



February, 2020

The Village Crier

A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society
www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org

President's Message Spring Fashion Show

It's hard to believe that we are in the year 2020! It seems like a time people talked about that sounded so far away. Our program schedule for this year is looking great again. We are going to focus on the Roaring 20's. Yes, that was 100 years ago! All program dates are not yet set so watch for details in upcoming newsletters.

Right now I am pleased to report that our 8 main buildings are in good repair. We have some projects slated for this year which will include our ticket booth, Lathrop Outhouse, new Village signs and more. Providing an appropriate environment in our buildings for artifacts, we will need to look at the replacement of 1-2 furnaces and perhaps the addition of AC to the General Store.

Featured in this newsletter is one of our artifacts. Look for it and learn what it is all about and where you might find it at the Village. We will be featuring one special item in each of our newsletters this year. Hope you enjoy seeing a little of what we have to share!

We hope to see you at the Village soon.

Ruth Brickley

Open for the Season

The Historical Village will be open for tours beginning on Wednesday May 6, 2020 through September 2020. We are then open Wed. and Sat. from 1-4PM. The last tour goes out at 3:30 PM. We invite you to stop in and tour the Village and enjoy the history on display.



The Historical Society will hold its 28th annual Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon on Saturday, March 14, 2020 at Don's Pomeroy House. We invite you to join us as we enjoy good food and beautiful fashions presented at the historic Pomeroy House.

Doors will open and seating will take place at 11:30 am, with the Luncheon and Fashion Show beginning at 12 noon. Fashions will be presented by Chico's at Southpark Mall. An extensive raffle will take place at the luncheon featuring gift cards for food and services at local restaurants and businesses, as well as beautiful gift baskets and gift items. Tickets are \$1 each and may be purchased at the event. If you wish to purchase tickets and are not attending the event, we have included them in this newsletter. Please fill out tickets, include a check made out to Strongsville Historical Society, and return to Strongsville Historical Society, 13305 Pearl Rd., Strongsville 44136 prior to March 13. These tickets may be duplicated.

Tickets for the event are \$40 each. To purchase tickets and make a table reservation, please contact Pam Hughes at 440-773-6605 or Gina Cathcart at 216-403-9226. Don't delay - get your tickets to this popular Strongsville spring event before they sell out!

Yard Sale



Mark your calendar for our 4th Annual Yard Sale on June 25 from 9-4 and on June 26 from 9-2. We will once again need lots of help setting up, manning the sale, and cleaning up after the sale. We will be collecting donations of items to sell starting NOW, with profits going to the Society! If you are cleaning out closets, settling an estate or just have household items to move on, we would love to have them at our sale. Items must be able to be carried into the grounds, so nothing too big! We also request that items be in good condition. If you have anything, please call Ruth 440-572-0535 and we will make arrangements for you to drop off your donation.

Again this year, we will also be offering spaces to rent at the yard sale. If you would like to have your own table and tent they will be available for \$15 per day. This offer is good until we run out of tents.

Wanted!

We are looking for photographs which will help us share our past as a Society with others. If you have any recent or older photographs of Society events such as program speakers, Trick or Treat, Spring Fashion Show, Harvest Festival, Civil War Day Camp, Children's Teas, Adult Teas, Rentals that you may have had in our Great Room, Scout Projects...anything, we would love to have them or copies! Please be sure to date them and include the names of people in the photos if you know them. This would best be done on a separate paper as writing on photos sometimes comes through onto the surface of the picture. We have a wonderful collection of pictures from the past, but do not have many recent ones. Call Ruth (440-572-0535) to make arrangements to drop these off at the Village or bring them to a meeting.

If Walls could talk-

The Historic Village has a general store that once served an out-of-the-way corner of Strongsville. Of course, there were other such stores scattered around. If those walls could talk, what would they tell us about life in such communities? Come hear what they provided...what they meant to the people they served, in the actual words of people who used the Olds General Store!

