



September, 2022

# *The Village Crier*

A publication of the Strongsville Historical Society

[www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.strongsvillehistoricalsociety.org)

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## President's Message

It's been an exciting summer for the Strongsville Historical Society! Much has been happening. We prepare to welcome another "Artist In Residence." Carol Ross will be joining us for violin and viola lessons at the Lathrop House in the very near future. Read the article in this newsletter and learn about her and what she will be doing,

We have had many group tours this season from near and far. How impressed our guests are with the collection of artifacts we are able to display along with the tremendous tour guides who show them a quick trip through the history of Strongsville. We continue to be proud of our Village and what it has to offer. It is one of a kind in our area!

We are now watching the completion of a new concrete path through the Village. Much thought and discussion was done prior to making this change. We want our buildings and collections to be more accessible to everyone and the stone path was becoming more difficult for many to traverse. Strollers, wheelchairs, walkers and just about anyone will now be able to move through the Village easily and safely.

By the time this newsletter arrives at your house, we will have added air conditioning to the Olds General Store and the Baldwin House. This was done to help protect all of our artifacts and of course our workers and guests will enjoy it too!

Please make note of the upcoming events on the calendar included in the newsletter and join us when you are able. We'd love to see you at the Village.

*Ruth Brickley*

## Harvest Festival is Back

The Annual Harvest Festival is back this year!! Come join us for our one day event, Saturday, September 24 from 11am-5pm. We will have a petting zoo, many entertainers sharing their talents, demonstrators sharing their skills, the Old Fashioned Car parade, food vendors, and so much more!! We are also celebrating the Historical Society's 60th Anniversary at this event! Mark your calendar, don't miss out! Please contact Michelle Piech if you wish to volunteer at 440-714-6544 or [michellepiech@yahoo.com](mailto:michellepiech@yahoo.com).

## Lathrop House Rentals

Remember, it is never too early to book the Lathrop House for your holiday gathering for this year. For rental information and availability for the Multipurpose Room at the Lathrop House, 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.

# Trick or Treat in the Village

Trick or Treat in the Village will be held on October 22 from 2:00 - 3:30pm. This event is for preschool through kindergarten age children. Reservations are a must. To register, email [societyhistorical22@gmail.com](mailto:societyhistorical22@gmail.com). Admission is \$5.00 per family or 1 nonperishable food item per person. All proceeds go to the Strongsville Food Bank.

We need many volunteers for set up of our decorations, checking in participants, and handing out treats. Non-scary costumes are welcome. Candy/treat donations are certainly welcome and needed. Call or text Judy Gleason at 440-655-8040 or email at [goddessgleason@yahoo.com](mailto:goddessgleason@yahoo.com) if you can help. This is a fun event! Hope to see you there!

Halloween decorations MUST come down shortly after the event. We will need volunteers for that as well, October 24 or 25.

# Lathrop House Happenings

Did you know that more than just wedding showers, baby showers, birthday parties, anniversary parties and book signings are taking place in the Lathrop House? This past year has seen a proliferation of community people coming to our Village for many different reasons.

Bobbie Dorr is celebrating her 30th year of teaching creative drawing and basic fundamentals of watercolor painting for beginners and intermediate students on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons. Interested in taking an art class? Call Bobbie at 440-409-6621.

Also new this year are the classes being held from The Institute of Learning in Retirement at Baldwin Wallace. The purpose of the ILR is to provide senior adults the highest quality, most accessible and least expensive educational, social and cultural experiences possible. By holding classes in the Lathrop House, these classes are more accessible to our Strongsville Community. Interested in these classes? Their website is [ilrbw.org](http://ilrbw.org).

Just starting this fall is the new Strongsville School for Strings Program: a new violin and viola studio for students and families in Northeast Ohio. Its purpose is to enrich the lives of the community residents by strengthening family and friendship bonds through shared music study. If interested in learning more about this program, check out the website at [www.strongvillestrings.com](http://www.strongvillestrings.com).

# Happy Anniversary from the Olds General Store

Help us celebrate our 60th year anniversary as the Strongsville Historical Society with a visit to the Olds General Store. Many new items are for sale at great prices!

Lots of mid-century modern items are here to entice you. Special discounts on remaining fleece zip-ups and long sleeve shirts. Shabby/Chic is 50% off as long as items remain.

Beautiful Strongsville afghans are greatly discounted and waiting for you to take home. Great hat boxes make unique ways to wrap gifts for that special someone. All pottery is shiny and ready to be wrapped to give as holiday gifts. Special price (20% off for Society members) for the Westerwald 2 Quart Utensil Holders now through Christmas.

