

Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session August 2, 2021

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, August 2, 2021 at the Ceredo City Hall. The Mayor, Paul A. Billups, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included the Mayor, Paul A. Billups; and Councilmen Oscar Adkins, Steve Diamond, Ron Jarrell, Robert Leslie and Joe Ratcliff. The Recorder, Stanley E. Fink was absent due to illness.

Reading and Approval of the Minutes

The Mayor asked if Council had any additions or corrections to the July 6, 2021 Regular Session minutes. None being heard and on a motion by Steve Diamond and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to accept the July 6, 2021 Regular Session 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 for July 2021. The Mayor asked if Council had any questions on the Treasurer's report. None being heard, on a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Ron Jarrell, Council voted to accept the Treasurer's report and the expenditure report as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Carol Browning - Appreciation

Mr. Carol Browning presented the Mayor and Council a plaque for their continued support of the Huntington Region A.A.C.A car show.

C-K Little League

Reed Fry and Matt Ward approached council regarding changes with the C-K Little League. Mr. Ward will become the Treasurer and Mr. Fry will become the new president.

Both gentlemen advised council of many changes they plan to implement with the C-K Little League and the county Little League as a whole.

Floodwall Inspection

The Mayor advised that John Conley and Danny Roberts would be working together to evaluate and address issues before the next floodwall inspection.

A Street Playground Equipment

The Mayor advised he had spoken with Kenova Mayor, Tim Bias, about the playground equipment on A Street and Kenova does want the equipment for the playground at Virginia Point.

6th Street Sewer Project

Terrance Moran from Potesta and Associates approached Council regarding a permit that is needed to continue with the project. The Mayor advised the clerk to issue a check for \$300 to cover the fee. Mr. Moran also advised a new design would need to be completed due to the property owner not allowing for the line to cut through the parking lot pavement.

Cogan's Wrecker Service

The Mayor advised council of an issue with the property owned by Cogan's Wrecker Service. He asked the Police Chief to setup a meeting to address the current state of the property and report back to council by the next meeting.

Water Tank

The Mayor advised the Crescent Hill Water Tank painting project had been completed and passed inspection.

500 Block Main Street - Alley

The Mayor and Councilman Jarrell reported the status of the sewer issues effecting the alleyway in the 500 block of Main St. and the public works employees were still in the process of correcting the issue. The hope to have the alley reopen in the coming days.

Parking Issue

The Mayor has completed an agreement with the Golden Girl Group Home

and the Ceredo Church of Christ for employee parking. It is hoped that this will help with the parking issues surrounding the Golden Girl Group Home.

Park Restrooms

The Mayor advised Council that due to the rise in COVID cases, he felt the need to close the park restrooms and asked for councils input. All were in agreement this was what was needed to reduce possible exposure and the Mayor asked that John Conley winterize and closed the restrooms for the remainder of the year.

Asplundh Tree Service

The Mayor advised Council he is waiting on a quote for tree trimming and removal service and hopes to have received it by the next Council Meeting.

Insurance Quote

The Mayor advised Council the Town had received two quotes for liability insurance for the 21-22 year. Travelers Insurance bid for \$101,000 was the low bid and advised it was in our best interest to remain with Travelers.

On a motion by Bob Leslie and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to approve the annual insurance quote. All were in favor, motion carried.

Kayak/Canoe Access

The Mayor requested council approve the creation of the Ceredo Twelve Pole Conservancy and appoint Councilman William Diamond as committee chairperson.

On a motion by Bob Leslie and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to approve the creation of the T.P.C. and appoint Mr. Diamond as chairperson. All were in favor, motion carried.

Parks Maintenance & Groundman Position

The Mayor requested Council approve the creation and hire of Scott Hensley as the Town Parks Maintenance Grounds Superintendent at a rate of \$10/week or \$520/annual.

On a motion by William Diamond and a second by Ronald Jarrell, Council voted to approve the hirer and creation of position. All were in favor, motion carried.

Police Report

Police Chief, Anthony Poston reported two officers are now certified in Self Defense De-escalation.

Beautification Building

The Mayor asked those in attendance to submit ideas on what is needed and a design of the new building which is to be built at a later date.

Street Department Report

Today, August 2, 2021 was John Conley's first day and therefore there is no report.

Stormwater Manager

The Mayor advised council of the departure of Dustin Long, Stormwater Manager. Due to his departure, we are required to hire a replacement. This position would be part time only and may also include functions of a Flood-wall Manager.

Commercial Parking Ordinance

The Mayor advised council of an issue effecting several areas of town in which large commercial vehicles are taking up residential parking places. The Mayor will prepare a preposed ordinance prior to the next meeting.

Adjournment

No further business was brought before the Council. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

A television advertisement has been airing lately that shows a clip of what is probably the most famous, and often quoted, phrase from any Presidential Inauguration speech, that being John Kennedy's challenge made in 1961: "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country." All of us alive in 1961 likely remember Kennedy's words verbatim, and most younger people that paid just a bit of attention in civics class are no doubt familiar with the challenge.

Having watched the television clip several times, it is quite obvious that President Kennedy was asking every American to contribute in some way toward the public good. The importance of civic action and public service, in today's world of entitlement programs and "what's in it for me" attitudes, appear to be largely lost on most Americans. While volunteerism in Ceredo perhaps isn't what it used to be, we still have a greater volunteer base than most of America.

