

The Call of The Pewee

June, 2004



Volume 36, No. 5

PEWEE VALLEY, KENTUCKY

OLDHAM COUNTY, 40056

www.peweevalleyky.org



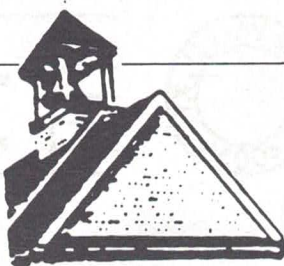
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Our Town



Mimi Barrett, City Clerk

JUNE COUNCIL MEETING

The sixth regular meeting of the Pewee Valley City Council was held on Monday, June 7, 2004. In attendance were Michael Logsdon, Bob Rogers, Steve Rowland, Suzy Walser, Beach Craigmyle, and Kevin Arave. Also in attendance were City Clerk Mimi Barrett, Mayor Clayton Stoess, Jr., and City Attorney John Singler.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Donna Russell of Edgewood Way voiced concern about the current draft of the proposed historic preservation ordinance and its requirements about repairs to historic properties using materials available at the time such properties were initially constructed. Many modern materials mimic historic materials and are stronger and less costly to homeowners. Mayor Stoess noted that any ordinance would be carefully drafted to try to address such concerns.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Operating Account: \$13,096.08; Money Market Account: \$380,604.25; LGAF Program: \$4,031.26; Municipal Aid Road Fund: \$13,404.06; Sewer Construction Assistance Fund: \$200,000.00.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Pewee Valley Fire Department Chief Bob Hamilton presented the Fire Department Report. There were 36 fire runs and 11 EMS runs in May, with the unusual volume largely due to the violent weather patterns we have been experiencing. Chief Hamilton advised that due to the widespread storm damage, **Open Burning** (for storm damage cleanup only; no construction or other debris) **will be allowed in June and July**. He stressed again that the fire hydrants must remain painted in the colors applied by the Department. The colors indicate to firefighters the proper fittings for hoses and the cap colors show the hydrant's water flow capacity. And please do not place ornamental plantings around the hydrants—they are there to protect your property! Leave them alone and let the Department do its job to help you!

COVER PHOTO

Dr. Gerald L. Meyer, owner of the Pewee Valley Veterinary Center, greets friends at his home on Curry Creek Road in Crestwood on the occasion of a party celebrating his forty years in the practice of veterinary medicine. Dr. Meyer and his wife, artist Jane Meyer, are friends to all our pets and play host at the Center as Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the annual Pewee Valley Yule Log Festival. Dr. Meyer is also a noted collector and propagator of garden hostas. Congratulations, Dr. Meyer!

Thanks to the community and to the PVFD; the Department collected \$24,000 for the 2004 Crusade for Children.

Chief Hamilton announced that Department member **Jason Stowe**, a member of the PVFD for the past 18 months, has received his orders to report for military duty in Iraq. We will miss him and will remember him in our prayers.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Steve LeClair reported 35 traffic stops, 5 arrests, 1 domestic disturbance, 6 accidents (1 involving a DUI), and 2 thefts for the month of May. The Mayor and Chief LeClair reminded residents that if they will notify City Hall when they are away this summer, their homes will be monitored during their absences. This is one of the reasons many people wanted to reestablish the Pewee Valley Police Department, so be sure to take advantage of this service. Call 241-8343 or log on to the city web site: www.peweevalleyky.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Rogers reported that there were 24 County EMS runs from the old firehouse in May.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Rogers discussed the City's on-going efforts to get state assistance in paying for additional railroad crossing gates in Our Town. Gated crossings mean that we could be declared a "quiet zone," and the train whistle blowing could cease. The state's records as to train reality in Pewee are somewhat outdated, Mr. Rogers learned; those records show only 8 trains passing through daily. In fact, there are now 35 trains per day.

Mr. Logsdon reported his progress in getting LG&E to locate all the currently existing street lighting in Our Town. As a matter of public safety, the Council wants to have at least one street light at every road intersection. The cost for additional lighting is expected to run about \$7-\$10 per light per month. He estimates an additional 18 lights will be needed.

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Ms. Walser thanked those involved for a successful first bicycle safety event that was held in May. Chief LeClair presented the clinic and Officer Richard Harned of the Oldham County PD provided each of the children attending with a free bike helmet.

OLD BUSINESS

Bridge Repairs: Mr. Rodgers reported that the County will be able to provide almost all of the equipment for the repairs and upgrading. The repairs will be undertaken once state approval has been granted.

NEW BUSINESS

MASTER PLAN SURVEY

Representatives of the Master Plan Committee presented the official results of the Master Plan survey mailed out to all residents earlier this year. Because there were 308 responses returned out of 499 surveys transmitted to residents (an unheard of response rate of 62%), these results were termed not only statistically valid but a "mathematical certainty."

Q: Satisfaction with current public facilities.
A: 92% satisfied.

Q: Want more parks and green space.
A: 69% support for more.

