

**Alexandria News**

October 4, 2020

**Beggars Night 2020**

Goodness knows 2020 has not been a very kind year so far, aside from the illness and worse caused by the virus, I believe it has been particularly hard on our young people. In agreement with that sentiment a group of Mayors and Village managers met with the Licking County Health Department (LCHD) to find a way to safely offer Beggars Night (Trick or Treat). It was agreed that if possible, we would hold the event countywide on Thursday, October 29th from 5:30pm to 7pm.

Aligning the event in each community will reduce the comingling of communities, which may lead to an increase of COVID-19 cases. In addition, LCHD recommends:

* Participants stay in family groups
* Children be accompanied by an adult
* All participants wear a face covering
* All candy be handed out by an adult (do not grab candy directly from a bowl)

In addition, the Health Department asks:

* + - That you stay at home if you do not feel well
		- Do not pass out candy if you do not feel well
		- Wash hands or sanitize often
		- Observe social distancing and do not gather with other family groups

Lastly, I would ask as always, if you are handing out candy, that you turn on a porch light and that trick or treaters not knock on doors where there is not a porch light on.

**More on the Water Project**

Hopefully by the time this letter is received we will have updated some water service connections and have a good feel for how long the project will take and how it will go. We are starting on Church and College Street. I am not sure at this time where we will go from there - the best way to keep informed is to receive email updates. To be added to the list, email me at voa.mayor@outlook.com. Be prepared to be without water for a few hours when they get to your house. You will know they are getting close when you see OOPS marking gas lines in your area. I had mentioned in a previous letter that this might be a good time to update the water service line into your home. I have since realized that TLV does not do inside residential work. They could pull in the new water line; however, you would have to have a plumber at your house to make the inside connection. We have a couple local people that have done service replacements in the village. They did good work at a fair price*. Robert Stiers 740-817-4343 and Donnie Scott 614-207-9777*

**Melvin De Vilbiss**

I was honored last month with a visit from our Village’s founder Alexander Devilbiss “Great, Great, Great Grandson” Melvin De Vilbiss. We had originally planned for Melvin and his father, along

with other family members, to be here for our Alexandria Day celebration. However, like so many other events, the Covid made that impossible. The following is Melvin’s excellent notes on the day’s visit:

*Had a terrific day today! I met some fascinating people in the town my great great great grandfather founded back in 1830 – Alexandria, OH. Of course, my great (x3) grandfather’s name was Alexander Devilbiss.*

*First, I met the town mayor, the Honorable Jim Jasper, who promptly took me to the nearest coffee shop where we would sit outside on the back porch getting acquainted while indulging in a delicious egg and sausage croissant.*

*I gave him a handmade book outlining the “Descendants of Alexander Devilbiss” using my direct lineage through William, Edson, Vern, Don and me. This book included the family tree beginning with Samuel Teuffelbess through Alexander to me. It included the family profile for each individual in the tree, i.e. showing father, mother, spouse, and all children. In the back was a section on George, Alexander’s father and our patriot ancestor, complete with my certification as a Son of the American Revolution (SAR).*

*Also included was the 1880’s photograph of the four surviving brothers, sons of William who was the son of Alexander. These brothers were all sons of Alexandria, Oh – their birthplace.*

*From the coffee shop Jim took me to the old Devilbiss cemetery where last year Barbara Sammons (my 4th cousin once removed – through Lewis, son of William) told them the one remaining piece of headstone from the four that were demolished sometime after 1906 was significant in that two of Williams children were said to have been two of the graves. The writing was undiscernible however.*

*Greg Sturgill, the Alexandria Museum curator, had secured the piece of headstone and would meet up with us later in the day. It was there I introduced them to the “white chalk” method of lightly highlighting the shallow divots. The lettering shown through: “died \*\* June 1841 aged 12 days”. This would be the marker for one of William’s children born earlier than Lewis, who was born Jan 1845. Sadly, it also leaves sufficient time for yet another lost child before Lewis would be born.*

*The three of us would return to the Alexandria Museum and go over some old paper files, among them were the speech notes from Thomas Dills DeVilbiss at the Centennial celebration in 1930. Greg will provide me a copy.  I offered to donate a copy of Thomas Dills book on the DeVilbiss Family as well as the biography of John Wesley DeVilbiss, youngest son of Alexander and the reason we all use the large “V” in our name.*

*Not to be outdone, Greg offered me a copy of the historical book about “Alexandria and St. Albans Township.” I immediately recognized the format and remembered, down to the page number, where I had previously read, but did not have in my possession (until now), the following statement: Thomas D. DeVilbiss of Ft. Wayne, a grandson, visited the burial lot in 1906 and found at that time four well preserved markers, those of Alexander Devilbiss, his wife, and two children of his son William.” There it was, second to last paragraph on page 31.*

*Oh yes, while looking for any other Devilbiss or DeVilbiss in the Maple Grove Cemetery we came across Joey Rhodeback with a wealth of local knowledge – but alas no graves marked so. It was still a very pleasant visit the three of us had together about the history of Alexandria.*

*Kindest Regards,*

*Mel*

*S*incerely, Mayor Jim Jasper

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