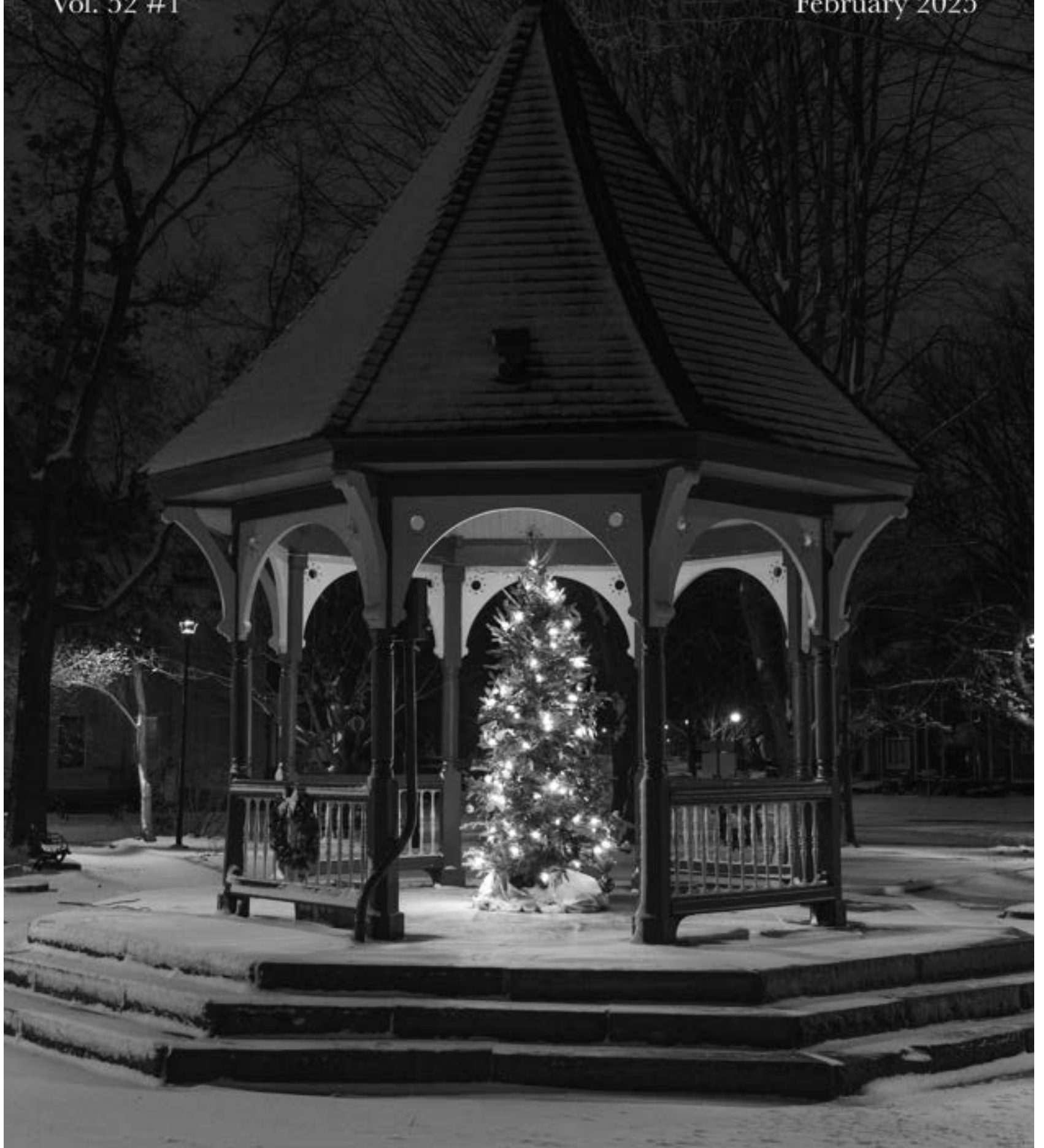


# Corn Hill Gazette

Vol. 52 #1

February 2025



*The Corn Hill Gazette is funded by the Corn Hill Neighbors Association. The Gazette is mailed free of charge to residents and property owners in Corn Hill.*

*Other interested recipients may receive the Gazette for an annual fee of \$25. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, send a request to [gazette@cornhill.org](mailto:gazette@cornhill.org).*

