



Fall Programming At a Glance

SEPTEMBER

Home Restoration Fair

Saturday, Sept. 23 • 9:30 a.m.
Smith Elementary School
Oakwood

Potluck Supper

Thursday, Oct. 19 • 6:00 p.m.
Lutheran Church of Our Savior
Oakwood

Founders' Day Dinner

Thursday, November 16
Dayton Country Club
Social Hour 6:00 p.m.
Dinner 7:00 p.m.
Invitations will be mailed to all Society
members 3 weeks prior to this event.
Look for yours in the mail.

OHS on the web

While the official Oakwood Historical Society website is under construction, you can find out more about our activities by visiting mvcc.net/oakwood. To take a photo tour of the Long-Romspert Homestead, click on the "other resources" link. You can take a slide show tour, room by room or take a video tour of the property both inside and outside by clicking on the box at the bottom.

Society's first Home Restoration Fair debuts September 23

Oakwood residents have always had a sense of history when it comes to their classic homes. More and more, the owners of these older homes have come to appreciate the craftsmanship, detailing and architecture of their prized investments. Of the Craftsman Style houses he designed, Gustav Stickley once described them as "the type of houses that children will always remember as home." Such are the houses of Oakwood.

In 2005, the Oakwood Historical Society formed its Preservation Committee in response to a growing concern of citizens to maintain Oakwood's rich architectural heritage. Through education and community outreach, this committee has already helped guide some homeowners in the proper ways of restoring their homes to their original appearance. This year, they have published the "Schantz Park Historic District Self-Guided Walking Tour" booklet and a reprint of "The Place to Live," an original 1915 advertising brochure of Schantz Park. The debut event for these publications drew over 200

people interested in Oakwood's history, architecture and classic homes.

On Saturday, September 23rd, the first-ever Home Restoration Fair will debut at the Edwin D. Smith School auditorium. The fair will be an excellent opportunity for the owners of older homes to meet with craftspeople, contractors and experts in home restoration who have been invited to participate. From stone foundations to slate roofing, woodwork to chair caning, the fair will cover virtually everything one needs to rejuvenate their home. Window restoration and floor refinishing will also be covered. Architects, home researchers and historical organizations have also been invited to join in and provide invaluable information.

The fair will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$3.00 for adults; children 12 and under are free.

Whether you own an American Bungalow, a grand English Tudor or just enjoy the lifestyle of "The Classic Home," there will be something for everyone at the Home Restoration Fair.

Home Restoration Fair

Woodworking, Door, Cabinetry Craftsmen

Home Inspectors, Home Renderings

Roofing Contractors

Home Restoration Contractors

Non-profit Restoration Experts

Home Researching

and more!

OHS Committees

Please get involved...

Archives & History

Harry Ebeling • 293-0611
hebeling@aol.com

Education

Mackensie Wittmer • 775-3826
mwittmer+ohs@gmail.com

Facilities Development/ Maintenance

Tracy Clare • 299-8432
mzw00dy@sbcglobal.net

Fundraising/Finances

Bonnie Hupman • 298-5857
bfhupman@aol.com

Gardens/Grounds

Marilynn Sheehan
299-2895
colzubie@webtv.net

Membership

Jen Stoecker • 369-4459
jenstoecker@yahoo.com

Preservation

Harrison Stamm Gowdy
643-4075
stammgowdy@sbcglobal.net

Programming:

Mark Risley • 294-2537
therisleys@ameritech.net

Public Relations/ Newsletter

Anne Rasmussen • 534-1981
arasmussen@woh.rr.com

Picnic Thank-you's

Many thanks to the local door-prize donors who contributed items for our Old Fashioned Picnic!

Rife Jewelers

Tom Cecil

Schurman's Barber Service

Gene's Valet Service

Milano's on Brown Street

Greive Hardware

Oakwood Auto Wash

Friesinger's

Joe Kiss Hickory Bar-B-Q

Oakwood Club

Patterson Chase

Huffman Travel

Also, many thanks to K.D.'s Kettering Barbeque, the Packard Museum, and Rob Wackerman for their contributions to this year's picnic!

A note from the President

One of the biggest challenges many of us face as homeowners in Oakwood is understanding our own houses. They're unique, they're quirky, they're all one-of-a-kind, and, yes, they're old! Keeping up with the maintenance and restoration of these houses can be a daunting task, and the decisions and expenses associated with their upkeep weighs heavily on people's minds at times.

