Upcoming Events

September 10th Thursday 7:30-Lyceum Robt. Biro’s The Glory Days-Remembering Sportsman’s Park. Historic slides footage and memorabilia from Robert’s father, racer Gays Biros. (Note this is the second Thursday of the month.)

September 19th Saturday Field Trip to the Hayes Presidential Center. Details inside.

Sept 19th Saturday 10am -4pm Tinkers Creek Watershed Day on the Square. Museums will be open in the afternoon.

Old Ways School- four Mondays in October; see article inside.

October 1st Thursday 7:30pm Lyceum- Special Gifts- The Music of the African American Church. Details inside

November 12, 2009 Thursday 7:30 (note this is the second Thursday of the month.) Jerry Armstrong ‘My Life in Part’; Mr. Armstrong has been a life long resident of Maple Hts with a brief exception- and that is the topic of this lyceum. Join us as he recounts his training and experience as a B24 pilot during WWII and memories of being a POW. (We’ll share a GI meal starting at 6:30, details inside.)

Key Bank Volunteers Make a Difference

On May 5th 15 volunteers from Key Bank donated their time and talent to the society. Volunteers cleaned the 1832 Dunham House and 1882 Depot and portions of the 1874 Town Hall Museum. They reorganized two storage areas. They raked and trimmed portions of the grounds and planted flowers. Their efforts were awesome! Thanks to members Pap Papish, Kay Parsons, Barbara McDaniels, Andy Jones, Lester and Helen Pratt for supervising the projects and working along with Key volunteers.

From your president-          Betsy Squire Lee

The year is more than half over and this economy has impacted the Bedford Historical Society as it has our members. In this economy our fundraisers are more important than ever. Thank You to all of the volunteers who helped with these fundraisers, we could not do these without you! Our goal is to end the year in the black so we have tightened our belts even more (the fundraisers will help). High utility bills socked us this past winter and then Mother Nature added excitement with a lightning hit during the July storm. Our insurance covers this but the deductible adds additional unexpected expense. Your help, memberships and donations are greatly appreciated. See you at the Lyceum programs and at the Museum.

Old Ways School Fall Session

The new session scheduled for October is enclosed with this newsletter. There are new course options for the fall term. Helen Pratt & Joyce Maruna will guide students through the process of making old fashioned Christmas ornaments and boxes. Doris Shriver will teach Pysanky, the traditional art of decorating eggs with wax and dye.

Thanks! Our Thanks to these members who shared their talents at the Spring session of the Old Ways School. Linda and Mary Sleeman, Lester Pratt, Alma Rhine and Betsy Lee, were instructors.

Good Search

Some of our computer savvy members and friends are using Good Search to navigate around the internet. The company donates a mil for every time you use it to search for an answer or business on line. It doesn’t cost to register, and it is another way to help your Bedford Historical Society.
Car show entrants

Wow! What a Festival

The Strawberry Festival broke all attendance records this year. We had three days of beautiful weather. Alma Rhine, festival bursar, and June Martin, the society’s treasurer are tallying the late receipts and paying outstanding bills.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Ben Venue Labs for underwriting the great entertainment. Our regular entertainment sponsor cancelled out a week before the festival started and all of the contracts with the entertainers were signed. Ben Venue heard about our plight and stepped forward with funding.

We extend our gratitude to all of the businesses and individuals who helped underwrite festival expenses.

Thanks to Betsy Lee and her committee for sponsoring the Strawberry Festival and Car Show. Thanks to you- our members and friends for helping during the festival, sending monetary donations to cover expenses and for purchasing raffle tickets.

The following were winners of the raffle: Terry Stahurski won the quilt, Shirley McCune won the afghan. Other winners included Jay Kerekes, Jerry Oldenburg, Lola Gergye, Holly Ellis, Greg Pozar, Eleanor Lautanen, Laura Bailey, Jean Cannon, Gene Gould, Jane Heintz and Michaela McSeeture. The winning guess for the Lincoln Penney Jar was Olive Troutman’s granddaughter, Isabella who guessed 509 pennies. There were 507 in the jar.

Field Trip

We are on the road again for another field trip.

On Saturday September 19th a bus trip is planned to the Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center in Fremont Ohio. The bus departs at 8:30 am from Ellenwood Recreation Center. Please arrive and sign in by 8:15am. The fee of $34.00 includes transportation by a chartered bus company and group discount at the Hayes Presidential Center. The tour includes both the mansion and museum. Lunch will be at a local restaurant on your own.

Checks are payable to the Bedford Historical Society by September 7th. Seating is limited to 22 people. For additional information call Lynn 330 467-4338.

Mr. Lincoln and General Beauregard

 Twinsburg City School District honors students visited the Society museums in May to study the Underground Railroad and learn about Bedford’s role in the Civil War. They were treated to two unexpected visitors- President Abraham Lincoln (Phil Williamson) and General Beauregard, an officer in the Confederate States of America (Dan Pocen). The students asked some difficult questions and received some well-thought answers. They ate lunch on the Square and toured Viaduct Park before returning to school. Our thanks to all of the volunteers who donated their time.

So Long to our Intern

We have had the good fortune of having a talented Bedford High work-study student this past school year. Shanequa L. has been entering our hand written data into a museum software program for more efficient retrieval. When she finished this, she tackled our manuscript data and photo data programs. Shanequa is a computer genius! We will miss her and wish her well as she enters college to study nursing.

