

THE OLD LOUISVILLE JOURNAL

A monthly summary of News and Events in Old Louisville

Published by OLIC Inc, a 501(c)(3) Corporation

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February 2012



Chair Notes

By Joan Stewart OLIC/OLNC Chair

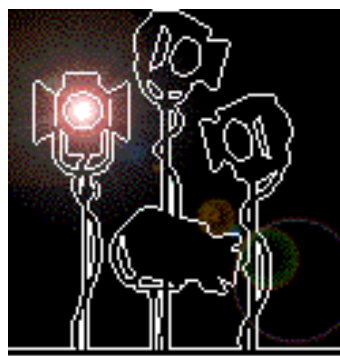
Welcome to February!!!

Oh my goodness the window project is under way! We are going to have such a beautiful space for the Neighborhood and for the Neighborhood Council to call home. I get tingles just thinking about the Information Center...after all the restoration has been completed. Phase one of the Restoration is the Windows...Phase two is opening up the ceiling to the beautiful original ceiling...Phase three is the lighting and ceiling fans for the Center and Phase four is the painting of the interior of the Center and new/different furniture for the Center meeting area. WOW!!! What a major undertaking... for sure! If you would like to be a donor in order to make sure this happens, call the Center leave a message and you will be contacted asap. Individuals, Associations and Businesses are welcome to be a part of this magnificent addition to Central Park and the Old Louisville Community. After the Restoration, I feel confident many groups will be clamoring to hold meetings, gatherings, parties, receptions, showers, and whatever else...just remember, first come...first served!

SPRING FESTIVAL 2012...only 4 months away! Make your plans NOW for a booth, for volunteering, for coming on May 19, 2012 for a fabulous day of treasures, food and music. I am ever so excited about this Spring Activity in Old Louisville...hope you are as well. Visit www.oldlouisvillespringfest.org for information about the Festival and Booth Rental information. Booth Rental applications are available at: <http://www.oldlouisvillespringfest.org/5.htm>

January was such a beautiful month...a month to rejuvenate...a month to reflect and a month to think about all the events and wonderful things happening in Old Louisville now. Just think about how much change happened last year...all the new events, new projects, new neighbors, and soooooo much more and now...we have another year to do even more to make this Neighborhood into the BEST it can be...

Be the change you want to see I the world...Ghandi



Spotlight on...Ron Harris

By Joan Stewart, OLIC/OLNC Chair

Ronald Lew Harris is a dynamic, creative, smart, sweet, kind and passionate Old Louisvillian. Ron was Vice-Chair for the OLNC for two glorious years...Ghost Walk Director for two years (and counting!), President of the 1300 Neighborhood Association for two years and a worker for many other events and organizations in Old Louisville for many years and more to come.

Now...along with all of the above, Ron is the Chairperson for the Information Center Restoration Project. He is the one who grabbed this project by the neck and vowed to get it done...not 10 years from now but...NOW!!! Ron is to be commended for eliciting the

help of CM James...creating the presentation booklet for the Window Project...blown up pictures of the original roof in the Center...AND a positive attitude and belief that this PROJECT was to be completed. Thank you Ron for all of this work.

Ron and his wonderful wife, Jane, are helping put Old Louisville on the National Scene with their Old Louisville Candy Company. Happy Balls are known Nationwide from the sale of the candy and from being featured on numerous food shows broadcast on National Television. Thank you Jane and Ron!

There is so much more to say about Ron...those of you who know him could talk for a long time about his love of Old Louisville.

SALUTE!!!!

**Mark Your Calender for
April 14, 2012 -
Central Park Spring
Improvement Day.**

Vote for the Best of (Old) Louisville

Louisville Magazine is taking ballots for the Best of "Everything" at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BOL2012>

Be sure to vote for your favorite categories in Old Louisville!

