



Points East By Connie Adams

The question of the day is, "What can I personally do or have my family do or commit my business to that will help make Point Link VillageFest 2002 the most wonderful family event that ever happened on the shores of our little stream that forms the boundary between Gairard and Madison Counties?"

And the answer is, "Plenty." First, you can show up bright and early on Saturday Morning, October 19 and plan to creatively hang out all day. Hanging out is one of the things we village residents do best and we have perfected it to an art form.

You can bring your musical instruments, your barbershop quartet, your church choir or even your brass band and we'll find somewhere for you to set up and show off. You can bring your pumpkins and cabbages, sweet taters and turnips, honey and molasses, collard greens, mustard and late cabbage and sell them off the tailgate of your station wagon. (If you got any late fall beans, call me first and you may not even have to set up shop.)

If you run a business and would like to donate something that Friends

of Point Link (FOP) can raffie or auction off to raise cash and pay for winter utilities and perform some much-needed repairs on its building like Ace Hardware (formerly Bluegrass Hardware) of Richmond did this week, you can get some free adverting in this much read column which many residents of central and eastern Kentucky consider more factually authoritative than their favorite encyclopedia and at least as trustworthy as the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

Ace (Bluegrass) Hardware gave FOP a brand new, chef quality, (priced \$399.00 at the store) gas grill that is still in the back of my wife's van because she and I aren't yet able to move it anywhere else without the help of younger/stronger backs. In the meantime, if you meet Loretta on the road, that's not lifters that have the front of her van all jacked up and looking like it's ready to make a moon shot. FOP will be selling chances to win that one October 19 but is reserving the right to continue sales through Christmas if they don't sell out on the 19th.

If you are in the hardware busi-

ness, FOP could get a lot of mileage and much needed cash out of chain saws, lawnmowers, pocket sets, and any other over-stocked inventory you have your doubts about. If you are in the grocery or wholesale business, turkeys, whole rolls of deli stuff, hams and like that will help out the auction/raffle endeavor and get you in the paper. If you're in the clothing business you need to contact one of the women listed below and work something out.

If you are in the real estate or political business we'd like to have our road (currently Highway 52) stay just the way it is and our community stay just the way it is before you sell off and run us out and put a three or four lane highway through the quite we've enjoyed for low these many years. The election will only be two weeks away and unless you are dead set on helping us, we hope you won't come round whining with your excuses to ruin our village.

In the meantime, if you'd like to set up shop or just show up and get acquainted with everybody who has set shop, or sit on the tail gate and play some music, or swap knives, trade dogs or chickens, or tell lies or just come to Point Link and learn to

hang out and be jealous because you don't live here, we'd sure like to have you on October 19.

Put it on your calendar.

If you want to set up shop or sell something at VillageFest 2002, you need to reserve a spot by making contact as listed below. If you want to donate a new automobile, chain saw, drill set, coveralls, fishing rod, firearm or roll of bologna, etc., you need to get word to one of the following ring leaders of Point Link VillageFest 2002.

Loretta Adams 859-925-2105, email LorettaAD@aol.com.
-Rita Fox 859-925-9109
-Katie Rollins 859-925-2203

These are remarkably busy women these days and email to Loretta may be your best bet if the phone frustrates you. Leave a phone number in the mail message and someone will get back to you.

But if you're just coming for the fun of it, no reservations are needed. Just follow Highway 52 (from Lancaster or Richmond) or Highway 21 from Berea/175 exit 76 to Point Link. We're on the map and you'll know where you are when you get there and we can't wait to see you on October 19.

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

Enclosed is an article that was printed in the *Lexington Herald-Leader* on Monday, September 23, 2002. Would you please print the article in the Signal?

I am a lifelong citizen of Rockcastle County. I dispatched at Rockcastle County 911 from January 2001 until I began dispatching for the Kentucky State Police in Richmond in January 2001. I enjoy every aspect of dispatching.

I have received calls ranging from non-injury accidents to fatal accidents, where the victim has been ejected from the vehicle and is laying in the roadway. I have received calls from EMS response for a female in labor. A female stating her husband is deathly sick, no medical history indicating what he is suffering from. The man had an aneurysm and had no chance of survival. He was pronounced dead shortly after arriving at the local hospital. I took a call from a male subject threatening suicide. He stated he was severely intoxicated, suffering from depression and had a 12-gauge shotgun, planning to end his life. I kept the male on the phone more than 30 minutes until units arrived. The male subject was not injured and he received the help he needed. I can't begin to remember the countless domestic violence complaints I have taken, as well as prowler complaints...shootings...juveniles beyond the control of their guardians...burglaries, robberies, thefts...missing persons...sexual abuse...it's never ending.

