If you have any items that you would like to donate to the upcoming Holiday Shopping Expo, give Wendy a call at 224-639-3436. There will be a section designated at the sale for gently used items. Proceeds that are sold in this area will be split between the Cedarville Area Historical Society and the Cedarville Lions Club. A great way for you to move some unwanted items out of the house without you having to have a garage sale.

Also, please make sure to make note of the Holiday Potluck for December 8th. You never know what we have planned for the evening. And as a member we urge you to bring a guest/s. The evening is meant to be shared. We ask that if you are so inclined that you bring a dish to pass. We have moved the start time up to 6:00.

Museum Hours 1:00-4:00
(June, July, August)

Museum is also available by appointment

Museum facilities are available for private functions (weddings, reunions, meetings). To reserve the facility, call or text 224-639-3436 of 815-847-9127 or email: info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

Remember: If during your household cleaning you come across items (photos, school items, military, etc. and you are thinking of throwing them out, STOP. Those items may be of historic importance to the community and we would love to have them for the museum and our archives, just give us a call at 224-639-3436

Cedarville Area Historical Society-Phone: 815-990-0417
450 2nd Street, Cedarville IL 61013 (Physical Address)
1212 S Stewart Ave, Freeport, IL 61032 (Mailing address)

Website: www.cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org
Email: info@cedarvilleareahistorialsociety.org
Steve Myers, President, Lisa Goodwin, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer, Toni Galster, Secretary
Directors: Sally Kryder Anderson, Andy Dvorak, Wendy Gilpin, Moira Knowlton

SOLUTIONS BANK Member FDIC

CEDARVILLE AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2026



UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7-HOLIDAY SHOPPING EXPO
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17 PETER SHIANNA-BOOK PRESENTATION INCLUDES INFO ON RED OAK-AT 7:00
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8-HOLIDAY POT LUCK AT 6:00
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14-CHILI LUNCHEON- 11:00-1:00

Greetings. As you can see we have changed our newsletter format. We must go with the times as our old program is no longer available. So we will be tweaking our newsletter over the next few months, but that won't stop us from getting the news out.
We certainly had a busy summer and fall has continued in the same vein. We started at the beginning of September with our Celebration of Jane Addam's birthday. A wonderful spaghetti lunch, a short program highlighting some of Jane's accomplishments and then some rousing games of bingo where many of our attendees walked away with some lovely prizes. We thank The Foundation for Northwest Illinois for their sponsorship of the event.



ATTENDEES ENJOYING THE EVENT





On September 8, the Village of Cedarville held an honorary street dedication naming Second Street as Honorary Jane Addams Street. We thank Toni Galster and the Village for making this happen. We thank the Village Board for attending the street dedication and Village President Jeremy Monigold for his presentation.





CEDARVILLE MEMORIES

Scioto Mills Post officeBob Watson-Journal Standard
This was Originally published in May 1976

Complaints about the United States Postal Service are common and frequent-but not in Scioto Mills where Postmaster Lyle Meyers and Assistant Postmaster Merle Meyers (Lyle's brother) bring praise for their service.

Would a metropolitan area post office stay open an hour past closing time to accommodate the working man or woman who is unable to retrieve the day's mail during "office hours?"

The Scioto Mills Post office does.

How many "citified" post offices provide the old general store atmosphere where people stop and visit a spell before leaving with their mail?

The Scioto Mills Post Office does.

Where can a city person go to mail a package during the Christma rush season when the lines are backed up at his own post office?

Why, Scioto Mills, of course.

About one year ago the United States Postal Service revealed it wans to close about 12,000 rural post officres across the country in an effort to curtail its growing financial deficit.

Contend postal authorities: "The quality of mail service given rural customers does not decline when small post offices are closed and service is provided by an alternative method. Postal officials agree that the alternative service provided often exceeds that formerly rendered by a third or fourth-class service."

Scioto Mills' 100 or so residents politely, but firmly, debate that point. One recent morning, when the mail volume is the heaviest, several local residents stood in the cubbyhole of a post office and spoke their pieces for rural America.

"The government can waste millions of dollars on other things, why not spend a few million and give some service to people in this country," declared Postmaster Lyle Meyers, who has held that title since 1968.

Scioto Mills' post office sits in the back of the hamlet's lumber yard which is owned and operated by the Meyers brothers. Before Lyle's term as postmaster began, his mother, Nellie Meyers, served in that capacity from 1938-1968.

Shortly after he took over, the Scioto Mills Post Office was switched from a fourth-class department to a contract station of Rockford. Although the future of some rural post offices is questionable, Lyle said he is confident the Scioto Mills site will not be eliminated. "I don't think they will close this one," he said, adding, "I can't really see them closing any of them really."

Scioto Mills has its own zip code (61076), 56 lock boxes, (39 of which are rented) and FBI "Most Wanted" posters "just like the big post offices," Lyle said jokingly.

Postal authorities have indicated they will send questionaires to customers of post offices which are being studied for closure. Lyle Meyers said no letters have been received at Scioto Mills and serveral local residents attested to this.

CEDARVILLE MEMORIES-CONT

What if the ominous letter did arrive? "It would take away a kind of togetherness in the town," said Lyle, who noted the backroom post office is a good place for "shooting the breeze"

"We'd do anything to save our post office," declared Mrs. Eleanor Smart, if the time ever came for such an effort. She was part of the small group that picked up its mail that recent morning and participated in the typical gossip. ("It's not gossip, we're just talking," said Mrs. Irene Althafer kiddingly.)

Kenneth Gorham, wearing a blue railroad cap and sitting on a chair in the corner of the post office summed up the pride of Scioto Mills with a refrain similar to that of many small communities. "We're the biggest little town in northwestern Illinois and we take in all the suburbs east of here, like Chicago and Freeport, too" he quipped.

Part of that pride comes from the town's having its own post office. It's convenient for getting mail and most residents, like Mrs. Marie Duray, use it to purchase stamps, mail packages and buy money orders.

Without it the town would survive, but closing post offices is indicative of a trend in America today, said Mrs. Althafer.

"It's like everything else" she began. "Its costing more money and we're getting less servie."

If the Scioto Mills Post Office ever did become just a memory, Postmaster Lyle Meyers would not have to worry about dying from lonliness. "We'd come and see Lyle anyway," said one of the regulars of the morning mai group.

*The Scioto Mills closed on November 24, 2001

Historical Society Updates

We are sad to report the passing of longtime Historical Society member, Diana Nye. Diana attended our programs and events, was a docent durning our summer open hours and in general a wonderful friend to the Society. We offer our condolences to her family...she will be missed.

The fall season is upon us and with fall comes CAHS membership renewal. Our dues will remain at $15.00 for individual memberships and $25.00 for family memberships. Your membership dues help to offset our operational operating expenses, and we hope you have enjoyed your membership this past year. As always, if you would like to contribute extra, it is more than welcome and very much appreciated. Your extra contributions make it possible for us to continue offering programs, tours, displays, and special events. It also helps us offset the ever increasing operational and general maintenance costs. It is because of your generosity that we are able to keep our doors open, the building in good shape, while offering to share historical information with our community and the general public.