



November, 2015

# *The Village Crier*

A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society  
[www.strongvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongvillehistoricalsociety.org)

## **President's Message**

Where has this year gone? It is hard to believe that 2015 is quickly coming to a close! 2015 has been a great year for the Society. Much has been accomplished inside and outside at the Village thanks to our many dedicated volunteers. If you have stopped by the Village you may have noticed the new paint, new roof, new storm windows and many exterior repairs on our buildings. Our museum displays look better than ever. We are very pleased to have reopened the Roe Chapman House this fall. Please stop in during Christmas open house hours and see how the first floor has been staged to represent the lifestyle of Howard and Velda Chapman, our founders.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Officers and Directors who served in 2015. At the end of 2015 Pat Crandall, Barb Shearer and Dana Martin will complete their term as Directors. We thank them for their dedication and the many volunteer hours they served. Please thank them for their service if you see them.

I would also like to thank the Strongsville Rotary members who helped get out all of our Halloween and outdoor Christmas decorations early one Saturday morning along with those who helped us move some furniture from one building to another.

This is what keeps us moving forward... VOLUNTEERS! Please see if you can find some extra time in 2016 to come help in one of many ways at the Village. Just call and offer your time and we will find a way for you to help.

Please check out our list of upcoming events later in the newsletter and plan to join us as we celebrate the holiday and gather together for food and programs.

*Ruth Brickley*

## **In Memoriam**



We are saddened to again share the loss of one of our own - Dale Finley. Dale was a past director of the Strongsville Historical Society, a past chairman of the Public Relations Committee, and a devoted member of the Strongsville Historical Society. He was a faithful attendee of Society events, and could often be found at the Harvest Festival helping wherever he could - grilling at the food tent, sharing his knowledge of Strongsville and the Village - even riding his horse through the grounds once or twice! His passing is a great loss to Strongsville, as well as to the greater Cleveland community. A memorial service will be held for Dale at a future date; please watch the media for further information.

## Vice President's Message

Many thanks to all who have attended programs this year and also helped with refreshments. I want to remind you that the November meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 17th at 7:00 pm. This is different from our usual time frame so put it on your calendar. The speaker has changed also. We will hear Marian King as Mary Todd Lincoln, perhaps one of the most misunderstood first ladies. This will end our focus on the Civil War Era of the past five years as we look forward to 2016 and celebrating Strongsville's 200th birthday!!! Look for information about Christmas in the Village also in this newsletter, and please join us for one event or all of them. We would like to see you!

## Harvest Festival

The annual Harvest Festival took place on September 26th and 27th under beautiful blue skies and perfect temperatures. Because of the many generous supporters of the Society admission to the festival was free to all.

The traditional demonstrators, Children's Petting Zoo, Art Show and Sale, Cow Pie Lottery, Classic Car Display, Quilt Raffle, Music, Farmer's Market, Model Railroad and more were enjoyed by all over the two day event. New this year was a cooking demonstration by Boy Scout Troop #226 each day. Also, the children had a chance to create big bubbles under the tutelage of Muraski sixth grade student LeAnne Hawk. They certainly had a grand time. TEAM Strongsville students provided face painting designs. The barn was open this year with everyone able to walk through, see the refurbished barn and enjoy the new and exquisitely organized displays.

On Saturday, we were entertained by The Great Brad, a magician, and Rachel Roberts and Beth Hiser sharing their musical talents through the songs of the 50s and 60s including the Beatles. On Sunday, the Baldwin Wallace Alumni Brass

Collective again delighted the crowd with classical sounds.

The pig roast on Saturday filled the grounds with wonderful smells and the tummies of those who chose the pork dinner or sandwich. The chicken dinner held at the Strongsville United Methodist Church was excellent. The food was donated and prepared at the church under the leadership of Mayor Tom and Debbie Perciak, 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, Barb and Don Shearer who coordinated set up and take down and Debbie Miller who made sure all the tablecloths were laundered.

The quilt was very pretty thanks to the piecing completed by Mary Lou Wright and the quilting by Ruth Brickley at no cost to the Society. The quilt winner was Sylvia Pakish. The cow took her time this year and after an hour and a half marked the spot of the winners. The lucky winners were Andy Jalwan winning the \$1000 prize and Jeff Vermillion, Dale Finley, Tom Kovacevich and Diane Bennett winning the \$250 prizes.

