



November, 2014

The Village Crier

A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I near the end of my term as president of the Strongsville Historical Society, please allow me to share a few thoughts with you.

You may have gathered from my messages over the past year that I have very fond memories of growing up in Strongsville during the 1950s and the 1960s. Throughout my life, I cherished the strong base that developed during those years: a family that loved me, teachers who cared deeply about providing me with a quality education, a house and land on Howe Road where I was safe and could develop an imagination that included a zest to explore new things, friends and classmates I interacted with over the years (some spanning over 60 years), and the values that I learned from growing up in a close-knit community of honest, hard-working people.

It was an honor and a privilege to serve over the past year and “give back” to the city that gave me so much when I was growing up. No matter how rough the road was in my life, I always had those fond memories of growing up in Strongsville tucked deep inside that helped me weather the storms or count the many blessings in my life.

My main goals for 2014 were simple: to make a difference and to help people. Any success I claim at the end of this year is a direct product of the many volunteers who helped at every turn. They pulled weeds, cleaned the structures, conducted Village tours, served on the board or one of the many committees, worked tirelessly at events, were advocates out in the community, etc.

I have seen dedicated service at every turn of the road, and I deeply appreciate the selfless giving of time and energy to the Society and the Village. Thank you for moving us forward!

I have made many new friends and learned a lot over the past year. The experience has enriched my life as I tip toe through my retirement years. Thank you all for being a part of that experience and supporting our many activities and events so we could continue being part of a cornerstone for the Strongsville experience.

This newsletter includes important information about our upcoming activities during the next few months. We hope you will join us and celebrate the contributions of our many volunteers, while embracing the valuable experience our Village and Society has to offer.

Howard and Velda Chapman (along with the other early founders) would be pleased with our progress, I am sure.

Marsha Lundgren

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to the following special supporters of The Strongsville Historical Society

Boosters for Perciak
Mike Catan and the Catan Family
Mike and Erma Kalinich
Mayor Tom and Debbie Perciak
Roger Riachi, RFC Contracting

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The annual Harvest Festival took place on Sept. 27 and 28. This year, for the first time in the history of the festival, gate admissions were covered by four generous sponsors. A huge thank you goes to **Mike Catan and the Catan Family, Mike and Erma Kalinich, Mayor Tom and Debbie Perciak, and Roger Riachi, RFC Contracting!**

We counted 1,037 adults and children through the gates and this does not include the number of volunteers, docents and demonstrators on the grounds each day. How wonderful to have this opportunity to share the Village.

The traditional demonstrators, Children's Petting Zoo, Art Show and Cow Pie Lottery, Classic Car Display, Quilt Raffle, Music, Farmer's Market, Model Railroad and more happened over the two day event. New this year were Master Gardeners from the Cuyahoga County OSU Extension office sharing information about herbs. Mary Lou Wright brought up several quilts to display. She focused on quilts that would match the Victorian style of the Lathrop House and also quilts from Civil War era. First aid was provided by Bill Bennett from the EMS Team at Southwest General Health Center. Tom Sampson brought an antique buzz saw and Wally Zverina showed the children how to make wood shingles for a roof. The barn was closed anticipating a reopening event in the spring.

The pig roast was once again delicious on Saturday and the Chicken Dinner held at the Strongsville United Methodist Church was sumptuous. The food was donated and prepared at the church under the leadership of Debbie and Mayor Tom Perciak, Gordon and Ethel Evans, Ruth and Jim Brickley and other members of the church. Thank you to all of these special people. A huge thank you goes to the Boy Scouts who served drinks and cleared the tables and Barb and Don Shearer who coordinated set up and take down.

The quilt winner was a friend of Carol Allegri and the cow pie winners were Rea Cantwell winning the \$1000 prize and Sylvia Pakish, Dale Fin-

ley, Anna Dooner and Diane Kuzmickas won the \$250 prizes.

Thank you to all volunteers, docents, and demonstrators but especially to the committee members including Carol Allegri, Barb Bicanovsky, Ruth Brickley, Elaine Cairns, Gina Cathcart, Laura Green, Pam Hughes, Marsha Lundgren, Dana Martin, Janet Noss, Sonia Reber, Ginny Rios, Jan and Wally Zverina. Their tireless work helped us pull off a wonderful weekend for the community to enjoy. As an added touch, the weather couldn't have been better!

