



PRESERVING OUR PAST. SECURING OUR FUTURE.

President's Message

By your neighbor, Frances McNulty

Hello, neighbors!!! My name is Frances McNulty and I am the President of OSW, Inc. Thanks to everyone who came out and helped us honor our first responders at National Night Out August 3rd. Michael McMillian did an excellent job cooking up some great hot dogs with all the fixings, and Mission BBQ was there with some great BBQ! We had a great night!

How many of you have visited the fountain in Highland Park? That beautiful fountain comes with a rich history. Hermon Lee Ensign was the benefactor of the fountain. Mr. Ensign died in 1899 and he willed his entire fortune to the creation of the National Humane Alliance and the funding of the 5-ton granite horse fountain program. Fountains were donated across the United States from 1906-1911, the first one dedicated in Derby, CT in 1906. Requirements for getting a fountain were simple and few – the fountain had to be located in a high traffic area where it could be reached from all four sides; the city would guarantee ample and continuous water supply; and would provide proper and permanent care of the fountain. The request for Roanoke to receive a fountain was submitted by Mayor Cutchins.

The fountain arrived by rail in Roanoke on October 18, 1910 and was placed at 2nd and Commerce (now Norfolk) Streets on the south side of the N&W tracks at the freight station. In the 1950s the fountain moved to Highland Park and in 1993 was moved to where it now sits. Neighbors in OSW were instrumental in working to restore the fountain through grants and donations. Renovations were completed in 1993 and water was restored to the fountain in 2010. Two benches (Caring and Strength) adorn the grounds of the fountain, making it a beautiful place to sit and enjoy the park. The history center for the National Humane Alliance resides in Derby and several years ago, I secured a brick at their fountain in honor of OSW's fountain – connecting our fountains and pieces of history! (Picture, page 7))

Now you are asking yourself - how can I find out more fun and interesting information about OSW and the neighbors that live near me – by attending a community meeting and getting involved of course! Remember, we'll have a space waiting for you the third Thursday of every month at the Gish House. I'll look forward to seeing you then!!

OSW Voice

August 2021

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Meet Your Neighbors

At Food With Friends!

By your neighbor, Mary Anne Mather

“Food With Friends” events are such a great, low-key way to catch-up with neighborhood friends, as well as to meet neighbors whose paths we haven’t yet crossed! It’s an opportunity to learn about one another, find common ground, and

feel a sense of belonging. The Food With Friends hosted this past week by Maria Jacobs at her eclectic and wonderfully interesting home on Fifth Street in OSW didn’t disappoint! Her theme of “bring your most requested recipe/dish,” resulted in a hearty buffet of homemade comfort-food favorites, interesting salads, and “oh” the desserts!! Yes, the food was a highlight, but the people who gathered made the fun and memories. A multi-generational crowd filled the house, garden, and screened patio with long-time OSW dwellers, OSW new-comers, and even some out-of-state visitors. It was a happy reminder that a true neighborhood is a lifestyle, not just a collection of houses.



How does “Food With Friends” work? The host picks the date and a theme, and provides the place, paper products, utensils, and ice. Attendees bring a

dish to share and beverage of choice. Because the event moves from house to house, the ambiance is always a welcome surprise, and a peek into the place that the generous host calls home. Be on the lookout for the next “Food With Friends” pop-up TBA. Or perhaps you’d like to welcome neighbors to your place? The people you’ve been waiting to meet will bring the food and the fun. Interested? Contact Wendi Richert <https://www.oldsouthwest.org/contact-us>. We’d love to stop by and get to know you better!!



It's Our Business

Good businesses make good neighbors. Let's support them!

Sunnyside Supply Co.

