

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE LVAG - *submitted by VP, Sondra Fox*

The Summer of 2019 has brought a lot of changes to the LVAG. One is a substantial rent increase as a result of new owners and management at the current facilities of the Gallery on High and Studio 7.

Two we are a volunteer non-profit 501(c)3 and count on memberships and donations to support our efforts of promoting Art and Art education to Madison co. and surrounding communities . We found it necessary to find a new location where we could increase memberships, Art classes and Art events for the community.

Investigating committees talked with Mayor Pat Closser and City Manager Joe Mosier who offered us the “ Old Vo Ag” building located behind the Community center as a possible solution.

The building was built in 1939 and used for school Agriculture and Art classes . It has not been occupied for nearly ten years. The site is one story with a lawn and ample parking which our current location does not have.

Our membership met and discussed the pros and cons of moving and after much discussion the majority requested President Bob Rea sign the lease. The city had committed to fixing the leaky roof and installing a new heating system . The LVAG would proceed with remodeling and changes to building when heat was installed to update it for community Art projects and Art classes.

Our first fundraiser came in the fall under the direction of Barb and Ned Neely. The plans were to offer to the community an outdoor picnic with entertainment, a bake sale, Art auction, games and an opportunity to see the “ Old Vo Ag “ building before remodeling. Rain dampened the plans and everything was moved inside. The benefit still had a great response from members and public alike.

Several Grants were applied for resulting in one from AEP, The Ohio Arts Council and more recently from Stanley Electric. The OAC matching funds grant is to help all counties in Ohio to promote Art and Art education in their

communities. This grant will help with advertising, lighting and portable display units for the Gallery.

The renovations were to begin with the signing of the lease in October 2019 as soon as heat was installed.

Tony Reeder volunteered to head the remodeling committee with the help of Mick Harris and other volunteer members. In November heat units were set in building but not installed. Basic sanding, some painting and other remodeling tasks were performed but with no heat, projects were put on hold including the upgrading of the outdated restroom. The work continues however with the prospect of art classes beginning in June for youth and adults.

The dates for 2020 shows have been set. For the past 9 years of our 11 year existence we have maintained 10 individual shows per year with opening receptions on the first Friday of the month.

In 2020 with the impending move the Exhibit committee reduced the amount of shows to six. The first of which is the Kurt Lattimer "Aspiring Artist" Award show for Madison Co. High School Seniors. Feb. 7 thru March 15. Making the show an extra 2 weeks. Thru the generous donation and support of Natilie and Mick Harris this show is in its third year in memory of the gifted son of Founding member Kim Lattimer Reeder. Kurt's amazing talent shows in the mural he painted on Micks building on High street.

The dismantling of the Gallery and Studio 7 will begin the latter part of March and moved to its new location in time for the first exhibit titled "New Beginnings" a juried show open to the Community offering awards for the Artist who best follows the theme plus Peoples Choice awards. The Grand opening of the new London Arts Center will be during the "New Beginnings" Exhibit May 14 thru June 14 opening reception May 15, 5 to 8 pm.

The LVAG would like to thank all the many members and individuals who are making this move possible. Looking forward to many Community projects in the future.