



September 2024

The Village Crier

Preserving and Interpreting the history, Significance, and Traditions of the Strongsville Area

President's Message

Fall is right around the corner and we know what that means, it's Harvest Festival time! Harvest Festival is scheduled for Saturday, September 28th this year between 11am-4pm. Many hours of planning and preparation have gone into the event and we expect it to be bigger and better than ever. Hopefully you are joining us as a volunteer, or coming to event with family and friends. After Harvest Festival, extend your day of fun by leaving the kids with relatives or a babysitter and have a date night at the Strongsville Rotary Strongfest beer tasting at the Strongsville Recreation Center between 2pm-7pm. There will be more than 20 microbreweries, wineries, and distilleries offering samples, as well as live music.

We wrapped up our yard sale in August, it was held a little later this year due to the ongoing Town Center construction. We once again used this opportunity to help us with some spring cleaning, and we thank everyone who donated items for the sale, helped with the running of the sale, or made purchases from the sale.

The Town Center ribbon cutting is scheduled for October, and the area to the west of the Ehrnfelt Recreation Center looks dramatically different! The next time you visit our Historical Village, you will see we were also touched by this project with beautiful new landscaping along the north side of our property!

Harvest Festival is the start of a series of annual events that we have in the remaining months each year, be sure to check the last page of this newsletter for a list of upcoming events.

I will close with a few updates regarding our volunteer ranks. First, let's extend a sincere thank you to Pam Hughes and Neal Klabunde for their many years of publishing these newsletters. This year's June edition was their last as they decided to close up their print shop, so to speak, to spend more time with family and friends in their retirement, and they earned it! On another front, we are excited to announce that Dennis Dimengo has agreed to take the reins as our Historian as Jamie Miles is reducing her role with us. Jamie recently got engaged and started a new job with Sherwin-Williams, and Alison Braun, her cousin, recently received a big promotion at work! We will miss them as they step away from their VP and Treasurer roles on our board in 2025 but we wish them the best in these exciting new chapters in their lives.

The turning of the Fall foliage is one of my favorite things about being a Northeast Ohio native, I look forward to enjoying it with our volunteers and visitors in the coming weeks.

Scott Maloney



OFFICERS

Scott Maloney, President
Jamie Miles, Vice President
Alison Braun, Treasurer
Jan Miller, Corresponding Secretary
Barb Krivos, Recording Secretary

DIRECTORS

Tom Drost 22-24 Mary Pultz 23-25
Gene Mark 22-24 Grace Hardison 24-26
Pam McConnell 22-24 Jane Ludwig 24-26
John Bedford 23-25 Marty Shaw 24-26
Debbie Miller 23-25

13305 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 | strongsvillehistorical@gmail.com | strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org

Harvest Festival—Grace Hardison

This year's 2024 Harvest Festival on the grounds of the Strongsville Historic Village is shaping up to be a fun-filled day! The event will be celebrated at 13305 Pearl Road on September 28, 2024 from 11am-4pm. There will be great live entertainment, wonderful crafts for sale, and demonstrations by weavers, spinners, and a rag rug maker. For the kids, there will be a farm animal petting zoo, children's crafts, face painting, balloon twisting, a rope bridge, and a model railroad display. Food and refreshments will be available at a food tent and farmer's market. All eight buildings will be open for peeks into the past 150 years. Take a chance and buy tickets for a Beautiful Quilt or the Under the Dome raffle! FREE GATE ADMISSION. Parking unlimited. All proceeds go to the general fund for maintaining the Historical Village buildings and grounds. Visit www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org for more information or questions may be emailed to strongsvillehistorical@gmail.com.

Strongsville WWII Casualty Memorialized—Dennis Dimengo

The Fields of Honor Foundation is a Dutch organization that is creating an online database to commemorate all American military personnel interred in American national cemeteries in Europe. The Foundation contacted the Strongsville Historical Society in April of this year seeking information on Staff Sergeant Norris F. Neumeyer, from Strongsville, who was killed-in-action in Luxembourg on February 7, 1945, while serving as a squad leader in Company L, 318th Infantry Regiment, 80th Infantry Division.

We were able to provide the Foundation background information on Staff Sergeant Neumeyer's family, schooling, and employment as well as a photograph of him. Staff Sergeant Neumeyer was born in Strongsville on October 7, 1920. He graduated from Strongsville High School in 1938 and was a member of the football team. After graduating, he worked for Republic Steel in Cleveland. Staff Sergeant Neumeyer married Loretta M. Fredeker in 1944 before shipping out to Europe.



The Neumeyers had one son, Norris Jr. One of his brothers, Lawrence Neumeyer, also served in the Army and was the first soldier from Strongsville to be wounded-in-action in World War 2. Staff Sergeant Norris F. Neumeyer is buried in the Luxembourg American Military Cemetery. We believe he is the only soldier from Strongsville to be buried overseas.

Staff Sergeant Neumeyer's memorial on the Fields of Honor Foundation's website can be viewed at <https://www.fieldsofhonor-database.com/index.php/en/american-war-cemetery-luxembourg-n/86800-neumeyer-norris-f-lux-i-2-15>.