*By your neighbor
Julie Mugford*

On Sunnyside Supply's website you'll find this statement: Sunnyside Supply Co. dedicates its efforts towards creating and educating a cooperative of local farmers in hemp cultivation techniques, constructing a hemp processing facility, consistently innovating in genetic hemp phenotypes, developing systems software and architecture, and optimizing farming equipment. Additionally, the company focuses on creating an efficient and positive corporate model and culture by utilizing organizational behavioral research and techniques. Through a partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation, Sunnyside Supply Co. has made a commitment to reforestation initiatives, carbon offsetting, and ecosystem revival. These modern business and advantageous principles are what distinguish Sunnyside Supply Co. from other hemp/CBD businesses.



Owners Wes Cantrall and Kyle Ortiz believe the immediate impetus of this new business is to provide high quality local products to the OSW community. They have connected with many local farmers including a shiitake mushroom farmer! Using a hydroponic growing system, the owners will also provide microgreens. As the business "takes root," Sunnyside Supply will offer subscription boxes highlighting local farmers' produce. In addition to being healthier, local produce is more economical for the purchaser. As Sunnyside Supply grows, they will be able to offer dairy products along with meat and poultry from local farmers. This will truly be an indoor local-only farmers market!

Sunnyside Supply owners purchased 5 acres in Franklin County for a hemp farm. After harvesting the hemp seeds, hemp oil, hemp flour, and hemp protein powder can be produced. Hemp hearts will also be sold along with hemp granola bars and hemp tofu. In addition to edible hemp products, Sunnyside Supply will also offer cosmetic products

like hemp beard oil, hemp lip balm, and hemp facial masks. These products should be available in November after the first hemp harvest.

Let's help these young entrepreneurs turn this business into a vital part of OSW!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

What: Sunnyside Supply Co.

Where: 604 5th St.

When: Check online for the grand opening!

Website: <http://sunnysidesupply.co/>
info@sunnysidesupply.co
<https://www.facebook.com/sunnysidesupplyco/>

Phone: 703.431.8137

Mark Your Calendar



All neighbors
invited,
encouraged,
welcome!

August

19 – 6:30 p.m.: OSW Safety and
Neighborhood Meeting, Gish House

20.: 6 p.m.: Neighborhood Meet Up,
Food Fanatics

September

16 – 6:30 p.m.: OSW Safety and
Neighborhood Meeting, Gish House

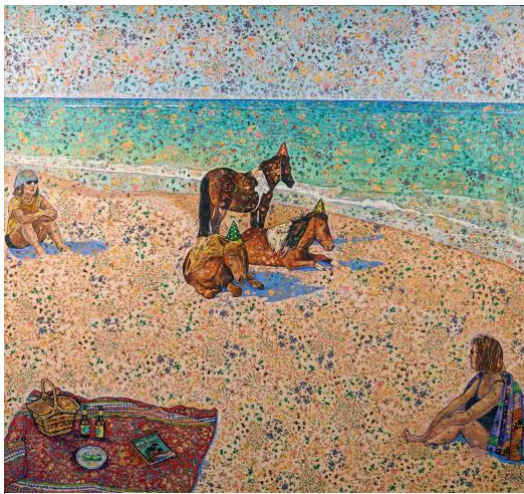
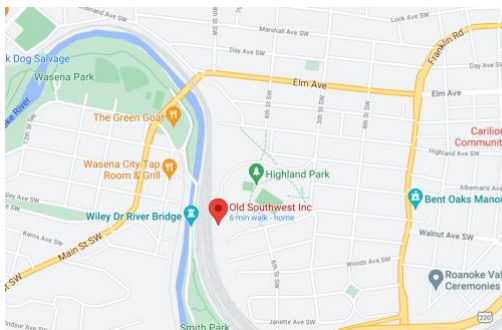
18 – 7 am-noon: Neighborhood Yard
Sale, Highland Park - Choose your
spot at entrance to Highland Park
along 5th street and Joel Richert Way
(park road). No set up fee; no cost to
you. You supply the goods and tables.
For a \$10 fee OSW will arrange for any
wares you haven't sold (and don't want
to take back) to be hauled away.

