



## **GVS Board of Trustees: February 10, 2026, Meeting Agenda**

Scheurer Room 6 PM – German Village Meeting Haus

See the GVS Website for Zoom Instructions

Anthony Meyer, Anne McGee, Scott Glaser, Cynthia Watson, Robert Caplin, Michael Cornelis, Jessica Flemming, Michael Gallaugher, Jeff Lamb, James Nichols, Courtney Thraen, Mary Connolly Ross,

Lori Fry, Lucy Whittier

Call to Order

Anthony Meyer  
TBD

Public Participation

**NOTE: PLEASE KEEP YOUR COMMENTS TO 2 MIN**

### **Staff Reports (Written and Oral)**

Executive Director	Courtney Thraen
Communication/Membership Manager	Rachel Lewellen
Manager, Preservation Advocacy and Member Services	Ariana Riccardi

### **Officer Reports (Written and Oral)**

President's Report	Anthony Meyer
Vice President Report	Anne McGee
Secretary Report	Cynthia Watson

\*Motion to approve January 2026 GVS Board Meeting Minutes

Treasurer Report Scott Glaser

\*Motion to approve January 2026 Treasurer Report/Final 2026 Budget Approval

### **Committee Reports**

GV Business Community	Robert Caplin (oral/written)
Sidewalks Incentive	Tyler Mason (written)
Visitor Center Renovations	Mary Ross (written)
Organizational Development	Jim Nichols (oral)
Village Engagement Committee	Katharine Moore (written)
Village Moms, Schiller Park Recs and Parks, GV Running Club, Actors Theatre of Columbus, GV Garten Club, Friends of Schiller Park, & GV Hobnobbers	

### **Events**

Maifest Gala: Honoring Our Caretakers	Michael Gallugher (oral)
Haus und Garten Tour/PreTour	Lucy Whittier (oral)

### **OLD BUSINESS | NEW BUSINESS**



German Village Society  
Executive Director's Report  
February 4, 2026

## I. Organizational Development and Operations

- a. **IT and Communications** – Ongoing adoption of Google Workspace to review at retreat. Salesforce as a communications intake and tracking hub. Maifest is site up with new ticketing platform (GiveButter).

## II. Development

- a. **2026 Overarching Sponsorships and Ads** – Completed sponsorship booklet and created overarching sponsorship tracker that has been shared with Trustees.
  - i. **In-Progress:** Event-Related Grants for Encova and Columbia Gas
- b. **Bundy Baking Solutions** - \$2,740 through EMBRACE volunteerism program.
- c. **JPMC and Blackbaud Giving Funds** – Received matching membership donations from Aaron Pitcock, Nicole DeLong, and Matthew Ottiger
- d. **Heritage Ohio Grants:** Entity shared a slew of HP grant opportunities for review; \$15,000 for interiors, \$10,000 activities - both due March 2nd
- e. **Major Donor Development**– Partnering with Lori Fry (Development Chair) and Remington Lyman (Development/Membership) to plan stages of donor development based on a list of all property owners and their professional affiliations. Also fleshed out talking points and “Why Districts Matter” flyer.
  - i. Researched 90 dropped members (auditor’s site for residence); shared out our EOY report and member impact sheet.

## III. Outreach / Engagement

- a. **COA Review Process:** Met with City’s Historic Preservation Officer and staff member Sophie to discuss resident support on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - i. **Outcome:** Differentiate roles of the City (instead of GVC) versus GVS as City is the frontline contact for all applications.
- b. **Community Outreach:**
  - i. South Side Area Commission Public Service and Full Meeting
  - ii. New Neighborhood Liaison Vanessa Mora
    - 1. She provided contacts to host a Utilities Night and will create a visual for enforcement of unkempt properties

- iii. Katherine Cull Office Hours – Requested meetings with Public Service (ADA Ramps, 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Street Bridges) and Transportation (traffic calming)
- iv. CM Ross Meet and Greet – Requested meeting with Public Service
- v. NCH Community Partners Meeting – ODOT Update
- vi. Upcoming –Public Service meeting 2/13

- c. **City's HP Modernization Effort** – Launched related survey and planning a forum with thought leaders. Heritage Ohio touch base on 2/10.

**Rachel Lewellen**  
**Communication & Membership**  
**Engagement Manager Report**  
**February 9, 2026**

## **Report Summary**

January's work centered on communications performance, membership engagement, and preparation for upcoming spring events. The January–February editions of Neighbor 4 Neighbor were produced and delivered with strong results, reaching 24,584 emails with a 56% open rate. Social media engagement also increased significantly over the past 30 days, with Instagram views up 102% and Facebook views up 31.7%.

A major focus this month has been the February Membership Campaign, "I'm a Caretaker of a Legacy," which highlights members through the themes of Community in Action, Advocacy in Action, Preservation in Action, Service in Action, and Education in Action. Four members are being featured throughout the month, and I am grateful to those participating and helping share their stories.

Membership engagement through the GrowthZone hub continues to grow, and overall membership levels increased to 498 total members.

Ongoing responsibilities this month also include preparation of end-of-year tax acknowledgment letters.

Work continues in support of Maifest: Honoring our Caretakers (4/30/26) and the Haus und Garten Tour (6/27 & 6/28).

### **Communication**

**Neighbor 4 Neighbor (N4N):** Edited and produced January - February newsletters.

Last 30 days performance: 24,584 emails delivered, 56% open rate & 2% click rate

### **Members2Members:**

GVBC monthly meeting reminders and communications.

### **Social Media:**

1/10/25-2/9/26

13 Posts + 103 Stories

**Instagram:** Views: 82.0K (up 102%) | Reach: 6.8K | Interactions: 682 | Follows: 78

**Facebook:** Views: 43.2K (up 31.7%) | Interactions: 494 | Follows: 46 | Visits: 804 | Interactions: 494

### **Website & BoT Reports:**

Ongoing updates: Events; prepared board packets, email, and printed reports.

