

# The Golden Age News

Published monthly by:

## Bluffton Senior Citizen Center

132 N. Main St - Bluffton Ohio - 45817

419-358-8971

www.blufftonseniors.net

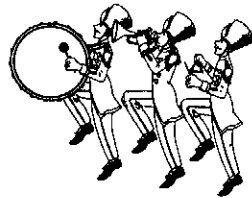
\*\*\*\*\* Volume IX Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2011

SEPTEMBER 2011

Thurs. 1 Bus trip to **LaComedia**, depart at **9 a.m.**  
Community Meal, 6 p.m.

Fri. 2 Exercise Class, 11 a.m.  
Bridge, 11 a.m.  
Cards, 1 p.m.



Mon. 5 **Labor Day, Closed!!!**

Tue. 6 Dance, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wed. 7 Crafts, Quilting, Potluck  
Blood Pressure Clinic, 10:30 a.m.  
Exercise Class, 1:30 p.m.  
Cards, 1:30 p.m.

Thurs. 8 Bowling, 9:30 a.m.

Fri. 9 Dominos, 9:30 a.m.  
Exercise Class, 11 a.m.  
Bridge, 11 a.m.  
Cards, 1 p.m.



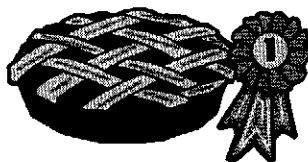
Sun. 11 **Happy Grandparent's Day!!**

Mon. 12 Exercise Class, 1:30 p.m.  
Monthly Dinner Meeting, 6 p.m.  
Catered by Pandora Lifters

Tue. 13 Dance, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wed. 14 Crafts, Quilting, Potluck  
Hearing Clinic, 10 am- 12 NOON  
Exercise Class, 1:30 p.m.  
Cards, 1:30 p.m.

Thurs. 15 Bowling, 9:30 a.m.  
Community Meal 6 p.m.



Fri. 16 Exercise Class, 11 a.m.  
Bridge, 11 a.m.  
Cards, 1 p.m.



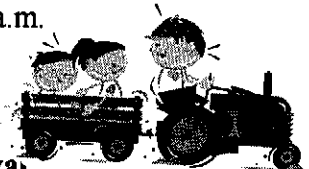
Mon. 19 Exercise Class, 1:30 p.m.  
Bingo, 2:30 p.m.

Tue. 20 **No Dance** – United Way,  
Door to Door

Wed. 21 Crafts, Quilting, Potluck  
Exercise Class, 1:30 p.m.  
Cards, 1:30 p.m.

Thurs. 22 Bowling, 9:30 a.m.

Fri. 23 Exercise Class, 11 a.m.  
Bridge, 11 a.m.  
Cards, 1 p.m.



Sat. 24 **Annual Fall Festival.....**  
Lunch served at Senior Center

Mon. 26 Toenail Clinic, 10 a.m.  
Exercise Class, 1:30 p.m.

Tue. 27 Bus trip to **Vermont, departs 7 a.m.**  
Dance, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wed. 28 Crafts, Quilting, Potluck  
Exercise Class, 1:30 p.m.  
Cards, 1:30 p.m.

Thurs. 29 Bowling, 9:30 a.m.

Fri. 30 Exercise Class, 11 a.m.  
Bridge, 11 a.m.  
Cards, 1 p.m.





SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING

TIME: Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 P.M.

PLACE: Bluffton Senior Center

WHAT: The meal will be catered by **The Pandora Lifters**. They will be serving baked steak, baked potatoes, peas with onions, jello salad, rolls, and pie. The cost of the meal is **\$7.00** and tickets must be reserved by Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

M.C.: **Evelyn Reese**

HOSTESSES: **Dortha Radabaugh and friends**

PROGRAM: **Philip Murphy** will sign and play for us.

We like Birthdays so much we decided to have a bunch this month. **Evelyn Sutter, Margaret Houshower, Ruby Mabry and Doris Clevenger** will all reach that wonderful young age of 90 years young in September. We will present **Doris, Ruby, Margaret and Evelyn** with a red rose and Life Membership at the September Dinner Meeting. Congratulations ladies!

