The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, January 6th, 2020 at the Ceredo City Hall. The Mayor, Paul A. Billups, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Dustin Long, Stormwater Manager/Administrative Assistant, gave a slide show of the MS4 project. It was announced that the police and fire departments would be serving as honor guards and pall bearers. Also addressed was the preparations underway for the Memorial Service for Mayor Adkins. He reported on the MS4 meeting he had attended in Charleston WV and the preparations being made.

The Mayor addressed the garbage collection schedule and the cost incurred in supplying the service. The Recorder, Stanley E. Fink, stated that the present contract with the United States Postal Service stated that no home delivery would be provided in Ceredo. As a result, the Town of Ceredo will have to absorb the difference in cost.
The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Westmoreland Chapter, celebrated the opening of its new headquarters on January 18, 2020. The DAR Headquarters was opened in April 2019 after a fully operating chapter since that time. The DAR Headquarters is the first permanent home for the group, and will serve as a meeting place with space to preserve and display organization memorabilia and other chapter documents.

Local officers include Marilyn Oppenheimer, Regent; National Defense Officer, Sharon Curnutte; Treasurer June Ashworth; and Secretary Charlene Honaker. As part of the initial meeting at the new headquarters, Major Bill Piblbrop presented Regent to the DAR, establishing a permanent head- quarters in Ceredo. Working with members Wilma Skan and Linda Purmons, the town has provided the DAR with a plan we all can be proud of,” said Ms. Oppenheimer.

For many years Ceredo has enjoyed twice-weekly garage pick-up with the lowest rate in West Virginia. The town has maintained its twice-weekly service and $5.00 a month charge for household garbage. Our rates, currently $5.00 a month, are better than the average cost for a West Virginia resident. The average cost is roughly $20,846. That’s correct, more than twenty- eight thousand dollars. For students living at home, the cost is approximately $10,750 per year. We have all heard about the cost of tuition and the burden of student loan debt. While we cannot alone defray the entire cost for a Ceredo student, the $1,400 annual scholarship will certainly help, and in some cases may be the deciding factor. For others, perhaps one of our children is able to attend college or not. Please step up. Many of us can afford the $100 annual donation for this most worthy cause. Please forward your check to the “Ceredo Scholarship Fund” to Town Hall, P.O. Box 691, Ceredo, WV 25507.

Josh Carroll's boyhood dream included long tours between music venues as he assimilated into a valuable organization. "I now understand the work required me to travel for long periods, and I didn't expect it to be away from my family. Working in Ceredo is perfect for me. My dad was a strong believer in volunteering and doing things for the public good, and I now understand the satisfaction he got from helping others. I hope to be the same kind of person." According to Superintendent Ron Jarrell, Matt has developed into a valuable employee in a short time, and is capable of handling most of the work required of the maintenance staff.

The First Baptist Church of Ceredo has a new pastor. Jeff Canterbury, formerly of the Ironton, West Virginia, has taken the pulpit to serve the congregation of one of Ceredo's oldest churches. Prior to accepting the position in Ceredo, Pastor Canterbury served at the First Baptist Church of Hinton for 6 years. The community’s newest Baptist pastor was created with the retirement of Pastor Ron Jarrell. Pastor Canterbury will be residing in the church parsonage pending the arrival of his wife, Becky, and son, Nate, who are remaining in the Hinton area until the end of the school year. In addition to his work at First Baptist Ceredo, the pastor hopes to become involved with other community activi- ties as he assimilates into our town.
To most of us living in Ceredo today, the coal loading tipple located between Main Street and the mouth of Twelve Pole Creek will be a challenge to remember the past. The facility was closed and removed from the concrete table in 1959. Actually, construction of the venerable facility began in 1947 and the plant began operation in May of 1950.

Prior to 1947, the area now occupied by the Coal Association, a clubhouse, and the Coal Company has been a busy place. Pipewale Company operated a plant located west of Main Street, and a “pole yard” that supplied crooked pin poles occupied a small area between the street and just east of Main Street.

At the conclusion of the Second World War, Truax Traer Coal Company of Chicago sought to build a coal transfer facility where coal could be received from railroad cars and loaded into barges for transport to steel mills and power plants located along the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. Ceredo was chosen as the location on the basis of available deep-water property and railroad proximity to major markets. The federal government (specifically, “Billion Dollar Coal Field”! After some debate, the Ceredo town fathers approved the plans for construction and the future of Ceredo was forever changed.

The original facility included a large concrete dump where railroad cars were essentially tipped upside down and emptied onto a conveyor, a coal washing facility, and a river barge from which coal was loaded into barges for transport. The company had a harbor boat, the “Flying Saucer”, that was used to move more barges beneath the conveyor loading system. Construction of the original facility cost Six Million Dollars.

