

# CONNEAUT ROTARY CLUB

PRESENTS



*Holiday*

## TOUR OF HOMES

**December 7, 2019 | 1:00-4:00 PM**

6 unique and beautifully decorated sites in Conneaut, Ohio  
open their doors for a self-guided tour.

**\$20.00 per individual in advance**

**Or \$25.00 at the door**

**Special Group Rate \$15.00 per individual  
(3 or more) in advance only**

Proceeds benefit the Conneaut Rotary Club Youth Projects

## Letter from the Conneaut Rotary Club

The Conneaut Rotary Club brings together a network of community leaders who dedicate their time and talent to make our community a better place to live! Our member's work impacts the lives of our local community, from helping families to working toward our mission statement: To support the Local Conneaut Area with Emphasis on Youth. We meet every Tuesday at the UH Conneaut Wm Brown Community Room at noon. Guests are always welcome!



### Warmest greetings,

The Conneaut Rotary Club Holiday Tour of Homes features exquisite architecture, beautiful furnishing, and gracious hospitality. This intimate tour experience allows guests to look "behind the doors" at some of the Conneaut's most beautiful private residences, festively decorated historic bed and breakfasts and culturally significant public sites. The Holiday Tour of Homes is opened to the public with the purchase of a ticket, giving tour participants a dose of inspiration and the opportunity to bring decor ideas to life in their own homes.

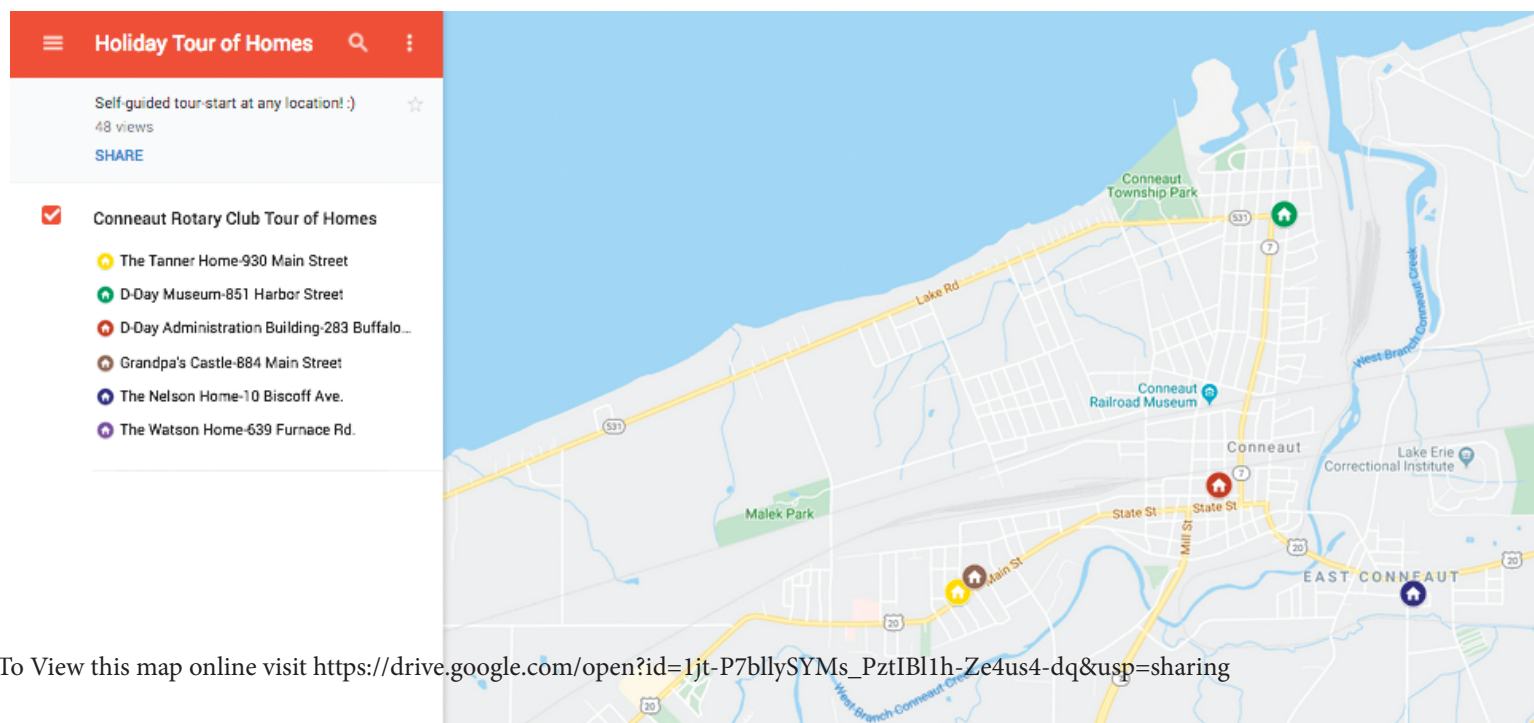
Tours start on Saturday, December 7th, from 1:00 until 4:00 pm.  
\$20.00 per individual in advance or \$25.00 at door (so buy early)  
Special group rate- \$15.00 per individual (a group of three or more) in advance only.

