

The Voice of Maybee

Village of Maybee, Issue 113

maybeevillage@juno.com

P.O.Box 36 734-587-2900 fax 734-587-6534 March 2009

Council Corner

The Village Council meeting last night learned some good news about the current financial bailout in Michigan. The sewer project will be reduced by 25% using state funds available. Re-zoning a parcel of land in the village was also approved. State funds are also available for the construction of new sidewalks in the village. A book of standards was authorized by the council and by early Spring a list of projects should be complete. A planning commission and a zoning board of appeals will be discussed at next months meeting.

The Library Table

734-587-3680

Preschool Storytime every Friday

Time 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Family Storytime every Monday

Time 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Stitch by Stitch

March 16 Time 6:00 - 8:00

Do you crochet, knit, cross-stitch, embroider, crewel, tatting, do smocking or any other needlecraft? Would you like to learn any of these crafts or finish a project. For an evening of crafting and conversation come and join us and bring your unfinished project.

Fancy Nancy Fashion Show

Date March 19 2009 Time 6:30 PM - 7:30

Attention all fashionistas (that's a fancy word for a very fashionable person)! Come and show off your cat walk moves at the Fancy Nancy Fashion Show. Dress to impress, and remember to smile for the paparazzi (that's a fancy word for photographer)!

Spring Craft Date March 28 2009

Time 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Come and join the fun with this great spring craft program. Connie Biccum, Maybee resident, will help you create your very own flower pot and plant some beautiful spring flowers to help greet the season. Wear some old cloths and get ready for fun Registration is required for this program so call 587-3680.

American Girl Tea

Date April 02 2009 Time 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

You are cordially invited to Maybee Library American Girl and Friends Tea Party. Dress up in pretty skirts and hats, even if you have to borrow your mom's high heels. Don't forget to bring your favorite American Girl or special doll friend. There will be lots of fun things to do for everyone.

Family Movie Night

April 03 2009 Time 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

For super-dog Bolt, every day is filled with adventure, danger and intrigue -- at least until the cameras stop rolling. When the canine star of a hit TV show is accidentally shipped from his Hollywood soundstage to New York City, he begins his biggest adventure yet -- a cross-country journey through the real world. Come to the Maybee Library drive-in. Feel free to bring movie time snacks. Rated:PG

DOWNTOWN MAYBEE DAY

The Downtown Maybee Day Committee is moving full speed ahead with Tracy Francis at the controls this year. It is not too early to submit your ideas for the slogan on the Maybee Day t-shirt. **Deadline is March 24 so drop your entry off at Citizens Bank or e-mail them to tfrancis28@ymail.com.** The winner receives a free t-shirt. This year will have a hot dog eating contest for five of the local High School teams, the chili cook-off, baking contest (pies, cookies and cakes) , more tractors, and a lawn mower pull. Anyone interested in participating in the lawn mower pull please contact Matt Reese @ 419-467-1716 for details. The lawn mower pull will be from noon till 4 pm. New events and different activities for the kids will be highlighted this year. For entertainment there will be the Floral City Harmonizers, Raisin Valley Bluegrass Band, Cottonwood Cloggers, and the Silver String Dulcimers. There are even a few new surprise events that will be in future issues of the paper. Spread the word. June 13 from 9 am till 5 pm in beautiful Downtown Maybee. See you there. If you would like to sponsor one of the events or become one of the many volunteers needed to run the festival contact Tracy Francis at tfrancis28@ymail.com or call 734-244-6468. **Deadline for signing up for vendor space is April 15, 2009.**

Spring Turkey Shoot
MAYBEE

Maybee Recreation will be having registration for summer ball on Saturday, March 14th and Sunday, March 15th. This year it will be at the new concession stand at the ballpark on Raisin Street. Saturdays time will be from nine in the morning till one in the afternoon and Sunday will be from noon till four. There are leagues for girls and ladies from three to twenty-one and for boys and men from three to eighteen. There are also adult co-ed leagues on Sundays. If you have any questions or concerns call Kathy @ 734-384-5291.

Spring Turkey Shoot

Saturday March 21
10 AM to 4PM

Carleton Sportsman's Club
14100 Sumpter Road

Come out for this very enjoyable event. All levels of shooters will have equal opportunity to win prizes, gift certificates and turkeys. This fundraising event will help provide Trophy's and Awards for the junior travel trap league. This event is open to the public. Youth and adults can participate. You will need to bring your own shotgun and shells. Games will range from \$5.00 to \$10.00 each.

