

# Oregon Historic District Society News

Volume 40, Issue 1

Hibernation cessation edition

## Mark Your Calendar for Springtime Fun in the Oregon District

**Submitted by Leslie Gonya**  
Newsletter Editor

At the conclusion of the holiday tour, as our days are at their shortest, like nature, our neighborhood tends to go into a state of hibernation. As the snows fall and the winds blow, staying inside where it's warm and cozy seems to take precedence over more social endeavors. But then you turn your clocks ahead. You may find yourself hearing happy birds singing in the morning, as opposed to playing Angry Birds to pass the time. You start to chat with friends and neighbors again (as opposed to another round of Words With Friends on your phone). The district indeed does "Spring" back to life! I hope this edition of the newsletter will help to pull you out of your state of hibernation and get you excited about the coming months in our fabulous neighborhood. Here's a little preview of what is tucked inside:

- One of the privileges of being a member of the OHDS is the right to vote on trustees and neighborhood ballot issues. Not a member for 2013-14 yet? A registration form is right in here.
- Neighborhood election time is upon us. Who is running for neighborhood trustee positions? What are the amendments to the OHDS constitution that will be on this year's ballot? Take a look at the candidates and their bios in order to cast an informed vote at the annual dinner.
- Where, when and how much for the annual dinner? And how do I sign up? Yep—all inside!
- Won't be in town for the annual dinner, but need an absentee ballot. How to get it? Right in here!
- Not EVERYONE has been snoozing in the neighborhood—your Archive Committee has been hard at work on a new project.
- Summer Picnics will be here before you know it—you can save the dates on your calendar, thanks to Jeanine and Burgess Gow who have submitted the picnic schedule.

Just turn the page!

Membership in the Oregon Historic District Society, Inc. (OHDS) is renewable by April of each year. Each member of the OHDS receives a Membership Directory at no cost. Membership questions may be directed to Todd Crawford, Membership Chairman, at [todd.crawford@pnc.com](mailto:todd.crawford@pnc.com).

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Partner Last Name (if Family Membership) First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Business Name (if Business Membership)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number 1 Phone Number 2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address 1 Email Address 2 or Website Address (if Business Membership)

- Please include all information above in the OHDS Directory
- Please include my/our NAME(s) ONLY in the OHDS Directory
- Please advise me by email of neighborhood events and/or safety alerts

**1. Type of Membership (Circle One):**

*Individual \$20      Family \$30      Contributing \$100      Business \$50*

**2. Neighborhood Status (Circle All That Apply):**

**IMPORTANT**- All information must be completed to establish membership and voter eligibility.

*Resident Owner      Resident Tenant      Business*

**Non-Resident Property Owner:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Oregon District Property Address*

*Commercial Owner      Commercial Tenant*

**3. I Would Like to be Involved (Circle All That Apply):**

*Working in the Park      Holiday/Garden Tour      Picnics in the Park*

*Membership Committee      Block Captain      Other \_\_\_\_\_*



Please send this completed form, along with a check for the appropriate amount, made payable to:  
Oregon Historic District Society  
P.O. Box 383  
Dayton, Ohio 45401

**The 38th Annual Oregon Historic District Society Dinner and  
Annual Meeting  
Saturday, April 27, 2013  
Coco's, 250 Warren Street, Dayton**

Social hour and voting will be held from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m.

Don't eat and run--stay for the festivities and fun!

Meeting, Awards and Election results immediately following dinner and OHDS Game will close the event.

Cost per person: \$30

Dinner includes:

Entree, Sides include Salad, Vegetable and Starch; Coffee or Tea included.

Deadline for registration is Tuesday, April 23rd.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to: Oregon Historic District Society

and send your dinner reservation to:

Oregon Historic District Society

P.O. Box 383

Dayton OH 45401-0383

Or save a stamp and bring your form to 28 Tecumseh St.

Submitted by Dina Peterson, Annual Dinner Chair

# OHDS Election 2013

As you may be aware, current members of the Oregon Historic District Society will be electing 3 trustees to the OHDS board in April. The election takes place at the Annual Dinner being held on Saturday, April 27th at the new Coco's, located at 250 Warren St. Voting takes place during cocktail hour at the beginning of the event, and there are several ways you can cast your vote:

- Attend the Annual Dinner and Vote!

