

# The Billet

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This newsletter is sponsored by the **Randolph J. & Estelle M. Dorn Foundation**.

**Photos, from left:** Ali Velshi of MSNBC interviews panel of local voters on Saturday, Oct. 3, at Spiegel Grove for his show, "Velshi." A Civil War reenactor discusses medical practices of the war during Civil War Winter Camp on Saturday, Oct. 24. Kids learned military drills during Kids Days @ Hayes Civil War Camp on Saturday, Oct. 24.

## "Hayes Train Special" returns for the holiday season

"The Hayes Train Special," a beloved holiday tradition at the Hayes Presidential Library & Museums, will return this year with changes to accommodate for crowd control and physical distancing. This intricate, multi-tiered display that winds several trains through a Victorian winter wonderland reminiscent of President Rutherford B. Hayes' day will open on Saturday, Nov 28.

As a gift to the community and Hayes Presidential visitors during what has been a wild and difficult year, the "Hayes Train Special" will be free to the public from Saturday, Nov. 28 – Saturday, Dec. 12. Attendees must reserve their free, timed tickets at [rbhayes.org](http://rbhayes.org) for their admission. Walk-ins will be accepted, pending availability.

"As is the case with many businesses and organizations, we have been hit hard financially by the COVID pandemic. But community spirit is about more than a budget number," said Christie Weininger, Hayes Presidential director. "Our community has been so supportive of us through the years and especially during the pandemic. We wanted to give back and this seemed a great way to do it. 2020 has been a rough year for everyone, so it feels good to offer up a little bit of joy this year, in particular."

From Dec. 14 – Jan. 2, there will be an admission fee to the display, and tickets are also available at [rbhayes.org](http://rbhayes.org). Members are admitted for free but are asked to reserve an advance ticket.

This year, the display will be placed in the museum auditorium, which offers more room for physical distancing. Visitors must wear a face-covering and are asked to maintain 6 feet of distance between their household group and other visitors.

Also new this year, Hayes Presidential is offering timed admission tickets for the train only to accommodate visitors who only want to see that exhibit. Tickets for the train exhibit only are good for one hour. "Hayes Train Special" only tickets are \$3 for ages 6-12, \$6 for ages 13 and older and free for ages 5 and younger.

Admission to the train exhibit is also still included with a site pass or regular museum admission. Those with site passes or museum-only admission can access the train display throughout the day. All tickets are available at [rbhayes.org](http://rbhayes.org). They also will be sold at the museum front desk, pending availability. Hayes Presidential members are admitted for free.

Interactive buttons allow visitors to be a part of the special exhibit. They can lower the crossing gates, run one of the trains, sent a lamplighter up to his post and more. There will be hand sanitizer placed around the exhibit for visitor use.

The "Hayes Train Special" will remain on display through Saturday, Jan. 2. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The display will also be open from noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 27.

**The train display is sponsored by Croghan Colonial Bank and the Gordon W. Knight Family.**



**Gordon W.  
Knight Family**

## Bring a presidential Christmas tradition to your home

During this holiday season, everyone could use a special experience. This joyous time of year likely will be quieter due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but that doesn't mean you can't still celebrate and make holiday memories. Hayes Presidential cannot have its annual Christmas Dinners in the Hayes Home dining room this year, so it's bringing the beloved tradition to you.

Enjoy Christmas Dinners from Spiegel Grove in your home with French wine or sparkling grape juice and five delectable courses prepared by Moonshine Entertainment of Fremont. The meal will include all the special touches that come with this Spiegel Grove tradition, such as a Christmas cracker, rose corsages and a special gift. This experience will include pre-recorded videos of a chef and sommelier as they explain the cuisine and drink pairings you will enjoy.

Meals will be available Friday, Dec. 4, and Saturday, Dec. 5. The price per meal for Hayes Presidential members is \$125 \$150 for non-members. The delivery and/or pickup area is limited. For details on delivery and pickup and to make a reservation, contact Sue Berryman at 419-332-2081, ext. 226, or [sberryman@rbhayes.org](mailto:sberryman@rbhayes.org). The reservation deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 18.

# Welcome, September new members!

Dr. Stephen Bell of Fort Thomas, KY; Nicholas Bonarrigo of McMurray, PA; Sara Cochran of Moreno Valley, CA; Marie C. Held of Huntsville, AL; Lois Magargle of Fremont, OH; Sean & Mandy Mueller of Fremont, OH; Alan Neumann of Bakersfield, CA; Dr. Philip Hayes Norton of Newton, MA; Patricia Phillips of Oak Harbor, OH; Ron & Robin Rimelspach of Toledo, OH; Patrick Waggoner of Fremont, OH; Dr./Mrs. Wade Young of Fremont, OH

**Volunteer Notes** (Joan Eckermann, special events/volunteer coordinator, 419-332-2081, ext. 245; [jeckermann@rbhayes.org](mailto:jeckermann@rbhayes.org))

## Thanks to our Volunteers!

Many thanks to our volunteers that worked 360 hours in July, August and September. We appreciate your dedication during these unusual times.

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Mailing Volunteers on Thursday, Nov., 19 at 9:30 a.m.** – We'll be putting together the fall issue of The Statesman in the auditorium. Volunteers will be safely distanced with only two or three people per table. Everyone must wear a face covering the entire time you're working. Please bring your own water bottle, beverage or snack. There will be plenty of hand sanitizer on hand.

**Food Delivery Volunteers** – Our annual Christmas Dinners will be different this year! We'll be delivering the meal and other festive items to some of our guests at their homes, so we're looking for volunteer drivers. Drivers will use their own vehicles and pick up the meal boxes and gift bags here in Fremont.

Please contact Joan Eckermann if you can help with these activities.

## November Volunteer Birthdays

Warmest birthday wishes go to Wanda Eberly, Richard Geyman, Kathleen Haubert, Cate Knipp and Jim Miranda.