Dispatchers are taking all these complaints while trying to get the responding officers, EMS and fire personnel where they need to go, as quickly and as safely as possible. If you have ever called for law enforce-

ment services and wondered why we ask all the questions we ask, it's for the safety of the men and women who are sworn to serve and protect you. I am not complaining about my job, but it would not hurt to have someone say thank you once in a while. Dispatching can be a very stressful job. Dispatchers must be very patient and understanding people. I care about other people and enjoy helping others whenever I can; otherwise I would not be doing this job, because it does not come with a high salary.

The next time you call 911 or any police agency, think about this before you curse at the dispatcher on duty. Your life may depend on their reactions and quick thinking.

Sincerely,
Kay Shaffer
Police Dispatcher
Kentucky State Police
Dispatchers: emergency lifelines

By: Donna Pharris
When you call 911, your first contact is not with a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician.

The first person you talk to is a dispatcher. Because callers depend on dispatchers to send help quickly, it is a very stressful and mostly thankless job. We work every holiday and most weekends, and the pay isn't the best.

Not only do we have to deal with every type of problem imaginable, we also have to worry about getting emergency personnel to and from call safely. There is a lot of stress knowing that so much depends on our decisions and how quickly we make them.

Yet, seldom does anyone hear us complain. You see many newspaper articles

about police and firefighters, but when was the last time you saw one of a dispatcher telling a caller how to give CPR and saving a life, or about a dispatcher talking a man with a gun out of a house?

I love my job. I enjoy what I do and like going home at the end of the day knowing that I made a difference in the community. And I'm not saying my job is more important than the work of police officers, firefighters or EMTs; it's not. I am saying that dispatchers are equally important and that their jobs are hard, too. We're part of the team, and it takes the whole team to get the job done.

In Montgomery County dispatchers serve the Mount Sterling Police Department and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department (which answer all 911 calls for the county except wireless 911 calls, which go to Kentucky State Police), including all those for the fire department and ambulance services. At times, a dispatcher can be responsible for more than 10 law enforcement units at once.

It's pretty stressful to have a phone at each ear, with a woman on one screaming that her baby isn't breathing, and on the other, someone who wants to know why the police came to his house earlier that day, getting upset when we ask to put him on hold for a minute. A police officer making a traffic stop asks for a check on a license plate, which we do and find out it's a stolen vehicle driven by a robbery suspect. Meanwhile, a sheriff's unit answers "a man with a gun."

With all that going on, a dispatcher forgets about that bathroom break she has needed for hours and

the now cold lunch she has pushed aside.

For every call that requires us to send an officer, we deal with 10. For every radio call, 20 are handled by phone. They could be EMS and fire calls, someone asking for directions to the gravel lane somewhere off U.S. 460 or another wanting to know why their cable TV service is off and when it will be back on.

I have worked by candlelight and used a portable radio when the electricity was out. I have worked 12-hour shifts through Court Days, when everyone else was enjoying shopping and funnel cakes, and I have listened to a child crying because he can't wake Mommy up and wants to know why.

In spite of all we do, dispatchers are seldom thanked or even respected.

A good example is the New York dispatchers on 9/11. How much have you heard about them? I can only imagine what they were going through that day.

They heard the cries for help from passengers on the hijacked planes and took the calls from crying people wanting to know what had happened to their loved ones - and with no answers to give. Amid all this, they worried about the police officers, firefighters and EMTs at the World Trade Center as they were not answering their radio calls.

And at the same time, they were trying to cope with the same shock and horror that the rest of the nation felt.

Dispatchers are truly unseen and unsung heroes and the voice behind the badge.

Donna Pharris is a dispatcher and communications supervisor for the Mount Sterling Police Department.

Every 13 Minutes, Another Family Loses A Loved One. Imagine a Day with Zero Traffic Fatalities...

