

HISTORIC TIMES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TOLEDO'S HISTORIC OLD WEST END



50TH ANNUAL • TOLEDO, OHIO

OLD WEST END

GOLDEN JUBILEE

HISTORIC FESTIVAL

See Festival Insert for Updates or Scan this QR Code



Pancakes for Preservation

Sunday, June 4

8am until Noon

This Fundraiser is sponsored by the OWE Preservation Committee \$7.00 for a stack of pancakes, sausage, juice or coffee.
2492 Scottwood Ave.

OWE LITTER LEAGUE

Save the Date!

Join the OWE Litter League **May 6** from 9:00 to 11:30 to clean up the Detroit/75 ramp. Register at <https://www.ktlcb.org/ramp-it-up-toledo>. Help clean up the neighborhood in preparation for Festival, on May 20, from 9:30 to 11:30. Pick up supplies at the Arboretum, and you can choose your own adventure. Join OWE Litter League Facebook group at: facebook.com/groups/owelitterleague. Questions? Andrew @ 419-889-8785.

Top-floor décor

Our April top-floor décor location is 2237 Parkwood. The winner is Mary Glowacki. Our May top-floor décor picture is shown below. I will keep a record of all those who correctly identify the top floor décor by 5 PM on the 15th of each month, and the winner of the \$100 gift card for Black Kite will be whoever has the highest number of correct identifications for the year. Building locations are within the region bounded by both sides of Collingwood, Monroe, Maplewood, and Central. A correct response identifies 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.



Kudos to:

Robert Zollweg

and the **Libbey House Foundation** for contributing their beautiful space for the Neuendorff reception.

Toni Moore and WOVE

for celebrating longtime neighbors Dave and Leslie Neuendorff with a beautiful reception.

Saturday, May 6, 2023

Toledo Plant Exchange

Lucas County Fairgrounds
8:30-10:00 am - Plant Drop Off
(Please label plants)
9:00-9:50 am - Info. Booths
10:00-11:30 am - Plant Distribution
5 Free plants per person
419-578-6783

To Do List...
"Wine Tasting"
May 11, Black Kite, 5pm
"Mothers Day Tea"
Sun., May 21, Libbey House
11am, 1:00 & 3:00pm
www.libbeyhouse.org
O.W.E. & Area FUN

MEETING REMINDERS

W.O.W.E.
Wednesday, May 3, 6:30pm
Spagetti Warehouse 42 South Superior St.

O.W.E. Association
Tuesday, May 16, 7pm
Collingwood Presbyterian Church



Letter from the President

by Chris Hanley
847-899-4829

glenwoodpastor@gmail.com



Dear Old West Enders,

Since it's the 50th Old West Festival, the Golden Jubilee, I wanted to share some Festival trivia, drawn from research at the Local History section of the library and from an August 2000 Blade retrospective.

-Many know that the parade during the OWE Festival finds its roots in the King Wamba Carnival or "Mardi Gras of the North" celebrated in Toledo in 1909.

-In order to play up Toledo's nominal Spanish connection, they invited the actual King of Spain.

-King Alfonso XIII declined the invitation but sent an emissary who brought a sword from the famous sword makers of Toledo which I'm told still hangs in the office of The Blade.

-Toledo, Ohio, became the first town-twinning city in North America through its relationship with Toledo, Spain. They were formally recognized as sister cities in 1931.

-Continuing to play with Spanish connections, these carnival party planners selected a little-known King Wamba, who ruled Visigothic Spain from 672 to 680, to become the name and face of their international carnival because the capital of Spain at this time was... Toledo. (I love imagining this scene. They're looking for a King of Spain who ruled from Toledo, and then a nerd in a three-piece suit who had read Charles Morris' 1898 volume, *Historical Tales: Spanish*, says, "What about Wamba?" And the room goes wild because it's undeniably fun to say.)

-The planners, a handful of the city's wealthiest citizens, styled their planning team as the Mystic Order of Odelot. Yes, Toledo spelled backwards.