We thank Local Aerie #2122 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles for their support of this project.
Green Thumb Volunteers

Thank you to Barb McDaniel for keeping the front of the Dunham House neat, to Lester Pratt for caring for the east garden at the Town Hall Museum, to Roger Fuhrmeyer for planting the Native American garden by the elevator entrance, Marion & Jonathan McCandless for tending the church and front garden, Lynn Jones for planting the front of the Town Hall and the Bedford Garden Club for keeping the beautiful garden groomed at the rear of the building. We received a grant from the Day Foundation this year to balance out the deciduous and non-deciduous shrubs on the east side.

Christmas Card Being Designed

Roger Fuhrmeyer is designing this year’s Christmas card. This completes his fourth design highlighting our historic buildings. The 1832 Dunham House receives his artistic touch. 15 cards are reasonably priced at $10 plus .78 cents tax. The cards will be ready in mid October and can be shipped to your address for $2.50 or pick up at the museum.

Flea Market

Thanks to Chris Sweet, Lynn Jones and committee for organizing the Annual Flea Market on the Square. This event continues to grow with visitors coming from farther a field. Our thanks to members who donated items for the society’s table.

Good Food and Times for our U of A Guests

University of Akron retirees spent the day in Bedford recently. They toured our buildings, enjoyed a delicious lunch served by the Society’s Victorian Maids and then visited Doty & Miller Architects in their LEED certified building at the old Post Office.

Thanks to Lynn Jones and the Maids who served, prepared recipes, decorated the hall and cleaned up. To The Tea Guy (!) for preparing all the pots of tea. Thanks to Birdie Smith for providing entertainment during lunch. Thanks to the volunteers who hosted all four buildings for this event.

Sedlon Garden Update

It is still quiet at the back of the Dunham House where we dream of restoring the Sedlon Garden. Elves and Pookas have been busy behind the scene. Also known as the Bedford Arts and Culture Board, this talented and community minded group has been meeting for several months. They are planning a strategy that might help raise funds for the garden and raise awareness of Bedford artist Richard Sedlon. What’s in the works? A celebratory ‘Pooka Festival!’ The event is scheduled for sometime in 2010. It will be a three day event to include many arts related activities for all members of the family.

Society Receives Grants

The Society is grateful to the Ohio Humanities Council for covering expenses for the speaker for October’s Lyceum. Our special guest is a Humanities Scholar.

It is also grateful to the Institute for Museum & Library Services (IMLS) for the Collections Bookshelf Grant. We received an extensive collection of current books, manuals and posters to assist us in evaluating our collections and helping determine repair procedures. Also information on disaster preparedness.

What’s New at the Museum?

Our vintage post card collection remains on display for visitors to view travel destinations long ago. We also have a case display of souvenirs from present day to over 100 years ago. There is a special display of the 1939 Worlds Fair. Thanks to member, Barbara McDaniels for sharing her extensive collection of photos and items from this big event in American history. All of these items will remain on view through mid October.

Our website has expanded its historic business and industry section.
Future Exhibits—Can You Help?

We have three exhibits that need your help, please call the museum if you are available. We will be installing Christmas Past—Remembering Your childhood Christmas. This will involve October setup of items in different parts of the museum, each highlighting different times. Remember slot car racing? Well, we need you to put it together for the 1960s Christmas.

We also are planning a display of the museum’s collection of movie projectors. (Our oldest is 100 years old.) We need volunteers to prepare each projector for display. These will be part of an exhibit including vintage movie posters. This is a January project with a March opening.

We are planning a ‘Here Comes the Bride’ exhibit and activities for next year. Your help in preparing the dresses and other related activities will be needed.

Paul A. Hilty; Member Paul Hilty passed away on April 27, 2009. Paul was active in the society as a docent for school tours. As a retired teacher in the Bedford School system, he enjoyed being with the students on the annual Local History tours. He was the loving husband of Merry Anne and the father of Tanya and David (Kim).

Scott R. Marshall; Member, Scott Marshall passed away on May 22, 2009. Scott was a volunteer in the print shop, he helped construct exhibits, and helped with the Lyceum programs. He was also active in the Radio Broadcasting Hall of Fame Museum and the Cuyahoga National Park service. A graduate of Bedford High, class of ’81, he served his country in the US Navy. He was preceded in death by his father, John and is survived by his mother, Margaret and sister Jodie. He will be missed by his many friends and his colleagues here at the museum where he always had a smile and a good joke or funny story to cheer us. His cremains have been sent to England where most of his family resides. A memorial brick has been laid on the Square for remembrance and donations to the Endowment Fund are being collected in his memory.

Obituaries

Chris Christenson; Member Chris Christensen passed away on April 25, 2009 in Oregon where he retired. As a photographer, Chris recorded many of the familiar sites in the Bedford area, these are in the society’s archives and used extensively as a reference. Many will recall that he was the official photographer at Thistledown Race Track for almost 30 years. He will be missed by his wife, Eunice (nee: McAdoo) children Jeff (Terry), Joan Christenson (Michael Gast) and Susan Jowaiszas (Tom), two grandchildren and relatives here in the Bedford area.

Betty K. Cramer; A 28 year member of the society, Betty (nee: Barton) Cramer passed away on June 2, 2009. Betty was an avid supporter of the society and loved Bedford history. She was the wife of Edward who preceded her in death. She was the loving mother of Caroline and leaves grandchildren and great grandchildren. Memorial donations are being accepted in Betty’s name to the Endowment Fund.

Michael D. Knall; Friend of the society, Michael Knall passed away on June 3, 2009. A US Army veteran, Michael was the loving father of Melissa, James (Sharon) Miavitz, Judith Miavitz and Lori Kocjancic. He will be missed by grandchildren and extended family. Memorial contributions to the Endowment Fund are being accepted in his memory.