

The Old House Guild of Sandusky

SPRING 2026 NEWS FOR MEMBERS 419-627-0640



May 14 Annual Membership Dinner
Sandusky Yacht Club
Preserving Our History
2026 Preservation Awards

Social Hour 5-6:00 pm
Buffet Dinner 6:00 pm

Guild Members: \$25
Guests: \$35

Reservation Deadline: May 8



For those who did not receive our mailing or lost it the reservation form follows:


Buffet Menu


- Appetizer
- Chicken Piccata
- Burgundy Beef Tips
- Potatoes Au Gratin
- Lemon Butter Broccoli
- House Salad
- Dinner Rolls
- Dessert
- coffee, hot tea, iced tea, lemonade, soda

**Bar service available-credit/debit card only.
 Advise of dietary limits at time of reservation.**

**Please RSVP by May 8th with payment either by mail or accessing
 Zeffy via the QR code**

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/annual-dinner-11>



OHG Member(s): _____

OHG member phone #: _____ **email:** _____

Guest(s): _____

Dietary alternatives (select one):

Vegetarian _____ **Vegan** _____

Payment enclosed: \$25 per OHG member/ \$35 Guest

Contact Suzanne Stuck for questions: 419 656-6999



Message from OHG Board President

Dr. Timothy Berkey



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.

Passing the Torch

As we look forward to our Annual Membership Dinner it presents an opportunity to reflect on what we have achieved and ponder how to carry on the mission of our work. Founded in 1978, a group of concerned citizens recognized the need to protect and preserve the many historic buildings, houses, sites and objects that represent the rich heritage of Sandusky. Under the leadership of Ellie Damm, the Executive Committee of the Guild announced an inventory to be conducted in 1979 and signed on forty-three volunteers to accomplish the work. These were husbands and wives who on top of their daily responsibilities, came together with a purpose. They divided the city into 42 districts for surveying and collection of information on 19th and 20th century structures along with unique sites of any age. Inventory forms were completed accompanied by photographs of 1457 landmarks. As a results, twenty-six buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The list expanded to 114 through a submission of applicants in October of 1982. An update of the inventory was conducted in 2023. Subsequent to the update the Guild proposed a new inventory to capture

additional qualifiers that since 1979 have surpassed the fifty year requirement. Unfortunately we were unable to muster the help to take on such a large project. We, along with other civic organizations face the challenge of attracting new members who have the interest and time to devote. Families are quite busy with competing activities and perhaps less interested in engaging in our mission. So how do we reconnect? How do we engage and reinvent in ways that interest younger generations in historic preservation?

I believe that we have to look for new doors to open. It is common for new property owners to have a curiosity of about the history of their home, or an interest in preserving certain features of their structure. At our last board of trustees meeting, I asked our members to think about how to engage new membership. Perhaps one of the doors available to us is providing a service that will help new property connect with history. For most folks, purchasing a property will be one of their largest financial investments. It has been my experience that most people take pride in ownership and have a natural curiosity in previous owners, the age of the structure and the unique architectural features that define their investment.

What I propose is that we create a system to reach out to new property owners and offer a service that will connect them with the history found right in their own home or business. Maybe, just maybe it will create a new path for the Old House Guild to march into the future in a way that allows us to pass the torch. If you have an interest in creating such a service or have additional ideas on expansion of our membership, please reach out to one of our trustees with your comments and suggestions. Our contact information is listed at the end of this newsletter.

Events Committee

Linda Howell

Mary Truka

Suzanne Stuck

Annual Dinner - May 14th

Just a reminder to all of our current 2026 members of the Old House Guild to get your reservations in for this year's event **no later than May 8th**. We are all working hard to make your evening an enjoyable and informative dinner/meeting at Sandusky Yacht Club. Hopefully we'll see a nice crowd and what a beautiful venue right on Sandusky Bay! We are certain you will like the program.

After many years of hosting this annual meeting and dinner free to any member, we found it necessary to pass a portion of the cost to anyone who attends. This was a decision of the Board of Directors made for the financial welfare of the Guild. Dues are now \$25 per member or \$40 per couple. Last years' banquet cost the Guild \$2,977.39 and we could not in good conscience continue to spend more than a member's dues on their meal. We had to pay for all reservations made whether that person showed up or not. It was decided to make a change to this practice. Hopefully you will understand.

