

**Town of Ceredo Town Council Regular Session April 1st, 2019**

The Town of Ceredo Town Council met in regular session on Monday, April 1st, 2019 at the Ceredo City Hall. The Mayor, Paul A. Billups, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those present included the Mayor, Paul A. Billups; the Recorder, Stanley E. Fink; and Councilman Dennis Adkins, Oscar Adkins, Steve Diamond, Robert Leslie and Joe Ratcliff.

Reading and Approval of Minutes

The Mayor asked if Council had any corrections or additions to the minutes of the March 4th, 2019 Regular Session, the March 18th, 2019 Statutory Session or the March 22nd, 2019 Statutory Session. None being heard, on a motion by Dennis Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to wave the reading of the minutes of the March 4th, 2019 Regular Session, March 18th, 2019 Statutory Session and the March 22nd, 2019 Statutory Session and voted to accept the minutes as presented. All were in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

Ceredo Elementary Update

The Mayor advised a meeting had been scheduled for 2:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2nd, 2019, at which time he would sign the deed and contract with the Wayne County School Board and the Town should take possession of the Ceredo Elementary School property that evening. The Mayor expressed thanks to the Wayne County School Board from the Council and the Town for giving the Ceredo Elementary School property to the Town.

Special Levy Election

The Mayor reported the Special Levy Election had been completed. All the required documents had been filed with the State and the election supplies had been returned to the Wayne County Clerk's office.

Sewer Department Staffing

The Mayor advised Council he was still looking for an employee to work in the sewer department.

Ramsdell House Grant

The Mayor reported that a grant application in the amount of \$19,000 had been submitted to the State Department of History and Culture. If received, the monies from this grant will help to offset the cost of the work that has been completed and projects needing to be done at the Ramsdell House.

Lincoln County Opportunity Company (LCOC)

Mr. Bill Carpenter, Executive Director of the Lincoln County Opportunity Company (LCOC), addressed Council about the services provided to the senior citizens and the medical programs provided to the citizens in Lincoln and Wayne Counties by LCOC. He requested the cafeteria at the Ceredo elementary school be used 4 hours per day/4 days per week by the LCOC to prepare meals for seniors.

The Mayor advised Mr. Carpenter the Town was definitely interested in providing the services for senior citizens and after the school property was transferred to Ceredo and the committee was formed, who will be responsible for determining the appropriate uses of the school, he would be contacting Mr. Carpenter to set a meeting date to discuss the use of the cafeteria by LCOC.

WV American Water

Mr. Dan Bickerton, Director of Business Development with WV American Water, addressed Council about supplying water for the Town's water department.

Mr. Bickerton presented the Mayor and Council with the Terms and Conditions of Service document and addressed the average annual 340,000,000 gallons-per-year water usage by the Town. Mr. Bickerton also presented a tentative agreement for the Mayor's and the Council's consideration, which reflected \$2.25 per 1,000 gallons for the first two (2) years of a 10-year contract with provision for inflation adjuncts as required.

Also discussed was a 15-year contract where the price per the first 1,000 gallons would be \$2.25 per 1,000 gallons for the first three (3) years, with provision for inflation adjuncts as required. A 24-year contract could also be negotiated, if the Town was inclined to do so.

The Mayor advised Mr. Bickerton that negotiations with the City of Kenova were ongoing and that he would contact him with any further developments.

Article 1501**An Ordinance Establishing The Office of Fire Marshal**

The Recorder read, on second reading, Article 1501, an Ordinance Establishing the Office of Fire Marshal for the Town of Ceredo.

On a motion by Oscar Adkins and a second by Steve Diamond, Council voted to approve the Ordinance as read on second reading. All were in favor, motion carried. See attached copy.

Appointment of the Town of Ceredo Fire Marshal

The Mayor appointed retired fire chief, David Caudill, as Fire Marshal for the Town of Ceredo to serve a two-year term until March 1st, 2021.

Estimate To Repair Water Line

The Mayor addressed the needed repairs to the reservoir backup water line. He advised that, because of the location of the line, the Town crews were not equipped to make the necessary repairs.

