

Oregon Historic District Society News

Volume 39, Issue 3

Summer Fun edition

From the Presidents: Outgoing and Incoming

Edited and presented by Leslie Gonya
Newsletter Editor

At our annual meeting on April 21st, George Wymer presented a heart-felt speech as outgoing president. He highlighted events in our neighborhood throughout the past year, reminded us of the efforts of neighbors individually as well as collectively in keeping our historic neighborhood and historic properties in good repair, and praised the efforts of Major Larry Faulkner and the Dayton Police as a whole for working in tandem with our neighborhood in an effort to keep our neighborhood safe. Praise abounded in George's speech (and if you'd like to read it in its entirety, send a request to LYGONYA@sbcglobal.net, and I will cheerfully forward a copy your way.) My favorite part of his speech was with regard to community. Here is what our outgoing president had to say:

I was recently asked what I thought was most significant about my last three years as a Trustee. After a long pause, I replied: "that so many newer people have joined the many long-time residents in becoming involved."

They have said "Yes" to help with the Holiday Tour although they've only lived here a few months. They've opened their homes for the Holiday Tour, and thanked us for asking. They volunteer for everything, although they work here, but don't live here. They help with the Alley Sweep, the weeding and planting. They organize materials and go door-to-door. They improve their property, and some have purchased their 2nd or 3rd properties. Others are establishing new businesses. They are embracing the sense of community in our historic neighborhood.

But, there is more to do. We need more idea sharing, more dialogue, fewer emails and more face-to-face conversations. We need more eyes and ears to watch out for each other. We need money, muscle and merriment. I ask each of us to make the best commitment we can to contribute to the continued success of the Oregon Historic District.

Thank you, George, for your tireless efforts as president, and for your continued contributions of energy and ideas in serving our neighborhood!

And for a word from our new president, Amelia O'Dowd, just turn the page...

A letter from the President

Every time I talk to someone who lives outside the neighborhood, I am reminded of how special of a place the Oregon District is. People know us for our houses – some of the city’s greatest gems – but what makes our neighborhood so special for me is the community of people. The look of surprise I get when I tell people that I know almost everyone who lives on my block never ceases to amaze me. I’ve become so accustomed to our neighborliness that I honestly forget that this isn’t the way it is in most places. Most people don’t know their neighbors, let alone have impromptu gatherings on their front porch with whoever happens to be walking by.

My husband Brian and I recently bought the old porn shop on the corner of Fifth and Jackson (and no, we will not be selling porn). The weekend after we closed on the building, we put out an open invitation for people to stop by and help us tear out all the layers of bad renovations that had accumulated over the last *hundred and sixty years*. That Saturday, sixteen people showed up to help in one way or another. I haven’t done the math but I’m willing to bet that sixty or seventy hours of work happened that day. For me the most amazing part is that the support has not stopped. One might expect that people would tire of giving up their Saturdays to help pull nails and knock plaster off walls, but people are constantly popping in offering to assist. And it’s not just for us. I watch my neighbors cut all of the tree lawns on the block that need a trim whenever they pull out their mowers. Last month’s yard sale involved as much “gifting” to neighbors as selling to strangers. The crew that helped with the alley sweep the following weekend finished so quickly that the regular post-sweep beers had to be switched for coffee and bloody maries.

People in the Oregon District give, and give a lot. I want to take a moment to recognize a couple of people who have given in big ways recently: George Wymer who served as president of the OHDS for the last three years and continues to volunteer so often I sometimes feel ashamed of how little I do around here; Norm Wentland who has offered us a great deal of leadership though his many years of service on the OHDS board and stepped down from the board in April; and Russ Joseph who will serve in Norm’s stead until a special election can be held in October. And thanks to all of you who help make our neighborhood the wonderful place to live that it is.

Warmly,
Amelia O’Dowd
OHDS President

Awards from this Year’s Annual Dinner

Submitted by Janet Neu

As with tradition, our Outgoing Trustees....George Wymer, Amelia O’Dowd and Sharon Smith....received one of resident, Adam Alonzo’s beautiful photos of the gazebo as what is a very "small" token of our appreciation, in comparison to the "huge" contributions they all made while serving on our Board. Their leadership, passionate hard work and endless hours of volunteer service are GREATLY appreciated by ALL and we just can’t thank them enough !!!!

