

the **OldeTowneTimes**

Winter 2011



www.oldetowneast.org

The **OldeTowneTimes** is the quarterly newsletter of the Olde Towne East Neighborhood Association (OTENA). OTENA was established in 1975.

General Membership

Meetings:

The 2nd Weds of each month,

7-8:30 p.m. at

Firehouse #12, 734 Oak St:

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Visit the OTENA Events Calendar at www.oldetowneast.org to learn about other meetings and activities (click on "Pages").

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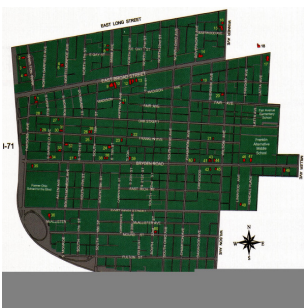
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OTT Editor: Emily Prieto

Map of Olde Towne East



Historic Homes of the Future

by Al Waddell, Realtor

So you've done the earth friendly and responsible act - you've bought an historic house, versus gobbling up farm land to build a new McMansion. You've been wowed by the high ceilings, woodwork and stained glass. You love pocket doors, turrets and manageable sized yards. But one thing is weighing down on you with almost as much force as your mortgage payment. It's the monthly utility bills.

Most of us have no love loss for the utility companies. Their executives enjoy seven-figure salaries while we see our heating and cooling costs skyrocket. It's like the increases are in sync with their annual bonus checks. The most frustrating part is that it seems as though we are trapped in their supply monopoly. So how do we get loosed from their grasp since we can't exactly live without them?



The simple answer is to require less of their product. This becomes so clear to me every time I take someone through Homeport's GREEN HOUSE on North 21st Street just about a block north of Long Street. It is a new demonstration house built in 2009 to showcase the many ways in which homes of the future can be less dependent on fossil fuels of every kind. Many of these technologies are adaptable to older homes and have in just the last couple of years become surprisingly affordable. Tax incentives, both state and federal may be available to help as well.

But where do you start? Begin by solving the problems that cost you the most money in wasted energy every month. In a recent issue of This Old House, they recommend that: *"The simplest route,... is to have a professional auditor detect leaks with sophisticated tools, such as blower doors and infrared cameras."* Addressing the energy leaks is almost always the quickest way to lower costs. To find a reputable service that does energy audits go online and Google "energy audits Columbus Ohio." Several names will show up and you can read customer reviews on many of them. Expect to pay the equivalent of your January heat bill for this service. In that context it will seem like a real bargain! *(cont on page 2)*

(cont from page 1)

The task may seem overwhelming at first but don't be discouraged. The prospect of taking control over what previously had seemed out of control will inspire you. At Homeport's Green House they report that AEP owes them money! Yes I know, that's every homeowner's dream come true! The solar panels on the roof make more electricity than the house can use so it sells the surplus back to AEP. Since no one lives in the house there is minimal demand but you get the concept. In a recent Old House Journal online, they reported about a couple who added solar panels to the roof of their 1906 bungalow and received the approval of their historic commission to do so. Today they are much smaller and nearly unnoticeable.



Historic homes of the future, for which there will be any demand, will be homes that minimize energy waste on par with new construction. Columbus Compact's development on Main Street has demonstrated that it can be done and without sacrificing the aesthetic appeal of the original! These renovated homes are LEED Certified, which generally means that they will almost certainly use less energy than any *average* home built within the last couple of years. In today's real estate market, buyers always ask about energy costs. It's no longer uncommon for them to ask to see actual utility bills to justify the seller's claim that costs are within reason. It's an integral part of the value equation.

Start now and *you* will reap the cost and *comfort* benefits for every month you live in the home. When it comes time to sell, you are also likely to reap substantial benefits at closing. "Greening" your house is likely to be both more rewarding and easier than you may have thought! The utility companies won't like it but Mother Earth will love you for it!

