



Willow House Times

Issue 31

Cuyahoga Heights Historical Committee

April 2015



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Cuyahoga Heights Historical Archives

Kennedy House

4651 E 71st Street

Home of

Historical Committee

&

Boy Scouts



The committee sent requests to the National Archives in St. Louis, MO. for more information on the last 2 WW I soldiers. We hope to have military reports soon. April's newsletter is about the history of the Historical Committee. May will be our events & Open Houses through the years. June we will be back to WW I soldiers.

History of the Village Historical Committee

During the early 1990s Mayor Louis Bacci ask Dianne Suhy to try to figure out which homes in the village were century home meaning they were built over 100 years before. Mary Nagy, Kathy Swartout & Ric Waldemarson helped Dianne. The group soon found that most people who thought their home were century home were less than 100 years old. A number of others were true century homes & their owners were surprised to hear about their homes. While looking for this information a lot of village information & pictures were discovered in the Main Library downtown, Cuyahoga County Archives & at the Western Reserve Historical Society Library. Dianne Suhy & the Citizen's Committee displayed copies of these items plus village pictures at the village's 75th anniversary in 1993. Shortly after the village council voted to have a historical society committee. Nothing came of this until Mayor Ralph Contipelli appointed Barb Bartczak chairman of the Historical Committee in 2006. With no place to put items the mayor had the old police/jail area [now Mr Casini office] in the village hall basement fixed up for the committee. When we looked at the room we didn't think we could ever fill it. We had the 1st Open house in the fall of 2008. The 1st Memorial Day Open House was in 2009. Once people understood what the committee wanted within 2 years we needed more room. During 2009 the committee ask Mayor Jack Bacci if they could move into the empty back part of the VFW originally the Willow House Tavern. We moved in after asking residents to sign a petition supporting the committee's move to the VFW [Willow House]. When the VFW membership declined to the point of only having a hand full coming to meetings they closed & gave the committee all their record to place in our archives. At this point we moved VFW & soldiers displays into the tavern area & it was big enough to hold lectures on genealogy & finding homes histories. We discovered a door between the tavern & the back apartment plus the original stairs that lead from the kitchen to the upstairs where people that stayed over night at the tavern went up to there rooms in the owners living quarters. The committee's Historical Archives & Museum are now in the former Mayor Kennedy's home across the street from where the Willow House stood. The main event the committee puts on each year is the annual Memorial Day Open House to show the residents new information, pictures & items people have given or lent to us for display. The 2015 Open House is May 25th at the Kennedy House from 9AM to 1PM. The Kennedy House is still a work in progress. Village groups, Elementary classes & groups from Canal Way have toured every place we have been. The great feed back helps with planning for the next group. Both past & present committee members are Barb Bartczak, Mark Chase, Cheryl Harris, Laura Hine, Irene Masek, Danny Schoeffler, Dianne Suhy, Kathy Swartout & Sandy Waldemarson

Historical Committee's 1st display room & 1st Open House September 6, 2008



**Historical Room
"Open House"
September 6, 2008
11 AM-1 PM
Contipelli Center
Village Hall**

First 30 families that bring a village picture or newspaper article for us to scan will get one of our T-shirts.

Historical Committee
Barb, Danny, Dianne, Kathy & Sandy





Historical Committee members cleaning items the day before the 2010 Memorial Day Open House in our new home the Willow House [VFW]. We salvaged a number of item from the Hanousek house before it was torn down; Open house May 31, 2010 displays; Willow House Tavern - Through time 1908, 1950s, 2010, March 11 & 13, 2015



The Kennedy House, Our new home as of 2014 is pictured on page 4

Cuyahoga Heights Historical Committee

Barb Bartczak

Mark Chase

Laura Hine

Irma Schab

Sandy Waldemarson

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2015 Meetings

10 AM - Noon

April 4th

May 2nd

May Memorial Day

Open House 9 AM –1PM

August 1st

October 3rd

at

Kennedy House

4561 E. 71st Street

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Willow Times News

Editor - Kathy Swartout

kblkwoods@aol.com

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Website

sites.google.com/site/cuyahogahtshistorical

Webmaster-Laura Hine

Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/132447953512779/

Kennedy House



Committee news

The 1st meeting for 2015 will be April 4th from 10 AM till 12 noon.

Our meeting dates for this year are listed to the left. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, or look at the displays.

Memorial Day Open House will be from 9 AM to 1 PM.

You can also schedule a time to visit by contacting any committee member or calling the village hall.

We will e-mail or call you to set up a time.