(continued on next page)

The Golden Hammer award was presented to Burgess and Jeanine Gow, for not only the beautiful restoration work they did at 114 Green St., that we all got to see and appreciate on the 2011 Christmas Tour.....but also for the work they are doing on the little Triangle house on Green. As an "old timer", you can't imagine how grateful I am, when we get young, energetic folks like them that share in my passion of the history of our old homes and lovingly restore them back to their original beauty and grandeur. We are SO lucky they decided to make Oregon their home!!!

Most deserving.....Sherry and Larry Alessandro, received the prestigious Joanne Henkel Service Award for their.....as the plaque reads.....Dedication, Inspiration and YEARS of Community Service. That's (23) years to be exact, that they BOTH served on COUNTLESS committees, volunteered for numerous tours, clean-ups, park plantings, beer pouring, etc., Sherry also served as Secretary of the Board and as our Southeast Priority Board Rep., and Larry shared his electrical talents as he worked tirelessly on the Street Light Committee. Their much appreciated contributions are too numerous to list, and it is because of neighbors like them that we are so privileged to live in such a beautiful and fun community. They leave a huge void in our hearts since moving on to suburbs, and will be greatly missed by all!

And my personal favorite award was new and unique this year....."Best Neighbor We "NEVER" Had"..... presented to Eric Heinrich. If you haven't met Eric yet, you're missing out on knowing one of the nicest guys you'll ever know! Eric doesn't live here, but he does work in the neighborhood at KLH Engineers @ Brown & Sixth. In spite of being a non-resident, however, Eric has been volunteering to help with Alley Sweeps, Park Plantings, Petition Signings, Christmas Tour Guiding, Park Cleanups, etc., And he has been doing this for a number of years. So naturally we had to create a new award, especially for HIM, to show our gratitude and appreciation for being such a nice guy and GREAT FRIEND to the neighborhood.



Down and Dirty with the
Neighborhood Alley Sweep Volunteers
June 9th, 2012



Memorial Day Picnic May 28th, 2012
Impromptu baseball is pants-splitting fun
for all ages!

Fourth Of July PEOPLE PARADE and Picnic in the Park

Submitted by Mike Martin

We need you, your families and friends to join our annual Fourth of July People Parade in the Oregon District! On Wednesday, July 4, we invite kids to join us at 1030am in Newcom-Founders Park to decorate their bikes, trikes, etc. Then at 11am, we invite all our neighbors, young and old, to join us at the Park where we will parade through the streets of the Oregon District. It's a New Orleans-style parade, so folks dress up in costumes...some carry decorated umbrellas and some just come as they are and walk with us. If you've got a cool old car / truck, decorate it up and join too! Once we come back to the Park, we'll give away some prizes for Best Dressed Child, Best Dressed Dog, Best Decorated Adult, Best Decorated Bike / Tricycle, etc...heck, we just give a prize to whatever / whoever we think is fun! At the Park, we'll have hot dogs and ice cream for everyone and some games for adults and kids! Then at 6pm, we invite everyone back to the Park for an old-fashioned Fourth of July Picnic-in-the-Park. The main dish will be provided so just bring a side dish to share, something to drink and a chair/blanket to sit on and enjoy the evening!
Rain or Shine!

Newcom Park 411

Submitted by Mike Martin

First, on behalf of the Park Team, I would like to thank all our neighbors who came out to work in the Park this year. We were joined by volunteers from Generation Dayton as well. Team member Kris Rankin was kind enough to pick up the plants from the City this year and a special thanks to team member Marion Kendig for keeping the beds/pots well-watered! We had plenty of tools on-hand, thanks to Montgomery County Solid Waste District and their Supply Trailer.

