



### Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session February 4th, 2019

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in Regular Session on Monday, February 4th, 2019 at the Ceredo City Hall. The Mayor, Paul A. Billups, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included the Mayor, Paul A. Billups; the Recorder, Stanley E. Fink; and Councilmen Dennis Adkins, Oscar Adkins, Steve Diamond, Robert Leslie and Joe Ratcliff.

#### The Passing of Mayor Otis E. Adkins

Mayor Paul A. Billups recognized the passing of Mayor Otis Adkins and acknowledged his service to the Town of Ceredo, which included his tenure as a Councilman, as a Mayor and serving on various committees in the Town and in Wayne County. Mayor Billups then read a proclamation in honor of Mayor Adkins, ordering all flags within the city limits of Ceredo be flown at half-staff from 9:00 a.m. on February 3rd, 2019 through sundown February 9th, 2019. See attached copy.

#### Reading and Approval of Minutes

The Mayor asked if Council had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the January 7th, 2019 Regular Session. None being heard, on a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to wave the reading of the minutes for the January 7th Regular Session and accept them as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

#### Treasurers' Report

Treasurer Bob Leslie presented Council with the existing account balances in each Town account as of January 31st, 2019. The Mayor asked for questions on the report. None being heard, the Mayor requested the report be made part of the minutes. On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to approve the Treasurers' report as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

#### Ramsdell House Committee Report

The Mayor addressed the need for rehabilitating the Ramsdell House to allow the dwelling to be used for current and future events.

The Mayor advised Council that he had engaged Mrs. Debbie Wolfe to supervise the rehabilitation project and he invited members of Council to visit the House to see the progress Mrs. Wolfe had physically achieved. Mrs. Wolfe conducted a power point presentation, which addressed projects already completed and the structural and cosmetic tasks that still need attention. She also provided an overview of the historical artifacts that were found during the renovations and the connection of the House to the underground railroad activity in the area.

The Mayor, on behalf of the Council and himself, thanked Mrs. Wolfe for her work and attention to the House thus far. He also added that, at a later date, a marker would be placed in the area of the Ramsdell family burial plots.

#### Ceredo Elementary Update

The Mayor addressed the awarding of the audit to Mr. Michael Ballestra and advised he expects the audit to be completed by January 31st, 2019.

Old Ceredo Elementary School Property

The Mayor reported he had been advised the Wayne County Board of Education had given the superintendent the authority to move forward with the transfer of the Ceredo Elementary School property to the Town of Ceredo. He stated, as this was not official yet, he expected the Board's attorney would be contacting him in the next few days to begin the document process.

The Mayor also discussed forming a committee to generate possible uses for the school and stated the Town would not let the property lie dormant.

#### Police Vehicle Delivery Date

The Mayor advised he had been in contact with the attorney for the Wayne County Board of Education regarding the transfer of the Ceredo Elementary School property to the Town of Ceredo. The Mayor added that the attorney had informed him the deeds had been prepared in anticipation of the Board transferring the property at their next meeting.

#### Sewer Rate Increase

The Mayor reported that Attorney Robert Rodecker had not been able to complete the necessary paperwork to be presented to the Public Service Commission. The Mayor stated that if the documents arrived in the next couple of days, a special session would be called to move the project forward.

#### Special Levy Election Update

The Mayor addressed the Special Levy Election scheduled for March 16th, 2019, with early voting starting on March 2nd, 2019 at the Ceredo City Hall.

#### New Garbage Collection Schedule and Cost

The Mayor addressed the garbage collection schedule and the cost incurred in supplying the service.

#### Town Committee Volunteers

The Mayor advised the Town will be looking for volunteers to fill vacancies on the Historical Committee, as well as the School Use Committee, whose goal will be to recommend the use(s) for the school property.

#### Hershel "Woody" Williams Address at the Ceredo-Kenova Middle School

Mr. Kim Wolfe, School Resource Officer, advised Council that World War II Medal of Honor Recipient, Hershel "Woody" Williams would be addressing the students at the Ceredo-Kenova Middle School on February 22nd, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

#### Ordinance Repealing Omnibus Ordinance, Second Reading

The Mayor read, on Second Reading, an Ordinance repealing Omnibus Ordinance relating to incarceration penalties.

On a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Robert Leslie, Council voted to approve the Ordinance, as read on Second Reading. All were in favor, motion carried. See attached copy.

#### Ordinance Establishing A Building Permit Fee Schedule, Second Reading

The Mayor read, on Second Reading, an Ordinance Amending Section 1701.03 of the Codified Ordinances as it relates to building permit fees.

On a motion by Dennis Adkins and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to approve the Ordinance as read on Second Reading. All were in favor, motion carried.

#### Appointment of Special Levy Poll Workers

The Recorder read a list of proposed Poll Workers for the Special Levy Election to be held March 16th, 2019. The list included Greg Jarrell, Lawrence Salmons, Lynn Salmons, Gloria Pierce and Gary Runyon.

On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to approve the poll workers for the Special Levy Election as read. All were in favor, motion carried.

#### Parking on the 700 Block of 1st Street West

The Mayor addressed complaints he had received about the parking in the 700 block of 1st Street West. He advised that, because of the number of vehicles and the size of the lots on the street, there was no simple resolution to the problem and that this problem would have to be dealt with on a case-per-case basis.

#### 2019-2020 Budget Work Session

The Mayor addressed the 2019-2020 budget preparations and advised he would be scheduling a special work session in the next couple of weeks.

#### Police Department Report

The Mayor addressed the preparations underway for the Memorial Service for Mayor Adkins. He reported that the police and fire departments would be serving as honor guards and pall bearers. Also addressed was the preparations being made for the flag detail that would be in place on the funeral procession route. Chief Poston updated the Mayor and the Council on the progress being made by the new officers and the status of getting the new cruisers ready for service.

#### Stormwater Supervisor/Administrative Assistant Report

Mr. Dustin Long reported that a demolition order had been placed on the dwelling at 341 3rd Street East and the demolition hearing for the dwelling at 725 Main Street had been scheduled by the Unsafe Housing Commission.

