

HISTORIC TIMES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TOLEDO'S HISTORIC OLD WEST END



By Dave Kosmyna

Friends, another terrific festival has come and gone bringing great joy, as always. I'm writing to encourage you to consider putting your home on the Festival House Tour. While it is certainly a lot of work, as a two-time survivor, I can tell you: "it's worth it!"

You might think your home isn't special or grand enough. Horsefeathers! EVERY home has a story to tell and every home is unique. There's ALWAYS something important to say about each home; and your community is here to help you through this. I've written a number of tour scripts over the years and have yet to find a house that wasn't thrilling to talk about.

You might be overwhelmed by people going through every inch of your house and having no personal space all weekend long. Not So! You choose your terms. Show one floor. Open up your home for just one day. You get to pick what works for you. And our house captains are extremely diligent about the safety of your personal space and keeping the tour exactly what you choose it to be.

Some Tips: PLAN AHEAD. We were approached about the 2017 tour, and deferred that request a full year so we would have time to tackle some projects that we really wanted the public to appreciate. ASK FORMER HOSTS. If you're not sure what to do, there's a ton of former hosts with great tips, valuable experience, and welcome words of encouragement.

The house tours are about **ADVOCACY**. This is the chance to invite the community to take a personal look at our lives. And, that courageous gesture has a deep impact on "outsiders" by cultivating their appreciation and respect for our neighborhood. We need advocates, especially outside the OWE, to help champion our mission; to broadcast the beauty of our homes; to revel in the sincerity, diversity, and inclusiveness of our community. Go Ahead! Go For It! Your neighbors are here to help you through!

The View from the Sidewalk

by a walker!

Festival is over, IT was very successful, but I'm not sure I'd agree with the idea that we're weird! Anyway, summer is upon us, full force midmonth. Maybe it'll be like last year, a blast of heat then much more comfortable for the rest of summer.

There was a listing in the Blade recently of the city's plan to repair sidewalks damaged by city-planted trees. There were quite a few in the OWE, and as a walker, I am pleased to see that. There are a number of other sidewalks obviously damaged by driving vehicles over them, and they puddle water, mud and ice.

Have you seen the sign in the window of a storefront on Collingwood, down the row from Black Kite, announcing that the restaurant to be known as Olive's would be coming soon? A couple of entrepreneurs had hoped to be open by Festival, but obviously that didn't happen. I am acquainted with both of them, and have enjoyed the culinary talents of the one who grew up in the OWE (he makes pasta from scratch, folks!) I also know the lively young lady for whom the restaurant is named. I wish them great success!



FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

**The Agnes Reynolds Jackson Arboretum
Saturday, Aug. 4, 2018 10am-5pm
(rain date: Sun., Aug. 5)**

This year's Natural Living Festival is an impressive expansion of what began several years ago as an informal cloth diaper swap. Discussions about green-living practices and community-building sparked the desire to organize and implement a larger event that would connect with local businesses and a wider range of resources

The Festival's founder, Shelly DeMeo (Varelli) is excited to offer a fun, peace-filled community event filled with educational presenters, crafts and activities for adults and children that focus on the inherent mission of the festival "assisting people with knowledge and support to choose and sustain holistic lifestyle practices." Further, the goal became larger, with "an emphasis on the importance of building a strong local community," by organizing the event so that it may act "as a platform for local businesses and artists to advertise goods and services."

This year's festival promises to be bigger and better than ever. The philosophy of green-practices and earth-friendly, conscious living is important and accessible to everyone; the **Natural Living Festival** provides a fun and educational opportunity for bringing the inherent issues to the forefront.

For more information, visit: www.kneadingtimeholistictherapy.com/natural-living-festival or contact:

Shelly DeMeo (Varelli), (419)699-2279
shelly.onelove@gmail.com

Kudos to:

Pam Johnson & Joyce Singer
for weeding and replanting the
Glenwood Park Garden

Dustin Hostetler

for helping to replace the missing bricks in the ARJA Delaware Flower Bed

Jessica Hildreth for creating beautiful Yarn Bombs on the ARJA Gazebo

Jack Wilson for creating/fabricating the beautiful new ARJA Gates

Historic Times Delivery Person Needed!

We need someone to be one of the three Delivery People that delivers the newsletter to the Couriers. This volunteer job is a bit more involved. It includes someone to take the newsletters and count out the necessary numbers, put them into bags and then delivering them to the different couriers around the neighborhood. There are 12 bags that need to be filled and delivered in the first couple of days of each month. Approx. 1 hour commitment per month. Please contact Kent Illenden at 419-367-9155 if you can help.

MEETING REMINDERS



O.W.E.N.I.
July 17, 6:00pm
Kent Branch Library

W.O.W.E.
July 11, 6:30pm
Michael's Cafe

O.W.E. Association
July 17, 7:30pm
Pride Room @ C.A.C.



