

THE ATHENS VILLAGE VOICE



Holiday reminiscing will be Dec. 12 Brown Bag as we share memories in our new headquarters



What's more fun than sharing holiday stories from our childhoods, teenagehoods, or any hoods we choose? This gathering, which will be led by our Program chair, Margo Marazon, will take place at noon on Thursday, Dec. 12. Come and bring a friend.

This Brown Bag lunch will be the second in our new quarters at ACEnet, 94 Columbus Road. ACEnet has three buildings there, and the larger conference room is in the largest of these buildings, the one closest to Columbus Road and immediately to the right just as you drive off the highway. Crumb's Bakery is the primary tenant, and you will see their products in their retail department as you enter. Take the aisle on your left, and you will find the conference room on the right almost immediately as you go down that hall.

It is very fitting this year to have our leader of reminiscences be Margo Marazon, who began serving on the Village Board in November 2012, and agreed shortly thereafter to handle programming.

The Brown Bag lunch will begin at 12 noon, and we will begin chatting as soon as the group seems ready.



Every Tuesday, 12:30 p.m., Informal lunch gathering of members and friends at Bob Evans.

Every Tuesday, 10:30 a.m., Chair yoga, OSU Extension office, 280 West Union.

Tu, Dec. 10, 10 a.m., Board meeting, ACEnet small conference room.

We, Dec. 11, 11 a.m., PIT meeting, ACEnet small conference room.

Th, Dec. 12, 12 noon, Brown Bag Lunch, ACEnet large conference room.

We, Dec. 18, 10 a.m., Caregiver Support ACEnet, small conference room

ACEnet is located at 94 Columbus Road.



Santa has brought us two new members:

**David
and
Helen
Horn**

Moving disruption nears end with officewide sigh

Transitions Kerry Ragland, pictured below, was only part of the moving team that worked to help relocate The Athens Village office to its new location at 94 Columbus Road. The director's husband, daughter, and her friend also assisted. It was quite an event! Stop by to see the progress.

The office is generally open from about 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. It might be a good idea to call first (447-0500) just in case Patty is out to a meeting. And in this weather, if school has been canceled, office hours may change.

With the new phone system, you should be able to reach Patty no matter where she is. The only phone used by the office is a cell phone. If out of range, calls will be forwarded to Patty's landline. Please leave a message there.



Holiday Schedule Info

*Ellsworth WILL be holding his informal lunch gatherings at 12:30 p.m. every Tuesday, even on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

* "Getting the Most Out of Your Membership" WILL NOT be held because it falls on Christmas Day.



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 needed.

Dru Riley Evarts, editor. Contact 592-1231 or evarts@ohio.edu with ideas or suggestions.

For assistance:

Patty Mercer, director, ACEnet, 94 Columbus Rd., Athens, OH 45701.

Cell: 740-447-0500.

After hours: Use the cell phone number and leave a message.

E-mail:

theathensvillage@gmail.com

Web site:

<http://theathensvillage.org>

Board of Directors

Ellsworth Holden, president

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Research, Anyone?

Our November speaker, Dr. Brian Clark, has many opportunities for senior citizens to participate as subjects in a variety of research under way now or planned for the future. Compensation is included in most of these. You can contact him at the Ohio Musculoskeletal Neurological Institute (OMNI) by emailing clarkb2@ohio.edu or calling 593-

3 return from national meet, ready to share VtV in Athens

Patty Mercer, Dru Riley Evarts, and Ed Baum represented The Athens Village at the fifth annual National Village Gathering Nov. 11-13 in St. Louis. All three agreed that the trip was well worth the time and expense. (Only Patty's expenses were paid for by The Athens Village.)

The Village concept arose in the Beacon Hill area of Boston in 2005-06. The idea traveled by word of mouth and limited newspaper and broadcast coverage. By 2007 those first hearty souls were having their initial national convention (covering a pretty small "nation") to exchange ideas and help one another.

