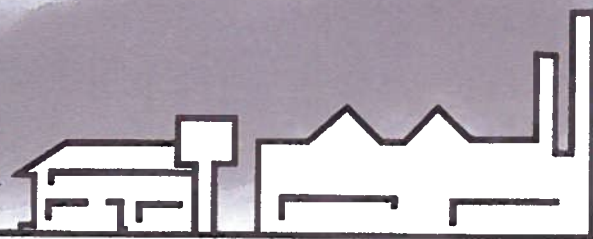


# BELLAIRE-PURITAS Community Post



FALL 2012

## October 24 summit to celebrate grassroots community participation

The grassroots spirit of our community will be celebrated on Wednesday, Oct. 24 at the 2012 Neighborhood Summit; that spirit will be honored with the theme "Building bridges for our future."

The "bridges" are the leadership talents of residents, plus their investment and time and resources that will allow our community to thrive in

coming years.

The summit will be held at Fogarty Hall at Blessed Trinity Church at 14040 Puritas Ave. from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Now in its 11th year, the event offers a community information fair, awards to those who have made contributions to the neighborhood, raffles, updates on the neighborhood and BPDC news

and developments, and a light dinner.

Raffle prizes this year include tickets to a Browns game, Giant Eagle gift cards, and cash. Proceeds from the raffles benefit BPDC's senior services.

About 200 attendees are expected at this free event. For many, it has become representative of the pride they have in their neighborhood and a source of inspiration and unity.

The summit is sponsored by Bellaire Puritas Development Corp. and Councilman Martin J. Sweeney and supported by local businesses.

Doors open at 6 p.m., when dinner and the information expo will begin; the program starts at 7 p.m. and desserts will be available at 8 p.m.

Again this year, Neighborhood Connections, a small grants program of the Cleveland Foundation, will share information about grant eligibility. Several groups in the Ward 18 community have received such grants in the past: the Local Advisory Council at Riverside Park Estates was able

classes with a Neighborhood Connections grant; a block club off of West 130th Street funded the building and installation of bat boxes near Milligan Gardens; and a group of residents on West 150th Street received funds for a beautification project.

For more information on the 2012 summit, contact Rachel Napolitano at 216-671-2710, ext. 216, or at r.napolitano@bpdc.org.

**Event:**

**Bellaire Puritas Neighborhood Summit, 2012. Featuring food, raffles, community information, awards, presentations and socializing.**

**When:**

**Wednesday, Oct. 24, 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**Location:**

**Blessed Trinity Church, 14040 Puritas Ave., in Fogarty Hall (Handicapped accessible)**



Residents of Puritas Gardens on Old Puritas Road celebrate International Literacy Day on Sept. 8 by having a reading "sit-in." The event was organized by Geraldine Belcher, who is profiled on page 2.

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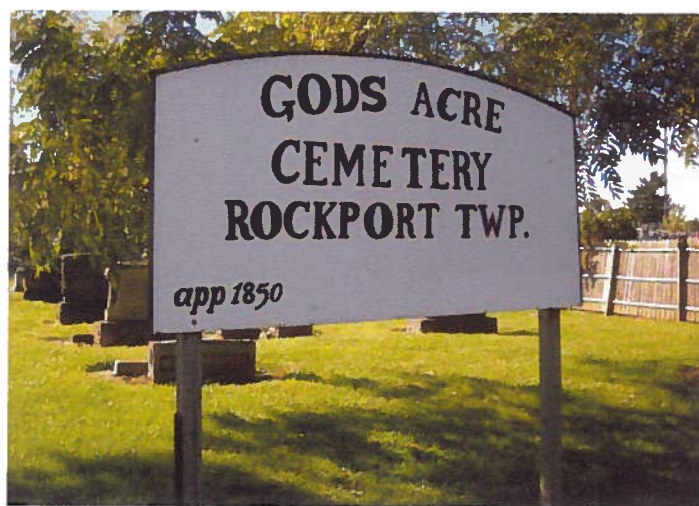
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What's a cemetery doing there? God's Acre sits behind a parking lot and is squeezed in among businesses on West 130th. For more on its history and why it is where it is, see page 6.

### Connect with BPDC via social media



Facebook is a great way to catch up on photos and news in the neighborhood and to find out about events and resources. Twitter is another tool to catch up on the latest at BPDC; and LinkedIn is a resource for professionals to connect to our work and each other. In whatever method you choose, we're waiting to hear from you!