As this issue of the New Crescent was being edited, I noticed the article written by the late Jack Hardin concerning the Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department in 1954. Jack, himself a community volunteer in a variety of ways, including acting as the public address announcer at C-K football games and as a member for many years of the Beautification Committee, noted that members of the fire department

took on the tasks of cleaning storm drains, washing streets, and painting curbs and fire hydrants. Those tasks, in addition to fighting fires and operating an ambulance, made those men true community volunteers.

While recounting this story to my father, he reminded me that for the first twenty-five years after our floodwall was constructed in 1940, local men volunteered to install the flood gates, by hand, when high water was expected. Those were the days before social media notifications, when word passed by telephone from man to man that assistance was needed. Dad recounts that in most instances more men than necessary showed up to help with what was then a hard labor task. There was never a shortage of help, Dad says, and there was never a need to beg men to come. They came because the community needed them, no questions, no compensation, just for the public good.

In most cities and towns today, people are too busy to be concerned with the public good, and any that might show up would expect compensation. Ceredo remains different. We have a number of community volunteers serving on various committees, but could use more. We still have a number of residents that contribute to the public good by cleaning their neighborhood streets or assisting the elderly or infirm neighbor with yard work.

Young Bailey McKinney of B Street is a great example of a person doing his part to make neighbor's lives, and thus the town, a better place. This makes Ceredo a little better, a little different, than most places. It is a direct result of our community involvement that our streets, yards, and common areas stay clean. By having willing volunteers that ask "what can I do for the town", we are able to establish meaningful committee groups that produce results.

As Mayor, the "what can I do to help" calls are a true pleasure. I understand that the pace and demands of today's world often make people cynical about anything that doesn't directly benefit them, but the public good is as important today, perhaps even more so, than it was in 1961 when President Kennedy delivered his challenge. If you would like to serve on a local committee, let me know. If your public service is better done by helping on your block, that's great. I simply urge you, while able, to step forth and contribute. It is your efforts that keep our property values high and make Ceredo the most desirable small town in West Virginia in which to live. Let's keep it up, keep Ceredo different, and make our next years the best years in our town!

Golden Girl Retail Outlet

The Golden Girl Group Home retail outlet and training center, located in the 700 block of Main Street, will hold a Grand Opening ceremony on Friday, October 15, 2021. The ceremony will be held at the retail and training center site.

The beautiful new building on Main Street replaces two dilapidated structures that had become eyesores in South Ceredo. The building features retail space on the first floor, with training rooms and a commercial kitchen on the second floor. In addition to training classes, the second-floor space is suitable for banquets and other functions.

The retail space will offer consignment clothing as well as some consigned furniture items.

According to Nikki Thomas of the Group Home, the retail outlet will provide an opportunity for students to prepare for working in the retail industry after graduation. By using the kitchen, students will be trained to work



in the food service industry, giving them a head start on transitional jobs when they enter the work force.

“This facility has been a long-time dream for the Group Home”, said Thomas. “With the assistance of the Town, we have been able to rehabilitate a blighted area and create a most valuable resource for our students as they prepare for life. The retail outlet is a win-win for all concerned.”

The new construction on Main Street marks the completion of the first of several rehabilitation projects in the town, all part of Town Council’s efforts to eliminate dilapidated structures and to replace them with new construction that will maintain property values in the town and provide services for our residents.

Kayak – Canoe Access

Work is underway to create an access point on Twelve Pole Creek for kayaks and canoes. With the popularity of kayaks that has reached record levels during the pandemic, the Ceredo Town Council has initiated action to construct an area where persons will have safe access to the creek board and dismount light watercraft.

The proposed access point will be located near the Ceredo Police Gun Range, an area that has sufficient space for parking and an easy route to carry a canoe or kayak to the water. Councilman Steve Diamond, an expert fisherman and outdoorsman, is in charge of the project which will include improvements to the Twelve Pole banks and eventually lead to a program that will help clean the waterway and improve the Twelve Pole fishery.

In conjunction with the Corps of Engineers and Department of Natural Resources, it is the desire of the town to improve the area of Twelve Pole that passes through Ceredo. Presently, the area gets little recreational use, despite the potential of a good fishery close to the Ohio River. This project, at very minimal cost to the town, will create the only true kayak – canoe access point within miles. Persons wishing to assist with this project should contact Town Hall at 304-453-4675.

Sewer Projects Underway

Preliminary work is underway on two sewer projects in Ceredo. The first project is centered on 6th Street West, and involves re-routing the sanitary sewer line from the area known as the Towne Shoppes. The new line will run east across 6th Street to a point near the Ceredo Plaza entrance, then along the Plaza parking lot to join a main sanitary line east of the former Norandex building. Engineering on this project is nearly complete, with the request for bids to be issued soon. Estimated cost of the project is \$250,000, with the state providing 50% and the town providing the \$125,000 matching funds.

The second project will address a long-standing storm sewer issue along Greenwood and Fairwood Drives. A storm drain that handles most of the runoff from the Greenwood Drive area will

be replaced. The original eight-inch line, installed by developers some forty years ago, is too small to handle the drainage area. Engineering is now underway to determine the necessary pipe size, expected to be at least 24 inches in diameter, thus increasing the line capability by a factor of eight.