Mr. Long also reported on the MS4 meeting he had attended in Charleston WV and the preparations being made for the renewal of the Town's permit.

He also provided an update on the progress being made on the sewer mapping project.

Mr. Long conducted a presentation on a Subsite push camera recommended for purchase by the Town, which will enhance the Town's ability to diagnose problems in small sewer lines. After the presentation and on a motion by Joe Ratcliff and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to approve the purchase of the Subsite push camera for \$6,785. All were in favor, motion carried. See attached copy.

#### Maintenance Report

Maintenance Superintendent Ronnie Jarrell addressed the need to increase the sewer tap fee. The Mayor requested Mr. Jarrell conduct a survey of tap fees in the surrounding towns of equal size for comparison of fees being charged in the area.

Mr. Jarrell advised the used cruisers would be ready for auction in the next couple of weeks. He also updated Council on the adjusted garbage pickup process.

Also discussed was the changing of the non-reflective traffic signs.

The Mayor reported on the increase in the sewer treatment costs caused by stormwater being deposited into the sanitary sewer lines. He also commended the Town crews for the condition of the Town this winter.

#### Adjournment

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

We are now two years into the present administration, our 153rd year as a municipal corporation, and it is perhaps a good time to reflect on the last two years and look forward to the next two years. At the outset, it is incumbent to mention the fine work performed daily by our maintenance, water, administrative, and police departments. It is thanks to these people that Ceredo remains one of the cleanest and safest municipalities in West Virginia.

Two years ago, we formulated a three-year plan for the operation of the town, with certain goals to be accomplished each year. During the first year we planned to update the maintenance department fleet and equipment, modernize the computer system at Town Hall, improve our accounting procedures, improve landscaping around Town Hall and on Main Street, establish a tree maintenance program, start a program for business signs that is cohesive throughout town, and the establishment of a farmer's market. These goals were accom-

plished, and we were also able to grant pay increases to all town employees, thanks primarily to a rededicated effort by our employees to work more efficiently.

During the second year our goals were to bring the town budget in line with our decreasing tax base, update the police department fleet, purchase new equipment for floodwall and common area mowing, refurbish landscaping at our Veteran's Memorial, continue urban renewal efforts on the south end of Main Street, increase our hanging flower basket program, create a social services program for our elderly, produce a map of our sewer system, and reorganize and activate our several town committees. For the first time in our history we now have a fleet of new, matching police vehicles. The floodwall department has two new mowing machines, the Veteran's Memorial looks great, and the deal has been completed for the demolition of two houses on South Main to make space for a retail business.

In addition to the planned goals, we have given considerable effort to obtaining the old Ceredo Elementary School. It now appears that the Board of Education will soon deed the property to the town, thus giving us an opportunity to create a public-use space never before enjoyed in Ceredo. Our maintenance employees are now provided with matching town uniforms, waste baskets have been installed at most intersections, we are awaiting delivery of a new dump truck, and our neighborhood litter control program is keeping our streets clean.

As we begin our third year, the administration goals are to initiate a street-light replacement program, re-open the refurbished Ramsdell House for historical tours, determine uses for the Ceredo School property, focus efforts toward the demolition of abandoned houses, repurpose the tennis courts in the town park as pickleball courts, continue the business sign program, and begin a renewal program for downtown buildings that will hopefully give

the area a more cohesive appearance to the various business structures.

In addition to these "projects", our employees have continued to do the annual duties of street patching, sidewalk repairs, leaf collection, garbage collection, and general maintenance of our common areas. The sewer system mapping project is well underway and should be completed this year.

The downside of the last two years is the realization that our tax base is decreasing. Between 1976 when the Ceredo Plaza and the liquor store were built, through 2009 when the synfuel program at KRT was closed, Ceredo enjoyed the rare position of having more revenue than was required for the general operation of the town. Our town fathers took advantage of that situation to build a new Town Hall, re-pave most of our streets, build recreation facilities, and perhaps most importantly, to absorb utility rate increases without passing them on to our residents.

We now face a situation where our revenue and expenses are balanced. We no longer have several hundred thousand excess dollars for discriminatory spending, and must be wise stewards of our revenues to save sufficient "rainy day" funds. No longer will we be able to absorb trash collection costs that exceed revenues by thousands. We are mandated by the Public Service Commission to have our sanitary sewage treated in Huntington, and we have absorbed three rate increases from Huntington without passing those to our customers. This places us in the unfriendly position of having to consider increases in garbage collection fees and sewer rates, but if those increases become reality our rates will still remain the lowest in the area. Council will be considering these matters in the following months.

Several of our roads, including Crescent Drive, Broad Hollow, and Smith Branch are owned by the state. On the one side it is good that repairs to those roads

are the responsibility of the state, but the downside is that we can't force the state to do required maintenance. Over the past two years we have made every plea possible for the state to repair these roads, and hopefully the new roads program being touted by Gov. Justice will yield some results for Ceredo.

Our request to you, as residents of Ceredo, is to become involved. A good community consists of people working toward a common goal, whether that goal is as simple as keeping your property neat, taking it upon yourself to keep your block litter-free, assisting an elderly neighbor with landscaping, or seeking appointment to one of our several town committees. Ceredo has a long history of residents working together to better the town, and I urge each of you to do just one extra thing for the common good. We all agree that this is a wonderful place to live, and if we each do our part, we will remain the "Most Livable Town In West Virginia."



