



Part of the group at Marietta's first community social

Restoration Associates (cont.)

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formation.

Information relating to historic districts, tax incentives, etc., will also be available.

To generate public awareness of this center, a series of evening lecture-demonstrations and workshops related to restoration, antiques and historical crafts is currently being scheduled. These sessions will be held throughout the months of February, March and April, and they will be open to the public free of charge.

The first of these series is on the art of stencilling and will be held Monday evening, January 28 at 7:30 pm. It will be presented by Ken Fortney, well-known in the area as a master of this process. Fortney, a Marietta resident and operator of Earthly Delights, a coffee

shop in town, has stencilled over 60 homes in the York and Lancaster area. He has also done three local restaurants.

He has a large collection of original Victorian stencils which participants will have the opportunity to trace at the session.

You need not be a Marietta resident to attend these workshops, but you should make a reservation for any particular session you are interested in by calling 426-1694.

Future workshops will include such topics as: Brass-Rubbing (Feb. 5); furniture refinishing, Marietta antiques and a variety of other topics to be announced through the *Times* in the near future. If you are interested in a listing of these topics, contact the Associates at the number listed above.

Lively group for Marietta's first social

Although the group was small, the enthusiasm was great at the first community social in Marietta this past Saturday night. The event, sponsored by the Human Relations Council (recently organized by Mayor J. Robert Flanagan), was an effort to open up lines of communication among various sectors of the community.

Citizens of various backgrounds met, including

many of the youth, at the Marietta Jaycee center, where supervised entertainment and refreshments were included in the program. Members of the Human Relations Council are: Jacklyn Madsen, Rosemary Patterson, Debbie Ziesloft, Patrick Kenney Jr., and Ken Ross.

Prizes were awarded for a dance contest. There was also a door prize given out. The youth put up Valentine

decorations and arranged the tables with candles and fresh flowers.

Cindy Beaston, one of the youths who helped to decorate, remarked that she felt very good about helping out. She was in charge of the door prize tickets.

Although Johnny Welsh wouldn't dance himself, he remarked that "this is fun. I like watching other people dance!"

Cindy Barr and Tracey

Witmer also told us that they were having a good time, and Tracey's sister Trudy said, "The adults are pretty good."

A "Meet the Police" night is planned at the same location for January 29. It is open to the public.

The committee welcomes suggestions and comments from residents. Residents may call committee members at 426-1441 and 426-1126.

Jay Roberts (cont.)

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threatened by a possible cut-off in federal revenue-sharing funds. And inflation is rapidly eating into what remains.

"It's a tricky situation," Roberts says. "This year, we increased the millage tax by four mills. That revenue has already been lost for the next two years because of higher trash collection costs and the demolished cruiser.

"Marietta has just about reached its limit in terms of growth," he continues, "and right now, the challenge is to provide adequate services with the really inadequate revenues that are available."

But sooner or later, he thinks, the borough must either cut services or raise taxes.

"We are fast approaching the 35-mill limit set by state law," he says (Currently, the property tax is pegged at 23 mills). "Reassessment is not a popular idea, but I would support it."

Right now, owners of two equally valuable houses

can pay drastically different taxes, because one house is under the old, lower assessment, he notes. Roberts thinks that is unfair.

He says, "Reassessment would raise some people's taxes, but it would lower other people's taxes. Because—and a lot of taxpayers don't realize this—it would mean that the millage could come down."

Roberts has been talking to local Congressmen and Representatives, urging them to back an extension of the federal revenue-sharing program. And the borough has decided to chase all the federal project dollars it can get, whatever the project.

A boost in the per capita tax is also possible. Since half of Marietta residents rent, rather than own, their homes, a per capita tax hike might relieve some pressure on homeowners.

A real estate transfer tax is another possibility. Unfortunately, because of state regulations, it would also cut into the school district's share of the tax pie, possibly causing a hike in school

taxes.

On the positive side, Roberts expects the master street program to get underway this summer. Streets will be totally reconstructed. The "tricky" part of this program, Roberts says, is the curbing requirements.

Since damaged or non-existent curbing could wash out the new streets, some homeowners will face big curb repair bills. Roberts says, "I'm looking at 100 feet of curbing that I'm going to have to put in. I'm not thrilled about it, as a property owner, but I understand why it has to be done."

A new housing code will be another accomplishment of the current council, Roberts says. "We will re-write and update the code in such a way that it will be cheaper for the landlord to provide decent and adequate housing than it will be for the landlord to let the property deteriorate," he says.

A crackdown on abandoned vehicles and high

grass is also coming, Roberts promises. "Any complaints received by the new council will be investigated, and if substantiated, they will be acted upon," he says.

To encourage citizen participation in Council decisions, Roberts is extending an open invitation to any citizen to sit in on committee meetings.

On the subject of youth programs, Robert says, "I can see steady progress being made. I would like to see youth get involved in the borough itself.

"If we can get our good youth—which there's plenty of in Marietta—involved, they'll police their own ranks. We don't have any bad youth, I might add. We just have youth with idle time on their hands.

"From my involvement in the borough police force, I can say that most of the crime in the borough, above the mischief level, is not committed by local youth. It's done by outsiders, or outside leaders."

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