The replacement will start near the Deal Apartments and proceed along the rear of the Ceredo Plaza property for approximately 500 feet before joining an existing 24-inch line that crosses Fairwood Drive. The cost of this project, all borne by the town, is expected to be near \$200,000. Hopefully, the project will be ready to bid later this year and can be completed in quick fashion thereafter, relieving a number of residents of dealing with pooled water following each heavy rain.

Council Passes Vaccine Incentive

Recognizing the need to mitigate the “second round” of COVID infections in our area and the necessity of maintaining a healthy workforce, the Town Council has approved an incentive payment of \$250 to all full-time Town of Ceredo employees that have been fully vaccinated against the virus. Funds for this incentive will come from CARES Act monies received by the town for use in mitigating the spread of the virus.

“Our employees must, by virtue of the service they perform to the community, be in contact with a number of persons each day, and each day our employees handle objects that could transmit the COVID virus”, said Mayor Paul Billups. “We want our people to be safe and stay healthy, and this

is an incentive to keep the virus from spreading within the town workforce.”

News reports daily tell us that our hospitals are full with COVID patients, most of whom are unvaccinated, and most of us have attended funerals for friends that have passed after contracting the virus. Despite the varying political arguments we may see about this medical issue, the one thing common sense tells us is that the virus is real, and it can cause death. The Town will continue to take all possible steps to maintain a healthy workforce and safe environments for our residents that use municipal buildings.

Wedding at the Park



The Jeremy Shoemaker Amphitheater at the Paul T. Billups Park in Ceredo has had many uses over the years, but on July 31, 2021, the amphitheater was host to a new event. The wedding of Hannah Cole and Colton Brumfield was held at the amphitheater, which, with a little decorating help from the wedding families, was a beautiful wedding venue.



Having hosted reunions, musical events, birthday parties and other group gatherings, the amphitheater was perhaps at its best for the Cole-Brumfield nuptials. Recognizing that the town work crew had little, or no, experience in preparing a wedding venue, the families stepped in and made the place look like it was constructed for weddings.

By all accounts, with some minor adjustments to accommodate a “more civilized” function, the ceremony was a great success. The bride and groom will hopefully have wonderful memories of their wedding taking place in this unique setting, and hopefully other such events will take advantage of the amphitheater. Congratulations to Hannah and Colton!

Business Incubator

Two new businesses have opened in Ceredo at 302 Main Street, Suite B. This address is part of the original Copley’s Thriftway Market facing Main Street, and in the years since has been a furniture store, pizza parlor, and is currently an insurance office.

Clawz and Cutz, a full-line hair salon, occupies part of the incubation space. Operated by Westmoreland resident Pauley Townson, Clawz and Cutz offers hair cutting and coloring in addition to natural and art manicure and pedicure services, including waxing. Townson has been a licensed cosmetologist for sever years, and is excited about her new Ceredo location. “Business has been above expectations”,

said Townson, “the Ceredo and Kenova communities have embraced the new shop, and I hope to grow on the early success.”

Appointments for Clawz and Cutz may be made online at “CeredoClawzandCutz.com”, or by telephone at 304-712-HAIR. Current business hours are Tuesday – Friday, 10 AM until 7 PM, and Saturdays from 10 to 4.

The second business occupying Suite B at 302 Main is Two Broke Girls Designs. Operated by Angie Brumfield, Two Broke Girls specializes in custom printed t-shirts, hats, cups, etc. The business stocks sublimation blanks and HTV vinyl 657, and also produced custom banners.

Two Broke Girls Designs is open Monday – Friday, 10 AM until 5 PM. Telephone inquiries or orders may be placed by calling 304-566-TEES.



Around Town

South Ceredo resident and local “Flower Lady” Delcie Elkins is getting settled in her new house located on the corner of Main and High Streets. The beautiful house replaces the two-story structure that was damaged by fire in December, 2019. With landscaping well underway, Delcie, Donnie, and Clyde are justifiably proud, and the residence will be a south-side showplace.



Special thanks once again the Ceredo resident Tyler Smith for his work in maintaining the old cemetery located across Crescent Drive from Ceredo’s Crescent Hill Cemetery. Unattended for many years, the unnamed cemetery is now well-maintained by Tyler. Cemetery maintenance is a tough job, and Tyler undertook this project largely alone. Every town could use more residents like Tyler Smith, willing to work simply to make things better without personal gain. According to late Ceredo historian Rusty Bash, a number of smallpox victims during the plague of 1902-03 were buried in the cemetery that Tyler now maintains.

The Ceredo Farmers Market had another good season with anchor farmers Bill Stewart and Jason Ekers. The market will remain open through mid-October with a good crop of pumpkins, gourds and corn stalks for seasonal decorating. The return of Four Mile Bakery doughnuts attracted a good early morning crowd each weekend.

Slowly, Ceredo is eliminating the Sweet Gum trees that were planted between our sidewalks and curbs. One of nature’s most beautiful trees, the Gum trees produce prickly balls that have continuously clogged storm sewers and created a hazard for cyclists and walkers for a number of years. As is mandated by local ordinance, each of the removed trees will be replaced with a species more suited for urban space.

Stray or unattended cats continue to be a problem in Ceredo. Several warnings have been provided to persons that may “own” or be feeding outdoor cats. Simply put, it is illegal to allow a cat or dog to roam freely around streets and property of others. The town doesn’t want to fine cat or dog owners, and we don’t want to continuously call the animal warden to take these animals to the pound, but more than that, the town doesn’t want to be overrun with stray animals.