# Ceredo Police Blotter

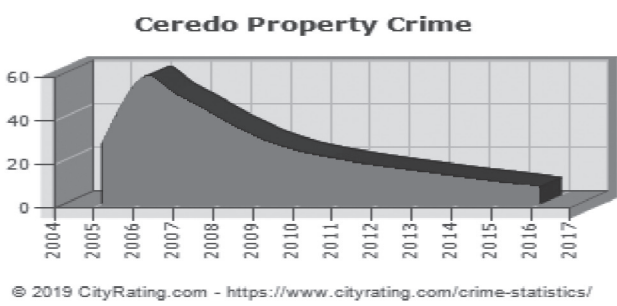
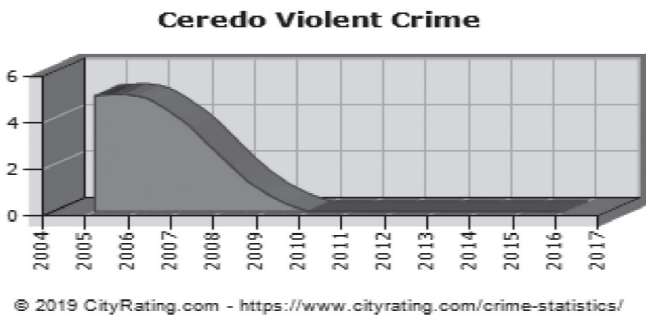
NAME	ARRESTED ON	CHARGE(S)
Kidd, Kimberly Dawn	02/24/2019	Disorderly Conduct
Rider, Richard Dewayne	02/24/2019	Disorderly Conduct
Basenback, Jerry Lee Jr.	02/26/2019	Driving Suspended
Page, Seth Donovan	02/27/2019	Destruction of Property, Obstructing an Officer, Disorderly Conduct, Brandishing, Domestic Assault, Battery
Artrip, Bradrick Taylor	03/04/2019	Driving Suspended 3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense
Meadows, Joshua Lee	03/04/2019	Failure to Appear, Public Intoxication
Lindquist, Martin Dayle	03/10/2019	Failure to Appear, Driving Suspended, No Insurance, Expired Registration
Holley, Charles Christopher	03/16/2019	Child Neglect Creating Risk of Injury
Walters, Larry Dale	03/16/2019	Assault, Battery, Destruction of Property
Walters, Jason Kyle	03/16/2019	Assault, Battery

## HOW LOW CAN WE GO? Ceredo One of the Safest Places to Live

It's hard to believe we could get any lower but we have! With a violent crime rate lower than

overall downward trend in crime based on data from 5 years with both violent crime

displayed below was generated from the trends and crime data available from previous years of actual reported data. In this case, the Ceredo crime report data for 2019 was projected from 5 years of actual data. The last year of actual available crime data, as reported below, was 2016.



the violent crime rate in West Virginia by 100%, and lower than the national violent crime rate by 100%, how could we go lower?

and property crime decreasing. Based on this trend, the crime rate in Ceredo for 2019 is expected to be lower than in 2016.

According to CityRating.com, which gets their statistics from the FBI Report of Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Ceredo's crime rate shows an

**Property and Violent Crime Totals:** Below is a summary report of Ceredo's crime statistics. The projected crime rate data

### 2016 Crime (Actual Data)\*

<b>Incidents</b>	
Aggravated Assault	0
Arson	0
Burglary	0
Larceny and Theft	7
Motor Vehicle Theft	1
Murder and Manslaughter	0
Rape	N/A
Robbery	0
Crime Rate (Total Incidents)	13
Property Crime	8
Violent Crime	0

### 2019 Crime (Projected Data)\*

<b>Incidents</b>	
Aggravated Assault	0
Arson	0
Burglary	0
Larceny and Theft	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Murder / Manslaughter	0
Rape	0

Robbery	0	Crime Rate (Total Incidents)	5
Property Crime	0	Violent Crime	0

**Ceredo Crime Statistics Summary Report:**

The Charts above is a comparison of city versus state versus national crime. Ceredo didn't even make the violent crime chart, because there have been no incidences of violent crime reported since 2008!

City versus State versus National Crime Comparison:

Niche.com, a national website which gathers information to determine the Safest Places to Live in the United States, ranked Ceredo in the top 3 Safest Places to Live in West Virginia in 2018. The 2018 Safest Places ranking provides a comprehensive assessment of the overall safety in an area. This grade takes into account key indicators of a location's safety, including violent and property crime rates as well as resident reviews, in an attempt to measure an area's safety and security. The same methodol-

ogy is used to produce the Crime & Safety Grade for each ranked place. Statistics are primarily obtained from the FBI Uniform Crime Report and represent the most recent data available. Ceredo not only ranked in the very lowest crime statistics in every category once again, but continues to drop LOWER in crime stats! Founded to provide safe haven to those seeking freedom from slavery, Ceredo continues to be a safe haven for all who reside here!

## Ceredo Scholarship Fund Established

Former Ceredo resident Mike Watts recently suggested the establishment of a scholarship fund for Ceredo area high school graduates desiring to attend Marshall University. "With college tuition being what it is, and the number of current and former Ceredo residents always willing to aid good causes, I think an annual \$1000 scholarship is very attainable and would be meaningful to a Ceredo area child each year," said Watts. The idea is overdue and fantastic.

Before the telephone conversation ended, the Ceredo Boys Scholarship Fund was established. "I expect that at least ten people will step forward and donate \$100 per year for this cause. If more people wish to participate, all the better. We can either establish another scholarship or keep the money in escrow for future use," said Watts. Within thirty minutes, Herb Stephens, Jr., Johnny Stephens, Bobby Sullivan, and Paul Billups had agreed to join Watts.

The scholarship will be awarded based on need, academic performance, extracurricular activities, and future goals. A committee of those contributing to the fund, with assistance from local school administrators, will determine the recipients.

"This is one of the best things we can do to support our local children, and I am certain that area residents will be eager to join the group. By combining our efforts with a small annual contribution, the end result will be a \$1000 scholarship that could be the difference in a local child attending college or not. The program is established, let's get behind this and show that people from Ceredo still take care of each other," said John Stephens.

