

THE ATHENS VILLAGE VOICE

911 operations chief to talk at Brown Bag



Doug Bentley, chief of operations for Athens County 911 Emergency Communications, will explain the work of his office and best uses of 911 when he speaks at our Brown Bag lunch, beginning at 12 noon, on Wednesday, March 9. He will especially focus on how older people could use 911 most effectively.

The mission of Athens County 911 Emergency Communications is to receive emergency calls and requests for public safety services. These calls and requests will be resolved by Athens County 911 Emergency Communications personnel by dissemination to our public safety responders in an expeditious manner.

Bentley, who was appointed as chief of operations in 1998, had formerly headed the Scioto County 911 operation in Portsmouth. He has been in public safety services for 37 years, including work as a firefighter, paramedic, and deputy sheriff. He currently holds commissions with Athens County Sheriff's Office and the City of Nelsonville Division of Fire.

The Athens County 911 Office had 27,000 calls last year. Bentley directs a full-time staff of 10, supplemented by six part-time workers.

EMS Chief Cory Linegar will accompany Bentley to our lunch to assist him in making 911 more understandable and more useful to us.

This would be a perfect program to which to bring a guest! You might even save a life by doing so.

Enhanced 911 recommended

Go to the 911 website (athens911.com). You will find that the service recommends Enhanced 911, especially for those with cell phones only. But it seems a good idea for everyone to file advanced information with 911 so the staff there will have information that will help them serve you quickly.



Here are the things 911 would like you to supply so it can serve you better:

- 1) full name;
- 2) address,
- 3) city/township,
- 4) ZIP code,
- 5) all phone numbers, labeled as cell or land line,
- 6) e-mail address,
- 7) nearest cross street to your residence,
- 8) list of health problems or disabilities,
- 9) notes if you are bedridden, have speech or hearing disabilities, need oxygen or propane, and whether there are hazardous or flammable materials on the premises. Need help filling this out? Tell Patty.

Calendar

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

Fr., Mar 4, 12 noon, Executive Committee, ACVNA.

Tu, Mar. 8, 10 a.m., Board meeting, ACVNA.

We, Mar. 9, 11:30 a.m., Public Info Team, ACVNA.

We, Mar. 9, 12 noon, Brown Bag lunch, ACVNA (See p. 1 story.)

We, Mar. 23, 9:30 a.m., Ad Hoc Dues Committee, ACVNA, 12 noon



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 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
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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.

Federal, state budgets affect senior programs

By Sandy Shirey, COAD senior programs assistant

Senior programs staff and volunteers are concerned that upcoming federal and state budget cuts will result in loss of services, including those of COAD (Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development).

Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions, and RSVP volunteer programs operate with the help of 746 volunteers in 32 counties in Appalachian Ohio, including Athens County. Many of the volunteers are low-income and benefit from the small stipends they receive.

Volunteers for RSVP serve more than 4,000 clients through support services to approximately 100 libraries, food pantries, and many other nonprofits sponsored locally by COAD.

What can you do about this? Contact your lawmakers!

Lane's Corner: A monthly list of helpful tips



Believe it or not, spring is just around the corner, and shoots from all of our little flower bulbs will be popping out of the ground. One of our members, Margarete Catalano, has a home recipe for protecting these shoots and bulbs from four-legged visitor-diners — deer.



This recipe has just two ingredients — eggs and water. You put a small amount of water in your blender with two eggs and blend thoroughly. Pour the resulting mixture into a spray bottle and apply about once a week or after a rain. Shake the spray bottle thoroughly before each spraying, of course. You can add another egg or more water as needed. Keep a good eye out for your buds, which can bloom overnight, and spray them also as they appear. This mixture is not harmful to you or your animals, and definitely not to plants.



Have you had a first or second home assessment by Lane?

Remember that you get one of these per year at no cost. Patty Mercer keeps a record of these and will be glad to schedule one for you. If you are not sure when you are due for a second home inspection, she can look that up for you, too. (See masthead.)



Good info ingested by just us chickens

Bob Borchard led a lively and interesting discussion and exchange of ideas on Feb. 9, when we met — sans speaker — for the Brown Bag lunch.

