

GRINDSTONE NEWSLETTER

May/June 2024



Sandstone Village Shops Are Open!

The shops will be open every Saturday, April 20th to November 2nd (except for June 15th for the Taste of History) from 10am-2pm at Sandstone Village, 763 Milan Avenue, Amherst, Ohio 44001! The Pine Tree, the Gallery and the White Barn are filled with fabulous and affordable finds! Donations are always gratefully accepted, however please no clothing, shoes, or linen items. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and shopped through the years- we are grateful for your support!!



Amherst Ohio Garden Club

PLANT SALE

Saturday May 11, 2024

9:00 am-12:00 pm at Sandstone Village
763 Milan Ave. Amherst, Ohio

Come support the great selection of perennials, hostas, herbs, grasses, bulbs, ground covers and garden items. Most items are \$2-\$6.
Cash only, please.

2024 SANDSTONE VILLAGE

Car & Bike SHOW

SPECTATORS
FREE!

SUNDAY, JUNE 2ND, 11AM-3PM • RAIN OR SHINE
763 Milan Avenue, Amherst Ohio 44001

Car Registration

Day of Show, 9:00 -11:00 am • Admission by Donation

Registrants: Please enter Sandstone Village through Jefferson Street for registration

- Dash plaques to the first 200
- Photo Area for Registrants
- Goody Bags for first 100 Registrants

Free Parking and Shuttle from 11am-3pm for Spectators at Amherst Junior High School
548 Milan Avenue, Amherst, Ohio

Sponsored By


Charles Chapman
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*This ad from 1949 says:
"Ohio's N.W. Bechtel
buys Studebakers
repeatedly! Pictured
here, with his son,
Kenneth R., is N.
W. Bechtel, whose
satisfactory experi-
ence as an owner of
Studebaker cars and
trucks now goes
back sixteen years."*



A Letter from the Executive Director, Sandy Kaiser

Dear Members and Friends,

Happy Spring!!! The Amherst Historical Society has a lot of exciting events in store for you. Be sure to keep up to date with our busy schedule so you can join in the fun. A special thank you to all who have so generously donated to our events and projects. It's your commitment that truly makes great things happen.

Let the shopping begin! Our Sandstone Village Shops begin sales on Saturday, April 20, and continue every Saturday from 10am to 2pm until November 2. The Pine Tree, Gallery, and White Barn are filled with many newly donated items for your shopping pleasure.

The Sandstone POW Barracks and Military Museum will be officially dedicated as of May 1st. We are excited to share the rich military history of our area with all of you. Thank you to Joe Fought and a very special group of dedicated individuals who have transformed the POW Barracks into a true military experience. Thank you to all the veterans and their families who have donated or loaned family heirlooms in memory of their sacrifices for our freedom. The museum is our way of saying, "Thank you for your Service" to all our courageous service men and women.

Our Second Annual Kentucky Derby and Night at the Races takes place at the Amherst Eagles #1442 on May 4th. Please ask us about your opportunity to sponsor a race or purchase a horse. Admission tickets are on a pre-sale basis only – no tickets will be sold at the door. Tickets are available at our office or from any board member. As always, follow our media pages and check our website to keep up to date. Our AHS office staff welcomes your calls, emails, and visits anytime you have questions or suggestions.

Please keep John and Barb Dietrich in your thoughts and prayers due to the recent loss of their beloved daughter Amy.

Sending good health wishes your way,

Sandy

Congratulations to our Monthly Gift Card Winners

May - Barbara Gilbert-Whitcomb

June - Brian Mickey

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE AMHERST COMMUNITY



Book Sale

Amherst Public Library

The Friends of the Amherst Public Library book sale returns for spring! The book sale is open to the public.

May 10-11, 2024
10:00 am - 4:45 pm



"Ripcord"

by Workshop Players

A vastly entertaining story of two elderly women thrown together by a comic cosmic force! For tickets, please call (440) 634-0472 or visit <https://workshopplayers.org/catalogs/ripcord>
May 16-19th & May 24-26, 2024



Memorial Day Parade Downtown Amherst

This is a wonderful community event to honor and remember those who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice for our freedom.

Monday, May 27th, 2024 @ 10:00 am



THE TASTE OF HISTORY



Friday, June 14 & Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 9am-5pm
Sandstone Village, 763 Milan Avenue, Amherst, Ohio 44001

FREE ENTRY!

