



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.

I hope everyone had a fun July 4th! I volunteered to be a course marshal for the Four on the 4th Road Race presented by Fleet Feet to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Virginia. It was a great day, the weather was awesome, and it was so much fun! I cheered on so many runners that I practically lost my voice! Good times!

We have a big event coming up in August. We will host National Night Out at the Gish House on August 3rd from 6-9 pm. Always hosted on the first Tuesday in August, National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie with neighbors and police, fire, and other first responders. OSW, Inc. has had the pleasure of hosting this event for many years and while we had to take off last year, we are back this year and very excited to be able to host again! We will have hot dogs with all the fixings, desserts, and a cotton candy machine! So, come on out, meet and mingle with your neighbors and Roanoke's first responders. It should be a great evening!

I'm going to put a plug in for the newsletter again this month! Are you having a yard sale? What about a local business or a local artist we could spotlight? Just let us know!! Your idea just may become a section in the newsletter!

Remember, 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!!

OSW Voice

July 2021

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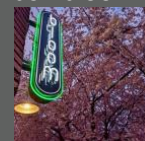
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Meet Your Neighbors

Meet Betsy and Gary Nixon!

By your neighbor, Mary Anne Mather

Betsy & Gary Nixon love both the sea and the mountains. They don't love hurricanes! Looking into retirement, the couple set their sights on moving to just the right size city with a similar vibe as the Wilmington, NC, home they planned to leave, but one with better protection from Wilmington's coastal storms. An online search pointed to Roanoke and its Blue Ridge vistas. An exploratory visit, when they stayed at the Roanoke Boutique Hotel on Day Ave in Old Southwest (your neighbor Diane Hailey is the proprietor), sealed the deal for both city and neighborhood selection. When the house at 513 Day Avenue on Miller's Hill came up for sale, the Nixons were thrilled to settle within walking distance of downtown Roanoke and have Betsy's office offer a view of the mountains. The Nixons live with their two rescue dogs, Chloe and Bella. Over the years their rescued pets have been older dogs deserving the perfect retirement home in their twilight years. Thank you for that, Betsy and Garry. Betsy recently started a part-time job as Donor Relations Manager at the Ronald McDonald House on Jefferson Street in OSW.



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A view from our June OSW neighborhood meeting. We hope to see you in July - always the third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m.

OSW Voice Newsletter

Want to know more about our OSW community?

Have an idea or want to share some news?

*Contact Wendi Richert at
<https://www.oldsouthwest.org/contact-us>*

It's Our Business

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



Food Fanatics Kitchen

*By your neighbors
Mark Hostetter
and Mary Anne Mather*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

What: Food Fanatics Kitchen

Where: 551 Marshall Ave. SW

When: T-Th 11-9, Fri-Sat until 10, Sun 4-8

Website: www.foodfanaticskitchen.com

www.facebook.com/foodfanaticskitchen.com/

Downtown Roanoke offers many tasty and interesting eateries, but if you want to stay right in the neighborhood – and for many OSW dwellers, leave the car parked and walk — then head over to Food Fanatics Kitchen on the corner of Sixth and Marshall. General Manager Jimmy McGhee and his staff are friendly, accessible, and accommodating. It's not surprising, since Jimmy told us that most of his front-of-the-house employees live in Old Southwest or downtown, and he's lived in the neighborhood for 21 years. After a visit or two, you'll come to know them by name! And on any given evening, it wouldn't be unusual to recognize some of your neighbors among the diners, too. It's a perfect place for a relaxing, delicious meal.

The wood-fired pizzas are great! (Gluten free pizza is available, and the chef will try to accommodate any other dietary requests.) But don't stop at that, there are daily specials, and every 15 days or so, new items are added to the menu. So...if you become a regular, you can count on your favorite menu items, as well as new dishes to

sample. All their soups and salad dressings are homemade. The full bar offers unique cocktails handcrafted with fresh herbs and fruit. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday enjoy Happy Hour from 4 -7 offering drink and food specials.

Here's how we can make a difference as neighbors: new ownership of Food Fanatics took over only a month before the pandemic hit. Jimmy explained, "I won't lie and say it wasn't tough, yet we prevailed and are slowly making our comeback now that public dining restrictions have been

lifted." Food Fanatics offers inside and outside dining with two patios, take-out, and boxed lunches. Let's come together to support this neighborhood business. And to get things rolling, your neighbors Wendi and Curt Richert and Mary Anne Mather plan to have dinner at Food Fanatics on August 20 at 6 p.m. Please join us! We'd love to see you there.



