

THE ATHENS VILLAGE VOICE



BB subject is the Athens Time Exchange

Ever think about trading your time and/or talent for someone else's so both of you could get things done without cost?

The Athens Time Exchange brings such a thought to reality. We had a story about it in the October *Voice*. Autumn Congrove will tell us how this works and answer our questions at the Brown Bag lunch on Wednesday, Dec. 14. Lunch is at 12; the speaker begins at 12:30.

Autumn is one of four coordinators of the Athens Time Exchange. She grew up in the New Marshfield area and graduated from Alexander High School. Now living in an old farmhouse very near her childhood home, she enjoys gardening, beekeeping, home improvement projects, and company of her cats and dogs. She is studying renewable energies in the Advanced Energy and Fuel Cells program of Hocking College.

Autumn attended our Webinar on time exchanges on Nov. 29, so she has seen what other villages (one in New York City and one in San Diego) are doing about time exchanges. According to Gladys Bailin Stern, who reported on that Webinar, approaches are very different, so Autumn can help us.



Calendar

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

Every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Yoga, ACVNA.

Fr, Dec. 9, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. ACVNA Holiday party, to which all Village members are invited. (See p. 3 note.) Drop in and out as you wish.

Mo, Dec. 12, 10 a.m., Armchair Travel Group, visiting Iceland with the Woodrows. (See p.3 note.)

We, Dec. 14, 11:30 a.m., PIT meeting, ACVNA

We, Dec. 14, 12 noon, Brown Bag lunch, ACVNA (See p. 1 story.).

Sa, Jan. 14, 2:30 p.m. Annual business meeting, Community Center. (See p. 2 story.).



Welcome!

Claudette Stevens and Gene and Mona Willoughby are our newest members. With most fall renewals in, our present total is 96, on our way to our goal of 110.

TAV Board plans the Village's future

The Board of Trustees is discussing a number of ideas in order to share them with the membership during the annual business meeting on Jan. 14.

The only one of these requiring a membership vote, according to our Code of Regulations, is the enlargement of the Board from seven to 11. Because the Board anticipates approval, it suggests that members begin now to think of likely candidates for Board membership. These persons need not be Village members, but should possess areas of expertise needed to manage our organization. If you would like to make a nomination, or offer yourself for Board service, be prepared to suggest those names in January.

Other Board business, which will be acted on next week by its Executive Committee, includes a second report from the Transportation Committee and several proposals by the Membership Committee. Details on these items will be mailed to members at least 10 days before the annual business meeting, as required by our Code of Regulations. Also included will be an absentee ballot for those who cannot attend. The Board greatly encourages everyone to attend.

**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. 6 or 1-800-837-1112. (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) 1-800-649-8027. Web site: <http://theathensvillage.org> (use no spaces.)

Board of Directors

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

RSVP volunteer to help

Janice Krebs, an RSVP volunteer, started this month to help Patty Mercer in the office two hours or more a week. Before retirement, she was a teacher in Vinton County. We welcome and appreciate her. She may be able to add hours later.

Village-to-Village Research Team makes plans

The newly deputized Village-to-Village (VtV) Research Team, chaired by Peg Cohn, had its first formal meeting on Dec. 2 and divided its projects among members. Peg had been observing the Village-to-Village Network, to which our Village subscribes, for information about what other village groups around the country are concerned about and what projects they have under way.

As a result of this survey and discussion, the committee members are taking on these issues to research and come up with suggestions:

Insurance: Jeanne Wells will be studying how other villages handle insurance to cover members who are transporting other members or otherwise using their vehicles in the interest of village activities.

Vendors: Art Woolley will search the VtV network to find information on the relationships of other villages with vendors, particularly how they get vendors to fill out the information sheets about their services or to respond to a phone call during which a village member will help each vendor give the information needed for them to be of most service to members. A review of discounts will have special attention.

Code of Regulations (Bylaws): Meg Hummon will review our Code of Regulations and make suggestions of areas that the Board should strengthen, revise, or otherwise address. Duties of officers, procedures for amendments, steps in election of officers, and number of Board members who must be Village members are areas of interest.

Membership: The VtV search revealed that some villages have various types of membership, some have different ways to achieve membership, etc. This search material was turned over to our Membership Committee to help it with decisions for the future of its work. Peg Cohn will continue to search the VtV network for membership tips.

It Takes a Village To Raise a Village

That may not be the exact title of the famous book, but you get the idea. Attend the annual business meeting Jan. 14 at 2:30 p.m. Our Village is young. It takes all of us to raise it.

Gifford Doxsee inducted into a second Hall of Fame

We are honored to have in our midst a man whose good works are being recognized over and over. Gifford Doxsee was inducted earlier was during World War II, part of which he spent as a prisoner of war. His induction into the Ohio Senior Citizen Hall of Fame was covered in the May edition of *The Village Voice*. His extensive volunteer service to the Ohio University and Athens communities was covered in the more recent September edition. Congratulations to Gifford!



Armchair Travel Group forms



by Pat Light

Two Village members, Carolyn Murphree and Pat Light, traveled recently to Russia — Carolyn on a Grand Circle Tour and Pat with a Road Scholar group, thus generating via *The Village Voice* a request to arrange an armchair travel session in which they could share with other Villagers what they did on their trips.

Carolyn showed a very interesting DVD, which her daughter, who had accompanied her on the trip, had made. Pat showed some photos she had taken and some books she had acquired.

