



Think Spring, Think Bocce

by Trudy Elder

In the midst of this long winter, any ideas for beautification efforts may seem far, far away. It wasn't that long ago however that my friend and neighbor Jim and I, while enjoying walks through our lovely neighborhood, couldn't help but notice that the southeast corner of Newcom Park appears woefully underutilized. We would like the neighborhood to consider a positive, fun, and family-friendly re-use of this space. Beautification via bocce...

What is bocce you may ask? It is a non-contact, recreational, precision

sport developed into its present form from Italy. In fact, *bocce*, the plural of the Italian word *boccia* means "bowl". This ancient pastime has experienced a resurgence of interest here in the U.S.

We want to know what you think. Please share your thoughts and comments with the Oregon Historic District Society Board of Trustees. Please also let them know if you are able to help out in any way in the possible development of this project.

Thanks for your consideration and we hope to have you join us soon at a bocce court near you!

Join or Renew Your Membership Now

by Rob Jones
Membership Committee Chairman

I urge you to renew or become a member of the Oregon Historic District Society (OHDS) today. Please take a moment now to complete the enclosed form and mail it along with the appropriate payment for your membership. Membership is renewable by April every year.

Membership dues allow OHDS to fund a number of projects, such as our annual membership directory. The directory includes names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of OHDS members and is provided free to all members.

Membership also establishes voting eligibility for the annual election of trustees to the OHDS board and for other matters that may be brought before the membership throughout the year. Joining OHDS also helps us gather important information and demographics about our neighborhood.

Life members should take this opportunity to complete a membership form as well, which is required annually to maintain a current list of active members.

Everyone is encouraged to join and support the Oregon District! Additional forms can be downloaded from www.oregondistrict.org.



Appreciation for the 2009 Holiday Candlelight Tour

by Eileen Griswold, "Mother Christmas"

The OHDS Holiday Candlelight Tour was once again a very successful fundraiser for our District's Treasury Department. As I have so often said, this is truly a commitment for each and every resident. Six homes were kept "show" quality for four nights, no small effort. Reservations have to be taken, money collected and tickets sent starting in October. My two stalwarts who make this happen – Debbie Grahl, aka "Sally with the Tally," and Betty Dodds – my thanks to you.

Greens have to be hung and removed on the lampposts and gateways in the District. My special thanks to Ted Dodds, Todd Crawford, George Wymer, Andrew Steele, Jeff Gonya and anyone else who helped make this happen.

Kit Wymer supervised an extremely efficient Dessert House. Food, punch and coffee have to be purchased and served. Dishes have to be washed, trays have to be kept filled and helpers have to be recruited. Thank you, Kit, and all who helped – no small effort.

Guides have to guide; capes, lanterns and top hats have to be readied, fire pits have to be lit and kept burning. My special thanks to Todd Crawford and all the

guides who helped make this work. George Wymer, you make a perfect Town Crier.

My special thanks to Carla and Steve for opening Pacchia's space for our pre-tour party. Our neighborhood pre-tour is always very well-attended and the Tour Committee thanks you.

Thank you to the four restaurants who offered our tour goers the choice of a dinner tour with us. Please think of them the next time you are dining out:

Coco's Bistro – 515 Wayne Avenue

Jay's Restaurant – 225 Sixth Street

Pacchia – 410 Fifth Street

Thai 9 – 11 Brown Street

Last but certainly not least, a very special thank you to the people who opened their beautifully decorated homes for this season:

Casey Davis

Jennifer Werneke/John Bogner

Ernie Rock/Tom Trautwein

Angie and Rich Tillman

Lisa and John Davis

Monica Snow-Dessert House

My sincere thanks to all.



Homes for Sale in the District

Source: MLS

Single-family homes or single units

38 Green Street	\$220,000
111 Green Street	249,900
318 East Sixth Street	184,900
429 East Sixth Street	92,900
136 Jones Street	226,600
141 Jones Street	146,500
332 Jones Street	125,000
132 Jackson Street	249,000

Multi-family properties

2 Van Buren Street	\$165,000
107 Van Buren Street	199,900
601 East Fifth Street	1 million

Special Events

5th Annual Valentine's Dance

Benefits Habitat for Humanity
Friday, February 12, 7:30-11:30 p.m.
Schuster Center
Tickets: \$75 per person available at
www.daytonhabitat.org.