*Editor: Pat Gately*

*Co-Editor: Bruce Cook*

*Proofreaders: Ginny Browne, Pete Fraver  
Peggy Newell*

*Printer: Conolly Printing Co.*

*The copyright to all images published in the Corn Hill Gazette is held by their respective photographers. Photographs may not be used without permission.*

*Next Issue: April 2025*

*Deadline for Submissions: March 7, 2025*

*Submission guidelines: We welcome your contributions. Please submit all photos and written materials to [gazette@cornhill.org](mailto:gazette@cornhill.org). All submissions must include your name and phone number for verification purposes and must be received by the 1st of the month prior to publication date. Submissions may be edited to meet space and editorial guidelines.*

*The Corn Hill Gazette does not accept paid advertisements.*

## Wheatley Library

Phillis Wheatley Library 33 Dr. Samuel McCree Way  
(585) 428-8212

<https://roccitylibrary.org/location/phillis-wheatley/>

Mon 11am -7pm	Thur 11am - 6pm
Tues 11am - 6pm	Fri 11am - 5pm
Wed 11am - 7pm	Sat 10am -2pm
Sunday - Closed	

Check the calendar for upcoming programs:  
<https://calendar.libraryweb.org/calendar/RPL/>



**Fun for the whole family !**

see page 5 & 6 Corn Hill Book Club  
also page 8 Lifespan Care

## Central Library



**Saturday, Feb 15th, 2025**

**Noon - 4pm**

**Rundel Memorial Bldg. 2nd Floor  
115 South Ave**

Please join us for an open house at the Clarissa Uprooted exhibit featuring the live music of the Nate Rawls Quartet, explore various exhibits documenting the once thriving African American community of Clarrisa St and Corn Hill when it was called the 3rd Ward

## Rochester Early College International High School

### RECIHS Update



We, as an Early College Family, are enjoying our new home in a beautiful Cornhill neighborhood. Thank you for being so welcoming and supportive! We hosted our first Community Winter Gala in our new home in December. It was a huge success and was well attended by the school and community members. Early College scholars went caroling around in the neighborhood to spread holiday cheer and festive spirit. It was so much fun. Our scholars are preparing for the upcoming Regents exams in the third week of January. We are offering afterschool program to provide academic support for our scholars, so they finish first semester strong. Our vision is to prepare our scholars to be globally competent, college and career ready and upstanding citizens.

February is Black History Month. Our school community will be participating in several activities during this month to celebrate the rich heritage of African Americans. We, as an International High School, take pride in our diversity and celebrate richness of all cultures. Thank you for your support.

Uma Mehta, RECIHS Principal

## Corn Hill Calendar

*Details at [cornhill.org](http://cornhill.org)*

## Volunteer of the Year Henry McCartney



This year's Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year award is presented to a person who has been an important contributor to our neighborhood since he moved to Corn Hill in 2012-Henry McCartney.

Henry's association with the Landmark Society, with Corn Hill Navigation, with Mt. Hope Cemetery, and his overall involvement in the city of Rochester have provided many useful connections for the Corn Hill neighborhood. Henry has served on the Board of Directors of the Corn Hill Neighbors Association as well as provided Festival support.

Henry has been a strong advocate for the West River Wall Project, and the Riverfront as a tremendous neighborhood asset. He advocated for a kayak launch, supports Corn Hill Navigation, and spearheaded the Adirondack chair and concrete table project on the river-pad. It was Henry who engaged the assistance of students from Edison Tech's carpentry program to custom build and paint additional chairs for the riverfront. Henry has also volunteered his time and financial support for the establishment of the Butterfly Garden on the River and he assists the Beautification Committee in its maintenance, as well as been a faithful PAC-TAC patroller for many years. And all of his neighbors on the Crescent at Plymouth and Exchange can vouch for what a wonderful friend and helpful neighbor he has been! A neighbor like Henry is a true gem and for these many reasons, Henry was chosen to receive the 2024 Corn Hill Neighborhood Volunteer of the Year Award. **Congratulations Henry!**

## 2024 Holiday Tour of Homes



I want to send my heartfelt gratitude to all the homeowners and volunteers that possible made the 2024 Corn Hill Holiday of Homes possible.

