



THE OAKDALE TIMES

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COUNCIL RESOLUTION CENSURES WA SCHOOL BOARD!

In an unprecedented move Borough Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 3-2011!

RESOLUTION OF COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF OAKDALE HEREBY CENSURES THE WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL BOARD FOR THEIR ACTION TAKEN ON MARCH 23, 2011 IN AWARDING THE WEST ALLEGHENY SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHERS AN AVERAGE PAY RAISE OF 4.77% AT A COST OF \$3,728,000 TO THE TAXPAYERS.

Bud Sturgeon introduced motion, seconded by Paul Hennemuth. Resolution passed.

Sturgeon – Yes, Hennemuth - Yes, Potts - Yes, Merlino - Yes, Gamble – Yes

Four of the five councilmen are WA Grads.

Summing up the motivation for the action, Council President Huck Gamble said,

“Oakdale’s taxpayers are also West Allegheny Taxpayers! This council and past council’s record for the last 15 years is to always put the taxpayers first in a continuous battle for survival as a viable and independent Borough.

Oakdale – In the last 15 years:

- Has lost 2 major industries – Joy Dog Food and Stylette Plastics and with it innumerable jobs
- Has had No growth – No expansion – Yet have held line on TAXES
- At one time we had:
 - 2 Full time Secretaries – Now 1
 - 3 Full time Maintenance – Now 1
 - 2 Full time Police Officers – Now 0
- We’ve Cut, Improved and Recycled.
- We’ve made every contact possible for grant and loans, because of hard times
- We never raised taxes one time in 15 years until last year – 1 Mil = \$54,866
- Also froze our employees meager pay in 2010
- In the last 15 years, we cut taxes 2 times because we had more money than necessary to balance the budget and gave it back to the taxpayers because it was theirs.
- One year we brought in more \$\$\$ from the sale of water than needed to maintain our water system so we cut the water rates!
- Through all this we didn’t forget our low income Senior Citizens and give them 1st 1000 gallons of water free (which is about their usage) and garbage collection free
- #1 Priority is and has been – The Citizens we represent AND OAKDALE’S SURVIVAL!

This type of fiscal management – increasing costs during difficult financial times – is completely contrary to the approach we have taken as a Borough. With cuts in funding from the State a certainty in 2011 and more likely to come in subsequent years, it seems that an increase in school taxes is inevitable. We had hoped that more than three members of the School Board would have supported the taxpayers when they needed it most!
(see last page)

HIGH GRASS AND WEEDS: Grass cutting season is upon us and it comes with the need for property owners to maintain the height of grass on their properties. As established by the Borough the height of grass and weed growth is not exceed ten inches. Please maintain a clean and well kept lawn; and don't forget to trim the grass between the curb and sidewalk. Also; sweeping or blowing the grass clippings into the street is prohibited. Please report any property or area that does not meet this requirement to the Borough Office at 724-693-9740 or merlino@oakdaleborough.com.

LEAF & BRANCH PICKUP: In an effort to "Go Green", Oakdale Borough will be providing a separate spring pickup of leaf and yard clippings on Wednesday, May 11th and 25th. If you have any leaves, please place them in a garage bag marked "leaves. Please note that the tree branches can not be more than 2 inches wide and no large branches and trunks. Note that maintenance will not rake the leaves to the street.

PRIMARY ELECTION DAY: Primary Election Day 2011 will be Tuesday, May 17th. Voting for Oakdale Borough will be at the Oakdale Community Center.

REVISED SUMMER BOROUGH OFFICE HOURS: Effective Friday, June 3, the Borough Municipal Office will be closed all day on Fridays thru the Labor Day Weekend. The new office hours will be Monday thru Thursday – 8AM to 4:30 PM. You can make a payment by placing it in the mail slot on the office door. **Please do not place cash in the mail slot.** All phone calls will be returned Monday morning. Please call 911 or the police office for an emergency such as a water break, etc.

