

Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session November 2nd 2020 at the Ceredo City Hall

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 2nd, 2020 at the Ceredo City Hall. The Mayor, Paul A. Billups, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included the Mayor, Paul A. Billups; Councilmen Dennis Adkins, Oscar Adkins, Steve Diamond, Robert Leslie and Joe Ratcliff. Absent, due to illness, was Recorder Stanley E. Fink.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

The Mayor asked if Council had any additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 5th, 2020 regular session meeting. None being heard and on a motion by Dennis Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to waive the reading of the October 5th, 2020 regular session minutes and accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Robert Leslie presented Council with the account balances of each account and the expenditures effective November 2nd, 2020.

The Mayor asked for questions on the report. None being heard, the Mayor asked that the Treasurer's report be made part of the minutes.

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

COVID-19 Update and Impact

The Mayor reported on the continuing affects of the COVID-19 mandates and pending application for the CARES Act funds.

CVFD Dinner With Rocco Fundraiser

The Mayor informed Council that the annual fundraising project "Dinner With Rocco" hosted by the CVFD was the most successful in the event's history, with 1,140 dinners sold. The "drive-by" serving occasioned by COVID restrictions worked well. The Mayor expressed thanks to Rocco Muriale and family for their assistance.

Elementary School Property Transfer

The Mayor reported that the deed for the remaining parcel of the elementary school property has been received and filed with the County Clerk.

KRT Property Transfers

The Mayor advised Council that purchase agreements have been executed for four parcels of real estate from Kanawha River Terminals. These include the "A" Street Playground, the former Amoco property immediately east of the floodwall on Route 60, the former Harold Perdue Welding property immediately east of the floodwall on "B" Street, and the property surrounding the police gun range. It is expected that the transfers will be made later this month.

Street Light Installation

The bid of McDaniel Electric of Huntington was accepted for the installation of seven street lights on Greenwood Drive and Fairwood Drive. Work is scheduled to start during the second week of December.

Water and Sewer Software Proposal

The Mayor presented a proposal from Amstun, Inc., in the amount of \$15,500 for an update to the town's utility billing software. The Mayor explained that the software was last updated in 2008, and that while a new update is not urgent, it should be considered no later than early 2021. The proposal was taken under advisement.

Main and D Street Curb Installation

The Mayor advised Council that in response to several complaints about obstructed views at the intersection, the curb-cut in front of the former Asbury's Grocery Store will be rescinded, a curb will be installed, and the area between the sidewalk and curb will be planted in grass.

Entry Sign Proposal

The Mayor presented a proposal from Young Signs for design, construction, and installation of a new entry sign located at the east entrance to Ceredo, behind the flower garden. The sign without electronics is \$8,015, and with a 2' by 10' digital board attached the total bid is \$26,704. The matter was tabled pending application for grant funds and discussion of business donations toward the cost of the digital board.

Employee COVID Stipend

The Mayor suggested that a stipend of \$250.00 for each full-time employee would be appropriate to offset the costs incurred by essential employees forced to work during the pandemic. The stipend is intended to cover extra cleaning costs, costs of sanitizer and PPE items, and additional clothing necessary to mitigate the spread of the virus and protect the health of employees. On Motion by Robert Leslie and second by Oscar Adkins, the motion passed unanimously.

Hubbard's Heights Sewer Inquiry

The Mayor reported that a representative from the Public Service Commission had contacted Town Hall concerning whether the Town would entertain providing sanitary sewer service to the Hubbard's Heights area. It was agreed that as a courtesy the Mayor would meet with the PSC, but Council has concerns about extending sewer service.

Park Terrace Speeding

The Mayor discussed calls from Park Terrace residents concerning speeding. It was noted that the area has a significant number of children. After discussion, it was suggested that the Chief of Police contact each Park Terrace residents and remind them to drive cautiously and to increase patrols in the area, pending further traffic calming measures.

Codified Ordinance Book Update

The Mayor presented a bid by MuniCode to update the hard-bound ordinance books and to put the ordinances online. After discussion, the matter was tabled until the January, 2021, Council meeting.

Adjournment

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

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

As difficult as this pandemic year has been, and continues to be, we should all pause to give thanks for the blessings we have, and find a safe way to celebrate the upcoming holidays. Government reports tell us that a significant spike in COVID cases is underway, but that a vaccine will soon be available that will hopefully end this crisis. Please exercise common sense as you gather with friend and family over the upcoming holidays. Let's not make our suffering worse than it has been.

The next twenty-four months will be critical to the future of Ceredo. As we escape the social and financial hardships caused by the pandemic, we are also facing a significant downturn in our tax base. Town revenue decreases are coming primarily from events: the slowdown of service

and retail business in the town; the continued downturn in the coal industry; and a significant decrease in property tax collections resulting from aging houses.

We will likely exit the pandemic minus four or five local businesses. Alone, the one-year tax loss from these small businesses would require only small adjustments to the town budget, but it is unlikely any of these businesses will re-open, thus the tax loss will be permanent. I have previously reported that our revenue directly attributable to the coal industry, from severance taxes and local business and occupation taxes, is down over \$300,000 from where it was five years ago. That is a services-changing decrease in a town our size.