Neighborhood Leadership Institute

Applications due February 11
This twelve-week program starts March 16, designed to educate Dayton residents about local government, City resources and community leadership. Application forms are available at the Division of Citizen Participation, 101 W. Third St., 6th floor, at www.cityofdayton.org, or by calling Kathleen Riggs at 333-3671.

Monthly Neighborhood Women's

Gatherings Begin

On January 28, fifteen women from the neighborhood gathered at Thai 9 for the fabulous inaugural meeting of the Oregon District Stitch 'n Bitch. They already have a secret project underway and they need your help! Whether you are new to crafts or even a non-crafter, you are welcome to stop by and connect with your neighbors. (Female residents of the Oregon District only, please.)

Oregon District Stitch 'n Bitch

Wednesday February 24
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Location: TBD
RSVP to Amelia at
amelia_odowd@yahoo.com
or Tonia at (937) 510-2707



Biz News

by Mike Martin, President
Oregon District Business Association

We in the Oregon District Business Association are jumping into the new year with more exciting and positive activities. We are just completing our \$500,000 upgrade to the infrastructure of our East Fifth Street Corridor. Plantings and banners will add the finishing touches.

We have been working to complete a SID (Special Improvement District) and now have the necessary signed petitions to implement this property-tax-supported entity. This will allow us to continue to provide clean and safe services, marketing and advocacy support services for the businesses and residences in the business corridors.

Our First Friday programs are growing in support and attendance. We have welcomed our newest business, ReCreate, which experienced a hugely successful opening day. The coffee shop has reopened in the Heathman block and a new restaurant/cocktail lounge will be following soon. Our regional entertainment district has exciting plans and looks forward to another successful year.

Neighborhood Notes

Save the Date: April 24 Annual Meeting & Dinner

Mark your calendars for the annual meeting, voting and festivities of the Oregon Historic District Society, slated for April 24 at the Dayton Women's Club.

Become a Fan on Facebook

The Oregon District has its own Facebook fan page, with more than 1,000 members already. Check us out by searching for "Oregon District."

Buy Groceries and Help the Oregon District

Sign up for the Good Neighbor Program at the Dorothy Lane Market, choose the Oregon Historic District Society as your beneficiary, and a percentage of the money you spend (\$500 minimum in spending per year) will go to support our neighborhood.

Call 333-COPS

Lt. Larry Faulkner of the Dayton Police Department recommends that you call the non-emergency police number whenever you see someone or something suspicious. With City resources being cut, the neighborhoods that make the most calls will get the most attention.

**OREGON HISTORIC
DISTRICT SOCIETY**

WWW.OREGONDISTRICT.ORG

**P.O. BOX 383
DAYTON OH 45401-0383**

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Share your news!

To submit an article or information for the newsletter,
please call Sara Vice at 222-4195 or
e-mail newsletter@oregondistrict.org.

To submit urgent e-mail alerts, contact
Ann Cowden at cowden.ann@gmail.com.

Newcom Park Long-Range Plan

by Mike Martin, Committee Chairman

Our planning team met this past month to review the points we are considering as we put together a plan to present to Oregon's residents for comments and feedback.

When I was asked by then-OHDS President Dick Skelton to put together this team, my purpose was to create a project that many of us could work together to develop and build. The vision of the project is to ensure that Newcom-Founders Park remains the social centerpiece of our neighborhood and a place where residents can recreate, enjoy a sense of beauty, be safe, meet the needs of current and future neighbors, and can be easily maintained. To that end, we put an article in the neighborhood newsletter to gather ideas from residents to see what ideas they would like for the team to consider for inclusion.

Some of the ideas we are currently considering:

- 1) Ensuring the Henkel Gazebo is maintained structurally and visually
- 2) Lighting the Park and Gazebo to ensure beauty at night and its safety
- 3) Removing any overgrown shrubs that are preventing clear lines of sight into the Park from all angles
- 4) Replacing the chain-link fence on the east boundary with a lighted wall with the name of the Park on it (or perhaps even with a 'green' wall or picket-type fence)
- 5) Maintaining the current Park

infrastructure such as tuck-pointing existing walls as needed.

What We Need from You

We have solicited ideas from the residents about how we might change the large blacktopped area at the southeast corner of the Park to best suit the neighborhood's desires and needs. The ideas we have received range from:

- 1) Leaving it as is with no change
- 2) Removing the blacktop, putting in sod and perhaps a tree and a couple of lights to match the existing architectural lights
- 3) bocce ball court
- 4) winter skating rink
- 5) dog park
- 6) building a large covered picnic shelter

We'd like for you to provide feedback on what you think about these ideas so we can rank them. If you have another idea, let us know what it is as well. Please email your opinions and thoughts about these ideas to mmartin@kamela.com so our team can consider them.

