

Park View Village

Newsletter – Vol. 6, No. 6

November-December, 2016



CALENDAR

Friday, Dec. 9: PVV movie night – “It’s A Wonderful Life,” 7 pm at the Heatwole home, 1056 Smith Ave. In this 1946 Christmas-season classic, an angel helps a compassionate but despairingly frustrated businessman (Jimmy Stewart) by showing him what life would have been like if he never had existed.

Thursday, Dec. 15: 6 pm at PVMC Fellowship Hall: Christmas celebration – potluck dinner plus sacred, secular and sing-along music, with about a dozen performers from Harrisonburg Harmonizers.

Monday, Feb. 13, 2017: Celebrating 15 years of the Village movement -- Watch for details on celebrations marking the origin of Boston’s Beacon Hill Village, which began the national Village-to-Village movement. See vtvnetwork.org/



Les Grady (left and center) addresses PVV’s audience, after being introduced by program committee member Robin McNallie (right). - All photos by Greg Versen

PVV PROGRAM EXPLORES CLIMATE CHANGE

“I’m not an environmentalist,” Les Grady surprised PVV members by saying when he was introduced for our Oct. 12 program. Climate change, he explained, requires more than advocacy for “the environment.” Les, an environmental engineer with a background in engineering and chemistry, explained that he wants to solve problems, “not just talk.”

A retired Clemson University professor, Les serves on the speakers bureau of Climate Action Alliance of the Valley (CAAV -- <http://climateactionallianceofthevalley.org/>) and frequently addresses climate issues. (continued)

His brief, illustrated talk condensed detailed information. “The evidence for the rise of co2 (carbon dioxide) in the atmosphere is robust,” he said – adding that 97 percent of practicing climate scientists are convinced that excessive co2, produced by carbons burned in human activity, primarily drives climate change.

Discovery of this phenomenon began in 1824 when Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier, using basic thermodynamics, identified “greenhouse gases” such as co2 as confining heat rays within Earth’s atmosphere, as a greenhouse confines warm air.

Les noted that a global 2-degree temperature increase, anticipated by 2040, is widely considered the safe maximum. The 2015 conference in Paris set 1.5 degrees as an “aspirational goal.” Continuing to burn fossil fuels at present rates would push temperatures dangerously higher. “Global warming,” Les explained, refers to Earth’s rising surface temperatures – only one aspect of climate change, though capable of disastrously affecting agriculture, human health and productivity. Additionally, climate change creates ice melt, interferes with species migration and causes floods, droughts and rising sea levels: “Don’t buy any coastal property to leave to your grandchildren.”

The solution? “Lower global co2 emissions to zero as soon as possible,” says Les. With 81 percent of global energy derived from fossil fuels (which emit co2 when burned), Les does not expect them to be phased out soon, but he and his audience discussed possible alternatives, including tidal and geothermal energy, electric and hydrogen-powered cars, coal-scrubbing, and raising corporate fuel-efficiency standards. He mentioned installing giant wind turbines on floating platforms at sea.

Continued U.S. participation in climate initiatives is uncertain, but Les feels our nation has “a unique responsibility,” with our cumulative co2 emission highest in the world.

He recommends the 2014 book, *Virginia Climate Fever*, by environmental journalist Stephen Nash; and Joanna Macy’s *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We’re in without Going Crazy*.
C.E.

MAKING FRIENDS WITH “FRIENDLY CITY” FOOD

Stayman, York, Gala, Fuji, Golden Delicious. . . The Friendly City Food Co-op offers up to a dozen varieties of fresh, mouth-watering apples at a time. The taste of such produce owes much to its local origin, Kari Souder, team leader of the Co-op’s marketing/owner services, explained at the Nov. 15 PVV program. Compared to large “agribusiness” products grown for long-distance shipping, “Local food is designed to taste better and be more nutritious, not to last as long or be as pretty.”

However, Kari, who grew up on a farm, admits to hearing one persistent complaint about food co-ops and farmers’ markets: “too expensive.” Nevertheless, though organic and health-oriented farming can be labor-intensive and cost more, she says, “We’ve done a lot to lower prices.”