Council is continuing to work diligently toward more efficient op-

erations that will allow services to remain at established levels. Steps taken this year include a reduction in insurance costs of nearly \$100,000, obtained through safe work practices and shopping of insurance carriers. We have made strides, not yet quantifiable, in reducing stormwater infiltration into the sanitary system. Hopefully, this will yield a \$20,000 reduction in expenses this year.

The most recent step taken is the combining of police dispatch functions with the City of Kenova. When the 911 enterprise was established in West Virginia approximately twenty-five years ago, the purpose was to save costs for municipalities and counties by centralizing the function. Ceredo and Kenova, along with a handful of other small cities, opted out of the 911

system. The primary reason for Ceredo and Kenova opting out was that both towns then maintained local jails, where prisoners sometimes served sentences of several days. Holding prisoners requires the presence of a jailer, and that person also served as a dispatcher.

Rules concerning local jails have changed over the past twenty years, and prisoners may now only be "held" in a local facility pending arraignment or transfer to the regional jail in Barboursville. This change eliminates the need of a full-time jailer in both Ceredo and Kenova, and has opened the door for us to combine services locally and reduce costs for both municipalities.

The program is being implemented in steps to ensure a smooth transition and no loss of services to residents of either city. Chiefs

Poston and Sullivan have worked closely to implement policies and procedures that are conducive to the needs of our residents, and when fully implemented we should be on a path to balance the town budget and maintain all services, despite the significant revenue decrease. Town Council has done a commendable job in achieving this goal, and will continue to do so as our revenue stabilizes over the coming twenty-four months.

Looking ahead, there are a few town projects that we hope to complete in the coming months. The Route 60 westbound entry sign is scheduled for replacement. The current sign has served the town well for thirty years, but is showing its age. Council considered a sign that included a digital board, but cost constraints precluded

that option.

Special Levy parks and recreation funds will be used to light the outdoor pickleball and basketball courts prior to next season. The recent acquisition of property south of B Street and along Twelve Pole Creek will allow us to build a frisbee golf course before Spring. The cost of creating the course and equipment is minimal, and disc or frisbee golf is a popular game in our area according to Huntington Park Board member Gordon Jones.

On behalf of myself, the Town Council, and our entire staff, I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We can see the end of a year we could not have imagined, and will emerge in 2021 poised to move forward better than ever!

AROUND TOWN

Thanks to Main Street resident Diania Perdue for providing lunch for the maintenance department. A great cook, Ms. Perdue annually provides a lunch for the staff, and it is one they look forward to. In addition to cooking, Ms. Perdue is also a great home decorator. Her property is always seasonally decorated and in October, her autumn-themed decorating won the "House of the Month" award.

The Street Department did their usual great job on leaves this year. Our trees are beautiful, and our leaves are plentiful. Dale Maynard, Montie Adkins, Tim Haynie, and Chief Mullens worked almost daily for six weeks. Thanks to our residents for your assistance in getting the leaves roadside, making it easier for the staff to get them into the vacuum truck. Final clean-up is underway this week. By composting the leaves instead of allowing them to float into our storm drains saves the town considerable work in unclogging storm lines later in the year.

Installation of new street lights is scheduled to begin this week. McDaniel Electric of Huntington will be installing lights along Greenwood and Fairwood Drives during the initial phase of this process.

Outdoor pickleball, with self-imposed COVID restrictions, had another great year. The players did a wonderful job of meeting social distance regulations while playing. As we move toward the indoor season restrictions will be a bit more stringent, but as long as all comply the court will open soon. The Most Improved Player award for 2020 went to Dallas Adkins, and the Newcomer of the Year Award went to Jennifer Plymale.

Of the few good things that have come from our year of pandemic, town residents exercised more than any year in history. Walking, biking, kayaking and other outdoor activities are at all-time highs. With the opening of our recreation center at the former elementary school, we should all continue

these efforts. The walking track in the park is still heavily used, and the town is trying to find a suitable off-street route for local bicycle enthusiasts. If we can emerge a little healthier from the pandemic it will benefit us long-term.

The Town mourns the recent death of former Fire Chief Dana Foster. Dana served the Department in the 1970's, prior to being transferred to Pennsylvania by his employer. Dana and his wife moved back to Ceredo shortly before his death. In addition to his work with the Fire Department, Dana was a great softball player.

Several large trees in town are scheduled for removal, most at the request of the town insurance carrier. Many of our older trees, planted over fifty years ago, have started to die in sections and present a problem of falling limbs. Two trees were removed on 4th Street East, and the tree company's scheduled return last week has been delayed by an injury suffered by the owner while working on a tree in Ohio. Hopefully, the owner will

make a quick recovery and the company will return to our project soon.

Construction of the westbound side of the I-64 Broad Hollow Bridge is nearing completion. It is uncertain as to whether the contractor will immediately move to work on the eastbound bridge or delay starting until spring. The company has done well to limit Broad Hollow Road interruptions during this project.

