



The Village Pump

SPONSORED BY SV ACTS, INC.

SPRING VALLEY TOWNSHIP, OHIO

NOVEMBER 2011

SPRING VALLEY ACTS — *Barbara Fouke*

34th Annual Potato Festival – We had a bumper crowd on Sunday, making up a lot for a cold Saturday. Find out more on how we did at the November ACTS meeting – everyone is welcome to attend (see details below). Presenting the **Citizens of the Year** award is always an awesome privilege, and this year we honored three people: **Carla Smith, Phyllis Keferl, and Ed Keferl**. What amazing resumes! Carla Smith has volunteered for years in many roles, especially in youth-oriented and Festival activities. In addition to supporting many civic and church activities, Phyllis and Ed have a combined 57 years of service with Spring Valley’s Fire Department and were instrumental in bringing the ambulance service to its current high standards. On the fun side, we were all happy that a local resident, Ron Haines, won the 50-50 raffle.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Members, volunteers, and all Spring Valley citizens are urged to attend the **ACTS Appreciation Dinner/Christmas Party** - Friday **December 2nd**, 6pm at Ancil’s Place, 1975 Roxanna-New Burlington Rd. Just bring a dessert or side dish to share. Please RSVP by Nov. 26th to 862-5250 if you plan to attend.

Christmas in the Village – Sunday **December 11th**, 6pm at Bledsoe Park. Come enjoy caroling and other activities to celebrate the season.

ACTS meetings are scheduled for: November 9, 2011 – to recap the year and the 34th Annual Potato Festival; and January 10, 2012 - to schedule events for the year ahead. Meetings are held at the George Barrett Concrete House at 7pm.

Potato Festival 2011– *Jon Keck, Co-Chair*

Reed Madden is stepping down as our festival chairman and I have agreed to try and fill the space that he is leaving. This year was my trial run, so I would like to say “Thank You” to the Volunteers and the Community for all of your support, in making this transition as smooth as possible and this Festival the Best in the Area.

The weather didn’t give us the best days on Friday and Saturday, but we still had a good turnout and Sunday was really nice with great crowd support.

Hope that you were able to get your festival favorites, funnel cakes, potato soup, candy, chicken and noodles, and apple dumplings, just to mention a few. There was a good turnout for the Friday evening activities and young and old alike were having fun.

There has been our share of setbacks this year, prior to the festival, as some individuals thought that the stage area was their personal drawing board and then we had another incident where we almost weren’t able to have a festival, as all of the wire needed to run the festival was stolen. These two activities cost the ACTS/Community approximately \$6000. These losses will affect what ACTS is going to be able to do over the next year, as this festival is the primary income the organization has to maintain and improve the George Barrett Concrete House and its other activities in the community. If you see activity of a questionable nature in or around the Parks and

the Concrete and Carriage Houses, please make a call to the authorities or an ACTS Board Member. We would appreciate the community support with trying to keep things clean and safe, as we will look to do the same for you.

As we move forward, I would like to get more of the community involved in the festival, whether it is in your volunteering or just an opportunity for you and your family to obtain extra income selling crafts and such in one of the booths. If you have ideas to improve the festival, call me or one of the other folks that are on the festival committee--we are always looking for additional ways to enhance our festival.

In closing, we also look forward to seeing all of the members of ACTS and the Potato Festival Volunteers at the Annual **Appreciation Dinner on December 2nd**. There are additional details about the dinner elsewhere in this issue of the Pump.

Reed,

Thank You for all of the Effort and Service that you have provided to our Community as our Festival Chairman, Businessman and Civic Leader. Following in your foot steps as the Festival Chair is going to be difficult, but you have provided a wonderful team of individuals that will make the job much easier, and I will be calling you for some sage advice -- you don't get off all that easy.

Jon Keck

HALLOWEENIE COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS

Ages 6 & under: *Jackson Stacy, Bradent and Luther Mathics, Taylor Vert and Laylah Jordan*

Ages 7 to 11: *Tessa Williams, Mya Lockhart, Liam Guffy, Autumn Taylor and Thomas Foster*

Ages 12 to 17: *Destiny Miller, Stephanie Wuebben, Tahner Snell, Allisa Wagner and Bradlee Flaughter*

Adults 18+: *Mary Holton, Courtney Blasioli, Megan Zehring, Jessica Smith and Karren Smith*

We had a very good turnout for this annual event. Thanks to Louise Holton for heading up the activity and all of the volunteers that helped make it a success. Everyone enjoyed Hot Dogs, Marshmallows and Apple Cider, I think that some of the kids (young and old) also had some of the treats from the earlier activities of the evening as well.

