

The New Crescent

SERVING CEREDO, WEST VIRGINIA

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 1

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Jan./Feb. 2020

Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session December 2nd, 2019 at the Ceredo City Hall

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, December 2nd, 2019 at the Ceredo City Hall. The Mayor, Paul A. Billups, called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. Those present included the Mayor, Paul A. Billups; the Recorder, Stanley E. Fink; and Councilmen Dennis Adkins, Oscar Adkins, Steve Diamond, Robert Leslie and Joe Ratcliff.

Reading of the Minutes

The Mayor asked if Council had any additions or corrections to the minutes of the November 4th, 2019 Regular Session. None being heard and on a motion by Dennis Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to wave the reading of the November 4th, 2019 regular session and accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Robert Leslie, presented Council with the balance of each account and the expenditures as of November 30th, 2019. The Mayor asked for questions on the report.

None being heard, the Mayor requested the report be made part of the minutes.

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

The Mayor reported the floodwall account would be increasing with the receipt of the current billing. He also advised the employee longevity pay had been paid. Elected officials are not eligible for the longevity pay and the longevity pay must be approved each year.

Post Office Reopening

The Mayor stated the post office should be open in the next couple of weeks and addressed the status of his ongoing efforts to obtain home delivery in the Town.

Christmas Parade

The Mayor stated the Christmas parade would be held on Saturday, December 14th at noon. The parade route would start at the Ceredo City Hall and end in Kenova.

WV Gold Star Flag Presentation

The Mayor advised Belinda Jividen, Vice President of the WV Gold Star Mothers, would be presenting a Gold Star Flag to the Town of Ceredo to be flown in memory of those families who have suffered the loss of a relative in the course of or resulting from military service. The ceremony was scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 13th, 2019 at the Ceredo City Hall.

Golden Girls Project Update

The Mayor stated he had met with Ms. Nikki Thomas from the Golden Girls Group Home about the construction project in the 700 block of Main Street. He stated he had looked at the preliminary drawings and the building should be a nice addition to the area, with construction starting March 2020.

Outstanding Maintenance Projects

The Mayor addressed the outstanding projects that needed attention by year's end. A new roof for the Museum was discussed.

Longevity Bonus

The Mayor updated Council on the pay out of the bonus last pay period.

Redefining Duties of the Treasurer

The Mayor advised Council that, because of technology changes, the duties once performed by the Treasurer were now being performed by the Clerk. A resolution redefining the duties of the Treasurer and the realignment of the salary would be presented at the next regular meeting.

The Mayor commended Treasurer, Robert Leslie, for bringing the need for the changes forward.

Landfill Bid Process

The Mayor informed Council he had sent an invitation to bid for landfill services to Republic Services Landfill and Rumpke Landfill, both located in Boyd County, Kentucky. He advised when the bids are returned, a special meeting would be called to award the contract.

Internet Service

The Mayor advised Council the Town's previous IT maintenance provider, NIS, had not submitted a quote for services in the 2020 calendar year. He stated he had sent requests for quotes to provide the service to NIS and Netranom, LLC of Hurricane and discussions regarding the awarding of that contract will be held at the special meeting.

Elementary School Demolition

The Mayor emphasized the need to acquire a couple of bids for a demolition project at the elementary school.

Employee Health Insurance Renewal Status

The Mayor expressed the need to pursue other providers for the employee health insurance because of the extravagant cost with the current provider.

C. I. Thornburg Water Meter Proposal

The Mayor addressed the cost of the water meter system proposed for the Town's water system by C. I. Thornburg. He advised that after closer review, he found it to be cost-inhibitive.

High Street Property

The Mayor addressed a request from a prospective buyer of a piece of property on the southside of High Street, about putting a driveway at the location. After discussing the area in question, it was decided there wasn't enough room to allow for a driveway at the location.

Police Department Report

Police Chief, Tony Poston, reported that Office Lange would be entering the academy on January 6th, 2020. He also reported that preparations were being made for the upcoming certifications for the Department.

Stormwater Manager/Administrative Assistant Report

Dustin Long, Stormwater Manager/Administrative Assistant, reported he was preparing for the MS4 presentation at the Middle School, which was scheduled for Wednesday, December 4th, 2019. He also advised he was continuing to monitor any sewer and/or water problems in the Town.

Ceredo Fire and Rescue Report

Fire Chief, Robbie Robson, updated Council on the 10-year ISO audit and the change to a 4-year audit after this year. He also reported that the Ceredo Fire and Rescue would be part of a one-year Medicare Reimbursement Service Study for ambulance services.

Russell Hutchinson

The Mayor commended Mr. Russell Hutchinson for representing the Town of Ceredo during the wreath placement at the Marshall University memorial ceremony.

Kenova Municipal Judge Retirement

Ceredo Municipal Judge, Greg Jarrell, advised the long-setting Kenova Municipal Judge, Steve Jordan, would be retiring at the end of the year.

Adjournment

There being no further business, an executive session was called at 7:30 p.m. to address personnel matters.

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

The past year was a good year in Ceredo. Our municipal employees made it through the busy summer season in relatively good health, town services remained at an excellent level, the addition of pickleball courts was a great success, and the re-opening of the Ramsdell House has attracted visitors and researchers from near and far. Our Farmers Market enjoyed another successful season, AutumnFest again attracted thousands of visitors, and the ladies on the 800 Block of Main Street exceeded all expectations with decorations for every occasion.

Syd Hanson has done a beautiful job in maintaining the museum, renovations have started on the former elementary school, Delcie, Donnie, and David Elkins kept our flowers in bloom, and many of you, including Jim Smith, Gary Graves, and Joyce Coburn, have volunteered hours to lead educational tours of the Ramsdell property. I am especially grateful to those who have taken it upon themselves to help maintain our streets and sidewalks by picking up

litter and sweeping curbs. We are indeed fortunate to have so many residents willing to "do their part" plus some to maintain our town.