*Persons desiring to join the Ceredo Boys Scholarship Fund should send a check, payable to the fund, to Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 691, Ceredo, WV 25507. The Town Clerk has established a bank account to maintain the fund, and balances will be reported monthly in The New Crescent. Please join and make this an ongoing project.*

## ROCCOS

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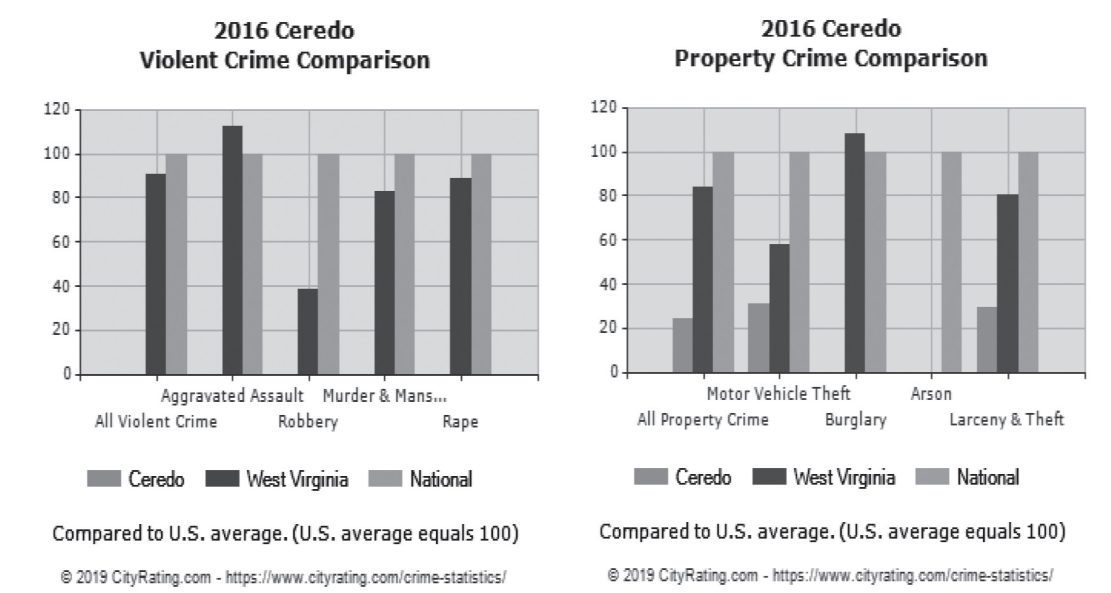
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## SPECIAL LEVY APPROVED

Ceredo voters unanimously approved the five-year Special Levy by a vote of 67 in favor and none against on March 16, 2019. The levy has been in effect for over fifty years and is used to supplement several town services including street and sidewalk repair, police equipment, repairs and equipment to town buildings, and the volunteer fire department.

The total levy should yield approximately \$94,000 per year. "Without the Special Levy monies, we would suffer an immediate cut in public services," said Mayor Paul Billups. "On behalf of all our town employees, the willingness of our residents to support the levy is greatly appreciated. We can now move forward with the four-year plan to upgrade Ceredo."

"We have a number of projects, in addition to regular services, that are dependent on the Special Levy," said Maintenance Superintendent Ronnie Jarrell. "In addition to repairs to town buildings, we hope to start the street light replacement program this year and continue our efforts to repair damaged sidewalks."



## THE NEW CRESCENT

Published by The New Crescent, Ceredo, West Virginia for the residents of Ceredo, Kenova and the surrounding area, reporting news, announcements of interest, government actions and features both current and historical. Letters welcome.

Advertising available. Write the New Crescent, Post Office Box 691, Ceredo, WV, 25507 or call 304-453-1041.

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**Adjutant—Steven W. Stewart**

**Secretary—Becky Millne**

## WE SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY!

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



# AROUND TOWN

Ozzie Hawes, Columnist

The New Crescent welcomes new subscriber Donna Pratt Van-Hoose, a former Ceredo resident (C-K Class of 1969) now residing in North Carolina. Donna is the daughter of late Ceredo residents Charles Donald and Bett Pratt, and a cousin of Ceredo residents Suzanne Woods and Kelly Sullivan along with Kenova Chief of Police Bobby Sullivan.

New Crescent Food Columnist Natalie Hemann recently provided cookies to the Town Hall staff. After careful deliberation over the course of a half-dozen or so cookies each, it was decided that Natalie is indeed the best cook in the state. Natalie's recipes are only topped by the real thing!

AEP has had two tree-trimming companies working in the Ceredo area over the last month. The power company exercises their right to clear tree limbs from around electric lines once every three years or so, and while it is somewhat aggravating to those of us who love trees, it is likely not so aggravating as losing power caused by a limb falling on a line. Spring is coming soon and our trees should once again sprout leaves and take shape.

Additional waste cans have been installed around many intersections in town, providing a proper resting place for rubbish as well as properly bagged dog waste. By ordinance, all pet owners are required to dispose of pet waste in a proper container, and the Town is attempting to make this duty as easy as possible while keeping our streets and lawns clean.

Ceredo, as owner of Mitch Stadium, is in the process of refurbishing the landmark scoreboard. Deteriorated wood has been removed and the new scoreboard should last the stadium another twenty years. Special thanks to former Kenova Mayor, pharmacist, and world-famous pumpkin carver Ric Griffith and his wife Sandi for their work in building new stadium gates and other improvements. Ric was a crafty left-handed pitcher on a C-K state and regional championship team a few years back.

Special thanks to Special Levy election workers Lawrence Salmons, Greg Jarrell, Gloria Pierce, Kelly Hanson, Kay Jordan, Tammy Wolfe, and Lynn Salmons. With two weeks of "early voting" it takes several poll workers to conduct an election, and our folks do it very well.

The Ramsdell House renovation is coming along very well and the committee should soon make a decision about the exterior color. The house was built with brick manufactured in Ceredo that are much softer than present-day brick, necessitating special care in repointing mortar joints on the structure. Once the brick work is complete it is hoped that exterior paint and landscaping can be accomplished prior to reopening for public tours.

A new entrance sign on Route 60 behind the flower garden is being considered. The existing "CEREDO" sign has been in place approximately thirty years and is starting to show age. A new sign, the flower garden maintained by Delcie Elkins, and the water feature designed by former Street Superintendent Marvin Jordan should make a beautiful entrance to the town.

After a full year of study, it has been determined that most Ceredo residents are litter-conscious. We still have a couple of areas where dog walkers forget to remove dog waste from public areas, but the placement of trash receptacles on most corners has made the chore more convenient and most of our residents comply.

