

## Senior Center announces schedule

JEFFERSON — The Jefferson Senior Center has a slew of events planned for the month.

■ On Wednesday, the center will host a fall prevention program and ice cream social at 11:45 a.m. The event is free and will feature an informative program and a free banana split. Cindy from Tender Loving Care will be provided the ice cream. Please RSVP if you plan to attend.

■ April 18, the center will host its monthly mall trip. This month the group will be going to the Millcreek Mall in Erie. Cost is \$5 and the van will leave at 1 p.m.

■ The monthly birthday get-together will be held April 22 at 11:45 a.m. The event is free. Seniors with April birthdays are invited to come to the center to celebrate. Lunch also is available at 11:30 a.m. Seniors are asked to call in advance if they plan on having lunch so the staff can be prepared.

■ On April 24, seniors will travel to Grove City, Pa. for a shopping trip. The group will eat lunch after shopping. Plan on shopping till you drop. The van leaves the center at 1 p.m. and cost of the trip is \$5.

■ The senior luncheon will be held April 28 at noon. Cost is \$7 for a wonderful lunch catered by Phil's Catering.

Entertainment is also provided. There will be a spring fashion show hosted by Fashion Bug. Seniors are also welcome to try on some outfits and participate in the fashion show. Just let Allison know sign-up and pay as soon as possible.

■ Every day at 11:30 a.m. the senior center hosts a daily lunch program. Seniors are asked to sign up two days in advance. Suggested donations are on a sliding scale according to monthly income. Prices range anywhere from \$1 to \$5.50.

■ Knitting class is held on Tuesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The group does a variety of crafts from knitting baby bonnets to sewing tool bags with a place to store all your sewing items. The class is free with your own supplies.

■ Senior cards and bingo are played Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
■ Alice Tucker leads

# Legal Aid



THE LEGAL AID - Ashtabula County staff is ready to help the people of Ashtabula County. Left to right seated, David Dodson and Heather Lovich. Left to right standing, Stephen Antwine, Tracy Ferron and Garrick Lipscomb.

## Assistance available to those who are in need

By STACY MILLBERG  
Staff Writer  
smillberg@starbasecon.com

**J**EFFERSON — Ashtabula County has options for those needing legal representation but can't afford it.

Legal Aid provides civil legal services to people living at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level. In addition, families with incomes below 200 percent of the poverty line with exceptional expenses or circumstances are assisted. Located at 121 E. Walnut St., Ashtabula County Legal Aid is part of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, one of the oldest legal aid societies in the country, said David Dodson, attorney in charge.

Legal Aid's clients are low income people who are confronted with a legal problem that, if left unresolved, will result in loss of housing, continued violence, limited access to education, income, food, safety or family stability. The problems they face are life problems that have

a legal resolution. These clients have legal rights but without an attorney, those rights will not be enforced. Attorneys practice in five counties including Ashtabula, Lake, Geauga, Cuyahoga and Lorain. There are 47 attorneys that work for the society, she said. The society receives funds from local, state, federal and private donors.

Clients are represented in municipal and common pleas courts, in appellate courts, before administrative agencies and in a variety of other settings. Legal Aid handles only civil cases, criminal cases are handled by the public defender system.

"The organization has been growing," Dodson said. "A lot of Legal Aid Societies have not been growing. We're lucky we can serve more people."

Dodson said last year the society served about 350 clients.

"There are about 25,000 people who are eligible for

our services," she said. "Most of them have civil matters. We try to do quality work. It's easy to care about our clients. They're nice people, they just happen to have these problems."

The society just recently hired a bankruptcy attorney to work on bankruptcy cases. Legal aid attorneys mostly specialize in family law, domestic violence cases and foreclosure as well as other home issues, she said.

Legal Aid also provides community legal education, advice, brief service and extended legal representation in health, housing, foreclosure, immigration, public benefits, utilities and tax. In many situations, low income individuals can avoid or resolve legal problems if they have the information and advice to help them. Legal Aid provides that through advice to individuals, presentations to groups and through information providers and through informational materials.

## Poetry writing contest deadline nears

The third annual Fain Poetry Contest is under way and is accepted until Friday. It is in memory of Alfred P. Fain, a teacher by his family, is open to students in grades nine to 12 of Grand Valley High School and home-schooled students of Hartsgrove, Rome, Colebrook and Windsor.

Fain worked his way through school and enrolled in college. He became an English teacher at Valley School District, then superintendent, writing poetry in his spare time. In his later years he resided in Roaming Shores.

Authors must be enrolled in a home-schooled resident of Valley School District. Authors submit up to three poems, but win once per year. Poems must be submitted on a disk or by e-mail. The poem should fit on 11-inch paper using a font of 16 points. The maximum length is one page. There is a minimum length. Any style of poem is encouraged. The use of profane language is discouraged.

The theme for 2005 is "Hero" in honor of the 70th anniversary of the first Action Comic. For Superman. Superman was created by two young men who met at G. High School of Cleveland.

Poems will be judged on 1. originality, 2. grammar, 3. spelling, 4. comprehensiveness of the topic, the wholeness and feel of the poem, including development, and 5. adherence to rules.

The author's name, address and phone number, and the name of her English teacher should be on separate page submitted with the poem. Entries must be submitted to Grand Valley Public Library, Grand Valley High School, St. Orwell, by 5 p.m. Poems may be submitted via MS Word or Works documents included in a plain text form cherylfaun@att.net or fainpoet@att.net.

Winners will be contacted by phone or letter by April 22. First-place prize is \$50; second, \$25; and third, \$10.

## Historical Society host rummage sale

JEFFERSON — Are you in need of a Chinese chest, wool rug, or pink shirt?

Jefferson Historical Society, 42 Jefferson St., will be opening its season and down to a rummage sale with these items and more. The sale will be held April 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and April 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. with the last hour being a bag for buck.

Society members and guests cleaned their closets and basements but more donations would be appreciated and accepted April 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Funds from this sale as well as all activities planned for this year will be in the operating of the Historical Society building which formerly was Trinity Episcopal Church.

## Farmers Union hosts lunch with legislators