

THE ATHENS VILLAGE VOICE

Jerry Mollica to give legal tips at Brown Bag



Prominent Athens attorney and Village Board member Jerry Mollica will give legal tips for older people and answer our questions at the monthly Brown Bag lunch on Wednesday, March 10. The lunch will start at 12 noon and he will begin his presentation at 12:30 in the main ACVNA Conference Room.

Members still have time to submit questions to pmercer@acvna.com so Patty Mercer can pass them on to Mollica, who will center his presentation on the concerns of members.

A graduate of the Ohio State University Law School class of 1963, Mollica has been practicing law in Athens since his admission to the bar. He is now senior and managing partner of Mollica, Gall, Sloan & Sillery and is authorized to practice in numerous courts on both the state and federal levels. He filed the incorporation papers for the Athens Village. He has been an officer or legal counsel to many Athens area organizations. His general practice now includes estate planning, probate, real estate, wills, and trusts.

Calendar

We, Mar. 10, 12-1:30 p.m. Members' Brown Bag lunch, ACVNA Conf. Rm. (See p.1 story.)

We, Mar. 14, 3 p.m. Norman Cohn and George Weckman's open recital, Christ Lutheran Church, 69 Mill St., Athens. (See p. 3 story.)

Tu, Mar. 23, 10 a.m. Board Meeting, ACVNA Conf. Rm.

Th, Mar. 25, 10:30 a.m. Coffee on clarification of services available to Village members. (See coffee item on p. 3.)

Su, Mar. 28, 3:30-5 p.m. High Society Jazz Band, Abrio's, 859 E. State St., (See p. 4 story.)



Village sets goals, defines plans for their achievement

Members of the Village Board and the newly appointed Planning and Resource Advisory Council (PRAC — see related story on p. 2 for names) met on March 1 to go over the suggestions made by half of the Village's total membership during their daylong retreat on the previous Friday.

1: The most common action suggested by the larger group had involved the development and implementation of a comprehensive plan of communication throughout the Athens city/county community in order to develop information for members and volunteers when they represent the organization around the area.

One important step in the implementation of this action item is to finish a brochure that people speaking for the Village could distribute in order to have the wider community understand our services and

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4 new members make total of 70

Four new people have become Village members within the last month, raising our total membership to 70, according to Sue Foster, treasurer.

The new members are Howard Beebe, Jean Pullen, John Ray, and Mary Anne Swardson



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 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
Kathleen Riestenberg
Kevin Dotson

Do you have a friend or neighbors who may be helped by having Athens Village membership? Bring him or her in as a guest to get an idea of what we're about.

35 members, friends participate in planning retreat

The daylong strategic planning retreat on Feb. 26 was attended by 35 people, who spent all or parts of morning and afternoon sessions working in groups to establish what people want most from the Village, what impediments exist, how those can be resolved, and what positive steps can be taken to shape the Village in the best way to serve all of us.

Ed Penson directed the entire program based on materials developed by his consulting firm, which normally works with university boards of trustees and other groups on that level.

Board members acting as discussion facilitators at the tables included Peg Cohn, Ted Foster, Sue Foster, and Kathy Riestenberg.

Other Village members participating in the planning included Joe & Lynda Berman, Anne Braxton, Norm Cohn, Jim & Lennie Conover, Gifford Doxsee, Jean Drevenstedt, Max Evans, Dru Riley Evarts, Ann Fox, Sara Gilfert,

Ellsworth Holden, Betty Larsen, Pat Light, Cynthia Love, Carolyn Murphree, Georgann Penson, Jo Priskey, Warren Reininga, Elise Sanford, Gladys Bailin Stern, Marj Stone, Natsu Taylor, George Weckman, and Jeanne Wells. Patty Mercer, Village director of operations, Debbie Sechkar, director of ACVNA, Lane Hoisington, our Village handyman, and Jackie Legg, a member of our Planning and resource Advisory council (PRAC) also participated.

After the suggestions made by attendees to the strategic planning sessions were reduced to the most important three from each table, the next step was to have the Board (see masthead) and the newly appointed PRAC work together to make final decisions as to what will be done and in what order. PRAC is made up of Village members Braxton, Evarts, Reininga, Stern, Weckman, and friend Legg. Several student observers attended between classes to observe the discussions. 

Lane's Corner (a monthly list of our handyman's tips)

Falling ice: Winter is not over yet. We have had the worst-case scenario of ice buildup on our houses, with it melting in the daytime and freezing at night. We need to be very careful of falling ice. It is possible to take a broom handle and knock down longer icicles. This will take some of the weight off your gutters. Be careful of windows and outside lighting as you are doing this.



Frozen pipes: As the snow melts, it is possible for the freeze line to travel farther into the ground. Watch for frozen pipes and water runoff on shifting ground. If it is possible, the safest way to thaw pipes is with a hair dryer. If not, contact a contractor to do it for you.



Short notes:

Opera Group: More members are needed in the Opera Group, according to Norm Cohn. They are having a very good time, which they want to share with others. Call Norm at 592-4074 if you have questions.



