



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.

Welcome to OSW, Inc.'s newsletter!!! Each month our plan is to produce a newsletter highlighting neighborhood happenings, new neighbors, local businesses, the talented folks that call Old Southwest home, historical information about Old Southwest, and other interesting goings on in and around Old Southwest. And, we want your ideas as well! Please feel free to send us ideas for future newsletters, to let us know about a business to highlight, or a local artist to spotlight. Your idea just may become a section in the newsletter!

We celebrated neighborhood month by holding the first in-person meeting we've had since February 2020 on May 19th. We grabbed our chairs and set up in front of the gazebo at the Gish House; we welcomed new neighbors and highlighted neighborhood happenings over the last year. We enjoyed great conversation, fellowship, cookies, and rubber ducks! It was a great night!

And, we've got a **Food with Friends** coming up! Food with Friends is a statewide and nationally recognized event that has been happening for several years in Old Southwest and prior to COVID, was held almost monthly. It was created by neighbors, for neighbors. Basically, a neighbor opens their doors to other neighbors for food and fellowship, and neighbors bring food to share with all. It is a wonderful way to get to know your neighbors and form long lasting relationships while networking, communicating, and sharing a meal. The organization of Old Southwest, Inc. has always supported this event, and to kick off the first Food with Friends of 2021, the Board of Old Southwest, Inc. will be hosting a Food with Friends on July 10th from 6pm-9pm at the Gish House. The theme of our evening will be an All-American Picnic – bring an appetizer, entrée, side dish or dessert to share with your neighbors. Also, bring your favorite beverage to drink. Paper products and utensils will be furnished. Tell a Neighbor, Bring a Friend!

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OSW Voice

June 2021

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Meet Your Neighbors

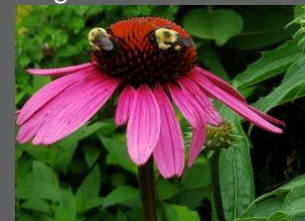
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Meet Your Neighbors

Meet David Gold!

By your neighbor, Mary Anne Mather



What draws us to live in a new place? In David's case it's the comfort and love of family. His daughter, Katelyn, has been a Roanoke resident for 10 years. He came to know Roanoke, and all it has to offer, during visits. In addition to wanting to live near family when he retired, David felt at home in Roanoke. He moved from Cape May, NJ, a quaint seaside resort city with a rich history, architectural diversity, shops and restaurants. A lot of that sounds like Roanoke! David's work in the construction industry, instilled an appreciation for historic homes. What better neighborhood to pick than OSW?! Okay, we don't have the sea, but the variety of architecture, preservation and beautification efforts, and friendliness of the neighborhood more than make up for that. Welcome to OSW, David! David lives on Washington Street.

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OSW Voice is Back!

By your neighbor, Wendi Richert

For decades, many have worked hard to bring the newsletter to OSW. I recall the pre-internet days when my mother-in-law, Joel Richert, would pick up my sons and drive them around Old Southwest to deliver the paper version to neighbors. Now, thanks to many volunteers, the OSW Voice is back with a little bit old and a lot new for you. As Frances noted in her monthly message, we have some big plans.

As in past years, many hands are making this newsletter possible. Much thanks to this month's contributors: Dan Danko, Julie Gale, Jan Keister, Mary Anne Mather, and Frances McNulty, and to Tim Taylor for the inspiration to revive the OSW Voice.

Want to know more about our OSW community?
Have an idea or want to share some news?
Contact me at <https://www.oldsouthwest.org/contact-us>

It's Our Business

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



Raise a Glass at AFOG

By your neighbor, Dan Danko

At the intersection of 8th & Marshall, you'll find a quintessential microbrewery that embodies the charm of our OSW neighborhood. In 2018, A Few Old Goats (AFOG) got its start when old friends

Ken and Curtis teamed up to sling an impressive variety of ales, from trendy IPAs to an incredibly smooth "Goat Milk" Stout. Since then, AFOG has continued to impress. Spring sours? Check! Summer seltzers? You betcha! Fall pumpkin beer? Absolutely. Winter warmers? Yep. They've dialed in on recipes that make their small-batch beer real standouts. The staff are down-to-earth and friendly—ready to chat about our neighborhood and city, and they're always ready to offer tasting suggestions. Ken and Curtis, themselves, are often on tap to welcome you, along with the brews.