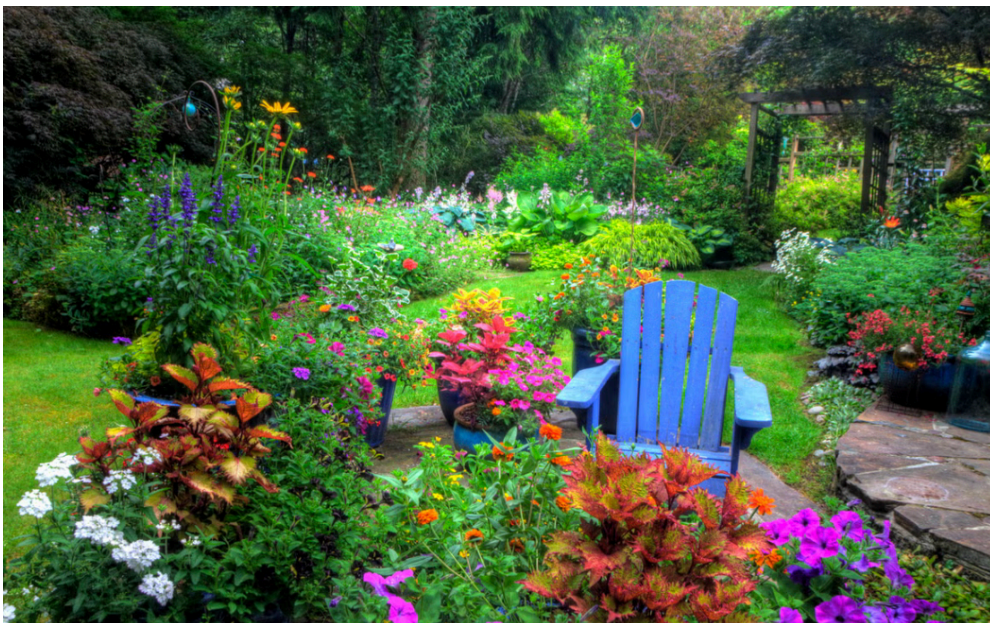
Other News from the Events Committee

Looking ahead to June is the Garden Tour. Our garden hosts are confirmed and we are now in 'rush mode' to get printing ordered, advertisement arranged, ticket sale vendors locked in place, volunteers to assist at homes, and all the small details. We have moved into the age of cyber communication but you as a member of the Guild are our best form of advertisement. Please spread the word and when you see a notice of the event, snap a picture of the details and post it to your Face book account. Spread the word!

OHG Annual Summer Tour of Gardens

Sunday, June 28, 2026

12:00-5:00pm



Take A Sneak Peek At The State Theater

The Events Committee is happy to announce that Colleen Murray, Board Chairperson and the Sandusky State Theater have graciously offered any of the Old House Guild Members to participate in a guided tour of the facility.

This will take place Wednesday, May 27th at 2:00 p.m. See first-hand the progress made in restoration working toward opening day. We are asked to meet in front of the theater and the **only requirement** for members is to wear sturdy shoes with no open toes and wear a hard hat during the tour which is supplied by them. Please arrive no later than 2:00!



You are Cordially Invited:

**Old House Guild Members'
Sandusky State Theatre Tour
Wednesday, May 27th 2026
2:00 PM**

**Please meet at the lobby doors
of the State Theatre
107 Columbus Avenue
Sandusky, Ohio 44870**

**Please RSVP by May 20th to:
Linda Howell
Lah1124wayne@aol.com**

**Hosted by Colleen Shay Murray
Sandusky State Theatre Board Chair**



107 Columbus Avenue,
Sandusky, Ohio 44870
419.626.1347
sanduskystate.com

PRINCIPAL BENEFACTOR
Randolph J. & Estelle M.
Dorn Foundation

Members Visit Campbell Lofts

On Thursday, April 23rd members of the Old House Guild were invited to tour the newly created apartments now called the Campbell Lofts. We were privileged to have the owner give us our guided tour answering all questions along the way. With seeing more and more cities tear down vacant schools it was nice to see the re-purposing of a Sandusky landmark into usable housing.

The new creation is home to 18 apartments consisting of 1 bedroom and 3 bedroom units. We were able to visit all three floors with 2 apartments open to inspect. Personally I spent many years in that building as a staff member for Sandusky City Schools and all three of our sons went to grade school there. It was amazing how they turned one classroom and a coat room into a very attractive one bedroom residence. Some of the units were already leased. The free standing building to the rear of the Campbell Lofts (known as the power house) will be turned into a separate single unit in the near future.

This was the first time we have had a daytime tour and were pleased to have 20+ people in attendance. If you would like to have the opportunity to tour other historic properties either under renovation or completed please let a member of the Events Committee know.





Preservation Committee

Mary Truka, Chair

Tim Berkey

Betsy Berkey

The Preservation committee continues to work diligently to identify and recognize home/building owners who exemplify the Old House Guild’s mission of promoting preservation in the Sandusky area. Please join us on May 14th at our annual dinner where the 2026 Preservation Award winners will be announced.

Award winners will receive a framed watercolor of their property along with a set of notecards with the same image. We applaud the hard work and financial investment these owners have undertaken.

What you can do to help us with historic preservation

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: preservation@oldhouseguild.org

2026 Candlelight Tour of Homes



Ed Stout
Chair

Laurie Hille

Suzanne Stuck

Betsy Berkey

The Tour of Homes committee has been busy making changes to our annual event to reshape it into a best practice based upon tour participant feedback. In the past, the tour was on Sunday and Monday nights and was subsequently changed to Saturday and Sunday nights. In both arrangements, Sunday was always the favored day in terms of attendance. In response to this, we have decided to make our tour for 2026 a one-night event which will be on **Sunday, December 6th**. Per requests of participants to allow for some daylight hours, the tours will occur from **3:00-8:00 p.m.** We feel this change will maximize the purpose of the tour, make it easier for homeowners featuring their homes and

simpler for tour participants. Please mark your calendars for Sunday, December 6, 3:00-8:00 p.m. You don't want to miss this exciting opportunity!

