

THE ATHENS VILLAGE VOICE

Sue Pohlman to speak for Ohio AG on scams



Senior citizens represent 15 percent of the population but 30 percent of those who become victims of scam artists. Sue Pohlman, assistant director of consumer education and outreach for Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, will discuss this phenomenon and how to protect ourselves when she attends our Brown Bag lunch on Wednesday, Aug. 11.

A graduate of Ohio State University, Pohlman has worked for the

State of Ohio for more than 25 years, having served in the State Treasurer's Office and the Ohio Supreme Court before the AG Office.

After her general remarks, Pohlman will answer questions. The Brown Bag starts at 12 and the speaker will begin at 12:30 in the VNA Conference Room.

Bring a guest to this Brown Bag!

Calendar

Every Tuesday, 1 p.m. Informal gathering of members and guests at Bob Evans Restaurant.

Tu, Aug 3, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Book swap. ACVNA

Tu, Aug 10, 10 a.m.-12 noon, PRAC work group, ACVNA Conference Room.

We, Aug 11, 11 a.m. Public Info Team, ACVNA.

We, Aug 11, 12 noon. Brown Bag lunch with Sue Pohlman of the Ohio AG Office (See p. 1 story.)

Tu, Aug 17, 10 a.m. Board meeting, ACVNA.

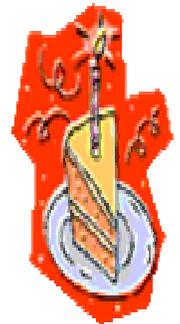
We, Aug 18, 10:30 a.m. Gathering at ACVNA to experience city bus ride. (See p. 4 story.)

Th, Aug 26, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Transportation coffee hour, ACVNA Conference Room.

Tu, Aug. 31, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Buddy System coffee, ACVNA Conference Room.

Birthday party on for Sept. 12

Is Sept. 12 circled on your calendar? If not, do it as soon as you read this note. That is the day of our *first birthday party.*



We will be in the Ohio University Inn's Galbreath Room, where the party will begin at 3 p.m. Jeff Chaddock and his Ameriprise Office will host this celebration, complete with a cake by Hilda Cross.

Each member will be given a looseleaf copy of the newly minted Athens Village handbook, which will include a directory of members to help us keep in touch.

The Anniversary Committee is George Weckman, chair, Ann Braxton, and Jean Drenstedt.

Come and celebrate!



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

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 an operator for assistance.) e-mail: 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. Web site: <http://theathensvillage.org> (use no spaces.)

Board of Directors

- Ellsworth Holden
- Ted Foster
- Sue Foster
- Margaret (Peg) Cohn
- Gerald Mollica
- George Weckman

Do you have friends or neighbors who may be helped by having Athens Village membership? Bring them in as guests to get an idea of what we're about.

FAQs answered to show sampling of handbook

Sue Foster has been industrious enough and kind enough to prepare a long list of FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) and their answers for inclusion in the Village handbook that will be distributed at the birthday party on Sept. 12. Here are a few samples:

Q. What does a home maintenance coordinator do, and how does that benefit me?

A. Your Village membership guarantees you a free annual home inspection, during which Lane Hoisington will make you aware of safety issues, wear and tear you may not recognize on your own, and other factors that a handyman you call for a specific purpose may not notice. When Lane sees an issue (such as overloaded circuits or flammable materials being stored too close to a heat source, or dozens of other possibilities), he will offer to correct these situations himself at the Village rate or advise you of a service provider who can. Or you can call a service provider you already know. The inspection itself is free once a year.

Q. I can get services now if I pay for them, and I would still be paying for them directly to other providers or to ACVNA , so what do I gain?

A. Anyone can contact the providers for these services, set up appointments, negotiate prices, and get the services with or without the Athens Village, at least for those services that are now available from providers in Athens. But these are the important differences:

- 1) Some services will be shared for free among the members and, as in any village, you would be among friends.
- 2) With a group (as large as our Village) prices may be negotiable and, therefore, lower.
- 3) You don't have to do the tracking, negotiation, or analysis of what is needed. You may simply make a phone call to the Athens Village office to set things in motion.

Q. I already have a great handyman. Do I have to give him up?

A. No. You may choose to use the services offered by the Athens Village or choose to continue with the same handyman for whatever services you want him to do and our home maintenance coordinator for other services offered, if you wish. To get Village services, you must request them through the office (see masthead), but you may get other services wherever you like, as you do now.

The safety factor in your Village membership is that it can be called on should your current provider become ill, be on vacation when you need immediate help, or change the nature of his business. Your membership makes help just a phone call away.



Facts & Figures

Both AARP and *USA Today* have published recent articles on the “Village” phenomenon brought about nationally by people who want to stay in their own homes as they age.

Some of the people they interviewed for these articles have tried retirement communities, assisted living, or even nursing homes, but the ones who could do so sprang back to their original communities once they heard about a “village” forming there.

