Upcoming events:

September 7, 2006 8:00PM Lyceum Concert- An Evening of Melodies; Jim Stanton will present an evening of entertainment. Join us for a delightful evening of favorite melodies.

October 5, 2006 8:00PM Lyceum-‘New Tomb in the Valley of the Kings’; Heather Alexander. (See article inside.)

October 7, 2006 Noon-4:00PM Fall Festival- Quilt Show in the Town Hall, children’s activities on the Square. (See article inside).

November 2, 2006 8:00PM Lyceum- A Real Survivor! Florence Roseman recalls her ordeal as a survivor of the Athenia, the first ship torpedoed in WWII.

From the President:

We extend our thanks to Dave Beveridge for serving as president of the Bedford Historical Society this past year. His enthusiasm and commitment have helped our society grow. Dave has served in many capacities over the years including the formation of the Endowment Committee. He recently has stepped down as chair of this committee while he regains his health.

We welcome Jack Ulman who has consented to serve on the Endowment Committee. The Endowment Committee will be kicking off its annual campaign this fall. Please give it your careful consideration.

It takes many people to keep our hometown museums and library open. Thank you for your support of our programs and fundraisers.

Brian Melling

Strawberry Festival

Perfect weather and a new attraction teamed up to make this year’s Strawberry Festival a success. Although a bit cool, the weather was dry and sunny; perfect weather for a pleasant visit to Historic Bedford Public Square. The classic car show on Saturday evening attracted over 130 purring engines that parked along Broadway. This is the first time a car show was tied in with the annual Strawberry Festival. Ralph King and a committee of members, businesses and community residents organized the additional event. Celebrity judges included Dick Ambrose, former Cleveland Brown and Brock Kreizburg, Olympic Bobsledder.

The Strawberry Festival is our main fundraiser for operating costs. This year it netted $15,559.

Thanks to Betsy Lee, chair and her committee: Joann Harwood, Chuck and Lois St. John, George Kostel, Frank Caldwell, Lynn Jones, Chris Sweet, Pat Papish, Ron Lisy, Alma Rhine, Dot Schwende, Don Saunders and Ralph King. There are over 200 volunteers serving in some capacity to make the event a success. Our gratitude to each and everyone who helped.

We thank the following businesses who helped make the Festival a success: A NU TTT 2, AZ COMMERCIAL, ADVANCE AUTO PARTS, ARABICA CAFÉ, BEDFORD AUTO CARE, BEDFORD AUTO TRIM, BEDFORD MASSAGE THERAPY, BEDFORD QUICK PRINT, BOSTON HILLS COUNTRY CLUB, CARQUEST, CASA D’ANGELO, COTTMAN TRANSMISSION, THE DOG HOUSE, GRAPHIC WORLD, GUST & ADOLPH, HERITAGE CARE, JAY HONDA, KACZUR MEATS, KEN SCHULMAN ESQ., LIBERTY FORD, MEGANS FAMILY JEWELERS, LIBERTY FORD, MEGANS FAMILY RESTAURANT, NATIONAL TIRE & BATTERY, NON-FERROUS HEAT TREATING, QUALITY CONTROL INSPECTIONS, REAR VIEW MIRROR LTD, REILS CONSTRUCTION, TURNERY AUTO PARTS, TWIST & SHAKE.

A New Screen and Projector

Thanks to Trustee, Lola Gergye, we have a new screen and slide projector for use at the Lyceum series. We are still trying to obtain a Power Point Computer projector. Any member who can loan one on occasion, please call the museum.
An Excerpt from the Amateur Sports Teams Exhibit on view at the Town Hall Museum through mid October.

The King and His Court

Softball enthusiasts have a soft spot for Eddie Feigner. Feigner was an orphan who grew up to be one of the most respected players in the game. His natural talent as a pitcher served him well in pre-WWII local leagues and then as a US Marine. His skills became so well known that Feigner formed a four-man team that could take on any team in the country. To hone their skills, Feigner got permission to play with prison inmates inside the Washington State Prison system. Ready for the road, Feigner named his team “The King and His Court”. The traveling league became a big hit as they traveled around the country playing softball. The games highlighted Feigner’s skills as a natural athlete as well as his court consisting of a catcher, first baseman and shortstop.

Over the years, The King and His Court became famous. The King could throw a pitch forward and backward with lightning speed. Base stealers did not have a chance. He could strike a man out by pitching from second base with a blindfold over his eyes. Feigner’s skill at controlling the ball and the speed of his pitch (his top speed was clocked at 104 mph) brought crowds to any ball field. As he and his teammates aged, new recruits with equally good skills served in the Court.