### **Membership Development**

## Operations:

GrowthZone: 348 members have created logins (Up 8 from 1/9/26)

New Resident Welcome Bags: Delivery of the Welcome Door Hangers is currently paused as we begin to recruit new volunteers to assist with delivery.

## Membership Levels:

### GVS Membership:

Membership Type	12/4/25	1/9/26	2/9/26
Household	210	205	213
Individual	173	176	179
Mason	57	57	57
Builder	27	28	28
Archivist	13	13	13
Preservationist	6	6	5
Caretaker	2	2	2
Honorary Member		1	1
Grand Total	489	489	498

### GVBC Membership:

	1/9/2026	2/9/26
GVBC Membership - Level 1	49	49
GVBC Membership - Level 2	18	18
GVBC Membership - Level 3	15	15
Courtesy	8	9
Total	90	91

**Additional Tasks** Visitor Center Volunteers: Daily point of contact for staff and volunteers; interviewing and onboarding candidates.

Coordinated rentals and use of Meeting Haus.

## Events Support

Maifest: Honoring our Caretakers (4/30/26)

Haus und Garten Tour (6/27 & 6/28)

# Preservation Advocacy & Member Services: Update Report

- Attended the Underground Railroad Museum and Fort Ancient to gather information on historical exhibits and displays. Working to develop a presentation for the Visitors Center Committee to show findings and develop a strategic plan and design for GV.
- Working on first program for GV residents. The program will be on the topic of home construction and Home Construction Suppliers Services Act (HCSSA) and how HB 50 changes residential projects. This will be presented in a panel format in conjunction with Molly Fox from Third Street Digital and 2-3 of their attorneys. More details to come regarding logistics. Check out last week's N4N Advocacy Corner for the first line of details.
- Finalized the Business Climate Survey and should be distributed this month to businesses in GV.
- Interviewed Anthony Hartke for our first edition of “Get to know Your Commissioners” for N4N, and the article will be published in our Advocacy Corner this week.
- Working on redeveloping the Historical Preservation Newsletter, with a new edition being rolled out for the month of February.



## GVS Board of Trustees: January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Meeting Agenda

Scheurer Room 6PM – German Village Meeting Haus

See the GVS Website for Zoom Instructions

BOT: Anthony Meyer, Anne McGee, Scott Glaser, Cynthia Watson, Robert Caplin, Michael Cornelis, Jessica Flemming, Michael Gallagher, Jeff Lamb, James Nichols, Courtney Threan, Mary Connolly Ross, Lori Fry, Lucy Whittier

Call to Order

Anthony Meyer

Public Participation

TBD

**NOTE: PLEASE KEEP YOUR COMMENTS TO 2 MIN**

### **Staff Reports (Written and Oral)**

Executive Director

Courtney Thraen

Communication/Membership

Rachel Lewellen

Historic Preservation/Civic Relations

Ariana Riccardi

### **Officer Reports (Written and Oral)**

Presidents Report

Anthony Meyer

Vice President Report

Anne McGee

- GVS v City of Columbus Update

Secretary Report

Cynthia Watson

\*Motion to approve December 2025 GVS Board Meeting Minutes

Treasurer Report

Scott Glaser

\*Motion to approve Prelim December/Year End 2025 Treasurer Report

### **Committee Reports**

Visitor Center Reno

Mary Ross (oral)

Sidewalk

Tyler Mason (written)

HP + Demo

Michael Gallagher (written)

IT

Jeff Lamb (written)

GVBC

Robert Caplin (oral)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Meeting House Roof

## NEW BUSINESS

### PR and Civic Relations

#### Notes

Call to order/ Call for any changes to agenda

- Added GVBC to give oral report

No public participation

#### Staff Reports

- ED Report – Highlights reviewed by Courtney
- Ariana – Membership survey and Action Plan
- Rachel – “I’m a caretaker of a legacy” February Campaign

#### Presidents Report

- Annual meeting – create 1 pager for each committee, finished by 2/8. Accomplishments 2025 and Goals 2026
- Work to review awards available
- Retreat
  - Revisit LY
  - Revisiting bold goal

#### Vice Presidents Report

- 1/14/26 – New ordinance in effect. Still working on collaborative efforts. Chapter closed on lawsuit

#### Secretary Report

- Motion to approve Dec notes Mary 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed

#### Treasurer Report

- Prelim 2025 summary – lots of reclasses completed this year
- Final income +\$8K to budget, should improve as we close the year
- Motion to approve – Anne 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion passed
- \$20K donations with intent on visitor center from 2017, move from good of neighborhood to visitor center fund.
  - Motion to move, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mary, motion approved
- No meaningful \$ found for 3rd Street Gateway (brick, sandstone, trees, wires, lighting, overhead wires, benches, bike racks, trashcans, gateway, arch). All would need city involvement, project collapsed when Mike Coleman left office
- Roof – 3 companies contacted, 1 proposal so far. Full speed ahead

#### Committee Reports

- Visitor Center Reno - Ariana will own timeline, bids are in flight. Need donor ideas. We have \$70K and may need \$70K more
- GVBC - Membership growth focus, would like to work with EC on membership reclass within GVS membership update, Lori Fry is heading up review, Robert to sync with Lori

## New Business

- PR and Civic relations proposal – Courtney
  - Mary Cusack proposal in EC hands (\$5k and subsequent \$3.5K)
  - Joe Gibson as advocate 'man on the inside', may be paid engagement - \$350 per hour
  - 30-60 days reestablish and reconnect with our city partners by current staff to be ready for future city projects (i.e. 1 commission for every historic neighborhood, revise guidelines, streamline process)
  - Motion to adjourn Anthony

# German Village Society

## January 2026 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

*Board of Trustees*  
February 10, 2026



Character lives on.