We did lose a couple of valued employees in 2019. Sanitation supervisor Sonny Gilkerson retired in December, and Town Clerk Lynn Salmoms resigned in December to take employment at Marshall Health. Maintenance employee and cemetery groundskeeper Tommy Workman has been off for several months for health reasons, but will hopefully return soon. Jennifer Akers has been appointed to serve as the new Town Clerk, and Matt Myles has been added to the maintenance staff.

As we look toward 2020, we will focus on fiscal responsibility while completing several projects that were initiated in 2019. The street light project has been delayed due to manpower issues, but installation should get started by early Spring. Renovation work on the former elementary school will continue with hopes of providing space for the C-K Alumni Band and the Lincoln

County Community Services Organization (serving Wayne County after dissolution of the Wayne organization) in the near future. The bid process is underway for removal of a portion of the school building that infringes on real estate that reverted to prior owners when the School Board moved from the premises.

Our primary project for 2010 will be the elimination of infiltration into our sanitary sewer system of stormwater. As has been previously reported, the Town of Ceredo is mandated to have our sanitary sewage treated at the Huntington treatment plant. This means that we must pay a per-gallon rate to the City of Huntington for all gallonage that passes through our sanitary system, and we are subject to rate increases imposed by the City of Huntington. Many of you may have seen a recent article in the Herald-Dispatch that listed a number of improvements being made in Huntington thanks to a 57% sewer rate increase.

To put this in perspective, we in Ceredo are required to buy

our water from Kenova, and then to pay Huntington for the treatment of that water after it becomes sanitary sewage. We are in the unenviable middle position. This is a difficult, but manageable position if we were only sending to Huntington what we bought from Kenova. Unfortunately, we are sending much more.

Last July we were forced to impose a sanitary sewage rate increase, the first in Ceredo in many years. The town had been able until that time to absorb the 57% rate increase from Huntington, but by 2019 our sewer utility was at the tipping point of losing money. That would not be the case if we could better control infiltration of stormwater into our sanitary system. Our gallons shipped to Huntington for treatment has a direct correlation with rain and floodwaters – when we have heavy rains, stormwater from downspouts that are tied into our sanitary system flows directly to the Huntington treatment plant – thus elimination of downspouts tied to our sanitary system is a must.

In the same vein, floodwaters in outlying areas served by our sanitary system infiltrate through grinder pump canisters, resulting in many cases with a direct flow into our sanitary system for the duration of the flooding. The following chart will show the fluctuation of our sanitary sewage processing, and thus our stormwater processing, for the calendar year 2019:

JANUARY	\$11,215
FEBURARY	\$20,598
MARCH	\$11,542
APRIL	\$25,078
MAY	\$16,599
JUNE	\$9,462
JULY	\$14,701
AUGUST	\$12,391
SEPTEMBER.....	\$9,750
OCTOBER.....	\$13,954
NOVEMBER.....	\$5,398
DECEMBER.....	\$11,480

As you can see, our monthly average should be around \$11,000. In months of heavy rain and flooding, we pay as much as \$25,000 to the City of Huntington. During fiscal 2018-2019, we purchased 44,861,00 gallons of water from Kenova, yet we paid

Huntington to treat 70,085,000 gallons through our sanitary system. The bottom line is that we paid Huntington \$77,789 to treat rainwater, and we can't continue to through that much money out the window unless we want to continue having rate increases.

This will be our primary project in 2010. From the town's perspective, we will attempt to locate and rebuild those places on our sanitary line where stormwater can infiltrate, primarily around grinder canisters and manholes in the town proper. From a resident's perspective, I ask that each of you check your downspouts to be sure they are not connected to the sanitary sewer. If you are uncertain, please contact Town Hall and we will check. If your downspouts are connected to the sanitary line, we will assist you in redirecting the rainwater.

Our primary task will be daunting, but necessary and overdue. To be successful in eliminating these unnecessary expenses and avoiding future rate increases we will need the help of every resident.

AMOS APPOINTED TO BOARD

David Amos has been appointed to serve as a member of the Crescent Hill Cemetery Board. A resident of Kenova and employee of Rollins

Funeral Home, Amos will join Board members Stanley Fink, Charles Clarkson, Kevin Moore and Ric Griffith in the oversight of our cemetery.

Crescent Hill is a perpetual care facility, meaning that the Cemetery Board is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the grounds. Addition-

ally, the Board maintains all cemetery records, issues deeds, and promotes the sale of burial plots in Ceredo.

The cemetery is, and has for

many years, been in excellent condition. Crescent Hill offers the most reasonably priced burial plots in the area, and in addition to standard plots

Crescent Hill has a section dedicated for burials of cremated remains.

CVFD Year In Review

Chief Rob Robson of the Ceredo Volunteer Fire Department provided a year-to-date look at the Department during the annual CVFD Christmas Dinner. The Ceredo Volunteers, consistently ranked as one of the top such units in West Virginia, continue to provide outstanding service in both fire protection and emergency medical functions.

Many of us take for granted that in a time of medical emergency, whether it be injuries suffered in an automobile accident or trouble breathing at home in the middle of the night, that the CVFD emer-

gency unit will arrive within minutes. For those of us born before 1970, we can recall when “emergency services” consisted of a hearse converted for use as an ambulance, operated by local funeral homes and manned by willing, but untrained personnel.

Fortunately, the CVFD currently operates two 24-hour ambulance units with well-trained personnel. During the first eleven months of 2019, the Ceredo emergency services group responded to 1,412 calls. That’s correct, 1,412 calls in eleven months. That number represents an increase of 103 calls over the

same period in 2018.