Allowing your cat or dog to leave waste on neighbor’s property is wrong. If the situation isn’t cured by “owners”, it will be necessary for the town to take action. Please help now, rather than complaining when your cat or dog is taken to the pound.

Ceredo resident Elba Gene Cox was unable to make his scheduled trip to the Tokyo Olympic Games this summer due to COVID travel restrictions. A former world-ranked table tennis player, Cox was scheduled to meet several of his former foes in Tokyo for a series of exhibition matches. While regretting that he couldn’t take part in the quasi-Olympic tournament, Cox continues to practice and will be ready when international travel restrictions are lifted.

The Ceredo Unsafe Housing Commission is taking action to eliminate the dilapidated housing situation that is plaguing much of America. Ceredo is fortunate not to have a large number of houses in very poor condition, but we do have our share. The Unsafe Housing Commission has done a commendable job in addressing these cases, but it takes time to go through the process of allowing property owners an opportunity to repair the buildings before they are condemned. Only by staying in front of the problem can we keep our neighborhoods in good repair and hold property values.

The restrooms in the town park were closed for a portion of the summer due to vandalism. For reasons known only to young minds, it became a weekly occurrence for objects to be flushed in toilets, clogging them beyond use, and for human excrement to be spread on the toilet and walls. Toilet paper and paper towels had a life expectancy of about 12 hours before disappearing from the park restrooms.

Our older population using the walking track, as well as children practicing softball in the park, need the restrooms. Unfortunately, the town doesn’t have manpower to assign a person full-time to the restrooms. Of late, the problem has been somewhat better, and hopefully conditions will remain such that the restrooms can stay open.

Leaf season is approaching. Ceredo is proud to have been designated a National Tree City, and our trees are truly beautiful, some say the trees and flowers make the town, but with trees comes leaves. In Ceredo, that means millions of leaves each year. While we could take the approach of other cities and simply do nothing with the leaves, Council has long been of the thought that to keep the cleanliness of our streets and sidewalks, as well as aiding in the battle to keep storm drains flowing well, the leaves must be collected.

Our residents appreciate this service, along with several other municipal services provided in Ceredo that can’t be found in larger cities. In order to efficiently collect fallen leaves, the town asks that residents rake or blow the leaves to the area between the sidewalk and curb. Please don’t blow your leaves onto the street, as that practice eliminates parking space and allows rain to carry the leaves into our storm drains.

When the leaves are placed between the sidewalk and curb our street employees can utilize the vacuum truck to collect them. Residents that may be physically unable to move the leaves from their yards to the collection area should contact Town Hall and arrangement will be made to you. Help our street staff keep Ceredo beautiful by making their job more efficient.

Unauthorized yard sales continue to be a problem. Please remember that a permit must be obtained for every yard or garage sale. The first permit for each calendar year is free, but the actual permit must be obtained from Town Hall and displayed at the sale venue. The second and subsequent permits carry a fee.

We must all keep in mind that one “Spring cleaning” a year is normal, but a yard sale once a month or more is a business, thus requiring a business license, tax filings, and approval of the Town Council. Signs put up on public property, such as telephone poles, must be taken down by five in the afternoon on the day of the sale. Please comply with these regulations. The town doesn’t want to shut down any yard sale or impose any fine, but we also don’t want the town to become a weekend flea market.

ROCCOS

R I S T O R A N T E

“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

HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry.....	10/21
Jim Billups.....	02/22
John C. Hall.....	05/21
Paul and Kathy Billups.....	10/21
Jack and Ann Riggs.....	05/21
Mike and Susan Watts.....	10/21
Leigh Ann Johnson.....	04/22
Connie & Mark Beford.....	10/21
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter.....	10/21
In Memory of Herb & Helen Stephens.....	08/21
In Memory of Coach Dale Craycraft.....	08/21
In Memory of J. J. & Roma Gail Billups.....	08/21
In Memory of Houston & Gladys Woolwine.....	04/21
Katrina Childers.....	07/22
In Memory of Alberta “Dossie” & Sherman Medley.....	04/22
In Memory of Charles & Dorothy Watts.....	09/21
Jeanette & Roger Barker.....	03/21
Karin & Mike Dawson.....	02/23
In Memory of Anagene Wooten Gibbs.....	08/22
In Memory of Kathleen Wooten Marcum.....	08/22
In Memory of Herm Wooten Matney.....	08/22
In Memory of Larry Cole.....	08/22
American Legion.....	01/21
Evaroni’s.....	01/21
CUMC.....	12/21
Roberta and Charlie Mitchell.....	03/22
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 Francis & Carl Cornell.....	05/22
In Memory of WW. Mills, MD.....	05/21
In Memory of Larry Jack Heck.....	06/21
Floyd Mays.....	06/21
Mike & Karen Skeens.....	08/22
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.....	07/22
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
Taylor Booth.....	03/22
Michael & Debby Hibbard.....	04/22
Susan & Stephen Woolwine.....	04/22
Gary & Marsha Adkins.....	04/22
John Hall.....	04/22

The New Crescent Honor Roll is intended to be a way we give special recognition to those persons who donate at least \$50.00 during the year to support our publication. Since the Honor Roll is a twelve-month feature, you will need to renew your 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! If you would like to add your name or a loved one’s name, please contact Town Hall at (304) 453-1041 or email: info@ceredowv.gov.