But if you can't attend the Annual Dinner, there are still two options available to you:

- Stop down to Coco's between 6 and 7pm to vote. There is a cash bar, in case you wish to quench your thirst after working very hard to circle three names on the ballot, and vote on amendments to the OHDS constitution.
- You can request an absentee ballot from our membership chair, Todd Crawford:

Absentee Ballots for the 2013 OHDS election may be obtained by submitting a written request by April 13th to the Membership Chairman, Todd Crawford. Requests can be sent via email to [todd.crawford@pnc.com](mailto:todd.crawford@pnc.com), or in person at 8 Van Buren Street. Requests sent to the PO Box must be post-marked no later than April 13th.

You must be a dues paid member in order to request an Absentee Ballot. Completed ballots must be received by the Membership Chairman by April 27, 2013. All Ballots will remain sealed until voting begins at the Annual Dinner on April 27th.

And now a word from the 4 alphabetically-ordered candidates for trustee...

## Ellen Havdahl

My name is Ellen Havdahl and I thank you for the nomination and the opportunity to serve. I have lived at 432 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street since 1993. This is the first home I have owned and honestly cannot think of living anywhere else in Dayton! I am an alumna of the University of Dayton. I am currently a software developer for a Florida based HRMS Software firm named Ultimate Software. For many years, I travelled quite extensively for my job. But in the past few years, I have moved into a role where I work from my home. This affords me the opportunity to get more involved in my community.

I feel so blessed to live in such a unique urban neighborhood. We have the best of both worlds. Easy access to all that downtown Dayton has to offer... great restaurants, clubs, shops, music, movies, Riverscape park, theater, bike paths, Dragons baseball, summer festivals, and more! But most importantly, we have a strong sense of community. I love living in a place where people take pride in their homes and surroundings, know their neighbors by name, and look out for one another.

I have had the honor of having my home on the Xmas tour in 2011 and 2004. I have also been involved in volunteering for the Xmas tour, and helping decorate/garden at Newcom Park.

If elected as a trustee, I will do my best to ensure that everyone's voice and opinions are heard, and that we maintain our sense of history and community, while still embracing the need to keep our extended downtown neighborhood and business district growing and thriving.

## **Lisa Mendenhall**

Lisa Mendenhall moved with her husband and two children to Beavercreek, Ohio in 1989. Shortly after arriving, she remembers seeing the Oregon District and thinking it was a charming neighborhood that she would love to live in, but that it seemed an unlikely occurrence. When circumstances took her to Mason, Ohio in 1998, the probability of living in the Oregon District seemed even less likely. But then again, she never saw herself owning and helping to run a bar either. In May of 2008, Lisa and Robert “Blind Bob” Mendenhall closed on the former Nite Owl space located at 430 E. Fifth Street. Through their work transforming the former space into a vibrant American Tavern and music venue, they became familiar with the Oregon District both as a physical neighborhood as well as the people who make up the community. Since its opening in August of 2008, one of Lisa’s roles at Blind Bob’s has been developing partnerships benefiting a range of local organizations, such as Garden Station, the Boonshoft Museum, Wings Over the Rainbow, the Encore Theater, and SICSA.

Of her return to Dayton in fall of 2011, Lisa says: “We love our old house. We love being able to walk to work and to restaurants and shops. But most of all, we love being part of the community. I believe people should be involved in the communities they live in—that is why I’d be happy to serve as a Trustee for the Oregon Historic District Society.”

## **Bethany Ramsey**

My name is Bethany Ramsey and I have lived in the Oregon Historic District for two years. For the last 8 months I have been the OHD announcement email administrator. My husband, Kyle, and I moved here from Cleveland but I am originally from Dayton and I am a Chaminade-Julienne and University of Dayton graduate with a degree in Marketing. Kyle and I started off as renters but we felt so welcomed that we decided to buy our first home here, at 434 E. 6th Street. I’m now working as the new event coordinator at the 2nd Street Market. I am also a part of the newly re-formed Welcome Committee and I have updated the look of the website and you can see the changes at [oregondistrict.org](http://oregondistrict.org). I am very excited to live in this community and I would love to be a Trustee so I can continue to help maintain and enhance the rich history of our historic neighborhood.