With regard to fire services, our department responded to 378 calls during the first eleven months of 2019, compared to 292 responses during the same period in 2018. Of the 378 calls, 50 were actual fire events. There were 20 building fires, 4 cooking fires, 8 vehicle fires (4 passenger vehicles, 3 off-road vehicles, 1 freight), 12 brush or rubbish fires, and one aircraft fire. The Fire Department responded to 68 vehicle accident scenes and 24 calls involving smoke, suspicious odors, or smoke alarms.

These are shocking numbers to most of us, and certainly

numbers that should cause us to pause and think about the sacrifices these volunteers make to assist us in times of emergency. Chief Robson and Juanita Wilson, supervisor of the emergency services unit, are to be applauded for their hard, and often thankless work. It is not uncommon for people to ignore volunteer fire units until we need them, and when we need them we expect them to act as fully-professional paid firefighters that are “on duty” and ready to answer calls. We are fortunate to have a volunteer unit that meets those expectations.



Chief Rob Robson & Juanita Wilson

C-K Elementary School Outreach

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

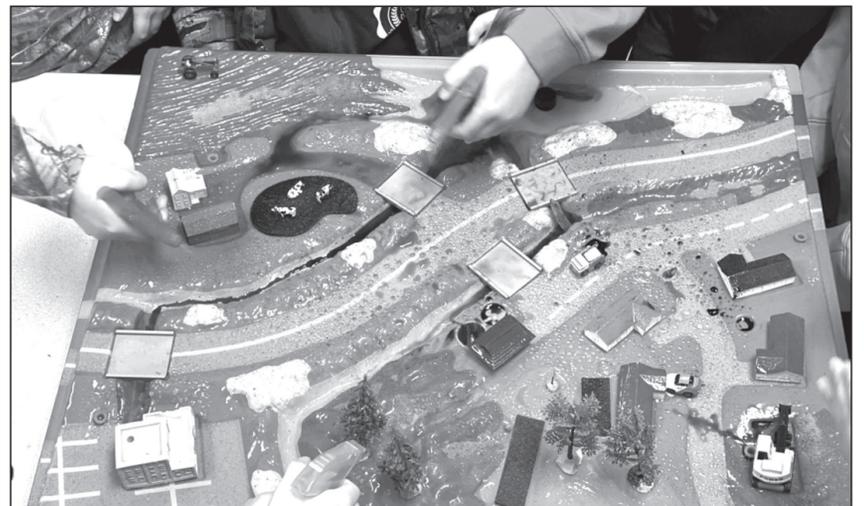
On December 11, 2019, the

Town of Ceredo and City of Kenova created an engaging opportunity for students in the fifth grade at C-K Elementary School to learn about Stormwater Pollution Prevention. Students were informed about how they could help prevent pollution from entering storm drains around their homes. The program started off with a PowerPoint presentation discussing how some water is recycled through water treatment plants, but not all water. Most students did not realize water that flows off our roofs, down our streets, and through our yards goes into storm drains which eventually go straight into our rivers and streams carrying everything it touches, including pollution.

The Town of Ceredo Stormwater Manager, Dustin Long and Kenova MS4 Supervisor, Nick Hanshaw brought a Watershed Model. They placed a variety of powders in various places around the model. This represents pollutants such as, motor oil, fertilizer, pet waste, pesticides, etc. Students were

given a water bottle to simulate rain. Once the students created “rain”, they could see how pollution travels through a watershed and into our major waterbodies. In addition to the model, students were given a simple quiz on the information presented. We would like to thank Mrs. Farley and the 5th grade teachers for allowing us to give this MS4 presentation!

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



Adkins Named Top Volunteer

Ceredo resident and part-time town employee Kelly Hanson Adkins was recently named the Cabell-Huntington Hospital “Volunteer of the Year.” The hospital could not have chosen a more deserving recipient.

Kelly is a retired teacher with boundless energy, much talent, and a strong desire to help others. In her part-time role as maintenance engineer for municipal buildings in Ceredo, she ensures that our Town Hall is spotlessly clean every day, working harder in two hours each morning than most of us do in a full day. Kelly then moves on to her numerous volunteer positions, including the hospital, the Kenova Methodist Church, Ceredo

Beautification Committee, and others. In her spare time, Kelly has assisted relatives with remodeling houses.

“Kelly is a unique person and we are very fortunate to have her as not only an employee but as a resident of Ceredo. Her parents have been great community volunteers, and Kelly certainly inherited that willingness to help others. Cabell-Huntington Hospital has many deserving volunteers, and Kelly has to be at the top of that list,” said Mayor Billups.



Kelly Adkins (left)

BITTERSWEET HISTORY OF NEW YEAR’S DAY

While most of us celebrate New Year’s Day as a hopeful new beginning, especially in this new year and decade of 2020, there is a sad historic element to the holiday.

In a December 2019 Time Magazine article titled “The Slaves Dread New Year’s Day the Worst: The Grim History of January 1st,” author Olivia B. Waxman explained that in the years before the Civil War, the first day of the new year was often a heartbreaking one for enslaved people in the United States. African-American abolitionist journalist William Cooper Nell (1816-1874) shared that New Year’s Day used to be known as “Hiring Day” or “Heartbreak Day” because enslaved people spent New Year’s Eve worrying if their owners were going to rent them out to someone

else, splitting up their families.

The renting out of slave labor was a relatively common practice in the antebellum South, and a profitable practice for white slave owners and hirers. “‘Hiring Day’ was part of the larger economic cycle in which most debts were collected and settled on New Year’s Day,” says Alexis McCrossen, an expert on the history of New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day and a professor of history at Southern Methodist University, who writes about Hiring Day in her forthcoming book *Time’s Touchstone: The New Year in American Life*.

