

The Village of Maybee

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P.O. Box 36 734-587-2900 fax 734-587-6534 December 2012

Council Corner

The village council met before the regular council meeting to review the budget for the year 2013. With the review completed, the council held its regular meeting and the new budget was passed. A few new questions were raised about the proposed annexation and with these noted the meeting moved on to the regular business. The sewer billing for the next year will be increased by 10% from \$35.00 every two months to \$38.50. This is because of requirements from Lansing to modify the lagoon banks before they erode. All of the committees were approved for the coming year. The village council would like to wish everyone a very MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

The Library Table 734-587-3680

Open Gaming-Maybee Branch

Event Type: Gaming **Age Group(s):** All Ages

Date: 12/21,22,28,29 2012 & 1/3,4,5 2013

Start Time: All Day

Description:

Got game? Bring it! Bring your friends and family to the library to play Nintendo Game Cube, Nintendo Wii, and Guitar Hero!

Tax Tips - Maybee Branch Library

Event Type: General **Age Group(s):** Adult, Seniors

Date: 1/10/2013 **Start Time:** 6:00 PM **End Time:** 7:00 PM

Description:

CARLOTTA CONGIOLOSO of H & R BLOCK will offer expert advice on filing income tax returns. She has the most current information on the constant changes in tax law and will help you get the most from your 2012 tax returns. Arrive with questions, leave with answers.

Tax forms and publications will be available at the library

When I was a kid growing up in Maybee.....by Marjorie VanAuker

When I was a kid growing up in Maybee, back in the early '50's, I spent the first six years of my life observing my hometown from the windows of the little log cabin Mobil gas station at the corner of Blue Bush and Blazer Roads. The station sat right at the junction where the two roads intersected, very close to the roads themselves. So it was easy to look 'uptown' and see what was going on. And I spent lots of time doing just that. There were two windows at the front of the station and, of course, the front door. I had my little face pressed closely to the window panes watching the bustling of busy people at Christmas time both uptown and at the pumps in front of the station. It all contributed to my own anticipation of the excitement that the holiday would bring.

With my vista on the village I could see all the way up to Helzer's General Store and Charlie Lohr's Barber Shop...two very busy places during the holiday season. As well as Helzer's store, Maybee also had Liedel's Grocery across the street from Helzer's. That store had a liquor license and a very impressive array of prettily packaged liquors.(At holiday time, the pretty array of bottles always fascinated me because there were cut-glass decanters...collector editions in porcelain... and even bottles dressed in velvet bags and tied with gold braid.) I guarantee you Liedel's Store was *quite* busy also at holiday time, but the store was out of my range of vision. During evenings and Saturdays, the town was packed with people. Stores were closed on Sunday so folks hosting get-togethers had to make sure everything needed was purchased ahead of time. It was common to see people going in and out of the general store carrying big paper bags of dinner and baking supplies as well as little gifts purchased from the glass cases in Mr. Helzer's store.

While woman shopped, the men would take care of the family auto (unless they chose instead to have a beer at the local bars!). Dad's pumps were humming and so was he as he waited on one car after another. Tanks were filled, oil was checked, tires aired and windshield wipers replaced....very important if an "over the river and through the woods" trip to Grandmother's house was in order for Christmas dinner. Gas stations were few and far between and weren't open on Christmas Day! But not only was it busy outside, it was filled with customers inside stocking up on half gallons of ice cream (mostly vanilla with some adventurous ones trying the spumoni), large bottles of 7-UP or Vernor's, and candy bars that probably found themselves nestled in stockings on Christmas morning. I remember the blasts of cold frigid air every time the door opened and folks came in dressed in heavy coats and big boots with noisy buckles that no one seemed to take the time to snap. People often say that winters were colder and snowier decades ago and I have no scientific proof of that, but I know that the gravel driveway in front of the station always seemed snowy, sloppy and slushy. And winter seemed to last FOREVER.

Back uptown it was common to see many people afoot and not all were shoppers. I saw groups of

carolers as they wandered slowly down the streets stopping at homes interspersed amongst the businesses and calling on shut-ins in the residential areas. I even once saw Santa Claus hurrying down the side walk as he headed towards town. I was so surprised! I wished he would come back and see me watching at the window. Speaking of Santa, he always came to the village to visit with kids before Christmas to hear their wish lists (And still does!). That tradition has continued for decades and has been anticipated by my generation, my daughter's and now my grandson's. He has toured the village on fire engines that have evolved enormously through the years...just recently his ride was on the latest state-of-the art engine and he toured parts of town that didn't exist when I was a kid. (Sam's Drive and the two subdivisions off Baldwin Road were farm fields back then.) The fire hall where Santa greets the children has moved three times since my days...from the Village Hall, to the block building next to the RR tracks on Blue Bush Road to the beautiful big facility on Baldwin Road. Santa remains as jolly as ever and still gives each child a bag of candy after having their visit. Recently while shopping, I happened to meet my childhood friend, D.J. Helser, who lived across the street from me on Blue Bush Road. We talked about those bags of candy from our generation. In those days the bags were filled with loose candies, mostly hard candies like peppermint ribbons that were striped red and green. D.J.'s favorite was the red raspberry shaped candy that was liquid filled...mine was the Queen Anne drop, a vanilla filled chocolate drop. Mom used to put mine on graham crackers, warm them the oven until soft, then press another cracker on top...sort of a winter version of S'mores. DELICIOUS! Nowadays candies are all individually wrapped for health reasons and NO hard candy is used for fear of choking hazards...(I understand that change but I don't recall *any* of us kids ever 'expiring' from devouring our Santa candy!)

One of the things I remember most about my view from the station window was the Christmas lights uptown. They were pretty simple then, just strings of big colored light bulbs strung across the village streets. And a small evergreen tree was placed on the corner where Barker's is now located. It was festooned with those large outdoor bulbs. The lights were 'hardier' then, made to withstand the cold and wintery storms, no delicate little sparkly things which we've all grown to really love. (Those lights hadn't been invented yet!) But they were bright and colorful and made the season even more special. When they appeared, you really knew Christmas was on its way!

As we grow older and the Christmas seasons come and go, it's funny the 'little' things we remember most that we long for again... like raspberry-filled candies and big colored light bulbs. It's the little stuff that often makes the greatest memories. I hope your Christmas is filled with many of them, just as mine is of the days... when I was a kid growing up in Maybee.

Merry Christmas to all who love our little town of Maybee.