**From executive director Bryan Gillooly:**

## Voters face big decision on Nov. 6

Cleveland's school district is asking city residents to pass a new levy in a few weeks; whatever you decide, I hope you will find some way to support the schools.

The Cleveland Metropolitan School District by all accounts is in need of funds; it has been using the same property tax millage for the last 16 years, as property valuations have declined in the city, so has tax revenue directed to the schools.

The proposed levy will be for four years. It is designed to both make up a projected deficit for next year and raise funds to hire teachers and launch new educational programs.

Half of the tax revenue will come from businesses and half from residential homeowners, according to CMSD. For the owner of a \$50,000 property, the new levy will cost \$20 more per month.

In late September, the Ohio Department of Education warned that it soon might issue Cleveland schools a failing grade on its yearly evaluation.

Without proof that the levy will produce results, residents could question the efficacy of giving the district more money. Yet, the district is arguing that lack of funds is part of the problem and additional funds will help improve academic performance.



**Bryan Gillooly**

Eric Gordon, the district's chief executive officer, was quoted in the Plain Dealer with this reaction the ODOE statement, "This is a stark reminder of why we have to transform the school district."

The district also is proposing major changes in the operations of the schools as it campaigns for the school levy. If you want to know more about those changes, there will be a forum at Blessed Trinity Church with Mayor Jackson and others on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. in Fogary Hall.

In our neighborhood, there's been some confusion about the levy. I've noticed yard signs in the area that discourage support for the levy in order to "save John Marshall." Please don't let misinformation affect your vote. Funding for the construction of a new high school is solid – money for the project was secured in a capital levy campaign approved by Cleveland voters in May 2001. Demolition already has begun inside the old building.

However you decide to cast your ballot, you can contribute to our local schools in many ways.

Schools always are looking for volunteers; Bellaire Puritas facilitates a Neighborhood Education Committee that promotes community involvement in neighborhood schools; we also help organize a West Park Youth Council in which youth and adult leaders address the workings of youth programs and services in our community.

Your involvement in some facet of education – be it financial support or time and talent – could help lead to a child's success.

If you would like to find out more about our youth programs or the Neighborhood Education Committee, please call us at 216-671-2710.

Contact Bryan Gillooly at:  
[b.gillooly@bpdc.org](mailto:b.gillooly@bpdc.org)

## Geraldine Belcher promotes literacy in the BP neighborhood

Puritas Avenue resident Geraldine Belcher is serious about reading – so much so that she initiated a local effort to celebrate International Literacy Day on September 8.

The mother of five girls organized six adults and three youth to throw a literacy party at the Puritas Gardens Estate. Fifty people joined in to make bookmarks, participate in a reading sit-in and a book give-away and partake of free hot dogs and refreshments. Bellaire Puritas also organized similar reading events in the neighborhood that day.

Geraldine, who has lived in the area for 16 years, created a cheer for her event: ("READ; you can do it just like me. Ask someone if you need help; so you can read all by yourself") that was performed by the celebrants. Her goal was to inspire youth to read a book; she said she believes children should not just be "sent out to play" and that idle time is time to read.

Geraldine has an associate's degree in Early Childhood Education and served as Children's Activity Coordinator at CMHA's Outhwaite Estates; she established the children's library there.

September 8 was designated International Literacy Day by the United Nations.

Geraldine's next project is promoting national domestic violence awareness this month with a flier campaign. She's come up with a theme for that event to help raise awareness; "Hits hurt, words wound, threats create fear and awareness is power."

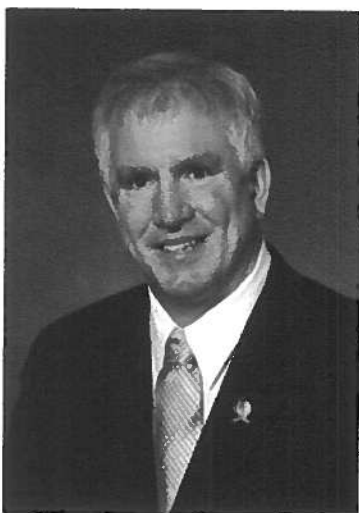
As you can see in this issue of the BPDC newsletter, Geraldine has passed on her enthusiasm for community involvement to her daughter Kayla, who just received an award from the First-District Community Relations Committee (see story, page 3.)

