

# Park View Village

Newsletter – Vol. 6, No. 5

September-October, 2016



## PROGRAM CALENDAR



Les, a retired Clemson University chemistry professor with an engineering background, serves on the steering committee and speaker's bureau of Climate Action Alliance of the Valley (CAAV), publishes numerous opinion pieces and gives frequent talks on climate issues.

For more details about climate change, the work of CAAV, and ways you might help, see:

<http://climateactionallianceofthevalley.org/>. (The site is the source of our accompanying photo, which shows one strategy Les has chosen to shrink his carbon footprint.)

**Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7 pm in Park View Mennonite Church Fireplace Room:** Les Grady will speak on ***Climate Change, an Urgent Need for Action.***

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**Monday, Oct. 17, 9 am-3 pm.: Apple-picking!** A 12-passenger van (provided by VMRC) will depart from PVMC for **Carter Mountain Orchard**, near Charlottesville, followed by lunch at **Mrs. Rowe's Family Restaurant** in Staunton. For cost, sign-up and other details, contact Greg Versen, [gregversen@yahoo.com](mailto:gregversen@yahoo.com); 433-1018.

**Tuesday, Nov. 15, 7 pm, PVMC Fireplace Room:** Kari Souder, team leader of marketing/owner services at the **Friendly City Food Co-op**, will discuss operations of the co-op, owned by a large group of local consumers and emphasizing healthy food, local products and sustainably produced goods in the Shenandoah Valley. More info: see <http://friendlycity.coop/>.

**Thursday, Dec. 15 at PVMC Fellowship Hall: Christmas celebration** – potluck dinner plus sacred, secular and sing-along music by about a dozen Harrisonburg Harmonizers performers. Watch for details.

For the movie-nights calendar, see p. 2.

## BOARD PRESIDENT UPDATE

Recently we enjoyed the beautiful Harvest Moon, the full moon closest to the Autumn Equinox. Our neighbors who are farmers and gardeners are busy gathering crops and produce for winter. This week, WSVa activated its inclement weather system for letting our community know the latest news regarding school, church, and business closings. These are early signs that winter is approaching. Recently Park View Village held our Fall Potluck and Annual Meeting.

There is important news to share about Park View Village.

- A special welcome to Harley and Sadie Showalter and Steve and Betsy Dintaman as new members.
- The September issue of the insert, *Living Longer, Living Well*, includes a cover photo of Yvonne and Marvin Stutzman leaving on a shopping errand with John Spicher, Park View Village volunteer. The article, "Redefining Aging in Community through the Village Model Village to Village Network," introduced readers to the Village-to-Village Network.
- Special thanks to Robin and Greg, members of the Events and Program Committee, for organizing interesting and relevant programs. One example was the recent program on refugees by Jim Hershberger, Executive Director of Church World Service Refugee Resettlement Program in Harrisonburg.
- The Board received good suggestions and feedback from members about the possible name change for Park View Village.

*Keith Gnagey, board president*

## PVV MOVIE NIGHTS .....



Our autumn movie showings got off to a good start with the classic musical, "Meet Me in St. Louis." Following are the season's remaining selections. Films are shown one Friday per month at 7 pm in the home theater of Mary Ann and John Heatwole, 1056 Smith Ave.

Our movie planning committee – Virginia and John Spicher, Robin McNallie, Chris Edwards, and Steve and Karen Moshier-Shenk – aims at a variety of themes (listed in parenthesis following titles). For now, the committee has discontinued the practice of pre-registering to attend movies; all you

need to do is show up on time! You can find detailed descriptions of films on PVV's website:

**<http://parkviewvillageva.org/>**

**Oct. 28 – "Into the Wild"** (nature): This 2007 film, directed by Sean Penn, is an adaptation of Jon Krakauer's 1996 non-fiction book of the same name, based on the early-1990s travels of young Christopher McCandless across North America and his life in the Alaskan wilderness.

**Nov. 11 – "On Golden Pond"** (family)

**Dec. 9 – "It's a Wonderful Life"**  
(classic)



Photos by Greg Versen

## REFUGEES: *Understanding needs; finding ways to help*



The U.S. Government defines a refugee as “a person outside of his or her country of nationality who is unable or unwilling to return because of persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinions.”

At our Sept. 8 program, Jim Hershberger (above), director of the Church World Service Refugee Resettlement Program in Harrisonburg, mentioned refugees in Biblical times to the 23 PVV members and guests. In Jeremiah 52:12-16, after Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar sacked Jerusalem, commander Nebuzaradan *carried into exile some of the poorest people and those who remained in the city, along with the rest of the craftsmen and those who had*

*deserted to the king of Babylon. But Nebuzaradan left behind the rest of the poorest people of the land to work the vineyards and fields.*

Now, of the approximately 60 million forcibly displaced from their homes worldwide, only 100,000 find permanent homes each year. This year, 85,000 of those are beginning new lives in the U.S., with 200 settling in Harrisonburg and surrounding counties with assistance from Jim’s office. Most currently come from Iraq or the Congo, with about 25 from Syria.

