

HISTORIC TIMES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TOLEDO'S HISTORIC OLD WEST END



Keep the OWE Cool

Michael Szuberla

The Union of Concerned Scientists have an interesting tool that uses the best available data to forecast the local impacts of climate change: <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/killer-heat-interactive-tool>. By 2042, Toledo is on track for an average of 58 days over 90° and following 2070, Toledo will average 89 days a year above 90°. You might object that 90° degrees is bearable; however, in 2042 Toledo is on track for 23 days a year above 100° and by 2070, 49 days will exceed 100°. Finally, the model projects that from 2070-2099 a whopping 32 days a year will exceed 105°.

Fortunately, planting trees can help reduce urban heat islands. Green areas can be up to 7° cooler than grey spaces. Here's three things you can do to keep the OWE cool:

First, plant trees to shade your house, the sidewalk, and the street. If you rent, talk to your landlord. If you love your green yard, the best thing you can do to protect it from the extreme heat of the future is to plant a tree that will shade it. Second, let your elected officials know that you value a vibrant urban forest. Toledo has not had an urban forester on staff for many years. The City needs someone trained at a top forestry program who has the experience needed to create and lead a high functioning forestry department. Also, let your elected officials know that you want the City to create funding mechanisms that ensure that our urban forestry programs are fully funded. Street trees pay the City back through storm water interception, improved public health, and increased property values, but for too long, trees have been treated as a luxury, they are a necessity.

Third, get involved in neighborhood tree planting efforts. Neighbors and tree enthusiasts have started a volunteer tree nursery at Collingwood Presbyterian. If you want to increase your forestry knowledge, we are helping pilot a citizen forester training program. The trainings will take place in May. For more information about these neighborhood forestry efforts contact mszuberla@yahoo.com

W.O.W.E. Wed., May 4 Commons Park

6:30 pm - Robinwood At Bancroft
(See WOVE page for rain location)

Scottwood Community Garden

The Scottwood Community Garden work days will be held on the 4th Saturday of the month from 9 until noon, starting in April with the last work day in October. Extra workdays will be announced via Facebook and the Old West End newsletters. Currently, there are no plots available. If you would like more information on the garden, please contact Jen Robertson at jenrobertson619@gmail.com or at 557-249-8560.



Wednesday, May 18, 4:30 - 7pm
Glenwood Lutheran Church

Food Trucks

Baba's Eats & Lyle's Crepes

Top-floor décor

Our April top-floor décor winner is Jackie and Jared; the location of the décor is 720 Delaware. Our May top-floor décor picture is shown below. See the Historic Times December 2021 issue for complete information and rules for our game (or go on-line at www.toledooldwestend.com). Whoever wins the most games for the year will receive a \$100 gift card for Black Kite. To win the game for the month, you must be the first person to identify the location of the building, by its street address, in an email message to Donald.godfrey@utoledo.edu, with the subject heading Top-floor décor. The body of your message should have the street address of the building and your name. The deadline for responding is 5 PM on the 21st day of the month.



Association Tues., May 17 Flamb-OWE-nce Community House

2492 Scottwood Ave.
7:00 pm

FESTIVAL UPDATES



Scan this code for the latest updates.

See Insert for Neighborhood Festival Information

49TH ANNUAL • TOLEDO, OHIO

OLD WEST END

HISTORIC FESTIVAL

Kudos to:

Evelyn Bush

Toledo's 2022 Kid Mayor

Jane Petitjean

for being the author and artist behind "The Artist's Haggadah", featured in the Blade on Sunday April 10th.

To Do List . . .

"Wine Tasting"

Black Kite, Thurs, May 5

"Woodlawn Walkers"

Woodlawn Cemetery,

Wed., May 4, 9am

"Tree & Tombstone"

Woodlawn Cemetery,

Sun., May 15, 1-2:30pm

"Libbey Salon Lecture"

Libbey House, 6-8 pm,

May 5 & 19 \$10

O.W.E. & Area FUN



MEETING REMINDERS



Letter from the President

by Chris Hanley
847-899-4829

glenwoodpastor@gmail.com



Dear Landon, Gary, Ed, Chelsea, Ben, and the Libbey House team,

Thank you so much for your willingness to share your home with your fellow Old West Enders, the citizens of Toledo, and the fans of Historic Homes who will come from far and wide to celebrate the Old West End Festival. Putting your home on tour is an act of hospitable preservation and is one of the most wonderful gifts you can give our neighborhood.

Preserving a home means selecting which elements of the past may be pulled into a more beautiful future. I can only imagine the number of conversations, dreams, and decisions that it took to preserve your house in a way that not only celebrates its past but turned it into a home for you and for whomever else might live there in the future. So thank you for all the work that has gone on before this Festival to give your house a future.