### October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center in Cleveland defines domestic violence as a pattern of abuse one person uses to maintain power and control over another in a relationship. The pattern can contain physical and sexual abuse, threats, isolation, and emotional and financial control. There is help available. Call the center's 24-hour hotline at 216-391-4357 (HELP).

### A word from Councilman Sweeney:

## School district is expanding transportation options for students in the city



**Councilman Martin J. Sweeney**

*Greetings from your Councilman, Martin J. Sweeney!*

As the school year kicks off, I want to highlight some great programs in our ward, and our city, geared toward the well-being of our students.

This school year, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District is providing a new service for high school students to shorten their walk to school. The district has launched a shuttle service that is expected to reduce absences and tardiness.

Shuttle stops within one and one-half miles from high schools should considerably reduce walking distances. For more information about the district's transportation plan, call 216-634-7021. For RTA routes and schedules, call 216-566-5100.

In addition to this great service, a new after-school college preparation program is coming to the Rockport Branch of the Cleveland Public Library. The library won a \$200,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to establish 21st Century Learning Centers at the Rockport and Lee-Harvard branches.

CPL is working with College Now Greater Cleveland to implement the program. Students will be provided with ACT test preparation plus video and recording arts training. For more information about this program, contact College Now Greater Cleveland at 216-241-5587.

Finally, I want to encourage students and all residents to take advantage of one of the most important community services in our ward, Bellaire Puritas Development Corp. Among other great programs it offers, BPDC serves as the lead agency for the West Park MyCom youth initiative, a network of people who connect youth with safe and positive resources. This helps the growth of our entire community.

All these great services make Ward 18 a great place for strong minds to grow and I encourage parents to have their students

take advantage of them.

Our city continues to grow and it is exciting to think about how strong our city can be in the future as our children grow with it.

I encourage you to call Maureen Brady or me at the Ward 18 office at 216-664-2942 or my house at 216-252-0986 with any of your concerns or questions. Together we can make a difference.

*Sincerely,  
Martin J. Sweeney.*

### Volunteer opportunities are available at the schools

To volunteer in the office, cafeteria, halls or classrooms at a Cleveland school, call Tracy Hill at 216-858-0117. To mentor a youth, call Terrence Robinson at 216-574-8059. To donate school supplies or books, call the chief academic office at 216-574-8378.

**Neighbors to know:****Community relations award winners lead and serve Ward 18**

Each year, the First District Police-Community Relations Committee bestows a Citizen's Award to two deserving residents of the district. This year, the honorees vary in age and life experience, but they share a commitment to service and community. They received their awards at a ceremony on Oct. 4.

Bessie Ford, a native of Wilcox County, Alabama, moved to Cleveland in 1967 after graduating from high school to join her sister who was getting married and settling here. Eventually, their other siblings relocated here as well. For 30 years, she worked as a data processor and secretarial assistant in Department of Children and Family Services of Cuyahoga County.

Bessie's activism includes her involvement in a Neighborhood Watch training for the former Hawk's Landing apartment complex where she resides (the complex's name has been changed in the past year to Rockport Apartments after a change in ownership). Bessie and her apartment neighbors are unique in being the first block watch group organized in an apartment building and trained by police in the city.

Bessie also volunteers for many Bellaire Puritas-sponsored events such as the arts festival and the Neighborhood Summit and for the Community Relations Board. She's also been active at the Golden Age Center at Gunning Park Recreation Center.

Bessie has two daughters, a son and three grandchildren.

Kayla Belcher is only 17 but her years belie her already impressive record of accomplishment. A senior at John Marshall High School, Kayla has co-chaired the 2012 Job and Community Service Fair sponsored by BPDC and the West Park MyCom initiative. The fair offered employers and community service groups the opportunity to connect with teens looking for jobs and volunteer service positions.

At the same time she was working on the job fair, Kayla received training in a leadership program for youth advocates at the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center. She's given presentations to youth at local schools about healthy dating behaviors and looking out for signs that a situation is unsafe. Kayla also has participated in a Youth Leadership Academy organized by the Partnership for a Safer Cleveland (another program of the county-wide MyCom effort) and won a scholarship to attend the Urban League of Cleveland's Historic Black Colleges and University Tour last spring. She plans to study physical therapy in college.