More advice could be provided by late barber and Farmer's Almanac reader Ed Adkins, but the walnut trees in Ceredo did not bear nuts this year. In 2019, we had a walnut crop that needed to be harvested, but nary a nut fell in 2020. It is certain that Ed would have been able to explain why.

Ceredo lost a longtime resident last month when Francis Armstrong of B Street moved out of state with her daughter Matilda. Mrs. Armstrong is the widow of former town Recorder Karney Armstrong and was always a pleasant lady when visiting Town

Hall to pay her utility bill. She will be missed by the town staff.

Special thanks to local entrepreneur and volunteer Dave Moore for his assistance with the Ceredo school renovation project. Dave and his brother Larry serve on the War Memorial Board, in addition to volunteering on many other local projects. Brother Kevin is a member of the Crescent Hill Cemetery Board. We are grateful to the three brothers for their work in the community.

For the first time in four years, the town received a load of road salt this month. Whether it be global warming or some other cause, we simply haven't had enough snow in the past three winters to require replenishment of the stockpile. Several old-timers around town claim that they walked through two feet of snow for months every winter, so either their memory is bad or the weather is changing. The Street Department is standing ready in the event that we do get a measurable snowfall this

season.

Thanks to Giovanni's of Westmoreland for providing the town employees with pizza. For several years, Giovanni's has delivered pizza to our employees a couple of times a month, and it is greatly appreciated.

The town is expected to take delivery of a new police cruiser in the next few weeks. The 2020 Ford Police SUV package was purchased after our 2016 Ford sedan was totaled in an accident. The new car will arrive fully-equipped and road-ready. Our police force is quite anxious.

Special thanks to Ronnie Jarrell and Ric Chaffin for their assistance with the lounge area of the former school. Ron and Ric volunteered to complete that portion of the renovation, which will serve as a resting and gathering spot for our morning coffee drinkers, cornhole players, those working-out at the new fitness facility, and pickleball players. It is certain the boys will create a great space.

CHARACTERS OF CEREDO

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

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

to exhibit their traits in a brutally honest, "what you see is what I am" fashion.

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

There was a time when Ceredo was the home of various "tradesmen", men that possessed a skill and carried about a trade to make a living. Small entrepreneurs of sorts, these men were believers in the free-enterprise system and managed to stay busy in a small town. Each was a little different from the other, but all could be seen working somewhere in the town on most days.

Perhaps the most unique of these tradesmen was Argo Pruitt. Argo made his living digging graves, or perhaps more accurately stated, he brokered the grave digging job. Working primarily at Crescent Hill Cemetery, Argo had the unofficial contract to dig most

graves. When a funeral home or family would call, Argo negotiated a fee and then found some willing young hands to perform the task. Somehow, from this occupation Argo supported his family and found enough spare time and money to visit the pool room on a regular basis. A man liked by all, Argo suffered a tragedy when his son, Cletus, was killed by a lightning strike in South Ceredo in 1943.

"Tool Box" Dewey Pratt was likely the most skilled tradesman in Ceredo for many years. A carpenter, Dewey built or remodeled a large number of houses in Ceredo. Working for many years before the advent of power tools and nail guns, Dewey could literally build a house with the hand tools he carried in his tool box.

In addition to the work he personally carried out, Dewey always had a helper or two that he schooled in the trade. A number of Ceredo residents worked for Dewey

over the years, and all were more skilled as a result.

Boyd Webb was a house painter, usually seen wearing white painter's clothes splattered with the colors of the rainbow. Boyd worked mostly alone, and between jobs he used the pool room as his unofficial office. Residents needing paint work knew to leave a message with Ray Cornwell at the pool room, and Boyd would show up at the house to estimate the work when sobriety allowed.

Harley Cobb was a handyman. Harley kept the tools of his trade in a wagon, and for many years before taking full-time employment with

the Ceredo Beautification organization, Harley did everything from changing a faucet to clearing leaves from a yard. Not a drinker, Harley still spent time in the pool room and in today's parlance, we would say that Ray Cornwell operated a business incubator by providing "office space" to most of the tradesmen working around Ceredo following WWII.

It would be unfair not to mention Roy McFann with this group. While the Coon Foot didn't work as often as the others, he was a skilled heavy truck driver and was called upon from time to time to move semi-trailers around

Ceredo to places where sober men wouldn't dare.

The local tradesmen have largely disappeared from America's landscape. These men didn't seek the patriarchal hand of an employer to ensure a weekly check, provide insurance, or gift a Thanksgiving turkey. Instead, they rose each day and went about their business, earning a living to the extent they desired by performing a trade that had been passed to them by a mentor. Ceredo would be a better place if we still had a few of these "hands-on" skilled craftsmen to pass along the teachings of their respective trades.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

The Ceredo Maintenance Employee of the Month is Tim Haynie. A native of Boyd County, Tim brings a multitude of skills to the town, being able to do mechanic work, carpentry, and heavy equipment operation. Not a stranger to hard work, Tim keeps busy and is willing to undertake any project.

