

## Oak Hill Festival of Flags History



A United States Flag every forty feet on every street in the Village of Oak Hill was one of the original goals of a small group in the Village. The Oak Hill Festival of Flags was started in 1992 by an organization initially brought together to preserve an old school building.

Central, an old school dating back to 1901, was retired by the Oak Hill school system several years ago. A group of concerned citizens formed an ad hoc committee committed to preserving the school, taking it out of mothballs and perhaps even converting it into a community center.

Dan Brisker pitched the Festival of Flags idea to the Save Central Committee and the committee jumped on the idea. The decision to schedule the festival for the Memorial Day weekend fit with the flags/patriotic theme. Also, it was a long pre-summer weekend which already saw many ex-residents returning home for family visits, class reunions or for recreation.

Over 1,000 flags were purchased by village and area residents for the first year. In the third year, close to 2,000 flags were displayed along the village streets. Plastic pipes to hold the flag poles were inserted in holes every forty feet along the Village streets. It is an inspiring sight to see all of the flags waving in the breeze. The community involvement and support have been very positive.

Many Oak Hill residents decorate their houses and businesses with flags and banners. A contest to pick the best decorated houses and businesses is sponsored by a local group. The decorated buildings add to the inspiring sight of red, white and blue.

*The Festival, registered with the Ohio Festival Association, takes place during the Memorial Day weekend. In the past, the center of the Festival takes place around the Old Central School. Crafts, food booths, carnival rides, old car show, children's activities, gospel music and entertainment are offered during the Festival. Currently, the festival is located on the grounds of the city hall.*

*On Memorial Day Weekend, there is entertainment, a parade, and a free Phil Dirt and the Dozers Concert. Sunday brings gospel music, more food and a pageant depicting the history of Oak Hill. A pancake breakfast, the American Legion Parade, a car show, more crafts and food are offered on Monday.*

*The Festival of Flags grows every year. A local committee led by Danny Brisker and Peg Thomas, spend many hours planning and conducting the Festival. The support from the village residents has been tremendous. Their time, talents and hard work have made the Festival a very successful community wide project.*