



September 2025

The Village Crier

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

President's Message

Summer went fast, and it was a hot one this year! We had another successful yard sale in June while our devoted volunteers braved some nasty weather. It once again provided the opportunity for us to do some housecleaning and it generated almost \$3,000 in revenue.

There has been a flurry of maintenance activity in the village this summer! The **Olds General Store** porch has been rebuilt to fix structural issues and the new floor looks beautiful. The **barn** loft door had significant wood rot and has been rebuilt. The **Lathrop house** basement foundation was repaired. The exterior of the **Baldwin house**, **Chapman house**, **Lathrop house**, and the **cupola** are all undergoing carpentry repairs and a full exterior repainting. The **Cabin** exterior has been pressure washed and resealed. We're down to the last room in the **Chapman house** that needs restoration, the final upstairs bedroom. The floor was recently refinished and we are turning our attention to the walls and ceiling.

Work is almost finished on remodeling the **Lathrop rental space** entryway, meeting room, bathroom, and kitchen. We are excited to more aggressively promote this refreshed space and expect our rental volume to climb in the coming months.

As we head into cooler weather, it marks the **start of our annual event season** for the latter half of each year with **Harvest Festival** coming up on **Saturday, September 27th**! Please help spread the word so we have great attendance. Following that, we have **Trick-or-Treat in the Village** on **Saturday, October 18th**, the **Historical Village Lighting Open House** on **Sunday, November 23rd**, and **Christmas in the Village** on **December 6th and 7th**.

To everyone who has contributed your time, talents, or money to our organization this year, thank you! We could not do this without your support.

Do you know someone who has an interest in history or who might be looking for a new hobby if they recently became an empty nester or retired? We're always looking for volunteers to add to our ranks! Please send them my way and we'll find opportunities to get them engaged.

Scott Maloney





OFFICERS

Scott Maloney, President
Grace Hardison, Vice President
Dan Sage, Treasurer
Terry McGreal, Asst Treasurer
Jan Miller, Corresponding Secretary
Jim Southworth, Recording Secretary

DIRECTORS

John Bedford 23-25	Marty Shaw 24-26
Barb Krivos 23-25	Dennis Dimengo 25-27
Mary Pultz 23-25	Jamie Miles 25-27
Robb Hollosy 24-26	Sylvia Pakish 25-27
Vicki Maloney 24-26	

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

Yard Sale—Rosanne Coyne and Grace Hardison

The Village Yard Sale held in June had some interesting additions - rain, high winds, sailing tents at night, and mud – so much mud! The following volunteers who really stuck it out and made the sale a success - Linda and Sharon Sprague, Terrie Harper, Marty Shaw, Tom Drost, Vicki Maloney, Scott Maloney, David Maloney, Jan Jameyson, Joe Lynch, Joe Pantaleo, Mary Pultz

Additionally, the following members of Boy Scout Troop 221 from Parma St. Charles, who have helped the Historical Society in the past, came to help with setup on Tuesday night and Wednesday - Nathen Tohati, Mason Lisicki, John Paul Brooks and Matthew Brooks.

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the sale or who volunteered to help run it, to make this yard sale once again a success.

Harvest Festival 2025—Grace Hardison



The **Village Harvest Festival** will take place on **Saturday, September 27th from 11:00 AM until 4:00 PM.**

More details can be found on the attached flyer.

A wonderful endeavor like this, of course, needs a great deal of volunteers. Please reach out to Grace Hardison for additional information at gmhdesign78@gmail.com or (440) 862-1129.

Speaker Series October Presentation-Dennis Dimengo

October 28th, 7:00 PM at the Strongsville Old Town Hall (18825 Royalton Rd, Strongsville, Oh 44136)

Herbert Addison Burns will be presenting “**Ohio’s History of the Underground Railroad: A Theological Tug of War**”. This lecture presents certain underground railroad operatives’ methods of helping fugitive slaves escape to freedom in Ohio. The central theme is the biblical view supporting the establishment of the underground railroad in opposition to gross misinterpretations of biblical scripture supporting chattel slavery.

This presentation will add considerable context and background to the role Strongsville residents played in the organization of the Underground Railroad and the movement of escaped slaves through Northeast Ohio to freedom.

Strongsville Historical Society **HARVEST** Festival

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th

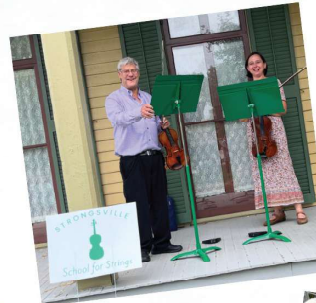
FREE ADMISSION **11:00AM - 4:00PM** **FREE PARKING**

STRONGSVILLE HISTORICAL VILLAGE: 13305 PEARL RD, STRONGSVILLE

FAMILY EVENT
FUN FOR ALL AGES

SO MUCH TO DO AND SEE!

