

# LEMONT BULLETIN



Spring 2009

Published by the Lemont Village Association

## PLANT SALE

Just in time for Graduation and a week later than usual, the LVA Plant Sale will be on Saturday, May 16, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or until everything is sold (which is sometimes 11:30 a.m.) The sale features healthy, beautiful plants from Patchwork Farms and from your Lemont neighbors' gardens. All sales benefit the LVA, and volunteers are always welcome to help out. It's an easy job, setting up tables on Friday evening, and Saturday morning, putting up signs, helping folks choose their plants, and being cashiers. The sale will include hanging baskets, vegetables, annual and perennial flowers, and herbs. Workers get first choice! Please call Sue Smith, 238-1288, to volunteer.

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## 28th ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL



The 28th Annual Strawberry Festival, benefiting the Granary Project of the Lemont Village Association, will be Saturday, June 14th, 2009, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the Lemont Village Green, between Dale Street and Mt. Nittany Road. The festival will feature music by Stacy Glen Tibbetts, playing guitar and singing, original and standard folk and swing tunes from 4-6 pm, and Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jam Band from 6-8 pm. The musicians will be donating their time and talents for this event. We will feature strawberries from Reuben Peachey, Belleville, ice cream from Meyer Dairy, home made cakes by many Lemont residents, and lemonade - \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 4-12, and free for 3 and under. We hope to have pony rides for a \$1, face painting and activities for children, and tours of the rehabilitated historic grain elevator and coal sheds.

Get into the spirit of the event and help slice strawberries Friday, June 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Village Green (bring your own knife), or make a cake, or be a server or clean up. We'll be serenaded by Phase 2 - Lisa Bowen, Paul Confer, Sam Confer, and Jim Lomison playing old standards, mellow sounds, and classic, as it's also the first Village Green concert that night. Sign up sheets will be posted by late MAY on the LVA bulletin board in the Post Office – watch for a chance to be a part of the Strawberry Festival! If it rains, we'll use our tents.

## SPEND A SUMMER AFTERNOON IN LEMONT

Save the date! Please join us for a Lemont "open house" on Sunday July 19 from 2 to 5pm to raise money for the ongoing restoration of the Thompson granary and coal sheds. We have expanded upon the concept of the home and garden tour last done in 2005 to showcase more of Lemont "highlights," including painting and children's art activities on the Village Green and artists painting with the Art Alliance, the artwork of the late Harold Altman on display in the Granary, Tania Slawewski and Gene Bazan's organic garden, Stan Smith's antique cars, the restoration progress at the Spring Creek Presbyterian Church, taking a stroll around Dale Cemetery, and offerings from East/West Crossings and Alto Italian Restaurant. We are still looking for participants to show off the good life here in Lemont. If you have a peaceful summer garden or another idea to contribute to the event, please contact Cathy Cohan at 237-4101 or [cathycohan@verizon.net](mailto:cathycohan@verizon.net).

**Please check out our web page and its links to Lemont businesses at [www.lemontvillage.org](http://www.lemontvillage.org) and if you use FACEBOOK, why not become a fan of the Lemont Village Association? And don't forget to support our local businesses and advertisers.**

**LVA EVENTS**

**Saturday, May 16**  
Annual Plant Sale

**Sunday, May 17**  
Annual Meeting

**June 12- August 28**  
Friday Concerts on the Village Green

**Saturday, June 13**  
Strawberry Festival,  
4 to 8 pm

**Sunday, July 19**  
Afternoon in Lemont,  
2 to 5 pm

**Saturday, August 15**  
Community Yard Sale  
You do your sale in your yard, LVA advertises

**Saturday, September 19**  
Gourmet Candlelight Dinner, 7 pm

**Saturday, October 23-24**  
POSSIBLE Haunted Granary IF leadership can be recruited.

**DECEMBER DATE TBA**  
Kris Kringle Market in the Granary

**Credits**

Newsletter Layout - Penny Eifrig  
Advertising Manager - Pat Meehan  
Articles - Sue Smith, JoDee Dyreson

**FRIDAY CONCERTS ON THE LEMONT VILLAGE GREEN**

**7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

For the ninth summer there will be Friday evening concerts on the Village Green. We have an exciting line-up with some who have performed before and several new-to-us. The schedule is filled for twelve Friday nights. Picnickers are always welcome.