Finally, we have secured the services of an architect through Design Services to provide their professional ideas as well as put all the ideas on a plan that we can look at it as a neighborhood, review and approve...and then set to work on implementing the changes over the next five or so years.

Committee Members

Tom Archdeacon, Marion Kendig, Mike Martin, Monica Snow and Kris Rankin



Housing Code Program to Begin April 1



The OHDS Housing Committee will begin notifying residents of environmental and structural violations as of April 1. Notification of violations will be attached to the front door handle (yellow card) and a letter will be mailed to the owner. A pamphlet outlining the housing code violations was included in the November newsletter.

Remember, keeping your home neat and clean will make the Oregon District safer, reduce crime, increase property values, attract new families and make this a better place to live.

Tips for Spring Pruning

According to Ohio State University Extension's Master Gardener Jim

Randall, "The best time to prune most trees and shrubs is during the late dormant season before new growth starts. Flowering trees and shrubs that bloom in the spring or early summer, such as lilacs, forsythia and azaleas, should not be pruned in the winter or spring. You will be removing the current year's blooms. Trees and shrubs that bloom in the spring should be pruned soon after they finish blooming and before July 1 when they begin to make buds for next year's flowers."

Local Tree Services

Mike Kessler 974-7151
Tree Care, Inc. 335-3170

Light Up the Night

by Amelia O'Dowd, Trustee

In the last few days spring has come bounding into the Oregon District. Crocuses are popping their little heads up, neighbors I haven't seen in weeks (maybe months) are out walking their dogs. I even saw someone having a picnic in the park this week. Yes, spring is in the air. As our trees and shrubs emerge from their long slumber and the days get longer, our streets will get darker at night. I urge you to take some time to prune back bushes, shrubs and tree branches from not only the lights around your house but also our streetlights.

The committee that maintains our streetlights works hard to keep our neighborhood illuminated and safe, so please do your part by keeping branches away from the lights. If you notice a streetlight out, call the chairman of the Streetlight Committee, Greg Smith at 224-7858 or email him at smitgregory@gmail.com.

Remember, all of our streetlights draw power from the house they are in front of. The only thing that keeps the District from being in the dark is the generosity of our neighbors.

If you have a streetlight in front of your house, thank you. If you don't, take a moment one evening to look at your house from the other side of the street. Are there dark spots? Could you add an additional light to better illuminate the sidewalk in front of your house? If you notice your neighbor's porch light is out, let them know; they may only come in through the back of the house and have no idea it's out. As Lt. Faulkner often reminds us, a well-lit neighborhood is a safe neighborhood!

Special Events



Oregon Historic District Society Annual Dinner & Meeting

Saturday, April 24, 2010, The Dayton Woman's Club, 225 North Ludlow Street

6:30 p.m. Voting and Cocktails

7:30 Dinner

9:00 – 10:30 Annual Meeting

\$30 for dinner; cash bar

Residents who do not want to attend the dinner are welcome to attend the cocktail hour and vote, as well as the annual meeting, at no charge. Please send in the enclosed dinner reservation form by April 15 with your check.

Membership Drive Kick-Off

Wednesday, March 31, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m., Oregon Express

Join neighbors, meet new residents, and renew your membership or join the Oregon Historic District Society. Refreshments are compliments of the OHDS.

Dog Run Proposed for Newcom Park

by Amelia O'Dowd, Trustee, and Tonia Fish

What about a dog run for Newcom Park?

A dog run is any fenced-in area in which owners may safely allow their dogs to exercise off-leash and to play and socialize with other dogs. All that would be required would be fencing a water source.

How would a dog run benefit the Oregon District?

Research shows that property values near dog runs increase, sometimes significantly. Dog runs increase the livability of a neighborhood and provide for a better sense of community. Moreover, research shows a great reduction in crime in neighborhoods with dog runs. Who would want to commit a crime with 15 dogs and their owners watching!?

A dog run would benefit the neighborhood in many ways:

- Dog runs add to the livability of a densely populated area with small yards, such as the Oregon District.

- Well-exercised dogs are tired dogs, and tired dogs are more likely to be quiet, good neighbors.
- Dog runs create a sense of community and forge friendships among users, as playful dogs break the ice between strangers.
- Dog runs serve as an economic development tool, drawing pedestrians to the business district.
- Dog runs discourage crime and loitering and raise property values.
- Dog runs reduce the number of pets being walked on neighborhood streets, and neighbors will be less likely to allow their dogs to run off lead in Newcom Park.