# Headlines

---

- **January results are preliminary...**
  - Reports were received over the weekend and were incomplete.
  - There appear to be some timing & geography issues creating and “apples vs. oranges” comparison between TY actuals and the LY and Budget benchmarks.
- **AS currently reported:**
  - Revenues of \$15K are down \$11K to budget/LY.
  - Expenses of \$33K are down \$5K to budget and +\$5K to last year.
- **Our asset base of ~\$1.66M is up \$69K to last year.**
  - Operating cash totals \$84K vs. \$75K at 1/31/25 (excludes additional ~\$91K in CDs).
  - Total cash, including designated/restricted funds, is \$1.27M, +\$66K to last year.
- **See Appendix for Finance Committee report.**

# Summary P&L – January (Cash Basis)

	2025 YTD Actual	2026 YTD Budget	2026 YTD Actual	'26 YTD Var to Budget	'26 YTD Var to LY
MEMBERSHIP DUES	\$12,400	\$18,200	\$12,296	(\$5,904)	(\$104)
ADMISSION & EVENTS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$8,425	\$7,500	\$575	(\$6,925)	(\$7,850)
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	\$680	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$680)
OTHER INCOME	(a) \$5,153	\$350	\$2,238	\$1,888	(\$2,915)
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$26,657</b>	<b>\$26,050</b>	<b>\$15,109</b>	<b>(\$10,941)</b>	<b>(\$11,548)</b>
TOTAL SALARIES & RELATED	\$12,298	\$23,010	\$23,712	\$702	\$11,414
IT EXPENSES	\$3,125	\$3,158	\$4,446	\$1,288	\$1,320
FINANCIAL EXPENSES	\$4,423	\$5,750	\$996	(\$4,754)	(\$3,427)
OCCUPANCY EXPENSES	\$4,190	\$3,856	\$3,380	(\$476)	(\$810)
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$1,238	\$1,070	\$414	(\$656)	(\$825)
IN-KIND EXPENSES	\$680	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$680)
OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES	\$2,780	\$1,250	\$545	(\$705)	(\$2,236)
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$28,735</b>	<b>\$38,094</b>	<b>\$33,492</b>	<b>(\$4,602)</b>	<b>\$4,757</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>(\$2,077)</b>	<b>(\$12,044)</b>	<b>(\$18,383)</b>	<b>(\$6,339)</b>	<b>(\$16,306)</b>

We've only received cash basis reports from ASO.

- Appear to be “apples & oranges” to LY treatment of contributions.
- LY includes \$6,500 of Giving Tuesday deposits in January. LY does NOT reflect cash-basis contributions from Q4.

As currently reported, our bottom line shows \$18K of net operating loss versus -\$12K budgeted.

- Revenues are \$11K behind budget.
- Expenses are \$5K lower than budget.
- Includes adjustment to Jan '25 to remove \$10K of platz rental income from 2024 farmer's market.
- LY expenses are materially lower than TY due to open Executive Director position a year ago.

# Balance Sheet Summary

- Operating cash totals \$84K as of January 31 (LY was \$75K at 1/31). Total cash, including board designated and permanently-restricted funds, is \$1.26M, up ~\$66K to last year.
- \$20,907.86 has been transferred from the “For the Good of the Neighborhood” fund to the Visitor’s Center Renovation fund as approved last month.

ASSETS	Y/E 2024	Jan 2025	Y/E 2025	Jan 2026	Y/E 2024	Jan 2025	Y/E 2025	Jan 2026
	<b>Cash: Operations Chkg + Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$75,701</b>	<b>\$74,958</b>	<b>\$100,368</b>	<b>\$84,411</b>			
Cash - Board Designated Checking	<b>\$192,200</b>	<b>\$190,025</b>	<b>\$171,519</b>	<b>\$177,357</b>				
Meeting Haus Maintenance/Replacement	\$280,044	\$285,306	\$302,519	\$302,732				
Village Singers Fund	\$23,395	\$23,395	\$22,395	\$22,395				
Warner Maintenance Fund	<u>\$288,863</u>	<u>\$294,224</u>	<u>\$324,453</u>	<u>\$324,690</u>				
Cash - Other Board Designated	\$592,303	\$602,925	\$649,367	\$649,816				
<b>Cash: Total Board Designated</b>	<b>\$784,502</b>	<b>\$792,950</b>	<b>\$820,886</b>	<b>\$827,173</b>				
Cash: Huntington Garden (Perm Restricted)	<b>\$317,248</b>	<b>\$322,755</b>	<b>\$345,045</b>	<b>\$345,360</b>				
<b>TOTAL CASH</b>	<b>\$1,177,451</b>	<b>\$1,190,663</b>	<b>\$1,266,298</b>	<b>\$1,256,945</b>				
Accounts Receivable	\$600	\$600	\$0	\$5,500				
Chase CD's - Historic Preservation	\$146,485	\$146,485	\$146,485	\$150,416				
Chase CD's - Operations	\$89,069	\$89,069	\$89,069	\$91,426				
Gift Cards	\$3,184	\$7,634	\$1,066	\$65				
Prepaid Expenses & Other	\$1,548	\$749	\$2,829	\$1,799				
<b>OTHER CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$240,886</b>	<b>\$244,537</b>	<b>\$239,449</b>	<b>\$249,206</b>				
Building & Land	\$835,785	\$835,785	\$835,785	\$835,785				
Leasehold Improvements	\$210,759	\$210,759	\$227,369	\$227,369				
Furniture & Equipment	\$255,939	\$255,939	\$255,939	\$255,939				
Accumulated Depreciation	(\$1,160,450)	(\$1,162,107)	(\$1,175,839)	(\$1,177,495)				
Net Intangible Assets	\$15,535	\$15,535	\$12,140	\$12,140				
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>\$157,567</b>	<b>\$155,911</b>	<b>\$155,393</b>	<b>\$153,737</b>				
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,575,905</b>	<b>\$1,591,111</b>	<b>\$1,661,141</b>	<b>\$1,659,887</b>				
→								
LIABILITIES	Art Committee				\$1,282	\$1,282	\$1,215	\$1,065
	Boogie for the Bricks				\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Council of Historic Neighborhoods					\$1,539	\$1,539	\$1,539	\$1,539
For the Good of the Neighborhood					\$67,507	\$67,507	\$57,467	\$36,559
Frank Fetch Park/Maintenance					\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Fund for Historic Preservation					\$26,149	\$26,453	\$25,197	\$25,256
German Village Business Community					\$69,404	\$68,199	\$62,372	\$63,752
Huntington Garden/Maintenance					(\$257)	(\$257)	\$758	\$758
Sidewalk Repairs					\$17,243	\$16,243	\$10,443	\$14,743
Southside Stay					\$8,830	\$8,556	\$8,056	\$7,805
Village Singers					\$453	\$453	\$1,397	\$1,397
Visitors Center Renovation					\$0	\$0	\$3,025	\$24,433
Other					\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Accounts Payable					\$3,906	\$3,978	\$2,385	\$5,128
Credit Card Liability					\$1,297	\$1,155	\$5,221	\$4,468
Prepaid Dues					\$10,068	\$0	\$13,608	\$0
Other Liabilities					\$0	\$2,025	\$0	\$0
<b>CURRENT &amp; OTHER LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$15,270</b>	<b>\$7,158</b>	<b>\$21,214</b>	<b>\$9,596</b>				
Unrestricted/Temp Restricted Earnings					\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000
Restricted Earnings					\$957,242	\$957,242	\$957,242	\$957,242
Retained Earnings					\$556,626	\$593,613	\$593,613	\$714,090
Net Income					\$37,766	\$24,098	\$80,072	(\$30,041)
<b>EQUITY</b>	<b>\$1,560,634</b>	<b>\$1,583,953</b>	<b>\$1,639,927</b>	<b>\$1,650,291</b>				
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>\$1,575,905</b>	<b>\$1,591,111</b>	<b>\$1,661,141</b>	<b>\$1,659,887</b>				