When I was a Kid growing up in Maybee.....by

Marjorie Van Auken

When I was a kid growing up in Maybee, the original Rupp homestead on Hoffman Road still existed in the Rupp family. It remained the residence....and working farm...for several of my great aunts and uncle who never married. The farmhouse itself was built in the red German brick style so prominent in this area. The house was built in 1857 by my great-great grandfather, Wilhelm Rupp, on 120 acres. (As a point-of-reference, Great-great grandpa Wilhelm was born in 1812 in Steinbach, Baden, Germany. My dad, Carl John Rupp...his grandson...was born in 1913 in Pemberville, Ohio....101 years later.) By the time I became familiar with the farm home in the 1950's-60's, it was already over 100 years old and had changed from its original appearance showing the rigors of old age. The old wooden front porch had long since fallen off and not been replaced...so if you opened the front door in the parlor to let in a breeze, you best remember to not step out!

The homestead seemed frozen in time. Except for the addition of electricity, it was never modernized and my relatives continued living there in the manner they had always known. I never questioned this. This farm held such fascination for me as a child, I couldn't imagine any reason to want to change it. The barnyard itself was mostly well-packed down dirt...just the sturdiest and hardiest of grasses...or weeds...poked through. Since the farm lay on both sides of Hoffman Road, the flower and vegetable gardens were across the road and fenced in with an old squeaky gate allowing access. With free-range fowl afoot, you needed fences to keep the plants from being pecked and eaten by the geese, chickens and ducks.

When it came to the flock of large gray geese, my great aunt Helen reigned supreme. She was the youngest of the Rupp clan....born in 1900....and stood less than five feet in height. She suffered from curvature of the spine and was always hunched over. But the geese worshipped her like a high priestess. They were both about equal in height and she could look them right in the eye. With a stern scolding and her switch, she would keep them in line and they followed her around like dogs. They were her pets. Geese are great watchdogs. When anyone pulled into the yard they all set about announcing the intrusion by loud honking. We knew (because we had learned the hard way...) that we should wait until we saw my aunt before disembarking from the car. Geese like nothing better than to chase people and nab onto whatever part of tender human flesh they can reach with those long outstretched necks. It only takes being pinched once by a goose to know you don't want to do it again! Aunt Helen would keep them at bay until we were safely in the house.

As I previously mentioned, Aunt Helen was the youngest in the family. She had nine siblings, all of whom grew to adulthood with the exception of a brother, George Ludwig, who lived only a year. Out of the nine who survived, only four married and of those four, only two had children. (My grandpa, John Carl Rupp, was one of the two to have children.... my dad and my uncle, William (Wayne) Rupp.) So the house remained home for five

of the siblings their entire lives.

I remember how wonderfully cool the farm house was in the summer. We always entered through the summer kitchen located at the back where the food preparation and eating was done during the hot summer months. The cook stove...fired by wood... was in the actual kitchen and used only during cold months to cook and help heat the house. By this time, a small ancient refrigerator and electric stove had been installed in the summer kitchen. Quite a luxury to those accustomed to none for so many decades. There was no furnace, only a pot belly stove in the parlor...no running water, water was hauled from the pump in the yard...and no plumbing in the homestead. An old outhouse (fully equipped with last year's Sears catalog, I might add) stood outside the gate....where, unfortunately, one had to face the geese again to get to it.

The wonderful old house still had the traditional parlor which was used mostly for entertaining. It held a large pump organ that I just loved sitting at and pulling out the stops. My feet could hardly reach the large board-like pumps on the floor. But I tried making noise come out of it...usually all I got were wheezing sounds! But it wasn't just an organ, it was a piece of decorative furniture with a mirror and what-not shelves, too. Very ornate carvings made it a thing of beauty. My ancestors were musical people. My great uncle, William Frederick, for example, played fiddle for area events and also was a member of the Maybee Cornet band.

The kitchen was the gathering place for the family. The old kitchen table was covered in oil cloth and the iron cook stove stood close by. It had four iron lids. A small metal handle was inserted into holes in the lids which then could be safely lifted to add more wood. Behind the stove were two narrow rooms...one was a patty...and the other was the "sick room" containing a cot. Anyone ill was placed in there to protect the rest of the family and to be close to the heat from the kitchen stove. Illnesses were very often contagious in those early days and isolation was sometimes necessary.

I remember good things coming out of that kitchen. Wonderful traditional German Christmas cookies and homemade candies were made in the cook stove oven. And one of the best meals I ever ate was homemade liver sausage with fried potatoes and homemade cottage cheese which I shared with my cousins, Nancy and Mary, out on the old side porch off the kitchen. Plain, simple fare... but it was pure ambrosia for three hungry little girls. And as for those gosh-awful geese....Aunt Helen made sure Dad got several goose eggs every spring. One goose egg filled an entire eight-inch iron skillet and was a whole meal in itself. The huge orange yolk was rich and delicious and great for dipping into with a piece of homemade bread!

I had no idea at the time that I was getting one final glimpse of old German style pioneer living. I truly treasure my ancestry. It was a privilege to experience it... when I was a kid....growing up in Maybee.