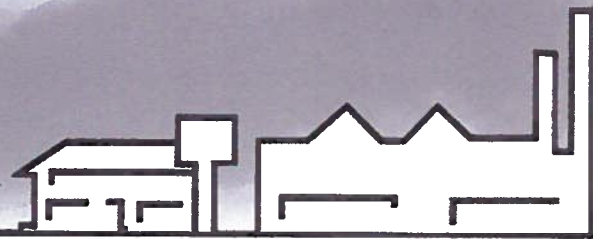


BELLAIRE-PURITAS Community Post



ISSUE IV, Volume 2

Spring 2012



Job hunting: Several youth-serving organizations, including West Park MyCom initiative, BPDC, and Youth Opportunities Unlimited, hosted their annual Job and Community Service Fair on March 3. The event drew 200 youth as well as employers and non-profit service groups. Here, potential hires talk to representatives of the Marriott Corp. More photos, page 5.

Housing Fair on May 10

Bellaire Puritas is hosting an open house to provide information on home repair, foreclosure prevention, how to choose a contractor, how to get help with utility bills and more.

The fair is at BPDC, 14703 Puritas from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. For information, call Toni Jones at 671-2710.

Find “Peace, love and art” at the 2012 Bellaire Puritas Arts Festival on June 3 in Jefferson Park

There will be a happening in Jefferson Park on Sunday June 3, and it will be called the Bellaire Puritas Arts Festival.

The festival will have a Sixties theme this year as we experience “Peace, Love and Art,” at our annual party at West 132nd and Lorain. Feel free to come in your favorite groovy attire.

The 2012 Bellaire Puritas Arts Festival will feature artists’ exhibits, crafters, hands-on art for kids, community group exhibitors and, as usual, great music. Performing live on stage will be musicians from a variety of genres: so far, the line up includes the Sammy DeLeon Latin Jazz Quartet, the Happy Timers polka band, Lloyd Blevens and Ramblin’ Mountain (formerly the Bluegrass Kings) and the Prayer Warriors rhythm and blues group.

Other attractions at the festival – a giant sandbox, Nature Tracks from the Cleveland MetroParks, and Jungle Terry and his wild animals -will be sure to delight children and their older siblings and parents.

If you would like to participate as a vendor or exhibitor, volunteer or attendee and have questions, please call 671-2710, ext. 220. Volunteers are needed especially for helping out with the hands-on-art for kids stations, and BPDC can always use help getting the word out about our festival. There is a registration fee of \$25 for food vendors and \$20 for artists and artisans. Community groups also must reserve tables in advance.

The arts festival is sponsored by Bellaire Puritas Development Corp., Councilman Martin J. Sweeney, the city of Cleveland and area businesses. The festival would not be possible without the help of the Special Events Committee of the city’s Department of Parks and Recreation, which arranges for the stage, the chairs, tables and other equipment, the crews to set them up and security.

There is no admission fee to this community event. We welcome everyone from throughout Northeast Ohio to come and visit our neighborhood. For those who are already here, come to the park, meet your neighbors and celebrate our community.



Farmers’ market to open in June

As of mid-June, Bellaire Puritas residents will be able to buy locally grown fruits and vegetables in their own neighborhood, thanks to the opening of Rockport Farmers’ Market.

The market will be open from at 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. through Oct. 17 every Wednesday in the parking lot of Blessed Trinity Church, 14040 Puritas Avenue. An opening ceremony will be held on June 13 to officially kick-off the project.

Continued on page 8

Doggy Day Care employs those with disabilities, to open in May

There’s a new place for pups in the neighborhood. Hattie’s Doggie Day Care & Boarding in May will open at 18200 Brookpark Road.

The boarding facility will feature 26 dog rooms and four indoor activity areas. The majority of a dog’s day at Hattie’s will be spent outside the rooms in the play areas where dogs are grouped with others of the same age, size and or energy level. Additional services, such as baths and grooming also are available. The 5,300-square-foot facility, which has an additional 4,000-square-foot outdoor play area, will be the largest Hattie’s boarding location to date.

The day-care-for-dogs is a Hattie Larlham program that provides vocational training and meaningful employment to people with developmental disabilities. With its other locations in Green and Twinsburg, the organization will employ 120 people with developmental disabilities when the Brookpark Road facility opens.

The local dog day care will employ 30 people with disabilities on a part-time basis, along with four other full-time and two part-time staff.

Dennis Allen, chief executive officer at Hattie Larlham, said the Brookpark Road project was made possible with the support of the Cuyahoga County Board of Development Disabilities.

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From executive director Bryan Gillooly:

Recognizing academic nature of W. 140

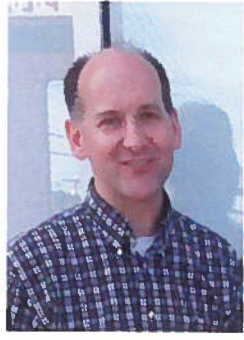
How do you define your neighborhood? What do you think gives it a sense of identity?

