



## Salem Civic Association's 2023 Community Triumphs; 2024 Aspirations

by Heather Odenweller

### Embracing Our Community: Engaging Events and Collective Efforts in Salem

As we reflect on the remarkable journey of 2023 and embark on the adventures of 2024, our community's spirit and unity stand out as our greatest achievements.

### Salem Women's Book Club: A Journey in Literature and Friendship

The Salem Women's Book Club, launched by Emelia Sheeley in February 2023, quickly became a hub for literature enthusiasts in our community to come together, discuss, and celebrate their love for reading. Throughout 2023, the club explored eight engaging books, convening every six weeks to share thoughts and insights. Emelia reports that the experience has been immensely enjoyable, uniting neighbors of various backgrounds and ages. Those interested in joining this dynamic group are encouraged to contact Emelia at <u>ohemelia@gmail.com</u>.



### The Salem Garden Collaborative: Building a Garden of Community and Education

In partnership with Salem Elementary School and the Salem neighborhood, plans are being support of our community, and generous grants from The Columbus Foundation and the 614 Beautiful Program, this dream is moving closer to realization. This initiative will not only enhance the beauty of our neighborhood, but also strengthen our community bonds. To join the growing list of volunteers, please contact: <u>Salemgardencollaborative@gmail.com</u>.



### National Night Out: Strengthening Bonds in Chaseland Park

Salem's National Night Out event, held at Chaseland Park, perfectly illustrates the strong ties between the community and local law enforcement. Celebrated in August,

the event brought together Salem residents, including about a dozen dogs, showcasing our commitment to neighborhood safety and unity. We thank Officers Yandrich for their contributions and the residents and their dogs for showing commitment to neighborhood safety. Volunteers willing to assist with the event should email Allison at allison.hoyt107@gmail.com. Your involvement is greatly appreciated!

Chaseland Park's Easter Egg Hunt: A Growing Spring Tradition

developed for a community garden on the school's grounds. This garden aims to nourish our neighbors of all ages and backgrounds with food, education, and friendship. Thanks to the active participation and



### February is a dinner meeting

February's SCA meeting is serving up dinner with an Italian theme. For just a \$5 donation, enjoy the meeting AND:

Spaghetti Bolognese • Lasagna • Focaccia Bread • Salad • Desserts • Drinks

Buon Appetito!

The annual Easter Egg Hunt in Chaseland Park has become a beloved spring tradition in our community. What started as a modest gathering with only ten attendees has blossomed into a vibrant event,

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### Salem Civic Association Meetings

The next Civic Association meetings are Tuesday, February 27 and Tuesday, March 26. Meetings are held at Salem Baptist Church on Sinclair Road at 7:00 p.m. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend!

### Salem Civic Association Meeting Minutes: January 23, 2024

by Charlene Combs, SCA Secretary

President Jake Wheeler started the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

**Secretary's Report** – Charlene Combs Minutes approved.

### Columbus Police Liaison - Dan Yandrich

Officer Yandrich was not in attendance. No questions to pass on to Officer Yandrich but Norma Sisson reported two instances on the lake. There was a truck broken into and tools stolen; also a shed broken into.

#### Treasurer's Report - Allison Hibbler

*Report not available. Please see website for details:* <u>Salemcivicassociation.org</u> Went over December financials, which is also year-end. Additional expenses cleared after the January 7, 2024 "year-end" date. Treasurer report accepted.