The Mayor presented Council with an estimate from C. J. Hughes in the amount of \$2,300 to make the repairs. On a motion by Robert Leslie and a second by Oscar Adkins, Council voted to approve C. J. Hughes making the repairs for \$2,300. All were in favor, motion carried.

Curb Cut Request 742 1st West

The Mayor addressed Council concerning a request at 742 1st West to enable the resident to put a driveway beside his house. The Mayor recommended approving the curb cut to help alleviate the parking problem in the area.

On a motion by Joe Ratcliff and a second by Dennis Adkins, Council voted to approve a standard curb cut at 742 1st Street West. All were in favor, motion carried.

Cabell Sheetmetal

The Mayor addressed a request from Mr. Vance at Cabell Sheetmetal, in which he asked that the Town's sanitary sewer line be extended to his business. He advised Council he had discussed the request with Doug Adkins and was informed that Mr. Adkins had discussed the request with Mr. Vance previously and he saw no problem with extending the line to Mr. Vance's business at Cabell Sheetmetal's expense.

The Mayor advised he had not seen engineering drawings for the project and had attempted to contact Mr. Vance on Friday, March 29th 2019, but was unable to do so.

Police Report

Chief Tony Poston advised that Officer Matthew Chapman would be entering the Police Academy effective April 15th, 2019 and that Officer Thompson would start his classes in July.

Chief Poston also advised the Mayor and Council of a problem with officers being detained at the Regional Jail while processing the prisoners.

The Mayor discussed shift coverage for the officers who would be attending the academy.

Stormwater/Administrative Assistant Report

Mr. Dustin Long reported the push camera should arrive this week. He also advised the Mayor and Council that he and Bob McGlone had been helping with the renovation of the scoreboard at the Mitch Stadium Little League Field.

Mr. Long presented the Mayor and Council with pictures of the proposed project to convert the city park tennis courts to pickle ball. He requested up to \$2,500 be allocated for the purchase of equipment and conversion of the courts. The Mayor advised money was available in the Special Levy for the project.

On a motion by Oscar Adkins and a second by Joe Ratcliff, Council voted to allocate up to \$2,500 from the Special Levy for the pickle ball project. All were in favor, motion carried.

Maintenance Report

Maintenance Superintendent, Ronnie Jarrell, reported the hanging baskets had been ordered and provided an update on the preparations being made for the repair of the potholes that had developed over the winter. He also reported the Mitch Stadium Little League Field was ready for the season, that the dump truck bed was in and that he would be looking at the condition of the 23-year-old roof on the City Hall for possible repairs and/or replacement.

Adjournment

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

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

PAUL BILLUPS, MAYOR

Summer is upon us and several projects are underway in Ceredo. Street patching began on May 15, and should be completed during the week of May 26. The mild winter was, overall, easy on our asphalt streets, but we still had several of the annual potholes to fill. This project was performed in-house, and our staff did a very good job of cutting-out the old asphalt and leveling the streets. By next year it is likely that we will have to re-pave a few blocks.

The transfer of the former Ceredo Elementary School to the town is now complete. Former Wayne County BOE member Tom Jarrell was instrumental in having the school grounds donated to the town. A

former Ceredo resident, Tom worked hard for our town during his time on the Board. Final uses for the property are not yet determined, but a committee headed by Lisa Diamond is now considering potential uses and will make recommendations to the Town Council within the next few weeks. Clean-up of the property by town employees is now underway.

The transformation of the Ceredo Park tennis courts into pickleball courts is nearly complete. Dustin Long and Bob McGlone have been in charge of this project and should be resurfacing the courts in the very near future. This project will greatly enhance the appearance of the park and will provide

our residents with a place to play the game that has taken America by storm. Both Huntington and Ashland have transformed tennis courts into pickleball courts with great results. In the course of completing this project, the basketball court in the park is also being resurfaced and new goals added.