For more information about dog runs visit:
www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Community/Community_Dog_Parks

Oregon Historic District Society 2010 Trustee Candidates

James P. Edington, 38 Hess Street, Apt. A

I have lived in the district since July 2006. If elected, my main priority would be to increase community activities in the neighborhood. Specifically, I would like to encourage an increase of the use of the park. We have such a wonderful resource available to us. While it is an integral part of the summer picnics, there are so many other ways that it could be utilized. One idea that I have to increase activity in the park is to build a bocce court. Bocce is an Italian no-impact precision sport that is somewhat similar to lawn bowling or shuffleboard. Building such a court in the park would be a wonderful way for neighbors of all ages to gather and enjoy a game together. The court would also add to the beautification of the park. It would increase visual appeal and offer an inviting atmosphere. In general, I would like to help the neighborhood find new ways for residents to interact together and increase the sense of community in the district.

Tonia Fish, 128 Jones Street

Hello neighbors, I am Tonia Fish. My husband and I moved to the Oregon District in March of 2008. We moved back to Dayton, our hometown, to raise our daughter. We chose the neighborhood hoping to provide the benefits of a Midwestern upbringing within an urban setting. We love living in the Oregon District. There are so many things to appreciate about our neighborhood that we simply cannot imagine living anywhere else in Dayton. Prior to moving back, I was asked to join the Board for the Mendocino Friendship Park and I served as the Secretary. While on the Board I worked on the website and chaired the annual fundraiser. Upon moving back to Dayton, I worked for Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley as the Assistant to the Director. In this capacity I staffed all the committee meetings, executive staff meetings and the Board of Directors meetings. In recent months, I have developed and maintained the Oregon District Facebook page, which now has 1,376 fans, and co-founded the Oregon District Stitch 'n Bitch. If elected, I look forward to working on our website and continuing to develop the Oregon District's public image.

Jeanine Gow, 114 Green Street

My name is Jeanine Gow. My husband and I moved into the Oregon District from Tacoma, WA, in November 2009. As soon as we were shown the Oregon District, we were immediately attracted to it due to our love for old homes, historical areas, and location. The first weekend we moved in, I was amazed at the friendliness of our neighbors. I knew I was in the right place and wanted to get involved like I did in our old neighborhood, Evergreen Neighborhood, Tacoma WA. Besides us restoring Victorian-era rental properties in Tacoma, I also attended the neighborhood meetings, assisted in planning the National Night Out block party, helped with neighborhood clean-up, and assisted with obtaining neighborhood trees through the city of Tacoma urban forestry program. If elected as a trustee, I promise to look at all sides of issues and make informed decisions that are best for the Oregon district.

Elizabeth Koproski, 107 Green Street

My name is Elizabeth Koproski. My husband is Steve. I am mom to Olivia (4), Quinn (2) and Turner (2). Quinn joined us 7 months ago and is adopted from China. It has been a challenge having "instant twins"; but it's a challenge we fully enjoy. Steve and I have been in the Oregon District for seven years this May. We ended up in the District as a compromise. I spent three years in New York City and three years after that in Shanghai, China. I'm a city girl, while Steve is happy in the 'burbs. This has been the best of both worlds. Because of motherhood, I have not been as active in the neighborhood as I thought I would be. We enjoy the summer neighborhood picnics (when in town), touring homes at Christmas and visiting your house on Halloween. We love playing in the park, taking walks in the wagon and eating on 5th St. Steve and I are both employed by Athletes in Action, where I spend one day a week on campus, helping female athletes grow and develop spiritually. I graduated from BGSU in '94 with a degree in PR. The biggest reason I decided to run for trustee was to give a voice to families in the neighborhood. After living in the neighborhood for many years, it feels like it is time to give back. If I can be of help in making the Oregon District more family friendly, I'd love to do so.

