



The Old House Guild of Sandusky

SUMMER 2025 NEWS FOR MEMBERS 419-627-0640



Garden Tour Committee

Mary Truko

Linda Howell

Suzanne Stuck

Garden Tour 2025

Sunday, June 22nd was one of the hottest days of this year in Sandusky. It was also the day of our Annual Garden Tour. We realize the heat kept some people away but those who attended witnessed a variety of horticultural beauty.

Our new welcome center, the gazebo at Facer Park on E. Water St. provided a shady spot to register for door prizes, purchase tickets, and enjoy some light refreshments. Tom & Roseann Bodner, owners of the Boeckling Club on Columbus offered light sandwiches and cool drinks to enjoy in the rear Bier Garden and the City of Sandusky Greenhouse was open to tour participants. Members of the Friends of the Greenhouse were on hand to share their gardening tips and trade secrets by demonstrating their talents. They also had available for donation/purchase many beautiful plants for people to take home as a souvenir of the event. Guests had so many wonderful comments about the volunteers sharing their knowledge that we hope this becomes an annual part of our tour.

Seven residences were available to tour with each displaying a uniqueness and beauty:

Dru & Tahnee Meredith on E. Washington St. had their beautiful home on the Candlelight tour but now offered a chance to check out their landscaping. From the welcoming porch and patio to the neatly manicured flower beds the gardens were enjoyable to look around.

Gisela Ohly who lives on 46th St. shared a completely different garden of vegetables and fruits. Mrs. Ohly has a reputation of taking the plants she grows and turning them into wonderful culinary creations to share with family and friends. She would give Martha Stewart a run for her money and work circles around her turning fruits into breads and pastries. Such a joy to visit.

Michael & Courtney Maeri who also live on 46th St. not only have a pristine yard but just talking with them we learned how much time and effort they put into the restoration of the property. Courtney shared that Michael did all the hard work of construction and lawn maintenance but she and her mother were responsible for the flower beds and unique separate areas created at the rear of the home.

Karen Deitz on Stonewood Dr. surprised guests with interesting landscaping in front of the house with walk leading to a mysterious secret garden. Her paths led to statuary creating a completely different haven for visitors to enjoy. Karen is very proud of the fact that she works almost daily on upkeep at the young age of 82. She was eager to be part of the tour so it would push her to keep busy.

Dr. Larry & April McCormack reside on **Timber Lake Lane** with a two-acre lake at the rear of the home that creates a beautiful, tranquil setting. The McCormack's enjoy a terraced garden with fruit trees and flowers of every color. They are very proud of their lovely roses and the front lawn being replaced with a carpet of Scottish moss. Everyone seemed to enjoy the peacefulness of this stop.