**Kayla Belcher****Bessie Ford****Know where to vote on Nov. 6, election day (and other voting info)**

Elections occasionally can be confusing when your precinct, and therefore your voting location, changes or when voting locations are shut down. But the need to vote is no less important.

The website for the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections has a handy tool for finding out where you vote. You can just plug in your address and it will tell you your voting location. Listed below are the voting locations in Ward 18.

- \* Precincts A and B: Clara Westropp School, 19101 Puritas Ave.
- \* Precinct C and I: Westside Hungarian Reformed Church, 15300 Puritas Ave.
- \* Precinct D: Bellaire Puritas Development Corp., 14703 Puritas Ave.
- \* Precincts E and F: West Park Slovenian Home, 4583 West 130th St.
- \* Precincts G, H and J: Puritas Lutheran Church, 13812 Bellaire Rd.
- \* Precinct K: Artemus Ward School, 4315 West 140th St.
- \* Precincts L, M and O: VFW Post #387, 3580 West 140th St.
- \* Precincts N: Garfield School, 3800 West 140th St.

One of the changes this year results from the closing of John Marshall High School, which had been a voting location. So, if you've voted there before, make sure to find out where your new voting place is now located.

October 9th was the deadline to register to vote in this fall's election. If you are newly registered, you should be receiving a postcard telling you your city ward, precinct and voting location.

For those of you who wish to vote by mail, the deadline for sending in your ballots is Nov. 5th. If you want to vote early and in-person, the voting hours at the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (2925 Euclid Ave.) are: Oct. 22 to Oct. 26, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Oct. 29 to Nov. 1, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Nov. 2, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Polls open on election day, Nov. 6, at 6:30 a.m. and stay open until 7:30 p.m.

For more information, you can call the Board of Elections at 216-443-3296 or check out its website at [www.boecuyahogacounty.us](http://www.boecuyahogacounty.us).

**ATTENTION:**  
**WARD 18 FORUM ON THE SCHOOL LEVY**  
**Mayor Jackson, Councilman Sweeney and representatives**  
**of the Cleveland Metropolitan School District are hosting a**  
**forum on Issue 107, the school levy, for Cleveland residents.**  
**Please come and find out what you'll be voting on.**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24. 7 P.M.**  
**Blessed Trinity Church, 14040 Puritas Ave., Cleveland**  
**Fogarty Hall**

**Keep your house safe**

As the heating season arrives, it's always good to keep these things in mind:

- Never use your oven to heat your home; inadequate ventilation can result in excessive carbon monoxide emissions;
- Have an annual furnace inspection by a heating contractor. Check your chimney and dryer vents for blockage.
- Check your furnace and hot water tank flue to make sure they are properly vented and sealed to the chimney.
- Signs of CO poisoning are much like the flu: headaches, nausea, fatigue, confusion, and vomiting. At higher concentrations, carbon monoxide can cause unconsciousness or death. Be wary if all family members have some or all of the symptoms at the same time and if symptoms clear up when individuals go outside.
- Give space heaters space. Place them at least three feet away from curtains, furniture and anything flammable. Turn off space heaters when you go to bed and don't leave children alone in a room with a space heater.

- From Housing Director Toni Jones

**Rockport Library offering teens help with ACT test**

The Rockport Branch of the Cleveland Public Library will be home to preparatory classes for the ACT college entrance exams to anyone in the 10th to 12th grades. College Now, a local organization that helps prepare students for post-secondary education, is offering the programs, along with other types of activities such as recording arts training and possibly leads for jobs. The programs will be eight weeks long and offered in fall, winter and spring sessions. Call Heather Beasley at 241-5587 for more information or contact her at [hbeasley@collegenow.org](mailto:hbeasley@collegenow.org).

**Artemus Ward is new site for community center program**

Schools as Neighborhood Resources, a program that transforms neighborhood schools into community recreation centers in the evenings, will open soon this year at a new location.

The program has been located at John Marshall High School; while that facility undergoes reconstruction the SNR's new home will be Artemus Ward School at 4315 W. 140th Street.

Basketball, arts and crafts, ping pong, board games and story time for younger children will be among the activities offered. The center, which is open to all ages, will be open from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. You can register on Wednesday, Oct. 31 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. or on Nov. 5 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. or on an ongoing basis. Program activities begin on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 6 p.m.



