



# *The Village Crier*

A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society  
[www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org)

## **President's Message**

2016 has been a very busy year at the Village. Many repairs have been made to our buildings and new paint added to protect the Roe Chapman House and the Old's General Store. Repairs on the foundations of the Baldwin House and Doll Museum are completed. Additions to our grounds include new sidewalks, new lampposts and some bricks on display from the Board of Education and Center Middle School. We have relocated some of the large sandstone pieces to make "benches" or resting spots along the path. All of this would not be possible without the many volunteers who give so freely of their time to the Society!

With the end of another year we also have a change in some board officers and directors. We would like to thank the following members for serving as Directors for 3 years: Louise Varisco, Janet Noss and Bob Russell. Also to be thanked are Diane Russell, Pam Hughes, Jean Wittrock and Jane Laffoon for serving as Officers. We thank them for their dedication and the many hours served. We know they will stay active and continue to help the Society move forward. Please thank them for their service if you see them!

This is what keeps us moving forward... VOLUNTEERS! People sharing their time and talents are truly the heart and soul of the Society. Please see if you can find some extra time in 2017 to come help at the Village. Just call 440-572-0057 and leave a message and we will find a way for you to help. Enjoy the Holiday Season and we'll see you in 2017!

*Ruth Brickley*

## **Harvest Festival**

We hope you were able to be a part of the Harvest Festival on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25. The weather was perfect. People were coming and going on both days, enjoying the food and fun of the event. Displays and demonstrators with a focus on celebrating Strongsville's 200th birthday were outstanding. It was busy from opening to closing time!

A special event led by Scott and Vicki Maloney on Saturday included an Antique and Craft Sale. On Sunday, the Cow Pie Lottery began about 12. Terry McCullough was the \$1000 winner. The \$250 winners were Pat Crandall, Terry Toth, Torie Catanzarite and Trish Miller. The Quilt Raffle took place at 4 pm, with Ginny Rios being the quilt winner. 3 baskets with quilted and Strongsville items were also raffled. The winners were Eve Hawk, Pam Hughes and Mrs. Seidel.

The annual Chicken Dinner was held on Sunday, October 2nd this year at the Strongsville Methodist Church and was a great success.

There are many people to thank including the committee chairs and all of the volunteers who helped, as well as the demonstrators and artisans. We truly appreciate your support of the Harvest Festival and the Society. Special thanks to the following people who supported the Harvest Festival financially this year: Bobbie Dorr, Boosters for Perciak, Butch and Barb Krivos, Dave Banks, Dolly Sheffield, Kona Ice (Ron and Sara Matthews, owners), Mary Lou Wright (quilt top), Mayor Tom and Debbie Perciak, Mike and Erma Kalinich, Mike and June Daymut, Ruth and Jim Brickley, and Dorothy and Bill Ritchie. Please visit our website to read a more complete article on this year's Harvest Festival.

## Vice President's Message

The last regular meeting for this year is Tuesday, November 15 at 7 pm at the Lathrop House. We will have a General Meeting with elections followed by the program. Janet Bird from the Lorain Historical Society will present "Legends of Christmas Ornaments". (Please note this date is accurate, another date was previously printed). Please plan to join us.

Thanks to all who helped with the Harvest Festival in September and the October 25th meeting at the library. Both were wonderful! A terrific way to celebrate Strongsville!

*Jean Wittrock*

## Christmas at the Village

It's in the air! Sweet smells of baking, Jingle Bells, Holly and Ivy and that seasonal greeting of "Ho, Ho, Ho!" Yes, it is time for Christmas in the Village. The Strongsville Historical Society invites everyone to this FREE annual event to be held on the weekends of Dec. 3rd and 4th, and 10th and 11th. Hours will return to the old schedule of 2-5 pm.

It is like returning to Grandma's house for the holidays! All buildings will be open and beautifully decorated for the season. Docents from the Society and Girl scouts will greet you and tell you about the buildings and artifacts. Come see Mrs. Santa, enjoy a sweet treat and see the Railroad displays in the Baldwin House. Meet up with one very Jolly Old Elf himself in the fabulously restored Chapman House. Buy a special gift or treat in our turn of the century Olds General Store. See holiday and historical dolls in the Velda Chapman Doll Museum. Meet Miss Gilbert or peek at the latest Millinery design in our Academy Building. AND, for a special treat: on the first weekend only the Bristol Family will present holiday crafts in the Cabin for all children.