- **PETTING ZOO**
- **MUSIC**
- **CRAFTS**
- **FACE PAINTING**
- **BALLOON TWISTING**
- **GAMES**
- **FARMERS MARKET**
- **FOOD TENT**
- **MODEL RAILROAD**
- **AND MUCH MORE!**



www.StrongsvilleHistoricalSociety.org

Historian Report—Dennis Dimengo

Do you love history? Love researching? Love solving mysteries? Have a knack with databases and record keeping? Enjoy interviewing people or producing videos? If you answered yes to any of these questions, we have an opportunity for you.

The Strongsville Historical Society needs volunteer researchers and archivists, interviewers and videographers to help with the growing number of inquiries we are receiving, artifacts we are receiving, and to record our history. Most of the inquiries we receive involve genealogy, property records, and events in Strongsville's past. If any of those pique your interest, here's the deal: volunteer to support the Society Historian and the Collections Committee. We'll give you a question to answer, an event to research, some archives to document or a person to interview or record, and limit your time to 1-2 hours per week... max! If you are still interested, please send us your contact information on the Contact Us page of our website - <https://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org/contact-us.html>

The 250th anniversary of American independence is right around the corner. We are planning some distinct events to commemorate the anniversary and refresh our memories of Strongsville's place in that history. Read more about those events in upcoming Historical Society newsletters.

Greetings from the Olds General Store—Marty Shaw



We're moving quickly into the fall season which brings thoughts of the great holidays ahead. **The Olds General Store is stocked and ready for you to peruse and find that perfect item for the special person in your life.**

There are mugs, vases, flower pots, and utensil holders for the cook in your life. There are cozy afghans for the cuddler in your life big enough for two to snuggle. Lots of vintage and antique pottery is ready for the collector in your life. And those one-of-a-kind Degenhart owls are available for the art glass person you know.

The Olds General Store is open on Wednesdays from 10am to 2pm and other times by appointment. Call Marty at 440-409-5925 to set a special shopping time. The Store is also open for Village events.

Trick-or-Treat in the Village—Grace Hardison

On **Saturday, October 18th**, the village will once again host the annual **Trick-or-Treat in the Village from 1:30 PM to 3:00PM**. The entrance fee is one canned food item or five dollars per family to benefit the Strongsville Food Bank.

How can you become involved? We need volunteers who have a lot of fun wearing costumes to hand out candy, and, of course, we always welcome donated bags of candy. Last year we had over 400 adorable trick-or-treaters enjoy this annual event. Please contact Grace Hardison at 440-862-1129 or gmhdesign78@gmail.com for more information.

We hope to see you visit the village with your children or grandchildren for a scary good time!



A Twist In our City's History—David Maloney

Just over sixty years ago on April 12, 1965 an unforgettable calamity swept through the town of Strongsville, Ohio in the form of an F4 intensity tornado that left a permanent mark on our history. Due to a series of unfortunate and unordinary meteorological events over the midwestern United States, the world's 4th largest tornado outbreak in history took place which became known as the 1965 Palm Sunday Tornado Outbreak. This outbreak resulted in as many as 55 confirmed tornadoes and approximately 270 dead across the Midwest.

The tornado which made Strongsville its target most notably sat directly on top of the Westwood Estates neighborhood adjacent to the Muraski Elementary School resulting in widespread destruction and soon after cut directly through the grounds of the St. Joseph Church and Parish School which destroyed the original Quonset hut church and caused significant damage to the school among other buildings in the surrounding area.

The deepest loss to our small community that fateful night was the loss of six-week-old Lisa Ann Sposet who was unfortunately taken by the tornado in the Westwood

Estates neighborhood leaving her family and community heartbroken. Although the decades may continue to pass since this disaster, the legacy of this unforgettable event and its impacts on our once small town continue to live on within the halls of the Strongsville Historical Society and the memories of our fellow community members, many of whom still live here today.



Arts in Strongsville Donation!



We would like to extend a **HUGE THANK YOU TO ARTS IN STRONGSVILLE** for their very generous donation of arts & craft supplies, tents, decorations, shelving units, coolers, and other things that we will put to great use at the Strongsville Historical Society. We can't wait to see the happy faces of children at this year's Harvest Festival and many events to come as we put these supplies to good use!



Chalk Walk Coming to Historical Village in 2026—Vicki Maloney

Thanks to the generous donation from the Arts in Strongsville and the long, clean stretches of smooth pavement throughout the Village, **the Strongsville Historical Society will begin hosting the annual Chalk Walk in spring 2026.**

This event, which was previously organized and hosted by Arts in Strongsville, brings young artists out to decorate the pavement with creative chalk art. As in the past, all ages will be encouraged to create chalk art, and we will provide both the canvas (our Village pathways) and the chalk.

More to come as the after the first of the year. If interested in joining the Chalk Walk Committee, please email Vicki at strongsvillehistoricalmembers@gmail.com.



