



March News

March 9, 2020

Message from the President

Celebrating Hudson's 50th Anniversary of Earth Day 1970 - 2020

Mother Earth never looked better than it did to the three astronauts aboard Apollo 13 as it hurtled through space toward reentry and a splashdown in the South Pacific Ocean on April 17, 1970. The historic flight would go down in history as one of mankind's most fantastic adventures, and for a moment, Apollo 13's perilous journey seemed to draw the entire world together.

Here on Earth and closer to home, Hudson was preparing for its first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. Excitement and enthusiasm spread through Hudson High School's students, teachers and administrators as they prepared to join schools throughout the country in an observance of an "Environmental Study Week" that would culminate with a community-wide trash pickup by students and faculty.

The circumstances leading up to Hudson's first Earth Day celebration were born out of the national turmoil of the 1960s: the Civil Rights Movement, anti-Vietnam War protests and, of course, the environment. American businesses were being accused of polluting the environment, and they reacted defensively to charges that they were poisoning the air, strangling the streams and burying the country under billions of throw-away beer cans and twisted toothpaste tubes.

On June 22, 1969, the Cuyahoga River, one of the most polluted waterways in the country, caught fire. America was outraged! And the modern environmental movement was born.



Hudson students collect trash from the Brandywine Tributary and railroad tracks, Earth Day April 22, 1970.

In 1970, Earth Day would focus national attention on "crimes against ecology"

Robert Swedenborg, a Hudson math teacher, noted that these transformative events created "students who were socially and environmentally aware - a movement of the youth - promoting social progress." Charles Schollenberger, Hudson High School Class of 1970 and student council president, remarked that students were encouraged "to get involved in politics and try to make a difference."

Schollenberger organized Hudson's first Earth Day celebration after reading an ad in a Scholastic magazine about "Earth Day" to be held in April 1970. He wanted to "do something really different ... something that had never been done before." At first, he had a difficult time convincing high school principal Gerald Reeves of the idea. So, a group was formed that included Schollenberger, chemistry teacher Charles Buerki and art teacher Robert Alexander. They met with Reeves and discussed plans to commemorate Earth Day. With teacher support, the idea gained acceptance and moved forward.

The plan was to dismiss high school classes for the day, go out in small groups to pick up trash throughout Hudson, and take the garbage to the Village Green "to show people all of the trash found," recalled Schollenberger. The art department got involved and student artists silkscreened the Earth Day logo on banners, flags, posters, t-shirts and armbands for each student-faculty group. William Breedon, who would later become a well-known artist, painted the logo on a large canvas that would be hung on the Clock Tower, facing the green.

A few days before Earth Day faculty and students ran a symbolic relay race of 750 miles, the approximate round-trip distance between Hudson and Washington, DC, to urge the government to do something about the ecological crisis. With participants each running at least one mile, the group surpassed 1,000 miles!

A petition was drafted and signed by students and faculty in a ceremony at the top of the exterior staircase of the 1927 HHS Building facing Oviatt Street. Students and faculty held up the scrolled paper petition for a photograph opportunity. The petition was then mailed to President Nixon, urging him to support legislation to cut or eliminate pollution.

The Hudson Library featured an anti-pollution exhibit that included trash left on one table in the library and on the lawn outside for one day. And WRA held a symposium "Search for Survival" in the campus Chapel for local high school juniors and seniors.

In all, nearly 900 students and faculty picked up trash in the community. The collected discarded stoves, refrigerators, metal barrels, rubber tires - even the skull of a horse, teeth and all, found along the roadside!

After collecting trash, the groups arrived at the southwest corner of routes 91 and 303 in front of the Boy Scout cabin, where they created a "monstrous trash pile and decorated it with environmental action signs." The pile of debris was purposely placed at the intersection for rush-hour motorists to see while waiting at the traffic light. The trash would eventually be hauled away to a landfill, with Morse Controls donating the use of a truck.



Hudson students pile debris at the southwest corner of routes 91 and 303 (above), Earth Day, April 22, 1970



Hudson students deliver an old metal barrel to the Village Green at the southwest corner of routes 91 and 303, Earth Day, April 22, 1970

Principal Reeves would later recall that Hudson's first Earth Day initiative was "a golden opportunity to capture a lot of the divisiveness and energy that had been put into the anti-war effort and have the young people working together, rather than pull them apart. It was an exciting day!"

As Lady Bird Johnson once famously said "The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share."



So perhaps with this in mind, the City of Hudson, our school district, library and the community will come together on April 22 and celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hudson's first Earth Day celebration.

A special thank you to Barbara Breedon Van Blarcum, who brought this important event to my attention and for documenting Hudson's first Earth Day celebration for HCTV. See great interviews, photographs and video clips of Hudson's Earth Day celebration in 1970 at <https://vimeo.com/373992072>.

Christopher Bach
Hudson Heritage Association
President

March Program

"Revitalizing Our Civic Assets"
March 12, 7:30 p.m.
Barlow Community Center

A few years ago, Hudson's Historic Middle School, built in 1927, was slated for demolition. It was viewed by some as a liability. Today, the historic building on North Oviatt Street is on the verge of a new life. The school district is seeking proposals for its future, and there's a movement underway to turn the building into a cultural arts center. HHA was at the forefront, petitioning to save the school and encouraging the creation of a committee to make recommendations about its future, with three members of the HHA board actively participating on the committee.