The hanging flower baskets are now in place for the summer. These baskets have become an annual hit with our residents and will again be under the care of maintenance worker Jeff White. Our annual flower gardens have now been planted by the Ceredo Flower Lady, Delcie Elkins, assisted by her sons, David and Donnie. Ceredo became known as a flower

city in the early 1970s when the original Beautification Committee was organized, and Delcie has done a great job carrying forth this tradition.

Ceredo will soon have a dog park! The playground located on A Street at 2nd Street East, now rarely used, will be transformed into a dog park with sections for small and large dogs, a water source, and benches for dog owners. This will allow residents an opportunity to allow their dogs to run free and socialize with other dogs, in a setting much more conducive to a dog park than a playground, given the proximity to the KRT rail yard and traffic on A Street. The playground equipment now on A

Street, along with some new equipment, will be relocated to the town park.

In addition to adding a playground to the town park, exercise stations will also be added at various points along the walking track. Similar to those along the track in Ritter Park, the exercise stations will allow walkers and runners to get a more complete workout while using the track.

The major project proposed for this summer, still in the planning stages, is to replace our outdated street lights with modern black poles topped with acorn-shaped LED light heads. These lights are the same style used by Huntington in their Main Street Project near Pullman Plaza, and

are aesthetically pleasing while providing better light at a cheaper cost.

If approved by the Town Council, the first phase of this project could be underway by July with the replacement of fifteen existing poles and lights. The second phase, likely to be completed in 2020, will consist of adding street lights to new areas in town. A number of the old light poles will be repurposed for use along the walking track in the town park, after changing the light source to LED.

These projects, when completed, should make life in Ceredo safer and more enjoyable for all.

Ceredo Participates in Drug Drop Program

The Town of Ceredo and the Ceredo Police Department are proud to participate in The National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators' (NADDI) DRUG DROP BOX program.

Developed to address the ever-growing problem of abuse of unused prescription drugs which are the number one substance of abuse for America's teens, the Drug Drop Box program provides a safe and secure way to dispose of prescribed medications which are no longer needed.

Most of us have one or more unused prescription medications in our medicine, bathroom or kitchen cabinets, or perhaps even in our bedside tables, work desks or briefcases. According to the NADDI website, "America's 12 to 17-year-olds have made prescription drugs their number one substance of abuse for their age group, and much of that supply is unwittingly coming from the medicine

cabinets of their parents, grandparents and friends." Additionally, having unused medications in the home increases the risk of home break-ins and burglaries, as drug-users prey on elderly or infirm individuals who require medications.

NADDI sought to develop a way of addressing this situation and designed the Drug Drop Box to provide a method for adults to remove these substances from our homes and legally and safely turn them over to law enforcement for "proper chain of custody and court ordered destruction."

Law enforcement is the only entity legally able to accept and process these medications properly so that they cannot fall into the wrong hands.

The Ceredo Drug Drop Box is located just inside the entrance to the Ceredo Police Department on B Street.

Anyone needing to drop prescription drugs may enter the

foyer and tell the dispatcher they need to access the drop box and the interior door will be unlocked allowing the citizen to personally place their medications in the drop slot into the locked box. When the box approaches capacity, the drugs are safely and legally sorted and recorded by law enforcement officials with supervision by pharmacists, and are ultimately turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration. It should be noted that there are two video cameras recording all activity associated with the Drop Box at all times.

While the Ceredo Police Department and pharmacy students from Marshall University regularly have specific days to highlight the effort, the Drop Box may be accessed at all times. If an individual is unable to bring their medications to the police department, they should ask a friend, family member, church associate, etc. to assist with the transportation of the

medications, as the Ceredo Police Department cannot transport the medications from an individual, for the protection and integrity of the Drug Drop Program. They will accept medication drops from any area, not just Ceredo.

Spring cleaning season might be an excellent time to clean out those medicine cabinets. We are proud that Ceredo is proactive in the ongoing fight against substance abuse!



Sewer Rate Increase

The sewer rate increase is upon us. Town Council has held off as long as possible before enacting this rate increase, the first since 2011, but it was inevitable. Since 2011, we have been subjected to five rate increases by the Huntington Sanitary Board. Each of those increases was absorbed by the town without raising our rates, but we have reached the point where our sewer utility would be operating at a deficit by July 1 without a rate increase.