BLOOD PRESSURE



Our next Blood Pressure Clinic will be Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. **Ameri Care** will send a nurse from 10:30 am – Noon. Thank you to **Clara Beth Bixel** for being our nurse last month. If you need help with your insurance papers or Medicare Part D, please call the Senior Center at **419-358-8971**. Medicare Part D open enrollment will be from Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> to Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

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HOBBY CENTER

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**Anna Ruth Reichenbach** display of bookends and books gave a scholarly feeling to the Senior Center. Thank you **Anna Ruth** for sharing your collection. In September, we will have a surprise collection. Come and check it out. If you have a collection or artwork that you would like to share, please call **Tonya** at **419-358-8971**.



TOE NAIL CLINIC



Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. will be our next toenail Clinic with **Dr. Daniel Kirk** of Bluffton Foot and & Ankle. You must call ahead for an appointment and there is a charge of **\$10.00** due at the time of your appointment. To prepare for your appointment, please soak your feet in a basin of warm water for 20 to 30 minutes prior to your appointment time.

HEARING CLINIC



**Marcus Young** will be at the Bluffton Senior Center on Wednesday, Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12 NOON for a **FREE** hearing clinic. Appointments are not required but can be made by calling the Sr. Center's office, **419-358-8971**.



FALL FESTIVAL

Kids are back in school and football is on TV, so it must be time for the **FALL FESTIVAL**. **Saturday, Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>** is the **Annual Fall Festival**. There will be different activities downtown with wagon rides to the Mennonite Memorial Home and bus rides to Maple Crest, the Swiss House, and the Cider Press. The Bluffton Senior Center will be serving a lunch of soup, sandwiches and pies. We need volunteers to work the dinner and we need donations of pies and other items for the dinner. There are sign up sheets in the office or give us a call at **419-358-8971**. Please help make this a wonderful day for the Bluffton Senior Center.

COMMUNITY MEALS



The Bluffton Inner Church Board sponsors the **FREE** Community Meals on the first and third Thursdays of each month. The meals are free open to the public and start at **6 p.m.** All monetary and food donations support the Bluffton Food Pantry. Everyone is welcome, so please come on by. The **Emmanuel UCC** will sponsor the **September 1** meal and **Ebenezer Mennonite** will sponsor the **September 15<sup>th</sup>** meal.



DOMINOS



**Stephanie Theis** from the Hilty Memorial Home is teaching us Mexican Train Dominos. **Friday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.,** **Stephanie** will teach dominos to anyone interested. We hope to have enough for two tables this month. If you already play, come and join the fun. We will be playing on monthly bases.



UNITED WAY



There will **not be a dance on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>** because of the United Way door to door campaign. Sorry for the inconvenience!



BETTE'S POLKA BAND



The Hilty Home is sponsoring **Bette's Polka Band** at the Bluffton Senior Center on **October 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.** The dance will be **FREE** and open to the public so tell your friends and mark you calendars.



THANK YOU....

“Wanted to thank all of you for your prayers and cards when my mother passed away. She was very dear to me and I will miss her greatly. Knowing you all were praying for me and had your loving arms around me meant so much. I truly treasure all the friends we have made at the center. Thank you and God bless. “ **Judy Erven**

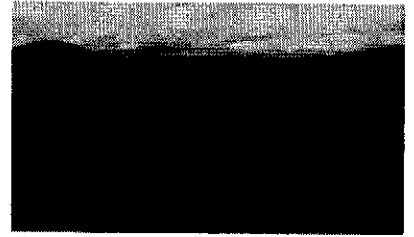
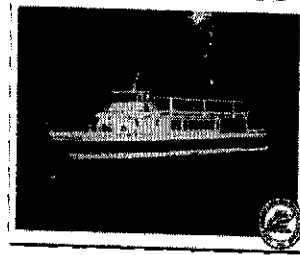
“Your kind expression of sympathy and friendship will always remain in our memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.” **The family of Geniece King**

A Taste of Color and Flavor summarizes the **Vermont Kaleidoscope Trip**.

September 27th - October 3rd, 7 days & 6 nights in the peak of New England Fall Beauty.

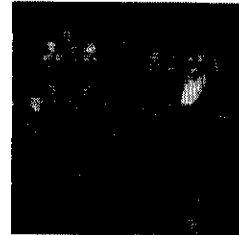
This is certain to be another enjoyable experience with White Star Tours. Highlights: Morse Sugar Farms, Green Mountain Coffee Company, Gourmet Luncheon and Cooking Demonstration, Vermont Country Store, Hildene Estate, Cheese Making, Manchester Village, Vermont Marble Museum, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Quechee Gorge, Cruise on Lake Champlain, Apple Orchard and Cider Mill and more. Most meals are furnished, including taxes and gratuities.

