

# Oberlin Heritage Center E-Gazette

May 7, 2009

(440) 774-1700

[www.oberlinheritage.org](http://www.oberlinheritage.org)

## **Hollywood Street Centennial**

Perhaps not quite as well-known as its California counterpart, Oberlin's "Hollywood" has its own claim to fame as residents, neighbors and the community celebrate this west side neighborhood's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special program on **Monday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Oberlin Public Library** (65 South Main Street). Presented by Oberlin College Professor of Chemistry/Biochemistry, **Rob Thompson**, a Hollywood Street homeowner since 1985, whose interest in exploring the history of his own house blossomed into this celebration of the street's centennial. If you have items or photographs that pertain to the street's history that you would like to display during the event, please bring them to the library by 6:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.

## **Dedication of Refurbished Morgan Street Bridge Railings**

The Oberlin Heritage Center will observe National Preservation Month and help raise awareness about the power that historic preservation has to protect and enhance homes, neighborhoods, and communities by dedicating the former Morgan Street bridge railings in a brief ceremony on **Friday, May 15 at 5:00 p.m.** The event will take place on the Jewett House front lawn, and it is free and open to the public. (Rain location: Inside the Jewett House.) Prior to their restoration last fall by a team of dedicated OHC volunteers, the railings lined the Morgan Street Bridge over Plum Creek, slightly south and west of the Jewett House where the railings stand today as a beautiful decorative fence gracing the south side of the property. The railings are probably the biggest thing in town apart from historic buildings themselves that has been recycled for a creative and functional new use, demonstrating how historic preservation and going green can work together.

## **Oberlin Pride Day**

Volunteers are needed to help with Pride Day activities at the Oberlin Heritage Center on **Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.** Helpers will meet at the brick crossroads (behind 73 South Professor Street) to work throughout the Heritage Center's grounds getting it ready for the summer visitor season. Wear work clothes and gloves and bring your favorite weeding tools. Volunteers are welcome to drop by any time during the morning. This annual clean-up, spruce-up effort is one of many events taking place during the county-wide efforts planned for Lorain County Pride Day. For more information about the Heritage Center's activities, or to volunteer to help, please call 440-774-1700, or e-mail [members@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:members@oberlinheritage.org).

## **Send a Kid to Summer Camp**

Registrations are underway for four week-long day camps and five single-day camps for kids and teens being offered by the Oberlin Heritage Center this summer. What a great feeling it is to offer a child the opportunity to attend summer camp. Donations of any size will help provide partial scholarships for qualified children to attend an OHC camp – guaranteed to be a great experience! (Children are eligible for scholarship support if they qualify for schools' free lunch programs.) Checks may be made payable to the Oberlin Heritage Center, with "Summer Camp Scholarships" written on the memo line. You may also stop by the Monroe House in person or call with a credit card contribution. For more information, call (440) 774-1700 or e-mail [tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:tourinfo@oberlinheritage.org)

## Mission Apollo Update

A large contingent of Apollo Theater admirers took part in Oberlin's **BIG PARADE** on **Saturday, May 2nd** with a fun Apollo Marquee parade float that rolled through town. Afterward, many gathered outside the Apollo Theater for a brief photo session, the results of which were submitted to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's "This Place Matters" campaign on their website at [www.preservationnation.org](http://www.preservationnation.org) (find the Apollo group's photo at <http://www.flickr.com/groups/thisplacematters/pool/page2/>.) The Oberlin Heritage Center continues to collect information on the history of the theater and to assemble photographs for use in eventual programs and exhibits, as well as to place in our Resource Center to document the theater's history for future generations. If you have information, photos, or memories to share, please let us know by calling (440) 774-1700 or e-mailing Pat Murphy at [patm@oberlinheritage.org](mailto:patm@oberlinheritage.org). Don't miss Shirley Coleman Wilson's Apollo Theater memories below. Check out Mission Apollo's Facebook page or send an e-mail to [MissionApolloTheater@gmail.com](mailto:MissionApolloTheater@gmail.com).

## Thanks for the Memory

Thank you to Shirley Coleman Wilson of Westerville, Ohio for taking part in Mission Apollo activities in Oberlin last weekend and also for sharing some of her Apollo memories:

*I am a member of the Robert Thomas family. I am a cousin of Bob Thomas who was the Nephew of my maternal Grandfather, Robert Thomas who died in Oberlin in 1975 at the age of 100 years. He and my Grandmother were Houseparents to Colored, Oberlin College girls from 1928 to 1940 at 181 South Pleasant St. I have such pleasant memories of the Apollo. I can confess this now in my elder years -- Jerry Steele, the owner, worked at the ticket window and allowed children under 6 years of age to get in free for movies. I started going to the Apollo at age five. I was little and looked younger than I really was. When my Grandfather dropped me and my cousins off at the theatre, I always presented myself as 5 years of age to get in free. This went on for 2 years. Finally, one Saturday afternoon, Mr. Steele looked at me and said to me: "You're that little Thomas girl; you've been five years old for 2 years," and he made me pay for my ticket. I never knew if he told my Grandparents, but after that they always said to me; "Now be sure to use your ten cents and pay for your ticket." I will always have a special place in my heart for the Apollo Theatre. It brought many happy memories of childhood for me. Whenever I think of the Apollo, I laugh at that encounter with Mr. Steele. The last time I went there was one year ago, and I felt I was going back into a pleasant time tunnel.*

## You May Be Interested...

The **Cleveland Restoration Society** is pleased to announce that their longstanding **Heritage Home Program** is now available to residents who live in the city of Oberlin. The program will be targeted to older and historic residential properties more than 50 years of age. Homeowners can get free expert advice and low interest financing to preserve the unique character of their homes and neighborhoods. Older houses that still have some of their original features are eligible for both exterior and interior projects. Non-owner occupied properties up to a three-family are also eligible. Projects range from new roofs, painting, landscaping, porch repair, additions, window repair, driveways, storm windows, kitchen and bath renovations, and much more. Vinyl siding and vinyl replacement windows cannot be funded. Income guidelines do exist to qualify for the loan, but anyone with an eligible property can take advantage of the free technical advice. If you are interested in finding out more information on the program, or to see if your house qualifies, contact the Cleveland Restoration Society at (216) 426-3116.

Congratulations to the Oberlin Area Chamber of Commerce (Anne Cunningham, Executive Director) for its role in helping Oberlin achieve recognition as one of "**America's Top 100 Places to Live**" as listed by RelocateAmerica.com. RelocateAmerica is a leading online relocation resource, serving millions of consumers annually since 1997. Only three Ohio communities were ranked in the Top 100, the others being Columbus and Cuyahoga Falls. Some 1,800 communities were nominated for the list. Applause, applause all around town for this tip-top honor!

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