The categories include:

New Restaurant, Favorite Restaurant, Local Chef, Breakfast, Dive Bar, Swanky Bar, Coffee Shop, Bargain Restaurant, Outdoor Dining, Kids' Restaurant, Ice Cream, TV Weathercaster, TV Anchor/Male, TV Anchor/Female, TV Sportscaster, TV Morning Host, TV Reporter, Louisville 'Lebrity, Louisville Liberal, Louisville Conservative, Thrift Store, Store for Customer Service, Stationery Store, Women's Jeans, Clothing Boutique, Kitchenware, Vintage Clothes, Car Wash, Lawn Care Service, Hardware Store, Dog Kennel, Plumber, Tattoos, Fitness/Personal Training, Outdoor Playground, Place to Walk Dogs, Karaoke, Place to Be at 2 a.m. (in bed! ha, ha!), and Animal Welfare Group.

Let's see how many we can get!



Bruce Cohen of BC Plumbing may be your choice for Best Plumber if you vote!



(L-R) Kevin Connelly, CNPE CEO, April DuVal, Becky Phillips, Council Executive Director, Representative of Mountjoy Chilton Medley. Congratulations! Council on Developmental Disabilities Wins Prestigious Pyramid Award for Weber Gallery's Art of Vision The Art of Vision award "honors a non-profit organization that has developed a collective vision that inspired action, connected that vision to its mission and/or to community priorities, and demonstrated the community benefits of that mission."

Editorial Policy: Letters and articles submitted to **THE OLD LOUISVILLE JOURNAL** may be edited with regard to space and/or content. Letters to the Editor must be signed with a verifiable signature and address.

Attention All 4th Division Sector 1

Neighborhood Associations, Residents, Business Owners & Managers, Church & Civic Leaders!

Join Lt. Kit Steimle & Ofc. Dean Sturgeon
4th Division Sector 1, Monthly Crime Briefing and Crime Prevention Brain Storming Session

When: Wednesday February 1, 2012
Where: 4th Division Station in Central Park
Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Coming Together To Build A United Front Against Crime!

THE OLD LOUISVILLE JOURNAL is published monthly by the Old Louisville Information Center, Inc. (OLIC), a 501(c)(3) Corporation, incorporated in 1984, for the purpose of receiving tax deductible contributions. OLIC is affiliated with the Old Louisville Neighborhood Council (OLNC), a 501 (c)(4) nonprofit association incorporated in 1976 to serve as the recognized voice of the Old Louisville Neighborhood.

Submit Journal contributions to the Editor, Linda Plunkett:
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 phone: 502.635.5244 e-mail: olnc@bellsouth.net

Advertising rates available upon request.
 Please submit "Letters to the Editor" to the above address.
 The 15th of each month is deadline for submission of all ads and articles.

Spring (Fest) Will Soon Be Here!

By Dan Mason

As you've heard in neighborhood and community meetings or read here in the past or online, a subcommittee of the Old Louisville Neighborhood Council (OLNC) has been working over the past several months to create and organize Old Louisville's first Spring Festival.

The Festival will be held in the Toonerville Trolley area on Saturday, May 19th from 10am to 11pm, with live music from 2-11pm... rain or shine. This area was specifically selected (1) because of the "festival conducive" wide streets / long blocks and (2) a chance to help introduce attendees to the quickly rejuvenating eastern corridor of Old Louisville.

The 1200 and 1300 blocks of 1st Street and Ormsby (one block in each direction) will be closed on Friday, May 18th for cleaning and setup, and on the 19th for the festival. Cleanup will happen beginning at 11pm on the 18th with a goal of reopening all areas as quickly as possible for Sunday traffic.

The goal is to create a street festival with a "Paris flea market" feel, offering rare and interesting finds, a chance to learn about local organizations and services, a diverse range of food and food truck treats, a kids zone, the best local live music and great beers, wines and sprits!

The purpose of the Spring Fest is to not only come together as a neighborhood for a great time and celebrate our amazing area, but to also create an annual event to help raise much-needed funds for the Neighborhood Council and the individual associations.

Each Old Louisville neighborhood association will be given one free booth and all profits from that booth will go directly to that association. If an association would like more than one booth, a booth fee of \$40 each additional would apply. The booth fee includes the necessary metro permit. Vendors are responsible for any applicable sales taxes, etc. See the booth application on the festival site (<http://www.oldlouisvillespringfest.org/5.html>) for additional details.