December

4-5– Old Southwest Parlor Tour -
details to come

Where is the Gish House?

The Alexander Gish House is located
near the dog park at the back of
Highland Park, or search 641 Walnut
Ave. SW, Roanoke, VA, 24016.



OSW's Got Talent

*Spotlight on talent in our OSW
neighborhood*

Elaine Fleck

*by your neighbor,
Marv Anne Mather*

*The Beach Party, 3ft.x4ft.,
fabric and oils, 2001*

Creative, eclectic, good neighbor...that's artist and OSW resident Elaine Fleck. Many longtime "OSWesters" will know Elaine from her time as an OSW, Inc. board member, her hands-on contributions to neighborhood projects over the years, and more recently, as the artist selected to beautify two Roanoke City storm drains with murals that are not only accomplished and whimsical but also remind each of us about our role as stewards of the Earth. Visit the Greenway entrance behind Black Dog Salvage to see the mini-mural around the storm drain. It's a glimpse into some of the things Elaine cares about and incorporates into her artwork—a respect for nature and the creatures that are essential contributors to our environment. Following that theme, Elaine owns a lot on Mountain, where she has organized a community garden complete with an orchard. In addition, Elaine and her husband Richard Normand are interested in expanding a tree-planting project in OSW. Trees not only add to the beauty of city neighborhoods, but they also address climate change as they ingest carbon and release oxygen. And did you know that trees also slow down traffic? (Some well-positioned plantings on 6th St. between Campbell and Elm might contribute to safer pedestrian and bike travel in that area.) More on this as details unfold.

Elaine's work as a professional artist echoes her affinity to nature. She explains, "My inspirations come from the complex designs in nature, whether they are the wavy lines in an armadillo's skin, the patterns in a seashell, or the multi-colored blooms in my summer garden. I'm drawn to the rich intricacies that nature provides and that we are intimately a part of as humans." Her technique merges two loves—textiles and painting. Each creation has its foundation in pieces of fabric placed on canvas with matte medium. As the painting unfolds, she meticulously incorporates patterns in the cloth with oil paints to bring images into focus. The final products are interesting mixes of color, texture, and emotion. One last detail...you don't want to miss Elaine's front yard at 535 Mountain. Look for the charming raspberry-colored cottage. We'll leave what you'll see there as a surprise, but we know it will make you smile.

Calling all artists, musicians, gardeners, crafters, etc. Do you, or someone you know in OSW have a talent or hobby you'd like to spotlight? We'd like to learn about it! <https://www.oldsouthwest.org/contact-us>

Yesterday

By your neighbor, Wendi Richert

Argonne Circle

If you drive between the 300 and 400 blocks of King George Avenue, you must drive around a diamond-shaped green space known as Argonne Circle. This 2/3-acre property is a part of the city park system, and while small, its benches and shade trees offer a pleasant spot for dog walkers and folks in want of a quiet place to sit.

On a recent visit with my dogs, I stopped for (what I am embarrassed to admit) the first time ever to read the plaques and information signs there. Here's what I learned: Argonne Circle is named for the place where the final Allied offensive of World War One took place - the Argonne Forest in France. A historical marker was placed in Argonne Circle in 2014 by Boy Scout Troop 221 of the Blue Ridge Mountains Council along with the benches, poppy flowers, and a flagpole. This sign gives context to the large rock that was dedicated in 1925 to



Roanoke soldiers who fought in WWI. Later in 2012 a plaque was added honoring veterans of all wars.

