

# The Voice of a Lee

Village of Maybee      issue 126      www.maybeevillage.com  
P.O. Box 36    734-587-2900    fax 734-587-6534    April 2010

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## Council Corner

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At the last village council meeting the question of the lagoon cleaning was discussed. With the bids coming in at such a difference the council decided to have a separate company come in and re-test the lagoons so the village can make the proper decision about the cleaning. Also at the meeting the council approved the moving forward with the update process of the village ordinances. This is required by the State of Michigan and now with the planning commission in place the time was right to start the process. The village council has ok'd the start of paper work needed to apply for a grant to improve the downtown area of the village. This would cover 80% of the cost for the project.

For everyone that was wondering about all of the activity in the village on April 3, there was a "mystery spill" that worked its way into the Sandy Creek drain. As fast as it started, it stopped but once the wheels of haz-mat started rolling there was no stopping it until the project was completed. The village has applied to one of the state funds to cover the cost of the clean-up.

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## The Library Table 734-587-3680

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### 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.

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### Earth Day Celebration

Date April 22 2010 Time 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Come celebrate this special day with us. There will be lots of crafts and activities to help you do your part for our friend, Planet Earth. Registration is required. Call, visit the library or email Kelli Strimbel at [kelli.strimbel@monroe.lib.mi.us](mailto:kelli.strimbel@monroe.lib.mi.us) to register.

### **Maybe Book Club**

Date April 26 2010 Time 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

This month we will be doing Michigan's Big Read, "Stealing Buddhas Dinner" by Bick Minh Nguyen. I came of age before ethnic was cool, the author writes in her carefully crafted memoir of growing up in western Michigan as a Vietnamese refugee in the early 1980s. Swimming in a sea of blonde, Nguyen recalls she often felt as if she were dreaming in wheat. No matter that they're mixed, the metaphors powerfully convey the author's experience of being an outsider--not only because she was a Vietnamese surrounded by Dutch descendants but also because she was an incipient writer: My role was to be out of the way, apart and observing. What seems most to have caught her eye and fired her imagination was food, which not only provides the title for each chapter of the memoir but also serves as a convenient shorthand for the cultural (and metaphorical) differences between Toll House cookies and green sticky rice cakes, between Pringles and chao gio, between American and Vietnamese. Come and join the fun, new members are always welcome. Book club meets at 7 p.m. at the Maybee Library.

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### **Dog Days at the Library!**

Date April 27 2010 Time 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Contact Kelli Strimbel at [kelli.strimbel@monroe.lib.mi.us](mailto:kelli.strimbel@monroe.lib.mi.us)

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.

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### **Downtown Maybee Day**

The annual Maybee Day Festival is fast approaching and it should be bigger and better than before. This year will have a pizza eating contest to replace the hot dog eating contest. The baking contest will be for cookies only with two categories. One for adults and the other for twelve and under. There is a twenty five dollar prize for each category. Sign up for the baby contest will be May 1<sup>st</sup> all day and May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4pm to 8pm.at the Maybee Library. If you would like a space for the flea market inside Barkers Auction house, pick up an application at Citizens Bank. Entries for the Maybee Dat T-shirt may still be submitted at the bank. Winner gets a free T-shirt. More events will be available for the kids this year at two locations. All of this with more food, crafters and events to keep you busy. Let all your friends know about the event and help keep Maybee alive and well. Remember, June 12 from nine in the morning till five at night. More information in next months issue about what will be taking place after five at night.

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

When I was a kid growing up in Maybee, I started thinking about my future career at a very early age. It all started in first grade when my best friend, Sharon Wain, and I decided we were cut out for show biz. We decided we would walk to California (we guessed it would take us about three days...) and look up Walt Disney. He would be so taken with our cuteness and adorability that we'd be wearing Mouseketeer ears and tap dancing next to Annette, Jimmy and Darlene in no time at all. Thankfully the idea never really got off the ground. And it's just as well...we didn't know how to tap dance anyway.

Next I decided to be a professional ice skater. My dad took us to see the Ice Capades almost every year when they came to Olympia Stadium in Detroit. I was enchanted by the skaters...the beauty of the costumes...the glamour. And it *looked* easy enough... Santa brought ice skates one Christmas and I tried to talk Dad into flooding the garden space between our house and the gas station and making a nice large rink. I lobbied that when I got really good, we could even put up bleachers and I could put on shows for his customers! I could just envision me in sequins, under the lights, gliding gracefully across the ice to the admiration and delight of my audience... However, I encountered a slight problem with that whole idea. When I put on those skates from Santa and tried "gliding gracefully" on frozen Big Sandy Creek (Dad nixed my rink idea), I couldn't stand up, let alone do double axels! Another potential career...doomed.

When I was a junior at Monroe High School, I attended the annual "Career Day" when guests from various professions are brought in to describe their careers. We students could sign up for three sessions in our areas of interest. I don't recall what my other two choices were, but I DO recall the one that caused me the most embarrassment! I decided I should be a nuclear physicist. It sounded *very* prestigious and probably quite high paying. *This could be it!!!* This could be my future!! Probably about two minutes into the session I discovered *this was not it!!!* (What was that guy from Fermi talking about anyway?!!)

All throughout my childhood I had pets. I had an affinity for animals. I mended the broken wings of birds, bottle fed sickly kittens and took in strays. Animals trusted me and I had no fear of them. So in my senior year of high school I applied to Michigan State's pre-vet program and was accepted. At State I spent four terms taking classes in poultry science, animal husbandry, judging (like they do at the fair...pigs, sheep, steers, goats and horses) and even meat grading (that class was held in a meat locker!). But my most unusual class at the time was dairy science. During this class I had to participate in a 24-hour "cow watch"...which is not quite as bad as watching grass grow, but it came close. I was the only girl on a twelve-member team so it seemed only fitting, that I should be chosen as "captain of the cow watch". The whole purpose of this project was to record amounts of "intake and output"...which meant measuring the amount of grain eaten and water drunk as well as the amount expelled *on the other end!* Then compute the ratio of food and water consumed to the poundage and quality of milk produced. Oh, and one other thing, we also had to take the cow's temperature every hour... the thermometer is about 14 inches long, has a string on it and does NOT go under its tongue...! All and all it was a pretty interesting experience. I even got a couple invitations to "go up in the hay mow" (which I promptly declined, by the way). I learned that cows don't lead a very exciting life. And I learned that roommates can be very insensitive. When I returned from the barn, mine insisted I undress in the dorm's hallway and leave my clothes out there. Being a small-town country girl at heart, I really enjoyed all those classes, but at that time (mid-sixties) the vet profession was male dominated and we female students were not too welcome. A number of us were eventually weeded out so as not to take up valuable space. Ironically, the tables have turned and females now outnumber male students in the program. I was just ahead of my time.

Thusly, I redirected my career goals and entered the English and Journalism program BUT, I made it perfectly

clear to my friends and college advisor *that I did not want to be a teacher!!* Well, destiny stepped in...once again. But, I only taught for 34 years...which was a good thing. I sure wouldn't have wanted to make a career of it...And so went the life of a little girl with big dreams...growing up in Maybee.