**June 12 Phase 2** – Lisa Bowen, Paul Confer, Sam Confer, and Jim Lomison – old standards, mellow sounds, classics

**June 19 Turkish Folk Songs** – TURKOZAN -Savas Yavuzkurt – authentic and hauntingly beautiful

**June 26 Jim Colbert and Cynthia Mazzant** – originals and covers of folk music

**July 3 Fieldstone** – Mark Titchner – guitar, vocals, bass, cittern, bouzouki; Bekki Titchner – vocals, bohdran, percussion; Tara Sanson – violin, vocals. A distinctive blend of Celtic and Appalachian music.

**July 10 Los Troublemakers** – Erich May, Chris Paret, Jon Costello and Al Bills - classic and folk rock, originals and covers -The Beatles, The Stones

**July 17 Overhead** – Eileen Christman, Kevin Fagley, and Todd Hill - rock, folk, blues, and originals

**July 24 Cup O Joe** – Joe Chasher, Monica Brindle, Dave O’Connell and Rita O’Connell - country music as it has evolved over the past 100 years

**July 31 Tussey Mountain Moonshiners** – Gwen Stimely, Steve Buckalew and others - bluegrass, old-time, and folk music

**August 7 Ridge and Valley String Band** – Charlie Arentz, fiddle; Mark Ralston, banjo and fiddle; Dave Lauder, guitar

**August 14 Ancient Echoes** – Holly Foy and Lisa McDivitt, hammered dulcimer, guitar, recorder, Celtic and Renaissance music

**August 21 Murphy’s Junction** – Glenn Decker, Lori Young, Bryan Homan, Leslie Dyer, and Gwen Stimely doing bluegrass and country music

**August 28 Michelle Katz** – Singer/songwriter back for her eighth concert on the Green.

**Monday, Sept. 7 – Acoustic Brew Concert and Labor Day potluck** – 3 pm, Rustical Quality String Band – 4 pm, and jam at 5:30 pm.

**FREE CONCERTS, WITH A BASKET PASSED TO BENEFIT THE LVA GRANARY PROJECT.**

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## BACK TO THE FUTURE – THE LEMONT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

On April 28th National Historic Schools Day—“If These Schools Could Talk”—will be celebrated in communities and neighborhood schools across the country. However, the village of Lemont could very well be mourning the loss of an asset worth saving. The Lemont School, a Works Progress Administration project built in 1938-



1939, was built at the confluence of centuries of meticulous craftsmanship with exploding twentieth-century technologies, which resulted in masterpieces of workmanship. Its like will never be seen again. We preach to our children that mathematics and science and art and language matter, but at the Lemont School they learn and work in a building



every day that stands as a massive testament to just such sentiments. However, the State College Area School District is in danger of shuttering it to students.

Students and staff require and deserve a safe and healthy environment for learning and working. The School Board and the people of the District are to be applauded for their long-standing and remarkable tradition of providing high-quality, high performance educational opportunities to its students. No child should be forced into educationally inadequate facilities in order to “take care of” our historic school buildings. However, this is not a question of compromising excellence or safety, but of enhancing both.

A false choice is assumed: A decaying, dilapidated building? Or, a sparkly new one with all the bells and whistles? This is not the choice. The District is committed to updating its facilities; the question is how and where?



Historic schools can be transformed into state-of-art environments through modern wiring, advanced technology, creative engineering, and maximizing the attributes of a superbly constructed edifice into “cheery, light-filled, well-functioning spaces.” It is a common, yet mistaken, perception that a new school is maintenance free. In fact, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation, “Most new school buildings actually require more maintenance over time, since they lack the quality construction of an earlier era.” The teachers—greater assets than even a venerable limestone masterpiece—face the daily struggle of delivering a world-class education in an edifice that has been

allowed to deteriorate without enough care and updating. However, a historic building can provide a unique opportunity to have the best of several worlds—an aesthetically rich and pleasing physical environment that contains the best of modern technology, the highest of pedagogical standards, and results in great value at an economical cost.

