Richelle Eddy Walters

WV & OH REALTOR®
Cell: 304-617-7851
richieeddywalters@gmail.com

CALL YOUR HOMETOWN REALTOR!



Austin's
SINCE 1947
HOMEMADE ICE CREAM
Deliciously Different

1103 C St. Ceredo, WV
Phone: 304-453-2071
OPEN DAILY 10:30am - 10:00pm





Monday - Saturday
10-10
Sunday
12-10

Order Online
giovannispizzapower.com
(304) 429-7197

4624 Waverly Rd, Huntington, WV 25704

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

MARK & CONNIE

BEFORD



VISIT US FOR YOUR **FREE** **Tanger Outlets** COUPON SAVINGS BOOK



BEFORD



WHERE CONNIE CARES!

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

CEREDO CRESCENT HILL CEMETERY PROVIDING REST CLOSE TO HOME



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

CONTACT STANLEY FINK AT 453-5622 FOR MORE INFORMATION

WORK CONTINUES ON SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER

The former Ceredo Elementary School is quickly being transformed into a functional space for the benefit of our residents. Currently, the indoor gym, including a pickleball court, cornhole boards, and walking area is complete. The community meeting room, exercise room for Zumba, Yoga and Silver Sneakers, and Golden Girl Group Home fitness rooms will be completed this week.

Work is continuing on the main fitness rooms, with completion around February 1. Upon completion of these rooms, exercise equipment obtained from the former C-K Fitness Center will be moved to the new wellness center and the facility will be opened to the public. The C-K Alumni Band practice facility is also located at the former school site, along with police and fire department training rooms.

“When completed, we will have



accomplished a great public use for what might otherwise have become a dilapidated old building,” said Mayor Paul Billups. “We were very fortunate to have obtained this property from the Board of Education, and with the

closing of the C-K Fitness Center it makes perfect sense for us to utilize this space for the benefit of our area residents. Ceredo has an aging population, and it is very important for these residents to have a nearby place

to exercise and socialize.”

A committee has been appointed to determine such things as membership fees and hours of operation. Given the overall economic condition of the area, it is important that the facility be operated as efficiently as possible. We ask that everyone consider that the Town is taking a giant step to provide a community service, and this can only be accomplished with the assistance and understanding of those wishing to utilize the facility. As a favor to local residents, memberships with the former C-K Fitness Center will be honored, even though this facility is not affiliated with the former center.

More information will be available around February 1. Persons with questions should call Town Hall at 304-453-1041.

Austin's Lands National Award



Those of us fortunate enough to live in Ceredo have long-known that the best ice cream in America is made at the venerable Austin's Homemade Ice Cream on Route 60. With the advent of social media, the world has discovered our secret.

Founded over 70 years ago and owned since 1983 by Ceredo resident Joyce Snyder, business at Austin's has boomed over the last few years. Snyder's daughter and son, Kim Adkins and Kevin Snyder, assumed operational control passed down from their mother, and Adkins has shared own-

ership interests with her children, Tim Ruff and Taylor Strickland.

Ice Cream manufacturers from across America annually have the opportunity to enter a national contest hosted by the National Ice Cream Retailers Association. The judging for the 2020 contest was conducted under the direction of Tonya Schoenfuss of the University of Minnesota, with samples tasted by ice cream business owners from across the country that travel to the national convention. Austin's entered the contest for the first time in 2020.



As expected by those of us that have enjoyed the taste of Austin's for 70 years, the Ceredo institution was awarded a national blue ribbon for their chocolate ice cream and a red ribbon for their vanilla ice cream. According to co-owner Taylor Strickland, Austin's chocolate scored 41 of a possible 43 points, and the vanilla entry scored 38 of 43 points. “Of the hundreds of entries submitted, only

eight blue ribbons were awarded. No blue ribbons were awarded in the vanilla category, so we are very proud of the red ribbon in that category,” said Strickland.

Using his grandmother's recipes, Tim Ruff makes all of Austin's ice cream by hand. Ruff continually experiments with new flavors while maintaining the high standards of the business. In 2019, Austin's expanded operations by opening a shop in The Market, a downtown Huntington food market. The Huntington store has done very well, but there is nothing quite like walking on Ceredo's sidewalks with a large Austin's cone on a warm summer evening.

As good as Austin's chocolate and vanilla flavors are, as evidenced by the national awards, the best-seller for several years has been grape-pineapple flavor. Whatever your favorite may be, we are proud that America now knows that “the best” is made, every day, by hand, right here in Ceredo. Congratulations to the “Austin's” family for a job well-done!