This trip is sold out and we are looking forward to a great experience.



**The Tim Conway Show** on October 12 has been canceled due to lack of interest.

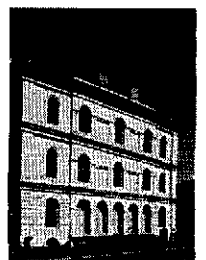
Saturday, November 5th **"The Oak Ridge Boys"** at Bearcreek Farms, includes Home Style Dinner and Show. Seating is sold out.



**Friday, November 18th - Mannheim Steamroller Concert at Lima Civic Center**  
We'll eat before the 8:00 pm show, on your own. **\$72.00** due by (November 1st.)  
Depart at 5:30 pm More details next issue.

### **November 29 - December 1st Festival of Lights at Oglebay in West Virginia**

3 days, 2 nights. Guided tour of Wheeling, West Virginia, Oglebay Mansion, West Virginia's Independence Hall, Wheeling Artisan Center, Tour the Glass Museum, Good Time Zoo in Oglebay, Oglebay Park by day and the Festival of Lights Parade at night, Kruger Street Toy and Train Museum, 2 dinner shows, one at Wilson Lodge. We will stay in the McClure House, one of Wheeling's local landmarks and lodging quarters for many historic figures. Lunch breaks, going and coming near St. Clairsville. **\$371.00** (double occupancy). Due by October 10th.





**BOWLING**

Fall is almost here so it is time to dig out that old bowling ball and head to the lanes. The Senior Bowling League will start **Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.** at the Southgate Lanes in Bluffton. New bowlers are always welcome and everyone competes against themselves, so skill isn't necessary. This is a great way to make new friends while getting some exercise. Please be a little early so you can get your lane assignments. Come out and join the fun.



**MEMORIAL GIFTS**

Memorial Gifts were given to the Bluffton Senior Center in loving memory of **O. Geniece King** from **Phyllis Suter, Trudy Baber, Betty Moser, Mary Koontz. The Wood County Board of Realtors, Carolyn Green, Frances D. Scoles, Mark & Michelle, Remeis, Basil & Rosemary Meyer, Peg & Ed Murphy, Don & Marilyn Wymer, Virginia Livingston, Evelyn Reese, Loretta Creeger, Loren & Robin Creeger & family, Beth Creeger & girls, Debra Creeger & girls, Don & Karen Greulich, Cathy Ricard, Robin McDowell and Bill & Fran Ludwik.** The gifts will be recorded in our MEMORIAL BOOK along with **Geniece's** name for all to see how much she meant to us.



**THANK YOU.....**"Thank you for the lovely arrangement in the John Deere plaque. **Walter** will treasure this gift in memory of his son, **Terry**. Thank you for your thoughtfulness."

**The family of Walter Miller**

"The family of **Brian Berger** thank you for your kindness shown to us during this time."

**Bob & Laquetta Lehman**

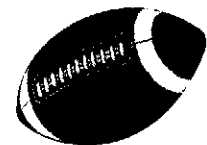
"I wish to thank everyone for the cards, phone calls, and prayers during my illness"

Thank you much, **Roberta Knipp**

"Thank you very much for permitting us to mount our Swiss Community Historical Society sesquicentennial displays at your store. We were pleased at the appearance of the displays, which was much enhanced by the setting you provided. Thanks also for the sale of our books."

With our gratitude, **Phil Kingsley, president of the society**

**NOT COLLECTING FOOTBALL TICKETS**



In the past years, the Bluffton Senior Center has helped out the Bluffton High School Athletic Dept by taking tickets at the home football games. With the change of staff at the high school, they have decided to have teachers help with the tickets so our volunteers are **NO LONGER** needed. Thank you to all who have helped with this in the past.



**WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.....**

Ron & Patsy Shafer, Columbus Grove    Deb Pingle, Columbus Grove  
Deb Beer, Bluffton    Annie Stocking, Bluffton    Ron & Alice Lora, Bluffton

**SENT CARDS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS IN THE HOSPITAL....**

Ruth Ann Bixel    Marge Moyer    Betty Boze    Roberta Knipp    Gordon Best  
Wanda Heffner    Bonnie Vandemark



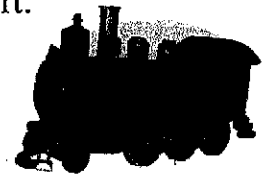
**WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS....**

- Judy Erven on the death of her mother;
- Bob & Laquetta Lehman on death of a grandson;
- Dorothy German on death of daughter;
- Walter Miller on death of son;
- Sandra Wells on death of her mother;
- Geniece King;
- Mildred Ingalls
- Lois Benroth;
- Ned Althaus;
- John Gilbert.