Membership Committee—Vicki Maloney

Thank you to everyone who joined or renewed their membership for 2025!



We're so happy to have all of you support and be part of the Strongsville Historical Society. Your support helps to preserve the history of Strongsville!

Heading into 2026, we are changing the membership structure. Beginning at Harvest Festival on Saturday, September 27th, all memberships will be for the individual (no family memberships). **We will offer 3 membership levels:**

Individual - \$25 (renewed annually)

Business/Organization/Institution - \$100 (renewed annually)

Lifetime - \$500 (per individual; never have to renew)

Additionally, memberships will be renewed annually on the date of purchase. So, if you renew your membership on September 27, 2025, it will be due for renewal on September 27, 2026. **Every membership will be for one full year** (except Lifetime, which will never have to be renewed).

You can renew your membership by visiting the Strongsville Historical Society website (www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org). As always, we accept the traditional paper membership forms with cash or check, which can be downloaded from our website. We are now also **offering online membership renewal**. The link can be found on the home page of our website or scan this QR code!



As a reminder, **we are communicating electronically with members more than ever!**



If you haven't been receiving our emails this year, your email address has changed, or you're not sure we have your email address, **please contact us at StrongsvilleHistoricalMembers@gmail.com and provide your current email address.** We will update our records, and you will soon start receiving our electronic communications!



Happy 100th Birthday to Carole Maatz!



Another of our longtime members and volunteers, **Carole Maatz, turns 100 years old on September 23rd!**

Carole was a dedicated volunteer for decades, serving on numerous committees and as a board member multiple times over the years. She grew up on the Maatz family farm here in Strongsville, which was the longest continuously running dairy farm until it ceased operations in the 1970s. Carole's main passion was serving as the curator for the Historical Society's Roe hat collection, and could be seen swapping out the displays with the changing of the seasons, year after year.

Carole resides at the Altenheim in Strongsville if you wish to send her a birthday congratulations on achieving this incredible milestone.





STRONGSVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Invites you to become a member, renew your membership or contribute.

Membership Levels

Please mark your desired level:

☐	\$25	Individual (renew annually on date of purchase)
☐	\$100	Business/Organization/Institution (renew annually on date of purchase)
☐	\$500	Lifetime Membership (per individual – NEVER NEED TO RENEW!)



Membership Information:

Member Name (or Business/Organization/Institution Contact Name): _____

Business/Organization/Institution Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Spouse Name (if applicable): _____

All memberships include a subscription to Strongsville Historical Society newsletters. Each newsletter costs us about \$5 to print and mail, so please consider receiving it via email going forward. Indicate how you would like to receive the newsletter:

_____ Email _____ U.S. Mail

I will be volunteering at the Strongsville Historical Village and would like a name tag:

_____ No _____ Yes Name to appear on name tag: _____

Volunteers are the lifblood of our organization. Please indicate which activities you are interested in helping with:

☐ Buildings & Grounds	☐ Halloween/Trick or Treat	☐ Restoration Projects
☐ Christmas Events	☐ Harvest Festival	☐ Security/Technology
☐ Collections	☐ Historian	☐ Strategic Planning
☐ Docent/Tours	☐ Hospitality/Social	☐ Teas
☐ Education	☐ House Manager/Rentals	☐ Yard Sale
☐ Finance	☐ Membership	Other: _____
☐ Fundraising/Ways & Means	☐ Memorial Day	☐ I'm interested in being a Committee Chair
☐ Gardening	☐ Publicity	

Optional Donation:

Donation Amount: _____

In Memory of: _____ or In Honor of: _____

Strongsville Historical Society is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Please make checks payable to Strongsville Historical Society. Return this form to:
Strongsville Historical Society, 13305 Pearl Rd., Strongsville, OH 44136

Questions? Please contact our Membership Chair at StrongsvilleHistoricalMembers@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 27 (Sat) 11am-4pm - **Annual Harvest Festival at the Historical Village**

October 18 (Sat) 1:30am-3:30pm - **Trick-or-Treat in the Village**

October 28 (Tue) 7pm-9pm - **“Ohio’s History of the Underground**

Railroad: A Theological Tug of War” at Strongsville Old Town Hall

November 18 (Tue) 7pm-9pm - **General Meeting / Social Mixer at Lathrop House**

November 23 (Sun) 6pm-8pm - **Historical Village Lighting Open House**

December 6 & 7 (Sat & Sun) 1pm-4pm - **Christmas in the Village**

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Pamela Aguilar

Jessica Dzik

Chester “Chip” Kishel

Elia Meltzer

Pamela Campbell

Robb Hollosy

Thomas & Pat Laub

Andrew Raz

Remember to renew your membership anytime beginning September 27th!

Visit strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org to renew online or to print our membership form.

Strongsville Historical Society

13305 Pearl Road

Strongsville, Ohio 44136

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