-There's a fun myth about how Wamba was selected to rule. You will hear it if you come to the Coronation Ceremony following the parade on the steps of the Art Museum. The historical Wamba seems to have had his head shaved like a monk in his sleep by order of a usurper and was forced to step down from the throne because this mark of holy order invalidated his claim to rule.

-The place of the 1909 coronation of King Wamba and Queen Sancha is now called 'Toledo Spain Plaza' and has under-

Tuesday, May 9, 2023
O.W.E. Executive Board Meeting
Ford Mansion, 2205 Collingwood (7 pm)

Tuesday, May 16, 2023
Association Meeting
Collingwood Presbyterian Church (7 pm)
ALL NEIGHBORS ARE WELCOME!

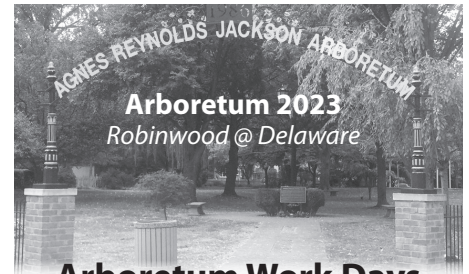
gone a transformation as 'Peace and Healing Commons.'

-Visionaries Mark Moffett and Condessa Croninger brought esoteric Toledo history into the present by staging the King Wamba Carnival Parade during Festival. This has now become an annual tradition with new Royals selected each year by the Parade Committee. Also, several of these royals have queered ideas of what are kings and queens in fantastic ways.

-The Wamba Carnival did not return in 1910. The populace - which had really picked up Wamba fever with Wamba cards, Wamba cigars, and even a Wamba baseball league - was not really allowed to do anything other than spectate until the last day of the Festival was a 'free admission' day with masks permitted. (Then things got wild.) According to one historian, "Wamba Week was too aristocratic to become the basis of a folk festival."

The 50th Golden Jubilee of the Festival is a different kind of carnival. It's a festival put on by neighbors for neighbors, for the city, and for anyone else lucky enough to attend. If you want to be a part of a carnival like this you can join your neighbors who have put in so many hours to plan and organize this event by volunteering for a few hours on June 3rd and 4th; house docents and Children's Activities are an area of special need.

Your neighbor,
Chris Hanley



Arboretum Work Days

Saturday, May 20th
9am - noon
Food Provided!!!

AND

Sunday, May 28th
@ 1pm

Please help us get the Arboretum ready for Festival. We'll need help spreading mulch, planting flowers and general clean up. The park is a central part of Festival and we want it to be spectacular for our 50th Anniversary!!!

Donations are still being collected for the **WGTE Toledo Stories/Old West End** Contact: www.toledooldwestend.com/wgte-owe

Monday, May 1, 2023
O.W.E. Security Meeting
Kent Branch Library, (7:00 pm)

Monday, May 21, 2023
Preservation Meeting
Ford Mansion, (7:00 pm)



OLD WEST END SECURITY

Monthly Security Tips

As we enter the spring break and summer travel seasons, remember to keep your homes secure to limit opportunities for misfortune.

- Keep it simple, Lock your doors and windows.
- Instead of keeping a spare key in a common location (like a mailbox, under the doormat, or on a nail behind the garage) consider a more covert approach. Wrap the key in foil, or put it in a small container, and bury it where you can easily find it if you need it.
- Don't leave notes for service people or family members on the front door, as this may indicate no one is home.

Did you know Old West End Security provides vacation check ins for when you are away? This provides an extra layer of protection when you are enjoying your travels. Visit <http://www.oldwestendsecurity.com/learnmore> for an additional information.