Q: Eliminate RR crossing to reduce noise.
A: 54% oppose.

Q: Pay for crossing gates to reduce noise.
A: 46% support; 49% oppose.

Q: Additional turn lane throughout City.
A: 61% oppose; 36% support

Q: Limited turn lanes, such as at Ash.
A: 51% for; 49% against.

Q: Construction of public sewers.
A: 76% oppose.

Q: Minimum lot size for Pewee Valley.
A: 88% favor 1 acre minimum lot size.

Q: Cell towers in Pewee Valley.
A: 87% oppose.

Q: Historic preservation ordinance
A: 79% support such an ordinance.

Q: Expand sidewalks and paths.
A: 77% support.

Q: Tree ordinance; tree board.
A: 82% support existing program.

Q: Signage.
A: 81% support existing situation.

Q: Hwy. 146 commercial development.
A: 53% oppose increase; 44% support.
Among supporters, 91% say controlled development crucial.

About half of the survey respondents added written comments detailing issues that were important to them but which did not appear on the survey.

The City Attorney noted that one reason to adopt a Pewee Valley Master Plan is highlighted by some of the survey results. For example, contrary to popular perception, there is no current requirement for minimum lot sizes of one acre in the City. Without adopting such a requirement as part of a city Master Plan, to be included as part of the Oldham County Master Plan, then by

default, we would be subject to whatever minimum lot size requirements have been adopted by the County in their Master Plan. Signage, he said, is a similar example.

Master Plan Committee representatives announced that there will be a public forum to discuss each of the issues identified on the survey. It will be held at 7 p.m. on July 8 at the Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church. The forum will be moderated by a neutral third party and will follow a round table discussion model: one issue to a table; groups to be rotated to each table for a specified time; all comments recorded on flip charts.

The survey results and the comments recorded at the public forum will be considered as the Master Plan Committee proceeds with its report to the Council, expected to be delivered in August.

ROAD REPAIR AND PRIORITIES:

Mr. Rodgers and the City Engineer have inspected all of the city road ways to determine the priorities for repair, with those roads ranked number 1 considered to be most in need of work and those ranked number 5 least. Currently, Rollington, the bridge repairs and certain parts of Central Ave (those without shoulders) are rank 1.

Mayor Stoess asked the City Attorney to explain his research into whether certain streets located in the City are "public" and thus should be maintained at taxpayer expense. Mr. Singler noted that as to Peace Lane, he has determined that there was a public dedication of this road in the 1800's, and that routine city maintenance of the road since the dedication constituted an "acceptance" by the city of that public

dedication. Therefore, he concludes there is a public duty to maintain this road.

By contrast, his research on Rest Cottage shows less evidence of a public dedication, although there is a 19th century deed establishing a private dedication of the road for the benefit of adjoining property owners. Regardless of whether there was a public dedication of the road, there was never an "acceptance" of a dedication by virtue of city maintenance of the road. Consequently, there appears to be no public duty of maintenance for Rest Cottage.

The Mayor noted, however, that he and the Council members would like to accept Rest Cottage as a public roadway and are awaiting a proposal from Rest Cottage property owners to try to make this possible.

DELINQUENT TAXES:

Mayor Stoess stated that there were very few property tax bills remaining unpaid. The Council instructed the City Attorney to take the appropriate legal steps to collect any outstanding bills, the owners having been given ample written notice prior to formal collection.

BUDGET PROCESS:

The Council had the first reading of the Budget for fiscal 2004-2005.

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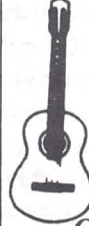


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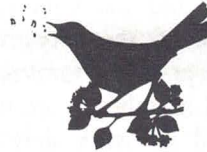
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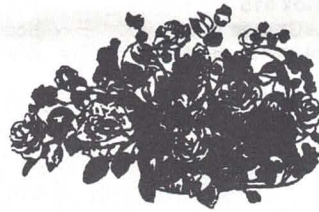
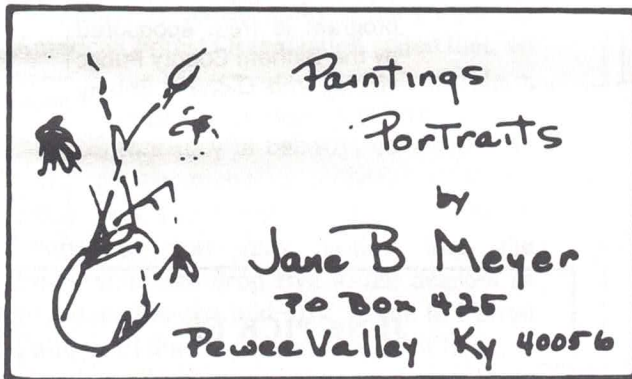
DEATHS

Katie Lee Smith died June 14, 2004, at her residence. She was a former town historian for Pewee Valley, a former member of the Oldham County School Board, and past president of Crestwood Elementary PTA. She is survived by her sons, John S. Smith II and William L. Smith.