# Thank You!

*Sean Soper* Co-Chair 2024 Corn Hill Holiday Tour of Homes Committee

# 2024 Holiday Party





## A Street by Any Other Name..... Or, Where Did Our Street Names Come From ?



In the late 18th century, large tracts of land were purchased by various land agents and investors along the western bank of the Genesee River in the area we know as Corn Hill. These tracts carried names such as Hubbell, Cornhill, Greig, Caledonia and Troup and they help to explain where some of the Corn Hill Street names came from. But digging deeper into street name origins uncovers all kinds of fascinating information regarding changing street routes and names in Corn Hill's 200 year history! Adams Street was named after the 6th President of the United States – John Quincy Adams. His first nomination for the presidency came from Rochester, NY, mainly through the efforts of Thurlow Weed, who was then the associate editor of the The Rochester Telegraph. Adams visited Rochester in July of 1843, and gave a public address at the courthouse. The section of Adams St. from old Sophia St. (Plymouth Avenue), down to Exchange, was once called Lafayette Street, after the famed French General Lafayette, who visited Rochester in June, 1825 as part of the celebration of America's 50 years of independence. The entire length of the street reclaimed the name 'Adams' in 1900, when the Executive Board of the City determined that all continuous roads should bear the same name.

Fitzhugh Street was named after Colonel William F. Fitzhugh, a wealthy Maryland landowner, who along with Charles Carroll and Nathaniel Rochester, purchased the 100 Acre Tract in 1802 which became the seed of Rochesterville. Fitzhugh never lived in Rochester, but settled in Livingston County around 1810. He is buried in Groveland, Livingston County. Although a slave owner himself, his youngest daughter, Ann Carroll, married the well-known abolitionist Gerritt Smith of Petersboro, NY. Plymouth Avenue at one time, was a contiguous road that ran right through Corn Hill – from downtown through Avery Mall, Frederick Douglass St. and Lunsford Circle Park into the PLEX neighborhood. On an 1827 Platt map however, the north end of the current Plymouth Avenue was named Hart Street, after another one of Nathaniel Rochester's land partners, the middle section of Plymouth from Main to Troup was named Sophia Street, after Nathaniel Rochester's wife, and the southern end of Plymouth from Troup on was named Caledonia Street to reflect the heritage of its Scottish residents. At some point, the whole stretch of this road took on the name Sophia St. Then in 1854, when the Plymouth Congregational Church was built at the junction of Troup and Sophia, the entire length of the street was renamed Plymouth Avenue.

The current Clarissa Street also had several names and sections. It began as a very short road which, in 1827, only extended from Main St. (then Buffalo St.) to Troup St. and was called High Street. As the city grew, High Street continued south to connect to Sophia (Plymouth) and in 1868, the entire street was renamed Caledonia Street, acknowledging a resurgence of Scottish settlement – the same name the southern end of Plymouth Avenue once had! The southern most curve of the street which extended to the bridge across the Genesee was known as Clarissa Street – which was named after early investor John Grieg’s daughter.

In 1927, the entire length of the roadway was named Clarissa. Atkinson Street was most likely named after William Atkinson, an early, prosperous miller. In 1817, Atkinson acquired a site on the east bank of the Genesee River, where he constructed his Yellow Mill – the first on the Johnson Race. Along with Hervey Ely who built a frame mill adjoining Atkinson’s, they shipped the very first barrels of flour eastward on the canal to Little Falls. Atkinson was one of the first wardens of the new St. Paul’s Episcopal Church on the east side of the river, and was a founder of the Monroe County Bible Society. His wife – Elizabeth Ford Atkinson – was the proprietor of Rochester Female Academy on Fitzhugh and Spring Sts. She was also a member of the Rochester Female Charitable Society formed in 1822, whose members met in the Atkinson home to lay the groundwork for the Rochester Orphan Asylum on Hubbell Park. Elizabeth outlived her husband and married the revivalist Charles G. Finney. She and William are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Troup Street was named after Robert Troup, an appointed land agent for Sir William Pultney and London Associates of the large tract of land that was part of the Phelps and Gorham Purchase. Troup was also a New York attorney who had been an aide to General Gates during the Revolutionary War. Washington Street was named by Nathaniel Rochester in affectionate memory of Washington County, Maryland – where he had been a prominent resident and where he left behind many friends. Greig Street was named for John Greig, an early Scottish land investor. Glasgow Street and Edinburgh Street also were named in recognition of the settler’s Scottish heritage.