All associations are encouraged to participate, even if they sponsor the booth for another association or local philanthropic organization. Additionally, associations are asked to begin thinking about what their booth(s) will focus on (except food) and how many they'd like to organize.

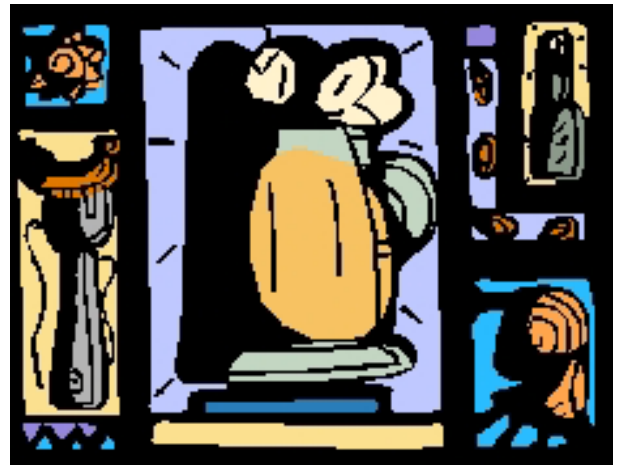
The OLNC will organize and raise funds from the sale of food, adult beverages, booth fees and food truck participation.

Programs will be created to encourage attendees to "go green" on their visit as well as visit those booths featuring local products and services.

A main stage will be erected in the middle of the area and will feature a broad spectrum of local artists and genres from 2 to 11pm. Performers will be announced soon.

Lastly... Volunteers will be canvassing the Toonerville area on Sunday, January 22nd from 2-5 to help get the word out. Signs, articles and additional reminders will be communicated as the event gets closer. If you'd like a representative from the planning committee attend an upcoming association meeting, don't hesitate to ask!

The booth application and detailed festival information is available at www.oldlouisvillespringfest.org. You can also email info@oldlouisvillespringfest.org for specific questions or more information.



Book Review:

“The du Pont Family and Street Railway Industry”

By James E. Dalmas

Published by Shagena Publishing Company, Bel Air, Maryland

Review by Steve Wiser, AIA

DuPont Chemical is a 60,000 employee, \$31.5 billion dollar, global mega-corporation. Founded in 1802 by French-national E I DuPont as a black powder manufacturer, DuPont was on the verge of being sold one hundred years later. In 1902, the third generation of family ownership was not prepared to continue the company leadership. Without intervention of du Pont relatives, who had relocated to Louisville, the great DuPont enterprise may not have survived into the 20th century.

A new book entitled ‘The du Pont Family and the Street Railway Industry’ details how the du Ponts were an industrious family. Authored by James Dalmas (who is related to the du Ponts), this book could easily have been subtitled: “How a struggling family owned-business reinvented itself to worldwide success”.

As du Pont descendants, Antoine Biderman and his brother Alfred Victor (Fred) du Pont realized their future in the family business was limited by numerous other heirs who were ahead of them in the line of succession. Thus, in 1854, not wanting to ‘wait their turn, they decided to head west to seek more opportunity in Louisville, Kentucky, where they acquired a DuPont black powder branch outlet. They also purchased a paper mill, which was originally built by George Prentice, publisher of the Journal newspaper, a forerunner to the Courier-Journal.

