



HISTORIC TIMES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TOLEDO'S HISTORIC OLD WEST END



OLD WEST END SUPPER CLUB July 2021

Do you want to get together to eat with new friends in the neighborhood? Want to try new cuisines, engage in lively conversation, get out of the house again, and connect with OWE residents?

The Old West End Supper Club began in January of 2019. Four groups of ten formed, including a vegan group. The purpose of the club was to enable members to forge new friendships, enhance existing ones, and enjoy wonderful food. Yes, it was wonderful food. In my group of ten, my husband and I had the pleasure of eating Spanish, French, Arabic/Turkish, French and barbeque food. Some of the presentations were over the top, complete with wine pairings. Others were simpler. It all was wonderful. We made new friends, saw some beautiful homes, and enjoyed good food and drink.

Unfortunately, COVID reared its ugly head in the winter of 2020 just when the groups were reconfigured and starting a second round. Naturally, the OWE Supper Club shut down in February of 2020. Now that COVID has settled down, the OWE Supper Club is starting once again. The target date for beginning is September of 2021 with sign-ups occurring in the month of August 2021.

The Club is open to vaccinated adults-singles, couples, siblings, friends. LGBTQ and diversity friendly. All are welcome. People will be randomly assigned to a group. The list of members of each group will be shared with others in the group. The organizer (Jennifer Hanson) encourages an individual or couple to step forward to host the first dinner in September 2021. From there, groups will establish a schedule for the remainder of the dinners.

Interested? The OWE Supper Club welcomes all who are fully vaccinated. The names of hosts will be put into a hat and groups determined at random.

For more information and to sign up, jalehanson@yahoo.com

Area Community Garden Work Days

Scottwood Community Garden
1st Saturday of each month

Common's Park August 14, 9am

Arboretum August 14, 9am

Kudos to:

Kira Mountjoy-Pepka & Tara Joshi
for your tree saving efforts in the 2500 block of Scottwood Ave. also thank you to: **Sue Postal, Dave Neuendorf, Tammy Michalak, Scott Ramsey, Dave Kosmyna and Sara Haynes.**

Karen Albright, Shante Armstrong Michelle Atkinson, Steve Atkinson David Dalton, Hayley Howard John Howard, Sarah Jenkins, Holly Monsos, Ramona Olvera & Melissa Schmitt

for attending ARJA Yoga classes and donating, collectively \$300 to the ARJA.

To Do List . . .

"Jeep Fest" Aug. 6-8

"Toledo Pride" Aug. 21

Live @ the Park, 12-8pm

Promenade Park

"Toledo Pride" Aug. 22

Rainbow Brunch Crawl,

2-5pm, Adams St.

"Smooth Edge 2"

ARJA Concert, Sunday

Aug. 15th, 6-8pm

"Extra Stout"

ARJA Concert, Sunday

Aug. 29th, 6-8pm

"Dawn & Hawkes"

Over Yonder Concert

House, Virginia St.

Aug. 28, \$\$, RSVP

OverYonderConcertHouse@gmail.com

O.W.E. & Area FUN

Business Spotlight

Guaranteed Drywall & Plaster, LLC

On any given day, as you drive through the streets of the Old West End, there is a very good chance you will spot a white van with a red decal on its side saying **Guaranteed Drywall**. The van belongs to the owner of the business, Larry Kosakowski (or "Koz" to his friends.)

Koz has over 40 years of experience hanging and finishing drywall and dryvit, but the main reason he spends so much time in the beautiful homes of the OWE is his expertise in plaster finish work.

According to Koz, drywall and plaster finishing are very different skill sets and if you are called to repair plaster walls, you better know what you are doing because so many homes in the OWE are pre-1950 or older, the walls and ceilings are plaster.

Koz started learning his craft right out of high school, working as a "goffer" for a small company named Bob's Drywall doing residential work then went to Russ Evola Drywall doing houses, apartment complexes and commercial work. eventually earning his journeyman's card. He took a break from the trades and went to work for Roadway Express, working on the docks for about 13 years.