Livingston Park was named for pioneer miller James K. Livingston, who became the president of the Bank of Monroe and served as village sheriff in 1828. The Park was established around 1830 as Rochester’s most exclusive street, housing the city’s first “aristocracy”. Livingston built one of its first great mansions, which still stands today at the Genesee Country Village and Museum. The street was a private parkway whose gates were locked every evening and on Sundays. Other residents included early civic leader Frederick Bachus, Thomas Hyatt - Consul to Japan for President Buchanan, Horatio Fenn – one of Rochester’s first dentists, and Henry E. Rochester, youngest son of Nathaniel Rochester.

Some other interesting street name changes - from the very early 1827 Platt Map of Rochesterville.....

Tremont Street was once called Clay Street

Santiago Street, which originally ran from Exchange St. to Caledonia St., was once called Thorn Alley  
Exchange, south of the Ford Street Bridge, was once called Mansion Avenue

Goldsmith Place was once called Greenwood Place

Beaver Street was once called Plum Alley

Edinburgh Street was once called Hill Street

Glasgow Street was once called Ely Street



*"The more that you read, the more things you will know.  
The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!"  
Dr. Seuss*



## **ArtCurious:** Stories of the Unexpected, Slightly Odd, and Strangely Wonderful in Art History By Jennifer Dasal

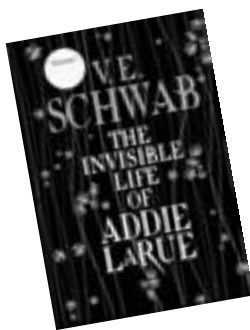
I enjoyed this read from the host of the ArtCurious podcast. I was delighted to learn that my favorite artist Claude Monet was quite rebellious for his time and shocked to read that there is compelling evidence that Vincent van Gogh was possibly murdered. This was a great read if you are a novice like me or an art aficionado. I recommend looking the works up on your phone to follow along with the chapter and, if you are hungry for more, the ArtCurious podcast has over 200 episodes!

## **Beneficene** by Meredith Hall

This book swept me away to another time and place to a farm in rural Maine, where I was privileged to peer into the intimate window of one family's profound joys and pain. I experienced the themes of simplicity in nature and gratitude for hard work, the life changing impacts a family encounters with unexpected loss, as captivating. To me, this author is an artist with words, evoking every emotion with her descriptive expertise.



## **The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue** by L.H. Schwab



In a moment of desperation, a young French woman in 1714 makes a Faustian bargain to live forever and is cursed to be forgotten by everyone she meets. So begins the extraordinary life of Addie LaRue, and an adventure that plays out across centuries and continents, history and art, as a young woman learns how far she will go to leave her mark on the world. But everything changes when, after nearly 300 years, Addie stumbles across a young man in a hidden bookstore and he remembers her name.

## **A Dutiful Boy:** A Memoir of a Gay Muslim's Journey to Acceptance by Mohsin Zaidi

A beautifully written memoir that tells the experiences of someone growing up with three strong identities: a child of immigrants, Muslim, and gay. It's a beautiful coming-of-age story that will have you riveted, and connecting emotionally with the experiences of multiple characters. The complexity of the characters is a tribute to the author's ability to create a relationship between the reader and a greater understanding of the people that make up Mohsin's life.





## Respite Care at Phillis Wheatley Library



Caring for loved ones with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia is often a challenging labor of love. People with memory issues may be quite clear about many things, but forget others, become confused and frustrated, and often can’t be left alone. Lifespan of Greater Rochester, a community-based non-profit organization located in Monroe County, offers a wide range of services addressing the needs of older adults and caregivers. Drop-In Respite is where caregivers can bring their family member or friend for a few hours of structured but relaxed supervision each week so they can get a few hours to take care of themselves, whether it be shopping, their own appointments or just a well-earned rest. While most of the respite locations are based in churches/facilities throughout 5 counties, **ROC Respite is the only community-based respite program administered by Lifespan. ROC Respite is conveniently located at Phillis Wheatley Community Library.** For nearly three years, Lifespan staff and local community volunteers have greeted caregivers and their care partners for three hours each week at no charge. Currently, eight local families regularly make use of the ROC Respite program and have created their own community within a community.

