

Park View Village

Newsletter – Vol. 8, No. 2

March-April, 2018



PROGRAM CALENDAR

TUESDAY, APRIL 17: 8:30am-3:30pm. Day trip to Staunton, visiting Mary Baldwin University and Sunspots Studios. The program committee offers you an opportunity to visit MBU, Tuesday, April 17. We plan to carpool, leaving from PVMC East parking lot 8:30 a.m, arrive at MBU about 9:45. We have made arrangements for a presentation on the history and future plans for the university, a tour of the campus (put on your walking shoes, it's a hilly campus), lunch in the school cafeteria.

After lunch we will drop by Sunspots Studios for a visit to their glass blowing operation. No tour scheduled, but an opportunity to see what's happening and some shopping.

If you have not, but want to, sign up for this trip, and/or drive a few people, please contact Greg Versen ASAP: 433-1010; gregversen@gmail.com.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 5 to 8 pm: Our annual picnic at Morrison Park (461 2nd St., Harrisonburg, located off Chicago Ave. on the northwest corner of the block that includes Waterman Elementary School). Please bring one potluck dish per person. Couples bring 2: a main course, plus a veggie, salad or dessert...also your own cups, plates, cutlery; napkins; soft drinks or juice if desired. (Water will be available.) Guests are welcome! We'll gather at 5, and hear music by jazz guitarist Royce Campbell with bassist Karl Kimmel beginning about 5:45 or 6.

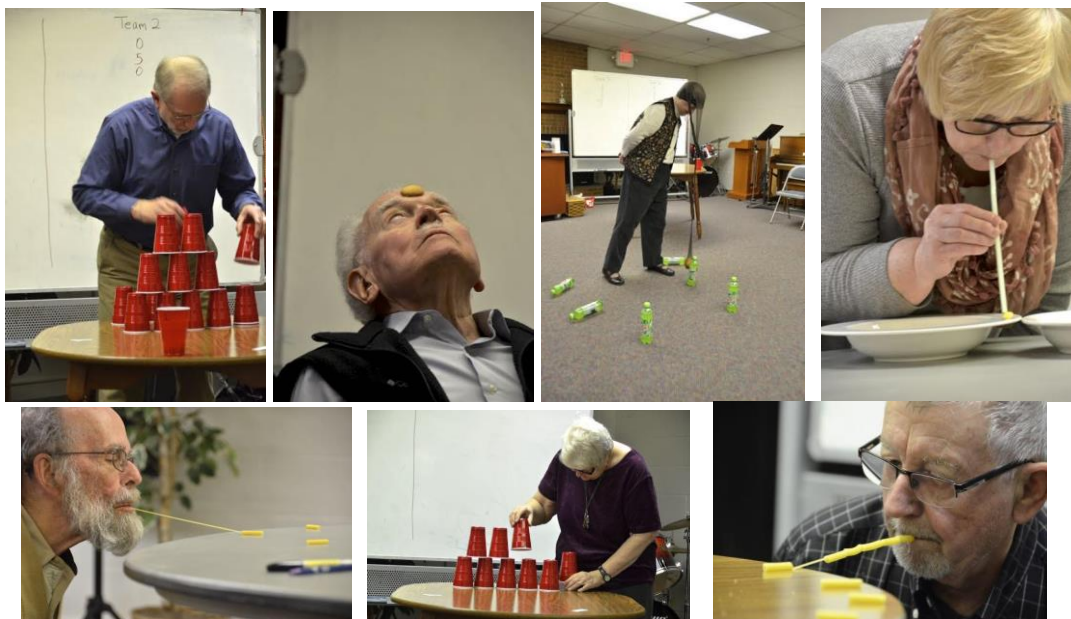
(Severe weather is rare in early June, but in such an event, picnic must be cancelled.)



FUN NIGHT (and fun photos ☺)

Denise Sauder, PVV's administrative assistant, arranged our March program, getting us to compete at challenges that included balancing a vanilla wafer on our foreheads and trying, with no hands, to make it land in our mouths. All photos are by Greg Versen, except for the one at left (in which Paul Yoder captured Greg tackling the wafer task).

See page 2 for more . . .



In the “Fun Night” challenges shown above, Keith and Chris compete for speed stacking pyramids of cups; Jay (like Greg, on p. 1) tries to control the path of a vanilla wafer from his forehead; Peggy, in “The Elephant March,” knocks down soda bottles using a ball loaded within a stocking; Denise attempts “Sucking Skittles with a Straw”; and Robin and Paul try to collect pasta items in “Noodle on a Straw.” Below (from left) Chris, Robin, Paul, Denise, Keith, Jay and Peggy gather for down time afterward. Thanks, Denise! ***Photos in this issue by Greg Versen except where otherwise noted***



***“A VIEW FROM INSIDE” --
ESTHER NIZER shares memories
of her historic local school***

The school in East Elkton that Esther Nizer attended from grades 1-6 is now a designated historic site – and was the subject of Ms. Nizer’s talk with us in February (Black History Month).

