

Salem Lamplighter

Vol. 18 No. 5 October 2024



Salem Neighborhood Block Party Sees Growth in Second Year

by Heather Odenweller

The 2nd annual Salem Neighborhood Block Party was an overwhelming success, and we owe it all to our incredible Block Party Committee and community volunteers. A special thank you to **Laurel Hobden, Renee Sammet, Rae Kirkbride, Suzanne Lentz, Heather Odenweller, Erika Donndelinger, Miranda Land, and Angie VanHulle** for their fantastic work and tireless dedication. Their efforts made this year's event run smoothly and brought our neighborhood together in such a meaningful way. We also extend a heartfelt thank you to Salem Elementary Principal Nikki Myers and PTA volunteer Stephanie Pemberton for their support, which helped make this event possible. Additionally, we were treated to a guided tour of the Salem Garden Collaborative, led by Charity Eilerman, showcasing the beauty and potential of our community garden. We also want to give a huge shout-out to our community volunteers, including those who stepped up the day of the event to help with activities—your contributions made all the difference!

With approximately 230 people attending—up from 150 last year—the event continues to grow, fostering a greater sense of community. The children had a blast participating in an egg relay with The Amazing Giant stilt walkers, while the Nacho Street Band had everyone forgetting about the heat with their fun, danceable tunes.

A major highlight this year was the incredible increase in local business sponsorships. Our sponsors helped raise our budget from \$1,000 to \$2,750, an 80% boost!

This allowed us to offer more activities and make the event even better for everyone. A

heartfelt thank you to our local business sponsors:

●**Gold Sponsors (\$1,000):**

Silver Smiles Station Sunoco and Luke's Auto

●**Silver Sponsor (\$500):** 614 Exteriors

●**Bronze Sponsors (\$250):** Lasting Impressions Event Rental and Hughes Roofing and Remodeling

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Salem Civic Association Meetings

The next Civic Association meetings are Tuesday, October 22 and Tuesday, November 26. Meetings are held at Salem Baptist Church on Sinclair Road at 7:00 p.m. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Help Keep Salem Community Thriving

We Need a New Treasurer!

Our community relies on dedicated volunteers to make all of our events and initiatives, like the annual Block Party and National Night Out, a success. We are currently looking for a new **Treasurer** to join our team and help manage the finances that make these activities possible.

What Does the Treasurer Do?

The Treasurer ensures that our community association stays on budget and financially organized. The role involves managing our accounts, preparing financial reports, and working closely with the board to make sure funds are used effectively for the community's benefit.


What's the Time Commitment?

On average, the Treasurer role requires around 6-8 hours per month, and we are flexible in working with your schedule. Our previous Treasurer is available to assist during the transition, so you won't be left figuring it out on your own.

Why Volunteer?

- **Make an Impact:** Your contribution helps make our community a better place to live.
- **Use Your Skills:** If you enjoy working with numbers, have experience in accounting or budgeting, or just want to be more involved, this is the perfect opportunity!
- **Be Part of a Team:** You'll have support from other board members, and we work together to ensure the load is manageable.

Ready to Help?

If you or someone you know would be interested in this important role, please reach out to allison.hoyt107@gmail.com. We'd love to talk to you about how you can contribute to the continued success of the Salem community! 

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Salem Lamplighter

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

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Curious Salem

by Grace Freeman

5900 Roche Drive

The “skyscraper” located at the corner of SR 161 and I-71, in fact, has a Roche Drive address. The building at 5900 Roche Drive was built in 1973 and has housed many commercial enterprises over the years, including a clothing company, real estate developers, and most memorably, two well-known Columbus restaurants.