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

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

In 1963, the company discontinued coal washing operations and eliminated approximately thirty jobs. In 1993, Oglebay sold the Ceredo facility to a conglomerate that operated under the name of Kanawha River Terminals (KRT), and in 2016 the facility was purchased by SunCoke Energy Partners. The original tipple and surrounding structures were demolished and replaced by more modern structures in the 1990’s. Always a good corporate citizen, the coal company has historically supported many community scholas-tic and recreational activi-ties. Since implementation of a Business and Occupa-tion Tax by Ceredo in the early 1970’s, owners of the coal company have paid in excess of Twelve Million Dollars to the town, and during the momentous “s synd” project that ran for seven years approxi-mately twenty years ago the company not only hired a significant num-ber of area workers, but also made contributions to local causes above and beyond the required taxes. Under the direction of the late Fred Verzs and Butch Smith, ably assisted by Pete Lewis, Ceredo was able to count on and count- on KRT to help with many projects that required engineering expertise or heavy lifting.

The coal industry today is continuing a downslope nationally, but good plan-ning by the owners of the Ceredo facility has allowed our plant to remain in operation. It is apparent that the glory days of coal are over, and to the extent possible the coal company continues to be a great corporate neighbor.
One hundred fifty years ago on February 3rd, America made a big step toward the nation we know today. Black men got the right to vote with the ratification of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The monumental change that came after the polarizing and bloody Civil War, any historians of the era, brought its own controversy and challenges that speak to us now.

The promise of the amendment that the right to vote "shall not be denied...on account of race" wouldn’t be fulfilled until nearly 100 years later, with the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

And suffragettes, including those who were fervent abolitionists, would have to wait 50 years until the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920, bringing women the vote.

Ceredo's history as an abolitionist colony, strategic location on the banks of the Ohio River and significant ancestral references have long perpetuated the local legend that Ceredo may have been a stop on The Underground Railroad. With the re-commitment and dedication of the Ramsdell House as a museum in September, more credible information began to surface to support Ceredo's important contributions to the Underground Railroad, which was the network used by enslaved African Americans to obtain their freedom in the 30 years before the Civil War (1860-1865). The "railroad" used many routes from states in the South, which supported slavery, to "free" states in the North and Canada. Between 1840 and 1860, it is estimated that more than 1,000 enslaved years were smuggled out of the South. Three crucial junctions of the Underground Rail- road existed in Virginia, at Norfolk and Richmond and in Western Virginia. Many slaves escaped through Western Virginia into Ohio.

In February of 1826, Carter G. Woodson started national Negro History Week, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abra- ham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. This week would later become Black History Month.

President Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1968, calling upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected achievements of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history".

February contains a number of important dates in black history. "SAFE HAVEN" A CELEBRATION OF UNITY, CEREDO AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The Black History Month 2020 theme, "African Americans and the Vote," is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) granting women's suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) giving black men the right to vote.

In the Radical Reconstruction period that followed the Civil War, newly freed black men made great political gains, winning office in Southern state legislatures and even Congress. The Southern backlash was swift and marked by the passage of "black codes" designed to intimidate black voters, prompting a call for formal, national legislation on the right to vote.

The Town of Ceredo and The Ramsdell House are present- ing "SAFE HAVEN" A CELEBRATION OF UNITY, CEREDO AND BLACK HISTORY MONTH. For more information, call The Ramsdell House at 304-908-9609.
The Cereal Kitchen

 Ingredients:

- 1 ¼ cups finely shredded carrots
- 1 ¼ cups undrained pineapple, packed in juice
- ½ cup oil
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ cup coconut
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- ½ teaspoon vanilla

**Directions:**

Line eighteen 2-1/2-inch muffin cups with paper bake cups, set aside. In a large bowl combine coconut, walnuts, and raisins. In a medium bowl combine brown sugar. Stir in apples, carrots, coconut, flour, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt; stir in pineapple mixture to flour mixture; stir just until moistened. Spoon batter into prepared muffin cups. Bake in a 375 degree oven about 18 minutes or until a wooden toothpick inserted in centers comes out clean. Serve warm. Makes 18 muffins.
The City of Huntington has two sites explored in the city, one in Ritter Park, "Earth Portal" and the other on the Civic Arena Plaza, "Continuous Ascent." While Huntington owns the art, both pieces were created by the skilled hands of Ceredo artisans.

During an urban renewal project in 1979-78, the Huntington Historical Society and the City of Huntington decided that a sculpture should be placed on the 8th Street Plaza, near the recently erected civic center. The city considered several proposals and ultimately decided to choose to combine forces with one of the largest employers in the town, Inco Alloys, to have a work created with the use of INCOLLOY alloy 900, and metal unique to the Huntington area.

The design proposed by Alabama artist and sculptor Taylor "Butch" Frazier Jr. and his wife, Christa "Rietta" Frazier, was chosen.

Sunday, February 29th, Underground Railroad Historian Chris Saunders will visit the Ramuldell House in Ceredo to discuss the critical history of our tri-state region in The Underground Railroad, the Civil War and our contributions to abolition and reconstruction.

The program will begin at 11:00 and is free and open to the public.

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