Tickets available at:  
The Conneaut Public Library  
The Conneaut Area Chamber of Commerce  
Chris Brecht State Farm Insurance  
Biscotti's Restaurant

How it works:  
Check-in will be available at any of the six homes/sites on tour and work your way through Conneaut on this holiday- inspired and self-guided magical tour.  
Grandpa's Castle 884 Main Street- 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors open for tours!  
D-Day Administration Building- Sanctuary 283 Buffalo St- 1940's Christmas Decor  
D-Day Museum 851 Harbor St- 1944 Christmas setting with original Christmas decorations.  
The Nelson Home 406 Middle Road- Country Christmas Scene  
The Watson Home 639 Furnace Road- 1950's Christmas Decor  
The Tanner Home 930 W Main Road- A Beautiful Victorian Home

Please note:  
Touring private homes is a special experience. Some will be decked with elaborate Christmas decorations, other homes will be more understated to reflect the holiday traditions specific to their family. All homes and sites on the tour will have beautiful interiors.  
This is a self-guided tour and the private houses may not be handicapped accessible. Well, behave children who are interested in adult activities are welcome, but must also pay the full ticket price.  
Thank you for being a part of our 2019 Holiday Tour of Homes. The Conneaut Rotary Club will be able to put the funds raised back into the community local youth projects. We look forward to seeing you again in two years!

Warm Regards,  
Amanda Smith, Holiday Tour  
of Homes Chairperson  
Conneaut Rotary Club



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# Grandpa's Castle



## 884 Main Street

This ostentatious Queen Ann house at 884 Main Street is now known as Grandpa's Castle B & B, but many people from the Conneaut area grew up calling it the Kreger home because long-time residents Charles and Marilyn Kreger raised their family there. John J. Cummins built this house in 1886/1887 and it is listed by that name in the Ohio Historic Inventory. John was the son of David Cummins (The Octagon House) and followed him as owner operator of the Cummins Canning Company after David died in 1909. The current owners, Dale

and Shelia Griffis, purchased the house in 2003 with the intentions of lovingly transforming it into a bed and breakfast.

Many of the interior features will be revealed during this tour but newspaper articles and reports have long championed the third floor ballroom and the attic cistern that provided running water to the home. From the Main Street façade the architectural elements are clearly visible including the corner tower, stone lintels and sills, the curved bay window on the third floor, and the open porch on the second floor. The

Tuscan columns and stone bases of the full front porch complete the look from the circular brick driveway. The granite stone was hand cut on the property and the mortar was made from backyard sand when this parcel was a large 70-acre tract of land.

Dale and Sheila Griffis will be our hosts for the Conneaut Rotary Tour of Homes showcasing all three floors of their home and they will explain the historical and architectural significance further, and maybe why they named it Grandpa's Castle.

# The Nelson Home



## 10 Biscoff Road (Corner of Middle & Biscoff)

Due to Sandy's husband Dick 20+ years in the Air Force she was never able to fully decorate at Christmas the way she wanted to. Once he retired and they purchased a home in Conneaut, Sandy started going all out at Christmas.

Sandy's style is a Country Christmas with many family heirlooms and antiques.

Her home will feature 5 Christmas trees and the main Christmas tree has 5000 lights on it. The Christmas Village under the tree was made mostly by her mother and aunt in ceramics. You will see a

train amongst the village Dick has been collecting since 1970's.

It takes Sandy, Dick, as well as their family & friends, approximately 3 weeks to transform the house from everyday living to the Country Christmas scene.

