

Resident,
Pewee Valley, Ky.
40056



BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 4

The Call of the Pewee

PEWEE VALLEY, OLDHAM COUNTY, KENTUCKY



Vol. 12

MAY 1981

No. 5



Commencement time in Pewee Valley 102 years ago (see Page 10)



Our Town

Lee Heiman

TAX RATE: The City Council on May 11 passed an ordinance setting the 1981 City tax rate at 25.8¢ per \$100 assessed valuation of property. It was 25.5¢ in 1980, 27.02¢ in 1979 and 28.75¢ in 1978 and several years preceding. The 1981 rate increase of 3/10ths of a cent is within the amount permitted by State law.

BUDGET: Also on May 11 the Council passed an ordinance adopting the Budget for the City's fiscal year 1981-1982 which begins July 1. Elsewhere in this issue you'll find the complete Budget as approved.

FIRE PROTECTION: In order to establish a workable Budget on the basis of anticipated income including revenue generated by the City tax increase of 3/10ths of a cent allowed by State law, it was necessary to drop one substantial service—the City's practice of paying the Pewee Valley Fire District for fire protection out of City tax money received. The Fire District tax will now be included as part of your Old-

MONEY MATTERS, IN BRIEF:

1981 CITY TAX RATE SET
1981-1982 BUDGET ADOPTED
FIRE PROTECTION SHIFTED
INSURANCE-TAX RAISE NIXED

See details below and Mayor's letter elsewhere in this issue

ham County tax bill. It will amount to 7 cents per \$100 assessed valuation of property.

INSURANCE TAX: One proposal the City had for raising additional tax money sufficient for continuing to pay for residents' fire protection was to raise the present tax on insurance premiums covering property of Pewee Valley residents from 5% (the rate which has prevailed since the tax was established in 1959) to 12%. But a number of residents who appeared at City Council sessions objected to this on grounds that the premium tax is inequitable because some insurance companies fail to collect it from the insured persons. So the idea of increasing this tax was dropped. However, in an effort to correct the inequity in collection of the present 5% tax (which will continue) Mayor John Frith Stewart has sent letters to the State Attorney General, State Commissioner of Insurance and district Commonwealth Attorney asking for their advice and suggestions.

END OF GAS-GUZZLING: The new Volkswagen Diesel police car in its first full four weeks of use averaged just under 30 miles per gallon of gasoline, Police Commissioner John Hendrickson reported to the City Council this month. That's about five times the mileage the old cruisers had been getting.

A TELEVISION STAR: Our little Volkswagen cruiser attracted the attention of the Channel 3 (WAVE-TV) newsmen, and a feature on it was shot "on location" in Pewee Valley and aired early in May.

POLICE ACTIVITIES: Drivers were a little more careless in April; our police covered five accidents including one injury, according to Chief Larry Walls' monthly report. And there were the usual numerous citations issued on traffic charges such as driving while intoxicated, speeding and reckless driving. Police also investigated a first-degree burglary at a residence on LaGrange Road, a theft by unlawful taking, and a case of criminal mischief.

THE NEW FIREHOUSE: The void created on the Old Town Square by demolition of the former Gootie barber shop building will be filled beginning sometime this summer when construction of the expanded firehouse is schedul-

ed to get under way. The Pewee Valley Fire District has bought the Gootie property and plans to extend the fire station—now located in Town Hall—westward. A leasing arrangement has been made with the City Council covering the portion of the fire station which will remain in Town Hall.

LAST WORD ON TAXES: Property owners who are delinquent in paying their 1980 taxes—about \$1,500 worth—have now been sent a final notice. No response will result in such tax bills being turned over to the City Attorney, Woolsey M. Caye, for collection through legal action.

ANOTHER FOR ROSS WOODS: The County Planning & Zoning Commission on May 7 granted a permit for construction of a new four-bedroom residence by Kenneth S. James at 142 Rosswoods Drive in the Ross Woods Subdivision.

THAT ROSS WOODS CORNER: Responding to a query from the State regarding safety measures that might be taken on State Highway 362 (Central Avenue) at the sharp curve where the entrance to Ross Woods Subdivision is located, the City Council has requested that some kind of warning such as "Yield" signs be appropriately erected at the intersection. Councilmen

(Continued on following page)

OUR TOWN *Continued*

felt that a four-way stop at that corner would be burdensome. Peace Lane has entered Central at this point for many years but without creating any traffic problems.