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**COLORADO, HERE WE COME!**



Bright-eyed and ready for adventure, 40 friends of Bluffton Senior Center boarded a Buckeye Charter bus the morning of July 20 heading for Chicago and parts West. It was a sizzling hot day as Chicago greeted us with temps topping 100 degrees.

But that only slightly dampened our visit to Navy Pier and a double-decker bus tour of downtown Chicago. Fortunately, the air conditioning at our Fairfield Inn cooled us off enough to enjoy dining out in a variety of good restaurants near our hotel.

The next two days blurred together, as we boarded our Amtrak train at a very crowded Union Station (our train was delayed three hours, as were two other trains that afternoon). Once on board, we checked out what the train had to offer – observation car, lounge, dining car. Some of us had reserved sleeper car accommodations, the rest of us managed to get some sleep in our seats (much more roomy than airline seats, by the way).

We got our first glimpse of the majestic Rocky Mountains when we were about an hour east of Denver – a sight that promised more intimate contact as the week progressed. Arriving at the Denver Amtrak station early afternoon, two shuttle buses from the Red Lion Hotel picked up our luggage (and us), depositing us at our first overnight stop in Colorado. That evening we met Ken Thompson, our personable and well-organized tour leader, and heard more of what World Wide Country Tours had planned for us. It was also our introduction to higher altitudes – Denver is a mile high, and we would be touring in areas up to as much as 14,000 feet. “Drink plenty of water and pace yourself when walking,” our leader cautioned.

Next morning, July 23, we met Gary, our experienced and most helpful driver, who stored our luggage in his comfortable motorcoach. Colorado Springs was our destination for the day. Garden of the Gods was our first stop, where a film and a step-on guide introduced us to the history of that area. We marveled at the beauty of the massive red rocks pointing to the sky. Our afternoon adventure was a cog-railway trip to the top of Pike’s Peak, elevation 14,110 feet. On the way up, we spotted a gathering of about 50 elk, plus a few marmots as we got to the rocks above tree-line. We had enough time at the top to breathe in the rarified air, take a few pictures, and treat ourselves to the famous fresh doughnuts they bake every day at the top of Pike’s Peak. Our home-away-from-home that night was the Radisson at the Colorado Springs airport.

Cañon City was our first stop on July 24, where we boarded a narrow-gauge railroad train (with diesel engine) for a trip through the Royal Gorge. We had the choice of standing in an open car or sitting on the

(continues on page 7)



padded seats of one of the restored cars. It was a beautiful ride along the Arkansas River – tall cliffs on one white-water rafters on the river, and the Royal Gorge highway bridge towering 1,000 feet above us.

We stopped for lunch at Salida (served promptly, efficiently and cheerfully), then made a stop at tiny Saguache where we toured an interesting historical museum. Our route then dropped out of the mountains into the wide San Juan valley, where irrigated fields were green and white with blooming potato plants. Monte Vista was our overnight stop, at the Movie Manor Inn where we could watch the big outdoor movie (Cars II) from the comfort of our rooms. However, most of us “hit the hay” before the movie finished.

Next morning, after an early breakfast buffet, we left for tiny Antonito where we boarded the Cumbres-Toltec train. This was the first of our two coal-fired “puffabillies.” The land looked flat and uninteresting when we started, but the train kept climbing and chugging, doing tight switchbacks, crossing back and forth between the Colorado and New Mexico borders, until we were soon high in the mountains. We had breath-taking overlooks of the ranchlands along Rio de Los Piños (River of the Pines) far below us.

The train stopped for lunch at Osier – there is no town there, but only a stopping place for the trains. A few miles farther, we reached our peak altitude on this trip (over 10,000 ft.) and began our downward trek to the end of the line at Chama, New Mexico. Gary had the bus waiting for us and we headed to Durango, our stop for the night. Our Best Western hotel was just a stone’s throw from the train station and several restaurants.