Trick-or-Treat at the Historical Village—Michele Lynch

Our annual Trick-or-Treat open house for children of Kindergarten age or younger is on Saturday, October 19 from 1:30pm-3:30pm at the Historical Village. No roads to cross and many happy faces to hand out lots of treats! Admission is \$5.00 per family or 1 non-perishable food item per person. Free parking at either the Strongsville Public Library or at the City Communication Center parking lot across from the Historical Village Zverina entrance.

All proceeds go to the Strongsville Food Bank. New this year, no registration required! Most of our volunteers handing out candy enjoy dressing up in non-scary costumes. Please consider donating a bag of candy to be dropped off after October 1st. No gum please! If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please reach out to Michele Lynch at tlynch-law@gmail.com or Grace Hardison at gmhdesign78@gmail.com



Olds General Store—Marty Shaw

It's time to renew your support for our Historical Village and the Olds General Store! All sale proceeds go to the General Fund to support the maintenance of our buildings and grounds.

The store is open any time the village is open for events or tours, or by appointment by calling Marty at 440-409-5925 for a private shopping experience.

Like shabby chic? Check out our display of retro items. Like afghans? ours are \$30.00 Like vintage or antique glass? We have lots for sale. Look at our latest vintage tea pots and tea cups for that tea drinker in your life.

Be sure to see the newest shipment of pottery made by the Westerwald Pottery just for us. Ten percent off on all pottery purchases by Historical Society members until our Christmas in the Village in early December.

Visit the store during Harvest Festival to get a head start on your Christmas shopping. For every \$10 you spend, receive an entry in our raffle drawing for a basket of Strongsville items. The winning ticket will be drawn at the end of Harvest Festival, winner need not be present to win.



Holiday Lighting Open House

After you have enjoyed the Holiday lighting celebration on the Strongsville Commons that starts at 5:30 pm on Sunday November 24th, take a short walk over to the Historic Village to enjoy a tour of our decorated buildings inside and out from 6pm-8pm

Have any old artificial Christmas trees taking up space? Donate them to the Historical Society for our outdoor holiday lighting displays! We're also looking for outdoor extension cord donations.

Victorian Christmas Tea—Debbie Miller

Our Christmas Tea is back again for 2024. Get dressed up with your friends and join us for a lovely, old-fashioned afternoon tea this holiday season at the Historical Society's Lathrop House from 2pm-4pm on December 7 and December 8. Reservations can be made starting November 1 by calling Debbie Miller at 440-572-4967.



Historical Village Christmas—Grace Hardison

It's the time of year when the Strongsville Historic Village puts on its holiday best and invites one and all to visit the many different historic buildings. Visit with Santa in the Chapman House, take a special picture in front of the tree in the Lathrop House, shop in the Olds General Store, and step back in time in the Log Cabin. Free admission! December 7, 8, 14, 15 1pm-4pm

Calling All Volunteers!

We want YOU to help with the running of our Historical Society, or would love your help to find new volunteers for our organization. We're working hard to build up our ranks, here are ways people can join us to help:

- Collections – help with decisions about our collections, and with setting up and enhancing displays throughout the historical village.
- Grounds – adopt a section of the historic village to maintain garden spaces – weeding, pruning, edging, etc.
- Maintenance – take on a repair project to keep our buildings and grounds in shape.
- Archives – join our Historian to help with research requests, to help sort and catalog the many documents and photos in our archives, and to help digitize our holdings.
- Tours – we would like to add docents so we can be open more days for tours.

Please fill out a Contact Us form on our Historical Society website and let us know your interests!

September 28 (Saturday) 11am-4pm – Harvest Festival

October 8 (Tuesday) 7pm – Strongsville Historical Society Board Meeting

October 19 (Saturday) 1:30pm-3:30pm – Trick-or-Treat event

October 22 (Tuesday) 7pm – Strongsville Historical Society General Meeting

- Announce 2025 slate of Officers and Directors, and 2025 budget

November 5 (Tuesday) 7pm – Strongsville Historical Society Board Meeting

November 19 (Tuesday) 7pm – Strongsville Historical Society General Meeting

- Vote on 2025 slate of Officers and Directors, and 2025 budget

November 24 (Sunday) 6pm-8pm – Holiday Lighting Open House

December 7 & 8 (Saturday & Sunday) 2pm-4pm – Christmas Teas

December 7, 8, 14, 15 1pm-4pm – Historical Village Christmas

**Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/strongsvillehistorical
and Instagram at instagram.com/strongsvillehistorical/**

Strongsville Historical Society

13305 Pearl Road

Strongsville, Ohio 44136

Welcome New Members!

The following friends of Strongsville history have joined this year. We are thrilled to welcome them to our family!

Richard Blech, Leo Ciccotosto, Maria Kahle, Caroline Kennat, John O'Boyle, Deborah Pflieger, Kathy Schiffman, Darlene Scholtz, Lynne Selzer, Denise Selzer Reith, Darlene Wilke, Your Ohio Home Care Co, and Amish Guys Company.