



# The Pulse of the Hill



St. Anne's Hill Historic District News

<http://www.stannahill.org>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SUSAN GRAY



Recently my husband was out of town, fulfilling his annual duties as a judge at a surf fishing competition on the coast. I decided to surprise him by painting our front room while he was away. Its been sitting in a primed and ready state for a while now, and we just haven't gotten around to working on it. It still needs woodwork, a mantle and other trim, but paint makes it a more pleasant space in the meantime, and gives us a jump start on the rest. It turned out great, and you're all welcome to stop by and see it, but that's not the point of my story.

During my decorating frenzy I was reminded once again how blessed I am to live in this community. I know, I say something every month about how the people in this neighborhood are the most wonderful people in the world. Get set to hear it again. In response to my request "do you have a minute? Would you help me with something real quick?" the response of Bob (twice) and Craig was "sure, be right over". It wasn't until they were standing in front of a piece of insanely heavy furniture that it occurred to them to ask "what do you need?"

Year in, year out, my neighbors are there for me, and I couldn't be more thankful. There it is – the word that pops up everywhere this time of year.

In a small attempt to pay it forward, I want to tell you all about a great gadget I came across last year. We all remember the horrifying news that Fred Bremer's home was on fire. The cause, I'm told, was an electric window candle. When I pulled my own holiday decorations out that year I took a good look at my "safe" electric candles. I knew the bulbs got hot, but something I didn't know was right there on the tag: not recommended for more than 90 days continuous use. This isn't a problem for me, I rarely keep them out for more than 45 days, but if there was ever incentive to find a replacement, all I had to do was remember the smell of burning century-old wood.

Last year I found battery operated LED candles that have a programmable timer. The LED means the bulbs stay cool. And the programmable part is as easy as tightening the bulb into place on the base. Really. They are pre-programmed to be on for 8 hours, off for 16. Set them up to light at 4 pm, say, and they'll turn themselves off at midnight, then turn themselves back on at 4 the next afternoon. They use AA batteries and last more than 2 months – I kept some of them burning into February just to see when they'd give up. They're bright, and no cords means you can put them in windows you never dreamed you could put them in before. I found these little wonders at Meijer, retailing for \$3.99 a piece. I've checked, and they have them again this year at the same price. Look in the seasonal merchandise area, near the other electric and battery operated lights. I'm not a paid spokesperson, nor do I play one on TV. Just want to share something I've found with all of you.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays to you all. Stay safe.

## Neighborhood Calendar

### Saturday, December 11

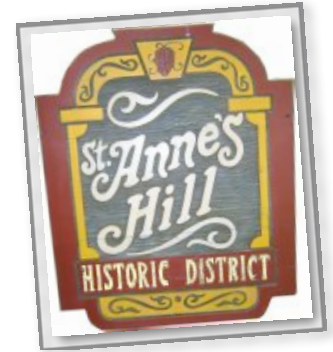
Holiday Progressive Dinner...look for a flyer or online for more details!

### Tuesday, January 4

General Membership Meeting at the Liederkrantz

**HOMES FOR SALE IN WONDERFUL ST. ANNE'S HILL...**

|                   |              |                    |              |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 116 McClure St    | \$20,000.00  | 28 Potomac St.     | \$36,000.00  |
| 1623 E 5TH St.    | \$37,000.00  | 148 McClure St.    | \$79,900.00  |
| 35-35 1/2 McClure | \$81,500.00  | 17-19 La Belle St. | \$82,500.00  |
| 136-138 High St.  | \$87,000.00  | 133 High St.       | \$98,500.00  |
| 107 La Belle St.  | \$100,000.00 | 126-130 High St.   | \$112,000.00 |
| 42 LaBelle St.    | \$119,900.00 |                    |              |
| 31 Henry St.      | \$145,000.00 |                    |              |



**Recently Sold:**

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 148 McClure Street | \$58,000  |
| 200 Henry Street   | \$123,000 |

Visit DABR.com for more information.

**HOW ST. ANNE'S HILL GOT ITS NAME**

**JACK MILLIFF**

Several years ago I wrote a series of articles for the newsletter about the name "St. Anne's Hill." I had heard conflicting accounts about how the name originally came about, and thought it shouldn't be too difficult to discover the facts. I found out I was wrong.

A 1946 Dayton Daily News article stated, "How or why sections and areas of the city came by their names are not matters of indisputable record today. No one seems to know precisely how many of the names were arrived at or why they endured." Former neighborhood names mentioned in the article include Miami City, Africa, the Commons, Phillips Hill, Robert's Fill, Shakertown, Tin Town, Frenchtown, Slidertown, South Park, Texas, McPhersontown, Mexico, New Mexico, Patterson, Brownstown, Cabintown, Buck's Pasture, Brush Prairie, Plum Orchard, Greencastle, and Newcom Plain. Quoting the article, "Some of the names were descriptively ugly."