With your selection in hand, head out to one of the best patios in town—a fenced space with ample seating, corn hole, summer sun shades, and cool-weather fire pits and heaters. There's competitive Trivia on Wednesdays and shelves filled with traditional board games to get your own competitions going. When it comes to having a good business in the neighborhood, AFOG hits the mark! It's welcoming to all (kids and dogs, too). If you haven't tried AFOG yet, it's a pleasant OSW walking destination. AND...on Thursday, July 22, 5-6PM, our neighbors Dan and Erica Danko plan to be at AFOG along with a few other OSW neighbors. We invite you to come by, introduce yourselves, and enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

What: A Few Old Goats Brewing

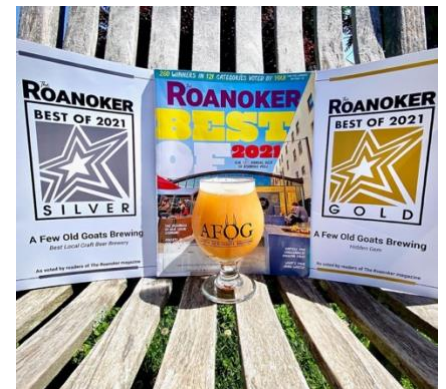
Where: 515 8th St. SW, Suite 228 (Inside West End Flats), Roanoke

When: M 3-7; W/Th 4-9; F 2-9; Sat noon-9; Sun 12:30-7; Closed Tues

FaceBook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AFOGBrewing>

<https://afogbrewing.com>



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President's Message, continued

Now, I can hear the next question – how to I become a part of all this fun and excitement! We welcome everyone to our neighborhood and our meetings – membership is open to all who reside in OSW, renters as well as homeowners. Check out our website and click on that big button that says "Members". You'll find great information there on how to join us and become a member.

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!!

Frances ran her first half-marathon in April when she crossed the finish line at the Blue Ridge Marathon.

Mark Your Calendar

All neighbors invited, encouraged, welcome!



Photo by Debby Hudson on Unsplash

July

10 - 7-noon: Community Yard Sale, Day Ave.

10 ~ 6-9 p.m.: Food with Friends, Gish House - details on page 1

15 ~ 6:30 p.m.: OSW Safety and Neighborhood Meeting, Gish House

22 ~ 5-6 p.m.: Neighborhood Meet Up, A Few Old Goats - details page 3

August

3 - 6 p.m.: National Night Out, Gish House - details to come

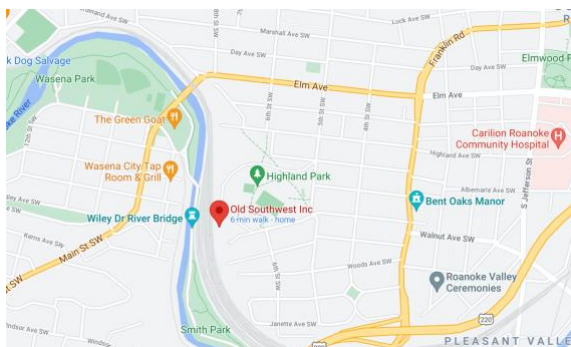
19 - 6:30 p.m.: OSW Safety and Neighborhood Meeting, Gish House

September

18 - 7 am-noon: Neighborhood Yard Sale, Highland Park - 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

The Art of Gardening

by your neighbor, Julie Gale

If you've walked around Argonne Circle lately, you can't help but slow down with amazement at 339 King George St. SW. The house is a cheerful blue foursquare with a bright yellow door, and every inch of the front yard, along with most of the median strip, abound with flowers, herbs, vegetables (the Swiss chard leaves are enormous!), and many native plants. The garden "artists" are Terry McGuire and Henri Gendreau. Terry explains, "It's a labor of love—my pride and joy. I designed it all with the goal of attracting pollinators, butterflies, and birds—to create a little refuge for them...and us! To accomplish that I've installed a lot of native plants and flowers, including letting things get a little wild in places, like with that pokeweed you see (the cardinals love the berries). In the process, I've actually become a big proponent of native landscaping, and now consider myself an organic gardener. I don't use any chemicals: no pesticides, herbicides, or synthetic fertilizers. That extends to the raised garden beds where I grow veggies and herbs, which do really well with the full sun and soil blended with compost."

This King George home is a wonderful example of what can be done in a limited space, and we can't wait to see what's blooming next. Take a walk by and enjoy Terry's artistic installation of nature's bounty!

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>

Did You Know?

OSW – A Look Back, A Look Now

Yesterday

By your neighbor, Wendi Richert



This is the Franklin Road bridge in 1934 – quite different from the span we travel today, huh? Here’s the story on the columns on the new bridge, which took two years to build and reopened in March 2019.

