**THE ABILITY CENTER**

By Mallory Crooks

The Ability Center and Libbey House Foundation unveiled the completion of the project, “Restoring Accessibility to the Edward Drummond Libbey House” with a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 30. Edward D. Libbey House was the site of Opportunity Kindergarten, a school for children with disabilities operated by the Toledo Society for Crippled Children. This organization would later become The Ability Center.

Tim Harrington, Ability Center Executive Director, was a member of the first class of students at the school. The project was funded in part by a grant from the Ohio History Connection. With the completion of the project, Toledo’s only National Historic Landmark is now accessible to all.

The house in Toledo’s historic Old West End was designed by noted Toledo architect David Stine and built for Edward Libbey, founder of Toledo’s glass industry, and his wife, Florence Scott Libbey, in 1895.

An exterior ramp, walkway, and accessible restroom was built by Ability Center carpenters. Tim Harrington shares, “We are excited that we will get a chance to access the home again and remember our history in the Libbey House.” The Ability Center will celebrate a century of service in 2020.

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**WANTED**

**Apartment Dwelling Gardeners**

or anyone interested in having a place to show off your gardening skills.

The Scottwood/Virginia Turnaround is the place for you.

We need volunteers to take care of this city property. If interested, call Carol Stolarski for further details.

(419) 243-2247.

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**Kudos to:**

**Dennis Lange**

for another successful Tours de Noel.

**Paul Davidge & Todd Reuhle**

for their continued energy & talent in decorating the Commons Park.

**Christine Parks**

for chairing another Golf Cart Parade.

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**The Beirut**

Jan. 8, 6:30 pm

The Beirut

4082 Monroe St.

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**O.W.E. Association**

Jan. 21, 7:00 pm,

Glenwood Lutheran

2545 Monroe St.

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**THE HISTORIC TIMES**

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TOLEDO’S HISTORIC OLD WEST END

**Happy New Year Old West End!!!**
Happy New Year to OWE and all OWE friends and families! As you may have noticed...there is a new photo for this column. I am writing this as the new 2020 OWEA President. The other officers of OWEA are Chris Handley (VP), John Shaw (Treasurer) and Ann Guyton (Secretary).

In crafting this, my very first column, I thought I would share some highlights about the Association as an organization, and its philosophy regarding succession planning and term-commitments.

First let’s talk about the organization. There are four officers (Prez, VP, Treas & Sec), 5 elected trustees and 6 Committee Chair Trustees that make up the OWEA Executive Board (more on the trustees later). The four officers are elected each year along with the elected trustee(s) whose term has expired. In the last 5-6 years, we have asked the president to hold the position for 2 consecutive years. The thinking is that it gives the organization more stability and allows the president to be more effective as he/she ‘grows’ into the position. Along with that, it is the hope of the executive board that the VP run for president after his/her two years as VP. Again, developing an on-going strategy of stability and planned succession. Most recently we have recommended that the out-going president hold a Trustee position for at least one year, ideally three. Okay…are you still with me?

Onto, or back to, the Trustees. As I mentioned above, there are 5 elected Trustees and 6 Committee Chair Trustees. So ultimately there could be 11 people on the executive board, 11 Trustees and the four officers. However, an elected trustee can also be a committee chair trustee. So one person could have two Trustee positions, however, they only get one vote. Our goal is to have 11 unique trustees on the Board. We are still working towards that. In summary, whether elected or appointed, all trustees have the same voice on the executive board.

We talked about term-commitments for officers let’s talk about term-commitments for Trustees. Bear with me as this gets a little confusing…Elected Trustees commit to a 3-year term that expires in staggered years. In 2020, there were 2 trustee positions whose 3-year term expired: Tanasio Loudermill and Jeni Belt were elected into those open positions. The other three elected Trustees are: Deb Kienzle, Sue Postal, and Dan Schmitt, in varying stages of completing their 3-year terms. The six standing committee Trustees are: Arboratum, Business/Networking, Education, Festival, NB&I and Preservation. The Committee Chair/Trustees are: Kent Illenden (Arboretum), Stas Kukowsi and Riordan Glynn (Business Networking), Deb Kienzle (Education), Jeni Belt (Festival), Scott Ramsey (NB&I Fund), and Sue Postal (Preservation). They are appointed by the president and approved by the Board and they don’t have any term commitments with regards to our by-laws, but obviously we would like them to commit to a multi-year appointment.