Today there are more than 120 villages in full operation across the entire nation, and 100 more are in development. Members total more than 25,000.

As more coordinated information about the St. Louis convention comes in on the Village to Village network, the parts more applicable to The Athens Village will appear in this newsletter. In the meantime, here is a listing of topics discussed either in the full meeting of delegates in St. Louis or in break-outs:

Founding and funding a group, then "getting it going."

Marketing, communication, program development.

Nuts and bolts of running a village.

Effective volunteer recruitment, management, and administration.

Fundraising.

Human resources/policies and procedures.

Strategic planning.

Growing your Village membership/public relations.

Keeping our intellect alive and well.

Age-friendly cities and villages.

Running a village on volunteer speed.

Attracting and engaging skills, talents, and interests of "not-ready-yets."

The state of aging in America.

Miscellaneous things we found out at Village convention

Things learned at a national convention do not necessarily come through the microphones or from handouts. The ear-to-the-ground also figures in big.

1. We seemed to be the only group that was not involved in fundraising.
2. At the time our Village was formally established (Fall 2009), there were five villages within the District of Columbia. Now there are 15.
3. Volunteers (many of whom are too young for membership) are a major factor in increasing numbers of villages, both for use in the office and for serving members.
4. Our dues seem to be about midway between lowest and highest. A recent survey showed our dues to be slightly below the national average.
5. Some states' equivalents to Ohio's Area Agency on Aging have helped to fund the establishment of Villages.



Public Information Team asks for help

PIT (the Public Information Team) meets monthly to plan ways in which our Village can keep itself before the public so that area residents (especially those possibly in need of Village services) will know what we are, what we stand for, and what association with us could mean.

This is where you come in. If you are associated with any groups that have speakers, or even informal visitors just to chat, suggest to the president or program chair that we have speakers who could come and share with that group both the history of The Athens Village and its plans for the future.

PIT members have already started contacting Kiwanis, the Elk Lodge, the American Legion, Masons, Knights Templar, Civitan, Kiwanis, and Rotary, some of which have more than one group in this area. If you have an "in" with any of these groups or want to suggest others, tell Jean Drenstedt (592-1761 or drenst@ohio.edu). It is not seniors alone that the team wants to reach. Many middle-age and even younger people are wondering what they should be doing to assist aging parents and grandparents while also helping them maintain their independence.

Save January 22nd and 23rd
for
Strategic Planning
We will have an all-member meeting
on Wednesday and Thursday to plan
the future of The Athens Village.
Wednesday, 1-5 p.m.
Thursday, 9 a.m.-4p.m.
It is important that every person who can possibly be
there will be for whatever hours on those two days.



 Do you have or know of a person we could contact concerning working for The Athens 

 Village as the home maintenance coordinator? Call the office before the end of De- 

 cember with your suggestions (447-0500). 



Short Notes

High Society Jazz: Pat Light's band traditionally has no December appearance. Watch for their return at the Eclipse Company Store in January.



The Overbys: Charles and Ruth Overby continue in their Lindley Inn apartment, where he is making progress on recovering from hip surgery and she is getting used to a pacemaker. Cards to their home address are fine since their mail will be picked up regularly for them. Their phone there is 797-5151; the middle of the day is the best time to call.



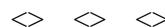
Marcia Johnson: After falling a few weeks ago when she had bent over to pick something up off the floor, Marcia is in The Laurels for physical therapy and other treatments designed to help her get back home. She is in Room 202 and would enjoy visits. She also would enjoy calls at 592-3147.



Carolyn Murphree: She has relocated to Florida to be nearer her children. You might include her on your holiday card list so she can hear from Athens news. Her address is 8991 University Parkway, Unit 331, Pensacola, FL 32514.



Recumbent trike at a bargain: Ed Penson has a recumbent trike that he is willing to sacrifice at a low price to another Villager. It leans back, thereby causing no pain nor strain while providing excellent exercise. Recommended for folks 60+. Normal price is \$2,900, but Ed has two such bikes and is willing to sell this one for \$499. It has a flag, speedometer, safety reflector, and storage compartment. Call Ed at 592-2809.