Some enslaved people were put up for auction that day, or held under contracts that started in January. These transactions also took place all year long and contracts could

last for different amounts of time. These deals were primarily conducted privately among families, friends and business contacts, and slaves were handed over in town



A circa 1830 illustration of a slave auction in America. Rischgitz/Hulton Archive—Getty Images

squares, on courthouse steps and sometimes simply on the side of the road.

Accounts of the cruelty of Hiring Day come from records left by those who secured their freedom, who described spending the day before January 1 hoping and

praying that their hirers would be humane and that their families could stay together.

“Of all days in the year, the slaves dread New Year’s Day the worst of any,” a slave named Lewis Clarke said in an 1842 account.

“On New Year’s Day, we went to the auctioneer’s block, to be hired to the highest bidder for one year,” Israel Campbell wrote in a memoir published in 1861 in Philadelphia, in which he describes being hired out three times.

Enslaved people who attempted to resist going to their new masters were whipped and thrown in jail until they relented and promised not to run away during the new arrangement.

But the history of New Year’s Day and American slavery is not all horror. The holiday became more associated with freedom than slavery when Abraham Lincoln signed the

Emancipation Proclamation, freeing slaves in Confederate states on New Year’s Day in 1863. Slaves went to church to pray and sing on Dec. 31, 1862, and that’s why there are still New Year’s Eve prayer services at African-American churches nationwide. At such “Watch Night” services, congregants continue to pray for more widespread racial equality 158 years later. Indeed, today many churches of various religious and ethnic backgrounds celebrate New Year’s Eve with “Watch Night” services, to pray for more tolerance and humanity for all persons regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, socio-economic background, etc., and for peace. May we all so pray.

ONLY IN CEREDO'S PAST

• Could you see Coon Foot, having been intoxicated for ten years, walking down Main Street with a loaded shotgun on his way to rabbit hunt on the river bank, and think nothing of it ...

• Could you see the local pharmacist standing in the middle of Route 60 holding a "STOP" sign as the fire brigade passes, just as if was part of every pharmacist's duties ...

• Could you see a 5'6" Chief of Police with only two fingers on his gun hand that was respected by every drunk fighter in the pool room ...

• Could you see a learning-disabled man in a WWII-era Army colonel's uniform, replete with campaign hat, directing traffic at the main intersection in town, just as if he knew where the cars were going ...

• Could you see Jimmy Hardin, legally blind, mop the town hall floor and not miss a spot, just before he went to the Pool Room and shot 8-ball for a quarter a game ...

• Could you pay fifty cents to the barber for a haircut, and know the barber had done enough fifty-cent haircuts to amass a million dollars ...

• Could you get even odds any Saturday night that there would be a fight involving at least three people at the Ceredo Lounge before midnight ...

• Could you hear the fire department whistle blow, and see a half-dozen teenage boys leap from their seats at CKHS and run the ten blocks to the fire station in state record time ...

• Could you walk into an open and unoccupied Town Hall on Saturday night to see who might be locked-up, and be talked into going after a Coke or cigarettes for the prisoner ...

• Could you be driving east on Route 60 and think he had driven into a war zone when shooting started at the Ceredo Gun Club, located about twenty yards from the highway ...

• Could you see cars on the Parkland Restaurant curb service lot with six empty beer bottles on the window tray and the driver preparing to leave, as if everyone had six beers and on the way home from work ...



INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Ceredo is requesting bids for two projects at The Ramsdell House Civil War Home Museum in Ceredo, WV



THE RAMSDPELL HOUSE 1858

- I. Stabilization and repair of a second story porch.
Scope of Work
- Contractor shall provide \$2,000 allowance in bid for hiring of structural engineer to complete following items:
 - Develop a plan to upgrade structural soundness and safety of porch for use as accessible public entrance to museum.
 - Remove wood floor, ceilings, and any other finish material necessary to examine structural system of current second-floor porch.
 - Complete needed repairs to wooden porch floor structure, carefully avoiding disturbance or visual impact to historic masonry, wood clapboard, window and door openings, and roofline.
 - Replace porch beams, joists, posts, railings, and floor and ceiling finish material as needed. Materials are to be replaced in-kind and will be visually compatible with existing.
 - Paint all new materials to match existing.
 - Remove and dispose of all job-related debris.
 - The contractor must carry out the described work in compliance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

- II. Stabilization and repair of interior and exterior bricks.
Scope of Work
- Deconstruct two interior brick chimneys from roof level to attic floor as determined to be appropriate.
 - Infill floor opening created from chimney removal with wood to match existing attic floor.
 - Repair masonry wall beyond chimney following removal.
 - Repoint exterior brick at second story west porch.
 - Install two (2) vent grates/screens in east and west exterior foundation walls, custom sized to fit existing openings.
 - Remove and dispose of all job-related debris.
- Services
The contractor must carry out the described work in compliance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, including matching the mortar composition analysis with accurate ratio of sand to binder per owner's independent and state-approved Mortar Composition Analysis.

The project completion date is no later than June 30, 2020 and will be reviewed by the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office. Contractors will be selected based upon (1) cost, (2) experience with similar historic preservation projects, and (3) proven ability to complete a project. The contractor must carry out the described work in compliance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

The bid package is available by contacting Deborah Wolfe, Project Coordinator, at 304-908-9696 or dwolfe@RamsdellHouse.com. There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting on January 14th, 2020 @ 3:00 p.m., and a February 10th, 2020 deadline for receipt of bids.

Partial funds for this project are through the WV State Historic Preservation Office. All applicable federal, state and local laws, rules, and regulations apply.