SPRING VALLEY PARK DISTRICT—Tracey Wright

The Spring Valley Park District would like to thank members of the Xenia Cadet Squadron for their help during the Potato Festival. As always, the cadets did a great job.

Please remember, you must schedule any event to be held at Walton Park. Pavilion reservations are on a first come first serve basis. All events must be scheduled -- organizations included. Please call Tracey Wright at 376-2598 to schedule.

In the spring we will be in need of help for the upcoming sports seasons. Please contact me if interested.

Softball sign-ups will be at the Spartan Spirit during the entire month of March. Anyone wishing to volunteer in any capacity, please contact Tracey Wright 376-2598.

SPARTUNES — Shery Snell

Any youth in grades K-12 are invited to join us. Practices are held on Thursdays from 4-5:30pm. It's a good time to unwind with a snack, talk with friends, and sing some fun music.

If you are interested in participating in the choir, in making a donation, or would like our ensemble to perform, please contact Shery Snell at 862-4726.

SPRING VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Office phone: 862-7691 Office hours: M – F, 9am-12noon
 Pastors: Gary and Sandi Maynard, home ph: 429-9539
 Pastors' e-mail: Sandigary@prodigy.net
 Web site: www.commoncupchurches.org/svumcpartyline
 Church e-mail: SpringValleyUMC@gmail.com
 Sunday School: 9:15, Worship: 10:30

Annual **Turkey Supper**, Saturday, **November 12, 4-7pm**. Baked goods and gift and jewelry bazaar will also be available. Questions: contact Pam Wehby.

This holiday season, be a Spring Valley HERO! This Christmas, help teach your kids the deeper blessing of giving rather than getting. This November SVUMC invites the whole community to participate with them in **Operation Christmas Child**, an outreach that brings simple gifts to children in deep poverty all over the world. Between November 14-21, please join our effort by dropping off items such as standard size shoe/plastic boxes, school supplies, small toys, hygiene items, socks, t-shirts, ball caps, hair clips or other small accessories. A more extensive list with detailed instructions is available from the church by calling 862-7691 or stopping by during the office hours of 9 am -12 pm, Mon-Fri. A \$7.00 donation for shipping is also appreciated, but not required. Let's show the world how generous and what a force for good the folks in Spring Valley can be!

Our annual, **Birthday Party for Jesus** will be held Tuesday, Dec. 13 for all Spring Valley children. Time: 4:30-6:00pm. Please RSVP to the church office by Dec. 9, so we can adequately plan. Come enjoy great fellowship with the church family, and get to know one another better. Questions: contact Cindy Steffen or Pastor Sandi through the church office.

Christmas Season and Services... The community of Spring Valley is invited to be our guests at worship, at 10:30am each Sunday. We begin to focus on the Season of Advent on November 27 through Christmas evening, December 24th. The word 'advent' is Latin for 'a coming or arrival'. Advent is the 4 week period before Christmas when the Church celebrates the first coming of Christ and anticipates His second coming. Please join us as we prepare to celebrate Christmas, the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our annual **Christmas Eve service** will be held at 8:00 pm, with special music and candlelight. Come join us for a very special blessing!

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SPRING VALLEY COMMUNITY LIBRARY — *Sue Losekamp*

1 E Walnut St. Telephone & Fax# 937- 862-4538
Hours: Mon & Wed 3 -7, Tues & Thurs 2 - 6 Sat 10 -2

In spite of some very chilly weather on Saturday of the Potato Festival, we had another successful Book Sale. Thank you to everyone who worked before, during, and after our book sale: Jim & Ann Barlow, Bob & Chris Herbst & granddaughter Megan, Darline Wieland, Teresa Holland, Charlene Landis, Ella Sommers, Judy Thompson, Jan & Tom Johnston, Stephanie McKee & Polly Mulligan, Tom Losekamp. Thanks a million to you all and also to everyone who shopped the sale.