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No Need to Speed Campaign

The Roanoke Pedestrian Safety Campaign, No Need to Speed, officially launched on June 21! The campaign, led by the City of Roanoke and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, is running for eight weeks, with the goals of reducing speeding and speed-related crashes and increasing awareness of speeding as a pedestrian safety issue.

If you drive a car in the City of Roanoke, you can help make the campaign a success by [taking the campaign pledge for safer streets](#). In thanks for your support, you can be entered into a drawing for one of ten \$20 Downtown Roanoke Inc (DRI) gift cards, provided by DRI.

Learn more and get more involved at PlanRoanoke.org/PedestrianSafety

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Mark Your Calendar

All neighbors
invited,
encouraged,
welcome!



July

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

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

August

3 – 6 p.m.: National Night Out, Gish House
- details page 1

14 – 6:30 p.m.: Food with Friends, Host
Maria Jacobs, 910 5th St. SW, details page 7

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

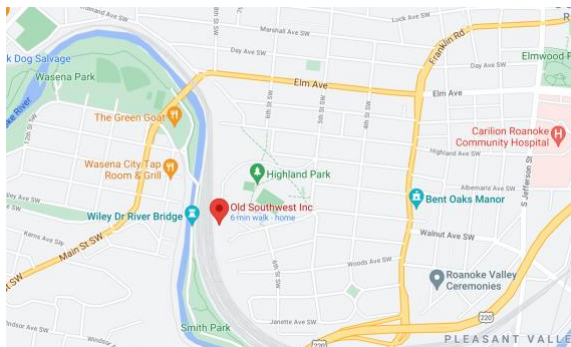
20.: 6 p.m.: Neighborhood Meet Up, Food
Fanatics, details page 3

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.



Don sands each piece before applying
a food safe mineral oil.

The Wood Speaks

OSW abounds with talent, and though it may appear this writer might be unable to judge fairly, she's really not. Don Mugford's work speaks for itself! Don began crafting wooden cooking tools from spalted logs about five years ago. Spalted wood is beautiful because you never know what patterns and trails will be present in a log. Spalted wood is also challenging; you can't know the vitality of the wood until the log is split. As his work shows, each piece of wood really does "speak to him."

We moved to Roanoke exactly two years ago. In fact, we actually moved out here the day after Don retired! He knew he wanted to continue his "wood passion" once he could set up a shop. For many people, the pandemic at times had a silver lining. For Don, this "lining" was more time to create! Not only was he creating tools with more and more interest, but with research, he also developed better ways of improving the tool durability.

What first began as a few cooking tools to be given as gifts quickly expanded! Once people saw his work, the orders started rolling in. He occasionally looks to see if anyone is creating pieces that look like his, but so far has never found them. His work is truly unique. No two pieces are exactly the same; therefore, you know you are holding a work of art...an amazingly functional piece of art!

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>

OSW's Got Talent

Spotlight on talent in
our OSW neighborhood

by your neighbor,
Julie Mugford

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can email Julie or
Don if you are
interested in checking
out his work:

jmugford01@gmail.com
dmuggy@gmail.com

Did You Know?

OSW – A Look Back, A Look Now

Yesterday

By your neighbor, Bob Clement

The home at 115 Mountain Ave SW was built by J.H. Marsteller. Mr. J.H., as he was fondly referred

to, owned and operated a successful marble, granite, and tile business in Roanoke. As such, Mr. J.H. adorned the exterior of his new home with beautiful white Carrara marble, including wide horizontal bands around the home's perimeter, carved keystones above the windows with carved windowsills underneath, carved front porch columns with bases, and carved front porch steps flanked by 2 life-size carved marble lions.



In 1925, Mr. J.H. sold the house at auction and the new owner divided the home into apartments. Over the years, Marsteller's grand home began to decline as it changed ownership time and time again. A portion of the home's wrap around front porch and porte cochere were removed. The beautiful 2-story carriage house with small matching cupolas was demolished. And in 1985, the magnificent carved marble lions were donated to the Lions Eye Bank of SW VA located on 5th Street and Elm Ave SW.

The home remained apartments until purchased in 2003 by Tim Taylor and Bob Clement who returned the home to the single-family house where they reside today. Shortly after purchasing, Tim reached out to the Lions Eye Bank to see if they might be willing to have a conversation regarding the return of the lions to 115 Mountain. They responded that they were not interested, that they "liked their lions". But after about 14 years and many meetings with the Lions Eye Bank board, it was decided that the Marsteller lions would be replaced with a pair of bronze lions. Finally, the marble lions were going home.