However, in keeping with the Oakwood Historical Society's mission to preserve the past, present, and future of the Oakwood community, we have come up with a fun and easy way to meet the experts who can ease your old house anxieties.

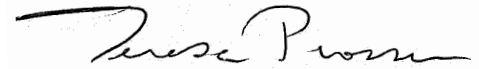
At the end of this month, the Society is holding its first Home Restoration Fair. This event is a unique opportunity for homeowners in Oakwood and other historical Dayton communities to meet and talk with craftsman, architectural experts, historians, and researchers from the area who are professionally knowledgeable about historic homes and how best to retain their authenticity.

We hope you will come out and take advantage of this opportunity.

Looking a little further down the road, the Society is planning its two fall social events: our potluck supper and our Founders' Day Dinner. We hope you will participate in these events as well, and you can expect personal invitations to the Founders' Day Dinner as late November approaches.

We hope you are continuing to enjoy our *Quarterly* newsletter. If you have any suggestions, comments or concerns, or if you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, please contact our newsletter editor, Anne Rasmussen. We are always looking for new and interesting stories about the Oakwood community to share with members and other history enthusiasts. So take advantage of this opportunity to tell a great Oakwood story if you have one!

Sincerely,



Teresa Prosser, OHS president

Two Schantz Park Historic District publications now available

When submitted to the National Register of Historic Places, the nomination of Schantz Park was praised as one of the finest ever received. This distinguished designation helps to recognize all of Oakwood as one of the most intact early 20th century communities in America.

After nearly two years of research and footwork, the "Schantz Park Historic District Self-Guided Walking Tour" booklet is now a reality. This educational publication contains historic and architectural information on many of the well-preserved homes that make up Oakwood's only historic district. Whether you walk, bike or drive this tour, you will enjoy the rich historic and architectural heritage that is Schantz Park. The tour booklet is free and is available at Wright Library, the Oakwood Municipal Building,

Oakwood Community Center and at Society events.

Also, the Oakwood Historical Society is proud to make available "The Place to Live," a reprint of one of the few existing original Schantz Park advertising brochures from 1915. This publication contains original photos and text designed to promote Schantz Park. It is interesting to see the early photos of many of the homes that are still standing today in excellent condition. This limited edition printing of "The Place to Live" is \$20.00 and is available at Society events. Copies can also be obtained by calling Harrison Gowdy at 643-4075 (please add \$5.00 S&H). If you are a resident of Schantz Park, a real estate agent or an Oakwood historian, both publications will make excellent additions to your library.

Schantz Park Historic District Walking Tour Highlights



On Saturday, June 24, over 200 history buffs, architecture enthusiasts, and curious neighbors came out to participate in the Oakwood Historical Society's kick-off celebration of the newly published Schantz Park Historic District Walking Tour Booklet. Society member Jill Kollars is shown here passing out booklets at the Schantz Avenue gate.

Society member Harry Ebeling stationed on Schantz Avenue shares historic information with tour-goers about the beginnings of the Schantz Park development.



Society member Harrison Gowdy, stationed on Rubicon, explains to tour-goers what the neighborhood looked like at the turn of the century.



Society president Teresa Prosser welcoming all tour-goers at the Schantz Avenue gate, including our esteemed mayor, Judy Cook.

Committee Reports

Preservation— Harrison Stamm Gowdy

The Preservation Committee is continuing to work on a preservation handbook. Our graphic designer has developed the layout for the book and over the next few months we will be working on the text. We hope to have the project complete this spring. We are always looking for members to become active in a project. Our lists of goals is greater than our list of volunteers. Please call Harrison Gowdy (643-4075) if you are interested in helping.

Programming— Mark Risley

In **May**, over 40 people braved thunderstorms to attend **The Treasures of Oakwood** presentation as we looked at rare architecture, art tiles, little-known history, hidden parks and other fascinating aspects of life in our town.

June saw more than 200 interested in Oakwood's history & architecture at the debut event of the "**Schantz Park Historic District Self-Guided Walking Tour**" booklet. Also debuting that day was a reprint of "The Place to Live", the original Schantz Park sales brochure from 1915.

In **July**, great food, sunny skies and classic Packard automobiles highlighted the society's well-attended **Old Fashioned Picnic**. Our thanks to those who enjoyed the afternoon and to each and every person who helped put it all together to make it a success.

