

# Oakwood Historical Society 2025 Annual Report



1947 Far Hills Avenue • Oakwood • Ohio • 45419-2536

## **President** *↻ Jeremiah Jenkins*

### **Codebreaker**

A historic and informative Q & A event, hosted in partnership with Unsung Heros, took place at the House Museum on May 7, 2025. Sir Dermot Turing, nephew of Alan Turing (who developed the decoding machine to break the German's Enigma Code) and Deborah Desch Anderson, daughter of Joseph Desch (who significantly improved the machine at NCR in the 1940's) met for a private reception commemorating the Victory in Europe Day.

### **Wright at Home**

On April 26, 2025, in partnership with Dayton History, Wright at Home was held. This event gives our community a chance to tour Hawthorn Hill, the stately home of the Wright family. In addition, OHS docents lead a neighborhood walking tour for participants to learn about Orville's famous neighbors. 383 tickets were sold, including 31 "day of" sales, totaling \$15,320, of which Dayton History gives approximately 30% to OHS. What a success!!

## **Property/Business Manager** *↻ Linda Pearson*

Our largest effort was the restoration of nine original windows (between 100 and 160 years old) in most need of repair. This included removing the sashes, repairing the frames, sills, and mending original cracked glass, then reinstalling the glass, priming and painting with period-appropriate materials. The work on two of the windows was funded by member donations. Our hope is that this will be an ongoing project.

We received a grant to start repairs on the large open-hearth fireplace in the summer kitchen. Work is scheduled to begin in the near future.

## **Committees**

### **Archives, Research, and History** *↻ Debra Edwards*

#### **Historical Markers**

The Society partnered with Dayton History and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park to install its sixth historical marker in October for Hawthorn Hill, the home of the world's first pilot, Orville Wright.

Funding for the bronze marker and granite base was generously provided by The Rotary Club of Oakwood, with additional support for the masonry work from the National Park Service. This represents the fourth Oakwood historical marker supported by the Rotary.

Other sites commemorated by the Society's marker program include the Town of Oakwood, the First Library, Kramer's Wine & Pleasure Gardens, the Schantz Park Historic District, and the Four Mile Tavern.

The Society has also now distributed over 60 Century Home markers to Oakwood homeowners, recognizing our beautiful and often historic homes that have reached this 100th year milestone.

#### **Archives**

The Society received a sizable LSTA grant from the State Library of Ohio for the conservation and preservation of our rare original 1912 Olmsted Brothers landscape plan.

This Olmsted plan encompasses a large area of West Oakwood, including Hills and Dales Park. It was commissioned by a group of Oakwood's leading citizens at the turn of the last century.

The original plan is currently with the University of Cincinnati Preservation Lab to begin its extensive conservation and preservation work. The Society expects to have the refurbished plan returned by August of this year and a copy showcased in an Olmsted Brothers exhibit at our House Museum this fall. The original will be placed in our archive.

### **Education** *✧ Linda Pearson*

Once again, we offered our Children Summer Garden Program where elementary-age children learned to plant, care for, and harvest summer vegetables and herbs, just like residents from years past. The children also prepared and ate a snack from the garden at each session. In the spring, we hosted four sessions of third-grade Oakwood Schools elementary students as part of the Social Studies curriculum on the Community.

We coordinate with Oakwood High School to provide service opportunities for their students. Over 20 Oakwood High School students were wonderful helpers and volunteers on a variety of projects, from cutting back honeysuckle to installing a small paver pad near our garden gate, helping set up for the Fall Photo Fundraiser, helping care for the Children's Summer Garden and working as instructors for the third-grade programs.

### **Far Hills Speaker Series** *✧ Donna Rosenbaum*

The Far Hills Speakers Series publicity increased and continues to reach a wider audience than in years past. Now added to the initial publicity are notifications in the Oakwood Register, the Oakwood Scene, social media postings by both the library and OHS, and inclusion in Charlie Campbell's weekly e-newsletter, "It's Great in Dayton."

In continued partnership with the Wright Memorial Public Library, the Oakwood Historical Society facilitated six 2025 presentations about Oakwood and Greater Dayton history. Topics included:

- The Mound Builders in Ohio
- Old Chillicothe, Chief Blackfish, the Shawnee People and Great Council State Park
- Dayton's Great Jazz Musicians
- Auto Ancestry—The Car Industry in Dayton
- The History of Hockey in Dayton
- The inspirational Music of World War II

### **House Museum** *✧ Karen Bartley*

For the first time since Covid, in 2025, the museum was open for tours 2 Sundays each month between May and November. Artifacts have been relocated to reflect a theme for each part of the house. For example, the Patterson Room has items that tell the history of the Pattersons and the 1913 Flood. Another area, labeled the Memorabilia Room, contains artifacts, information, and photos specific to Oakwood. The Society received welcome donations, including the Mead family sleigh as well as some items pertaining to Oakwood schools.

### **Membership** *✧ Ann Febus*

**The current Oakwood Historical Society Membership Status:**

- |                                |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Active (168)                | 8. Silver (\$100) (14)   |
| 2. Individual (19)             | 9. Gold (\$200) (4)      |
| 3. Individual Senior 65+ (13)  | 10. Diamond (>\$200) (4) |
| 4. Family (16)                 | 11. Lifetime (38)        |
| 5. Family Senior 65+ (12)      | 12. Business (4)         |
| 6. Family Military, Active (7) | 13. Complimentary (25)   |
| 7. Bronze (\$75) (3)           | 14. Sponsor (9)          |

# 2025 Annual Financial Report

January through December 2025

Prepared by Treasurer Debra Schenk

## Revenue

Donations	\$26,182.
Membership Dues	7,015.
Special Events Profits	6,871.
Sponsorships	1,511.
Grants	8,325.
Merchandise Sales	<u>2,827.</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$52,731.</b>

## Expense

Utilities	\$8,060.
Property Maintenance	6,025.
Gardens and Grounds	5,785.
Newsletter/Postage/Software/Office	4,197.
Insurance	8,012.
Professional Fees	<u>2,082.</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$34,162.</b>

**Capital Improvements** \$20,565

**Net Income/Loss** -\$1,996.

**Transfer from Endowment** \$15,000

**Net Cash** \$13,004.

(Funds at Dayton Foundation—\$298,555)