We continue to stay up-to-date with the bestsellers in ADULT FICTION. Some of the latest are:

Most Dangerous Thing Laura Lippman	Prey Linda Howard
Son of Stone Stuart Woods	Wife-in-Law Haywood Smith
Heat Rises: Nikki Heat #3 Richard Castle	Lethal Sandra Brown
Shock Wave John Sanford	Happy Birthday Danielle Steel
The Litigators John Grisham	The Affair Lee Child
Robert B. Parker's Killing the Blues Michael Brandman	

New NON-FICTION include:

Rin Tin Tin: the life and the legend Susan Orlean	In the Garden of Beasts Eric Larson
When the Sun Goes Down: Planning the funeral of your life Betty Breauhaus	
Great Battles: Decisive conflicts that have shaped history Christer Jorgensen	
Moneyball: the art of winning an unfair game Michael Lewis	

New for YOUNG ADULTS:

The Son of Neptune Rick Riordan	Out of the Dust Karen Hesse
The Mysterious Benedict Society Trenton Lee Stewart	

New for CHILDREN:

Secret of the Junkyard Shadow Kristiana Gregory	Here Lies Linc Delia Ray
Mr. Popper's Penguins Richard & Florence Atwater	The Turkeys' Side of It Janice Lee Smith
There was an old lady who swallowed a bat! Lucille Colandro	

FOOD PANTRY. We want to remind everyone that—in conjunction with the SV United Methodist Church next door—we do have a small food pantry in the Library. Anyone is welcome to “shop” there any time during our normal hours. During the first 2 weeks of December, we will also be accepting donations of non-perishable goods to this pantry in lieu of overdue fines. If you have overdue items, now is an excellent time to return them!

PLEASE NOTE: The Library will be closed Nov. 23-26 for Thanksgiving. We will also be closed beginning December 19th and will not reopen until January 23rd. This is generally a slow time for us and closing should allow us to save significantly on our gas and electric bills. Also, any time the schools are closed due to snowy or icy weather, the Library will probably be closed also. Please call ahead (862-4538) to be sure we are open.

Come stock up on your reading materials before Christmas to last you through the long dark evenings of late December and early January!

SPRING VALLEY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—Judy Madden

The Spring Valley Area Chamber of Commerce quarterly business dinner meeting will be Wed. November 2nd at the Spring Valley Senior Center on Spring Valley-Paintersville Rd. Dinner will be at 6:00pm and our business meeting starts at 6:45pm. For reservations please call Pat Zehring at 862-6621 or Judy Madden at 862-4110.

Our meeting will be about Community Awareness. We need some input on our Community sign on US Route 42 and the possibility of putting an informational sign on the bike path. Also, what additional information should we have on our website? We need your help and insight.

The next business meeting will be March 7th, 2012 and the speaker will be announced at a later date.

SPRING VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY—Barb Fouke

Meetings – The Society meets on the **third Thursday** of each month at 7pm in the George Barrett Concrete House. Everyone is welcome.

The Barrett House Archives include a small collection of love letters written by Isaac Barrett to his second wife, Mary. The letters, which span a little over a year, are written in beautiful small script and offer a glimpse of Barrett as a sympathetic and poetic man, personally lonely, flexible in his conduct, focused on personal happiness and interested in the great issue of his time.

The first letter is an odd, even laughable way to speak to someone to whom you are attracted: Barrett basically says that if anyone had suggested he would find himself attracted to her, he would have thought they were crazy – but we can forgive this rather ham-handed sentiment if we think of him as a man stunned at finding himself suddenly falling in love.

The letters contain expressions of virtue and piety which one would expect of a Quaker gentleman, but the second and fourth letters show an imaginative, even poetic side to Barrett in the remarkable extended metaphors of sailing through life in the same boat, and the extended riff on teaching and learning in the fourth letter.

The second letter also has poignant expressions of solitude and loneliness – even though by choice he did not seek close friendships, yet he longs for some one intimate friend with whom he can share his innermost thoughts.

The third letter is a brief glimpse of a critical period in America's history: "Uncle Tom" may refer to "Uncle Tom's Cabin," the famous anti-slavery work published in 1852 by Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Barrett is interested enough in the momentous moral issue that he is willing to bend his rule against theatre going. Furthermore, he is open-minded and secure enough to welcome a discussion of his conduct.

The fourth letter tantalizes us with its mention of Mary's studies. In an age when educational opportunities for women were limited, we wonder - what she was studying, and where? Again we glimpse Barrett's open-mindedness, in his easy encouragement to Mary to pursue her interests. The entire letter is remarkable for its emphasis on personal happiness.

The letters were on display at the Museum this summer, along with the following transcriptions by Archivist Peggy Leadingham.