"Tim has been very valuable to us," said Supervisor Dustin Long. "With the school renovation project, he has moved between carpentry and spray painting, doing both very well. He is a hard worker and takes pride in his work product."

Tim has a young son, and is working very hard at being a good father that his son can be proud of. "I enjoy my co-workers, and the residents of Ceredo are great to work for. The town has such a reputation for being neat and clean that I feel good about contributing to," said Haynie. "I truly appreciate my job, and hope to stay with the Town of Ceredo for many years to come. This is a great place to make a career. About the only thing I haven't done is operate the salt truck, but I will be doing that if we get snow this year."



Tim Haynie

COMMUNITY FITNESS CENTER

Open 7 Days a Week

HOURS:
Mon-Thurs 7am-9pm
Fri 7am-8pm
Sat 8am-3pm
Sun 1pm-5pm

1201 Poplar St
Kenova, WV 25530
304-453-2449

MEMBERSHIP RATES
Single (18+) \$180.00/Yr
Family (Married Couple) \$270/Yr
Additional family members 13-18 who resides in the same household is \$70/Yr per family member.
Seniors (60+) \$110/Yr
Daily \$5
Monthly \$30 (adult)
\$25 (ages 13-18)

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You may qualify for:
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INSTRUCTORS:
Heather Ferguson (Zumba, Silver Sneakers, R.I.P.P.E.D., Toning)
Sarah Lester (Zumba Gold)

Classes Available

MONDAY
Toning 9-10am
Silver Sneakers 10-11am
R.I.P.P.E.D. 5:30-6:30pm
Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm
TUESDAY
Zumb Toning 6:30-7:30pm
WEDNESDAY
Toning 9-10am
Silver Sneakers 10-11am
Zumba Gold 6:30-7:30pm
THURSDAY
R.I.P.P.E.D. 5:30-6:30pm
Zumba 6:30-7:30pm
FRIDAY
Toning 9-10am
Silver Sneakers 10-11am
SUNDAY
Zumba Sentao 2-3:15pm

“FIRST THINGS FIRST”

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

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

“Putting Christ Back in Christmas?”

“It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas!” Just the sound of those words brings the melodious music of Bing Crosby to mind (or Michael Bublé, depending on which generation you belong to). And it most certainly is beginning to look like Christmas around the C-K area! Both towns have decorated their streetscapes to help “make the season bright.” And we appreciate it!

While driving through town the other day, I couldn’t help but notice the Nativity scene beside the United Bank building. I’m thankful we live in a community where those kinds of scenes are still valued and displayed.

A few years ago, it was suggested that there was a “war on Christmas.” Maybe there was. I’ll let others adjudicate that matter. Part of that “war” was a supposed removal of “Christ” from “CHRISTmas,” especially replacing the name “CHRIST” with the letter “X.” Without getting lost in the weeds of word origins and comparative language studies, what is interesting is that our English letter “X” greatly resembles the Greek letter “Chi.” They share the same shape, even though the pronunciation is different. What is interesting for our purposes is that the Greek letter “Chi” is actually the first letter of the Greek name Christos, from which we derive the English name “Christ.” So, the case can be made that even though someone may write “Xmas,” the letter “X” at the beginning of the word can

actually stand for Jesus Christ, the One whose birth we celebrate during this glorious season. The birth of Christ has traditionally been considered the dividing line of all of human history and time itself. When I was in school learning important dates for history class, those dates were either “B.C.” (“Before Christ”) or “A.D.” (from the Latin expression Anno Domini, “in the year of our Lord”). Now, scholars prefer to use updated designations such as “B.C.E.” (“Before the Common Era”) and “C.E.” (“Common Era”) to speak of the dates of history. But what I find quite intriguing is the fact that both systems continue to use the same dividing line: the birth of Jesus Christ. The coming of God to earth in the birth of His Son Jesus is still one of the monumental events

of all time. It divides time itself in a way that really can never be replaced. There is truly no way to escape the reality and the implications of this “once in an eternity” happening. The Apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 4:4-5 that “when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman,” to redeem us. In fact, when the angel gave the message to Joseph, the adopted father of Christ, that He would be born, he said, “You shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sin” (Matthew 1:21). That’s what this season is all about! So, when you get down to brass tacks, you really can’t put Christ BACK in Christmas, because there’s really no way to take Him OUT of Christmas. It’s all about Him anyway! My prayer for all of us is that we will

remember this truth and come to know this One who was born that first Christmas night. MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CEREDO!

Jeffrey F. Canterbury is the pastor of the First Baptist Church, 448 Main St., Ceredo WV. For more information about the church, including service times

and archived messages, please visit the church’s website at www.fbcceredo.com. Or you can call the church at 304-453-2092. All scripture quotations are from the New King James version of the Bible. If you have any questions related to the Bible you would like answered, please send them to Pastor Jeff at fbccsecretary@zoom-internet.net or mail them to P.O. Box 967, Ceredo, WV 25507.