Recently she was instrumental in getting a marker approved by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and posted to commemorate Newtown School – Rockingham County’s only standing “Rosenwald school,” as her profile in the Fall 2017 Bloom magazine noted (https://issuu.com/dailynews-record/docs/bloom_fall_2017). She has served as IT Training and Development Manager at JMU for 18 years.

Philanthropist and Sears Roebuck President Julius Rosenwald partnered with Tuskegee Institute founder Booker T. Washington to build several thousand state-of-the-art public schools for children of color in the segregated South, in years when Southern states allocated them “separate,” but not “equal,” resources. Ms. Nizer recalls her school’s excellent lighting; Rosenwald schools typically faced east, with large, paneled windows, gabled roofs and movable partitions. Funds were supplied by Mr. Rosenwald, together with the county school board and the public.

Newtown School (1205 Diamond Lane, Elkton) opened in 1921. Its name followed a widespread custom, Ms. Nizer said: “In the olden days, when people wanted to ask for the black community, they would ask, ‘Where is Newtown?’”



The school had two classrooms, an assembly hall and cafeteria, she recalls. Having started school in 1959, she remembers older students helping teach younger children. She attended Elkton’s intermediate school after it integrated in 1965. Ms. Nizer did not see integration as a big change, having always lived near whites. Certainly, she adds, “There were places we were not to go” – some associated with Klan presence. Yet some interracial couples attended school dances together (mostly without parents knowing, she said with a smile).

After graduating from Baltimore’s Morgan State University, she earned teaching certification at JMU and taught 4th grade in McGaheysville, then lived in Atlanta and Dallas until returning to the Valley. She is a past NAACP chapter president, a lay leader at Elkton’s Mt. Paran Baptist Church, and in 2009, was a nominee for Rockingham County Commissioner of the Revenue.

Made “obsolete” by integration, Rosenwald schools closed in 1965. Now empty, Newtown is among less than 12% that remain standing. Ms. Nizer hopes it finds a future purpose.

For more about the school, see <http://www.valleyheritagemuseum.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/HRHS-Newsletter-Winter-2017-1.pdf>. (C.E.)



A tour of the Pale Fire Brewery (located in the Ice House on Liberty Street) -- Greg Versen reports on our Jan. 30 visit: "Lead Brewer Ben Trumbo gave us a very informative tour of the facility and excellent insight into the science and art of beer making. He even let us taste the malt grain they use. Tasted like malted milk balls to me. Daryl, Joe Lapp and I had lunch at Food.Bar.Food following the tour."

BOARD PRESIDENT UPDATE

We're pleased to have Bradley and Mary Ellen Chewning as new members of Park View Village. We look forward to getting better acquainted with the Chewnings in the coming months.

The Project 2.0 team and the Board are working on a modified geographical footprint for the Village, a potential name change, plus the need to arrange alternative meeting locations while the Park View Mennonite Church building is closed June 1 through September 30 for renovation.

Evelyn Driver, Vice President, announced her resignation from the board. Thankfully she will continue serving with the Project 2.0 Strategic Plan. If you have interest in serving on the board, please notify Keith Gnagey or Clara Yoder. If you would like to nominate someone to serve as Vice President, please contact Keith at 540-383-9771 (cell phone).

Please notice the upcoming Staunton trip and summer potluck picnic. I encourage you to invite a neighbor to one of our events.

- Keith Gnagey, Board President

Lifelong Learners learn about Park View Village

"A Local 'Village': Retirees help each other stay in their homes" was the title of an article by Keith and myself (a member of the LLI Newsletter Committee) about PVV and the Village Movement in the Spring "Explorer," newsletter of the JMU Lifelong Learning Institute. See:

<http://www.jmu.edu/outreach/programs/all/lli/newsletters/LLI%20Spring%202018%20Newsletter.pdf>. Scroll down to page 8. – C.E.



ALL ABOUT HEMP: “It’s education,” says researcher

Although the leaves of two well-known varieties of *cannabis sativa* appear similar, the plants are quite easy to tell apart, said JMU College of Science and Mathematics Entrepreneurial Fellow Michael Renfroe, presenting PVV’s April program, “Bringing Hemp Back to Virginia.” Hemp plants grow tall, with narrowly spread branches. Marijuana plants are low and bushy, he explained.

Their uses by humans also strongly differ. Hemp plants, which supplied the nautical ropes and rigging of colonial Virginia, are “below the threshold of THC detection” and have no psychotropic effects, Dr. Renfroe explained. (THC is the active ingredient in marijuana leaves that gets smokers high, while also serving some medicinal purposes.) Yet the U.S. Government, alone in the industrialized world, treats marijuana and hemp as the same.

“The Feds treat non-psychoactive industrial hemp as bad as any narcotic,” said Dr. Renfroe, whose credentials include a Ph.D. from Yale. He is the lead researcher in JMU’s 3-year-old Industrial Hemp Research Program, now partnering with farmers to cultivate 10 acres of hemp in Rockingham County and 15 in Albemarle. Farmers may not sell or otherwise profit from the product (other than feeding it to livestock that they will not sell, or using it as fuel). They participate as an investment in its future.