About 60 residents and representatives of businesses and churches attended a meeting at St. Vincent DePaul on Lorain Avenue on Aug. 21 to talk about improving the street's design. Bellaire Puritas and City Architecture hope to make it more pedestrian and bike friendly.

## Lorain Avenue plan is coming together, with community help

The project to create a new look for Lorain Avenue is starting to take shape.

More than 60 residents, business owners, and others from the Jefferson Park neighborhood gathered at St. Vincent de Paul Church on Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> to share their vision of Lorain Avenue with architects working on a Bellaire Puritas-sponsored plan for the street.

The goal for the plan, made possible by a grant from the Northeast Area Coordinating Agency, the regional transportation planning agency, is to improve the appearance of the street and make it more pedestrian-friendly. The plan covers the stretch between W. 130<sup>th</sup> Street and the railroad tracks (near the West Park rapid station around West 143<sup>rd</sup> Street). BPDC has hired City Architecture of Cleveland to design the plan with input from the community.

At the Aug. 21 meeting, architect Matt Schmidt from the firm reviewed the results of a survey about Lorain Avenue conducted at the Bellaire Puritas Arts Festival on June 2. That survey revealed that residents had safety concerns related to the railroad bridge and wanted Lorain Avenue to have more green spaces, but they were positive about what Lorain could become and the fact that the retail businesses on the street are being used.

Attendees at the meeting broke up into four groups to discuss transportation and streetscape, parks and green spaces, development and business retention, and quality-of-life issues.

The transportation and streetscape group discussed the lack of green spaces on Lorain, the poor condition of the railroad bridge and the inconsistent lighting on the street. The group also cited the need to make Lorain safer for bicyclists because the cycling community is growing. Suggestions including adding designated bike lanes or shared lanes. Another topic of discussion was public art and how it could improve the street's appearance.

Comments in the parks and green space group indicated residents were fond of Jefferson Park, but thought the rest of the street needed more "greening." They also want to see more benches on Lorain so that people can stop while walking down the street. Other recommendations included the need for businesses along the street to have better landscaping to soften the feel of Lorain Avenue.

The business group noted the need for more parking for smaller retail establishments in the area from W. 130<sup>th</sup> to just before the Marc's plaza at West 136<sup>th</sup> Street. The group also said businesses should improve their signage and landscaping, and that more restaurants were needed in the area.

The quality of life group's discussions touched on many issues, including safety. Recommendations included more lighting on the street, especially by the park and the rail road bridge, so that residents and school students coming into the neighborhood would feel safer. The group also noted that Lorain Avenue could be cleaner.

City Architecture is incorporating these ideas into a preliminary plan that the firm will be bringing back to the community this fall. For more information on the next meeting, call Melissa Miller at 216-671-2710 or email her at [m.miller@bpdc.org](mailto:m.miller@bpdc.org). You can see the Power Point presentation from the Aug. 21 meeting at [www.bpdc.org](http://www.bpdc.org).

## Ice Crime Social attracts hundreds to Jefferson Park on Aug. 7 for a movie and ice cream



The movie was the Smurfs but that was only part of the fun at the annual Night Out Against Crime in Jefferson Park on Aug. 7th. Sponsored by Bellaire Puritas and Councilman Sweeney, the event featured free ice cream and popcorn and games for kids, as illustrated by the young jump roper who participated in an obstacle course.

## New businesses open in Bellaire Puritas area

The following businesses have set up shop in Ward 18 in the last few months: Midgy's Munch Box on West 130th Street; CPR Ohio on Grayton Road; Choice Cellular on Rocky River Drive; Herz and His Barber and Beauty Nail Salon on Lorain Avenue; Crossroads Cafe on Lorain Avenue; and Carnegie Group LLC Property Management Co. and Ziegler & Tomilson LLC Real Estate Solutions on West 140th Street. We welcome them to the neighborhood.

### Drop off hazardous wastes, cell phones, etc. at year-round recycling roundups

The city's Department of Public Works and the Division of Waste Collection offer ample opportunities to get rid of used equipment and hazardous household wastes. The wastes can be delivered on the first Friday of each month to 3737 Ridge Road or 5600 Carnegie Ave.; computer and cell phone equipment any day from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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- De-Thatching
- Slice Seeding
- Free Estimates



Call Steve & Liz (Thomma) Szyarto at 216-252-1231

## The harvest is plenty in Bellaire Puritas: here are opportunities for meals and groceries

Our neighborhood, like many others in and outside of the city, continues to struggle with the remnants of the recession, unemployment and underemployment.