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.

WE WELCOME YOUR EMAIL:
info@ceredowv.gov

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB:
www.CeredoWV.gov



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 and the Montreal Olympics

Some stories don't have much education value or, for that matter, much interest to the general public. This type of story will never be the reason for a "Special Edition" or generate front-page above-the-fold headlines that would sell papers, but these stories simply need to be written to preserve that fact that the events happened. History deserves to know.

In the summer of 1976, Ceredo residents Bobby Scott Sullivan and Paul Billups were young, adventurous, athletic, and starting their journey through life. The lads shared apartment space on Main Street and, of their several habits, had never seen a road trip they didn't like.

Such was the situation on Monday, July 26, 1976, when the boys, both baseball players and fans, decided to travel to Riverfront Stadium to see Cincinnati's "Big Red Machine" take on the San Francisco Giants in an evening game. Unsure as to whether they would stay the night in Cincinnati, the boys each took a small duffel bag with toiletries and a clean t-shirt, departing Ceredo in Sullivan's Plymouth Satellite Sebring automobile in the early afternoon. A pretty routine day-trip for baseball fans.

The 1976 Olympic Games, held in Montreal, took place between July 17th and August 1st. Selected events from the Olympics were shown on television in 1976, ESPN and 24-hour coverage not yet on the scene, so Bobby and Paul were aware of the games but, when departing Ceredo, had not a single thought of attending the games. After all, the boys took no clothes, had no tickets, no hotel reservations, and about ninety dollars between them. No debit card, but a credit card that worked only for fuel.

As the Ceredo boys neared Portsmouth, either fortunately or unfortunately listening to the car radio, "Howard Cosell's Olympic Report" came over the air. The report consisted of Cosell, perhaps the best-known sports broadcasting personality of the time, giving a summary of the day's events. With minimal discussion and less thought, Bobby turned north and the boys were Olympic-bound. After all, the Olympics had track and boxing, Bobby was a track star and Paul fought in the Golden Gloves. That's about all the reasoning that was required.

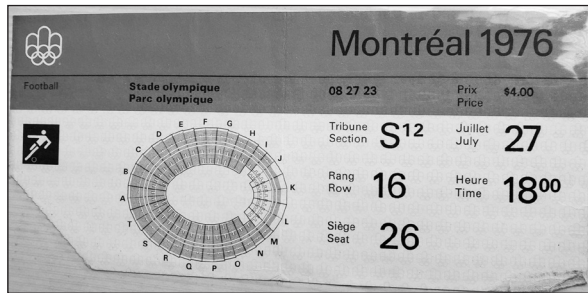
At around dusk the boys stopped somewhere in Ohio and called their parents, collect, so no search parties would be initiated. The first response in both the Sullivan and Billups households was "Quit this fooling around and get over here before dinner gets cold." After minor convincing, both households gave in to the fact that while technically not runaways, their boys were perhaps too adventurous for their own good. Onward to the border.

The boys reached the Canadian border somewhere north of Watertown, NY, sometime during the night. Being a time before terrorists completely changed the world, and a driver's license being adequate identification to enter Canada, no border problems were expected. The Canadian border guard, a jovial older fellow, made the usual inquiries about country of birth, contraband, and destination. It was the destination question that started the inquiry.

The guard requested to see hotel reservations. The boys had none. The guard requested to see tickets to the Olympic Games. The boys had none. The guard once again looked at the currency claimed, and summarized the stop by saying "You have little money,



Billups & Sullivan, Montreal Olympics 1976



Ticket from the 1976 Olympic Games

no hotel, no tickets, need directions to Montreal, and expect me to believe you are going to the Olympics with good intentions"? It looked like the boys had missed a good baseball game to take a long car ride to nowhere. The kindness of the day finally prevailed, the guard declared that the boys looked like good fellows, and said if they were crazy enough to do it, have at it.

The trip continued, terminating at a Montreal service station after 17 hours and change. When the service station attendant came to the car window, the boys asked for directions to Olympic Stadium. The attendant replied, in French. Oh, no. Having made it that far, there was no turning around due to a minor language problem. After some discussion between themselves, in English, the boys decided to follow the flow of traffic, figuring everyone would surely be going to the Olympics. They weren't far off, as when they found the Olympic Stadium and surrounding area, they found at least 100,000 people.

Tired but excited, the boys found a parking space and started walking toward the stadium. The weather was a bit overcast, and fate stepped in to make the adventure a bit more surreal. The boys were both wearing white tennis shorts and t-shirts, proper attire for a July baseball game in Cincinnati. Both fellows had running jackets with them, Bobby's being a white jacket trimmed in red and blue, and Paul's being an exact replica (unknown at the time of purchase at Glenn's Sporting Goods) of the sweatsuits worn by the United States Olympians.

At this point it should be interjected that one other person from Ceredo was attending the 1976 Montreal Olympics, albeit unknown to Bobby and Paul. Tom Plymale, a lifelong friend and classmate of both boys, was attending the games in a proper fashion. Tickets,

hotel, food money. The things a person should have.

Although being after the Munich terrorist attack during the 1972 Olympics, security in Montreal was extremely lax compared to what we live under today. Immediately outside Olympic Stadium was a practice track, known as the Athlete's Knoll, surrounded only by a four-foot fence. Athletes walking to and from the practice track mingled with spectators, and literally 100,000 people milled about the several-block area where the Olympic facilities were located.