Our Doors Are Open To You!

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

Services live streamed on our website.

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

 Find us on Facebook:
 First Baptist Church
 Ceredo West Virginia

First Baptist Church Ceredo

Pastor Jeffrey F. Canterbury

HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry.....	10/21
Jim and Pat Billups	02/21
John C. Hall	05/21
Paul and Kathy Billups.....	10/21
Jack and Ann Riggs	05/21
Mike and Susan Watts.....	10/21
Leigh Ann Johnson.....	04/22
Connie & Mark Beford.....	10/21
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter	10/21
In Memory of Herb & Helen Stephens	08/21
In Memory of Coach Dale Craycraft	08/21
In Memory of J. J. & Roma Gail Billups	08/21
In Memory of Houston & Gladys Woolwine.....	04/21
Katrina Childers.....	05/21
In Memory of Alberta “Dossie” & Sherman Medley	04/21
Herm Matney	08/21
In Memory of Anagene Wooten Gibbs	08/21
In Memory of Kathleen Wooren Marcum	08/21
In Memory of Larry Cole.....	08/21
In Memory of Charles & Dorothy Watts	09/21
Jeanette & Roger Barker	03/21
Karin & Mike Dawson.....	02/21
American Legion	01/21
Ceredo-Kenova Community Center.....	01/21
Evaroni’s	01/21
CUMC	12/20
Roberta and Charlie Mitchell	03/21
In Memory of Robert (Pete) & Carolyn Sullivan.....	04/21
Jennifer Ferguson.....	04/21
Oscar, Bonnie, Michelle Booth.....	04/21
John M. Spangler, Esq.....	05/21
In Memory of Frances Cornell.....	05/21
In Memory of WW. Mills, MD.....	05/21
In Honor of Larry Jack Heck.....	06/21
Floyd Mays	06/21
Mike & Karen Skeens.....	07/21
Keith and Freda Chadwick.....	07/21
Tyler Dawson, DDS	07/21
Raymond Keigley.....	07/21
Brenda Francis	07/21
O’Dell Mannon	07/21
Dr. Ron & Lucenda Akers.....	07/21
Marlene Simmons	07/21
The Flanagan Family of Saratoga Springs, NY.....	10/21
In Memory of Milton J. & Evelyn Mills	10/21
In Memory of Charles & Bet Pratt	10/21
Vern & Cindy Eagleston Blaine	11/21

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



FIRST AMENDMENT

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



News From Our Past

EDITOR’S NOTE: The following items providing a glimpse of life in the Ceredo area are reprinted from the Wayne County Genealogical and Historical Society magazine. The obituaries and news items appeared in local papers, and were extracted by Howard Osburn for the Genealogical and Historical Society. Readers interested in the history of Wayne County are urged to contact the Society at “mail@wcghs.com”. Readers will note that writing style of the day was considerably more descriptive than what is reported today, and the moral seems to be that we should avoid horses, trains, fires, and Virginia Point on Sundays.

November 3, 1883
 Capt. Alex Hanley died at Ceredo, W.Va. last week from injuries received by being thrown from a horse. In the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette he is spoken of as follows: “Capt.” Alex Hanley, who died a few days ago at Ceredo, W.Va., was an old time pilot, but for many years past engaged in the timber business. He had many warm friends on the river, and was at one time a partner at the wheel with Com. Wash Honshell. He was also a close friend of Com. C.M. Holloway, who always spoke of him as a gentleman of liberal views and a generous heart. *****

September, 1888
 Mrs. Sallie Bancroft, age 77, was thrown from a horse and killed. She was born in Worcester, Mass., on December 11, 1810. Her maiden name was Sallie King. She was married to Madison Bancroft at

Lebanon Springs, New York, December 27, 1834. This marriage was blessed with 4 sons and 3 daughters, all of whom survive her. The Bancroft family came to Wayne County in 1859, landing at Ceredo on December 11. Ceredo was just being opened and developed into a small town at that time. They continued to make their home in Wayne County until their deaths. *****

March 30, 1894
 Fatal Fracas: At Fleming, Wayne County, a few days ago, Henry Collins and Hoke Napier, neighbors and young men, quarreled. The latter wanted to pass through the former’s place with timber, and Collins refused him the privilege. When Napier heard this he was offended, and the two met, and, after some words, pulled revolvers and began shooting. A dozen shots were fired. Collins’ heart was pierced by a bullet and he died instantly. Napier was shot in the bowels and lived but two hours. Both men leave families. *****

May 18, 1894
 On the Virginia point opposite Catlettsburg last Sunday, James Prince struck Frank Loar on the head with a brick and killed him. The trouble came up over fifteen cents involved in a game of cards. Both the men lived in Catlettsburg. The murderer is now in jail in Catlettsburg, being held for a requisition. They are two of a large crowd of toughs who assemble every Sunday at that place to drink and gamble. *****