On Dec. 3rd and 4th the Lathrop House will not be open as the Christmas Teas will be in progress. This very popular event has once again sold out!

On Dec. 10th and 11th the magic of children will appear. This second weekend we host the hundreds of Girl Scouts that return for year 17 of Gingerbread House building. This treasured event will take place in the Lathrop House. Our local Girl Scout Service Unit is currently hard at work producing the little sweet structures, gathering candies and frosting as well as gearing up to help and welcome the children of our community. This annual project is sponsored and presented to all by our Girl Scouts. Santa, Ms. Claus, our docents and all buildings will be open this second weekend.

Again, NO ADMISSION WILL BE CHARGED, but donations are always appreciated and suggested to be made to help maintain the Village. Let the spirit of an Old Fashioned Christmas wrap your heart and holiday with its warmth! Come see us! We will be looking for you! Happy Holidays! Call Sonia Reber at 572-1940 with any questions.

## Collections

We have been very blessed this year by some very generous donors. We have added some special items to our collections and would like to thank everyone who brought items to us for consideration. Among the items received were the following: A Victor Victrola phonograph, an 1890's dress, a 1934 wedding dress, several sets of china, hats, dolls, an original painting by Gary Streeter, numerous Strohigan yearbooks, copies of the Lantern (school newspaper) from 1928-1935, photographs, a parlor chair and stool, 1850's rocker, a 1950's potty chair and a grindstone on a stand.

This is only a sampling of what we received. If you are cleaning house, please remember the Society before throwing items away or donating elsewhere. We can't accept everything, but you may have just the right item for our collection. Thank you to one and all for your donations.

## Christmas Lighting at the Village

Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 20, 2016 for our 3rd Annual Lighting of the Village from 5-8 pm. While the city throws the switch to light the Commons, we too will be celebrating the coming Holiday Season. Come visit with us and see the beautifully decorated buildings inside and out. We need lots of volunteers to staff our buildings that evening. If you would like to help, call Ruth at 440-572-0535. We plan to work 1 1/2 hour shifts so you can tour the Village also and walk to the Commons.

## Name Badges

Many of our docents, officers and members have magnetic name badges which we wear when working events at the Village or at meetings. This helps everyone get to know each other better. If you would like to order one, they are \$6.00 each. I will be placing an order at the beginning of January. Please send the name you would like on the badge and a check payable to the Historical Society for \$6 each to Ruth Brickley, c/o Strongsville Historical Society, 13305 Pearl Road, Strongsville 44136 and we will include you in the next order.

## Wanted-

In 2017 we will be having a Doll, Doll House and Toys special event. (The date has not been set yet...most likely late spring). If you have any toys that you would like to donate to the Society, especially from the 1940's - 1960's, please call 440-572-0057 and leave a message. We would love to hear from you and be able to consider your items.

WANTED: Does anyone have a picture of the wading pool that was in Bonnie Park years ago? If so, we would like to have a copy. Again, call 440-572-0057 if you have a picture to share.

## Soups On!

The annual Soup Supper, which is the January General Meeting of the Society, will be held on January 24, 2017 at 6:00 pm at the Ehrnfelt Recreation Event Center. You can sample over 20 soups and eat until the crockpots are empty. A variety of breads and pies for dessert are also included. Tickets are once again \$10 each with payment due at the time of reservation. Reservations are required. Make your checks payable to the Strongsville Historical Society and attach a note indicating your name, phone number and the number of tickets requested. Send your check to: Strongsville Historical Society, 13305 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136. Deadline to purchase tickets is January 20, 2016; a few tickets will be available at the door. Once again we are looking for soup donations and volunteers for set up and clean up. Contact Jan Miller at jemiller@wowway.com or 440-567-7222.

## Olds General Store

Come visit the Old's General Store for a special Christmas Sale.

10% off all Strongsville pottery.

20% off all Degenhart purchases over \$20.00.

Colonial Glass Ladies in a variety of colors only \$15.00.

Christmas Red Strongsville Afghans only \$20.00.

50% off all remaining collectibles.

2 remaining framed and signed Chapman prints (each \$20.00).