But you've gone beyond that. By permitting the Association to place your home on tour, you are standing in a long line of Old West Enders who have opened their homes to the public to not only celebrate history but to invigorate Toledo's historical imagination. You're continuing a tradition of Old West Enders changing the script of the mansions that surround us; once these were little castles with a staff, accessible only to the richest of Toledo's citizens. You and those before you who have placed their houses on tour are opening them to a broader public than ever before so that all may enjoy the art and skill that went into their design.

This interplay of history and equity, preservation and hospitality, is what the Old West End is all about; it's our legacy and our gift to the entire city of Toledo. In 1909, Toledo held a week-long, international Carnivale, called the Wamba Festival. Our Festival revives and preserves the spirit of this event while widening it. In 2006, Old West Enders decided to revive the Wamba Parade from 1909 and make it zanier and less pompous. We are the most creative interpreters of Toledo's history, and our Festival is the key place where that happens.

In other words, we're not putting on a Festival to make money. We put on Festi-

Tuesday, May 10, 2022
O.W.E. Executive Board Meeting
Flamb-OWE-nce Community House
2492 Scottwood Ave. (7 pm)

Tuesday, May 17, 2022
Association Meeting
Flamb-OWE-nce Community House
2492 Scottwood Ave. (7 pm)

ALL NEIGHBORS ARE WELCOME!

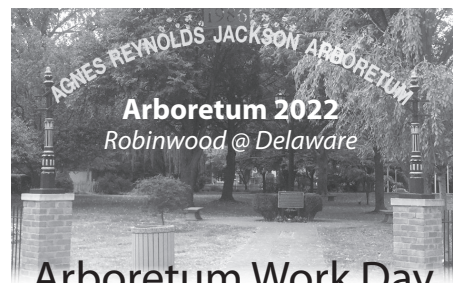
val to make memories. We make memories on new porches and with new friends, but we also make memories by building Toledo's collective memory about its distinct character and history - good, bad, and quirky. Festival is our artistic engagement with our past.

You, homeowners, are the bedrock of that Festival experience. Without homes to tour, we're another Bacchic, summer bash: lot's of fun, boozy, but lacking a deeper purpose or identity. Instead, we're rescuing a Visigothic King, Wamba, and a stuffy turn-of-the-century suburb from the dustbin of history, and making their present reality even better than they were in the past. Landon, Gary, Ed, Chelsea, Ben, and the Libbey House team, thank you for your part in making that happen.

**And now a note to all of you,
Old West Enders.**

I hope you will participate in Toledo's heritage too: volunteer for two hours. Invite a friend or partner or family and sign-up to guide folks through a house. Sell beer. Work the information desk. Two hours away from the party, that's all I'm asking. Two hours to help put on Toledo's best event of the year. The steering committee, committee chairs, house captains, and many of your neighbors have already given hours to planning Festival and stretching it farther north than it has been. Please join us in memory-making.

Your neighbor, Chris Hanley



Arboretum Work Day
Saturday, May 21st
9am - noon
Food Provided!!!

Save the Date!
OWES
Scavenger Hunt
Fundraiser
Sat., July 23, 2022



OLD WEST END SECURITY

Come up with a team of four, register (and pay), and then on the 23rd scour the neighborhood and find 'hidden' festival tee-shirts. The teams that find the most locations in the shortest amount of time will win fabulous prizes from Poco Loco, Jupmode, Balance and many more. Family friendly. Mark your calendars - it will be a GREAT time!

As spring has sprung! Now is a great time to do some Security Spring cleaning! **Examine your landscaping:** Trim shrubs and trees near windows and doors that provide hiding places for burglars, and prune limbs that serve as ladders to upper floors.

Advertise prominently any home security system you have installed. You might think about putting up signs, even if you don't have a system.

Keep your house looking lived in, when you are away: Arrange for the lawn to be mowed, packages picked up, install timers for selected lights, and leave the drapes or shades open, at least a bit.

Our patrols add an extra set of eyes on our homes and streets, making our neighborhood hospitable for residents and as inhospitable for crime as possible. We depend on our residents' monetary support to pay for these patrols. Churches, apartments, businesses and residential homes are all part of our supporter base. **More supporters = More patrols.**

For more information check our website: www.OldWestEndSecurity.com. **You can now join, pay, or donate online!!** It's easier than ever to show your support and help keep our neighborhood safe!



Sunday, June 19th, 6-8pm

Madison Avenue Band



The Women of The Old West End

WOWE Officers:
Carol Kutsche,
Toni Moore and
Tammy Michalak

Before the Consent Decree: In the Beginning

by David Neuendorff

"By the late 1870's Frank J. Scott, son of Toledo pioneer Jesup W. Scott, platted a new subdivision on family land off Monroe Street and west of Collingwood Avenue. Toledo's leading families began to build "out in the woods" in the west-end."** This was the beginning of the "Old West End" today. Originally, this was the site of "new" elegant homes for the wealthy and those on their way up. After residential development, however, others then wanted to locate in the thriving residential area.