Surprisingly, there is an average of 164 cigarette butts thrown on Ceredo streets daily. The old practice of simply throwing cigarette butts on the ground is unsightly, causes problems with our storm sewers, kills birds, and is against the law. Look for the police to give some attention to solving this problem.

A public call will go out soon for volunteers to help refurbish damaged gravestones at Crescent Hill Cemetery. A number of older monuments have broken over the years, and with a few hours of community help on a couple of Saturdays we should be able to repair the old monuments. Please consider helping for a few hours, if enough of us volunteer it will be a quick, easy project that will have lasting meaning.

It is rare that Town Hall receives a call wanting to compliment a police officer after having been stopped, but such happened recently. A resident of a neighboring town was stopped by Officer Matt Chapman, and after determining that the driver was rushing to get to a Huntington hospital to care for a relative, Officer Chapman assisted the driver. The caller stated that Ceredo should be proud to have such a fine young officer. Indeed, we are.

Spring is upon us, and there is no better time to look around your property and your neighborhood to determine what things might be done to improve our town. Taking down Christmas lights, refreshing landscaping, picking up litter, or sweeping a curb are all things that improve life in Ceredo. Elderly residents that need a little help can call Town Hall, as our employees are willing to volunteer labor to assist those in need.

Ceredo is one of the few places in America where residents still take evening strolls around the neighborhood. This practice is good for many reasons and we are fortunate that our neighborhoods remain safe so we can walk for exercise or to visit with neighbors. With warmer weather we should all take advantage of one of the best things Ceredo still has that most other places don't.

Playmates Child Care is completing construction of what started as a storage building and now appears to be a coliseum

on their 3rd Street East property. It appears to be a fine structure, whatever its purpose, and Playmates are great town residents by maintaining their properties well and providing a needed service for our children.


After a year of record rainfall and heavy flooding, our impoundment pumps at Jordan Branch are undergoing maintenance. Seventy-nine years of service has taken a toll, but after completion of this maintenance project the system should function well for years to come.

The new garbage collection system – collections of the entire town every Monday and Thursday – appears to be working well. With Spring cleaning, we expect heavier than usual loads, but the staff is prepared to do collection of items other than household garbage on Wednesdays. These fellows do a remarkable job of keeping our alleys clean while collecting trash twice a week. Please help them by placing all household trash in plastic trash bags.


## RAMSDELL MONUMENT PLANNED

In conjunction with refurbishment of the historic Ramsdell House, the Ceredo Historic Buildings Committee is planning to erect a monument in the north yard to memorialize the graves of Zophar Ramsdell (1816 - 1886), his wife, Almeda Ramsdell (1819 - 1904), and their daughter, Carrie Ramsdell Bloss (1858 - 1885). Carrie died during childbirth at the Ramsdell residence. The exact location of the Ramsdell graves is unknown, although the diaries of Zophar Ramsdell mention Carrie's burial, and newspaper obituaries note that Zophar and Almeda were buried on the property. In 1982, when construction began on the apartment building on the northwest side of the Ramsdell House, local historian Ed Adkins, then 97 years of age, protested

that the apartment building was being built over the Ramsdell graves. There were no formal markers or stones, and Adkins was one of the few, if not the only, person alive at the time with knowledge of where the graves were actually located. Over the protests of Adkins, construction went on with the promise that if any signs of the graves were encountered, construction would cease. Apparently, no signs were found, as the apartment building stands today. Given the history of the Ramsdell property as a stop on the Underground Railroad, coupled with the then-common practice of residential burials, it is possible that other graves may be on the site.




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E-MAIL: leeann444@zoominternet.net  
PHONE: 304-634-3713



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# 5K RACE

**SATURDAY, MAY 4TH**

## CEREDO'S BEST ROAD RACE!



## HONOR ROLL

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John C. Hall 05/19  
Paul and Kathy Billups 10/19  
Jack and Ann Riggs 05/21  
Eleanor Terry 08/19  
Linda & Robert Hall 02/19  
Mike Watts 09/19  
Leigh Ann Johnson 04/22  
Jennifer Ferguson 10/19  
Connie & Mark Beford 10/19  
Donna Vanhoose 02/20  
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter 10/19  
In Memory of Herb & Helen Stephens 08/20  
In Memory of Coach Dale Craycraft 08/20  
In Memory of J. J. & Roma Gail Billups 08/19  
In Memory of Janice Justice 12/19  
In Memory of Charles & Betty Pratt 02/20  
Jeanette & Roger Barker 03/21  
Gary & Marsha Pinson Adkins 03/20  
Brenda Francis 03/20  
George Keigley 03/20  
In Memory of Houston & Gladys Woolwine 03/20  
Katrina Childers 03/20

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!

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# Eulogy To Mayor Otis Adkins

Following is the eulogy delivered by Mayor Paul Billups at the funeral of late Mayor Otis E. Adkins:

A eulogy is intended to be a brief statement chronicling the life of a departed friend, hopefully to bring a moment of levity through remembrances at a time when our hearts are otherwise heavy. I could talk today for hours and laugh, or hours and cry, about the Life and Times of one Otis E. Adkins. The only difficult part is making anything about Otis brief, because he lived large, every day.

There is a sign on Route 60 in front of Evaroni's that reads "In All the World There Is Only One Evaroni's." We could very well have a similar sign outside the church today, in neon, reading "In All the World There Was Only One Otis Adkins."

Otis cut a wide path through life. The very mention of his name invariably brings a smile to the all around. The first name was all that was necessary, from Parkersburg to Paducah, everyone he came in contact with during his years working on the river knew, and remembered him.

A couple of years ago many of us were gathered here and heard Otis' late grandson, Chase, describe his grandfather. During that discourse, Chase mentioned that people referred to Otis being "rambunctious" in his younger days. Chase, my lad, "rambunctious" is a gross understatement. If you were to Google the word today, there would undoubtedly be a picture of Ott.