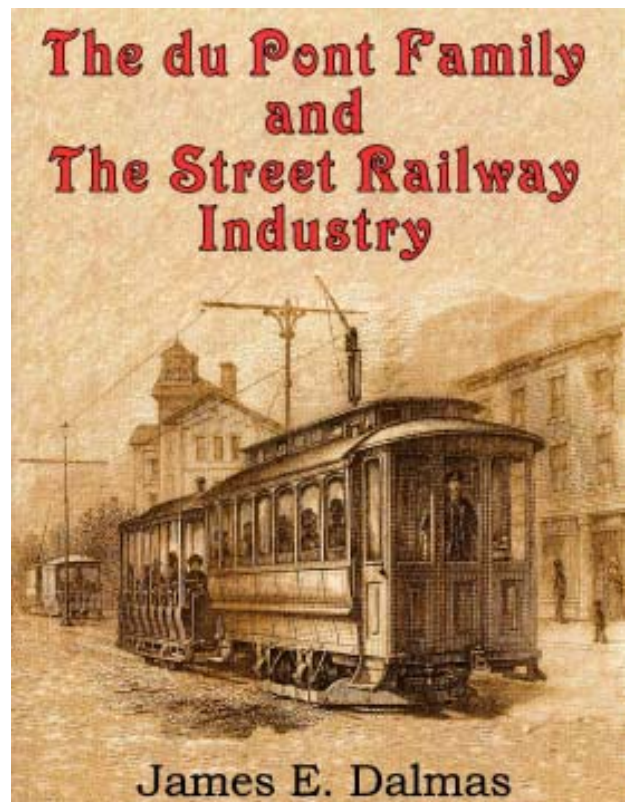
It would seem that not having social or business ties with their new home might hinder them, but in fact it freed the brothers to pursue new initiatives. Unencumbered by the old-school du Pont ‘way of doing things’, Antoine and Fred chartered their own entrepreneurial course.

Both, though, did have financial resources and a knack for ingenuity which they put to good use. By 1866, they were owners of the Central Passenger Railroad Company, which was just a fancy name for a mule-drawn street rail car line from Fourth and Walnut south to Fourth and Oak. From this initial investment, the du Ponts expanded the railway to 55 miles of track, 156 passenger cars, and 800 mules. They also were assisted by several key support personnel like Tom Johnson, and two of Antoine’s children: A B Jr. and T. Coleman du Pont, among several other technical aides.

This group revolutionized the street railway system in America. They developed the fare coin box, which simplified operations; overcame technical issues to electrification; and re-engineered the rail cars and lines to function efficiently. Realizing that local workers did not have the skills to maintain this new ‘high-tech’ trolley system, Fred helped create duPont Manual High School.

By the turn-of-the-century, the Louisville du Pont’s trolley empire had spread to regional cities like St. Louis, Detroit; Indianapolis; Johnstown, Pa.; Cleveland; among others.

Back in Wilmington, Delaware, things were going in the opposite direction. The du Pont family was in disarray and the company was no longer on-the-cutting-edge. It seemed the only solution was to sell to their competitor. In stepped Alfred I. du Pont who asked his family for a week to put together a buy-out plan. Alfred then enlisted his cousins Pierre and T. Coleman, who both had obtained valuable innovative management experience via the outside enterprises of the du Ponts who had earlier departed Wilmington. They and several other key associates transformed DuPont into the chemical giant that it is today.



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Book Review continued from page 4

Few in Louisville today are even aware that the acclaimed du Pont family once called our city home, other than the high school reference. And, many du Ponts still are here as residents of Cave Hill Cemetery (such as Antoine Biderman du Pont, Sr., and his son A B Jr.).

This is a wonderful ‘Only-in-America’ success story that James Dalmas has featured. And, the du Pont family demonstrated over one hundred years ago that Louisville is ‘possibility city!’

A new book entitled “The du Pont Family and Street Railway Industry” was just published. The author is James E. Dalmas, who is related to the du Ponts. This book is available locally at Carmichaels Bookstore.

Steve Wiser, AIA, is a local architect and historian who has written several books including “Louisville Tapestry: People and Places who helped create America’s Most Livable City”.

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PIC NOTES

January 12, 2012 Meeting

By Herb Fink, Chair, Property Improvement Committee

Item 1: Informational session with OLN/OLIC Chair Joan Stewart.

- Joan asked that PIC take on the challenge of devising a strategy to clean up the problems on the 200 block of East Ormsby between Brook and Preston.
- This one block makes the rest of Old Louisville look bad.
- There is constant prostitute and drug deal traffic.
- Two apartment buildings 210 (owner, Arly Sebastian) and 214 (owner Clark Property Management Group) have tenants who seem to ignore the going-ons.
- It was suggested that PIC meet with owners to see what could be done to upgrade properties to attract more upscale residents who would call into police.
- 210 is in court and Robert Martin (IPL) will be getting access to inspect interior.
- More police involvement is needed.
- Tim Bottorff suggested targeting “johns and users” to reduce demand.