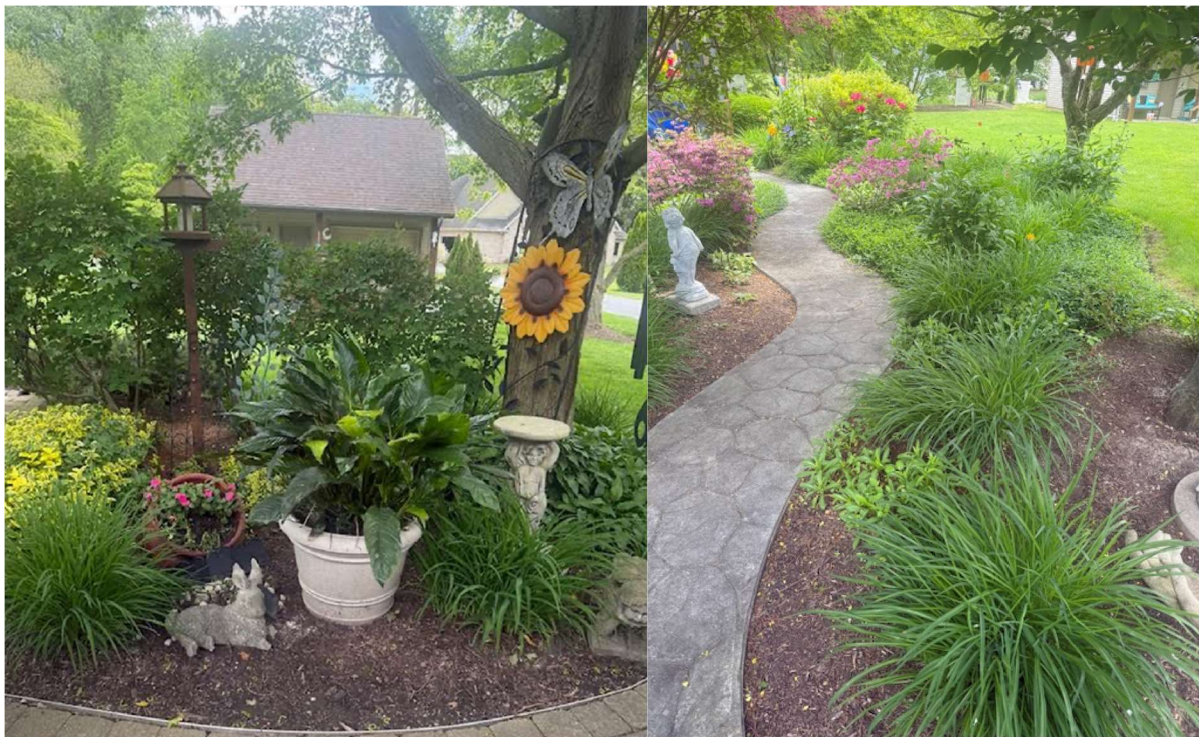
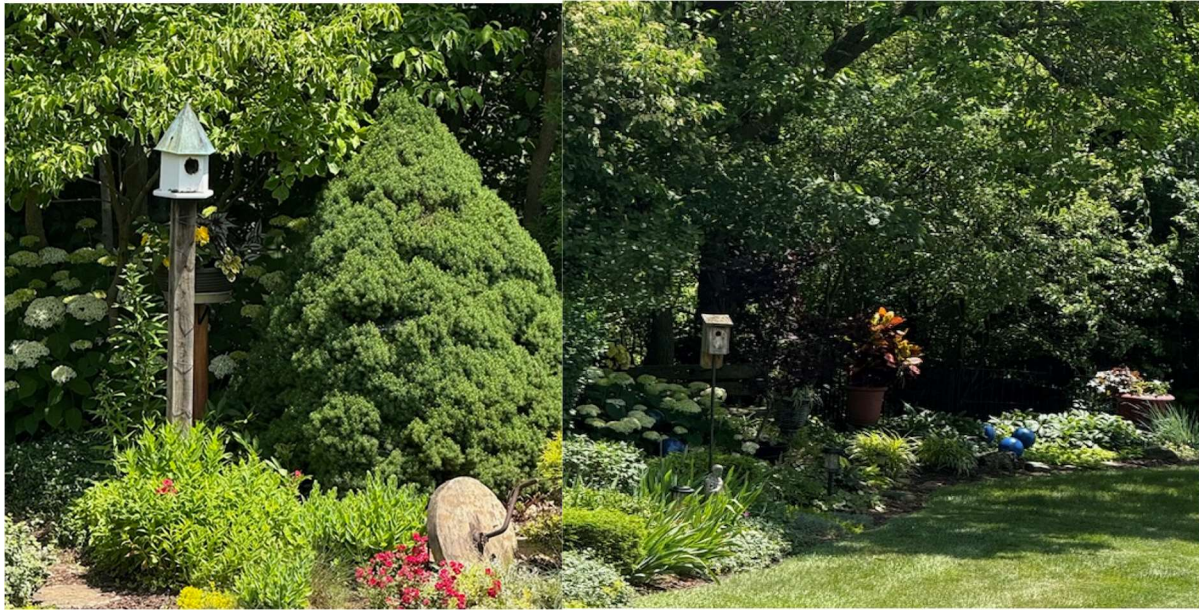
Diane Bradley on E. Bogart Rd. really enjoyed all the visitors and welcomed them to check out the many areas of her yard. Diane and her late husband built the home 35 years ago, adding to it over the years to the present conditions. This lady truly loves her yard and the six hours she spends each day on keeping things neat and tidy. After a long day working on her 'labor of love' she is the first to admit it is all done for her relaxation and her joy of entertaining.