The proposed rate increase, that will have to be approved by the Public Service Commission, will amount to six dollars per month on the minimum bill. With this increase our sewer rates will still be significantly lower than the rates charged in Huntington and Kenova.

Ceredo has been very fortunate over the past seventy years in maintaining low rates for water, sewage, and trash removal. Unfortunately, we are forced to have our sewage treated by the Huntington Sanitary Board and are thus subject to their rate increases. Since sewer rates are a regulated utility, the revenue and expenses are audited separately each year and the utility must operate at a positive. This means we cannot supplement the cost of handling sewage with monies from the general fund or other sources.

The town will continue to implement programs to reduce our costs to Huntington, such as the separation of storm water that is infiltrating our sanitary system, and improved maintenance of the 220 grinder pumps that are part of our sanitary sewage system.

Demolition Scheduled

Demolition is expected to begin very soon on four houses that have been declared to be unfit for habitation by the Ceredo Unsafe Housing Authority. The residences are all older houses that have mostly been vacant for a number of years.

The first demolitions are scheduled to be at 725 and 741 Main Street. Demolition of these dilapidated houses should greatly improve the block and the entire southside. Also on the southside, the house located at 811 Hill Street will be demolished by the town crew later this spring. The final house currently scheduled for demolition is located at 341 3rd Street East.

Most cities in the eastern United States are suffering the problem of dilapidated houses that harm property values, become places for squatters or drug users to congregate, or house rodents that present health hazards. Ceredo has been fortunate to have a limited number of these vacant buildings and to have stayed on top of the problem through the efforts of the Unsafe Housing Authority.

In Ceredo, as with many other places, houses in our older neighborhoods were built or inhabited by the generation that has mostly passed away. Many in the "baby boomer" generation long ago left for work in other places, and the older homes are not of the style being sought by today's home buyers. The result is either vacant houses falling into disrepair or older houses turned into rental property, where "pride in ownership" is often lacking.

We will continue to stay on top of this problem in an effort to maintain property values in our neighborhoods and keep Ceredo as the neat community it has always been.

New Employee

The Town is pleased to announce the hiring of P.J. Adkins as an assistant in the Sewer Department. P.J. is a 2013 graduate of Spring Valley High School, and since graduation has worked with his father at Presley's Plumbing. In his current job, P.J. will assist Sonny Gilkerson in maintaining Ceredo's sanitary and storm sewer system.

Recently married, P.J. likes to participate in outdoor activities in his spare time. A healthy lad, it is expected that P.J. will add a little muscle to our aging work force.

"This is a great opportunity for me," said Adkins. "Sonny is a cousin of mine, and we get along very well. I have been trained about plumbing since an early age by my father, and anyone that knows my father knows that he taught me a good work ethic. The opportunity for regular employment with good benefits, in a field where I have previously been trained, is greatly appreciated."

"P.J. is a good communicator, has a good knowledge of plumbing, welding, and electrical systems, and doesn't mind hard work. He will be a valuable asset to Ceredo in the coming years," said Superintendent Ron Jarrell.



CEREDO TOWN STATS	
POPULATION 1,412	AREA 2.26 SQ. MI.
MALE 42.6%	LAND 1.53 SQ. MI.
FEMALE 57.4%	WATER .73 SQ. MI.
ELEVATION 552	MEDIAN AGE 48.9
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AROUND TOWN

Ozzie Hawes, Columnist

The Ceredo Beautification Committee has done a great job this year in cleaning our streets and common areas, including areas around a few business establishments that are vacant. If each of us does just one thing a week – sweeping a curb, helping an elderly neighbor with grass cutting, picking up papers around a block – it will make a significant difference in our town. Pitch in!

Our new business establishments, Austin's Pet Supplies and House of Hair, appear to be doing very well based on traffic into the businesses. Ceredo is glad to have them, and we should support local businesses as much as possible.