UNWANTED APPLIANCES AND ELECTRONICS - E-WASTE RECYCLING: To recycle unwanted electronics such as computers, calculators, clocks, stereos, radios, cell phones, telephones or fax machines you can call Bill Moslen at (412) 877-2995 or email at radday55@gmail.com. Allegheny County residents can also call the Appliance Warehouse to schedule a free curb-side pickup of unwanted refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, water coolers and dehumidifiers. The phone number is (888) 463-7366.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - FLOWER BED PLANTING: Volunteers are needed on Saturday, May 22nd at 9AM to help with the spring planting of the flower beds throughout Oakdale Borough. The more people we have the better! All interested persons are asked to call the Oakdale Borough Office at (724) 693-9740 to sign up.

MEMORIAL DAY 2011

The Memorial Day Parade will be on Monday, May 30th at 10AM, followed by services at the Honor Roll. Refreshments will follow at the Oakdale Community Center. Bill Gamble will return once again as Master of Ceremonies for the event. The American Legion Auxiliary 171 will also be sponsoring Poppy Day at the Oakdale Community Center. Any and all donations will be thankfully accepted.

Attention: All Scouts and Youth Leagues: It's important to march in the parade to pay tribute to our veteran and men and women serving our country. To march in the Memorial Day Parade, please line up at the Oakdale Fire Department at 9:30AM.

Attention: Convertible Car Owners and Antique Car Owners. We need your help for the Memorial Day Parade. You and your car are needed to drive our honored guests during the Memorial Day Parade. Please contact the Borough Office at (724) 693-9740 or e-mail at merlino@oakdaleborough.com.

In observance of Memorial Day, garbage collections will be on Tuesday, May 31st and recycling will be Wednesday June 1st. In addition the Oakdale Borough office will be closed on Monday, May 30th.



INDOOR FLEA MARKET—NOBLESTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7313 NOBLESTOWN ROAD

OAKDALE

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011

9 AM TO 1 PM

SALE WILL BE IN THE SOCIAL HALL

BAKED GOODS WILL ALSO BE FOR SALE

NO EARLY ARRIVALS PLEASE!



ALLEGHENY VACANT PROPERTY RECOVERY PROGRAM SIDE YARD & COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

For a limited time only, Allegheny County will be accepting applications for side yards to primary residences and community beautification projects to be acquired at a minimal cost to the applicant. The purpose of the Allegheny Vacant Property Recovery Program (AVPRP) is to take blighted and/or tax delinquent properties and resell them to an applicant to reuse as determined by their application and as approved by the municipality.

MUNICIPALITY REQUIREMENTS:

- In each participating municipality, interested parties will have the opportunity to apply for vacant, tax-delinquent side yards to primary residences or community beautification projects at the **appraised value plus closing costs**. **The standard parcel fee of approximately \$4,000 per property will be waived for qualified applications.**
- One completed application per municipality will be accepted for participation at this time. Applications must be submitted no later than **July 1, 2011** or we will open the available spaces to applications in the order that they are received regardless of municipality.
- Prior to applications being accepted, each municipality must submit evidence of program advertisement and a program marketing strategy to ensure that all residents had an equal opportunity to apply.

PRICING STRUCTURE:

- Parcel Fee: Applicants will be required to pay 100% of the appraised value. Standard \$4,000 parcel fee will be waived.
- Good Faith Deposit: Applicants will pay a minimum of \$100 or 10% of the appraised value.
- Closing Costs: Applicants will be responsible for closing costs. Average cost is \$300 per property.

PROPERTY REQUIREMENTS:

The side yard and community beautifications requirements are described below:

PRODUCT	DESCRIPTION	BENEFIT
<i>Side Yard</i>	Must be adjacent to the applicant's primary residence. Must be a vacant lot with no structures. Must have at least 3 years of unpaid taxes.	1. Properties are maintained, blight is eliminated and the maintenance cost to the municipality is eliminated. 2. Properties are put back on the tax-rolls, which generates positive income for the municipality. 3. Increases community investment, which helps to further stabilize the community.
<i>Community Beautification</i>	Applicant must utilize the lot for a beautification project for the community. Must be a vacant lot with no structures. Must have at least 3 years of unpaid taxes.	

