

# THE ATHENS VILLAGE VOICE

## Contract signed with ACVNAHHS



**Contract signed:** The contract between the Athens Village and the Appalachian Community Visiting Nurse Association Hospice and Health Service (ACVNAHHS) to manage the Village was signed on Sept. 16. Shown here at the signing are Deb Sechkar, CEO of ACVNA; Patty Mercer, director of operations for the Athens Village; and Ellsworth Holden, Athens Village Board president.

## President's letter

The Athens Village and the ACVNA have contracted to inaugurate services to fulfill our mission of enabling members, as they age, to continue to live in their own homes longer than they could otherwise.

On Sept. 26, the Athens Village held its first members' meeting to announce that its services were starting and that the year for which members had paid dues would start on that day. Director of Operations

Patty Mercer was introduced and she discussed her role.

As of this writing, we have been able to secure only partial liability insurance for our home maintenance supervisor, Lane Hoisington. However, he is available for home maintenance assessments.

Twenty-four members of the Athens Village met on Nov. 17 for our first Members' Brown Bag Luncheon. The purpose of this meet-

ing was to launch a series of luncheons intended to seek members' ideas and suggestions and to schedule programs on topics of interest to members, as together we create our Athens Village community. The group decided to hold future Brown Bag s on second Wednesdays, with the next meeting set for Dec. 9, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at the ACVNA offices 30 Herrold Ave.

—Ellsworth Holden

## Director Mercer busy with Village

The Athens Village director, Patty Mercer, is busier than two beavers as she sets up our new organization.

She is making laminated membership cards, which will include contact numbers on their backs.

She already has conducted a survey of the membership, with a very good return of about 66%, to discover what members want the Village to do for them, what volunteering members can do, and what vendors they would recommend.

Other plans for now are to train volunteers, organize committees, and get our Web site in to user-friendly order.

Her contact information is on p. 2 of this newsletter. She welcomes your inquiries and suggestions.

## Calendar

**Tu, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.**  
Grants Committee,  
ACVNA Conf. Room

**We, Dec. 9, 12 noon**  
Members' Brown Bag  
ACVNA Conf. Room

**Tu, Dec. 15, 10 a.m.**  
Board Meeting  
ACVNA Conf. Room

The Athens

**Village Voice**

is sent to you every month to catch you up on the who, what, when, where, why, and how of our Village. Your feedback is very welcome.

Dru Riley Evarts, editor. 592-1231, [evarts@ohio.edu](mailto:evarts@ohio.edu)

**For assistance, call**

Patty Mercer, director, at ACVNA, 30 Herrold St., Athens, OH 45701, 594-8226, ext. 406. (If no answer there, dial 0 and speak with operator for assistance.) e-mail: [pmercer@acvna.org](mailto:pmercer@acvna.org). After hours (4:30 p.m. to 8 a.m.), call the answering service at 594-6259 or (if away from Athens) 1-800-837-1112.

**Board of Directors**

Ellsworth Holden  
 Ted Foster  
 Sue Foster  
 Margaret (Peg) Cohn  
 Gerald Mollica  
 Mark Snider  
 Kathleen Riestenberg

**Fire inspections are free, useful**

Village members may have free home fire inspections, says Bob Troxel, Fire Department chief.

Just call 592-3301 if you would like to have an inspection.

**Athens Village reps attend conference in DC**

Norm and Peg Cohn and Patty Mercer attended a Village to Village conference in Washington, DC, on Oct. 26. "The Village is about LIVING, not AGING" is the motto they liked best of several suggested there.

They also found that other villages require that members who volunteer as drivers have copies of licenses and proofs of insurance on file with their directors. Some also require that members have identification cards, and volunteers' cards indicate that they have training, which should in-

clude such areas as confidentiality and privacy issues.

Our director, Patty Mercer, has been collecting names of vendors whom our Village members would recommend to others. She is ascertaining what licenses, bonds, and insurance coverage these vendors have, but is not requiring that they actually keep physical copies of these papers at her office at ACVNA. She is using this list and adding to it as members continue to make recommendations of vendors who have served them well.

**How about getting together for activities or a cuppa whatever?**

Village members who would like to boost their gregariousness may contact Norman Cohn (592-4074 or [norm4075@gmail.com](mailto:norm4075@gmail.com)) for suggestions and help in organizing.

Many members have been living alone for a variety of reasons. Knowing others in similar circumstances could lead to some new associations. If you want this limited to people in your own neighborhood, that's doable by matching our records. If you don't mind driving or busing to get together with members of similar interests, let that be known, too. Activities might include a walk, swim, cards, or God knows what else. Suggestions are welcome. If you prefer to do this through the Village office, contact Patty Mercer at VNA (594-8226, ext. 406, or [pmercer@acvna.com](mailto:pmercer@acvna.com)).

Suggestions of group activities you would enjoy are very welcome.

**Disability Commission beckons**

Athens has two openings on the Disability Commission, a group that meets once monthly to monitor the needs of and services to community residents in need of physical assistance. Concerns include assessing areas of the city for ADA compliance and suggesting new laws to ease the burdens of the disabled.

One need not be disabled to serve on this commission. If you are interested, call Mayor Paul Wiebel at 592-3338.

**Marj Stone's testimonial:** "I am pleased with my first use of the Athens Village services. I didn't know how to use my computer's memory stick, so on recommendation I called Joshua Kolbe of Matrix J Technologies. He came to my house, helped me with the memory stick problem, and explained several other computer things to me. I was very happy with his services, and I also appreciated a 20% discount he gave me because I am a member of the Athens Village."

**Fall is fading** — Do you want to give help to get help from other Village members for leaf-raking and yard cleanup? If so, call Patty Mercer at 594-8226, ext. 406.

**Recruiting new members**

You probably know friends and neighbors who would benefit from membership in the Athens Village.

Send new-member suggestions to Sue Foster at [fosterm@ohio.edu](mailto:fosterm@ohio.edu) or 593-5258, Peg Cohn at [moederthree@gmail.com](mailto:moederthree@gmail.com) or 592-4074, or Patty Mercer at [pmercer@acvna.com](mailto:pmercer@acvna.com) or 592-8226.

Information can be mailed to potential new members or they can be contacted by e-mail or phone.