Dina Peterson, 28 Tecumseh Street

Hi, my name is Dina Peterson and I'm running for OHDS Trustee. My husband Jeff and I moved into our home in April 2009. We joined the OHDS soon after moving in and attended the annual meeting. One of our goals was to be active in the neighborhood association. We attended several of the summer picnics and have made a point to attend the monthly meetings. We also volunteered to be guides for the Holiday Home

Tour. I love to cook, entertain, travel and spend time with the grandchildren, family and friends. Jeff and I really enjoy urban activities. Being avid antique collectors, we operated several booths in antique malls in Columbus, and we are working to rebuild our antique business here in Dayton. I have 20+ years in food and customer-service oriented businesses. I am a Nutrition Services manager for a community hospital. I have had board, fundraising and volunteer experience with the Dayton Dietetic Association, Newcomer's Associations in Iowa and Kentucky, various PTA's and Habitat for Humanity in Ft. Collins, CO. I'm on the annual meeting committee for OHDS this year. So, what do I want to do and what can I offer OHDS? 1. I believe we need a working relationship with the ODBA. I understand there is some water that has gone under the bridge/over the dam. Oh well!!! We need to repair the bridge and get over it together so our area can not only exist (co-exist), but thrive. 2. Fundraising; I have several ideas on how to improve the financial coffers of OHD. I am willing and able to think outside the box. This would also play into the relationship rebuilding with ODBA. 3. Improve general relationships with our residents and increase participation. Some ideas: social networking; rehabbing experts/guidance/resources; additional social events, particularly during winter months; outreach to all residents. Jeff and I look forward to working in the yard this spring, as we continue to make our new house our home, and where we will make new and lasting friendships in the OHD.

Sandra Salyer-Miller, 240 Green Street

I'm Sandra Salyer-Miller, born and raised in Dayton. I moved to 240 Green Street in October 2004 and married Lance Miller, who was one of the original restoring pioneers in 1977. I have been spending my life involved in the arts. I have created my own art and did serve on the board of trustees for Scottsdale Artists' School for six years. I love the urban life, everything from walking, dining and exploring the Oregon District. I wanted to help expand the area so I opened the Art Emporium in 2008. I'm so excited and believe in what we are doing for the OHD and downtown to better the quality of life for the residents and visitors. Thank you for considering me for the board of trustees, and I'd be honored to serve the Oregon Historic District.

Greg Smith, 45 Green Street

Hello, my name is Greg Smith and my wife Barb and I have resided here for 32 years. Shortly after our marriage, we purchased our home and began a family here in Oregon, raising our four children. I graduated from Wright State University with a degree in mechanical and electrical engineering. I am an Engineering Manager for Northrop Grumman Corporation. Also, I have held positions as operations manager and in multiple program management roles. I have served as a trustee both in my early years in Oregon and now have completed a three-year term. I am familiar with how the board functions and works with various constituents, including the City and other neighborhoods. After the streetlights were installed, I began working on the lighting crew and have served as manager of the group for over 25 years. In this capacity, I have also worked with the City's Departments of Planning and Maintenance. I have participated at trash cleanups, entranceway gardening, and as a guide for Christmas tours. I have volunteered outside our neighborhood in such activities as a Committee Chairman for Boy Scouts and assisted with Little League. As a trustee, I will work to represent the interests of all residents in the Oregon District. I visit Fifth Street businesses on a regular basis and will endeavor to contribute to the positive development of the Fifth Street business district and boundary businesses on Patterson and Wayne. A vibrant local business district and downtown are essential to all of our interests. The trustees must provide leadership and work along with all our neighbors, businesses, resident communities and City government for a thriving Oregon District. The resources of this neighborhood are phenomenal, especially in the talent and commitment of our people, and I would welcome the opportunity to serve as trustee.

Norm Wentland, 11 Tecumseh Street

Janet, my wife, and I came to Dayton in 1971 while I was in the Air Force assigned to WPAFB. In 1976 we bought our house, renovated it, moved in, raised our three girls, Emily, Allison, and Katie, and still reside there though the girls have all moved on. In 1983 I started my business, Digital Development Corp. In 1999 Janet and I bought The Livery building at 322 S. Patterson Blvd, on the west side of the Oregon District. We renovated it and moved my business into that location. About that time, I sponsored a pig roast, which produced the money to fund the first summer of weekly picnics in the park. This tradition has been enhanced and carried on by others. I have served as an OHDS trustee for three years. I also serve as a volunteer advisor on technology to the Red Cross and to Holy Angels School near the campus of UD. Currently, I am also a member of the board of trustees for the Oregon Business District Association. The OBDA is similar to OHDS but for the businesses located on or near 5th Street. In seeking reelection, my primary concern is to improve communication and cooperation between the OBDA and the OHDS. It is important we understand each other. We can accomplish more together than separately. Neither is the adversary of the other. I would appreciate your support.