January 7, 1855

Dear Mary – Since I saw you one more week has nearly passed, and notwithstanding it has been a busy one for me, my mind has often reverted to what passed during the evenings. Although I can't look upon our proceedings with anything but pleasurable emotions, it seems strange to me to find myself so closely attached to one who but a few short months ago was no more to me than any one whom I should esteem for virtue and morality, and if one year ago any one had told me of the relation we now sustain to each other we would thought him to be a fit subject for a lunatic asylum.

January 28, 1855

My Dear Mary - ...I have long been of the opinion that it was not very profitable for me to have many very intimate and confidential friends, yet I believe it is natural for me to want a friend, one in whom I can place the most implicit confidence and to whom I can open my whole heart upon any and all subjects. A friend with whom I can share all of my present joys and future anticipations, and one who would be willing to share with me such of life's woes as might overtake us while sojourning in this lower world. It is to you my dear Mary that I am looking for such a friend. Methinks I hear you make the inquiry, what do you propose to give in return for such a friend. I have nothing to offer but an honest heart. You will excuse me for saying so much about myself. I suppose that the question is now settled and if life and health are spared "ere long" (you and I) will be sailing down the stream of life in the same boat happily united in the bonds of a pure and holy affection. May God grant that our sea may be calm and that no boisterous wave may capsize our bark. Let me hear from you soon and believe me your constant and devoted friend

I.M. Barrett

February 25, 1855

...I cannot forbear reading often what, from time to time, falls from your pen...one passage or remark which it contained struck me, at the time, with peculiar force. It was this. "I sincerely hope that you will expect no more of me than I by my best endeavors aided by high heaven am able to fulfill." I should certainly be a very unreasonable man to expect more than this – "our best endeavors aided by high heaven" can never fail to make us happy. This, Mary, is a high standard which you have laid down by which to be governed. I will join you, and we will both adopt it, and in doing so let us try to live up to it, by using, our best endeavors to make each other happy. If we do so, ours is destined to be a happy future.

March 18, 1855 – written from Philadelphia

I went last night to see Uncle Tom played at the Chestnut Street Theater. As a general thing I am opposed to theatrical amusements – but when it partakes of the nature of this drama I can see no harm. There is a good moral in it and the different acts were of such a sublime and solemn character that it touched the hearts of many and brought tears from many eyes my own not excepted. Do you think that you could have conscientious scruples against witnessing a display of this kind? Let me have your opinion in regard to this. Perhaps we can get up an argument –

April 1, 1855

To learn that you are in good health and "enjoying yourself finely," this is pretty good evidence that you are progressing rapidly with your studies. Have you determined yet to go another session? If you think you can enjoy it I would be pleased to have you continue and then if nothing unforeseen transpires we will enter another kind of school and you may teach me and I will teach you and we will be teacher and students altogether. That is to say you may teach me how to love you and make you happy and I will try and teach you how to love me and make me happy. Won't we have a great time teaching and learning?

January 13, 1856

My Dear Mary,

I could suppose from the tenor of your letter that you are ruminating quite as much upon the future as upon the past or present. This under the circumstances is quite natural. For, upon the subject which interests us most, and is nearest our hearts, will our minds dwell and ponder. We have but little power to turn the channel of thought from those subjects which absorb the affections of the soul. Knowing as I well do the honest and purity of the motives which have actuated me in seeking your hand and heart, I have often thought if I could lift the curtain that hides the secret impulses of your nature from my view and there read in characters not to be misunderstood the motives that have induced you to make a surrender of your fondest and holiest affections...

SPRING VALLEY SENIOR CENTER NEWS — Janet Miller, Director

1489 Spring Valley-Paintersville Rd., Spring Valley, Ohio 45370

Center Hours: 9am to 4pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday, and 6pm to 9pm Friday

Telephone # (937) 862-4475 Fax # (937) 862-9975 Email svcenters@yahoo.com

Spring Valley Senior Center would like to thank everyone that supported us at the Potato Festival. We were pleased with the proceeds and hope everyone enjoys the crafts purchased that are made at our center. Our raffle quilt was won by Pam Thompson of Centerville.