What occurred was the replacement of residential uses by religious, educational, and civic and commercial institutions; uses that took root in "the west-end". A few houses were physically picked up and moved further into the neighborhood as sites were created along Collingwood and Monroe to create institutions shoe-horned into the residential areas. Most homes were demolished for the new site occupant.

You can still find copies of a book: "Historic Old West End - Toledo, Ohio" **, by the former resident: Lawrence R. Stein, January 1, 2005, containing fabulous pictures of the many grand residences that have been "lost" and whose very existence, is unfortunately, unknown by most current residents.

When you drive around the neighborhood today and observe a park, a parking lot, or vacant lot, there is a tale that goes with that observation. At one time, all of these sites were the locations of residential structures, and on some streets densely crowded!

For example, the site where the modern looking Executive Towers stands, built in 1964, 13 stories tall with 149 units, was previously a fabulous estate. Houses and later commercial structures occupied the site of Toledo Spain Park across from the Park Lane Hotel. The land at Bancroft and Robinwood was once the site of a grand Robinwood Avenue home, torn down for a gas station, which in turn through struggles, ultimately became the Commons Park, - instead of a gas station. Many Toledo hospitals started in the Old West End: Toledo Hospital, Flower Hospital, and Parkwood Hospital. The Agnes Reynolds Jackson Arboretum, now at Delaware and Robinwood, originally held residential buildings. Residential housing was then replaced by a hospital, called Robinwood Hospital, and finally St. Luke's. When St. Luke's left the neighborhood to move out to Maumee, the abandoned building was left in a deplorable

state, until, the degree of neglect caused Old West End neighborhood residents to sue the City of Toledo to enforce the law and ultimately have the dangerous structure removed. Women of the Old West End and the Old West End Association acquired the land and developed the Arboretum.

The Diocese of Toledo removed residential property on Collingwood Avenue, to build Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral at 2535 Collingwood Boulevard because they wanted to be part of our neighborhood. However, over the last few decades, they have purchased surrounding properties and allowed neglect, refusal to maintain, move, or sell to someone, who could have preserved, what are now destroyed residential properties. The Diocese demolished two wonderful grand homes on the southeast corner of Parkwood and Islington. A map search shows the properties lost for now green space behind the Cathedral. The northwest corner of Collingwood and Delaware, once the site of houses, then commercial development, was acquired and turned into a parking lot as were the properties across Collingwood at Collingwood and Melrose. The Diocese just completed demolition of another building, with the original residence still visible (from down the street) to enlarge the Collingwood and Melrose parking lot, yet again. Why move into a stable neighborhood and then slowly destroy it, to be apart from your neighbors?

Another glaring example is the Toledo Museum of Art that removed grand houses on Monroe Street and over the decades destroyed a house on Monroe Street for museum parking. There once was a vibrant row of housing on Lincoln Avenue, behind the museum, acquired for the sole purpose of creating more of a campus. The last decade saw the Museum take away a neighborhood park and the parking lot across Monroe Street for the Glass Pavilion.

There are many such examples of the loss of residential character through design

Celebrate Mom

The Libbey House Foundation & The Women of the Old West End Present

Mother's Day Tea



Sunday May 15th

(The Weekend after Mother's Day)

Seatings @ 11 am, 1pm & 3pm

Tickets are \$40.00 per person

At The Historic Libbey House
2008 Scottwood Avenue

Delicious Tea Sandwiches and Scrumptious Desserts

Reservations are required, with limited seating
Visit our website for reservations at www.libbeyhouse.org

Accessible Entrance

or neglect in the Old West End. All the holes or empty spots that now exist in our neighborhood call into question: WHY? They are a testament to the recognized need for the creation of the Historic District Overlay Ordinance 399-80, passed 6/10/1980! Also the real need for the "Consent Decree" when Old West End residents found that City government was, and is, ignoring the legal requirements to protect and preserve the "Old West End." The "Consent Decree" has become our shield to save us.

Next month we will explore some of the ways that the "Consent Decree" has been circumvented by those who consider personal profit over the common good.

COMMONS PARK

May Workdays: **May 21st** and **May 28th!**

May 28th is the the planting of all the annuals.

9:00a to 12:00noon

Food & Beverages Provided

UPCOMING WOWE MEETINGS
6:30 POTLUCK 7:00 MEETING
FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
All neighbors are welcome!

May 4 weather permitting **Commons Park**
In case of bad weather, meeting will be moved to 2483 Scottwood
June 1 weather permitting **Commons Park**




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2022 SEASON

July 8th **ParaNormia Ghost Hunt**

July 29-31st **RENT**

Tickets available @ brownpapertickets.com

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