# APPENDIX

---

# Finance Committee Notes

---

- **Last meeting: Thursday, January 22**
  - Welcomed Brent Hammer
  - Present: Scott Glaser, Brent Hammer, Darcy Congrove, Nelson Genschaft, Courtney Thraen
  - Absent: Wade Steen, Jim Nichols
- **Agenda**
  - Review preliminary 2025 financials.
  - Level set the committee on the Board-approved 2026 budget.
  - Discuss cash vs. accrual accounting approach. Unanimous decision: return to a stronger accrual accounting approach that best reflects activity in the period (esp. year) in which it took place.
  - Meeting Haus updates: roof assessment/repair, Visitor's Center renovation, security and remote access upgrades.
- **Next meeting: Thursday, February 19**

## GVBC Meeting Notes

**Date:** January 20, 2026 **Time:** 9:00 AM **Location:** Meeting Haus + Zoom

**Attendees:** Robert Caplin (Chair), Jason Williams (Book Loft), Neal Raffensberger (Raffensberger Gallery), Jeff Smith (The Red Stable), Donald Wiggins (Village Connections), Scott Castle (Third & Sycamore), Ellen Munsey (Hair House), Rachel Llewellyn (GVS staff liaison), Jim Chakeres (German Village Garten Club), Will (First Commonwealth Bank)

**Zoom:** John Edinger (Square One), Remington Lyman (REAFCO), Diane Herman (Kittie's Cakes), Scott Heimlich (Barcelona), Joel Burke (JRB Design), Jennifer Clark (Realtor, Howard Hanna) **Guest:** Scott Glaser (GVS Treasurer/EC)

---

### 1) Welcome and business roundtable - Quick intros plus January updates.

Key items shared:

- **Switchyards** opening and open house (noted by Robert).
- **Book Loft:** Book Loft winter book club program (spend \$200 get \$25 certificate); 50th anniversary next year with plans for yearlong programming.
- **Raffensberger:** Photo contest with in-store voting (event around March 2).
- **Red Stable:** “Love Bucks” Valentine promo (spend \$50 receive \$10 to return and spend).
- Multiple businesses reported a strong 2025, including strong Village Lights traffic.

---

### 2) Approval of prior meeting minutes

**Motion:** Approve prior minutes

**Result:** Approved (voice vote)

---

### 3) Guest: Scott Glaser (GVS Treasurer and Executive Committee)

Scott provided a financial overview and framing for how GVBC funds can be used.

Highlights:

- GVBC has a **designated fund** within GVS financials.
- **Year end balance:** approximately **\$62,000** in the GVBC designated account.

- Funds have remained relatively flat in recent years (income roughly matching expenses).
- **Most of the balance traces to 2017–2018 Art Crawl**, which generated over \$50,000 across two highly successful years.
- Scott emphasized budgets are “point in time” and can be adjusted with sound planning; Treasurer is open to revised forecasts and proposals.
- Broader perspective: GVS is avoiding becoming overly event driven due to volunteer load; GVBC to prioritize membership and sustained district awareness efforts (drawing comparisons to other retail associations).

Discussion and Q&A:

- Question raised: whether Village Lights or Art Crawl generated most funds. Scott clarified **Art Crawl** was the major source for the fund balance.
- Robert shared context from Scott Heimlich: prior GVBC legacy events included **Art Crawl** and **Mother May I** (Mother’s Day era event with luminary feel). Challenge historically was **limited GVBC volunteerism**, leaving execution to staff and outside volunteers.
- Scott reiterated society’s strategic preference not to add heavy new event burdens.

**Scott Glaser departed around 9:35 AM (hard stop).**

---

#### **4) Chair update: Membership tier clarification and alignment with GVS Development**

Robert reported progress on membership structure alignment following Board direction to coordinate with **Lori Fry (GVS Development Chair)**.

