

THE ATHENS VILLAGE



Reminiscences — the oral tradition



Remember when people used to pass along memories and lessons learned mainly through telling about them — in what your kids called the “olden days”?

William Beale, who suggested the oral-tradition theme for our December Brown Bag lunch, will moderate the program. We will have our lunch as usual at 12 and begin the reminiscing as soon as everyone seems ready. Please hold your story to 5 minutes so as many as possible can share. They need not be holiday remembrances, although those are appropriate if the storyteller wishes. The most important thing for this occasions is your making your story a lesson of life. Come and share.

Speaking of sharing, if you have stirred up (or bought) any Christmas cookies by Dec. 8, bring some along to share. We will give you a rousing testimonial with them as dessert. The cookies are not a requirement, of course. What we need is YOU and YOUR STORY.

Very extensive handouts on Energy Tips will be a present for you at this Brown Bag.

This would be a good Brown Bag to which to invite a friend or prospective member.

Calendar

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

We, Dec. 8, 11 a.m. Public Info Team, ACVNA.

We, Dec. 8, 12 noon. Brown Bag, with William Beale moderating our reminiscences, the stories of life. (See p. 1 story.)

Th, Dec. 16, all day. Trager sessions, ACVNA. Call Kathy White, 594-8226, x408 to schedule. Cost is \$20 per 30-minute session.

Tu, Dec. 21, 10 a.m. Board meeting, ACVNA.



Memberships = holiday gifts

A newspaper and radio ad campaign will suggest giving Athens Village memberships as gifts. Encourage those you know to do this by calling the office, 594-8226, ext 406.

Hearty members make 1st annual meeting lively

A beautiful, sunny November day hatched a beautiful, sunny first annual business meeting of The Athens Village.

The Nov. 20th event lasted exactly one hour, which began with President Ellsworth Holden's handing the microphone around to all members who wanted to speak for 2 minutes or less each

(Continued on p. 2)



Office volunteers

Six members — Peg Cohn, Marj Stone, Jo Priskey, Sue Foster, Kathleen Evans, and Dru Riley Evarts — have volunteered to take turns being at the Village office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. every business day while Director Patty Mercer is in Israel. Please make routine calls between those hours. If you need help during other hours, use the numbers listed on the masthead on p. 2.



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.
Contact 592-1231 or
evarts@ohio.edu with
ideas or suggestions.

For assistance, call

Patty Mercer, director, at
ACVNA, 30 Herrold Ave.,
Athens, OH 45701, 594-
8226, ext. 406 or 1-800-
837-1112. (If no answer
there, dial 0 and speak
with an operator for assis-
tance.) 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) 1-800-649-8027.
Web site: [http://
theathensvillage.org](http://theathensvillage.org) (use
no spaces.)

Board of Directors

Ellsworth Holden, president
Sue Foster, treasurer
Margaret (Peg) Cohn,
secretary
Don Cooley
Cherie Gall
Ed Penson
George Weckman

Tell people about The Athens Village

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

First business meeting (continued from p. 1)

to express their views or ask questions. Then Director Patty Mercer took the floor to explain a number of handouts that were either distributed at that time or available for pickup after the meeting. Holden came back to give a progress report on the goals suggested by the membership at last winter's retreat. He also congratulated the group because all but one of the original members had renewed (and that person is considering doing so) and because other new members have been welcomed.

Treasurer Sue Foster reported on membership as being 86, with one more new decision being awaited. She said the group's bank account is sufficient to pay our expenditures planned for the coming year.

Those members who used the open mike during the meeting included Gladys Bailin Stern, Ann Fox, Dick Edgar, Joyce Miller, Jeanne Wells, Svonn & Joy Lindskold, Al Clapp, Lois Whealey, Anne Cooper-Chen, Meg Hummon, Carolyn Murphree, and Bobbie Thibault.

The most frequent comment was high praise for the help of Lane Hoisington, our home maintenance coordinator. Other vendors suggested by the Village also were praised. The Village was referred to as an "insurance policy" for those who may not need immediate help but want it to be readily available in the future. An opinion that a household of two should be offered a break in the membership fee was expressed, with the response that the Board continues to work on that.

Several new members asked questions and made comments, such as how vendors get on the Village's list and the usefulness of an i.d. card and a membership list.

Members were asked to review the seven new strategic initiatives that were listed on a handout that could be used to check which two initiatives members were willing to work on if asked.

Village welcomes 3 more new members to total 86

Since the November newsletter, which reported nine new members, raising the total to 83, three more have joined The Athens Village, making the total 86. The newest members are Margarete Catalano, Bonnie Savage, and Lois Whealey. A complete list of members and their contact information was included in the members' handbook handed out at the first anniversary party in mid-September. Those who joined since that time were listed on a supplementary paper distributed at the Nov. 20 business meeting. Call the office if you do not have this information about other members so we can keep in touch.



Members asked to volunteer to achieve initiatives

When we met last Feb. 26 for our first strategic planning retreat, the organizer of the event, Ed Penson, encouraged us to come up with a few very important goals, and get them done. We came up with four such goals, which we named “Major Initiatives.”

Completed Major Initiatives: By the time of our Nov. 20 business meeting, two of these major initiatives were considered fairly complete, although the teams handling them continue with followup. These are **Issue 1** (Retain and increase membership, outreach to the entire county), and **Issue 3** (Create an Advisory Council).

