

Spring Speaker Series Ready to Go!

“What in the world is that?” may well be the question asked of the **February 18th** speaker **Larry Fischer** as his topic of **“Gizmo’s, Gadgets, and Doodads”** brings some intriguing items for study. Fischer, an antique dealer, will provide fun for all as audience members speculate on the identity and use of some old and newer mystery items.

March 18th.... President Rutherford B. Hayes will share some of his story with us. **Wayne Enders** will “become” Hayes for a short while and recall some of this Ohio president’s impact on the country. Enders is president of the Portage County Historical Society and has shared many insights with our group.

Rescheduled from February, **Coach Dave Adolph** will speak on **April 15th**. Adolph, a Mogadore native and Akron U football standout,

has enormous experience at both the college and professional football levels. Currently working with the Ohio State football program, Dave will recall some memorable times from his long football career.



For civil war buffs, our **May 20th** speaker is John Gurnish, a retired Ellet High School teacher and avid civil war historian. John portrays David Clark, a local civil war soldier whose parents came from Suffield, Connecticut. Gurnish will share Clark’s story as well as his upcoming trip to Gettysburg for the re-enactment of Clark’s role in the battle of Gettysburg.

Speaker Series programs begin at 7:00 p.m. in the community room of the fire station.

Special Events Coming

On April 13th and 14th the Suffield Historical Society is planning a **“Quilts on Display”** event in place of the Art Fest. We hope to fill the town hall with samples of quilts from local residents. Many quilts are works of art which tell a story, show traditional patterns/designs, and often reflect personal memories and narratives. If you think you would like to share your quilt (or two), please contact any of the officers for further information. (See back page)

“A Historic Garden Tour” will be our second special event. Scheduled for July 13th, from noon till five o’clock, the Bob and Criss Cefus gardens will be open to the public. Featured in **Country Garden** magazine several years ago, the local Cefus gardens are scheduled to be photographed this summer. In addition to again being in the **Country Garden, Ohio Magazine** will also feature these authentic early Americana gardens. Watch for more information

First Grade Fun!

Suffield Elementary first grade classes enjoyed a field trip to the historical society in mid- October.

Accompanied by members of the historical society and teachers, each class learned about Suffield as they walked to the museum. Inside, eager hands and enthusiastic voices asked questions about many of the artifacts on display . It was fun to see such interest and curiosity among the children. Thanks to Ralph Wise, Kyle and Kathy Kreiner, Tom and Carol Mencer, Ken Durick, Mary Sunday, Joe and Carol Stayer, Pat Mettle, Bev Persons, Joyce Longbottom and Judy Calcei for helping guide the students.



The Suffield Historical Society will hold two meetings per year - one in January and the second in August. There will be no meetings prior to the **Speaker Series** programs. The community room will be open at 6:30 p.m. when light refreshments will be available.

It's Almost Time...



Seed catalogues will soon be appearing in our mailboxes and thoughts of rich, warm soil will help pass the cold days of late winter. Leafing through the pages filled with pictures of a wide variety of lettuces, onion sets, tomatoes, and other good stuff, one can hardly wait till the days are longer, the sun a bit closer, and the time is ripe to "dig in".So, too, will the time be "ripe" for the historical society's **annual plant sale. May 10th and 11th** will find many kinds of perennials sitting on the front lawn of the town hall. We will be selling from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm each day.

Come early, sit a spell, and pick out some great plants! If you want to divide some of your own plants, bring them along. The more the merrier!

Congratulations to the **Field Local School District** for their **Excellent with Distinction Rating!**

Suffield League Laughs...

"Laugh at the Lake" will once again be sponsored by the Suffield League. It is an evening of great food, fellowship, and many laughs as several comedians share their comical insights on a variety of subjects. Held at Paradise Lake Country Club, the date is March 9th. Tickets are \$30 and must be purchased in advance. advance. Call Kyle Kreiner (330-628-1580), Terri Ginn(330-472-6483) or Tom Calcei(3300-256-8042).

Coming Soon.....The Suffield Leagues annual Easter Egg Hunt at Suffield Lion's Park on March24th at 1:00 p.m.

Giving Back to the Community.... Consider becoming part of the **Suffield League**. Meetings are the first Sunday evening of each month at the town hall at 7:00p.m. Everyone is welcome!