Dick and Sandy Nelson will be our host for the Conneaut Rotary Holiday Tour of Homes and they can't wait to see the joy in the little and big kids faces when they see the train and all the decorations!

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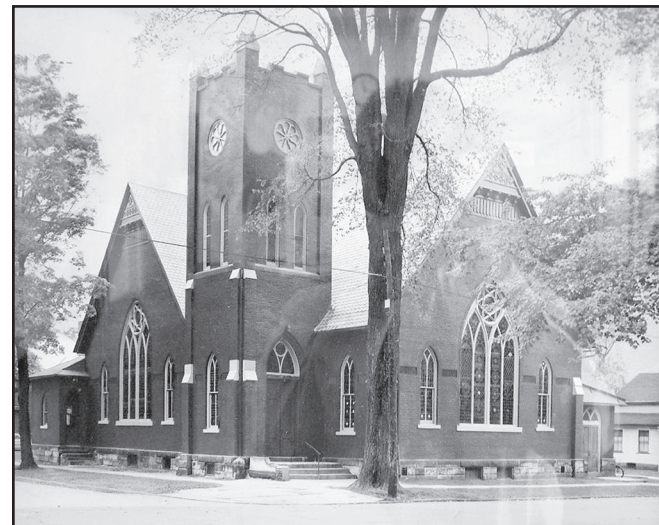
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# D-Day Ohio, Inc.

## Administration Building and Sanctuary



### 283 Buffalo Street

The construction of the church sanctuary building was begun in 1879 and completed in 1888. The original wood interior is highlighted by the large cross on the ceiling. The 1888 building included the original 3 beautiful large stained glass windows, each sided by 2 smaller stained glass windows. This original building was red brick with a 100 foot steeple. In ensuing years the steeple was shortened. The first Sunday School building was completed in 1911. The historic Sunday School building section was torn down in

1964 and was replaced by the present cinder block structure (which includes offices, class rooms, fellowship hall and parlor). During this time frame the sanctuary altar was remodeled to its present 1960's appearance and the exterior was sheathed in a tan brick which resulted in 6 stained glass windows being covered.

A \$2,500.00 Pilcher pipe organ with a very ornate facade was installed in 1906 replacing a reed organ from the late 1800's. The Pilcher organ was replaced in 1953 with a \$15,000.00 Tellers

Kent pipe organ. The structure added behind the altar to house the Pilcher organ was done in 1905. It has been verified that some of the old Pilcher pipework was retained by Tellers Kent during the installation along with a few of the gold facade pipes on the back wall of the chamber. It is believed that the Tellers Kent organ consisted of 20 ranks of pipes and the 2 manual consoles which still reside in the sanctuary. In the mid 2000's the organ was restored, upgraded and enlarged by Victor Organ Company,

The former New Leaf United Methodist Church and Sunday school building is now owned and cared for by the D-Day Ohio, Inc. and has become the administration center as well as storage for the many items needed for the annual reenactment. The group has made both the sanctuary and fellowship hall available for weddings and other gatherings. A volunteer will be playing the sanctuary organ during the tour. Many historic pictures and articles will be displayed during the tour.