## **Catherine Springer**

Although relatively new to the neighborhood, after living here for a year and half, with my husband Jon and neighborhood “greeter”, Murphy, I’ve grown to love the beauty, grace, and diversity of the Oregon District. Having lived in San Francisco and Cincinnati’s Mt. Adams area, and having been a part of renovating a family office in Marquette, Michigan while getting it placed on the National Register of Historic Places, I understand the value of retaining the beauty of our past while also keeping it current. Locally, I work as a Staffing Lead for a defense contractor, and I also sit on the board of a company founded by my Great Grandfather. As that company continues to grow and move forward, I often think how fortunate I am to have been given the gift of helping to build on my Great Grandfather’s legacy. That experience has enriched my life, and helped me understand how people working together on goals can expand an initial vision from yesterday into today with remarkable results.

I would like to be a part of creating that same synergy in the District; continuing the work of others before me in building on the past to make the District a safe, friendly and helpful place; one where the residents feel pride in their homes and/or rental units, as they continue to restore and rehabilitate their living areas, and where we all acknowledge and recognize the value of each of our neighbors in helping to achieve the goal of continuing to beautify and enhance our neighborhood.

# **Oregon Historic District Society Constitutional Amendments**

**Submitted by Sara Vice**

# Archive News

Submitted by Janet Neu

Hey neighbors!!!

I am very pleased to announce that we are in the "beginning" stages of a long overdue project !!And that is, to get our neighborhood archives into a climate controlled environment, with easy access to all.

Thanks to Sara Vice for getting the ball rolling, and setting up a field trip for our Archive Committee to visit Wright State University's library. We've explored different options over the years, but after our WSU tour.....the final decision was a cinch!!

We learned that they have the most extensive collection of local history, probably anywhere. Not only do they have THE largest collection IN THE WORLD, of the Wright Brother's artifacts.....they also have all of Montgomery County and surrounding counties, City of Dayton, 1913 Flood, St. Anne's Hill and South Park's archives. And with the addition of our collection.....for anyone interested in genealogy or local history.....it will be a "one stop shop". I just can't tell you how impressed we were with all of their offerings!!

This is quite an undertaking, as much organization is required before we turn them loose. But I will be providing updates periodically.

WE ARE NOT READY YET.....but please start thinking about what you might have in your possession that could be included. Old photos or any research you may have done on your house, will be particularly appreciated. We will have an individual file for each and every house, so research for current and future residents will be a breeze. But I'll let you know when we reach that point. My kitchen and dining room are a mess.....and I anticipate them remaining that way for several months. So, I'd like to hold off on any additional material until we get more organized. But please start thinkin' 'bout it!!



**This house was at Sixth and Jackson,  
where the newer condos are located  
(445-447 E. Sixth)**

If you'd like to drop meals off, however, THEY would be MOST appreciated.....as I can't even find my stove!!!!

Just kiddin'....

Thanks,  
Janet

**Archive Committee members are Sara Vice, Ann Heller, George Wymer, Ted Dodds and Janet Neu.**

# Recognition of the Dayton Police Department and Montgomery County Prosecutor

Submitted by Burgess and Jeanine Gow

In July and August of 2012, the Oregon District residents were the victims of ten home robberies. During this time the Oregon District residents received outstanding support from the Dayton Police Department and from the Montgomery County Prosecuting Office, including the successful conviction of Jade Childs to five years prison sentence without parole and three years of probation following release. The trustees of the Oregon District recognized the efforts of 12 police officers during the city commission meeting on December 19, 2012 and assistant prosecuting attorney, Jon Marshall, during the February OHDS meeting.



DPD Officers Recognized:

- Lt. Kenneth Beall(Central Patrol Operations Division)
- Sgt. Rhonda Williams(Central Patrol Operations Division):
- Det. Marcus D. Sessler(Central Patrol Operations Division):
- Off./ Crime Prevention Officer William Parsons(Central Patrol Operations Division):
- Sgt. Robert Wilhite (Bureau of Identification):
- Officer/Evidence Technician Gregory Moyer:
- Officer/Evidence Technician Michael McDonald
- Officer/Bureau of Identification Officer Jeffrey Downing
- Officer Joshua Bowling (West Patrol Operations Division)

## Musings from the Publisher's Desk

by Leslie Gonya

So the morning of Friday, February 22nd, I awoke to the smell of cooked bacon. But it was 5am, so I was pretty sure that my husband Jeff was not cooking breakfast in bed for me. As it turned out, the motor on our furnace at 104 Green St. had seized up. It had lived a good life—35 years as we can best calculate. But Jeff is a mechanical engineer by trade, with a “never say die” attitude, so with a little prying, he decided he could probably get it going again. Snap, crackle, pop, FLAME!