### Why, then, is the District considering this historic neighborhood school’s closure?

In part, because it has fallen victim to pernicious myths surrounding the rehabilitation of historic schools, and partly by placing faith in a seriously flawed and limited “feasibility study” that it commissioned.

**Myth:** The Commonwealth will not reimburse communities for the renovation of school buildings.

**Fact:** Pennsylvania provides the same level of reimbursement for school renovations as for new school constructions. Over 80 percent of school construction projects that are reimbursed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education involve work on existing buildings, including historic structures.

**Myth:** Historic buildings do not meet the state requirements, cannot accommodate acreage standards for modern schools, and are not safe.

**Fact:** The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has no minimum for acreage, neither as requirements or recommendations nor in regards to reimbursement. The Lemont School sits on over six acres of land. Abandonment of historic schools buildings as schools is not necessary for academic excellence or code-compliant facilities. Historic schools are retro-fitted all over the country and world with wireless technology, air conditioning, etc.

**Myth:** Historic schools are not environmentally sustainable.

**Fact:** Rehabilitation of schools serves as a testament to recycling and a commitment to avoid the waste of good resources, as historic buildings can be vibrant and vital parts of our environment. Oftentimes, the original characteristics of these buildings are in line with current design standards for sustainable design; for example, large window openings provide for the sophisticated adapted use of natural light.



## LEMONT SCHOOL (CON'T)

**Myth:** It costs more to renovate a historic school than to build a new one--“money down a rat-hole.”

**Fact:** It is well-known amongst those experienced in the rehabilitation of historic school buildings that using architects and engineers only versed in new construction and renovation projects of recent vintage often unnecessarily inflates the costs of such projects because of their unfamiliarity with the process. For example, the Kokomo, Indiana school district received an initial \$20 million estimate in renovating its historic high school. After a school board member insisted that professionals who were expert in rehabilitating historic schools make the assessment the number came in at \$4 million! Any cost analysis comparing renovating the school with shutting it has to include the price of upgrading and renovations for the administration to be housed at Lemont on order to provide a real estimate of the financial cost to the District and its tax-payers.

**The “feasibility study” presented to the District is riddled with problems:**

- no mention or evidence proffered of expertise dealing with the analysis and rehabilitation of historic school buildings (six out of the seventeen SCASD school facilities were built before World War II)
- informed experts in the field are necessary to assess properly the potential and problems rather than standard cookie-cutter facilities assessment survey better suited for buildings of more recent construction
- only the deficiencies of the school facilities examined, without mentioning any attributes, qualities, advantages, or intrinsic value
- no option proffered to restore “true” neighborhood schools by returning the Lemont School to K-5
- no option proffered of adding to the Lemont School instead of Houserville
- reinforces known myths in regards to required acreage and the “60% Rule,” as noted above
- no reference to the petition containing over 400 signatures by residents of the District for the School Board to reconsider closing the Lemont School, and
- a total compilation of various and sundry assessments, summaries, and reports is simply too pat, simplistic, and superficial.

The experiment of the last fifty years of consolidating smaller schools into larger ones has failed, and school districts all over the nation are scrambling to reconstitute the centuries-old success of neighborhood schools, particularly at the elementary level. If we march down this antiquated, outmoded road of closing our neighborhood schools, future school district leaders will only have to return later to try to put the genie back in the bottle, which is invariably painful and expensive.

The District deserves a targeted examination of the historic facilities with a goal of thoroughly informing the public of battle-tested options in order for decisions to be made that make best use of our monetary, natural, and personnel resources with the goal of continuing to provide a world-class education to the students of the State College Area. The School Board on October 13, 2008, recognized that the “District-wide Master Planning Program to build new schools and/or renovate existing ones provides a unique opportunity to move beyond standard designs.” Rehabilitating our historic schools could be just such an opportunity.