Oglebay Norton Boxing Club



It was early winter of 1959, the First National Bank of Ceredo had recently moved from its original home on the corner of Main and B, and amateur boxing was drawing renewed interest in our area. The Golden Gloves boxing tournament was a major event in southern West Virginia, and most coal companies between Charleston and Bluefield sponsored boxing teams.

As home of the largest coal loading facility in West Virginia, it only made sense that Ceredo's Oglebay Norton Coal Company was willing to sponsor a team when approached by Ceredo resident Bill Evans. With gloves, trunks, and robes paid for by Oglebay Norton, the fledgling team only needed space for a gym. This problem was solved when the Stark family allowed Mr. Evans to use the old bank building.

In its earliest days, the boxing club consisted of trainer Bill Evans and one

fighter, sixteen-year-old Doug Adkins, now Ceredo's Water Supervisor. Before a ring was built, training took place on the marble floors of the old bank. Recalling those days, Doug Adkins remembers sparring with former Golden Gloves champion Little Bob Null in what was once the lobby of the old bank. Locals, including the late boxing authority Jimmy Hardin, gathered at the makeshift gym each evening to watch the boys train.

A ring was eventually built in a room on the south end of the old bank building, just in time for the club's only fighter, Doug, to train for the 1960 Golden Gloves tournament in Huntington. Obviously, a good student, in his first fight Doug scored a knockout victory.

By the following amateur boxing season several other local boys were training at the old bank under the supervision of Mr. Evans. Local pugilists included Taylor Frazier,



Otis Adkins, Gary Akers, and Lewis Connor, among others. Several of these lads fought under the blue and gold colors of Oglebay Norton in the 1961 regional Golden Gloves tournament.

Unfortunately, an industrial accident caused Mr. Evans to step away from training fighters prior to the 1962 season, and the Oglebay Norton team merged with the Huntington VFW Post 1064 boxing club. A few of the boys that started in the old bank building went on to have amateur careers of note, but none more than the original member, Doug Adkins.

Following a strong regional showing with championships in Huntington and Charleston, Doug joined the Army and was assigned as a member of the Army boxing team for the duration of his service. During this time, Doug represented the Army in tournaments throughout Europe and the United States. Doug attributes much of his

success to those early days at the Ceredo Bank where he sparred nightly with grown men. “Bill Evans and Bob Null were both good boxers. Bill hit very hard, and Bob was very fast. Unfortunately for me at the time, neither fellow cared to pull a punch. I either had to learn quick, or else. This really helped me as my career progressed, particularly as a member of the Army boxing team where I faced some very good fighters.”

Bill Evans moved away from the boxing game to become a successful restaurateur. Doug Adkins had a brief foray in the professional ranks, training under Elba Gene Cox at the Fifth Street Gym in Miami before returning to Ceredo, where he has been the supervisor of our water system for over thirty years.

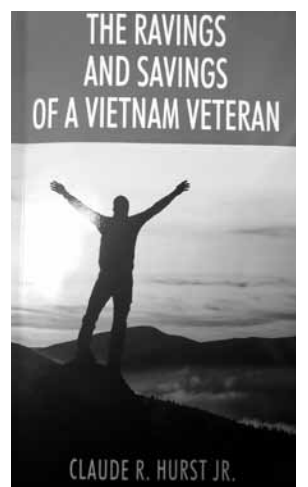
Local Vet Pens Book

Kenova resident, retired teacher, and Vietnam Vet Claude Hurst has released a new book recounting his service as a Marine during the Vietnam War. The book, “The Ravings and Savings Of A Vietnam Veteran”, is available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Copies may also be obtained for the price of ten dollars at Ceredo Town Hall or by contacting Mr. Hurst directly at 304-453-4343. Mr. Hurst will be happy to sign any copy upon request.

A 1966 graduate of Ceredo-Kenova High School, Claude joined the Marine Corps in June, 1966, and by December of that year found himself serving with a tank company at Camp Carroll near the town of Dong Ha, South Vietnam. Through a combination of poetry and prose, Claude describes the ever-changing mindset of the teenage men fighting a war that was quickly losing popularity with the American public.

Following his service, Mr. Hurst grad-



uated from Marshall University and spent his career as a Special Education teacher. A talented musician, Claude still plays the guitar, writes and sings for Chapel at the Woody Williams VA Hospital, as well as working devotedly with his local church.

Those with a memory of the Vietnam era will appreciate the insights offered by Hurst's writings, and will hopefully get a glimpse of how being thrust into an unpopular war can affect a person forever, and how important the love of a caring spouse has been to see Claude through this journey.