THE PEOPLE-COUNT: In spite of the City's protest that the figure was too low, the Bureau of the Census has reported in a personal letter that the final count for Pewee Valley in the 1980 census is: Population 982, housing units 329. However, new construction and annexation since the census was taken in April, 1980, have raised our current population to more than 1,000. Pewee Valley figures in the 1970 census were: Population 950, housing units 276.

SUCCESSFUL CLEAN-UP: The annual Clean-Up Day, April 25, drew an adequate number of volunteer workers who labored hard three hours picking up trash along streets of the City, according to our "Mr. Clean," Walter F. Hayes, the City Councilman who arranges the event each year. Workers assembled afterward at Town Hall, where they were served lunch by the Mayor's wife, Mary Stewart. By eliminating the pick-up of household junk, the City was able to cut clean-up costs from about \$600 last year to \$60 this year.

Dogs Beware!

FIDO MAY NOT want to live there, but he finds his neighbor's yard a fine place to visit.

City Councilmen are hearing more and more complaints about dogs running loose in Our Town, tearing up gardens and garbage bags, barking at cars, chasing strollers and joggers.

The City has only an ordinance saying female dogs can not run loose while in heat, and there is a similar State law. But Betty Fow, Oldham County dog warden, tells us that there is a fairly new County law, a year or less old, which covers the loose-dog situation thoroughly.

It states, briefly, that no dog, licensed or not, may be permitted off the owner's property unless definitely under voice control or on a leash.

Anyone who wants to report a pooch running loose should make the complaint to Betty, not to the police. Her telephone number is 241-9782. She has authority to act in Pewee Valley as well as in the rest of the county. But be sure you confine the dog, or know the owner's address.

Chances are the owner will first receive a warning letter. A second offense likely will bring an appearance before the District Judge on a charge of violating the County's dog-control law.

Fiscal Restraint? Yes!

A Message From Your Mayor

In the years since I took office in 1970, Pewee Valley's city taxes have barely kept pace with the cost-of-living, yet there has been an ever-increasing demand for (more expensive) road repairs and policing services. Very few people realize that in 1970 our property-tax revenue produced approximately \$20,000 and, with the addition of some very expensive subdivisions, our tax revenue now, 12 years later, will produce only about \$51,000.

Even though within the last several years we have had an annual Budget of as much as \$125,000, it was possible to reduce the Budget to \$107,000 last year. However, with the cost of fuel, repair work and other necessities increasing (gasoline alone increasing by 35% last year), the Town Council has found it impossible to provide and pay for all services which Pewee Valley residents and property owners demanded.

It became a question of whether to eliminate one or more substantial services or expenditures, or else find a source of additional revenue.

Consequently, while the Council has intentionally given substantial public notice and provided adequate opportunity for residents' input informally as well as at three different public hearings, up until the time action actually had to be taken on the Budget, less than 1% of the population had expressed an interest in cutting out any substantial service.

One of the proposals was to provide a 55% increase in the insurance-premium tax. Again, slightly over 1% of the population expressed an opinion--they felt that this would be inequitable.

We learned from the residents that apparently some property owners in the City buy their insurance only from a company which will not assess the legally required tax, or else they have discovered that the insurance company had not been charging them the tax.

The Town Council agreed that this, obviously, was inequitable. A letter has been written to the State Attorney General asking his assistance, and similar letters to the State Insurance Commissioner and the Commonwealth Attorney for this district.

Continued

The Council then unanimously approved the Budget which provided for an increase in the real property tax rate of 3/10 of 1%.

The Budget also provides for only \$1,800 to be paid to the Pewee Valley Fire District in the next fiscal year, rather than the \$13,000 the Fire District has been paid in the past. Since the formation of the Fire District, the City Government has been paying fire-protection taxes for all Pewee Valley property owners. That will not be the case this year.