Fax machine for sale: Peg and Norm Cohn have a HP fax 1010 machine available for sale. Call 592-4074 for more details.



Insurance covering transportation? Monroe Johnson has found that Aetna Medicare will coordinate and cover expenses involved with transportation to and from medical appointments for up to 24 trips a year. It may be wise for all of us to check on whether our health insurance covers this cost.



Sara Gilfert has a long history with Nelsonville's Paper Circle

One of our members, Sara Gilfert has given uncountable hours of time and experience and joy for young artists and to children, especially of Nelsonville, through the experience with the ancient (and modern) art of papermaking.

Twelve years ago, Sara began sharing her papermaking skills by using her personal well-equipped studio. It grew into the formation of a nonprofit organization, the Paper Circle, and resulted in moving Sara's equipment and acquiring enough funding (Ohio Arts Program) to open a working studio and a gallery in Nelsonville. The program began by attracting young artists to form a children's outreach program at SPiCYAM in Shawnee.

Summer, when Circle Round the Square is in session, is the busiest time of year. Developed by Paper Circle Director Barb Campagnola nine years ago, Circle provides a multimedia intensive art experience for the children of Nelsonville. Last summer 60 students participated.

Barb acquires enough grants, including one that gives small stipends to high school juniors and seniors who are veterans of the Circle program. The Epstein Foundation has been particularly generous. Other partners include the First Presbyterian Church, Rocky Boots Foundation, and Hocking College. With the support of the Athens Foundation Leadership Training Program some students have received scholarships to Hocking College.



Over the 12 years the program has seen hundreds of students grow in imaging self-worth and freedom of expression as they experiment, express, create, and invent. All this grew from a workshop Sara took in 1979. Since then, she has enriched many lives in this one artistic endeavor alone.

Lane's Corner:

We saved this part of the back page for Lane Hoisington because he'd been so comfortable here since our Village was founded four years and two months ago.

He has done a monthly advice column throughout our existence, has done our home safety inspections, and has done the riskier household chores for us, thereby making it more possible for us to stay in our own homes as we aged.



After 30 years of working to maintain OU's buildings and grounds, Lane was happy to maintain *our* buildings and grounds, even making our upkeep purchases with his professional discount. He has done all kinds of plumbing and electrical repairs, has painted and refinished, has checked our houses while we were on vacation, and has done a thousand other things. Topping it all is his marvelous personality that puts everyone at ease with a smile.

But it's time to say goodbye to Lane and wish him well. He is facing shoulder surgery that would take him out of the picture for a couple of months, and after that he wants to straighten up his own place. When he is ready for work again, he will respond to job offers that guarantee more regular hours. He will miss us sorely, he says. He did not want a farewell party, so your Board sent a spy out to see what home workshop item we could give him to remind him of us forever.



Here is Lane's last column:

It's time to get your Christmas decorations down from the closet or attic. As you do that, always take time to check them for damage, bad wires, or questionable insulation. If the insulation in a string of Christmas lights is cracked, do not try to repair it. Discard it and buy a whole new string. You may keep working bulbs from the discarded string to use as spares.

When purchasing a real tree, always look for a good, straight trunk so your tree will stand firmly in its base. Before putting the tree in its stand, cut an inch off the bottom of its trunk or have the seller do that. Otherwise the tree may not draw water as it should because the original cut has healed over. Once the tree is up, check it daily for water,

While you are decorating, always use a ladder buddy. You don't want to celebrate Christmas from the hospital.

This is my last newsletter column. I am stepping down and someone else will be taking my place as your maintenance person. I have met a lot of wonderful people and I will miss visiting with them. Your new person will be as good as I am, and maybe even better. Thanks to all of you, and have a very merry holiday season.

.....Lane