Old West End Security is a non-profit group of volunteer neighbors, dedicated to deterring crime by contracting private security officers to make regular rounds in the neighborhood. The next Board meeting is **May 1 at 7:00pm at the Kent Branch Library.**



The Women of The Old West End

WOWE Officers:
Carol Kutsche, Toni Moore
and Tammy Michalak

WOMEN OF THE OLD WEST END CELEBRATE

DAVID & LESLIE NEUENDORFF

On Sunday, April 23, friends and neighbors gathered at the Libbey house for a reception to say Thank you to Dave and Leslie for all their years of efforts in helping to "preserve" this neighborhood they called home for 47 years. In August of last year, Dave & Leslie moved to Bowling Green, Ohio to be closer to their daughter, her husband and their four grandchildren.

Here is a little history of the Neuendorff's that you may not know:

Dave grew up in Toledo, Leslie in Michigan. Dave and Leslie both graduated from Michigan State University, David with a degree in Elementary Education and taught middle and elementary school in the Bedford Public School district for 38 years. Leslie, graduated with a degree in Journalism and worked for the Toledo Chamber of Commerce, and for 25 years was a tutor for the University of Toledo. Much a part of her personality ...when Dave asked her for their first date she replied "I suppose so". And here is the rest of the story.

After attending an Old West End Festival in 1974 Leslie declared that they should move to the Old West End. Thus began their journey of involvement with WOWE & the OWEA and the many needs for this in-cerity neighborhood. Two children, Sarah & John did not slow them down. They realized there was much to do and that they could help to make a difference. And they both did.

David & Leslie, as community activists and organizers, participated in down-zoning of the OWE in 1978.

Dave worked with Barb & Don Brundage, Peggy O'Neill and others on a 10 year project to force the removal of the old St. Luke's abandoned hospital. There were many hurdles but in the end (and after 10 years) the neighborhood took ownership of the site which is now the Agnes Reynolds Jackson Arboretum thanks to the efforts of Dave, Kent Illenden, Dennis Lange and many others.

Dave & Leslie both worked on the redevelopment of the Plaza hotel site after an arson fire. David and Leslie both volunteered on various home tours for both the OWE Festival and Tours de Noel.

Dave was one of the founding members of the Toledo Urban Forestry Commission.

Leslie was Neighborhood Newspaper Editor (yes we did have a newspaper for the OWE). She



also helped with the Festival Guide Book (WOWE), attended many City Council Meetings with Dave, and was Dave's Message Service before answering machines and cell phones.

There is so much more to tell but not enough space. To be continued ...

Celebrate Mom

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

Mother's Day Tea



Sunday, May 21st

(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



COMMONS PARK

Thanks so much to everyone who came out to help on our first maintenance day for 2023. We have one more for April. In May there will be two days. **May 13th and May 27th** the Big Planting Day for Festival.

Volunteers are always needed!

Thank You to all who continue to give of their time, talent, and treasure in maintaining this beautiful asset. **Will you volunteer?**

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

Attend our meetings and find out how WOWE is working to preserve the integrity our neighborhood.

May 3rd Spaghetti Warehouse

42 S. Superior

June 7th

Tammy Michalak

2056 Scottwood Ave.

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Advertise in The Historic Times!

BUSINESS CARD* or CLASSIFIED ad

- ✓ Approximately 3000 viewers see this publication
- ✓ Delivered within the 1st week of each month to the OWE households and local businesses
- ✓ Discounts on **Business Card** ads if purchased for multiple months (see*)

Contact Kent Illenden at: killenden@engineeredimaging.com 419-367-9155 (c)

Business Card Ads \$50 per month (3.5" x 2")
 Discounts for multiple months (Multiple months must be paid in advance)

- * **Business Card ad** for 3 months = \$45.00 per month
- * **Business Card ad** for 6 months = \$40.00 per month
- * **Business Card ad** for 12 months = \$35.00 per month

Classified Ads (Great for Apartment Rentals, Special Event Listings, Merchandise Sales, Services, Lost & Found)

- Classified Ad (30-40 words) for \$20

All copy is due the **15th of each month**. No ad will be run without payment.

Contact Kent Illenden at: killenden@engineeredimaging.com 419-367-9155