

MAEYSTOWN VOLKSBLATT

Maeystown, Illinois

Maeystown Preservation Society

www.maeystownpreservationsociety.org

Old Fashioned German Christmas 2017

On Sunday, December 3, the village was brimming with people. All accounts have the largest crowd ever at this year's Old Fashioned Christmas. The weather was ideal and there was something for everyone.

The sanctuary at St. John church had a quilt show with quilts draping on each pew and a collection of vintage toys displayed. Sankt Nikolaus strolled the street handing out his candy canes (and hopefully no sticks!). In front of the Museum the decorated Victorian sleigh was available for photo opportunities. Complimentary carriage rides with its bells ringing, were sponsored by the State Bank of Waterloo. Upstairs in the Mill, children could make a Tannenbaum Christmas ornament or anyone could create a folded German paper star.

This year the Weihnachthaustour was completely walkable and almost all on one street. So many attended that they ran out of tickets and had to run off more. The mini house tour featured a 1911 apartment restored by David and Marcia Brawell and located above Georgia Mae's Antiques. It features a balcony with views of Maeystown on three sides and a hidden attic space. At 1115 Main Street, Pam and Bob Gamache decorated their 1859 cabin, summer kitchen and newly built barn with their large collection of antiques. Currently they are renovating the kitchen and bath in the cabin. In 2016, they built the barn entirely of reclaimed barn wood to look like it was 100 years old. David and Anita Muertz live at 1251 Main Street. In 1998, they had Knoke Builders construct their saltbox style home. David hand-built most of the furnishings to compliment the decor which is inspired by the clean lines,

function and simplicity of the Shaker style.

Monroe County kicked off the State of Illinois Bicentennial Celebration at our special event. The local dignitaries were brought to the porch of the Maeystown General Store in a horse drawn carriage. A proclamation was read and the crowd all joined in singing our state's official song, "Illinois".

Weihnacht stew was available at Vici's Front Porch, gluhwein and a full menu were offered at Mason's. Red, green and holiday kettle corn was popped out on the street, ice cream and artistic holiday cookies were sold at the Sweet Shoppe, and hot cocoas and coffee were available at the Kaffeehaus. Downstairs at the Mill, "A Taste of Christmas" featured dessert and appetizer samplings with their own cookbook.

If you wished to shop or browse, St. John Church sponsored the Christkindlmarkt with a large variety of vendors. Distinctive items like hand carved Santas, homemade Christmas cards, idyllic framed Maeystown photography, and hand crafted traditional and custom putz houses were located upstairs at the Mill. One of a kind gifts could be found at Georgia Mae's and Maeystown General Store.

This special day couldn't be complete without Christmas music. Throughout the day you could always join in singing or hear Christmas music somewhere. Band Room Brass played traditional music while strolling up and down the streets. The Waterloo High School Concert Choir performed and then caroled outside. Even if you couldn't speak a word of German, David Braswell welcomed everyone to the German Christmas Carol Sing. Dulcimer music could be heard throughout the Mill all afternoon. To

end the day, a large group joined in to light the village Weihnachtsbaum and traditional carol sing with dulcimers and accordion inside the Mill. It definitely was a great Frohliche Weihnachten! Anita Muertz

2017 Frauenabend

On Friday evening, November 17, we enjoyed hosting Frauenabend, Ladies' Night. The darker the evening became, the brighter the luminaries appeared, the more the ladies came! We're not sure if they came mostly to pamper themselves with chair massages and Essential Oils. It could have been to simply enjoy Vici's Front Porch's soups, salads and desserts, Red Rooster's hot chocolates and coffees or Mason's winter sangria. Maybe it was all of these and shopping as well. Ladies were modeling clothing out in the Fashion Truck and LuLaRoe or Ruby Ribbon upstairs in the Corner George Inn. They searched out accessories like scarves and purses from Trades of Hope and jewelry from Premier Designs Jewelry and Initial Outfitters. Others were anxious to volunteer for demos of Rodan & Fields, sample lipsticks and eye shadows from Lipsense or try on nails from Jamberry. Of course, they found unique Christmas shopping as well, Norwex product lines, sock monkeys and puppets, shadow boxes created by Close to My Heart, antiques from Georgia Mae's Antiques, and specialty foods and holiday towels from Maeystown General Store. Most finished their evening with a complimentary carriage ride sponsored by Coast to Coast. At the end of Frauenabend, visitors and vendors came

and asked, "Are you planning this again for next year?" We are.

Anita Muertz

Spring Art Show

The annual Maeystown Spring Art Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 17 and 18 from 11:00-4:00 p.m. each day. This year's show will feature Waterloo artist Annette DeBourge. Ms. DeBourge specializes in portrait and landscape painting with oil. She brings her subjects to life through the use of vibrant color and detail. Also highlighted in the show will be the painting and quilting of artists Jean Cotton and Anna Caruthers, both from the South County St Louis area. The works of these three artists will be displayed at the Preservation Society Rock Mill as well as in other buildings in downtown Maeystown as space allows. There is no admission charge for the show.

Please mark your calendars to attend the Spring Art Show and please pass the word on to your friends and neighbors as well!