Recently uncovered in the Ramsdell House was a hand-

written ordinance passed by the Ceredo Town Council on March 6, 1916. The title of the ordinance is "An Ordinance Regulating Pool Halls and Billiard Parlors." The date of passage is in line with the opening of the Ceredo Pool Room in 1916, and generally prohibits underage drinking and hours of operation.

Parts of the ordinance became unnecessary with the ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment, which became effective in January, 1920. The Ceredo Pool Room survived prohibition until passage of the Twenty-first Amendment in 1933. Over the following forty years the Ceredo Pool Room, operated by Ray Cornwell, made up for lost time in beer sales.

Tom Workman, maintenance director at Crescent Hill Cemetery, has the

cemetery in great condition. Tommy takes a week of vacation from his job with the Ceredo maintenance department prior to Memorial Day each year to have the cemetery in shape before the holiday.

The Lincoln County Opportunity Organization has approached Town Council concerning use of a portion of the Ceredo Elementary School. The Lincoln County organization now serves Wayne County with regard to services previously provided by the Wayne County Community Services Organization. This group provides meals for the elderly and community activities geared toward elderly populations.

Others seeking space in the former school include the C-K Alumni Band and the Daughters of the American Revolution, both being

fine community-oriented groups. The Ceredo School Committee will be considering these requests along with other recommendations for presentation to Council in July.

Warm weather has brought record crowds to Austin's Ice Cream. The venerable Ceredo establishment, makers of the best ice cream this side of Vermont, has had lines each day of visitors from near and far. Social media appears to be a perfect advertising medium for Austin's, spreading the word of genuine homemade ice cream in our town.

Nominations for "Yard of the Month" and "Business of the Month" are now being accepted. Please call Town Hall to nominate and yard or business that you feel has done a commendable job

in beautifying Ceredo. The Beautification Committee considers nominations and presents awards on a monthly basis.

Congratulations to the residents of the 400 Block of A Street. The block looks beautiful, with each house being maintained perfectly, great landscaping, and clean curbs! This is an example of what happens when we each pitch in and do a little, as Ceredo residents have done since 1857. These residents have taken a block that a few years ago was showing serious signs of age and turned it into one of the prettiest blocks in town.

Scott McCoy of Larry McCoy Auto deserves a mention for maintaining his business grounds. Located on Route 60, with significant roadway frontage, McCoy

Auto undoubtedly attracts a lot of roadway debris, but Scott and his staff work each day to keep the lot in perfect condition. The extra effort Scott expends sure makes the entry into Ceredo a nice one.

One of the real differentiating factors between "okay" towns and "great" towns is the degree of community involvement in each. Ceredo has been fortunate since its founding to have had a core of residents willing to work voluntarily for the good of the whole, thus it is obvious to see the difference in Ceredo and other small towns. I urge each of you to become involved, whether it is by calling Town Hall and volunteering to serve on a committee or simply helping your block.

Watershed Protection Elements Around Your Home – Part 2

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 storm water 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 stormwater runoff requires everyone's involvement.

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection requires MS4's to incorporate six Watershed Protection Elements into local development codes, policies, and ordinances, as well as comprehensive and master plans for land use,

transportation, and neighborhoods. You can help keep our streams and rivers clean and reduce stormwater runoff by implementing some of these techniques around your home.

Tree protection

During development, mass clearing and grading removes trees and vegetation. Trees and other vegetation provide important benefits that include stabilizing soil and preventing erosion, enhancing the function of stormwater management practices and improving aesthetics. Think twice before you cut down trees in your yard.

Protection of native soils, prevention of compaction of soils

During the development process, native soils should be protected to the highest extent possible. Wholesale topsoil stripping and compaction of soils should be prevented, especially soils that may be most conducive for stormwater absorption and infiltration. This practice helps reduce stormwater runoff, as undisturbed native soils have higher infiltration rates than soils that are cleared and compacted during development. Also, phased site clearing should be encouraged to reduce mass clearing and grading and minimize exposed soils.

