

# The California Village News

Spring 2011

## Next Meeting of the California Community Council

7:30 P.M.

April 12th, 2011

Ebersole Community Center  
5701 Kellogg Avenue

### Planned Agenda

- 1) Call to order by President  
Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) Minutes
- 3) Treasurer's Report
- 4) Police Report
- 5) Guests
- 6) Old Business
- 7) New Business
- 8) Adjournment

## CINCINNATI WATER WORKS AT CALIFORNIA

In 1839 the City of Cincinnati assumed the task of supplying water to the residents, which had been since 1817, done poorly by private operators. The new Water Dept., using the Front St. works it had purchased, had a constant struggle over the years, with machinery that was frequently breaking down, always inadequate because of rising demand, and the lack of money for significant improvements. The first action toward major upgrading came in 1872 as a result of a report recommending that the water intake be located 10 miles up-river from the city to avoid pollution. The city then purchased the 150 -acre Jacob Markley farm on the New Richmond Pike (now Kellogg) near Five Mile Rd. But the

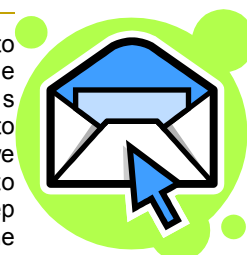
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## Another Substantial Cut of funds from City to Neighborhoods

2011 funds available for neighborhood projects will be as follows, NSP \$2,500 and NBD \$2,500. This is a substantial cut and means that we will need to look for ways to continue to do with less. Newsletters will now be quarterly instead of bi-monthly and fewer copies will be printed. Communication will be on-going as usual via email. The streetscape planters will still be planted professionally but maintenance will be limited. The park will likely not be mowed quite as frequently. There will be no extra funds for items like a park picnic table (although one that was purchased last year is still in it's packing and will be installed this year by volunteers). Volunteers will be needed to step up where needed to help fill the gap. Thanks.

## GIVE US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

As we continue to improve communications as well as try to save money, we would like to electronically keep everyone "in the loop" and provide periodic instant notifications from the city as well as the newsletter provided to your computer! Simply email us at [info@californiaohio.org](mailto:info@californiaohio.org) and we'll put you on our list. There may be a time in the future when we might not have to print the volume of newsletters that we do now which would be a significant savings in printing costs and delivery.



## California Yard Sale

A decision has been made to concentrate on one yard sale per year, which will be in September. Therefore the yard sale that had been scheduled for this month will not occur. Thanks for all the participation and support. Remember the funds raised are used for utilities and upkeep of the Old California School. The donation gets you a yard sign indicating your participation, advertisement in local papers and 2 large signs on Kellogg Avenue. Hang on to your items until the second Saturday in September! Thanks.

## Birthday Greetings to our Community Members and Friends



### April Birthdays

- 2nd Chelsie Shepherd
- 3rd Amber Jackson
- 4th Randy Roberts
- 6th Morgan Shepherd
- 13th Brandi Blankenship
- 23rd Bryan Keller

### May Birthdays

- 6th Rhonda Ruprich
- 10th Erin Davis
- 12th Mike Christ
- 19th Tina Hale
- 20th Brittany Birmingham
- 21st Richard Jordan
- 23rd Dave Ross
- 24th Darryl Christ
- 24th Jessica Roberts

### June Birthdays

- 6th Sara Williams
- 6th Kathleen Chandler
- 14th Stephen Ross
- 16th Vanessa Shepherd
- 24th Dwayne Shepherd
- 26th Erin Shepherd
- 26th Karl Clark

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## RECENT OBITUARIES

### STELLA SCOTT

of Kellogg Ave. Resident of many years, preceded in death by husband William Scott. Survived by sons, Ronald and Dennis. Son William, daughters Cathy and Alice Secen preceded her in death. Seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Services were Feb. 9 at St. Jerome Church, California. 83 years old.

### MARY PELCHA

of Bryson St., wife of the late Charles Pelcha. Devoted mother of Mary, Rose, Phyllis, Donna, Charles, Johnny, Richard, Steve, Dan, Dolores, and the late Judy and Sharon Pelcha. 38 grandchildren, 64 great-grandchildren, and 22 great-great grandchildren. Feb. 23, services at T.P. White & Sons.

### LEONARD K. ROUSE

born and raised in California, attended California School and a resident for many years. Son of Arthur and mother, Stella Klein. 82 years of age. Father of Doug Rouse and brother of Raymond Rouse.

### JOSEPH WALRIVEN

husband of Betty Walriven (Glassbrenner). Father of Jody, Tim, Mark and Monty. Born and raised in California and a resident for many years. Joe was a veteran of W.W. 2 serving in the Pacific aboard the U.S.S. Tennessee. 86 yrs. of age. Many grandchildren.

### EARL PORKY SCHAEFER

resident of Bryson St. in California. Porky was known in the last few years of riding in his go-cart. A veteran of the military. Passed away in the V.A. Hospital from complications.

