



Perry Valley Grange #1804, Inc. Newsletter

Meeting Location Millerstown Community Park Building
110 West Juniata Parkway, Millerstown, PA 17062

**Grange Meeting
Forestry Program
Friday, March 11th**

**Annual Open House
Community Night
Friday, April 8th**

Wayne Bender, newly appointed Executive Director of the PA Hardwoods Development Council, will speak at the next regular Grange meeting. The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting in the Millerstown Community Park Building, 110 West Juniata Parkway, Millerstown, beginning with a 6:30 p.m. dessert reception.

Mr. Bender will discuss issues affecting the health of Pennsylvania's forests and concerns confronting the forest products industry today. Pennsylvania has the largest hardwood forest in the United States, with five times more forest resources than 60 years ago. The Keystone State also leads the nation in the volume of hardwood growing stock, production of grade lumber, export of lumber and has an award winning sustainable forestry program. The speaker will address topics including invasive species, effects of forest parcelization and fragmentation, the challenges to the forest products industry and new environmental standards for marketing Pennsylvania forest products.



PA State Grange President Elizabeth "Beth" Downey will be our special guest and speaker at the annual Open House Community Night Fellowship Dinner.

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for the evening that begins with a fellowship dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Millerstown Community Park Building, 110 West Juniata Parkway, Millerstown. The Grange will provide meat, beverage, table cover and place settings; please bring a favorite casserole, salad or dessert to share.

Sister Downey is from the Williamsport area and comes from a family with a long history of Grange involvement. She has served in many local and county offices and previously served on the State Grange Executive Committee. She was elected as President of the state organization in 2014.



The purpose of our annual Open House Community Night is to introduce the Grange to your family, friends and neighbors. Extend an invitation to them to come with you to the Grange for an evening of good food, fellowship and an outstanding program.

The evening will also include the recognition of 2016 Business Sponsors, the presentation of \$4,000 for Newport Playground revitalization and announcement of the annual "Community Citizen Award" recipient. Nominations for that award are due to Linda Byers by March 11th; the nomination form was included in the last newsletter or you may get a copy from Linda to submit a nomination.

“Meals of Hope” Food Packing Project

Perry Valley Grange and the Greenwood FFA co-sponsored a “Meals of Hope” food packing project on Friday, February 5, 2016, designed to fight hunger in the area by providing nutritious meal kits for the Perry County and Juniata County Food Banks. Planning for this big undertaking began several months prior to this when Grange and FFA members sat down together to plan a strategy to generate significant support – *both financial and volunteers* – from the community. Could this small rural community possibly muster enough interest to raise the \$12,000 that was needed to underwrite the cost of packing up to 50,000 meal kits?

The Grange, anxious to continue its service to the community even though its identity was no longer attached to the former Grange Hall, offered to contribute up to \$6,000 in a dollar-for-dollar match for other contributions received. An application for release of a portion of the Grange Hall sale proceeds was submitted and approved by the PA State Grange to provide these funds. The FFA members did the brunt of the work to contact local churches, Granges and other civic groups with an appeal to support the project. Local newspapers sent reporters to interview the planners with the result being some great advance publicity.

The results were beyond expectations and will be further explained in the captions under the pictures taken at the event.



An estimated 180 persons came out on Feb. 5th to help pack the meal kits. How wonderful to see young and old working and laughing together in such a good cause – feeding the hungry.



Huge bags of rice and macaroni, supplemented with flavorings and nutrients, were among the ingredients that by the end of the evening would be assembled into 46,000 individual meal kits.

Total receipts were \$17,450, contributed by fifty-one individuals and organizations and including the proceeds of several fund raising events. After purchasing all the needed supplies, there was still \$5,000 remaining that was given to the Food Banks to underwrite their on-going costs of operation.



At the mid-way point of the packing operation, a light supper was provided to all helpers thanks to the efforts of these Grange volunteers.



When kits were completed, another group of volunteers used a template to make sure that the correct number was packed into each case.



Multiple assembly lines were set up in the Greenwood Elementary School gym. Everyone was assigned one task in the assembly of each meal kit and it was amazing how quickly each was done.



Each time another thousand kits were completed, the gong sounded and applause erupted.