To learn more, please follow our periodic articles in this newspaper on storm water and Ceredo's MS4 program regarding water quality, storm water management. As you read these articles, you will see that we all have the ability to have an impact on our most

precious natural resource by promoting responsible methods or making small changes in our everyday lives. In addition, the Town of Ceredo's MS4 program is routinely discussed at town council meetings and the public's involvement is encouraged

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HONOR ROLL

Eleanor Terry	08/19
In Memory of J. J. & Roma Gail Billups	08/19
Mike Watts	09/19
Paul & Kathy Billups	10/19
Dinah & Dale Ledbetter	10/19
Jennifer Ferguson	10/19
Connie & Mark Beford	10/19
In Memory of Janice Justice	2/19
Donna Vanhoose	02/20
In Memory of Charles & Betty Pratt	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
In Memory of Herb & Helen Stephens	08/20
In Memory of Coach Dale Craycraft	08/20
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
John C. Hall	05/20
Jim & Pat Billups	02/21
Jeanette & Roger Barker	03/21
Jack & Ann Riggs	05/21
Leigh Ann Johnson	04/22

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

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Zophar's Desk Comes Home

The personal desk of Captain Zophar Deane Ramsdell has come home to the Ramsdell House.

The desk was the property of Z. D. Ramsdell and was passed down to his son William Augustus (Willie or Will) Ramsdell (1863-1946). Will's son, Dean Alden Ramsdell (1899-1959) inherited the desk, which was then passed down to his son, Charles A. Ramsdell (1932-1986). Charles' widow, Donna Ramsdell, gave the desk to Ric Griffith, whose grandfather, Willard B. Griffith (1868-1936) was a brother of Rosa Ruth Griffith (1866-1915), who was the wife of Z. D. Ramsdell's son, Will, keeping the desk in the family! The desk is on loan to the Ramsdell House from the Griffith family, who are staunch and knowledgeable protectors of the history of the area. Owners of The Pumpkin House and the historic Griffith & Feil Pharmacy, as well as the old Kenova Bank Building (Diversified Assessment and Therapy Services),

Ric and his wife Sandi have an extraordinary collection of historic memorabilia and were happy to see the desk return to its' original home.

The mission style desk is very unusual due to its' oval shape. It is now the centerpiece of Zophar's office in the Ramsdell House Museum. The Griffith Family also shared several signed Civil War Quartermasters Orders from William McKinley to Z. D. Ramsdell which are on display in the office, as well. As Z. D. Ramsdell was a meticulous record-keeper, there are hundreds of historic documents and records available in The Ceredo Historical Society Museum, and more continue to be discovered in the Ramsdell House during the current rehab project.

Work continues on the historic Ramsdell with a planned reopening this summer, though structural stabilization and upgrades will continue for some time after that. Preliminary repairs on the exterior brick have begun as evidenced by scaffolding on the front of the home. There are very specific requirements when repairing historic brick, including the use of lime-based mortar. The Ramsdell House was built from brick made on the property. As the house is listed in The National Register of Historic Places, care must be taken to maintain the historic integrity of every aspect of the home.

Other items found in the home which will be on display include Captain Ramsdell's Civil War saddle pad, several items from his uniform and an extensive collection of books and handwritten documents.

The Ramsdell Project requests assistance in locating any information regarding individuals and families who may have sheltered in The Ramsdell House during their journey to freedom on The Underground Railroad. They are also searching for stories and photographs of Zophar's wife, Almeda. More information is available on the website at: www.RamsdellHouse.com.



Sneak peaks at the Ramsdell house!

While the work on The Ramsdell House will continue throughout the summer, there are several opportunities for "sneak peaks" prior to the official grand re-opening, including following this Sunday's Memorial Day Ceremony at Paul T. Billups Park.

American Legion Post 93 hosts their annual Memorial Day Ceremony at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday at Paul T. Billups Park on High Street, across from C-K Middle School. The Ramsdell will be open following the event until 5:00 p.m.

