

# Oregon Historic District Society News

Volume 38, Issue 2

Spring cleaning edition

## Tales from the Annual Dinner

Submitted by Leslie Gonya  
Annual Dinner Committee Member

Saturday, April 16th marked the 36th OHDS Annual Dinner. Attended by approximately 50 neighbors, the evening was chocked full of community fun and friendship. Highlights of the evening were awards warmly presented by Janet Neu, the state of the district speech by OHDS president George Wymer and a fun and games segment of Oregon District Jeopardy with game show host for the night Jeff Gonya.

We said thank you for the service of outgoing trustees Maureen Moloney, Monica Snow and Kate Archdeacon, and welcome to the newly elected trustees of Sara Vice, Leslie Gonya, and Kate Archdeacon (Kate didn't have a long enough hiatus to even take a vacation to South Park or St. Anne's Hill!)

### Respecting the Past, Looking to the Future

Excerpts from George Wymer's "State of the District" speech at the Annual Dinner.

Along with our historic housing and commercial stock, volunteerism is the backbone of our neighborhood.

Last year, I spoke of the "usual suspects" : the small core of volunteers and the need for fresh faces. I challenged your trustees to recruit new volunteers, not merely to bring more manpower to our tasks, but to bring fresh thinking, and additional perspectives, and they responded by attracting "new talent."

They are somewhat reminiscent of the 1970s Oregon District Pioneers whose "fresh thinking" was thought of as "different" or "unconventional" by many who came before them.

I will strive to preserve the past, improve the present and plan for future prosperity. Someone mentioned to me recently that moving to a new place, or a new neighbor moving next to you, is a risk. You don't really know who is going to be a good neighbor. You don't know if you are going to get along. But that is all we really want. Whether it is the house or the business next to or near us, we want a good neighbor. And *we* should be good neighbors. And I will continue to pursue actions and decisions that will insure the public decency, sobriety, peace and good order of our neighborhood.



This is what living in Oregon is all about!  
David and Dulie Greer share stories and smiles with Phil Robertson



Sheryl McMillan and Jeanine Gow  
Green Street was well-represented at the Annual Dinner.

## And the winner is... Recipients of Awards at this Year's Annual Dinner

Submitted by Janet Neu  
Annual Dinner Awards Committee

### Golden Hammer

Barb and Jeff Fisher, residents of 448 E. Sixth St. for their tireless work in the restoration of 139-141 Jackson St. Perhaps you recall this gem in progress from the 2010 Holiday Tour.

### Joanne Henkel Service Award

Awarded to Debby Grahl, former resident of Hess St. for her many years of tireless service to the Oregon District.

### Special Appreciation Award

Awarded to Jane Lynch of 8 Tecumseh for her years of pro bono legal work she performs for OHDS. This unique award was a darling caricature drawn by a student of your Sixth St. neighbor Fred Niles who is a professor at UD.

### Golden Trowel Award

Awarded to Mike Martin of 251 Green St. for his years of organizing the park plantings and cleanup.

### Appreciation Awards

Presented to Rob Jones of 109 Green St. in gratitude for his years of chairing the Membership Committee

Presented to Monica Snow (68 Green St.), Maureen Moloney (259 Green St.) and Kate Archdeacon (105 Jones St.) in gratitude for their service as outgoing trustees.

## 2011 Picnics in the Park Submitted by Burgess and Jeanine Gow

It is that time of year again when neighbors gather to enjoy food and talk in the park. We kicked off the Oregon District 2011 picnics on Memorial Day. Ann Cowden stepped up as our first sponsor of the season.

But this begs the question, "What does being a sponsor entail?" Choosing and providing the main dish and assisting with set up. You will be reimbursed for the expense. It just takes a little planning and is easy.

Picnics start at 6 pm, rain or shine. Just bring \$3 per a person, a side dish to share, a drink for yourself, and a lawn chair or a blanket to join in the fun. You still have plenty of opportunities to get in on the action by sponsoring one of the summer picnics. For the first time, we will be holding a picnic on a Tuesday night in August (this is our way of participating in National Night Out), and we realize that Labor Day may mark the end of summer for some, but there is often nice autumn weather worthy of a picnic later in the month of September.



