



## Huck Gamble says “Farewell.”

Huck announced at Council Meeting on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, that he was running out of time and, after over 50 years of serving the town he loved, it was time to go.

He started back in the early 60s as Borough Secretary, then Justice of the Peace, then led the first Democratic landslide in history for Council in 1968. In that position as President, he led a renaissance of Oakdale:

- Opened First Borough Office
- Started present Borough Monthly Newsletter
- Opened new Public Parking Lot Downtown
- Started Borough’s own Garbage Collection to save money
- Had Lights installed at Borough Park
- Upgraded all Parks
- Paved 2 Miles of Dirt Streets
- Started 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, Christmas Light Up Night and Summer Concerts
- Bought Maintenance Garages at Boys Home for \$7,000

It was all paid for with an influx of Taxes from the new Ryan Home Development and numerous Grants.

He ran and was elected State Representative in 1976, and 9 more times until retirement in 1996. During that time he convinced the American Legion to sell their old building, convinced County Commissioner Foerster to buy it and to build a Community Center. Huck provided the first \$50,000 from the State and the County paid for the rest. Huck provided State money for many other Borough Projects during his tenure as Representative. When he arrived in Harrisburg, there were no other Members from a Town of 1,500 Citizens.

While serving as Legislator, low-income housing was coming to Oakdale! A Developer had a down-payment on a portion of Boys Home property. Huck collected every political chip at his disposal and, at the largest town meeting in history, he announced that it was stopped. He considers this his most significant accomplishment!

Improvements were made and huge Bills were paid. Oakdale was deep in debt by approximately \$750,000.

- When he retired, he brought home \$2.25 million to a town of 1,500 people. He was told nobody ever does that!
- First thing we purchased was all the Boys Home property. That has been a financial lifeline ever since, clearing about \$60,000 per year, which is about equal to 1 Mill of Taxes per year.
- We bought the center of town and The Diner. The front was a vacant lot. We built a gazebo parklet and provided free parking for business customers, and now realize over \$30,000 per year in rent from The Diner – another ½ Mill of Taxes.
- We added the History Room to the Community Center, expanded the Women’s Bathroom and upgraded the entire Facility.
- We provided funds for every Oakdale Business to dress up all business facades with awnings, replaced asphalt sidewalks with concrete and lined the streets with trees.
- We’ve cut taxes twice, as we had too much of other people’s money and gave it back.

In his resignation letter he stated, “It’s a good feeling to know you’re leaving a position of leadership in the town you love, where by the grace of God, you’ve done your very best and it turned out very well!

And, to all of the former Mayors and Council Members who stood with me during my Presidency – I sincerely and wholeheartedly thank you!

Knowing, first off, that a man who took a Little League Town and made it into a major Youth League Community for kids (boys and girls) of all ages – that it is Al Pifer who will take my place on Council, and that I’m leaving my position as President to the most qualified man in town, Mark Maximovich, to lead Oakdale into the future, and to keep America’s Home Town a sovereign Community.

So, I hereby resign from Oakdale Borough Council this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February, 2017.

To the Mayor and Council, may God be with you and guide you!

“Special tribute is due to long-serving Council President, Huck Gamble, without whose tireless energy and diligent efforts, Oakdale may have been transformed into nothing more than a tiny bit of real estate crouched on the edges of North Fayette and South Fayette Townships. Well done, Huck!” (Quoted from Jack Ewing, Editor of History of Oakdale Borough)

## **BOROUGH UPDATE**

### **JANUARY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE**

- Council President, Huck Gamble, called the Meeting to Order.
- Mayor Hennemuth led the Meeting with a Prayer.
- Mr. Mark Maximovich made a Motion to pass Oakdale Borough Resolution No. 1-2017 Updated Borough Fees.
- Mr. Jonathan DeBor made a Motion to pass Oakdale Borough Resolution No. 2-2017 declaring official intent to reimburse Water Funds used to construct improvements to its Water System with funds received from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority.
- Chief Lauria reported that there were 102 varied Police Calls in December.
- A Resident of Oak Heights Drive voiced his concerns regarding Road Paving.
- The Oakdale Hose Company asked Council for Borough Funding for a new Fire Truck. Council and the Fire Department will meet to discuss.
- A Resident of Spring Street voiced his concerns regarding Paving on Spring Street, Water Runoff on Center Avenue, and Snow Plowing Priorities. The Borough Engineer will investigate the Paving Issues and Water Runoff.

Borough Council Meetings are held at the Oakdale Community Center (104 Seminary Avenue) at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise posted.

