

THE NITTY GRITTY



Village Council News

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Events

- Feb 18, 9 am—noon, recycling trailer
- Lions Club—2nd & 4th Mondays, 7 pm at Christ UMC
- Sunday Worship, Christ UMC, 9:30 am; Sunday School, 10:30 am
- Council meetings, 1st & 3rd Mondays, Village Hall, 7 pm
- Food Pantry, 2nd & 4th Saturdays, Christ UMC, 10 am



Report from the first council meeting in February

Looking for Local Income Tax forms from R.I.T.A? Unfortunately, they didn't send any to the village to have available, BUT THEY'LL MAIL ONE RIGHT TO YOU! Just call 1-800-860-7482 and follow the phone prompts, or file through their website, www.ritaohio.com.

Discussion and work for our siren had begun already at our meeting in late January. We continue to work on this item.

Our Mayor, Mark Wolford, delivered his STATE OF THE VILLAGE address at the council meeting, commenting on more storm drains getting repaired, park improvements, positive fund balances across the board, hiring a part-time employee to help Joe keep up with the work. I quote, "This year we look forward to updating the Village Hall, adding [more] permanent improvements to the park, and investing in sewer and storm drain repairs and improvements."

Carl Crawford

Bowling Green Parks Sponsor SOUP & SUCH HIKE

Park sponsored hike at WGP. Gather around the fire at Winter-garden Park at the Rotary Nature Center for a bowl of hot soup on a cold day, guitar music, winter hikes and of course, s'mores. Staff naturalists will be leading winter hikes so dress for the weather, Bowling Green High School's guitar club will provide music, Stimmel's will provide soup and cornbread, and the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Foundation will provide the s'mores! The fun takes place on Saturday, February 25th with the first hikes beginning at 11:00 am with the event ending at 2:00 p.m.. Hikes will take place as interest dictates. Registration is a must for this free event! Please go to www.bgohio.org for information on registration or call 419-354-6223 for more information on how you can join the event!



Happy Valentine's Day



Feb 14

Food Pantry

The Portage Food Pantry is open the second and fourth Saturdays of the month for one hour. If you need food come, and get what you need. If you are interested in seeing our changes, come and visit us. We have a whole new set up and a lot more variety of food items as well as some non-food items (like shampoo, soap, etc). Visit us at 301 West Main Street, located within Christ UMC. If you are interested in helping, bring donations during pantry hours.



Come early for Bible Study starting at 9 am.

The Nitty Gritty is sponsored by the Portage Lions Club. Send comments and suggestions to portagelions@dacor.net.

From Portage Yesteryear . . .

Reprinted from The Sentinel Tribune, November 9, 1999 by Mary Ann Wasserman

Portage's military honor roll is AWOL

Missing in action: One red, white, and blue Honor Roll from World War II. Dimensions: 15 feet high by 20 feet wide. Wearing: black scripted names of potential heroes.

"It was at Clancy's Corner by the hardware store and just to the end of the building," Donnagene (Drain) Shrider of Portage said.

Veteran Donald Drain noticed the Portage area honors roster missing in the late 1940s or early 1950s. The site of the Honor Roll board was at the junction of Findlay Pike and Main Street. "The sign was erected in about 1943," he said.

"The honor roll was there at the time when Marshal Winton owned the hardware," Drain said. "He is deceased now. I asked the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kidd, about it. They do not know what happened to it."

Rumors say that the honor roll is tucked away in someone's barn.

"I do not recall it missing because after the war, I was working in Toledo." Shrider said.

Mrs. Kidd thinks someone else might know.

"I have no idea where it is," she said. "I have only owned the hardware the last 25 years."

A naval quartermaster and navigator from Portage, Drain was on one of the first LCTs to hit Utah Beach. He stayed for about one month in Europe and saw additional action at Omaha Beach. His other tours of duty include Slapton Sands, England. The area, an Army base, is located close to the English Channel, and was used for training prior to the invasion of Normandy.

"There was a stretch of beach which was made over to resemble the beach head of France, and was practice for D-Day," Drain said.

He was also stationed at Saint-Lo, France, site of a another major battle.

"One night, I counted 1000 planes, B-17s they were," Drain said.

The B-17, or Flying Fortress long range bomber was one of the major air weapons of the United States arsenal during World War II. The airplane had a maximum range of 3320 miles, with a six crewman armed with five .30 or .50 caliber guns.

Richard Drain of Springfield, Ohio, was in the war for three years. He flew B-17 bombers in the 15th Air Force squadron in Italy and for the 390th bomber group of England. He has written three books about his experiences with the plane.

"I flew the Flying Fortress until D-Day," Richard Drain said.

Names of the Drain brothers and other residents of Portage and rural addresses were inscribed on the an honor roll.

Among the honored veterans are Earl Canterbury or Portage and Don Bockbrader of Bowling Green.

"I stayed on this side of the ocean and was doing hospital duty in this country." Canterbury said.

Bockbrader was stationed in Belgium, England, France, Luxemburg, and Germany.

"I was in the quartermaster corps and we were the morale group," Bockbrader said.

"We provided showers and laundry for the troops. That was a big thing."

The whereabouts of the Portage honor roll is yet to be known.

Shrider volunteered for different organizations involved in the war effort, handing out food stamps and rationing books. Among the foods which were rationed included sugar, meat, and oil.