February 22, 1895
 Fatal Wreck: Which Caused a Sad Homecoming: On last Monday morning at four o’clock a passenger train on the Norfolk & Western railroad was wrecked at Kenova, W.Va. Almost every person in one first-class passenger coach was hurt to some extent. Mr. J.F. Kendrick and family (wife and three children) were in that unfortunate car on their way home. To this family the saddest experience of the accident fell. The second child, Alex, a boy five years old, was crushed to death. He was asleep on a seat and when the car turned over he was crushed to death. The car caught him and crushed out his life almost instantly. *****

Vinton McFann’s three-year-old child was burned to death at Ceredo Monday. McFann was formerly a resident of Louisa. *****

March 18, 1888
 Ethan Watts, 18 year-old son of Albert Watts, of Wayne County, W.Va., had his leg cut off while trying to get on board a moving train, and bled to death before medical assistance could reach him. *****

July 1, 1907
 On learning that S.J. Hensley, commonly known as “Plunk” Hensley, had been called to the Ruler of the Universe to that company from whose bourne no traveler returns. He died at the home of his son, Walter W. Hensley, at Russell, Kentucky, where he went to visit last Wednesday. The deceased was attacked with cramps on Sunday and a physician was summoned and relief rendered, then the patient fell asleep. No alarm was felt as it was thought that nothing serious was the matter and the family retired. On going to the room occupied by Mr. Hensley Monday morning, he was found cold in death. He was seventy-five years of age and had been

a strong, healthy man all his life. While he may have his faults, as we all have, he was a kind hearted man, being honest and industrious. If anyone in need applied to him for aid the needy one was never turned away empty handed. The body was brought to Ceredo yesterday and after funeral services conducted at the M.E. church by Rev. G.W. Twyoham and Rev. E.T. Billups, was laid to rest in Brown’s Hill Cemetery. *****

January 7, 1902
 Coming down Third Avenue at about eleven o’clock the previous evening, a man who identified himself as Dr. Kirk of Ceredo passed a number of boys when trouble arose. In the mix, probably half a dozen boys, aged twelve to fifteen years, knocked him down and were upon him dealing out fierce blows when Fred Forbush, the city patrol driver, who chanced to be walking home with a young lady, discovered the goings on. Mr. Forbush immediately set about to pull the urchins off, but found it no little task. By the time the doctor was rescued, he was bleeding profusely from his face and head and looked as though he had been against a buzz saw. After being attended by a nearby physician, he departed in a carriage. The boys claimed the doctor started the fight. *****

July 20, 1894.
 Considerable excitement was created at Wayne County, W.Va., a few days ago about the finding of a boot and overshoe containing the skeleton of an ankle and foot. It was identified as that of Jas. Bing the lawyer who was drowned in Twelve Pole Creek four years ago. An extensive search for the rest of the body is going on.

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Cup Winners Invited To Oklahoma

The 2020 Hal McFann Pure Oil Cup created excitement within the Ceredo golfing community, and has landed an unexpected invitation for the three recently-crowned champions. Clarence Pratt, Gary Runyon, and David Pennington have been invited to play in the 2021 Red River Ryder Cup, an event held annually for golfers over fifty years of age at the Winstar World Casino Resort in Thackerville, Oklahoma.

According to the Edmond Evening Sun newspaper, former Ceredo and current Edmond resident Mike Watts provided details of the McFann Cup to the invitation committee in Oklahoma, and with the assistance of 2019 Cup champion Elba Gene Cox, was able to garner an invitation for the local lads. "I have been touting the golfing talent in Ceredo for years, and with the McFann Cup having such an exciting conclusion this year

with the three-way tie, the committee agreed to host the former Wayside Golf Club team."

Older sportsmen in Ceredo well remember E.G. Cox (known affectionately as "Hush Puppy" or "The Pup"), as one of the most talented athletes produced by the Mountain State. Cox excelled at all sports, but achieved his greatest success in table tennis, softball, grass court tennis and golf, honing his skills while serving on active duty as a recreation specialist in the Air Force. Widely recognized as one of the USA's best table tennis players, a freak injury suffered by Cox while pitching a perfect game against Eddie Feigner's The King and His Court likely prevented Cox from competing in the 1960 Rome Olympics.

Never one to seek monetary gain from his God-given talent, "Hush Puppy" adamantly re-



Clarence Pratt



David Pennington



Gary Runyon



This picture of Clyde "Donk" McFann, taken at his southside Pure Oil Station around 1945, was omitted from last month's issue.

used to relinquish his amateur status. While serving as a recreation ambassador for the Air Force, Cox took on all comers across the globe, and raised more than a few eyebrows when he defeated the world's top-ranked tennis professional, John Newcombe, in straight sets at a grass court exhibition in Melbourne, Australia. Kenova resident Fran Scites, at that time living in Australia, recalls the uproar of an unknown amateur from West Virginia beating Newcombe. "Little did I know that I would one day reside in the same town as the man

that created such a stir in Australia," recalled Mrs. Scites.