A Message from the Cumberland Valley Area Development
District Regional Transportation Planning and Safety Committee
Clay McKnight, Transportation Planner

October 10, is the second annual **Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day**. This nationwide campaign asks that everyone focus on their own individual behavior when using America's roadways - as pedestrians, bicycle and motorcycle operators, motor vehicle operators and passengers. The primary objective of this campaign is for each person to take an extra measure of care to ensure their safety and the safety of others by sharing roadways and promoting safety.

Traffic crashes cause an average of 115 fatalities every day in the United States - that's one death every 13 minutes. After a steady 20-year decline in the number of traffic fatalities nationwide, that number has stagnated at about 42,000 per year. While last year's campaign resulted in a 29% reduction in fatalities on October 10, 2001, we have to go further! Imagine a day with zero traffic fatalities and **Put the Brakes on Fatalities!**

The second annual **Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day** will be celebrated on October 10, around the nation and here in Mt. Vernon, to encourage the public to take a greater stand in keeping themselves and their loved ones out of those statistics. The ultimate goal is to unite the country in achieving one full day of zero traffic deaths by encouraging the public to reduce the tragic toll of motor vehicle crashes by taking pro-active steps such as:

- Driving assertively, as if your life depends on it - that means courteously and defensively.
- Don't drive while impaired, distracted or in an aggressive manner.
- Buckling up on every trip - every time.
- Using properly-installed child safety seats for children age 8 and under.
- Don't speed, and slow down to posted speed limits in construction zones.
- Keeping vehicles and tires properly maintained.
- Wearing appropriate protective gear when bicycling, skating or riding a motorcycle or scooter.
- Always stopping and looking left, right, left before crossing streets; and
- Working with local officials to remove hazards and improve roadway safety.

Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day is coordinated by a coalition of more than 40 national safety organizations, federal, state and local government agencies and private sector companies working together to reduce the death and injury toll of motor vehicle crashes. For more traffic safety tips and information, please visit www.brakesonfatalities.org.

J & J Auction
Route 150, 1/4 West of 361
Mt. Vernon, KY
Jerry Ham, Auctioneer
Saturday, October 5, 2002 at 6:30 p.m.



Glassware
Crystal vases, bowls, candy dishes, cake stands, butter dishes, ben on nest, wine glasses, crystal glasses, set of dishes, oil lamps, other lamps, pitchers, old compote, figurines, punch bowl sets, cookie jars, and much more!

Furniture
Queen Anne table w/ 6 chairs, cedar wardrobe, Queen Anne vanity, Duncan Phyfe vanity and bench, table and 6 chairs, and 4 chairs, white Jenny Lind baby bed, "S" roll top desk, child's table w/ chairs, several sets of chest-drawers, cedar chest, rocking chairs, Jenny Lind high chair and cradle, twin bed, child's wicker rocker, baby changer, old drop-leaf table, coat racks, and much more!

Miscellaneous
Longaberger baskets, long star quilt, Radio Flyer wagon, pictures, jewelry boxes, silver casserole set, salt and pepper shakers, canister sets, clocks, coca-cola trays, pipe holder, cast iron skillet, rolling pin, ladder, marbles, rocking horse, bicycle, washboards, and much more!



Hiatt's 5 & 10 proudly invites you...
to our Fenton Family Signing Event!

Tom Fenton Friday, October 11
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



FENTON
Handcrafted American Glass Artistry

Come meet Tom Fenton...

As Vice President of The Fenton Art Glass Company,

Tom plays a key leadership role in the Fenton factory's quest for Continuous Improvement of Quality. "Our goal is to constantly improve the product we make for Fenton's followers throughout the world. Crucial to the achievement of high quality, at a reasonable cost, is the Fenton craftsman's skills for quickly executing new designs."

Tom's early education included Ohio Wesleyan University, Ohio University Graduate School and the US Army Reserve.

On Fenton craftsmanship Tom says, "We offer our customers unique, often complex designs and colors. After our best efforts to produce these items, we certainly enjoy the kind words and recognition offered by our collectors and dealers."

Tom and his wife, Sharon, enjoy traveling, aerobics and mountain hiking plus spending time with their three fun-loving adult children and two wild grandchildren.



Tom Fenton



FENTON
Handcrafted American Glass Artistry

**** NOTICE ****

For the best selection make your Fenton purchases prior to October 11th and Hiatt's will hold your pieces and have them signed on October 11th, for you to pick up the following week.

Hiatt's 5 & 10 is located on Main Street in Mt. Vernon