



THE CALL OF THE PEWEE

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BURNING THE VALLEY

Some say fumes from leaf fires need to be squelched

By Brent Schanding, The Oldham Era

Pewee Valley officials are urging residents to avoid burning leaves after some have complained about noxious fumes and safety issues. Volunteers with Pewee Valley Fire Protection District responded to a leaf fire Nov. 2 that blanketed the area in thick smoke for hours. Fumes were widespread, fire chief Bob Hamilton said, but it was unclear where it originated because the flames quickly smoldered. "The smoke wasn't dissipating because of lack of winds," he said. "You wouldn't have wanted to jog in the area," he added about the severity of the conditions. Some feared the toxic fumes from burnt leaves could've compromised the health of neighbors, including more than 100 elderly residents at the town's Friendship Manor nursing home.

Leslie Butterfield, administrator of the facility, couldn't confirm any complaints from residents or their families about the leaf-burning fumes, although he said a nurse there was alarmed enough to contact fire officials about recent smoke. "You can smell the leaves here if they're burning," Butterfield said, adding that incidents are infrequent. "Every once in awhile the smoke can get quite thick and it stays low to the ground. Anyone that has respiratory problems could be affected."

Fire officials said they received another complaint from a Village Green resident, who suffered difficulty breathing because of smoky conditions.

Complaints about leaf burning are common in the area and officials say incidents of backyard-leaf burning often increase in the fall as trees shed foliage. Leaf burning is not expressly prohibited under Pewee Valley ordinances – and attempts by city officials to more adequately address the issue failed a few years ago, largely because of strong opposition from long-time rural residents.

People have been burning leaves in Pewee Valley for years, Hamilton said, and many are resistant to any type of burn bans. But Hamilton

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PEWEE VALLEY
YULE LOG CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

5:30 – 7:30 PM

TOWN SQUARE

STOP IN THE LITTLE COLONEL PLAYHOUSE
FOR THE HOLIDAY PERFORMANCE OF
"A CHRISTMAS RADIO STORY"

OUR TOWN

Mayor

Bob Rogers 241-7340
Police/Roads
bobrogers7614@aol.com

Council Members

Carol Akers 241-0196
Public Safety
czaring@netscape.net

Dana Barrette 744-6442
Finance/Insurance/Storm Water
djbarrette@gmail.com

Willard Chambers 241-4979
Waste Management/Mowing

Dick Filippini 241-1237
Tree Board
info@homebyfili.com

Amy Johnson 243-3195
Sidewalks/Communication
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Bethany Major 243-6120
Town Hall/Festivities
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NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

The regular meeting of the City Council of Pewee Valley, Kentucky was held on November 2, 2009. In attendance were Mayor Bob Rogers, Council Members Dick Filippini, Amy Johnson, Will Chambers, Dana Barrette, and Carol Akers. Also in attendance were John Singler, City Attorney and Laura Eichenberger, City Clerk. Council Member Bethany Major was absent.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Dana reported that due to the incentives offered with the property tax discount for early payment (10% discount applied for payments received by October 31st), the City has received approximately 78% of the total at this point.

Based on last month's Audit Report (for Fiscal Year 2008/2009), the reserve balance amount is \$750,000 (cash equivalent of \$520,000 – subtracting the City's loan for roads and the payments left on the police vehicle). The reserve amount doesn't change over the year, until the budget is adjusted once a year--typically the last month of the fiscal year.

The City will begin posting the monthly financial reports on the website; however, it is not a top priority right now. The tax receipts are the highest priority right now. Residents may request a copy of the monthly financial reports that the Council receives at the Council meetings.

Mayor Rogers also commented that the Council has worked very hard to be frugal with the taxpayers' money. He further stated that when first elected to the Council, there were miles and miles of roads in Pewee Valley, that needed to be surfaced and there were no funds in the annual budget. The City then borrowed \$260,000 to get caught up on the roads. When putting asphalt down, much like shingles on a house, there is a 10-12 year life expectancy before it must be re-surfaced. When that time comes, without the reserve the City would have to borrow the funds again.