Major Initiatives Still Needing Completion: Two others of the four major initiatives still need work: **Issue 2** (Establish a list of service providers — ones with whom our members have had experience and would recommend) and **Issue 4** (Establish an advocacy role for senior citizens, an initiative on which the greatest effort has been on transportation so far).

Major and Newer Initiatives Needing Member Input: Between the two major initiatives above that still need work and the seven supplementary initiatives that the Board devised more recently, there are nine opportunities for members to enter in, contribute ideas, gather information, and generally advance our cause. Choose any two on which you would like to work and let Patty Mercer know. (See masthead for her contact information.)

___ Find information on service providers, research which members have used them, the degree of satisfaction, etc., to help us further establish a list of vendors on which we can depend.

___ Work on advocacy of issues promoting senior services, safety, interests, etc.

___ Seek status for The Athens Village as a “preventive service” (so that health insurance agencies would pay part or all of the dues to keep subscribers more healthy, as they now pay for exercise and fitness centers, such as Wellworks, Curves, Athens Community Center, etc.)

___ Help people on limited budgets understand that dues can be paid monthly.

___ Explore ways in which a practical system can result in discounted dues to households.

___ Encourage each member to find a new member.

___ Interview those who inquired but did not join to find why they chose not to become members.

___ Establish procedures for determining a point at which all dues can be lowered.

___ Devise a way to encourage members to list The Village in wills and annual donations.

Peggy Pruitt to speak at January Brown Bag

The Red Cross will be the subject of Peggy Pruitt, disaster coordinator for the Athens chapter, when she speaks at our Jan. 12 Brown Bag. Jean Stroh also will announce AAA-8’s new class, “Healthy U,” starting in the New Year.

Broadcasting The Athens Village

Patty Mercer was interviewed on Lois Whealey’s show, “Women Today and Yesterday” on access Ch. 23 on Nov. 9, and Dru Riley Evarts appeared on Ray Wagner’s “Party Talk” show on WATH on Nov. 16.

That makes five radio or TV appearances within the last two months. A CD of Patty’s TV interview is available for borrowing by any who missed it.

Board members are willing to help YOU

Need help in deciding which two of the opportunities above fit you best? Call any Board member. Their names are on the masthead and phone and e-mail info in your member handbook.



Short Notes

Driver Safety: Interested in participating in a Driver Safety Program just for us in the Spring? Wanda Llewellyn will do one if enough of us enroll. Let Patty Mercer know of your interest.



Getting Back Up:

Gina Green's workshop on getting up after falling was a big success! More on that and future plans in the January *Village Voice*.



Filling Needs:

Volunteer opportunities available for the willing: 1) Tending the Village table at the Wednesday Senior Mornings of the Market on State. 2) Filing, preparing events, and doing office work with Patty Mercer at ACVNA. 3) Taking pictures for publicity and archives. 4) Helping create a Village video for use on Access TV. 5) Representing The Village at meetings of other senior citizen groups. 6) Being a branch on a "phone tree." 7) Interviewing local businesses to assess services for seniors. 8) Doing research from home for project development. Let Patty Mercer know of your interest in any of these. (See masthead.)

President credits members of working teams

During the Nov. 20 annual all-member business meeting, President Ellsworth Holden thanked the members and supporters who had worked over our first year to bring about the success of the Village. Among those mentioned at the meeting were:

PRAC: The Planning Resource & Advisory Council, which met monthly for several months to expedite action on the four major initiatives that came out of last February's Strategic Planning Retreat, worked under the direction of Ed Penson and included Warren Reininga, Anne Braxton, Max Evans, Gladys Bailin Stern, George Weckman, Dru Riley Evarts, and Jackie Legg.

Advisory Council: Sue Foster headed the effort to set up an Advisory Council to advise the Village Board about needs and concerns among senior citizens throughout the county. Her committee, consisting of Roxanne Groff, Carole Kuhre, Margo Marazon, and Sandra Shirey, selected a 26-member Advisory Council from the original 75 nominees. Members of the Advisory Council were listed in the September newsletter. It will meet three times a year to advise our Board.

PIT: The Public Information Team, which publishes this newsletter, provides copy for the brochure, arranges for newspaper and broadcast coverage and interviews, secures dates for speakers for public interest groups, designs invitations, thank-you letters, etc., is chaired by Dru Riley Evarts, and completed by Georgann Penson, Jo Prisley, and Anne Braxton.

The Board: It is listed monthly in every newsletter's masthead.

Lane's Corner: A monthly list of handy tips

As we go into the winter season with snow and ice, we need to recognize that frost on our porches and stoops can be as hazardous as snow or ice. Keep kitty litter or ice melt on hand to make snowy, icy, or frosty surfaces safer. Any kitty litter will do, but if you are using ice melt on concrete, be sure it contains no rock salt.



Also, as far as your car is concerned, be sure the washer fluid is the kind that will not freeze in the winter. Consult the bottle for lowest temperature — at least to 20 degrees. Never use ordinary water in the windshield washer. It can cause damage to your washer fluid pump.

Get your furnace serviced now. It should be cleaned and the filters should be replaced. If you use propane or oil as fuel, have plenty on hand for the winter. It's better to get it now than take a chance on running out on a weekend, in the middle of the night, or in midwinter when the dealer may be very busy with others.