10 Easy Ways to Cut Your Energy Use in Half

- 1. Turn Off the Lights (Save 2%*):** Be mindful about shutting lights off when you leave a room. If you have a forgetful family member or roommate, paste reminders on the switchplates or consider installing motion-detector switches. **ADVANCED:** Replace your bulbs with CFLs or LEDs.
- 2. Install Ceiling Fans (Save 19%):** Install Energy Star ceiling fans in the rooms you use most often. They'll help keep you cool in the summer while your AC works less or not at all. In the winter, switch them to turn clockwise to circulate the warm air rising up to the ceiling back down into the room. **ADVANCED:** Go with a white roof or install a greenroof, which will prevent heat loss through the roof in winter and cool your home down in the summer.
- 3. Show Your Fridge Some Love (Save 4%):** The refrigerator is one of the biggest energy-users in your home, and if it was built before 1993, it's a huge energy hog. Clean the coils on your fridge every six months to keep it running efficiently, and take up unused space with jugs of water, which will hold in the cold better. Eliminate a second refrigerator, if you have one.
- 4. Wash Clothes in Cold, Let Them Air Dry (Save 9%):** Washing clothes in cold water gets them just as clean as hot, and cuts your washer's energy use in half. Drying your clothes on an outdoor line or indoor rack can save around \$100 in energy costs every year. **ADVANCED:** Water and energy use are intertwined: producing energy uses water, and providing clean drinking water requires energy. Take steps to conserve water everywhere in your home.
- 5. Upgrade Appliances (Save 12+%):** Appliances use 20 percent of the energy in the average US home. When it's time to buy new appliances, look for the most efficient Energy Star model you can find. The biggest energy hogs in a home are usually the refrigerator (particularly if it was built before 1993) and clothes dryer. (cont on page 6)



2011 OTENA Holiday Potluck

When: Wednesday, December 14th beginning at 7 PM

Location: the old Engine House #12 / Columbus Music Hall, 734 Oak Street

OTENA will provide entrées, including a vegetarian selection. OTENA will also provide beverages - water and soft drinks.

OTENA Members & Guests with last names starting with A-L, please bring a dessert to share.

OTENA Members & Guests with last names starting with M-Z please bring a side-dish or salad to share.

"Feather in Your Cap" & "One House at a

OTENA offers special thanks to the "Seniors on Purpose" program of the Heritage Day Health Center at 1185 East Broad Street for the processing and distribution of the OTT. Visit www.heritagedayhealth.org for information about this community resource.



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The Olde Towne East Neighborhood Association is proud to be a Neighborhood Partner with Nationwide Children's Hospital. View the progress of the Nationwide Children's hospital campus expansion live by visiting www.earthcam.com/clients/nch.

Basic Multi-Cheese Mac & Cheese Recipe

By Bryan Curtiss

Ingredients:

- 1 pound (or box) of Elbow Macaroni (or Equivalent Pasta)
- 1 cup of milk
- 1 egg
- 12 ounces of shredded cheese (combination of cheddar, colby jack, and pepper jack)
- 1 teaspoon salt

Optional Toppings:

Dash of chives or parsley

Directions: Preheat Oven to 350 degrees. Cook the pasta al dente in a pot of boiling water. Place the macaroni in a casserole dish (or the like). Crack and beat the egg and mix the milk with the egg. Place in oven and bake for 45-60 minutes. Cool before serving.

Variations can include vegetables and meat in the mac and cheese as well.

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Every Time You Shop Local, an Angel Gets It's Wings

By Jessica Riendeau with contributions by Daniel Colvin

With the temperatures dropping and the leaves starting to fall, we all start thinking ahead to the winter holidays. Having a lot of shopping choices is good when you've got a lot of different personalities on your gift giving list, and it's obvious that the big retailers want to give you all the buying incentive they can. But this year, why not try looking a little bit closer to home? There are several reasons why shopping locally and supporting local small businesses around Columbus can make your holiday shopping rewarding and fun.

First, and perhaps most important, is the opportunity to help local businesses thrive and grow. Small-business owners are finding success in Columbus and especially in our own Olde Towne East, but they can only continue to do so with the support of local consumers. Christmas shopping locally allows you to find some truly unique gifts for your friends and family while giving a little holiday cheer to local business owners.

Olde Towne East businesses have lots of gift certificates and products that will be truly unique gifts to give this year. Treat someone to the gift of a ballroom dance lesson at CS Gallery and Events, a delicious and locally sustainable meal at the renowned Black Creek Bistro, or a cup of coffee at Portico. Check out other neighborhood businesses like Cap City Tattoo, Yellow Brick Pizza, Angry Baker, or Core Fitness for other economical gift ideas and certificates.

Fun Local Options Close To Home

Check out these local businesses and arts groups. Look them up online or check them out in person at their place of business or an event!

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON,
SUPPORT
LOCAL AND
INDEPENDENT
ARTISTS, DESIGNERS
AND CRAFTERS

Black Arts Plus	CS Gallery
Black Creek Bistro	Cobenick Studios
The Angry Baker	Spoonful Records
Portico	Etsy Team Columbus
CORE Fitness	Cap City Collective
What the Rock	Ohio Designer Craftsman
Wholly Craft	Clayspace 830
CCAD Art Sale	Art Party
Cap City Tattoo	Roscoe Room

Shopping locally also ensures that your gift will be truly unique. Anyone can go to Kohl's and buy a sweater, but wouldn't a pair of guitar pick earrings from What the Rock? be a lot cooler? Instead of buying mass-produced décor from a home store, check out any of Columbus's independent art groups and galleries to give the gift of locally produced art from one of Columbus's own talented artists.