First, was Tamarack Restaurant & Lounge. Opened in 1969 on nearby Tamarack Circle by brothers Terry and Gary Hansley, it moved to the Roche Drive location in the 1970s, and Tamarack quickly gained a following for their food, particularly their ribs. A 1984 *Dispatch* article noted that the restaurant, which had been chosen as the best in Columbus in 1979, prepared 2,000 pounds of ribs each week. The restaurant was regularly noted as a Columbus

highlight, known for its steaks and seafood, including lobster and swordfish. In 1984 they moved to the Busch Corporate Center on Schrock Road, overlooking a water feature and the freeway. They continued service first as ‘Tamarack at 1105,’ and then ‘Bistro 1105.’ When first opened, wait staff wore red tuxedo jackets, the décor was modern and clean, and it was a popular destination for birthdays and anniversaries. Eventually, the restaurant closed in 1997.

After Tamarack moved to the Schrock Road location, Otani, Columbus’s first Sushi bar, moved into the Roche Drive location. Founded by Kazushige Honda and his wife, Maya, Otani opened in 1978 in Cleveland, the first Sushi bar in the Midwest. It opened at the Roche Drive location on October 7,

Curious Salem con’t. on page 9



■
Tamarack
Restaurant &
Lounge in 1981.
*Courtesy
Columbus
Metropolitan
Library*

■
*June 26, 1984
Columbus
Dispatch mention
about Tamarack's
relocation.
Courtesy
Columbus
Metropolitan
Library*

Lakeside view for Tamarack

Gary and Terry Hansley can't seem to stay in one place very long.

Just when things were going smoothly for the brothers who own the Tamarack restaurant, they decided to do it all over again.

Eight years ago they moved the Tamarack from the heart of a Far North Side housing development to the ground floor of an office building at I-71 and Rt. 161.

From day one, business has been great.

Now they're moving again. Come September, the Tamarack at 1105 will open on the ground floor of the 1105 Building in the Busch Corporate Center.

The site overlooks the lake with the stunning chrome fountain that graces the courtyard of the 8-story building just off I-71.

“Each time we move we seem to make the restaurant better,” Gary says.



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Join Us in October at the Salem Garden Collaborative!

by Heather Odenweller

As the weather cools and the harvest season comes into full swing, we have some exciting events planned for October that we'd love for you to be a part of! Whether you're a seasoned gardener or new to the community, these upcoming events are a perfect way to get involved, connect with neighbors, and celebrate our growing Salem Garden Collaborative.

Tree Planting Day

Sunday, October 6, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Join us as we plant 20+ trees in and around our garden space, including native fruit trees and berry



bushes! Plus, we'll have some trees available for you to take home and plant in your yard. Help us make Salem greener and more beautiful for future generations.

Harvest Party

Thursday, October 24, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Come celebrate at our 2nd Annual Harvest Party! We'll gather at the Community Garden to enjoy free food, fun activities, and games for all

ages. We're excited to welcome Franklin Park Conservatory, face painting, and more! This is a family-friendly event, and everyone in the neighborhood is invited.


Community Gardening Nights

Every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Our garden is still producing as we move into the colder season! Come out each Wednesday evening to help tend the garden, share the harvest, and meet your neighbors. This is a great way to stay connected and contribute to the continued success of our garden program.

Get Involved!


We are always looking for passionate volunteers to help with events and garden maintenance. Becoming a part of our growing community is a fantastic opportunity to share your skills, learn something new, and give back to our neighborhood. Whether you can help with planting, event setup, or simply want to lend a hand at one of our Wednesday nights, your involvement makes a big difference!

Thank you for your support, and we hope to see you at one (or all!) of our upcoming events. Let's continue to grow, plant, and harvest together. 

John's Auto Announces Move

John's Auto Service has outgrown their current location and has moved on to bigger and better digs.

John's Auto has been a fixture in the Salem community since 1977 when John Tuller established an automotive service center in a former Sohio filling station. Tuller was the proprietor of John's until his death in 2015. He ran an honest business, was quick with a joke and was a staunch friend and supporter of the Salem neighborhood. Current owner, Kathy Moyer, has proudly continued that tradition.

The new John's Auto Service location is just four miles south of Lincoln and Sinclair at 3197 N. High Street in Clintonville, at the corner of Lakeview Drive. Kathy and her staff would love to show you around their new facility, so stop by and say hello. The only thing that has changed is the location. 