### Picnic Dates for 2011

June 13th, Sun  
July 4th, Mon (Fourth of July)  
August 2nd, Tues (National Night Out)  
September 5th, Mon (Labor Day)  
September 25th, Sun

If you are interested in sponsoring please contact Jeanine and Burgess Gow at 414-526-0592 or gow867@gmail.com. We look forward to the 2011 picnics! Hope to see you there.

# Oregon District Business Association Update

Submitted by  
Mike Martin, ODBA President

The ODBA has been busy with spring cleanup activities in the commercial district. We want the Arts District to be welcoming, well-lit, safe and inviting for all our spring and summer activities. This year, we concentrated our cleanup activities on Gates St, between Wayne and Fifth. There were many overgrown shrubs and tree limbs that were blocking much-needed light from the ornamental lighting fixtures that surround the north parking lots and walk areas. Thanks to the participation of the Downtown Dayton Partnership's Ambassadors and a number of other volunteers, we were able to clear approximately 2 tons of debris! And, thanks to the City of Dayton for removing the debris for us. We will be planting annuals in the pots in the District mid-May. The DDP has also started a 'deep clean' of the commercial district, pressure-cleaning the overpass and starting the graffiti-removal process. These activities are



Members of the business community working to keep the business district clean

supported thru the Special Improvement District initiative we have in the Oregon Business District. It is this SID that funds the Downtown Dayton Partnership.

As warm weather approaches, we want to ensure the utmost in safety for our guests and businesses. We have been working with the Dayton Police Department, business owners and the DDP on several initiatives we believe will be very helpful. The ODBA is helping to financially sponsor First Friday activities in the Arts District this year

and we look forward to some awesome programming for these events. We will also be sponsoring the United Way kickoff in September, 2011 here in the Arts District. We'll have more info on that soon. And, of course, we've already starting planning of our Hauntfest on Fifth, 2011! The businesses in the historic Oregon Arts District appreciate your support and patronage!

## Thank you, Sara Vice!

by Leslie Gonya  
Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter may have a little different look these days, as the torch has been passed from Sara to me. I want to say a huge THANK YOU to Sara for her years of service as the OHDS newsletter editor. I hope that I can be as organized and efficient as she has been during her tenure as editor.

## It's your Newsletter

One thing that helps is fresh, interesting articles. If you know of a new neighbor who has moved in, I'd like to welcome them. Is someone turning a big round birthday? Let's celebrate that! Is there a new baby in the 'hood? Their parents deserve sleep, but at least we can put in a birth announcement. My strengths are more in the background, so I'm counting on you, my Oregon District neighbors to keep me in the know, so I can share it with the entire neighborhood. It's not my newsletter, it's OUR newsletter.

# Get Ready—July 4th is coming!

submitted by Mike Martin

Make plans to join our famous annual Fourth of July People Parade, followed by ice cream and hot dogs in Newcom-Founders Park...and then plan to come back to the Park for a picnic with your neighbors that evening at 6pm.

If you haven't participated in the Annual Fourth of July Parade, think about joining us as we all take to the streets to parade through our historic neighborhood. Dress in your best Red, White and Blue...you just might win a prize for the Best Dressed Adult,

Best Dressed Child, Best Dress Pet (yes..dog, cat, bird...), Best decorated bike / trike / baby-stroller, Best Decorated Wheelchair! All the fun starts at 1030am in Newcom-Founders Park. Or... consider joining the Oregon Kazoo Band that will be marching!

If you would like to help with the day's activities, just give me a call at 974-2494 or email me at [mmartin@kamela.com](mailto:mmartin@kamela.com)!

# Tips to keep your property in tip-top shape

submitted by Amelia O'Dowd

Spring has sprung and the rains appeared to have stopped. You may be thinking of performing improvements to the exterior of your house. Amelia offered some helpful advice reminding us of how we can be good neighbors.

