

THE OAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Archives & Research Committee

Debra Edwards, Committee Chair

The Archives & Research Committee continued with its mission of implementing more modern preservation practices in the Society's all important and treasured archive. Over 400 volunteer hours were dedicated in 2024 to the organizing, preserving, and cataloging of documents, books, photographs, oral histories, and other artifacts and media relating to Oakwood history. These efforts resulted in improved research capabilities, preservation of rare documents, and the ability to share Oakwood's storied history with the community for generations to come. The committee is now seeking grant funding that will allow further, more advanced improvements and preservation of our archival records.

Century Home Marker Program

Debra Edwards, Committee Chair

Over 50 Oakwood homes now proudly display The Oakwood Historical Society's bronze Century Home Marker, honoring their 100 year milestone. Sixteen homes received the marker in 2024. The Society is extremely appreciative of the community's enthusiastic response to this program and that so many Oakwood homeowners have shown such pride in our lovely, and often historic, older homes.

Education Committee

Linda Pearson, Committee Chair

The Education Committee is responsible for the development of educational programs related to Oakwood history. In 2024 we once again offered our eight-session Children's Summer Garden Program, during which elementary-age children learned to plant, care for, and harvest summer vegetables and herbs. The children also prepared and ate a snack from the garden at each session.

Along with Dayton History, we co-hosted Wright at Home tours of the Wright Brother's Mansion. These tours commemorate the day the Wright family moved into their Oakwood mansion in 1913.

Oakwood High School students earned community service hours while working on many projects, one of which included helping teach 3rd Grade Oakwood students about the early settlement of Oakwood and how people lived here in the past two centuries. We hosted seven classes of students from Harman and Smith Elementary schools over two weeks in the spring.

We introduced two new history videos. One was a newly updated version of the history of Oakwood. The other was a history of the early residents of Oakwood, and the Long and Romspert families who built and lived for three generations in the house that is now our museum home. Videos can be found at oakwoodhistory.org.

Using our lovely grounds, we offered Fall Photo Sessions to the community at a reasonable price. The community support was much appreciated and raised funds for ongoing museum maintenance.

We also conducted spring walking tours of several parks on the west side of Oakwood.

Far Hills Speaker Series

Donna Rosenbaum, Committee Chair

In partnership with the Wright Memorial Public Library, The Oakwood Historical Society facilitated seven 2024 presentations about Oakwood and Greater Dayton history. Topics included:

- Joe Desch: Codebreaker
- Beyond the Playhouse: Mound Labs Mission in Space
- The Great Flood of 1913
- Aullwood Audubon's Rich History
- Victory in the Pacific: Local Veterans and their Role in WWII
- Oakwood Notables in Woodland Cemetery
- Lucky Eddie: The Life, Times, & Family of Dayton U.S. Congressman Edward G. Breen

Learn more about previous and upcoming Far Hills Speaker Series events at oakwoodhistory.org.

Historical Marker Program

Debra Edwards, Committee Chair

The Society unveiled its fifth Historical Marker in 2024, commemorating the Four Mile Tavern. The marker was placed near the Tavern's original site at Far Hills and Hilltop Avenues. Funds for the plaque were provided through a generous grant from The Rotary Club of Oakwood, and the marker was installed by the City of Oakwood. The other previously installed Society historical markers are Town of Oakwood, First Public Library Building, Kramer's Wine & Pleasure Gardens, and Schantz Park Historic District. Plans are underway to unveil a sixth historical marker this year.

Holiday Home Tour Committee

Jill Brooks, Committee Chair

This year's Holiday Home Tour featured four houses, along with the Frederick Patterson house. All of the houses have fascinating histories related to their architectural designs, the lives of the people who built and lived in them, and artifacts that current owners found in the houses.

Holiday Home Tour home owners and docents did a wonderful job introducing the houses and pointing out unique house features to visitors. We appreciate the home owners who shared their beautiful, historical, and architecturally significant homes, the 300 people who bought tickets to this event, and the volunteers who made this day possible. We heard from many people that Holiday Home Tour is an annual tradition that signifies the start of the holiday season. We look forward to being a part of the Oakwood community's holiday season in 2025.

