



THE TRESTLE BOARD

WEST GATE LODGE NO. 623

F. & A.M.

COLUMBUS, OHIO

A place to gather. A reason to give.

News, fellowship, and a closer look at the work of West Gate Lodge and the communities we call home.



West Gate Lodge on West Broad Street. Photograph from the Lodge website.

WELCOME TO THE TRESTLE BOARD

Brethren, families, and neighbors, welcome. This newsletter brings Lodge news and community life together in one place. We hope you will find something useful, something worth sharing, and a reason to stop by.

Whether you have been part of West Gate for years or are meeting us for the first time, we are glad you are here.

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FROM THE EAST

A Lodge is built by its people

A message from Worshipful Master Matthew J. McCoy.

Brethren, families, and friends,

Welcome to this first issue of The Trestle Board.

My hope for these pages is simple: that they help us stay connected, understand the work before us, and see the good that can come from doing that work together.

A Lodge depends on people who are willing to give some of their time. Sometimes that means helping with a meal. Sometimes it means taking care of the building, learning a part, or calling a Brother we have not seen in a while. Much of that work happens quietly, but it matters.

As we look toward the fall, there is plenty for us to consider. Caring for our building, preparing for meetings, and planning our fellowship and charitable activities all deserve thoughtful attention. We make better decisions when Brethren have the information they need and a chance to be heard.

To our neighbors, thank you for taking an interest in West Gate. You do not have to be a Mason to join us at a public breakfast or to ask what the Lodge is about. We would be glad to meet you, hear about your organization, and learn more about the community we share.

To our Brethren, your presence and experience are valued. If it has been a while since you have joined us, we hope to see you again. If your circumstances make that difficult, please reach out. Staying connected begins with knowing how one another is doing.

Fraternally,
Matthew J. McCoy
Worshipful Master

NEWS OF WEST GATE

The September 14 draft agenda brings together fall planning, building-care priorities, and preparation for the Lodge's upcoming work.

Caring for our home

Repair estimates, insurance follow-up, and possible preservation grants remain items for review. These are planning updates; no completed repair or grant award is announced here.

Keeping in touch

The newsletter, membership mailings, and fellowship meals are all part of the conversation about staying connected.

Looking toward winter

Installation refreshments and a Christmas and awards dinner are under discussion. Dates and arrangements will follow when approved.

A note of thanks

To the Brethren and families who give their time to West Gate: your willingness to help is appreciated.

Lodge news source: September 14, 2026 Stated Meeting Agenda, Final Draft. These items remain subject to Lodge action.

AROUND OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Westgate and the Hilltop

There is good work happening nearby, and plenty of ways to take part.

A Saturday stop close to home

The Westgate Farmers Market lists its season as the first and third Saturdays, June through October, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at West Gate Masonic Lodge, 2925 W. Broad Street.

Based on that published schedule, the next dates are September 19, October 3, and October 17. The market features fresh produce, handcrafted goods, live music, and food trucks. Check with the organizer for that day's vendors and any changes.

A trip to the market is a pleasant way to meet the people behind a local product. Bring a neighbor, ask a grower what is in season, and take a little time to enjoy the conversation.

The market and the Lodge's Community Breakfast are separate events. You can find the breakfast invitation on page 6.

westgatefarmersmarket.com

Market contact: manager@westgatefarmersmarket.com

A place for neighborhood voices

The Westgate Neighbors Association lists its next community meeting for Tuesday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m., at the Hilltop Branch of Columbus Metropolitan Library, 511 S. Hague Avenue. Everyone is welcome.

It is an opportunity to hear about neighborhood projects and upcoming activities, and to learn where a little help may be useful.

westgateneighbors.org

A little care goes a long way

Westgate Neighbors Association's community directory highlights Friends of Westgate Park and its need for volunteers in 2026. The group helps care for the park's flowerbeds and organizes cleanup activities.

For someone who enjoys being outdoors, that may be a comfortable place to begin. Contact the organizer for current workdays and the kind of help needed. You do not have to arrive with a grand plan; a willingness to learn is a useful start.

The same directory points residents toward the Greater Hilltop Area Commission and other civic, arts, and service organizations. Those connections can help neighbors find the right place to raise a question or offer an idea.

[WNA directory of Hilltop organizations](#)

Where West Gate fits in

Our Lodge is one part of this larger community. Sharing its address with a neighborhood market and welcoming people to public breakfasts creates opportunities to get to know one another.

For future issues, we would welcome short updates from Westgate and Hilltop groups. A project description, event date, contact person, and a photograph you have permission to share can help us tell the story accurately.

Please send community news to **info@westgate623.com**. Publication and any Lodge participation will be reviewed before they are announced.

Community notices checked September 11, 2026. Events are organized by the groups named; confirm details with the organizer before attending.

PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY

Good work begins close to home

From Westgate and the Hilltop to neighbors across Columbus, service begins with paying attention.

Fellowship that supports service

A meal gives people a reason to gather. At West Gate, our public breakfasts also give neighbors a way to learn about the Lodge and its charitable interests. The October invitation welcomes everyone and welcomes donations.

The Lodge website identifies a Veterans & First Responders Fund, intended to support relief for those who serve our community. Please contact the Lodge for current information about the fund and the needs it supports.