### **PRESIDENT'S DAY**

The Borough Office will be OPEN on President's Day, Monday, February 20th, from 8:30am to 4:30pm, and **there will be regular Garbage Pick Up.**

### **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS CONTEST**

Congratulations to Ronald & Luann Zimmer of 600 First Street, whose house was chosen as the Winner of the 2016 Best Christmas Lights Contest!

### **TEMPORARY CHANGE IN WATER TREATMENT PROCESS**

As part of our distribution system (pipeline) maintenance program, Pennsylvania American Water will temporarily change its disinfection treatment process at our Pittsburgh water treatment plants from chloramine (combined) residual to free chlorine residual. Weather permitting the change will take place between February 15, 2017 and April 20, 2017. During this time period, PAW also will be flushing the distribution system. Customers may notice an increase in the taste and smell of chlorine in the water as a result of the change. Discolored water may also occur during flushing in your neighborhood. This is normal and will only be temporary while we complete this system maintenance. Thank you for your patience while we complete this important annual maintenance program.

Please visit us online at [www.amwater.com/paaw](http://www.amwater.com/paaw) for updates (select Alert Notifications at the top of the homepage) and for information on when we will transition the treatment process back to chloramines. Customers can also contact our Customer Service Center at 1-800-565-7292.

### **CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY**

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless and potentially dangerous gas produced when fuel is burned without enough air for complete combustion. The flame in gas appliances should be blue, possibly with flecks of orange. If the flame is mostly yellow, it indicates that the gas is not burning properly and is giving off Carbon Monoxide. During cold weather months, as buildings remain closed and fuel is burned for heating, inefficient combustion and poor ventilation can lead to a build-up of Carbon Monoxide inside.

Carbon Monoxide can also be emitted by space heaters and automobile engines. In large amounts, the gas can cause headaches, unconsciousness, brain damage and even death. Carbon Monoxide can be detected with a simple home monitor that plugs into a standard wall outlet. It's important, also, for people to recognize the signs and symptoms of potential Carbon Monoxide poisoning, to know what to do if they occur, and to learn how to prevent this dangerous hazard.

#### **Symptoms of Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:**

- Headaches/Drowsiness/Fatigue/Nausea
- Irregular Breathing
- Overall Paleness
- Very Red Lips and Ears

#### **What You Should Do:**

- Open Windows and Doors
- Move Outside!
- Call 911 or your local Fire Department

#### **Steps You Can Take to Prevent Carbon Monoxide:**

- Annual Appliance checks by a certified Heating Contractor
- Periodically clean Chimney and check for obstructions
- Keep Air Vents for your Gas Appliances Clear
- Never use a Gas Oven or Stovetop for heating your Home
- Do not use portable Charcoal or Propane Grills Indoors
- Do not run a Gasoline Engine in an Enclosed Space
- Check Fireplaces for closed or blocked Flues
- Periodically Check Range Pilots for Carbon Buildup

## PAVILION RENTALS

Oakdale Borough Park Pavilions will be available for Rent as Follows:

### **NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Available NOW

\$100.00 (Security Dep. Incl.)

### **NON RESIDENTS**

Available February 23rd

\$155.00 (Security Dep. Incl.)

Photo ID will be required for all Renters! Please contact the Borough Office for additional information (724-693-9740 or [franchek@oakdaleborough.com](mailto:franchek@oakdaleborough.com)).



## WA ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS

The West Allegheny Athletic Hall of Fame Program is a Districtwide, Community-Based Program that was formed over five years ago to honor those Athletes that have excelled in Sports at W.A. and have gone on to distinguish themselves as productive members of our society. In addition, the Program honors those Coaches who have dedicated extraordinary time in support of Sports at W.A.

If you know someone who may be worthy of this honor, Nomination Packages and an Outline of Qualifications for 2017 Inductee Consideration are now available at the Borough Office. A Banquet will be held on May 20, 2017, to honor this year's Inductees (Inductee must attend Banquet). The Deadline for submission of Nomination Packages is Friday, February 10, 2017.



## DISCOVER A NEW YEAR & NEW YOU @ THE LIBRARY!

So it's a **New Year** and everywhere you look the world is telling you to be better, healthier, more efficient, more organized! That's all well and good, but the pressure! Oy! It's always a good idea to take a deep breath, look at your life and see if you truly are spending your time the way that makes you the happiest and best you can be. But don't forget to be gentle with your sweet selves!

There's a great quote from the movie *Country Strong*: "Fall in love with as many things as possible." Here at the library, we strive to provide you with tools and resources to do just that. We're working hard in 2017 on ways to help you **discover** a new hobby, enhance your life, and connect you with others.