In **August**, we took a break from programming as we put the finishing touches on **September 23rd's Home Restoration Fair**. This is an eagerly anticipated, first-time-ever event designed to connect the owners of older homes with the craftspeople and contractors who know them best.

Watch for the **Pot-Luck Supper on October 19th**, the **Founders' Day Dinner in November** and **The Homestead Holiday Open House in December**.

Committee Reports

Education — Mackensie Wittmer

The Education Committee continues to work on the website and is supporting the Programs Committee in the Home Restoration Fair by developing an Oakwood homes slideshow for the fair.

Gardens — Marilynn Sheehan

As summer slips away and fall comes in, we thought you might like to know a little about our gardens. Jamie Sheehan has been our gardner since 1992. She has a copy of Ethel Romspert's Garden Journal with many plants identified. There are three named gardens at the Homestead: The Cutting Garden (1993), The Memorial Garden (1994) and The Schweller Garden (1999).

We thank **Jean Woodhull** and **Mary Hayes** who generously donate plants and seeds to keep our gardens lovely. If you ever care to volunteer for garden work, please contact Marilynn Sheehan at 299-2895. Our next big job will be when the leaves come down. We usually have help from the high school students.

Membership—Jen Stoeker

The Membership Committee is currently working on a redesign of the membership brochure and also focusing on recruiting new members through events and programming.

Society's archives now safer

Thanks to the kind offer of the City Council and staff, The Oakwood Historical Society's archives have been moved to a newly created location in the basement of the new city building. A secure, safe, fireproof, dry space has been created with a fenced enclosure and a locked gate. It is well lighted and wired for electrical equipment, including a computer (when we get one), with internet access! Talk about Fat City!

Part of the fund appropriation, in addition to the above items, was the manpower for the move. This was accomplished with three of the Service Department's husky lads, supervised by Harry Ebeling, who had packed everything ready for the big event.

Just as before, access may be had for members who want to do research by contacting Harry or other board members at the Homestead answering machine and setting up an appointment. It's remarkable how much "stuff"



View into the OHS archives at the City Building basement.

we have about Oakwood – and how much help we need to sort it. The Society would like help initially with Harman and Smith School projects – what we have is pretty raw – but good. Any takers for the fall and winter?

With the archives out of the way, you can now see our display area in the former Homestead library, which we plan to use for historical, arts, genealogical, and event displays. We're gearing up for the '08 Centennial.

Store your class records

The Oakwood Historical Society is in the "Store and Lock" business. Not competing with the commercial ones – but offering a specialized service to Oakwood High school classes. Our experience is that each class has a couple of designated drivers who keep the records, souvenirs, pictures, banners, and trivia between the five year reunions. This creates problems of storage, access, and in the case of moving, family crises, and the normal life changes that go with the passing

years, for the successive people in charge. How many of you are the repository by default of a bunch of this stuff?

Well, your local historical society with its new, safe, dry, easy to find storage room in the City Building stands ready to bail you out – until needed for the next reunion. We'll mark and store all your memorabilia for you on an easy in/easy out basis. Just call the Homestead and leave a message. This is a free community service.

Homestead renovation update

As most of you know, the Long-Romspert Homestead has been constantly updated since we inherited it in 1985. We have done many things which have cost a great deal of money. The community has been most generous in this effort and we appreciate it.

At our last Board meeting, we authorized a contract to do repairs to the foundation and basement in the original house side (1867), using funds provided by you and the City.

There only remains one part of the original building which needs attention.

We need to make the back part of the original house safe, up to standards, and useable. This is the wooden annex that was added (circa 1916) to accommodate the Bartch's when they lived there with Laura Romspert. Being wood it has deteriorated, and has been cobbled up through the years. It

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House History Project

Your home improvement list may be a mile long, but a great project to do this fall or winter is to research your house's history. This project can take as little as an afternoon at the library or can develop into an ongoing pursuit for more details. Here are some basic steps to get you started.

1. Tax Auditor: If you know absolutely nothing about your home, the best place to start is the Montgomery County Tax Auditor webpage (www.mctreas.org). Search for your house by owner name or address, and open the appropriate record. Select the Appraisal button near the top of the screen. The year built will be located under the description of the structure. The year built is not always 100% accurate, but is usually in the ballpark. You can also call the auditor's office at (937) 225-4010.