### Northland Community Council Report - Pat Hammel

- The Doll House (Karl Rd.) has reopened after passing all required inspections and coming into compliance with the nuisance abatement agreement being overseen by the City Attorney's office.
- City Attorney has filed objections to operating license renewal of Norwood Inn & Suites (SR 161) and Studio Lodge (Quarterhorse Dr.) based on high level of CPD runs for reported prostitution and drug activity.
- Phase 2 of the SR 161 improvement project from Cleveland Ave. to Maple Canyon Dr. will begin in 2024 with utility relocation. Actual road and shared use path construction projected to begin in 2026.
- Report from the Quarterly Good Neighbor meeting with Community Shelter Board (CSB) and YMCA and Homefull 12/7/23: *Please see website for full report:* <u>Salemcivicassociation.org</u>

**Safety Officer** – Pat Hammel CPD - 11 total reports; 311 – 23 total reports.

NCC Development – Sam Shy Sam not in attendance. Nothing to report near us.

**Communications** – Heather Odenweller Two *Lamplighter* routes need filled.

#### Membership - Laurel Hobden

Membership forms available if you want to sign up tonight. Per Heather, there is going to be a Facebook Membership Campaign.

#### Hospitality - Charlene Combs

The February meeting is going to be a dinner meeting with an Italian theme. Cookies tonight made by Trinity Eisenman. Flyers on the snack table if you want to order Valentine goodies.

#### Budget

Allison went over the 2024 Budget spreadsheet. Kaitlynn asked if the association would consider helping with the Easter Egg Hunt in Chaseland Park. Allison mentioned waiting until closer to the event and we could look then. Budget accepted.

#### **New Business**

Pat Hammel made motion to move the \$100 from the Salem School line and the \$40 from the Beautification line and place that \$140 to a new category titled Salem Garden Collaborative. Leslie Baab objected to the Beautification money being moved. Pat's original motion passed as stated.

### Adjourn ()

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#### Salem Lamplighter

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Articles for the *Lamplighter* and Letters to the Editor are welcome and encouraged.

Designer/Editor Leslie Baab lesliebaab@yahoo.com

#### Social Media

www.salemcivicassociation.org www.facebook.com/groups/ 223502895108/

## **Curious Salem**

by Grace Freeman

### 5430 North Meadows

5430 North Meadows was built in 1959, as part of the Northview Estates development. Walter J. Shapter was the main developer for the area (see *Lamplighter* from June and November 2021 for more), though he often brought in other builders for individual homes. This was the case for 5430 North Meadows, which was built by local builder Olin Castle.

Castle was a local developer who built other homes on North Meadows, including 5488, 5514, 5522, 5489, and others. He and his wife Beverly also built 5418 North Meadows for themselves, though they ended up selling that property shortly after it was built.

After 5430 was built, it was first sold to William and Allison Drake. William was an Assistant Professor of Photography at Ohio State University, who married Allison Wylie in 1942. Drake worked as an advertising photographer for F & R Lazarus Co in the 1940s and served in in the Army for three years during WWII. Allison was a minister, who also held a fine arts degree from Ohio University.

The Drakes sold the home in 1968 to Paul and Suzanne Howard. The Howards were both graduates of North High School, and Paul worked a salesman. They divorced after only a few years of marriage.

In 1974 Suzanne sold the home to Charles and Shirley Smith, who lived in the home for many years.



Courtesy Columbus Dispatch September 6, 1959

Charles worked for GE in the Abrasives Division. Shirley passed away in 2001, and the home finally passed hands in 2004 after Charles' death. The home passed down to their daughter Robin Kleismit, who

Curious Salem con't. on page 5





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#### Curious Salem con't. from page 3

5430 North Meadows was briefly owned by Roberto Choueiri, who purchased the home in 2015 and sold it in 2016 to the current owners, Gabriel and Emelia Sheeley.

This inquiry was initiated by Emelia, who found an East High School Class of 1953 ring in her garden. I was hoping to narrow down which past owner was the likely graduate, but have been unable to determine who it was. Here's what I know:

The Castles married in 1942, meaning they were too old to be the ring's owners, and their children wouldn't



be old enough to graduate in 1953. The Drakes also married in 1942, so the same logic applies. Paul and Suzanne Howard were, as noted, both graduates of North High School and that was in the 1960s. Charles and Shirley Smith seemed the likely option. Charles was born in 1938 though, so he would have graduated around 1956, making him too young. Shirley was a few years older, so a better option, but investigation showed she graduated from Linden-McKinley High School in 1955.