Here are some of the more interesting points:

50 “villages” have sprung up within the last decade.

89 million will be the number of 65+ folks by 2050, more than double the number now, according to the Census Bureau.

The oldest of **79 million** Baby Boomers will turn 65 next year.

13% of the U.S. population is 65 or older today. That will be **19%** by 2050.

60% of the population today is 20 to 64. That will be **55%** by 2050.

90% of seniors in national surveys say they want to live in their own homes as long as possible.

Go to either website to get the complete stories

Seniors needed for memory research

Persons age 60+ are needed for a new study on memory. This is another opportunity to contribute to research and earn a little money, as well as receive free hearing and vision tests, for yourself

Brooke Hallowell, our Brown Bag speaker of May, is conducting this study, and she welcomes Village members as participants. A novel eyetracking technology is used to find ways to better study how nonverbal aspects of memory and attention affect language comprehension.

Participants should be native speakers of American English and have no history of speech, language, cognitive, or neurological impairment. They will be contributing to research to help people with stroke or brain injury, will receive free hearing and vision testing, and will be paid \$20 for the two-hour period of time the test takes.

Contact Dr. Hallowell at 593-9836 or hallowel@ohio.edu.

Buddy System coffee slated for Aug. 31



When our Buddy System Committee called earlier this month (see details in July newsletter), it found mixed results. Some people were out of town, so they will have to be contacted later.

The committee also asked if people had had their free home inspections, and seven signed up for that. Five have already reported being pleased with Lane’s services.

A coffee hour to finalize the Buddy System is scheduled for 10:30–11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 31, in the ACVNA Conference Room. Those who cannot attend are asked to call Patty Mercer (see masthead) to ask questions or give information.

Renewal Letters Sent

Current Village members were sent letters in mid-July to encourage them to renew their membership by our first anniversary date (Sept. 26 for those who made up the original group or by the anniversary dates of later joiners).

Similar letters will go out soon to others. Suggestions of prospects are welcome.

AAA8 meeting attended

Patty Mercer represented the Athens Village at last Friday’s meeting of the Area Agency on Aging, District 8 (AAA8).

The meeting, held in Marietta, was billed as being concerned with health-care changes for seniors. The Board will discuss Patty’s report at its next meeting as part of its advocacy goal.



Short Notes

“The Art of the Amish” will be presented in a talk by Dr. Katherine Jellison, professor of history, at the Dairy Barn at 6:30 p.m. Aug. 5. This free lecture is in conjunction with the historic Amish quilt show that has been at the Dairy Barn this summer.

★★★

Bike storage: Safe storage for your bicycle near the bike path is available from Athens Real Estate. Call Ed Penson (592-2809) if you are interested. He will explain how this works.



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Book swap: A Book Swap will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon Aug. 3 in the ACVNA conference room. Bring books you would like to share, and take away those that appeal. It’s that simple.



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There will be no High Society Jazz performance in August. Watch the next newsletter for details on the Riverboat Shuffle Sept. 26.

Transportation Group will take test ride on city bus, then learn about United Seniors’ transportation info

The Transportation Group has invited Mary Dailey, of the McDonald Transit Associates, to explain the Athens bus system to our members, and she has invited any members who would like to do it, to take a test ride.

This will take place on Wednesday, Aug. 18, beginning at 10:15 a.m., for the conversation. The bus, as part of its regular run from The Plains, will come by ACVNA at 10:40 a.m. to pick up all who want to go along on the ride. With a senior discount, this will cost you 75 cents (or \$1.50 if you decide to stop off for lunch along the way). If you are interested in this experiment, call or e-mail Patty Mercer by Aug. 13. (See masthead.)



Also, this group will invite Joyce Lewis to a future meeting so she can explain transportation services available through United Seniors. If you have already used these services, call Patty so she could arrange for you to share this experience with others.

This group’s next meeting is set for 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 26, in the ACVNA large conference room.

Lane’s Corner: A monthly list of handy tips



Two areas of concern that have come to public attention lately are carbon monoxide detectors and fires caused by catalytic converters.

Carbon monoxide detectors: Some people complain that these alarms sound when nothing is wrong, and others wonder how they can be sure the detector *does* actually detect when carbon monoxide is present. I called the Athens Fire Department, and they told me if the detector is over five years old, replace it. If

you plug your existing or new unit in and it makes a sound lasting more than a minute, take it back to have it replaced. They said the Kiddy Co. makes a good unit, which is called Kiddy Nighthawk.

Catalytic converters: All modern cars have them, and they are attached to the exhaust system just behind the engine (therefore about midway underneath your car). They get very hot when the cars are in operation. If you park your car over dry grass, leaves, or other debris, this heat could cause a fire. So watch where you are parking. Also, keep your own driveway and garage floor clear of flammable materials so this doesn’t happen to you.