



## THE ATHENS VILLAGE VOICE

### July BBLunch is on universal design for us



We would love to stay in our homes, but they are aging with us! What things should we consider as we figure out if our homes can accommodate us in the future?

Universal Design is the subject of our July 10 lunch (12 noon-1:30 p.m.). It will held at O'Bleness Hospital basement meeting room 10, where we hope to be joined by seniors from other groups.

Meg Teaford, a gerontologist at the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Ohio State University, has been part of the Universal Design Team for the past 20 years. She will share her thoughts about aging-in-place with us and provide a usable checklist for everyone. She lives in a three-story Victorian house in the German Village area of Columbus, so she knows the issues first-hand.

Meg has been teaching at OSU since 1993. She earned her B.A. in history at Mount Holyoke College, her master's at the University of Wisconsin, and her PhD at Ohio State. In addition to her work on Universal Design, she is also a co-coordinator of the Farming With Arthritis Project. She plans to retire from OSU at the end of August, but not from life.

Please mention this Brown Bag lunch to your friends and encourage them to attend. It will deal with common problems that all of us have, and Meg has a special talent for being both informative and entertaining as she talks. The lunch itself will begin at 12, Meg will start talking slightly before 12:30 (whenever the lunching and visiting slows down), and the meeting will conclude at 1:30. If you need a ride, let Patty know.

**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 St.

**Th, July 10, noon**, Brown Bag Lunch, O'Bleness basement meeting room. **Note New Location.**

**Tu, July 15 10 a.m.**, Board meeting, ACEnet conference room C.

**We, July 16, 2 p.m.**, Caregiver Support, ACEnet, conference room B.

**We, July 30, 1 p.m.**, Get the Most Out of Your Membership, ACEnet conference room B.



*Welcome  
back to  
Lane  
Hoisington  
as home  
maintenance  
coordinator*

### Our hero, Lane, will return as home maintenance guru

Last December, *The Village Voice* ran a farewell story about the fact that Lane Hoisington, who had been our home maintenance coordinator since the Village began, had to step aside because the demands of another part-time job and maintenance of his family place made this job too difficult to do.



An intensive search turned up Bill Shevel, an Albany business owner. He had thought he could work our needs into his schedule, but he found that not so easy. (See his column on page 3.)

Lane has agreed to return, the Board has voted for him, and members are glad to have him back. He had 30 years' experience in maintaining OU's buildings and grounds. He can fix just about anything, advise members whether recommended repairs are not necessary, and help locate other vendors when they are needed.

Lane will return on July 1. Call Patty to get on his schedule. Four free hours per year go to every member. They can include safety inspections, repairs, new installations, checking vacationers' properties, and other needs.

### Summer office hours

Director Patty Mercer will be available to members 24/7 by phone (447-0500), but her time in the office will be limited to about 20 hours a week, as called for in her contract.

Office hours will be **11 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday or as scheduled.** It is wise to call ahead to be sure she has not been called away to a meeting at the time you had chosen for a visit.



## *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](mailto:evarts@ohio.edu) with ideas or suggestions.

### **For assistance, call**

Patty Mercer, director

Office and cell: 740-447-0500

ACEnet, Building B,

94 Columbus Rd., Athens, OH 45701.

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

### **E-mail:**

[theathensvillage@gmail.com](mailto:theathensvillage@gmail.com)

### **Web site:**

<http://www.theathensvillage.org>

### **Board of Directors**

Ellsworth Holden, president

George Weckman, vice president

Anita James, secretary

Ed Baum, treasurer

Norm Cohn

Jean Drevenstedt

Dru Riley Evarts

Sue Foster

Steve Grimes

Margo Marazon

Michael Ward

## ***Aug. & Sept. lunch plans***

**August 7:** We will have a potluck picnic; location and rain plan to be announced. Suggestions welcome.

**September 4:** Leatha A. Clark, DPT, MS, will talk about falls — how to prevent them, how to get up if one does fall, and many other aspects of this major danger.

## **Conference deals with senior mobility**

By Patty Mercer

Dru Riley Evarts and I attended the Elder Mobility Forum in Columbus on June 18. (“Mobility” in this sense refers to transportation of seniors from place to place, rather than helping them with walking or biking.)