Another benefit of buying gifts from small businesses is that while you're supporting the local economy, you're probably spending less in the long run than you would at the mall. Small-business owners appreciate the value of a dollar more than most, so they tend to understand shopping on a budget and are more reasonable with their pricing. This lets you buy the perfect Christmas gift, give Columbus's independent artists some love, and still pay the rent.

If you're unsure where to find the perfect gift, try shopping online through one of Columbus's many art collectives. Etsy Team Columbus and Capital City Collective are just two that feature a wide variety of crafts, art, clothes and jewelry for sale. Lots of our local arts groups also have Christmas shows and exhibits specifically for you local shoppers, like CS Gallery's Holiday Art Market event scheduled for December 10th this holiday season.

So this season, consider spreading the holiday love a little more close to home. Explore your local Olde Town East and central Columbus independent businesses and give gifts that are fun, unique and locally made.

Check out these local Events!!

Cap City Creative with Etsy Team Columbus



(cont from page 2)

- 6. Give Your Water Heater a Blanket (Save 1 - 3%):** Adding an insulating cover to your water heater can reduce heat loss by 24-45 percent. Also, turn your water heater down by ten degrees, if possible. If half of US households did so, it would prevent 239 tons of greenhouse gas emissions. **ADVANCED:** Upgrade to a tankless or solar water heater and save 14% off your energy bill.

- 7. Plug Air Leaks (Save 12%):** Replacing windows is often the least cost-effective step you can take to save energy, so seal air leaks around doors and windows instead with caulk and weatherstripping. Also, consider putting up insulating curtains, pasting low-e film to the window glass, and installing storm windows or plastic window films to further cut down on heat loss in winter. **ADVANCED:** Get a RESNET or Home Performance with Energy Star audit to help pinpoint your biggest energy losses.

- 8. Use Your Programmable Thermostat (Save 10%):** Nearly half of US homes already have a programmable thermostat. Dig out that owner’s manual and learn how to use yours to maximize the efficiency of your heating and cooling systems. Program your thermostat to turn itself down or off when you’re sleeping or are at work or school. **ADVANCED:** Get a RESNET or Home Performance with Energy Star audit to help pinpoint your biggest energy losses.

- 9. Air Dry Dishes (Save 3%):** Using your dishwasher instead of washing dishes by hand can save water, but if you let the drying cycle run, you’re wasting energy and money. Skip the drying cycle and let your dishes air dry. Newer, more effective and efficient dishwashers allow you to skip the step of pre-rinsing your dishes before you load them in the dishwasher. **ADVANCED:** Run your dishwasher (and your clothes washer, for that matter) at night, during off-peak hours. It’s our country’s peak demand that determines the expansion of dirty coal-fired power plants.

- 10. "Eliminate Phantom Load" (Save 5%):** Many electronics still suck energy even when they’re turned off--such as powering that little clock on your microwave when it’s not in use. Unplug your electronics or plug them into a power strip and switch it off to save on this “phantom load.” **ADVANCED:** Use a Kill-A-Watt meter to measure the energy use of appliances and gadgets, even when they’re turned off. You can also keep track of your home’s entire energy use with a whole-house energy monitor.

** Approximate energy savings based on the average home using 11,000 kWh electricity and 19,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year. Information from <http://www.greenamerica.org/pubs/greenamerican/articles/NovDec2010/10Ways.cfm>*

Fair Avenue Block Watch

The Word Church, southwest corner of Fair Avenue and Wilson: 6:30 pm 2nd Monday of the month, quarterly.

Block watch captain:
Michele Santini,
micawal@aol.com.

Ohio-Parsons Block Watch

The 12th Precinct Police Sub-station, 950 East Main Street: 7:00pm 2nd Tuesday of each month.

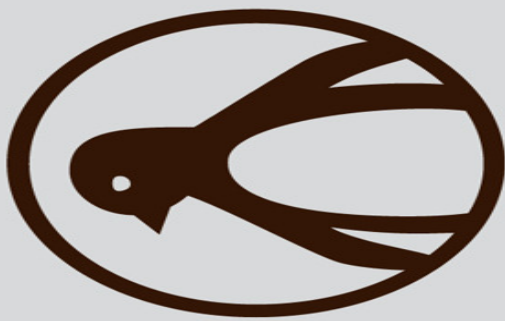
Block watch captain:
Kathy Webb,
katwebb222@Yahoo.com.

South Of Main Block Watch

The 12th Precinct Police Sub-station, 950 East Main Street: 10:00am 1st Saturday each month.

Block watch captain:
Kathleen Bailey,
kathleendbailey@hotmail.com

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