The back of the ring appears to have initials (LRS) though this didn't seem to help the research. Charles

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## Houses Bought In **Northview Estates**

Sale of several houses in Northview Estates, a project being developed by Walter J. Shapter, Jr., east of Sinclair Rd, and north of Lincoln Ave., was disclosed Saturday by J. W. Brown, 36 W. Gay St., realtor and sales agent for Northview Estates.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Jerty at 5499 N. Meadows Rouette purchased 552 Craw-Blvd.

Dr., and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Blvd. Myers purchased 5439 Craw-

ford Dr.; Mr. and Mrs. Don-| Mr. and Mrs. Olin D. Castle ald E. Baker, Dover, Ohlo, are building their own resitook title to 5513 Crawford dence at 5418 N. Meadows

ford Dr.

A dwelling at 5524 Craw ford Dr. was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Warren Hensley with Mr. and Mrs. Gard H. Eckels purchasing the prop

*Courtesy* Columbus Dispatch June 21, 1959

*East High School class* ring found in Sheeleys' aarden



Olin D. Castle, courtesy Columbus Dispatch June 11, 1961

(Smith) had siblings, but none with the first initial "L". I also checked to see if the maiden name of the any of the wives began with S in case it was one of their siblings, but none of their maiden names began with the letter "S".

As far as I can tell, none of these owners ever rented the home to another resident, indicating that perhaps a guest/visitor/hired laborer to the home was the person to lose the ring. I also checked to see if any of the adjacent neighbors were East High 1953 graduates, but none were a fit. Unfortunately, neither the library nor Ancestry have a 1953 (or similar year) yearbook currently, so I was unable to look through the graduating class for a likely owner. Sadly, the lost ring will remain a mystery for now. If you, or anyone you know have a 1953 East High School yearbook, please contact Grace Freeman to coordinate the library's digitizing of the yearbook!

### What's Growing? The Salem Garden Collaborative

by Charity Eilerman

Have you ever looked at the open lot of green space at Salem Elementary School and envisioned gardens or an orchard? If so, you are not alone.

Just last summer, the raised beds along the sidewalk

leading to Salem Elementary were barren apart from weeds and a few herbs that survived years of neglect over the pandemic. On discovering this, Salem resident Charity Eilerman asked Jake Wheeler, Salem Elementary Family Ambassador and President of the Salem Civic Association. if anyone would mind if she planted vegetables in them. He shared that the school was considering removing the beds if they couldn't find someone to maintain them. The next afternoon, she and her son planted leftover seeds from their backvard garden.

Shortly after those first

seeds were planted, Eilerman and a friend made plans to transplant some extra vegetable plants into the school beds with their daughters' help the next weekend. At the same time, Stephanie Wheeler was creating a Facebook event for a Salem Elementary Garden Clean-Up! Eilerman messaged her, and that's when they discovered they had a shared dream and agreed to pursue that dream together.

Wheeler is a Salem resident and Salem Elementary School parent but is also affectionately known as the First Lady of Salem, since she is married to the current President, Jake Wheeler. Every First Lady needs a cause, right?! Her enthusiastic outreach efforts resulted in donated supplies and a workday which was wellattended by community volunteers who pulled weeds, planted flowers, built beds and laid mulch.



The two women communicated with Principal Myers about the garden and found that she, too, had been dreaming of gardens at Salem. A meeting with OSU Extension and Columbus City Schools (CCS) was

> quickly arranged. The group learned about curriculum that can be used in the classrooms from Katie Young and received gardening tips from Tim McDermott. At that point, they felt the Salem Garden Collaborative (SGC) had great potential to be a wonderful avenue for family engagement at Salem Elementary and to uplift the whole neighborhood of Salem.