OPEN COMMENTS

David Kozal, thanked Dana for disclosing the reserve, stating that over the last four months he has sent numerous e-mails to Dana Barrette, Mayor Rogers, and Laura Eichenberger regarding publishing the reserve amount. After reviewing the Auditor's Report over the weekend, Mr. Kozal stated he would like to better understand the \$520,000 amount. As a chief financial advisor with 25 years experience, looking at the balance sheet, he sees about \$700,000 in reserves, which is one and half times the annual budget for Pewee Valley. He stated that for the city government of Pewee Valley to have 18 months of reserve is excessive---and that three to six months of reserve is needed and has been trying to make this point for four months. Mr. Kozal continued that he doesn't question the amount, just the need to have that large of an amount. The residents of Pewee Valley all pay property taxes, insurance premium taxes, and have over-funded the reserve by almost 20%. He wondered if the taxes could have been lowered by 20%. Mr. Kozal further stated that his call to the citizens of Pewee Valley is that everyone needs to be aware of this. Further, residents were all told that the Houston Lane one-way issue is a financial issue. According to Mr. Kozal, it is not a financial issue, the money is in the reserves to do it the correct way. He stated that he would love a quiet zone---we need to do it the correct way. Mr. Kozal asked to go on the

record to have all this published in the minutes: we have the money, we would like to do it the right way, everyone on Houston Lane would love a quiet zone and he, personally, asks everyone to do it the right way, versus the way it is being done today.

Mayor Rogers responded that one reason the reserve ballooned is one year fuel prices were \$4 a gallon and there wasn't a lot of asphalt work done on the roads, because of the cost. The second issue is, as Mayor of Pewee Valley, he cannot allow only three months of reserves---too many things have happened (having to upfront money for sidewalks and asphalt projects). He stated that he believes the City is better off putting money aside to take care of the asphalt needs as they arise. The City will be over budget on roads this year. since we have to re-build the road on Cherry.

Mr. Kozal responded that he would love to see the plans and has been asking for the plans for four months. He also stated he is willing to wait; and asked that we not do a short term solution when there is a better solution for the community in the long term.

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POLICE REPORT

Chief Mike Losik offered the following: Now that the time has changed, we experience darkness an hour earlier. Walkers and children are hard to see as we come home from work and travel to our evening activities. Pay close attention to the posted speed limits as the Chief will be enforcing them throughout the city.

In October, the following activity occurred:

Traffic Stops – 36	Citizen Contacts – 62
Calls for Service – 8	Warning Citations – 12
Assist Other Units – 2	Accident Reports – 0
House Watches – 50	Routine Patrol Hours – 101
Citations Issued – 11	Hours on Detail – 40
Criminal Reports – 1	Signs Removed – 5
Radar Hours – 19	

Chief Losik also reported that he has completed the required annual 40 hours of training by attending a criminal investigation course.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report given.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Rogers made the following announcements:

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Paul Culbertson, who was unable to attend. The certificate thanks him for his eight years of service on the Planning and Development Commission representing Pewee Valley.

Three people attended the October Mayor's Night In. The next one will be held, Tuesday, November 24th, 7:00 p.m., at Town Hall (fourth Tuesday of the month).

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Dick Filippini (Tree Board): The Tree Board has compiled a list of trees to be trimmed or removed this winter and have put it out to bid. The Tree Board meeting will be extended in November because of Thanksgiving and to allow time for receiving the bids.

Dick shared his comment regarding leaf burning. There is no ordinance against leaf burning in Pewee Valley; however, he asks that if you are going to burn leaves, please burn them dry and not wet.

Bethany Major (Town Hall/Festivities): Absent from meeting.

Carol Akers (Public Safety): Carol reported that she has an appointment next week to put a new light on Rollington. One light was removed recently as it was too close to a residence. LG&E informed her that all replacement lights are the sodium lights at \$.40 more per month---they are no longer using the mercury.

Dana Barrette (Storm Water/Insurance/Finance): No report given.