Those are questions that community development organizations – including Bellaire Puritas Development Corp. – are thinking about as they try to strengthen among residents a feeling of commitment and belonging to neighborhoods throughout the city.

As we aim to attract people to Cleveland and keep our loyal residents here, we are recognizing the need for people to feel more connected - to each other and to their home base.

Bellaire Puritas, by rough estimates, serves roughly three quarters of the area called West Park. But how we define West Park and our connection to it is somewhat of a mystery. Many residents probably don't know the history of the land originally belonging to a settler named John West (he and his family lived on what is now West 138th Street) – so historical ties most likely are not their reason for being drawn to the area.

We suspect that people like the mainly residential character of the area. This is a place that people are “from” and where they've chosen to stay.



Bryan Gillooly

Many families can trace their West Park roots back decades.

In addition to being “home,” it's also not unusual for the physical traits of a neighborhood to help define its identity. A neighborhood can be characterized by fine architecture, by having lots of pubs or restaurants, by proximity to parks, to museums, or to any number of features that make it distinct.

In our area, West 140th is home to not one, not two, but *four* schools and a library. (The four are John Marshall High School, Garfield K-8, Artemus Ward K-8, and Birchwood School.) Very close by are Carl Shuler the 9th grade academy on Terminal Avenue, and St. Vincent de Paul School on Lorain Avenue.

Garfield and Artemus have been rebuilt by the Cleveland Metropolitan School District in recent years,

and John Marshall will undergo reconstruction beginning in September. We believe this building boom and subsequent new look for West 140th Street is creating an identity for this “education corridor.”

In the coming months and years, BPDC will support the development of an academic identity for the West 140th Street area. Providing a boost to this main through street and supporting our neighborhood schools can only be win-wins for everybody.

There are short and long-term challenges ahead. Because of the John Marshall rebuilding, the re-routing of students effectively will increase the number of students and cars in the residential block near Carl Shuler school (see story on page 4.)

The challenge is to limit congestion and loitering. BPDC will work with neighbors to determine the best possible combination of one-way streets, re-routed buses, police presence and security detail to keep everyone safe and harmonious during the construction period. We plan to host public meetings with Councilman Martin Sweeney and the school district to prepare for all of the traffic changes.

The long-term goal is for the neighborhood surrounding W. 140th

Street to be widely recognized as a place to live and pursue an excellent education for one's children. We want the schools to be a strong selling point for properties in this community.

We also want to enhance the aesthetics of the area - and affirm its academic identity - by working with the school district, residents and artists to make sure the new John Marshall is beautiful as well as functional, and that it blends well with other neighborhood assets.

As school construction gets underway, BPDC intends to collaborate with neighbors, investors, lenders and city officials to help people make home improvements along W. 140th Street and its adjoining side streets.

And, in promoting all aspects of education, we'll work with organizations offering after-school activities so that when youth are out of school, they won't have to go far for fun, healthy developmental programs. This will occur as we plug into opportunities to support CMSD's academic goals.

We believe it's critical to stand up for education, and that it can unite a community.

Puritas post office to remain open

The Puritas Plaza branch of the U.S. Post Office is staying open.

The branch at West 143rd and Puritas had been part of a nation-wide review of 3,400 branches and processing plants to determine whether they could be closed to reduce costs. David Van Allen, a spokesperson for the Cleveland region of the postal service, said the review found that it would not be feasible to close Puritas because of its volume of business and its distance from other branches.

BPDC to partner again on code enforcement with Cleveland housing department

Bellaire Puritas is teaming up with the city's Building and Housing Department to ensure safe and healthy homes in our neighborhood.

Last year, BPDC began a systematic inspection of each home in Ward 18. Its mission was to help homeowners understand their responsibilities in maintaining their properties and how the condition and appearances of their home affects the neighborhood as a whole.

The partnership's goal is to survey all homes in our ward every three years. BPDC staff will look at the exterior of each home. This is what will be viewed from the street: high grass, yard debris, junk or inoperable cars, peeling paint, missing or loose gutters and downspouts, broken fencing, broken or cracked windows, deteriorated roofs, dilapidated garages, broken steps, broken chimney bricks, and no address (an important issue when emergency vehicles need to find you).

Homeowners are notified by letter if any code violations have been discovered. They are encouraged to voluntarily initiate repairs (within 30 days). BPDC will offer them information about home repair programs available through the city.

Property owners who refuse to correct the problems may be referred to the Building and Housing Department, which will then issue a violation notice. If still no corrections are made, the case may be referred to the Cleveland Law Department for prosecution in Housing Court.