Calling 211: Remember our January Brown Bag program at which the speaker talked about 211, the new service to call if you want to either get help (other than emergency help) or give it? The idea was to call 211 to find a helpful and well-trained staff member who will assist you. Well, it turns out that if your phone is on the cable rather than on phone company wires, you can't dial 211. So here is the toll-free number you can use — 1-866-784-3132. to get 211. Keep it where you can find it in a hurry. The service is good for all sorts of info, including road conditions.



Massage Therapy: Robert Lockheed, a Trager massage therapist, will be giving us a demonstration soon. Martha, an ACVNA hospice volunteer, has had massages from him once a month and says, "If you try it once, you'll never want to quit."

Goals, plans, ways of achieving what we want

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the benefits of membership.

A subcommittee made up of Ellsworth Holden, Peg Cohn, and Patty Mercer is meeting with Karen Nulf, professor emerita of art, for her advice on the brochure.

2: Acquainting current and prospective members with the services offered by the Village was the second most commonly suggested action item. This will be the first order of business at the next meeting of the Board-PRAC group.

3: Activating an Advisory Council of leaders from throughout the county was accepted as the next action item. More than 50 names have been suggested as potential Advisory Council members (people who could give good advice on expanding our membership and on suggesting how the Village could serve a wider audience). According to Sue Foster, who collected the names of nominees, 50 are not needed. A

method of selecting this council and using it for the benefit of the Village as a whole is the main goal of this third action item.

4: Becoming an effective advocate for senior-citizen causes and interests emerged as the final action item for now. As this develops, the Village will become a collective spokesperson for seniors in any issue that affects them as that issue is raised in Athens County.

The Board-PRAC group will continue mining information from the daylong retreat in order to set long-term goals. For now these four have been selected. A set of 13 steps designed by the Penson Firm is being used to develop each of these action items as they are selected for attention. For now, according to Ed Penson, it is best to work on a small number of action items and secure them before going on.



Coffee Hour About Services

March features only one coffee hour, a very important one that will center on Village services to members — explanations of those already existing and discussion of those members would like to see added. Time: 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 25. Place: ACVNA Conference Room.

Call or e-mail Patty Mercer if you plan to attend so she can have enough materials available. (594-8226, ext. 406, or e-mail to pmercer@acvna.com)

Open recital March 14

Village members Norman Cohn, tenor, and George Weckman, organist/pianist, will present an open concert at 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 14, at Christ Lutheran Church, 69 Mill St. Selections will include music from Barber, Bernstein, Finzi, Franck, Hahn, Handel, Poulenc, Rossini, Tosti, and Tchaikowsky





Kevin Dotson joins Board

Kevin Dotson has been appointed to the Village Board of Trustees to replace Mark Snider, whom the Board formally thanked in a resolution recognizing his contribution to the Village's planning and launching.

Dotson is president of the Nelsonville City Council and its Main Street board. The retail manager at Rocky Boots, he has played prominent roles in the Nelsonville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Athens County Convention and Visitors' Bureau. He is a member of Nelsonville Rotary, the Nelsonville Restoration Foundation, and Nelsonville Revived. He is running for the County Democratic Party Central Committee.

Many Village members have already met Dotson, but everyone can get acquainted or better acquainted when he attends the March 10 Brown Bag lunch and the March 23 Board meeting.

Art teachers covet after your 'stuff' as you declutter

Florence McGeogh brought up the idea of collecting art supplies for Columbus children, which inspired Lynda Berman thusly.

By Lynda Berman

Having retired after 30+ years of teaching art, I know that ANY art teacher can make creative use of things you may wish to donate as you declutter.

Athens City Schools elementary art teachers welcome any of the following that you find lurking in your recesses.

- magazines and catalogs**
- cards** (greeting and Christmas)
- fabric and yarn**
- containers** (requested by every art teacher)

From East and West Elementary Schools, art teacher Theresa House writes: "The art room would love to take those donations! I really appreciate your thinking of me. Other items we could use would be interior wall house paint (for painting the ceiling tiles), ribbons, beads, paper, paints, markers, etc. A few miscellaneous items include a hand-held mixer (for mixing paper mache), a blender, plastic storage containers, cleaning sponges, and plastic yogurt/cottage cheese/sour cream containers for water bowls. I hope this helps spark some ideas."

Amy Wolfe from Morrison writes: "I would also love to get empty containers... like yogurt containers. Even some things like old metal spoons or things that can stir paper mache. Thanks!"

Katelyn Howard from Chauncey has a special request for magazines, picture calendars, and bright yarns.

Tammy Benyie from The Plains requests an old blender (to reconstitute dried-out glazes); also beads and buttons. She would especially like "odd objects that are interestingly shaped" for still life setups.

Take anything you have to the office of any of the five elementary schools before mid-May. Your "stuff" will be especially welcomed as the school year's art supplies will be dwindling. If you have a potter's wheel, kiln, hotplate, blender or things of some monetary value, take along a list for the receiving staff member's signature. That will make possible a durable-goods tax deduction for you.



 Come on and hear!

The High Society Jazz Association welcomes Athens Villagers to attend an afternoon of Dixieland and gospel at Abrio's Ristorante, 3:30-6 p.m. March 28. Special guest J.W. Smith, a professor of communication at Ohio University and gospel singer of note, will be making an encore performance in collaboration with the Athens High Society Jazz Band. Located at 859 W. State St., Abrio's is handicapped accessible and has ample parking. Admission is \$5 for non-members, \$3 for members.