Thank you to all volunteers, docents and demonstrators but especially to the committee members including Ruth Brickley, Elaine Cairns, Gina Cathcart, Laura Green, Pam Hughes, Carole Maatz, Dana Martin, Debbie Miller, Janet Noss, Sonia Reber, Ginny Rios and Jean Wittrock. Set up and take down of tents, tables and more wouldn't have happened without Joe and John from City Services. Plus, first aid was provided by the Strongsville CERT Team. Thanks so much to all!

**Thank you to the following special supporters of the Strongsville Historical Society, especially the Harvest Festival- Boosters for Perciak, Mike and Erma Kalinich, Mayor Tom and Debbie Perciak, Bill Ritchie - Cleveland Tool & Cutter, and the Strongsville Methodist Church.**

As we look to next year we will have a Harvest Festival of 200th birthday proportion. Please share your ideas and talents by emailing Jean Wittrock at [jwittrock3@aol.com](mailto:jwittrock3@aol.com).

## Important Membership News

The year is very close to ending so it's time 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. Membership opportunities are as follows: Senior 65 & older (Annual) - \$15, Student 22 & under (Annual) - \$10, Individual (Annual) - \$25, Family including children under 18 (Annual) - \$40, Life Membership - \$300, Corporate (Annual) - \$100.

Included in this newsletter is a membership envelope. Please fill it out and send it in. Beat the Christmas rush and end of the year confusion and send in your membership renewal now! Your membership will begin January 2016. Please make sure you fill out the section on committees if you do want to join one, this doesn't carry over from last year. Also check the email or hardcopy for newsletter and include your email address.

Always 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 us. 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.

We welcome the following new members to the Strongsville Historical Society: Anna St. Peters, Charlene Bedford, Karen Sodini, and Dorothy Scaglione. We also welcome new Lifetime member Richard Biley.

Strongsville has a lot of great history. New members, 'young and old' can make new history.

## Trick or Treat at the Village

Our 7th Annual "Safe Trick or Treat" at the Village was enjoyed by over 300 Preschoolers and Kindergarten children, their parents and many grandparents. The Village grounds were filled with joyful faces and colorful costumes as the treats were collected. Decorations were hauntingly colorful and enjoyed by one and all. Our own Society members dressed for the occasion and served as "Villagers" handing out treats and supervising games that were age appropriate for the little ones. Admission was either a food item or \$1 which was donated to the Strongsville Food Bank. Thanks to our sponsors and everyone who helped make this a fun and safe event.

## Christmas in the Village

Christmas in the Village will take place on December 5, 6, 12 and 13th. The Village will be open from 2-5 PM on the 5th, 6th and 13th. On December 12, we will be open from 2-7 PM for guests to tour the buildings. Visitors will be able to see the Village beautifully decorated for the holidays.

**This year Gingerbread Houses will be made only on Dec. 12 from 2-7 PM and Dec. 13 from 2-5 PM. Please note this change in our schedule. Gingerbread Houses will be made in the Lathrop Great Room this year.**

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there both weekends as will the Model Railroader's display. Please mark your calendar and stop in. If you'd like to help in some way, call Jean Wittrock at 440-567-5152. Docents will be needed for all four days so please call.

## **Holiday Lighting of the Village**

On Sunday, November 22, 2015, the annual Lighting of the Commons will occur. Once again our Village will also be open to welcome guests as we start the Holiday season. A train will transport guests from the Commons to the Village between 5:30 and 8 PM. Drop off is at the Lathrop House and re-boarding of the train is by the Chapman House for a return ride to the Commons. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend and see how our grounds and buildings are decked out for the season. If you would like to help in any way, please call Ruth at 440-572-0535.

## **Shop at the Olds General Store**

Christmas is the perfect time to shop at the Olds general store.

Visit the Olds General Store to pick up your holiday ornaments, Strongsville pottery, afghans, books, prints and Degenhart glass. A new supply of handmade Strongsville pottery is waiting for you, red and green afghans are on the shelves, Velda Chapman prints of the Pomeroy House, Bonnie Park, the old High School and the Strong House, as well as Streeter prints are waiting for you to mat and frame.