## Trick or Treat

On October 22 our 8th Annual Safe Trick and Treat at the Village was enjoyed by over 300 Preschoolers and Kindergarten children, their parents and grandparents. Once again our own Society members had fun too acting as "Villagers" in costumes handing out treats and supervising games appropriate for the little ones. Decorations were plentiful and hauntingly colorful but not scary. Thanks to everyone who helped with this special event.

## Society Elections

The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers to the Board at the October Board Meeting, and to the general membership at the October General Meeting. As there were no nominations from the floor and according to the By Laws of the Strongsville Historical Society, the secretary will cast the affirmative vote for the slate at the November General Meeting.

### OFFICERS (term of office 1 year)

President - Ruth Brickley  
Vice President - Jennifer Sinisgalli \*  
Recording Secretary - Scott Maloney  
Corresponding Secretary - Janet Noss  
Treasurer - Jane Ludwig  
Assistant Treasurer - Terry McGreal \*

### DIRECTORS

(term of office 1/1/2017 to 12/31/2019)

Barb Shearer  
Jim Kaiser \*  
Jan Kappas\*

\* Meet the following members who are new to the Board.

**JENNIFER SINISGALLI** - Jennifer has been active in the Strongsville community for 20 years. She served as a School Board member for 10 years, held various offices in the Strongsville PTA, and was active in Strongsville Choral Boosters.

**TERRY MCGREAL**- Terry is the Chief Finance officer for a private company, is the treasurer of Strongsville Cub Scout Pack 226, and is the father of 4 children.

**JIM KAISER**- Jim has been a resident of Strongsville for about 13 years. He is an active volunteer and member of the Strongsville United Methodist Church, has held leadership positions in Cub Scout Pack 226, has a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and an MBA from John Carroll University.

**JAN KAPPAS**- Jan is the President of the Columbia Local Education Association, has been a docent at the Cleveland Zoo for 15 years, is the membership chair of the American Association of University Women, and volunteers as a reader and communion assistant at her church.

## Website and Facebook

A reminder to check our website for upcoming events at [www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org).

There are also many photos of "old" Strongsville there for you to enjoy. Be sure to "LIKE" us on Facebook also. This is a great way to see what is happening! Invite your friends to "LIKE" us also. If you have any questions or information to share, that too can be handled through our website. Even your dues can be paid through the website now.

## Lathrop House Rentals

The calls for rentals for the Lathrop House multipurpose room for 2017 are already coming in! This year, 2016, the Village had a record number of rentals of the Lathrop House with 21 events from showers to birthday parties to reunions to meetings. If you think you may want to reserve a date for next year, now is the time to get in touch to ensure you get the date you want.

We all know that the multipurpose room is one of the Society's "hidden gems". Due to the setting of the room, the easy access and the low rental rate, it is perfect for a variety of celebrations or meetings. Even though the Village is not open year round for tours, the multipurpose room is available for rent year round, seven days a week.

The available seating of up to 44, flexible room arrangements, wheelchair accessibility, and close-up parking, all combine to make this a perfect meeting place for many gatherings. And best of all, the rental rate is only \$25 per hour for Strongsville Historical Society members.

For rental information and availability, please call us at 440-572-0057 or go to our website at [www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org) and click on the rental tab to be in touch with the Rental Coordinator. It's never too early to book for 2017!

# Many thanks to these Wonderful Businesses

The Strongsville Historical Society would like to acknowledge the following businesses for services they have provided to the Society this past year. Their professionalism and work ethic allowed us to complete many projects in a timely fashion. We encourage you to patronize these businesses and let them know their services were appreciated.

Darice, Inc. - Mike Catan and Family  
Kalinich Fencing - Mike Kalinich and Family  
Professional Roofing Services - Michael L. Cappy  
Bertemes Painting Inc. - Josh Bertemes  
R. S. Jenny Construction - R. S. Jenny  
Regency Roofing - Shakemasters - Adam J. Zivich  
ABC Fire Inc. - Bill Dittrich  
Bosak's Key and Lock - Dianne Kessler  
Strongsville Fire & Emergency -  
    Randy French, Asst. Fire Marshall  
    Allen Finkelstein, Lieutenant  
Architectural Trimwork - Larry Prebis  
Cleveland Copy Tech - Chuck Clark, Jr.  
Rick Gentile Electrical - Rick Gentile  
John Bedford - Communications  
Rycon Construction - Peter Eldred  
Lucas Electrical - Paul Lucas  
Olivieri and Son - Rocco Olivieri  
Erie Landscaping - Steve Neal  
Tri - S Control - Brian Walker  
Rundle & Son Heating and Cooling  
    Dennis Rundle  
Classic Flooring - Jamie White  
Farnsworth Drywall & Plastering  
    Ron Farnsworth  
Off The Wall - Dave Buckholz