RESERVING THE PARK: Newcom-Founders Park is a park owned by the City of Dayton. We, as neighbors maintain the park. The Park can be reserved for a private event by anyone in the City. On days when the Park is reserved, you will see a couple of printed signs noting it is reserved for a private event. On those days, we do not have access to the Park. If you would like to reserve the Park for a private event, you may do so by going to <http://oregondistrict.org/newcom-park/> and clicking on the link to download the permit to request a reservation. Complete the form and send to a trustee or directly to mmartin@kamela.com. You will be notified when the reservation is booked.

MONTHLY CLEANUP DAY: The Park Team would like to reserve one evening per month over the summer to work in the Park, removing weeds, etc. If you would like to help come on over...we would love to have you. The last Thursday of the month will be set aside from 6 to 8 pm for Park trimming / weeding / touchup. Come join us!

TRASH RECEPTACLES: Last, but not least, please take care not to put more trash in the waste cans in the Park. If the liner inside the ornamental holder is overflowing, the City of Dayton will not empty it! So when you see that it is full, please do not use it.

Thanks..and enjoy our beautiful community Park with your family and friends!

The Newcom-Park Team

Mike Martin, Marion Kendig, Catherine Springer, Kris Rankin, Tom Archdeacon, Karen Veve, Ann Cowden

Are you and your canine companion good neighbors?

Please remember that a good neighbor brings along a doggie bag and uses it to clean up after his or her dog when they take walks or visit the park. Everyone forgets sometime, but even a big leaf can be a quick-back up, as opposed to leaving a mess.

New Ideas— what to you think?

Submitted by **Bethany Ramsey**

Howdy! My name is Bethany Ramsey, I live on Hess St. and I was thinking this summer we could have an event dedicated to our dog companions. It would be a way to socialize with each other, get to know the neighborhood dogs and offer some helpful dog tips. We could pick a day in July or August where families and four legged friends could come together to have a picnic and a dog talent/beauty contest. But only if people (especially dog owners) are interested and feel comfortable that our neighborhood dogs would enjoy and behave on such a day.

My friend over in South Park told me about their wonderful book club that gave neighbors the opportunity to get together, talk about a book and socialize. I thought the Oregon District could also do this but instead of a book club we could have a movie club! We are really fortunate enough to have the Neon close to us so I thought we could tie that into some of the movies we watch. First and foremost, I would like to learn how many people would be interested in participating.

Please email me at bethany@ilovesooh.com and let me know...

- if you would participate
- if getting together at the park is appealing
- if you would like some snacks and/or food involved.
- if you would like to see a movie as a group at a theater some time
- and your thoughts and/or suggestions

If enough people our interested, I will follow-up with more details. Thank-you!

Survey Says...

In your last newsletter, you may recall a survey that was to be used in Fun and Games at the Annual Dinner. Oregon Feud was a rousing success. Here is a seasonally appropriate question from the game: ***Of your neighbors surveyed, name your favorite Oregon District patio, porch or deck.*** (Results are on the back of the newsletter).



The Picnics are Coming + National Night Out! **Submitted by Burgess Gow, Neighborhood Picnic Chair**

All picnics start at 6 pm and are held at Newcom Park.

All Oregon residents, relatives, and friends are invited to attend. It's a great way to say hello to new neighbors and catch up with those you already know. All it takes is \$3 a person for the kitty, a side dish to share, something to sit on, and a summer drink to cool you off.

Here are the upcoming picnic dates:

- Wednesday, July 4th Parade and Picnic –Hosted by Mike Martin
 - More details to be emailed out shortly
- Sunday, July 22nd – Hosted by Russ and Katie Joseph
- Tuesday, August 7th – National Night Out Picnic hosted by Burgess and Jeanine Gow
 - \$5 per person, no side dish necessary, see addition details below.
- Monday, September 2nd – Host Needed!

National Night Out Picnic, Tuesday, August 7th, 6 pm

If you missed last year's National Night Out, be sure to put this on your calendar for this year. National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

This year's focus is to bring those with children in the neighborhood together, as well as heighten crime prevention techniques to continue the low crime rate within our district. Those families with children and grandparents with grandchildren living locally are highly encouraged to attend. A bouncy house has been scheduled as well as several other activities .