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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

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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

Supporting Our Community
Ceredo United Methodist Church
Thrift Store
Clothing, Shoes, Housewares, Books, Collectibles For everyone in the family
Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 10:00am-4:30pm • Saturday 10am-2pm
All Donations Greatly Appreciated
Location: 218 Main Street, Ceredo

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Medicare plan through
HUMANA?”**

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FREE GYM MEMBERSHIP!

SilverSneakers is a fun, energizing program that helps older adults take greater control of their health by encouraging physical activity. Tri-State Rehab offers this program to people who are eligible for Medicare through Humana in which SilverSneakers provides a free gym membership. This program is designed exclusively for older adults who want to improve their strength, flexibility, balance and endurance.

Start your new fitness program with us today!

HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry	10/20
Jim and Pat Billups	02/21
John C. Hall	05/20
Paul and Kathy Billups	10/21
Jack and Ann Riggs	05/21
Mike Watts	09/20
Leigh Ann Johnson	04/22
Jennifer Ferguson	10/19
Connie & Mark Beford	10/20
Dinah and Dale Ledbetter	10/20
In Memory of Herb & Helen Stephens	08/20
In Memory of Coach Dale Craycraft	08/20
In Memory of J. J. & Roma Gail Billups	08/20
In Memory of Janice Justice	12/19
In Memory of Charles & Betty Pratt	02/20
Donna Vanhooose	02/20
Gary & Marsha Pinson	03/20
Brenda Francis	03/20
George Keigley	03/20
In Memory of Houston & Gladys Woolwine	03/20
Katrina Childers	03/20
Rhonda & Barry Scragg	04/20
In Memory of Robert (Pete) & Carolyn Sullivan	04/20
In Memory of Alberta "Dossie" & Sherman Medley	04/20
Tim Wilson	05/20
Dr. Ron & Lucinda Akers	06/20
In Memory of Clarence & Dotty Clarkson	07/20
Marlene Simmons	07/20
Herm Matney	08/20
In Memory of Anagene Wooten Gibbs	08/20
In Memory of Kathleen Wooren Marcum	08/20
In Memory of Larry Cole	08/20
In Memory of Charles & Dorothy Watts	09/20
Jeanette & Roger Barker	03/21

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!

GIBSON'S BARBER SHOP

Complete Tonsorial Services
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Catlettsburg, Kentucky

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Big Jim, Number 1 Barber
Brent - Middle Chair

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THE LUCAS LEGACY

The first “organized” football team in Ceredo played a handful of games in 1905, and for several years thereafter local men and boys played what is known today as “sandlot” football until 1921, when the first team was organized at Ceredo-Kenova High School. Over the 114 years since the first lads gathered to play football in Ceredo there have been many fine players, and perhaps a handful that are included in every conversation about the “best ever.” Since 1965 every “best ever” discussion has included David Lucas.

Dave Lucas was introduced to football by his older brother, Raymond, when they were children. David, Raymond, younger brother Tim, and other South Ceredo boys would gather to play in the yard of Ernest Dietz on Riverside Drive, or during recess periods at school where there were quick games of two-hand touch. It was early during David’s fifth-grade year of elementary school he was introduced to organized football, and his life was forever changed.

During those early days of youth sports, George Allen Bocook and Claude Cox formed a team of fifth, sixth, and seventh grade boys to compete against teams from nearby towns. Although only a fifth-grader, Dave Lucas was a starting lineman on that early team and quickly developed a love for the game of football. While he continued to play other sports, it was clear from the beginning that Dave Lucas would be an excellent football player.

When the 1960 school year started there were two new faces at C-K High School – head football coach Carl Ward and David Lucas, a seventh-grade student. On the first day of school David arrived early and waited on the Beech Street steps

for the arrival of Coach Ward. When Coach got out of his car Dave was quick to approach to ask if, as a seventh-grader, he could play on the Junior High team. Coach Ward apparently agreed, as Dave showed-up for practice with the ninth-grade team and started the progression from being “on the team” to a legend in C-K circles.

As a ninth-grader in 1962, David Lucas was the starting left tackle on a varsity team that went 9-1, losing only a game to Wayne that is still contested today. It was that year that the names “Lucas and Ferguson” became synonymous with C-K football. As a sophomore in 1963, David played guard on a team that finished the regular season with a record of 8-2 and qualified for the two-team state championship playoff. C-K defeated a good Hinton team at Laidley Field in Charleston to capture the state title, the first for Coach Ward.

The 1964 team, perhaps the best team from C-K that didn’t win a state title, finished the regular season with a 9-1 record, the only loss being to AAA Huntington East. Unfortunately, the loss kept C-K from reaching the state title game as the Wonders finished third in the final poll.

The 1965 C-K team, often regarded as the best of many great C-K teams, finished the regular season undefeated and then secured the state championship by rolling over Mount Hope in the title game played at Dunbar. In addition to Lucas, five other starters from the 1965 team received scholarships to play in college – David Ferguson, Bob Crabtree, Hank Stark, Tom Dale, and Mike Smith. “There were other great players on that team,” said Lucas, “Danny Shannon at center, Mike Watts at quarter-

back, Bill Caudill and Don West at tackle were all very good players. That team was so good that Mike Smith, perhaps the best broken-field runner ever to play at C-K, was somewhat overshadowed.”