Anyone can shop at the co-op, located in downtown Harrisonburg at 150 East Wolfe Street (adjoining the Mason Street post office) and owned by a large group of local consumers, but lifetime memberships (now available for \$200) allow consumers numerous discounts as well as helping sustain the store. The co-op is part of National Co-op Grocers (NCG), which organizes its members’ brands and pricing. *(continued)*



Food Co-op team leader Kari Souder spoke with PVV members in November.

(“Friendly City Food,” continued) -- The store opened 5 ½ years ago, Kari noted. The idea had germinated in 2006 when a small store with similar goals closed after a brief period nearby. She identified the co-op’s primary goals:

- Food sold is locally produced, either in Virginia or within 100 miles.
- The co-op prefers food that is better for the body, the environment and the well-being of workers who produce it.
- The co-op, which made its first profit this past year, identifies itself as “neither profit-driven nor non-profit.” Profits are returned to the community in charitable donations or owner dividends. Products remaining good after sale-expiration dates are given to a food pantry. Located near low-income neighborhoods, the co-op accepts food stamps and has partnered with the Northeast Neighborhood Association for a baking competition and children’s art exhibit. Children visiting the store are offered free pieces of fresh fruit. Visiting a nearby school, Kari was surprised at how enthusiastically children seized fruits offered. The store donated baskets to a school’s fundraising auction for purchasing playground equipment.
- Fair employment practices are emphasized. The 32 employees are counted as full-time and receive benefits if they work 30 hours per week or more.

For more information, see <http://friendlycity.coop/> . . . or stop by the store. C.E.

BOARD PRESIDENT UPDATE

As winter sets in, it is important to make plans for inclement weather. It has been many months since any of us shoveled snow or had to deal with freezing rain. So a supply of salt or de-icer can be a good strategy rather than setting foot on an ice covered front step. Also, checking your snow removal equipment or making preliminary arrangements with someone to remove your snow are good strategies. Also, winter storms can disrupt electricity, which is also a safety issue. I find it a challenge to keep good batteries in flashlights. For example, I just checked the three flashlights we have for emergency use and all of them needed new batteries.

Park View Village has a list of service providers, recently updated thanks to John Spicher. Park View Village has some members or neighbors who are willing to help out as volunteers or can be hired for an hourly rate. Please call Park View Village for assistance.

(continued)

Remember our Christmas potluck and program on Thursday, December 15, 6:00-8:00 at Park View Mennonite Church Fellowship Hall. If you would like transportation to the Christmas party please call Park View Village at 540-705-0432 or me at 540-383-9771.

The Board wishes each of you a Merry Christmas.

--Keith Gnagey, PVV Board President



VENDOR SPOTLIGHT

House Cleaning

PVV member Yvonne Stutzman has recently used the services of **Sharon Drive** and found her to be trustworthy, reasonably priced, considerate and helpful.

Sharon's business goes by the name **Hired Hand**. Her business card claims she does "Full Service Commercial Cleaning & Floor Care." Her phone number is **540-383-2232** and e-mail is Sharon171978@yahoo.com.

Opportunities to learn from the experiences of fellow members can be helpful as we select assistance for staying in place.

PARK VIEW VILLAGE BOARD

Evelyn Driver – Vice President
Keith Gnagey – President
Nancy Gunden – Treasurer
Peggy Landis – Program Committee
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Administrative assistant: Denise Sauder

Deadline is **Jan. 16, 2017** for submissions to the **January-February** issue of **PVV's bimonthly newsletter**. Send items to **Chris Edwards, editor, 434-0457;** chrisedwardshburg@gmail.com

To contact Park View Village:
540-705-0432;
<http://parkviewvillageva.org/>



Happy birthday, PVV members!

December: Phil Helmuth, Joe Lapp, Greg Versen, Susie Versen

January: Nancy Clark Faulkner, John Heatwole, Dick Lantz, Carol Schirch, Lena Showalter, James Stauffer, Dorothy Jean Weaver, Lloyd Weaver

"Merry Christmas, movie house! Merry Christmas, Emporium! Merry Christmas, you wonderful old Building and Loan!" — *George Bailey (James Stewart), in "It's a Wonderful Life" PVV's Dec. 9 movie selection*