



www.oldsouthwest.org

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The Old Southwest Voice

"A Past with a Future"

Roanoke, VA

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It's "reining" deer...hallelujah!

A few neighbors got together at the Alexander-Gish House on 12/13 and had a wonderful "Paint Night" which depicted three very curious reindeer. Food and beverage were provided. It was all FREE and advertised at the last neighborhood meeting as well as open to all OSW, Inc. members. Plans are underway for another "Paint Night" Be sure to attend and participate in your neighborhood for more fun activities like this one!



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Presidents Message—by Mark Hostetter..continuation on page 2

With the holidays already in full swing I hope this finds you all well! It is a time of giving and sharing with your family, friends and neighbors. There is so much we can be thankful for personally but also to those lives we touch every day and in many ways. Please take a few minutes and think of what you can be thankful for this year, some will bring more thoughts, a few

grins and smiles and maybe even a laugh! It is a great time to do those "random acts of kindness" to your neighbors or even perfect strangers. Share the love!

From Old Southwest almost "not" having the Parlor Tour to having great properties, fantastic weather and numerous wonderful volunteers who reached out to help sell tickets and other duties... I

thank you!! We could not have done it without those who found the time to help, even those who do not live in OSW!! If you need to renew your membership or are not a member now is a great time to join! There are many ways you can do this but one of the easier ones would be to go to our website, www.oldsouthwest.org and click on the Join or Renew Membership

Did you know?

Electric lights for



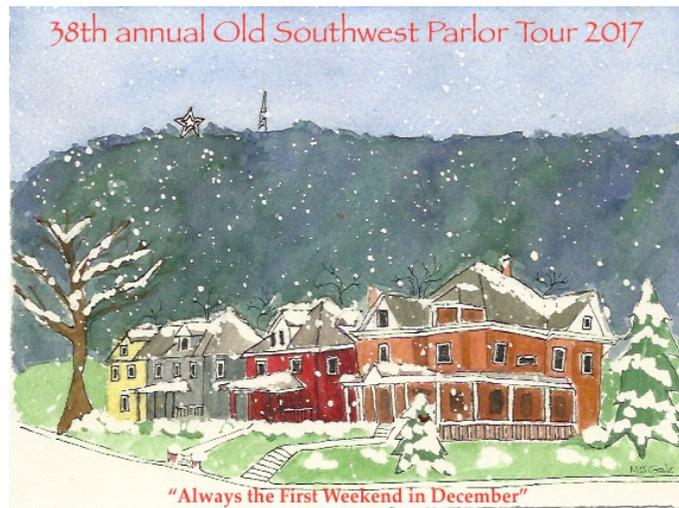
Christmas trees were first used in 1895.

2017 Old Southwest Parlor Tour Recap

THANK YOU to all that attended and/or were a part of the tour this year. As you know, we almost went without a tour this year due to low participation of properties to be on tour. But as the fates would have it, the stars were aligned and property owners stepped forward and volunteered to open them up for the public to tour. Saturday night we had nearly 400 people walk through and get a glimpse of the homes and one business that were open. Sunday was about half that number. We were

extremely fortunate as the weather was better than expected with dry temps clear skies. A lot of those that took the tour decided to walk the entire event and some took the easier path and drove their vehicles. Everyone seemed to be in the spirit of the holidays and enjoyed the tour. The various decorations that adorned the properties were appreciated by all. As this is our only fund raiser for the neighborhood, the all volunteer event proved to be magnificent. Thanks to those that volunteered the

time and energy on making it a success. We look forward to #39!



This Year's 2017 Old Southwest Parlor Tour Brochure/Ticket Cover— compliments of local artist and Old Southwest neighbor Mary Jo Gale

Presidents Message (continued from page 1)

tab, You can even pay using Paypal.

I also want to say thank you to those of you who voted for me at the November community meeting and elected me as President to represent you for another year. As I have said last year I would like to hear from each and every one of you, whether you own or rent in OSW or visit our jewel Highland

Park. What would you like to see happen in the neighborhood?

There is always room for improvement!

I wish everyone the best and hope to see or hear from you soon,

Mark

Did you know?
The poinsettia plant was brought into the United States from Mexico by Joel Poinsett in the early 1800s





“News You Can Use” from the Office of Neighborhood Services

RNA Honors Bob Clement with Ambassador Award

At the November 10, 2017 annual City Neighborhoods "Harvesting the Fruits" Potluck Dinner and Awards Celebration, the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates (RNA) honored **Bob Clement**, Neighborhood Services Coordinator for the city's Office of Neighborhood Services, with an Ambassador Award for Outstanding Contributions in Civic Leadership. As the name suggests, this award recognizes Bob for his outstanding contributions and continued excellence in civic leadership and community engagement for the City of Roanoke. Bob was recognized for his tireless

commitment in the arenas of advocacy, communication, outreach, and public service. The RNA acknowledged Bob's dedication to advancing the understanding of the importance of neighborhoods for a successful, engaged society. Congratulations, Bob!

Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection Reaches Capacity for Large Dogs

Roanoke's Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection (RCACP) has reached capacity for large dogs as kennels for both stray dogs and dogs available for adoption have reach capacity and are full. If you are missing your dog companion, please visit the shelter located at:

[1510 Baldwin Ave. NE](#), to see if your dog is there. If you are looking for a new best friend, please come to the shelter and let them help you find that ideal match. By adopting the dogs that are available, it frees up space for stray dogs that are off of their 'stray hold' making space available for their adoption as well.

The animals at RCACP are our community animals that need our community to help them. Please show your support by either claiming your lost pet or adopting those animals that are available. For more info, contact Mike Warner, Interim Executive Director, Regional Center for Animal Care and Protection, at [540-339-9514](tel:540-339-9514)

Did you know?
 Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was actually created by department store Montgomery Ward in the late 1930s for a holiday promotion.

Wine anyone?



If you are looking for that one of a kind gift to give to someone OR to treat yourself, consider the beautiful wine glass that has the Old Southwest logo etched into the glass itself. They are only \$5.00 each! You can contact Bobby Wirsig and he'll take care of you. You can reach out via

email to Bobby at: Bobby.Wirsig@iCloud.com and arrange to purchase and receive. Checks can be made payable to OSW, Inc.

Cheers!





History of Old Southwest– reprint from a 2013 newsletter

From February of 2013 The Old Southwest Net newsletter. Article submitted by then long time resident Joel Richert - Neighbor Bruce Muncy was editor at that time.

In Retrospect– Joel Richert From 2002 newsletter– Bruce Muncy was editor

HISTORY OF OLD SOUTHWEST Late 1700's The area now known as Old Southwest got its start well over 200 years ago in 1771 when King George III of England granted 150 acres to James Alexander. Eventually deeded to Samuel H. Gish, the pre-1830 log home on the site, now known as the Alexander-Gish house was later covered with clapboard siding; one of the Roanoke Valley's oldest structures, it now serves as a meeting place for Old Southwest, Inc., the neighborhood organization. Late 1800's Through Early 1900's In the late 1800's and early 1900's the neighborhood was developed and most of the homes built. Originally, the neighborhood was considered one of the premier neighborhoods, and many of Roanoke's first families lived in the large elegant homes which graced tree-lined streets dotted with

other homes smaller in scale but just as beautiful. 1940's Through Mid-1970's The post-war exodus to the suburbs caused a gradual decline in the character and quality of life in the neighborhood. Many unique homes were razed for urban development; others were cut up into apartment units or inappropriately remodeled adding to the area's woes. Mid 1970's Through Today In the mid-1970's, Old Southwest began recapturing the interest of citizens seeking affordable housing. This once-glorious inner city neighborhood with its shady walkways captured the imagination of both suburbanites and out-of-towners who appreciated the quaint character and convenience to downtown. Recapturing one house at a time was a major goal while discouraging razing of structures. The Alexander-Gish House was one of the first houses saved. Today, residents from all walks of life enjoy the sense of "togetherness" which has saved and revitalized the neighborhood's individual homes and buildings, streetscapes and landmarks. Residents as well as small businesses, large professional facilities, churches, a synagogue,

Highland Park Elementary and Highland Park itself all share Historic Old Southwest. Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places In 1985, the area known as "Old Southwest," and some additional adjacent areas, was officially listed as an historic neighborhood. Following these prestigious listings, the City of Roanoke established the Neighborhood Zoning District (H2) and the City Architectural Review Board to protect the historic and architectural integrity of Old Southwest. The H2 code and the ARB address issues of exterior building modifications, new construction, and proposals for demolition. Now with its re-energized streets, polished exteriors, and friendly front porches, residents enjoy the sort of intimate ambiance that is difficult to find in the suburbs. The charm of Old Southwest comes from its eclectic and often exemplary Architectural styles, including Queen Anne, Victorian, Colonial, Georgian Revivals, Tudor, American Foursquare and Bungalow. Many structures built in the 1960's and 1970's, prior to the neighborhood's historic status, are mixed within

the elegant homes. The Future Old Southwest's motto for years has been "A past with a future." Our historic neighborhood has a bright future ahead of it and with the dedication of its residents will continue to grow as one of Roanoke's premier neighborhoods.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." - Martin Luther King, Jr.