Koz was drawn back to the work in 1986 and made it his lifelong career. He credits his time working at Ohio Ceiling with his skill at plaster work, working under the tutelage of Adam "J.R." Majewski and an old German master plasterer named Klink.

Koz credits prominent Toledo architect Tom Sullivan for encouraging him to start his own company. So, after completing a business course and obtaining his Articles of Incorporation and other needed documentation, **Guaranteed Drywall** was open for business in 1991.

The past several years have been extremely busy for Koz who has been working on major projects in the downtown area with Dave & Dean Ball of STS Property Management as well as extensive work on the Libbey House for Robert Zollweg (Libbey Foundation).

I always do whatever it takes to do the best I can.

Larry Kosakowski 419-476-3246



W.O.W.E. Aug. 4
Toni Moore
2369 Robinwood Ave.

Assoc. Picnic
Aug. 17
6pm ARJA & Zoom



Letter from the President

by Sara Haynes
419-349-1648
slhaynesoh@gmail.com



COME OUT AND CHECK OUT NEW MEETING FORMAT!

For those of you who have not attended an OWEA meeting I would encourage you all to do so. We have changed the format of the meetings to reduce the number of 'verbal reports' from committee chairs and spend more time during the meeting hearing from neighbors, city representatives or others who are interested in presenting a topic to our unique neighborhood. As an example, at July's meeting we had a representative from the Toledo Area Sanitary District informing us about mosquitoes and how to keep those pesky fliers in check. There are many services provided FREE to neighborhoods and individuals to keep the mosquito population to a minimum. For more information visit ToledoMosquito.org. A second speaker came up from Columbus to provide information on the Warren's Common project. If you would like a copy of the presentation please contact me and I will send you a PDF to your email address.

For anyone that was trying to join via Zoom, we had a little technical problem this month, but we will continue to plan on meeting in the Arboretum in person as well as having a Zoom link.

August's meeting is our annual picnic meeting which is light on content and heavy on socializing with neighbors. Attending is an easy way to begin to become a ACTIVE OWEA member. Per our By-laws, you must be 18+ and have attended at least two full meetings in the six months prior to action to be voted on. Another perk of August's meeting is free food and beverages....we just ask that you bring a dish to share if possible.

UPDATED meeting information and Zoom link can be found on the OWEA website: www.toledooldwestend.com/events/ as well as on OWEA Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/HistoricOldWestEnd>). OWEA meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM.

Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021
O.W.E. Executive Board Meeting
Location TBD (6 pm)
Tuesday, Aug. 17, 2021
ASSOCIATION PICNIC
In the ARJA & via ZOOM (6 pm)
NEIGHBORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

SWAG AVAILABLE! OWE stickers, new neighbor packets and walking tour brochures are available.

As mentioned in previous columns, new neighbor packets are here. We are still working out the distribution process with WOWE, but in the interim, if you are a new neighbor and would like one, please contact me, Sara Haynes, or Toni Moore and we will get a packet to you. Same goes for walking tour brochures...it is a great way to learn about the neighborhood architecture and get some steps in.

Lastly, Dan Schmitt has a limited number of MAGNETIC OWE stickers available. These magnets are designed to put on your cars and show your pride in OWE. If you would like a MAGNETIC sticker, the cost is \$5 (to cover the cost). Contact me Sara Haynes 419.349.1648 or slhaynesoh@gmail.com and we can figure out how to connect. The regular OWEA 'sticky' bumper stickers are free.

Make August active, abundant, and accomplished! (AND GET vaccinated!)

