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Oberlin Heritage Center Launches New and Improved Website!

The Oberlin Heritage Center is pleased to announce the launch of its new website at www.oberlinheritage.org. The site features an events calendar, an array of well-organized information for community residents, members, visitors, educators, researchers, and the community, as well as great photographs, old and new. Visitors to the website can now register on-line for events and summer camps, sign up for tours and history walks, become a member, subscribe to a free e-newsletter, or shop online in the museum store. Visitors to the site will also find much information to help plan their travels to Oberlin and Lorain County. History buffs and genealogists will find extensive research and reference materials on all aspects of the community's history, its historic buildings, and monuments. The new site also has a Flickr photo sharing link. You may become a fan of the Oberlin Heritage Center in Facebook or leave a comment about the new site in the Blog. The website was developed to be both easy-to-use for people of all ages, and straightforward to maintain by staff, interns, and volunteers. Check it out today and tell a friend!

Planning for the new site was done by a small staff and intern team at the Heritage Center who worked on the project off and on over the course of two years. They examined what they did and did not like about the Center's previous website and those of other cultural attractions, museums and historic sites. They learned about some of the unique challenges of writing for the web and using "call to action" language. The team devised a thorough website wish list and site map that it included in a Request for Proposals. The firm which was selected to be the website developer for the project, Emerge, Inc., is based in Elyria and has done many websites for local organizations and businesses. The Heritage Center's Museum Education and Tour Coordinator, Liz Schultz, is the site's in-house webmaster. Development of the new website was funded in part by a grant from The Stocker Foundation.

The Oberlin Heritage Center's executive director, Pat Murphy, commented on the new website's launch:

We were thrilled that within minutes of the site's launch we received an on-line donation from a woman in California who had never been here! She found our website and made a contribution to purchase an inscribed brick for the Oberlin Heritage Trail brick walkway in memory of an Oberlinian whom she had admired, Richard Ralston Hill. We think our new website will help us reach a wider audience and encourage others to visit and to get involved in helping accomplish our mission: to preserve and share Oberlin's unique heritage and to make our community a better place to live, learn, work and visit.

For more information, or to offer your comments on the new website, visit www.oberlinheritage.org, send an email to ohcweb@oberlinheritage.org or call Liz Schultz at 440-774-1700.

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