Historic Hudson Middle School, photographed in 1968, when it served as Hudson High School. The school was built in 1927.

The HHA March program will feature Roger Bliss, who designs, renovates and redevelops pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods. Bliss, an infill site specialist and expert in urban revitalization, sees the 93-year-old school as exactly the opposite of a liability.

"The school is a civic asset that can be repurposed," according to Bliss, whose presentation, "Revitalizing Our Civic Assets and Rediscovering Walkable Urban Design," will focus on the importance of preserving the urban fabric of towns like Hudson.

"Urban fabric is not just about preserving historic structures," says Bliss. "It is about preserving the space between and around them, the block, the street and the building framework. It is everything that makes our older neighborhoods so special."

"In the late 20th century, automobile-focused development of new residential and commercial neighborhoods usually meant the removal of older structures and the construction of cul-de-sacs and strip malls," Bliss says. "As a result, the importance of urban fabric was lost. Today, we are seeing a reawakening to the value of walkable, mixed-use urban spaces. The success of Hudson's First & Main is a good example," Bliss says.

During his presentation, Bliss will highlight projects he's worked on and discuss Hudson and the potential future of the Historic Middle School.

"We are excited to welcome Roger to our March program," says Hudson Heritage Association President Chris Bach. "He sees the bigger picture of how preservation and revitalization of our entire urban fabric equates to a better and more sustainable quality of life for everyone."



Roger Bliss

Bliss, who has extensive experience as a developer, planner and builder, is a founder of Bliss Partners. He focuses on designing, renovating, building, and redeveloping pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods.

Bliss' presentation on civic assets will highlight Hudson Heritage Association's March program on Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Barlow Community Center. Refreshments will be served.

April Program ~ Save the date The Removal of Gorge Dam April 9, 7:30 p.m.

Join us Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Barlow Community Center as we welcome Elaine Marsh, a watershed specialist with the Summit County Metro Parks, who will discuss the upcoming removal of 400-foot wide, 60-feet tall Gorge Dam in Cuyahoga Falls and what that will mean for the region and the health of the Cuyahoga River. She will also touch on the important role Hudson has in watersheds of the Cuyahoga River.

As always, the program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

FREE TO A GOOD OWNER

174-YEAR-OLD HISTORIC HUDSON FARMHOUSE

New owner will be responsible for moving home to a new location.

To call it a rare opportunity would be an understatement.

One historic farmhouse, gently used, packed with charm and history, in pristine condition
- free to a good owner.

Yes, *free*.



The historic Hudson farmhouse at 1415 Middleton Road is free to a new owner who is willing to have it moved to a new location.

The new owners of the 1846 Oviatt-Curtiss homestead at 1415 Middleton Road in Hudson are planning to build new homes on the property and are offering the historic farmhouse and outbuildings to an owner willing to preserve the structure(s) by moving one or all to another location.

If a new owner cannot be found, the 174-year-old home will be demolished.

Hudson Heritage Association has offered to help find a new owner for the historic house. Whoever agrees to take the home will be responsible for the costs of moving it to a new location.

The historic farmhouse was built in 1846 and has been owned by only three families. An addition was built in 1883. The home offers beautiful wood floors, a stunning walnut-wood staircase and its original windows. The house has four bedrooms, one bathroom and covers roughly 2,000 square feet



The historic Hudson farmhouse at 1415 Middleton Road is in excellent condition and offers beautiful wood floors, a stunning walnut-wood staircase and its original windows.

The property's terra cotta silo and outbuildings are also available for free.



The properties outbuildings, which include a historic terra cotta silo, are also available.

The farmhouse, located near the intersections of Middleton and Valley View roads, boasts a rich history. It stands on the site of the farm of one of Hudson's pioneers, John Oviatt, who arrived in the new town of Hudson in 1801. In 1996, the house earned a coveted HHA Historic Marker.

"This house is in excellent condition and is ready for a glorious renovation in a new location," said Hudson Heritage Association President Chris Bach. "There is a centuries-old tradition in Hudson of moving homes to new locations. It would be wonderful if an owner steps forward to save this remarkable, historic structure and gives it renewed life in a new location. Demolishing this house would be a tragedy."

While a location in Hudson would be the preferred destination for the historic farmhouse, it's not required, Bach added. "What's most important," he said, "is that we save this structure and its history."

Anyone interested in making the 1846 Oviatt-Curtiss home their own, with or without its outbuildings, should email Hudson Heritage Association at info@hudsonheritage.org.

HHA Seeks Board Candidates

Do you want to be actively involved in an organization that impacts the aesthetics of Hudson's Western Reserve architecture, seeks to protect its historic buildings, and advocates for responsible growth? HHA would like to hear from you!