If you receive a letter about your house, please call BPDC so we can help.

On another, related note....

Vacant and abandoned properties also are a target of the BPDC-City partnership. These dwellings are referred to the Building and Housing Department for citations and, if necessary, condemnation and demolition. BPDC completes a survey of vacant homes on a quarterly basis.

A word from Councilman Sweeney

City budget conservative but restores rec center hours, other programs and services

Greetings,

I hope this message finds our neighbors well and ready for the spring season. This season is about renewal and growth, and we as a city are well on our way. While most major cities are continuing to feel the financial hardships from the recession, Cleveland's economic environment is greatly improving with one of the nation's fastest job growth rates and a steadily decreasing unemployment rate.

It is promising to see our city grow through difficult times, and City Council continues to work hard to provide residents with the services they deserve. Council recently held hearings to review Mayor Jackson's estimates and was expected to pass the \$507 million 2012 budget for the city on March 26th. During a two-week budget hearing process, Council members heard testimony and questioned city officials from all departments



Martin J. Sweeney

and divisions to work with them in the hope of closing any potential gaps and balancing the budget for 2012.

The 2012 budget is conservative but will allow Council to provide necessary services for Clevelanders and for restoration of some services that previously were cut. Ward 18 residents will be happy to hear that our recreation center operations will be restored to full service. That means restored Saturday hours, and more pool hours and playground programs.

Continued, p. 7

Water can be more affordable

The city of Cleveland offers an “affordability” program to eligible homeowners which discounts 20% off of their water bills.

In order to qualify, you must be the primary homeowner and occupy the home for which you are applying. Total household income cannot exceed 175% of poverty income guidelines and you must be under the age of 65. Those over 65 can apply under the Homestead Program.

If you would like to apply for either of these programs, call 216-664-3130 for a homestead application or 216-912-0720 for the under 65 discount.

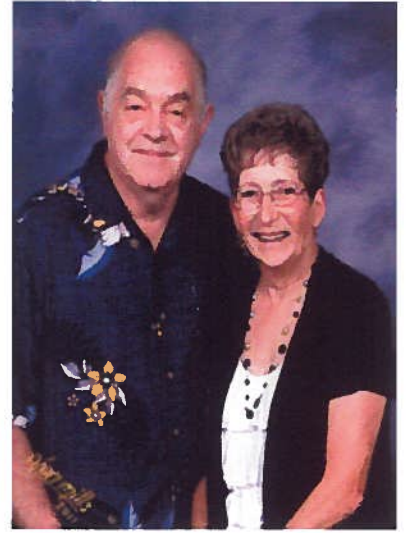
Neighbors to know:**Jean and Al Delattre believe in committing to the neighborhood**

Jean and Al Delattre have lived in the Bellaire Puritas neighborhood since 1968. They first lived in an apartment complex at West 147th and Puritas Avenue, first known as the Presidential, then known as Hawk's Landing, and now known as Rockport Apartments. Al and Jean eventually bought their home on West 138th Street. There they raised five children and became active in their neighborhood and at Ascension of Our Lord Church, now Blessed Trinity.

Like many residents of this post-World War II neighborhood, Al originally is from central Pennsylvania. (Many West Park citizens moved here from coal mining and other small towns in the 1960s from Pennsylvania, where unemployment rates often soared past 40%). Jean grew up around West 85th and Detroit. They met on a blind date. One of their daughters lives in Cincinnati and the rest are in northeast Ohio. They have 11 grandchildren.

Al is retired from the Federal Reserve Bank, where he worked as an auditor and in data processing for 43 years. Jean had worked for Railway Express and the National City Bank (now PNC) check processing center on West 150th. For about 10 years, she also was a school crossing guard on West 140th Street. Jean and Al have run the bingo operations at Blessed Trinity for more than 30 years and the Lenten Fish Fry for almost as many.

They said they take seriously their responsibilities in running the Thursday and Saturday night bingos because the operation reflects on the image of the parish.

**Why do you like running bingo?**

Al: I enjoy working the floor and b.s.-ing. I like people. If you don't put any expectations on people and take them as they are, most people are okay.

Jean: I first got involved because I enjoyed it. But in the early days we also wanted to keep the school (Ascension School, which has now merged into the West Park Catholic Academy) going. We're doing surprisingly well.

What do you like about the neighborhood?

Jean: I liked it because it was close to my Mom, then it was close to school. But I like it because of our neighbors, too. We've never had any bad neighbors.

Al: (Noting that he likes the neighborhood because of the church) Whether it was Ascension or Blessed Trinity, it's always been a very welcoming parish. When we have guests visiting, they can't believe that people are still standing around the church talking 20 minutes after Mass is over. We also have lots of garlic. (Jean explained that they share home-grown tomatoes in the summer with one of their neighbors, who in turn gives them home-grown garlic.)

