



# Black Diamond Press

**Membership Matters  
Please Renew or Join Today!!**

An Annual Update from The Little Cities of Black Diamonds Council

March 2017

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## Temperance & Taverns Theme Reveals Lively Times!

Little Cities of Black Diamonds Day held on October 16 in Shawnee's Historic District, was a huge success. Attendance was higher than previous years, demonstrating that our theme: ***Spirits of the Little Cities: Temperance and Tavern*** resonated with Little Cities residents and visitors alike. There were also many exhibits showing both sides of the argument for and against prohibition that showed the struggle people endured trying to figure out the best course of action in dealing with the problems alcohol brought to society.

A speakeasy set up in the Harigle Garage featured costumed barkeeps selling alcohol to customers who consumed locally produced spirits gleefully. Local wineries, distilleries and breweries sent representatives for a meet and greet session. With live performances by many different musicians and actors throughout the day there was not a dull moment to be had

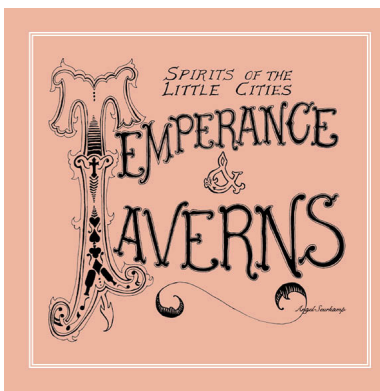
on Main Street. Some performers dressed as flappers, hanging out in and around the Speakeasy booing the temperance workers. Actors and local people dressed in period appropriate costumes worked as temperance workers boycotted the speakeasy and heckled people who went in and out. The Temperance protesters marched down Main Street chanting slogans against alcohol and speaking up about the horrors it brought down on family life. There were also performers acting on the pro alcohol side, wandering around offering moonshine to people on the street or directing them to the speakeasy for some relaxation and fun.

Performers played music of the period including folk singer Richard Greenlee and the blue-grass and folk music of Charlie & Celia Lewis from the prohibition era which they shared along with their infectious stories of times of old. Ivan and Deanna Tribe from WOUB's

***Hornpipe and Fugue*** also made an appearance sharing their remarkable music collection that reflects this year's theme as well, in a program called ***Bituminous and Booze***. There was also performance both in the Speakeasy and at the Tecumseh Commons by Columbus singer-songwriter Jesse Henry. The ultra-talented Henry shared a range of songs from blues to rock. He also performed a song written by participants in a song-writing workshop held here in April called ***To Tough to Die***

***in Ol' Shawnee.***

Youth craft activities, a ***Shawnee Taverns and Sinners Walking Tour***, panel discussions and a cadre of partic-



*Temperance Marchers Approach Speakeasy AT LCBD Day*

ipating Ohio University students gave opportunities for lively interaction. A thematic exhibit exploring the many issues of alcohol and Prohibition was available in the Tecumseh Commons. With so many things to do for both young and old, this year's Little Cities Day went off without a hitch, bringing the feel of times long past, as well as much needed

consideration of the historical and cultural aspects of the influences of alcohol consumption in the region. We look forward to seeing you again in 2017!

15th Annual

# Little Cities Appalachian Spring

## Final Friday Temperance Rally, Tour de Forest, Miner's Hall Speakeasy Highlight Season!

The **15th Annual Little Cities Appalachian Spring** season is nearly upon us. This year's schedule, per tradition, will reinforce the learning theme launched in the fall: **Spirits of the Little Cities: Temperance & Taverns**. Join us in Nelsonville or Shawnee, either on foot or on your bicycle, as we celebrate spring in the exotic forested lands of the Sun-Mon Woods (invented word for Sunday Creek-Monday Creek forest lands-thanks Fritz Griffin)!