Amy Johnson (Sidewalks/Communications):

Sidewalks - Amy reported there is a bid in on the sidewalk starting on Central at Rollington at St. Aloysius cemetery, up to the Brewer's driveway. We still need the three permits from those property owners. Also, no live trees are coming down in this project, only dead underbrush will be removed. Mayor Rogers shared a sidewalk bid package, 200+ pages, double sided for the

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sidewalk down Highway 146---that is how much paper work is involved in these projects.

Communications - The website continues to be updated. There are only 84 people signed up for the E News Alerts. If you would like to be on the list, please send your information to the City Clerk (clerk@peweevalleyky.org) or visit the website (www.peweevalleyky.org) and click on the "E News Alert" link.

Amy also commented on the leaf burning topic, stating that as a physician, leaf smoke is a health hazard to some people with COPD, emphysema, and it contains carcinogens. Amy encourages people to compost their leaves or push them into the woods, etc. Anyone who would like help composting can call or e-mail Amy and she will come to your house and advise on how to go about it.

The Park - Amy reported that she has requested more bids and expects to have them at the December Council meeting.

Will Chambers (Waste Management/Mowing): Will reported that as far as he knows everything went well with the recycle bin and cart exchange. There have been no complaints so far.

Bob Rogers (Police/Roads): Mayor Rogers reported that Ohio Valley Asphalt is looking at Cherry Lane for full depth replacement and will have the cost information at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Leasing the Caboose - The City received a proposal from Cindy Trujillo about leasing the Caboose to operate an Event Planning Design Studio including hosting monthly open houses (similar to Louisville Gallery Hop). The proposal was just received this afternoon and includes, at leaser's expense, repair of the interior, sign at the end of caboose, electric, internet, or other utilities installed, insurance, etc. The Council is asked to look it over, develop questions, and this item will be discussed at the December meeting.

Upon approval of payment of outstanding bills, the Council voted unanimously to adjourn.

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Burning the Valley

Continued from Page 1

and some others say a ban on burning is needed – especially since the area is becoming increasingly suburban.

WHY IT'S A PROBLEM

Leaves are highly flammable and create fast flames that can be especially threatening in dry conditions. Leaf burning leads to air pollution and health problems. It produces particulate matter and hydrocarbons, which contains a number of toxic, irritant and cancer-causing compounds.

Leaf smoke also contains carbon monoxide – a deadly gas more commonly emitted from the tailpipes of cars. If inhaled, these microscopic particles can invade deep regions of the lungs and remain trapped there for months, or even

years. Breathing the fumes increases the chance of respiratory infections and can trigger asthma attacks.

That's why Pewee Valley councilwoman Amy Johnson, who is also a Louisville physician, encouraged residents to consider alternative ways to eliminate leaves. "Bagging them up is better than burning them," said Johnson, who still prefers the more environmentally-friendly method of disposal - composting.

Composting speeds decomposition of leaves and organic materials. It conditions the soil and the earthy matter can be reused to enrich gardens. Johnson offered to help any with composting. She can be reached at Pewee Valley City Hall, 241-8343.

The story first appeared in the Nov. 11 edition of The Oldham Era and is reprinted with permission. E-mail the writer at bschanding@lcn.com.

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TREE BOARD MEETINGS

The Tree Board has begun their fall pruning and removal program. Their November Meeting has been switched to Monday, November 30th and the December meeting is being cancelled.

MARRIAGE EDUCATION

The mission of The Marriage Education and Resource Center (MERCY), a non-profit organization located in Crestwood, is to enhance and strengthen marriages. The Center is offering free monthly workshops at Baptist Hospital Northeast in LaGrange each month, beginning in January. For information, contact Penny Hudson at (502) 939-0121 or check out their website at www.kymrc.com.

PEWEE PROPERTY TRANSFERS

- Eric and Margaret Hartman to Gordon and Megan Saylor, 101 Central Court, \$410,000.

Ann Weingardt - Director

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HOUSTON LANE CROSSING

A group called Safe Streets Inc., made up of several Pewee residents, filed a complaint against Pewee Valley and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet asking for an injunction against the city's effort to change Houston Lane from a two-way to a one-way street at the railroad crossing.