I think it is fair to equate Otis' life with a trip to Camden Park. Most of us would go in, ride the Merry-Go-Round, get a Pronto Pup, and call it a good day. Otis, to the contrary, would run through the gate, go directly to the Big Dipper, and ride the rickety roller coaster all day. Front car. No hands. Until dark. If we were fortunate, he would allow us to occasionally ride in the car with him, and my, what a ride it was.

Otis had a certain magne-



tism that few people possess; it drew people to him, wanting to share a bit of the ride, and it was impossible to tell him "no." Even when we knew the outcome wouldn't be pretty, we joined him.

I was recently lamenting to someone about the state of my golf game. The person asked why, if golf frustrated me, took hours to play, and was so expensive, did I continue to play. I reflected a minute and the answer was obvious, I played to be entertained by Otis.

Otis had a limited amount of formal education, but he possessed a brilliant mind and his wit was legendary. He could very easily have been a stand-up comic in Las Vegas or a writer for the late-night variety shows, and we will miss that wit very much.

His accomplishments were many. He worked his way from a labor position to be the manager of a major corporation. He did so well that the company named a boat after him. He served the town in several capacities, finally serving two terms as Mayor, and was so highly thought of that our municipal building is named in his honor. Those things are the mark of a pretty good man.

A few years ago, Otis mentioned that he was going to take a class at Vanderbilt University. Now, when I think of Nashville and Otis, Tootsies Bar on Broadway may come

to mind, but Vanderbilt, that bastion of higher education in the south, does not equate.

Otis explained that his company was sending him, and a number of executives, to a "sensitivity training" class. Now imagine with me, a room full of corporate executives, a Vanderbilt professor, and Otis. In the same room. For two days. I can only tell you that somewhere in the halls of Vanderbilt today there is a professor that couldn't tell us a thing about the thousand other students she has taught, but I absolutely promise you, she remembers her two days with Otis.

Otis had a deep and uncompromising love for his God, his family, and his town. Perhaps his most memorable quote, one that will be borrowed by many others in years to come, was delivered when a reporter once asked him if he was a Ceredo native. "No," Otis said, "I wasn't born here, but I got here as soon as I could." We are all glad he got here, and we are all glad that during the ride through life Otis let each of us share those few moments in the roller coaster car with him.

Otis left each of us, and the Town of Ceredo, a little better than he found us. We can ask no more of a man.

# CEREDO PAST

Ozzie Hawes, Columnist

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article appeared in the Ceredo Advance, chronicling the Justice of the Peace trial of Charles B. Smith for murder. The event happened in the Brownstown (now known as Walker's Branch Road) area of Ceredo.*

Charles B. Smith was liberated of the second degree murder charge against him in Squire A.G. Brown's court at Ceredo, Friday afternoon, January 5th.

"According to the evidence produced in this case, the court is of the opinion that the defendant, Charles Smith, fired the shot that killed Tom Workman in the act of defending himself from personal injury, and therefore shall be liberated from the charge of murder," ordered Squire Brown, after the opposing council had argued their cases.

A cheer rose from the friends of "Uncle Charley" Smith as the verdict was given by the court; in the little courtroom applause rang out as the Ceredo populace emerged from the room in sympathy with the aged defendant. "Uncle Charley" smiled and his gray little eyes danced as he shook hands with his friends. The aged veteran of the Indian Wars, placed an arm around the waist of his wife and congratulated his counsel, William Lovins, and said "I knowed that I would be freed, because I was justified."

The story of the shooting was related by witnesses when the alleged "town bully," Tom Workman, was shot and killed by the aged resident of Brownstown. The trial began at 3 p.m. and before the conclusion, the lights were lit in the overcrowded little courtroom of the Ceredo magistrate. The old man shot Tom Workman with a .25 caliber automatic pistol after Workman threatened and called to him, "Git your gun, I have got mine." Immediately after the shooting, Smith gave himself up to two Norfolk and Western Special Agents, Detectives Brady Murphy and John Sutfin, and asked for protection from Workman's relatives, and then was lodged in the Kenova jail.

The character of Workman was shown by witnesses to be that of a "town bully and a dangerous man," and it was testified that Workman had threatened Smith on the night of the shooting.

Mrs. Jettie Workman, widow of the dead man, was the first witness called by the state. She testified that she was standing in the door of her home, nest door to Smith's house, when the shooting occurred at about 8:30 p.m., and that her husband was intoxicated on the night of the altercation. She stated that she heard Smith who threatened to shoot her husband and that she heard a shot. Her husband, she said, staggered to his home and fell on the floor stating that old man Smith had shot him. When questioned by the attorney for the defense, Mrs. Workman stated that she had heard her husband say that he was the best man in Kentucky.

Miss Bertha Cornwell, sister-in-law of Workman, told the court that she was in the door with her sister when the shooting took place. She wept as she told the story. Reuben Cornwell, brother-in-law of Workman, testified that he heard the dying statement of Workman, which was, "I told old man Smith that his wife had been causing trouble for my wife when she was sick in the bed." Charley Stewart, neighbor of Smith and Workman, stated that he had loaned Workman a shot gun and that he had it on the night of the shooting. He also stated that he had heard Workman swearing on the Norfolk & Western railroad tracks in front of Smith's home and that he had tried to persuade him to leave without further trouble. "Tom then got mad at me," Stewart testified, "and started toward his home. He came out later and told me he was going to kill me; he had something in his hand, but I couldn't tell what it was; it was dark." Stewart stated that he was afraid of the intoxicated man and that he had run to the home of his father after being threatened by Workman. Mrs. Stella Stewart, wife of Charley Stewart, stated that she had seen Workman walk from his front door to the front gate of his yard and that she heard Workman

say to Smith, "I think I'll just come over there and stomp your head in the mud." After which she said that Workman started toward Smith and that the latter fired.

The aged defendant then took the stand in his own behalf as the first of the defendant witnesses. Smith said that he had been to the store to get some groceries and that he had taken part of his groceries into the house and had returned to the front gate to get the remainder when he saw Workman standing on the railroad track in front of his home. "Workman cursed me and said, go git your gun, I'm going to get you," and then I ran to my house and got my pistol and come back to the gate," the old man stated. "I ask him what he was cussing me for and he started toward me and grabbed me by the shirt collar and I fired into his stomach. I felt the pistol touch him; I guess I was about two feet from him." Smith said he did not leave the premises.