*Free shuttle and parking at Amherst Junior High School
548 Milan Avenue, Amherst, Ohio 44001*

A unique Military Living History event with a fun spin, focusing on the food and rations that fed soldiers across all eras. Sample military chow through the ages for donations! Enjoy military displays, shooting demonstrations, home front and camp follower displays, kids' activities, vendors and more!



Post 1662



The Friendly Post

For more information, please contact the
Amherst Historical Society
(440) 988-7255 or office@amhersthistoricalsociety.org

*Thank You to our Division Level Sponsors
VFW Post 1662 and AMVETS Post 32*



POST 32 ELYRIA

From Prominent Clothier to Well-Known Eatery

By George Siss III

One of the most prestigious buildings located in the business district of Amherst is the wood-frame building at 161 Park Avenue, the only one that survived the Great Fire of 1893—possibly because of its location in the center of the block.



153 PARK AVE. - DR. A. H. SMITH. 155 PARK AVE. - WESLEY SMITH'S BARBER SHOP... 163 PARK AVE. MISCHKA'S RESTAURANT-1950



According to Fay Van Nys Ott and the Sanborn Fire Maps, this wooden building was most likely built in 1871 by Daniel Freese when he established his clothing store in what was known then as Amherstville. Freese operated his clothing store for forty-two years, until 1913.

From 1913 to approximately 1929, Kassouff's Candy Kitchen occupied part of the building. After Kassouff's closed, Wally Mishka moved his restaurant to this site. According to Ott, Jim Abraham, at age 13, worked as a dishwasher and all-around helper at Mishka's. This was the place to go to "hang out," especially for teenagers, where listening to the Big Bands on the jukebox and drinking dime Cokes was the thing to do.

Mishka's was also the place to go for his famous "nut sticks"—vanilla ice cream on a stick, dipped in delicious milk chocolate and covered with crushed nuts—which sold for 15 cents apiece.

Next door to the restaurant, Mishka had a well-known candy shop. It was here that Jim Abraham learned the art of candy making. When Wally Mishka died in 1948, Abraham and his business partner, Joe DeChiaro, bought both businesses, which flourished. Jim Abraham kept both businesses operating until 1994, when he sold them to Leslie Wallace. Wallace, however, was able to maintain the restaurant and candy shop for only a year. Soon after, Julie Ann's Cafe operated in the building, from 1995 to 1996.

In 1996, Tim and Pam Green opened Crossroads Grill, which closed after four years. In 2000, the Quarry Cafe opened, owned and operated by Young Zampieri and her sister-in-law Marie Zampieri. This continues to be a popular breakfast and lunch location, and is one of the many important businesses in downtown Amherst.



Pictures are courtesy of
the Amherst Historical Society



**CHOKE
CHERRIES**



PAWPAW



**WILD
CURRANTS**

FORAGE LIKE A PIONEER IN THE BACKWOODS

Ray Stewart, Webbedfoot Designs

As pioneers braved the wild landscapes of the Ohio Valley, they depended on their hunting skills and the bounty of native plants to sustain themselves. These early explorers and settlers foraged a diverse array of plants. Some learned from their rural lifestyle back east and often learned from congenial encounters with Native Americans along the way.

Imagine heading out west from your farm in Hartford, Connecticut, having heard of limitless land and natural resources- everything a farmer could hope for- just beyond those mountains. The rumors were reliable, and the potential was unlimited. That little-known wilderness was known by the Iroquois word ‘ohi-yo,’ meaning “the great river.” But could you survive?

Wildlife was abundant with bears, bison, deer, and elk. A muzzle-loaded rifle and a good knife were essential. Game meat was an important part of the diet. The flour, dried grains, and beans you packed in would help, but could not last long.

A knowledge of plants and the ability to forage along the way would make the difference in your success during this dangerous and rigorous trek. Even the most astute pioneer would have been thin and hungry most of the time. Encounters with low-hanging fruit would have been rare, especially considering the local wildlife would have shared in the consumption of those resources.

The Ohio wilderness offered pioneers a cornucopia of native plants, each contributing to the rich tapestry of their foraged sustenance. From the sweet and exotic pawpaw to the versatile currants, choke cherries, and a myriad of berries, pioneers skillfully navigated the landscapes, recognizing the bounty that nature provided.

While the list of useful plants is long, many challenges existed for the wilderness traveler. Their wholesome yields were limited to very short seasons, and the competition with wildlife for the same nourishment could pare that season down considerably. Opportunities may have been presented to the weary explorer simply by passing through the right place at the right time with a keen eye reading the landscape and seizing the day. Many of these plants exist in Northeast Ohio today, although current Amherst residents no longer rely on foraging for sustenance.