### Nelsonville Final Friday • Friday, April 28 • Public Square Living History & Temperance March

A native of McConnelsville, Frances Barker Gage (1804-1884) wrote columns as Aunt Fanny during the 1800's, as an early advocate for women's rights, temperance and abolition. Portrayed by Carolina Alvarez Fancy of Marietta, Gage will appear as a living history character and address those who will hear her plea at 7:30pm during this "history" themed Final Friday (6-9pm). A Temperance march will follow Gage's remarks and is rumored to target the state's longest continually operating bar, The Mine, located on Public Square where Final Friday unfolds.



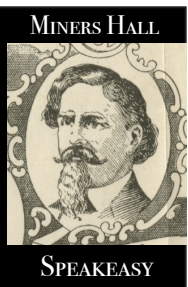
### Tour de Forest Bicycle Ride • Sat., April 29 • Hocking College Student Center



Bicyclists take to the hills and the Hockhocking Bikeway in support of the Little Cities of Black Diamonds Council and our efforts to share the story of the region's people and landscape. The **12th Annual Tour de Forest** will begin and end at the Hocking College Student Center in Nelsonville with departures ranging from 7-11am and lunch included, as well as opportunities for using the pool and climbing wall at the Student Center Lunch and a commemorative t-shirt, bandanna or weather proof southeast Ohio bicycle map is included. Routes range from choose your own distance on the bike path between Nelsonville and Athens, or head onto roadways or gravel roads of the mining region.

Two roadway routes include a 75-mile metric century route and a 30-mile mining town route. A gravel route of 54 miles rounds out the offerings. Registration and details available at [www.tourdeforest.wordpress.com](http://www.tourdeforest.wordpress.com).

### Miner's Hall Speakeasy • Saturday, May 13 • Harigle Garage • Shawnee



Temperance may be take the night at Final Friday, but the role of taverns will take the day on the afternoon of May 13 in Shawnee as the Harigle Garage is once again transformed into a Speakeasy featuring local microbrews, wines and moonshine. The **Miners Hall Speakeasy** will be open from 2-6PM with live music and presentations from local brewmasters and producers of spirits in southeastern Ohio and a little bit of history about the taverns that served thirsty miners during the coal boom era of 1870-1925. Join with the Little Cities Council as we celebrate bringing back the tradition of producing spirits here in the hills! The **Temperance & Tavern Thematic Exhibit** will be on display for visitors to this event.

Save The Date! Volunteer

## Little Cities of Black Diamonds Day 2017

### Sunday, October 15 • Historic Shawnee

Introducing 2017-18 Theme: **Transporting People & Products!**

# Your Council At Work!

## Little Cities Spirit Awards Recognize LeClain, Embrey & Biggs



Embrey, McClain, Biggs

The LCBD Council tapped three persons for the 2016 Little Cities Spirit Awards given at LCBD Day 2016. This tradition identifies citizens taking action to improve their communities with a special emphasis on cultural and natural heritage.

**Lorinda LeClain**, Nelsonville, has faithfully served the Athens County Public Library in Nelsonville as the developer and manager of the local history room there.. The impressive collection of photos, documents and artifacts that she has assembled is an outstanding resource for area residents studying the history of Nelsonville and the Little Cities of Black Diamonds microregion.

**Rodney Embrey**, Corning, an avid collector of historic artifacts has collected a large number of historic photos for the area and shares them regularly on social media. He honored the Council in 2014 after having collected every poster for LCBD Day dating

back to 1994 placing them in frames that he made for display at the 20th Annual LCBD.

**George Biggs**, Shawnee, was raised in Columbus, but regularly visited his family here while growing up, developing a love for the region. Moving to Shawnee as an adult, Biggs has been a faithful volunteer for various community events, and is best known for volunteering at the Tecumseh Theater, launching their successful concert series which helps offsets operational costs and loan payments on this historic landmark. We tip our hats to these fine examples of “Little Cities Spirit”!