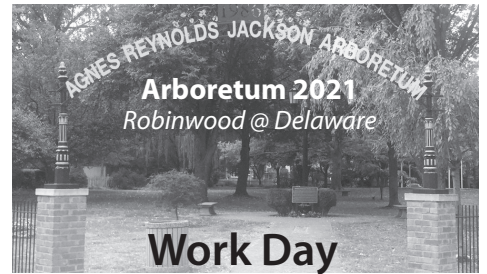


OLD WEST END SECURITY

Do you know your neighbor's? Take a moment to check the locks on your garage and garden shed. Are they in good working order? And check any perimeter fencing around your yard. Is it secure?

Can't sleep at night? Then just sit in a window or your second floor porch and just watch the neighborhood with your cell phone. See anything suspicious, call 911 and take a picture or a video.

Did you know Old West End Security has a Facebook page that posts criminal activity direct from the Toledo Police Department? If you are a victim of crime or see suspicious activity, please post it there too. Or call 419-902-0982 or email oldwestendsecurity.com. Join your neighbors and become a subscriber!! It's your neighborhood, too.



Work Day
Saturday, Aug. 14th
9am - noon Food Provided!!!



Sunday, Aug. 15th, 6-8pm

Smooth Edge 2

Sponsored By: **Massage Bliss**

Sunday, Aug. 29th, 6-8pm

Extra Stout

Sponsored By: **Scottwood Inn**

Business Networking Group

BNG Business Networking Group we'll meet from 6:30 to 7:30 on August 19th at the community house on the corner of Scottwood and Delaware. We had a great meeting there to kick off registration, and will continue to shore up new vendors, past vendors, and other participants for the ARJA vendor spaces. We will also explore increasing participation among neighbors for the neighborhood garage sale. Our focus will also be on finding more sponsors for our event, and we're looking forward to seeing you there!



ARJA vendor registration and neighborhood yard / garage sale participation are currently up and running at www.toledooldwestend.com under the Autumn Market tab. Check out the web page and sign up! Tell all your friends who are crafters, artist, nonprofits who would like to share information, or anyone else who doesn't live in the neighborhood about this event so they can engage us, too! Looking forward to seeing the streets full of people and buying stuff from the neighborhood again! More information will follow on facebook, and we will advertise through other venues, too.



The Women of The Old West End

WOWE Officers: Carol Kutsche, Toni Moore & Tammy Michalak

"WE ARE GOING TO CUT YOUR TREES DOWN"

From Carol Kutsche

The trucks and chain saws showed up on a Monday morning, and the 2500 hundred block of Scottwood Avenue was alive with flying sawdust and distraught neighbors witnessing the felling of three trees. All the trees on the block were marked with an "X" to be taken down, and shade on the street would be only a memory.

Two months ago, Kira Mountjoy-Pepka and her partner, John moved from the West Coast and found their way to their new, old home in the Old West End in the 2500 block of Scottwood. They moved - site unseen. The couple had a gut feeling about Ohio, and found the OWE website that beckoned: "come for the houses and stay for the people". Climate change influenced their choice as was John's love for restoring houses; John had restored a Craftsman home. Kira shared, that they loved being involved with community, but had no idea that involvement would truly begin with the roar of a chain saw on their street.

The realization that she and her neighbors were about to become losers did not take long to sink in. Kira reached out to councilman Nick Komives, who also lives on the block. She also reached out to neighbors on the block and found out that nobody wanted to see the trees go. (Why had not one property owner been alerted to their removal?) When the workmen arrived to begin the next round of destruction, they found people standing underneath the tree by their houses, arms wrapped around the trees in protest . . . true tree huggers! The passion for keeping the trees was revealed to anyone that would take note!

Kira shared that the whole block stayed motivated to protect the remaining trees all week. What happened next was that councilman Komives met with Douglas Stephens, City of Toledo, Deputy Director of Utilities and reexamined the action plan for the wa-

terline project that threatened the block's tree canopy. Mr. Stephens was reported in the "Blade" to say, "What we were able to do is go back, look at EPA requirements, and move that water main around, and make it work to be in compliance, and at the same time, get our line out of the tree line. When we started getting the level of feedback that we were getting, we wanted to go back and see what we could do to compromise."