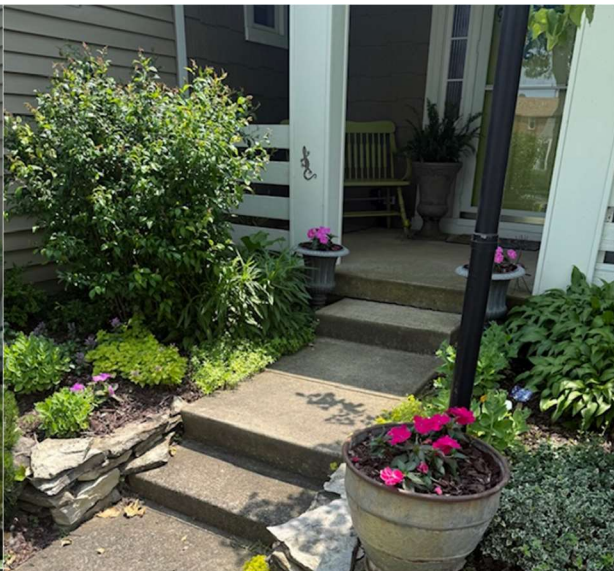
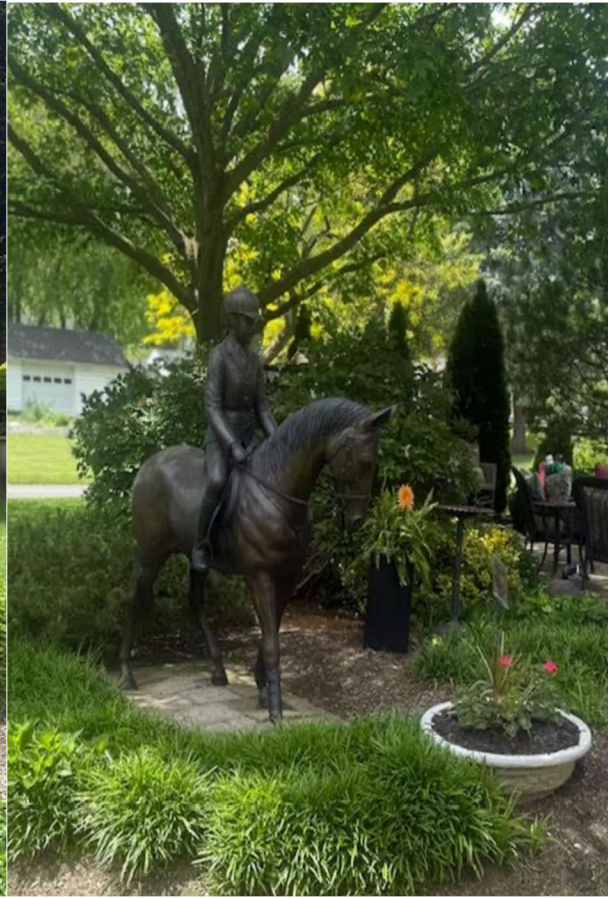
Bill & Barb Biehl shared their beautiful home on **Walnut Ridge Lane**. The Biehl's are no strangers to the community. Barb spent her career teaching and Bill served as elementary principal, both in the Sandusky City School System. They purchased their home in 2008 and over the years created a beautiful, flowing collection of interesting areas that would be a perfect backdrop for a wedding or photo shoot. These are two very talented people and their yard is a wonderful example of their work. You might have seen Bill when cutting through the downtown park area in the summer. He is a member of the 'Friends of the Greenhouse' and could very well hold the title of "Sandusky Parks Plant Magician" spending hundreds of volunteer hours tending to our parks.