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The Benefits of Leaving Your Leaves in the Fall

by Heather Odenweller

As autumn sweeps in with its vibrant colors and cooler temperatures, our yards become blanketed with fallen leaves. For many, the sight signals time to rake, bag, and haul these leaves to the curb. However, there's a growing movement encouraging homeowners to leave their leaves where they fall, and for good reason. Let's explore how this simple act can have a tremendous impact on our environment, supporting local ecosystems and improving soil health.

Supporting Local Insects and Wildlife

One of the most important reasons to leave your leaves is to support biodiversity. Many insects, such as butterflies, moths, beetles, and bees, rely on leaf litter as a place to shelter, lay eggs, and hibernate. For example, the delicate Luna moth caterpillars hide within the leaf piles, and certain species of bumblebees burrow in the ground under the leaves for winter protection.

When we remove these leaves, we're unintentionally removing vital habitats. By letting leaves decompose naturally, we're helping sustain these species, which in turn supports the food web that many birds and small animals rely on. Even your local pollinators, essential for healthy gardens, benefit from the protection that fallen leaves offer over the colder months.

Enriching the Soil Naturally

Leaves are nature's mulch, and as they break down, they return vital nutrients to the soil. This natural composting process creates a rich layer of organic matter that improves soil structure, increases its ability to retain water, and enhances its fertility. The result is healthier,

more resilient plants in the spring.

Instead of bagging leaves and sending them away, consider using them as mulch in your garden beds or simply allowing them to decompose where they fall. The organic material they provide helps feed beneficial soil organisms like earthworms, which further contribute to a healthy ecosystem.

Ways to Manage Leaves Naturally

If you're concerned about piles of leaves smothering your lawn, there are several ways to manage them without resorting to bagging:

- **Mow the Leaves:** Instead of raking, run a lawnmower over your leaves to shred them into smaller pieces. These mulched leaves can then break down quickly, feeding your lawn and garden beds naturally.
- **Create Leaf Mulch or Compost:** Gather leaves and place them in a compost bin or pile. Over time, they will decompose and create nutrient-rich compost that can be used in your garden.
- **Leave Them in Garden Beds:** Let leaves remain in flower beds or around trees. This helps protect plant roots over the winter and adds valuable organic material to the soil.

Leaving your leaves in the fall is a simple yet powerful way to support local wildlife, improve soil health, and reduce your environmental footprint. Rather than seeing fallen leaves as a nuisance, consider them as nature's gift—one that enriches the ecosystem and helps protect our planet. So, this autumn, let your leaves fall where they may and enjoy the benefits they bring to your garden and beyond. 

However you manage your leaves, remember to keep our streets and gutters clear. Yard debris that washes into the storm sewer goes directly into local waterways, where the excess nutrients promote algae blooms and deplete oxygen. This, of course, is problematic and even deadly for aquatic life.

Do not blow or rake leaves or grass into the street or aim the chute on your mower towards it.



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Block Party con't. from page 1

The food trucks were a hit, offering a variety of tasty treats. Attendees couldn't stop raving about the Tennessee Pit BBQ and the delicious Greek feta fries from Pitabilities! Everyone also loved the complimentary ice cream, strawberry lemonade, and caramel popcorn, courtesy of Silver Smiles, 614 Exteriors, and Hughes Roofing and Remodeling, respectively.

We were thrilled to give away wonderful raffle prizes, generously donated by local businesses, including BareClay, GoreMade Pizza, Over the Counter, 614 Fitness, Iron Grill, Dairy Queen, Rusty

Bucket, and Shepard's Corner. These prizes added to the excitement and made the day even more special for many lucky winners.

In addition to the great food and activities, the Nacho Street Band raised generous donations that will be given to the Ronald McDonald House, showing once again how much our community cares.

