

The Village of Maybee

Village of Maybee

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www.maybeevillage.com

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March 2010

Council Corner

The village council approved the installation of more lighting in the village. A decision on how many and the placement of security cameras will be made at next months meeting. The council is hopeful that this will help to stop the problem of vandalism in the village. Bids will be opened on April 5th for the cleaning of Lagoon #2. The other two lagoons will be scheduled for cleaning over the next five years. The village will also look into the possibility of obtaining grant money for streetscape work in the downtown area.

Volunteers are still needed for this years Downtown Maybee Day Festival. (June 12) Crafters and vendors will find the information and applications at the Downtown Maybee Day site on the village website. (maybevillage.com) If you would like to help you may call 587-2900 and leave your name and number.

The Library Table

734-587-3680

Preschool Storytime

Mondays @ 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM & Fridays @ 10:30 - 11:30

Preschool Storytime is intended for kids ages 3 years to 5 years. This program offers stories, songs, movement activities, art experiences, and fun each week.

Date March 18 2010 Time 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

PUT ON YOUR FAVORITE PINK OUTFIT AND JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS PINK! IF YOU LOVE PINK THIS IS THE EVENT TO ATTEND. THERE WILL BE PINK GAMES, PINK CRAFTS, AND A SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE BY "PINKY" SINGING HER NEW SMASH HIT "THE SEVEN THINGS I LOVE ABOUT PINK." WE WILL BE GIVING AWAY FREE COPIES OF THIS HIT SINGLE. REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED, EMAIL KELLI STRIMBEL, CALL OR VISIT THE LIBRARY TO DO SO.

Pysanky Egg Decorating

March 20, 2010 Time 10:00 AM

Space is limited and registration is required

Call 587-3680 to reserve a space

Family Movie Night

March 26 2010 Time 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Set in New Orleans' French Quarter, this return to hand-drawn animation is a modern twist on a classic tale. A beautiful girl named Tina finds a frog prince who desperately wants to be human again and with a fateful kiss, leads them on a hilarious adventure through the mystical bayous of Louisiana. Come on down to the Maybee Drive-In to watch this classic! Please feel free to bring movie time snacks to enjoy during the film! Rating: G Run time: 97 Minutes.

Dog Days at the Library!

Date March 30 2010 Time 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Maybee Library is going to the dogs. Get ready to spend some time here reading to a furry friend. These dogs are certified Therapy Dogs who like nothing better than curling up and listening to a good book. Please call or email to register for a 20 minute appointment on any or all of the scheduled last Tuesdays of the month.

April 2, 2010 Time 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Contact Kelli Strimbel (kelli.strimble@monroe.lib.mi.us)

Bring the book you're reading. Talk about what you are reading, eat some pizza, and talk some more.

Maybee Day Baby Contest

Sign up will be at the Maybee Branch Library

May 1st all day & May 3rd 4-8pm

Call the library for details (587-3680)

Openings are limited to the first eight that sign up.

Good luck to all the entries .



When I was a Kid growing up in Maybee.....by Marjorie Van Auker

When I was a kid growing up in Maybee, there were things I saw in town every day that I took for granted. As far as I knew, they had always been there and would continue to be there. I didn't question their reason for being nor wonder how they got there, until...one day...they weren't there anymore!

A case in point was the charming little chapel-like building on the grounds of the V.F.W. on the corner of Blazer and Stadler Roads. I remember riding home from Monroe at night and always seeing it all lit up, and thinking how cute and welcoming it was. It was a comforting, friendly sight on dark nights. It was pretty during the day, too, because it was landscaped with bushes and flowers. I never knew *why* it was there but I was always *glad* it was there. Unfortunately, as the years went on, it fell into disrepair and eventually was torn down. I found out many years later that it was a Memorial Chapel built in 1947 and dedicated to the memory of the war dead.* It's one of those things that's not there anymore. To this day, I never round that corner, without mentally picturing that little building in my mind. I miss it.