What are your hopes for your neighborhood?

Jean: I hope the neighborhood stays friendly. You have to watch the kids. (She explained that she hopes people in the community will continue to watch out for their neighbors' children.)

Al: What kept me on the straight and narrow when I was a kid was that people knew other people and watched other people's kids. What scares me is that I think sometimes we're losing our sense of family and neighborhood. That's why I like the (parish) potlucks and barbecues. They create a sense of belonging. You have to have a sense of belonging to something before you can commit to it.

Electric Cord Set moves jobs to Ward 18 from Mississippi, along with Bay Village office

Another manufacturing company is returning to northeast Ohio, and coming right here to the Bellaire Puritas neighborhood.

Electric Cord Set Inc. has relocated its administrative offices from Bay Village to 4700 Manufacturing Ave., and is in the midst of moving its warehouse and manufacturing operations there from Mississippi.

Michael Smalley, the company's vice president, said Electric Cord already has 11 full-time employees at its new location and four more are expected to move here from Mississippi. Smalley hopes to fill 10 to 12 more positions with new hires within the next six months, and several more within five years.

The city of Cleveland agreed to issue the company a "forgiveable" loan of \$75,000 if Electric Cord employs 28 people within the next five years.

As its name implies, the company makes and distributes electric cords for the appliance industry, and for tool makers such as Black and Decker. It also has an on-line store that sells cords for the marine and recreational vehicle markets. All of its on-line products are made in the United States.

Smalley said 25% to 30% of its electric cords are made in the United States – soon to be right here Cleveland – and the rest are made in China and imported by Electric Cord. The combined warehouse, office and manufacturing space on Manufacturing Avenue totals 41,000 square feet.

Electric Cord Set is a private, family owned business founded in 1947 in Bay Village. It moved the manufacturing operations to Indiana in the 1970s, and eventually to Mississippi.

The positions being filled by Electric Cord will start at \$10 an hour with the potential to earn \$12 an hour.

You can prevent foreclosure

Research has shown that more than half of homeowners facing foreclosure do not call for help when they begin to fall behind in their payments. There are a host of non-profit agencies that provide free, unbiased and accessible services to prevent foreclosure. Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland, the Cleveland Housing Network and ESOP (Empowering and Strengthening Ohio's People) all can help with programs such as Exit Strategies (which involves handing over a deed in lieu of foreclosure) and the federal Restore Stability and HAMP (Home Affordable Modification Program). NHS can be reached at 216-458-4663; CHN at 216-325-1150 and ESOP at 216-361-0718.

Save energy and money with Cleveland Energy Saver

The city of Cleveland and a coalition of housing and sustainability organizations are offering homeowners the chance to save up to \$3,750 on home energy bills.

Cleveland Energy Savers works like this: if you are a qualified homeowner living in the city, you pay \$50 for an energy assessment of your house. The \$50 is reimbursed if you complete the program.

Within two business days of the assessment, you will receive a report with recommendations for how to improve energy efficiency, along with cost estimates for those improvements. Suggestions for saving on energy might include attic insulation, furnace replacements, programmable thermostats, new windows and doors, and water-saving devices.

You can decide which recommendations you'd like to implement and can choose from a list of pre-approved contractors to get the job done. You will receive a 20% discount on the price of the job, up to \$2500. You will receive referrals to optional loans through Cleveland Action to Support Housing. Within 30 days of paying your contractor, you'll receive an additional rebate on the loan or on the amount of money you've spent, up to \$1200. So the total saving on the project can add up to \$3,750.

The program requires that two days after the work is completed, a qualified energy assessor will perform a quality check of the work and in six to 12 months, you'll receive a savings report to show you how much money you've saved on your energy bills.

This pilot program is limited to the first 100 homeowners who sign up. To schedule your energy assessment or learn more about the program, call 216-672-3535.

Cleveland Energy Savers is being sponsored by the city, Cleveland Action to Support Housing, the Cleveland Housing Network, LAND Studio, a sustainability group, and the U. S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.

There are ways to rid yourself of household wastes

Get rid of household hazards: Remember, on the first Friday of every month from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., you can take your household wastes -ranging from paint remover to thermometers to old smoke detectors -to the Ridge Road transfer station or the Division of Waste Collection at 5600 Carnegie.

Rockport Apartments, formerly Hawk's Landing, close to moving day



A big part of Puritas Avenue is getting a new look because of the renovation of Hawk's Landing, which now is called Rockport Apartments.

Rockport is being renovated by the Finch Group of Boca Raton, Fla. which purchased the complex for \$1.1 million in the past year and is investing another \$6.45 million, or up to \$45,000 per unit, into its rehabilitation.

Mark Dodds, Finch's local construction manager on the project, said the first building in the apartment complex will be move-in ready in late April and the second will be done by the first week in May, when renovation of 48 of the 144 units will be complete.