Carolyn's journey was on a cruise ship that went from St. Petersburg to Moscow. Her DVD captured the magnificent Peterhof, the Hermitage, and several other of the palaces as well as stops along the way at four villages. Pat's trip had been limited to St. Petersburg and Moscow; it focused on Russian art, literature, music, history, and architecture.

The two presentations sparked a lively discussion, during which some audience members who had been to Russia shared their experiences. Everyone wanted more sessions like this.

Don't miss the next Armchair Traveler session — John and Jane Woodrow's trip to Iceland. 10 a.m., Monday, Dec. 12, ACVNA Conference Room.

Helping our members in temporary need

One of The Athens Village's principles is to help members in temporary need. One member newly home from the hospital and rehab would appreciate dinner for two delivered once a week (by various members, each doing it once) and Christmas cookies or treats if someone is making a batch of either and some to spare. Call Patty Mercer for more information and a chance to get on this schedule.

VtV leader at annual meeting

One of two Village-to-Village leaders whom Patty Mercer and George Weckman heard at the regional VtV meeting in Michigan last July will be here for our annual business meeting on Jan. 14. At this point, they are still deciding which one will come, but they guarantee that one or the other will. Patty and George enjoyed both at the regional meeting and are confident that either could add greatly to our business meeting.

Both of these speaker/advisers are connected with the VtV Network. Rita Kostiuk is from the Beacon Hill (part of Boston) Village. Candace Baldwin, who is from Baltimore, is with NCB Capital Impact as a career.

Preliminary plans call for the VtV visitor to not only address all the Village members who attend the annual meeting, but to conduct a workshop for members who wish to talk about specific issues in more depth. We will be able to take advantage of the guest's extensive experience to make the most of our opportunity in Athens County. The timeframe for such a workshop has not yet been specified, but it will be set at the convenience of the guest and the members who have expressed interest.

The most important thing for the weekend of Jan. 14 is for everyone to attend the annual business meeting. The next most important is to attend this workshop if you can.



ACVNA invites Village to Dec. 9 party

ACVNA invites all of us Villagers to its Holiday Party on Friday, Dec. 9. Food all day long from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Stop in any time.

Potluck breakfast and lunch, with agency providing pastries, bagels, and fruit at breakfast, sandwiches and cookies at lunch. White elephant gift exchange and door-prize drawing at 2 p.m. Come and enjoy!



Short Notes

Happiness and better health: A new wellness program sponsored by the Village Bakery and Inhale Yoga Studio begins on Jan. 9, and runs for eight weeks. The introductory sessions to tell you about it are Dec. 10 and 11, 3:30 p.m. at 29 E. Carpenter St. (near the intersection of Court St.). You might want to go — then decide.



Spreading the word: Patty Mercer and Ellsworth Holden spoke about The Athens Village at the Athens County Bar Association monthly meeting, on Dec. 1. If you know of other speaking opportunities, call Patty (see masthead) about it. Ask the program chairs of groups you belong to, and tell them about our increased expertise on transportation and other concerns. A talk doesn't have to be solely about Village membership.



Calls about donations: Are you plagued with end-of-the-year calls pleading for donations to various causes. Ohio's attorney general advises that you ask questions such as what the caller or his or her employer is getting and what portion actually goes to the work of the charity, etc. You can find more information on handling these calls at ohioattorneygeneral.gov/charitysearch (all one word).



A Marian Hymnfest, with hymns, choir, and organ music about Mary, will take place at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 16, at Christ Lutheran Church on Mill Street. All are welcome.

Want help at home for special projects?

Get ready for something very special, beginning in January. Students in the Family Ties and Aging course, under the supervision of Instructor Cathey Glenn, are eager to fill their course requirements by helping senior citizens on projects of the seniors' choosing.

If you want to sign up to invite one of these students into your home to help you, let Patty Mercer know (see masthead). Each Village member participating will be assigned a student who will help that member consistently at the time and place agreed upon.

Some projects that may lend themselves to student help would be sorting and decluttering, assistance with electronic gear, helping with other technical things (recording, photographing, etc.), and many other activities on which you and the student can agree.

Lane's Corner: a monthly list of helpful hints

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone. But, above all, please keep it safe. We are now heading into the holiday decoration season. As you get out your lights, untangle the cords before you attempt to place them. Check for frayed, cracked, or bare wires. Get rid of any light sets that are in less than excellent shape.



If you are using lights outside, check to be sure they are manufactured for exterior use. Don't guess; look for a specific statement for that usage. If you can't find it, take the string of lights to a store handling holiday lights and ask the people there about outside use. Try to limit the use of extension cords. If you must use them, use a surge bar with them.

Ladders, stepstools, or anything else you may be tempted to use to reach high places you want to decorate should be solid and should have another person at the bottom to keep them stable. Make decorating a family affair or have friends over to help you. Enjoy!

Thanks to the Village for sending me to the Home Modification Conference in Columbus in November. I learned a great deal that I can employ in helping to make your home safer or to help you with remodeling if some physical limitation makes that necessary. The improvements in such items as walkers, shower chairs, stair climbers, and grab bars are so impressive. I brought back two huge books and other literature, now filed in Patty Mercer's office, for members to look through. If you are thinking of any changes in your home, consult these materials. If you like, make an appointment through Patty for me to help you find what you need and decide if you can do it, want me to help, or arrange for a contractor.