The high school football career of David Lucas was enough, standing alone, to have made him into a “legend” at Ceredo-Kenova,

His brothers, Bob, Ray, and Tim, all served, thus it was a natural progression. It was during his senior year that Charlie Snyder, head football coach at Marshall, convinced David to play for the Thundering Herd. At Marshall, Dave was a starter at offensive tackle and was joined on the offensive line by his high school teammate,

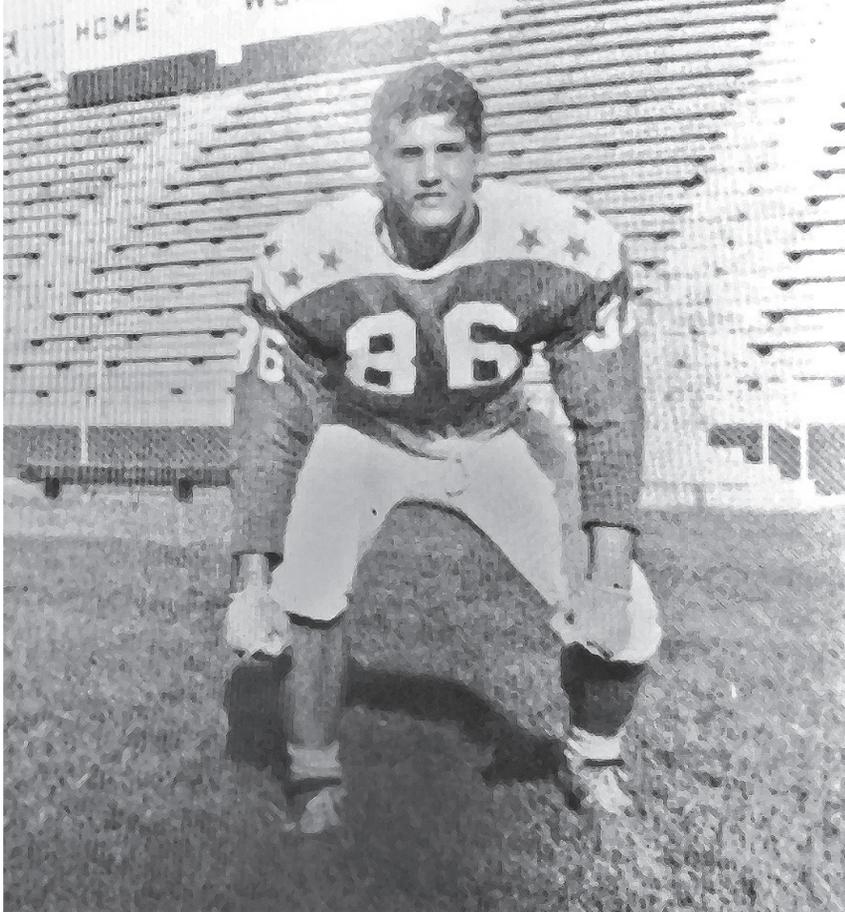
and Coach Ward”, said Lucas, “they both impressed upon me that coaching in high school is much more involved than just winning and losing. The importance of teaching young men the philosophy of life, that learning to do things the right way will make them into better citizens, is as important as winning games.”

or to share how something they learned on the football field has helped them in life. Those are very important moments for me, and it certainly a good feeling to know that my work made a positive impact.”

Lucas led the Coal Grove program for a total of 36 years, with a five-year break when he was the head coach at Wellston High School. His overall record is 249 wins, 114 losses, and 1 tie. While he is no longer a head coach, David is still connected to the game by serving as an assistant coach under his son Jay, the current head coach at Coal Grove.

David and his wife, the former Mary Ann Loar, have resided in Ceredo since 1969. They are the parents of two sons, Dave and Jay. Dave was a standout basketball player at Coal Grove, scoring 1000 points during his career, and is now employed by AEP as a Vice-President in Fort Wayne, Indiana. As noted, son Jay is the head coach at Coal Grove. “In addition to playing on the same team with my brother Raymond in 1962, coaching and watching my sons play and mature, and then coaching my grandson have been my greatest thrills in the profession”, said Lucas. “I have been very blessed with a wonderful wife, children, and grandchildren. I have always considered myself very fortunate to have grown up in Ceredo, and it is obvious that Mary Ann and I love the town since we have never lived anywhere else.”

The legacy of David Lucas will long live in Ceredo as an example of what hard work, innate fairness, and striving every day to be a good person will yield. We in Ceredo are fortunate to have had the friendship and example of David Lucas, and will forever be proud that he is a “Ceredo Boy.”



David Lucas

but his exploits didn’t stop on the football field. Lucas played basketball, starting as a junior on a team that earned its way to the state tournament. Lucas was primarily a rebounder on a talented team that featured Skip Looney, Herb Stephens, Hook Spangler, and Whitey Null. David played two seasons of baseball before switching to track and field, where he threw the shot and lost in the state track meet by one-quarter of an inch.

Until his senior year in high school, David planned on joining the military after graduation.

David Ferguson.

“It was a thrill to play at Marshall”, said Lucas, “I got to play with several C-K boys, David Ferguson, Bob Crabtree, Barry Scragg, and Mike Smith. Although the Marshall program was going through a tough period, I feel fortunate to have played with some good players.”

Following graduation, David was hired by Fairland High School coach Jim Mayo to serve as defensive coordinator, a position he held for six years. “I learned a great deal from Coach Mayo

After six seasons at Fairland, Lucas was named the head coach at Dawson-Bryant High School in Coal Grove. “Coal Grove is very similar to Ceredo-Kenova. A majority of families are middle-class working families that impress the importance of hard work on their children, thus by the time young boys start playing high school football they are hard-nosed, respectful, and coachable,” said Lucas. “Over the years there have been many former students and players that come back to thank me for how they were coached,

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The Crescent Kitchen



Caramel Pecan Cheesecake by Natalie Hemann

I have never been a big fan of cheesecake until now. My husband and I were fortunate enough to go to the Biltmore Estate last month to view their Christmas decorations. While we were there we ate at a restaurant and I had cheesecake for dessert. Oh my, it was delicious! Not long after we came home from our trip my sister-in-law, Paula, sent me a recipe for a cheesecake that replaced granulated sugar with caramel sauce. I love caramel so I thought that was a great idea! This recipe is a combination of several cheesecake recipes that I found online. It was the first cheesecake I ever made. It was not as good as the one I had at Biltmore, but for my first try, it wasn't bad!

