



# OREGON DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2014

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- A sneak peak of the **Candlelight Tour of Homes** and some ways you can get involved
- Some tips for **digging into the history** of your house
- **Thank You**s to neighbors!



*Even the neighborhood dogs  
get into the holiday spirit  
(Winter 2013).*

Have a picture you'd like to share? Please email to [jfornario@yahoo.com](mailto:jfornario@yahoo.com)

## CANDLELIGHT TOUR 2014

The Oregon District Candlelight Tour is just around the corner! New neighbors, you will see guides in period attire (well, tophats and capes, at least) leading neighbors, friends, and Dayton residents through the district to visit some of our most beautiful historic homes. Thank you to the neighbors opening the doors to their homes this season and thank you to our organizers.

For those of us whose houses aren't officially on the tour, please consider volunteering or joining in the **Pre-Tour**, which starts with caroling and ends with an afterparty (a little something for everyone). Even if you can't join in the fun, any help in ensuring that our sidewalks are free of ice and snow for visitors is much appreciated!

### PRE-TOUR: DECEMBER 7 at 6:30 pm

Gather in Newcomb Park at 6:30 for some caroling, followed by a tour of the featured homes. Amelia O'Dowd and Brian Eastman, 236 Green Street, will host an after party. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre and your beverage of choice.

### CANDLELIGHT TOUR: DECEMBER 8, 9, 10<sup>TH</sup>

Tour details can be found on our website, [www.oregondistrict.org](http://www.oregondistrict.org)

### HOMES ON TOUR:

Marion E Kendig  
123 Jones Street

Erin Hunkemoeller  
105 Green Street

Deborah & Herman Burger  
26 Green Street

Amy Burger  
28.5 Green Street

Judy & Mark Hennessey  
23 Tecumseh Street

Jane Lynch  
8 Tecumseh Street

*.....interested in volunteering? Please see Page 2 for details!*

## CANDLELIGHT TOUR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Want to spend time with neighbors? Love old homes? A fan of the winter season? There are still opportunities to volunteer for the Candlelight Tour. Please contact:

<b>Dessert House</b>	Kit Wymer 226-0669
<b>Guides/ Gateway Decorating</b>	Todd Crawford 657-9338 or <a href="mailto:todd.crawford@pnc.com">todd.crawford@pnc.com</a>
<b>Gazebo Decorating</b>	Jeff Gonya 305-9052
<b>Tour House Hostess</b>	Eileen Griswold 223-5607

Can't help with the tour but still want to **get involved** with the neighborhood? Contact [oregonhistoricdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:oregonhistoricdistrict@gmail.com) or come to a meeting: the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month (except April and December) in St Paul's Lutheran Church at 7 pm.



## THANK YOUS & GOOD NEWS

... THANK YOU to Bill and Kathy Coley of 6th St. They noticed our American flag in the park was tattered and offered to buy and install a new flag for us!

... THANK YOU to Todd Crawford, for wrangling together a bunch of "beer throwers" for the OHDS HauntFest truck.

... THANK YOU to Kim Collette for the beautiful alley sunflowers (see picture, *left*).

... CONGRATULATIONS to Laura Pippenger & Erich Koenig on their beautiful wedding!

## NEWSLETTER UPDATES

The Oregon District Newsletter is a longstanding tradition. We hope to continue the tradition of communicating necessary information, but perhaps even more importantly, *building community*. Do you have a story to share? Do you know a local business that should be profiled or a neighbor you'd like to thank? Do you want to share some old-house tips? Please email [jfornario@yahoo.com](mailto:jfornario@yahoo.com).

## HOUSE HISTORY

Jana Fornario, *Newsletter Editor*

Many things make the Oregon District unique, but one thing that makes it irreplaceable is the history of our old homes. When my husband and I bought our still-under-renovation, maybe-one-day-we'll-survive-it house, I was able to learn its history by digging through the records. I found out that it was originally built in the 1850s and “fancified” in 1871, courtesy of the Finch family. And so, when I pulled off the very last square of wallpaper and found the signature of then-17-year-old Milt Finch, it felt like seeing an old friend.

If you want to find out more about the history of your house, here are some tips (a big thank you to Janet Neu for contributing!):

- If the tax record say your house was built in 1899 or 1919, *don't believe it*. That's code for “we don't know when your house was built, but it was definitely built... sometime.”
- Your search for house history can and should start close at home: contact Janet Neu, who takes care of our house history archives. You can reach her at 224-1554 or [jsmneu@att.net](mailto:jsmneu@att.net).
- If there isn't anything in our neighborhood archives, it's time to dig into county records. Luckily for us, the Montgomery County “How old is this old house?” page walks you through the process step by step. Here's the address: [http://www.mcoho.org/government/recorder/old\\_house\\_.html](http://www.mcoho.org/government/recorder/old_house_.html)
  - Tip #1: If you already have your parcel number, which can be located on the property tax website, or the name of previous owners, the search will go much quicker.
  - Tip #2: While the website reminds us that “it is the individual researcher's responsibility to do this research,” experience has shown that looking (or actually being) helpless will get you much assistance from the very kind and knowledgeable folks in the records office.
- At this point you'll probably know when your home was built and who built it. If you want to know more, ancestry.com has amazing records, once you narrow down the location and year.
- Also, the Dayton Public Library has access to local obituaries beginning in 1850. It takes a few steps... looking up the record and then sending a request... but given that older obituaries sometimes read like novels, you might learn a lot about the former residents of your home. Go to <http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/hobits-search> if you are interested.

## GETTING A HISTORICAL PLAQUE

Did the research and want something to show for it? Forgot to buy a holiday gift? Here is some information on ordering a historical plaque that matches those in the Oregon District. The plaques were ordered from:

Erie Landmark Company  
[www.erialandmark.com](http://www.erialandmark.com)  
[1-800-874-7848](tel:1-800-874-7848)

Plaques list the name of the original owner, the date or circa date built, and then “Oregon Historic District Society.” Plaques are 10x7 Custom Worded Oval, Bronze Material, Black Finish, Front Mount, Single Border, Clearface Letter Style.

## OUT AND ABOUT IN DAYTON

The **Proto Build Bar** is now open at 534 E. First Street and is helping downtown Dayton keep its innovation edge. It is a café and “makerspace” combined. Try 3D printing, have a coffee, or have a drink. If you are aren't taking advantage of the 2014 Candlelight Dinner/Tour option (\$50), you can still visit the restaurants that are part of it sometime this month. Try the creative **deviled eggs of the day** at Lily's Bistro, enjoy the **tommaso pizza** (with grapes, blue cheese, and crispy onions) at Wheat Penny, go for the classic **Greek-style swordfish** at Jays Seafood, or savor the rich **tres leches cake** offered at Salar. The Carillon Brewing Co., a fully operation 1850s style brewery and restaurant located at Carillon Park, is now open. It features brewing demonstrations and an exhibit on Dayton's brewing history. Monday-Saturday 9:30-10:00 pm, Sunday 11:00 am-10:00 pm.



### FROM NEXTDOOR...

**Contractor recommendations** were shared. Kind neighbors **lent car seats** for a big family visit. Attempts were made to return a **lost teddy bear** to its home. Neighbors shared strategies for keeping our neighborhood **safe and beautiful**.

*Want to join the conversation? 136 neighbors are registered at Nextdoor—think “Facebook for neighborhoods.” You can start here: [https://oregonhistoricdistrict.nextdoor.com/choose\\_address/](https://oregonhistoricdistrict.nextdoor.com/choose_address/)*

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## OREGON HISTORIC DISTRICT SOCIETY

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Dayton, Ohio 45401

[Mailing Address]