To help us improve the tour, we ask for your other comments and suggestions regarding the overall tour operations.

Should we maintain the traditional parts of the tour:

The wreath raffle? The door prizes?

The 50/50 raffle? The tour mystery hunt contest?

If kept, would you like changes made to any of these and how? Have you suggestions of other features you would like to see added? How would you feel about the tour being out of Sandusky? We ask this because there are many fine homes which could be featured in Huron, Milan, Bellevue and Norwalk. If we were to venture to any of these, the tour would center in total in that city for that year and not be split with some locations in Sandusky. What other suggestions do you have? Please share any other comments on past tours that you feel we should know. All your comments are welcome.

Any information you offer will add enlightenment to our discussions on how to reshape the tour for your greatest enjoyment. Please email any of the tour committee with your responses. The committee is chairman, Ed Stout, with Laurie Hille, Suzi Stuck and Betsy Berkey. Our email addresses are listed at the end of this newsletter. Thank you in advance for assisting us in this endeavor.

Funding Our Work

Laurie Hille - Treasurer

Our financial standing for 2026 is healthy. We continue to have a CD investment vehicle with Civista Bank. It matures in August 2026. It averages \$302 per month in earnings.

Our checking fund is stable with just above \$20.5K in reserve. This will help us fund the planned events for the remainder of 2026. The Board is discussing and considering ways that these funds could be put to use towards different

preservation needs within our community. We are always welcome to any ideas from our membership.

Membership Tracy Hille, Membership Chair

Here is an updated summary of our 2026 membership drive.

As of: 4-28-26

Total Members = 112

Lifetime Members = 40

Dual Memberships = 20

Members that have not renewed yet this year = 10

Memberships from 6 different states

Sandusky Population = 23,716 people

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 also use a credit card. 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.

Not Getting Your Newsletter?

If you have not been receiving your newsletter or hear from a fellow member who states the same please do the following before you contact us:

Iphone/Apple users - check your Junk file, open up an email from the Guild and you will be now able to get our messages and news. Android users - check your Spam file, open up an email from the Guild and you will now be able to get our messages and news.

Don't forget to send us your new email address when/if it changes!



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 15, 2026

Contact: Tom Horsman
Communications Manager
419-627-5929
THorsman@CityofSandusky.com

City of Sandusky Launches Exterior Paint Program as Part of Neighborhood Investment Efforts

Sandusky, Ohio -- The City of Sandusky is now accepting applications for its 2026 Exterior Paint Program, a new pilot initiative that provides up to \$2,000 in paint and supplies to qualifying homeowners.

The program is designed to help owner-occupied homes get a fresh exterior, covering the main structure, garage, porches, decks, and window and door trim. Labor is not included; homeowners are responsible for completing the painting work themselves or hiring a contractor.

"This is about helping homeowners invest in their homes," said Debi Eversole, Housing Development Specialist for the City of Sandusky. "Beautifying a single home ultimately benefits the block it is on, and can cause a ripple effect of investment in the whole neighborhood."

The Exterior Paint Program launches alongside the city's existing Housing Development & Beautification (HDB) program, which is also currently accepting applications. The HDB program provides grants for home purchase assistance, exterior repairs, and substantial redevelopment projects. Together, the programs give Sandusky homeowners more ways to maintain and improve their properties.

Eligibility requirements for the Exterior Paint Program include:

- Must own and occupy the home as a primary, full-time residence
- Home must be titled to the applicant for at least one year
- Home must be valued at \$260,000 or less per Erie County Auditor records
- No outstanding delinquencies with the city or state
- Home cannot be in active foreclosure
- Painting must be completed between April 1 and October 31, 2026

Applicants must submit an itemized estimate of paint and supplies with their application. Applicants should not purchase paint before receiving approval. Processing takes approximately 2–4 weeks.

Information about both programs, including applications and eligibility requirements, is available at www.cityofsandusky.com/housing. Residents can also schedule an appointment with Debi Eversole for one-on-one help with either application.



Have a Sandusky
neighbor or friend in
need of having their
home painted but lack
the funds?

Volunteer with the Old House Guild

Opportunities

Tour Guide	Fundraising	Event Helper
Committee Volunteer	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 of Trustee Members:

President - Timothy Berkey	timothy.berkey@oldhouseguild.org
Vice President - Rick Keller	rick.keller@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
Membership - Tracy Hille	tracy.hille@oldhouseguild.org
Newsletter - Betsy Berkey	betsy.berkey@oldhouseguild.org
Events - Suzanne Stuck	suzi.stuck@oldhouseguild.org

Address:

Old House Guild of Sandusky
PO Box 523, Sandusky, OH 44871-0523

Phone: 419-627-0640

Email: info@oldhouseguild.org

Website: www.oldhouseguild.org

Facebook: Old House Guild of Sandusky