Joan Stewart was asked to get report of RV use in Old Louisville. Neighbors have not seen them around.

Herb commented that street cleaning is not happening, suggests talking to Councilman. Cars have been parked on streets scheduled for cleaning and no ticketing has occurred. Parking Authority won't ticket except in residential parking permit area. Suggested asking them to next meeting.

Item 2: Status of Magnolia Avenue and Adjacent Alley Contract Regarding MSD Flood Control

Chuck Anderson unable to attend meeting, but emailed the following report:

Contract was awarded and approved by the MSD Board. Unfortunately the weather in December plus the changes that have occurred at MSD delayed contract implementation. Contracts had been routed for signature by the Executive Director but with the change in staffing new contracts had to be rerouted to the interim Executive Director. This plus the abnormal amount of rains in December have delayed the start of construction.

Contractor is EZ Construction who has worked on a number of other green initiatives for MSD. He is ready to go and may have already done some preliminary marking of utilities.

MSD is willing to attend a special meeting with parties that back up on the alley to discuss the project.

Wes Sydnor has said that the work should be substantially completed by the end of year.

Item 3: Review of Old Louisville Landmarks Guidelines update.

- Herb is putting together a committee and trying to have representation from all neighborhood associations.

Item 4: Vacant and deteriorating buildings within Old Louisville update

1435 S. 4th Street – Has been recently sold.

- NW corner of Ormsby and Brook has been renovated wonderfully and now for sale. Bank forced to sale by constant fining.
- 1374 Ouerbacker Ct. – Bank will be fined constantly to force sale. Should happen within 90 days.

Item 5: Central Park issues.

- Spring Improvement Day – April 14th.

Noted that graffiti is bad again.

Herb mentioned utility companies have been leaving unfinished and improperly finished work in Old Louisville. Asked neighbors to report problem areas with addresses and name of utility to Linda at olnc@bellsouth.net.

Twenty trees were planted in Old Louisville during the recent work session. Another session will be coming up around March. Gator bags will be included in next session.

The next PIC meeting will be February 9th, 2012.



Vacant and Deteriorating Properties Update

By Herb Fink, Chair, Property Improvement Committee

During October-November 2011, a survey was conducted of vacant deteriorating properties within Old Louisville, noting approximately 25 such locations scattered about our neighborhood.

During the November 12, 2011 PIC meeting, Mr. Jim Mims, Director of Louisville Metro Department of Codes & Regulations, and members of his staff agreed to work closely with our neighborhood to rid blighted properties and restore the properties to a viable use. Mr. Mims reported that Mayor Fischer has made the problem of vacant & deteriorating buildings/properties his top priority.

During coming months, we will attempt to inform and highlight in regard to many of these locations.

We'll begin with 1343 S. Brook Street and 1435 S. 4th Street.

1435 S. 4th Street - Presently vacant and exterior in a deteriorating condition - but recently sold to a new owner.

1435 S. 4th St. is an impressive mansion which has been very much in the news recently, has been vacant recently, and many elements of the building are in a deteriorated condition.

According to Landmarks staff, the residence was built circa 1890 and represents Victorian Eclectic architecture with projecting wood bay-windows, curve a linear leaded glass bay windows and the northeast corner of the building is of a rounded corner.

A two-story brick carriage-house is to the rear of the site with center door off the alleyway, typical of many existing carriage buildings of the era.



Leaded Glass Bay Window.

For many years the residence was a rooming house owned and operated by Pauline Boren, who many of the neighbors well remember. Eleven gas meters presently exist along the south facade of the building.

The ornate cornice of the building and the front porch structure will need rebuilding along with many other items which will need rehabilitation.

Metro Department of Codes & Regulations information note that property maintenance inspectors have made over 50+ inspections of the property.

However, the good news (we hope) is that the property was recently purchased, according to Court House deed, on December 28, 2011 by GHP 6, LLC, a Kentucky limited liability co., represented by William R. Nunery with an Indianapolis, Indiana address according to Kentucky Secretary of State records.