Current tenants in the complex will move into those buildings while work is completed on the remaining four buildings. The entire renovation is slated for completion in August.

In addition to fixing up the residential structures, Finch is erecting a new leasing office along Puritas Avenue and demolishing the existing office. On the site of that building, which is set back and not visible from the street, will be a park featuring bio-swales and a playground.

American Preservation Builders is the prime contractor on the project, which has one and two-bedroom apartments.

Left: The leasing office for the renovated Rockport Apartments complex is taking shape on the north side of Puritas Avenue near W. 147.

John Marshall reconstruction process beginning

Anyone who's ever moved knows that it's usually not an easy process. Ditto that for relocating an entire school.

But that's what will happen beginning this month as the Cleveland Metropolitan School District gets ready for the rebuilding of John Marshall High School on West 140th Street.

While JMH is reconstructed, a process that could take up to three years - classes will be moved, bringing a few changes to the immediate neighborhood.

Here's what to expect in the coming months:

* During spring break, or between April 6 to April 13, crews hired by the school district will begin packing materials to prepare for the move this summer to Marshall's temporary home at Carl F. Shuler School on Terminal Avenue (about a half mile north on West 140th Street). Shuler is a 9th grade academy. JMH teaches students in grades 10 through 12. Shuler's classes will be moved to the Nathaniel Hawthorne building on W. 130th Street near Lorain Avenue during JMH's construction.

- During this coming summer, Shuler will undergo renovations, including the addition of modular classrooms, painting, repairing of windows and improvements to the parking lot and lighting.
- Demolition of John Marshall will begin in July and continue through March 2013. Construction of the new school will begin April 2013; the district predicts that classes in the new building will start in August 2015.
- Traffic might be re-routed next school year to accommodate the relocations; proposals have included making a section of Terminal Avenue one-way eastbound during school hours; and making a portion of Harold Avenue one-way as well. Students who drive will be able to park at St. Paul AME Church on Liberty Avenue, under an agreement worked out with the school district.
- Meetings with residents around Carl Shuler will be held to talk about traffic concerns.

* The school district and the building's architects have committed to work with the community to preserve elements of the John Marshall building so that its history can be remembered. Bellaire Puritas is pursuing the possibility of using pieces of the building for public art.

Ken Tischler, president of the John Marshall Alumni Assn., has said the organization plans to sell commemorative bricks from the old building when they are available.

The Alumni Association will sponsor a farewell open house on Saturday, May 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the school.

Ralph Pfungsten, a former teacher at the school, will give a presentation and slide show on its history at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

If you have any questions about the project, or would like information about future meetings, call Ian Heisey at 216-671-2710 or email him at i.heisey@bpdc.org.



Mediation makes life peaceful

For Kelly Collins, a resident of the Bellaire Puritas area, turning to mediation last year in the midst of an "incredibly stressful" situation was the answer she needed.

"Who knew the city of Cleveland had this?," she said, adding that life is much more peaceful now that she and her neighbors have resolved the issues between them. Both sides were able to listen to each others' stories and solve whatever conflicts they had.

Collins and her neighbors took advantage of Bellaire Puritas' mediation service, in which a neutral third party helps neighbors deal with conflicts. BPDC's mediation-trained staff and community volunteers over the years have addressed hundreds of conflicts involving loud music, litter and yard debris, barking dogs, encroaching fences, and a host of other problems.

The mediation service provides a non-threatening, safe environment in which all sides of an issue can be heard and the parties involved can work on a solution to the conflict. To find out more, call Ian Heisey at 671-2710.



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Neighborhood youth explore job opportunities at fair and the great outdoors



Job seekers welcome opportunity to prepare with mock interviews and resume writing help from BPDC and partners

The youth of our community were busy this past winter, preparing themselves and applying for summer and after-school jobs and getting to know the natural environment through the Youth Outdoors program.

On March 3, the third annual West Park MyCom Job and Community Service Fair for youth was held at Gunning Recreation Center. The event was hosted by West Park MyCom, a partnership with Bellaire Puritas and other youth-serving organizations and Youth Opportunities Unlimited, a non-profit, county-wide group which promotes youth employment. At the job fair, teenagers could talk to employers and representatives from community service organizations, apply for jobs, and present their resumes. The fair attracted 200 youth and 20 employers and community organizations.

Before the job fair, teens could prepare for the day in a series of workshops where they participated in mock interviews, prepared resumes and learned about what is expected of job applicants and skills needed for the workforce.

The above left photo shows teens waiting to talk to employers and non-profit representatives. Bob Wilhelm, owner of Puritas Hardware (left, middle) with prospective job applicant Karisa at a job prep session. Councilman Martin Sweeney (right, bottom photo) also debriefing with his interviewees at the pre-job fair day.