We've added some strange things to our Catalog this year. Ever consider taking advantage of the amazing hiking trails in Western PA but feel intimidated? We have a new **Hiking Kit**, complete with a set of poles, local guidebooks, compass, first aid kit, maps, and a multi-tool knife. Interested in becoming a master at picnicking? Grab our **Picnic Kit**, with a blue-tooth speaker, blanket, dishes for four, plus books of mouth-watering picnic recipes for the day! Want to start a **Bocci Ball** league with your college pals? We have a set! Headed on a long road trip or going somewhere remote with your besties? You can now check out a **Wi-Fi hotspot** (unlimited data!) to take with you so you never miss a BuzzFeed Quiz!

And as always, we have programs to keep your brains and souls engaged. Does local history get your engine roaring? The **Historical Society** (WACHS) has a few events this winter that'll help you discover new and wonderful things about Oakdale, North Fayette, and Findlay Township. Or if you're anything like us and the opening of the first Container Store in Western PA was the most exciting thing to happen in 2016, we have a **Home Organization Program**, "Get Organized for Good," that will help you ease into the new year. We're also rebooting our monthly **Cookbook Club**, now called "Cook Down, Get Out, Eat Up." We're doing a **Grown-Up Battle of the Books** this Spring, and continuing our awesome **BYOB 21+ Gaming Nights!** So many new things to **discover** in 2017 at the library!



With a new year upon us, there are many new things to look forward to at the library. The most noticeable change of 2017 will likely be the construction of the "**Backyard**" – the library's new outdoor space that is expected to open late spring or early summer, depending on the weather.

In addition to expanding the library's usable space and creating an opportunity for new programs, the Backyard has helped establish an exciting new partnership between the library and the **Parkway West Rotary Club** (PWRC). PWRC recently announced that they will help fund a portion of the Backyard with proceeds from the 19th Annual **Gerry Dulac Charity Golf Classic!** Although winter has just arrived, plans are already underway for the summer golf outing, which will take place July 17, 2017 at the Sewickley Heights Golf Club. Contact the WACL for details ([westernalleghenylibrary.org](http://westernalleghenylibrary.org), or 724-695-8150).

## **OAKDALE YOUTH LEAGUE: 2017 Baseball and Softball Registrations**

Oakdale Youth League 2017 Softball and Baseball Registration is scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, February 8, 2017      6:00pm - 7:00pm      Oakdale Community Center  
Saturday, February 11, 2017      12:00pm - 4:00pm      Oakdale Community Center



If you cannot attend Registration, you may also register via mail by printing a Registration Form from the Youth League's website ([www.oakdaleyouthleague.com](http://www.oakdaleyouthleague.com)) and sending a Check, made payable to "OYL," to 210 Winslow Drive, Oakdale, PA 15071. Registration is due by the end of February 2017.



\*\* Fundraiser Tickets must be paid for at time of Registration (\$50/Family).

### **FISH FRYS ARE BACK!**

**ST. PATRICK CHURCH**, Noblestown: every Friday (including Good Friday) during Lent, 11:30am - 6:30pm.

Take-out Orders are available by calling 724-693-9664 *after 11:00am*. This year's Menu will include Fish Sandwich, Shrimp, Crab Cakes, French Fries, Macaroni and Cheese, Cole Slaw, Pierogies, Cabbage & Noodles, Clam Chowder, Beverages and Desserts.

**ST. COLUMBKILLE CHURCH**, Imperial (724-695-7325): every Friday (except Good Friday) during Lent, 4:00pm - 7:00pm. Menu includes Fried Fish/Shrimp Combo Dinner, Fried or Baked Fish Dinner, Fried Shrimp Dinner, "The Columbkille" Sandwich, French Fries, Macaroni and Cheese, Cole Slaw, Clam Chowder, Haluski, Beverages and Desserts.



## **Valentine Pancake Breakfast Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 2pm at The Oakdale Community Center Pancakes, Sausage, Fruit Cup and Beverage (*Coffee Available*)**



**\$6.00 for Adults / \$5.00 for Seniors / \$3.00 for Children under 6 Years of Age**

The Friends of Killbuck Lodge will be hosting a Valentine Day Pancake Breakfast and Chinese Auction at the Oakdale Community Center. All proceeds will be used for the operation of the 200 year old Boy Scout Log Cabin on Clinton Avenue - Home of Boy Scout Troop 248 since 1933! Thank you all for your support during the rebuilding of Killbuck Lodge!

The Oakdale Youth League will Host a  
**"Lenten\* Spaghetti Dinner"** on **Friday, March 24th** from  
**4pm - 8pm** at **The Oakdale Community Center**  
**Eat In or Take Out / Chinese Auction / Baked Goods Sale**  
**Proceeds Benefit OYL**  
**Watch for Details in next month's Oakdale Times!**