TRICK OR TREAT AT THE VILLAGE

October 25th was our 6th Annual "Safe Trick or Treat" at the Village for preschool through kindergarten age children. The grounds were filled with joyful faces and colorful costumes and the "trick or treats" were sought. Our own Society members were dressed for the occasion and served as "Villagers" handing out treats and supervising games that were age appropriate for the little ones. This event was enjoyed by one and all. Admission was a donation of one food item per person or \$1 per person. The admission collections were generously donated to the Strongsville Food Bank.

FASHIONS OF DOWNTON ABBEY

The Strongsville Historical Society will hold their November 18, 2014 general meeting in the Old Town Hall on Royalton Road at 7:00 PM. The presenter for the evening will be Laura Loew from Lost in the Past. She will entertain us with visions of the Victorian age and Downton Abbey through fashions and accessories. Learn more about being "in service" in an Edwardian manor house. This is your chance to visit Downton Abbey through a personal and interesting program. There is free parking, no admittance fee and refreshments to follow. Call 440-572-0057 for information.

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

Open

Recording Secretary

Pam Hughes

Corresponding Secretary

Jane Laffoon

Treasurer

Jane Ludwig

Assistant Treasurer

Diane Russell

DIRECTORS (term of office January 2015 to December 2017)

Debbie Miller

Bill Miller

Scott Maloney

SINCERE APPRECIATION

The outgoing Directors Carol Allegri, Laura Green and Judi Tompkins have served the Society from January 2012 to December 2014. Sincere thanks and best wishes to these three individuals who have assisted graciously during the past three years. We hope they will continue to be active in the Historical Society and hope to see them at meetings and activities! Again - many thanks!

HOLIDAY EVENTS



Christmas is always a special time at the village and this year is no exception. Events this year include-

Holiday Lighting of the Commons and Village!

On Sunday, November 23, 2014, the annual Lighting of the Commons will occur. This event will take place from 5:30-8:00 PM on the Commons. In conjunction with this event we have decided to open the Village to our community during the same time period. Our buildings and grounds will be decorated for the holidays and light refreshments will be served. There will be a train which will bring guests to the Village from the Commons, drop them off at the Lathrop House and then later pick them up at the Chapman House for a return ride to the Commons. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us in the Village on the 23rd of November. If you would like to help in any way, please call Ruth Brickley at 440-572-0535.

Christmas in the Village

The Village will be open **December 6, 7, 13 and 14 from 2-5pm** each day for visitors to see the Village in its Christmas splendor. If you'd like to help in some way call Jean Wittrock at 440-567-5152. Docents will be needed for all four days.

Christmas Teas

Join us for one of our popular Christmas Teas on December 6th or 7th from 2:00-4:00 PM in the beautifully decorated Lathrop House. Make your reservations soon with Betty - 440-238-0698. The cost of the tea is \$20 per person. Come and welcome the Holiday Season with us!

NEWSLETTER NOW ON OUR WEBSITE

We are currently working on gathering email addresses from all of our members, so that we can begin to deliver the newsletter online to those who wish to receive it that way. If you are renewing your membership, you will notice the membership envelope has an area where you can choose whether you want the newsletter delivered by email or hardcopy. If you would like your newsletter sent by email, please put your email address on the space provided and return the envelope.

Of course we will mail a hardcopy to anyone who would like one. You can also send your preference to Pam Hughes at 440-773-6605, email phughes43@aol.com.

We will be transitioning on the next few newsletters, so please don't delay in sending us your preference.

Joining our e-mail list will also allow us to communicate updates and reminders about Village events in a timely manner. Event notifications are also posted on our Facebook page regularly.

Use of these various methods helps insure timely communication with all of our members. It also helps our members share with others.

SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER

The annual Soup Supper, which is the January general meeting of the Society, will be held on January 27, 2015 at 6:00 PM at the Ehrnfelt Recreation Event Center. You can have all the soup you can eat (or at least until the crockpot is empty) from a selection of over 20 kinds, a variety of breads as well as pie for dessert. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$10 each, with payment due at the time of reservation. Make your checks out to the Strongsville Historical Society and send it to Strongsville Historical Society, 13305 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 with a note indicating your name and the number of tickets requested. Deadline is January 23, 2015.