In 1973, a city employee and amateur local historian named Martin Kelly came to a meeting of the group that was petitioning the city for historic designation. This group later became the St. Anne's Hill Historic Society, our neighborhood organization. Mr. Kelly told them something that none of them knew. The neighborhood had once been called St. Anne's Hill, and from that meeting the neighborhood regained its former name. I talked to Mr. Kelly and confirmed this account from him. If not for Mr. Kelly's intervention, we would likely be called the Bomberger neighborhood. This wouldn't have been too bad, considering that much of our neighborhood was once Mr. Bomberger's farm.

In 1972, Mr. Kelly also told the group organizing the Oregon Historic District about their former name, which also had been forgotten. Without his input, they would likely still be called the "Burns-Jackson" neighborhood.

Mr. Kelly told me about a book written in 1882 by Robert Drury, titled The History of Montgomery County, Ohio. It says "St. Anne's Hill was the high ground from the corner of McLain and Eagle Streets, north to Third Street." The word "was" implies to me that the name was no longer used by 1882.

Article continued on page 3...



**McClain Street...**

**HOW ST. ANNE'S HILL GOT ITS NAME CONTINUED...****Bomber Park...**

Elizabeth's Hospital was not established until 1870, and it is unlikely there is a connection to our neighborhood's name. There was a home for unwed mothers in east Dayton, but it was not in our neighborhood, and was not called "St. Anne's."

By the way, St. Anne was the mother of the Virgin Mary, and her husband, St. Joachim, was Mary's father. This would make Saints Anne and Joachim the maternal grandparents of Jesus.

Saints Anne and Joachim are the patron saints of grandparents, housewives, pregnant women, women in labor, and Canada. We all know that March 17 is "St. Patrick's Day," and February 14 is "St. Valentine's Day." July 26 is "Saints Joachim and Anne Day." Maybe we should consider this in planning our future festivities.

I find all this interesting, but it does not tell us how the name "St. Anne's Hill" originally came about.

*Season's Greetings  
from St. Anne's Hill!*

T.J.S. Smith platted much of St. Anne's Hill in the 1840's. In the Dayton City Directory of 1850 residents of part of our neighborhood are listed as living in "Smith's Hill."

In the 1980's, Todd Carver petitioned the Department of the Interior to have St. Anne's Hill added to the National Historic Register of Historic Places. He cited a newspaper advertisement from the 1830's that referred to a nursery at "St. Anne's Hill." I have spent countless hours looking at old microfilms, trying to find such a reference, but with no luck. I have talked to Todd, who says he saw the reference, and I believe this is true. This reference may be in our archives, now at Wright State.

I heard a story about St. Anne's maternity ward, and another account that there was once a home for unwed mothers called St. Anne's. There was a St. Anne's maternity ward at St. Elizabeth's Hospital. However, St.



St. Anne's Hill Historic Society  
P.O. Box 34  
Dayton, OH 45401

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ST. ANNE'S HILL- *DAYTON'S FAVORITE HILL*

DECEMBER 2010

**Important Telephone Numbers**

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| S.E. Priority Board                 | 333-7373 |
| Housing Inspection                  | 333-3921 |
| Supervisor, Jim Tredinnick          | 333-3918 |
| City of Dayton Planning Department, |          |
| Brian Inderrieden                   | 333-3679 |
| S.E. Zoning                         | 333-3887 |
| Landmarks Committee                 | 333-3683 |
| Sewer Maintenance                   | 333-4915 |
| Water Billing                       | 333-3550 |
| Bulk Waste Pickup                   | 333-4833 |
| Sidewalk/Curb Repair                | 333-3853 |
| Animal Control (vicious dogs)       | 898-4457 |
| Rodent Control                      | 333-3915 |
| Abandoned Vehicles                  | 333-1058 |
| Vacant Lot/Weeds                    | 333-4843 |
| Street Cleaning                     | 333-4808 |
| Street Lights                       | 333-3850 |
| Traffic Signs                       | 333-4075 |
| Park Maintenance                    | 333-5300 |
| Police                              | 333-COPS |
| District 1                          | 333-1290 |
| District 2                          | 333-7440 |
| Drug Hotline                        | 333-7440 |
| Truancy Hotline                     | 542-3228 |
| Weed & Seed Hotline                 | 461-WEED |
| Water Distribution                  | 333-4900 |

**Officers**

**Susan Gray, President**  
222-4381

**John Edinger, Vice President**  
838-0681

**Walt Colvin, Treasurer**  
222-7928

**Chris Sidner, Secretary**  
369-9762

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**Steve Kardeen** 277-2784

**Keith Klein** 223-5818

**Jack Milliff** 443-0499

**John See** 461-1940

**St. Anne's Hill Historic Society**

**Membership:**  
Fred Chatfield 478-9208

**Alley Cleanup:**  
Fred Bremer 586-0268

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Susan Gray 222-4381

**Grants Committee:**  
Leah Turnbull 252-5061

**Housing/Inspection Liason:**  
Glenna Rogers 223-7061

**PDI Representative:**  
Mary Jo Dupree 830-2475

**Parks & Greenway:**  
Jim Deweese 234-4861

**Marketing:** Keith Klein 223-5818

**Newsletter:**  
John Edinger 838-0681

**SEPB:** Barry Fought 586-0916

**Social:**  
Mary Jo Dupree 830-2475

**Sunshine:**  
Heather Kardeen 277-2784