



A Fairfield Girl Scout troop prepares to cross Nilles Road in front of the King Kwick market during a summer parade in this undated photo. (Photo by Edna Antes)

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# Cornerstones

*Sustaining on the Past, Present and Future of the City of Fairfield and Fairfield Township*

Fall 2018

Fairfield Historical Society

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## FHS Snapshots



Jim Brashear, owner of the Sohio station at Pleasant and Patterson stands proudly at the full service pumps during the winter of 1979. (Photo by Edna Antes)



Driver Chester Sowers awaits students from the high school on Nilles Road – 1970 (Photo FHS archives)



Tree plantings on Scioto Drive in Riverdale Subdivision – 1966 (Photo by Edna Antes)

## Four Seasons Garden Club Launches the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Elisha Morgan Mansion Holiday Open House

The volunteers at the Four Seasons Garden Club are getting ready to prepare for the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Elisha Morgan Mansion Holiday Open House. This special event will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 1 and 2 from 1:00 to 4:00p.m. Admission is free.

The mansion will be fully decorated in trim that was popular in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The club will also be offering complimentary holiday refreshments and snacks that will help bring on the holiday spirit in everyone.

In addition, a special display of historic memorabilia of Fairfield will be on display and hosted by the Fairfield Historical Society. FHS Archivist Bob Pendergrass will be on hand to answer questions about the exhibits. Tours of the building will also be available.

The open house is sponsored by the Four Seasons Garden Club, the Fairfield Historical Society and the Fairfield Parks & Recreation Department.



**thank you for your support >>>**



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## Meeting Topics for 2019!!!

Through the years, the FHS has presented a variety of living legends; former city leaders, business leaders, and community leaders have all graced the Elisha Morgan Mansion. Who would you like to see next year? Is there a topic that you wish to see a presentation?

Send us your ideas on a speaker or topic for 2019 today. Send all replies to [ffhistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:ffhistoricalsociety@gmail.com). We would love to hear your ideas!

special edition >>> *Fairfield Has Gone "Krogering" Since 1957*

The opening of Aldi's on the former site of Marsh Supermarket has brought up many memories of grocery stores in Fairfield. A number of "mom & pop" grocery stores were prevalent throughout Fairfield during the 1940's and 50's – Conrad's, Springdale Food Market, Brandenburg's among others. Three major chains moved into Fairfield after the city incorporated; Kroger moved into a brand new building at Rt. 4 and Marsh moved into one end of the Fair Plaza Shopping Center while Alber's moved into the opposite end. Tincher's IGA later replaced Alber's while Meijer became a major player in 2000. Through the years, the perennial favorite place to find groceries has been Kroger.

Kroger moved into their first location in 1957 as the first tenant in the Hicks Manor Shopping Center, today known as Cobblestone Plaza. Kroger brought a "big city" feel to a city that still sported a two-lane Rt. 4, a one-building school district and one fire house. By 1974, Kroger was on the move to seek land to build a larger store. A site was targeted at Pleasant and Nilles on land owned by developer John Griesmer. In the 1978, Kroger closed its Rt. 4 location and opened a new concept in grocery shopping called Kroger Sav-On – a department store type atmosphere with groceries. The store anchored the Fairfield Center Mall, the first mall to open in the city.

In 1998, Kroger opened its first store in Fairfield Township on Rt. 4 and Liberty-Fairfield Road and is scheduled to open a larger store nearby in 2019.

In 2001, Kroger began construction of a larger store in Fairfield on 8.4 acres of land that became the center of Village Green. In 2003, the store opened to the public that served as an anchor for a small strip center owned by developer Joe Schwartz.

Perhaps the best memories of Kroger were the classic commercials involving Red's announcers Marty Brennaman and Joe Nuxhall.



Kroger on Rt. 4 & Magie Ave. – 1962  
(Photo by the Ohio Dept. of Transportation)



WLW-T morning hosts Paul Dixon and Bonnie Lou stand behind some lucky ladies and a young boy in spring of 1961.  
(Photo by Edna Antes)

# Ercel Speaks

with former Journal-News Columnist Ercel Eaton



## Brick

Can one mourn for a brick? While running errands with my daughter the other day, it came to my mind that I wanted a brick! Suddenly, I wanted a brick from the old Central Elementary School (that I think was as old as I am) and I missed out. We drove by its original home on Dixie Highway and my sadness was quickly erased. My daughter pulled in the driveway of the new school: the new Central Elementary. It stands graceful, as though issuing a wide welcome to future elementary students. Beautiful building, beautiful greens and my image of the old building disappeared.

I wanted to see all of the new schools so my daughter made an about-face and we ended up in the parking lot of the old high school building on Nilles Road. Then memories began to flood. Sitting on a log in the side parking lot watching the Fairfield High marching band was my favorite. Listening to the director, Howard Chapman, as he directed the kids with a series of numbers, (I totally didn't understand), and watching the musicians in the grassy field line up, make turns and figures and shapes was thrilling. It was in those configurations that I could spot my daughter, Bridget, one year and five years later my daughter, Bekka, as that old log continued unmovable. I was taken back to the time the band parents ran the concession stand at the football games. Popcorn and hot dogs were the menu favorites. And whatever was given to the band. Now it is Creekside Middle School and finally has air conditioning.

After that visit I just had to see the other new schools. So the next stop was the new Compass Elementary School across from Fairfield High School. Wonderful building. Several people were working on the playground area. We have come a long way from swings and slides.

Curious as to what happened to the Fairfield Freshman building, my daughter immediately turned out of the Compass parking lot into a construction area in back of the high school. And after a couple of illegal turns, we pulled into the front of the Freshman building. I was overcome with pride. The Indian head silhouette against the white background filled my heart with love not just for the schools but for all of this beautiful city and the progress it has made.

We ended our errands in Harbin Park with caramel sundaes from the Dip looking from the pinnacle down at the vast variety of green - a sight that took my breath away. Thanks so much to the founding fathers of this area and the constant care the current fathers and residents that continue make this city great.

I still mourn for a brick.



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established 2006

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## 2019 Membership Form

Your membership begins March 1

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

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 ads in Cornerstones)

- 1) Send cash or check made payable to the Fairfield Historical Society and send to: Debbie Pennington, FHS Treasurer, 5 Bellwood Court, Fairfield, OH 45014
- 2) Bring cash or check to the March or April meeting
- 3) Use Credit card or PayPal - [www.ffhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.ffhistoricalsociety.com)

## The Polar Bear Club at the YMCA



Fairfield Echo Editor Edna Antes was able to catch these Polar Bear Club members at the Nilles Road YMCA in February 1971. No names were attached to this photo but you might be able to recognize one of your neighbors.