As the Ceredo duo approached the practice track, people started approaching the boys and holding out papers and pens. Quickly, the boys realized that being of an appropriate age, in reasonably good shape, and wearing the American colored jackets caused spectators to think they were members of the United States Olympic team. Not wanting to disappoint the masses, the boys were soon surrounded by a large group of people as they signed everything handed to them.

Then it happened. Plymale, by total coincidence, was watching runners warm-up on the practice track when he noticed a gathering of autograph seekers. Being inquisitive as to who was signing autographs, Tom walked to the area and, much to his surprise, found Bobby and Paul, totally enjoying their Olympic experience without having enough money to see a single event. What are the chances.

Bob and Paul declared the autograph session over and, after a good laugh with Tommy, decided to remove their jackets so they could walk around the Olympic facilities unmolested. The boys spent the night sleeping in the Plymouth, and luckily found a campground the next morning that had a free outdoor shower. Somewhat rested and a little clean, the boys started another day observing the Olympic Games from street level. Fate again stepped in.

As noted earlier, funds were limited and the ATM machine had not yet been invented. By luck, the boys were approached by a scalper, offering tickets to a soccer match between countries long since forgotten, but at a price so cheap the boys went for it. Fortunately, the boys were in good physical condition, because it was a long climb to the top row of seats in Montreal's Olympic Stadium. It didn't much matter who was playing, because the seats were so high the boys could hardly see the soccer ball. Still, they made it into an Olympic event.

That night, their meager funds depleted, the boys bought a couple of sixteen-ounce bottles of Pepsi and a couple of lunch cakes and started the journey back to Ceredo. The return trip was uneventful for the most part. The late-night stars in upstate New York were beautiful, as noted when the boys pulled off beside the road to sleep a while.

Just why they did it is hard to explain, other than that they were young, adventurous, and invincible. Perhaps they didn't see much that a regular tourist would have seen, but maybe they saw more. It would have been easier, perhaps better, to have done it "the sensible way", but the memories wouldn't be quite as good.

So there it is, in newsprint for posterity, for some person of the coming generation to read and wonder, could that really have happened? It did, and the boys would do it again today if they were healthy enough to drive 17 hours straight or sleep even one night in a car.

Town Ball

In the days before internet, television, two cars for every house and every meal eaten out, residents of America's small towns had to make their own entertainment. With baseball being the "National Pastime" during the early 1900's, nearly every small town had a handful of baseball teams. These "town ball" teams played a loose schedule, with games usually played on Saturdays when the players were off work and residents were free to watch the contests.

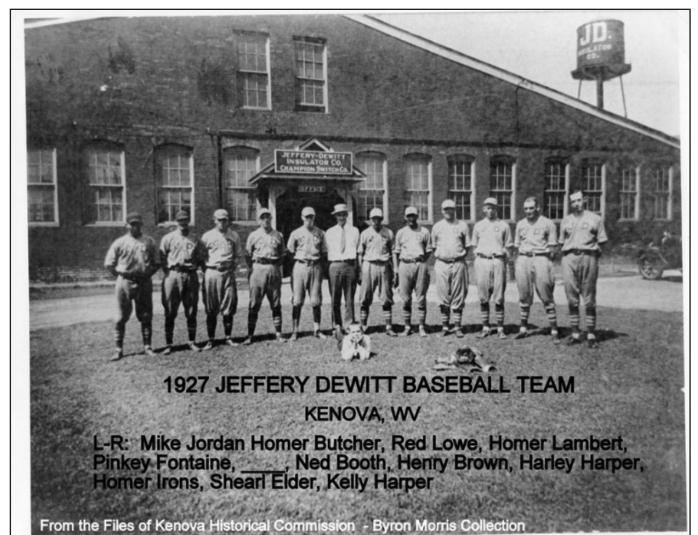
One of Ceredo's founding families, the Wright family, is generally credited with bringing baseball to our town. At one time, the ten male children of Robert Wright played together on what was known as the "All-Wright" team. One of Robert Wright's grandsons, Wayne "Rasty" Wright, left Ceredo to play at Ohio State University and later pitched professionally for the St. Louis Browns between 1917 and 1923.

While there were many variations of "leagues", in the earliest days the most common practice was for men of each community to play together. Thus, in our area, Ceredo, Kenova, Catlettsburg, Kellogg (present-day Westmoreland), and Ashland all had town-teams. Equipment was rudimentary, fields were the proverbial cow pastures, umpiring was dangerous, and large crowds attended every game to root for the home team.

As more industries appeared in our area, the "town-teams" were replaced by business sponsored teams. Sponsoring a baseball team usually meant the business would buy the uniforms and not much else, and with many teams the players actually worked for the sponsoring business. Schedules became a little more organized with actual league play, although it is doubtful that participation trophies were presented.

As evidenced by the adjoining photograph, the Jeffery Dewitt Company, the remains of which still stand on the Virginia Point Road in Kenova, sponsored a team that played in the Ceredo-Kenova League. Our more mature readers will remember a few of the team members, including late Ceredo residents Ned Booth, Henry Brown, and Homer "Tag" Irons. Mr. Irons pitched baseball for various local teams

The JEFFREY DEWITT INSULATOR PLANT BASEBALL TEAM - 1927 KENOVA, WV



until he was over fifty years of age, and both Mr. Irons and Mr. Booth were on the umpiring staff in the early years of the C-K Little League.