For those who need a hand in making ends meet, there are resources not far from home that can help.

Just within Ward 18 or very close by are several churches and food pantries (some part of the Greater Cleveland Hunger Network) that provide either free groceries or meals. Some are related to income levels, others are open to everyone.

In addition to those listed here, the West Park Community Cupboard also provides emergency food assistance. You can call 216-252-9926 to find out the location, times and eligibility requirements.

The table to the right lists the major sources of food assistance in the area; if there are others we've missed,

### West Park Youth Council looking for members

The West Park Youth Council is open to youth and adults who would like to address issues related to young people in our area.

The group, composed of youth, parents, service providers and others, meets to discuss various issues such as program needs, promoting what's available in the neighborhood and sharing resources. It meets at Bellaire Puritas; the next gathering is on Tuesday, Oct. 23, at 5:30 p.m. Call 671-2710 for information.

### Division of Air Quality can answer questions on pollution and respond to odor complaints

If you've had problems with nuisance odors, smoke, open burning, fumes, or questions about possible pollutants in your neighborhood, call the Cleveland Division of Air Quality hotline at 216-441-7442.

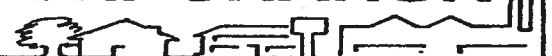
CDAQ, part of the Department of Health, has been working to protect the air since 1904. To find out more about what it does and how it can respond to your complaint, go to its website at [www.clevelandhealth.org](http://www.clevelandhealth.org).

In addition to handling complaints from individuals, CDAQ contracts with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to act as its agent in northeast Ohio. In that capacity, it monitors air quality, issues permits to manufacturing and other plants that will produce emissions, and performs inspections and monitors compliance with permits.

**Seniors needing transportation in Cleveland: call 664-2833 to find out how you can schedule service.**

Location and type of type of assistance	Hours of operation	Phone	Eligibility
<b>Blessed Trinity Church</b> 14040 Puritas Ave. Community meal	Second Sunday of each month 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.	216-671-5890	No requirements. Free.
<b>Bountiful Basement</b> 4370 W. 140 <sup>th</sup> (Blessed Trinity campus) Groceries. 3-day supply.	Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon Wednesdays 5 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.	216-671-3870	Generally 200% of poverty level, but circumstances such as a recent job loss or emergency can be considered on a case-by-case basis.  Each household eligible for assistance 1x per month.
<b>Bread Basket</b> West Park Christian Reformed Church 15135 Triskett Ave.	Tuesdays 4 p.m.- 7 p.m. Thursdays 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.	216-251-0782	Same as Bountiful Basement's (above)
<b>Golden Age Center</b> Gunning Park Rec. 16700 Puritas Ave. Very low-cost lunch at Gunning & meal delivery for those unable to leave their homes	Daily at around 11:30 a.m.	216-267-9945	Seniors
<b>Christ United Methodist Church</b> 3625 W. 138th Community meal	Last Saturday of each month, 5 p.m.	216-671-2600	No requirements. Free.
<b>Puritas Lutheran Church</b> 13812 Bellaire Rd. Hot meal and clothing	Second Saturday of each month. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.	216-251-6722	Free. Open to anyone in 44111 or 44135 zip codes.
<b>Walk of Faith</b> 12833 Lorain Ave. Groceries 5-7 day supply of food, First 45 households served, also clothing	Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.	216-941-3270	Must live in 44111 or 44135 zip codes; bring proof of ID.
<b>Salvation Army</b> 12645 Lorain Ave.	Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.	216-252-3953	Income qualifications; call to find out what to bring.

**BELLAIRE-PURITAS**  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



## God's Acre Cemetery on W. 130th Street: one of the oldest historical spots in West Park

It's easy to miss when you're driving south on West 130<sup>th</sup> on the way to highway or Brookpark Road. It's tucked away behind a parking lot, in between an auto parts store and a lumber yard – the least likely place you'd expect to find a cemetery.