The controversy stems from the city's effort to create a Quiet Zone in Pewee Valley. The first step to meeting the requirements for Quiet Zone designation was to make Houston Lane a one-way crossing. Some Houston Lane residents felt the one-way crossing would be more hazardous, especially for tourists or others unfamiliar with the city's streets.

Safe Streets' complaint was heard by the Oldham Circuit Court on November 3rd, and the Court ruled in the city's favor.

BLUEGRASS E-CYCLE

Unwanted computers and similar equipment are rapidly clogging our landfills and pose an environmental hazard. Many states have already made it illegal to put e-trash in landfills. According to the EPA, in 2005 alone, over 1.5 million tons of unwanted electronics were primarily discarded in landfills.

Bluegrass E-Cycle in Crestwood will pick up your old computer and telecom equipment for safe recycling. They accept computers, servers, switches, circuit boards, telecom equipment, satellite boxes, wires and cable.

Bluegrass E-Cycle is a for-profit organization, so there is no tax deduction for disposal of these items. Contact Ken Yoder at (502) 681-7791 to have your equipment picked up at no charge.

THE CALL OF THE PEWEE

is also available online at
www.peweevalleyky.org

Pewee Valley, Kentucky



PEWEE VALLEY, KY. COURTESY OF CITY OF PEWEE VALLEY

The 150th Anniversary of L&N Passenger Service Between Louisville & Nashville 2010 Calendar

The Pewee Valley Train Station is the featured photograph for the month of February in the L&N 2010 Calendar, with the following notation: “Opened in 1867, The Pewee Valley depot served as a classic small town station, In 1881 the station and the line was acquired by the L&N Railroad. In 1960 the station was torn down and a caboose now stands in its place as a symbol of the old depot.”

The calendar was produced by The Historic RailPark and Train Museum, in Bowling Green.

FROM THE PEWEE VALLEY ARCHIVES

Pewee Valley, Ky Dec 13, 1877

The Board met. Present the Chairman Judge P. B. Muir with trustees G. J. Allen, J. M. Armstrong, A. M. Hays, J. Link and J. Olthuser. The minutes of the 3 preceding meetings were read, amended and approved. The President of the Board was appointed to sign the following lease:

This Indenture made this first day of December, 1877 between the Town of Pewee Valley in Oldham County, Kentucky, duly incorporated by act of the Legislature of Kentucky of the first part, and the Louisville, Cincinnati and Lexington Railway Company, a corporation authorized and existing under the laws of Kentucky, of the second part. Witnesseth, that for the consideration of one dollar per annum to be paid to said party of the first part, and the covenant hereinafter, contained, the said party of the first part hereby grants to said party of the second part, its successors and assigns, the right to use a portion of the following premise to wit, the room now and heretofore used as a ticket and telegraph office in the building owned by said party of the first part, known as Pewee Valley Station house; also sufficient space in the easternmost and in the westernmost room of said building for the storage and safekeeping of such freight and baggage as said party of the second part that have occasion to receive or deliver at said Pewee Valley station, for the term of ninety nine years from and after date of this Indenture. It is understood by the said parties that the above property is to be used as herewith described, and not otherwise to wit, as a Ticket and Telegraph office, and as a storage room for such freight, baggage and other articles as the said Railway Company, their successors and assigns may in the course of its business, have occasion to receive or deliver at said station.

The party of the first part being the owner of the said station building, and as a further consideration for the foregoing grant, the said party of the second part hereby leases to said party of the first part the portion of ground, owned by said party of the second part, under the said building, extending five feet, more or less, under the Railroad side of said building through its whole length about seventy feet also the ground, if any, owned by said party of the second part under the westernmost room of said station building, for the term of nine-nine years from and after the date of this Indenture. And the said party of the second party hereby covenants to keep the tenant and its assignees and under tenants in quiet possession during the said term. In consideration whereof the said party of the first part agrees to relinquish, and hereby acknowledges as fully discharged all claims for the use of said building which may have accrued or against said party of the second part, the old Company as the Receiver of the Louisville Chancery prior to the date of this Indenture.