Topping:
1 ½ Cups of Graham Cracker Crumbs
½ Cup Chopped Pecans
3 Tbs. Sugar
1/3 cup Cup Melted Butter

Filling:
3 – 8 oz. Pkgs. Cream Cheese (I used reduced fat)
3 – Eggs
½ cup of Sour Cream (I used low fat)
1 – 11.5 oz. Jar of Smucker's "Simple Delight Salted Caramel Topping"
1 tsp. Vanilla

Topping:
½ Cup Chopped Pecans
½ Cup Caramel Topping

Spray a 9" springform pan with cooking spray. Combine the topping ingredients, placing in bottom and part way up sides of the pan. Bake at 350 degrees for five minutes. Take out of oven after baking and let cool while you make the filling. Combine all filling ingredients with mixer until light and creamy. Place filling on crust and bake at 350 degrees for approximately 50 – 60 minutes (oven times will vary). When finished baking let cool and refrigerate for at least two hours. Before serving combine topping ingredients and put on top of cheesecake.

THE NEW CRESCENT

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The Ceredo Museum, the tri-states hidden gem, recently received several donated items that tell two somewhat related stories of Ceredo's past. First, two Official Programs from the Ceredo Dog Track were donated, one from opening night, September 10, 1926, and the second from August 18, 1928.

The Ceredo track, operated either as the Ceredo Amusement Park or the Ceredo Kennel Club, was constructed during the summer of 1926 by T.W. Scott of Lexington, Kentucky. The racing surface was one-quarter mile, grandstands were built to seat several thousand spectators, and land nearby for a park with picnic tables and benches was donated by Henry Stark. As related in the journals of late Ceredo barber and historian Ed Adkins, "It was a big deal in Ceredo. Everyone that wanted a job could get one. When the dogs arrived – big dogs, little dogs, all color of dogs and a large crowd of dog owners, judges, handlers ... residents could get a house full and they were good to pay."

According to articles published by the Huntington newspapers, the Huntington trolley ran special cars to Ceredo during the thirty-day racing season, and "sportsmen" came from as far as Cincinnati to wager on the dogs. The stands were nearly full every night, and Adkins wrote that "money was flying in the air ... thousands of dollars were bet every night..."

The donated Official Program from the first "Opening Night" reflects that Lou Harbour and His Orchestra entertained the crowd between races, and that the winner of Ceredo's first race was a greyhound named "Cinderella II", a longshot that paid \$66.80. The thrill of that payout

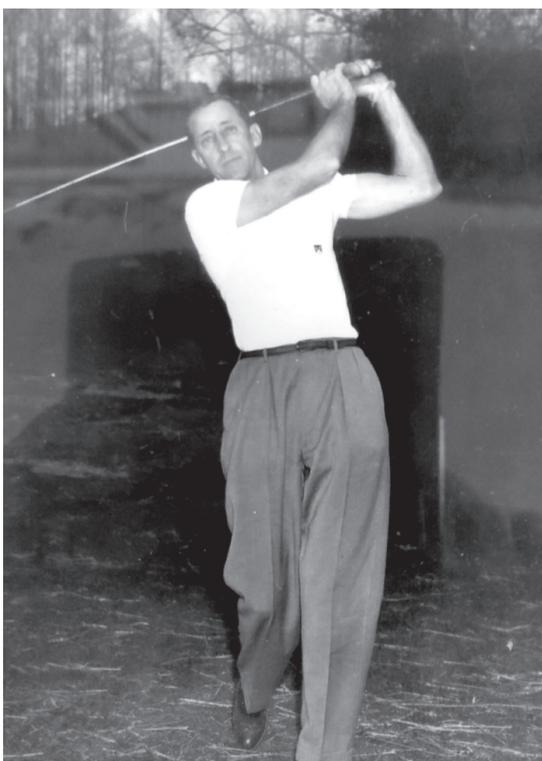
likely spurred the betting of the owner of the donated program, as his notes scribbled inside the program indicate that he lost a total of \$4.80 for the night. The average hourly wage in 1926 was fifty-two cents, this the \$4.80 was an average day's wages.

Track officials on opening night were Gerald Brown, Presiding Judge; J.L. Cochran, Paddock Judge; Ellis Evans, Racing Secretary; and Chas. May, Starter. Other winning hounds on that evening were Pepper, Sarasota Boy, Dude Wrinkle, Mike O'Kane, Golden Hawke II, Rory O, and in the special hurdle race Steeping Creek covered the 5/16th mile in first place.

The second donated program, from the second night of the 1928 meet, contains some very interesting information provided by the Kennel Club: "The management has provided a very efficient man at the Information Window to facilitate patrons in any way; you will find him polite. Courteous and always ready to answer and all questions." One can only guess that the "efficient man" had been given pretty strict instructions by management.

The program also states that "Changemen" are available for patrons, and that "subscriptions" (bets) must be made with exact change, as no change will be made by "subscription sellers. The Ceredo track must have been an exciting place for the duration of its existence, and would perhaps still be attracting sportsmen today but for the West Virginia Legislature prohibiting gambling in the late 1930's. Without gambling, the track quickly closed its doors. In Ceredo today, Don Bailey, Wilson Stowers, Lonnie Carpenter, Jim Billups, and Jack Riggs are

Museum News



SIMS BROWNING



DOG TRACK PROGRAMS

about the only remaining men that have a memory of the dog track in operation.