Even though Cox was unable to defend his golf title in this year's Pure Oil Cup event due to a prior commitment that required his presence in Subic Bay, Philippines, during the summer months, he has agreed to act as a playing captain for the Ceredo team in Oklahoma. The Red River Ryder Cup is held in conjunction with the World Long Drive Championship, and tournament organizers have offered Cox a spot in the newly created Bantamweight Division of the Long

Drive competition.

"We will field a strong team," said Cox, "The Ceredo boys are playing very well, and Watts will give us local course knowledge. I have announced that Mike Watts will be the alternate member of our team, and if I should incur any problems during the long drive contest, Watts will step in."

Dates for the Oklahoma event have not been finalized due to pandemic concerns. The event is usually scheduled the week prior to the Red River Shootout football game between Texas and Oklahoma, but is subject to be moved in 2021.

"Whenever they hold it, we will be ready. All our boys learned the ropes at Wayside, so we can handle any course conditions. I know we will have a big sendoff when the team bus departs from Willie Muncy's place."

Wreaths Across America Ceremony

The Ceredo Crescent Hill Cemetery Board, in conjunction with the Gold Star Mothers and assisted by the Daughters of the American Revolution, have announced that the placement of wreaths at Crescent Hill Cemetery will take place on Saturday, December 19, 2020.

Family members or friends of military veterans buried at Crescent Hill wishing to personally place the wreaths may pick up wreaths at the cemetery entrance between 9 and 11 that morning. Beginning at 11, Cemetery Board members and volunteers will place the remainder of the 667 wreaths. Persons wishing to assist should be at the cemetery entrance at that time.

A formal ceremony scheduled to take place has been cancelled due to COVID concerns. A statement of the project by Gold Star Mothers officer Belinda Jividen is available on the Ceredo town website, www.ceredowv.gov.

The Town and Cemetery Board expressed thanks to all of you that donated to this project. The donations of \$10 helped offset the expense of this most worthy project, and persons related to military veterans interred at Crescent Hill are asked to help with next year's project.

"This is a project that need to happen, as a way for those of us living in Ceredo and surrounding areas to show our respect for the service of our deceased veterans," said Mayor Paul Billups. "When Mrs. Jividen made the Town Council aware of the Wreaths Across America program, we immediately recognized that this needed to be done at Crescent Hill. Next year I am certain that we will continue the program with the assistance of the Blue Star Mothers and Daughters of the American Revolution, and hopefully we can hold a meaningful ceremony in conjunction with laying of the wreaths."



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Deer Season in Ceredo

Jamie Long, wife of Maintenance Superintendent Dustin Long, had no intentions of going deer hunting on Friday, December 4 (or any other day, for that matter) but found herself in a hunter's enviable position as she was leaving their C Street home. Jamie looked out her back door that morning and was greeted by a female deer staring through the plate glass window.

According to Jamie, the deer appeared more interested than agitated, and seemed to be wanting to come inside the house. Upon closer inspection, the deer was wearing an orange collar with a bell attached, and had a softball-sized growth on its right flank. The deer eventually wandered into a neighbor's yard before an unidentified man arrived and took the animal away.

Based on after the fact reports, the deer had been wandering around Ceredo for at least two days. With hunting season underway, along with whitetail mating season, it is likely that the deer had been chased from its usual habitat and once in town, like many of us, didn't want to leave. Local outdoorsman Steve Diamond, viewing pictures of the animal, conjectured that the deer had been shot with an arrow some years past, and the growth on her flank was a result of that event.

The Long's have two young daughters, who likely thought Santa's reindeer was making an early visit.

Keeping a deer or other wild animal as a pet is a violation of West Virginia law, primarily because the animals become domesticated and are unable to use their natural defenses to care for themselves in the wild.



The Crescent Kitchen



WHIPPED SHORTBREAD COOKIES

by Natalie Hemann

I love shortbread cookies. When I saw this recipe for "whipped" shortbread cookies I had to try it. I have never had a cookie almost melt in my mouth like this one does.

My husband, Rick, said it felt like a cloud in his mouth!

I like to make these around the holidays, but you can also change the vanilla extract to lemon extract and make a lemon glaze with confectioners sugar and lemon juice to make a delicious "Spring" cookie. Since these cookies are only about 50 calories each, I don't feel guilty about eating more than one....or two....or three....

Ingredients:

$\frac{3}{4}$ Cup butter, softened
 $\frac{1}{3}$ Cup Confectioners Sugar
 1 tsp. Vanilla Extract
 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Cups All Purpose Flour
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cup Cornstarch
 Red & Green Sugar Sprinkles

Directions:

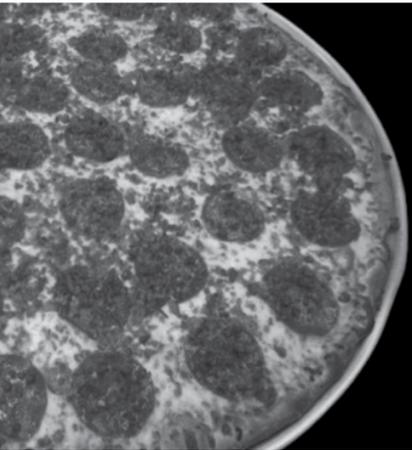
In a bowl beat butter and confectioners sugar until blended; add vanilla extract. In a small bowl whisk flour and cornstarch together; gradually beat into butter mixture. Place bowl in freezer for about 10 minutes. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Make small dough balls and place about 2 inches apart on parchment lined cookie sheet. Press a fork into each ball; if fork sticks, dip into some confectioners sugar. Sprinkle on the red and green sugar sprinkles and bake for 8 - 12 minutes or until firm. Remove from cookie sheet to wire racks to cool completely.



