

Enterprise Article 01/30/2013 (A Novel Weekend)

It was another fantastic two days of an annual 'celebration' for the purpose of fundraising for the Swanton Public Library. Twenty seven hostesses rose to the occasion in glorious style to set the stage for a pre event Saturday evening called "A Novel Evening" at Valleywood Golf Club including a Chinese Auction and Silent Auction, followed by the main event luncheon on Sunday, appropriately called, "The Tables of Contents". Table hostesses (those who volunteer to decorate a table) and their guests enjoyed viewing the tables and were amazed by the local talent and enthusiasm in order to benefit our local library. The two days of events are planned by a special library committee, supported by the library trustees, and made successful through the commitment of the hostesses and the attendees. It was fun to witness so many local people together in one room, many of which only see each other at this event. One lady told me she saw someone she went all through Swanton schools with and she had not seen her in 50 years, and they both reside in the immediate Swanton area! Congratulations to all of those who worked diligently to make this happen.

I was privileged to participate in one of the most enjoyable duties of being mayor also Saturday evening, performing a marriage ceremony. Well, it was really a recomittal ceremony for a local couple renewing their vows on their 50th wedding anniversary. The ceremony was just like a wedding, which even had the original Best Man and Matron of Honor present! It was truly a joy to be a part of their special day, again.

On Thursday and Friday of this past week the newly appointed tree commissioners attended the first part or "Freshmen" year of Tree Academy in Fostoria. The classes are written and instructed by regional urban foresters of the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources. There are six regions in Ohio, and all regions offer the training. Our Freshmen classes consisted of writing tree commission ordinances, tree physiology, and marketing. Our "Sophomore" classes will take place in March, followed by Junior and Senior years most likely next fall. The eight classes are the equivalent of an entire semester college course according to our instructor. It is so interesting and offers us powerful resources to ensure the success of the tree commission now and for a long time into the future. It reaffirms the phrase, "there's a right way to do something, and there is the wrong way", and this is certainly the right way. I look forward to sharing experiences as our course work continues.

Winter seems to be the time in Swanton that is annual fundraising time. I have three on my calendar for the next month already, and I am sure there are more scheduled elsewhere. I hope all of you find some way to involve yourself in one or more opportunities to get involved with charity/volunteer work. Our individual small deeds sometime stretch so much further, especially when combined with others' efforts. What we do now could certainly affect generations into the future. Swanton is a very busy and productive small town that accomplishes big victories when we all work together and have fun doing it!