Letter from the President

by Jeni Belt



Our 47th Old West End Festival was a tremendous success, thanks in no small part to Mother Nature, and in large measure to the hard work of hundreds of volunteers. While the dust is still settling on our final numbers, we estimate that we raised net revenue of approximately \$25,000 (actual numbers will be provided when all outstanding invoices are submitted and paid). So many people who are not active members of the Association (or avid readers of this newsletter) often ask me what our organization does with this money, so this month's column will address the answer to that question.

Prior to its sale in 2015, proceeds from Festival were used to cover the annual Association budget and to subsidize MansionView, a bed and breakfast owned by the Association whose revenues did not cover its operating costs, maintenance, and taxes. Now that that liability has disappeared, proceeds from Festival support the annual Association budget and two major initiatives: **1)** a grant program which provides funds twice annually for projects that directly benefit the neighborhood, and **2)** an endowment, which, when adequate, will be used to fund a staff position to further the efforts of the neighborhood in the areas of preservation, community-building, grant-writing, education, advocacy, and other areas of interest to our neighbors.

The grant program is administered by our Neighborhood Beautification and Improvement Committee. Since its inception in 2016, this Committee has awarded over \$45,000 in grant funds for neighborhood projects, ranging from benches, to murals, to planters, educational events, to name a few.

The endowment, which was opened with \$150,000 of the MansionView proceeds, has grown to just over \$220,000 in 3 years. While we still have a ways to go until this fund will yield sufficient interest to allow us to draw from it to fund a staff position, we have made great strides toward this goal in a short span of time.

This means that every dollar spent as well as every volunteer contribution during Festival yields a direct and immediate return to the neighborhood and supports a long-term strategy for sustainability and growth. Thank you to all who participate with your time, talent, and resources, and thank you to those who may not enjoy, but nonetheless tolerate our crazy and eclectic weekend fundraiser.

Tuesday, July 10, 2018
O.W.E. Executive Board Meeting
 6 p.m. at Deb Kienzle's Home
 2238 Scottwood Ave.
 Tuesday, July 17, 2018
Association Meeting
 7:30 p.m. at the CAC, Pride Room
EVERYONE IS ALWAYS WELCOME!

Our June Association meeting featured Preserve! Toledo, a new organization dedicated to historic preservation in Toledo. Our July meeting takes place July 17 at 7:30 pm in the Pride Room at Collingwood Arts Center. Hope to see you there!

Entrepreneurship Committee Business of the Month **Everyday Arcana**

This was started by Riordan Glynn and has been in the Old West End since 2012. We specialize in high quality essential oils, a variety of incense, handmade beeswax candles, and many more items related to light and scent. We also offer custom blended and empowered oils for specific purposes such as business success and money drawing as well as other supplies for practitioners of Earth-based religions.

The goal of Everyday Arcana is to provide people with the products they need to change their environments and take control of their lives. With environment in mind, we take pride in sourcing organically grown and sustainably wild harvested ingredients.

Find us on Facebook or at:

www.everydayarcana.com

The next OWEA Entrepreneurship Committee Meeting will be on **Thursday July 12 at 6:00** in the Collingwood Arts Center Pride Room

There's a lot happening with OWENI right now. Our **Unity in the Community picnic**



was a mild success, despite periods of pouring rain. We were still able to serve about 80 neighbors and give away hundreds of dollars worth of raffle prizes. We have replanted a **pollinator garden** at the corners of Detroit and Central Ave, and will be scheduling community work days throughout the rest of the season. More information to come about that! A youth **poetry workshop** led by local artist Hunter Prey will begin at Kent Library on July 11, and run every consecutive Wednesday and Thursday from 1:30pm-3:30pm. The signup sheet and flyer are posted at Kent Library! Our July 17th community meeting will have representatives from the **Drug Abuse Response Team (D.A.R.T.)** to inform neighbors about their organization and offer information on the opioid crisis. The meeting will be at our normal time of 6pm at Kent Library. Hope to see you there!



Agnes Reynolds Jackson Arboretum 2018
 Robinwood @ Delaware

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



Sunday, July 8 **The Essentials**

Sponsored By: **Jack & Mary Lindberg**

Sunday, July 22 **Polka Floyd**

Sponsored By: **Schmitt & Company**



OLD WEST END SECURITY

Neighbors! Two very important things to share with you this month:

1) The "OWE Creeper" took a break for a little while but seems to be back. He's been spotted in our neighborhood and in the Birkhead Place area looking into windows at night and trying doors. Keep your doors locked, at all times, and turn your exterior lights on. Please invest in a home security system, if you do not have one already. TPD and our patrols have been diligently looking to stop this. If you see anyone on your property lurking about, call 911.

2) This year we will not be having our annual Margarita Cruise. HOWEVER, we will be hosting an **Old West End-themed Scavenger Hunt** in the neighborhood! There will be prizes for best hunters and best team costumes. That's right, teams of up to 5 people (or play by yourselves)... so start gathering team mates and visit OldWestEndSecurity.com to sign up. The OWE Scavenger Hunt is **Saturday, August 25th at 5pm sharp at 612 Winthrop** (NW corner of Parkwood). Call if you have any questions or prefer to register over the phone. \$20/person (before Aug. 11) or \$25/person (after Aug. 11) includes the hunt, PIZZA, and drinks!