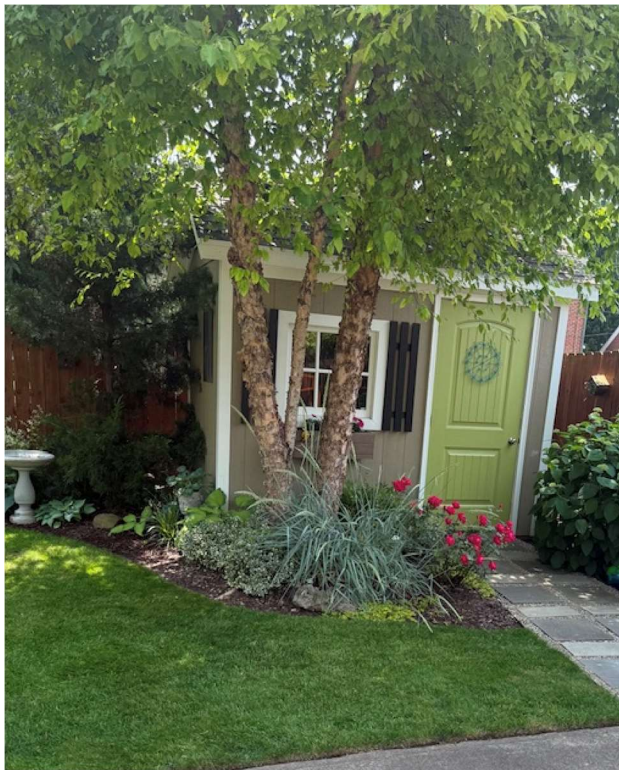
Save the Date

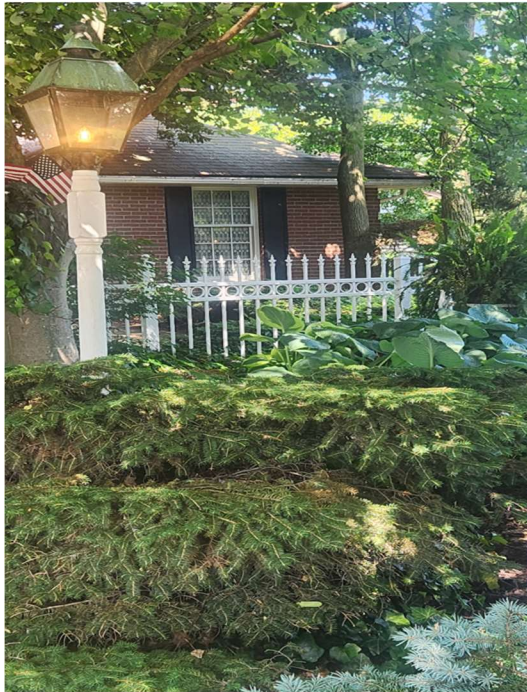
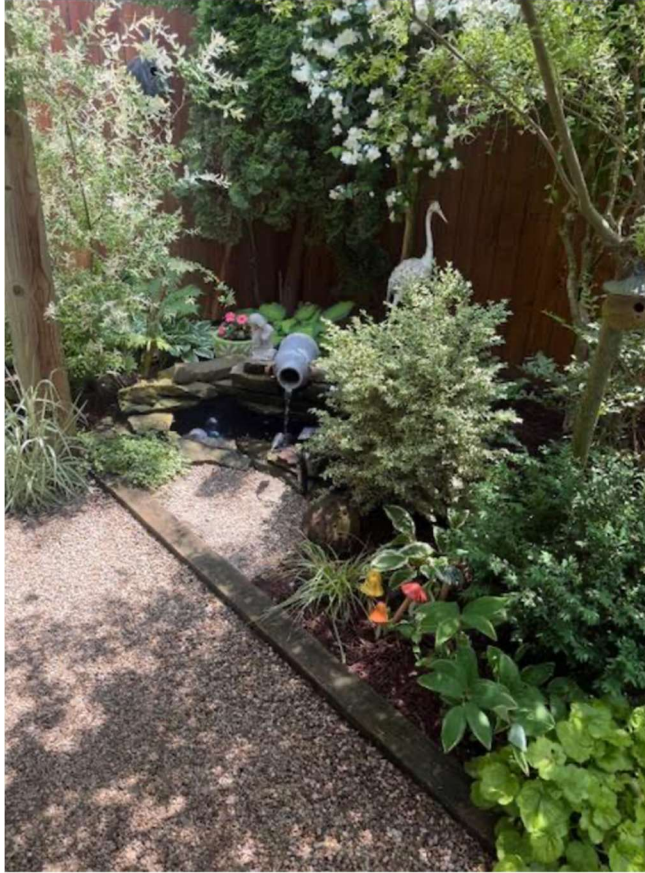
Now that we have provided you with a review of this year's tour we hope you mark your calendar for **Sunday, June 21, 2026** and join us for next year's event. Yes, we are already working on our next tour and have a nice list of prospective gardens for you to enjoy. And . . . if you want to offer your own garden for the tour or wish to nominate someone else's, please let us know by calling or emailing one of us using the addresses listed at the end of this newsletter.