Key points presented:

- Proposal: **All GVBC tiers include base “Individual” GVS membership**, giving businesses core GVS benefits (advocacy alerts, preservation resources, member only events, early access, NARM eligibility, visitor center discount, voting rights, etc.).
- Noted need for **guardrails/clarifications** on certain benefits (example: package receiving cannot become a business shipping solution).
- GVBC specific benefits (all tiers): voting rights at GVBC meetings, business focused advocacy alerts, networking events, social amplification, member directory access.

- Tier structure overview reviewed (Level 1 includes map and directory inclusion; Level 2 includes 10% discount on GVS advertising/sponsorship; Level 3 includes higher visibility and possible venue rental discounts/recognition, with details to be refined).

**Decision: Base membership price increase**

**Motion:** Approve tier structure directionally and increase Level 1 from **\$100 to \$150**, with refinement of benefits language and onboarding clarity to follow.

**Second:** Yes

**Result:** Motion passed (voice vote)

Key feedback captured:

- Need clearer definitions so higher tiers don't feel vague (what "featured recognition" means, how 10% discount is applied, what is an "opportunity" vs a guarantee).
- Need an onboarding message for new/renewing members that clearly explains benefits and how to access them.

---

**5) Membership growth and outreach (Remington + Robert)**

- Robert noted outreach has largely been paused pending tier clarity, to avoid recruiting at a price/benefit structure that is about to change.
- Intent: once finalized into a formal one pager/PDF, proceed with outreach to:
  - **Non-member businesses** identified for recruitment
  - **Lapsed businesses** for re-engagement

---

**6) Engagement and programming: Quarterly GVBC meetups**

Lead: **John (Square One)**

- Plan: **Quarterly networking meetups** hosted at member businesses.
- Likely first host: **Barcelona** (Scott Heimlich), targeting Feb or early March.
- Neal interested in hosting later in warm months (patio), suggested **Q3 (August)**.
- John invited hosts to email: **squareonejohn@gmail.com**

---

## 7) Village Lights and events discussion

Topics raised:

- Suggestion to shift Village Lights raffle model back to “enter in store” forms to drive foot traffic.
- Re-assess Village Lights approach: fundraiser vs legacy model focused on making the neighborhood look amazing.
- Ideas explored:
  - Decorative lighting concept (example: snowflake strands) potentially bulk purchased / coordinated.
  - Reusable luminary kits for parks and blocks (battery candles, sand in bags, reuse annually).
  - Possibility of selling reusable kits as a fundraiser or rental model (with deposit or return incentive).
  - Storage/logistics considerations.

No formal votes captured on Village Lights strategy.

---

## 8) Map and benefits subcommittee update (Neal + Jeff)

**Goal:** Publish updated map twice per year and create a clearer, member forward distribution plan.

Proposed schedule:

- **Spring/Summer edition:** Publish March 1
  - Deadline Feb 7
  - To printer Feb 14
- **Fall/Winter edition:** Publish Sept 1
  - Deadline Aug 7
  - To printer Aug 14

Advertising:

- **Five ad slots** proposed, **\$100 each** (total \$500 per issue, \$1,000 annually if both issues sell out).
- Ads available to **GVBC members only**.
- Invoiced through **GVS**.
- If oversubscribed: use a fair method (lottery or rotate by issue).

Membership and listings:

- Intent to keep non-member listings temporarily, with notice: “last issue free,” then either join GVBC or pay a listing fee (suggested \$75) to remain on map.
- Confirmed intent: **every GVBC member business is listed on the map**, including beyond the bricks businesses via website listing approach (no physical dot if not in village).

Distribution:

- Mail a copy to every GVBC member with guidelines and deadlines.
- Consider inclusion in broader GVS mailings.
- Distribute through Visitor Center, member businesses with longer hours (Red Stable noted as pickup point).
- Expand placement to airport, libraries, etc.

Quality control:

- A “triple check” process agreed:
  1. Jeff sends to Neal → Neal verifies vs membership list/website → Rachel verifies final before print

Passport inventory discussion:

- Many passports and bags remain.
- Mixed views on re-using dated passports (concerns about stickers over dates and advertiser optics).
- General agreement: salvage what can be used, but avoid distributing materials that look outdated.

---

## 9) German Village Garten Club presentation: “Gnomes” public art initiative (60th anniversary)

- Garden Club celebrating **60 years**.
- Proposed project: **3 to 5 foot gnomes**, chainsaw carved, then finished by local artists.
- Goal: install **early June** and keep through **holidays** next year; “forever” adoption option possible.
- Working through approvals: German Village Commission, Greater Columbus Arts Council, right of way/transportation, security, insurance.
- Sponsor packet forthcoming, with options to adopt/keep/auction at a **Gnome Gala**.
- QR codes on each gnome to tell story, sponsor, and artist.
- Discussion of anchoring and anti-vandalism measures (rebar + cable/attachment).
- Grant writing underway; note that some arts funding has been reduced.

---

### Motions and decisions summary

- **Approved prior meeting minutes.**
- **Approved directionally:** adopt tier structure framework and **increase Level 1 to \$150** (with benefit language refinement and onboarding clarity to follow).
- Map subcommittee moved forward with publish schedule and ad plan (no formal vote captured).

---

### Action items and next steps

#### Membership

- Robert to finalize a clean PDF/one pager reflecting tier structure (and guardrails on select GVS benefits).
- Define onboarding and communications sequence for new and renewing members.

- After ratification path is clear, Robert + Remington to restart outreach to non-members and lapsed members.

## **Meetups**

- John to confirm date with Barcelona for first quarterly meetup (Feb or early March target).
- John to gather Q2 host; Neal tentatively Q3 (August).

## **Map**

- Jeff and Neal to finalize content changes and calendar.
- Implement the “triple check” before print.
- Confirm ad sales approach, invoicing process, and member only eligibility.
- Establish member payment cutoff rules for inclusion and a plan for non-member listings.