# D-Day Museum



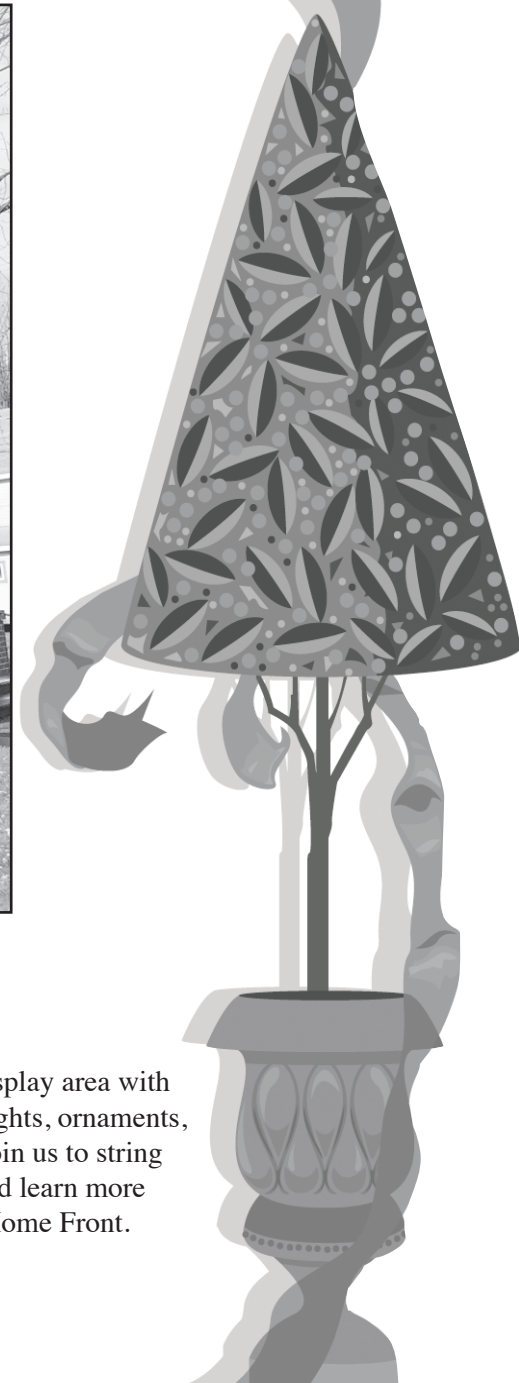
## 851 Harbor Street

Our museum is housed in the former First Maygar Hungarian Church, built in 1914 by local craftsmen to serve Hungarian immigrants who had settled in this neighborhood. In 2012 the remaining members of the Congregation donated the building to D-Day Ohio with the un-

derstanding the building would be used as a museum when the congregation was no longer holding services. The North Coast WWII Museum opened in June 2016.

For the Rotary Club tour we will depict a typical 1944 Christmas setting in our

basement Home Front display area with original Christmas tree lights, ornaments, and other decorations. Join us to string some popcorn garland and learn more about Christmas on the Home Front.



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# The Nelson Home



## 639 Furnace

Our home was built in 2000 we took 1 1/2 years to build it ourselves, a true dream come true. When the main house was done and garage was also we began to work on our basement.

What started Jim and I on our collection of the 1950s Christmas decor was the love of classic cars. After Jim restored his 1956 Chevy Bel Air the collection began.

We started collecting and restoring everything 50s and turned our basement into a 50s style bar and diner.

We can now go back to the 50s just by walking downstairs. When Christmas rolled around I decided we needed to decorate 50s style so again we started collecting retro Christmas decorations.

Now we can have friends and family take a trip back to the 50s!!

# Tanner Home



## 930 Main Street Chidester Home Circa 1895

Built in 1895 for Amelia Chidester and her family. Amelia lived from 1834-1924 and is buried in City Cemetery. She was the Guest of Honor for the dedication of the Conneaut viaduct in 1923. The Chidesters owned the home for 75 yrs., the Jackson's for 20 yrs., the Swicks for 4 yrs., and now the Tanners (since 1996).

The house was once part of a 40 acre farm which extended N. to the end of Reig Avenue, W. as far as the Dairy Queen, and E. to include the property which was once West Main School.

There are 45 windows in the house, 6 door to the outside, 3450 sq. ft. of living space not including the cathedral type ceiling in the attic and a full basement. 10ft.

ceilings in all rooms downstairs, original woodwork and window framing in most rooms, pocket doors, transom windows and original floor to ceiling cabinets in the kitchen and pantry. 18 areas to clean!!

First Floor: Entrance is complete with blistered varnish handrails and balusters, Dining Room and Den light fixtures are original from when house was wired for electricity. Living Room with pocket doors, Den, Piano Room all with original woodwork. Kitchen has 124 yr. old floor to ceiling cabinets. Also a Pantry, Bath, and Mud Room on the first floor.

Second Floor: North Bedroom Civil War Room – woodwork is

original, Civil War motif wallpaper and flooring were added by us. Laundry room at one time was a kitchen when a family occupied the second floor. E. Bedroom Pink Décor, totally remodeled but with some original woodwork. Bedroom W. Master Bedroom, original woodwork but totally remodeled. Office -South E. corner of house with original woodwork. Office – Civil War Room with attached small room, small room at one time was a nursery all with original woodwork. Bath totally remodeled.

Shop Area North side of house – at one time was a 1 car garage, now just use the area for storage and tools.



*Community Counseling Center*

<p><b>Ashtabula</b> 2801 C Court Ashtabula, OH 44004</p>	<p><b>Conneaut</b> 216 Main Street Conneaut, OH 44030</p>
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