Join us for our annual Founders Day program on February 25 at 7 PM at the Old Town Hall. The program will be presented by Valerie Mattingley.

Lathrop House Rentals

The 2020 rental season for the multipurpose room at the Lathrop House is now in full swing. If you are thinking about reserving the room for any time in 2020, now is the time to check the availability for the date you wish. Already the reservations are coming in for this year.

If you are thinking you would like to reserve the room, contact the Historical Society either online at www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org (click on the rental tab) or by calling 440-572-0057.

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.

Remember, it's never too early to book for 2020!

Treasurer's Corner

While the Village is currently closed for tours and visitors the expenses to operate still occur. Items like electricity, gas, water, phone, insurance and routine maintenance to name a few. The monthly cost to maintain the Society averages \$2,000/month. Thank you for supporting our events and inviting your friends to attend the Soup Supper and the Spring Fashion Show and to join the Society as a member. Every ticket sold to one of these events directly benefits the operation of the Society. Without your continued support, the Society would not be able to exist.

We are also very grateful for every donation in the memory of a beloved member of our community. These restricted funds enable the Society to purchase items beyond our regular budgeted items.

Membership

Our membership drive is currently underway. Please reach out to friends and family and encourage them to join. Currently we offer Life memberships and Family memberships, as well as memberships for individuals, seniors, businesses and students. Our members are our lifeline to keep the Society alive. We are always ready to welcome new members.

In recent months we were pleased to welcome: Marion DeBrosse, Pam McConnell, Connie Wysocki, David Evans, Peggy Wise, Bob Beers, David & Allison Knowles, Matt & Nancy Surak, Bob Baxendale and David Cook. We are pleased to welcome back Chuck & Debbie Hawk.

A special THANK YOU to our Corporate and Business members who have recently joined or renewed their memberships; including Cleveland Tool and Cutter, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Miss Hickory's Tea Room and Schonhut Landscape Services. We appreciate your support!

Village Accessibility Committee

Over the past couple years, the Preservation Committee has talked about options to improve the walking surfaces in the Village because the pea gravel on the main path through the Village is difficult to walk on for people with strollers and walkers, as well as the elderly. We are also now seeing an increasing number of weeds growing up through the gravel, and we're seeing gravel get tracked into our buildings when it gets stuck in people's shoes and comes loose while they are inside.

The Preservation Committee decided this is a significant enough project that it warrants having its own sub-committee. This committee would be researching different surfacing materials that can be used for repaving our walkways. This might also include general accessibility discussion such as whether we have areas that need railings or ramps. There is the possibility that grant money would be pursued but the Preservation Committee agreed that we need a specific plan for our Historic Village overall accessibility before pursuing grant money. Please contact Tom Drost at srkatom@gmail.com if you are interested in serving on this sub-committee.

Where did you Go?

If you have changed your address, phone number, or email recently, please contact us at the Historical Society. We need to keep this information current so that you continue to receive the newsletter as well as membership information. Also, if you know that a member has passed, we would appreciate you letting us know. You can contact us at 440-572-0057 to relay any changes or death notices.

Olds General Store

It's a new year at the Olds General Store with new items and new prices! Of special interest: - Beautiful vintage milk glass items have been added to the antique corner to shine in your collection.

- ◆ Several collectible Barbies (in original boxes) are still available but not at collectible prices!
- ◆ Ceramic Strongsville Historical coasters are 2 for \$5 for a limited time.
- ◆ The store has 10 different items from Westerdale Pottery in stock and the Olds General Store is the only place in town to purchase these.
- ◆ Selected antique Degenhart glass items have been reduced.
- ◆ The last of the Strongsville Historical aprons with wooden spoons are price at \$15 right now.
- ◆ Velda Chapman signed and unsigned prints of the High School, the Pomeroy House, Bonnie Park, and the Strong House are available at \$10 and \$25 respectively.