*JoDee Dyreson is the mother of one former Lemont School student, two current ones, and one future one and is a resident of Lemont. To obtain a more detailed version of this article or to examine the research covering her kitchen table, you can contact her at [dyresonfake@verizon.net](mailto:dyresonfake@verizon.net).*

**GRANARY PROJECT UPDATE**

Thanks to a generous donation from the late Ilene Glenn in March and contributions for her birthday party in February, the following work has been accomplished: a handsome steel bridge has been installed at the rear of the Railroad Building, Norm Horn has constructed a door out to the bridge, new steel steps have been installed at the lower Grain Elevator building, bricks have been laid in the scale frame that will be used for the commemorative brick project, guardrails for the unused doors in the Grain Elevator are on site ready to be installed, and new wiring in the Railroad Building is finished. Pendant lights will be installed soon by Gil Morrison and crew. Please stop by and see how great everything looks! We are very glad to have this work completed as the LVA has scheduled five weddings, so far, in the buildings through the summer and fall.



**MAKE YOUR MARK IN LEMONT**

The Brick Project is progressing nicely with over 40 bricks nearly ready to be installed at the Grain Elevator. This is your chance to put your name or the name of a loved one on a commemorative brick that will be laid in the frame of the scale adjacent to the main entrance of the grain elevator. Bricks will be prepared in batches, so there is still time to get your order turned in.

By participating in this project you will be doing your part to ensure that this unique historic site is preserved for future generations. At the same time, you can leave your own permanent legacy, pay tribute to a special person, or mark a special occasion. Forms are online at [www.lemontvillage.org](http://www.lemontvillage.org) or at the Lemont Post Office or the Center for Well Being. Thank you!

**GOURMET  
CANDLELIGHT DINNER**

Mark your calendar for the Sixth Annual Candlelight Dinner in the Grain Elevator and Coal Sheds, (The Granary) scheduled for Saturday, September 19, 7:00 p.m. to benefit the renovation of these historic buildings. Our Culinary Arts Chef, Tom Everly, and his Pastry Chef spouse, Judy Everly, are making plans for a wonderful dinner this year. We will be sending out invitations to others in the community in mid-July, but if you want to be assured of one of the 56 seats at our tables, please reserve now. Send your check for \$75/person, made out to LVA, PO Box 546, Lemont PA 16851 as soon as possible. Of that amount \$45 is tax deductible. Thank you!

**LVA ANNUAL MEETING**

The Lemont Village Association's Annual Meeting will be Sunday, May 17, 4-5:30 p.m., with light refreshments, wine and cheese, in the Grain Elevator. All members and friends are welcome to tour the building and to meet your neighbors. We will be electing new Board Members and will have a display of LVA projects. Please plan to join us. If you'd like to serve on the board, please contact any board member.

**DONATIONS KEEP US GOING**

- Special thanks to **Centre Hall Mason Supply, Byron Singer**, who donated 80 bricks for the brick fundraiser.
- **Tree Surgeon, Andrew Moore**, spent a chilly December day taking down a diseased Elm tree and trimming branches hanging over the Grain Elevator. Chris Eifrig and Norm Horn did the cleaning up.
- The late **Ilene Glenn** made a generous donation toward the new iron stairway at the lower entrance and the safety and security lighting on both the outside and inside of the buildings.
- **Ingersoll Rand** donated panic hardware and an overhead closer for the new rear egress door at the end of the Coal Sheds building.
- **Gil Morrison** and his efficient crew have been working tirelessly on electrical wiring and new light fixtures in the Railroad Building, and Norm Horn has made a beautiful door for the back entrance. Phil Hawk has been keeping the work on schedule and sharing his expertise.
- **Alan Popovich** of HPArchitects, continues to do excellent work for us, with no expectation of being paid – one of these days we'll surprise him!



NOTES FROM THE BOARD

New residents of Lemont often ask about things in Lemont that “old-timers” must know. The beautiful marble bench at the post office was given by Violet Meyer Duncan in memory of her late husband, Kenneth Meyer. She was a long-time Lemont resident and is now the mayor of Port Matilda.