Another such building was the Arbeiter Hall located in what was once "The Grove", the wooded area, which is now the paved parking lot belonging to St. Joseph Church. If you stood on Short Street, and faced the front of the Maybee Congregational Church, the Arbeiter Hall sat off to the right side, back at the rear corner of the church. What I remember the most about the hall was its use on Labor Day weekend. That is when St. Joseph held its Labor Day Homecoming picnic. The hall, by then, had been sold by the Arbeiter Society to St. Joseph's and was the site of many fabulous chicken dinners! Dancing also took place in the hall during the Labor Day celebration. What actually *was* the Arbeiter Society? It was a lodge established in Maybee in 1909 whose objective was to improve the spiritual and material welfare of its membership and to provide assistance to another group called the "Workingmen's Aid Society of Maybee" which aided the wives and children of the members of the society.* Even after the Society ceased to own it, it was still referred to as Arbeiter Hall. Eventually, it was torn down and joined the list of things in the village that aren't there anymore.

There's an item on my list of "no-mores" that wasn't a building ...it was a dock. Built next to the R.R. tracks and close to the present post office was a loading dock with a ramp. When the local John Deere dealer ordered large new pieces of agricultural equipment, such as combines or very large tractors, the machinery quite often came by rail. The train would stop next to the dock and men from the dealership would transfer the item to the dock and then either reload it onto a flatbed semi or drive it directly from there to the business on Blue Bush

Road. The dock remained many years after the agriculture business ceased to be and it was enjoyed by lots of boys on bicycles who used the ramp as a “launching” pad. It, too, now is gone.

A very important, long-time site, also adjacent to the R.R. track, was the old depot that announced the name of “MAYBEE” to all trains passing through. I never had the privilege to get inside the depot because by the time I was old enough to value its significant presence in the history of our town, it disappeared. Due to decreased usage, the railroad deemed the depot was no longer necessary and came in one day and removed it. What a loss for the village, for the depot was once a hub of activity of passengers and shipments going in and out of Maybee in the early days of its existence. The railroad played a great part in the settlement of our town and it makes me sad that the building, representing that connection, is not there anymore.

Another very welcome sight at night, many years ago, was the lit cross on top of the steeple of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church on High Street. One of the people instrumental in creating, placing and maintaining that cross was the late Truman Helzer. It was approximately 10-12 feet tall and made of 2x6’s covered with aluminum. Bulbs were mounted on both sides of the cross so it could be seen from either direction. Blue bulbs replaced the white during the Christmas season. One could see the cross from quite a distance at night as one approached town. Eventually the wood started to rot and the cross was taken down. For many years, the form of it was stored behind Truman’s barn on Stone Road but no one knows whatever became of it. Along with that, I also remember, as a little girl, being able to hear music during the Christmas season being played by the organist at St. Paul’s during the early evening hours. Large speakers, which could be controlled by the organist, broadcast the music to the outside and it could be heard around town! I remember both these things *very* well, but they aren’t there anymore.**

And lastly, one of the biggest mysteries of my childhood was the weather worn band shell that stood on the corner of Blue Bush Road and Raisin Street, behind the *original* Pete’s Shell gas station (not the “new” Shell station which houses part of Barker’s Auction. The original station stood very close to the corner and burned down during a fuel explosion.) I recall walking by the old band shell hundreds of times. Its purpose had ceased by the time I came along, so I never witnessed any concerts there. Eventually it became just a place for kids to explore or climb. I’ve asked many people if they have memories of who built it or why, but I’ve come up empty-handed... so far. Maybe the mystery will soon be solved by someone who reads this. Sadly, it, too, is no longer there.

But, I am happy to have memories of these vanished, “there no more” sites. Places may come and places may go, but good memories linger on...such as these from when I was a kid growing up in Maybee.

* The Maybee Centennial Book (1873-1973) was used as reference here.

**Thank you to Harold Helzer for supplying details mentioned in this paragraph!