## **Village Lights**

- Explore reusable luminary kit model and economics (sale vs rental vs deposit).
- Consider feasibility of bulk decorative lighting concept.

## **Garten Club**

- Await sponsor packet and formal ask; GVBC to share with members when ready.

---

## **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by voice motion.

## **2026 German Village Business Community Map Update and Distribution Plan**

We are keeping the overall theme and look (Shop, Dine, Stroll), but updating the layout, accuracy, and how listings and ads work so the map better reflects current GVBC membership. Feedback and suggestions are welcome as we move forward.

### **Publishing schedule (repeat each year)**

#### **Spring and Summer edition**

Publish March 1

Member and content deadline February 7

To printer February 14

#### **Fall and Winter edition**

Publish September 1

Member and content deadline August 7

To printer August 14

### **Advertising (members only)**

Each edition includes **5 ad spaces** (3 inch by 1 inch) at **\$100 per ad, per issue.**

Total annual potential: **\$1,000.**

Ads are limited to GVBC members and invoiced through GVS. If demand exceeds space, we will use a fair method (lottery or rotation).

### **QR codes**

2 QR codes will be included: GVS homepage + GVBC landing page on [germanvillage.com](http://germanvillage.com)

### **Annual events on the map**

We plan to include a “Mark Your Calendar” section featuring major German Village events such as:

Village Lights, Haus and Garten Tour, MaiFest, Village Valuables, Monster Bash (and possibly others)

### **Listings and membership alignment**

All current GVBC members will be listed on each edition. Before each deadline, GVS will provide the up to date list of active members so the map can be refreshed every cycle.

**Listing approach:**

- Businesses that want to be mapped by location will be listed with street address and a dot on the map.
- All other members will be listed under a new “Professional Services” section with business name and website only.

**Non-members currently on the map:**

- They will remain for the Spring and Summer 2026 edition.
- After publication, those businesses will receive the map and a letter explaining this is the last edition with a free listing.
- Options offered: join GVBC to keep the listing and receive full member benefits, or purchase a listing for **\$75 per year**.

### **Distribution plan**

- Mail all GVBC members a copy of the new map with a short letter covering: how to get more copies, advertising info, publication dates, and deadlines.
- Provide copies for pickup at the Meeting Haus and Raffensberger Photography and Framing.
- Hand deliver 15 to 20 copies to member businesses listed by street address (volunteers needed).
- Place maps in additional high visibility locations such as the airport and libraries.
- Explore including a copy in a future mailing to GVS members as a simple way to thank them and encourage support of local businesses.

### **Design and content updates in the new draft**

- Cover: updated logos placement, added edition date (Spring and Summer 2026), seasonal images to refresh each edition, added germanvillage.com and QR code.
- Inside gate: condensed the intro copy and adjusted photo credit placement.
- Listings: reorganized Shop and Self Care sections, added Professional Services section (not mapped), and added ad placements.
- Back cover: shortened Brickline copy for space, added events calendar, and added an ad placement.

3x1 Advertisement space

SHOP

1 **Franklin Art Glass Studios, Inc.**  
222 E. Sycamore St.

2 **German Village Farmer's Market**

S. 3rd St. (Willow St.-Hoster St.) (Open Saturdays May-Nov)

3 **Griffins Floral Design & Wine Shop**  
211 E. Livingston Ave.

4 **Hausfrau Haven**  
769 S. Third St.

5 **Helen Winnemore's**  
150 E. Kossuth St.

6 **Local Petals**  
573 S. Grant Ave.

7 **Mutt's & Co**  
364 E. Whittier St.

8 **Raffensberger Photography & Framing**  
481 S. 3rd St.

9 **Schmidt's Fudge Haus**  
220 E. Kossuth St.

10 **The Book Loft**  
631 S. 3rd St.

11 **The Cakehound**  
1147 Jaeger St.

12 **The Plant Gays**  
220 Thurman Ave.

13 **The Red Stable**  
223 E. Kossuth St.

14 **3rd & Sycamore**  
650 S. 3rd St.

15 **Urban Sundry**  
548 Mohawk St.

16 **Vernacular**  
177 E. Beck St.

SELF-CARE

78 **Adams Acupuncture**  
193 E. Whittier St.

79 **Bloc Garten**  
512 Maier Pl.

80 **GoYoga**  
715 S. Pearl St.

81 **Hair Haus German Village Salon**  
176 E. Whittier St.

82 **Inner Health Chiropractic Inc**  
1201 S. High St.

83 **Niko's Barber Shop**  
499 S. 3rd St.

84 **Square One Salon**  
275 S. 4th St.

85 **Village Root Head Spa + Salon**  
1007 S. High St.

86 **Virtue Vegan Salon**  
690 S. High St.



## THE BRICKLINE: AN URBAN DISCOVERY



During this free self-guided tour, you will make your way along the interpretive trail to learn more about our German cultural influences, the early preservation movement and the community that continues to celebrate and gather here. Scan the QR code for a free map.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS 2026!

### German Village Farmers Market

Saturdays, May 3 thru October 25 • 9am-1

### German Village Garten Club Garten Markt

Saturday, May 9th

### Village Valuables - neighborhood-wide yard sale

Saturday, May 16th • 8am-3pm

### German Village Society 65th Haus und Garten Tour

June 27-28

### Monster Bash - Adult trick or treat

Saturday, October 17th • 6:30-10:30pm

### Howlin' Hound Dog Trick or Treat

Sunday, October 25th • 12-3pm

### Village Lights

December 6 • 5-9pm



Character lives on.