Since 1962, Hudson Heritage Association has worked diligently to protect the historic buildings, the village streetscape, and the Western Reserve architectural aesthetic that make our city unique. HHA strives to raise public awareness concerning issues that affect the historic integrity of our community, and interfaces with local government to protect the city's historical assets. The volunteer board provides programming featuring local preservationists, historians and craftsmen; publishes a monthly e-newsletter; and conducts workshops and field trips relevant to its mission.

Board of Directors qualifications include being a resident of Hudson, a member of HHA and a commitment to advancing the mission and goals of Hudson Heritage Association. Desirable skills and interests include an appreciation for historic architecture, an interest in historic research, writing and marketing, community advocacy and a strong desire to work with a dedicated board.

Committees include Member Services and Development, Advocacy, Marketing, Programs, History and Documents and Preservation Awards. Committee assignments are determined by interest and skill set.

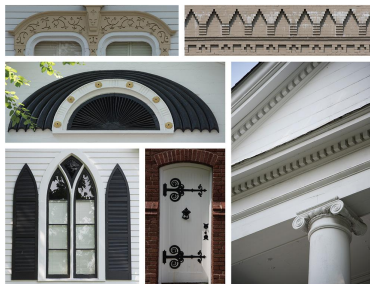
If you would like to help HHA in its efforts as a board member, please contact HHA at info@hudsonheritage.org, or email Kathy Russell, Nominating Committee Chair, at kathleen.o.russell@gmail.com.

New directors will be elected to three-year terms at the HHA Annual Meeting on May 14.

Homeowner's Guide to Historic Properties



Homeowners' Guide to Historic Properties



Hudson Heritage Association is pleased to announce the publication of 1000 copies of *Homeowners' Guide to Historic Properties*. Informed by best practices and written in collaboration with the City of Hudson, we hope this guide will be a useful resource for owners of historic homes now and for years to come.

While owning a historic home can be a source of pride, maintenance can be challenging without a good source of practical guidance. That's the role of this book. It's full of information and advice, like:

1. Architecture and style guidelines
2. Help with updating building systems like electrical
3. City Regulations
4. Guidelines for landscaping, and much more.

Hudson's Architectural Design Standards exist to support the city's stated responsibility, "to protect Hudson's character," which is only possible when owners of historic properties maintain their homes' historic integrity. It is our hope that the *Homeowners' Guide to Historic Properties* becomes a go-to source when tackling projects big and small. From a leaky roof to a sagging porch to a broader understanding of how historic homes and the land development code co-exist, we hope this book is always within reach.

GET YOUR FREE COPY!

Homeowners Guide to Historic Properties was mailed to 550 Hudson homeowners, living in homes built before 1940 (the cut-off year for HHA historic marker designation). Copies are available at no cost at Hudson Visitor Center & Gift Shop at Town Hall, the Department of Community Development and at HHA's monthly programs which are the second Thursday each month at 7:30 at Barlow Community Center.

Route 91 Road Widening & Tree Removal

Earlier this month, hundreds of trees were hastily removed from front yards along Route 91 for a turning-lane project which will add left turn lanes at Valley View Road, Herrick Park Drive and Hines Hill Road, resurfacing of route 91 from Brandywine Drive to Middleton Road, installation of an eight-foot sidewalk on the east side of the road from Brandywine Drive to Middleton Road, swales on the west side of the road, bike lanes on both sides of the road, crosswalk enhancements, storm system improvements and lighting upgrades. The City of Akron will construct a new 16" water main between Herrick Park Drive and Middleton Road. This is all occurring at the north gateway into Hudson, the welcome mat to our town. Instead of a careful, best-practices approach of avoidance, minimization and mitigation, the trees were simply removed earlier this month.



When HHA was formed in 1962, one of its core objectives was to "encourage the preservation and planting of trees throughout the community." That objective remains a priority, and this action by the city distresses us greatly.



The City of Hudson is the envy of many other cities because of the high caliber of its schools, its beautiful homes, charming historic buildings and well-developed and mature streetscapes.

In the aftermath of the recent tree removal, HHA implores the city to place the importance of Hudson's GREEN infrastructure on the same, if not higher, level as the GRAY infrastructure. (Green includes trees, plants, soil, water and the macro/micro organisms that create an ecologic life support system. Gray includes roads, parking lots, building/rooftops, lighting, sewers, utilities, etc.)

The gray infrastructure is encroaching quickly into the green.

Further, best practices would ensure that a responsible dollar amount of the total project cost would be set aside for extensive and thoughtful tree plantings on this site and other areas of our community where large, old trees can eventually embellish our streetscape for the enjoyment of the next generation, much like this generation has enjoyed the trees planted and stewarded by those before us.

Historic trees have always been a trademark of Hudson. Every project we undertake in our town must give them the consideration they deserve. Trees must be allowed to continue to work their magic for future generations.

2020 Program Dates

Plan to join us for our popular monthly programs. Unless otherwise noted, these meetings are open to the general public and are held in the Assembly Room of Barlow Community Center at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments are provided. A schedule for the upcoming programming year follows:

March 12

Revitalizing Our Civic Assets with Roger Bliss

April 9

Removing Gorge Dam with Elaine Marsh

May 14

Case Barlow Farm Barn
Annual meeting/event for HHA members only

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