God's Acre, also known as Rockport or Immanuel Church Cemetery, may seem a lost acre now, but it long was sacred ground for the early German settlers to our neighborhood. In 1852, a group of German immigrants bought the land from a farmer named John Mack. Their intent was to be buried next to their church, Immanuel Evangelical-Reformed.

The area along West 130<sup>th</sup> Street, now often called "The Triangle" because of its geographic shape bounded by the railroad tracks and highway, in its early years was called German Settlement or Settlement Acres.

According to a 1959 story in *The Plain Dealer*, the settlers belonging to Immanuel Evangelical formed a loose association and charged dues of 50 cents a year to the its members; their membership carried with it the privilege of buying a single burial plot of \$5 per adult and \$2.50 per child. Though the article identified an association, there are no legal records of an association owning the cemetery; it appears to have been owned by a private group of individuals or families.

Although the deed for the property dates to 1852 (a copy is held in the West Park Historical Society archives) a sign at the cemetery sign reads "Approx. 1850." The earliest readable headstone is dated 1849.

At the time the cemetery was established, Immanuel Reformed Church operated out of a school house. It erected its own structure in 1867 in the northeast corner of what is now the parking lot in front the cemetery. Deeds show the church was built for \$5000.

The church's affiliation has changed throughout the decades; original records name it as Evangelical Reformed, but later property records are listed under the names Immanuel Lutheran, Old Rockport Methodist Church and Immanuel Church of Christ. Denison Auto Parts bought the property for its parking lot from Immanuel Church of Christ in 1970, so its latest denominational affiliation was with the United Church of Christ.

Some of the names on the original 1852 deed included George Huber and Peter Rietz. According to the Historical Society, Rietz owned a tavern north of the cemetery. George Huber's name, along with Rietz's and the other original owners, surprisingly, are still listed on the Cuyahoga County Auditor's property tax records. Not surprisingly, they haven't paid taxes in quite a while and owe the county some sizeable funds, which it's not likely to collect any time soon.

Meanwhile, the City of Cleveland has been mowing the grass at God's Acre and maintaining the burial grounds as best it can.

### Non-profit housing agencies can help you stay in your home

If you're behind in your mortgage and need advice about how to prevent foreclosure, contact either the West Side Housing Center at 216-961-4242, ext. 268, or Neighborhood Housing Services at 216-458-4663. They can help. The West Side Housing Center has walk-in hours of Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is located at the Gordon Square Arcade at West 65th Street and Detroit Ave.

## Don't feed the animals - please!

Bellaire Puritas receives many calls about animals, both the lovable kind (cats and dogs) and the not-so-lovable kind (rats). Unfortunately, caring for one might lead to multiplication of the other, and trouble happens.

As much as we might love birds, cats and dogs and even squirrels, leaving food for those animals, especially in city parks, can breed problems. Food left for them has attracted raccoons, skunks, opossums and rats. BPDC has handled many complaints about such occurrences, and the city's health department has as well. The department has been known to issue citations to alert citizens to stop feeding the animals. This summer in particular has seen an abundance of skunks and rats in yards and city parks.

City ordinances allow for bird feeders, but even so, it's helpful if the seed doesn't fall to the ground too often, so here's a tip: just fill them once a week and let the birds eat the seeds that have fallen to the ground before filling the feeder again. And, if you see a stray cat or dog, call the Animal Protective League at 216-771-4616 or another agency to find out what to do - rather than putting out food for them. And the squirrels? They're pretty good at foraging for themselves - they are born to find food in nature, not from the fridge! If you have any questions about animals, wild or otherwise, give BPDC a call at 671-2710, or call the APL -but try to refrain from grabbing for the grub.



The gravestone of Johann Rietz, whose family was among the original settlers in the neighborhood and owners of God's Acre cemetery.



West Park historians have searched far and wide to discover the history of the graves at the tiny cemetery at West 130th Street. It is not clear how many individuals are buried there; reports range from 166 to over 400.

### Help with winter heating bills starts Nov. 1

The Winter Crisis Program of the Ohio Department of Energy begins Nov.1 For assistance with heating bills, please call 216-518-4014 to see if you qualify and to make an appointment. Bellaire Puritas is a designated site for the Heating and Energy Assistance Program but you must call the HEAP number for an appointment.



