



The Village Crier

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

President's Message

Who would have thought back in March when the pandemic began in our area that in September we would still be feeling the effects of it through changes in our behavior and limited activities. Doing the right thing isn't always easy or a fast solution to a problem, however we are seeing progress as some businesses are able to open and numbers of those infected are decreasing. Hang in there!

We miss seeing everyone at the Village. It is a very quiet, lonely place right now. Only a couple of small meetings have been held outdoors with social distancing being practiced. Work does continue on the ground with pulling weeds, maintaining gardens and picking up litter. (Actually our litter problem is much less of a problem with limited people around the area). Even our groundhogs and cats are not that active.

Plans for 2021 are still up in the air. We just can't predict what this virus will be doing in the months to come. A good sign for us is the slow, continued opening of our state with schools, sports and soon Senior Centers. With every open door we need to be extra careful not to slip backwards with our safe practices. Wear your mask, observe social distancing guidelines and above all be patient.

This will be remembered as "The Year Without Many Things!" We often come to appreciate what we don't have once we have it again. We sure hope this is true for guests coming to visit the Village and attend Society functions once we are able to do more.

Our calendar is blank for the rest of 2020. We are planning on having an outside only Christmas

display this year. We just can't let the season go by without the JOY that comes along with it. Be sure to drive by and take a look. We hope it will bring a smile to your face and stir up some memories of years past.

Stay safe and we hope to see you soon.

Ruth Brickley

Spring Raffle

The raffle that was to be held at the Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon finally took place at the Historical Village on August 24, 2020. The winners have all been notified, and by now are hopefully enjoying their raffle prizes. The committee would like to recognize and thank all the businesses and people who donated raffle prizes this year. As we open up our economy and try to get back to a semblance of order, we hope you will support the following businesses who donated goods and services to us for our raffle this year. Sincere thanks go to the following donors: Macy's at SouthPark, Posh Nails & Spa, Maureen's Hair Salon at "The Loft", Five Points Dentistry and Dr. Tom Thomas, Starbucks, Floral Elegance, Sky Salon, Square 22 Restaurant, Architectural Justice, TGI Fridays, Deborah Colin Salon & Spa, Italian Village, Hirt's Flowers, Scrambler Marie's, Sgt. Clean's Car Wash, Ashley Adams Salon, Fired Up Taco Shop, Chico's at SouthPark, Dillard's at SouthPark, Illusion Unlimited, Gregory Filo Jewelry, Strongsville Spirit Shop, Nothing Bundt

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IN MEMORIAM

Maynard Arthur Maatz, 1924-2020, 96, of Palm Harbor, Florida, and native of Strongsville, Ohio passed away peacefully at his home on Tuesday, July 14, 2020. Born in Berea, Ohio on March 18, 1924, he was the eldest of three children born to the late Arthur William Maatz and Elizabeth Klink Maatz. He was the beloved husband of Dorothy (George), dear father and stepfather to Debbie George (CA), Sharon Horvath (Strongsville), Martin Maatz (Akron), Mark Maatz (Brunswick), Robert George (NC), David George (Virginia), Brenda Villanueva (CA) and the late Tim George. His is also survived by 14 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren and his sister, Carole Maatz (Strongsville). He was preceded in death by his brother, Donald Maatz, Sr., and grandson Kai Maatz. Maynard was raised on his beloved family Dairy Farm, West Albion Road, Strongsville. He graduated Strongsville High (1942) and served in the U.S. Army, WWII. He then established Maatz Construction Co. and continued to help on the farm. In 1979, he and his wife, Dottie, moved to Florida to live/retire. He recently built a realistic scale model of the farm house built by his grandparents, Frederick and Amelia Kruger Maatz in 1893 and still stands today. Scale model is displayed at Historical Village-Strongsville. A graveside service will be held at a later date at the Strongsville cemetery. Memorial contributions may be forwarded to Strongsville Historical Society, 13305 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136.

We would like to hear from you

What do you like most about the Strongsville Historical Society? Please share your favorite memories and possibly favorite spot at the Village. Your thoughts may be sent by mail to the Society at: 13305 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136 or to Ruth at rrbrick@aol.com. We miss you all !

Spring Raffle

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Cakes, Strongsville Superwash, The Olive Scene, Miss Hickory's Tea Room, Dairy Queen, Strongsville Rec Center, Triv's Restaurant & Lounge, Shinto Japanese Steak House, Strongsville Massage, Bucci's J Bella Italian Restaurant, Olympia Sweet Treats and Grill, Chick-fil-A, Gran Fiesta Mexican Restaurant, David Sharkey, DDS, Cleveland Tool & Cutter, Dr. Deeb Alawan, On the Hunt Specialties, The Spa at Springfield, Culvers, and Don's Pomeroy House.

Thanks also to the following members who donated gift cards or baskets personally: Bill and Alicia White, Annette Davies Ehrnfelt, and Joyce Gisztl. Your generosity is much appreciated!