## Harnetty’s Shawnee, Ohio (2016) Artistically Interprets Region’s Story

Sound artist Brian Harnetty brought statewide attention to the region with an inspiring multi-media show, titled **Shawnee, Ohio (2016)** this past fall that combined recordings of oral history interviews and projected images and video with music performed by a seven-piece orchestra. The show premiered at the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus for a two evening run in October, before traveling to the Tecumseh Commons in Shawnee and the Cincinnati Arts Center. The series of vignettes featured stories from Shawnee, Murray City and Millfield. For more information visit [www.brianharnetty.com](http://www.brianharnetty.com).

## Anthropology Comes to Life At The Buchtel Cemetery!

The Little Cities Council teamed up with **Dr. Nancy Tatarek**, Professor of Anthropology and her students to provide a lesson in records research this past summer. After a hands-on morning lesson at Ohio University’s Baker Center, the Little Cities van took participants to **St. Patrick’s Cemetery** in Buchtel where they viewed the gravestones of miners and their families that she and the participants had researched that morning. Tatarek’s work looks at the health and death records of miners during the coal boom era to study causes of deaths, life spans and other factors. Thanks to **St. Mary’s of the Hills Catholic Church** for hosting the group for lunch, and to **Fullbrooks Cafe** for preparing box lunches.

## “Little Cities As A Classroom” in Full Swing with Ohio University



Costumed Students @ LCBD Day

Growing relationships with **Ohio University** professors and students strengthens the work of the LCBD Council. Of particular note during the past year has been the work of **Dr. Michael Kopish**, Patton College of Education, whose Social Studies teachers preparation program brings students each semester to conduct research at the **Little Cities Archive**. In return they have volunteered for various roles at LCBD Day and Rendville’s Emancipation Day the past two years. Kopish’ work follows in the groundbreaking work of Dr. Frans Doppen.

**Dr. Rachel Terman’s** Sociology of Appalachia students helped research the Temperance and Tavern theme and presented their work at LCBD Day in costume from the Prohibition Era. They are also planning to paint the Shawnee caboose this spring.

Her work and that of Dr. Nancy Tatarek, Anthropology and **Dr. Robin Muhammad**, African American Studies, are part of a contract that **Sunday Creek Associates** and the LCBD Council has entered with **Ohio University’s College of Arts and Sciences** to deepen campus-community engagement. **The Scripps College of Communications** regularly utilizes the regions many resources as well, including regular visits from the **Dr. Bernhard Debatin’s** Honors Tutorial and Environmental Journalism students and the **Study of the United States Institute** that brings international visitors to the region each year. Also engaged in this effort is the **Center for Campus and Community Engagement** who have documented the “Little Cities As A Classroom” tradition via film, and who have made financial contributions to the **Crossing the River: African Americans in Southeastern Ohio** tour which featured Payne Cemetery and Rendville this past summer.

# Little Cities Partners At Work!

## Doppen's Research on Richard L. Davis Now Available

LCBD friend and Ohio University professor Dr. Frans Doppen's research on the southern Perry County community of Rendville has resulted in the publication of his first book, **Richard L Davis: Breaking the Color Line in Ohio Coal** by McFarland Press. Davis was a legendary early union member of African American descent from Rendville who rose to leadership in the United Mine Workers during the 1890's and wrote prolifically to the national labor publications calling for the integration of the races and promoting the cause of labor. The book which chronicles his life is available for sale from the LCBD Council and the Winding Road Marketplace in Shawnee, Little Professor Book Store in Athens and on Amazon.

## Stuart's Opera House Renovation Continues

Reusing our regions historic architectural resources to improve the quality of life for its citizens is nowhere more on display than at Stuart's Opera House in Nelsonville. Two buildings adjacent to this historic structure were gutted by fire in 2015, just in advance of a project to readapt them for an expanded first floor lobby, offices and music education center. Not to be deterred, opera house leaders forged forward after the fire, just as they did after the opera house burnt during the 1980's. An impressive fund raising drive has culminated in restorative construction to be completed later this year. Hats off to Stuart's! For more information visit [www.stuartsoperahouse.org](http://www.stuartsoperahouse.org).