Our editorial planning notes also call for a review of this year's charity breakfasts and the June fundraiser noted there. Event details need confirmation. Gathering the receipts, donations, and deposits provides the foundation for a clear report to the Brethren.

As verified reports become available, this newsletter can share the results: the purpose of an event, the support received, and where the proceeds were directed. People's private circumstances deserve care, even when there is a generous story to tell.

Across Westgate and the Hilltop

The neighborhood connections on page 3 offer opportunities to listen and learn. A cleanup project, a public meal, or a conversation with a local group can help us understand what would actually be useful.

Know of a local need? Please share the organizer, the help requested, and the timing with the Lodge.

A wider Columbus connection

Mid-Ohio Food Collective lists volunteer opportunities that include sorting and packing food in Grove City, helping shoppers at its markets, gardening, and helping with meals. Its website includes opportunities for individuals and groups.

For readers interested in serving beyond their own neighborhood, the organization's volunteer page is a useful starting point. Review each activity's current requirements and availability before signing up.

This is a community opportunity for readers to explore. This notice does not announce a Lodge group visit or formal partnership.

mofofc.org/get-involved/volunteer

A service report

For future editions, we plan a short report that answers four questions: What was the need? What did the Lodge do? Where did the support go? How can someone help next time?

No fundraising total, beneficiary payment, or completed outside partnership is being announced in this issue. Those details belong in the newsletter once they have been verified and cleared for publication.

In the meantime, a sincere thank-you is in order for everyone willing to cook, serve, clean up, keep records, or lend a hand. Those ordinary tasks make charitable work possible.

Sources: Lodge website and Our editorial planning notes; Mid-Ohio Food Collective volunteer information. westgate623.com

EDUCATION AND EVERYDAY LIFE

A plan worth putting into practice

Two short reads for Brethren, families, and friends.

Why “The Trestle Board”?

If the name is new to you, you are in good company. In its public explanation of the symbol, the Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction, describes a trestle board as a place for laying out construction plans. It also explains why many lodges use the name for a newsletter or bulletin: it points toward the work ahead (Scottish Rite, NMJ, n.d.).

That gives us a useful way to think about these pages. An event notice tells us where to be. An educational article gives us something to consider. A service report helps us understand how an idea became useful work.

The everyday lesson is one we can all use: a good intention benefits from a practical next step. We may hope to be more helpful, more patient, or more dependable. It becomes easier to act on that hope when we decide what we will do and make room for it.

Perhaps that means setting aside ten minutes to call someone. Perhaps it means learning a skill before volunteering for a task. It may be as simple as writing down a promise so that it does not get lost in a busy week.

For this newsletter, that is the connection between the symbol and community life. We can use a plan to give our efforts direction, then return to it and ask what needs attention. There is room to learn as we go.

Something to consider: What is one small act of kindness or service you could make time for this week?

Source: Scottish Rite, Northern Masonic Jurisdiction. (n.d.). Masonic tracing boards and trestle boards: Their history and significance today. [Read the public educational article.](#) The everyday applications above are editorial reflections.

A conversation can be a beginning

GENERAL INTEREST

Most of us know what it is like to walk into a room where everyone seems to know one another. Even a friendly gathering can feel a little unfamiliar from the doorway.

A simple introduction can change that. Someone offers a name, makes room at the table, and asks a question that gives the new person a chance to join in. There is no great ceremony to it. It is just thoughtful hospitality.

That matters at a Lodge breakfast, a neighborhood meeting, or a volunteer project. We cannot assume that someone knows where to go, whom to ask, or whether they are welcome to stay. A moment of attention can answer all three.

We can make those conversations easier by being curious without being intrusive. Asking what brought someone to the event is often enough. We can listen to the answer, explain an unfamiliar term, and introduce them to someone with a shared interest.

Different experiences can help, too. A neighbor may see a need we have missed, while a longtime resident may remember how an earlier effort worked.

We do not have to agree about everything to enjoy a meal or help with a worthwhile project. We can begin with the work in front of us and a little respect for the person beside us.

When the next public gathering comes around, perhaps we can each look for someone we have not met. A warm hello may be the smallest part of the day, but it can be the part another person remembers.

COME SPEND SOME TIME WITH US

Your invitation to West Gate

2925 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43204



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

October Community Breakfast

Saturday, October 10, 2026
9:00 a.m.

STATED MEETINGS

Second Monday • 7:30 p.m.

September 14 and October 12, 2026

Regular Lodge business for eligible Masonic visitors. Please contact the Secretary before visiting so we can help with arrangements.

Our Community Breakfast is public. Stated meetings are Masonic meetings and are not public events.

WATCH IN THE EAST

The conversation continues

Explore Masonic history, symbolism, and fellowship with West Gate's YouTube channel. Visit, subscribe, and share a topic you would enjoy hearing about.

youtube.com/@InTheEast623



FIND US AND SAY HELLO

West Gate Lodge No. 623 F. & A.M.

2925 W. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43204

Email: info@westgate623.com

Website: www.westgate623.com

For driving directions, use the full street address in your navigation app or scan the directions code. If you have questions about parking, the entrance, or access needs, please email us before your visit.

DIRECTIONS



Scan for a route to the Lodge. The address above also works in your preferred map app.

KEEP IN TOUCH

For event details, community news submissions, or information about Freemasonry, email us. We would be glad to hear from you.