

Steam Whistle Expo primed for success

ALL THAT remains is two days of good weather.

The Great Stone Viaduct Historical Education Society has done everything possible to promote the 2013 Celebration & Steam Whistle Exposition. The two-day extravaganza unfolds this Saturday.

The GSV Society has saturated the Ohio Valley with promotional signs, attended community meetings to champion the cause while also holding a business after hours. Such passionate and exhaustive efforts need paid back with two days of dry and warm weather.

The event sets up as a monumental one for the All-American Town.

Saturday will feature a lineup of exhibits and history speakers. Later that afternoon, the Steam Whistle Expo will begin with a blast of steam whistles at the Belmont Community Health Center parking lot at the interior curve of the Great Stone Viaduct.

The balance of the activities have been well documented. I commend the GSV Society for putting together an impressive lineup.

I believe this expo has the makings of something big. Quality individuals have invested much to make it come to fruition.

This is the type of event that Bellaire needs and can hang its hat on annually. The stone viaduct and railroads play big



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into the Bellaire history.

Wheeling has its Italian Festival and Barnesville has its Pumpkin Festival, also on tap this week.

Bellaire has a chance to carve its niche into the Ohio Valley events calendar with the Steam Whistle Exposition.

I encourage all Bellaire residents as well as the entire area to embrace and attend the expo.

Something so unique in nature has a chance to take off. Some good weather and a local outpouring of support and the Steam Whistle Exposition may be on track on becoming a rite of autumn in Bellaire.

FERRY CHAMBER

THE MARTINS Ferry Chamber of Commerce held its monthly luncheon at East Ohio Regional Hospital Tuesday. EORH hosted the event in conjunction with a health fair it is promoting.

Chamber President Bob Zilai said the group's next fundraiser will be the Night at the Races, planned for Nov. 2 at the Hilltop Center. Tickets to the event cost

\$15 and \$10 to buy a horse. Call the chamber office for tickets. A big screen TV will also be raffled off that night.

Superintendent of Schools Dirk Fitch reported that the new school year opened

smoothly and that the Purple Riders' athletic teams were competing quite well. He noted that the kindergarten classes have experienced a big enrollment jump. Fitch added that the district has hired a math coach for grades 4-8. She is Donna Joseph, a retired Shadyside math teacher and a member of the OVAC Hall of Fame.

Councilmen Rob Duncan and Chris Cleary gave reports from the city. They noted more dilapidated structures have been razed with many more planned for the future. Also water-line repairs are on tap for the Hillendale area.

Their report also noted that Halloween in the Park will be held Oct. 26 and that the city will finish the year in the black (barely).

ALL-AMERICAN TOWN

THE BELLAIRE Chamber of Commerce held its monthly luncheon meeting Thursday at the library.

At the forefront of the discussion was the Steam Whistle Expo scheduled for this coming

weekend. Chamber members are considering raising the \$2,500 to purchase a viaduct keystone membership.

Sarah Poulton, director of Constituent Services from Congressman Bill Johnson's office, inquired what help Johnson's office could be.

The chamber has also has chosen a theme for this year's Christmas parade. It is a "Reason For The Season." The grand marshals will be the head ministers from Bellaire churches.

The chamber is also sponsoring "A Meet the Candidate Night" on Oct. 16 at 6 p.m.

President Lou Ann Bennett also brought in a large box of regular burned out light bulbs that she replaced in the village's Christmas decorations and a very small box of the burned out LED lights to show how much money that will be saved by using LED bulbs.

BUBBA'S BITS

ANOTHER SICK individual raised his ugly head Monday in the Washington Navy shipyard. Such disturbing incidents are becoming all too commonplace throughout the nation. It makes one wonder if the Ohio Valley will ever be home to such a tragedy.

TERRELLE PRYOR guided the Oakland Raiders to victory in week two. The former Ohio State quarterbacking standout completed 15-of-24 passes for 126 yards. He also rushed for

50 yards on nine carries in the Black & Gold's 19-9 triumph over Jacksonville. Speaking of Pryor, his 2008 Big Ten championship ring is listed on eBay with a but-it-now price of \$17,000. The ring helped to launch Tattoo Gate.

THE THIRD annual Martins Ferry FOP cookout will be held Saturday, Oct. 12 at Redman Park from 5-10 p.m. The dinner will featured a pulled-pork dinner, including salad, rolls, baked beans, green beans and dessert. A keg of beer and soda will be available. A Chinese auction, raffle tickets, music and more will be offered. Those attending should bring their own table setting and drinks. Tickets are \$20 per person or \$25 per couple. Contact any Martins Ferry police officer for tickets or additional information.

THE CLEVELAND Browns' front office gets it. Trading away Trent Richardson makes much sense. By the time the Browns become contenders, Richardson's skills would be fading. Stockpiling first-round draft choices is the way to go.

JOHN MAGISTRO guided Westerville Central to a 50-32 triumph over Independence Friday night. The Bellaire native's Warhawks are now 3-1 and will visit Dublin Scioto Friday night.

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