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**Noisy where you are? Call the hotline**

Cleveland Hopkins International Airport has established a noise hotline to respond to complaints about low-flying planes, planes violating recommended night-time flight paths and other aircraft that cause excessively loud noise. If you've experienced such problems, call 216-898-5220 to report them. It's helpful to note the date and time when you've noticed a particular plane causing problems. The West Park Airport Committee meets on the third Thursday of each month to discuss noise and other issues related to aircraft and Hopkins. It meets at Bellaire Puritas at 7 p.m.

**Cathy Black**



**Bellaire Puritas welcomes mediation intern**

BPDC is pleased to welcome to our staff Cathy Black, a senior at Kent State University who is assisting in our mediation program until June.

Cathy is native of Mentor and is studying Applied Conflict Management and English. At BPDC, she's helping residents resolve conflict through mediation and studying ways to create a culture of dialogue and respect.

Confronting difficult situations in a positive way helps people improve their relationships and quality of life, she says.

After she graduates this spring, Cathy hopes to work in the non-profit field, write about personal growth, and create a website for college students. She hopes to inspire others to cultivate inner peace and compassion.

In her spare time, she enjoys writing, reading, connecting with new people, riding her Trek bike, going to country music concerts and spending time with friend and family. We wish her a warm welcome to the neighborhood.

**New stormwater fees taking effect in 2013**

The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District will be sending a letter to homeowners in the next few weeks explaining its new stormwater fees.

The fees will be based on the square footage of impervious surfaces, such as driveways, on your property. Such surfaces prevent water from absorbing into the ground.

Most homeowners will be charged an additional fee of \$5.05 per month on their bill. If you are a senior on the homestead plan you will be charged \$2.03 per month.

This fee can be reduced if you install a rain barrel, rain garden, or other approved control measure on your property. If you have questions regarding the letter you can call the NEORSRD customer service department at 216-881-8247.

**Wednesday, October 24, 2012**

**6-8:30 pm**-Dinner, Entertainment, Community Expo with Resources, Speakers, Awards, Dessert Social & Raffles

**14040 Puritas Ave.;** Blessed Trinity Church, Fogarty Hall

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## BPDC and Community Calendar

**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.

**West Park Airport Committee:** Third Thursday of each month. 7 p.m. at Bellaire Puritas.

**Ward 18 Forum on the school levy:** Tuesday, Oct. 23, 7 p.m. in Fogarty Hall at Blessed Trinity Church, 14040 Puritas Ave.

**Bellaire Puritas Neighborhood Summit: Wednesday, Oct. 24 at Blessed Trinity Church, 14040 Puritas Ave. 6 p.m. See page 1 for more details.**

**Schools as Community Resources:** Registration on Oct. 31 or Nov. 5th from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. or the first time you use the center. Artemus Ward School at 4315 West 140th becomes a community center with sports, art classes and more. Open Monday, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Call Ian at BPDC for more information.

***Bellaire Puritas is at 14703 Puritas Avenue, Cleveland, Oh 44135***

***Phone: 216-671-2710, fax: 216-671-9868***

***www.bpdc.org***

### **Bellaire Puritas Board & Staff**

#### **Officers:**

President: Mary Lou Palermo  
Vice President: Margaret Roudebush  
Treasurer: Sigmund Sesplankis  
Secretary: Jackie Krieger

**Directors:** Laneze Jackson, Valerie Jackson, Rev. Doug Koesel, Charles Nusbaum, Kris Tabor

#### **Staff:**

Executive Director: Bryan Gillooly  
Office Manager: Sheila Duncan-Rawls  
Receptionist: Peggy Yomnick  
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Housing Director: Toni Jones  
Planning & Safety Coordinator: Melissa Miller  
Housing Assistants: Luis Plata, Karen Crocheron  
Resident Services: Judy Schafrick  
Mediation Coordinator: Ian Heisey  
Youth Development Director: Nancy Baxter  
Youth Development Assistant and Neighborhood Marketing Specialist: Rachael Napolitano  
Grants Coordinator: Lori Ashyk  
Computer Lab: Jessica Untch, Judith Opalach

### **Autumn in the wetlands**



This is a view of the Puritas Wetlands, a few blocks south of Puritas Avenue, between West 140th and West 147th Streets. The 80-acre detention basin was restored to a natural state several years ago and is home to more than 130 avian species and other flora and fauna. The cattails were blowing and trees were rustling on a beautiful recent fall day.

### **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](http://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.