

The Voice of Maybee

Village of Maybee issue 166 www.maybeevillage.com

P.O. Box 36 734-587-2900 fax 734-587-6534 February, 2014

Council Corner

The February council meeting passed the new budget for the L.M.R. Fire Department. The village share will be almost 16% based on the number of fire runs in the village. The figure is determined by using a five year average. The council also had to make adjustments to the local and highway street funds to cover the cost of all of the additional snow removal and salting that have been required this Winter. From what we have seen in other communities, the village has had an excellent snow removal team working for them. While most of the village residents were sleeping and the weather was below zero, the village roads were being cleaned. Great job guys!!

Coming Soon SUDS AND TUBS

Soon a new Laundromat will be opening in the village.
It will be located on Raisin street in the Schaffer Insurance building.
If all goes well it should open in the next month.
No more traveling ten miles to do the wash.

Recyclers

Everyone in the village that tries to recycle everything possible we have a little bad news. A lot of us made a trip every Wednesday to Meijers on Telegraph to drop off our glass, metal and plastic and then probably do a little shopping. As of March, Meijers will no longer have drop off bins. They will now be at the Monroe Township Hall on Dunbar on Saturdays from 8:00am till 4:00pm. You may continue to use Meijers on Wednesday for the next two weeks. Please continue to recycle these items.

The Library Table 734-587-3680

Preschool Story time

Event Type: Story times & Playgroups **Age Group(s):** Children

Day-Mon. Start Time: 6:00 PM **End Time:** 6:45 PM

Day-Thurs. Start Time: 10:00 AM **End Time:** 10:45 AM

Story times increase the crucial language skills that help children get ready for school. They also promote listening skills and prepare them for social situations. Fun and engaging activities advance children's motor skills while creative art projects help develop color and shape recognition

The Big Gig!

Event : Music Age Group(s): Adult, All Ages, Family Date: 2/22/2014 Start Time: 7:00 PM

Description:

The Big Gig! - Monroe County's 27th Annual Black History Month Blues Concert is set to lift you up while you're getting down with another nowhere-but Monroe lineup. Headlining are Texas psychedelic gospel funk legends The Relatives, who'll bring their "sweat, grit and righteous musicality" to the Meyer stage. Joining The Relatives are the Grammy-nominated Heritage Blues Trio, featuring guitarists Bills Sims Jr. and Junior Mack and dynamic vocalist Chaney Sims. Michigan's own deep funk and soul ambassadors the Third Coast Kings "will put the dip back into your hips and the jive in your stride." Hosting the show once again is multi-instrumentalist and roots music raconteur Rev. Robert B. Jones. The Big Gig! is an extremely popular event-no tickets are required, but seating is general admission, first-come, first-served, until venue capacity is reached. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Event is held at Monroe County Community College, La-Z-Boy Center, Meyer Theater - 1555 S. Raisinville Rd. in Monroe, MI.

Computer Basics Maybee Branch Library (Wk 1 of 6)

Computer Classes All Ages

Date: 3/4/2014, 3/11/2014, 3/18/2014, 3/25/2014, 4/1/2014, 4/8/2014

Start Time: 10:00 AM **End Time:** 12:00 PM

This class is designed to work with the specific needs requested by participants. Topics may include learning mouse skills, Windows 7 & 8, internet, e-mail, various software, saving and printing. There are no skill prerequisites. Registration is required. **Library:** Maybee Branch Library

Registration Ends: 3/3/2014 at 12:00 AM

Other Information:

If you are bringing your own laptop please place a note in the Notes Box on the registration page.

Presenter: Bobbie Garrison **Status:** Openings (6)

Lego Building--Maybee Branch Library

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

Date: Saturdays **Start Time:** 11:00 AM **End Time:** 1:00 PM

-Open play for anyone who loves to build with Legos. -Legos will be provided

What was it like growing up in Mabie? A brief history

When I was a kid growing up in Mabie, one of my favorite subjects at Mabie Public School was penmanship. As a first grader, I remember sitting in one of the old wooden desks in the Little Room (grades kindergarten through third) laboriously trying to duplicate those large capital letters of the alphabet onto the lines of that drab sheet of scratchy yellowish brown paper with the dotted lines as guides. My fist held the fat pencil issued to the youngest in the room. I was determined to make my letters as perfect as the sample ones.

As the school years went on, we practiced our writing (called the Palmer Method) in actual penmanship books. Our printing evolved into cursive writing and I again meticulously formed the loops, perfect circles and elegant formations of the capital letters as if each were a work of art. Beautiful handwriting was a work of art in those days.