## Rendville Historical Preservation Society Gains House, Promotes Education

**Knowing Rendville** was the theme at the **Southeastern Ohio History Center** in Athens in February as former residents shared their story and a 2010 Rendville documentary with a crowd of over 40. Formed in 2015, the **Rendville Historic Preservation Society** celebrated Emancipation Day 2016 with the theme **Porch Wisdom**, as they received the deed to the "Little White House" on Main Street, donated by local businessman Rob Ogden. The abandoned house recently had its porch refurbished and will eventually become a mini-museum for travelers interested in the town's nationally significant African American History. For more info visit [www.rendvillehistory.org](http://www.rendvillehistory.org).

## Glouster Project Raising \$\$ to Rewire Depot Building

All aboard! Trains are now running again through Glouster on the old Kanawha & Michigan Rail Line from Charleston to Columbus. Although they don't carry passengers, they pass by the preserved Train Depot which stands as a beacon of community pride in Glouster due to the work of the women of the **Glouster Project** who have quilted, made rag rugs and conducted regular fund raisers for over 30 years to support community projects. They now need our help. The historic building needs rewired. Send your contributions to **The Glouster Project, 53 High Street, Glouster, Ohio 45732** Send with a note saying it's for the electric wiring update.

## New Straitsville History Group Gains Property, Digitizing Collection

New Straitsville History Group member Paul Nutter recently donated land and a trailer at the entrance to historic Robinson's Cave to the NSHG. The property will allow the group to better welcome folks to the historic site and serve as a home for the group's growing archive collection. In that spirit, the group has enjoyed the leadership of Ohio University Anthropology professor Nancy Tatarek and Wayne Forest Historian Ann Cramer as they meet weekly to digitize their extensive collection. Learn more at [www.facebook.com/nshg1870](http://www.facebook.com/nshg1870).

## Big Bailey: From Coal Town to Mountain Bike Destination?

Public meetings were recently conducted by the Athens Bicycle Club and the Wayne National Forest to discuss the potential of developing mountain bike trails on Wayne Forest lands in the area of the old Big Bailey mine and mining town near Chauncey in Athens County. ABC members are helping raise funds so that the Forest Service can hire a consultant to bring the project to reality. An initial 30-mile trail, to be expanded to 100 mile trail is being considered for the 6,000 acre tract of land. For more information contact LCBD friend and Tour de Forest volunteer Peter Kotses of the Athens Bicycle Club via e-mail at [peter@athensbicycle.com](mailto:peter@athensbicycle.com).

## We Need You: Renew Membership or Join LCBD Now!

The Little Cities of Black Diamonds brand has brought a positive identity and sense of place to the boom-to-bust coal mining towns of the Hocking Valley which now are outpost communities in the Wayne National Forest. This development can be attributed to in part to the work of **Little Cities of Black Diamonds Council** over the past 23 years. The Council is a lean operation. We keep our mission of sharing the region's rich history, and its cultural and natural heritage by utilizing a modest amount of funds from a variety of resources. In 2016 we took in and spent just over \$18,000. One of the most important sources of funds is that which comes from members and donors. Last year we enjoyed an inheritance of \$1,000 from former resident Alice Harbarger, and over \$1,900 in membership contributions. Grant funds from the Ohio Arts Council, Sunday Creek Associates and the Southern Perry County Academic Fund totaled nearly \$6,000. It costs money to provide free educational programs for the public such as our speaker at the upcoming Final Friday or those who enlighten and entertain us at LCBD Day and other events. Maintaining an archive, office and web site also has a price. Researchers from schools and family genealogists keep us busy, as do a regular flow of tour groups and student study trips. One way to support and grow this effort is to become a member! Please find a membership card included with this newsletter or contribute on-line at [www.littlecitiesofblackdiamonds.org](http://www.littlecitiesofblackdiamonds.org).