- Planning to paint or make changes to the exterior of your home? First move isn't to your local paint store, but a call to the Landmarks Commission. Doesn't cost a dime, but you do need to let Roane Smothers at Landmarks know what you are considering, so he can provide you with a Certificate of Appropriateness to display as the work is being done. For more intensive renovations, permits and approval may be in order, but a call to Roane has proven to reduce headaches by half!
- When you do make a trip to the paint store, don't forget that Sherwin Williams is just a short walk away. Mention account name GDREIA and Account #917584476 and enjoy a discount on not only paint, but brushes, rollers and dropcloths, too (this account is especially set up to help residents of the historic districts of Dayton—Thank, Sherwin Williams!)
- You did a fabulous job of cleaning out your house in time to participate in the neighborhood garage sale, but unfortunately, most of

your junk remained unsold. Sorry—but you don't have to re-stock it in your garage for another year. Did you know that you don't have to wait for an alley sweep to have these treasures hauled away? Call 333-4833 to arrange your very own bulk pick up. These take place 2 Fridays per month. Chat with your neighbors, and it can be like your very own alley sweep!

## One Man's Trash...

At the annual garage sale about 6 years ago I bought a fabulous thermal carafe from Betty Dodd's garage sale at 33 Hess St. for \$2. I was just opening one of the units at my B&B, and this carafe kept hot water hot for over 24 hours—until I knocked it off my counter with a hasty elbow.

Who's trash has become your treasure? Share a story about your favorite garage sale acquisition from a neighbor (or perhaps the item that a neighbor bought from you that you surely thought you'd have to put out for bulk pick-up). Best contributions will be published in the next newsletter. Submissions may be e-mailed to [LJGONYA@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LJGONYA@sbcglobal.net) or dropped off at 137 Brown St. (Please drop off articles, not your actual "treasures.")