In February, the MyCom Youth Outdoors program, which is based at Bellaire Puritas, took an overnight winter tent-camping trip in the North Chagrin Reservation. Youth Outdoors is a program of the Cleveland MetroParks, the city of Cleveland, Ohio State University Extension Service and 4H, to teach teens about nature and outdoor recreation skills.

The camping trip included a night-time survey of owl species, a forest hike, and a surprise encounter with horses at an intersection of bridle trails. The picture above shows one of the horses with its youth admirers. Bellaire Puritas staff helped organize and plan the trip with Youth Outdoors.



Rites-of-passage

Crossings, offered in conjunction with Blessed Trinity Church, is a program for men aged 18-to-21. It explores masculinity and growth and is open to men of all faiths. Crossings will run from June 20 to June 24. For more information, call Chuck Rihm at 440-503-8021.

Contractors wanted

Bellaire Puritas is always looking for qualified contractors to which it can refer residents wanting to fix up their homes. We reserve the right to screen your company to make sure you are licensed, bonded and insured and are suitable for our programs. But we want to hear from you and support our local companies. Call Toni Jones at 216-671-2710.

Stop paying too much to heat and cool your home!

You hear a lot about being green these days. Did you know being green can save you money? Learn how your roof, foundation, furnace, light fixtures and whole house insulation can start money flowing back into your house. You will notice a return on your investment and your home will be more comfortable!

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Bellaire Puritas welcomes new board members



Bellaire Puritas has added several new board members this year; they represent the business and residential parts of our community.

Pictured here with BPDC's executive director, Bryan Gillooly (left) are Kris Tabor and Charles Nusbaum. Kris is the manager of the PNC bank branch on Puritas Avenue at West 150th Street. Charles (Chuck) also works at PNC in its information technology department at the West 150th Street processing center. He's also a long-time resident of the area and lives on Sherry Avenue.

Not pictured are Valerie Jackson, business manager at Chuck's Automotive on Bellaire Road, who also has joined our board, along with Tom Ginley. Tom, who works for FedEx, also has lived in the neighborhood for many years (on Wainstead Avenue) and is a parishioner at Blessed Trinity Church.

Their joining the board brings our roster to 11, following the departure of Carole Cohen and Rev. Shane Floyd, whose terms ended. We thank them for their service. BPDC board strives to be representative of all the constituencies we serve and welcomes the participation and input of all residents, businesses and institutions in our community.

Dog boarding and grooming center opening soon on Brookpark Road

Hattie Larlham, cont.

Continued from page 1

The disabilities board recommended the location based on the need for more services for people with developmental disabilities in the area. He said the proximity to the airport and the Brookpark RTA station makes it ideal for travelers looking to board dogs.

Hattie Larlham, based in Twinsburg, was founded in 1961, and provides a variety of programs and services to children and adults with disabilities.

The organization is hiring full-time and part-time job coaches and a groomer for the Brookpark Road location. For more information, call 330-569-8050 or visit www.hattielarlham.org



The exterior of the Doggie Day Care & Boarding, 18200 Brookpark. The new facility will feature 26 dog rooms and grooming services.

Helipad ruling appealed by city

The construction of a helicopter landing pad at Fairview Hospital remains an unresolved issue, now that the city of Cleveland's law department has decided to appeal a judge's ruling on the project.

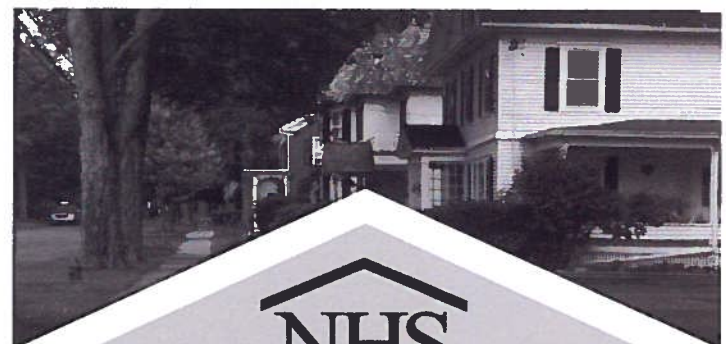
On March 19, the city filed an appeal of a ruling issued by Judge Hollie Gallagher on Feb. 13. Gallagher ruled in favor of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation's challenge to a Cleveland Board of Zoning Appeals decision against the helipad.

The Clinic, which owns Fairview, had asked the board to declare the helipad an acceptable retail accessory use under the city's zoning ordinances. The board denied that request, but approved zoning for Fairview's other construction requests – an expansion of its emergency room and parking lot.

While city officials have been supportive of Fairview's overall expansion plans, the council representative for Ward 19, Martin Keane, and the city planning commission, questioned the location of the helipad. Plans call for it to sit atop the two-story emergency room. Residents nearby the hospital also have opposed the helipad, citing safety and noise concerns.