Additionally, the Ramsdell will be open on Saturday, June 15th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. so that visitors may enjoy the nineteenth annual Ceredo Antique Auto Show from 9:00 a.m. – Noon at Ceredo Plaza, then pay a visit to the Ramsdell.

While work will continue on some areas of the home for some time, the first and second floors are ready for a preview. There is a handicapped accessible entrance available on the west (left) side of the building, with restrooms on the first and second floors. If the parking in front of the home on B street is full, there will be additional parking in the church parking lot in the rear.

School and group tours have begun, by appointment and events will be able to be scheduled by late summer. For more information, see www.RamsdellHouse.com, check out the Ramsdell House Facebook page, or call 304-908-9696.



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The Crescent Kitchen



by Natalie Riggs Hemann

This month's recipe is very special to me. Last summer my cousins, Jenny Tacker and Will Matus, came from my mom's hometown of West, Texas to teach my mom, sister, and me how to make kolaches. One of the highlights of our annual summer visits to West was enjoying these delicious dough pastries. We were thrilled when Jenny and Will said they were coming to teach us how to make them. We enjoyed making the kolaches as much as we enjoyed eating them! FUN FACT: West is known as the "Home of the Official Kolache of the Texas Legislature."

SWEET OR SAVORY KOLACHES

Ingredients:
 2 pkgs. Dry yeast
 ¼ cup lukewarm water
 1 tsp. sugar
 ¼ cup margarine
 ¾ cups sugar
 2 egg yolks
 1 tsp. salt
 2 cups milk (1 can evaporated milk plus hot water to equal 2 cups)
 6 cups flour
 Butter for glazing
Filling: Cans of Apricot, Poppyseed, or Prune
Filling (I use Solo brand)
Topping: 1 cup sugar, ½ cup flour, ¾ tsp.

Cinnamon, 2 tbs. Melted Butter; Mix until it resembles course meal.

Directions:
 Dissolve yeast in the ¼ cup of water and sprinkle with 1 tsp. sugar. In large bowl cream sugar and margarine, add yolks, salt, and mix well. Add the dissolved yeast and about ½ cup of the flour, mix slowly with mixer. Add all the milk and continue adding the remaining flour, using mixer or stir by hand with wooden until dough is glossy. Cover and let rise in a warm place until double in bulk, about one hour.

After dough is risen, cut off small portions of dough (about the size of an egg); using a table-spoon shape into balls and place on a greased pan about an inch apart. Butter the individual dough balls well with melted butter and let rise until light. After they are risen make an indentation in the center and place filling. Sprinkle topping on each piece and bake in 425 degree oven for about 15 minutes; top with melted butter after baked.

If making savory kolaches, follow above directions but make each ball of dough into a square and place a piece of your favorite sausage in the middle and fold dough over and seal.

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CHARACTERS OF CEREDO

Ozzie Hawes, Columnist

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

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

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

Ceredo has been home to a number of barbers over the

years, including town historian Ed Adkins, Dave Jolly, John Walters, Mr. Nelson, Jon McFann – and the unforgettable Buck Combs. Buck operated a shop located in a wooden structure on Route 60, just behind Flanagan's Pharmacy. In business between 1954 and 1972, Buck became a barbering legend, one drink at a time.

Buck took over the Ceredo shop from Jerry Ratliff, at a time when haircuts were short and barber visits were frequent. Barber shops were a gathering place for men to share stories and time, and in towns such as Ceredo the menfolk often loafed a while in Buck's shop and moved down a block to loaf in the shop of Ed Adkins. With a brief foray into the Ceredo Pool Room which was located between the shops, a local fellow could pretty much kill a day and be well-versed on local gossip.

The barber chair in Buck's shop faced west, giving the customer a view of the Main Street intersection and most of the goings-on in town. There was always a radio playing with country music, and the place had a lasting aroma, probably emanating from scented hair tonic. At various times Buck would allow young entrepreneurs to set up shoe shine boxes in the shop, but from interviews with several of those independent contractors it doesn't appear to have been a profitable sideline.