2. City Directories: Another great place to start your house history is the Dayton city directories at Wright Memorial Library or the main branch of the Dayton Metro Library. Located on the lower level at the Dayton Library, the city directories cross-reference every home and person living in Dayton from the late 1800s to the present year. In the back of the book, look up the street address. (Remember streets and numbers do change from time to time particularly along Shafor Blvd. and Far Hills Ave.) The reference will list who lives in the house. Then flip to the front of the book and look up that person's name. The city directories will often list the person's occupation and any other adults living at that property. Sometimes a business address is listed which can be cross-referenced in the address section in the back of the book for the company name. You can track who has lived in the house and what they did for a living for every year since the house was built. The Dayton library staff members at the adjacent reference desk and in the local history room are wonderful resources to help with these directories.

3. Sanborn Maps: The Sanborn Fire Insurance Company created detailed maps of Greater Dayton as early as the 1860s. Today these are great resources to seeing how your street or neighbor-



Corner of Far Hills and Peach Orchard Rd. looking west on March 27, 1920.

hood developed. Sanborn maps are available online at any public library and on microfilm at the main branch of the Dayton Public Library.

4. Montgomery County Records Center: The Mont. Co. Records Center at 117 S. Main Street (6th floor) in Dayton holds a wealth of resources. The staff can help you track how parcels were split and sold. The center can also help with vital records (birth/death). The center's website is www.co.montgomery.oh.us/Departments/RecordsCenter/RecordsCenter.html or you can call the office at (937) 225-6366.

5. Dayton Metro Local History Room and Reference: If you are interested in the people who lived in your home, the Dayton Metro Library Local History Room and Reference staff can help you find obituaries in the Dayton newspapers on microfilm. Depending on the name and time period, the staff member may be able to point you to additional sources that mention Dayton residents, such as Charlotte Reeve Conover's many books on Dayton and NCR throughout the early 20th century. You may also find additional information in church and social clubs indexes available at the library. In addition to the Dayton Metro Library, Wright Memorial has a number of sources including a few books on Oakwood sports and history.

6. Oakwood Historical Society: The Oakwood Historical Society has a wonderful collection of Oakwood

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Committee Reports

Archives and History— Harry Ebeling

The Historical Society is supposed to be in the history business. And so we are! This year's activities have been challenging and exciting. One of our biggest projects is our involvement in the Centennial of Oakwood '08 project. The City has appointed two chairs to head up the celebration, and we are part of the planning process. The City has also created a film group and granted some funds for a professional editor to prepare a CD for use on public access TV and other venues. This group has been meeting all year, and it's beginning to come together. Watch for further reports.

Meanwhile, back at the Homestead, we've had several groups using our newly restored summer kitchen and the Homestead for group meetings, parties, and educational tours. The D.A.R. met at Easter time, and we had 8 fourth grade classes in May for what has become a traditional history tour outing.

We plan to republish our popular book, *Oakwood: The Far Hills* for the Centennial. New publishing methods will make this possible with the addition of supplemental sections for a 25-year update. It's been out of print and unavailable for several years.

As reported elsewhere, the move of our archives was no small task and should free up space for displays after some interior renovations.

House history,

continued from page 5



Sanborn Map of 100 block of E. Peach Orchard Ave.

photos that you can delve into in our archives room at the City building. The Society also has preserved many advertisement pamphlets and maps that show Oakwood neighborhoods as they were being platted and developed in the early 20th century. The Society also has a complete collection of Oakwood High School yearbook which are great for finding pictures of your home's former child residents.

If you use one or all of these sources, you are well on your way to researching your house history. If this project is more than you want to tackle, there are many trained professionals in Dayton that will research your house for you for an hourly rate or a flat fee.

Unfortunately, the Oakwood Historical Society is not equipped to handle requests from Oakwood homeowners regarding specific property searches. We do not maintain a data base of any public records-related information, and we do not have the human resources to help with specific house history research. The public records offices we mention in this article are definitely your best bet for this type of information.