One day many decades later when I was a teacher myself, I wrote an assignment on the blackboard for my high school age English students (yes, once upon a time teachers actually used real white chalk on real blackboards!) and one of my boys raised his hand to tell me he couldn't read my writing. What??! I looked at my writing and it looked clear as a bell to me! What he *meant* was that he couldn't read *cursive writing*! It was at that point I realized this generation had been so exposed to computer generated text, they were no longer seeing the written form of words! What a shame.

Hand writing isn't 'just pretty'. It's a means of applying one's personality to paper. It is a means of identification. Even though people may have been trained by the same method, one's handwriting is very individual. It is not in words alone, but by the size and shape of letters, that one issues forth personality traits, and mental and emotional states. Remember when you could get your handwriting analyzed at the county fair? And how surprised you'd be when it described you to a "T"? Even police have solved crimes by analyzing the cryptic notes left behind by perpetrators or linking them to other unsolved crimes. Handwriting is so very individual it can literally reflect your state of mind at the exact moment you are writing. Ever look at your writing when you are in a hurry, very sad, or tired or full of joy? It changes as if your innermost being is escaping through your fingers into the pen and onto the paper. Handwriting is an extraordinary gift of expression.

Hand writing is so individual that there's no need to see the name of the writer to know whose it is. Without looking at the return address you can tell who sent the letter or card. Among my personal treasures are items displaying the handwriting of generations passed. Using recipes from my Grandmother Rupp's old tin recipe box, all recorded in her hand, keeps her ever present in my life. Finding a receipt or document signed by my dad, Carl Rupp, always brings back memories of life in the Mobil station. It also reminds me of the story he told me of his *terrible* handwriting. He was naturally left-handed BUT it was the teacher's goal in Dad's school days to put a pencil in the *right* hand of every child. No exceptions! Dad just couldn't make that work very well. So his writing was best described as a scrawl, still quite recognizable as his, since it was so illegible! I also have postcards and holiday cards written by my great aunts from the early 1900's when writing was even fancier and pens were dipped in ink wells.

To further my distress over the loss of this skill, I discovered that in the recent Common Core educational standards, adopted by 45 states in this nation, penmanship was dropped! There are a few states fighting to restore it, specifically, the teaching of cursive writing. There are valid arguments on both sides with rapidly and ever changing technology winning out. EVERYTHING affecting our lives is computer generated. Who needs it? How sad it will be one day when people will have to be specially trained in the ancient art of deciphering cursive writing as if it were as puzzling as hieroglyphics or a foreign language.

So if you can still interpret every word of the Declaration of Independence written by Thomas Jefferson in

longhand and can easily read the signature of John Hancock signed in large script so the King of England could easily see it and if you can actually *still sign* a check or put your legal signature on a document, consider yourself quite talented. You are a vanishing breed.

Little did I know as I sat at my little school desk with that stubby fat pencil in hand that I was setting forth on a journey that would bring me to this point when I would expound on the loss of the art of cursive writing through a story written in computer text. Quite ironic, wouldn't you say? Times sure have changed...since I was a kid growing up in Maybee.

Stoneco of Michigan Receives Awards

Stoneco of Michigan's Monroe County quarries recently received six awards from the National Stone, Sand, and Gravel Association. The NSSGA presents awards annually to members who exhibit outstanding safety, environmental, and community relations programs.

The Ottawa Lake, Maybee, and Denniston quarries all received Excellence In Community Relations awards. According to the NSSGA, "(The Community Relations awards program) is designed specifically to: Encourage producers to become involved with and support their local communities and to encourage producers to develop support activities that emphasize the personal involvement of their employees working together with people in the community".

The Ottawa Lake, Maybee, and Newport quarries also each received Environmental Excellence Awards from the NSSGA. The Environmental Excellence Awards "recognizes producer member's operations actively contributing to the maintenance of the environment in and around their operations as evidenced by a corporate commitment to the exemplary use of environmental controls and systems."

Since 2000, Stoneco of Michigan has received over 20 community relations and environmental excellence awards from the NSSGA. They have also received 49 safety awards from the NSSGA, Michigan Aggregates Association, and the Mine Safety and Health Administration since 2000.

"It's great to work for a company that places such a premium on the safety of their employees and the enrichment of the communities that we work in," said the Vice President of Stoneco of Michigan.

Stoneco of Michigan is a local supplier of aggregates for the construction industry. They operate four limestone quarries in Monroe County, along with several sand and gravel operations in Washtenaw County and on the west side of the state.

For years Stoneco has been a large supporter of the Downtown Maybee Day Festival and the Maybee Parks and Recreation Committee. The village looks forward to many more years of cooperation in making Maybee a great place to live and work.