Marcia Braswell

Repairs to the Maeystown Bridge

We are very excited that with donations we were able to begin repairs to "Save the Maeystown Bridge". But, if you have ever restored anything you know that once you get started you're going to run into more problems.

In most areas on the topside of the main bridge span the mortar has been removed and replaced. The arch below has not yet been tuck pointed. The contractor noticed that salt on the road above has been creating cracks allowing water to flow through and eat away at the mortar. By sealing the road we are planning to eliminate this problem.

Drain tiles are needed on three sides of the bridge to stop water from sitting along the walls. It appears that two of the wing walls will need to be

rebuilt. On rare occasions with heavy rains the Maeystown Creek has gone behind one wall and caused severe dirt erosion. After repair and tuck pointing rip rap will be brought in and placed directly along it. For many years the caps on the second wall have been missing allowing water to pour through this wall causing considerable damage. When this wall is rebuilt new wall caps will have to be installed to prevent future problems. With the onset of winter, the contractor felt it was not wise to do the repairs on the arch and walls.

As you can see there is still much to complete, but we are ecstatic that we were able to start the repair of the bridge before the weather turned. Anxiously we await spring to continue the repairs of our 136 year old bridge. We are truly thankful to each and every one of you that has donated or helped us in some way to "Save the Maeystown Bridge"!

To make a tax deductible donation please make checks payable to "Save the Maeystown Bridge, c/o Christy Muertz, 3265 Bushy Prairie Road, Fults, Illinois, 62244. Please call 618-719-3726 with any questions.

Christy Muertz

Halloween 2017 in Maeystown

What does Ralphie from Christmas Story, a walking Jack-O-Lantern, a mime, a shiny silver robot (that couldn't get up once he fell down), Gene Simmons from KISS, a cowboy, Harry Potter and Hermione, a bat, a ghost, Batman, and about 30 other out-of-this-world characters all have in common? They were in Maeystown Halloween night along with parents and grandparents to share in the Halloween fun. This year there was a chill in the air but no one seemed to mind. First on the agenda was trick or treating throughout the village. A big thank you goes to the residents of Maeystown that opened their doors to dole out the

highly sought-after candy to the flock of gremlins running through their town.

Then everyone headed to the Civic Park for hot dogs and chili and a roaring fire. Later on Kevin Hirsch arrived with a mule-drawn hayride for all to enjoy. Than you Kevin.

Thank you to Pastor Poole for organizing and getting the hot dogs, chili, and other food stuffs to feed the masses. And much appreciation goes to so many others that contributed behind the scenes to make this a successful event; from building the fire to obtaining the straw bales. So much to organize! Thank you to everyone involved. What great memories these kids will have and share years from now when they look back on the fun Halloweens they've had in Maeystown. Special thanks to the organizations that donated toward Maeystown's Trick or Treat/Halloween party: Maeystown Women's Association, Maeystown Fire Department, Maeystown Civic Association, Maeystown Preservation Society and St. John UCC Women's Fellowship. Joyce Kuergeleis

Donations

The Society would like to thank the people who gave the donations listed below. It is through gifts such as this that we are able to carry out our efforts to preserve the history and culture of Maeystown and the lifestyle that it represented.

German Greiner Doll
 Ron & Pat Klopmeier
 American Doll Clothes
 Charlie Bieber
 1867 German Evangelical Catechism
 Mrs. Leo Kohler
 Art Display of Wippermann's Art from the Art Show
 David Henerfauth
 Wippermann's Drawing Table
 Ken, Jean & Marian Knobloch
 Wooden Shipping Crate Stamped with "Maeystown"
 Dennis & Elaine Knobloch

Membership Renewal Reminder

Membership renewals were mailed with the November issue. There are still several people who have not renewed their membership for 2018. If you received a membership form with this issue of the Volksblatt that means you have not renewed your membership for 2018. If we do not receive your renewal by April 15, we will assume you do not wish to renew and will drop your name from our list.

Death

Fannie Sue Schellhardt

Fanny Sue Schellhardt, nee Nabers, died December 31, 2017. She is survived by her children Michael (Debra Schindler) Schellhardt and Steven Schellhardt; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; brother Lowell Nabers; step sister Marybeth (David) Rahe; brother-in-law; nieces; nephews; and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband Albert C. "Mannie" Schellhardt Jr.; son Alan Joel "Joe".

Calendar

February 13	St. John Church Fastnact 5:00-8:00 p.m.
March 17 & 18	Spring Art Show 11:00-4:00 p.m.
May 6	Frühlingsfest/Springfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.
June 9	Plein Air Paint Out 9:00-3:00 p.m.
June 15 & 16	Maeystown Homecoming
August 4	Trash & Treasures Village Yard Sale 8:00-12:00 noon
September 28	Apple Peeling 8:00-2:00 p.m.
September 29	Apple Butter Stirring 6:00-3:00 p.m.
October 14	Oktoberfest 9:00-4:00 p.m.
November 16	Frauenabend 5:00-9:00 p.m.
December 2	Old-Fashioned Christmas 11:00-4:30 p.m.