

# The Voice of Maybee

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**Village of Maybee, Issue 121 [maybevillage@juno.com](mailto:maybevillage@juno.com)  
P.O. Box 36 734-587-2900 fax734-587-6534 NOVEMBER 2009**

## Council Corner

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With most of the projects wrapped up for the year the village council moved on to Christmas decorating and ways of making the village more secure. Since the village cannot afford to have a full time police force, the next best thing is security cameras at multiple locations. The village council is not "spying" on residents but trying to help protect their property.

Council also established the amount of compensation to be paid to members of the new planning commission. It's a good thing that these people are dedicated to making Maybee a better place to live because it sure is not for the money.

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## The Library Table

734-587-3680

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### Preschool Story time

**Mondays 6:30 to 7:30 & Fridays 10:00 to 11:00**

It 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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## Open House

The Maybee branch library will be holding an Open House on Monday, November 23 from 4 pm till 8 pm. This will be hosted by the Monroe County Library System, Staff and Friends of the Maybee Library. Everyone is welcome to come and see the "NEW" Maybee library. There is plenty of free parking behind the bank and library. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see you there.

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**Maybee Book Club November 30, 2009**

**Time 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Wrap up the year with a book by Maggie Sefton, Fleece Navidad. The knitters of Fort Connor, Colorado, including Juliet, the town librarian, are working feverishly on their Christmas projects, but when Juliet turns up dead, suspicion falls on a newcomer to the knitting group. 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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## Christmas Extravaganza

**Saturday December 12 At 11:00 a.m.**

Come to the library for some holiday fun. Build your very own gingerbread house. Supplies will be provided. Don't forget to say "Hi" to Santa before you leave. Registration is required. Please call, visit the library, or e-mail Kelli Strimbel to register.

## Special Thank you

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The Village of Maybee would like to thank **Rick Smith** (L.M.R. Fire Chief) for his generous donation of a 25 foot tall flag pole. This pole was installed at the entrance to Maybee Park by **Dennis, Shaun and Austin Bruck**. The completed installation was done in time for Veterans Day. The **Maybee V.F.W.** supplied the flag and will be the official caretakers of it . *May Old Glory* welcome all the visitors to the park for a long time.

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## HOLIDAY PARTY TIME

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The party season is fast approaching and the stress of having a party starts to bother some of us. This year move your parties into town and let someone else do all the work. If you have a group of 35 or less and there are a lot of young ones, talk to Pit Stop Pizza. If your group is larger and you might want to talk to the folks at the Little Brown Jug. There you can choose from the complete menu, or have them set up a buffet for you. For the really large gatherings you might consider St. Paul's Church, St. Joseph Church or the V.F.W. Hall.

If you still want to have the gathering at your own home and keep it casual you can always order subs or pizza from Sams or Pit Stop. Finally, if your on the run and want to grab something for breakfast, the BP station has a good sandwich for people in a hurry and when you return don't forget about the Next Door Lounge. We hope that all of you enjoy this holiday season.

## Santa Claus is coming to town

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Its that time of year again when all the children are on their best behavior . With visions of all the items that they have been hoping for still fresh in their heads Bring them down to the old village hall on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm (*please **not before then***) where they can join in the singing with the floral city harmonizes (*sponsored by j & k mechanical*) and have hot chocolate and a treat (*sponsored by little brown jug*) while they wait to go upstairs to see Santa. Helpers from citizens bank and the Maybee library will be there to make sure that everything runs smoothly. After their visit with old st. nick all will leave with a bag of candy and thoughts of what they are wishing for will hopefully come true. Friends and relatives are welcome to bring cameras and take pictures of the children with Santa. There is no charge for this or any other part of the evening. A special thank you to the l.m.r. fire department for bagging up all the candy for the kids. Life sure is enjoyable when you live in a small town like Maybee. May it never change.

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When I was a kid growing up in Maybee, there were many things during the holiday season I just took for granted would be there. Like the brussel sprouts at Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner....they were just *always there*.... I'm sure there were a lot of kids like me who never questioned the reappearance of the same things year after year. These were part of our holidays ....we expected and accepted them.

When I remember the Christmases of my childhood, memories of some of the simplest things come to mind....such as the big tins in which my mom used to pack all her wonderful Christmas cookies. The large metal cans, some gold in color, others silver, with the tightly fitting lids, held layer after layer, separated by wax paper, of frosted sour cream cutouts all decorated with colored sugars or perhaps, chewy fruit cookies filled with candied citrus. The cans were then placed in the cold attic where they would keep the cookies fresh. I'll never forget the cookies, of course, but it's the cans that stick in my mind. They originally had come to us from Monroe Frozen Foods filled with frozen cherries or blueberries. Dad purchased a couple cans every year so Mom would have a good supply for the making of her homemade pies. The useful life of those cans went on for decades ...when no longer in use, they were carefully stored in the basement fruit cellar until Christmas came around again. They were just *always there*.

When the Christmas lights went up in the Village, it was exciting for this little girl. There were no tinsel garlands or plastic Santa and his reindeer flying high over the street below like you might see in other towns...no, we had single strings of colored lights.... in five or six locations....stretched high across Blue Bush Road and Raisin Street. That was it...season after season they appeared...they were *always there*...and I never questioned their simplicity. I just knew their presence made it official.... Christmas was coming and Maybee was getting ready for it.

Occasionally the salesman from Monroe Novelty Company, who called every week at our gas station to take Dad's candy and cigarette order, would talk Dad into trying something unique to feature in his Christmas display. He had experienced past successes with beautiful arrays of special boxed candy, toys and dolls and even animated animals blowing bubbles! One year Christmas wrapping paper was suggested and Dad ordered some. It turned out to be the gaudiest, gosh-awful *ugliest* paper I had ever seen! No Santa Clauses, no snowmen....no traditional Christmas anything....just strange geometric patterns, swirls and circles in an array of non-holiday colors....rolls and rolls of them. In a large metropolitan city, they may have sold....but they didn't play well in Maybee. So at the end of the season, Dad brought them home for us to use. Year after year, when we'd wrap our family gifts, those rolls of paper would be among the choices....never improving in appearance, always ugly...and *always there!*

When it came to the big Rupp family Christmas dinner, my Grandmother Mary Rupp would place a pair of Bayberry candles on the food table and light them as soon as the gathering officially started. She would give strict instructions to all to NOT BLOW THEM OUT! However, she never explained why. They were just *always there* and I never questioned their appearance but I learned all about it the year my Great Uncle, Harry McKinstry, from Detroit (married to my Great Aunt, Magdalena (Lena) Rupp McKinstry) wandered over to the food table after dinner was over and nonchalantly blew them out! (He apparently hadn't been listening to instructions.) The stressed look on my Grandma's face gave away the instant fear she was experiencing. Somewhere back in the annals of ethnic traditions (Grandma was Welsh and German) was the story of the burning of Bayberry candles for the continued health and safety of all family members....and woe be it to anyone who blew them out before they themselves had burned completely out. Coincidentally before the end of the next year, my Uncle Harry passed away. I'm sure he left us due to natural causes....and that his cause of death was not recorded as blowing out Bayberry candles prematurely! However, I'm not so sure my grandmother would have been completely convinced...

Our minds are filled with mental images over the years and memories surface as regular as clock work when triggered by holidays or the changing of the seasons. We never have to consciously keep track of them....because they are *always there*. These are a few of mine from when I was a kid....**growing up in Maybee.**