Roanoke Diversity Center



In 2012, the nonprofit Roanoke

Today

By your neighbor, Mohammad Elshawarby

Diversity Center (RDC) was founded to serve the region's LGBTQ+ community. Previously located in the basement of a Southeast Roanoke church, the center and its leadership paved the way for outreach to and support of sexual and gender minority people. Our mission is to support, educate, empower, and advocate for LGBT individuals and groups in the Roanoke region, and to encourage collaborative efforts with the greater community to

improve the quality of life for all. We do this by serving as a resource for the community, a place that people can turn to for help, understanding and community. The center hosts different groups and programs like support groups, youth focused programs, sports and gaming, arts, health and wellness resources, and many more. We are also very proud to house the LGBT Memorial Library, one of the largest LGBTQ+ libraries on the East Coast with a vast catalog of books (fiction & non-fiction) and publications.

To increase visibility and expand our impact, we moved to the edge of OSW and downtown Roanoke in 2020 on the corner of Campbell Avenue and 5th Street SW. With that move, we revamped our brand to better reflect the diversity and inclusion needs of the LGBTQ+ community, their families, and allies. Today our center is a vibrant, safe space for young people and adults with robust programming to help our community live full and rewarding lives.

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Roanoke Diversity Center

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The RDC is run almost entirely by volunteers and donations. I am proud to be part of a volunteer board of an

organization that is dedicated to bettering our community and making sure that a safe space like the RDC continues to exist for those that need it. With the majority of the board members living in OSW and with OSW's history of being Roanoke's gayborhood, it is no surprise that the RDC's home is now in OSW with its doors open to the whole neighborhood. Please visit our website for more information about how to volunteer and donate to the center. And stop by during



FOR MORE INFORMATION

What: Roanoke Diversity Center

Where: 425 Campbell Ave. SW Suite 111

When: W-F 4-7 pm, Sat noon-5 pm

roanokediversitycenter.com

[Facebook.com/RoanokeDiversityCenter](https://www.facebook.com/RoanokeDiversityCenter)

[instagram.com/roadiversity/](https://www.instagram.com/roadiversity/)

twitter.com/roadiversity

[twitch.tv/rddiversitystars](https://www.twitch.tv/rddiversitystars)

our open hours and programs to see first-hand what we do. And check out our new mural, you can't miss it!

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OSW Voice Newsletter

Want to know more about our OSW community?

Have an idea or want to share some news?

Contact Wendi Richert at
<https://www.oldsouthwest.org/contact-us>



A view from our June OSW neighborhood meeting. We hope to see you in July - always the third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

National Night Out



Always the first Tuesday in August, National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie with neighbors and police, fire, and other first responders. OSW hosted this event at the Gish House and thanks all who came out. Special thanks also to Mission BBQ and Michael McMillian for feeding us!



PRESERVING OUR PAST. SECURING OUR FUTURE.



The history center for the National Humane Alliance resides in Derby, Ct. This is the brick OSW president Frances McNulty secured in honor of OSW's fountain in Highland Park.

Become a Member

We welcome all who reside in OSW, renters as well as homeowners, to our meetings and activities. Check out our website and click on that big button that says “Members” to learn how to become a supporting member and help all our special projects and activities come to life!

<https://www.oldsouthwest.org/members>

You can also click on [Become a Member](#) or [Join Now](#).

Both buttons take you to the page where for \$10 you can join in helping preserve our amazing neighborhood and keep it a welcoming and fun place to live, work, and play.



PRESERVING OUR PAST. SECURING OUR FUTURE.

OSW = Community - History - Diversity - Safety - Ecology - Empathy & FUN!

Our vision is to live in a community where people care about their neighbors, participate in neighborhood life, and are open to building a future together that makes Old Southwest the most desired community in the Roanoke Valley in which to live, work, and play.

Find us at

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OldSouthwestInc>

Nextdoor: https://nextdoor.com/neighborhood_feed/

Website: <https://www.oldsouthwest.org>

OSW Board of Directors

Officers

President: Frances McNulty

Vice President: Jan Keister

Secretary: Mary Jo Gale

Treasurer: David Jeavons

Members at Large

Julie Gale

Liza Hart

Hal Irvin

Patti Mills

Phillip Morgan

Wendi Richert