William Arthur Hampton, age 92, died June 3, 2004, at Friendship Manor. He was a retired builder, an Army veteran of World War II, and a member of Pewee Valley Seventh Day Adventist Church. He is survived by a sister and many nieces and nephews.

REACH CITY OFFICIALS BY EMAIL

Council members and other City officials can be easily reached by email using the Pewee Valley web site. For example, Mayor Stoess can be reached at stoess@peweevalleyky.org or mayor@peweevalleyky.org; email sent to those addresses are automatically forwarded to his home email address. The editor of *The Call of the Pewee* can be contacted at editor@peweevalleyky.org. You can always reach a council member just by typing his or her last name to the left of the @ sign, or lastname@peweevalleyky.org.



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**Wednesday , August 18,
6 p.m.**

Wednesday, August 18, at the Westport General Store, historian and Kentucky Humanities Council Speaker Diane P. Coon, will highlight the story of slave and abolitionist, Henry Bibb and his life in Henry, Oldham and Trimble County. Bibb's slave narratives are some of the most famous in U.S. history. In addition, Ms. Coon will talk about the sites in Westport and surrounding areas that supported the Underground Railroad and its secret systems of communication on the Ohio River. The program is free, sponsored by the Oldham County Public Library and Oldham County History Society. Dinner will be provided at your own expense.

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JUNK PICK UP

Kevin Arave informs us that the next "junk pick up" date is July 29. Just set out unwanted items along with your trash can on that date, and ID will pick everything up. Furniture and appliances, among other junk, will be accepted; the usual environmentally negative items, such as paint, chemicals, used motor oil, etc. will not. Keep Pewee clean and beautiful; ditch the junk on July 29. (Junk pick up is made quarterly under Our Town's waste management contract.)



FROM THE TREE BOARD

Did you know that it takes two mature trees to provide enough oxygen for a family of four people for a year? The operative word is mature. A recent study reported by the American Forest Organization stated that, on average, the life expectancy of urban trees is seven years, while trees in rural settings can last 150 years. This statistic is primarily the result of air pollution, coupled with the urban heat island effect. (If you work in Louisville, you may notice that the temperature can drop five to ten degrees as you leave the city and drive home to Pewee Valley...all due to our community of trees.

The Tree Board once again removed many distressed trees this past winter and has replaced many trees around Our Town in the last month. Please notice if your residence has had a replacement tree planted along the right of way and help these trees get established by watering them. All trees, mature or not, require of minimum of 5 gallons of water a week; with the heat of summer upon us, nature needs our help to ensure their survival. Watering can be accomplished simply by the use of soaker hoses, sprinklers, or by filling and placing a five gallon bucket, with a small hole in the bottom, at the base of the tree. Alligator bags, available at most garden centers, can also be used, but they are

often expensive. If you need more information, please contact anyone on the Tree Board or call Jim Brewer at 241-2473 or Carol Rose at 241-1178.

Pewee's of Note

Erica Thornbury, a junior majoring in Spanish at the University of Louisville, was named a Dean's Scholar with a 4.0 average for Summer 2003. She also was named a Panama Scholar and participated in the University's Spanish immersion program in Panama May-June 2004.



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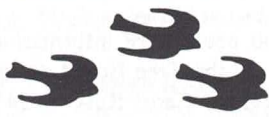
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MOLES GOT YOU DOWN?

A Pewee resident who notes extensive mole invasion on Maple says the following web site may be helpful:

www.themoleman.com

Maybe they were counting on the cicadas, which seem to have bypassed Pewee Valley after their 17 year slumber.

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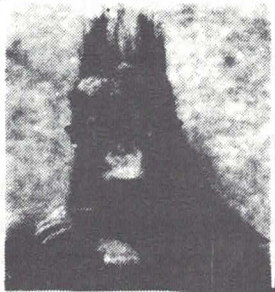
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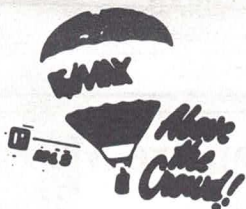


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Public Forum

The Master Plan Committee will hold a Public Forum for the purpose of final discussion of issues under consideration for the Pewee Valley Master Plan.

The forum will take place in the Life Center of the Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church, at 7 PM, on July 8, 2004.

Special guest Mr. Marshall Slagle, retired technical coordinator for Northern Kentucky Planning Commission, will be the monitor for the evening of round table discussion. Refreshments will be served, and all Pewee Valley residents are urged participate. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

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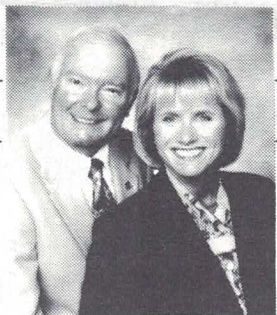


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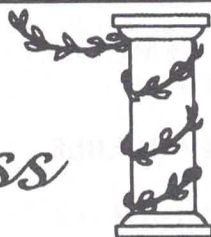


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