Neighbors have reported seeing individuals inspecting areas of the building recently - presumably contractors reviewing work to be accomplished.

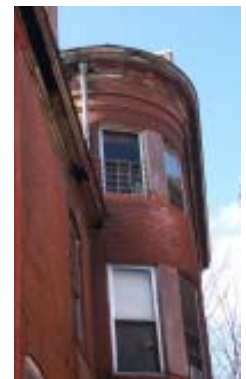
Until additional information can be gathered, we hope the new owner will be pursuing rehabilitation of the property and restoring the property to good residential use.



Wood Bay Windows.



1435 S. 4th St.



Curve a Linear Corner.



Masonry Ornate bay Window.

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Vacant and Deteriorating Properties Update-continued from page 7



1343 S. Brook Street - Vacant & Deteriorating.

1343 S. Brook St. has been standing vacant and in a deteriorating condition for many years.

The residence was built circa 1895 representing Richardsonian Romanesque architecture with heavy masonry construction and using round arches.

Approximately 10+/- years ago, a very serious fire occurred within the building which did substantial damage to the interior of the building and destroyed the entire roof.

Soon thereafter, a new roof was installed and some work occurred on the interior of the building.



During 2006 synthetic windows were being installed within the building openings without a certificate of appropriateness and the Landmarks staff issued a stop work order at that time.

Since that time, little or no rehabilitation work has occurred on the property.

Since 2000 Metro Property Maintenance inspectors have been to the site 61 times for inspection purposes.

During this period of time the property has been cited numerous times for garbage, rubbish, weeds, trash, debris, litter high grass, overgrowth and trash trees.

Numerous times the dwelling was cited as to being not secured, windows and doors open in various locations and entry available into dangerous areas.

The most recent Metro Property Maintenance inspection on January 9, 2012 noted “rear window second level porch and cellar are open to unauthorized access.”

Synthetic Windows.



Today, a person could easily walk into this building to seek shelter from the winter, light a fire to keep warm, and begin a tragic situation for this location and adjacent neighbors.

Metro Codes & Regulations sources note this property is owned by C. Bold, LLC., represented by Raymond Bischoff of 5215 Bardstown Rd. in Louisville and that citations have been issued in amount of \$1,800.00 to date.

Metro Codes & Regulations sources also note that citations issued regarding this property were referred to court numerous times, but the property owner never appeared in court.

After conferring with Mary McGuire, Legal Administrative Supervisor, Metro Department Codes & Regulations, it becomes apparent that the property owner has abandoned this property.

This is a situation where conventional processes to restore this property are not being successful and other avenues need to be pursued.



Rear porch.

Dining at the Mansions



The Old Louisville Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Dining at the Mansions, Sunday, March 18, 2012, starting at 4:00pm. \$175.00 per couple/ \$90.00 per person.

The main venue will be the Frazier House, owned by The Woman's Club of Louisville.

Many, many thanks to the homeowners who have agreed to host a dinner.

For more information, please visit the web site at: www.DiningAtMansions.com. or call the OLCC/VC, (502) 637-2922 for information or to make reservations. Last year the event was a sell out!

Renovation on Old Louisville Information Center Begins! Stop by and see the gorgeous new windows!



OLD LOUISVILLE INFORMATION CENTER

1340 South Fourth Street - in Central Park

Louisville, Kentucky 40208

phone: 502.635.5244

e-mail: olnc@bellsouth.net

hours: Tuesday - Friday 1pm - 5pm

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Crime Brain Storming Session 6:30 p.m., Central Park Division Station	2 ZALU, 7 p.m.	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 PIC 7 p.m.	10	11
12	13	14 Happy Valentine's!	15 3rd St. NA 7 p.m. Steele Residence, 1414 S. 3rd St. OL Book Club 7	16 Toonerville 7	17	18
19	20 Crime & Safety 7 p.m.	21	22 CPW 7 p.m.	23	24	25
26 The 1300 Assoc. 7p.m.	27	28 OLIC 6 p.m. OLNC 7 p.m	29 Leap Year!			