## SEE MAP INSIDE

Spring/Summer  
2026



BROUGHT TO YOU BY



germanvillage.com

SHOP | DINE | STROLL

HISTORIC

# GERMAN VILLAGE

COLUMBUS, OHIO



Photography: John Clark, Ed Elberfeld, Bartek Kedziora

## Welcome to German Village!

Originally settled by German immigrants in the mid-19th century, this historic neighborhood became the heart of the community surrounding Columbus' brewery industry and South End commerce. In 1960, a small group of preservation-minded residents came together to protect German Village from decline, sparking a movement that continues today. The neighborhood was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and earned national recognition in 2007 as Ohio's first Preserve America Neighborhood.

More than 60 years later, German Village is a vibrant, walkable community known for its charming brick streets, beautifully cared-for gardens and homes, and thriving local shops, restaurants, and businesses. Explore the Village and discover the independent places that make it so special.

**SHOP** unique, one-of-a-kind stores, boutiques, galleries and art studios.

**DINE** at cafés, pubs, and coffee shops serving cozy comfort food to chef-inspired favorites.

**STROLL** through 233 acres of architecture, parks, gardens, and history—on your own or with a guided tour.

3x1 Advertisement space

3x1 Advertisement space



## Scan for GVBC Landing Page



## Blue - Line 8





## DINE, SIP, INDULGE

<b>15</b>	<b>Alchemy Juice</b> 625 Parsons Ave.	<b>40</b>	<b>Hey Hey Bar &amp; Grill</b> 361 E. Whittier St.
<b>16</b>	<b>Antiques On High</b> 714 S. High St.	<b>41</b>	<b>High Beck Tavern</b> 564 S. High St.
<b>17</b>	<b>Arepazo Tapas</b> 515 E. High St.	<b>42</b>	<b>Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams (seasonal)</b> 900 Mohawk St.
<b>18</b>	<b>Ash and Em</b> 541 S. High St.	<b>43</b>	<b>jony's sushi</b> 195 Thurman Ave.
<b>19</b>	<b>Bake Me Happy</b> 500 E. Whittier St.	<b>44</b>	<b>Katzinger's Delicatessen</b> 475 S. 3rd St.
<b>20</b>	<b>Barcelona Resaurant and Bar</b> 263 E. Whittier St.	<b>45</b>	<b>Kitties Cakes</b> 495 S. 3rd St.
<b>21</b>	<b>Beck Tavern</b> 284 E. Beck St.	<b>46</b>	<b>Lawbird</b> 740 S. High St.
<b>22</b>	<b>Bendi Wok n' Bar</b> 277 E. Livingston Ave.	<b>47</b>	<b>Lindey's</b> 169 E. Beck St.
<b>23</b>	<b>Brown Bag Delicatessen</b> 898 Mohawk St.	<b>48</b>	<b>Local Cantina</b> 743 S. High St.
<b>24</b>	<b>Cento</b> 595 S. 3rd St.	<b>49</b>	<b>Parsons North Brewing</b> 685 Parsons Ave.
<b>25</b>	<b>Chipotle Mexican Grill</b> 488 S. High St., #100A	<b>50</b>	<b>Pistacia Vera</b> 541 S. 3rd St.
<b>26</b>	<b>Chocolate Café Express</b> 730 S. High St.	<b>51</b>	<b>Planks Bier Garten</b> 888 S. High St.
<b>27</b>	<b>Ciao Cafe</b> 1214 Thurman Ave.	<b>52</b>	<b>Planks Café</b> 743 Parsons Ave.
<b>28</b>	<b>Classics Pizza</b> 543 S. High St.	<b>53</b>	<b>Rooster's German Village</b> 897 City Park Ave.
<b>29</b>	<b>Club 185</b> 185 E. Livingston Ave.	<b>54</b>	<b>Schmidt's Sausage Haus</b> 240 E. Kossuth St.
<b>30</b>	<b>Club Diversity</b> 863 S. High St.	<b>55</b>	<b>Skillet</b> 410 E. Whittier St.
<b>31</b>	<b>Comune</b> 677 Parsons Ave.	<b>56</b>	<b>Smoked on High BBQ</b> 755 S. High St.
<b>32</b>	<b>Daily Growler (South)</b> 702 S. High St.	<b>57</b>	<b>South Village Grille</b> 197 Thurman Ave.
<b>33</b>	<b>Double Take Bar and Grill</b> 912 S. High St.	<b>58</b>	<b>Starbucks</b> 399 E. Livingston Ave.
<b>34</b>	<b>Emmet's Café</b> 744 S. High St.	<b>59</b>	<b>Stauf's Coffee Roasters</b> 627 S. 3rd St.
<b>35</b>	<b>First Watch</b> 496 S. High St.	<b>60</b>	<b>Sycamore</b> 262 E. Sycamore St.
<b>36</b>	<b>Fox in the Snow Cafe</b> 210 Thurman Ave.	<b>61</b>	<b>The Old Mohawk</b> 819 Mohawk St.
<b>37</b>	<b>German Village Coffee Shop</b> 193 Thurman Ave.	<b>62</b>	<b>The Red Brick Tap &amp; Grill</b> 292 E. Gates St.
<b>38</b>	<b>Gresso's</b> 961 S. High St.	<b>63</b>	<b>The Thurman Cafe</b> 183 Thurman Ave.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### **3x1 Advertisement space**

### 3x1 Advertisement space

Sidewalk Incentive Committee

Tyler Mason

February 2026

For the month of January, we had one sidewalk Grant that was approved. This is for a brick-to-brick replacement.

Courtney and Ariana are working to update the website with new committee-approved language and making the process easier for uploading pictures and needed files.

Otherwise, no new activity.