Sharon Neff was awarded an honorable mention in the state for Senior Volunteer of the Year for Ohio by Medical Mutual of Ohio. Sharon has been a very active volunteer at our center for several years and is currently

the membership chairperson on our board of directors. She has helped organize our own volunteer recognition, our holiday parties, has led a group of Swedish weavers, and started our bi-monthly newsletter, serving as editor. She lives in Xenia but has ties to the Spring Valley area. She had started as a volunteer in Xenia and then got involved in the quilting and activities here, and remains active at both centers. We nominated her for the award and were excited that she was one of 30 honored. She and three others from our center went to a luncheon at Westlake, near Cleveland on Oct 12 to see her presented with a plaque and flowers. Sue Tyler, an executive vice president of Medical Mutual, said of all the volunteers honored, "Instead of staying home and complaining about what you can't do, you're here celebrating what you can and DO do!" Volunteering takes a "selfless commitment to honoring lives of other people". Congratulations, Sharon!!

It was with sadness that we said goodbye to our office manager, Jessica Smith on Oct 21... She has been an asset to our center and works so well with all of the seniors coming here. But good news for her, as she has been looking for a full-time job with good pay and benefits, since graduating from college over a year ago. Also good news for the Better Business Bureau of Dayton, where she will be working. They are acquiring an excellent worker and committed employee! Good luck to Jessi!! Creada Vance is returning to her job in membership care after a leave of absence and she and Becky Sellers can take on a few of Jessi's responsibilities. Director Janet Miller will take over more of the book-keeping tasks. We could use a couple of new volunteers to help with the cash register at lunch (which had been a volunteer job but Jessi has been filling in a lot lately) or for activity-related tasks. Just a couple hours one or two days a week would be helpful!

A big piece of news that we had waited for confirmation to announce is the purchase of the Masonic Lodge for our future home. The senior center was started 24 years ago and has used the old Spring Valley Elementary School. As we approach our 25 year anniversary, we also approach the end of the lease agreement. With aging equipment and increasing building maintenance costs, we talked to the owners about extending the contract but found it would cost more money. When the New Burlington Masons approached Spring Valley Township trustees with the option to purchase their building beside their firehouse on US 42, we began to explore that possibility. The lodge is newer, built in 1971, and is about the same square-footage of space, but has two major drawbacks, being two floors, and possible septic problems with upgrading the kitchen to serve meals. On the other hand, putting money into a building makes a lot more sense when you own it! The trustees had been setting aside a small amount of the senior levy money each year and said they had enough to purchase the property and bring it up to code for restrooms, a ramp, and new heating and air. It will be at least a year before we actually move in. We will continue to explore options to serve meals, possibly through the CAP program or a vending company and we will continue to have some member carry-ins and to prepare "fundraiser" meals, probably once a week. We are also ready to begin a capital campaign for raising money for an elevator.

Line-dancing is 10am on Tuesday and Thursday. Craft activities take place every morning with a special one at 9:15 on Friday, card-playing afternoons, Swedish weaving Friday at 12:30 and sewing in the quilt room daily 9 to 2, except Friday till noon. We are open for lunch Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 11:30 to 1 pm.

Menus for the week of Oct 31: Mon- turkey & dressing, Tue- johnny ribs, Thur- chopped sirloin, Fri- sausage gravy & biscuits, hamburgers, broccoli soup; week of Nov 7: Mon- pizza, Tue- closed, Thur- meatloaf, Fri- grilled cheese, ham& beans with cornbread; week of Nov 14: Mon- pork chops, Tue-chicken divan. Thur- cabbage rolls, Fri- sausage gravy, etc., vegetable soup; week of Nov 21: Mon- liver & onions, Tue- turkey & dressing, closed Thur & Fri for Thanksgiving week of Nov 28: Mon- swiss steak, Tue- baked chicken, Thur- hamloaf, Fri- polish sausage , corn fritters; week of Dec 5: Mon- chopped sirloin, Tue- spaghetti, Thur- chicken biscuit bake, Fri- sausage gravy, etc, broccoli soup; week of Dec 12: Mon- pork chops, Tue- salmon patties, Thur- sloppy joes, Fri- turkey hotshots; week of Dec 19: Mon- lasagna, Tue- fried chicken, Thur- baked ham, Fri & Mon - closed for Christmas, Tue, Dec 27- swiss steak, Thur- beef & noodles, Fri & Mon- closed for New Years. Come to our **Christmas Bazaar Dec 5,6, 8 & 9!** Our **Christmas party** will be **Dec 16!**

4-H News

Contact one of us - Pat & Gary Zehring 862-6621, Carla Smith 862-4347, Melody & Steve Shafer 848-2376, or Jon Keck 470-4865 - for information.

