

The Voice of Maybee

Village of Maybee
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Council Corner

The village council approved the budgets for 2017 at the December meeting. They also approved the operating budget for the sanitary sewer system with the Monroe County Drain Commission. The majority portion of the meeting was the council going over the applications for the village clerk position. Starting in January the village will maintain office hours from 8 am till noon, Monday through Friday. Twelve people had applied for the position and the person chosen by the council was Julie Hartford who lives right here in Maybee. A very special thank-you to Theresa Gross who has served as clerk for the past ten years. Theresa will continue to work for the Monroe school system. Thank you for a job well done.

SANTA VISITS MAYBEE

A nice sized crowd braved the chilly night to await Santa's arrival to the L.M.R. Fire hall for his annual visit with Maybee children. He returned to the fire hall after touring the village on the fire engine and was greeted with cheers and clapping. The children had the opportunity to prepare their letters to Santa while enjoying cookies and hot cocoa.

There are many people involved in this annual event that help make it so special. And we'd like to offer a thank you to the following: the L.M.R. Firemen who host the event and bag up all of Santa's candy for him; to J & K Mechanical for their generous sponsorship of the Floral City Harmonizers; to the Little Brown Jug that gave us so much cocoa mix *last year*, that we didn't have to ask them for any *this year*; to First Merit Bank for donating cups for the coca and the Santa letters; to Theresa Gross and Alexa Marchese who worked on poster detail; to our local merchants who displayed our posters; to the Floral City Harmonizers who jovially entertain; to Tona Rogers, the 'cookie lady', assisted by Sue Hartford; to Stephanie Suydam, Santa's able assistant who makes sure every child leaves with a bountiful bag of candy; and, of course, Santa himself who takes time from his *very* busy schedule to spend time with our Maybee area children. It is a fun-packed evening that the grown-ups involved enjoy just as much as the kids! I know I do!

Marge VanAuker

Maybee Village Lighting Contest

It was nice to see so many homes decorated this year, even if it was just a wreath, nativity scene, or just a string of lights. This was the first annual Christmas lights decoration contest in memory of Mary Gaylor. The judges for the contest were from Dundee and Ida. The winners were MOST CREATIVE -Al & Sue Marrs', MOST FUN & FESTIVE – Christy Murnighan, MOST BRIGHT & COLORFUL – Tara & Chris Milhan and Harold Helzer (tied). The Village of Maybee Councilmembers and Council President along with the Maybee Day Committee want to thank everyone for making our village special.

Mary Gaylor

1946 - 2016

Mary was born in Trenton Michigan and spent her childhood in Taylor where she graduated from High School. Mary tried many occupations over the years till she finally settled on a job working for General Motors S.P.O. Division. In 1989 she met her husband Len and in six months they were married. Len told her she could quit her job if she wanted to so they could travel and see the world. For the next fifteen years they would visit over 25 countries from Iceland to Australia and Japan and most of Western Europe. One of Mary's biggest thrills was feeding a baby Kangaroo while in Australia. She was also able to experience the Great Barrier Reef from a glass bottom boat. Other places that Mary enjoyed visiting was her grandparents homeland of Scotland. Places that were on her wish list of places to visit that she was able to fulfill were the Parthenon in Greece, the Canals of Venice, the Opera house in Paris, the Cathedrals in Germany and many, many more places that she had always dreamed about.

Back on the home front after an accident where Mary suffered a severe broken leg, they decided to find a ranch house so she did not have to go up and down stairs. It was then when the two of them got lost while looking for a house that they discovered Maybee. They stopped for directions at a house where there was an open house going on. They walked around the house, got their directions and went on their way. When they got back home Mary told Len that she really liked the house and that they should consider it. This was in December of 1995. By February 1st of 1996 they were moving into the house. To Mary the house was perfect, after she changed everything in it.

Over the years she visited 49 of the 50 states with the last trip being one to Alaska. This trip took two months and it took it's toll on both the motor home and Mary. This trip was not what she thought it would be like. The roads were worse than the roads in Monroe County. Her advice to everyone was that if you want to see Alaska, fly there and take a cruise. You don't want to drive.

Mary loved to see flowers grow so she took it upon herself to start planting flowers in downtown Maybee. At the time there was no water available at the village hall so she would fill empty milk jugs at home and take them into town to water all the flowers. The more flowers she planted, the more water jugs she had to fill.

Next she started walking to strengthen her leg so she would walk the bike path and then through the park picking up litter as she walked. When the old village hall was being restored she would come down and help put up drywall and then she hand sponge paint the bathroom upstairs. She didn't quit there. The old concession stand at the park had a hole in the roof so up on the roof she went and helped install a new metal roof. When the new concession stand was built she was one of the volunteers that was down there doing cement work. One thing about Mary was that she was not afraid to get dirty. She even drove her pride and joy, her Skag mower, down to the park to cut grass.

For more than ten years she helped organize Downtown Maybee Day. She would line up all the crafters and make sure that they had the spot that they wanted. The day of the event she would be downtown at six in the morning.

The one thing that Mary enjoyed doing the most was putting up Christmas decorations both at home and at the village. She would be out in the snow and cold with other volunteers to make sure that the Village of Maybee looked beautiful for the holidays. The more lights, the better. At home it was no different. People wondered how anyone could put that many ornaments and lights on one tree. Last year it expanded to two trees. Sometimes she would start decorating in the month of August. She just loved Christmas decorations. Her other passion was helping out families in need especially at Christmas time. She would adopt a family and make sure that they had plenty to eat and that the kids got all that they wished for. Every Christmas at the village Christmas party for the kids, Mary would be sitting on the floor in front of Santa taking pictures of the kids. One year her and Mary Batyik dressed up as Elves for the party.

Mary was a kind and giving person and although she would sometimes be very blunt in what she said it was never out of being a mean person. It was just her personality. As she would say you call a spade a spade. We hope that she does not make it too hard on St. Peter when she arrives. We will all miss her.

In lieu of flowers a "Mary Gaylor Christmas Decoration Fund" was set up at First Merit Bank in Maybee. This money will be used to purchase new decorations for the village. So far more than twenty-five hundred dollars has been donated. Thank-you everyone for your support. This would have made her very happy to see the town lit up even more than it was before.