Mrs. Marie Smith, wife of the defendant, told the court that she had heard Workman say, "I'm goin' to kill old man Smith and stomp his old gray head under the Norfolk and Western Railroad ties."

James Patterson, resident of Brownstown, stated that he had seen Workman discharging a gun in the air near the home of Smith immediately before the altercation in which Workman lost his life. Cal Dixon, another witness for the defense, told the court that he saw Workman fire a shot gun.

The shirt in which Workman was killed was placed before the court in an effort to prove by the prosecution that Smith was farther than two feet from Workman when the fatal shot was fired. The counsel for the defense declared that a gun of a small bore and with smokeless powder, would not burn clothing at any distance.

The friends of Workman will attempt to secure an indictment before the circuit court at the next term of court, it was reported. If Workman's friends succeed in making the indictment, Smith will again stand trial for the murder charges.



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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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FEMALE 57.4%  
ELEVATION 552

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LAND 1.53 SQ. MI.  
WATER .73 SQ. MI.  
MEDIAN AGE 48.9

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# The Crescent Kitchen

by Natalie Riggs Hemann

I think everyone who knows me was surprised when I entered the first Bake-Off that was held during the C-K Autumnfest. I love to watch the Food Network and I think that influenced me! I have entered the bake-off every year because I really enjoy it. I was lucky enough to win first place in the cookie division last year with this recipe. When I saw these cookies included pecans and maple syrup (two of my favorite things!) I decided to enter them. I guess the judges liked pecans and maple syrup, too!



- Ingredients:**
- 1 cup butter, softened
  - 3/4 cup sugar
  - 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
  - 2 large eggs, room temperature
  - 1 teaspoon maple flavoring
  - 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
  - 1 teaspoon baking soda
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 2 cups white baking chips
  - 1 cup chopped pecans
- Maple Glaze:**
- 1/3 cup butter, cubed
  - 1-3/4 cups confectioners' sugar
  - 1/3 cup maple syrup

- 1/4 teaspoon maple flavoring
- Directions:**
- Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs and maple flavoring. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking soda and salt; gradually beat into creamed mixture. Stir in baking chips and pecans.
  - Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls 2 in. apart onto ungreased baking sheets. Bake 10-12 minutes or until

golden brown. Cool on pans 2 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool completely.

- For glaze, in a saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Remove from heat. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar, syrup and maple flavoring until smooth.
- Drizzle over cookies; let dry completely. (I usually have some glaze left over. It makes a great dip for nuts, a topping over ice cream, or maybe just eat it by the spoonful

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### Marlene McCloud Simmons



Submitted by: Katrina McCloud Childers

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Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm

**THURSDAY**  
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Zumba 6:30-7:30pm

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# CHARACTERS OF CEREDO

Ozzie Hawes, Columnist

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

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

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

Ed Adkins was born in November, 1885, and lived 101 years before his passing in January, 1987. Of those 101 years, 96 were proudly spent in Ceredo.

Ed was born in Lawrence County, Ohio, and brought by his family on a flatboat to Ceredo in 1890. When first arriving in the young town Ed's father tried his hand in the grocery business, operating a store on the northwest corner of Main and B Streets. According to Ed, his father wasn't much of a grocer and soon opened a barber shop on the southeast corner of the same intersection. Apparently, the elder Adkins was a better barber as evidenced by the shop staying in business for 71 years.

The arrival of the Adkins family in Ceredo coincided

with the beginning of a formal high school program, then conducted on the same property as the elementary school on Main Street. While attending school in Ceredo, Ed developed a lifelong love of sports. Ed played on the first C-K football team in 1905, and played baseball in school and for local teams several years after graduating.

Following graduation, Ed joined his father in the barber shop and shortly married Julia Wright, a young school teacher and member of one of Ceredo's founding families. Ed and Julia lived first on the 400 block, and then on the 300 block of Main Street before building their final home on B Street.

Ed cut his first hair for pay in 1905, and worked with his father until 1934 when his father was killed by a motorist at the intersection of Main and B Streets. The barber business moved from one wood-frame building to another, located next door to the original, and was operated by Ed until 1961. The building still stands today, directly across B Street from Town Hall.

As with most barber shops of the day, Ed's shop was a local gathering place where history was told, made, and revised. Anyone who visited the place can remember the collection of postcards Ed kept on the wall and his collection of "potato figures." The postcards are now collected in binders at the Ceredo Museum, as are pictures of the "potato figures." A staunch Republican, stories are legend of Ed's political arguments with members of the opposition party.

Ed never owned a car, preferring to ride a bicycle, first the two-wheeled version and in later years a three-wheeled model. When Ed retired from barbering the price of a haircut was fifty cents, but Ed used those fifty-cent pieces wisely by investing in the stock market and living a frugal life. His financial acumen is obvious by the fact that after retirement Ed was placed on the Board of Directors of the First Bank of Ceredo – having amassed his wealth fifty cents at a time. A generous man, Ed

was a strong supporter of local projects such as athletic teams and the band, as well as donating to national charities on a regular basis.

In addition to his athletic endeavors, Ed was a singer. He performed with, appropriately enough, a barbershop quartet for many years. With a singing partner from the Congregational Church, Ed sang at weddings and funerals throughout the tri-state, never with a charge.

Ed always maintained a large garden on his B Street property, and one year apparently decided that starlings were damaging his crops. Ed began a campaign to exterminate the birds, much to the chagrin of his neighbors, and after words had been exchanged Ed proved his point by hanging rows of the dead birds on his clothesline. After some negotiating with town fathers Ed relented, but it is safe to say that there are no bird engravings on his tombstone.