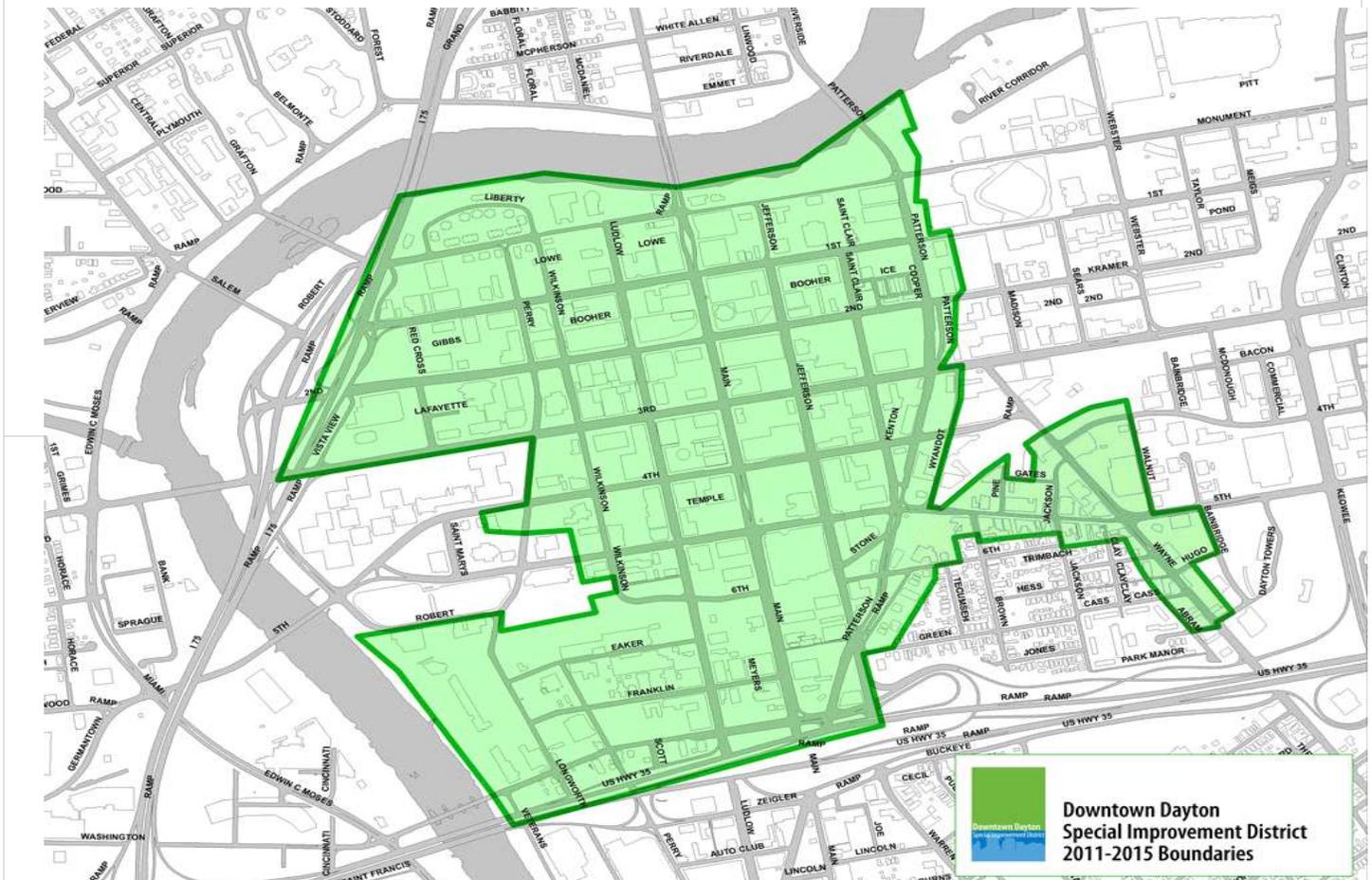
# Moving Forward

Submitted by George Wymer

Over the last few months, your OHDS Trustees have been working with the City and the Oregon District Business Association to address many of the concerns that have been on the table for years, including parking, safety, noise, litter, graffiti, business development, and the upkeep and improvement of buildings (both residential and commercial). As part of this ongoing process, the OHDS and ODBA Trustees and the City have been working on a plan to redraw precinct lines to define the basic residential area with the ultimate goal of proposing a ballot measure to vote the residential section of the neighborhood dry. This effort is intended to establish a firm legal delineation between the entertainment district and the residential district to provide the residents with peace of mind and

enable strategic recruitment of businesses for the Oregon District. The proposed new residential boundaries closely follow the Special Improvement District boundaries of the Oregon Arts and Business District. SIDs are formed to support downtown and neighborhood organizations through business recruitment and retention efforts, marketing and promotions support, strategic planning, and other effort focused on revitalization. A map of the SID boundaries is listed below, and may be found at [www.downtowndaytonpartnership.org](http://www.downtowndaytonpartnership.org). Click the tab "About the DDP", then click "Special Improvement District". We are working with the City to coordinate the next part of the process with the Montgomery County Board of Elections, which will tell us how and

when a question may be put on a ballot to ask Oregon District residents to vote the new residential precinct "dry." We are also planning a series of educational events so that all of the stakeholders understand the steps we are taking to be a prosperous partner with the coalition of entities that have brought energy and focus to downtown Dayton. Simultaneously, we will be continuing to work with the ODBA and the City to address the ongoing urban living challenges of parking, safety, noise, litter, graffiti, business development, and upkeep and improvement of buildings (both residential and commercial). As always, if you have questions, concerns, or creative ideas to address any of the above listed concerns, please contact any or all of the Trustees.



## **OHDS INC. NEWSLETTER**

Oregon Historic District Society Inc.  
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### **OHDS Board of Trustees**

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278-9620  
Historic Street Light Repairs  
224-7858

### **Keep informed!**

**E-mail Alerts:** If you aren't receiving e-mail announcements, you're missing out on a lot of news. To add your e-mail to the distribution list, or to send out an alert, contact Ann Cowden at [adcowden@gmail.com](mailto:adcowden@gmail.com). Please note that replies to alerts cannot be received by the announcements g-mail address, but should be sent to Ann directly.

**Newsletter:** To submit an item for the newsletter, call Leslie Gonya at 224-7678 or e-mail [LJGonya@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LJGonya@sbcglobal.net).

**Facebook:** Look for Oregon District news on Facebook, too.