Needed-Wanted for Outdoor Decorating

This Christmas season we will only be decorating outside since our buildings are closed due to the virus. (Hope you are all well!) We are looking for donations of artificial trees to be used outdoors. We will use the other decorations we have had on display past years, but in different settings and could use some real looking trees. If you have one to donate, call Ruth at 440-572-0535. We would appreciate your help.

Show and Tell

We wanted to share a couple of photos with you showing the transformation of the Lathrop Parlor and the Lathrop Dining Room. Thanks to many memorial donations we were able to accomplish this during the spring. We know you cannot visit right now, but thought you might enjoy a “sneak peek”.

Be sure to come visit and take a tour when we are able to open and see these beautiful Victorian rooms along with the many other changes which have been completed.



Lathrop House Parlor



Lathrop House Dining Room

Olds General store

It is uncertain when we will be open at the Village again, but it is certain that when we meet again the store will be stocked with a new shipment of Strongsville pottery. And with the holidays getting near, don't forget to support the store. One special gift from the store from our members will go a long way to support the Historical Society, especially in these times. So if you need a new coffee mug or soup mug or sugar canister or planter or utensil holder or ceramic or cross stitch ornament for yourself or for a gift, we have them at last year's prices. No price increase. But next year's prices for pottery and afghans will be higher, according to the manufacturers. Just send an email to marieshaw8@aol.com saying what you wish to purchase, and we will pick it up at the store, wrap your purchase in our signature bag, bring it to your house - or you can do a porch pick up at our house or Marty will meet you at the store. (Masks required for in person shopping). The store still only takes cash (our prices include tax) or check made out to the Strongsville Historical Society with your phone number.

From the vintage tea cup collector - when we open come see the new display of porcelain cups and saucers. They are simply beautiful. So until we do meet again, stay safe and stay well.

Lathrop House

The multipurpose room in the Lathrop House 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. 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.

Please check back after the first of the year for rental availability update. strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org.

Preservation and Maintenance Happenings

With the Village being shut down due to the pandemic, the Preservation and Maintenance Committee has not been meeting, but that has not stopped us from getting projects done this year! In the Lathrop house, a new floor was installed in the meeting room kitchen, and beautiful new wallpaper was hung in the dining room and parlor, and the ceilings were painted. It is so nice to no longer see water stains on the parlor ceiling! Thank you Sylvia Pakish for overseeing these projects.

In the Chapman house, Matt Surak quietly toiled away for about 6 months restoring a room off the kitchen to its original splendor, providing new display space in that building. If you have driven by the Village on Zverina Lane, you may have noticed the Village is now much more visible due to a project completed by Boy Scout Troop 226 to clear out decades of overgrowth along the north side of our property. If you have been by the Village after the sun has gone down, you may have noticed a new beacon of light coming from the gas pump outside the General Store. Scott Maloney has restored the gas pump and brought it back to life after years of gradual decay caused by birds nesting in the top of the pump.

Lastly, you may have noticed a section of the wrought iron fence along Pearl Rd. has recently been moved back from the sidewalk. This is making room for a beautiful new sign that will be installed in the coming months to be significantly more eye-catching to the thousands of autos that pass by our Village daily.

The committee did finally have a meeting in August to identify a new set of projects that will be pursued for 2021. A Village full of century buildings always needs TLC that never diminishes! We can't wait for the Village to reopen so people can see the results of our work.

Historical Tidbits

The 1907 Bank Robbery

Picture the Strongsville Cafe just north of the Pomeroy House. In 1907 it was a hardware store. The bank was inside the hardware store in a 10 ft. by 10 ft. enclosure surrounded by a heavy metal screen. It was the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Strongsville.

On that fateful night, five men from a criminal gang in Brooklyn and Parma first stole a horse and buggy from a nearby barn. Next they stole a sledge, chisel, and two horse blankets from the nearby blacksmith shop. The blankets were to muffle the sound when blowing open the safe with nitroglycerin.

Only a few days before the robbery, a burglar alarm had been installed, connected to the county telephone exchange nearby. When the silent alarm was tripped at 2:30 A.M., the telephone operator began notifying people: the constable, the alarm installer, the store clerks, and others. A hole had already been drilled below the lock on the safe when citizens surrounded the bank. The commotion caused the robbers to flee, getting away with only a small amount of money from the cash drawer.

Shots were exchanged, and at least three of the robbers were hit by bullets from the citizens. One gang member ran through the cemetery to the ravine where loss of blood forced him to stop. Found by citizens and taken to the Cleveland prison hospital, he died from the wounds without identifying himself or his companions, who were never caught.

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In our Lathrop House summer kitchen we have a wooden apple coring utensil. We have been able to find very little about it in our archives! It is from the late 1800's. You can easily see how it cores the apple and then in another part will divide it into sections. If you know who donated it or who might have made it please share. We would love to add more information to our records.



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