## California Woods

### Little Miami Expedition

Sat., May 21, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Magrith Riverlands Preserve

Explore this scenic river and learn about the history and inhabitants of the area. Canoeing basics, canoes, lifejackets and paddles will be provided. Pack a lunch in a ziplock bag and wear sturdy close-toed shoes. Families and individuals welcome, but register early - space is limited! Only two children (ages 6 and up) per adult. Call 861-3435 to register.

### Spring Preschool Nature Camp

This fun program for ages 4 and 5 (preK) will explore a different

I ATTENDED ALL OF THE FUNERALS EXCEPT PORKY'S AS I WAS OUT OF TOWN. CHARLES AND I ATTENDED JOE WALRIVEN'S AND SPENT TIME WITH THE FAMILY. JOE AND CHARLES JOINED THE NAVY TOGETHER IN JUNE 1942, WENT THRU GREAT LAKES TRAINING TOGETHER AND WERE CLOSE FRIENDS SINCE CHILDHOOD. JODY, HIS SON, SENT US A NOTE AFTER ATTENDING AND I AM COPYING IT FOR YOU TO READ.

JACKIE AND CHARLIE, FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU BOTH FOR BEING AT THE FINAL TRIBUTE OF DAD'S PASSING AND THE GATHERING HELD AFTERWARDS. OVER THE MANY YEARS OF DAD'S LIFE, HE OFTEN REFERRED TO SOME OF HIS CLOSEST AND DEAREST FRIENDS AS YOU AND DICK AND BETTY NASH. YOU WERE THE REMAINING LINK AT HIS BURIAL IN REGARDS TO THAT LITTLE RIVERTOWN COMMUNITY KNOWN AS CALIFORNIA. SECOND OF ALL AND SHORTLY AFTR DAD'S DEATH, I CHOSE TO WRITE THE SOMMUNITY JOURNAL. I HAVE ENCLOSED A COPY OF THE ARTICLE THAT THE EDITOR SAID SHOULD BE PUBLISHED IN THE 23 MARCH EDITION. YOU BOTH ARE OF THE GREATEST GENERATION AS WAS DAD. MY INTENT WAS TO HONOR NOT JUST DAD AND MOM BUT ALSO TO THANK THE LIKES OF BOTH OF YOU IN LEAVING US BABY-BOOMERS WITH ALEGACY MARKED BY FAITH AND SACRIFICE.

I REMEMBER THE STORIES OF RAVAGING FLOODS SUCH AS WHEN MY AUNT LINDA WAS LITERALLY PLUCKED FROM THE SECOND FLOOR (AS AN INFANT) AND MOVED TO SAFETY DURING THE TIME OF 1937. I REMEMBER THE STORIES OF OUTHOUSES, OF HAND-ME-DOWN CLOTHES, THE RATIONING AND UNCERTANIES OF WORLD WAR 2 WHEN MEN CUT EDUCATION SHORT AND VOLUNTEERED FOR A WAR OF UNCERTAIN LENGTH. I REMEMBER SO MUCH MORE OF STORIES TOLD WHEN WRITING IS LIMITED YET MEMORIES ABOUND. THANK YOU BOTH FOR BEING PART OF DAD'S LIFE. AS A BABY-BOOMER, I CHERISH YOUR SHARED MEMORIES AND FRIENDSHIP. I'VE LEARNED FROM YOUR EXPERIENCES AND THE LIFE EXAMPLE HYOU SET.

WITH RESPECT, JODY WALRIVEN, (JODY IS ALSO A 25 YR. VETERAN OF THE MILITARY)

Jackie Kuzniczci Frazier, California Historian

nature topic each week, presented through music, puppets, games, short hikes, stories, crafts, and hands-on activities. Six Mondays, April 4 - May 9. California Woods - 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. - 231-8678 for info. Fee: \$55.00 city resident / \$65.00 non-resident for the series. Online registration at: [www.cincinnatiiparks.com](http://www.cincinnatiiparks.com)

### Green UP Day at California Woods

Sat., April 16, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

California Woods Nature Preserve

Roll up your sleeves and help make YOUR parks more beautiful! Assist Cincinnati Parks staff on projects such as invasive

## CINCINNATI WATER WORKS AT CALIFORNIA

(Continued from page #1)

estimated cost of \$4.5 million for construction of the new plant was far beyond the means of the city. As it was, the city was barely able to fund the Water Department so that it could meet the mushrooming demand with new pumps and reservoirs. Public clamor for better service and cleaner water resulted in the appointment of a commission in 1888 to investigate the "water question". Their report concluded that: "It is imperatively necessary for the integrity and purity of the water supply....to abandon the present pumping station.