## Membership News

The year is very close to ending and it is time to think about renewing your membership. Memberships are due every January. Included in this newsletter is a membership envelope. Please fill out and send in now, or send it in at the start of January 2017. Please make sure you fill out the section on committees if you do want to join one. This doesn't carry over from last year. Also check the email or hardcopy choice for newsletter and include email. Always think about getting a LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP. A lifetime member is a person who contributes \$300 one time and does not pay dues again!

YOU CAN NOW RENEW OR GET A MEMBERSHIP AND PAY FOR IT ONLINE. Just go to our website at [www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org) and click on About Us page and you will see a "Click Here" link to make a payment online. When you click that link, a new page will be displayed that lets you select your desired membership level, and fill out a short form with your information. One more quick pop-up screen will ask you to provide a few pieces of information to be a guest on the Cheddar Up website (this is the vendor we use for payments) so you can input credit card information. It's that simple! It doesn't take more than about 5 minutes to complete the membership transaction. Save yourself the cost of a stamp and the time to write out a check, address an envelope and mail it to us, by joining or renewing online.

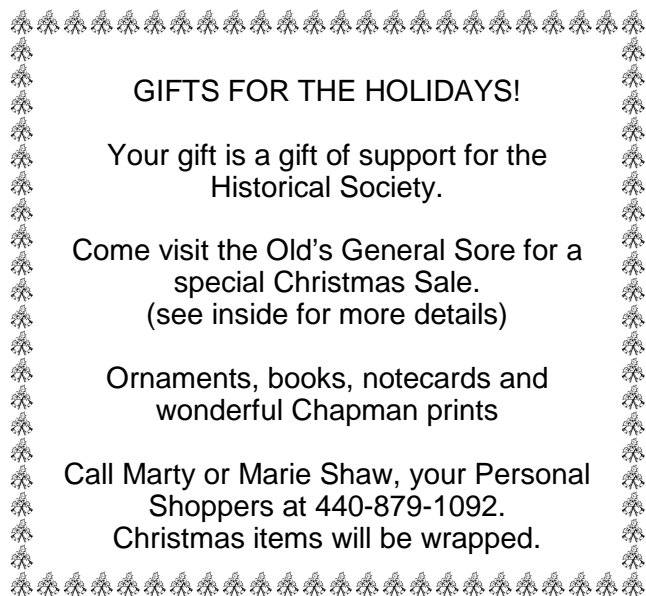
Thank you to all our members for rejoining. We are always looking for new people, organizations and businesses to join the Historical Society. If you know of someone or a business who would like to join, please contact Dana Martin (440-572-1353) for more information.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS: James Kaiser, Randall Zadar, Terrence McGreal, Danica and Dave Houle.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 15                    General Meeting 7:00 pm Lathrop House  
Program: "Legends of Christmas Ornaments", Election of Officers
- Nov. 20                    Christmas Lighting of the Commons and Historical Village  
VILLAGE WILL BE OPEN and decorated. 5-8 pm
- Dec. 3, 4                   Christmas Teas 2-4 pm Lathrop House- THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT
- Dec. 3,4,10,11            Christmas in the Village 2-5 pm FREE ADMISSION
- Jan. 24                    Soup Supper 6 pm cost: \$10  
Ehrnfelt Recreation Event Center, reservations required  
Reservations: contact Jan at jemiller@wowway.com or 440-567-7222
- Feb. 28                    General Meeting - Founder's Day 7 pm OLD TOWN HALL  
Program presented by Louise Varisco

Strongsville Historical Society  
13305 Pearl Road  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136

 GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!  
Your gift is a gift of support for the  
Historical Society.  
Come visit the Old's General Store for a  
special Christmas Sale.  
(see inside for more details)  
Ornaments, books, notecards and  
wonderful Chapman prints  
Call Marty or Marie Shaw, your Personal  
Shoppers at 440-879-1092.  
Christmas items will be wrapped.