The issue has been contested for more than a year. Dozens of residents testified at the zoning board hearing in October 2011, arguing that the helipad would be too close to homes and retail businesses. The Clinic has said it is necessary to provide faster emergency care to patients from throughout the region. Helicopters transporting patients to Fairview now land in nearby Tyler Field in the Rocky River MetroParks, then use an ambulance to get to the hospital.

Fairview is designated a level-two trauma center, which means a patient has been stabilized elsewhere but needs care within a short time period.



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A little help might be all you need for that home spruce up

Bellaire Puritas works in conjunction with many partner organizations to offer residents the chance to fix or renovate their homes. Our goals are to keep you safe and happy, our neighborhood looking good, and our home values high.

The list below might include at least one program that meets your needs. And remember the BPDC housing fair on May 10 (see page 1).

Home Improvement Loans

Cleveland Action to Support Housing

Home Improvement Loan Program: This organization's program is designed for owner-occupants and investors who wish to improve their properties in the city of Cleveland. In addition to a low interest rate (2.3%), specialists will guide you through the entire loan process – from the application through the completion of construction. Call CASH at 216-621-7350 or visit its website at www.cashcleveland.org

Multi-Family Loan Program: Do you own an apartment building that could use an update and need a little financial assistance? CASH's Multi-Family Loan Program assists in the renovation of apartment buildings by offering a low interest rate. .

Neighborhood Housing Services of Greater Cleveland

NHS provides home repair loans for the credit worthy and those with credit issues. The loan program gives the homeowner the extra attention needed when starting a rehab project. You will be assisted with job specifications, cost estimates, contractor selection and oversight of your project. Each application is reviewed on a case by case basis. Priority cases are those with repairs related to health and safety and code violations. Every application is underwritten, originated and serviced in house. Professional and accredited, construction management services are provided for the project. Customer-friendly terms are available. Call NHS at (216) 458-HOME (4663) x 24 or visit its website at www.nhscleveland.org.

Hebrew Free Loan Association

HFLA lends money interest-free to individuals in need regardless of culture or religious preference. The applicant must demonstrate a genuine need and the he or she has been unable to receive a loan from a conventional source. This loan can be used for family expenses, mortgage payments, home repair, education or medical and dental expenses.

Loan applicants must live in Northeast Ohio and have an income that enables them to repay the loan. The maximum loan amount is \$12,000 (each co-signer is liable for the full amount of the loan.) One co-signer is required for every \$4,000. Co-signers must also live in Northeast Ohio, have an income and good credit. Contact HFLA for more information at 216-378-9042.

Other home repair loan programs can be found at www.livecleveland.com

Programs for Senior Citizens

CHORE: Home Maintenance Help for Seniors

CHORE is a program for Cleveland residents 60 or older who need help with maintaining their homes. CHORE workers are employees of the city who will come to a senior's home and perform chores such as general housekeeping, lawn mowing, limited painting, simple home repairs, and carpet cleaning. Priority is given to disabled and low-income seniors. There is no charge for this service. CHORE is administered through the Cleveland Department of Aging and can be reached at: 216-664-2833. Some requests may require an on-site assessment before work can be scheduled.

SHAP: Senior Housing Assistance Program

SHAP is a one-time grant administered by the Department of Aging that helps income qualifying seniors age 60 and over in need of critical health, safety and maintenance repairs. Typical repairs include roofs, major electric work, major plumbing work, replacing steps, porch repairs and the installation of ramps. This is a one-time grant. Applications are available at the BPDC office or you can call the Cleveland Department of Aging.

Homestead Exemption Tax

Seniors and disabled homeowners may qualify for the Homestead Exemption property tax reduction if: they are age 65 anytime during the calendar year or permanently disabled, or are a surviving spouse aged 59-64 of a homestead recipient

To receive a Homestead Exemption application, please call BPDC at 216-671-2710 or stop by our office. This program runs from the first Monday in January to the first Monday in June.

Need a ride? If you're a senior, you've got one

If you are 60 or older and need a ride to a doctor's appointment, to the grocery store or other errands, the Senior Transportation Connection will be there.

The STC is a project of Cuyahoga County; it works in partnership with municipalities to provide information and referrals to seniors on the best way to get from point A to point B. It also offers direct transportation with its own vehicles and drivers in many areas, including Ward 18.

For just a \$1 a ride each way and by giving two days' notice by phone, seniors can have a van at their doors anytime between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Trips are limited to once a week. For Cleveland residents, errands like shopping are limited to the city limits, but for medical appointments you can travel anywhere in Cuyahoga County. STC coordinates the trips as best they can to get riders to their destinations efficiently.