Looking forward to seeing you at Harvest Festival and for your holiday shopping before Christmas.

# Strongsville Historical Society Celebrates 60 Years

The Historical Society had its beginning on November 10, 1962 when a group of 20 interested people met at the home of Howard & Velda Chapman to form an organization for the purpose of preserving Strongsville's colorful past; such as historical landmarks, fact and lore of the early settlers, news items, pictures, tools, hand-crafts, and various things pertaining to the history and development of the community.

Beginning December 8, 1962, monthly meetings began. In January, 1963, a constitution and by-laws were prepared and presented at the February meeting. At that time, there were 32 charter members.

## Howard and Velda Chapman

Velda Drake Chapman was the daughter of Elmer Drake and Cora Bedford. The first Drake in Strongsville was Asa Drake; he arrived about 1820 after walking the entire distance from Stoughton, Massachusetts! His nephew Dexter joined them; his oldest son was Elmer Drake, father of Velda.

Velda's grandfather Dexter became a school teacher and also conducted singing schools, using a folding melodeon ( a bellows operated pump organ) that could be carried in a buggy. Velda's father Elmer also became a school teacher who taught in Strongsville, Rocky River, and Wooster College. He served as Superintendent of Strongsville Schools in 1906, then as Superintendent of Brunswick Schools in 1917 until retirement in 1923.

Howard Chapman was from Brunswick. He was a teacher in Parma, Bay Village, and Brooklyn Village before coming to Strongsville where he taught Science and Math.

(The source books do not mention Velda's teaching career)

## Help Needed to Light Up the Village

Outside Christmas lights need to be up by Nov. 20 when the Commons tree lighting event is scheduled. This is a lot of work and we need lots of volunteers. We are thinking this will take at least 2 days. Hoping to start November 10 and 11. Hopefully, we will have good weather. Anyone interested in volunteering to put up lights is asked to contact Judy Gleason at 440-655-8040 or goddessgleason@yahoo.com.

## Christmas 2022

Ho Ho Ho! Christmas 2022 is happening at the Village , tentatively the first 2 weekends in December from 2-5pm. Please contact Grace Hardison at 440-862-1129 for volunteer details. Send a text or leave a voicemail and she will contact you. More information will be in the next newsletter, or watch the website for further details.

# Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members of our Society that have joined us in 2022. We thank you for your membership, and hope to see you at many of our events!

Welcome to Mark Gainer, Logan Such, Jim & Susan Kolezynski, Carole Plainchik, Carol McIntyre, Carol Ros, Mary Pultz, Amy Harker, Shirley Kowalski, Jacqueline Owens, Linda Savel, Joyce Ackerman, Jennifer Butcher, and Cynthia Leach.

Welcome also to new Life members Stefan Stefaniuk, and Jamie Miles.

## October Public Program, Ohio Presidents' Wives

This is a group of costumed reenactors who portray the wives, the First Ladies, of the 8 Ohio Presidents:

Anna Tuthill (1841) William Henry Harrison  
Julia Dent (1869-1877) Ulysses S. Grant  
Lucy Webb (1877-1881) Rutherford B. Hayes  
Lucretia Rudolph (1881) James A. Garfield  
Caroline Scott (1889-1893) Benjamin, Harrison  
Ida Saxton (1897-1901) William McKinley  
Helen Herron (1909-1913) William H. Taft  
Florence Kling (1921-1923) Warren G. Harding

This program will be held Tuesday, October 25 at 7pm at the Strongsville Library. Reservations are needed!

There are two ways to make reservations:

1. Phone the library (440-238-5530) and ask for the Reference Desk. Tell them the date, time, and program name.
2. Sign up online: Google the Strongsville Library. Click on the website button. Unfortunately, the website is all of Cuyahoga County. Click on Classes and Events. Click on Audience and select Adults. A calendar comes up; go to the correct month and date. Click on the Filter By button, select Location and choose Strongsville. Finally click on the Register button.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 24            Harvest Festival   Historical Village   11AM - 5 PM  
Oct. 22            Trick or Treat at the Village   2PM - 3:30PM  
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                         Reservations required   Email [societyhistorical22@gmail.com](mailto:societyhistorical22@gmail.com)  
Oct. 25            Public Program   Strongsville Library   7PM  
                         Reservations required   call 440-238-5530 Reference Desk  
Dec. 3-4            (Tentative dates) Christmas in the Village, 2-5 PM  
Dec, 10-11

**Strongsville Historical Society**

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**Strongsville, Ohio 44136**