There is lots to be learned about the efforts going on nationwide to make certain seniors are able to get to where they need to go. Details about a national model were offered by the founder, Katherine Freund, of ITNAmerica. It had some amazing components, but unfortunately, Athens is not an appropriate location. The model is designed to serve areas of 200,000 people or more. The organization has created another model called ITNEverywhere. Findlay, Ohio, is where that pilot project will take place (assuming the folks working on it there can raise the \$3 million necessary to make it a reality).

My primary “takeaway” was that maybe it is time to invite members who are interested in the topic of transportation to meet and do additional research to see how The Athens Village can collaborate with other organization in Athens, the region, the state, and other stakeholders to create our own model.

Let’s add it to the agenda of the “Get More out of Your Membership” conversation already scheduled for Wednesday, July 30, at 1 p.m. in ACEnet’s Building B conference room. Hope to see you there!



## ***Want to get help and aid a baseball player, too?***

Need help around the house or the barn or wherever? **Hire a Copperhead!** That’s the name of the program that will bring as many of these fellows to you as you want to do yard work, house chores, moving moves, or whatever you have in mind. Hourly rates are negotiable, and you can get almost any size group, from one to several to do the tasks you have in mind. This continues through the end of July. Call 523-720-1778 or 740-707-3199 to ask questions and make arrangements. Janice Krebs has done this, and she says these guys are great!

## **Aggregation gets PUCO approval**

Progress has been made by the Southeastern Ohio Public Energy Council since we heard from their consultant, Roger Wilkens, at our June Brown Bag lunch.

*The Athens Messenger* reported on June 26 that this program has gained certification from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO).

We were reminded at the lunch **not** to sign up with any other competitive electric provider for our electrical needs. This one has been approved by voters to work to get all of us the best rates for electricity delivered at a reasonable cost.

Aggregation is a method for utility consumers to band together to seek lower rates, energy services, and advocacy for members. Call Roger with questions, 740-541-5340.



## Short Notes

**High Society Jazz:** Matt James will be the guest reed performer while Ted Harris has a day off when the band plays at the Eclipse General Store in The Plains. Come, relax, enjoy, 3:30-6 p.m. on Sunday, July 27. It's a nice afternoon, and Kiser's is ready to serve you with anything from a snack to a dinner.



**Bob and Lois Whealey** are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 3, at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 184 Longview Heights Road. No gifts, but come and enjoy visiting, refreshments, music, and one another.



**Business Before Hours:** The next Chamber of Commerce's Business Before Hours gathering is 8 to 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, July 16. (It is always on the third Wednesday of the month.) This one is at **Reiser Valentour and Callahan Architects, 131 W State St. Parking available at ARTS WEST.** It's a good chance to tell other people about the Village, to line up speakers, etc. Try to drop in, have a little breakfast, and make friends for our organization. You will be glad that you joined in.



Marcia Johnson will be going home during the second week of July after an extended stay at The Laurels. She enjoys phone calls at home. Gifford Doxsee, Warren Reininga, and Jean Wistendahl continue at Lindley Inn and would enjoy visitors. Lindley has a lunch the first Thursday of each month (11:30am to 1:30pm) so people may come to have lunch with individual clients. No reservation is needed. Just go and enjoy lunch as you chat.



Anna Hedges shared this story at the most recent "Get More out of Your Membership" meeting. She received a gift membership from her son and wasn't certain how she would get his money's worth. However, after a very heavy rainstorm, her basement flooded and she was at a loss—it was Friday afternoon! She called The Athens Village office and within 30 minutes Bill Shevel had called back and created a plan to remedy the situation. He removed the soggy carpet in no time flat and even took care of removing it from the premises. She encourages other members to think of TAV first when faced with unusual problems and to make use of the home maintenance services.

## Bill's Corner: monthly helpful hints

by Bill Shevel

More about scams...

The Attorney General of Ohio's office has issued a pamphlet listing common "signs of a scam." They are:

- You're asked to wire money to a stranger;
- You've won a contest you've never heard of or entered;
- You're pressured to "act now!"
- You have to pay a fee to receive your "prize;"
- Your personal information is requested, (i.e. Social Security number, credit card number, etc.);
- A large down payment is requested;
- A company refuses to provide written information;
- A company has no physical address, only a P.O. box.