Any of these items make great gifts for Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduation, bridal showers, weddings, anniversaries, birthdays or hostess gifts.

All purchases help support the Strongsville Historical Society and for every \$10 you spend you will receive an entry chance for the next gift basket from the Olds Store.

What's Old is New Again!

The Toledo Cooker Company boasted that their Fireless Cooker could do practically any kind of cooking - including baking and roasting - that a kitchen range could do, because of the heat conserving triple seal top with its patented Water-Seal. It saved fuel by using a soapstone, which was heated 15-20 minutes to cook items which would normally take hours of fuel burning.



Putting unheated food in the cooker allowed you to go out for hours and return to find dinner perfectly cooked and HOT!

Before this, many homes cooked foods in metal pots to an almost cooked stage. Then they put the pots in a hole in the ground to finish cooking in a slow manner. This is similar to our Crock Pots or Slow Cookers of today. Stop in and see our Toledo Cooker in the Baldwin House kitchen.

Spring Cleaning Helpers Needed

Here's a chance to be helpful as the Society gets ready to open the buildings in May. It requires just a little bit of time especially if several people volunteer. Many hands lighten the work!

Help is especially needed for the Lathrop House cleaning done in April. If your time commitment is limited and dusting and vacuuming are your forte then please contact Jane Laffoon at 216-233-7530 or email janehc@outlook.com or Jean Wittrock at 440-567-5152 or email wittrockjean@gmail.com.

Additional help is needed during the year for the Lathrop House, checking the house for just a month after rentals and meetings. If you are saying to yourself 'I can do that!' call Jane or Jean. Your help is needed and will be appreciated!

The (not so) Roaring 20's in Strongsville!

So you ask, "What was happening in Strongsville in the 1920s?" A lot! 100 years ago life was much simpler as you can imagine, and Strongsville's population was 1285.

1920 - Alanson Pomeroy's original Homestead was still the family residence. Dr. Harlan Pomeroy's daughter, Gertrude, resided there until vacating it in 1963.



1921 - The "new" Strongsville High School with an attached gymnasium was built on Pearl Road behind the old High School. This building later became Center Jr. High and then Center Middle School.



1923 - The last of the ten one-room schoolhouses closed. They were all then consolidated at Center.

1925 - The first High School Band was organized in 1925. Peter McCormack was the director.

1927 - A milestone for Strongsville came in 1927 with the 1300 residents voting to have Strongsville become an incorporated Village. Later that year Grant Atkinson was elected the first Mayor receiving a salary of \$250 a year. That very same year the first Girl Scout Group was formed.

1927 - The Olds General Store, which is currently located at the Village, was in business in 1927 at the corner of Marks Road and Boston Road in Beebetown.

1928 - Leonard O. Bean owned Strongsville's Private School Bus Co. He was known by the students as "Beanie." There were no buses provided by the schools. Bean owned a service garage on Pearl Road, which he later sold to Roy Pierce. This later became a Pontiac dealer, then a Dodge-Plymouth dealer and was sold in 1961. It eventually became known as Killbane Dodge. The location today is where the Crossroads Plaza stands.

More information about Strongsville's history and photographs showing how life was, may be found in "Images of America - STRONGSVILLE" by Bruce M. Courey. This book may be purchased in our General Store.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 25 Founder's Day Celebration
Old Town Hall 7PM
Program: "If Walls Could Talk...The General Store" by Valerie Mattingley
- March 14 Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon
Don's Pomeroy House doors open 11:30 AM. Luncheon at 12 noon.
Contact Pam Hughes 440-773-6605 or Gina Cathcart 216-403-9226.
- April 28 General Meeting TBA check website for details
www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org
- May 6 Historical Village open for tours. Wed. and Sat. 1-4PM

When you are finished reading this news-
letter, please pass it on to someone who
is not a member and encourage them to
JOIN! Be sure to copy important dates to
your calendar first!

Strongsville Historical Society
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