CHICKEN DINNER UPDATE

Just a quick word to thank everyone who assisted in any way with our Harvest Festival Chicken Dinner. We served well over 210 meals. Thanks to Gordon and Ethel Evans, and Mayor Tom Perciak and Debbie Perciak the food was prepared on time and delicious. Many, many others helped with set up, clean up, ticket sales and even laundry! Boy Scout Troop 226 served again as our servers and helped with dishes. We had 8 very energetic workers who took care of a room full of guests with grace and speed. Scout Leader Phil Smith was also there providing direction as needed. We send a heartfelt thanks to one and all.

This was the last year that the Evans will be cooking the dinner. They have been with this event from the very beginning and realize that it is time to turn over the kitchen to others. Their dedication to the Society and to this event has been a very long tradition. They will be greatly missed in the kitchen but we hope they will still provide some of the side dishes they are known so well for making.

WHATS NEW IS OLD

In another article in the month's newsletter, we talk about receiving our publication via email. While this may seem out of place for a historical society, it's really nothing new.

Ever since man learned to communicate in written form, the methods have changed, but the message has stayed the same.

Early communications on clay tablets and papyrus scrolls gave way to more standardized forms of communication with the invention of the printing press and movable type. Books, newspapers and newsletters could be produced quickly, but getting that information to far flung readers still took weeks or months.

With the invention of the Telegraph in the 1840's the era of electronic communications was ushered in. News from the world capitals could be sent instantly and locally produced newspapers

could carry timely news items. The first U.S. President to receive electronic battle updates? Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War that we just commemorated the 150th anniversary of.

In the he 1980's, the development of the IBM PC and the development of electronic publishing soon replaced typesetting by hand or machine.

Today many young and older people get their news from electronic sources by "surfing the web" and sources such as twitter and Facebook.

But it's still just information and information hasn't changed since mankind started communicating in written form, it just keeps coming to us at an ever accelerating pace.

MEMBERSHIP

The year is very close to ending so now you have to think about renewing your membership!! We would like to thank all those individuals, families, and businesses who have continually renewed their memberships; your support is greatly appreciated. Remember that every January, memberships are due. Included in the newsletter is a new membership envelope. Please fill out and send in. Please add email address if you have one.

Tired of paying dues???? Think about getting a Lifetime Membership. A lifetime member is a person who contributes \$300 one time and does not pay dues again!!

Please help us increase our membership by sharing your experiences with the Strongsville Historical Society and Village with your family and friends. We are always looking for new members and organizations that would like to join our Membership. If you run, own or know of someone who runs or owns a business and would like to join the Historical Society, please contact Dana Martin (440-572-1353) for more information. Strongsville has a lot of great history. New members, "young and old", can make new history.

New Life Memberships
Rea Cantwell
Diane Cantwell

VILLAGE GROUNDS



Thanks to our many dedicated gardeners our grounds have never looked more beautiful! The loving care given to our vegetation shows in the healthy plants and trees that cover the grounds of the village. Countless hours by society members and community volunteers are deeply appreciated by one and all.

Please consider volunteering to assist with this big, yet rewarding task next year. Call Ruth Brickley (440-572-0535) if you would like to "adopt a spot on the grounds."

Thank you Rotarians

On October 18, 2014 Strongsville Rotarians came to help clean up the grounds and get everything put away for winter. Their dedication as volunteers is commendable. This annual clean up occurs rain or shine...and we have worked under both conditions. Without their "muscle" and time we would not be able to accomplish the many tasks on the list. If you know a Rotary member, please thank them on behalf of the Historical Society.

Signs

Have you noticed the new signs on the grounds that share the names of some of our trees? These signs were provided at no cost to the Society. They have been placed by some of our trees to allow guests to realize how many different species of trees we have on our grounds. It is our hope next spring to provide a guide sheet so visitors can take an arbor stroll through the village and learn more about the trees growing there.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 18 General Meeting 7:00 PM **OLD TOWN HALL**
Program: Fashions of Downton Abbey, Election of Officers
- Nov. 23 Christmas Lighting on the Commons
VILLAGE WILL BE OPEN and decorated, refreshments
5:30-8:00 PM
- Dec. 6, 7 Christmas Tea 2:00-4:00 PM Lathrop House
Cost: \$20 Reservations: Call Betty 440-238-0698
- Dec. 6,7,13,14 Christmas in the Village 2:00-5:00 PM
- Jan. 26 Soup Supper 6:00 PM cost: \$10
Event Center, Ehrnfelt Recreation Center
18100 Royalton Road
- Feb. 24 General Meeting - Founder's Day 7:00 PM **OLD TOWN HALL**
Program: Strongsville: A Farming Community
Presented by Louise Varisco

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