## Visitor Center Renovation Committee Report

February 2026

Mary Connolly Ross – Chair

- Visits were taken to the Ft. Ancient and the Cincinnati Underground Railroad Museums to get ideas for our proposed historic timeline.
- Due to last week's weather emergency, the meetings with contractors to discuss their quotes were rescheduled until the first and second weeks of February. Once we have the approximate costs, we'll know the additional amount of money we'll need to raise. Currently, our goal is to begin construction after this year's Haus and Garten Tour.
- A meeting was held with Lori Fry to discuss donation strategies for the Visitor Center project. We'll be putting together a donor package to use for this purpose.
- There has been discussion about combining the Visitor Center renovation with a total renovation of the Meeting Haus lobby and vestibule – which would include some major construction. Our thinking is that although it's needed the vestibule/lobby renovation should be done as Phase 2 after the Visitor Center project is completed. Instead, along with the Visitor Center project we'll do a simple refresh of the lobby/vestibule area
  - **Phase 1** would be the Visitor Center renovation and a refresh, (painting, adding doors to the existing lobby storage closet and hanging the original building donor plaques in the lobby area).
  - **Phase 2** would be done sometime in the future.

## **German Village Engagement Committee**

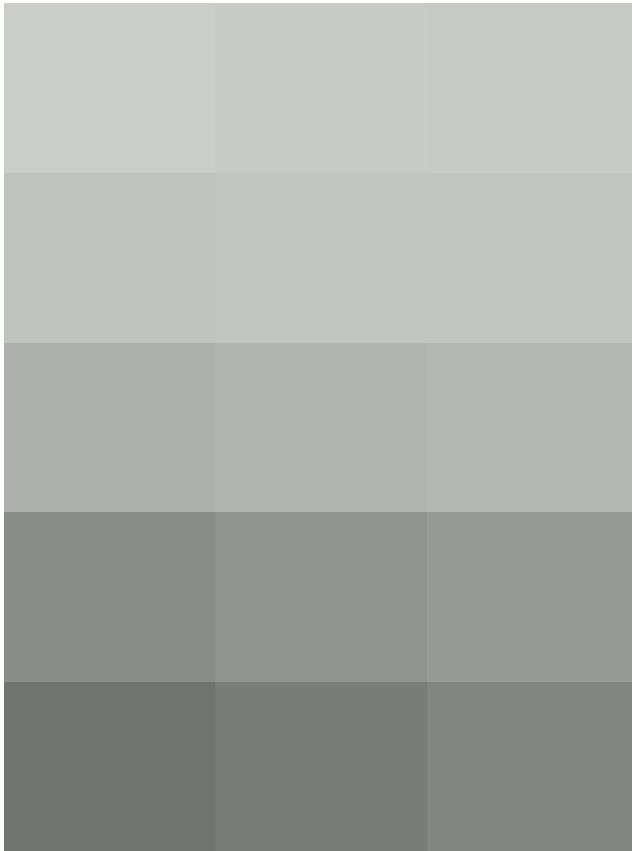
February 5, 2026

Minutes of the Meeting

Members: Brittany Gibson, Laia Caplin, Suzanne Schwartz, Craig Kent, Rob Lucas, Bob Moraine, Rachel Lewellan, Katharine Moore, Connie Swain, Mike Cornelis, Linda Friedman, Donald Wiggins, Dee Debenport, Carol Ross, Beth Josephsen

Meeting called to order at 9:01am

Agenda:



### **Village Moms (Brittany Gibson and Laia Caplin)**

Attendance, yes

- [!\[\]\(a4577057c30100fb1979e28df4f452cc\_img.jpg\) VillageMoms-Feb2026report.pdf](#)

### **Columbus Recreation and Parks (Suzanne Schwartz)**

Attendance, yes

- Basketball season is in full swing!
- Winter classes are filling up!
  - 5 people have signed up for belly dancing!

- Girls' volleyball league for the first time
- Registration for summer camp starts the 24th of February
  - 30 percent reduction in staffing
  - Price raises are happening this year, at least \$20 class
  - Less money for scholarships this year
- Spotlight on Schiller
  - 10 groups have responded

### **German Village Running Club (Craig Kent)**

Attendance, yes

- Highlights:
  - Collaboration with Switchyards
  - Facilitated Columbus Running Clubs first group meeting
- Upcoming Events:
  - February 20: Girls on the Run Sneaker Soiree
  - March 2: Columbus Crew
  - March 9: Salomon
  - March 19: Nike for International Women's Month
  - March 21: Spotlight on Shiller
  - April 6: New Balance and the Columbus 10k
  - April 13: HOKA
  - April 25: CapCity Half Marathon cheering
  - May 30: Fleet Feet Trail Day

### **Actor's Theatre of Columbus (Beth Josephsen)**

Attendance, yes

- First book club meeting in January
  - [Quarterly book club](#)
  - April 26th is the next book club meeting
- [Camp registration is starting](#)
- Auditions are the 21st and 22nd for this upcoming season at the Village Haus
  - Prior to on the 15th is an auditioning workshop

### **German Village Garten Club (Rob Lucas)**

Attendance, no

- Rumor has it that GNOMES are coming,,,

### **St. Mary's Catholic Church/School (Bob Moraine)**

Attendance, yes

- Village Lights was the largest yet!
- Parish Festival planning is starting
  - August 7-9
  - Looking for food truck recommendations

- Fish Fry
  - February 27th 5-7:30pm

### **German Village Society (Rachel Lewellen)**

Attendance, yes

- Membership drive is happening in February

### **Friends of Schiller Park (Katharine Moore)**

Attendance, yes/no

-  FOSP February 2026 Engagement Committee Report.pdf

### **Highfield Garden (Connie Swain)**

Attendance, no

- n/a

### **German Village Hobnobbers (Mike Cornelius)**

Attendance, yes

- Working with Wayne Owens on sponsorship for flyer printing
- Spotlight on Schiller Day
  - Mike is working to get a group to show up and promote the history of old-time baseball

### **Huntington Garden (Linda Friedman)**

Attendance, no

- n/a

### **Village Connections (Donald Wiggins)**

Attendance, no

- n/a

### **Connect2Protect Block Watch (Dee Debenport)**

Attendance, no

- n/a

### **GV Farmer's Market (Carol Ross)**

Attendance, no

- n/a

### **Old or New business?**

- Craig to create a directory