In testimony whereof the parties of the first and of the second part have inscribed their corporate names thereto.

By order of the Board of Directors of the Louisville, Cincinnati & Lexington Railway Company, and the Board of Trustees of the Town of Pewee Valley.

On motion, the Board adjourned.

H. M. Woodruff, Clerk

P. B. Muir, President

If I Were Mayor



From left to right: Cody Barnes, Danielle Hardiman, Alex Stine, Michael Davis, Taryn Seif

Ms. Jane D. Harty, Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments at the Kentucky School for the Blind recently held a class discussion on local government and asked Mayor Bob Rogers to participate in a telephone interview with her students. As a follow-up to that discussion, the students penned their priorities (in Braille) if elected to public office.

Alex – If I were mayor I would make shore that the naberhouds looked good. If I were mayor I would also work for the sidsen on Sunday and all the other days. I would go to school every day that way I can lurn more things about the naberhoud and how to take care of it. I would work every day for the sidens to help them with whatever they need help with. That’s how I would run the naberhoud.

Taryn – If I were mayor I would go to school and studey hard. If I were mayor I would work hard. If I were mayor I would made show the city is safe.

Michael – If I were mayor I would be in charge of all the city services in the town that I am mayor in.


Danielle – If I be mayor I would ask some questions. I would talk to the citizens. I work somedays.

Cody – If I were mayor, I would make sure the city was safe and sound. A party for the city.

PEWEE VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	FOR INFORMATION
REGISTER NOW	Adult Men & Coed Volleyball Leagues - Play begins last week of January. Fee of \$150 per team.	O.C. Parks & Recreation 225-0655
Tues, Dec 1	6:30 pm - Friends of Oldham County Parks - Informational meeting for persons interested in playing an active role in developing and improving parks and recreational opportunities in Oldham County.	John Black Comm. Ctr. 225-0655
Sat, Dec 5	10 am - 4 pm - Holly Days - Wreath workshop; topiary/center-piece workshop. \$30 members; \$35 non-members per workshop.	Yew Dell Gardens 241-4788
Mon, Dec 7	7 pm - Pewee Valley Town Council Meeting.	Pewee Valley Town Hall 241-8343
Sat, Dec 12	9 am - Holiday 2 Mile Walk for Teddy Bear Tree - Program provides toys and clothes for needy children during holidays. Wendell Moore Park.	O.C. Parks & Recreation 225-0655
Sat, Dec 12	2 - 5 pm - Holiday Open House - Free event. No reservations required.	Smith-Berry Vineyard 845-7091
Sat, Dec 12	4 pm - Oldham County Singers' Holy Days and Holidays - Held at the Oldham County Arts Center in Crestwood.	O.C. Arts Center 241-6018
Sun, Dec 13	1-4pm - Cookies with Santa - Free event will include photos with Santa, story time with Mrs. Claus, face painting, a cake walk, making ornaments, a holiday bazaar and refreshments.	Baptist Eastpoint 210-4700
Sun, Dec 13	5:30-7:30 pm - Pewee Valley Yule Log Celebration	Town Square 241-8343
Tues, Dec 22	7 pm - Mayor's Night In.	Pewee Valley Town Hall 241-8343

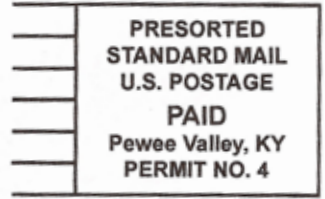
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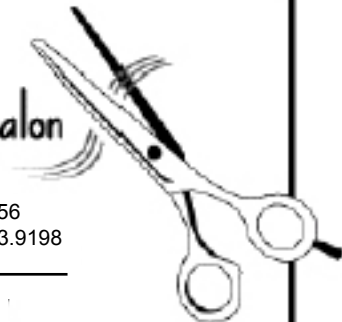
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