



# Cornerstones

*Building on the past, present and future of the City of Fairfield and Fairfield Township*  
Pioneer of the Past; Avenue of the Future

## FHS SPEAKER LIVING LEGEND SERIES FEATURES BASEBALL, MUSIC, AMUSEMENT PARKS AND MORE

The Fairfield Historical Society's Living Legend Series kicks off on Tuesday, April 1 with a special presentation by John Kieswetter, author of "Joe Nuxhall: The Old Lefthander & Me: My Conversations with Joe Nuxhall About the Reds, Baseball & Broadcasting," at 6:30 p.m. at the Fairfield Community Arts Center, 411 Wessel Drive. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Kieswetter has contributed as the TV/media blogger for WVXU-FM since 2015, after working almost 30 years covering local and national broadcasting for *The Cincinnati Enquirer*. During his years at *The Cincinnati Enquirer*, Kieswetter became friends with long-time Fairfield resident and Cincinnati Reds pitcher/broadcaster Joe Nuxhall, and dozens of other Cincinnati Reds players and coaches. He will be sharing a "behind the scenes" look at a series of Kroger television commercials featuring Nuxhall and co-broadcaster Marty Brennaman that became popular during the 1980's and 90's, including some outtakes that didn't make the airwaves.

Kieswetter's book is packed with behind-the-scenes stories of the epic pranks played by Nuxhall and Brennaman, the games they called that made baseball history, and the loveable, irrepressible personality of "Hamilton Joe" Nuxhall, who was the face and voice of the Reds for decades. Johnny Bench, Tom Browning, Jeff Brantley, Lou Piniella, Pete Rose, Marge Schott, Ted Kluszewski, Al Michaels and other legendary Reds' personalities are all in the lineup for Kieswetter's fascinating, humorous and entertaining book.

Kieswetter will be hosting a book signing immediately after the presentation. His book will be available for \$20 (cash or check only) with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the Joe Nuxhall Memorial Scholarship fund, which is awarded annually to Butler County high school seniors.

Future Living Legends speakers for 2025 include: Fairfield City Manager Scott Timmer on May 5, former Ben-Gals Cheerleader Helen Pope on June 2, former U.S. Marine and Fairfield resident John (Ron) Halderman on July 1, a performance by the Delta Kings on August 5, amusement park historian Bill Frank on September 2 and author Dan Schneider on October 7.

### Snapshots



In August of 1979, a "100 year storm" struck the area leaving three inches of water in less than an hour causing the Mt. Pleasant Creek and its tributaries to flood causing just under a \$1 million in damage (Scott Fowler)



This is photo was found among the Edna Antes/ Fairfield Echo archives. The problem is that none of these ladies are named. Send us an email at [ffhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com](mailto:ffhistoricalsociety@yahoo.com) if you can help identify anyone.

BY POPULAR DEMAND—SNAPSHOTS EXPANDED



It's been 60 years since the Fairfield Municipal Building opened for business. This photo from the Fairfield Echo archives shows Council President Glenn Maddox (left) with Fairfield Mayor Edwin Bartels at the groundbreaking .



The driveway leading into Fairfield South Elementary School in the summer of 1972 still needed a little work before students embarked on their journey in September. (Journal News)

First documented tornado to hit the Fairfield area published June 16, 1880

**HAMILTON, O., June 16.—The tornado in the vicinity of the Venice Pike damaged the Indian Creek bridge, the houses of Joa. Knox and Carney Evans, Robert Anderson's, Robert Cooper's and Wm. McCurley's barns and trees, fences and bridges innumerable. The Huston's and others near Pleasant Run lose their barns and much valuable stock. The damage can not yet be estimated.**

*Cornerstones*

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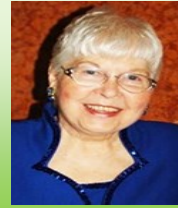


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# Erce! Speaks

*with former Journal-News Columnist Erce! Eaton*



## **SLOW DOWN, TAKE NOTE, BE GRATEFUL**

It's not cool to say critical sentences about July. After all, it is perhaps the only month in the year that hangs its fame on a number – "Four". But it steps on the year's stage following probably one of the most beautiful months of the year – June. Who can hear the words "It's the Fourth of July," without a whirling of red, white and blue filling the head with visions of celebrations off all sorts?

The Julys I recall from my childhood are always framed under white, puffy clouds drifting over clear blue skies. On the ground, green pastures with scrims of tall trees and softly curving mountains set the stage for riots of scenes, for golden rod yellows lending energy to drifts of white Queen Anne's Lace looking like a hem of a bride's gown.

This month moves with its own urgent pace, setting fruit to plumpness, bringing beans to swelling time to pick and break and eat; roses, not to be outdone by foods, flings it reds, pinks and yellows on stage.

Sometimes in July at this time of my life, I think of a Van Gogh painting, its blending hues circling and falling over green grasses. One of July's big chores is fulfilling the promises of spring, bringing all the seeds and bulbs and sprouts planted reach out the glory of this month's great deeds.

This is a month when the earth is generous, handing out midsummer nights that ease the soul, adding moonlight sweetened by cool breezes. Time this month to note the tremendous oak and maple and elm and all the other trees; to know this marvel of a world, this complex miracle of growth and beauty beyond anything we humans can create.

And how about the wildness of a July thunderstorm, sweeping across landscapes with lightning flash and thunder crack! July doesn't ask for pay for its wondrous shows; but reminds us to slow down, take note and be grateful.

*Erce!*



This gazebo at Harbin Park provides some relief of the hot July sun. It was dedicated years ago to former Parks & Recreation employee Ed Fletcher, who also was a popular barber.  
(Scott Fowler)

*Reflections...*



Fairfield Township Police cruiser circa 1985 with Chief Michael Kirsch. Mike joined the Butler County Sheriff's Department as a Deputy Sheriff about 1970 and was promoted to chief in 1984 after serving a couple years as an officer in the township. He served as Chief for sixteen years and retired during 2000 with a total of 30 years of service. Mike passed away in 2019. (FHS archives)

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## Fairfield Historical Society

## Membership/Renewal Form

Your membership begins March 1

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, please use my email to send news and event information.

I prefer to have information sent to me to the above address.

**Dues:**  \$20 Individual  \$5 student  \$75 Business (includes 4 ads in Cornerstones issues)

1) Send cash or check made payable to the Fairfield Historical Society and send to:  
Fairfield Historical Society, 5 Bellwood Court, Fairfield, OH 45014

2) Bring cash or check to any meeting.

3) Use credit card or PayPal - <http://www.ffhistoricalsociety.com/paypal.html>