Tuesday morning, July 26, found us boarding another “puffabilly” for a 3½ hour trip up, up, up along the Animas River. High above the rushing water, we marveled at the amazing scenery and the scary overlooks. The train ride ended at Silverton, an old mining town that has tried to keep its century-old character for the tourists that flock to the area. Our bus ride out of Silverton was plagued by rain but Gary, our driver, did a great job of getting us over Red Mountain Pass for a stop at the Russell Stover outlet at Montrose (where we enjoyed Blue Bell ice cream). Then on to Grand Junction, located along I-70 not far from the Utah line. The land here was drier and much more open, with the largest mesa (flat-top mountain) in the world just to the north.

Next morning we visited Alida’s Fruit Farm in the Palisade fruit-growing area. The patriarch owner talked to us about what they grow – mainly peaches but some other fruits and vegetables (of course, their gift shop was open as well!) Orchards and vineyards dotted the countryside as we headed east on I-70. Then, onward and upward into the mountains (there was still plenty of snow on the peaks) to our lunch stop in historic Leadville. Another train ride was in store, this time with a diesel engine pulling our narrow-gauge railroad cars. It was a lovely, scenic trip with plenty of wild flowers in bloom and the Arkansas River valley stretched out far below us (the same river we first saw on our Royal Gorge train trip). From Leadville, our bus headed for Dillon and our last overnight in Colorado.

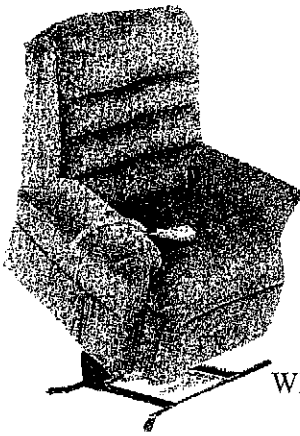
We still had a special treat in store for us on Thursday morning, July 28, when our bus took us to Georgetown, another historic mining town. A talented storyteller, Leon Joseph Littlebird, entertained us after breakfast with songs and stories of his combined Native American and Irish roots. We then toured the turn-of-the-century Georgetown Hotel (it still has the original furnishings) before boarding the bus for our tour’s final destination – the Denver Amtrak station.

However our adventure was not over! Some of us headed to Denver’s 16<sup>th</sup> St. Mall for last-minute shopping and a bite to eat. The rest of us stayed in the air-conditioned train station (we had been enjoying the cool breezes of the mountains for a week, after which the Denver sun was mighty warm). Our train, coming from San Francisco, was an hour late – but no problem. The problems started when, just after we got underway, our train was delayed for a couple of hours by two freight trains (freights have the right-of-way, unfortunately). This hold-up caused us to “lose our slot” in the process, and we found our train sitting on sidings at many intervals over the next 24 hours. We finally arrived in Chicago at 1:30 a.m. Saturday morning, July 30 - 10½ hours later than scheduled. Fortunately our bus was waiting, ready to provide the last leg of our journey. We arrived back in Bluffton at 8:15 that morning, tired and happy to be home.

But a myriad of special memories (plus all the pictures we took) will keep us entertained well through the rest of this year – or until the next trip comes along.

**Joanne Niswander**

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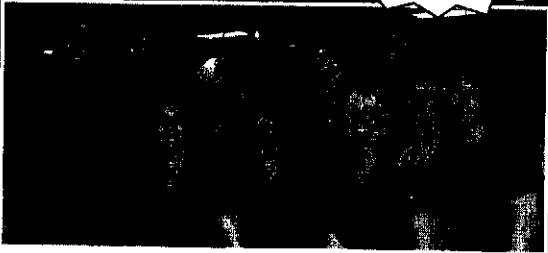


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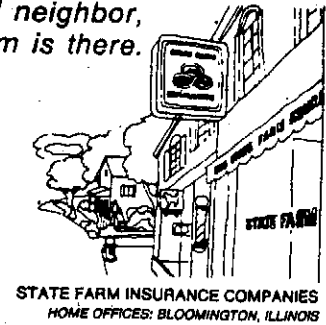
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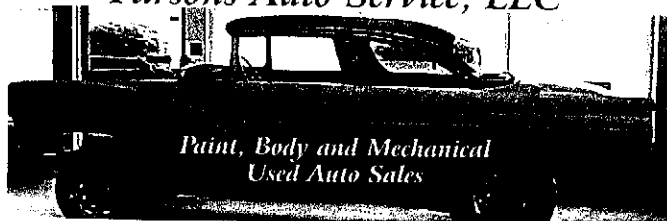
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