The four-man King and His courts played in Bedford in 1956. The event was held at the Bedford Athletic Field and was sponsored by the Bedford Lions Club.

2006-07 Lyceum Begins

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Lyceum series for the upcoming year. There is an exceptional selection of interesting topics. All Lyceum programs are open to the public with no charge. The programs start promptly at 8:00 pm. Refreshments are served after the program. The evening generally ends about 9:15-9:30. In this day of television and computer distractions, the Lyceum continues to attract enlightened adults who enjoy the broad range of topics offered. Enjoy an evening out, close to home.

Organ Concert Highlights a Hammond

Has the mighty Moeller met its match? Hear the mellow tones of a classic Hammond organ. It will be moved into the church for this event. Jim Stanton will present an evening of favorite melodies. He is a member of the Theater Organ Guild and has played professionally in many areas of Ohio, including the Gaslight Restaurant for many years. This is the kick-off for the 06-07 Lyceum Series. It will be held in the restored sanctuary of the 1892 Old Church on the Square.

The New Tomb in Egypt

Bedford resident, Heather Alexander, shares her experience in Egypt’s Valley of the Kings. She was part of the archeological team that discovered the first tomb unearthed since 1923. As the official photographer for the expedition, Heather will share her photography and stories. This is a rare opportunity to hear the story behind the headlines. October 5, 2006 8:00pm. 750 Broadway.

Surviving the Shipwreck

Florence Roseman recounts her experience as a survivor aboard the Athenia, the first ship torpedoed in WWII. Florence recalls the journey during this perilous time, the attack and the rescue of survivors. November 2, 2006 8:00pm 750 Broadway.

Old Ways School Fall Class Sessions

Missed the spring session? You will have an opportunity to learn something new in October. The brochure for classes is enclosed with this newsletter. Thanks to the generosity of our teachers, we will again offer classes. Spread the word to your friends and colleagues.
Fall Harvest Festival

Bring your family and join the fun for the Second Annual Fall Festival on October 7th Noon – 4:00pm. There will be children’s activities on the Square. Our buildings will be open. The second floor of the Town Hall Museum will feature a Quilt Show displaying the museum’s collection of beautiful Quilts. Alice Wright, of the Fairview Quilters will be demonstrating the art of hand quilting on the second floor lobby. Children and the young-at-heart can try quilting with Alma Rhine & Betsy Lee.

Tom Ramsay will have a display of his Bedford related arts & crafts on the first floor.

First Floor Renovation Underway

Renovation of the main floor of the Town Hall Museum is in progress. This has been the most challenging floor because it serves many purposes for the society. It houses the library, archives, offices, gift shop and minor exhibits. Our goal has been to reconfigure the interior without affecting the significant architectural features of this National Register building.

Stop in and see our progress this fall. An opening dedication is planned for the Christmas Open House on December 9th. Funding for this project comes from the generous support of several of our members and in memory of loved ones. If you would like to donate for this project, please let us know.

Historic Dinner Series Continues

An invitation to members to recreate historic recipes resulted in four memorable dinners last year. The invitation goes out again to members who would like to join us for a second series of historic meals. The series will kick off with an All-Ohio dinner, including Lake Erie perch. Future dinners include recipes from the Depression Era and WWII Meals made with Rationed Ingredients. Participants research their own resources or use the historical society’s own collection of cookbooks. Everyone contributes something to the meal. Sharen Naylor will coordinate the series, for more information please call her at 330 468-1842. A cookbook was compiled from the first series. It is available in the Museum Gift Shop for $4 plus shipping and handling.

Memorial Bricks

Memorial bricks on Bedford Public Square can be ordered through the historical society for $55. Please call Evelyn Suastuk 440 232-7245 for information. The form can be downloaded from our website bedfordohiohistory.org.

Geocache Update

History is alive and well in Bedford. The Geocache committee investigated the possibility of installing a geocache on our property. They discovered that someone else has a cache located on Bedford Public Square. Five clues, all history related, must be solved before the coordinates can be revealed. (This explains why some of our museum visitors ask very specific questions!). Since caches must be spaced far apart, we cannot install one of our own. If you would like to go on a geocache expedition, call the museum. We will get you in touch with a committee member who will be happy to take you on a geocache hunt.

Interested in another Field Trip?