Here are some of the ideas that were brought up and discussed during this impromptu occasion:

- An updated directory of members would be appreciated. We need to figure out a way to send out additions to cut down on printing the whole directory every time we have changes.
- We should all work to eliminate, or at least control the clutter in our homes. Too much of it can become a fire hazard.
- The idea of group living was put forth by one person — not assisted living, but simply sharing a house or apartment. A member was asking about this for a friend. Our OU intern has been looking into it and may have a suggestion soon. If you have an idea on this, let Patty Mercer know.
- The majority of time was spent on discussing health care costs, what to do when one's insurance company says you've had enough, how and where to best find an advocate, etc. A number of people had stories illustrating that patients and their families are often given the run-around.

Let Patty know if you would like to see another program like this.

CHIP program seems ideal for Villagers

The Coronary Health Improvement Program (CHIP) at O'Bleness Memorial Hospital would be worth our members' attention. It is a 45-day journey that has been proven to prevent or reverse coronary heart disease, diabetes, and cancer, as well as arthritis and other inflammatory conditions. Inquiries and registration can be had at 592-9300. Information sessions will be held at 1:30 p.m. on March 9 and 12 noon on March 11. Cost is \$295 per person or \$465 per couple. Scholarship aid is available for those who would like to see if they qualify.

'Joined Hearts in Giving' certificates

Displayed below is a copy of the certificate awarded to the Cohns and the Fosters at a reception in the Governor's Mansion in Columbus on Feb. 11. (The certificates were the same except for the names, so only one is shown here.) See the February *Village Voice* for details of our Village's nomination of these couples. Their awards were based on their other public service, as well as their founding of The Athens Village.

During the ceremony, both Mrs. Kasich and Ms. Kantor-Burman especially mentioned admiration for seniors who join together to help one another and advocate for themselves and others. Patty Mercer has received calls from the Area Agency on Aging in order to find how similar groups could be established in other areas of Ohio.





★**Short Notes**★

Ann Holden is in Lindley Inn, Room 100, with phone number 797-5100. She would welcome calls and visits.



Peg Cohn continues to improve in Room C-7 of Heartland Jackson, (directions in February Voice). She welcomes afternoon visits, but call her cell phone to arrange a day (740-856-7218).



Joe Agranoff is improving at 29 Meadowlane, Athens. He welcomes cards or calls, 594-7233.



Cathy Evans is able to drive and get around after several weeks of house arrest with a broken wrist and other injuries suffered in an icy-weather fall. Finally she can drive again and is free as a bird. Sightings of her have been reported.



Want a **free round-trip airline ticket** to Missoula, MT? Dru Riley Everts has a companion flight that has to be used by March 31. Call 592-1231.

Suffer no more! Lane to the rescue

By Dru Riley Everts

Have you ever had something around your house that just irritated you to death eternally, but you didn't know what to do about it or how to fix it?

(I'm talking about an inanimate object, of course, not a person.)

All I can say now after my experience last week with Lane Hoisington, the Village's home maintenance coordinator, is, "Call Lane." You don't have to depend on him just for your annual inspections or to fix things that break right before your eyes. Look around and lower your blood pressure by getting his help on those things that just nag and nag at you.

Our game cupboard in the living room had doors that were supposed to meet and close. They met, but at least one would hang open because the house had somehow shifted. Lane had these doors hanging straight in a trice. When I think of all the times I was irritated by that uncooperative door (especially when I was entertaining company and thinking about that gaping door instead of what the guests were saying), I could beat myself.

The broom closet in the kitchen had this same not-meeting-but-one-hanging-agape problem. Even the top hinges were bent because I had overloaded the shelves inside these doors for 10 years, and they finally gave up this winter. Never mind. Lane zipped off to the hardware store to get the proper cabinet hinges, after first planning what he needed to fix half a dozen other "irritating" but non-emergency things.

Moral of the story is this — Let Lane restore your sanity and your house simultaneously. He's very good at both.

Enjoy High Society Jazz twice this month

Laissez les bons temps rouler! Celebrate Mardi Gras at the Inn at Hocking College on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday (March 3, 4, and 5). Enjoy the Southern-style buffet and kick up your heels to music by the Athens High Society Jazz Band. Call 740-753-3531 to make reservations, which are advised, especially if you want to sit in the same room with the band.

The band will be back at Abrio's on March 20, 3:30 to 6 p.m., where it will welcome J.W. Smith (a.k.a. Dr. Feelgood) for a rousing afternoon of gospel and spirituals.