The Ohio River above the Little Miami should be the origin of supply. "The intake should consist of an intake tower on the Kentucky shore. The best location for the pumping station is on the Ohio shore between the Little Miami River and the town of California. Settling basins should be built on the high ground back of California." Cost estimates of the proposed new water works, depending on daily capacity, was from \$4 million to \$6.5 million. Despite the urging of the commission for quick action, the city was unable to make any large financial commitments in the next decade. There were many more studies made and reports filed, including those of the State Board of Health and the Cincinnati Academy of Medicine regarding the increasingly bad condition of the water. Finally, in 1896, the state legislature passed "An Act to Provide for Water Works in Cities" spelling out the duties and responsibilities of commissioners of water works and allowing the cities to issue water works bonds. Cincinnati quickly appointed such a commission, calling it a board of trustees. They in turn selected a chief engineer to supervise and coordinate preparation of plans and specifications for the new plant, following the recommendations of the 1888 report. It was his job also to oversee all phases of construction.

Most of the 325 acres of land needed for the California installation had to be acquired by the lengthy process of condemnation. The two largest parcels involved were a 176-acre tract of the Ebersole estate, fronting on the Ohio, and 81 acres of the Farenkamp land "on the hill" northeast of the village. (Note: I have a pic of Fahrenkamp farm). There was less trouble negotiating with the City of Covington to purchase a plot for the intake pier and the Commonwealth of Kentucky for 10 acres of riverbed under which was driven an eight-foot diameter, 1400-foot-long tunnel from the pier to the pumping station. In order to have an undivided piece of land, the city had to purchase "that part of the Columbia and New Richmond Turnpike from the toll house at Salem Pike to the school house at California."

The first contacts for the intake pier and tunnel, were awarded in May 1898. Work began two weeks later. From then on except for bad weather and some contractual problems, construction was continuous on the huge project. It included the previously mentioned pier and tunnel, the California pumping station, the filtration plant, two settling basins (with a capacity of 330 million gallons), the four-mile-long, seven-foot-diameter tunnel to the Eastern Avenue pumping station, and large three-foot and four-foot mains to the Eden Park reservoir and to various parts of the

city. The entire system cost \$11.5 million and was completed by October 1907, when the first water flowed through the mains. In the first full year of service an average of 3-1/2 million gallons per day was delivered. The same basic plant in California modernized and enlarged, now supplies an average of 180 million gallons of water daily to a vastly expanded area, with additional thousands of customers.

(Taken from an article that appeared in the Mt. Wash. Press in 1986 and written by Roland R. Lowery) Article was sent to me from Don Henson, former Calif. resident.

A pic is included from 1900 era, I also have a pic of Robbie Christ's grandfather behind a mule clearing the hill. Many of our former residents landed here due to the work involved in the building of the Water Works.

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## California Woods

(Continued from page #2)

species removal, litter removal, weeding, mulching garden beds, trail maintenance, and more. For more information, please call the numbers associated with individual parks. We hope you and your family will join us!

California Woods: 231-8678; meet at nature center




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## Wildflower Walk

Sat., April 23, 2:00 - 4:00p.m. – California Woods Nature Preserve

Ohio's spring wildflowers are a wonder to behold. Join us for a hike along a nationally designated Scenic Trail as we search for wildflowers such as Nodding Trillium, Celandine Poppy, Dutchman's Breeches, and discuss facts and folklore surrounding these floral gems. Meet outside the nature center. Please call 231-8678 for more information.

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## Congratulations Chelsie Shepherd!

I'm very proud of my granddaughter Chelsie Shepherd. I would like to acknowledge that she received a 4 yrs. Scholarship to U.C. for her achievements at Riverview East school.

I would also like to acknowledge her accomplishments in Baton with the Star Strutters for 10 1st Place trophies. Congratulations again Chelsie for a job well done!

Jo Shepherd

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**California Columbia  
United Methodist Church**

Rev. Ernest Bein  
5751 Kellogg Avenue  
California, Ohio  
513-232-5077

**SERVICE SCHEDULE**

9:30 A.M.            Sunday Service



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**St. Jerome  
Catholic Church**

*a mission church of Guardian Angels  
Parish*

Father Carl Wollering  
131 Rohde St.  
California, Ohio  
513-231-7042

**MASS SCHEDULE**

5:00 P.M.            Saturdays

9:30 A.M.            Sundays

7:30 P.M.            Tuesdays

7:30 P.M.            First Friday



Cincinnati's Southeastern Gateway

**California**

*A Neighborhood of the City of Cincinnati*

**California Community Council**

**2011 Officers**

<b>President</b>	David Ross
<b>Vice President</b>	tbd
<b>Secretary</b>	Diane Havey
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kathleen Chandler

**Board of Governors**

Mike Christ  
Jo Shepherd  
Hilda Davenport  
Jackie Frazier  
Diana Weir

NSP Coordinator: Kathleen Chandler

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Publisher: Kathleen Chandler 624-6257  
Columnist: Jackie Frazier 231-4402*

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# California Village News

5814 Kellogg Avenue, California, Ohio 45230

**The California Village News** is a publication of the California Community Council and published bi-monthly. The deadline for contributions to the CVN is the 20th of the month for inclusion in the following issue. The CVN welcomes letters to the editor or relevant articles and reserves the right to publish any or all submissions based on space available and appropriateness. Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the California Community Council, Board of Governors or it's Officers. The CVN is partially funded by the City of Cincinnati Neighborhood Support Program Fund.

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