

The Oakwood Register

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What do you want for Christmas?



That eternal question was asked by Santa Claus to the young lady seated in his lap last Sunday evening during the Holiday of Lights held at Shafor Park. Families from all over Oakwood attended the festival which included caroling, a visit with Santa, horse drawn wagons and luminaria displays. More pictures are featured on page 16.

Photo by Leon Chuck, www.pressboxphoto.com

Mayor Cook, Vice Mayor McGinnis wrap up last city council meeting

By Lance Winkler

Two longtime Oakwood City Council members with a total of 44 years on the council between them presided over their last meeting on Monday night. Mayor Judy Cook (20 years) and Vice Mayor Carlo McGinnis (24 years) bid adieu to their fellow council members and the public at the conclusion of the meeting.

"I truly think we're one of the most well-run cities in the country. It has been an honor serving on city council," said Carlo McGinnis. Mayor Cook's words recalled the various people she has worked with over the past two decades both as a city council member and as mayor. A letter was written by her and addressed to the Oakwood community. Entitled, "An Incredible Journey," the letter is featured on page four of this issue of the Oakwood Register.

Present also at the meeting in the audience were councilmembers-elect Ann Shank Hilton and Rob Stephens.

In Committee Appointments, the following citizens will start the new year on the following committees: Planning Commission – Harrison Gowdy; Board of Zoning Appeals

– Dan Dietz and Greg Lauterbach; Board of Health – Dr. Greg Ramey and Dr. Richard DeWall; Budget Review Committee – Frank Hollingsworth, Howard Boose, Fred Dudding, George Kling, Richard Stock, Brian Huelsman, Charles Rodabaugh, Rob Connelly, Vince Lewis and Charles Campbell; Property Maintenance – Polly Petricola; Tax/Water/Sewer Appeals – Jan Scheid.

City Manager Norbert Klopsch was recognized by Mayor Cook for "high ratings in all categories" on the annual city manager assessment. Mayor Cook cited Klopsch on three qualities he has demonstrated in his career with Oakwood – honesty, integrity and his work ethic.

A new effort has been inaugurated in marketing the city to prospective people who are considering moving to the city. Perry Martin, Joanne McPortland and Ted O'Conner paid a visit to present their novel new promotional piece for Oakwood. Entitled "Oakwood: The Premier Residential Community in the Dayton and Miami Valley Region," the publication is a 9" X 12" folder containing an eight-page bound booklet describing Oakwood's many amenities. There

is also a five-minute DVD introducing the city in narrative style and a website accessible as www.welcome2oakwood.com. The folder will be made available at the city desk for \$3 and an initial press run of 3000 has been printed and produced.

The Oakwood city budget for 2010 was presented and voted on unanimously. The budget for next year has been set at \$19 million. The breakdown is projected as \$13.4 million for basic government operational costs; \$2.4 million for water and sewer and \$3.2 million in debt repayments.

City Manager Norbert Klopsch more fully elucidated the state of the city's fiscal health by pointing out that the city has not had an income tax increase since 1984. Major projects for the city in 2010 include the Pointe Oakwood/Sugar Camp development, the Athletic/Recreational facility Master Plan, an update in the Municipal Court software and improved guidelines dealing with both Safety Department and Finance Department procedures.

The next formal meeting of the Oakwood City Council is Monday, Jan. 4, 2010.

Merritt, Vanderburgh say goodbye to school board

By Dawn Beigel

Oakwood Board of Education members Beth Merritt and Dr. Paul Vanderburgh bid a farewell to their colleagues and the community last night as their terms end on Dec. 31. Combined, they have served

on the board a total of 14 years, with Merritt joining in 2002 and Vanderburgh in 2003.

Board vice-president Elizabeth Reger commended their service, as well as that of Barbara Hershey who recently left the board, with a

formal presentation at the meeting.

Merritt emphasized the establishment of trust between the board and the community. "We worked hard and gained trust from the community (and) I hope you can con

See **School** on page 17

Public meeting on recreation plan Dec. 16

The city of Oakwood will conduct a public community meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 16, at the Oakwood Community Center. The meeting is being held to discuss work completed on the City's athletic/recreational facilities master plan.

The Master Plan is addressing Oakwood public athletic and recreation facilities and will provide guidelines for operations, maintenance

and capital improvements. It will also include a vision for the future, taking into consideration the existing facilities, as well as unmet athletic and recreational needs as identified by our citizens and city leaders. This meeting will focus on the consultant's findings thus far on obtaining community input. Residents are encouraged to attend as citizen input and involvement is an

essential part of the master plan process.

Please assist the city with the master plan by participating in this meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the City Manager, Norbert Klopsch at 298-0600; Assistant City Manager, Jay Weiskircher at 298-0411; or Leisure Services Director Carol Collins at 298-0775.

Holiday Decorating Contest

The City of Oakwood's Environmental Committee will soon be judging Oakwood residences for the Holiday Decorating Awards. Each year during the holiday season, decorated Oakwood homes, multi family units and businesses are judged on the following criteria: use of natural or natural looking material, tastefulness, and originality in keeping with the winter holiday theme and curbside appearance, both during the day as

well as night time hours.

Judging will be done from Sunday, Dec. 13 through Friday, Dec. 18. Residential winners of each district as well as one multiple family unit and one business winner will be notified after the judging has taken place. Winners will appear in local newspapers. Winners will receive a framed certificate of award that will be presented at an Oakwood City Council meeting in January, 2010.