In his later years Ed could be found riding his bike to every local sporting event, tinkering in his garden or with his prize-winning roses, or writing his four-volume history of Ceredo. Being personally acquainted with all of Ceredo's founding families, Ed witnessed more of the growth of Ceredo than any other person. Painstakingly handwritten, Ed's four volumes are the authoritative work on our town's businesses, politics, houses, athletic teams, schools, and people. The books contain many pictures of Ceredo, particularly of houses, with notes from Ed about who built each house and which families occupied them. The handwritten volumes have been transcribed for easier reading and are available in the Ceredo Museum.

Any book about Ceredo could not be complete without a chapter about the life and times of Ed Adkins. We are fortunate that he crossed the river and became an influential member of Ceredo for 96 years. Ed Adkins ... a true Character of Ceredo

# JORDAN BRANCH FLOOD POND

Following the 1937 Ohio River flood, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers undertook one of the largest engineering feats in the nation's history by building a series of floodwalls and levies to prevent the loss of life and property caused by the unhindered river. Located hard beside the Ohio River, Ceredo was a beneficiary of the new flood control system and since its installation in 1940 the flood control system has indeed protected our town.

The concrete walls and grass levies are intended to keep floodwater OUT of Ceredo and similarly situated towns and cities. The problem, however, has a second layer – that is, what to do with excess water that is INSIDE the floodwall system. In our case, that would be water that runs through Jordan Branch from Kenova, well removed from the Ohio River and Twelve Pole Creek.

Jordan Branch enters Ceredo at the west end of the town park, meanders through the park and is tunneled beneath the CSX railroad tracks just west of Park Terrace. The branch circles to the north side of Park Terrace and is tunneled beneath 1st Street West to an area behind the Albee Apartments, then is again tunneled beneath Main Street where it empties into the bottom land on the south end of the former elementary school. Prior to installation of the Main Street tunnel when the flood control system was built in 1940, there was actually a bridge on Main Street over Jordan Branch.

Once reaching the ponding area behind the old school, Jordan Branch is trapped by the grass flood levy that runs along Twelve Pole Creek. As part of the Corps' flood control design, there is an exit gate beneath the grass levy from which Jordan Branch can empty into Twelve Pole Creek during normal river levels, but when the Ohio River rises, causing water to back into Twelve Pole, the exit gate must be closed.

When the exit gate is closed, such as was the case during the weekend of February 23-24, water ponded in the Jordan Branch retention area must be pumped over the grass flood levy and directly into Twelve Pole Creek. Thus, the Corps installed a pump station just beyond 3rd Street East, equipped with two large pumps that have been in service during every high-water period since 1940.

The Corps' design necessitated a ponding or retention area to hold the water from inside Ceredo until the pumps are able to move it into Twelve Pole. The retention area, designated as within the flood plain by the Corps of Engineers and FEMA, consists of the Park Terrace bottom and the Jordan Branch Ponding Area behind the old elementary school. By plan, stormwater is held in those areas until the pump system is able to "get ahead" of the rising water by pumping out more water than is running into the retention area.

Overall, the system works remarkably well. The pumps, now 79 years old, are very functional with little maintenance. When operational, the pumps must be manned 24 hours a day, causing some long overtime hours for town employees, but on most occasions the pumps are able to stay ahead of the ponding water and protect those few homes inside Ceredo that are in the flood plain. Still, there are exceptional circumstances when the retention area and the pumps simply can't remove the water fast enough.

Such was the case in late February when nearly two weeks of very wet weather resulted in enough water in the retention area to have the pumps at a standstill just before torrential rains during the night of February 23-24 caused the retention area to fill at a rate faster than the pumps could remove the water. By early Sunday morning the pumps managed to get back to the "break-even" point to hold the water level in the retention area. By memory of town employees, the situation of retention water rising faster than the pumps could manage has only happened about once every ten years.

All in all, the flood control plan has worked as designed. There are some issues, particularly as people have built structures or dumped fill into the retention area, causing less space to be available for retaining water and thus higher water levels during periods of flooding. The town will continue to monitor the retention areas and with your assistance we can go another 75 years without significant flood damage in Ceredo.

## Proper Disposal of Household Hazardous Wastes

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

Many products found in homes contain chemical ingredients that are potentially harmful to people and the environment. Chemicals such as oven cleaners, paint removers, bug killers, solvents, and drain cleaners are just a few common hazardous products in the home. Over the last 20 years, concern about the disposal of such products has been growing. In 1976, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) was passed, regulating the procedures governing the generation, storage, transport, treatment, and disposal of hazardous materials. Although this legislation has mitigated some of the problems associated with commercial hazardous material disposal, more efforts need to be made to reduce and properly dispose of hazardous waste in the home.

*Hazardous products include the following:*

- **Cleaning Products:** Oven cleaner, floor wax, furniture polish, drain cleaner, and spot remover.
- **Car Care and Maintenance:** Motor oil, battery acid, gasoline, car wax, engine cleaner, antifreeze, degreaser, radiator flush, and rust preventative.
- **Home Improvement Products:** Paints, preservatives, strippers, brush cleaners, and solvents.

Use less toxic alternatives to household hazardous waste as often as possible. Disposal of hazardous products used in the home requires special attention. When use of hazardous household products is unavoidable, hazardous products should never be poured on the ground, into gutters, or down storm drains where they will eventually enter storm sewers and be transported untreated into Jordan Branch, Twelve pole Creek and the Ohio River. Ceredo has an ordinance in place that prohibits deposit of litter on any public or private property except in proper disposal containers. Ceredo enforces its ordinance regarding open dumping. The maximum penalty for violation of this ordinance is a \$500 fine and 10 days imprisonment. Contact the Town of Ceredo at (304) 453-1041 for locations of hazardous waste collection sites. The Town of Ceredo does not pick up hazardous materials. Hazardous materials should be stored in a cool, dry place where any leaks will be contained and prevented from entering storm drainage paths.

To learn more, please follow our periodic articles in this newspaper on storm water and Ceredo's MS4 program regarding water quality, storm water management. As you read these articles, you will see that we all have the ability to have an impact on our most precious natural resource by promoting responsible methods or making small changes in our everyday lives. In addition, the Town of Ceredo's MS4 program is routinely discussed at town council meetings, and the public's involvement is encouraged.




# Huntington Region

## A.A.C.A.



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