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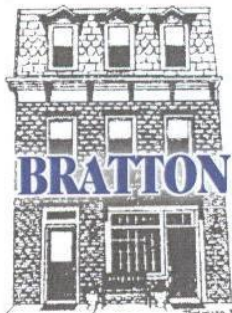
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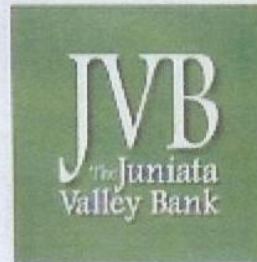
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YOUR Business could be listed here, too

For just \$60 per year, your business partners with the Grange to serve the larger community...and receives publicity in our newsletter and website

For details, call Carol Rhoades @ 717-567-6844

Grange Commits \$15,000 to Community Service Projects in 2016

Our Grange submitted a request earlier this year to the PA State Grange requesting the release of \$15,000 from the trust funds held by the State Grange from the sale of our former property. Grange law allows that up to 10% of the principle of real estate proceeds may be annually for community service work. The three projects that have been adopted for the year are:

- \$6,000 – “Meals of Hope” food packing (see pages 2-3)
- \$5,000 – Ag Education, May 23, 2016 @ Perry County Fairgrounds for Greenwood & Newport elementary students (details forthcoming)



The third project will provide \$4,000 in matching funds for the purchase of replacement equipment for the Newport Veterans Park Playground.

The photo above shows some of the child-safe equipment that will be installed later this year.

Celebrating Special Days

March Birthdays

- 2 Marguerite Gochenaur
Renee Hetrick
- 4 Debbie Ramp
- 7 Edgar Byers
- 31 Wyatt Anderson

April Birthdays

- 5 Susan Tressler
- 19 Arthur "Ray" Fisher
- 22 Alice Kirchner
Linda Byers
Lori Comp
- 24 Rodney Rhoades
- 29 John Shotzberger
- 30 Clarice Kerstetter

No reported anniversaries in March or April.

If your special day(s) do not appear on this list or there is an error in the date, please call Doug Bonsall (921-1957) with the information.

Looking Ahead to May

Nursery Outing Friday, May 13th

One of the quotes in our Grange ritual...

Seedtime and harvest shall never fail.

As the calendar advances to spring and our thoughts turn to planting, we've planned an evening at the Wildwood Greenhouses near Port Trevorton and a stop at Shafer's Restaurant. More details will be announced in the next newsletter, but please reserve the date now.

Our long-term lease agreement with the Millerstown Community Park allows the Grange to hold up to six fund raising events at the park building annually. We can serve banquets and receptions for up to 70 persons; proceeds will allow the Grange to do more work in the community. Please contact Carol Rhoades at 567-6844 to discuss scheduling such an event.

Coming Events

March 2016

8	Executive Committee Meeting - 6:30 p.m. <i>Combined February & March meetings; February meeting cancelled due to inclement weather</i>
11	Grange Meeting (see Page 1) <i>Dessert reception @ 6:30 p.m.</i> Social Committee – Linda Byers & Renee Hetrick (co-chairs) Program – PA Forestry by Wayne Bender

April 2016

8	Open House Community Night <i>(see Page 1 for more details)</i> Fellowship Dinner @ 6:30 p.m. Social Committee – Doug Bonsall & Peg Bolton (co-chairs) Meat, beverages, rolls, table cover and place settings provided; everyone please bring a non-member guest plus a casserole, salad or dessert to share <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Sponsor Recognition • Speaker – State Grange President Elizabeth "Beth" Downey • Announcement of "Community Citizen Award" recipient • Presentation of \$4,000 to Newport Playground revitalization project
18	Executive Committee meeting – 6:30 p.m.



Financially Speaking

Checking Balance 1/1/2016.....	\$ 8,540.23
PLUS: Receipts – Jan-Feb 2016.....	+ 694.44
LESS: Expenses – Jan-Feb 2016	- 7,669.76
Checking Balance 2/29/2016.....	\$ 1,564.91
Certificates of Deposit	\$86,564.37

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A good Grange member:

- *Places faith in God,*
- *Looks forward to the future*
- *Helps those in need, and*
- *Is loyal to family, community & nation*

Perry Valley Grange Vision

Foster an atmosphere where individuals can grow spiritually, intellectually and socially and, through that growth, improve themselves, their families, communities and the nation.

For Gifts Any Time

GRANGE COOKBOOKS

Five different editions are still available and continue to be popular for gifts any time of year. Orders come in from all over the country, thanks to people reading our Grange website.

Contact Doug Bonsall (921-1957) to get your copies. The cost varies for the different editions shown below (from left to right):

- 1950 - \$13
- 1972 - \$20
- 1984 - \$13
- 2000 - \$13
- 2010 - \$18

There is an additional \$4/book charge for shipping if the book(s) are mailed.



Perry Valley Grange #1804, Inc.
c/o Douglas A. Bonsall
300 Swatara Street, PO Box 765
Dauphin, PA 17018-0765



**MARCH-APRIL 2016
NEWSLETTER**