Last year STC provided 600 trips a day for seniors all over Cuyahoga County with a fleet of 30 vehicles. To register for the service with the Cleveland Department of Aging, please call 664-2833. In order to schedule a ride, call Senior Transportation Connection 1-800-983-4782 at least by 12 noon two days prior to your trip. Trips can be scheduled up to two weeks in advance.

Sweeney, cont.

Continued from page 2

In addition, the city safety forces will benefit greatly from the callback of 20 Cleveland police officers from layoffs. There also will be an increase in safety forces downtown once the casino opens.

Also in March, Council met with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District's chief executive officer, Eric Gordon, who answered questions about the revised plan to improve our city's school district. Council looks forward to supporting the school district in its efforts to advance education for the children of our great city.

As our city continues to grow, the Ward 18 community especially continues to thrive, thanks in no small part to great residents like you. I am privileged to work for you as your City Council representative and encourage you to call the Ward 18 office at any time at 664-2942 with questions or concerns.

*Sincerely,
Councilman Martin J. Sweeney,
Ward 18*



Sunday, June 3, 2012

Noon - 6 p.m.

Jefferson Park

BPDC and Community Calendar

West 130th Tri-League: Neighborhood baseball for children and youth. Registration is taking place now. Games start May 29. Wing-night fundraiser April 21. For information on registration, and season activities, email trileague@aol.com or visit the Tri-League website.

West Park Airport Committee: Meets on the third Thursday of every month at BPDC. Next meetings: April 19, May 17.

Neighborhood Education Committee: Meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at BPDC.

First District Community Relations: Police-public officials-community meeting. First Thursday of every month. 7 p.m. St. Ignatius of Antioch Church at West Blvd. & Lorain.

Housing Fair: Thursday, May 10 at Bellaire Puritas Development. Learn about home repair programs, ways to prevent foreclosure, other program related to home improvement. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Hooley: Kamm's Corners. Saturday, May 12. Annual Irish party on Lorain Avenue at Rocky River Drive. Noon to 8 p.m. food, music, Irish dancing, pipes and drums, childrens' activities.

BPDC Arts Festival: Sunday, June 3, Noon to 6 p.m. Jefferson Park, W. 132nd & Lorain Ave. Art, music, food, activities for children and youth.

Community Meal at Christ United Methodist Church: Last Saturday of every month at 5 p.m. West 138th Street and Lorain Avenue.

Clifton Arts and Music Fest: on Clifton Blvd., Saturday, June 16. See www.cudell.com for more information.

Bellaire Puritas Board & Staff

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Farmers' market coming soon

Continued from page 1

At the market will be vendors selling vegetables, local grass-fed beef, herbs and honey. Puritas Nursery also will have a stand.

With this opening Bellaire Puritas will join the growing trend in Cleveland to support local agriculture and healthy food options. There are farmers' markets in several city neighborhoods, and the need to locate one here was recognized by Rockport's organizers, Jeanne and Keith Schuette.

The Schuettes live near Jefferson Park. They've become familiar to many in our neighborhood because of the time and love they devote to playing Santa and Mrs. Claus at schools, community centers and even Canary's restaurant every December.

During the other 11 months of the year, they've planned and managed farmers' markets in Lakewood, Parma and at Crocker Park in Westlake. Since retiring, they've been dreaming about starting a market in their own community. Jeanne said it's not just about the food.

"Good things happen when people in the neighborhood know one another," she said. "We want to get people out of their houses and socializing at the market. We also want to provide a place where our neighbors can get locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables at affordable prices."

The Schuettes a few months ago approached Bellaire Puritas with their idea. BPDC put them in touch with Fr. Doug Koesel from Blessed Trinity Church, which operates the Bountiful Basement Hunger Center. Together, they came up with the idea to operate the market on Wednesday evenings, during a time when the Basement is open. That way, people can get produce while they pick up other staples at the food pantry.

Fr. Koesel also recruited Ginger Needham for the farmers' market project. Ginger and her son Andrew operate Needham Gardens, a farm next to their home on Kirton Avenue. Ginger and Andrew became part of the Rockport committee and are helping with the start-up of the project. The committee is working hard on the launch, planning entertainment and chef demonstrations.

About Bellaire Puritas:

Bellaire Puritas (BPDC) is a non-profit community development corporation that strives to better the quality of life in Ward 18 and revitalize its neighborhoods. We provide housing assistance, safety and mediation services, help for seniors, planning, community organizing and youth programs. You can visit us on the web at www.bpdc.org. Our offices are at 14703 Puritas Ave. and we can be reached by phone at 216-671-2710.

BPDC is funded in part by government grants and by grants from private foundations, fee income and donations. Like other non-profits, we seek support, in-kind and financial, from our community and other friends who value our work and wish to help us serve our community. We also welcome volunteers with an interest in contributing to our neighborhood. Thank you for your support.