

# The Voice of a Lee

Village of Maybee

issue 124

[www.maybeevillage.com](http://www.maybeevillage.com)

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February 2010

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## Council Corner

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The village council last night approved the new L.M.R. Fire department budget for the coming year. The portion of the expense for the Village of Maybee to operate the fire department will run a little over \$1,600 a month this year. This figure is based on the number of calls handled for each community. The council also approved the Maybee Farmers plans to remove the old building and storage units on Bluebush and replace them with new. This will increase their capacity and it will also look a lot better. Council is also looking at the installation of more lights in the village for better security.

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## The Library Table

**734-587-3680**

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### Make Your Own Valentine Craft!

February 13 2010 Time 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

**Roses are red, Violets are blue, Sugar is sweet and so are you!**

Take a trip to the library to make a valentine for that special someone. What a great way to show off your creative talent and tell someone you care. This program is free and promises to be lots of fun!

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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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### March 06 2010 Time 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

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

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

February 19 Time 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM & February 20 Time 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Do you have Game? Bring it! Maybee library will have Nintendo Wii's, Guitar Hero 3, DDR,  
and much more. Check it out, it's free!

Dog Days at the Library! Date February 23 2010 Time 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM -587-3680 Contact Kelli Strimbel  
Link [Click here for more information](#) 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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**All branches of the Monroe County  
Library System will be closed  
Monday, February 15, 2010 in  
observance of Presidents' Day.**

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Maybee Public School

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

When I was a kid growing up in Maybee, February at Maybee Public School was pretty eventful. We were well ensconced into the winter and, as a whole, were longing for the freedom of spring. Christmas excitement was behind us and Easter was still a ways off, so February came along just in time to offer up some things to anticipate.

First of all, February, sandwiched conveniently between wintry January and March, was shorter than all the other months and passed pretty quickly, moving us a couple places closer to the close of winter. And it contained, not one...but TWO... days off from school. In those days February 12<sup>th</sup>, Lincoln's birthday, and the 22<sup>nd</sup>, George Washington's birthday, were both given their individual due. On whatever day of the week those dates fell, a school holiday was declared. (They weren't both lumped together yet and placed under the general title of President's Day and placed conveniently on a Monday to give a long weekend to those government agencies and businesses that close in observance.) We students had studied all the history of General George Washington's very important place in the beginning of our country as well as the legendary stories of him cutting down the cherry tree as a young boy and not telling a lie to his father about it, and about him throwing that silver dollar across the Delaware River. He gallantly led his armies in the Revolutionary War winning our independence from

Great Britain, became our first President after presiding over the Constitutional Convention and was called the “Father of His Country.” We learned about Honest Abe Lincoln being born in a log cabin and studying his school books by the light from the fireplace. He rose to be a gifted lawyer and later President of the United States. He was tall, slender and known for his black stove pipe hat. He wrote the Emancipation Proclamation which freed the slaves and was assassinated at Ford’s Theater in Washington, D.C. in mid-April 1865 while watching a play from the President’s Box...just days after the end of the Civil War. I can still see the black paper silhouettes of these two notable men that book-ended the bulletin board above our chalk board in the Big Room at Maybee Public. The powdered wig of George Washington and the thin, bearded face of Abe Lincoln...made them instantly identifiable. We were taught to revere these men, but more so, we were taught patriotism, love of country and pride in our American heritage. Because of their enormous significance to our country’s freedom, it was important that their birthdays be recognized as national holidays.

But the biggest diversion in February was, of course, Valentine’s Day! This required *weeks* of planning and preparation...*if you were a girl*. Shopping for the perfect box of valentines...or maybe book of valentines (which you either punched or cut out and assembled the envelopes by folding and gluing)...was absolutely crucial! There had to be enough to give one to everyone in your classroom. That was the acceptable thing to do, so no one would feel slighted or left out. But the selection had to vary from “neutral” valentines that were safe to give to anyone (even if you *really* didn’t like them so much!) to the sweeter ones that conveyed that secret admiration that you hoped the recipient would realize as soon as it was read.

There was always the big Valentine box in the classroom into which you deposited your many valentines. It was a real honor to be selected to help decorate this box...it was, after all, the “centerpiece” of the whole celebratory party! For days we students had been decorating the classroom with construction paper hearts, crepe paper streamers and tissue paper flowers...(there must have been a real run on these supplies at Helzer’s General Store...) No matter how white the winter was outside the window, it was a pink and red world inside the classroom. Meanwhile, at home, I was foraging the attic looking for just the right size box for my own desk top Valentine’s box. It was into this box, the “mailmen” passing out the valentines at the school party would deposit mine. It HAD to be perfect...big enough to hold all that I hoped to receive, yet small enough not to dominate my small desk top! And it had to be beautiful! I’d wrap it in tissue paper, glue on lacey paper doilies, stick on shiny red metallic heart stickers and add lots of pink ribbons or crepe paper streamers. In my little girl’s opinion, it was B E A U T I F U L.

When the big day arrived, mothers would come bearing plates of sandwiches and beautiful cupcakes, iced in pink or white with red sprinkles on top. Some kids would have red lollipops to pass out...or foil covered chocolate hearts or candy kisses...and, *of course*, the little pastel hearts with words imprinted on them like BE MINE!...I LOVE YOU!...YOU ARE CUTE!...(small hearts called for small messages!) We played games, ate until we all had a sugar high... and ripped into our Valentine boxes or bags with great anticipation. I *couldn’t wait* to see if I got a special valentine from a “secret admirer”! (That rarely happened...but I never stopped hoping!)

Some things never change. We still like February because it’s the shortest winter month...we still like a day off from work or school...and thankfully, love has never gone out of style. I’m especially glad that Valentine’s Day parties still go on in classrooms across America and that school kids still recognize profiles of Washington and Lincoln. Some things *should* never change, no matter how much time passes. It s a good thing now and it was a good thing then...when I was a kid growing up in Maybee.