Thanks to all of the property owners who participated and gave us your time, and to all those who attended this year or volunteered to be a guide. We couldn't do this without you! Enjoy the pictures. . .











Message from OHG President

Dr. Richard Keller



Another Great Event

Many thanks to all of our volunteers who made the 2025 Garden Tour a success and to the homeowners who shared the beauty of their properties.

Mission of the Old House Guild

To promote historic preservation and the restoration of significant buildings, houses, sites, and objects in the Sandusky, Ohio area. To encourage the rehabilitation and/or adaptive reuse of such properties. To accomplish these purposes by means of meetings, publications, surveys, and tours. To act as a non-profit organization and to apply for any grants that may be appropriate to further the cause of historic preservation.

Events Committee

Linda Howell

Mary Truka

Suzanne Stuck



Sunset Cruise on Sandusky's Goodtime I

The events committee has planned something different for an evening out. We are so lucky to live on Sandusky Bay and Lake Erie and are inviting you to take advantage of the scenery, a pleasant summer evening, and time relaxing with fellow guild members and their guests.

This is planned for Wednesday evening, **August 13th from 7:30-9:30 P.M.**

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER WE WILL ISSUE A CANCELLATION EMAIL ABOUT NOON.

The rain date will be Wednesday, August 20th.

There is no need to call in reservations because you can wait until you get to the dock to buy tickets. Cost is \$16 per person, children under 15 is \$12, 5 and under are free. Friends and family are welcome. On board there will be drink specials and pizza available for purchase. Light entertainment will be provided.

Plan now to join us to view our city from a different prospective. Please take advantage of a relaxing Old House Guild event where you don't have to serve on a committee, work as a tour guide, or provide food for an event. If you have any questions please call/text 419-202-4531. See you on August 13th.

October Event

The Events Committee is working on details for an October event that will be open to guild members and their guests. Stay tuned and **watch for the fall newsletter** for any details. We are trying to plan some unusual activities but could always use more. Please get ahold of Mary Truka, Suzanne Stuck, or Linda Howell if you have any ideas. Thanks for your help.



Booooo

Preservation

Mary Truka, Chair

Tim Berkey

Betsy Berkey

Preservation is Key to Sandusky's Future

Decades ago the Old House Guild and the City of Sandusky worked together to preserve the rich history of our architecture and artifacts. Under the leadership of Ellie Damm, numerous buildings were placed on the National Registry of Historical Places. And over the years the Guild has continued the work of preserving along with providing the community with annual tours of beautiful homes, preservation workshops, and numerous resources for homeowners to access in the restoration of their homes and businesses.