The “dog hitching post” was given in memory of the late Kim Fisher and his dog, Leica, who were killed on First Avenue by a drunk driver. The LVA raised the money to create and install the memorial. Kim is also remembered on the Village Green stage, which was created and funded by Acoustic Brew members who dug the foundation and hired stonemason Phil Hawk for the beautiful stonework.

Phil’s hand is also very evident in the stone stairway from Harris Alley to the Village Green, and in the serpentine stonewall that he donated when the Village Green was being created by lots of volunteer work in the 1990’s.

The posts along Dale Street were installed as an Eagle Scout project by Adam Bergeman in the early 2000’s, and the yellow hand-railing at the Post Office was installed by College Township at the request of Ilene Glenn.

Are you on Facebook? If so, become a fan of the Lemont Village Association. The LVA page keeps you up to date on events, news and gives you a chance to meet some of your neighbors. Become a fan and share your pictures and Lemont events!

Remember the beautiful hooked rug that Joan Blasko donated to the LVA for a fundraiser? It was won by Art Glenn, son of Ilene, who lives near Philadelphia. He and his wife decided that it really didn’t fit in their house, so they gave it back. So, it’s for sale, let somebody on the board know if you’d be interested in purchasing it.



**Kris Kringle Market**

The idea is being tossed around to host a holiday market in the Granary on one weekend in December. Anyone interested in helping out, providing music, or renting a table to sell local products or hand crafted goods, please contact Penny Eifrig, penny@eifrigenterprises.com.

MEMORIES OF  
**ILENE PETERS GLENN –**  
 February 3, 1911 - March 27, 2009.



Ilene Peters Glenn touched so many lives in her 98 years. We have known her since the early days of the Lemont Village Association as we worked to keep

the Lemont Post Office in town in the late 1970’s. The Post Office has been the village center for many years, a place to catch up with neighbors, see what’s new on the bulletin board, see friendly faces. Think of all the folks Ilene greeted at the Lemont Post Office, her favorite part of each day, especially in her later life. College Township made it easier for her by installing, at her request, a special yellow handrail for her to get up the step more easily. She often spent an hour talking to new and old friends, catching up on the Lemont news or lobbying for some new project, or telling us how to vote. We got to know Ilene better after the LVA purchased the Thompson Grain Elevator and Coal Sheds in 1994. She cared passionately about saving these old buildings and their history and the history of Lemont and Oak Hall. She was instrumental in helping us fund the purchase of the granary and was very generous during the twelve years that the LVA has been working to rehabilitate the buildings. She especially worried about the safety of the buildings and was very pleased to see the security lighting and safer entrances that were made possible by her gifts. Over the years she served on the Board of the LVA and made many helpful suggestions and ideas for our events, providing flowers from her garden and sharing her stories of the old days in Lemont. She attended all of our Gourmet Dinners and loved seeing the improvements each year in the building and the grounds. The Village Green Concerts found her with her folding chair, complaining if the music was too loud, but enjoying the ambience and visiting with others. She was usually the last to leave, getting into her car and at age 97, last summer, driving home. We will certainly miss Ilene, but we will never forget her. She was definitely “one of a kind”, a very special lady who gave more than she received. Very recently Ilene joined the LVA brick project in which people may have their names engraved on bricks to be laid permanently at the Lemont Grain elevator site. The LVA gave her bricks in memory of her husband, Frank, one in her memory, and one that she chose. She wanted her brick at the granary to say, “Ilene Peters Glenn ~ Lemont Gracious Lady. She was that, and more. We are proud to have known her, and will remember her forever. *Ron and Sue Smith*

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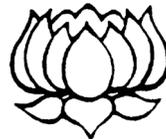
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**LEMONT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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MEMBERSHIP \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20 for lifetime family membership) TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Visit the Village Green              | <input type="checkbox"/> Have an interest in Lemont      |
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**PLEASE MAIL TO: LVA, PO BOX 546, LEMONT PA 16851-0546**

***Contributions are tax deductible.***

*A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling, toll-free, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*