



Puppy Tails

Mialie T. Szymanski

*As the moon goes to bed, the sun comes up
And here we meet a sleepy pup,
Who was walking through G-ville one bright sunny day,
Then saw The Villager and decided to stay.*

'Twas the night before press time and all through the land
Not a neighbor was stirring, not beast, not man.
In a quiet office at a building named for Farley,
There was no haunting by the Ghost of Old Marley.
But instead in the corner, snuggled up by the hearth
Slept a floppy-eared puppy, snoring a slumber-filled bark.
His nose buried deep in his warm cozy bed
Visions of deadlines danced in Doodle Dog's head.
He dreamt of the news, delivering joy
To each little girl and each little boy
Who would open the paper and shriek with delight
And read with excitement the tales of his life.

Old issues were archived on the shelves filled with care
Serving as testament to how long we'd been there.
Other stories of interest, town updates too,
All of them penned with care just for you.
Each sentence and paragraph, each page is a quest,
To give to our readers the absolute best
In bringing the stories to all of our fans,
Whether online or to hold in your hands.
Sharing the weekly goings-on of the year
To pass on encouragement, a tidbit of cheer,
Or to document time as it ticks on
Before we know it, 2010 is long gone.

But thanks to journalists we can easily remember
The spirit of our village from January to December.
This year and the others that came well before
Will lead to the chronicling of so many more.

Still fast asleep, Doodle Dog curled by the fire,
His job for the evening to guard and inspire.
Then what to our weary eyes should appear
The cover chosen to illustrate this year.

Now Layout, now Edit, now Proofread and Ads!
On Graphics, on Features, Reports and Pizzazz!
And then there was Typo with his glaring presence ~
Where that word fell didn't quite make much sense.
But a quick little placement right near the front
Made the arrangement glow with just enough spunk.

Now send away, send away, send away all!
The edition is done; the order is tall!
So where are the printers, where are the elves?
These copies won't deliver themselves!
We'll fill the subscriptions, each and every one
And realise with conviction we really had fun.
The work may be finished while Doodle Dog slept,
But I'll share with you a special secret he kept:
The key to be found, when getting overly stressed
Is remember this gift: we are truly blessed
To have friends and family, a community too
Full of love and support ~ our readers, that's you!

When all was done and the night was complete,
Doodle Dog opened his eyes and sprang to his feet.
So to our readers, he thought, snuffing out the streetlight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

Doodle Dog looked out at the town all covered in white
And wished for our staffers:
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good write!"

Adapted by Mialie T. Szymanski (and Doodle Dog!) from 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, with apologies to Clement Moore.

Whoos Out There?

SUBMITTED BY SANDY KLEPACH

Believe it or not, Great Horned Owls begin nesting in January. They're the earliest nesters in Geauga County!

Fly by The West Woods, a known home to these and other native owls, to learn more about their nesting, eating and living habits.

What: Geauga's Amazing Owls
When: Sunday, January 9 - 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: The West Woods Nature Center, 9465 Kinsman Road, Russell Township

After discussing owls and their diets, Naturalist Linda Gilbert will provide sheets of skeleton examples and lead in the dissection of several sterilized owl pellets - that is, the regurgitated remains of what they ate. Linda will then take the group outdoors to see if any owls answer a recorded owl call.

Native owls include the Great Horned Owl, the Barred Owl, the Screech Owl and sometimes Long-eared, Short-eared, Saw-whet or Snowy owls - and Linda said she's already seen Great Horned Owls on The West Woods property.

"In the wintertime birds sometimes find shelter in pine tree stands, and there are several pretty close by, so if there's roosting owls in there hopefully we're close enough to call them," she said.

Dress for the weather, though outdoors time will be determined by how everyone is dressed. Of course guests are always welcome to walk the trails afterwards.

Pre-registration is required for this free program at <http://geaugaparkdistrict.org> or 440-286-9516. The Park District is also on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



Youth Bowling News

Barb Deakins

Bowlers in the Saturday morning leagues were treated to pizza and pop as well as a visit from Santa as the Sky Lanes youth leagues celebrated Christmas. The lights were turned off and the music was turned up, and the youth bowlers ended the first half of the season with a number of great scores.

In the 9:00 Trio League, Ryleigh Gough rolled the third triplicate series of the year, with three games of 67. All three games were over Ryleigh's average of 60. Floria Gerardino rolled a 143 game, which was an amazing 71 pins over her average. Floria also had games of 76 and 93, for a 312 series, which was 96 pins over her series average. Ashleigh Quiggle once again pounded the pins, with a 150 game and 377 series. Matt Hale hit the century mark for the first time, with his 107 game, 44 pins over his average. This is Matt's first year bowling without bumpers, and he just got a new bowling ball, which obviously worked very well. Nathan Palloto also shot his highest game ever, with a 121, 47 pins over average. Other good games: Danielle Tuttle, 115 (45 over), Joey

Ewell, 126 (37 over), and Ericq Williams, 99 (33 over).

Nick Toke really blasted the pins this week, with a 192 game and 452 series. Nick was 74 pins over average for game and 98 over average for series. Austin Sledz kept up his good bowling, with a 98 game and 277 series, 38 pins over average for game and 97 over for series. Zach Capron had a 127 game, which was 49 pins over his average, and a 310 series, putting him at 76 over for the day. Other nice games were rolled by Kyle Brigham, 165, Kurt Bokesch, 163, David Durst, 136 (37 pins over average), Chris Titschinger, 88 (37 pins over), Andrew Morrissey, 134, Kayla Hunt, 96 (31 pins over), and Belladonna Titschinger, 110 (31 pins over).

Paige Collins was top bowler in the 9:00 Pee Wee League with a 107 game. Eric Schaefer was right behind with 105. Other good games were rolled by Mackenzie Zembower, 104, and Joey Moses, 96.

In the 11:00 PeeWee League, Darrion Sidwell had the high game with 103. Katie Fazi continued her good bowling with a 91 game.

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