> During this same time, Bill Owens was working to establish Northland Community House as a new nonprofit and settlement house in Northland. Owens was quick to see the value in this community gardening initiative and welcomed the Salem Garden

Collaborative to operate as a program of Northland Community House.

With the support of OSU Extension, CCS, Northland Community House, Northland Alliance and Franklin Park Conservatory Growing to Green program, as well as school families and neighbors, the Salem Garden Collaborative had only just begun to grow.

A student garden club was established and met four times in the fall with more than a quarter of the student body signing up within days of its announcement! The response was so great that two sessions were created—one during lunch/recess and one after school. Garden Club Leaders Stephanie and Jake Wheeler are often greeted by participants with, "When does garden club start again?" now that the club is on break for winter.



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During a variety of back-to-school events, students and their families had the opportunity to sample food and drink prepared from ingredients harvested from the garden. Some families took fresh herbs and vegetables home and all were encouraged to return for future events and more harvests. Just as community members gathered for a garden clean-up in July, many reunited in November to prepare the beds for winter, leaving one bed active for students to grow coolweather vegetables into the late fall/early winter as

part of their garden curriculum.

Stephanie Wheeler once again took the lead in the fundraising department, creating proposals, submitting grant applications and organizing a crowdfunding campaign. SGC was awarded \$15,000 from 614 Beautiful, another \$15,000 from Columbus Foundation's Joseph A Jeffery Fund, and raised \$3,800+ in community donations through SeedMonev.org.

With a good portion of the project's budget secured, meetings with Sean McKay of Franklin Park Conservatory (FPC) resumed and more formal garden plans were discussed. GreenScapes Landscaping Company, a

supporter of FPC, was looking for a project to support. McKay connected GreenScapes leadership with the Salem Garden Collaborative, and their professional landscaping plans have now been shared with the CCS Capital Improvements Department for review. Initial feedback has been very positive!

The Salem Garden Collaborative is just that—a collaboration. The school, the neighborhood, and community partners have worked together to make this project a success! The mission of the SGC is to nourish neighbors of all ages and backgrounds with

food, education, and friendship. The garden will have dedicated space for teachers and students to engage in garden projects as well as community garden space where food will be grown to provide for the neighborhood and families served by the school. The space will eventually include a community pavilion that can be used as an outdoor classroom and community gathering space. Sustainable and organic gardening practices will be used, including rain barrels and natural pest deterrent methods. Pollinator gardens and



a mural will add to the beauty of this space. The vision is that this community garden will help to cultivate a flourishing community in Salem that uplifts our whole neighborhood.

All are welcome to attend a Salem Garden Collaborative planning meeting in early March at Salem Elementary School. For more information, join the Salem Garden Collaborative Facebook group, contact SalemGardenCollaborative@gmail.com or call/message Stephanie Wheeler at 330-317-3577 or Charity Eilerman at 614-205-8174.

### SCA Year con't. from page 1

attracting over a hundred participants last year. This remarkable growth reflects the community's enthusiasm and spirit. We eagerly anticipate continuing this joyful event, where children and families come together to enjoy the thrill of the hunt and the beauty of spring. The Easter Egg Hunt is a fun activity and a symbol of our community's growth and togetherness.



### Salem Block Party: Continuing the Tradition in 2024

Our block party on October 8 was an exceptional success, and heartfelt gratitude is extended to everyone involved, including gold sponsor Luke's Auto Service, and the energetic Nacho Street Band. The event was filled with unforgettable activities like Toucha-Truck, children's contests, and

Salem trivia, fostering joy, laughter, and stronger community bonds. We are excited to announce plans to make the block party an annual tradition, aiming to schedule the next one for early Autumn of 2024. If you're interested in being a part of this ongoing celebration and helping us shape future events, please join the volunteer team by contacting Heather at <u>heatherode@gmail.com</u>.