Dr. Renfroe enumerated marketable uses of hemp ranging from car door interior paneling, to hemp oil (“one of



the healthiest cooking oils”), to fabrics. His PVV audience, many of whom grew up on farms, intently examined a blouse made from hemp fibers that could be mistaken for linen. These products are widely sold in U.S. markets, but the hemp ingredient must be imported.

“Could hemp be abused, and how would you go about it?” asked one PVV member. Dr. Renfroe could think of no way to abuse hemp, but reiterated that it has “no physiological effect.”

The research group had to register with the DEA to begin the project. Because hemp is a controlled substance, the harvests must be kept in a locked room with video surveillance. It cannot be grown near public roads – although Renfroe noted that anyone trying to smoke hemp leaves would be in for disappointment.

H.R. 3530, the Industrial Hemp Farming Act of 2017 intended to open hemp for marketability, remains in committee despite bipartisan support.

Why? “It’s education. Hemp is not marijuana,” Dr. Renfroe said. -- C.E.

VENDOR SPOTLIGHT



BruCrew still available, alters client interaction

Jordan Leaman, former manager of Brucrew Operations, has informed me that he is no longer associated with the student-led job corps that was of great help to us.

However, a group of students is now available to do the odd jobs such as landscaping, ladder jobs, and snow removal, as before.

Contacting them is done through the website vabrucrew.com. Going online, you identify the nature of the job needed, learn of an interested and available student, and find out the cost for the job. What has changed is that "Interaction is directly with the person who will be doing the job."

BruCrew, the website explains, "fills a niche" for a homeowner's "odd jobs and to-do lists that need to be tackled" – offering "quality and thorough work at reasonable rates."

*John Spicher
Vendor Services Chair*



Movies through Spring

Until summer break, PVV's longest-running "interest group" (open to all, free) is still showing monthly Friday films at 6:30pm in VMRC's Park Place Cinema Room. Someone will usually be at the Park Place door to let you in after it is locked at 6 pm. (You may also use Wellness Center or Park Gables entrances, which stay open later.)

April 20 -- "Bad News Bears": Walter Matthau comedy about a hapless Little League team. (1976)

May 18 -- "A Walk in the Woods": Robert Redford and Nick Nolte set out on the Appalachian Trail. (2015)

***The PVV Movie Committee:** John and Virginia Spicher, Steve and Karen Shenk, Chris Edwards and Robin McNallie*

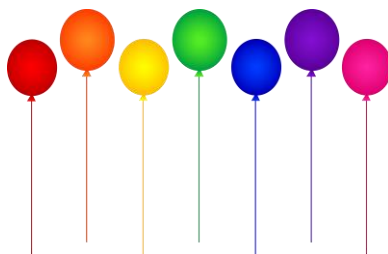


JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST?

This February, a breakfast meeting of four Park View Village members at the Little Grill marked the start of what is becoming a monthly “interest group” event. On March 29 there were five -- pictured above, from left: J. Lowell Wenger, Paul Yoder, David Alleman, Ed Yoder and Greg Versen. We shared “war” stories and asked ourselves the question, “what keeps us out of a retirement home?” The answers varied, but the conclusion was that we wanted to be independent, while leaving the doors open pending circumstances that would merit such a move. After all, the retirement homes can’t take all of us who are eligible for them.

We anticipate future breakfast meetings of this nature. Location is pending the size of the group. We could eventually break up into smaller groups, such as men and women, or by interest level, or whatever. The intent is to make the breakfast meetings a way to increase trust level among members and expand friendships. We concluded among ourselves that it was a worthwhile exchange. All Park View Village members are eligible to join! Respond to Paul Yoder, at payoder@comcast.net or text 810-0923 if you are interested in the next breakfast meeting.

– Paul A. Yoder
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PVV MEMBERS!

April -- Keith & Linda Gnagey, Glenn Kauffman, Rhonda Kraus, Anne Miller

May -- David Alleman, Ed Bontrager, Marijke Kyler, Clifford Lind, Virginia Spicher, Marvin Stutzman, Sadie Showalter, Tom DuVal

THE PARK VIEW VILLAGE BOARD

Keith Gnagey – President
Nancy Gunden – Treasurer
Peggy Landis – Program Committee
John Spicher – Vendor Services Chair

Clara Yoder – Secretary
Paul Yoder – Member Recruitment

STAFF: Denise Sauder
Administrative Assistant

TO CONTACT PARK VIEW VILLAGE:

540-705-0432

Website, <http://parkviewvillageva.org/>

Deadline is May 23 for submissions to the May-June issue of PVV's bimonthly newsletter. Send items to Chris Edwards, editor, 434-0457; chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com.

Attention, Lifelong Learners: There is still time to register for LLI's final session of Spring courses (including Robin McNallie's "Heart Quake: American Writers Witness the Civil War," Tuesday mornings April 17-May 15). Details: cut and paste this link into your address bar: https://aceware.jmu.edu/wconnect/ShowSchedule.awp?&Mode=GROUP&Group=LLICRS&Title=LLI+-Courses&SubGroup=LLI&_ga=2.241690626.1684072413.1522979457-160834414.1512705286