PRELIMINARY APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be current on Taxes, Water, Sewage and Refuse bills on all properties owned in Allegheny County.
- Must have no outstanding code violations on properties owned in Allegheny County.
- Must submit a complete application, including all required supporting documentation.
- Must complete the Conflict of Interest process.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

- Applications can be obtained from the Municipality or by contacting Allegheny County at (412) 350 1046.
- Questions regarding the program can be directed to Allegheny County at (412) 350 1046.
- All completed application can be submitted to:

Vacant Property Program
 Attention: Melissa Urishko, 425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 800, Pgh, PA 15219

PAID FOR BY HUCK GAMBLE

Having been the forefront of the campaign to spread the news on the WA Teachers generous pay raise after the Governor called for a pay freeze and President of Borough Council that censured the WA School Board for its action, an anonymous letter was distributed around Oakdale and part of North Fayette Twp:

“Huck Gamble’s annual healthcare benefits are currently valued at about \$16,700...of which 100% is being paid for by the state taxpayers. He has the most generous pension in the entire state”.

Health care info is true – The same as all State Representatives and Senators. “Most generous pension in the entire state of PA.” – NOT TRUE – NOT CLOSE! My pension is \$1,223.00 per month. It is public record, as was my starting pay in 1977 of \$20,280.00 and ending pay in 1996 of \$43,083.26. The record too will show that due to public outcry the legislative pay and pension was slashed 2 years prior to 1976 (when I was elected). They initiated the pay grab again and got it slashed a few years ago after a public revolt. I wasn’t there. I retired 15 years ago in 1996.

Concerning the teachers pay raise info – If the truth hurts and you don’t like the message, Shoot the Messenger! Well, I’m still here and here’s my bank statement:

3/31/2011	\$1,223.37	ACH Credit	PA TREASURY DEPT ANNUITANT
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(It’s public record in Harrisburg) While you’re at it check to see what retired teachers are getting!

Sincerely,

Huck Gamble

FORMER OAKDALE RESIDENT PASSES AWAY

Lawson E. “Lolly” Longstreth, Sr., 82 passed away suddenly on March 29, 2011. Lolly was born and raised in Oakdale, the son of the late Peter W. and May Ann (Wallace) Longstreth. His wife of 62 years was Helen Mae (Watters) Longstreth, daughter of John “Les” and Babe (Sawhill) Watters, also of Oakdale. Lolly was a coal miner, worked construction for Allegheny County, drove truck for Joy Dog Food, hauled concrete for American- Marietta and built his family’s first home on Western Avenue. In 1960, along with his brother-in-law, Glenn Hormel (from So. Fayette), he co-founded L&H Trucking Co. in Spring Grove, PA, a business that would grow and remain a fixture in that community for over 50 years.

Lolly remained true to his roots – a die hard Steelers fan who helped our community in many ways, including hauling in tractor trailers full of books to help start the West Allegheny Community Library. His final act of service included organ donations that have provided three individuals with a chance to improve and extend their quality of life. In addition to his wife, Lolly is survived by three children and seven grandchildren, and his brother, Peter W. Longstreth, Jr., who remains a lifelong resident of our community.

(paid notice)

OAKDALE DOCTOR WINS AWARD

St. Clair Hospital in Mt. Lebanon has bestowed its 2011 Physician Recognition Award to Dayle Griffin, M.D., Medical Director of the Hospital’s Pediatric Unit.

Dr. Griffin joined St. Clair 17 years ago as a Pediatric Hospitalist. Among her many contributions and accomplishments at St. Clair, she is credited with championing a program to have all newborns’ hearing screened, years before it was mandated by law. She also is largely responsible for the high quality of care in the Hospital’s Special Care Nursery. Dr. Griffin is also well known throughout the greater Pittsburgh area for her humanitarian efforts over the years, including helping organize and leading medical mission trips to impoverished Haiti.

Dr. Griffin earned her medical degree at Howard University and is board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics. She resides in and absolutely loves Oakdale.