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MAIN STREET WONDERLAND

Once again, the ladies of the 800 block of Main Street have outdone themselves with Christmas decorations. Suzanne Woods, Sherrie Johnson, Michell Chatterton, and Delcie Elkins have created a holiday wonderland that compares to any in the area. The total light count is unknown, but it's a fair bet that our street can be seen from the International Space Station.

With labor assistance from Doug Woods and Donnie Elkins, every tree on the block is fully decorated, several featuring a new type of light that appears to be snow falling. Various holiday displays are in every yard, including inflatable figures that Donnie really enjoys.

The ladies officially "threw the switch" on Friday, November 20, and intend to maintain the decorations through New Year. Traffic has been steadily increasing as more area residents hear about the display. With experience in both policing and traffic control, it may be necessary for Doug Woods to establish a route and direct traffic if the crowds get much larger.



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chief Robbie Robson announced that the Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department now has a new ambulance in service. The first run for the new vehicle was at 8:00 pm on December 2. Since its delivery in Ceredo, the ambulance underwent extensive upgrading of equipment to make it compliant with state standards.

Chief Robson thanked the entire department for assistance with this project, and noted that Zach Lyons was a major help in quickly upgrading the truck so that could be in service for the community. "Zach spent countless hours working on this project, and the result is a first-class ambulance that will serve Ceredo well", said the Chief.

Pictured with the new ambulance are (L to R), EMS Director Juanita Wilson, EMT/FF Zach Lyons, Paramedic Donald Canterbury, and Fire Chief Robbie Robson.

In other CVFD news, the annual Christmas dinner was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. The Fire Department dinner is always a great event, usually honoring retired firefighters and featuring Santa for the children. It is certain that by Christmas, 2021, the dinner will return to the schedule.



(Left to Right) EMS Director Juanita Wilson, EMT/FF Zach Lyons, Paramedic Donald Canterbury, and Fire Chief Robbie Robson

TOWN ACQUIRES FITNESS EQUIPMENT

The Town of Ceredo has acquired a full line of fitness equipment in a transaction with the C-K War Memorial Board. Equipment acquired by the Town includes cardio-type equipment such as treadmills, stationary bikes, and elliptical machines, in addition to Nautilus weight training equipment and free weights.

According to Mayor Paul Billups, a portion of the equipment will be refurbished and placed at the former Ceredo Elementary School. A section of the school, acquired by the Town in 2019, is currently being remodeled to serve as a community center. "Our goal is to provide an exercise facility and a place for our middle-age and retired residents to socialize,"

said Mayor Billups. "The Town has no intention of operating a 'Planet Fitness' type facility. Rather, we want our residents to have a clean, friendly place to visit in the morning, exercise, have coffee, walk in the gym, play cornhole, and otherwise remain viable parts of our community."

In addition to the exercise rooms, the facility also has a lounge and gym that is currently used for indoor pickleball and walking. Renovation is underway on a room that will be used by various exercise programs, such as Silver Sneakers, yoga, and Zumba.

It is hoped that renovations will be complete by January 1, when the exercise equipment will be

ready for installation. Final details are not complete, pending consideration by the Town Council, but it

appears that the exercise portion of the facility will be open weekday mornings, and exercise

classes will be held during evening hours. The facility will be open to the public for a nominal annual fee.

"This is a great use for the newly-acquired building, a use that will benefit a large portion of our community. We were very fortunate to have been able to obtain the equipment and keep it in our area, and we thank the War Memorial Board for allowing this to happen. The toned-down exercise approach fits a community need and allows us utilize the space in a meaningful way," said the Mayor.

The school interior is receiving a fresh coat of paint. Local volunteer Ronnie Jarrell has agreed to paint the gym and lounge area. Several single-pane glass windows

are being removed and replaced for insulation purposes, the drop-ceiling tiles have been removed and insulation placed beneath the roof, along with installation of LED lighting. The end result should be operational savings on heating and air conditioning, along with a retro-gym appearance that will be attractive for our residents.

More operational details will be made available on the town website as final decisions are made. Hopefully, the facility will be operational shortly after the first of the year, and our retirees will have a morning destination.



Tim Haynie and Montie Adkins constructing new exercise equipment for the Golden Girls Group Home. This is equipment purchased thanks to The Pallottine Foundation of Huntington which awarded a grant to Golden Girl Group Home to develop a fitness center.