Some lessons I can share from our experience:

- Do not leave your spouse unattended, if at all possible.
- Always have a fire extinguisher at your home—thanks to the former owners, we did.!
- If you are forced to upgrade your 35 year old furnace, at least it will be more efficient. We now have a 96% efficient furnace, and currently Vectren is offering a \$300 rebate on high efficiency furnaces, as well as a small rebate for certain programmable thermostats.

# Condolences

Submitted by **Shelley Tarleton**

**Chuck Settles, 76**, a former Green St. neighbor, died March 11, 2013 from the effects of Alzheimer's disease, surrounded by his loving family. Chuck and Linda, his wife of 55 years, were active in the neighborhood in numerous ways. Their home, the "Rob Lowe" house at the corner of Green and Jackson, was on the Christmas Tour as well as several other seasonal tours during their time in the

neighborhood. Chuck served as a member of the lighting crew, the neighborhood watch team, and also served on the OHDS Board of Trustees. He was a skilled classical guitarist and added music to numerous neighborhood events. Chuck and Linda were frequently seen running or biking around the neighborhood. While in Dayton, Chuck worked at WPAFB for System Research Labora-

tories and Select Technologies, and on restoring classic cars in their garage. Chuck's obituary can be read and messages of condolences can be posted to [www.zellmanfuneralhome.com](http://www.zellmanfuneralhome.com) or sent directly to:

Linda Settles  
301 Commerce St. Unit 1,  
Havre de Grace, MD, 21078

# Picnic Season

Submitted by **Burgess and Jeanine Gow**

Look for some changes to the picnics this year! We're trying some new things to increase attendance and interest in the picnics, especially for the picnics that aren't on the holidays. They include live music, bonfires, and fundraisers. There will be more details with the picnic flyer and emails prior to each of the picnics. If any of these interest you, contact Burgess and Jeanine Gow at [gow867@gmail.com](mailto:gow867@gmail.com) to get involved! All picnics are held at 6 pm.

## Upcoming picnic dates are:

- May 27 – Memorial Day (Monday)
- July 4 – Fourth of July Parade and Picnic (Thursday)
  - July 21 – Live Music Night (Sunday)
  - August 6 – National Night Out (Tuesday)
  - September 2 – Labor Day (Monday)
- September 22 – Fall Equinox Bash (Sunday)

## OHDS INC. NEWSLETTER

Oregon Historic District Society Inc.  
PO Box 383  
Dayton OH 45401-0383

### OHDS Board of Trustees

Amelia O'Dowd, President 617-953-9101  
Dina Peterson, Vice-President  
Sara Vice, Secretary 222-4195  
Kate Archdeacon, Treasurer 223-5770  
Leslie Gonya 224-7678  
Greg Smith 224-7858  
Sharon Smith 222-4408  
Russ Joseph 620-3393  
Burgess Gow 253-304-0577

### 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 Bethany Ramsey at Bramsey12@gmail.com. Please note that replies to alerts cannot be received by the announcements g-mail address, but should be sent to Bethany directly.

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

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

Abandoned Vehicles  
333-1038  
Water Billing  
333-3550  
Bulk Waste Pick-up  
333-4833  
Sidewalk/curb repair  
333-3853  
Landmarks Commission  
333-3670  
Street Cleaning  
333-4808  
Police (non-emergency)  
333-COPS  
Fire//Ambulance  
333-FIRE  
Zoning Administration  
333-3887  
Housing Inspector  
333-3921  
Southeast Priority Board  
333-7373  
Dayton View Post Office  
278-9620  
Historic Street Light Repairs  
224-7858

## New Release from Former Resident Submitted by Shelley Tarleton

Former OHDS Trustee and long time OHD resident Debby Grahl has announced the release of her first book, *The Silver Crescent*, scheduled for release in April 2013, by her publisher, Storyteller Publishing. Advanced copies may be reserved through Amazon, or by contacting Debby directly. Her contact information can be found in the OHDS Directory.