For more information on researching your house, hiring a research professional, or sharing your house history with the Society, please phone Mackensie Wittmer at 937-775-3826 or e-mail her at mackensie45429@yahoo.com

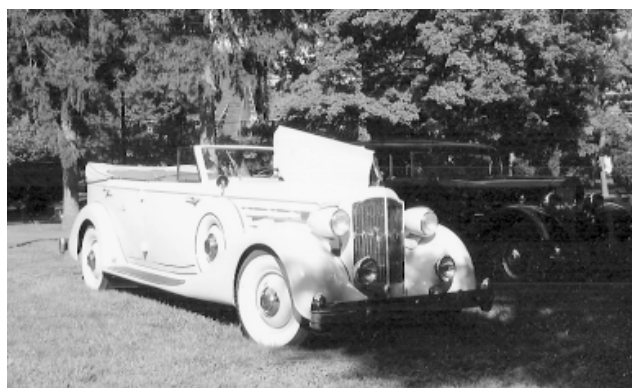
—by Mackensie Wittmer

Old fashioned picnic highlights



On Sunday, July 23 folks were lined up on the lawn of the Homestead to enjoy fried chicken, barbequed pork and all the fixin's at the Society's annual old-fashioned picnic.

After dinner, Society archivist Harry Ebeling gave a tour of the Homestead's interior, regaling his audience with the interesting nature of family life in the early twentieth century. The Homestead is actually two houses built under one roof, and for many years, it housed two distinct families at the same time.



On display at the picnic were two vintage automobiles brought over from the Packard Museum in Dayton. Picnic goers had an opportunity to view close up these amazingly intact and beautifully restored vehicles from another era.

Homestead Restoration, *continued from page 4*

originally had a back porch which was enclosed, and later a cheap paper-board was used to cover the inside. We have used it for archive storage.

Now that we have moved our archives to the new City Building, we can make a display room for historical displays and education. But the room needs new flooring, wall covering, electric wiring and paint in order to

make it a part of our history story.

We have a contractor ready to start this winter if we can come up with the \$7,500 necessary to do the work. While we scratch our heads, we could use some generous donors like those who have come forward in the past, to make our Homestead a true historical showplace for the Oakwood Centennial in 2008.

Potluck Supper to feature a presentation of Rookwood Pottery

Join us **Thursday, October 19, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 155 East Thruston Blvd. in Oakwood for our Farewell to Summer Potluck Supper. This supper is always a crowd-pleaser and there's no charge! Just check below to see what dish you should bring. If your last name starts with:

A through F - Bring a dessert

G through M - Bring a salad or vegetable

N through Z - Bring a main dish

Don't forget to bring plates and utensils. Beverage and rolls provided.

Although there is no charge, we need to know how many to expect.

Please call **Bonnie Hupman at 298-5857** or e-mail her at **bfhupman@aol.com** as soon as possible.

So forget about cooking dinner on Thursday, October 19. Just prepare one easy dish and bring the family to our Potluck Supper.

There will also be a display and a presentation of Rookwood Pottery including rare dinnerware!

We
need
your
ideas and
your help!



The Oakwood Historical Society is an active organization that is constantly seeking new ways to connect with and contribute to the Oakwood community. Our Board members work tirelessly to organize and implement programming ideas that help educate the citizens of Oakwood as well as enhance their understanding of this unique community.

However, the Board's ability to sustain its current activity level and improve its educational resources is constantly challenged by time constraints and physical limitations of a ten member board.

That's why, more than ever, we need the help of our membership! If you are a member of the OHS and you have any new ideas you would like to share with the Board, please, please get involved!

Call Teresa Prosser, OHS president, at 293-8506 to lend an idea or a hand. We're looking for both!

Annual Founders' Day Dinner slated for November 16

Be sure to mark your calendar for **Thursday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m.** and plan to attend The Oakwood Historical Society's annual Founders' Day Dinner at the Dayton Country Club.

The Board of Trustees will give a year-end report of Society activities and present the following slate of 2007 nominated officers and board members followed by our official election:

Mark Risley—President

Harrison Gowdy—Vice President and Secretary

Bonnie Hupman—Treasurer

Harry Ebeling—Archives

Mackensie Wittmer—Education

Anne Rasmussen—Newsletter/PR

Lisa Kell—Member at Large

Phyllis Miller—Member at Large

Kjirsten Goeller—Member at Large

Teresa Prosser—Past president and Special Events

The Society will be mailing out invitations to this event approximately three weeks beforehand, which will include the full menu and entertainment for the evening. Look for your invitation in the mail!

But just to whet your appetite here's a quick preview of the menu:

6:00 p.m. - Social Hour

Fruit, cheese, and vegetable trays

7:00 p.m. - Dinner

Choice of the following entrees:

Roast Pork Loin with natural jus

Chicken Picata with Lemon Caper Sauce

Grilled Atlantic Salmon Filet

Vegetarian Pasta

House Salad

Sauteed Mixed Vegetables

Baked Potato

Dessert



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