National Trust for Historic Preservation

The Trust is a privately funded nonprofit that has worked for over 75 years to save America's historic places. In an article written by Priya Chhaya and posted on the organization's website, they provide six essential reasons to save old places that fit perfectly well with the challenges of our city:

1. Save Old Places to Save the Planet

We have all witnessed the deterioration of buildings in our community, many a result of the tough economic times. The city has devoted resources to inspect properties, fund home improvements, and encourage property owners to keep their structures in good condition. But in many cases properties deteriorate to the point of no return, requiring the tear down and removal of material that ends up in dumps. This is not only wasteful, but destructive to our earth.

2. Save Old Places to Advance Social Justice

Preserving historic places in our city allows our residents to learn more about the struggles within our population during times of slavery, wars, depressions and social movements. These stories allow a community to learn from the past and improve conditions for all.

3. Save Old Places to Support Affordable Housing

Sandusky, like so many cities is facing a housing crisis. As properties are recycled, investors upgrade old structures and elevate rent to a level that many cannot afford. Saving old places can provide affordable housing if we can provide potential property owners the resources that will enable them to consider taking the leap of ownership. Tearing them down simply reduces the housing stock.

4. Save Old Places to Support Local Economic Development

The Trust has been involved in projects that redevelop main streets in deterioration. Improving central business districts are essential for economic development. Sandusky has made substantial improvements that are attracting new businesses in our downtown. Numerous buildings have been saved and redeveloped for new uses that have grown the local economy.

5. Save Old Places to Promote Cultural Preservation

When communities fail to save old places they experience the loss of the culture that went with it. Unless recorded, traditions and institutional knowledge get buried in the rubble of a tear down. But when there is a concerted effort to preserve the artifacts that tell stories it allows culture to pass along to future generations. A good example of this is Market Place where folks can tour the hallways and learn more about times gone by.

6. Save Old Places to Preserve History for Future Generations

Many of our members know that the Guild was instrumental in saving the historic Johnson House next to the library. The story of Leonard Johnson is important to Sandusky history because he owned the island that was leased to the U.S. government during the civil war to imprison confederate officers. Future generations will continue to know the connection through the preservation of his former home.

What you can do to help us preserve:

**Be our eyes and ears in the community. If you see a historic structure or artifact in need of preservation, let us know!
Sometimes these can go unnoticed by us, the city, or other**

property owners. Call us or email us and we will take it from there.

2025 Christmas Candlelight Tour of Homes Returns

December 6/7
5:00-9:00 pm

Ed Stout
Chair

Laurie Hille

Suzanne Stuck

Betsy Berkey



It may be July but the Tour of Homes committee has been actively working on updating this annual event which began 45 years ago in 1980. The 2025 tour will be Saturday and Sunday, December 6th and 7th, from 5pm to 9pm. Our new base location will be the Boeckling Club at [614 Columbus Avenue](#). It is here where you may purchase tour tickets, raffles for our wreaths and 50/50 and opportunities for entering for free door prize raffles.

Tickets will be available for purchase prior to the tour days at Corso's Flower Shoppe on Milan Road beginning Black Friday after Thanksgiving, November 23rd through Friday, December 5th. The days of the tour, tickets may only be purchased in person from the Old House Guild at the Boeckling Club beginning

at 5pm each evening. You will be able to purchase tickets using a credit card. New for this year, we will have tickets online for purchase, and hope to have this feature up and running by October 1st so that you may purchase your tickets early.

While at the Boeckling Club buying purchase a hot cup of coffee or a bratwurst to warm yourself. We will have Santa and Mrs. Clause to delight young and old. The tour committee is working on additional features for the tour that will be announced later. Plan ahead for this wonderful event to kick off the holiday season. We look forward to seeing many old faces and many new ones as well.

