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Oberlin's Hollywood Street Celebrates Centennial

Although 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 100th anniversary with a special program on Monday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Oberlin Public Library (65 South Main Street). Hollywood Street homeowner and local historian, Rob Thompson, will talk about the connections between Hollywood Street and Knox County, the Men's Building at Oberlin College, the Oberlin Clinic, the electrical utility, and more. Rob Thompson has lived on Hollywood Street since 1985 and his interest in exploring the history of his own house blossomed into this celebration of the street's centennial. He is a professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Oberlin College. Anyone who wishes to share items or photographs that pertain to the street's history may bring them to the Library by 6:30 p.m. to display during the event.

Oberlin's wide, tree-lined Hollywood Street is located immediately west of Allen Community Hospital and Allen Medical Center along the 200 block of Lorain Street (State Route 511). While the street spans several blocks, there is no outlet on its north end, which keeps traffic light. The quiet residential area is made up of singles and families, children and grandparents, who have formed a friendly, close-knit neighborhood. The properties include an eclectic mix of houses – from century homes to contemporary styles – in all shapes and sizes. Some have referred to it as the all-American streetscape.

The Hollywood Street Centennial program is free and open to the public. The event is sponsored by the Oberlin Heritage Center. For additional information, please call the Heritage Center at (440) 774-1700 or visit www.oberlinheritage.org.

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