In addition, the Dayton City Mayor, Police Chief, Commissioners and other local leaders are scheduled to stop by and meet with the Oregon District as well.

Since the picnic is held during the week and many have limited time to prepare something, side dishes are not required. Burgers, hot dogs, vegetarian option, and sides will all be provided for \$5 per person. More details to follow in upcoming email announcement. If you wish to assist in planning or have some ideas please email Burgess and Jeanine Gow at gow867@gmail.com or 253-304-0577.

Painting Success: Unifying the Divide

Submitted by Emmy Fabich (your neighbor at 38 Hess St. and member of the updayton Creative Communities Team)



On Saturday, June 2nd, the neighbors of the Oregon Historic District and South Park Historic District joined the updayton Creative Communities Team for a day-long painting extravaganza. In the early morning hours, volunteers showed up to help layout the design with chalk and measure sticks in hand, being ever-so precise with the design's details—all 353ft. of it to be exact! As the updayton Team signed-up volunteers, shuttled supplies, and delivered coffee, the painting finally began around 11:00am.

One of the artists who designed the mural, Lea Wise-Surguy said, “It was exciting to see how the colors started to fill in the concrete canvas. The design began to come alive very quickly.”

The next few hours brought even more smiling faces of ready and willing volunteers. People were so devoted to painting their assigned sections that they didn't even want to take a lunch break. Many people brought friends and neighbors who agreed that the bridge needed some color. We were pleasantly surprised by the 70 people who came out to volunteer; making the Unifying the Divide Paint Project a true grassroots effort.

We battled the wind, threatening dark-rain clouds—which luckily passed on by, and even a little sunburn. The dedication surely paid-off though with the final brush strokes and last bit of paint being painted around 6:30pm—fittingly by a few of the artists—grinning from ear-to-ear.

A great big THANK YOU to everybody who donated their time and labor and of course an even bigger THANK YOU to both neighborhood associations, the local coffee shops, and Ace Hardware for assisting in various ways. If you would like to see pictures of paint day, please visit: <http://unifiedthedivide2012.shutterfly.com/>

Oregon Historic District and the Patterson Project

Perchance you've seen the construction along Patterson Boulevard from 6th Street, northward. Officially, it is named the **Patterson Boulevard Canal Parkway**, and is part of a 15-year, \$250-million redevelopment effort that will eventually link Webster Station, Riverscape, Fifth-Third Field, Tech Town and The Oregon Historic District with the Central Business District. The city of Dayton is making park, streetscape and lighting improvements, and is adding signage that highlights the historical evolution of the area, with a specific focus on the Miami-Erie canal. Several historical pylons will be erected, upon which historical facts and photos will be featured. One pylon is being erected at the 6th and Patterson entrance to the Oregon Historical District.



In coordination with the project, the OHDS has applied for a City of Dayton mini-grant to restore ground level up-lighting and updated landscaping and gardens at the 6th and Patterson, and Wayne and Van Buren entranceways to Dayton's premier historic neighborhood.

OHDS INC. NEWSLETTER

Oregon Historic District Society Inc.
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Dayton OH 45401-0383

OHDS Board of Trustees

Amelia O'Dowd, President 617-953-9101
Dina Peterson, Vice-President 723-9991
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

Results of April Election: Newly elected and re-elected trustees are Burgess Gow, Amelia O'Dowd and Sharon Smith. Upon the resignation of Norm Wentland, Russ Joseph agreed to fill this spot until October's special election.

Top 5 Favorite Oregon District porches, patios and decks from Oregon Feud at this year's Annual Dinner

1. Trolley Stop
2. Eileen Griswold's Porch
3. Oregon Express
4. Boulevard House
5. Sidebar

This is not back-page news, but a huge thank you to Dina Peterson for her work to make this year's annual dinner so nice for all of us. Thanks to Jeff Gonya for creating and Rob Jones for emceeding Oregon Feud.

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. 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.

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
333-3858
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