Remember the Memorial Day Parade at 2:00 p.m on May 27th sponsored by the Suffield League!

Country Road...Lead me home



There was a time when growing up in Suffield meant learning to live with the trucks that rolled down Route 224 (originally called State Route 17 and now Waterloo Rd.). Since this was a main east-west artery, the large semi-tractor trailers traveled night and day carrying goods and material to destinations near and far. For youngsters walking along Rte. 224 to school, to friends' homes or to the center of town, it meant learning how to shield their eyes and bodies from the dust swirls and gravel showers churned up by huge trucks. But it also meant waving arms and having the friendly drivers respond with a blast on their horns. Winter was most interesting because the trucks, unable to get up Station Hill, would back up all along 224 into Suffield. Sometimes the trucker's would be stuck in their cabs for hours until the hill could be cleared and the

lumbering parade could continue on its way. It was common for women along the route to make hot coffee and sandwiches for the drivers during these cold times, and for the youngsters to deliver them. What fun it was to step up onto those high running boards and take a peek at the wonders inside the trucks. A kindly relationship grew between the truckers and the townsfolk. Others who used to hop both the trucks and the rails were the 'hoboes' who routinely traveled Rte. 224. Many were the times, again, when residents would be approached by these solitary men for a bit to eat. A drink, a cup of coffee, and a sandwich (or more hearty fare) was thankfully accepted by them, and with another word of gratitude and a wave of their hat, they would be on their way. When the new highway was built north of this road in mid-1950, and the trucks no longer roared through town, the unaccustomed silence was difficult to get use to. A way of life had been altered. (Excerpt from the

Suffield Township section of the book *Portage County, Ohio - The 20th Century*).

In Memoriam...

In September of 2012 we lost a longtime community member. G. "Fern" Ellis (Arehart) passed away at the age of 102. She was born in Suffield in 1909 to the late Howard and Ada Arehart. At one time the Arehart family owned a farm which was taken by the building and flooding of Mogadore Reservoir. The family homes were later located on Lansinger and Randolph Roads. While doing our bicentennial history, Fern gave us old school memorabilia that is now on display at the historical society museum along with old school Speedometers from her brother Chet. This showed Fern on the girl's basketball teams along with friend Mary Bissler Denny who is now 103 years old. The Suffield Historical Society and Suffield High School alumni express their condolences to the family, many of whom graduated from Suffield High School.

By Pat Mettle

Then and Now

The 13 month calendars featuring historic buildings with a present day picture insert are still available. The cost is \$12.00 and may be purchased by calling any of the officers (see back page) or by stopping at the museum on the first or third Sunday of each month (unless otherwise posted). Coffee is always on, and the welcome mat is always out.

Chocolate - YES!

Valentine's Day may be over by the time this newsletter arrives, and you may have already given your special one or ones gifts of chocolate. But as we know, chocolate must never be reserved for just one holiday. Here are just a few reasons why chocolate has become such a staple in our lives:

Chocolate has many preservatives. Preservatives make you look younger.

Put "eat chocolate" at the top of your list of things to do today. That way, at least you will get one thing done.

A nice box of chocolates can provide your total daily

intake of calories in one place. Isn't that handy?

Chocolate covered raisins, cherries, orange slices and strawberries all count as fruit, so eat as many as you want.

Money talks. Chocolate sings!

Diet tip: Eat a chocolate bar before each meal. It will take the edge off your appetite and you will eat less.



Record your history!

The motto of the Suffield Historical Society is "your family histories are the history of Suffield". Currently in our museum, we have a collection of family stories from many of our community members, but we would like to have more. If you have ever thought about delving into your family genealogy and writing it down for your children and grandchildren, there is no better time to start. Time goes by quickly, memories fade, photos

become unidentifiable and your life story could be forgotten. We believe it is imperative that you not only record your "story" for yourself and your family, but also to share and store in our museum so that we can preserve it for all. If you are interested in starting on this project, we can offer you support and assistance. Call any of the officers whose numbers are listed on the back page. We will be glad to help.

The **Suffield Historical Society** is now a member of the Northeast Ohio Museum Association. Brochures are available listing 102 museums and places of historical interest in the northeastern part of Ohio. Check at NortheastOhioMuseum.org. and plan some fascinating one day trips for you and your family.

Thanks to our road crew, trustees, churches, fire department, schools, volunteers, community members for all you do to make Suffield special!