Brooklyn, NY, Artist Tucker Mara designed the columns after being awarded the job from Old Southwest, Inc. Mara, who grew up in Roanoke, won the call for artists to submit works that feature the history and diversity of architecture in Old Southwest. OSW, Inc. was able to review artist entries and award prize money thanks to a \$5,000 grant from Roanoke’s Neighborhood.



“In this series, my goal was to communicate the rich history of Old Southwest using the architectural styles found throughout the neighborhood. Each panel focuses on a specific architectural design element. Much like the individual homes of Old Southwest, each panel tells a story.” ~ Tucker Mara



Kids Soar, formerly the

Community Outreach Program, is an organization right in Old Southwest providing free after-school and summer literacy training to grade school children. Free services include tutoring and dinner, school supplies and programs such as Clothing Closet, Learn About Books Library, Christmas Angels, and Camp. This holistic program is unique in that it serves the entire family and includes workshops for parents.

The organization was started 30 years ago in September of 1989 by the United Methodist Women of Trinity United Methodist

Church as an outreach to inner-city children of Roanoke, Virginia.

Originally the group met weekly and had a warm meal together. As word spread about the program, more and more volunteers wanted to help. Today, the program serves children of low socioeconomic status in Roanoke. The primary goal is to work with children who have been referred by city schools for reading help and to improve each child’s reading skills, while also helping with other subjects, doing craft projects, and enjoying healthy meals and physical activities. All services are free to participants and open to all children and families. Kids Soar has two vehicles and provides transportation when necessary. They have recently completed renovations at the original Mountain Campus at Trinity United Methodist Church on Mountain Ave SW, and opened a second site, the Lincoln Campus, in SE Roanoke.

Today

By your neighbor, Jan Keister

Kids Soar, continued

Kids Soar responded rapidly to the COVID-19 pandemic. In-person school programming stopped when schools closed in March 2020. The organization started a food bank within three days and a Book Buddy program to help children stay on track with reading by using volunteers to tutor over the phone. The Book Buddy program has been successful; children who have continued with their buddy have maintained their reading levels or have progressed. Kids Soar reopened in fall 2020 at reduced capacity for safe distancing and plans to continue to keep children fed, clothed, and educated. The Emergency food bank has provided over 35,000 meals and will continue through the recovery period.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kids Soar has regular drives for school supplies, Christmas gifts, clothing, and camp supplies. Contact them through the website to donate. You can also make a financial gift with a check to Kids Soar. Visit <http://www.kidsoar.org/>

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Thrifting Is In!

What's good for your wallet (think upscale items/bargain prices), the environment (think recycle/reuse), and under-resourced community members (think non-profit resale stores). It's thrifting! Coveted thrifted items have been loved and gently used by a previous owner, and now, they can be loved again—by you.

Out of Bounds

An interesting destination beyond the OSW community.

By your neighbor, Mary Anne Mather

If you like thrifting, or you're curious and would like to give it a try, 2nd Helpings Shop & Gallery won't

FOR MORE INFORMATION

What: 2nd Helpings Shop & Gallery

Where: 1502 Williamson Rd NE, Roanoke

When: Mon-Sat 10-5

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/2ndHelpingsRescueMission>

disappoint, with its "beyond second-hand shopping" concept. 2nd Helpings rolls upscale resale shopping in with an art gallery featuring prints, paintings, photography, and wearable art by Roanoke artists. Add to that complimentary coffee, Food Truck Fridays, a breezy outdoor dining patio, and special events, and you're in for a fun day out.

July events include Senior Discount Day & Food Truck (July 1); 20% off all sales except Gallery items (July 9/10); glass blowing demonstration (July 10, 1-3); Deb's Lemonade Truck (July 10, 11-1:30). Food Trucks every Friday.

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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.



Rent the Alexander Gish House



You can host your next event in the Alexander-Gish House, a nearly two-hundred-year-old home located in Highland Park.

The Alexander-Gish House is available for events such as meetings, parties, family reunions, workshops, and weddings. Rentals include use of the main floor including the recently renovated catering kitchen, lounge, and meeting room, as well as the outdoor areas immediately surrounding the house and historic gazebo. Ample parking is available on site and alcoholic beverages are permitted. The Alexander-Gish house is equipped with Wi-Fi as well as central air & heat.



The \$375 rental rate includes the use of the Gish House common areas on a daily

basis, which includes all utilities, parking, fire pit and benches, and grounds immediately surrounding the house and gazebo.

Request more information about renting the Alexander Gish House here:

<https://www.oldsouthwest.org/alexandergish-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

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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

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