Kira found her way to others in the neighborhood for encouragement and information: Sue Postal, David Kosmyna, Scott Ramsey, David Neuendorff and Tammy Michalak. It is an understatement to say that the Old West End has a history of making efforts to save our tree canopy. The Toledo Municipal Code classifies cutting trees as an 'environmental change' forbidden without approval by the Historic District Commission.

What happened on Scottwood was remarkable. One person chose to become a leader. Neighbors recognized the beauty and value of what they stood to lose and came together to protect the trees. This time they were heard and changed minds to work a little harder to save the historic tree canopy which should be inherently ours.

The Old West End Urban Forest and the Benefits of Urban Trees

From neighbor: Mike Szuberla

The Old West End has always been a neighborhood within an urban forest. Unfortunately, our urban forest has struggled in recent years because of the Emerald Ash Borer, city budget cuts, and some bad decisions. To maintain a healthy urban forest, we need to maintain and plant a diverse mosaic of trees across our yards and public spaces. Fortunately, the benefits of urban trees far outweigh their costs.

Here are a few of the benefits of urban trees:

Comfort and beauty: Trees shade homes, yards, and streets to keep surface temperatures comfortable. They also take in and evaporate water which cools the air around them.

Energy emissions reduction: Trees shade buildings to reduce air conditioning use. They even reduce heating costs by serving as a windbreak.

Crime reduction: A 2015 study of crime and tree cover in New Haven, Connecticut concluded that "a 10 percent increase in tree canopy was associated with a 15 percent decrease in violent crime and also a 14 percent decrease in property crime." The University of California found similar results related to graffiti and vandalism; areas with sparse vegetation received 90% of the vandalism as opposed to landscaped areas (Hladky, 2019). Quite simply, green places encourage

socializing which increases the numbers of "eyes on the street." Communities with lush urban forests and robust social lives suffer fewer crimes.

Air pollution reduction: Trees absorb carbon and remove pollutants from the atmosphere. This can reduce instances of asthma and other respiratory ailments.

Water quality improvement: Trees act as water filters, taking in dirty surface water and absorbing nitrogen and phosphorus into the soil.

Flooding reduction: Trees intercept rainfall and reduce runoff.

Wildlife habitat: Birds and other critters rely on trees for shelter, food, and nesting.

Traffic calming: Trees that are visible from the street have been shown to slow traffic and increase pedestrian safety.

Improved aesthetics: Trees enhance the looks and value of any property. Zhang et al.'s study of urban residents (2007) found that nearly all survey participants rated trees on a property as very important (75%) or important (21%) when selecting a residence. Additionally, they found that survey participants also rated trees in a community as very important (77%) or important (20%) when selecting a residence. Thus, trees are important to nearly everyone when considering a home or neighborhood. Unsurprisingly, numerous studies have demonstrated that trees significantly increase property values - often by as much as 10%

Improved human health: Many studies have found connections between exposure to nature and better mental and physical health; studies have shown that spending time in nature lowers blood pressure.

Children's Day 2021 Sunday, Oct. 3rd

1:00PM - 4:00PM

Here is the link for volunteer sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d4eaeac2ea6fd0-owechildrens>

Anyone interested in becoming a sponsor can also contact :

Christine Palmer 567-377-0277

cpcpchurch@gmail.com

HARVEST HIGH TEA

Mark Your calendar

Sept. 25th & 26th

Presented by:

Women of The Old West End
& The Libbey House Foundation

\$30.00 per person

Delicious Tea Sandwiches, Desserts
& Specialty Teas

Ticket Information: www.libbeyhouse.org

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

August 4th Toni Moore
2369 Robinwood Ave.
Sept. 1st Sawers & Illenden
2702 Parkwood Ave.

The Danberry Co., Realtors

3624 Navarre Av., Oregon, Oh 43616



Judy Stone, ABR, SHS, ePro, CARES
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419-241-1717

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