The local office is operated by Church World Service, an international ecumenical organization comprised of 33 Protestant churches and funded by a grant from the U.S. State Department’s Office of Refugee Resettlement, plus private donations.

Jim summarized the complex processes of registering and screening required for permanent settlement, which takes “a minimum of three years.” Before arriving, most refugees have taken shelter in temporary quarters. Refugee camps, operated by the U.N. or charitable organizations, are often surrounded by barbed wire in host

nations where the beneficiaries are not wanted. "Children are born there, but they have no country," Jim said. They receive the most basic necessities, but sometimes little else.

What do such newcomers expect in America? A list Jim displayed of worries expressed by some refugees ranged from realistic ("I might get lost in a strange city") to bizarre ("I heard most Americans are Illuminati and worship the Devil").

On arrival at the Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport, a refugee is picked up by one of the office's 15 staff members. (Airfare is a loan they must repay.) They receive support averaging a total of \$1,125 per person. Once those funds run out they must be working in order to be able to pay rent and other bills.

Assisted with finding housing, they must sign a lease and, if employable, start work as quickly as possible. Jim estimates 75 percent initially find jobs in the poultry industry. CWS staff help with applications for social security, food stamps, English as a Second Language classes and school registration. Staffers also must often teach such skills as "how a washing machine works, when you're used to washing in a river" ... or how to use a checking account, Jim

said. Yet refugees must attain self-sufficiency within 60 to 180 days.

Jim calls the typical refugee experience "a rough landing." He recalls one woman admitting, "It took me six months to realize that when my children got on the school bus in the morning, they would come back."

He advised PVV inquirers that churches can play an invaluable role in easing that landing: "My staff cannot be friends with the refugees, because there are too many. A church can be their friends." Churches sponsor families whom congregation members help with tutoring, filling out forms, buying cell phones and/or providing transportation.

Looking for ways to help? See [cwsharrisonburg.org](http://cwsharrisonburg.org).



### ***"AGE WAVE" CONFERENCE COMING NOV. 2; OUR INPUT SOUGHT***

*Jeannette Suter, BSW, MPA, Marketing Director for Home Instead Senior Care ([www.homeinstead.com/staunton](http://www.homeinstead.com/staunton)), sent the following message to PVV, courtesy of board president Keith Gnagey:*

ElderAlliance is collaborating with the Department of Social Work at JMU to present the forum "State of the Older Adult: The Time is Now." The overall goal of this event is to join together as a community to understand the impact of the "age wave" on a personal, professional, and community level, and why the time is now to plan, prepare, and respond.

One of the main tasks of the JMU Social Work students is to bring local data related to the topic "to life" through data analysis and interviews. This is where we are asking for your help and collaboration! Students may call or e-mail you in the near future as they are working hard to gather information, data, and stories (testimonies). A primary goal is to personalize the data through interviews. We are asking for your help to connect students with older adults from your organization that may be willing to participate in videotaped interviews. The interviews will be recorded for the purpose of a media presentation at the forum.

Thank you, in advance, for any assistance you may be able to offer. Also, **please mark your calendars to attend the forum: Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at JMU Festival Center, 1301 Carrier Drive** (exhibits open at 8:30 am and forum begins at 10. Jeannette Suter's contact information: 540-213-7800; [jsuter@homeinstead.com](mailto:jsuter@homeinstead.com).)

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### **PARK VIEW VILLAGE SERVICE PROVIDERS**

As a member of PVV you have access to a list of contractors who provide home, maintenance and repair services. The listed providers have rendered satisfactory services for one or more PVVV members and may be re-employed when a need occurs. The list may be accessed thorough ClubExpress, our PVV data base -- <http://parkviewvillageva.org/> -- or by calling your Service Provider Coordinator, John Spicher @ [540-442-8252](tel:540-442-8252).

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### **8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL VILLAGE MOVEMENT GATHERING:**

**Oct. 17-19**

***"The Village Movement: Making Your Future a Good One"***

**Columbus, Ohio**

Interested? See <http://vtvnetwork.org/>

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**Happy birthday, PVV members!**



**October** Ramona Stahl, Evelyn J. Driver, Wilma Gingerich, Loretta Helmuth, Mildred Hostetter, Hannah Mack Lapp, Pauline Myers, LeVon Smoker, Steve Shenk

**November** Esther Augsburg, Pearl Lantz, Anna S. Leakey, Yvonne Stutzman, J Lowell Wenger



## THE PARK VIEW VILLAGE BOARD



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*Vendor Services  
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Keith Gnagey  
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**To contact Park View Village:**  
**540-705-0432;**  
**website, <http://parkviewvillageva.org/>**

**Deadline is **Nov. 21** for submissions to the November-December issue of **PVV's bimonthly newsletter**. Send items to **Chris Edwards, editor, 434-0457;**  
**[chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com](mailto:chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com).****