The dog track property, located north of the CSX tracks near where the Ceredo Plaza is now located, was used for a few high school football games and hosted the Wayne County Fair before 1940, when strong winds blew the cover off the grandstand.

The property, however, was soon put to another recreational use. Henry Stark, a true sportsman himself, built Wayside Golf Course on a tract south of present-day Route 60 that included the old dog track property. The second set of donated items to the museum includes a scorecard from Wayside, a nine-hole course designed by local golf professional D.L. "Sims" Browning. Mr. Browning got his start in golf as a caddy at Spring Valley. By the late 1930's, Sims Browning was Caddy Master at Spring Valley and an established young golfer in the area.

Henry Stark engaged the services of Sims Browning to "design, build, maintain, manage, and act as golf professional" at the Ceredo course. The construction budget was \$1,500 and featured sand and oil mixed greens. Mr. Browning utilized the assistance of his father and uncles to complete construction under budget, and as Mr. Browning recalled, "Henry Stark directed that if the course didn't bring in \$500 during the first season, he would turn the place back into a cow pasture!" The course brought in \$500 during the first month of operation.

By 1948, Americans were looking for more and more leisure entertainment and drive-in movie theaters were a big thing. Taking some of the Wayside Golf Course prop-

erty, the Ceredo Drive-In was constructed and opened that year, forcing golfers to play around the theater parking lot at entrance road.

Wayside was managed for many years by Henry Stark's son-in-law, Tom Roberts. Over its lifetime, Wayside offered miniature golf, table tennis, and a driving range, but by around 1960 the course had run its useful life. Tom Roberts moved to Florida and local boys played baseball and football on the old fairways until the property was turned into residential and commercial uses.

Wayside did not, however, end the golf life of Sims Browning. In 1946, Sims' cousin Arnold Browning, head professional at Guyan Golf Club, recommended Sims to be the Assistant Professional at Logan Country Club. Sims took that position, and in 1952 became the Head Professional at the Logan club. In 1953, Sims won the West Virginia PGA Championship, and coached every member of Chapmanville High School's golf team that won the West Virginia state championship in 1955.

Following his time at Logan Country Club, Sims moved to Hawk's Nest Country Club in 1956, and later served as the club professional at Moundsville Country Club, Ironton Green Hills Country Club, and Oceana Country Club before finishing his career as greens superintendent at Knob Hill Golf Course in Barboursville.

In 1994, at the age of 80, Sims Browning carded a round of 75 – his first round of the year – at Sandy Creek Golf Club near Ashland. In retirement, Mr. Browning moved back to the family farm on Goodwill Road and regularly gave lessons at the Chesapeake Driving Range.

43 Members of Graves Family Return to Visit Childhood Home!

Saturday, December 28th was a big day for the Graves family! Beth Graves married Dale Wise in a ceremony at the Doubletree by Hilton in Huntington. Following the reception, forty-three members of the Graves family returned to their childhood home in Ceredo: The Ramsdell House!

The eight Graves siblings grew up in the historic home on B Street, living fifteen years in the house known simply as "The Graves House" to youngsters in the neighborhood. Almost everyone who grew up in Ceredo in the 60s and 70s remembers the Graves family and their home on B Street, which was a neighborhood gathering place for playing ball, "Spud" and frolicking in "the rock place." The family with five boys and three girls, and a devoted mom and dad lived in what is now known as The Ramsdell House from

1963 until 1977. Father, John, worked for Allegheny Airlines at Tri-State Airport while mother Necia controlled traffic at home.

Faithful New Crescent readers may remember a story in the June Crescent about the proposal of Dale Wise to Beth Graves. He wanted to make the proposal extra-special and arranged to pop the question in one of Beth's favorite places in the world: her childhood home. The challenge was, the "Ramsdell House" was closed for renovation at the time, and Dale didn't want the surprise to leak out. He had a difficult time convincing the Ramsdell's new director to allow him to "book a private event" at the home, which was a bit of a construction zone at the time, without making his intentions known. After weeks of back-and-forth emails, text messages and calls, Wise finally confessed his inten-

tion. Ramsdell staff was more than happy to accommodate his "special request." They allowed him to decorate the home with candles, rose petals and twinkling lights, and facilitated his excuse to bring Beth to the house following a romantic dinner at Rocco's, implying a meeting with Dale to help with museum finances and fund-raising. The answer

was "Yes!" and they're living happily ever after!

Since that time, Beth's brother Gary Graves and his wife Sharon have been serving as museum docents at the Ramsdell House and they hosted the family reunion of sorts, following the wedding on December 28th. The grown Graves children and their families toured the historic home-museum,

finally getting a good look at historic Ramsdell artifacts which had been forbidden territory during their time in the home. In an infamous episode of innocent curiosity and adventure, however, a couple of authentic Civil War documents had been pirated out of the attic and taken to "show-and-tell" at the elementary school, prompting the ad-

dition of a padlock on the attic door, which remained until the home's most recent renovation into a museum.

While important to everyone in its new resurrection as an historical Civil War Home Museum, to the Graves family and many of us in Ceredo, it will always fondly be "The Graves House!"



Photo reenactment of the Graves siblings! — with Emily Graves Hoschar, Gary Graves, John Chip Graves, Kathy Fisher, Beth Graves Wise and Brendar Degraves.



The Graves children in front of their childhood home, The Ramsdell House. From left to right (youngest to oldest): Chip, Brenda, Sarah, Beth, Emily, Kathy, Greg, Gary.



Proposal at The Ramsdell Dale Wise and Beth Graves - June 16th, 2019