Times changed, and by 1960 the small-town local leagues disappeared. Television, swimming pools, and organized youth sports gave residents other things to do, and gathering at the local ball yard every Saturday was no longer the only game in town. Larger cities, such as Huntington, maintained "Industrial Leagues" for a number of years, with larger entities such as Inco, Guyan Creamery, and the First National Bank sponsoring teams that played at St. Cloud Commons until around 1980. Late Ceredo resident Herb Stephens, also a member of the early Little League umpiring staff, pitched in the Huntington league for several years.

Times were simpler when baseball was the national pastime. Our residents actually knew each other, gathered weekly to cheer for the home team, and maintained a community identity that is often missing today. Booth, Brown, Irons, Stephens and a number of others were "baseball guys", and those of us living today would cherish the opportunity to play one game with them.

CEREDO TOWN STATS

POPULATION 1,412	LAND 1.53 SQ. MI.
MALE 42.6%	WATER .73 SQ. MI.
FEMALE 57.4%	MEDIAN AGE 48.9
ELEVATION 552	HOUSING UNITS 718
AREA 2.26 SQ. MI.	

In All The World There Is
Only One Evaroni's

US RT. 60 914 Oak Street, Kenova, WV



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



**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

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!




Giovanni's
of Westmoreland

Monday - Saturday
10-10
Sunday
12-10

Order Online
giovannispizzapower.com
(304) 429-7197
4624 Waverly Rd, Huntington, WV 25704

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

For more Information visit www.ceredowv.gov and click on the Cemetery page or Contact Stanley Fink at (304) 453-5622

**CEREDO-KENOVA
AMERICAN LEGION
POST 93**
302 8th Street
Kenova, West Virginia
"THE HOME OF HOSPITALITY"

We Support the Youth of Our Community!

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



The Crescent Kitchen

Poppyseed Cupcakes by Natalie Hemann



I have mentioned in a previous column that my mother is from a small town in Texas named West. We used to go visit my grandparents and other family members every year in the summer. One of the most vivid memories I have of those visits were the incredible array of desserts my grandmother would prepare for us. The sideboard in the dining room was full of cookies, cakes, and pies! Poppyseed cake was always a favorite. When my sister, Donna, went to West a couple of years ago, our family had a cook-out and my cousin Will brought these poppyseed cupcakes. Donna raved about how delicious the cupcakes were so I asked Will for the recipe. The original recipe is from my Aunt Willa Mae, who was a wonderful cook, just like my mom. My grandmother taught them well!

Ingredients:
2/3 cup Poppyseeds
1 cup Milk
2/3 cup Butter
1 1/2 cups Sugar
1 3/4 cups Flour
3 tsp. Baking Powder
4 Eggs Whites, Whipped
1 tsp. Vanilla

Directions:
Soak poppyseeds in milk for five minutes. Beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Sift flour and baking powder together; add flour mixture to butter mixture in three parts, alternating with poppyseed mix. Add whipped egg whites, folding in gently. Bake at 325 degrees for approximately 25 minutes. Makes about 15 cupcakes or you can bake in a 9 x 13 cake pan. If making the cake, bake approximately 35 minutes. Frost when cooled.

Seven Minute Frosting

Ingredients:
2/3 cup Poppyseeds
1 cup Milk
2/3 cup Butter
1 1/2 cups Sugar
1 3/4 cups Flour
3 tsp. Baking Powder
4 Eggs Whites, Whipped
1 tsp. Vanilla

Directions:
In the top of a double boiler, combine the sugar, water, egg whites, cream of tartar, and the pinch of salt. Beat with an electric mixer at low speed for 1 minute, then set the pan over, but not touching, the simmering water. Continue beating at high speed for about 7 minutes or until it's stiff and glossy. Remove from the heat; add the vanilla and beat for another 2 minutes. Use right away, as the frosting will set quickly.



Austin's
SINCE 1947
HOMEMADE ICE CREAM
Deliciously Different

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

**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

CVFD First Anniversary

EDITOR'S NOTE: Information for this article was obtained from an article appearing in the Huntington Advertiser on March 16, 1954, written by late Ceredo resident Jack Hardin.

The Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department was formed by an act of the Town Council in 1953, and upon receiving a charter from the state began operations at the Town Hall complex on B Street. This was the first organized fire department in the town's history, and quickly became one of the most valuable assets of the town.

Prior to 1953, fighting fires in Ceredo was somewhat of a community event. With no organized department, the town maintained seven alarm boxes in different areas. To report a conflagration, a person would pull the handle on an alarm box, causing the siren atop Town Hall to be activated. Community volunteers, largely whoever was around and willing to help, jumped on a town dump truck that held a roll of fire hose, and the search for a fire was on.

Unfortunately, there was no designation of which fire alarm box had been activated. The volunteers would thus look for smoke, and if seeing none, would start driving from alarm box to alarm box looking for a resident in distress. This sounds like a Three Stooges movie, but it is how things were done in Ceredo and most small communities at the time.

Each man that joined in the fire fighting effort was paid two-dollars at the next Town Council meeting. One can imagine that, with the proximity of the Ceredo Pool Room to Town Hall, a number of volunteers rolled out of the pool hall when the fire siren was activated.