As with a number of barbers of the day, Buck had a taste for spirits. It has often been said that the first few haircuts of the day were perhaps not Buck's best, but after visiting the back room a few times Buck's hands steadied and he could cut a nice head of hair.

In the early 1970s, Buck and his wife Becky became proprietors of a restaurant on Main Street that was originally owned and operated by Dick Methax. Small-town restaurant business was slow, and gradually the restaurant morphed into becoming the Hillbilly Haven bar. As with many bars of the day, fights between patrons were not uncommon, but the darndest fight in the early days of the Hillbilly Haven was between the owners, Buck and Becky. For several days following their bout, locals stopped in just to see the broken tables and blood on the walls.

The fight signaled the end of Buck's business in Ceredo. The barbershop soon closed, the restaurant changed hands, and Buck had a short retirement before passing away.

No story of Ceredo could be complete without a mention of Buck Combs, a true character of Ceredo and a man remembered by anyone that visited his barber chair, especially for an early morning haircut.

First Scholarship Awarded

The Town of Ceredo is pleased to announce that the first scholarship created by the Ceredo Scholarship Fund has been awarded. Jessie Prince of Ceredo, a 2019 graduate of Spring Valley High School, was awarded the \$1,000 scholarship during the Senior Awards Ceremony at Spring Valley on May 20, 2019. Miss Prince plans to attend Marshall University in the fall, and the Ceredo Scholarship will be used to defray tuition expenses.

Donations to the Scholarship Fund have been better than expected, and it appears that in coming years we will be able to award two scholarships of \$1,000 each. The people of Ceredo have always taken the step forward to help our own, and this is another great example of what we do for



Jessie Prince accepting the Ceredo Scholarship

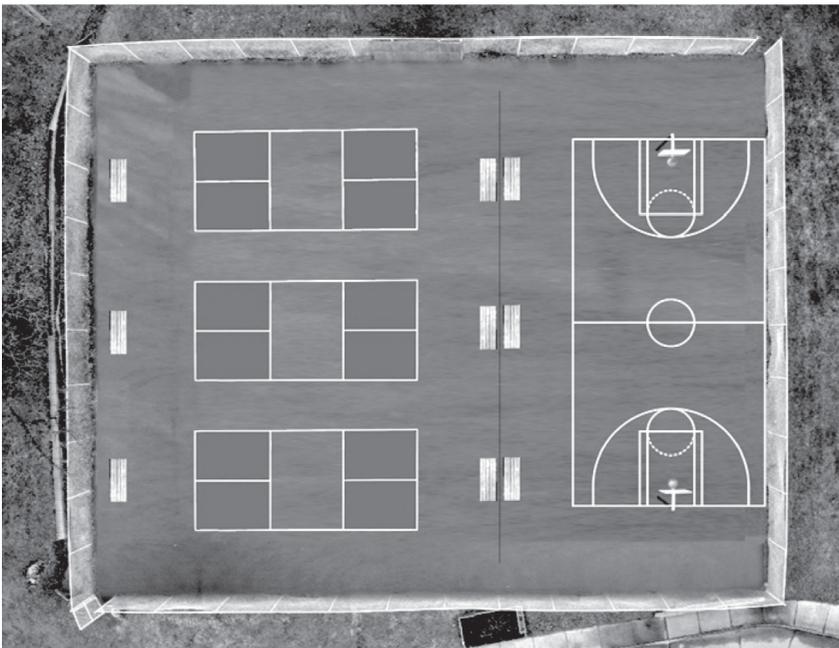
our community. If you have not yet donated and wish to take part in this community effort, please forward your check payable to "Ceredo Scholarship Fund", Town of Ceredo, P.O. Box 691, Ceredo, 25507

Congratulations, Donnie!



The 2019 Wayne County Special Olympics event was held on Thursday, May 16th and Friday, May 17th. Ceredo's own, Donnie Elkins, received medals in both softball and the track 50 meter events.

Pickleball Anyone?



This is a rendered design of the Pickleball courts that are coming soon to Ceredo!!



Tom Workman working hard to get Crescent Hill Cemetery ready for Memorial Day Weekend

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