Degenhart pieces for sale include owls, tomahawks in new colors, glass Priscilla and John Alden figurines, and a new litter of mini pooches and baby pooches. The brilliant red Scottie Dog candy dishes would be a great holiday accent piece. All Degenhart purchases over \$20 will be discounted 10%.

The Olds General Store is the only place in northeast Ohio to sell Degenhart glass, Strongsville pottery and afghans. Visit early. Supply is limited. Check out our new collectibles. Come and look for other sale prices. Call Marie or Marty Shaw - your personal shoppers - at 440-879-1092.

## **Christmas Tea at the Lathrop House**

Join us at the beautifully decorated Lathrop House for this year's Christmas Teas! The Christmas Teas will be held on December 5 & 6 from 2-4 PM. This is a very popular event at the Village - don't get shut out! Don't delay - for reservations, contact Eve at 440-238-7289. The cost of the Christmas Tea is \$20 per person.



## **Lathrop House Rental**

Are you looking for the perfect place for a wedding or baby shower? Or maybe a family gathering or a central location for a meeting? If so, you should consider renting the multipurpose room in the Lathrop House.

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.

For rental information and availability call 440-572-0057 or go to our website at [www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org) and click on the rental tab to be in touch with the Rental Coordinator.

## Wanted...

We are looking for a 1950's vintage television set to be placed in the Chapman House as part of our display. It does not need to be working...just needs to look good! If you have one to donate, please call Ruth at 440-572-0535.

## We're on Facebook

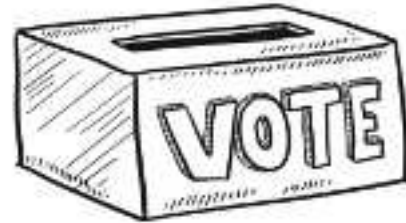
Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook. Along with our website, [www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org), this is a way for you to keep up with the latest information on events at the Village.

Be sure to invite your friends and neighbors to Like us also. This is a great way to develop interest in the Society and what we do.



## Annual Soup Supper

The annual Soup Supper, which is the January general meeting of the Society, will be held on January 26, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Ehrnfelt Recreation Event Center. You can sample over 20 soups and eat until the crockpots are empty. A variety of breads and pies for dessert are also included. Tickets are once again \$10 each with payment due at the time of reservation. Reservations are required. Make your checks payable to the Strongsville Historical Society; attach a note indicating your name, phone number and the number of tickets requested. Send your check to: Strongsville Historical Society, 13305 Pearl Road, Strongsville, Ohio 44136. Deadline to purchase tickets is January 23, 2016. A few tickets will be available at the door. Once again we are looking for soup donations and volunteers to set up and clean up. Contact Bill and Jan Miller at [jemiller@wowway.com](mailto:jemiller@wowway.com) or Bill 440-238-9052 or Jan 440-567-7222.



## 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 - Jean Wittrock  
Recording Secretary - Pam Hughes  
Corresponding Secretary - Jane Laffoon  
Treasurer - Jane Ludwig  
Assistant Treasurer - Diane Russell

### DIRECTORS

Term of office January 2016 to December 2018

Bruce Keenen  
Michelle Piech  
Marty Shaw

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Nov. 17      | General Meeting 7:00PM Lathrop House<br>Program: "A Conversation with Eleanor & Lucretia"              |
| Nov. 22      | Annual Tree Lighting - Strongsville<br>Village will be open 5-8PM – watch for details                  |
| Dec. 5 & 6   | Christmas in the Village 2-5PM Gingerbread Houses not available this<br>Weekend                        |
| Dec. 5 & 6   | Christmas Teas 2-4PM Reservations: Contact Eve at 440-238-7289   |
| Dec. 12 & 13 | Christmas in the Village 2-7PM Gingerbread Houses <b>will</b> be available                             |
| Jan. 26      | Soup Supper 6:00 PM cost: \$10<br>Ehrnfelt Recreation Event Center<br>Ticket information in newsletter |
| Feb. 23      | General Meeting: Founder's Day Bicentennial Celebration<br>7:00 PM Old Town Hall                       |
| March 12,    | Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon<br>Don's Pomeroy House  |

Strongsville Historical Society  
13305 Pearl Road  
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