Things improved slightly in 1951, when the Truax-Traer Coal Company purchased the first "fire truck" for the town. The coal company donated a Jeep with a connected trailer holding fire hose. Such was the status of fire fighting in Ceredo until the Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department was chartered in 1953.

A first anniversary celebration was held at the Fire Department on April 1, 1954. At that time, the department had 24 active members and three honorary members. The organization included a fire chief, assistant fire chief, department captain, three lieutenants, a sergeant, a secretary, a treasurer, and 16 firemen. During the first year, all active members completed a 13-week fire service extension course under the guidance of West Virginia University.

Active members recognized at the first anniversary celebration were Chief William Lyons, Assistant Chief Sterling Clarkson, Captain Harold Adkins, Lieutenants Russell Hutchinson, John Hall, and Homer Hall, Sergeant Phillip Carver, and Secretary-Treasurer C.J. Suthard. Firemen were Fred Adkins, Oscar Adkins, Don Cole, Frank Eagleston, Robert Eagleston, Wendell Little, Randolph Hall, Jr., Howard Edward Marcum, J.O. Marcum, Fred McFann, Robert Nicholas, Robert Rowe, Eddie Way, Houston Woolwine and William Jolley. Franklin Hensley, a former lieutenant with the department, was serving in Germany at the time of the anniversary celebration.

Honorary members were local pharmacist Robert Flanagan, Dr. David Sheffer Clark, and Lawrence Huff. Mr. Flanagan answered fire calls at his business during operating hours and directed traffic on Rt.60 when the fire trucks left the station. Dr. Clark served as the medical officer for the department. It is certain that Mr. Huff performed some voluntary duty to aid the organization, but time has lost the particular role.



CVFD Members 1954

The department was quite active during its first year. With the assistance of the Town Council and many civic-minded citizens, the department purchased a "real" fire truck, a 1952 model holding several feet of fire hose, a fire department ambulance, and other fire-fighting equipment. The fire truck contained a 500 gallon-a-minute Hale pump, a 500-gallon booster tank, 1,350 feet of two and ½ inch hose, 350 feet of 1 ½ inch hose, and fire extinguishers to quell any type of fire. This equipment gave the department the ability to reach a fire in any part of town.

The original ambulance was equipped with an oxygen tent and mask. The ambulance was purchased by the members from their dues and donations from the town's residents.

According to the Hardin article, one of the most important achievements accomplished during their first year by the "volunteer smoke eaters" was the formation of the fire department rescue squad. The rescue squad was especially valuable during the swimming season. Before this time, members of the Huntington Fire Department rescue squad had to make the long journey to Ceredo when drownings occurred.

The members also purchased a television set for the station and installed four bunk beds to accommodate members on night duty. Telephone service was instituted on a 24-hour basis, thus eliminating the practice of searching for fires when the alarm sounded.

In addition to answering alarms in and around Ceredo, the department also responded to calls outside the Kenova city limits with the understanding that the Kenova Fire Department would offer protection to Ceredo in case a fire broke out at the same time.

The early firefighters were true community volunteers. Aside from their first responder duties, department members took it upon themselves to clean the town's gutters and streets, paint the curbs in restricted areas, and paint fire hydrants located throughout the town.

Mayor Paul Billups, the town council, and Ceredo citizens praised the volunteer group for its splendid work and help to the community during its first year of existence

Autumnfest Pumpkinball



Tournament favorite Clyde Keyser

The C-K Autumnfest Committee has announced the creation of the Autumnfest Pumpkinball Tournament. The pickleball tournament, using orange balls for effect, will take place during Autumnfest week of October 22 – 28, 2021. Tournament Director Bradley Jordan said "With the popularity of pickleball and our desire to add events to the Autumnfest experience, the committee felt this would be a great event."

The tournament will have two divisions, novice and open, with all matches being doubles. The novice division, for less experienced players, will take the first 40 individuals registering for that division. Teams will be assigned by blind draw. Players registering for the novice division should

submit a single application, along with a \$15 entry fee, no later than October 15, 2021.

Persons entering the Open division must register as a team. Entry fee for the Open division is \$25 per team. All players in both divisions will receive a t-shirt. Regular round games will be held at the Ceredo outdoor courts on October 22-23, with a double-elimination format. Semi-finals and finals will be held at the Ceredo indoor court on October 28, with winners and runners-up receiving awards sponsored by the Ceredo Pickleball Club.

A number of regular players from the Ceredo-Kenova area are expected to participate, with former area tennis standout Clyde Keyser and Dallas "Mr. Pickleball"

Adkins tabbed as early favorites in the Open division.

Entry forms are available at Ceredo Town Hall, Ceredo Senior Fitness Center, or on the C-K Autumnfest website. Registrations may be mailed to the C-K Autumnfest (address is on the registration form) or delivered to the Ceredo Town Hall or Fitness Center. Registrations and entry fees must be received by October 15. Note that the tournament is limited to the first 40 individuals for the novice division and the first 20 teams for the open division.

For addition information, please contact tournament director Bradley Jordan at 304-617-7781, or Mandy Jordan at 304-939-2083.



Parade
OCTOBER 26th | 6:00pm

Events
OCTOBER 29th - 31st

Craft Show
Cruise-In
Tractor Show
Pickleball Tournament
Kids Activities
Bake-Off
The Pumpkin House & MORE!

www.CKAutumnFest.com