WOW! That is a lot of detail! If you are still with me please check out our by-laws, which can be found on our website. I have run out of space to talk about me…so we will save that for next month.

I am looking forward to my new role. I have been impressed with the past presidents of the Association and I know I have big shoes to fill. My goal is to continue the momentum of ensuring the Association reflects and represents the entire Old West End neighborhood and continue to make the OWE great place to live.

Brenda Sawyers received an engraved brick at the annual Association Christmas Party (December 17th) honoring her late husband Ernest for all the efforts/work with the Old West End Neighborhood Initiatives group (OWENI). The brick will be placed in the entrance pathway of the Agnes Reynolds Jackson Arboretum.

2019 Agnes Reynolds Jackson Arboretum Cookie Walk

A huge shout out and thank you to all the Specialty Bakers, who helped make The Arboretum’s Cookie Sale a success during the Tours de Noel. Hope you know we could not have done it without all your efforts, especially when time was so short. You are, quite simply, the best. Thanks! Judy Winder

OLD WEST END SECURITY

Come join your neighbors at The Attic Sunday, Feb. 2nd for OWE Security’s annual super sportsball party! Food, games, and drink specials will available starting a 6pm with the purchase of a $20 wristband.

This is OWE Security’s biggest fundraiser of the year and a great way to meet your neighbor’s while supporting a good cause. There may even be some sort of professional sport’s championship playing on the TV during the party.

All profits go straight back to Old West End Security, our neighborhood’s non-profit volunteer group who contracts with IDER Security to patrol our streets.

We are always looking for more supporters which allow us to increase the number of patrols through the neighborhood. There is power in numbers. Learn more by attending our monthly meeting at 6pm on Jan. 7th at Black Kite. Read more about Old West End Security and become a supporter at http://www.oldwestendsecurity.com.

Preservation Committee

The next meeting is Monday, Jan. 13th at 7 pm, Kent Branch Library. Contact Sue Postal at 419-376-0151 for further details.

To get a COA (Certificate of Appropriateness) for any exterior renovations within the Historic District contact Molly Maguire at: 419-245-1200 or Molly.Maguire@toledo.oh.gov

Business Network Group

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 22, from 6:30-8:00pm at Collingwood Presbyterian Church, 2108 Collingwood. See you all then!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Let us all step into 2020 reminded of the special neighbors and neighborhood where we live. Please know how grateful WOWE and the OWEA are for your presence and involvement. No other neighborhood in this city is as cohesive and as organized as the Old West End. Help us to continue to preserve the integrity of its history by being involved. Thank You to all who continue to volunteer for the many programs of both organizations and wishing you this new year of 2020 filled with all your heart desires.

2019 Tours de Noel

THAT AMAZING TREE LIGHTING.

WOWE wishes to say Thank You again to Paul Davidge & Todd Ruehle for all the extra special touches to this years’ Tree Lighting in the Commons Park. A Sleigh filled with wrapped gifts, reindeer and that “special button” to light the Christmas Tree were over the top. All the time you take to decorate each year is a gift to our neighborhood. Not to mention the special chair made for Santa & Mrs. Santa. You both are a treasure and we are so very grateful for all that you do each year.

GLENWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Women Of The Old West End thank Pastor Chris Hanley and all the members of Glenwood for hosting, one very special after party for all Homeowners and Volunteers involved with Tours de Noel. A wonderful evening of Soup, Sandwiches and Song (and hot chocolate too) were treated to all who attended. It was such a special way to end the weekend.

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH PASTOR CHRIS AND THE GLENWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH FAMILY!!

Pastor Chris, we embrace and love your gift of prayer and blessing at the Tree Lighting. That alone brings us all together to remember what the Christmas Season is all about and remembering what is truly important.

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

January 8th The Beirut 4082 Monroe St. TBD

February

www.womenoftheoldwestend.com
Advertise in The Historic Times!
Ad information: killenden@sfcgraphics.com 419-367-9155

2020

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Happy New Year!