

September, 2014



# *The Village Crier*

*A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society*

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The first time I volunteered was at Strongsville High School in 1966 when I was sixteen years old. My best friend asked me to help her in the teacher lunch area located in the middle of our one-year old high school. It wasn't a separate room, but rather a small, multi-purpose corner off the main hallway with tables, chairs, and a stiff accordion style curtain that you could close to give the teachers privacy while they ate their food. Our job was to wipe off the tables and return the trays to the lunchroom. It was fun and it broke up our academic day, plus it helped me climb out of my teenage introverted shyness.

During roughly the same period of time, a core group of dedicated volunteers, led by Howard and Velda Chapman, were busy moving forward with the Strongsville Historical Society. Their first meeting was in the Chapman living room in 1962, but it would only be the humble beginnings of many years of work establishing a mission statement, By-laws, Articles of Incorporation, our 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status, creating a vision for a Village, cataloguing our early collections, eventually moving structures to the two-acre Chapman property, and planning renovation of those structures- all by community volunteers.

I am humbled today when I walk the Village grounds and absorb the tremendous amount of time, effort and expertise that brought us to where we are today with the Strongsville Historical Society.

A current example of the stellar efforts by our volunteers would be the wonderful people who

gave up most of their Saturday a couple of months ago to unload and sort through the treasures in the Roe-Chapman barn so the Pro-Built Construction workers could get started with the renovation.

The barn passed the final building inspection and we were given the keys to the structure on August 11, 2014. That following Saturday, twenty-two volunteers showed up to unload the storage pods, sort through the items, identify, and number each of the old tools and farm equipment items amassed over the past fifty-two years. A huge thank you to everyone who helped in this effort.

The beating heart of the Strongsville Historical Society and Village is the strong volunteers who are passionate about our mission to: "discover, collect, preserve, record and interpret the history of the Strongsville area through programs that inspire, stimulate, and educate the community." This is our gift to the community. Please let us know if you would like to join us and volunteer your time (440-572-0057), or contact us through our website: [www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org).

*Marsha Lundgren*

## **SPECIAL THANKS**

There will be no admission fees for this year's Harvest Festival due to the generous contributions of Mike Catan and Family, Mayor Tom and Debbie Perciak, and Roger Riachi of RFC Contracting.

Be sure to invite your friends and to thank these generous folks when you see them.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Please place the Strongsville Historical Society's Harvest Festival on your calendar. You will be able to see craftsmen and artisans who will demonstrate early pioneer arts and living skills on the Historical Village grounds. The dates for our Annual Harvest Festival are September 27 & 28, 2014 from 11 AM to 5 PM each day. A variety of foods will be available including a yummy Pig Roast on the Village grounds on Saturday after 2:00 PM and a mouth watering Chicken Dinner on Sunday at the Strongsville Methodist Church from 4:30-6:30 PM.

### General Information

There is no cost to attend this year's Harvest Festival due to the generous contributions of **Mike Catan and Family, Mayor Tom and Debbie Perciak, and Roger Riachi** of RFC Contracting.

Activities at the festival include an Art Show and Sale, Music, Farmer's Market, Children's Crafts- 1-4 PM, Entertainment, Food, Demonstrators, Model Railroad display both days.

The Cow Pie Lottery, Classic Car Display, and Quilt Raffle are held on Sunday, but tickets for the raffle and lottery will be available on both days, winners need not be present.

### For Tickets to special activities and events:

CHICKEN DINNER Janet Noss 759-8789  
COW PIE LOTTERY Dana Martin 572-1353  
QUILT RAFFLE Barb Bicanovsky 238-4718

Our plea in this newsletter is for workers to help in a variety of tasks. We need individuals for a presence in each of the houses, people to help at the food tent, set-up and take down for the chicken dinner at the Methodist Church and so much more. Please call Ginny Rios at 238-7617 to donate your time. With any other questions, call Jean Wittrock at 440-567-5152 or email at [jwittrock3@aol.com](mailto:jwittrock3@aol.com).

## UNION VICTORIOUS

The fourth and final Civil War Camp was held on the Village grounds during the week of July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 1, 2014. Four squads were mustered in the Army of the West for a week of experiencing the life of a Union soldier during the fourth year of the American Civil War. During the week, the recruits held authentic Civil War weaponry, marched with the Ohio 29<sup>th</sup> OVI to Atlanta under the command of Sherman, dug Civil War artifacts used at Gettysburg, visited the hiding place of the slaves escaping to Canada, and even had a mock battle trying to capture the South's battle flag. The week ended with a program for the soldiers' families showcasing what was learned during the week. Troops were dismissed to civilian life after receiving their proper discharge papers. To honor the Union victory, its battle flag still flies near Pearl Road.

## TRICK OR TREAT AT THE VILLAGE



Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 25, 2014 from 3-4:30 PM for our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Trick or Treat at the Village. This event is for children preschool through Kindergarten. **Reservations are required** and admission is **one non-perishable food item per person or \$1.00 per person** which will be donated to the Strongsville Food Bank. If you would like to help by being a Villager dressed in costume to pass out candy, please contact Ginny Rios at 440-238-6717. To provide a candy donation or to make reservations call Ruth at 440-572-0535.

## MEMBERSHIP

We would like to thank all those individuals, families, and businesses who have continually renewed their memberships; your support is greatly appreciated. Dues are always renewed in January and are good for a year, except if you are a Lifetime Member. 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 or 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 on corporate memberships. Become a corporate member for \$100 and get your business name in our newsletter.

### NEW MEMBERS

Ishiyama Family

### NEW CORPORATE MEMBERSHIPS

Miss Hickory Tea Room  
14217 Mill Hollow Lane  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136



## CHRISTMAS TEA

Join us for our popular Christmas Tea on December 6 or 7 from 2:00-4:00 PM in the beautifully decorated Lathrop House. Make your reservations soon with Betty - 440-238-6098. The cost of the tea is \$20 per person. Come and welcome the Holiday Season.

## HELP WANTED



Plans are being made for the Christmas decorating of the Village, and help is needed! Decorating will take place earlier this year. If you are interested in helping, please contact Debbie Miller at 440-572-4967.

## COW PIE LOTTERY

Harvest Festival is right around the corner and so is our Cow Pie Lottery. Tickets are now available for a chance to win \$1,000.00. They will be available at the Harvest Festival or you can call Dana at 440-572-1353 to get yours early. If any members would like to get some to sell, call Dana. This is one of our most unusual and successful fundraisers.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept. 27, 28      Harvest Festival    11:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Strongsville Historical Village
- Oct. 25            6<sup>th</sup> Annual Trick or Treat at the Village    3-4:30 PM  
Reservations: Call Ruth 440-572-0535
- Oct. 28            General Meeting    7:00 PM    Lathrop House  
Program: TBA
- Nov. 18            General Meeting    7:00PM    **Old Town Hall**  
Program: Fashions of Downton Abbey    Elections
- Nov. 23            Christmas Lighting on the Commons  
VILLAGE WILL BE OPEN and decorated, refreshments  
5:30-8:00 PM
- Dec. 6, 7           Christmas Teas        2-4 PM    Lathrop House        cost: \$20  
Reservations: Call Betty 440-238-6098
- Dec. 6,7,13,14    Christmas in the Village

Strongsville Historical Society  
13305 Pearl Road  
Strongsville, Ohio 44136