We're already looking forward to next year's event and hoping for even more participation from volunteers, attendees, and local businesses. Thanks again to everyone who helped make this year's Block Party such a wonderful success—see you next year! 🎉





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1984, when Honda moved permanently to Columbus after several stints catering events for Governor James A. Rhodes. Rhodes was regularly hosting Japanese politicians and businesspeople at the time as he worked to establish a Honda vehicle plant in Marysville. The Columbus Chamber of Commerce helped Otani secure the space on the first floor of the office building, with Governor Rhodes and his team supporting the move.

Otani was a hit, and often declared another area "best." They received rave reviews from local foodies like the *Columbus Dispatch's* "Grumpy Gourmet," Doral Chenoweth. They brought Japanese cuisine to Columbus, paving the way for others like Akai Hana (formerly Restaurant Japan) and Sapporo Wind. Their sushi was impressive and they offered traditional Japanese dishes and regular specials. Eventually they added a buffet and karaoke. Otani closed in 2014

after more than thirty years in business, though many of its alumni have gone on to found and run other celebrated sushi establishments in Columbus.

Since Otani left, the building has been home to businesses like American Ministries, Classic Exteriors, Inc., and Whitt Roofing & Restoration, and consistently shows space available for rent. 



YOUR FIVE STAR DINING EXPERIENCE

Doral Chenoweth (The Grumpy Gourmet) gives Otani a 5-star rating in the Jan. 3 Dispatch weekender.

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February 7, 1985 Otani advertisement in the *Columbus Dispatch*. Courtesy Columbus Metropolitan Library



Otani Japanese Restaurant

"Otani is an extraordinarily good restaurant . . ." according to Vivian Witkind, *Columbus Monthly*, January, 1986. Otani's award-winning menu features light and crisp jumbo shrimp tempura, kobe-style lobster and steak, tangy teriyaki dishes . . . but first and foremost—the Tokyo-style sushi bar is the highlight of Otani. The Grumpy Gourmet of the *Columbus Dispatch* gave Otani's food five stars, and "Otani's shrimp tempura is a favorite . . . we can delight in the sushi offering by Otani." Dinners from \$8.50; lunch from \$3.25. Lunch Monday through Saturday 11:30 am-2 pm. Dinner Monday through Thursday 5-10 pm, Friday and Saturday 5-10:30 pm, Sunday 4:30-9 pm. Banquet room available for up to 40. Private dining room for up to 12. 5900 Roche Dr. (I-71 & Rt. 161), 431-3333

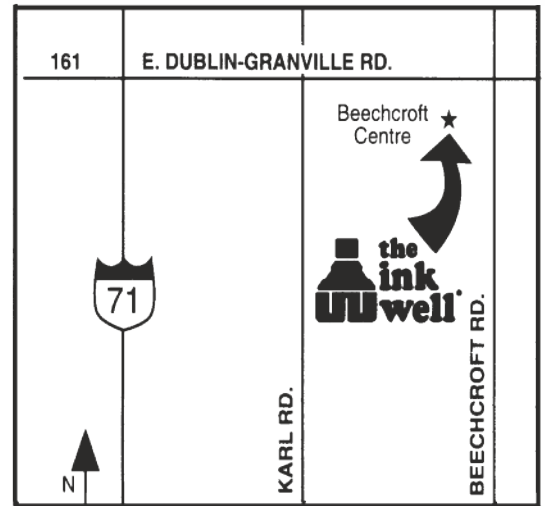
1989 *Columbus Monthly* featuring Otani. Courtesy Columbus Metropolitan Library

Curious Salem is a regular feature in the *Lamplighter*, highlighting the history of our neighborhood and community. Grace Freeman is a Salem resident and local librarian, specializing in genealogy and local history.

Want to learn about the history of the Salem neighborhood? Email curious.salem.oh@gmail.com with your home/neighborhood question!



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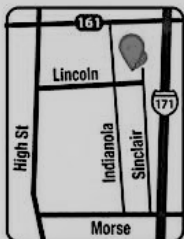
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