Thanks for your support! The 2018 Old West End Security Board. Old West End Security is a non-profit volunteer group of your neighbors. We contract private security officers to patrol our streets. This is made possible through the support of our residents. Please join us by visiting OldWestEndSecurity.com.



The Women of The Old West End

WOWE Officers:
Carol Kutsche, Toni Moore
& Tammy Michalak



Historic Lighting for Bancroft

As reported in the June newsletter, WOWE representatives Tammy Michalak and Toni Moore met with Doug Stephens, City of Toledo Engineer Dept. and Meg Adams of First Energy who reported in May that the Historic Lighting would happen after the Old West End Festival. To date several phone calls and e-mails have gone unanswered regarding a "start date". We are hoping it is because the lights have not come in yet or that another work order took precedence. In any case the Bancroft Beautification Committee will stay vigilant to make sure that the promised historic lighting is installed.

LAWSUIT FILED REGARDING GROUP HOME ISSUE

On Tuesday April 10th, Mayor Kapczukiewicz cast the deciding vote to allow Unison their requested group home in District 4. This meant that the City once again ignored their own law of a 500 ft. spacing requirement between Group Homes and Similar facilities.

A defeat again for District 4. See below.

- District 1 - 3 Group Homes
- District 2 - 3 Group Homes
- District 3 - 2 Group Homes
- District 4 - 25 Group Homes**
- District 5 - 5 Group Homes
- District 6 - 1 Group Home

WOWE and the Historic Vistula Foundation have hired attorney Terry Lodge to litigate as the City continues to ignore their laws regarding spacing (500 ft) between Group Homes.

If you are interested in hearing about the Lawsuit, Attorney Terry Lodge will attend the July WOWE meeting to explain and answer any questions you may have.



Traffic Study for Bancroft

Reported in the May newsletter, the Bancroft Beautification Team did receive an inch thick study regarding Bancroft (3 years overdue). And as reported several questions that we asked were not addressed in the study. To date we are still waiting for answers from Gary Stookey of the Transportation Dept. as he was to get back with us with answers to the questions originally asked. See below:

- 1) a comparison of the speed, counts, pedestrian gap analysis, and accident counts (pre-construction) to understand the impact of removing the traffic signals and the measures implemented to calm traffic (narrowing of road, bump outs, etc.),
- 2) a review of any visual obstructions for vehicles / pedestrians to cross Bancroft (specifically where on street bump out parking was added), and
- 3) traffic counts and pedestrian crossings for Robinwood Avenue.

Stay tuned.

This issue is also being monitored by the Bancroft Beautification Committee.

WATER ISSUE

(From Dave Neuendorff)

If you need information about the current water issue please go to water-watchdog.org where you can follow what is happening.

Also, attend the next WOWE meeting and have some of your questions answered about the Toledo Area Water Authority (TAWA). Member Dave Neuendorff will share information and answer your questions on this subject.

Colorful Refuse Bags

WOWE has 2M thick Refuse Bags for sale. For those who have purchased them in the past and have asked for them again they are here. By box, the colors are Green, Yellow, Orange, Teal & Purple. \$30.00 per box of 80 bags.

We will mix up a box of colors if you wish. They are very sturdy and will not break even when dragged across a sidewalk.



With much gratitude WOWE says a heartfelt "Thank You" to all who helped ready the Commons for festival and beyond. 30 Flats of flowers have a new home due to the efforts of:

Carol Kutsche, Shirley Johnson, Tammy & Nate Michalak, Dave Urbank, Jim Logan, Mary Sawers, Debbie Stambaugh, Sandy Frank, Dave & Leslie Neuendorff, Ken Schumaker, Pastor Chris Hanley, George Lemble, Toni & Dave Moore, and an amazing team of AmeriCorp volunteers that include: Cheyenne Good, McKenna Cole, JB, Aiden Crimmins, Gideon MWB, Edwin Salamo and Nola Newell-Schindler

They loved being in the neighborhood and enjoyed the Festival too.

July Maintenance Day

Saturday, July 14th 9am

Breakfast served to all who volunteer.

UPCOMING WOWE MEETINGS

6:30 POTLUCK 7:00 MEETING

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

All neighbors are welcome!

Please join us and learn how WOWE is making a difference for our neighborhood

July 11, 2018 Michael's Cafe & Grill

901 Monroe St.

(The July meeting is one week later)

August 1, TBD

Sept. 5, Mary Sawers & Kent Illenden

2702 Parkwood Ave.

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Sundays 10 a.m. Coffee, 10:30 Gathering & Discussion
2108 Collingwood (2nd Fl Chapel, Collingwood Presbyterian)

Your Local Branch in the Old West End!



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CLASSIFIEDS

FREE COMMUNITY MEAL

the last Sunday of each month from 4 - 5 pm at Collingwood Presbyterian Church, 2108 Collingwood Blvd. Entrance off Floyd Street, Handicapped Accessible. Info. call 419-243-3275