THE CURIOUS CURATOR

-Joan Rosenbusch

WE'VE MOVED!!

Yes, the Research Department at the Amherst Historical Association is now located in the bottom floor of our building. Moving everything downstairs was an enormous undertaking and is still a work in progress, but I see bigger and better things advancing each and every day.

A huge thank you to Brian Goodwin for creating and painting the "Research" sign that hangs over the doorway. He has also been an invaluable aide throughout this cumbersome project.

The research department's goal is to learn and to teach all that we can regarding the history of our great city. We would like to share the findings that we have gathered with those who might be interested, and in doing so we want YOU to share with us your stories, information or artifacts that could be of interest to us.

So, what do WE have to share with you?

- We have several binders containing pictures of our town and its people over the years.
- Shelves containing school yearbooks dating back to 1913 are available to peruse.
- There are many local citizens' family trees and we will be happy to help you create yours.
- There are volumes of books containing obituaries of many Amherst citizens.
- We have information and history on our businesses, churches and houses.
- Pictures, maps, books, news articles galore, and so much more are yours to browse.

A few years ago a group of curious followers gathered regularly in meetings to participate in Amherst research here at the Amherst Historical Society. It was a big success and garnered a lot of attention and activity (even for some high school students that studied Amherst history for extra credit). We may begin again should enough interest be generated. **If you would like to be involved, please call the Amherst Historical Society at 440-988-7255 and we will update you on its viability and progress.**

Macy and Cole Hembree



EASTER SPRING FLING

Our Easter Spring Fling was a fun time for all, with the Easter Bunny, cookie decorating, games, jelly bean counting contest, bake sale, basket raffles, Quigley Museum tours, and more! Thank you to all the volunteers and everyone who attended an incredible event!



Cookie Decorating



Cookie McLoda and Les Kreeger

A THIRST FOR HISTORY: Amherst's Old Spring and Rediscovered Braun Brewery

Amherst's Old Spring is as old as Beaver Creek, and its history with our community flows directly from the beginnings of Amherst as a town, to today and into the future. The Old Spring, a natural, unconfined seep spring aquifer, is a major reason for the location of what would become downtown Amherst, Ohio.



1811, the first settler in Amherst, Jacob Shupe, used Beaver Creek to power his early saw and gristmill operations. Judge Josiah Harris, a philanthropist and civic-minded individual, is known as the founder of the downtown area of Amherst. He selected this spot because of the natural spring feature, settling here in 1818. Over the years, the Old Spring was certainly "the place to go" for area residents who wanted a cool drink of spring water and for use in local business operations, such as the rediscovered Braun Brewery.

Maintenance and related efforts to clean up around the Old Spring site have been taken on by residents of our community over the years. Appreciating the deep history of the Spring and understanding that action in the community gets results, I took it upon myself to clean up and maintain the Old Spring basin and, eventually, restore the upper stone arch along Milan Avenue.

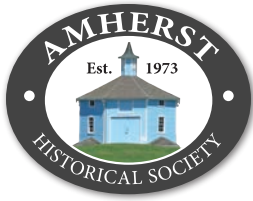


"The Old Spring" beautified for Old Home Week (a community pride celebration, Sept. 1914)



It is my hope that with more community awareness of sites such as the Old Spring, residents will have better background knowledge of our town and a greater appreciation for our local history. If you wish to learn more about the Spring site and surrounding history, please feel free to read a research report I compiled here: <https://newindianridgemuseum.com/research>

-Matt Nahorn



The Amherst Historical Society
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www.amhersthistoricalsociety.org

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AHS 2024 EVENT CALENDAR

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|--|--|--|---|--|
| April 20  Sandstone Village Shops Open For the Season Sat. 10 am – 2 pm | May 4  Kentucky Derby Fundraiser RSVP to AHS | June 2  FREE Car & Bike Show Sandstone Village | June 14-15  FREE The Taste of History Sandstone Village | July 27  Afternoon Tea RSVP to AHS |
| August 4  Frank & Dean Fundraiser RSVP to AHS | September 7  FREE 1930s Hooverville Sandstone Village | September 21-22  Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre RSVP to AHS | September 28  FREE Fall Festival Sandstone Village | December 7  FREE German Christmas Celebration Sandstone Village |

You can visit us at amhersthistoricalsociety.org, Facebook or Instagram