House Museum Committee

Karen Bartley, Committee Chair

The members of the museum committee accomplished much in 2024, yet much remains to be completed. With the goal of opening the museum on a regular basis, we have worked to create a space that demonstrates the history of the Long-Romspert family as well as the growth of Oakwood. The house-museum reflects two periods: 1860-1890 and the early 20th century. During these decades, significant changes affected people's lives. The development of sewer lines, indoor plumbing, and electricity can be traced and visualized within this house-museum. Plans are in process to install signing, exhibits, and displays focusing on the early history of the house museum, the Oakwood community, and its residents. This new signage and maps will give context to the occupants' lives and experiences.

The committee has also begun to focus on the outbuildings as a means to communicate the history of Oakwood, Dayton, and the United States. The summer kitchen, pumphouse, and carriage house are wonderful examples of how former generations prepared food, obtained fresh water, and managed transportation. The Long-Romspert house-museum illustrates many aspects of history!

Maintenance Committee

Linda Pearson, Business Manager; Tonya Dickie, Interior Manager

The Maintenance Committee is responsible for the upkeep and repair of the Homestead buildings both inside and out, and any improvements/renovations to those buildings. This year those improvements included:

- The purchase of two new air conditioning units
- Masonry repairs to the North and East side foundation and lintels
- Repairs to an old staircase door which revealed an 1857 patent on the door hinges when rehung
- Rebuilt garage door frame and rehung doors using original 1920's hardware
- Repair, water seal, and recap of five chimneys
- Restoration of two sets of bedroom windows
- Repair of one of the upstairs bedrooms
- Replacing and rebuilding raised beds in our garden
- Continued organization of behind-the-scenes storage areas

Our major goal for 2025 is to start restoration of our 40 original Homestead windows. They range in age from the 1860s–1920s.

Membership Committee

Ann Febus, Committee Chair

The Membership Committee is responsible for promoting membership in the Society and for maintaining membership records, including our mail distribution and volunteer lists. The Society continues to use a CRM (Customer Relationship Management) system called Little Green Light, and it has been a effective tool to help us manage our memberships, sponsors and donors. The CRM system not only tracks our memberships, but it also assists us by sending reminder letters when memberships are expiring. Today we have over 185 active members. This includes over 20 members in the Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Diamond categories. The Society also has 20 corporate sponsors.

To attract new members, the membership committee is also reaching out to new Oakwood residents. For example, we recently attended the New Neighbor Breakfast at the Oakwood Community Center and handed out our membership brochure and calendar of events. In addition, we are in the process of sending letters to individuals whose membership has lapsed for more than six months, reminding them of the benefits of renewing their membership and informing them of upcoming social and educational programs.

Outreach & Displays

Carol Holm, Committee Chair

The Oakwood Historical Society has frequent displays in the Wright Memorial Public Library entry and in the South Reading Room display case. The entryway case features upcoming activities (speakers; public events; children's outreach).

In 2024 the South Reading Room case featured the following topics:

- Dayton Flood
- Codebreakers
- D-Day 1944
- Preserving Flowers in Art
- School Days
- Pearl Harbor
- 1944 Christmas

The Oakwood Historical Society participates in That Day in May and does a display for Scarecrow Row. The historical society's sign on Far Hills Avenue is decorated with appropriate seasonal themes.

2024 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

January through December 2024

Prepared by Treasurer Debra Schenk

REVENUE

Donations	\$ 11,950
Membership Dues	9,065
Special Events Profits	19,521
Sponsorships	2,675
Merchandise Sales	559
Total Revenue	\$43,770

EXPENSE

Utilities	\$ 6,473
Property Maintenance	4,373
Gardens and Grounds	4,906
Newsletter, Postage & Office	4,038
Insurance	5,360
Professional Fees	2,296
Total Expense	\$27,446

NET INCOME **\$16,324**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS **\$35,068**

TRANSFER FROM ENDOWMENT **\$25,000**

NET CASH **\$ 6,256**

(Funds at Dayton Foundation \$271,885)



THE OAKWOOD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
1947 Far Hills Avenue
Dayton, OH 45419

THE OAKWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Categories (check one)

- ☐ Individual \$25
☐ Family \$25
☐ Business \$50
☐ Bronze \$75
☐ Silver \$100
☐ Gold \$200

\$5 Discount (check if applicable)

- ☐ Student ☐ Senior ☐ Active Military

Please make checks payable to:

The Oakwood Historical Society

Mail checks to:

1947 Far Hills Ave Oakwood, OH 45419

*Learn more at oakwoodhistory.org
or scan the QR code*



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Spouse/Partner _____

Business/Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____