AND Today

By your neighbor, Bob Clement



Over the next several months concerns surfaced over the durability of the proposed bronze statues. During the October 2017 board meeting Bob made a 3rd presentation, and a pair of carved marble standing lions were selected. In April 2018, the marble lions were purchased from a company in Maryland, but the lions had to be shipped from China where they were to be carved. However, due to the Trump Administration's tariffs on imported goods from China, the lions were shipped a year later and arrived at SOVA Crane in Christiansburg in April 2019.

Bob inspected the lions and found the front incisor tooth of one of them was broken and missing. Well, it just so happened Bill Stoffel of SOVA Crane Company attended a flea market that weekend and came across a retired jeweler carving a soapstone figure. He asked the gentleman, Robert Smith, if he worked with marble and he said he did. Bob reached out to him, and Robert came to the SOVA Crane location the following week and carved an exact replica of the missing tooth and mounted it on a brass stud within the lion's mouth.

Finally, in April of 2019, the Marsteller lions returned to their home at 115 Mountain where once again they will sleep tonight.

Out of Bounds

An interesting destination beyond the OSW community.

By your neighbor, Julie Mugford



What's *blooming* in Wasena

bloom may be the best restaurant in Roanoke, and without doubt it is the best

Roanoke restaurant with compassion and respect. I was lucky enough to meet with Lisa Archer, the front of house manager at *bloom*, to learn about the restaurant's "heart."

Nate and Sara Sloan own *bloom* which is located at 1109 Main Street SW just over the Wasena Bridge. Nate is a Franklin County native, and before opening *bloom* two years ago he had been the head chef at Local Roots.

Nate is the creator of the menu "magic" at *bloom* and also is the wine selector; however, Nate steps in anywhere, anytime there's a need. Just last night, you could have seen Nate washing dishes!

In just two years *bloom* has already expanded their footprint. Shortly after they opened in 2019, they created the courtyard space at the back of the building. Once the pandemic hit and restaurants were allowed limited seating, Nate and Sarah jumped on the chance to expand into the adjacent building which they have turned into a private dining space with a great speakeasy feel!

Lisa shared that there are two major ways *bloom* is set apart from other restaurants. First, the 14 full and part-time employees embrace team-style service for the guests. Everyone works together to ensure guests get the absolute best experience when they're at *bloom*. Second, and maybe more important, is the way the farmers are honored at *bloom*. Nate has a tremendous relationship with many of our local growers. He understands the time and effort it takes to grow or produce premier products. With that in mind, many "vegetable forward" dishes are at the forefront of the menu. These dishes celebrate the farmers' ingredients - making them the stars and not just an augmentation to a dish. At *bloom*, this is one more way to show appreciation to the farmers. However, one of the most impressive ways of showing appreciation is by wasting almost nothing. For example, if a broccoli dish is created and the stems of the broccoli aren't being used in that dish, the stems may be pickled or they may be thinly sliced to become another delightful dish.

Lisa also made a point of expressing how much the Wasena and OSW communities have meant to them during the past year. She said many of their patrons supported them with carry-out once or twice every week. It's no wonder.... They have the most amazingly creative foods around!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

What: bloom: Restaurant & Wine Bar

Where: 1109 Main St. SW (Wasena)

When: Wed.-Sat., 4-9 p.m., reservations only

Website: <https://www.bloomrke>

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



August Food With Friends

There's a "secret garden" in OSW, and it's the location of an August Food With Friends. Our host Maria Jacobs cleverly combined her back yard with two abutters and has planted a wonderland of flowers and trees. Come to see what's blooming and socialize with neighbors on August 14. Maria will provide all the paper products, utensils, and ambiance. Attendees bring a dish to share and your personal beverage of choice. The theme is: Your Most Requested Recipe/Dish. When invited to a friend's and you ask, "What can I bring?" what's the dish they always request? We want to taste it, too!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- What: Food With Friends
- Theme: Your most requested recipe/dish
- Where: 910 5th St. SW
- When: Saturday, Aug. 14, 6:30 p.m.

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From July's Food With Friends

OSW hosted its first Food With Friends since the pandemic on July 10 at the Gish House, and not even the rain could keep folks away. The theme was All American Picnic - can you smell the fried chicken? Please join us in August - see details above!



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.



PRESERVING OUR PAST. SECURING OUR FUTURE.

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

Officers

President: Frances McNulty

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Treasurer: David Jeavons

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Julie Gale

Liza Hart

Hal Irvin

Patti Mills

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Wendi Richert