Questions?

Ed Stout	ed.stout@oldhouseguild.org
Laurie Hille	laurie.hille@oldhouseguild.org
Suzanne Stuck	suzi.stuck@oldhouseguild.org
Betsy Berkey	betsy.berkey@oldhouseguild.org

Funding Our Work

Laurie Hille - Treasurer

OHG Financial Standing

Last newsletter, I shared that our CD was maturing in May. The Board decided the rates were favorable enough to renew with Civista bank for another seven-month term that matures on December 9, 2025. This CD will continue to grow nicely.

In June, we held a one-day garage sale to purge no longer needed office supplies, furniture, equipment, and the many Christmas decorations and related items the OHG had accumulated over the years. We did pretty good by making \$1,138.00 from the sale. Thanks to all of the volunteers that assisted in organizing and helping during the day of the sale.

2025 Garden Tour

The Garden tour on Sunday June 22, 2025 was a lot of fun. The committee did a wonderful job lining up many great properties with outstanding gardens.

We did fall short in attendance this year over last year, likely due to the high heat we unfortunately had that day. It was profitable and will help with future initiatives for the Old House Guild of Sandusky. Below is a summary of what was achieved:

\$1,540.00 - Receipts from Ticket Sales & Donations (150 tickets sold)
(\$571.17) - Expenditures
\$968.83 - Total Profit

Thank you to all participants who made the event what it was. I am looking forward to next summer's tour!

Update: Cooke-Dorn Museum Transition Activities

The transition of the Cooke-Dorn Museum's utilities to the Ohio History Connection is well underway. They have been in touch with all of the companies involved and everything should be in their name by the end of July. Our financial

responsibilities will also come to a close by the end of July once the final invoices are paid that cover services provided through June 30, 2025.

Want to Donate to the Old House Guild?



Very easy to do! Use your phone and scan our QR code at the left. It is also located on our website. Or you can also write a check made out to the Old House Guild. You can use a credit card or if you have your own Paypal account, that will work as well. Thank you for your generous contributions!

From the Editor

Betsy Berkey Editor

Thank you for the positive feedback regarding our newsletter. Our goal is to provide you with information about current Guild initiatives, upcoming activities, and most important, plans to keep us focused on our important work of preservation. Each quarter we ask the chairs and officers to submit articles to accomplish this. In addition, I reach out to others who can contribute interesting stories that I hope you find worthy of reading.

Please know that we enjoy hearing from our members if you have something interesting about the history of the city or the Guild that you would like to share, email me if you are willing to submit an article. And even if you are uncomfortable writing, you can jot down some notes or call and story-tell. I'll take it from there and work with you on a piece that shares your story!

Betsy Berkey - betsy.w.berkey@gmail.com 440-796-2185

Note: we now post all past and present newsletters on our website so if you want to go back and read issues, they are there for your use.

Volunteer with the Old House Guild

Opportunities

Museum Tour Guide	Fundraising	Event Helper
Grounds Helper	Historic Research	Sign Painter
Historic Inventory	Holiday Decorating	Mailings
Candlelight Tour Helper	Annual Dinner Helper	Membership

And if you have any other talent to share in our organization, please let us know by calling or emailing us at the contacts listed below.

How to Contact Us

Board Members :

President – Richard Keller	rick.keller@oldhouseguild.org
Vice President – Timothy Berkey	timothy.berkey@oldhouseguild.org
Secretary – Linda Howell	linda.howell@oldhouseguild.org
Treasurer – Laurie Hille	laurie.hille@oldhouseguild.org
Preservation – Mary Truka	mary.truka@oldhouseguild.org
Candlelight Tour – Ed Stout	ed.stout@oldhouseguild.org
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Newsletter – Betsy Berkey	betsy.berkey@oldhouseguild.org
Events – Suzanne Stuck	suzi.stuck@oldhouseguild.org

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