#### Membership Drive: Join Us in Shaping Our Future

For 2024, we're thrilled to launch our Membership Drive. We invite new members and seek the ongoing support of our current members to meet our 2024 budget goals. The association greatly depends on community donations for operational costs and local projects. Your support is crucial for maintaining and expanding our community initiatives. To understand the benefits of SCA membership, visit <u>Why Should I</u> <u>Join</u>? at <u>SalemCivicAssociation.org</u>. Your involvement makes a significant difference in our collective future.

#### A Sincere Expression of Gratitude

Your participation and enthusiasm are the lifeblood of Salem. Whether it's through engaging in our events, offering ideas, or sharing a kind gesture, your contributions in making our community a vibrant and welcoming place are truly appreciated.

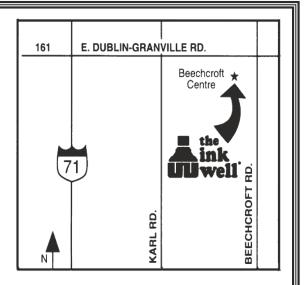
### Looking Forward with Hope and Enthusiasm

As we celebrate our past successes, we also look forward with anticipation to the future. Let's continue to build on the strong foundation we have established together. Here's to more communal gatherings, continued growth, and shared happiness in Salem! **Stay Engaged with Salem** 

Keep up with the latest news and events in our community. Follow us on Facebook at Salem Civic Association or visit our website at SalemCivicAssocation.org.



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### Engage and Shape Your Community: Join the Salem Civic Association Today!

### by Heather Odenweller

Hello, Salem neighbors: As we step into a new year, we warmly invite you to explore the various ways to engage with the Salem Civic Association (SCA). This is

an opportune moment for both community members and business owners in Salem to renew or start their SCA membership.

### Why Join the Salem Civic Association?

- Voice your ideas: Your participation in the SCA offers a direct line to city officials, allowing your voice to be heard and make a real impact.
- **Community improvement:** Join our efforts to create a better Salem—cleaner, healthier, and safer.
- **Resolve and discuss:** Use the SCA as a platform to address your concerns and transform ideas into action.
- **Celebrate diversity:** Embrace the rich diversity of Salem and learn from the unique experiences within our community.

### How to Join

**Online membership:** Joining or renewing your membership is easy with our online option. Simply use the QR code to join through our website.

- **Open your device's camera app:** Use a smartphone or tablet with a camera.
- **Point the camera at the QR code on this page:** Ensure the QR code fits within the camera frame.
- Wait for the code to be scanned: The device should automatically scan the code.
- Tap the notification or link: Once the code is scanned, click the pop-up link or notification to proceed with the intended action, like accessing a website or filling out a form.



Membership QR code

• Mail-in membership: Alternatively, you can fill out the membership form and mail it back with a check to:

Salem Civic Association Inc.

PO Box 26632 Columbus, OH 43226-0632 **Multiple Ways to Participate** • Monthly meetings: We hold an SCA meeting every fourth Tuesday of the month (third Tuesday in December), open to everyone. Join us at 7 p.m. at the Salem Baptist Church, 5862 Sinclair Rd. It's a great opportunity to meet fellow members, discuss ongoing projects, and share ideas. A meal is provided every other month, starting with February.

• Facebook community: Stay informed and connected by joining

our community Facebook page at 'Salem Civic Association.' Here, you'll find updates on neighborhood events, discussions on community concerns, and a platform for sharing and interaction.

• Website: Visit our website at SalemCivicAssociation.org for comprehensive information, news, and resources.

### **Your Voice Matters**

Every individual and business in Salem has something unique to contribute. Your involvement is key to our community's dialogue and progress.

Take action today. Renew your membership or join the Salem Civic Association, and be a part of shaping a thriving Salem community.

### Join or renew now and make a difference in Salem!

Salem Civic Association—uniting community and business.



### MEMBERSHIP FORM SALEM CIVIC ASSOCIATION



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