Last fall’s fieldtrip was great fun. This time, we will visit two historic sites in the Flats. The tour is scheduled for Saturday October 21st. We will leave Bedford at 9:00am. First, we will tour Midwest Rail Preservation Society’s historic Roundhouse. They are in the process of restoring the site. The roundhouse is used to restore Midwest’s locomotives. Then we will cross the river and visit Settler’s Landing, site of Cleveland’s earliest settlement. We will walk to the nearby Flat Iron Café for lunch. Cost of the trip is $8.00/ person; lunch is extra. Call Lynn Jones 330 467-4338 if you plan to attend. Let her know if you are driving, if you can take a passenger or if you need a ride.

Our gratitude to VFW Post 1082 for their recent donation to the Bedford Historical Society. Their continued support allows us to serve by keeping the history of this region. As a 501 C 3 non-profit, we are dependent on other service organizations to help with funding. The law restricts us on how we can raise money ourselves.

The Bedford Rotary Club also contributed to help us continue. We extend our thanks.

Help! Marchers are Needed

Chris Sweet is looking for a few good men, women and children to help march in parades with our historic flags. The Memorial Day parade is .5 mile. The 4th of July Parade is 2.5 miles. If your health and knees are up to it, join us. Call Chris 440 439-7470.
What’s New at the Museum?

The Amateur Sports Leagues exhibit continues until mid-October on the third floor of the Town Hall Museum. The memorabilia is on loan from area residents. The team photo wall has many perusing the faces for someone they know. The display also highlights a few of our local citizens.

The Print Shop continues to draw visitors who remember setting type and running presses in high school. Several printers from Northeast Ohio have visited to reminisce.

The museum will begin construction of a display on the history of Taylor Chair. Target date for opening is next spring. Please call the museum if you would like to help with this project.

The Cat’s Meow is back!

One of the most popular, and hardest to find, Cat’s Meows will be released in time for Christmas. Featured is the Taylor Chair Company site, soon to be razed. This is a commemorative piece in conjunction with the Taylor Companies as they move to their new site a few blocks away. It is our most requested piece among collectors. The back has a short history of the company and, a new addition, a medallion insert showing the new facility. This is the first time that a Cat’s Meow has printed an image on the back of a piece. They will sell for $20.50 plus $1.54 tax. Advance sales are discounted to $19.00 plus $1.43 tax. Please add $3.50 for shipping and handling. Advance orders are being taken until October 15th. Send your check or money order to PO Box 46282 or drop it off at the Town Hall museum.

Our thanks to this year’s Popcorn Crew: Jules & Alma Rhine, Elmer & Pearl Palinkas, Roy & Sharen Naylor, Lee & Barb Aldridge, Laura Flaisig, Theresa Chapman, Paul Pojman, Pat Bosway, Betsy Lee, Evelyn & Mike Sawastuk, Patti Sirna and JD Morris.

Early Notice- Christmas Cards

Roger Fuhrmeyer is creating a new Christmas card for the upcoming season. It will be printed on the 1894 C&P press. This will be the first of a series to be used over the next four years. We are also fortunate to obtain an antique Christmas printing cut from member, Jim Magyar. The cards will be app 4x5 in size. Either design or a bit of both will be available. Cards will sell for $10 for 15 plus $0.75 tax. Please add $2.00/ set for shipping and handling. Last year’s cards quickly sold out. Indicate all one design or half of each.

Garden Update

The Bedford Garden Club’s garden at the rear of the Town Hall Museum is progressing despite the hot summer weather. The stone and brickwork are completed. Perennials have been planted. An interesting feature of the garden is a trickling waterfall. When it is completed, a small pump will circulate the water over rocks and into a stone holding area. From there, it disappears underground and is pumped up to the top again. It uses about 2 gallons of water and has no standing water. A grand dedication is scheduled for sometime next spring after the plants are established.

Obituaries:

John P. Bobo; Member John Bobo passed away on May 2, 2006. He was a 35 year resident of Bedford. Mr. Bobo joined the historical society in 1997. He is survived by his wife Jane (nee: Aldridge) and children Velda Jean and Jerry (Heather) Bobo.

‘Peg’ Lynch; Margaret Lucy Lynch (nee Milvy) passed away on July 12, 2006. She was a historical society member since 1993. Peg lived in Bedford and was married to John F. who preceded her in death. She leaves a loving family: John (Nancy), Marjorie (Stephen) Plautz, James, (Debra) and Patricia Cummins. She was a grandmother and great grandmother.

The Historic Dunham House will be open for your pleasure on September 21st from 1-3 PM. Bring a friend and spend a pleasant afternoon.