Finally, the majority of the City residents and property owners should appreciate the fact that for the fiscal year 1981-82 they will be paying less in tax dollars compared to the value of the dollar in 1970, yet at the same time are having an additional and equal revenue (nearly \$52,000) coming into the City from sources other than real-property revenues. The only people who may feel that they are paying slightly more are those whose property was substantially reassessed.

We hope you concur with our actions; but if you do not, then please attend next year's Budget hearings and carefully review the published Budget expenditures and express your views at that time.

When the terms of the current Town Councilmen and Mayor expire this year, they will feel that at least they have completed the present term of office with the City in sound fiscal shape.

Respectfully,

John Frith Stewart

"Outstanding" Vivien

THE OLDHAM COUNTY Chamber of Commerce recently named Pewee Vivien Reinhardt their "Outstanding Citizen of the Year". She is the first woman to be so honored by the Chamber. Her family comes first, but Vivien finds time to garden, be a member of the Planning and Zoning Board, and an elder and deacon at the Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church. She has been foster mother to 8 children, has worked with juvenile offenders, and was police court judge in Pewee Valley for 3 years.



THE CITY OF PEWEE VALLEY'S BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1981-1982:

<u>ESTIMATED INCOME</u>	<u>State High-way Dept.</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Revenue Sharing</u>
General Fund Carryover		-0-	
Fire District Rents		\$ 1,200.00	
Real-Estate Property Taxes		\$51,181.86*	
Franchise Fees		\$ 5,700.00	
Insurance-Premium Taxes		\$ 8,200.00	
Interest		-0-	
Miscellaneous; Court Revenue		\$17,000.00	
Revenue Sharing:			
Anticipated			\$13,100.00
Unexpended			-0-
State Municipal Road Aid	\$ 6,943.00		
TOTAL ESTIMATED INCOME	\$ 6,943.00	\$83,281.86	\$13,100.00
GRAND TOTAL: \$103,324.86			

*This is at maximum allowable tax rate of 25.8¢ per \$100.00

<u>ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>State High-way Dept.</u>	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Revenue Sharing</u>
Police Department		\$58,927.00	\$13,100.00
Fire Department		\$ 1,868.86	
Town Hall, Parks, Town Square		\$ 7,350.00	
Ceremonies, Festivities		\$ 500.00	
Roads	\$ 6,943.00		
Street Lights, Signs		\$ 3,836.00	
Administrative		\$10,800.00	
TOTAL EST. EXPENDITURES	\$ 6,943.00	\$83,281.86	\$13,100.00
GRAND TOTAL: \$103,324.86			

*For comparison, Pewee Valley budgets in recent years:
 Fiscal year 1978-79, \$109,110. '79-80, \$125,457. '80-81, \$107,049*

A WINNING ESSAYIST

Pewee Jerry Todd recently journeyed to Chicago to receive 2nd place honors and a \$500 award for his winning

essay in the National Material Handling Contest. His ten-page essay described the stretch-wrapping method developed by Lantech, Inc., Jerry's employer.

New Pewees: *The Jim Goodwins*

Kathie Hodge

WHILE SEARCHING for a very special place in Oldham County to build their home, Jim and Stephanie Goodwin found a lot in newly developed Maple Valley that offered the uniqueness and the character they wanted. Balconies were built around the redwood home to take advantage of a beautiful setting overlooking a pond.

The Goodwins are originally from Jefferson County. They knew each other in high school and both later graduated from Western University. Jim majored in Biological Science and then received an MBA from Adeptia University in New York. He has been with Glenmore Distilleries for five years. Previously, he and his family resided in the Northeast, where Jim was working with Seagrams. They came to Oldham County after a few years in Floyd's Knob, Indiana.

Stephanie majored in Elementary Education at Western and has taught school in Jefferson County. Building their home has been their first priority for so long that most hobbies such as fishing, hunting, and swimming have been put on hold. Stephanie does plan to get back into enjoyable projects



The Goodwin family: Jim, Stephanie, Scott, Jerry.

such as knitting and embroidery, and is working on her tennis game.

The Goodwins have 2 children. Scott is twelve years old, and a seventh grader at the middle school. He loves tennis and fishing. Jerry, who is ten years old and a fourth grader, is involved in gymnastics and ballet.

Jim and Stephanie say they have already found the something extra they were looking for in a community, thru involvement with friends and church and school.