If you experience any of these or just get a "gut feeling" that something just isn't right, stop, step away from the situation, and think before continuing. Protect yourself. There are lots of places to go for more information. Contact Patty at *The Athens Village Office* for more details.

On a lighter note, As of July 1, 2014 I will no longer be the handyman for *The Athens Village*. Due to the fact that my painting business is so busy, I have not always been able to take care of your needs in a timely fashion. Also, an old friend, you might know him, Lane Hoisington, has expressed interest in returning to his old position. In the best interest of all our members, I offered to step aside and let him resume his old duties. I hear he was pretty good at it. I also offered to help him out if he ever needs a second pair of hands or gets swamped with calls.

Thanks for welcoming me into your homes and I wish you all the best.



***We have been invited for a Bristol Village visit/tour***

Mark **Thursday, Aug. 21**, on your calendar. That is the day we have been invited to “A Bristol Adventure,” a chance to visit Bristol Village Retirement Community in Waverly.

Mark Aug. 14 (the preceding Thursday) on your calendar as a reminder that Patty has to have our reservations in by that time. Just tell her (either by phone or e-mail) whether you would like to go and she will arrange the travel groups and let them know our size altogether.

During our tour there, we will be welcomed at the 65,000-square foot Glenn Activity Center, shop for craft items at The NOOK, visit their model railroad station and garden, lunch at the Terrace Café, enjoy entertainment put on by the residents (some of whom we will recognize as being from Athens), learn about the Ohio-Erie Canal, and see their wildflower park, dog park, and labyrinth.

This will be our first official group trip. Let Patty know if you want to go on this one or to suggest other destinations.

**The importance of response**

Once in a while, *The Athens Village Voice* runs a story that ends with a request for you to “let Patty know” whether you want to be included in one activity or another. Or perhaps the story will simply ask your opinion on an issue.

This is a good time to stress the importance of your response. Knowing in advance how many want to be included in this or that can affect future planning considerably. Even if your particular response is negative, it helps future planning if Patty knows why.

So let your opinion be known as often as possible. You may have a great idea for an alternative that other members would like also. It takes only a few minutes (or even time that could be measured in seconds) to keep Patty informed.

The Athens Village is *for* and *about* YOU. Your opinions and ideas are always very important.

**Lessons learned at first Member Help event**

by George Weckman

Much valuable information was presented in our session, with about 15 members present at the OU Credit Union conference room for a financial concerns session with Cory Corrigan and his associates. If you did not make it and would like to know more about the following and other aspects of managing wealth, please let me or the Village office know. We can plan another session, one that deals with our members’ particular concerns.

Topics I found helpful among the many discussed included.

- ◆ Various ways of storing financial records remotely or on electronic devices.
- ◆ What we should have in an ICE (In Case of Emergency) Kit of important documents.
- ◆ How long to keep various records and what should be shredded.
- ◆ Fire-resistant safes for home storage of essential documents.
- ◆ Laws and practices concerning bank safety deposit boxes.
- ◆ Advantages and problems with trusts and other ways of avoiding probate.
- ◆ Beneficiaries, Transfers on Death, and similar ways, other than wills, of making money available to heirs.
- ◆ Financial power of attorney.
- ◆ Laws regarding the required minimum distribution (RMD) of tax-sheltered accounts.
- ◆ Long-term care insurance.
- ◆ Limits on gifts to persons each year.
- ◆ Donations to charities, such as gift annuities.
- ◆ Tax issues in the sale of one’s home.

These are my favorites among the myriad of issues raised and problems we all must face as we try to be responsible about our wealth. Future sessions of this kind might focus on real estate, wills, insurance, and medicine. Let Patty or me know how we can provide professional help and advice.

**You can still register for VtV meet in D.C.**

The national Village to Village meeting will be Sept. 29-Oct. 1 in Washington, DC. Patty Mercer will be our official representative. It is helpful if others go (and very enjoyable for them). Ed Baum and Anita James are going, but the more the merrier. Let Patty know if you are interested.

***Cohn, Weckman to present afternoon program July 6***



Norm Cohn, tenor, accompanied by George Weckman at the piano, will present a program of music, including Gershwin, Porter, and others.

The time is 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 6, at George’s house, 19 Park Place. All are welcome to enjoy the music.