All staff and volunteers of the respite program are vetted and trained and are assisted by 2-3 students from St John Fisher University, with the aim of a 1-1 or 1-2 ratio of staff and clients. Together they work to create activities centered around a theme, such as music, old movies, or pets. The only requirements of the care receivers are that they must be able to ambulate with minimal assistance, be able to feed themselves, and use the bathroom on their own. Participants bring their own lunch and beverage.

Attendees can participate as much as they like; whether they want to just watch or if they want to join in for every activity, all levels of participation are welcomed. **The goal is to provide people living with memory loss or other chronic conditions not only safe care but a chance to be themselves outside the relative confines of their home and disabilities.** According to Candy Woodruff, a neighborhood volunteer, clients “get to be who they are and be met without judgement.” Though clients have memory problems and may not remember names, according to staff, they do seem to recognize faces and smiles and relax quickly into the routine fairly quickly.

For caregivers, not only does ROC Respite provide them with a little time for themselves, but it assures them that they are not alone in their efforts, and that there are people in their community who care for them and are here to help. If you are interested in volunteering or think this program might be helpful to you as a caregiver, you can contact **Donna Dixon, ROC Respite Program Coordinator, at [ddixon@lifespan.roch.org](mailto:ddixon@lifespan.roch.org) or (585) 743-1281.** ROC Respite is a partnership of the NYS Caregiving and Respite Coalition, St. John Fisher University and Lifespan’s Finger Lakes Caregiver Institute and is funded by Exhale.

To learn more about Lifespan, visit us at <https://www.lifespanrochester.org>



# 2025 CornHill Neighbors Arts Festival



## Corn Hill Arts Festival Volunteers Needed!

Curious about volunteer opportunities available at the Corn Hill Arts Festival? **We need you!** From year-round planning positions to festival weekend support, we have something for everyone! Volunteers help make our beloved festival a continual success.

- Current Open Positions:**
- Assistant Festival Chair\*
  - Assistant Site Planner\*
  - Assistant Technology Chair\*
  - Assistant Hospitality Chair\*
  - Festival Weekend Support

Interested in learning more?  
Email us at [volunteer@cornhill.org](mailto:volunteer@cornhill.org)

\*Year-round festival position



Sign up at: [cornhillartsfestival.com/volunteer](http://cornhillartsfestival.com/volunteer)

# 2025 CornHill Tour of Homes



## Corn Hill Holiday Tour of Homes December 6, 2025



*Volunteer  
to Open Your  
Home !*



If you'd like to open your home for the tour,  
Please contact the Planning Committee at:  
**HOLIDAYTOUROFHOMES@CORNHILL.ORG**

# Corn Hill Neighbors Association

Neighborhood General Meeting  
Monday, January 13, 2025  
Adams Rec Center

President Holdsworth called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm. He began by reviewing highlights of 2024, including that year's budget. There was a question regarding the maintenance of the "Doors" sculpture, as that was a significant expense.

Leading up to review and submission of the 2025 budget for approval, the neighborhood safety patrol was discussed. A survey went out in December to all residents, and the overwhelming majority were in favor of continuing the patrol.

When the 2025 budget was reviewed, the total showed a loss of \$50,000 due to the cost of continuing the patrol, albeit at reduced frequency. President Holdsworth noted that the Board of Directors is currently looking at other revenue sources to make up that loss. These include grants, donations from neighbors, and fundraisers.

Dan Bresnan, president of Corn Hill Commons, reported that a \$5000 donation from the HOA (Crofton Perdue) serving that area, will be made without raising the homeowners' fees. A motion was made to approve the 2025 budget. The final vote was 32 yes; 0 no; 2 abstentions. Mike Georgetti, manager of the Adams Rec Center, went over some updates, and encouraged neighbors to bring requests / ideas for new programs.

Judy Simser, Philanthropy Committee chairperson, listed some of the many recipients of this committee's donations during the past year. The list included a \$3000 scholarship to a local high school student for college.

President Holdsworth adjourned the meeting at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Gruber

---

## Maybe next year





Corn Hill Neighbors Assoc  
133 South Fitzhugh Street  
Rochester, NY 14608

fi



fi



fi

fi

fi